

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. President Barack Obama says he is concerned about the leak of thousands of secret documents about the war in Afghanistan that were published by the website WikiLeaks, but he added that they do not reveal any new issues. Obama said the documents point to the same challenges that led him to review U.S. policy last fall. The U.S. army is leading an investigation launched Tuesday into the leak. Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said the criminal probe is meant to find the leak's source. While the U.S. army has charged Bradley Manning, an army intelligence specialist, with leaking other material to the WikiLeaks website, Lapan said it is not known if Manning was the source of the documents in the latest leak.

* American Robert Dudley will become BP's first non-British chief executive, the company said Tuesday as it reported a record quarterly loss and set aside \$32.2 billion to cover costs of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Dudley told reporters Tuesday that he recognizes the complexity of what BP has to do to restore its financial strength and its reputation. BP said the decision to replace Hayward, 53, was made by mutual agreement. Hayward, who will remain on the board until Nov. 30, will also be entitled to draw an annual pension of \$956,000 from a pension valued at \$17.5 million.

* Iran was defiant Tuesday after the European Union approved new sanctions against the country, saying the measures are "ineffective and unconstructive." The sanctions are "punitive measures" and "a hostile move against Iran," said Ramin Mehman-Parast, a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry. The sanctions limit financial assistance and funding and allow EU members to inspect all cargo going to or from Iran.

* A Lufthansa cargo plane loaded

with 90 tonnes of cargo caught fire, crashed and broke in two as it was landing in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, injuring two crew members. The pilot and co-pilot — both German nationals — used emergency chutes to flee the plane and were taken to a nearby military hospital. Damage to the plane was extensive. A team was dispatched from Germany to investigate.

* Two German aid workers kidnapped five weeks ago in Sudan's Darfur region have been released. The two had been working in Darfur's south for Technisches Hilfswerk, or THW, a German state agency that does development work, when gunmen raided the agency's office June 22 and abducted the two men.

* The Utah Supreme Court on Tuesday reversed the convictions of polygamist leader Warren Jeffs and ordered a new trial, saying a jury received incorrect instructions before considering his role in the 2001 nuptials of a 14-year-old girl to her 19-year-old cousin. Jeffs, 54, was convicted in 2007 of two counts of first-degree felony rape as an accomplice. He is serving two consecutive terms of five years to life in the Utah State Prison. Also Tuesday, Jeffs was scheduled to appear in 3rd District Court so a judge can ask him to sign a warrant seeking his extradition to Texas to face criminal charges there.

* The number of Americans who own homes fell in the second quarter of the year to the lowest level since 1999, said a government survey released Tuesday. The Census Bureau said the home ownership rate fell to 66.9% in the second quarter of 2010, down half a percentage point from the previous year. The home ownership rate was 67.1% in the first quarter of the year.

* General Motors Co. says its Chevrolet Volt electric car will cost \$41,000 US when it goes on sale in the United States in November.

NATIONAL NEWS

Edmonton councillors want nearly 140 questions answered before they make up their minds about Oilers owner Daryl Katz's proposal for a new downtown arena. Questions include: who will pay to maintain the arena, whether the city will get a hand in designing it and how long it will take to build. They also want proof that the Edmonton Oilers aren't making money, and why the Katz Group needs public funds to pay for construction of a new arena, attached hotel and entertainment complex. Other questions seek information from city administration and Northlands.

* A Medicine Hat private-home daycare operator accused of killing a toddler in her care was granted bail on Tuesday. Erin Jackman, 24, is charged with manslaughter and failing to provide the necessities of life in connection with the death of 19-month-old Mercedes Pepper.

* Three former Alberta Energy Savings salespeople charged with enrolling homeowners in contracts without their permission have been fined a total of \$6,800 and sentenced to one year probation, including community service. The three were charged in February for forging the homeowners' signatures on energy contracts and for impersonating customers during verification calls with the Alberta Energy Savings' call centre.

* Today marks the end of the line for General Motors in Windsor, Ont., once considered the capital of Canada's automotive industry. Once one of the biggest employers in the border city with more than 7,000 workers, GM had dwindled over the years to have just one remaining transmission plant, which will produce its last transmission this afternoon — its last day of operation.

* Shares of Calgary-based Talisman Energy rose Tuesday after the company reported a nearly 10-fold increase in second-quarter profit. The oil and gas producer earned \$603 million, or 59 cents a

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share, compared with \$63 million, or six cents a share last year. * The Conference Board of Canada says that consumers' confidence in the economy fell for the second straight month in July. Its consumer confidence index fell 3.7 points to 80.0 after dropping 5.7 points in June. A reading of 100 would represent the level of confidence consumers showed in 2002. The steepest decline was in B.C., where the index fell by 12.5 points, to 78.9.

* Maury Chaykin, an award-winning actor recently seen in the hit TV comedy *Less Than Kind*, has died. The veteran actor died in Toronto early Tuesday, his 61st birthday. No cause of death was confirmed, but Chaykin had been battling kidney problems.

* The TSX slipped 29 points Tuesday to 11,716 while the loonie fell back to USD\$0.966. August oil

BEEF BREAK

Don't know which was worse. Edmonton Northlands food services at Rexall Place having the worst food safety violation record of any major arena in Canada or the Food Inspectors and Northlands attempts to downplay the seriousness of the food safety violations. Hope city council keeps this record in mind when it's looking at the downtown arena proposal.

Comments: beefbreak@bellyyellow.com

Today's Pop Quiz: Are Metis the children of Indian or white fathers?

Yesterday's Quiz: What body of water is Prince Edward Island in? A. the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Weather

Today: sunny, H 30
 Tomorrow: sunny, H 31

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