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Benjamin Netanyahu at the Western Wall on Wednesday. An expected coalition would give him a majority of 67 seats among the 120 in Parliament, with Likud holding 30 of them.

## Netanyahu vows no delay at helm

JERUSALEM

Israeli premier expected to unite with right-wing and Orthodox parties

BY ISABEL KERSHNER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged on Wednesday to work quickly to form a new Israeli government after his clear-cut election victory as Isaac Herzog, the center-left opposition leader, conceded defeat. "Our country's everyday reality doesn't give us the luxury for delay," Mr. Netanyahu of the conservative Likud party said in a statement. "The citizens of Israel rightfully expect that we will act quickly and responsibly to establish a leadership that will work for them in areas of defense, the economy and society just as we promised in this campaign — and just like we will now set ourselves toward doing."

The new government will probably be made up mostly of right-wing and Orthodox parties. According to the statement, Mr. Netanyahu had already consulted overnight with the heads of the parties he expected to become coalition partners: Naftali Bennett of the pro-settlement Jewish Home; Moshe Kahlon of Kulanu, a new center-right party focused on economic issues; Avigdor Lieberman of the hard-line nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu; and the leaders of the ultra-Orthodox parties Shas and United Torah Judaism.

Such a coalition would give Mr. Netanyahu a majority of 67 seats among the 120 in Parliament, with Likud commanding 30 of them, according to unofficial election results.

The prospect of a right-wing government prompted a hostile response from the Palestinian leadership, which has been inflamed by Mr. Netanyahu's provocative campaigning tactics, including a reversal of his support for the establishment of a Palestinian state and scaremongering about the high turnout of Israeli Arab voters.

"The results of the Israeli elections show the success of a campaign platform based on settlements, racism, apartheid and the denial of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian

people," Saeb Erekat, the longtime chief Palestinian negotiator, said in a statement. "Such a result would not have been possible had the international community held Israel to account for its systematic violations of international law."

Expecting continued confrontation between Mr. Netanyahu and the Palestinian Authority, whose relations have been in a downward spiral since the breakdown of American-brokered negotiations last year, Mr. Erekat added: "Now, more than ever, the international community must act. It must rally behind Palestinian efforts to internationalize our struggle for dignity and freedom through the International Criminal Court and through all other peaceful means."

The stalled peace process has exacerbated American and European frustrations with Israel.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, congratulated Mr. Netanyahu on his victory in a statement on Wednesday and said the bloc was "committed to working with the incoming Israeli government on a mutually beneficial relationship, as well as on the relaunch of the peace process."

But Ms. Mogherini added: "More than ever, bold leadership is required from all to reach a comprehensive, stable and viable settlement of a conflict that has already deprived too many ISRAELI, PAGE 8



Isaac Herzog, the opposition leader, positioned his party as an "alternative" voice.

WOUNDS TO LINGER AFTER BRUISING FACE Benjamin Netanyahu's sharp-edged campaign has raised questions about the country's future. PAGE 8

## In a win for Abe, companies to lift wages

TOKYO

Modest raises at giants such as Toyota are crucial to Japan premier's plan

BY JONATHAN SOBLE

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan has been putting unusually strong pressure on his country's businesses to raise workers' pay, a crucial but still missing

piece of his economic growth plans. There have been repeated public appeals and a series of arm-twisting meetings with executives and union leaders — reminiscent, some analysts say, of a bygone era when Japanese governments guided the economy with a heavy hand.

On Wednesday, Mr. Abe's aggressive intervention produced the most substantial results so far, as some of Japan's most prominent companies announced their biggest pay increases in years. They include Toyota and other giants

from the carmaking industry, as well as electronics makers like Panasonic and Hitachi.

"With the usual negotiations between business and labor, executives get stuck in a deflationary mind-set," Mr. Abe said in Parliament, explaining the government's decision to become closely involved. "I am counting on this progress to continue."

Wages are vital to Mr. Abe's hopes of reinvigorating Japan's economy. Household incomes remain roughly where they were 20 years ago. A tenta-

tive rise in wages last year was wiped out by increases in inflation and taxes, leaving the average Japanese worse off, and helping to drive the country into recession.

The country is only just recovering from that unexpected downturn. And a pickup in consumer prices — trumpeted by the government as a sign of renewed economic vigor — has stalled. Without greater increases in pay, Mr. Abe and his advisers fear that an already fraying campaign to stimulate growth, known JAPAN, PAGE 16

## Jeb Bush, 20 years after jump to Catholicism, leads with faith

CORAL GABLES, FLA.

BY MICHAEL PAULSON

He arrived a few minutes early — no entourage, just his wife and daughter — and, sweating through a polo shirt in the hot morning sun, settled quietly into the 14th row at the Church of the Little Flower.

A bit of a murmur, and the occasional "Morning, Governor," passed through the Spanish Renaissance-style church, with its manicured grounds and towering palms, as worshipers recognized their most famous neighbor, Jeb Bush. He held hands with the other worshipers during the Lord's Prayer, sang

along to "I Am the Bread of Life" and knelt after receiving communion.

