

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

## Giant Oil Containment Box To Arrive In Gulf

PORT FOURCHON, La. (AP) — A 12-man crew was making final preparations Wednesday to take a 100-ton contraption 50 miles off the Louisiana coast in an unprecedented attempt to help funnel out oil spewing from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

The giant-concrete-and-steel box is the best short-term solution to bottling up the disastrous oil spill that threatens sealife and livelihoods along the Gulf Coast.

BP PLC chief operating officer Doug Suttles said it would take about two days to put it precisely on the seafloor.

"This hasn't been done before, it's very complex and it will likely have challenges along the way," Suttles said.

The pipes and tubing were to be hooked to a ship over the weekend, and if successful, the oil would eventually be brought to shore. The boat, a 280-foot vessel named the Joe Griffin, was expected to start its 100-mile trip around the Mississippi Delta later Wednesday.

## Democratic Rep. David Obey To Retire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. David Obey, a leading liberal Democrat and chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, said Wednesday that he will retire at the end of his term this year, dealing Democrats defending their majority another blow in an election season of voter discontent.

"There is a time to stay and a time to go," the Wisconsin lawmaker told reporters. "And this is my time to go."

Obey won the first of 21 terms in 1969 — when a special election was held after President Richard Nixon tapped Melvin Laird to be his defense secretary. He faced a potentially bruising re-election campaign this fall, and his retirement is likely to make it easier for Republicans to pick up his seat.

Obey, 71, among a handful of veteran House Democrats who had been bracing for competitive races this fall, has routinely won re-election. In 2008 he did so with 61 percent of the vote. But voters this year are souring on Washington.

"I believe the job of a good politician was to be used up fighting on behalf of causes you believed in, and when you are used up, to step aside and let someone else carry on the battle. Well, today I feel used up," he said.

## NASA Picks Date For Atlantis' Last Flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis is set to blast off on its final flight next week.

NASA's top managers agreed Wednesday to set May 14 as the launch date. Liftoff would be at 2:20 p.m.

Atlantis will fly to the International Space Station, carrying up a crew of six and a load of supplies. Much of that is crammed inside a Russian-built module that will be attached permanently to the orbiting lab complex. The astronauts will venture out on three spacewalks to plug in fresh batteries and tuck on a spare antenna.

The 12-day mission is scheduled to be the last for Atlantis. NASA is retiring its three shuttles at the end of this year. After this flight, only two will be left.

But Atlantis won't be dismantled and head to a museum when the flight is over. Instead, the spaceship will be prepped for a potential rescue mission for NASA's very last shuttle flight. That final trip, by Endeavour, is scheduled for November at the earliest.

## Greeks Protest Measures Linked To Bailout

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Rioting over harsh austerity measures left three people dead in a torched Athens bank and clouds of tear gas drifting past parliament, in an outburst of anger that underlined the long and difficult struggle Greece faces to stick with painful cutbacks that come with an international bailout.

The deaths were the first during a protest in Greece in nearly 20 years.

Fear that the bailout won't stop the debt crisis from spreading to other financially troubled EU countries like Portugal and Spain intensified amid the violence Wednesday, as credit ratings agency Moody's put Portugal on watch for a possible downgrade.

The euro sank, dipping below \$1.29 for the first time in over a year, on fears of crisis contagion and concerns that political upheaval might keep Greece from keeping its end of the bailout bargain.

Greece faces a May 19 due date on debt it says it can't repay without the help. The new government cutbacks, which slash salaries and pensions for civil servants and hike consumer taxes, are being imposed as condition of getting a euro110 billion (\$142.16 billion) package of rescue loans from the International Monetary Fund and the other 15 European Union countries that use the euro as their currency.

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## TIMES SQUARE SCARE

## Bombing Suspect Likely Acted Alone

Authorities Unable To Find Strong Link To Extremist Groups; Videos Released

BY COLLEEN LONG  
AND MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — The Pakistani-American accused of the failed Times Square car bombing is believed to have been working alone when he began preparing the attack almost immediately after returning from his native land, authorities said Wednesday.

They said they have yet to find a wider link to extremist groups.

Two new surveillance videos emerged of the bomb suspect, Faisal Shahzad. Police told The Associated Press that one video shows him in a white baseball cap and a dark jacket walking away from the smoking, bomb-laden Nissan Pathfinder parked in the bustling heart of New York City.

