

Capped Gulf of Mexico oil well 'withstands pressure'

Tests on BP's newly capped Gulf of Mexico oil well show pressure has been building up slightly as hoped with no signs of leakage, BP says. BP vice-president Kent Wells said rising pressure "is giving us more and more confidence". Tests, however, could be extended beyond yesterday. The new cap has managed to stop the flow of oil for the first time since a 20 April explosion killed 11 people. The spill has been described as the worst environmental disaster in the US. It has affected hundreds of miles of Gulf coastline since April, with serious economic damage to the region as tourists have avoided Gulf Coast beaches and fishing grounds have remained closed. BP has put the costs of dealing with the disaster at over \$3.5bn. It has already paid out more than \$200m (£130m) to 32,000 claimants. The company is evaluating a further 17,000 for payment and is seeking more information on 61,000 other claims. The flow of oil was shut off at 1425 local time (1925 GMT) on Thursday, as part of a test of well's integrity. If the pressure within the new cap on the well stays high, it could mean there are no other leaks or ruptures within the well bore. If it drops, that could suggest problems. On Saturday, as the initial testing was coming to an end, Mr Wells said, "We're feeling more confident that we have integrity."

Hillary heads to Kabul as US war fears grow

As concerns grow about the war in Afghanistan, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is heading to South Asia on a mission aimed at refining the goals of the nearly 9-year-old conflict. US lawmakers are increasingly questioning the course of the war. The number of soldiers from the US and other countries in the international coalition in Afghanistan is on the rise. Corruption is a deep problem in Afghanistan, and members of Congress wonder about the utility of massive aid to both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Clinton will attend an international conference in Kabul on Tuesday where the Afghan government is expected to outline plans to improve security, reintegrate militants into society and crack down on corruption. She also plans to stop in Pakistan to push greater cooperation between Islamabad and Kabul. Clinton, who was to leave yesterday, will meet up later in the week with Defense Secretary Robert Gates in South Korea, where tensions with the communist North have risen after the sinking of a South Korean warship that was blamed on the North. She will finish her trip in Vietnam for discussions with regional leaders. Among the topics will be the upcoming elections in Myanmar. At the Kabul conference, she will renew Washington's commitment to support Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government, but press him to



follow through on reform pledges he made earlier this year. Richard Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, has said the conference "will be a very important international demonstration of support" for Karzai and his administration. But Holbrooke acknowledges concerns that the war and the reconstruction effort are not going as hoped or planned. He told Congress this past week that "there are significant elements of movement forward in many areas, but I do not yet see a definitive turning point in either direction." Last month was the deadliest of the war for international forces: 103 coalition troops were killed, despite the infusion of tens of thousands of new US troops. At the same time, international troops working with Afghan forces say they have killed or captured dozens of senior insurgent figures since April as they aggressively step up operations against the

Taliban leadership. But those successes haven't slowed the pace of militant attacks, which continue daily, killing dozens of people each month. The administration has said it will review its Afghan strategy at year's end. The slow progress against the Taliban and the disruptive effects of the firing of the outspoken American commander there last month, have led to a growing unease among many in Congress, including leading members of Obama's own party. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said it's not clear that the administration has a solid strategy for prevailing. The committee's top Republican, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, decried "a lack of clarity" about US war goals. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich, who leads the Senate Armed Services Committee, has said that while there remains "solid support" for the war among Democrats, "there's also the beginnings of fraying of that support."

