

The Canadian

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Harper goes to Washington to unveil new Canada-US border pact



the monitoring of overseas cargo shipped to both Canada and the United States.

One expert says the deal means lineups, delays and hassles at the border may soon be a thing of the past for trusted travellers and exporters.

Laura Dawson, a policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, says the pact will mean more intelligent, efficient security for those travelling between the two countries.

"What Canadians will see right away is that things are easier for travellers and businesses as they go across the border," Dawson said.

"That doesn't mean they have less information, but they're going to be a lot more intelligent about how they compile and share it. They're looking for the bad guys, and if you're a legitimate traveller or manufacturer, the situation at the border should be noticeably better for you."

Harper's visit nonetheless comes at a particularly tense moment in Canada-U.S. relations as TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline saga rages on.

WASHINGTON (The Canadian Press) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper is headed to the White House Wednesday to announce the details of a long-awaited border security agreement with U.S. President Barack Obama.

The Beyond The Border initiative is intended to foster the sharing of intelligence and the streamlining of cross-border trade.

It kicks in more than 10 years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, resulted in American officials - fearful of a terrorist threat from Canada - beefing up security at the Canada-U.S. border.

Among other measures, the deal aims to better track travellers, to implement better cyber-security protections, to establish joint government facilities and to improve

Attawapiskat leaders asks UN to check if Ottawa meets legal obligations

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Leaders of the troubled Attawapiskat community have asked the United Nations to intervene in their crisis, saying the move would force Prime Minister Stephen Harper to explain to the world why he is not living up to his international obligations to respect aboriginal people.

"We have a right to go abroad to international people to say, 'look, this is what's happening in Canada,'" Grand Chief Stan Louttit said after chiefs from across the country passed a resolution to ask the UN for a special rapporteur.

The housing crisis in Attawapiskat -

where families live in uninsulated shacks as winter sets in - has turned into a political crisis that pits First Nations chiefs against the federal government.

Some of the chiefs spontaneously took to the streets of Ottawa on Tuesday during a break in their annual meetings. They're furious the federal government responded to Attawapiskat's declaration of emergency by ordering yet another audit, and removing the band's power over its finances.

"There seems to be an impasse here," Louttit said.

But the band's chief, Theresa Spence, says she is trying to find a way out of the escalating conflict.

Her band members ordered a government-appointed third-party manager to leave the reserve Monday, mainly because he had given no notice and did not have a plan to present, Spence said.

But she said she is working on her own plan to present to the government, and wants to discuss with her band council how they could work with the third-party manager in future.

"We're hoping things will work out," she said.

Today's highlights



Katsav enters prison

JERUSALEM - Former Israeli President Moshe Katsav entered a minimum security prison on Wednesday to start serving a seven-year sentence for rape, but not before defiantly accusing the state of Israel of "executing" an innocent man.



NBA schedule unveiled

NEW YORK - The NBA has announced its compressed 66-game schedule, which will force every team to navigate demanding stretches at home and on the road that they would not normally endure in a full season.



OTTAWA
Min -4°C Max 1°C

Canadian power plants rapped

An international report has found that Canada's fossil fuel-powered generating plants average higher greenhouse gas emissions for the same amount of electricity than American or Mexican stations.

The figures, compiled by the commission that oversees the environmental portions of the North American Free Trade Agreement, found that Canadian plants release an average of 0.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent for every megawatt-hour generated.

That compares with 0.8 tonnes for U.S. plants and less than 0.7 tonnes for those in Mexico.

"It's an issue that has to do with the plant age, the technology, the fuel," said Orlando Cabrera, one of the authors of the report for the

Port of Montreal: alleged corruption case 'closed'

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The Conservative government said the case is closed in an ongoing controversy over corruption in Montreal, even as reports emerged Tuesday that the RCMP has launched an investigation that could reach into the Prime Minister's Office.

The Globe and Mail and Radio-Canada quoted unnamed police sources who said the Mounties are investigating allegations of corruption around the appointments process at the Montreal Port Authority, a federal body.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's former aide Dimitri Soudas has acknowledged that the government indicated a preference for Robert Abdallah as president of the Montreal port board, as did the City of Montreal.

But during the spring election an audio recording surfaced purporting to be the voices of two Montreal construction executives discussing how Soudas and his friend Leo Housakos could help get Abdallah appointed in 2007. Housakos, who is referred to as "Leo" throughout the recording, was appointed to the Senate in 2009.

China keeping mum on climate commitments: Kent

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - China won't put its money where its mouth is at a major summit on climate change, Canada's environment minister said Tuesday.

Peter Kent said the Chinese have kept mum behind closed doors at climate talks in the South African coastal city of Durban.

