

The Minnesota Star Tribune

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H: 68° L: 49° | SOME SUN

Despite warrant, offender was free

20-year-old is charged in a fatal shooting in Mpls. while on the loose.

By JEFF DAY
The Minnesota Star Tribune

For two months during the height of Operation Metro Surge, a Twin Cities man with a history of criminal gun convictions who was indicted and had a federal warrant issued for his arrest was not arrested.

In that time, he allegedly took part in a murder.

Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim was charged last week in Hennepin County District Court with second-degree murder and first-degree armed robbery in connection with the shooting death of a man on Feb. 24 in the Abbott Apartments on the southern edge of downtown Minneapolis. At the time of the killing, Ibrahim, a 20-year-old from Minneapolis, had an active bench warrant issued by the U.S. District Court of Minnesota for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The warrant was issued on Dec. 30 in the early stages of Operation Metro Surge. Kristian Weir, the head of Minnesota's U.S. Attorney's Office criminal division, said the federal charge against Ibrahim had nothing to do with immigration enforcement.

Ibrahim was arrested by the FBI on March 3, seven days after the shooting. He had been released from the Hennepin County workhouse in December and was on probation the entire time the federal warrant was active. A message seeking comment about the time it took to arrest Ibrahim was left with the FBI Field Office in Minnesota.

The murder complaint alleges that Ibrahim and two other men rushed into the apartment building armed with handguns and a rifle. They robbed one man of two of his guns and attempted to rob another man of his Louis Vuitton bag. When that man didn't turn over the bag, he was shot and killed. Investigators used surveillance cameras from the apartment, eyewitness testimony, cell tower data and Snapchat records to place Ibrahim at the scene of the crime.

The murder victim has never been publicly identified by the Minneapolis Police Department or the Hennepin County Medical Examiner.

Ibrahim has been charged three times in Hennepin County for crimes involving guns and

\$170M plan for downtown St. Paul



Revival of RiversEdge project to add housing, draw investors.

Story by KATIE GALIOTO • Photo by LEILA NAVIDI • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Ramsey County leaders want to spend more than \$170 million on downtown St. Paul development projects in hopes of catalyzing more private investment in the city's struggling urban core.

About \$120 million would go to the long-stalled Park at RiversEdge development, which would connect the urban core to the Mississippi River, and \$50 million would go toward housing developments in downtown.

The proposals — two of the largest listed in the county's new economic development strategy — are a recognition that downtown St. Paul's decline shifted property tax burdens on homeowners throughout the rest of Ramsey County.

"We're under significant, unprecedented pressure,

and we have to do our part to respond," County Manager Ling Becker said. "Downtown is absolutely pivotal, and at some point, someone's got to kick the door open with kind of a big push."

Even before COVID-19, civic leaders had ambitions to transform St. Paul's notoriously sleepy downtown. Then the pandemic emptied office buildings, delivering blows to urban centers across the country. St. Paul faced added challenges as its largest downtown property owner collapsed.

Joe Spencer, president of the nonprofit St. Paul Downtown Alliance, said he thinks the county dollars would send a "really impressive" signal to developers

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At top, the site of the long-stalled Park at RiversEdge development in downtown St. Paul on April 14. Above, a rendering of the project shows the proposed development connecting the urban core to the Mississippi River.

AECOM/Ramsey County

IMF sees threat of a global pullback

Oil disruptions, fuel inflation could spur broad recession, it says.

By ALAN RAPPEPORT
The New York Times

WASHINGTON - War in the Middle East has upended the world economy, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday, warning in a report that disruptions to oil markets could slow growth, fuel inflation and raise the possibility of a global recession.

The sober message came after the global economy had largely weathered a pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine and soaring inflation without tipping into a recession. But President Donald Trump's decision to initiate a war in Iran has stopped the world economy in its tracks.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF sharply downgraded its growth forecasts, exposing the economic fallout from a geopolitical crisis that has roiled energy prices and injected a new bout of uncertainty into the global economy.

