

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Iraqis Take Charge Of Last Prison

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq assumed control of the last U.S.-run prison camp in the country on Thursday, a milestone that casts a spotlight on the Iraqi government's troubled record of caring for inmates amid allegations of torture and overcrowding at Iraqi-run facilities.

The change in command at Camp Cropper — which was renamed Karkh Prison — marks the end of a troubling chapter in the U.S. presence in the country, which was marred in the early years by photographs showing American soldiers abusing inmates at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

It also raised questions about how well prepared the Iraqis are to handle the detainees. Inmates in Iraqi detention facilities have repeatedly complained about torture and beatings by the police, as well as overcrowding and poor conditions behind bars. Prisoners in U.S. custody, meanwhile, have benefited from reforms in the wake of the 2004 Abu Ghraib scandal.

"The main problem in the Iraqi-run prisons, whether in Baghdad or other provinces, is the incompetent administration," said Abdul-Rahman Najim al-Mashhadani, head of the Iraqi human rights organization Hammurabi. "That leads to violations against prisoners, deliberate or not."

With the handover of the maximum-security prison near the Baghdad international airport, Iraq has taken control of the last of three such prisons formerly controlled by U.S. forces. During a ceremony, the Americans symbolically handed over a key to the prison on the capital's southwestern outskirts, which holds 1,500 detainees.

Vatican Revises Rules On Clerical Sex Abuse

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican revised its in-house rules to deal with clerical sex abuse cases Thursday, targeting priests who molest the mentally disabled as well as children and doubling the statute of limitations for such crimes.

Abuse victims said the rules are little more than administrative housekeeping since they made few substantive changes to current practice, and what is needed are bold new rules to punish bishops who shield pedophiles.

Women's ordination groups criticized the new rules because they included the attempted ordination of women as a "grave crime" subject to the same set of procedures and punishments meted out for sex abuse.

The rules, which cover the canonical procedures and penalties for the most serious sacramental and moral crimes, were issued as the Vatican confronts one of the worst scandals in recent history: revelations of hundreds of new cases of priests who raped and sodomized children, bishops who covered up for them, and Vatican officials who stood by passively for decades.

In 2003, the Vatican streamlined its 2001 procedures for disciplining abusive priests, allowing them to be defrocked without a lengthy canonical trial if the evidence against them was overwhelming. The rules issued Thursday codified those procedures into church law.

Nuclear Scientist Says U.S. Abducted Him

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Iranian scientist who defected to the U.S. returned home amid an escalating propaganda war between Tehran and Washington but without \$5 million he had been paid for what a U.S. official said was "significant" information about his country's nuclear programs.

The CIA paid Shahram Amiri a total of \$5 million to provide intelligence, but Amiri did not take the money with him, the U.S. official, who was briefed on the case, said Thursday. The funds were barred by U.S. Treasury sanctions that prohibit the flow of American dollars to Iran.

"Anything he got is now beyond his reach, thanks to the financial sanctions on Iran," said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because public discussion of the case was not authorized. "He's gone, but the money's still here."

The official said Amiri had provided the CIA with "significant, original information" that the agency was able to independently verify, although he would not detail the scope of the intelligence he provided. There was also no indication, the official said, that Amiri might have been a double agent sent by the Iranians to learn what the CIA knows about its suspected nuclear weapons program.

Still, several former American intelligence officers said Thursday that Iranian intelligence officials would be expected to debrief Amiri to try to learn every last detail about the exchanges that took place between him and his CIA handlers — a process that could take weeks or even months.

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BP Chokes Off Leak; Now Begins The Wait

BY COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER

Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS — BP finally choked off the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday — 85 days and up to 184 million gallons after the crisis unfolded — then began a tense 48 hours of watching to see whether the capped well would hold or blow a new leak.

To the relief of millions of people along the Gulf Coast, the big, billowing brown cloud of crude at the bottom of the sea disappeared from the underwater video feed for the first time since the disaster began in April, as BP closed the last of three openings in the 75-ton cap lowered onto the well earlier this week.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something sooner, though."

But the company stopped far short of declaring victory over the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and one of the nation's worst environmental disasters, a catastrophe that has killed wildlife and threatened the livelihoods of fishermen, restaurateurs and oil industry workers from Texas to Florida.

Now begins a waiting period during which engineers will monitor pressure gauges and watch for signs of leaks elsewhere in the well. In the worst-case scenario, pressure from the rising oil could fracture the well and cause leaks to erupt across an area of the seafloor too large to cap.