The world's No. 1 polluter became the surprise rock star of the summit after it opened the once-firmly shut door to binding targets to lower its emissions. The lead Chinese negotiator told reporters that China is open to legally binding targets after 2020 as long as several conditions are met.

One condition is rich countries such as Canada agreeing to take on a second round of commitments under the expiring Kyoto Protocol - something the federal Conservatives say Canada won't do.

Kent said Canada's top negotiator, Guy Saint-Jacques, put the Chinese on the spot during negotiations Tuesday. "Ambassador Saint-Jacques said that he would welcome, and he felt the conference would welcome, China officially communicating to us the details of those news reports," Kent said. "The Chinese delegate remained silent."

Ottawa police use pepper spray at Congo protest; scuffles in Toronto

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Police in Toronto and Ottawa had their hands full Tuesday as they dealt with demonstrators protesting last week's disputed presidential election in Congo.

The protesters say the elections in the African country were fixed and they want leaders like Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama to take action.

RCMP in Ottawa said three people were arrested and two taken into custody after protesters gathered outside the Congolese Embassy.

Police used pepper spray to disperse those who tried to breach the police line in front of the embassy and RCMP used a conducted energy weapon during one arrest.

B.C. Mountie files lawsuit

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Another female RCMP officer is accusing the force of harassment, saying she was subjected to an "atmosphere of fear and control" while working with a drugs and organized crime unit in British Columbia.

Cpl. Elisabeth Mary Couture filed a lawsuit last week in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, naming as defendants the province's Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Attorney General of Canada, and three members of the RCMP's E Division.

According to court documents, Couture began to experience daily symptoms of anxiety and panic and went off duty sick because of the mental suffering and harassment she endured while working with the B.C.-based drugs and organized crime awareness service.

Judge grants city injunction against Occupy protesters

CALGARY (The Canadian Press) - A judge has granted the city of Calgary an injunction against Occupy protesters and ordered them to get out.

Justice Neil Wittmann of Alberta Court of Queen's Bench is giving them until 2 p.m. Friday to remove all tents, structures and other material from Olympic Plaza downtown.

The injunction also forbids the protesters from camping in any park or land owned by the city without a permit. The campers will face contempt of court charges if they fail to obey.

Police said one of those taken into custody was charged with obstructing a police officer and one RCMP officer suffered minor injuries.

Officials also said there was some minor damage to the embassy and police vehicles.

"Violent protests and violent behaviour are not tolerated," chief superintendent Marty Cheliak, head of the RCMP's Protective Operations Unit in Ottawa, said in a statement.

"We encourage those who wish to express their Charter Rights to do so peacefully."

In Toronto, three people were arrested outside the U.S. Consulate after a scuffle broke out and dirt was reportedly thrown at police.

Blinded UBC student says husband's death doesn't make her life easier

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The death of a Bangladeshi man accused of gouging out the eyes of a University of British Columbia student is shrouded in murky details as the victim, his former wife, begins acknowledging the pursuit of justice may be over.

Rumana Monzur was blinded in a vicious attack when she visited her husband in Dhaka last May. Hasan Sayeed Sumon died in prison Monday where he was being held on charges of her attempted murder.

"The last six months have been very difficult for me and this news has not made my situation any easier," Monzur said. "My focus continues to be on my recovery and taking care of my daughter and my family."

Preparation begins for Queen's diamond jubilee

OTTAWA (AFP) - The government announced Tuesday \$7.5 million for grassroots celebrations across the country for the Queen's diamond jubilee next year.

"The only other time Canada celebrated the diamond jubilee of a reigning sovereign was for Queen Victoria in 1897," said Heritage Minister James Moore. "By supporting this most historic and significant anniversary, our government is delivering on its commitment to reinforce our heritage through active celebration of our institutions that define who we are as Canadians."

WORLD NEWS

AFGHANISTAN: Afghans were Wednesday burying 59 people killed in unprecedented bombings against Shiite Muslims as officials blamed Pakistani militants, accusing them of trying to whip up Iraq-style sectarian violence. Investigators are poring over who was behind the co-ordinated attacks in the Afghan capital Kabul and northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif that the Taliban, the main faction leading a 10-year insurgency, have denied carrying out.

ISRAEL: Disgraced former president Moshe Katsav began a seven-year jail sentence after being convicted on two counts of rape and other sexual offences. The former head of state was convicted in December 2010 of two counts of rape, sexual harassment, indecent acts and obstruction of justice after an 18-month trial which included harrowing accusations, and portrayed him as a sexual predator who routinely harassed his female staff. Speaking to reporters as he left his home, Katsav continued to maintain his innocence. "Today the state of Israel is taking a man out to execute him on the basis of impressions, without evidence," he said.