The second video shows him buying a weak batch of fireworks in a store in Pennsylvania, according to the shop's owner.

One law enforcement official told the AP that authorities don't believe there are any other suspects in the plot and that several arrests in Pakistan in the past two days were not related.

Shahzad faces terrorism and weapons charges after authorities said he admitted rigging the Pathfinder with a crude bomb of firecrackers, propane and alarm clocks based on explosives training he received in Pakistan. Authorities said he was cooperating with investigators and did not appear in Manhattan federal court for a second day.

Authorities indicated that Shahzad, the 30-

year-old son of a retired air force official in Pakistan, had launched the bomb plot alone almost immediately after returning to his Connecticut home in February from the visit to his native land.

He did a dry run three days before trying to detonate the car bomb, said a law enforcement official who spoke to the AP on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the investigation.

Shahzad drove the SUV to Times Square from Connecticut on April 28, then returned to the scene April 30 to drop off a different vehicle, the official said. He then went back Saturday to leave the SUV with the car bomb but forgot the keys for both vehicles in the SUV and had to take public transit away from the area, the official said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told a Senate panel that Shahzad bought the gun found in his car at Kennedy Airport in March, when he appeared to move ahead on the bombing plot.

"It appears from some of his other activities that March is when he decided to put this plan in motion," Kelly said. "He came back from Pakistan Feb. 3, 2010. It may well have been an indicator of putting something catastrophic in motion."

Law enforcement officials in Washington said they had not verified statements investigators said Shahzad had made that he was trained in Pakistan for the attack. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the case.

The FBI was able to identify Shahzad's

name because of information Customs and Border Protection officials shared months earlier, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.

When Shahzad returned from Pakistan in February, he went through extra screening at U.S. Customs because of rules put in place after the attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day. Customs officials noticed Shahzad had traveled to Pakistan previously, but for weeks, instead of months like his most recent trip. Shahzad came back to the U.S. without his family and without a return plane ticket.

When Customs officials come across people with suspicious travel patterns such as these, they send information along to the FBI.

As the FBI was following leads from the SUV left in Times Square, they found a phone number in the records of a throwaway cell phone that Shahzad had used when he was buying the SUV in Connecticut. The number matched a phone number Shahzad gave to Customs officials when he returned from his last trip. The FBI then contacted Customs about the match, and Customs provided other travel information on the suspect.

Police recovered the video showing Shahzad in the baseball cap walking along Shubert Alley moments after witnesses saw the Nissan Pathfinder ditched Saturday in a no-standing zone across from a Broadway theater, a law enforcement official told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation. Authorities were weighing whether to release the video.

## Obama Wants Progress This Year On Immigration Reform

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Wednesday he wants to begin work this year on legislation overhauling the nation's immigration system, firming up his commitment on a key priority for Latino voters and lawmakers.

Obama's comments at a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the White House reaffirmed his long-held support for immigration reform. He went a step further than he has in the past by calling for the work to begin this year.

Latino groups have been calling for Obama to deliver on his campaign promise of making immigration reform a top priority, with some activists and lawmakers in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus complaining he wasn't doing enough.

Obama acknowledged immigration reform would be difficult to achieve and would require bipartisan support — something that's lacking in the Senate right now. And he made no commitment to finishing the process this year.

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Front Row Inset: Pamela J. Rezac, President/CEO, Ed.D., RN

Front Row (left to right): Elaine Poelstra, RN, Dialysis; Mary Pesek, RN, Occupational Medicine; Cheryl DeVaux, RN, Surgical; Mary Frick, RN, Surgery; Lexi Klinkhammer, CRNA, Surgery

Middle Row (left to right): Kim Hively, RN, Medical; Daisy Keiser, RN, American Pain Relief Institute; Karen Myron, RN, OB/GYN; Barbara Larson, RN, VP of Patient Care Services; Ron Pesek, RN, ICU

Back Row (left to right): Sandy Gehl, RN, Emergency Department Director; Maxine Willman, RN, Avera Yankton Care Center; Meredith Hunhoff, RN, Rehab; Loretta Christensen, RN, Avera Sister James Care Center; Cindy Konopasek, RN, Home Health

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