

So many peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians have fizzled over the years that skepticism about the latest effort is predictable. US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday announced a nine-month push for a comprehensive agreement on an independent Palestinian state. What makes his timetable possible is all those earlier attempts. Every Israeli-Palestinian wrinkle has been analyzed and reanalyzed. Scenarios have been devised, maps have been redrawn, and costs have been calculated for all the big issues: Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem, the configuration of borders and security. Nor is anyone blind to the larger context: democratic aspirations in the Arab world; demographic projections in Israel; the need for progress in a tumultuous region.

Neither side will get everything it wants, which makes compromise essential but also makes compromisers vulnerable to criticism – or worse – from hard-liners. This, too, is known by all parties. But the goal Mr. Kerry sees is clear: Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. The first steps in that necessary journey have begun. Abundant realism and goodwill are needed to get there.

John Yemma,
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Bradley Manning gets off, partly

HE'S ACQUITTED OF 'AIDING THE ENEMY,' BUT NOT OF ESPIONAGE.

By ANNA MULRINE
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON – Pfc. Bradley Manning was found not guilty on Tuesday of "aiding the enemy" for his role in providing documents to the online site WikiLeaks, a charge that could have sent him to prison for life without possibility of parole.

The intelligence analyst, who pleaded guilty to a number of lesser offenses before the trial began, was also charged with several counts under the Espionage Act.

The verdict was greeted with mixed feelings by Manning supporters, including the American Civil Liberties Union. "While we're relieved that Mr. Manning was acquitted of the most dangerous charge, the ACLU has long held the view that leaks to the press in the public interest should not be prosecuted under the Espionage Act," said Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, in a statement.

Page 4 bonus story
Bears get a boost from an ecological chain reaction.

Manning's backers also argued that the US government was seeking to send a statement to self-described whistle-blowers.

"Since Manning already pleaded guilty to charges of leaking information – which carry significant punishment – it seems clear that the government was seeking to intimidate anyone who might consider revealing valuable information in the future," Mr. Wizner said.

The judge, Col. Denise Lind, will convene the sentencing phase of the trial today. She is not bound by any mandatory minimum sentences, notes Richard Rosen, former commandant of the Judge Advocate General School for the US Army. "She could theoretically give him no punishment or a letter of reprimand," Mr. Rosen says. To try to prevent this, the prosecution will make the case that Manning's actions hurt the United States and the military.

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In Egypt, EU chief meets Morsi

SOME HOPE THE UNION CAN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN CURBING VIOLENCE.

By SARA MILLER LLANA
STAFF WRITER

PARIS – The European Union's foreign-policy chief has met with Egypt's ousted President Mohamed Morsi, her spokeswoman said early Tuesday via Twitter.

Catherine Ashton visited Mr. Morsi on Monday night for two hours of "in-depth" discussions. Ms. Ashton is believed to be the first person outside Egypt to have seen Morsi since he was ousted July 3 and shuttled to an undisclosed location.

The meeting raises the possibility that the EU could play a major role in trying to curb the growing violence in Egypt, as Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood demands his reinstatement. That would be a major coup for EU foreign policy, which many claim has faltered amid the biggest security issues in recent years.

As Europe's chief diplomat, Ashton has tried to help arbitrate a solution between

Egypt's rulers and the Muslim Brotherhood. As Reuters reports, Ashton is seen by both sides as "an important neutral voice in a country where Washington is looked upon with suspicion."

For now, compromise seems far off. Some 80 Brotherhood supporters were shot dead over the weekend in clashes with security forces, and the interim government has told them to immediately abandon protests. They have refused, and say they will continue to protest until Morsi is reinstated.

During Ashton's visit to Egypt, which began Sunday, she met with Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the head of the Army, as well as members of the interim government installed by the Army, and with representatives of the Brotherhood's political wing. Before arriving, she said she would be calling for a "fully inclusive transition process, taking in all political groups."

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President Obama on Tuesday offered congressional Republicans a new corporate tax cut and jobs spending package he said might “help break through some of the political logjam in Washington,” only to have GOP lawmakers immediately throw cold water on the idea. Obama outlined his proposal in a speech at a massive Amazon .com plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., his latest stop on a summertime campaign to refocus his agenda on the economy. He said “serious people” in both parties should accept his offer.

A series of explosions rocked a central Florida propane gas plant and sent “boom after boom after boom” through the neighborhood around it. Eight people were injured, with at least three in critical condition. John Herrell of the Lake County Sheriff’s Office said early Tuesday there were no fatalities despite massive blasts that ripped through the Blue Rhino propane plant late Monday night.