SYRIA: The U.S. and France sent their ambassadors back to Syria to champion protesters, demanding that the regime protect the envoys who had been pulled out due to safety fears. U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford and French Ambassador Eric Chevallier had faced harassment and threats as they shone a light on President Bashar al-Assad's nine-month crackdown, in which more than 4,000 people are said to have died.

RUSSIA: Russia's opposition on Wednesday promised new rallies contesting the results of elections won by Vladimir Putin's party, despite the arrests of hundreds in a police crackdown on a Moscow protest. Riot police in helmets roughly dragged over 550 protestors into detention vans Tuesday evening in central Moscow, in the second protest in as many days organized via the Internet to protest Sunday's parliamentary polls.

PAKISTAN: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari suffered a "minor heart attack" and has undergone an operation in Dubai, but is in good health otherwise and will return to Islamabad Thursday, a minister said.

FINANCE

TSX down amid talk of expansion of European bailout fund

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto stock market closed lower Tuesday as news of a possible expansion of the eurozone bailout fund helped to temper another helping of bad news for Europe from ratings agency Standard & Poor's.

The S&P-TSX composite index gave back 38.08 points to close at 12,081.25. The TSX Venture Exchange lost 10.66 points to 1,542.69.

The Canadian dollar rose as the

Bank of Canada announced it was leaving its key rate unchanged at one per cent. The loonie gained 0.7 of a cent to close at 99.05 cents US.

Canada's central bank had been widely expected to leave rates alone amid slowing global economic conditions and uncertainty surrounding the future of the eurozone because of the European government debt crisis.

The bank said in a statement those pressures haven't let up, indicating it is in no rush to hike rates.

Canadian home prices, sales volumes better than expected in 2011: Re-Max

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Canada's robust housing market is expected to continue into 2012 despite economic concerns from outside its borders, according to a new report from the Re-Max real-estate sales organization.

The real estate organization said in its housing outlook Tuesday that the market "defied logic" and outperformed expectations in 2011.

"The trend is expected to carry

forward into 2012 as Canadians continue to demonstrate their faith in homeownership, despite concerns over the European debt crisis and its impact on the global economy," the firm added.

Home prices are expected to have risen in 23 of the 26 local markets that it tracks with about 460,000 homes expected to change hands this year. That's up three per cent from the 447,010 units reported in 2010.

Canada's five biggest banks boost 4Q profit

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Canada's five biggest banks earned a record \$6.1 billion in fourth-quarter profit as they benefited from strength in domestic retail banking operations and loan growth.

The results showed a marked surge from the same period of last year, when the major banks earned a weaker \$4.5 billion.

The better than expected fourth quarter for several of the banks helped achieve significantly improved full year earnings totalling \$24.2 billion, up from \$19.5 billion in 2010.

TD Bank and Royal Bank saw their earnings double, while others posted growth in the low double digits.

But the largest Canadian banks also reported their capital markets divisions were a drag on their bottom lines during a quarter of extreme market volatility as European debt woes continued to cause market worries.

Bank of Montreal was the last of the big banks to disclose its earnings, reporting Tuesday that its profits rose 21 per cent to \$897 million.

SPORT

Sedin scores hat trick in Vancouver's win over Colorado

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The goals were bound to come for defending scoring champion Daniel Sedin.

The Swedish sniper scored his fifth career hat trick as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Colorado Avalanche 6-0 Tuesday night. Sedin now has six goals in his last four games, and 12 on the season.

"It's going to happen if you keep shooting and keep creating," said Sedin, whose line consisting of twin brother Henrik and Alex Burrows combined for eight points.

He hadn't scored for eight games and had been passed in goals by Henrik - normally the set-up man - prior to his outburst.

"That's the way a season goes," Daniel Sedin said. "It's up and down and you're going to have some games when you're not scoring and some

games when the pucks are going in."

Right now, the pucks are going in for the Canucks, who won for the seventh time in eight games.

The victory came on a night when the were outshot 33-23, goalie Roberto Luongo was felled by a shot and couldn't finish and forward David Booth left with what could be a serious knee injury.

Second-line winger Chris Higgins also missed the game with a foot infection, but the Canucks showed resolve.

"This is what happens when you're on a roll," said Sedin, who had career bests of 41 goals and 104 points last season.

"We're a deep team so we can have a few injuries. I know it's top guys on this team (who were injured) but there are guys who can come in and do great

jobs.

"When we play our best we're going to be in games. It doesn't matter who's in the lineup."

