

LISTING DEMANDS, ASSAD USES CRISIS TO HIS ADVANTAGE

A SHIFT IN PERCEPTIONS

Kerry Says Remarks by Syrian Leader Are 'Not Enough'

By ROBERT F. WORTH

WASHINGTON — Not long ago, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria seemed a remote and embattled figure, with the United States threatening airstrikes and other Arab leaders denouncing him for having used chemical weapons against his own people.

Yet in recent days, he appears, paradoxically, to have turned the crisis to his advantage, making clear to a global television audience that he aims to use President Obama's own "red line" against him.

In exchange for relinquishing his chemical arsenal, Mr. Assad said Thursday, he will require that the United States stop arming the Syrian opposition — a demand that might seem wishful from the leader of a devastated country where civil war has left 100,000 dead, two million living as refugees and large swaths of territory beyond his control.

Mr. Assad outlined his demands on Thursday, telling a Russian TV interviewer that the arms-control proposal floated by his patron in Moscow would not be finalized until "we see the United States really wants stability in our region and stops threatening, striving to attack and also ceases arms deliveries to terrorists."

Secretary of State John Kerry delivered a blunt response to Mr. Assad's comments after meeting Thursday with Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, saying the standard procedures for identifying and securing the

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A Short Post, A Big Splash: #TwitterIPO

Titan of Social Media Will Sell Shares

This article is by Vinu Goel, Nick Bilton and David Gelles.

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter, which began as a side project in a small but failing start-up seven years ago and grew into one of the world's largest platforms for public conversation, is about to take its biggest step yet into maturity: selling stock to the public.

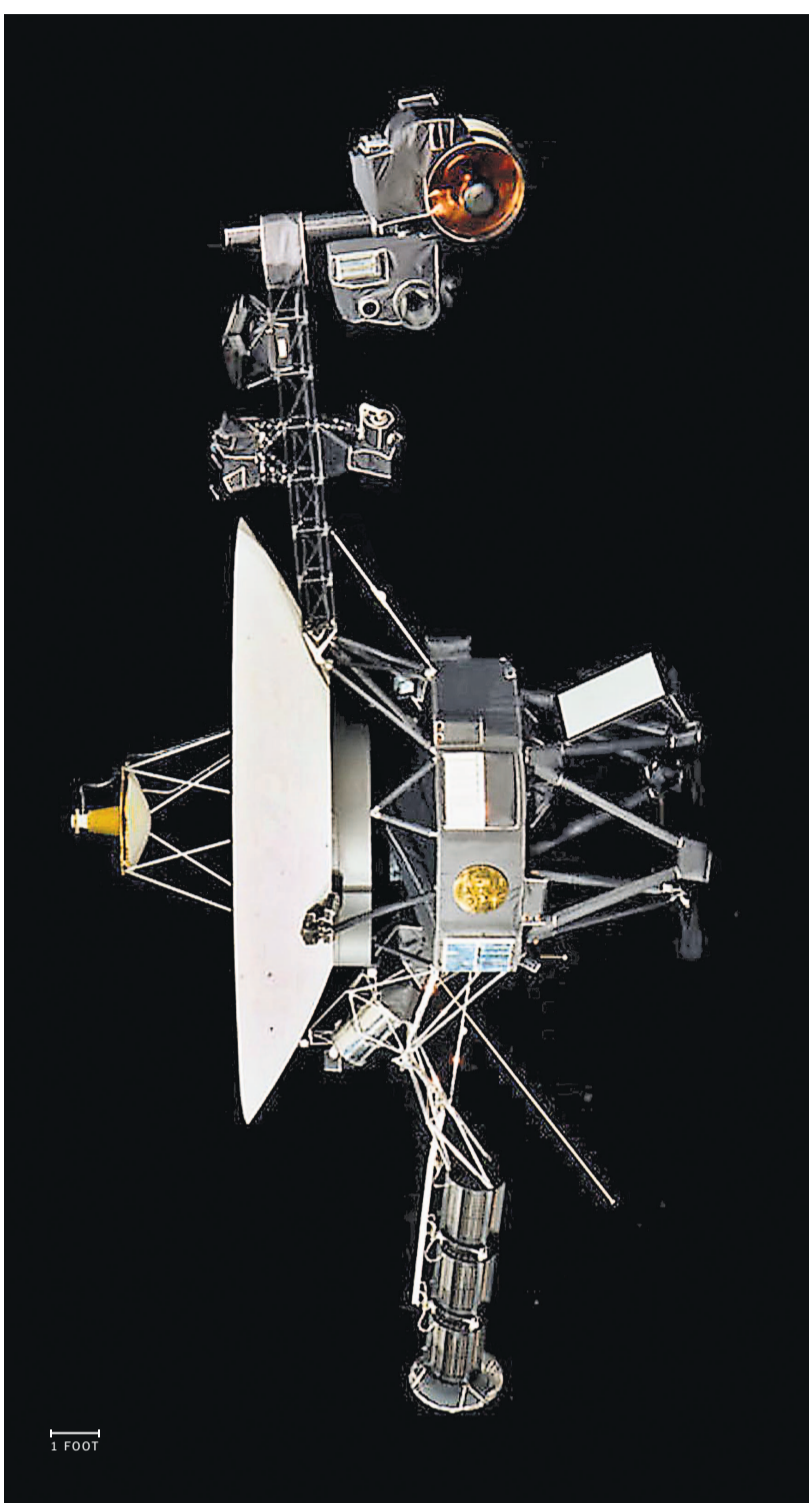
The company announced on Thursday — in a tweet, one of the 140-character messages that are the backbone of the service — that it had filed paperwork with regulators to eventually sell shares in an initial public offering. However, it had filed the first documents months earlier under a special provision of securities law that allows a company with less than \$1 billion in annual revenue to keep its financial data secret until it begins actively marketing its stock to investors.

