



BIKAS DAS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Searching for Answers in India

The police detained executives from a construction company a day after an overpass fell in Kolkata, killing at least 23. Page A5.

## Obama Chides Trump's Take On Weapons

By MARK LANDLER

WASHINGTON — President Obama on Friday questioned Donald J. Trump's fitness for office after statements from the Republican front-runner that the United States and its allies should move away from decades of constraints on the use of nuclear weapons. "We don't want somebody in the Oval Office who doesn't recognize how important that is," Mr. Obama said.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a summit meeting devoted to nuclear security, the president said the comments by Mr. Trump reflected a person who "doesn't know much about foreign policy or nuclear policy or the Korean Peninsula or the world generally."

Mr. Obama has not hesitated to criticize Mr. Trump for contributing to a coarse tone and circus-like atmosphere on the campaign trail. But his criticism of the candidate's comments on nuclear proliferation was not about public language or personal style, but about one of the gravest responsibilities of an American president. It carried an extra edge because it involved an issue that Mr. Obama has made a central goal of his presidency.

He said world leaders and other participants at the conference had expressed concerns about

Continued on Page A7

## Taking In Scores of Boys, Despite Warnings

By NIKITA STEWART and JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

When New York City needed foster care for vulnerable boys with emotional problems, the answer was often the Long Island home of Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu.

Over two decades, the city's child welfare agency sent 95 boys to live with Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu, according to state records. Other child welfare agencies turned to him during that time as well. In all, 106 boys were placed with Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu, as he became a sort of storybook hero to child welfare workers struggling to find suitable homes for troubled children.

Yet some of the boys who had been in his care tried to tell a different story to anyone who would listen — a school guidance coun-



NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Over 100 boys were assigned to Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu.

## Years of Suspicion for Foster Father in Abuse Case

selor, or social workers. Anonymous tipsters called a child-abuse hotline that feeds reports into a statewide database.

Some of the reports alleged bizarre neglect, like refusing to replace a child's broken glasses or not letting a child shower. Other reports, from as recently as last April and as far back as the 1990s, accused Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu of sexual abuse. But the investigations did not lead to criminal charges or apparently to any limitations on his role as a foster parent.

So the four-bedroom house in the hamlet of Ridge, N.Y., with a backyard pool and water slide, continued to serve as a destina-

tion for foster children, placed in Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu's care by a Long Island nonprofit, SCO Family of Services, that is paid tens of millions of dollars a year by New York City. For eight of the children, who were adopted by Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu, the house became a permanent home.

But the long run of suspicions ultimately caught up with Mr. Gonzales-Mugaburu, and last month prosecutors in Suffolk County charged him with sexually abusing at least five children and endangering two others.

It is one of the most damning episodes to strike the region's child welfare system in recent years, and investigators believe other children may have been abused.

Interviews with law enforcement and child welfare officials and information from state child-protection records document a trail of suspicions and a failure of oversight by SCO and by the gov-

Continued on Page A14

## North Carolina May Risk Aid With Bias Law

Reviewing Measure at the Federal Level

By MATT APUZZO and ALAN BLINDER

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is considering whether North Carolina's new law on gay and transgender rights makes the state ineligible for billions of dollars in federal aid for schools, highways and housing, officials said Friday.

Cutting off any federal money — or even simply threatening to do so — would put major new pressure on North Carolina to repeal the law, which eliminated local protections for gay and transgender people and restricted which bathrooms transgender people can use. A loss of federal money could send the state into a budget crisis and jeopardize services that are central to daily life.

Although experts said such a drastic step was unlikely, at least immediately, the administration's review puts North Carolina on notice that the new law could have financial consequences. Gov. Pat McCrory of North Carolina had assured residents that the law would not jeopardize federal money for education.

But the law also represents a test for the Obama administration, which has declared that the fight for gay and transgender rights is a continuation of the civil rights era. The North Carolina dispute forces the administration to decide how aggressively to fight on that principle.

The North Carolina law created a mandatory statewide anti-discrimination policy, but it did not include specific protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The law prohibits transgender people from using public bathrooms that do not match the sexes on their birth certificates.

Anthony Foxx, the secretary of transportation, first raised the prospect of a review of federal funding in public remarks on Tuesday in North Carolina. The Department of Transportation provides roughly \$1 billion a year to North Carolina. The New York Times then asked other federal

Continued on Page A3

## JOBS AND WAGES NOTCHING GAINS LONG IN COMING

'A GOLDILOCKS SCENARIO'

Jobless Rate Ticks Up, as More People Look for Work Again

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ and NEIL IRWIN

After years of economic desperation, American workers are finally regaining some of the ground they lost in the last decade's recession and the pallid recovery that followed.

Companies have been hiring in recent months at a pace not seen before in this century. Wages are rising faster than inflation. Joblessness is hovering near the low levels last reached in 2007 before the economy's downturn.

And perhaps most significantly, the army of unemployed people who gave up and dropped out of the job market is not only looking for work, but actually finding it.

The 215,000 jump in payrolls in March reported by the Labor Department on Friday capped the best two-year period for hiring since the late 1990s, while the proportion of Americans in the labor force — which had been on a downward trajectory since 2001 and an even steeper slide since 2008 — hit a two-year high.