Jannik Hansen helped fill in for the injured forwards, scoring twice to match his career-high nine goals.

"You see guys jump around in the lineup and there's no misstep," said Hansen, who has spent time on the Canucks' first three lines this season.

"Everybody kind of knows where each other is and who we are playing with. So it doesn't matter who you are thrown in with."

Coach Alain Vigneault admired the artistry of his top line. "Hank's (Henrik Sedin's) line tonight on a couple of occasions did things on the ice that are just amazing, they make plays the average player can't make or even think of making," he said.

MARKET DATA

CLOSING STOCK INDEXES

Close		Dec 06	Dec05
Toronto	TSX	12081.25	12119.33
New York	DJ	12150.13	12097.83
New York	Nasdaq	2649.56	2655.76
London	FT-100	5568.72	5567.96
Tokyo	Nikkei	8575.16	8695.98

TORONTO MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of Tue Dec 6 18:04:05

QuadraFNX	QUX=T	15.88	+4.53
EasternPlato	ELR=T	0.59	-0.02
BombdrBSV	BBD/B=T	3.78	-0.18
LundinMng	LUN=T	4.25	+0.15
ConnacherO G	CLL=T	0.59	...
ManulifeFin	MFC=T	11.35	-0.28
SuncorEngy	SU=T	30.87	-0.29
ISharesS P60	XIU=T	17.23	-0.11
PlatminLtd	PPN=T	0.13	+0.01
CapstoneInfrs	CSE=T	3.54	-2.06

PEOPLE

Whistler: 'Monsieur Lazhar' voted audience favourite

WHISTLER, B.C. (The Canadian Press) - The accolades continue for Canada's Oscar hopeful, "Monsieur Lazhar."

Philippe Falardeau's film about Montreal elementary students wrestling with grief was named the audience favourite at the Whistler Film Festival.

"Monsieur Lazhar" previously won the best Canadian feature prize at the Toronto International Film Festival, picked up prizes at the Locarno International Film Festival and it's headed to the Sundance Film Festival in the new year.

TIFF publishes its best of the year list

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - David Cronenberg, Guy Maddin, Jean-Marc Vallée, Philippe Falardeau and Sarah Polley are among the directors whose movies have made the Toronto International Film Festival's annual list of best homegrown films.

The top pictures include Cronenberg's look at the turbulent relationship between Carl Jung and his mentor Sigmund Freud in "A Dangerous Method," Maddin's surreal gangsters-meets-ghost story "Keyhole," Polley's study of a marriage in decline in "Take This Waltz" and Canada's Oscar submission for the best foreign-language category, Falardeau's "Monsieur Lazhar."

TUESDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NHL

New Jersey 3, Toronto 2 OT
N.Y. Islanders 5, Tampa Bay 1
Columbus 3, Montreal 2 2OT
St. Louis 3, Detroit 2
Phoenix 3, Nashville 2
Winnipeg 2, Boston 1
Calgary 7, Carolina 6
Vancouver 6, Colorado 0
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 2
Minnesota 2, San Jose 1

Shorter NBA schedule has 42 back-to-back-to-backs

NEW YORK (AP) - The Los Angeles Lakers will play games on the first three nights of the NBA season, the first of 42 back-to-back-to-back sets teams will face during this lockout-shortened season.



The NBA announced the compacted, 66-game schedule on Tuesday night, one that will require every team to play on three consecutive nights at least once. And it will force every team to navigate demanding stretches that are never seen during a full season, such as the nine games in 12 nights the Atlanta Hawks face starting with their Dec. 27 opener.

The league's 66th season begins with five games on Christmas, including the Lakers hosting the Chicago Bulls. Los Angeles then visits Sacramento the next night before returning home to host Utah on Dec. 27.

Teams will play 48 conference games and 18 against the opposing conference, meaning they play only three nonconference opponents home and away. The league did preserve its most storied rivalry, with the Lakers traveling to Boston for a Feb. 9 matchup before the Celtics open a stretch of eight road games in 13 nights in March with games on back-to-back nights at Staples Center.

Dallas and Miami also will play twice, following their Christmas NBA finals rematch with a March 12 game in Miami. The Heat and Lakers also play two games.

Jets cool off Bruins

WINNIPEG (The Canadian Press) - Ondrej Pavelec says the confident Winnipeg Jets can beat anyone in the NHL.

The goaltender and his teammates proved it by handing the Boston Bruins their first regulation loss in more than five weeks.

Pavelec made 39 saves and Bryan Little scored the game-winner as the Jets beat the red-hot Bruins 2-1 on Tuesday night.

"We know if we're going to stick with the plan, if we're going to play the way we want, that we can beat everybody," Pavelec said.

