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Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, delivered a televised address Thursday after devices exploded across Lebanon earlier this week.

## Debate Night Barely Moved Needle in Polls

By SHANE GOLDMACHER and RUTH IGIENNIK

Kamala Harris overwhelmed voters in her debate with Donald J. Trump, a new set of polls from The New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Siena College found, but she has failed so far to seize a decisive advantage in the presidential campaign.

The race is deadlocked nationally. Yet in the critical battleground state of Pennsylvania, Ms. Harris has a lead of four percentage points — a slight edge that is unchanged since early August. She has reassembled much of the core Democratic coalition in the state, winning the support of Black voters, younger voters and women there.

The vice president received far stronger reviews of her debate performance last week than did Mr. Trump, with 67 percent of U.S. likely voters saying she did well compared with 40 percent for him. A majority of voters in every racial group, age bracket and education level — even white voters without a college degree, who are typically the former president's most loyal demographic — gave her a positive review.

But even that was not enough to jostle a race that appears destined to become a battle of inches this fall, after a summer of tumult and upheaval.

Nationally, Mr. Trump and Ms. Harris are knotted at 47 percent. In Pennsylvania, Ms. Harris leads, 50 percent to 46 percent. The surveys were conducted almost entirely before the second apparent assassination attempt against Mr. Trump last Sunday.

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## Seeking Relief at Recess as Temperatures Soar

By SOMINI SENGUPTA

The bare hot asphalt schoolyard of the American past is getting a redo.

The schoolyard of the future has trees to play under, or canvas canopies to shade a climbing gym. Some have native plants to sniff during recess or fallen logs to climb over. Instead of hard ground, some are tearing out asphalt in favor of more spongy materials to absorb heavy rains.

They are all solutions to tackle not only the hazards of extreme weather but also a growing recognition that playing in nature could be good for children.

Many of these innovations are happening in some of the hottest, most climate vulnerable parts of the country, like Arizona, which this summer endured over 100

### Schools Swap Searing Blacktop for Trees and Canopies

consecutive days of 100-degree Fahrenheit temperatures, or California, where some schools closed early because of record high temperatures this month.

The traditional schoolyard, with its hard grounds and usually a lack of shade, tends to act as a heat island. Among the country's 527 large school districts, a majority of schools are hotter than their surrounding areas, according to an analysis by Trust for Public Land, which helps schools retrofit play areas.

The surface of asphalt play-

grounds are like frying pans, significantly hotter than air temperatures, and because little kids are closer to the ground, they are exceptionally vulnerable. Their bodies are less able than adults to regulate temperature extremes.

But reimagining a campus for a hotter climate costs money, and schools are already struggling to pay for basic supplies. "You plant more trees, you need more gardeners. You put in more irrigation, you need more plumbers," said Sailaja Suresh, who runs operations for Oakland United School District, one of the districts that's retrofitting its schoolyards with trees and shade sails.

The Mesa, Ariz., school district is accustomed to extreme heat, which is also what makes it among the most creative in coping

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CAITLIN O'HARA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Highland Arts Elementary School in Mesa, Ariz., is finding ways to add shade to its campus.

## North Carolina Nominee for Governor Called Himself 'Black Nazi'

This article is by Shane Goldmacher, Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan and Nicholas Nehamas.

In an 82-second video released before the CNN article had published, Mr. Robinson sought to undercut the report, which unearthed old comments that he had reportedly made on "Nude Africa," a pornographic site with a message board.

Mr. Robinson, a social conservative who has been a strident opponent of transgender rights, also posted about how he enjoyed watching transgender pornography, according to CNN, describing

### Praised Slavery on Porn Site, CNN Reports

himself as a "perv" who liked "tranny on girl porn."

In his Thursday video, Mr. Robinson said: "Let me reassure you. The things that you will see in that story — those are not the words of Mark Robinson."

CNN said it had chosen to pub-

lish only some of Mr. Robinson's messages, many of which were sexually explicit and graphic in nature. He made the comments between 2008 and 2012, according to the report.

To verify that Mr. Robinson was the poster behind the comments, CNN identified the username "minisoldr" as one Mr. Robinson used frequently online. In addition to matching biographical details, the report said, Mr. Robinson had

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Reports shed light on the base, where migrants are denied private calls and live with rats and leaky toilets. PAGE A18

### New York City Investigations

Where inquiries on Mayor Eric Adams and some of the highest-ranking officials in his administration stand. PAGE A17

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### Extreme Weather Is Worsening

Intense flooding events across four continents over the last week share a common factor: an atmosphere made warmer by climate change. PAGE A4

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### Hitmaker for the Eagles

JD Souther wrote many of the hits of the Southern California country-rock scene of the 1970s. He was 78. PAGE B11



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### Don't Look in the Mirror

Coralie Fargeat's film "The Substance," starring Demi Moore, is a gory fable about fame and self-loathing. PAGE C1

### Remnants Recontextualized

The Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama, known for large-scale installations, has his first New York solo show. PAGE C8

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### U.S. Inflation Leaves a Legacy

Grocery sticker shock, skyrocketing rents and higher borrowing costs are in contrast to improving home sales and solid asset gains as an era of economic upheaval comes to a close. PAGE B1

### Stocks Rally After Rate Cut

The S&P 500 had already been climbing as investors grew more confident that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates. On Thursday, the index notched a new high. PAGE B1

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### Cecile Richards



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### 50-50's Founding Member

Shohei Ohtani put on an offensive show, driving in 10 runs on his way to becoming the first player to hit 50 homers and steal 50 bases in a season. PAGE B9



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### THE WEATHER

Today, more clouds than sun, breezy at times, high 78. Tonight, partly cloudy, somewhat breezy, low 61. Tomorrow, partial sunshine, breezy, high 75. Weather map, Page A20.