The driver of the train that derailed and killed 79 people in Spain was talking on the phone to an official of national rail company Renfe and traveling at 95 m.p.h. – almost twice the speed limit – when the crash happened last week, according to a preliminary investigation released Tuesday. The driver, Francisco Jose Garzon Amo, was also apparently consulting a paper document at the time, the statement said. Garzon was provisionally charged Sunday with multiple counts of negligent homicide. Investigators examined the contents of two black boxes recovered from the lead and rear cars of the train.

A prosecutor on Tuesday pressed Italy’s top criminal court to uphold Silvio Berlusconi’s tax fraud conviction, but recommended shortening his ban on holding public office. The media mogul’s defense team will have one final chance on today to try to convince the Court of Cassation to throw out the conviction of the former three-time premier and current

Jailbreaks! Pakistan’s joins a spate

TROUBLING ATTACKS ON PRISONS ALSO OCCUR IN IRAQ AND LIBYA.

By **JEREMY RAVINSKY**
CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 250 prisoners have escaped from a Pakistani prison following a massive assault that killed 12 people, including five police officers.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, also known as the Pakistan Taliban, has claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s prison break, which took place in the town of Dera Ismail Khan in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, reports Dawn. Though Pakistan’s government has promised to end its decade-long conflict with the TTP, which has killed more than 50,000 people, peace talks are looking less likely after several deadly attacks by the insurgent group.

The prison assault comes only days after similar attacks on prisons in Iraq and Libya saw hundreds of prisoners freed as well. Though thousands of miles apart from one another, the prison breaks in these three countries reflect dismally on the states’ capacity to govern – and on US stabilization efforts, say analysts.

“We are watching countries that have crucial implications for US security,” says William C. Martel, an associate professor of international security studies at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. “[Countries] that are in the throes of various forms of political, economic, and social disintegration.”

In Pakistan, the assault appears to have caught prison officials off-guard, despite reports indicating that intelligence services had been warned of prison attacks two weeks ago, according to the BBC.

Highly coordinated and sophisticated in their execution, the attackers cut the prison’s power lines and breached the walls with explosive devices, reports Reuters. Dozens of attackers armed with bombs, grenades, and machine guns – many of them dressed as police – flooded the prison, freeing hundreds of inmates, including many TTP fighters.

Iraq, Libya, and Pakistan are all recipients of vast amounts of US foreign aid. Indeed, Pakistan and Iraq are consistently in the top five recipients of aid from the United States.

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For Russia, nothing new in NSA leaks

TECH EXPERTS ALREADY KNEW NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY IS WANTING.

By **FRED WEIR**
CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW – Russian intelligence services learned “nothing new” from ex-National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden’s alleged trail of leaks, Dmitry Rogozin, deputy prime minister and head of Russia’s military-industrial commission, told journalists Monday.

But, just in case, Russia needs to beef up its cybersecurity and develop protected domestic sources of software and vital electronic components, Mr. Rogozin said. He warned that foreign-made equipment can come with hidden programs or viruses that can be activated to sabotage Russian machinery or siphon off information.

“Our IT experts did not hear anything new [from Mr. Snowden]. It was the bare truth we actually knew from other sources. It was the truth that is making us move and be quick about forming a component-based software

system of our own,” Rogozin told journalists after meeting with President Vladimir Putin at his Novo Ogaryovo residence.

Industrial espionage “is something very well developed. But we are using all the means available to counter it. Russia is not unprotected. But it could become vulnerable if we become entirely dependent on foreign equipment and foreign software purchases. This carries a serious risk. Therefore, the development of the national radio-electronic and software industries is a matter of national security,” the independent Interfax agency quoted him as saying.

Rogozin, an articulate Russian nationalist whose political star has been rising in Mr. Putin’s third term, is a strong advocate of rebuilding the industrial base that propelled the former Soviet Union to superpower status in the cold-war-era military and space races.

👉 [To read the full article, CLICK HERE](#)

senator by a lower-level appeals court. The decision could have an impact on the fragile coalition of Premier Enrico Letta, since his center-left party depends on Berlusconi's conservatives for survival.

Rescue workers on Tuesday recovered the body of the driver of one of two regional trains that collided head-on in western Switzerland. Officials said it appeared likely that one of the trains ignored a signal. The collision occurred near the station at Granges-pres-Marnand, about 30 miles southwest of the capital, Bern. Of the 46 passengers on board the trains, 26 were taken to hospitals, none of them in life-threatening condition.