"The global outlook has abruptly darkened following the outbreak of war in the Middle East," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, wrote in the report. "The war interrupted what had been a steady growth trajectory."

The IMF said that even if the war is short-lived, the damage to the global economy has been done. In that best-case scenario, the fund expects global growth to fall to 3.1% this year from 3.4% in 2025. That is down from the 3.3% the fund projected in January. It is also lower than the 3.4% growth that it was prepared to project before the war broke out and oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz were halted.

The forecasts were released as global policymakers arrived in Washington for the spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. Just a few weeks ago, the gathering was expected to focus on other disruptions, including trade tensions, artificial intelligence and international fiscal imbalances. It will instead be dominated by the economic fallout of the war.

As the meetings started Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent urged the IMF and the World Bank to refocus on their core missions — financial

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Hope for new talks
Diplomats work toward dialogue as U.S. blockades Iran's ports. **A3**

Diagnosis criteria, autism fraud claims at odds

Some centers allegedly got Medicaid funds to treat non-autistic kids.

By BILL LUKITSCH
The Minnesota Star Tribune

At two Minnesota autism treatment centers, any child — autistic or not — could be qualified for services, federal prosecutors allege.

That is one way authorities claim those individual health care providers defrauded a state program, billing the Department of Human Services and insurers roughly \$20 million over five years.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rebecca Kline, who runs the Minnesota federal prosecutors'

white-collar crime section, said during a plea hearing in March that children who did not have autism spectrum disorder still were somehow enrolled to receive services at Star Autism in St. Cloud.

Six months after charges were first filed in court, however, it remains unclear exactly how business owners could have approved children for services. It's a mystery since industry experts say autism diagnoses — a necessary factor to qualify — rely on in-depth, one-on-one interviews with the child and parents.

Yet charging documents against the owners of Star Autism and Smart Therapy Center in Minneapolis say non-autistic kids were somehow qualified

SEE CENTERS ON A8 »



ELIZABETH FLORES • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Law enforcement raided Smart Therapy Center's business office in Minneapolis on Dec. 12, 2024. The owner was charged with fraud.

With Leo, Trump faces a new kind of papal voice

By ELIZABETH DIAS and MOTOKO RICH • The New York Times

Donald Trump ascended to office 10 years ago while publicly jousting with Pope Francis, who was routinely making headlines for the progressive Catholicism he elevated, pushing the Roman Catholic Church to focus on climate change and the rights of immigrants. The pope suggested that Trump's actions were "not Christian"; Trump fired back that Francis was "disgraceful."

Trump capitalized on growing discontent among conservative Christians and won the White House. The chasm only

further widened between the Vatican and conservative American Catholics, who often saw in Trump a champion.

Pope Leo, who was elected less than a year ago, is not Francis. For Trump, who is now in his second term, he presents a new foil at the Vatican with a markedly different standing among Catholics. As the first American in the seat of St. Peter, he has a native fluency in American politics and culture, and his leadership is supported across broad swaths of the American church.

This new dynamic was at play in a pointed exchange Sunday night and Monday, when Trump

SEE POPE ON A8 »

TOP NEWS

Rep. Eric Swalwell resigns from Congress amid mounting sexual assault allegations. **A3**

NATION & WORLD

Canadian PM Mark Carney clinches a majority and begins remaking Liberal Party. **A3**

STATE & REGION

Walz signs legislation honoring late lawmaker Melissa Hortman — with more to come. **A4**

SPORTS

Cheryl Reeve praises Lynx top draft pick Olivia Miles as a "connector of people." **C1**

BUSINESS

\$120M plan for Minneapolis Grain Exchange would convert part of it into apartments. **D1**

VARIETY

The Lake of the Isles Pencil stars in a short documentary at Mpls.-St. Paul film festival. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

A University of Minnesota study finds fluoride added to drinking water doesn't affect intelligence, refuting federal claims. **A4**

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