If engineers see any sign of a new leak, the cap will be reopened, allowing oil to spill into the sea again.

Even if the well holds out for the whole two days, the vents will be opened again and oil released while engineers conduct a seismic survey of the ocean floor to make sure oil and

Pressure testing

How engineers are using the newly-installed sealing cap to perform a pressure test on the cap and the well bore below the seafloor:

• Government agreed to BP's plan if data is reviewed every six hours; test may take 48 hours

1. Lines closed to collection surface vessels; oil flows out only through cap's top and its choke and kill lines
2. Valve inside cap and kill line closed
3. Choke line closed slowly; may take two hours; frequent pressure readings taken
4. Well closed; if pressure readings low, test stops; if readings high, test continues

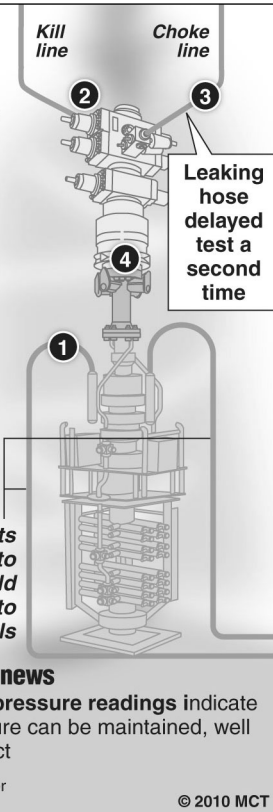
After test, all valves reopened; officials will decide next steps

Risk
Pressure could blow oil through weak spots in well casing making well kill more difficult

Bad news
Low pressure readings indicate oil leaking out; well bore could be damaged

Good news
High pressure readings indicate pressure can be maintained, well is intact

Source: Deepwater Horizon Incident Joint Information Center
Graphic: Judy Treible, Tim Goheen



gas aren't breaking out of the well into the bedrock, said retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the Obama administration's point man on the disaster.

"For the people living on the Gulf, I'm certainly not going to guess their emotions," BP vice president Kent Wells said. "I hope they're encouraged there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico. But we have to be careful. Depending on what the test shows us, we may need to open this well back up."

Either way, the cap is only a temporary fix until a relief well can be drilled into the bedrock and cement and mud can be pumped into the broken well deep underground, creating a seal that will hold more securely. BP expects to complete a relief well by mid-August, and perhaps as early as the end of this month.

Thursday's news elicited joy mixed with skepticism from wary Gulf Coast residents following months of false starts, set-

backs and failed attempts. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley's face lit up when he heard the oil flow had stopped.

"That's great. I think a lot of prayers were answered today," he said.

"I don't believe that. That's a lie. It's a (expletive) lie," said Stephen LaFrance, an oysterman in Louisiana's oil-stained Plaquemines Parish who has been out of work for weeks. "I don't believe they stopped that leak. BP's trying to make their self look good."

President Barack Obama called it a positive sign, but cautioned: "We're still in the testing phase."

The stoppage came 85 days, 16 hours and 25 minutes after the first report April 20 of an explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon oil rig that killed 11 workers. Somewhere between 94 million and 184 million gallons spilled into the Gulf, according to government estimates.

The breakthrough came after a string of failed attempts by BP to contain the leak, including the use of a giant concrete-and-steel box that became clogged with ice-like crystals; a colossal stopper and siphon tube that trapped very little oil; and an effort to jam the well by pumping in mud and shredded rubber.

Wells said the oil stopped flowing into the water at 2:25 p.m. CDT after engineers gradually dialed back the amount of crude escaping through the last of three vents in the cap, an 18-foot-high metal stack of pipes and valves.

On the video feed, the violently churning cloud of oil and gas coming out of a narrow tube thinned, and tapered off.

Suddenly, there were a few puffs of oil, surrounded by cloudy dispersant BP was pumping on top. Then, there was nothing.

"I am very pleased that there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, I'm really excited there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico," Wells said.

BP stock, which has mainly tumbled since the spill began, closed nearly 8 percent higher on the New York Stock Exchange after the news.

The cap is designed to stop oil from flowing into the sea, either by bottling it up inside the well, or capturing it and piping it to ships on the surface. Allen said if the cap holds, it will probably be used to pipe oil to the surface, with the option of employing it to shut the well completely if a hurricane threatens.