It was the Bruins' first regulation loss since Oct. 29, ending a 15-game stretch in which they earned 29 of a possible 30 points.

The Jets (12-11-4) moved above

the .500 mark for the first time this season, and have won six of their last seven games at MTS Centre.

Pavelec said it's no coincidence that he often plays better when he faces more rubber.

"I feel confident in the net when I get a lot of shots," he said. "It always depends on how the shots go. You have to stop them."

Little scored the winner 94 seconds after Shawn Thornton had tied the game for Boston (17-8-1). Little controlled the puck off a neutral-zone faceoff, went the length of the ice and beat Tuukka Rask to the glove side, sending the sell-out crowd into a frenzy.

"It was the loudest I've ever heard the arena," Little said. "It was unbelievable."

Nash's SO goal lifts Blue Jackets to win

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - Rick Nash had the only goal in a shootout as the last-place Columbus Blue Jackets finished a four-game road trip with a 3-2 victory over the listless Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night.

Brian Gionta scored with 1:21 left in the third period to send the game into overtime as Tomas Plekanec's pass hit a skate in front and the Canadiens captain was there to push it into an open side of the net. Vaclav Prospal and R.J. Umberger also scored for Columbus (8-16-3), who are now 3-9-2 on the road. They went 2-2-0 on a four-game trip in Canada.

New Jersey Devils down Toronto Maple Leafs

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto Maple Leafs looked every bit like a team that was playing its third game in four nights early on Tuesday.

After defeating the New York Rangers in convincing fashion Monday, the sluggish Leafs spotted New Jersey two power-play goals in the first period before clawing back to force overtime in the Devils' 3-2 win.

David Clarkson scored twice, including the winner at 2:40 of the extra period, as the Devils won for the first time in five games.

Blue Jays acquire Santos from White Sox for Molina

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto Blue Jays added to their bullpen by acquiring right-handed pitcher Sergio Santos from the Chicago White Sox.

The Jays sent pitching prospect Nestor Molina to the White Sox in return, the club announced Tuesday.

The 28-year-old Santos played in 63 games last season for Chicago, posting a 4-5 record with a 3.55 earned-run average and 30 saves, eighth in the American League.

Flames hold on for 7-6 win over Hurricanes

CALGARY (The Canadian Press) - Brendan Morrison had two goals and two assists Tuesday night as the Calgary Flames had more than five goals in a game for the first time this season, beating the Carolina Hurricanes 7-6.

Jarome Iginla had a pair of goals and an assist for Calgary (12-13-2), while Lee Stempniak scored and added an assist. Rene Bourque and Mikael Backlund had goals as well.

Eric Staal scored twice for Carolina (8-17-4), while Jiri Tlustý scored the Hurricanes first goal of the night on a penalty shot. Chad LaRose, Tuomo Ruutu and Tim Brent also scored.

The Flames are 4-1-1 in their last six games.

WEATHER

	Min	Max	Weather
Calgary	-1	9	rain
Edmonton	9	12	cloudy
Halifax	1	11	cloudy
Montreal	0	2	snow
Ottawa	-4	1	overcast
Toronto	0	4	cloudy
Vancouver	-1	7	clear
Winnipeg	-16	-2	cloudy

(Temperatures in Celsius)

Tootoo suspended two games for crashing into Miller

NEW YORK (The Canadian Press) - Jordin Tootoo is the first player to be punished under the NHL's crackdown on contact involving goaltenders.

The Nashville Predators forward was suspended two games Tuesday following a collision with Buffalo's Ryan Miller on Saturday night. Tootoo was racing hard to the goal and had the puck knocked off his stick before hammering Miller.

"The fact remains that it is the attacking player's responsibility to make a better effort not to crash directly into the opposing goaltender," said NHL disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan. "The goaltender must feel protected in his crease."

Roughriders release Simpson

REGINA (The Canadian Press) - The Saskatchewan Roughriders cut ties with Barrin Simpson on Tuesday.

In 11 CFL seasons with B.C., Winnipeg and Saskatchewan, the 34-year-old import had 954 tackles, 37 sacks and 10 interceptions.

In another move Tuesday, the Roughriders announced they have signed linebacker Maurice Lloyd to the roster.

Wozniacki confirms participation at Rogers Cup

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark will return to the city where she earned her first big victory on the WTA Tour.

Wozniacki and world No. 3 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus confirmed their intention to play at the Aug. 4-13 event at Uniprix Stadium on Tuesday.

"We are thrilled to welcome back our 2010 champion Caroline Wozniacki and one of the game's most talented players in Victoria Azarenka," said tournament director Eugene Lapierre.