

# News

## World Briefs



PHOTO CREDIT COL. MARY PROPHIT/US. ARMY VIA AP

In this Aug. 19, 2009, photo provided by U.S. Army reserve Col. Mary Proffit, a soldier walks inside St. Elijah's Monastery in Mosul, Iraq. Satellite photos obtained by The Associated Press confirm what church leaders and Middle East preservationists had feared: St. Elijah's, a 1,400-year-old monastery in Iraq, has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic State's relentless destruction.

### Oldest Christian Monastery in Iraq is Razed

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The oldest Christian monastery in Iraq has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic State group's relentless destruction of ancient cultural

sites. For 1,400 years the compound survived assaults by nature and man, standing as a place of worship recently for U.S. troops. In earlier centuries, generations of monks tucked candles in the niches and prayed in the cool chapel. The Greek letters chi and rho, representing the first two letters of Christ's name, were carved near the entrance.

Now satellite photos obtained exclusively by The Associated Press confirm the worst fears of church authorities and preservationists — St. Elijah's Monastery of Mosul has been completely wiped out.

"I can't describe my sadness," he said in Arabic. "Our Christian history in Mosul is being barbarically leveled. We see it as an attempt to expel us from Iraq, eliminating and finishing our existence in this land."

### Pakistani Army Ends Deadly University Attack

CHARSADDA, Pakistan — A Pakistani official says the army and police have finished their operation to clear Taliban gunmen following an attack on a university campus in the country's northwest.

Twenty people have died in the assault.

Provincial governor Sardar Mehtab Abbasi says Wednesday's attack is now over and that the troops have cleared the campus. Four attackers have been killed.

Deputy Commissioner Tahir Zafar says the attack began shortly after the

Bacha Khan University opened for classes in the town of Charsadda, some 35 kilometers (21 miles) outside Peshawar.

### Palin: Trump 'Would Let Our Warriors do Their Job'

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump is brandishing the endorsement of conservative Republican firebrand Sarah Palin in the increasingly intense 2016 GOP presidential sweepstakes, giving the billionaire businessman a boost against Texas Sen. Ted Cruz less than two weeks before Iowa's kick-off caucuses.

Media heads are spinning," the former vice presidential candidate said after taking the stage at a Trump rally Tuesday at Iowa State University. "This is going to be so much fun."

Palin, the former governor of Alaska and 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee, said that with Trump as president, America would no longer apologize.

"No more pussy-footing around," Palin said.

The endorsement comes as Trump is locked in a dead heat with Cruz in Iowa.

### Iran's big market tempts European firms despite hazards

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — With many barriers to dealing with Iran suddenly lifted as part of a deal to curb its nuclear activities, some European companies are ready to seize business opportunities in a tempting market of

78.5 million people.

At first glance, the allure is obvious — the second-largest economy in the Middle East-North Africa region after Saudi Arabia; the second most populous country after Egypt; and with lots of infrastructure and vehicles way overdue for an upgrade after years of sanctions.

Once inspectors confirmed that Iran was taking steps to curb its nuclear program, the United States and European Union on Saturday dropped many of the economic sanctions that have been keeping foreign companies from doing business there.

### Court Could Give Obama Chance on Immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — After seven years, 2 million-plus deportations, two executive actions and 720,000 "Dreamers," the bottom line on President Barack Obama's immigration record still remains an open question for many immigrants and their advocates.

In the end, the Supreme Court may fill in the blank.

By agreeing to hear a challenge to Obama's immigration plan, the court on Tuesday raised hopes that Obama may have one last chance to make good on an unfulfilled promise to millions of immigrants, many of whom feel abandoned by his administration's recent deportation raids.

If the court rules against Obama, he could spend his last months in office deporting people, rather than shielding them from deportation, as he'd planned.

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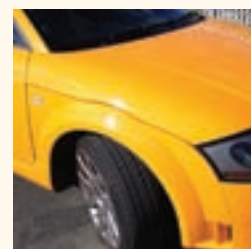
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