



AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Much of the old city of Mosul was destroyed in fierce fighting. Mosul was the largest city in Iraq or Syria held by the Islamic State.

ISIS Is Routed  
As Iraqi Forces  
Reclaim Mosul

Dangers Remain in City  
Ravaged by Battle

By TIM ARANGO  
and MICHAEL R. GORDON

MOSUL, Iraq — Dressed in a military uniform, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi arrived here in Mosul on Sunday to congratulate Iraq’s armed forces for wresting the city from the Islamic State. The victory marked the formal end of a bloody campaign that lasted nearly nine months, left much of Iraq’s second-largest city in ruins, killed thousands of people and displaced nearly a million more.

While Iraqi troops were still mopping up the last pockets of resistance and could be facing guerilla attacks for weeks, the military began to savor its triumph in the shattered alleyways of the old city, where the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, put up a fierce last stand.

Hanging over the declaration of victory is the reality of the hard road ahead. The security forces in Mosul still face dangers, including Islamic State sleeper cells and suicide bombers. And they must clear houses rigged with explosive booby traps so civilians can return and services can be restored.

Mosul was the largest city in either Iraq or Syria held by the Islamic State, and its loss signifies the waning territorial claims of a terrorist group that had its beginnings in the aftermath of the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. The group is also threatened with the loss of its de facto capital, the Syrian city of Raqqa, which is encircled by Arab and Kurdish fighters supported by the United States.

But the end of the Islamic State’s hold on Mosul does not mean peace is at hand. Other cities and towns in Iraq remain under the militants’ control, and Iraqis expect an increase in terrorist attacks in urban centers, especially in the capital, Baghdad, as the group reverts to its insurgent roots.

“It’s going to continue to be hard every day,” said Col. Pat Work, the commanding officer of the Second Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, which is carrying out the American advisory effort here.

Continued on Page A5

Spyware Trailed Investigators in Mexico

By AZAM AHMED

MEXICO CITY — A team of international investigators brought to Mexico to unravel one of the nation’s gravest human rights atrocities was targeted with sophisticated surveillance technology sold to the Mexican government to spy on criminals and terrorists.

The spying took place during what the investigators call a broad campaign of harassment and interference that prevented them from solving the haunting case of 43 students who disappeared after clashing with the police nearly three years ago.

Appointed by an international commission that polices human rights in the Americas, the investigators say they were quickly met

International Team  
Seeking Students  
Was Targeted

with stonewalling by the Mexican government, a refusal to turn over documents or grant vital interviews, and even a retaliatory criminal investigation.

Now, forensic evidence shows that the international investigators were being targeted by advanced surveillance technology as well.

The main contact person for the group of investigators received text messages laced with spyware known as Pegasus, a cyber-

weapon that the government of Mexico spent tens of millions of dollars to acquire, according to an independent analysis. The coordinator’s phone was used by nearly all members of the group, often serving as a nexus of communication among the investigators, their sources, the international commission that appointed them and the Mexican government.

Beyond that, the investigators say they received identical text messages on their own phones, too, luring them to click on links that secretly unlock a target’s smartphone and turn it into a powerful surveillance device. Calls, emails, text messages, calendars and contacts can all be monitored that way. Encrypted messages be-

Continued on Page A7



WHITNEY CURTIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Taylor Jackson, left, and Breaua Roberson are incoming freshmen at the University of Missouri.

Racial Protests Stain a University’s Reputation

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

COLUMBIA, Mo. — In the fall of 2015, a grassy quadrangle at the center of the University of Missouri became known nationwide as the command center of an escalating protest.

Students complaining of official inaction in the face of racial bigotry joined forces with a graduate student on a hunger strike. Within weeks, with the aid of the football team, they had forced the university system president and

the campus chancellor to resign.

It was a moment of triumph for the protesting students. But it has been a disaster for the university.

Freshman enrollment at the Columbia campus, the system’s flagship, has fallen by more than 35 percent in the two years since.

The university administration acknowledges that the main reason is a backlash from the events of 2015, as the campus has been shunned by students and families put off by, depending on their viewpoint, a culture of racism or one where protesters run amok.

Before the protests, the university, fondly known as Mizzou, was experiencing steady growth and building new dormitories. Now, with budget cuts due to lost tuition and a decline in state funding, the university is temporarily closing seven dormitories and cutting more than 400 positions, including those of some nontenured faculty members, through layoffs and by leaving open jobs unfilled.

Few areas have been spared: The library is even begging for books.

Continued on Page A10

Pence Hosting  
Private Parties  
To Woo Donors

Fueling Speculation on  
His Political Future

By KENNETH P. VOGEL

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence has been courting scores of the country’s most influential donors, corporate executives and conservative political leaders over the past several months in a series of private gatherings and one-on-one conversations.

The centerpiece of the effort is a string of dinners held every few weeks at the vice president’s official residence on the grounds of the Naval Observatory in Washington. Mr. Pence and his wife, Karen, have presided over at least four such soirees, and more are in the works. Each has drawn roughly 30 to 40 guests, including a mix of wealthy donors such as the Chicago hedge fund manager Kenneth C. Griffin and the brokerage firm founder Charles Schwab, as well as Republican fund-raisers and executives from companies like Dow Chemical and the military contractor United Technologies.

