

Asiana Passengers Begged Dispatchers For Help

BY MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Stunned and bleeding after a Boeing 777 crash-landed at the San Francisco airport, hundreds of passengers staggered across the debris-strewn tarmac, some trying to help the critically injured, others desperately calling 911 and begging for more ambulances as dire minutes ticked away. "There's not enough medics out here," a caller told a dispatcher in a 911 call released by the California Highway Patrol. "There is a woman out here on the street, on the runway, who is pretty much burned very severely on the head and we don't know what to do." Two people died and 180 of the 307 people were hurt Saturday when Asiana Airlines Flight 214, coming in too low and too slow, slammed into a seawall at the end of the runway. The impact ripped off the back of the plane, tossed out three flight attendants and their seats and

scattered pieces of the jet across the runway as it spun and skidded to a stop. The battered passengers, some with broken bones, were told over the jet's public-address system to stay in their seats for another 90 seconds while the cockpit consulted with the control tower, a safety procedure to prevent people from evacuating into life-threatening fires or machinery. "We don't know what the pilots were thinking, but I can tell you that in previous accidents there have been crews that don't evacuate. They wait for other vehicles to come, to be able to get passengers out safely," said National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Deborah Hersman. And in this accident, it appears one of the two Chinese teens who died may have been run over by a fire truck rushing to the burning jet. Hersman said Thursday the fuel tanks did not rupture in the crash, and that the fire was

caused by oil on hot engines. The NTSB is now wrapping up their investigation, heading back to Washington D.C. in coming days with "a mountain of information" to analyze and review, from pieces of the airliner to interview transcripts. Many passengers jumped out the back of the plane or slid down inflated slides through emergency exits. Then, say some, an unnerving wait began. "We walked and this lady starts to appear, really stumbling and waving her hand and yelling. It took a couple seconds to register," said Elliott Stone, who was returning from a martial arts competition in South Korea. "Then as I saw the condition she was in, I was like, oh my goodness." The woman collapsed, he said, and he and his family realized there might be more victims nearby, "so we started running, searching for more. I believe we ended up finding four people that were in the back in the rubble, all very

bad condition. We stayed with them, comforted them, yelling for ambulances, fire trucks, anyone to come help." 911 tapes recorded frantic callers, pleading for help. "We've been on the ground, I don't know, 20 minutes, a half hour," said one woman. "There are people laying on the tarmac with critical injuries, head injuries. We're almost losing a woman here. We're trying to keep her alive." San Francisco Fire Department spokeswoman Mindy Talmadge said Thursday that some passengers who called 911 may not have immediately seen ambulances at the scene because they were dispatched to a nearby staging area as first responders assessed who needed to be taken to the hospital. "There is a procedure for doing it," Talmadge said. "You don't cause more chaos in an already chaotic situation. You don't do that with 50 ambulances running around all over the place."

Setback For Zimmerman

Judge Rules Jury
May Consider
Manslaughter

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
AND KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

SANFORD, Fla. — In an unmistakable setback for George Zimmerman, the jury at the neighborhood watch captain's second-degree murder trial was given the option Thursday of convicting him on the lesser charge of manslaughter in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

Judge Debra Nelson issued her ruling over the objections of Zimmerman's lawyers shortly before a prosecutor delivered a closing argument in which he portrayed the defendant as an aspiring police officer who assumed Martin was up to no good and took the law into his own hands. "A teenager is dead. He is dead through no fault of his own," prosecutor Bernie de la Rionda told the jurors. "He is dead because a man made assumptions. ... Unfortunately because his assumptions were wrong, Trayvon Benjamin Martin no longer walks this Earth." Because of the judge's ruling, the six jurors will have three options when they start deliberations as early as Friday: guilty of second-degree murder, guilty of manslaughter and not guilty.



POOL PHOTO BY GARY W. GREEN/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT
Assistant state attorney Bernie de la Rionda presents the state's closing arguments against George Zimmerman during his trial Thursday in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Florida. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

Zimmerman attorney Don West had argued an all-or-nothing strategy, saying the only charge that should be put before the jury is second-degree murder. "The state has charged him with second-degree murder. They should be required to prove it," West said. "If they had wanted to charge him with manslaughter ... they could do that." To win a second-degree murder conviction, prosecutors must prove Zimmerman showed ill will, hatred or

spite — a burden the defense has argued the state failed to meet. To get a manslaughter conviction, prosecutors must show only that Zimmerman killed without lawful justification. Allowing the jurors to consider manslaughter could give those who aren't convinced the shooting amounted to murder a way to hold Zimmerman responsible for the death of the unarmed teen, said David Hill, an Orlando defense attorney with no connection to the case.

"From the jury's point of view, if they don't like the second-degree murder — and I can see why they don't like it — he doesn't want to give them any options to convict on lesser charges," Hill said of the defense attorney. Because of the way Florida law imposes longer sentences for crimes committed with a gun, manslaughter could end up carrying a penalty as heavy as the one for second-degree murder: life in prison.

