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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014

Today, clouds and sun, an afternoon shower or storm, high 72. Tonight, a shower early, partly cloudy, low 57. **Tomorrow,** sunny, shower, high 72. Weather map appears on Page A24.

\$2.50

FOREIGN JIHADIS FIGHTING IN SYRIA **POSE RISK IN WEST**

70 SAID TO BE FROM U.S.

Qaeda Groups Hope to Prepare Recruits to Strike Back Home

By KIMIKO DE FREYTAS-TAMURA

LONDON — Two years ago, a young man who now calls himself Abu Muhajir slipped into Syria with a few friends and \$80,000, forsaking what he said was a job as a high school science teacher in North America to wage jihad.

In a conversation conducted by text message in recent weeks, he said he was raised in a religious family, studied at a madrasa on Sundays and had no non-Muslim friends growing up. And he suggested that Western governments could indeed have cause to be worried that the foreign jihadis in Syria might someday return home to carry out attacks.

"Attacks occurring on the soil of Middle Eastern countries," he said. "We can only expect a response. Americans are still in Afghanistan."

More than 70 Americans are thought by intelligence and counterterrorism officials to have traveled to Syria to fight the government of President Bashar al-Assad. One of them, still publicly unidentified, carried out a suicide bombing there on Sunday, making him the first United States citizen believed to have been involved in such an attack.

As many as 3,000 Westerners are believed to have gone to Syria to fight, prompting increasingly aggressive efforts by their home governments to keep them from leaving and to detain them on their return. In Britain, the Home Office has stripped at least 20 jihadis of their citizenship, and the police said that the number of "Syria-related arrests" totaled 40 from January to March of this year, compared with 25 for the whole of last year.

Just last week, Mashudur Choudhury, 31, of Portsmouth, was convicted of engaging in conduct in preparation of terrorist acts after he returned to Britain from Syria in late October. He is the first Briton to be convicted of fighting alongside Islamists in

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Shift in Terrorism Fight

Even before President Obama underscored a shift in counterterrorism strategy, American forces had already changed tactics, relying more on allied or indigenous troops with a limited American combat role. Page A8.



A police helicopter during a drug raid in Puerto Rico, where traffickers are routing cocaine headed for the Eastern Seaboard.

A Price Tag on Carbon as a Climate Rescue Plan In Puerto Rico,

By JUSTIN GILLIS

KEWAUNEE, Wis. — Bryan T. Pagel, a dairy farmer, watched as a glistening slurry of cow manure disappeared down a culvert. If recycling the waste on his family's farm would help to save the world, he was happy to go along.

Out back, machinery was breaking down the manure and capturing a byproduct called methane, a potent greenhouse gas. A huge Caterpillar engine roared as it burned the methane to generate electricity, keeping it out of the atmosphere.

The \$3.2 million system also reduces odors at Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy, one of the largest in Wis-

THE BIG FIX

Greenhouse Gas Permits

consin, but it would not have been built without a surprising source of funds: a California initiative that is investing in carefully chosen projects, even ones far beyond its borders, to reduce emissions as part of the battle against climate change.

"When they came out here and told us they were willing to send us checks, we were thrilled," Mr. Pagel said.

California's program is the latest incarnation of an increasingly popular — and much debated mechanism that has emerged as

one of the primary weapons against global warming. From China to Norway, Kazakhstan to the Northeastern United States, governments are requiring industries to buy permits allowing them to emit set levels of greenhouse gases. Under these plans, the allowable levels of pollution are steadily reduced and the cost of permits rises, creating an economic incentive for companies to

The system encourages companies to find the least expensive ways to make the cuts, either by adopting cleaner energy technology or by investing in outside emission-control projects, like

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A Long Time Coming

A shutout by Henrik Lundqvist, left, put the Rangers in the Stanley Cup finals. Page B9.

To Young Minds of Today, Harvard Is the Stanford of the East

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — In academia, where brand reputation is everything, one university holds an especially enviable place these days when it comes to attracting students and money. To find it from this center of learning, turn west and go about 2,700

Riding a wave of interest in

technology, Stanford University become America's

school, by measures that Harvard once dominated. Stanford has had the nation's lowest undergraduate acceptance rate for two years in a row; in five of the last six years, it has topped the Princeton Review survey asking high school seniors to name their "dream college"; and year in and year out, it raises more money from donors than any other university.

No one calls Duke "the Stanford of the South," or the University of Michigan "the public Stanford," at least not yet. But, for now at least, there is reason to doubt the long-held wisdom that the consensus gold standard in American higher education is Harvard, founded 378 years ago, which held its commencement on Thursday.

"There's no question that right

now, Stanford is seen as the place to be," said Robert Franck, who oversees the Princeton Review's college guidebooks and student surveys. Of course, that is more a measure of popularity than of quality, he said, and whether it will last is anyone's guess.

Professors, administrators and students here insist that on the whole, they are not afraid that Harvard will be knocked off its

Continued on Page A3

Cocaine Gains Access to U.S.

