



CYNIC FIGHTS ON PAGE 12 | SPORTS

ANTIDOPING

AN OPTIMISTIC

NEW FRIENDS DIVERSIFYING **A FRANCHISE** PAGE 16 | BUSINESS



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Syrian troops are said to take Palmyra from ISIS

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Assad's military puts end to yearlong occupation of history-rich oasis city

BY HWAIDA SAAD| AND KAREEM FAHIM

Syrian government forces recaptured the desert oasis city of Palmyra on Sunday, the state news agency and a monitoring group reported, after driving out Islamic State fighters who had occupied the city for the better part of a year, summarily executed residents and dynamited ancient ruins.

Syrian state television, which has closely covered a three-week push by President Bashar al-Assad to regain Palmyra, aired celebratory footage on Sunday showing government soldiers around the historical sites. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said that fighting continued in a few districts of the city, as well as at a military prison.

But the majority of the Islamic State contingent in Palmyra had withdrawn or been routed, with hundreds of its fighters killed, the observatory said, highlighting the extremist group's broader struggles to retain territory in Syria and Iraq. At the same time, the advance by Mr. Assad's troops handed him a strategically important military prize that added weight to the contention that his government is a crucial bulwark against the jihadists of the Islamic State

In a statement carried by the Syrian state news agency on Sunday, Mr. Assad called the victory "an important achievement and new evidence of the effectiveness of the strategy followed by the Syrian army and its allies in the war against terrorism.'

The battle also provided further confirmation of how significantly Russia's intervention on behalf of Mr. Assad had transformed his fortunes. Islamic State fighters had easily taken Palmyra last



ANGELOS TZORTZINIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES Anywhere in Europe Ahmed Arab, a Syrian refugee in Athens. Many migrants in Greece are scrambling to enter the European Union's relocation program. PAGE 3

In Brussels, a trail of dots not connected

BRUSSELS

Only on day of attacks did chemical odors and other hints come together

BY ANDREW HIGGINS AND KIMIKO DE FREYTAS-TAMURA

The stench of chemicals emanating

happenings at the mostly empty apartment house in northern Brussels prompted an anxious resident in the area to alert the police. A taxi driver who picked up three young men at the block smelled a noxious odor leaking from their curiously heavy luggage as he drove them to Brussels Airport.

But not until 7:58 on Tuesday morning did these and other strange and, at least in retrospect, alarming dots come together to form a clear picture of what had been going on for more than two months in the dilapidated but spacious they waited to check their baggage.

His foreign policy ideas

call for radical departures

Donald J. Trump, the Republican presi-

dential front-runner, said that if elected,

he might halt purchases of oil from

Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies un-

less they commit ground troops to the

fight against the Islamic State or "sub-

stantially reimburse'' the United States

for combating the militant group, which

"If Saudi Arabia was without the

cloak of American protection," Mr.

from the U.S. status quo

BY DAVID E. SANGER

AND MAGGIE HABERMAN

threatens their stability.

top-floor apartment at 4 Max Roos Street in the Brussels borough of Schaerbeek.

It was then that two homemade bombs - confected from malodorous and highly volatile chemicals in the living room of the apartment - exploded in the check-in area of the airport, followed an hour later by another at a busy subway station. Together, the attacks killed 31 people. A third bomb was found unexploded at the airport, but the two that were detonated blew holes in the

On Saturday, the airport was still closed, a huge and macabre crime scene instead of a global crossroads.

Acting with uncharacteristic - and still unexplained — swiftness, Belgian security forces sealed off the area around the apartment in Schaerbeek within 90 minutes of the airport attack. BELGIUM, PAGE 4

TECH COMPANIES FACE A EUROPE ON EDGE As Apple battles the F.B.I., European

Studies fail to pinpoint who turns to terrorism

WASHINGTON

Richly funded research has not vielded a reliable formula for dissuasion

BY MATT APUZZO

The brothers who carried out suicide bombings in Brussels last week had long, violent criminal records and had been regarded internationally as potential terrorists. But in San Bernardino, Calif., last year, one of the gunmen was a county health inspector who lived a life of apparent suburban normality.

Then there are the dozens of other young American men and women who have been arrested over the past year for attempting to help the Islamic State. Their backgrounds are so diverse that they defy a single profile.

What turns people toward violence, and whether they can be steered away from it, are questions that have bedeviled governments around the world for generations. Those questions have taken on fresh urgency with the rise of the Islamic State and the string of attacks in Europe and the United States. Despite millions of dollars of government-sponsored research, and a much-publicized White House pledge to find answers, there is still nothing close to a consensus on why someone becomes a terrorist

"After all this funding and this flurry of publications, with each new terrorist incident we realize that we are no closer to answering our original question about what leads people to turn to political violence," Marc Sageman, a psychologist and a longtime government



may from go nment troops, who had SYRIA, PAGE 3

from the sixth-floor apartment made the owner of the building gag. Other odd root and maimed scores of people

Trump says allies should pay for defense

would be around."

