



Drumbeat: November 21, 2010

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Mexico regulator rejects Pemex oil reserve estimate](#)

MEXICO CITY, Nov 19 (Reuters) - Mexican regulators rejected a huge chunk of state oil monopoly Pemex's estimate of how much oil and gas the country has, calling into question the long-term sustainability of the industry.

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[China's Xi boosts ties to African oil giant Angola](#)

LUANDA: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping began a visit to oil-rich Angola on Friday, saying he believed relations with his country's biggest African trading partner would be stepped up.

[Two steps forward, one step back for Iraqi oil ministry](#)

Iraq's oil ministry has signed off on two of the three contracts it awarded to the winners of last month's auction of gas licences. This is progress for the country, but also highlights uncertainties about Iraq's future.

The unsigned contract is the one to develop the Akkas gasfield, the largest of three fields offered in the ministry's October 20 bidding round. It is in Iraq's western province of Anbar, in a desert region close to the Syrian border. The province, dominated by Sunni Arab tribes, has recently been at the centre of protests against Baghdad's energy policies.

[Saudi king to go to US for back treatment](#)

Saudi King Abdullah is to receive treatment in the United States for a painful herniated disc, and ailing Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz will take over the reins in his absence, an official said.

[Cairn forced to cap output from Rajasthan field](#)

NEW DELHI: Cairn India has been forced to cap oil production from its Rajasthan fields as the government is delaying approval for plans to raise output by 20 per cent ostensibly because of its standoff with the company's majority shareholder.

['Good bargain for us': Al-Qaida group touts small-scale attacks](#)

WASHINGTON — Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is promising more small-scale attacks like its attempts to bomb two U.S.-bound cargo planes, which it likens to bleeding its enemy to death by a thousand cuts.

The editors of a special edition of the Yemeni-based group's English on-line magazine, Inspire, boast that what they call Operation Hemorrhage was cheap, and easy, using common items that together with shipping, cost only \$4,200 to carry out.

[North Koreans Unveil Vast New Plant for Nuclear Use](#)

WASHINGTON — North Korea showed a visiting American nuclear scientist earlier this month a vast new facility it secretly and rapidly built to enrich uranium, confronting the Obama administration with the prospect that the country is preparing to expand its nuclear arsenal or build a far more powerful type of atomic bomb.

[Automakers mix and match energy alternatives](#)

SEATTLE — Future cars may well mix and match alternative-fuel options ... flexfuel and biofuel, diesel and hybrid, plug-in plus gas or all-battery. The exercise is aimed at changing America's energy economy to favor renewable resources and reduce the need for imported oil.

[Chevy Volt confronts one final glitch](#)

It's illegal to sell new cars in the United States without an EPA fuel economy label -- and the government still hasn't figured out how to measure the Volt's fuel economy. That means no fuel economy label and that means GM dealers still can't start selling the cars.

[Infiniti becomes first to add noisemaker to hybrid](#)

Here's an interesting twist: Infiniti is going to equip its 2012 Infiniti M35h, its first in-house developed hybrid, with a noisemaker to warn pedestrians of its approach.

[End Game: Why the Status Quo Is Unsustainable](#)

This Grand Cycle top is unlike any other faced by mankind. We are at peak everything; peak oil; peak food; peak water; peak industrialism; peak credit; but not peak population. There is and will be no excess capacity for growth. The very mechanisms that have allowed homo sapiens to reach such high levels of population density are at or near exhaustion.

[Egypt's solar plant a bright spot in energy landscape](#)

On a sun-baked plain 100km south of Egypt's capital, engineers are putting the finishing touches to a groundbreaking solar plant they hope will offer the country a way out of its energy crisis.

The Kuraymat solar thermal power station, which is in a close race with a project in Algeria to claim the title of the first commercial solar plant in the Arab world, features rows of curved mirrors spread over 13 hectares to concentrate the heat of the sun and generate electricity.

[Cash Prize for Environmental Help Goes Unawarded](#)

BRUSSELS — Not long ago, it seemed that big money and boundless optimism were all that were needed to solve some of the biggest environmental problems facing the planet.

An initiative from Richard Branson, the shaggy-haired billionaire owner of Virgin Atlantic airlines, was emblematic. In February 2007, he offered a cash prize of \$25 million to anyone who could come up within just a few years with a process that would suck large amounts of greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

[Change terms of climate debate](#)

The Governor's Global Climate Summit came on the heels of the landslide defeat of Proposition 23, the initiative backed by three Texas and Kansas oil companies that would have overturned California's pioneering AB 32 law, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

George P. Shultz, who was President Ronald Reagan's secretary of state and President Richard Nixon's first budget director, explained the significance of that vote: It's "the only vote on energy policy anywhere in the world."

The "depth and breadth" of the winning vote, Shultz noted, raises an obvious question: "How do we use this victory to get somewhere" on transforming our energy economy?

[Past failures shadow Mexico meeting on global warming](#)

NEW YORK — The last time the world warmed, 120,000 years ago, the Cancún coastline was swamped by a 7-foot rise in sea level in a few decades. A week from now at that Mexican resort, frustrated negotiators will try again to head off a new global deluge.

The disappointment of Copenhagen — the failure of the annual U.N. conference to produce a climate agreement last year in the Danish capital — has raised doubts about whether the long-running, 194-nation talks can ever agree on a legally binding treaty for reining in global warming.



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