By LIZETTE ALVAREZ

SAN JUAN, P.R. — With its navigation lights off, the 35-foot speedboat raced north toward Puerto Rico one night this month, its two large engines at full throttle. Above, a Coast Guard helicopter chased it and then let loose a few warning shots. But the boat roared ahead. Then, thwack, the crew on the copter shot out one of engines.

By dawn, the frenzied scramble had come to an end and 1,280 kilograms of cocaine - worth about \$37 million on the street were in federal hands, much of it scooped from the Caribbean Sea, where the smugglers had tossed the bales. An interagency task force of federal law enforcement, the Coast Guard and the Puerto Rico Police Department confiscated the drugs and arrested two men from the Dominican Republic. A third man had jumped overboard and was never found.

It was one in a string of increasingly common high-profile Continued on Page A16

DOCTOR SHORTAGE IS CITED IN DELAYS AT V.A. HOSPITALS

'EXPLODING WORKLOAD'

Falsified Wait Lists Also Linked to Reviews of Performance

By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and ABBY GOODNOUGH

Dr. Phyllis Hollenbeck, a primary care physician, took a job at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Jackson, Miss., in 2008 expecting fulfilling work and a lighter patient load than she had had in private practice.

What she found was quite different: 13-hour workdays fueled by large patient loads that kept growing as colleagues quit and were not replaced.

Appalled by what she saw, Dr. Hollenbeck filed a whistle-blower complaint and changed jobs. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded last fall that indeed the Jackson hospital did not have enough primary care doctors, resulting in nurse practitioners' handling far too many complex cases and in numerous complaints from veterans about delayed care. "It was unethical to put us in that position," Dr. Hollenbeck said of the overstressed primary care unit in Jackson. Your heart gets broken."

Her complaint is resonating across the 150-hospital Veterans Affairs medical system after the department's inspector general released findings on Wednesday that the Phoenix medical center falsified data about long waiting times for veterans seeking doctor appointments.

In Washington, the number of lawmakers in Congress calling for the resignation of Eric Shinseki, the Veterans Affairs secretary, grew by late Thursday to nearly 100 — including almost a dozen Democrats - as President Obama prepared to receive an internal audit on Friday from Mr. Shinseki assessing the breadth of misconduct at veterans hospitals. White House aides declined to say whether Mr. Obama would ask Mr. Shinseki to step down. [Page A18.]

At the heart of the falsified data in Phoenix, and possibly Continued on Page A18

Microsoft Mogul Said to Sign \$2 Billion Deal to Buy Clippers

By SCOTT CACCIOLA and RICHARD SANDOMIR

The former Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer has agreed to pay \$2 billion for the Los Angeles Clippers, according to a person briefed on the negotiations. If approved by the National Basketball Association, the sale would end a troubling saga for the league and rank as one of the largest deals in sports history.

Mr. Ballmer emerged Thursday night as the last suitor standing in a dizzying bidding process that started when the N.B.A. announced last month that it would force Donald Sterling to sell the team. Sterling had been recorded making racist comments in a private telephone conversation, an episode that touched off a national discussion about race and delivered a public-relations blow to the league during its showcase period, the playoffs. Rochelle Sterling, Mr. Ster-

ling's wife and a co-owner of the Clippers, signed the deal with Mr. Ballmer, and their contract will be sent to the N.B.A. for final approval. Mr. Ballmer, 58, was already vetted by the league in 2013 when he was part of an investor group seeking to buy the Sacramento Kings, which means the process could be expedited.

But the deal faces possible ob Continued on Page B14

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Erasing Oneself From the Web

A landmark decision by the European high court requires Internet search providers to consider individuals' requests to remove links that they say are embarrassing or infringe on their privacy. But the big companies like Google face a considerable challenge in determining which requests to honor.



Investors Swarm to Spain

Global investors looking for real estate bargains are piling into Spain, where a housing bubble has burst.

Sudden Fall for Fox Executive

After the slide of "American Idol," the network's top entertainment executive, Kevin Reilly, stepped down.

NATIONAL A13-21

Fruit? Vegetables? Maybe Not

A House committee passed a bill that allows schools to opt out of White House guidelines passed in 2012 that added more fruits and green vegetables to school meals. PAGE A15

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Palestinian Move Irks Israelis

President Mahmoud Abbas has formally called for a unity government that would include its rival, Hamas. PAGE A12

NEW YORK A22-25

Waiting for the Elevator

The expansion of the No. 7 subway line to the Far West Side of Manhattan has been slowed by assorted challenges, among them a diagonal elevator that failed its factory test.

New York Tackles Traffic Risks

The City Council passed a set of bills regarding accidents and injuries to pedestrians as part of Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to end traffic deaths.

SPORTSFRIDAY B9-15

White House Concussion Talk

A White House conference on sports concussions brought one fact to light: Interest in the subject is rising because many officials are concerned about their own children, not the crisis the injuries have created for the N.F.L. PAGE B9

WEEKEND C1-30



A Genre Redefined

The retrospective "Carl Andre: Sculpture as Place," at Dia: Beacon, presents decades of the artist's Minimalist works.

A review by Holland Cotter. PAGE C21

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

Paul Krugman

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