



HUSSEIN MALLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut’s port on Wednesday, a day after an explosion that killed 135 people and wounded at least 5,000. Many in the Lebanese capital blamed government dysfunction.

U.S. Examines Nuclear Goals Of the Saudis

This article is by **Mark Mazzetti, David E. Sanger and William J. Broad.**

American intelligence agencies are scrutinizing efforts by Saudi Arabia to build up its ability to produce nuclear fuel that could put the kingdom on a path to developing nuclear weapons. Spy agencies in recent weeks circulated a classified analysis about the efforts underway inside Saudi Arabia, working with China, to build industrial capacity to produce nuclear fuel. The analysis has raised alarms that there might be secret Saudi-Chinese efforts to process raw uranium into a form that could later be enriched into weapons fuel, according to American officials.

As part of the study, they have identified a newly completed structure near a solar-panel production area near Riyadh, the Saudi capital, that some government analysts and outside experts suspect could be one of a number of undeclared nuclear sites.

American officials said that the Saudi efforts were still in an early stage and that intelligence analysts had yet to draw firm conclusions about some of the sites under scrutiny. Even if the kingdom has decided to pursue a military nuclear program, they said, it would be years before it could have the ability to produce a single nuclear warhead.

Saudi officials have made no secret of their determination to keep pace with Iran, which has accelerated its nuclear program.

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Lebanon Knew of Danger for Years. It Didn’t Act.

By **BEN HUBBARD**

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Since an orphaned shipment of highly explosive chemicals arrived at the port of Beirut in 2013, Lebanese officials treated it the way they have dealt with the country’s lack of electricity, poisonous tap water and overflowing garbage: by bickering and hoping the problem might solve itself.

But the 2,750 tons of high-density ammonium nitrate combusted Tuesday, officials said, unleashing a shock wave on the Lebanese capital that gutted landmark buildings, killed 135 people, wounded at least 5,000 and rendered hundreds of thousands of

Anger at Officials After Deadly Port Blast — ‘Country Is Broken’

residents homeless.

The government has vowed to investigate the blast and hold those responsible to account. But as residents waded through the warlike destruction on Wednesday to salvage what they could from their homes and businesses, many saw the explosion as the culmination of years of mismanagement and neglect by the country’s politicians.

Nada Chemali, an angry business owner, urged her fellow Lebanese to confront the political leaders, the “big ones” she accused of driving the country to ruin. “Go to their homes!” she shouted.

Her housewares shop and her home had been destroyed and she expected no government aid to fix them.

“Who from the big ones is going to help us?” she yelled. “Who is going to reimburse us?”

The toll from the blast came into stark relief across Beirut and beyond on Wednesday, the day after it left a smoldering crater where

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Biden Will Skip Party Conclave In Milwaukee

By **REID J. EPSTEIN and KATIE GLUECK**

WASHINGTON — Joseph R. Biden Jr. acknowledged on Wednesday that he would not appear in Milwaukee to accept the presidential nomination he has sought on and off since the 1980s, bowing to the realities of a pandemic that has altered every aspect of life in 2020, including the November contest.

The decision to cancel major in-person appearances at the Democratic National Convention 90 days before the election, at the recommendation of health officials, was the final blow to the prospect that the fall campaign would resemble anything remotely like a traditional presidential contest, as the country confronts more than 150,000 deaths from the virus and cases continue to rise in parts of the country.

“The conventions as we traditionally have known them are no more,” said Terry McAuliffe, the former Democratic National Committee chairman who oversaw the party’s 2000 and 2004 conventions. “They will be more interactive.”

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Trump’s Bank Was Subpoenaed, Signaling Broader Criminal Case

This article is by **David Enrich, Ben Protess, William K. Rashbaum and Benjamin Weiser.**

The New York prosecutors who are seeking President Trump’s tax records have also subpoenaed his longtime lender, a sign that their criminal investigation into Mr. Trump’s business practices is more wide-ranging than previously known.

The Manhattan district attorney’s office issued the subpoena last year to Deutsche Bank, which has been Mr. Trump’s primary lender since the late 1990s, seeking financial records that he and his company provided to the bank, according to four people familiar with the inquiry.

