

International Herald Eribune

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Family man one day, and rebel fighter on the next

RAMTHA, JORDAN

Commuter warriors cross back to Syria from Jordan to battle Assad

BY NORIMITSU ONISHI

The Syrian rebel leader was sitting comfortably on a cushion at his home here recently, his wife and children filling the rooms with conversation and laughter. Then one day he shaved off his beard and slipped back into Syria, where he leads a rebel brigade.

"I cried," said his mother-in-law, Wesal al-Aweer. "I pleaded with him not to leave."

'We were used to having him around the house," said his wife, Montaha Zoubi, 34, "so now we feel there is an emptiness in the house."

A hardware store owner in Syria before the civil war, Hussein Zoubi, 40, took up arms against the government almost two years ago. Since then, like thousands of Syrian men in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, he has been leading the life of a commuter rebel, a fighter inside Syria and a family man across the border.

Men have long gone to war after packing off their families to safer places. But the war's proximity here along the Syrian-Jordanian border has collapsed the distances. The vast majority of the refugees are women and children, who have sought safety here, while the men slip in and out of Syria.

Unlike the battle-hardened Islamist combatants who have made rapid gains inside Syria in recent months, these are ordinary men - small-business owners, plumbers, carpenters - caught up in the war. They fight for weeks at a time and keep in constant touch electronically, but then return to see their families. nurse wounds and take care of businesses that may have suffered in their absence.

Ramtha is the twin city to Dara'a, the birthplace of the Syrian uprising, just across the border from here. Errant

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Fleeing Phailin Villagers at a relief camp near Berhampur, India, as rains from Cyclone Phailin hit. Ahead of the powerful storm, which struck India's east coast on Saturday night, the government organized one of the largest evacuations in the country's history. There were tentative signs Sunday that the preparations had paid off. PAGE 4

Soul-searching look at killing for a cause

LONDON

BY KATRIN BENNHOLD

From a comfortable couch in his London living room, Sean O'Callaghan had been watching the shaky televised images of terrified people running from militants in an upscale mall in Kenya. Some of those inside had been asked their religion. Muslims were spared, non-Muslims executed.

"God, this is one tough lot of jihadis," said a frie

"What you're seeing in that moment is not a human being."

"But we used to do the same thing," Mr. O'Callaghan replied.

There was the 1976 Kingsmill massacre. Catholic gunmen stopped a van with 12 workmen in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, freed the one Catholic among them, then lined up the 11 Protits and shot them one by one. Mr. O'Callaghan, a former paramili-

tary with the Irish Republican Army, has particular insight into such coldblooded killing.

On a sunny August day in 1974, he walked into a bar in Omagh, Northern Ireland, drew a short-barreled pistol and shot a man bent over the racing pages at the end of the counter, a man he had been told was a notorious traitor to the Irish Catholic cause.

Historical parallels are inevitably flawed. But a recent flurry of horrific bloodletting — the attack in Nairobi that left 60 dead. the execution b

ers, an Egyptian soldier peering through his rifle sight and firing on the teenage daughter of a Muslim Brotherhood leader - raises a question as old as Cain and Abel: Do we all have it in us?

Many experts think we do. For Mr. O'Callaghan, it was a matter of focus.

"What you're seeing in that mo-

ment," he said in an interview last week, ''is not a human being.'' It is dangerous to assume that it takes

a monster to commit a monstrosity, said

GLOBAL.NYTIMES.COM

Roadblocks aplenty to any deal on U.S. finances

WASHINGTON

Debt-reduction talks have repeatedly failed over issue of new taxes

BY JACKIE CALMES

Be skeptical. Be very, very skeptical. That was the reaction from nearly all corners to the talk of convening yet another round of bipartisan negotiations to reduce America's long-term debt. The idea has resurfaced as a way of

NEWS ANALYSIS

resolving the standoff between President Obama and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives over reopening the government and increasing its legal borrowing limit, perhaps for months or even just weeks.

But even if the current talks soon resolve the immediate impasse, any renewal of negotiations for a long-term fiscal plan will run into the same underlying problem that has doomed efforts for the past three years.

Republicans refuse to raise additional tax revenue, and until they do, Mr. Obama will not support even his own tentative proposals for reducing spending on fast-growing social benefit programs, chiefly Medicare. During a White House meeting with Senate Republicans on Friday, he reiterated that the two go hand in hand, according to people who were there.

"Revenue remains obviously the biggest stumbling block," said Ed Lorenzen, the executive director of the Moment of Truth Project, a fiscal advocacy group formed by the chairmen

"Revenue remains obviously the biggest stumbling block."

of Mr. Obama's failed 2010 fiscal commission, Erskine B. Bowles, a former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton, and Alan K. Simpson, a former Senate Republican leader from Wyoming. Brian Gardner, a senior vice president in Washington of the investment firm Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, said: "We've been through this fight before. I'm very skeptical on the grand bargain." Yet the speaker of the House, John A. Boehner, who only a week ago again ruled out raising taxes, is demanding as part of a short-term deal that he and Mr. Obama return to the bargaining table for a deficit-reduction blueprint cover-**REVENUE**, PAGE 5

rom Dara a fall with reg SYRIA, PAGE 8

his head.

yrian ji hadis of bound and blindfolded prison-

Herbert Kelman, professor emeritus of HATE, PAGE 8

Eulogy for a general Hanoi bade farewell Sunday to Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap before his body was flown to his home province. The resistance hero died Oct. 4, at 102.