The guests and their families collectively donated or helped raise millions of dollars to support the Trump-Pence ticket in 2016, and some are viewed in Republican finance circles as likely supporters for two new groups created to promote President Trump, Mr. Pence, their legislative agenda and their congressional allies. The dinner guest lists were curated in part by two of Mr. Pence’s closest advisers, who have also played important roles in starting the new political groups, America First Policies and America First Action. Mr. Pence has appeared at recent events outside his official residence with prospective donors to the groups.

The off-site events and dinners at Mr. Pence’s residence underscore the vice president’s outreach to donors for an administration led by a president who dislikes courting contributors, who often expect personal attention in exchange for their support. Mr. Pence’s activities have fueled speculation among Republican insiders that he is laying the foundation for his own political future, independent from Mr. Trump.

If nothing else, the assiduous donor maintenance by Mr. Pence and his team reflects his acceptance

Continued on Page A17

TRUMP TEAM MET  
RUSSIAN OFFERING  
DIRT ON CLINTON

KEY TIME IN CAMPAIGN

Account Shows an Inner  
Circle Open to Using  
Foreign Help

This article is by Jo Becker, Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman.

President Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., was promised damaging information about Hillary Clinton before agreeing to meet with a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign, according to three advisers to the White House briefed on the meeting and two others with knowledge of it.

The meeting was also attended by his campaign chairman at the time, Paul J. Manafort, and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Mr. Manafort and Mr. Kushner recently disclosed the meeting, though not its content, in confidential government documents described to The New York Times.

The Times reported the existence of the meeting on Saturday. But in subsequent interviews, the advisers and others revealed the motivation behind it.

The meeting — at Trump Tower on June 9, 2016, two weeks after Donald J. Trump clinched the Republican nomination — points to the central question in federal investigations of the Kremlin’s meddling in the presidential election: whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russians. The accounts of the meeting represent the first public indication that at least some in the campaign were willing to accept Russian help.

While President Trump has been dogged by revelations of undisclosed meetings between his associates and the Russians, the episode at Trump Tower is the first such confirmed private meeting involving his inner circle during the campaign — as well as the first one known to have included his eldest son. It came at an inflection

Continued on Page A16

‘MOVE FORWARD’ President Trump tried to put the issue of Russian meddling to rest. PAGE A17

REASSURING UKRAINE The secretary of state told Russia to give back Ukrainian land. PAGE A8

Rolling Back U.S. Regulations  
Will Test One Scholar’s Finesse

By STEVE EDER

WASHINGTON — When George Mason University changed the name of its law school last year to honor Antonin Scalia, the late conservative Supreme Court justice, the tribute ranked

worked to win over liberal critics.

In a public relations coup, she helped secure an endorsement for the name change from Ruth Bader Ginsburg, one of the Supreme Court’s most liberal justices and a longtime friend of Mr. Scalia. Justice Ginsburg described the school’s renaming as “altogether fitting.”

Ms. Rao’s ability to work both sides of the ideological divide, emblematic of her career in academia and government, is about to be tested anew. On Monday, the Senate is expected to approve Ms. Rao’s nomination to lead an obscure but powerful White House agency called the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs — placing her at the heart of President Trump’s politically contentious agenda to overhaul government rules and

Continued on Page A14



Neomi Rao

**TRUMP RULES**  
*The Keeper of the Gate*

many liberal faculty members and students. That the naming was tied to a multimillion-dollar donation from the conservative Charles Koch Foundation only heightened concerns.

One outspoken advocate for the name change was Neomi Rao, an associate law professor who had come to know Mr. Scalia while serving as a clerk for Clarence Thomas, another conservative member of the court. Ms. Rao, a Republican, publicly celebrated the legacy of Mr. Scalia and praised the Koch donation as “game changing” for the law school.

But quietly, Ms. Rao also



INTERNATIONAL A4-8

**Giant Protest in Turkey**

Hundreds of thousands of protesters in Istanbul cheered on the leader of the opposition party. PAGE A7

**Grim Trend in Tunisia**

Self-immolation in the cradle of the Arab Spring is now commonplace. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A9-17

**Faces of Interracial Marriage**

Fifty years after interracial marriage became legal across the United States, one in six newlyweds is in a mixed marriage. Couples tell their stories. PAGE A9

**Candidates Court Trump**

Republicans seeking the Senate seat once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions in Alabama know President Trump holds the key to victory. PAGE A15

**A Partisan Clash on Guns**

After a gunman shot at Republicans practicing baseball, conservatives are pressing to loosen gun laws. PAGE A12



NEW YORK A18-21

**‘One Square Mile of Danger’**

The killing of a police officer shattered a brief period of peace on a stretch of East 183rd Street in the Bronx. PAGE A18

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

**Paul Krugman** PAGE A23

BUSINESS DAY B1-4

**News Groups Look to Congress**

News organizations will seek consent to negotiate collectively with Google and Facebook for a greater share of ad revenue, Jim Rutenberg writes. PAGE B1

**Blockbuster Deal Held Up**

The Justice Department faces stumbling blocks in evaluating AT&T’s \$85.4 billion bid for Time Warner. PAGE B1

SPORTSMONDAY D1-6

**A Nerd-Driven Homer Spike**

Records are breaking this season as technology teaches hitters how to turn fly balls into home runs. PAGE D1



ARTS C1-8

**Carving His Own Path**

The singer Chronixx, above, is taking his Jamaican reggae worldwide, and doing it his way. PAGE C1



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