Twitter's caution follows the disastrous I.P.O. of its archrival, Facebook. In May 2012, Facebook sold \$16 billion in stock to investors, only to see its share price sliced in half in the ensuing months as shareholders worried that the company could not make money from its billion users.

But investors have recently become enamored of all things social and mobile, and have become particularly enchanted by the fast growth of mobile advertising revenue at social networking companies. Facebook's shares hit a record high this week and ended Thursday at \$44.75, well above the \$38 I.P.O. price. LinkedIn, the business-oriented social network, is trading at nosebleed levels, even after selling another \$1 billion in stock to investors in a secondary offering.

This is an opportune time for Twitter to join their ranks. Its service is considered well suited

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VOYAGER 1, launched in 1977, is now 11.7 billion miles from Earth. That is equivalent to 125 trips between Earth and the Sun.



Distance traveled since 1977

THE NEW YORK TIMES; PHOTO BY NASA

BOEHNER SEEKING DEMOCRATS' HELP ON FISCAL TALKS

G.O.P. DISSIDENTS OBJECT

Republican Bloc Asks to Put Off Health Law — Oct. 1 Deadline

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON — With Congress momentarily freed from the Syrian crisis, lawmakers plunged back into their bitter fiscal standoff on Thursday as Speaker John A. Boehner appealed to the Obama administration and Democratic leaders to help him resolve divisions in the Republican ranks that could lead to a government shutdown by month's end.

In meetings with Democratic and Republican Congressional leaders on Thursday after a session with Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew on Wednesday, Mr. Boehner sought a resumption of negotiations that could keep the government running and yield a deficit-reduction deal that would persuade recalcitrant conservatives to raise the government's borrowing limit.

Much of the federal government will shut down as of Oct. 1 unless Congress approves new spending bills to replace expiring ones, and by mid-October, the Treasury Department will lose the borrowing authority to finance the government and pay its debts.

"It's time for the president's party to show the courage to work with us to solve this problem," said Mr. Boehner, who argued that budget deals have been part of past agreements to raise the debt limit.

But a bloc of 43 House Republicans undercut the speaker's deficit-reduction focus, introducing yearlong funding legislation that would increase Pentagon and veterans spending and delay President Obama's health care law for a year — most likely adding to the budget deficit. That bloc is large enough to thwart any compromise that does not attract Democratic support.

"Obamacare is the most dangerous piece of legislation ever passed in Congress," said Representative John Fleming, Republican of Louisiana. "It is the most existential threat to our economy" that the country has seen "since the Great Depression, so I think a little bit of additional deficit is nothing," he added.

Just five scheduled legislative

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Exiting the Solar System and Fulfilling a Dream

By BROOKS BARNES

PASADENA, Calif. — By today's standards, the spacecraft's technology is laughable: it carries an 8-track tape recorder and computers with one-240,000th the memory of a low-end iPhone. When it left Earth 36 years ago, it was designed as a four-year mission to Saturn, and everything after that was gravy.

But Voyager 1 has become — thrillingly — the Little Spacecraft That Could. On Thursday, scientists declared that it had become the first probe to exit the solar system, a breathtaking achievement that NASA could only fantasize about back when Voyager was launched in 1977, the same

NASA Craft, Aloft 36 Years, Enters Region Between the Stars

year "Star Wars" was released.

"I don't know if it's in the same league as landing on the moon, but it's right up there — 'Star Trek' stuff, for sure," said Donald A. Gurnett, a physics professor at the University of Iowa and the co-author of a paper published Thursday in the journal Science about Voyager's feat. "I mean, consider the distance. It's hard even for scientists to comprehend."