The testing of the cap went ahead after a daylong delay imposed by the federal government because of last-minute fears that the operation would cause a rupture that could make the disaster worse.

Even if the cap works, this is not the end of the crisis by any means. The drilling of the relief wells continues. After that, the Gulf Coast faces a monumental cleanup and restoration that could take years.

Ship Junked 200 Years Ago Uncovered At WTC Site

BY VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The ship was buried as junk two centuries ago — landfill to expand a bustling little island of commerce called Manhattan. When it re-emerged this week, surrounded by skyscrapers, it was an instant treasure that popped up from the mud near ground zero.

A 32-foot piece of the vessel was found in soil 20 feet under street level, amid noisy bulldozers excavating a parking garage for the future World Trade Center. Near the site of so many grim finds — Sept. 11 victims' remains, twisted steel — this discovery was as unexpected as it was thrilling.

Historians say the ship, believed to date to the 1700s, was defunct by the time it was used around 1810 to extend the shores of lower Manhattan.

"A ship is the summit of what you might find under the World Trade Center — it's exciting!" said Molly McDonald, an archaeologist who first spotted two pieces of hewn, curved timber — part of the frame of the

ship — peeking out of the muddy soil at dawn on Tuesday.

By Thursday, she and three colleagues had dug up the hull from the pit where a section of the new trade center is being built.

A steep, hanging ladder trembled with each step down into chaotic mounds of dirt, dwarfed all around by Manhattan skyscrapers rising into the July sun. People sank in the mud as they walked and grasped pieces of the historic wood for support — touching the centuries-old ship that may once have sailed the Caribbean, according to marine historian Norman Brower, who examined it Thursday.

"It smells like low tide, this muck," said McDonald as she stood on the weathered planks, sniffing the dank odor that hovered over them in the hot summer morning.

The ship harbors many mysteries still to be solved: "Where was it built? How was it used? Why was it sunk?"

McDonald and archaeologist A. Michael Pappalardo made the discovery on Tuesday at about 6:15 a.m., just as they started their shift observing construction in the pit at the southern edge of ground zero. The two work

for AKRF, a New York environmental consulting firm hired to document artifacts discovered at the trade center site.

"We noticed two curved timbers that a backhoe had dislocated," McDonald said. Joined by two more archaeologists, they started digging with shovels, "and we quickly found the rib of a vessel and continued to clear it away and expose the hull over the last two days."

Brower, the historian, works in Mystic, Conn. — renowned for its historic vessels. He told the archaeologists that it was an oceangoing vessel that might have sailed the Caribbean, as evidenced by 18th-century marine organisms that had bored tiny tunnels in the timber.

The vessel's age will be estimated after the two pieces that first popped up are tested in a laboratory through dendrochronology — the science of using tree rings to determine dates and chronological order. Also unknown is what kind of wood was used to build the ship.

A 100-pound iron anchor was found a few yards from the hull, possibly from the old vessel.

OBITUARIES

Josephine Pietz

TRIPP — Funeral services for Josephine Pietz, 95, of Tripp will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 17 at Frieden's Reformed Church in Tripp with Pastor Wayne Huber officiating. Interment will follow in Frieden's Cemetery, Tripp.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp.

Josephine passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the Good Samaritan Society of Tripp.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin
Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Marian Wiedmeier

Marian J. Wiedmeier, 86, of Yankton died Thursday (July 15, 2010) at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

Paul Phelps

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Paul E. Phelps, 79, of Hartington, Neb., died Tuesday (July 13, 2010) at the Elms Health Care Center, Ponca, Neb.

The Wynot American Legion Post 31 will conduct military graveside services at 11 a.m.

Saturday at the Obert Cemetery, Obert, Neb.

Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, is in charge of arrangements.

Carol Hall

O'NEILL, Neb. — Carol Hall, 70, of O'Neill, Neb., died Thursday (July 15, 2010) at the Tabitha Home, Lincoln, Neb.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Christ Lutheran Church, O'Neill, with a graveside service at 12:30 p.m. Monday at the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis.

Visitation is 5-9 p.m. today

(Friday) at Biglin's Mortuary, O'Neill.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

Carol Smithey

Carol (Kjonegaard) Smithey

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SUMMER CRAZY DAYS
Friday - Saturday - Sunday

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Saturday, July 17th
10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday, July 18th
Noon - 5:00 pm