

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Investigators are trying to determine what caused a deadly passenger jet crash near the Pakistani capital on Wednesday. All 152 people on board were killed after the Airblue jet crashed into the hills north of Islamabad. Early reports of survivors proved untrue. The plane — an Airbus 321 — was scheduled to land shortly before 10 a.m. local time after a two-hour flight from Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. But it encountered heavy monsoon rains and thick fog as it approached, then lost contact with the control tower and crashed. The Pakistan Airline Pilot Association said the plane appeared to have strayed off course, possibly because of the poor weather.

* Enbridge was working Wednesday to contain more than three million litres of oil that leaked from one of its pipelines in southern Michigan, damaging water and wildlife in the Kalamazoo River. The 41-year-old pipeline belonging to the Calgary-based company usually carries about 30 million litres of oil daily from Griffith, Ind., to Sarnia, Ont. Enbridge said Wednesday that it is doubling its work force on the containment and cleanup effort in affected areas, including the Kalamazoo, which is one of the state's major waterways and empties into Lake Michigan. About 300 employees and contractors are trying to contain the spill, and the company is adding more barricades in nearby waterways to help contain the leaked crude. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also was bringing in additional contractors. There was no update on a possible cause, cost or length of cleanup. S. President Barack Obama has pledged a swift response to requests for assistance.

* A US federal judge has blocked one of the most controversial sections of a tough Arizona immigration law, granting a

preliminary injunction Wednesday that prevents police from questioning people about their immigration status. U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton's ruling also blocked provisions of the law making it a crime to fail to apply for or carry alien registration papers or "for an unauthorized alien to solicit, apply for, or perform work" and a provision "authorizing the warrantless arrest of a person" if there is reason to believe that person might be subject to deportation.

* WikiLeaks' editor-in-chief claims his organization doesn't know who sent it tens of thousands of secret U.S. military documents, telling journalists that the website was set up to hide the source of data from those who receive it. Assange also said WikiLeaks used ex-military and former intelligence workers to help evaluate whether documents leaked from the armed forces or spy agencies were genuine.

* German prosecutors have charged a former Nazi death camp guard with participating in the murder of 430,000 Jews and other crimes during the Third Reich. Samuel Kunz, 88, was informed last week of his indictment. Kunz, who lives near the city of Bonn, has refused to comment on the allegations.

* The United Nations has turned to a Canadian who was the World Bank's chief auditor as its choice for the next head of the UN's internal watchdog agency. Manitoba born Carman Lapointe-Young won approval Wednesday from the General Assembly to become the undersecretary-general for oversight.

* The US Federal Reserve said Wednesday that The economy improved in most large American cities in June and July, but only modestly. Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke also said the Fed will hold rates at record lows well into next year to help energize the recovery.

NATIONAL NEWS

Alberta is one step closer to reaching an upgrader agreement to process bitumen in the province's Industrial Heartland. Energy Minister Ron Liepert says a preliminary agreement has been reached with North West Upgrading and its part owner, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., to build a new upgrader in Sturgeon County. The 150,000 barrel-per-day refinery would be built in three stages and include integrated carbon capture and storage technology to cut CO2 emissions. Construction of the upgrader's first phase is expected to begin in 2011 and completed by 2013. The upgrader's construction would create 8,000 jobs, and when complete would employ about 500 full-time workers.

* Missing Mayo RCMP Const. Michael Potvin is presumed to have drowned, says the force's chief in Yukon. Potvin, 26, wound up in the Stewart River at Mayo on July 13 when the boat he was in capsized. Witnesses said he swam for shore and was only a few metres from the riverbank when he went under. Despite extensive search efforts, Potvin has not been found.

* A shift in the wind direction on Wednesday morning has allowed fire officials in Kamloops, B.C., to lift an evacuation order affecting about 150 residents of a RV and mobile home park. A fire alert remains in effect. The fire broke out in a dry, grassy area just off a busy stretch of road in the southeast area of the Barnhartvale neighbourhood of Kamloops midnight Tuesday.

* A gasoline shortage at some Shell stations has spread from Alberta to southeastern B.C. Shell said it doesn't know how many service stations have run dry, nor how long it will take to get fuel to them. Shell acknowledges it has a supply problem, and that station owners have had to turn customers away.

* Calgary-based Husky Energy said Wednesday it is looking at buying oil-producing properties

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from other companies in Western Canada. Husky CEO Asim Ghosh's comments came after the company announced total production during the second quarter dropped to the equivalent of 283,900 barrels of oil per day compared with 317,000 barrels in the same 2009 period. The drop was due partly to lower output from the White Rose field and the decision last year to save money by drilling fewer new wells.

* Canadian home resale prices in six cities were up 13.6 per cent in May compared to a year earlier, according to the Teranet-National Bank National Composite House Price Index released Wednesday.

* Canadian Pacific Railway reported a 23 per cent increase in second-quarter profit Wednesday. It earned \$166.6 million on revenue \$1.2 billion, a 20 per cent increase over a year ago.

* The TSX was down 20 points Wednesday to 11,696. The Loonie finished at USD\$0.963 while September oil was down 2-cents to \$76.97 a barrel.

BEEF BREAK

Ever listen to some of the things parents say to their children to get them to behave? Heard a grandmother tell a 9 month old in a stroller to stop being such a baby. The kid is a baby. How can it stop being what it is?

Comments: beefbreak@bellyyellow.com

Today's Pop Quiz: What landmark English bridge was opened in 1831?

Yesterday's Quiz: Are Metis the children of Indian or white fathers?
A. white fathers

Weather

Today: variable, H 30
 Tomorrow: variable, H 28

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