Trump said during a 100-minute inter-

view on foreign policy, spread over two

phone calls on Friday, "I don't think it

He also said he would be open to al-

lowing Japan and South Korea to build

their own nuclear arsenals rather than

depend on the American nuclear um-

brella for their protection against North

Korea and China. If the United States

"keeps on its path, its current path of

weakness, they're going to want to have that anyway, with or without me dis-

cussing it," Mr. Trump said. And he said

he would be willing to withdraw United

States forces from both Japan and South

Korea if they did not substantially in-

crease their contributions to the costs of

housing and feeding those troops. "Not

happily, but the answer is yes," he said.

governments are pushing for greate access to people's digital lives. PAGE 13

Mr. Trump also said he would seek to

renegotiate many fundamental treaties

with American allies, possibly including

a 56-year-old security pact with Japan,

In Mr. Trump's worldview, the United

States has become a diluted power, and

the main mechanism by which he would

re-establish its central role in the world

is economic bargaining. He approached

almost every current international con-

flict through the prism of a negotiation,

even when he was imprecise about the

strategic goals he sought. He again fault-

could mean giving up power that allows

the United States to get its way. PAGE 13

A GAP IN TRUMP'S VIEWS ON TRADE

Trying to eliminate the trade deficit

TRUMP, PAGE 5

which he described as one-sided.

MS AND BORDER PROTECTION, VIA AI Tashfeen Malik, left, and Syed Rizwan Farook, the San Bernadino, Calif., attackers, had raised few suspicions beforehand.

consultant, wrote in the journal Terrorism and Political Violence in 2014. "The same worn-out questions are raised over and over again, and we still have no compelling answers."

When researchers do come up with possible answers, the government often disregards them. Not long after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, for instance, the Princeton economist Alan B. Krueger tested the widespread assumption that poverty was a key factor in the making of a terrorist. Mr. Krueger's analysis of economic figures, polls and data on suicide bombers and hate groups found no link between economic distress and terrorism.

More than a decade later, law enforcement officials and government-funded community groups still regard money TERROR, PAGE 4

ONLINE AT INYT.COM

Heroin's deadlier cousin: Fentanyl Cheaper and more powerful than heroin, the synthetic painkiller fentanyl is becoming the drug of choice for some addicts - and is killing them more quickly. nytimes.com/health

Turks view U.S. prosecutor as hero

A Twitter post announcing charges against a Turkish tycoon has made Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, a social media sensation. nytimes.com/europe

The psychology of spending

The human psychology of spending and saving can get in the way of a secure life. A Your Money special section offers ways to outwit it. nytimes.com/yourmoney

Ski town takes to local produce

Vertical Harvest, a hydroponic greenhouse, is bringing year-round fresh vegetables to a place better known for its snow. nytimes.com/business

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,	JEFF SWENSEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES	1 (

OUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIME:

THE FIGHT Anthony Taylor, above, was 24 years old, 5 feet tall, 115 pounds and about to turn pro in a bout in the community hall of a church in Youngstown, Ohio. His opponent was

Hamzah Aljahmi. In the fourth and last round, something went wrong. nytimes.com/sports

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Donald J. Trump, the Republican front-runner, before addressing the American Israel Pub-

lic Affairs Committee last week. His worldview does not fit into the party's recent history.

Changing a mature media company The longtime television executive Peter Liguori talked about the transformation of Tribune Company and the broader media industry during a recent interview in his New York office. nytimes.com/media

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

Old battle lines over Cuba fade

President Obama's engagement policy and Raúl Castro's opening to the free market have created a new dynamic that reveals how the country might evolve. WORLD NEWS, 6

Rising barriers for media (in U.S.)

While the Cuban leader took part in a landmark news conference last week, his guest, President Obama, is helping to erode press freedoms at home, Jim Rutenberg writes. BUSINESS, 13

Blast in Pakistani park kills 40

An apparent suicide bomb ripped through a park in Lahore on Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding 100, officials said. WORLD NEWS, 4

Cruyff's fine mind for the game

Johan Cruyff, who died last week, had an influence that extended well beyond the balletic and deceptive moves he developed on the soccer field, Rob Hughes writes. SPORTS, 10

The media helped make Trump

News journalists failed the American public by letting ourselves get played by Donald J. Trump, Nicholas Kristof writes. OPINION, 9

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