BUSINESS ASIA

Thinking small on reactors

A proposed design calls for a nuclear reactor small enough that if there were a loss of electric power, as happened at Fukushima, the tiny core would cool on its own, and quickly. The downside is that getting a new design licensed could be a lengthy and clostly process. PAGE 15

Chinese exports decline

China's export growth fizzled in September, declining 0.3 percent from a year earlier, as shipments to Southeast Asia - its fastest-growing market tumbled, data showed. Analysts said weak exports underscored worries about flagging global demand, especially in emerging markets. PAGE 15

Executive pay, by the numbers

The focus on stock price as a benchmark for executive pay lives on, even if the numbers don't always add up. But that formula is being questioned, Gretchen Morgenson writes. PAGE 17

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WORLD NEWS

Progress on U.S.-Afghan deal Washington and Kabul inched toward a deal to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014, but one issue remains. PAGE 4



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Suspense at Suzuka

Sebastian Vettel won in Japan but is still chasing the 2013 title. PAGE 9

Google gets lost in Korea's Web

SEOUL

Security restrictions keep foreign-language users from finding their way

BY ERIC PFANNER

Struggling to breathe

Asthma patients must have good

insurance or the money to afford their

medication in the United States. PAGE 5

South Korea is one of the world's most digitally advanced countries. It has ubiquitous broadband, running at speeds that many Americans can only envy. Its Internet is also one of the quirkiest in the world.

A curfew restricts school-age children from playing online games at night; adults wanting to do so need to provide their resident registration numbers to prove that they are of age. Until last year, commenters on the

Web were legally required to use their real names. A simple Web search in Korean can be a fruitless experience, because the operators of many sites, including some government ministries, bar search engines from indexing their pages

Travelers who want to go from Gimpo International Airport to the Gangnam neighborhood of Seoul cannot rely on Google Maps. Google Maps can provide directions only for public transport, not for driving, to any place in South Korea. Anyone crazy enough to try the journey on bicycle or on foot, directions for which Google Maps provides elsewhere, will be similarly stymied.

The highly regulated Internet comes

VIEWS

Ross Douthat

The way Republicans have conducted themselves over the shutdown is unprecedented. It's not the scale of their mistake, but the fact that their strategy was such self-evident folly. PAGE 7

London's great exodus

The property market is no longer about buying a home. It is now a means for the world's richest people to make a good profit on investments, writes Michael Goldfarb. PAGE 6

ONLINE

Bridging science and faith

Reconciling quantum theory and Buddhism might seem as challenging as trying to explain the Higgs boson to a kindergarten class. But if someone has to do it, it might as well be the scholars, translators and six Tibetan monks who are visiting Emory University in Atlanta. The team has been working to bring Western science to the monastic education system in India. global.nytimes.com/science

Brides from a different era

Waltzing out of the Lively Morgue come the brides from The New York Times past, women of the 1920s and '30s whose portraits were made when the U.S. economy and marriage rates were plunging. lens.blogs.nytimes.com

as a surprise to many people, Koreans included, because South Korea is a strong democracy with a vibrant economy seemingly ready for the digital information age. South Koreans were early adopters of Internet games and smartphones. It has world-beating electronics companies like Samsung and LG. But here, the Internet is just different.

The South Korean government has its reasons, most of them well-intentioned. The curfew, for example, was put in place two years ago to deal with concerns about game addiction among teenagers.

South Korean security restrictions that were put in place after the Korean War limit Google's maps, the company says. The export of map data is barred, SOUTH KOREA, PAGE 16

SHUTDOWN ALTERS SENATE RACE OUTLOOK

Republican hopes for gaining control of the Senate have been set back by the disarray of Washington standoffs. PAGE 4

TAKING A LONG VIEW COULD PAY IN A CRISIS

Long-term investors who stick to wellthought-out plans may ride out awkward periods, Jeff Sommer writes. PAGE 18

SEEING PAST IRRATIONAL PARTISANSHIP

A long-ago summer camp experiment has lessons for squabbling politicians, N. Gregory Mankiw writes. PAGE 19

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C.E.O. of the McLaren Group. PAGE 18 IN THIS ISSUE No. 40,618 Thailand Baht 80.00 Vietnam US\$ 4.00 Books 13 Business 15 Crossword 12

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PAGE TWO

The cleric and his palace The bishop of Limburg, Germany, faced calls to resign after reports surfaced that he had spent €31 million to renovate a residence and had lied in a legal case.

A racing executive's view

An interview with Martin Whitmarsh,

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