

PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marines with the remains of Staff Sgt. Christopher K.A. Slutman, one of three Americans killed in a 2019 car bombing in Afghanistan.

## WEINSTEIN JUDGE BLOCKS A PAYOUT

Calls \$12 Million in Legal Fees ‘Obnoxious’

By JODI KANTOR  
and MEGAN TWOHEY

Expressing deep skepticism, a federal judge on Tuesday upended a \$25 million proposed civil settlement between Harvey Weinstein, his former film company, and dozens of women who have accused him of sexual harassment and abuse.

In a scathing 18-minute phone hearing on Tuesday morning, Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein of the Southern District of New York picked apart the class-action lawsuit at the heart of the deal, suggesting it was misconceived. He asked why the women were not pursuing individual cases, given how much their allegations varied in severity, and whether the group met the definition of a legal class.

“What is there to make me believe that a person who just met Harvey Weinstein has the same claim as the person who is raped by Harvey Weinstein?” the judge asked.

He went on to question how the women’s allegations would be evaluated and the money allocated among them, and called an additional \$12 million that would have gone toward legal fees for Mr. Weinstein and his former company directors “obnoxious.” He criticized Beth Fegan, the lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the class-action case, saying she wasted time “with settlements and attempts to create a class that doesn’t exist.”

By the end of the call, the judge had denied a motion for preliminary approval of the agreement — in essence, scuttling the deal, lawyers said. His decision renewed a lingering question: Will the nearly 100 women who have come forward with allegations of sexual abuse by Mr. Weinstein, now a convicted rapist, see any restitution?

The proposed settlement, and now the judge’s rejection, have left Mr. Weinstein’s alleged victims divided between those who supported the deal, calling it flawed but necessary, and those who opposed it.

“Today felt like a huge setback,” said Caitlin Dulany, one of the lead plaintiffs. “The whole point of me doing this was to represent a class, of a hundred-plus women, and many more who haven’t spoken.”

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## A Blast. A Bounty Claim. A Battle With No End.

This article is by Helene Cooper, Jennifer Steinhauer, Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Eric Schmitt.

The American military convoy was almost back to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan when a vehicle, laden with explosives, careened into it and detonated.

The powerful blast blew up a heavily armored troop carrier, engulfing it in flames. Marines poured out of the other vehicles in the convoy as they battled desperately to save the occupants of the burning carrier, including a Marine reservist — a New York City firefighter — who had once rescued a woman from a burning high-rise apartment.

But all of the American ingenuity

U.S. Deaths Put Focus on Trump-Putin Ties and a War’s Costs

that had gone into armoring military vehicles was not enough to stave off the horrendous damage caused by the blast in April 2019. The firefighter, Staff Sgt. Christopher K.A. Slutman, 43, did not beat the fire this time. Two other Marines, also reservists, were also killed, casualties of a two-decade war that has relentlessly continued to exact its toll on American troops.

Now those three Marines are at

the center of the latest iteration of the continuing story of President Trump and Russia.

American intelligence agencies are investigating whether that car bomb was detonated at the behest of a Russian military agency paying bounties to Afghan militia groups for killing American troops. Such a possibility, if true, would be a staggering repudiation of Mr. Trump’s yearslong embrace of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. Thus far, there is no conclusive evidence linking the deaths to any kind of Russian bounty.

Perhaps even more significant is that it has taken the debate over possible Russian bounties to bring

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ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A masked mannequin in a dress shop in McAllen, Texas. The Rio Grande Valley has been hit hard.

## Chasing Virus News, Even When It Hits Home

By EDGAR SANDOVAL

McALLEN, Texas — There were many reasons for a special level of alarm when the coronavirus swept out of Texas’ biggest cities in recent weeks and arrived with force in the Rio Grande Valley.

The small cities along the border with Mexico are among the poorest in the state. The Valley, as local residents call it, is a place of hard labor and low pay where “working from

Reporter’s Texas Family Becomes Part of Story

home” is unfeasible. It is dotted with teeming colonias, orphan communities that are often without paved roads or sewer connections — places where the virus, once it arrives, can thrive.

The worries, it turned out, were justified. More than 8,000 people in Hidalgo County — some of whom I know only too

well — have had cases of the virus confirmed. The county on Thursday surpassed its previous record with 1,274 cases in a single day; more than 150 people have died.

My family moved to the Rio Grande Valley in the mid-1990s, when I was 16. My parents, two sisters and their offspring all live on the same block outside of McAllen. As soon as the outbreak reached the border, I volunteered to report on the story because I was uniquely equipped to tell it.

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## Defying China, Britain Rejects Telecom Giant

A Reversal on Huawei Over Risks to 5G

This article is by Adam Satariano, Stephen Castle and David E. Sanger.

LONDON — Britain announced on Tuesday that it would ban equipment from the Chinese technology giant Huawei from the country’s high-speed wireless network, a victory for the Trump administration that escalates the battle between Western powers and China over critical technology.

The move reverses a decision in January, when Britain said Huawei equipment could be used in its new 5G network on a limited basis. Since then, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has faced growing political pressure domestically to take a harder line against Beijing, and in May, the United States imposed new restrictions to disrupt Huawei’s access to important components.