Even among planetary scientists, who tend to dream large, the idea that something they built could travel beyond the Sun's empire and keep grinding away is impressive. Plenty of telescopes gaze at the far parts of the Milky Way, but Voyager 1 can now touch and feel the cold, unexplored region in between the stars and send back detailed dispatches about conditions there. It takes 17 hours and 22 minutes for Voyager's signals to reach NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here.

"This is historic stuff, a bit like the first exploration of Earth, and we had to look at the data very, very carefully," said Edward C. Stone, 77, NASA's top Voyager ex-

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Boardwalk Blaze Erases Months Of Rebuilding at the Jersey Shore

By KATE ZERNIKE

Nearly a year after Hurricane Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore, a boardwalk that was just rebuilt was ravaged by fire on Thursday, as a blaze that began at an iconic ice cream shop quickly engulfed businesses along a stretch of beach in two towns.

Flames and black plumes of smoke shot high above the Boardwalk in Seaside Park, where the fire began after 2 p.m. Within hours, strong gusts of wind swept the fire north along the adjoining Boardwalk of Seaside Heights, where a roller coaster had sat mangled in the ocean for months and became a symbol of the storm's damage.

Funtown Pier, nearly destroyed by the hurricane, collapsed in flames. And nearby, the fire appeared to have ruined a historic carousel that had been painstakingly restored after the storm and reopened just months ago. In all, about 20 businesses over a six-block stretch were almost completely destroyed, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey said at a news conference. Local offi-



A fire on Thursday hit Seaside Park and Seaside Heights.

cialists suggested that number was too low.

Standing in front of emergency vehicles in Seaside Heights, he called the blaze "unthinkable." When he heard the news, the governor said, "I said to my staff, 'I feel like I want to throw up.'"

"I can only imagine," he added,

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Pakistani's Iron Grip, Wielded in Opulent Exile, Begins to Slip

By DECLAN WALSH

LONDON — For two decades, Altaf Hussain has run his brutal Pakistani political empire by remote control, shrouded in luxurious exile in London and long beyond the reach of the law.

He follows events through satellite televisions in his walled-off home, manages millions of dollars in assets and issues decrees in ranting teleconferences that last for hours — all to command a network of influence and intimidation that stretches from North

America to South Africa.

This global system serves a very localized goal: perpetuating Mr. Hussain's reign as the political king of Karachi, the brooding port city of 20 million people at the heart of Pakistan's economy.

"Distance does not matter," reads the inscription on a monument near Mr. Hussain's deserted former house in Karachi, where his name evokes both fear and favor.

Now, though, his painstakingly constructed web is fraying.

A British murder investigation has been closing in on Mr. Hus-



Altaf Hussain on a billboard.

sain, 59, and his party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement. His London home and offices have been raided, and the police have

opened new investigations into accusations of money laundering and inciting violence in Pakistan.

The scrutiny has visibly rattled Mr. Hussain, who recently warned supporters that his arrest may be imminent. And in Karachi, it has raised a previously unthinkable question: Is the end near for the untouchable political machine that has been the city's linchpin for three decades?

"This is a major crisis," said Irfan Hussain, the author of "Fatal Faultlines," a book about Pakistan's relationship with the Unit-

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Mayoral Race Moves Forward

Joseph J. Lhota, below, and Bill de Blasio took on the role of fierce rivals in the campaign for New York City mayor, even as the Democratic primary contest remained unsettled. PAGE A18



INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Soccer Fever in Afghanistan

In a scene unthinkable in the Taliban era, Kabul erupted in celebration after the national soccer team won its first international championship. PAGE A4

Antismog Initiative in China

Beijing's ambitious plan to curb air pollution nationwide includes setting limits on the burning of coal. PAGE A4

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Consulting Firms Face Inquiry

New York State has subpoenaed two consulting firms as part of an investigation into the industry's perceived coziness with Wall Street. PAGE B1

NBC Overhauls 'Today' Show

The network is making changes to "Today" in an effort to regain the ratings lead it once held over "Good Morning America" on ABC. PAGE B3

The Fed's Big Challenge

The Federal Reserve needs to convince markets that it remains committed to stimulating the economy. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A14-17

New Economic Counselor

President Obama will name Jeffrey D. Zients, who twice was his acting budget director, as economic adviser. PAGE A16

FASHION B18

End of the Runway

Calvin Klein offered layered looks at the end of Fashion Week. PAGE B18

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Turnovers Doom the Jets

Geno Smith's three interceptions in the fourth quarter proved costly as the Jets fell to the Patriots, 13-10. PAGE B9

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Cultural Exchange

"Interwoven Globe," a new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, features three centuries of oceanic trade and the cross-cultural

pollination of styles, materials and techniques that emerged from it. Textiles and garments dominate the presentation. PAGE C21

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Paul Krugman

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