"It's really a best-case scenario," said Michelle Meyer, deputy head of United States economics at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "I was particularly encouraged by the pickup in labor force participation."

The underlying strength apparent in the report for March reinforces growing evidence that the economy, despite a host of remaining ills, is now consistently moving in the right direction.

"This is close to a Goldilocks scenario," said Scott Clemons, chief investment strategist at Brown Brothers Harriman. He noted that hiring and wage gains were healthy in March, but not so robust as to ignite inflation fears and tempt the Federal Reserve to move more quickly to raise rates and temper growth.

To be sure, the damage from the

Continued on Page B3

## In Designer's Departure, Troubling Legacy for the Fashion World

And so the worst-kept secret in fashion has been confirmed: Hedi Slimane, the creative and image director of Yves Saint Laurent, has left the brand. Given the strength of the rumors of his departure that have been circulating since January, this may go down as the most anticlimactic fashion announcement ever made.

But despite the fact that it happened on April Fools' Day (a coincidence that probably escaped no one), the news has serious implications. Mr. Slimane is the fourth designer at a major fashion house to recently leave his post after less than five years. Last July, Alexander Wang left Balenciaga after three years; in October, Raf Simons left Christian Dior after the same amount of time; and in February, Stefano Pilati left Zegna. Mr. Slimane has been at the helm of YSL since 2012.

Mr. Slimane accomplished a lot in that time, transforming the brand's reputation as well as its financial fortunes. Saint Laurent is now the fastest-growing line in the luxury portfolio of its parent company, Kering, reporting slightly less than 1 billion euros, or about \$1.14 billion, in revenue



VALERIO MEZZANOTTI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hedi Slimane joins a rash of designers moving on after less than five years. Above, his Saint Laurent show in Paris last month.

for 2015, up 38 percent from 2014. Saint Laurent now accounts for 12 percent of sales by Kering's luxury brands and 8 percent of the group's total sales.

To do so, Mr. Slimane also created a model of an all-powerful aesthetic mastermind that

has since been adopted by Alessandro Michele at Gucci and has become the dream of many designers. But the idea that the brand's transformation is complete, as the news release suggests (to be specific, the statement characterized Mr. Slimane's

stay as "a four-year mission, which has led to the complete repositioning of the brand"), and can simply be handed over to another designer, is a troubling one.

Yet this seems to have become the conventional wisdom of the industry. Gillo Zegna, chief executive of the Italian men's wear label Ermenegildo Zegna, said something very similar when Mr. Pilati left: "We wanted to develop a strong point of view in fashion, and for Zegna to be a show not to be missed in Milan. We have reached this objective faster than expected." On to the next! At a lunch to start Milan Fashion Week in February, I sat next to François-Henri Pinault, chief executive of Kering, and asked him about such abbreviated relationships, as one does when faced with that kind of opportunity. He shrugged and said, "That is the normal life cycle of modern luxury."

Let's hope that isn't true. Fashion has been infected by the contemporary disease of short-termism. And this means "fashion" writ large: not only executives on the corporate side, who in public companies necessarily have to think in reporting quarters, but also the members of the design side, which is not exempt here. There is a tendency

Continued on Page B5

### BUSINESS DAY B1-8

#### An Old Brand Gets New Life

To jumpstart the venerable Pabst Brewing, the owner is leveraging the company's heritage and stock of vintage beer recipes. PAGE B1



### INTERNATIONAL A4-7

#### In the Fog of Secret Wars

A memoir by a former C.I.A. officer suggests that the work of those toiling in the shadows is complicated by politics and competing agendas. PAGE A7

### NATIONAL A8-11

#### Glimpse of Chicago Violence?

Chicago has had more than 600 shootings this year, and now the police are investigating what appears to be a selfie video that may have recorded a victim as well as an assailant. PAGE A8

#### Skirting Abortion-Pill Measure

A day after new F.D.A. guidelines eased use of an abortion-inducing drug, Gov. Doug Ducey of Arizona approved a law imposing the older protocol. PAGE A8

#### Food Stamp Benefits at Risk

Hundreds of thousands of people could lose food stamps if states reimpose time limits and work requirements. PAGE A10



### ARTS C1-6

#### An Artist's Eye Watches China

Cao Fei's first American museum survey encapsulates China's societal shifts in art. Above: "Haze and Fog." PAGE C1

#### A Role Model Gone

Zaha Hadid's death has shaken fellow architects, with the loss felt most keenly among women in the field. PAGE C1

### SPORTSSATURDAY D1-7

#### A Photograph Comes to Life

Fans reveal their reactions when their images were caught by Chang W. Lee of The Times at a crucial point in Game 5 of the World Series. PAGE D1

### NEW YORK A12-15

#### Bumpy Path to a \$15 Wage

With New York's latest budget, the state should eventually have a uniform \$15 an hour minimum wage. But for years, it will vary by location and job. PAGE A12

### EDITORIAL, OP-ED A16-17

#### Gail Collins

PAGE A17

### THIS WEEKEND