Britain’s about-face signals a new willingness among Western countries to confront China, a determination that has grown firmer since Beijing last month adopted a sweeping law to tighten its grip on Hong Kong, the semiautonomous city that was a British colony until 1997. On Tuesday, Robert O’Brien, President Trump’s national security adviser, was in Paris for meetings about China with counterparts from Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

Huawei’s critics say its close ties to the Chinese government mean Beijing could use the equipment for espionage or to disrupt telecommunications — a point the company strongly disputes.

Arguing that Huawei created too much risk for such a critical, multibillion-dollar project, the British government said Tuesday that it would ban the purchase of new Huawei equipment for 5G networks after December, and that existing gear already installed would need to be removed from the networks by 2027.

“As facts have changed, so has our approach,” Oliver Dowden, the government minister in charge of telecommunications, told the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon. “This has not been an easy decision, but it is the right one for the U.K.’s telecoms networks, for our national security.”

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IN THE WEEDS A Rose Garden address by the president turned into a ramble. PAGE A17

## Sessions Loses Race for Senate, Paying Price for Trump’s Wrath

By ELAINA PLOTT and JONATHAN MARTIN

MOBILE, Ala. — As a longtime senator from Alabama, Jeff Sessions did nothing less than legitimize Donald J. Trump as a credible Republican candidate for president, endorsing him when no other big names did and championing him to conservative voters. As Mr. Trump’s star rose, Mr. Sessions’s rose, too.

But on Tuesday night, as he sought once again to become a senator from Alabama, a job he loved, Mr. Sessions came crashing to the ground — and all at the hands of Mr. Trump, his ally-turned-patron-turned-antagonist-turned-sworn enemy.

Mr. Sessions was soundly defeated in Alabama’s Republican primary, The Associated Press reported, losing to a political neophyte, the former Auburn football coach Tommy Tuberville, whom Mr. Trump had enthusiastically supported while denigrating Mr. Sessions.

“We’ve fought a good fight in

Late Edition

Today, sunshine and patchy clouds, low humidity, high 83. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 68. Tomorrow, sunshine and clouds, more humid, high 79. Weather map, Page C8.

## CHANGING COURSE, U.S. ALLOWS VISAS FOR ONLINE STUDY

WAIVING IN-PERSON RULE

Tumult Over Foreign Students Is Eased by Court Agreement

By MIRIAM JORDAN  
and ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

In a rare and swift immigration policy reversal, the Trump administration on Tuesday bowed to snowballing opposition from universities, Silicon Valley and 20 states and abandoned a plan to strip international college students of their visas if they did not attend at least some classes in person.

The policy, which would have subjected foreign students to deportation if they did not show up for class on campus, had thrown the higher education world into turmoil at a time when universities are grappling with whether to reopen campuses during the coronavirus pandemic.

The loss of international students could have cost universities millions of dollars in tuition and jeopardized the ability of U.S. companies to hire the highly skilled workers who often start their careers with an American education.

Two days after the policy was announced on July 6, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology filed the first of a litany of lawsuits seeking to block it.

On Tuesday, minutes before a federal judge in Boston was to hear arguments on their challenge, the judge, Allison D. Burroughs, announced that the administration had agreed to rescind the policy and allow international students to remain in the country even if they are taking all their classes online.

The government has argued that the requirement that students take at least one in-person class was actually more lenient than the rule that had been in effect for close to 20 years that required foreign students to take most of their classes in person.

But that rule was temporarily suspended on March 13, when Mr. Trump declared a national emergency and campuses across the country began shutting down, with classes moving online. On July 6, the government made its announcement that foreign students could not remain in the United States if their studies were

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### A Colorblind Ideal Wavers

Children of immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean are bringing race into France’s public discourse. PAGE A9

### Divisive Election in Poland

President Andrzej Duda won a narrow victory — likely to be contested — after a race that was sometimes ugly. PAGE A10

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-8

### Trump Circumvents C.D.C.

Health experts are alarmed at the administration’s edict that hospitals should send patient records directly to a database in Washington. PAGE A5

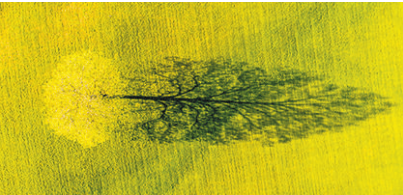
### Not Ready to Reopen Schools

All but two of the nation’s 10 largest districts exceed a key threshold, a New York Times analysis shows. PAGE A6

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### ‘Hero’ Raises Disappearing

Several retailers have ended the raises they gave employees for working during the pandemic. PAGE B1



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### Visit Vermont Aboard a Drone

Lakes, trees, fields and tranquil rivers for the pandemic-restricted traveler. The World Through a Lens. PAGE A14

### A \$2 Trillion Climate Proposal

Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s plan connects clean energy with the economic recovery and also addresses racism. PAGE A17

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### A League of His Own

Marc Stein reports from inside the N.B.A. bubble at Disney World as the league prepares to resume play after shutting down in March. So far, he hasn’t left his hotel room. PAGE B7

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### Is It Abstract, or Albany?

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has designed a poster depicting the war New York has waged against the coronavirus. But you may wonder if it’s art or kitsch. PAGE C1

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### Joy Harjo

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FOOD D1-8

### A Sidewalk Getaway

New York City’s streets are offering outdoor dining experiences that evoke destinations all over the globe. Above, Mulberry Street in Little Italy. PAGE D4



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