Before attack in Boston, an American dream lost

Boxing career cut short, older Tsarnaev brother took path to a violent end

BY DEBORAH SONTAG, DAVID M. KENZIEHORN AND SERGE F. ROYALISI

It was a blow the immigrant boxer could not withstand: After capturing his second consecutive title as the Golden Gloves heavyweight champion of New England in 2010, Tamerlan Arsenovich Tsarnaev, 33, was barred from the national Tournament of Champions because he was not a U.S. citizen.

The cocksure fighter, a flamboyant dresser partial to white fur and snake-skin boots, was unlike his more peaceful younger brother.

U.S. faces dilemma in support for Syria rebels

Islamists predominate as Obama weighs action on chemical arms issue

BY BEN HUBBARD

In Syria’s largest city, Aleppo, rebels aligned with Al Qaeda control the power plant, run the bakeries and head a court that applies Islamic law. Elsewhere, they have seized government oil fields, put employees back to work and now profit from the crude they produce.

Across Syria, rebel-held areas are dotted with Islamic courts staffed by lawyers and clerics, and with fighting brigades led by extremists. Even the Supreme Military Council, the umbrella rebel organization, supports the Islamic fighters over the secular Free Syrian Army.