Kashmir under curfew after days of unrest

Schools, shops and offices reopened in Muslim-majority Indian Kashmir yesterday after being shut by weeks of anti-India protests but more closures loomed in the restive region. The re-opening came after calls by separatists to resume "normal" life for a day that sent shoppers flooding into the streets to stockpile supplies ahead of a general strike set for Sunday and more protests in coming days. The rush of shoppers created traffic jams in downtown Srinagar, an urban hub that has seen a two-decade insurgency against Indian rule. "Thanks be to Allah -- my two daughters went to school today," said bank employee Shaheen Ameen who appealed to separatists to exclude educational institutions from strike calls. The scenic Himalayan region has been wracked by demonstrations since June 11 when security forces were accused of killing a 17-year-old teenage boy. Since then, another 14 protesters and bystanders -- many of them youngsters -- have been killed. As violence spread, authorities slapped strict curfews on most of the region, arrested activists and ordered the army into the streets to stage show-of-strength flag marches in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian Kashmir.

Pak urges world to help war-ravaged economy



Security officials search the site of a blast at an Internet cafe in the Garhi Shahu area of Lahore yesterday. Two low-intensity blasts wounded four people in the eastern city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, police said.

Pakistan yesterday urged the global community and donor agencies to help and support its poverty-stricken economy that has been ravaged by war and the cost of terrorism. At a ministerial meeting Saturday which included US special envoy Richard Holbrooke, foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said "Pakistan has lost 43 billion dollars in the last nine years and our exports and foreign investments have been badly hurt," according to state run news agency APP. Holbrooke is in Pakistan ahead of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit for high-level security talks in Pakistan and to attend a July 20 Afghanistan donors conference. He met with President Asif Ali Zardari late Friday after his arrival, the presidency said in a statement. Representatives from the members of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FODP), World Bank and other international financial organizations also attended the meeting Saturday. Qureshi said the complexities of extremism and terrorism cannot be defeated in a pressing economic environment. "We need more jobs and ever more economic opportunities to prevent impressionable young minds from falling prey to misguided and pernicious ideologies which are antithesis of peaceful Islam," he said. Bombs and attacks blamed on Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants have killed more than 3,560 people across nuclear-armed Pakistan since government troops besieged a radical mosque in Islamabad in July 2007.

Gas Transmission Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangla) Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-3 to 6) 71-72, Old Elephant Road (Eskaton), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Invitation for Bids. Date: 20 July 2010. Loan No. and Title: Loan No. 2188-BAN, Part-A: Gas Transmission & Development Project. Contract No. and Title: IFB No.: GTCL (Project)/M-J/EPC/MMS/001, Design, Build and Turnkey Supply, Installation, Construction, Testing, Commissioning of Metering and Manifold Station Located at Dhanua, Gazipur. Details and specifications are provided in the bidding document.

বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ. প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর. সদর দপ্তর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা-১২২৯. www.caab.gov.bd. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বর্ণিত কাজটির জন্য ত্রিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে সীলসোহাঙ্করকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

Sudan says 75 troops, 300 rebels die in Darfur strife. AFP, Khartoum. The Sudanese army said 75 of its troops and more than 300 fighters of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement have been killed in clashes in Darfur over the past week. General Al-Tayeb Musbah Osman, the army's commander for the war-torn western region, said the army had also captured 86 JEM fighters, in a statement carried by the official SUNA news agency late on Friday. It is unusual for the army to acknowledge such large losses in its own ranks. The JEM said on Tuesday that it was locked in fresh fighting with the army, a day after the International Criminal Court charged Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir with genocide over his government's conduct of the conflict in Darfur. In March 2009, the ICC already issued a warrant for Beshir's arrest on war crimes charges and charges of crimes against human-

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation. Tejaon, Dhaka-1208. Tender No.-FDC/PD-Import/2009-2010/1/Re/74/Re/79. Dt. 14/07/2010. International Re-Tender for Import of 35mm Sound Negative Film. Ministry/Division: Ministry of Information, Government of Bangladesh. Agency: Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Dhaka. Procuring entity name: Managing Director, BFDC. Procuring entity district: Dhaka, Bangladesh. Import of 35mm Sound Negative Film. FDC/PD-Import/2009-2010/1/Re/74/Re/79. 14/07/2010. Open Tendering Method (OTM). Revenue. No. of tender packages: 1. Name of 35mm Sound Negative Film.