Late Edition

Today, partly sunny, then increasing clouds, high 82. Tonight, showers arriving, thunderstorms, low 69. Tomorrow, showers, thunderstorm, high 78. Weather map is on Page C8.

DE BLASIO’S PUSH TO OPEN SCHOOLS FINDS RESISTANCE

TEST CASE FOR BIG CITIES

Teachers’ Demands and Clashes With Cuomo Threaten Plan

By **ELIZA SHAPIRO**

With about a month to go before New York City schools are scheduled to reopen, the city is confronting a torrent of logistical issues and political problems that could upend Mayor Bill de Blasio’s ambition to make New York one of the few major districts in the country to bring students back into classrooms this fall.

There are not yet enough nurses to staff all city school buildings, and ventilation systems in aging buildings are in urgent need of upgrades. There may not even be enough teachers available to offer in-person instruction.

Some teachers are threatening to stage a sickout, and their union has indicated it might sue over reopening. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who has contradicted the mayor on every major issue related to schools during the pandemic, has spent the last several days loudly noting that Mr. de Blasio’s plan is not yet complete.

And the parents of the city’s 1.1 million public school students, exhausted after nearly four excruciating



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The entrance of an elementary school in the Bronx this week.

ating months of remote learning, are desperate for answers and still unsure if they will send their children back into classrooms.

Despite all that, the city believes it can safely reopen schools on Sept. 10 because New York has maintained a low infection rate. If it succeeds, it will accomplish something almost no other big city district is even attempting. In recent days, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston and Washington, D.C., not to mention scores of smaller suburban and rural districts, have opted to start the school year remote-only.

On Wednesday, Chicago, facing a teachers strike over health fears and an uptick in infections in the city, joined the list. The district, the nation’s third-largest, had

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McConnell Hit Pause on Pandemic Relief, and Now He’s in a Jam

By **CARL HULSE**

WASHINGTON — Senator Mitch McConnell has put himself in one of the toughest spots of a political life that has seen plenty of them.

Up for re-election in the middle of an unforgiving pandemic, the Kentucky Republican and majority leader is caught in a family feud between a group of endan-

CONGRESSIONAL MEMO

gered incumbents in his party who are desperate for pandemic relief legislation that is tied up in slogging negotiations, and a significant portion of Senate Republicans who would rather do nothing at all.

He is also up against Democratic leaders who do not see the

Caught in a G.O.P. Feud as Benefits Run Dry

need to give an inch on their own sweeping coronavirus relief priorities, administration negotiators who badly want a deal that boosts President Trump — even

if it ends up being one that most Senate Republicans oppose — and the president himself, who has played his usual role of undercutting the talks at every turn.

All that is at stake is the health and economic state of the nation, control of the Senate and Mr. McConnell’s own reputation and future.

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BÉATRICE DE GÉA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

PETE HAMILL, 1935-2020

The streetwise writer’s blunt style and bold storytelling epitomized New York journalism. Page A21.



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Do-Over for Students in Kenya

The government scrapped the entire school year, but the move could make educational inequality worse. PAGE A7

Checkpoints in New York

Mayor Bill de Blasio is sending the sheriff to bridges and tunnels to try to ward off a second wave. PAGE A4

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Message of Peace at Hiroshima

Survivors of the atomic blast were a diminished presence at a 75th anniversary event because of advancing age and the coronavirus. PAGE A11

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The Dark After the Storm

The New York region raced to restore power to millions, but officials warned it may take several days. PAGE A15

Progressives’ Staying Power

The sting of Bernie Sanders’s primary loss has been salved by a string of victories in congressional races. PAGE A16



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The Bronx Before the Bombers

Forests thrived, and Yankee Stadium was a salt marsh. Michael Kimmelman walks with an ecologist. PAGE C1

Lincoln Library Cancels Exhibit

The library said Black community leaders voiced concern displays were outdated and lacked context. PAGE C3

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A Pandemic Insurance Boon

Major U.S. health insurers are taking in such an embarrassment of profits that they will most likely have to return some to consumers. PAGE B1

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College Football Teeters

Connecticut canceled its season and more athletes opted out of playing, raising questions about whether any games will be played at all. PAGE B7

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Gail Collins

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Selling Prints That Say Africa

Black-owned businesses make amazing clothes inspired by African patterns. What happens when, inevitably, everyone else starts buying them? PAGE D1

