

LANDMARK RULING PROTECTS L.G.B.T. WORKERS



Citing the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Supreme Court said Monday that people could not be fired for being gay, bisexual or transgender.

As War Abates, Financial Ruin Looms in Syria

By BEN HUBBARD

BEIRUT, Lebanon — President Bashar al-Assad, who has mostly won Syria's civil war, now faces an acute economic crisis that has impoverished his people, brought about the collapse of the currency and fueled a rare public rift in the ruling elite.

Government salaries have become nearly worthless. Protests against falling living standards have broken out in the southeast.

The Syrian pound is worth so little that people have posted images on social media of bank notes used to roll cigarettes.

The government is so strapped for cash that it is squeezing wealthy businessmen to help fund the state, a move that prompted a powerful Syrian tycoon to openly criticize the government.

For nine years, Mr. al-Assad has relied on brute force to crush the rebels who sought to end his family's decades-old grip on power. But now, with the war's biggest battles behind him, he faces new threats that he cannot bomb his way out of or count on his few allies to help him surmount.

That the tycoon, a member of Mr. al-Assad's inner circle, had the temerity to go public with his dispute suggests a weakening of his power. And strict United States economic sanctions that take effect Wednesday are likely to make matters worse.

“The problem for al-Assad is that he does not have a solution,” said Danny Makki, a Syria analyst at the Middle East Institute in Washington. “It is going to create a high intensity crisis, and he either has to talk to the Americans and make concessions or endure what could be a major economic collapse.”

The war has throttled Syria's economy, reducing it to a third the size it was before the conflict and taking a toll thought to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

An estimated 80 percent of Syrians live in poverty. About 40 percent were unemployed at the end of 2019, the latest figures available, and joblessness has only increased because of government restrictions to control the coronavirus.

The collapse of Syria's currency has compounded the crisis.

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Propping Up a City They Couldn’t Afford to Flee

By WINNIE HU and NATE SCHWEBER

The sidewalks of Mount Hope fill up early with essential workers.

The health care and construction workers come out first, followed by the delivery drivers, grocery store clerks, security guards, building porters and countless others.

They make their home in this hilltop neighborhood of 53,000 in the Bronx that has been an anchor against the coronavirus. From there, they disperse to all corners of the borough, the city and beyond to provide the services that other people count on in a global health crisis.

As New York City begins reopening, nothing has really changed in Mount Hope. Many residents never stopped going to

Invaluable Commuters Flow In From Edges of New York

their jobs. Not when confronted by the dangers of the virus. Not when looting broke out during the protests for racial justice over the death of George Floyd. Not when many other New Yorkers began working from home, and others altogether fled the wealthiest neighborhoods in Manhattan.

The only time that Albertha Johnson, 47, has been able to stay home from her job as a supervisor for the city's Human Resources Administration, the nation's largest social services agency, was when she got the virus in April.

After two weeks off to recover, it

was back to her office in Harlem where people come in for help, from domestic abuse victims to those suffering from mental illness who may become violent.

“The type of work I decided to do requires hands-on,” she said. “You can't tell somebody ‘stop hitting somebody’ from home. I choose it because I like what I do.”

The sheer number of essential workers in Mount Hope who cannot work from home is most likely why it was the only neighborhood in the city where the total number of commuting trips actually increased during the height of the pandemic, when New York came to a virtual standstill.

The average number of week-day commutes in Mount Hope, which sits about a mile and a half north of Yankee Stadium, rose 4 percent in April from the same month the previous year, according to

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Russia Exploits Conspiracy Mill Americans Built

By NICOLE PERLROTH

The night of the Iowa caucuses in February, Robby Mook, Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign manager, logged into Twitter to find the hashtag #RobbyMookCaucusApp trending across the country. Pundits on both sides of the aisle accused him of developing a mobile app to rig the Democratic primary against Senator Bernie Sanders.

Soon his phone was buzzing with calls from reporters demanding to know what role he had played in creating the app, a flawed vote-reporting system that delayed caucus results for days.

But he had never even heard of the app, which was developed by a company called Shadow Inc. This mattered little to the thousands of Twitter users attacking him online. Four months later, Mr. Mook said with a sigh, “There are still people out there who believe I developed that app.”

Mr. Mook was the target of an American-made social media conspiracy theory that was picked up by Americans and quickly amplified by accounts with Russian links. What happened to him in February — though just a sliver of the enormous amounts of misinformation —

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RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



LAURA MCKENZIE/BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION EAGLE

A MOVEMENT THAT SWEEPED THE NATION

Within 24 hours of the killing of George Floyd, protests erupted in a half-dozen cities across the country. Then the number of places doubled. Then they tripled. Now, they encompass all 50 states. Pages A13-20.

The Minneapolis Corner Store Forever Linked to Floyd’s Killing

By NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS and JACK HEALY

MINNEAPOLIS — Scorn for the brown-brick corner store keeps pouring in: “They call the cops on black people,” one person says in an online business review. “Racially profiled a man.” “Disgusting.”

The outrage is aimed at Cup Foods, a neighborhood market in

South Minneapolis where a teenage clerk called 911 to report that George Floyd had bought cigarettes using a fake \$20 bill. Mr. Floyd was sitting in a parked car just outside the store when a white police officer responding to the call pinned Mr. Floyd's neck to the asphalt for nearly nine minutes.

“People were saying we were responsible for his death, that we had blood on our hands, that we're

the reason he died,” said Mahmoud Abumayyaleh, an owner of the market.

Now, Cup Foods has become indelibly connected to the police killing of a black man that set off weeks of protests and a national reckoning over racism in policing and in many other parts of American life.

On Monday, Cup Foods reopened its doors for the first time since protesters poured into the

neighborhood. The deli was again stocked with fresh vegetables and meat, but the newspapers on the rack were precisely three weeks old — the last editions before Mr. Floyd's death began to dominate every front page.

The air inside was still, and customers were scarce in the morning. A newly hired security guard paced in and out of the building. Inside, signs commemorated

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Running Dry in the West

A canal that began watering the Montana prairie a century ago may dry up without a \$200 million revamp. PAGE A12

The Lawyer Reshaping Voting

A Trump lawyer, William Consovoy, has taken a leading role as Republicans push voting restrictions. PAGE A26

INTERNATIONAL A10-11

A Persecuted Lesbian’s Undoing

Charged with “inciting debauchery” in Egypt after waving a rainbow flag, Sarah Hegazi was jailed and tortured. She killed herself at 30. PAGE A10

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-9

Pence’s Claim on New Cases

The vice president misleadingly played down surges, saying the numbers were the result of more testing. PAGE A8

Cuomo Warns New York City

The governor said that lax adherence to social-distancing rules could slow the next phase of reopening. PAGE A5



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All the World’s a Stage: Drive-In

“Horrible Histories” was meant to be in London’s West End in July. Now it’ll be in a parking lot 200 miles away. PAGE C2

Art Therapy in Unsettled Times

Several museums are preparing to reopen, with an awareness of a new mission as people struggle. PAGE C1

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An eBay Harassment Case

Six former employees of the company threatened, stalked and sent disturbing packages to a couple after their online newsletter covered a lawsuit involving eBay, prosecutors alleged. PAGE B1

SPORTS TUESDAY B8-10

U.S. Open Moves Forward

Plans to hold the Grand Slam tennis tournament, probably on its scheduled dates, are set to be announced. Government approval is still needed. PAGE B8

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Ali Drucker PAGE A31



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Jaguar Poaching on the Rise

A new study links the slaughter of the big cats in Central and South America to corruption as well as investment from Chinese companies. PAGE D1