A powerful Kurdish militia said Tuesday it is mobilizing against Al Qaeda-linked rebels in northeastern Syria after a Kurdish opposition leader was killed in the area. The fight between the Kurds and the extremists has become a war within a war in Syria's oil-rich region.

Georgia's Culture Ministry says that a monument to Soviet dictator and native son Josef Stalin taken down three years ago will be restored. The ministry's spokeswoman said

Continues on next page

“THE OBJECT OF THE MONITOR IS TO INJURE NO MAN, BUT TO BLESS ALL MANKIND.”

– Mary Baker Eddy

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EDITORIAL / THE MONITOR'S VIEW

Negotiations, Senate-style

In recent days, two different sets of secret talks have been under way in Washington. Each is aimed at achieving a “grand bargain” between hardened opponents. Both are given little chance of success. Both involve either current senators or former ones. And, most important, the negotiations will succeed only if each side admits that the other’s “core interests” are worthy of consideration.

The more secret of the talks are those focused on avoiding a fiscal crisis if Congress does not raise the federal debt limit this fall. President Obama (a former senator) has tasked his chief of staff to negotiate with a group of Republican senators in hopes of finding a consensus on spending cuts and raising tax revenue.

The other negotiations are between Israeli and Palestinian officials. They were doggedly arranged by Mr. Obama’s secretary of State, John Kerry – a former senator. He traveled to the Middle East six times in just six months.

On Monday evening, he welcomed the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators for a casual dinner. Formal talks continued into Tuesday at

the State Department.

For those talks, Mr. Kerry was able to achieve some concessions before they began. Israel released about 100 Palestinian prisoners. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas dropped a key condition for the talks (suspending expansion of Jewish settlements). In the fiscal talks, by contrast, there is reportedly only a minor consensus so far – easy reforms of Social Security.

How will these current and former senators tackle two of the most difficult issues of our times? How much will their tactics be formed by the Senate being the more “deliberative” chamber of Congress?

Both these talks are hopeful signs that Washington can still practice the delicate art of finding common ground between people who may not only differ on issues, but sometimes don’t even get along. Good negotiators play to history rather than the cameras. They are long on listening and short on yelling. They settle problems instead of scores.

♦ [To read the full editorial, CLICK HERE](#)

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

Job hunting and God’s ‘thundering voice’

When you’re job hunting, wouldn’t you love to be led intuitively through the employment market maze to an opening with your name on it?

Hours of networking and combing the classifieds and Internet postings don’t necessarily lead to that perfect slot; it can feel discouraging. It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the deluge of news about unemployment or to sense that our skill-sets are outmoded.

But whatever the arguments or forces that seem stacked against us, God has a unique place and an ongoing usefulness for each of us. And there is always a divine voice that thunders directly – to set us back on course.

At one point when both my husband and I needed jobs, I quietly prayed and listened until I could hear an answer. The Christian Science Bible Lesson that week focused on those ancients who often heard God’s word directly, described even as a thundering voice: “God thundereth marvellously with his

voice” (Job 37:5). When God needed Moses’ attention, a bush flamed in the desert, and a voice called his name and directed him to a new mission (see Exodus, chap. 3). He was to leave his job as a shepherd, and lead the children of Israel to freedom. Our directives may not come like that, but the employment shifts can feel just as unexpected. We can expect to hear that “thundering voice.”

That day my husband heard a job announcement on the radio, posted by a nonprofit some 100 miles away. The skill-sets needed matched our experience, and we were hired. That experience remains a beacon whenever I face an impasse. It’s a reminder to tune in quietly to the all-knowing Mind, and listen expectantly. The thundering voice is always speaking, waiting only for our undivided attention.

– Kate Colby

From *The Christian Science Journal*

♦ [To read the full perspective, CLICK HERE](#)

Tuesday that the monument in Stalin's birthplace of Gori will be restored by Dec. 21, his birthdate. The statue was torn down in 2010 amid a crackdown on Soviet-era monuments launched by pro-Western President Mikhail Saakashvili.

Pakistani lawmakers elected a textiles magnate Tuesday to be the next president of a country plagued by Islamic extremism, only hours after Taliban militants launched a mass prison break freeing hundreds of inmates. The attack highlighted one of the major challenges that Mamnoon Hussain will face once he takes over the largely ceremonial post of president. Pakistan's president is not elected by popular vote, but by lawmakers in the Senate, National Assembly, and the assemblies of the four provinces.