"It gives me a serenity, and allows me to think clearer," Mr. Bush said as he exited the tile-roof church here on a recent Sunday, exchanging greetings and, with the ease of a longtime politician, acquiescing to the occasional photo. "It's made me a better person."

Twenty years after Mr. Bush converted to Catholicism, the religion of his wife, following a difficult and unsuccessful political campaign that had put a strain on his marriage, his faith has become a central element of the way he shapes his life and frames his views on public policy. And now, as he explores a bid for BUSH, PAGE 5



Attack in Tunis Security force members responding on Wednesday after gunmen attacked the National Bardo Museum, killing a number of tourists. PAGE 8

## Warlord turned vice president fumes from Afghan sidelines

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

BY AZAM AHMED

The security meeting was almost at a close when the first vice president of Afghanistan, the former warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, began crying.

It was a jarring ending to the typically somber weekly gathering of the National Security Council. But Mr. Dostum, who has been accused in the mass killing of hundreds of Taliban prisoners, was distraught. He was tired of being ignored by the roomful of powerful people, he said, including President Ashraf Ghani and his national security adviser, Hanif Atmar.

"No one returns my calls!" he blurted out to the gathering several weeks ago, according to two people there. "I just want to help this country. The people made me a general, but no one even asks for my advice."

The scene highlighted the odd transformation of Mr. Dostum from a "quintessential warlord," in the words of American diplomats, into one of the most powerful men in the Afghan government — at least on paper. Since taking office in September, he has found himself marginalized and has become deeply frustrated by what he feels is an indifference to his decades of combat experience and leadership as the AFGHANISTAN, PAGE 4

### INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER



HELP ON THE WAY The remote island of Tanna, in Vanuatu, on Wednesday. Aid was slowly reaching the island, one of those directly struck by Tropical Cyclone Pam. WORLD NEWS, 4

**Breast biopsy reliability in doubt** Breast biopsies are good at telling the difference between healthy tissue and cancer, but they are less reliable for identifying more subtle abnormalities, a new study has found. WORLD NEWS, 5

**Protest near E.C.B. headquarters** Demonstrators marching toward the central bank in Frankfurt set cars on fire in a rally against European austerity programs and capitalism. BUSINESS, 15

**Big-name backers for used-car site** A Chinese online auction house for used cars has attracted \$170 million from big-name investors, including the search engine Baidu. BUSINESS, 15

**China's 'Silent Spring' moment?** The widespread public outrage sparked by an anti-pollution documentary has rattled the leadership in Beijing, writes Daniel K. Gardner. OPINION, 6

### ONLINE AT INYT.COM

**Optimism gap for U.S. and Iran** Contrasting assessments were delivered in Switzerland as the deadline neared for a framework agreement on limiting Iran's disputed nuclear program. nytimes.com/mideast

**Secret Service finds cyanide letter** Officials did not say whether the letter had been addressed to President Obama or to someone else. nytimes.com/politics

**New path to investigate police** Coroners' inquests are finding fresh support from some people critical of the process that cleared police officers in killings in Ferguson, Mo., and in New York. nytimes.com/us

**Thinning patience at the Fed** The Fed on Wednesday was expected to move closer to raising interest rates. Analysts were betting the Fed might remove the word "patient" from its statement. nytimes.com/business

### NEWSSTAND PRICES

Bali RP 30,000 (including PPN)	Hong Kong HK\$ 25.00	Manila Peso 110.00	Singapore US\$ 5.00 (GST Incl.)
Bangladesh Tk. 135.00	Indonesia RP 30,000 (PPN Incl.)	Myanmar US\$ 4.50	Sydney A\$ 8.25 (GST Incl.)
Bangkok Baht 85.00	Jakarta RP 30,000 (including PPN)	Nepal NRs 19.50	Taipei NT 120.00
Brunei B\$ 8.00	Japan Yen 210 (Tax included.)	Pakistan RS 20.00	Taiwan NT 120.00
Cambodia US\$ 3.50	Macau P 25.00	Philippines Peso 110.00	Thailand Baht 85.00
China RMB 30.00	Malaysia RM 7.50	Seoul Won 2,000	Vietnam US\$ 4.00

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### CURRENCIES NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY 11:00AM

▲ Euro	€1=	\$1.0620	\$1.0600
▼ Pound	£1=	\$1.4670	\$1.4740
▲ Yen	¥1=	¥121.150	¥121.350
▲ S. Franc	\$1=	SFO.9990	SF1.0060

Full currency rates Page 18

### STOCK INDEXES WEDNESDAY

▼ The Dow 11:00am	17,791.37	-0.32%
▲ FTSE 100 3pm	6,920.15	+1.21%
▲ Nikkei 225 close	19,544.48	+0.55%

### OIL NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY 11:00AM

▼ Light sweet crude	\$42.59	-\$0.60
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