## An Israeli Ruse To Deliver Fear In the Ordinary

### Shell Company Crafted Exploding Devices

This article is by Sheera Frenkel, Ronen Bergman and Hwaida Saad.

The pagers began beeping just after 3:30 in the afternoon in Lebanon on Tuesday, alerting Hezbollah operatives to a message from their leadership in a chorus of chimes, melodies and buzzes.

But it wasn't the militants' leaders. The pagers had been sent by Hezbollah's archenemies, and within seconds the alerts were followed by the sounds of explosions and cries of pain and panic in streets, shops and homes across Lebanon.

Powered by just a few ounces of an explosive compound concealed within the devices, the blasts sent grown men flying off motorcycles and slamming into walls, according to witnesses and video footage. People out shopping fell to the ground, writhing in agony, smoke snaking from their pockets.

Mohammed Awada, 52, and his son were driving by one man whose pager exploded, he said. "My son went crazy and started to scream when he saw the man's hand flying away from him," he said.

By the end of the day, at least a dozen people were dead and thousands were wounded, many of them maimed. And the following day, at least 25 more people were killed and hundreds wounded when walkie-talkies in Lebanon

also began mysteriously exploding. Some of the dead and wounded were Hezbollah members, but others were not; four of the dead were children.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied any role in the explosions, but 12 current and former defense and intelligence officials who were briefed on the attack say the Israelis were behind it, describing the operation as complex and long in the making. They spoke to The New York Times on the condition of anonymity, given the sensitivity of the subject.

The booby-trapped pagers and walkie-talkies were the latest salvo in the decades-long conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which is based across the border in Lebanon. The tensions escalated after the war began in the Gaza Strip.

Iran-backed groups like Hezbollah have long been vulnerable to Israeli attacks using sophisticated technologies. In 2020, for example, Israel assassinated Iran's top nuclear scientist using an A.I.-assisted robot controlled remotely via satellite. Israel has

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## ISRAEL BOMBARDS HEZBOLLAH SITES NEAR THE BORDER

### MILITARY SHIFTS FOCUS

Group's Leader Pledges 'a Bitter Reckoning' for Device Blasts

By AARON BOXERMAN and EUAN WARD

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military carried out dozens of airstrikes against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah on Thursday, one of the most intense waves of bombardment this year. The strikes came hours after Hezbollah's leader vowed that "retribution will come" to Israel after audacious attacks on Hezbollah's pagers and walkie-talkies.

The device explosions had killed at least 37 people and left many Israelis and Lebanese fearful of a worsening conflict between Hezbollah and Israel.

In his first speech since the devices blew up on Tuesday and Wednesday, Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, conceded that his group had "endured a severe and cruel blow." He accused Israel of breaking "all conventions and laws" and said that it would "face just retribution and a bitter reckoning."

But he did not describe how Hezbollah might retaliate, saying, "I will not discuss time, nor manner, nor place."

Israel has not confirmed or denied responsibility for the device explosions, but current and former defense and intelligence officials who were briefed on the attacks say Israel was behind them.

In recent days, Israeli officials have signaled that their focus has been shifting from the war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to the fight against Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Israeli military has increasingly devoted resources and personnel to that conflict, which has taken place mostly along its northern border.

The Israeli military said in a statement that Thursday's airstrikes targeted approximately 100 rocket launchers belonging to Hezbollah, along with other sites. Three senior Lebanese security officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the news media, said Israel had carried out more than 70 airstrikes on Thursday.

The Israeli bombardment was a marked uptick from the daily tit-for-tat attacks that have characterized the cross-border fighting

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## Years After a Bishop's Death, His Dark Secrets Come to Life

By DAN BARRY

GALWAY, Ireland — The funeral Mass for Eamonn Casey seemed to befit one of the best-known Catholic bishops in all of Ireland. The pageantry on that cool March day in 2017 included 11 bishops and five dozen priests, all in white, gliding as if airborne over the center aisle of the pew-packed cathedral in Galway.

Incence and awkwardness commingled. Bishop Casey, who was 89, had once been the charismatic and progressive leader of the Galway Diocese, in western Ireland. But the disclosure in 1992 that he had fathered a child with a distant American cousin, and then refused to have anything to do with the boy, had rocked the Catholic-dominant country and sent him into the wilderness.

At the funeral, a fellow bishop referred to Bishop Casey's "profoundly upsetting" actions. Then

pallbearers carried his wooden coffin down to the cathedral's crypt, the apparent end to the story of a charismatic but duplicitous cleric whose transgressions at least had been with a consenting adult.

But the past is patient. In late July, seven years after Bishop Casey's death, Ireland's national broadcaster, RTÉ, aired a sobering television documentary asserting that an affair was the least

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