Afghanistan's military is growing stronger but will require "substantial" additional training and foreign financial aid after the American and NATO combat mission ends next year, the Pentagon told Congress on Tuesday. The Pentagon's assertion comes amid debate about the White House's reluctance to announce how many – if any – US forces should remain in Afghanistan beyond 2014 to help Afghan forces hold off the Taliban.

Facebook's stock came within pennies Tuesday of its \$38 IPO price for the first time since its rocky initial public offering more than a year ago.

A Bitcoin exchange in Thailand says it has suspended trading after officials declared the virtual currency illegal in a setback for efforts to bring it into the financial mainstream. The company overseeing bitcoins in Thailand said on its website that the central bank informed it on Monday that it's illegal to trade bitcoins, move them in or out of the country, or use them to buy or sell goods or services.

Compiled from wire service reports

For bears, some berry good news

GRIZZLIES' DIET GETS A BOOST FROM AN ECOLOGICAL CHAIN REACTION.

By **ELIZABETH BARBER**
CONTRIBUTOR

The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park has delivered a boon of berries to the area's grizzly bears, according to new research that highlights the vast ecological reaches of an ecosystem's top predators.

Researchers at Oregon State University have found that a surge in the wolf population in the northwestern United States over the past 19 years has set off an ecological chain reaction that's in the end good news for bears: More wolves leads to fewer elk, thus raising the amount of available berries, thereby providing a juicy supply of food for bears.

The new research joins mounting studies pinpointing how a food chain's top animal – from Spain's lynx to the Pacific Ocean's shark – is critical to an ecosystem's success, emphasizing the importance of programs aimed at protecting some of nature's most ferocious predators.

"Scientists from all over the world are finding that top predators have strong ecological effects," says William Ripple, a professor of forest ecosystems at Oregon State University and lead author on the paper, published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*. "The top predator can influence the biodiversity of an entire ecosystem."

The gray wolf, with its confident, yellow-eyed gaze, has been a focal point of environmentalist debates dating back some 100 years. The drama began around 1900, when the US government backed sweeping "predator control" programs that thinned the wolf populations in Yellowstone, the geyser-studded park established in 1872 in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

The programs – or, organized hunts – were effective: As of about 1970, all the wolves had been removed from the park. And, in the predator's absence, other populations, including elk, exploded.

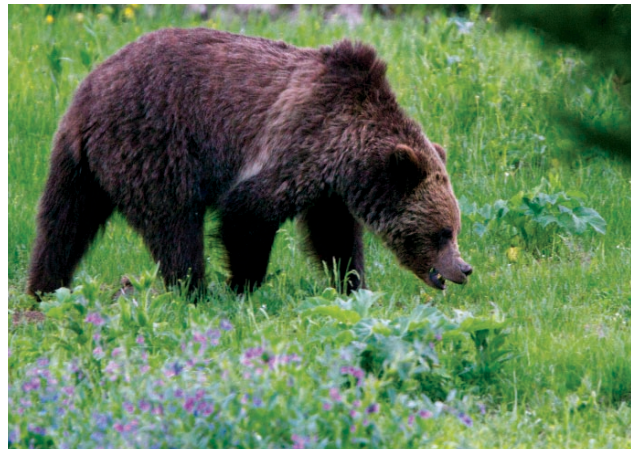
But in 1995, the US acted on years-in-the-making plans to reintroduce wolves to the park, responding to accumulating evidence that the original program had been short-sighted and that the ecosystem was now reel-

ing from the loss of a keystone species. That endeavor has been successful enough for the government to this year make the controversial statement that the wolf no longer needs endangered species protection.

In the meantime, scientists have for the last two decades watched the ecosystem change as the wolf population has surged.

At the time of the initial reintroduction, the proposal for the program had predicted that the wolves would cut into animal populations, including elk, as well as bison, moose, and mule deer. The wolf's competitor, the coyote, would also wane in number.

Still, only now are the full effects of the reintroduction emerging – and, for some of the other animals, the return of the apex predator has been good news.



JIM URQUHART/AP/FILE

NOSING AROUND: Grizzly bears like this one in Yellowstone National Park have benefited from the park's growing population of wolves.

"Some of these far-reaching effects of the wolves were not expected," Mr. Ripple says. "There was an inkling that the wolf was important to the ecosystem, but it's only been very recently that scientists are understanding the full importance of top predators."

The boon of more wolves doesn't end with more berries for bears, says Ripple. Since the wolf was reintroduced, the park has seen renewed growth in trees that elk eat as seedlings, like the willow tree.

That growth has bolstered the habitats of several Yellowstone species, including providing more wood for beavers and more nesting space for birds.

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