Shiites Expelled From Sunni Gulf

BEIRUT (AP) — When Ali Farhat was summoned to the immigration department in the United Arab Emirates, the 33-year-old Lebanese restaurant worker knew he would have to pack up his family and leave fast. Like many Shiite Muslims working in the oil-rich Gulf state, Farhat says he popped up on the country's deportation radar merely because of his sect, which its Sunni rulers associate with the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah. "I felt like a criminal, but I did not know what I did wrong," said Farhat, who had lived in the UAE for 15 years before his expulsion in May. "It seems that my only crime was that I am Shiite." Long considered by authorities as a security threat, hundreds of Shiites have been quietly expelled from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states on suspicion of being supporters of Hezbollah. The deportations have surged in recent months after the group publicly joined the civil war in Syria on the side of President Bashar Assad, an archenemy of the Gulf's rulers. It is the latest fallout for Lebanese Shiites from Hezbollah's high stakes and highly divisive military involvement in the war in Syria, and a sign of the growing sectarian fissures in the Arab world over Syria.

Microsoft Reorganizes Its Structure

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft Corp. is reshuffling its business in an attempt to promote faster innovation and a sharper focus on devices and services. The move by the world's largest software maker comes amid lukewarm response to the latest version of its flagship Windows operating system and a steady decline in demand for PCs as people turn to tablets and other mobile gadgets. CEO Steve Ballmer said in a memo to employees Thursday that the changes mean the company is "rallying behind a single strategy" and organizing by function. While it has been widely anticipated, it's too early to tell how well the reorganization will help Microsoft compete with more nimble rivals like Apple and Google. "You don't make massive, sweeping changes like this unless something is wrong," said Colin Gillis, an analyst at BGC Financial, pointing to Wednesday's reports of declining PC shipments around the world. Worldwide shipments of personal computers fell 11 percent in the April-June period, according to data from research firms Gartner and IDC. Gartner Inc. said the PC industry is now experiencing the longest decline in its history, as shipments dropped for the fifth consecutive quarter. Analysts have blamed a massive consumer migration to tablets and other mobile devices for the falloff. But many observers also believe Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system — which comes installed on most new PCs — has turned consumers off. "We are ready to take Microsoft in a bold new direction," Ballmer said in a conference call with reporters and analysts. "We need to make the right decisions more quickly," he said.

409 Buried On Anniversary Of Massacre

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Hava Muhic stood Thursday above the smallest pit in the cemetery, near her husband's grave. It was dug for her baby girl — who was born and died here 18 years ago on the day of the worst massacre Europe has seen since World War II. Muhic's baby is among the remains of 409 people recently identified after being found in mass graves, who were reburied at the Potocari Memorial Center on the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre. This year's commemorations bring the total of identified victims to 6,066. Another 2,306 remain missing. Muhic is burying the daughter she never had a chance to see or call by name. A simple wooden marker above the little green coffin says: Newborn Muhic (father Hajrudin) 11.07.1995 — the single date marking both birth and death. Muhic blames her child's death on the frantic rush to seek safety among U.N. peacekeepers as Bosnian Serbs overran the town. A woman who helped her give birth in the U.N. compound told her the girl was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck and that she was dead.

Inventor Of Party Game Twister Dies

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Twister called itself "the game that ties you up in knots." Its detractors called it "sex in a box." Charles "Chuck" Foley, the father of nine who invented the game that became a naughty sensation in living rooms across America in the 1960s and 1970s because of the way it put men and women in compromising positions, has died. He was 82. Foley died July 1 at a care facility in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Louis Park. His son, Mark Foley, said Thursday that his father had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Foley and a collaborator, Neil Rabens, were hired in the mid-1960s by a St. Paul manufacturing firm that wanted to expand into games and toys. They came up with a game to be played on a mat on the floor, using a spinner to direct players to place their hands and feet on different colored circles.

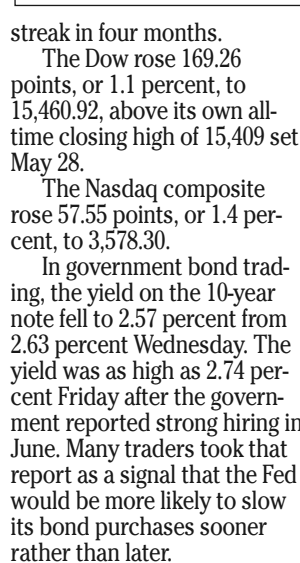
Stocks Surge After Bernanke Says Fed Won't Curtail Stimulus

BY STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — Call it the Bernanke Boost. The stock market, which has been marching higher for a week, got extra fuel Thursday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank will keep supporting the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 surged to all-time highs. And the yield on the 10-year Treasury note continued to decline as investors bought bonds. Stocks that benefit most from a continuation of low interest rates, such as homebuilders, notched some of the biggest gains. The chairman made the comments in a speech late Wednesday after U.S. markets had closed, saying the economy needs the Fed's easy-money policy "for the foreseeable future." The U.S. economy needs help because unemployment is high, Bernanke said. His remarks seemed to ease investors' fears that the central bank will pull back on its economic stimulus too quickly. The Fed is currently buying \$85 billion a month in bonds to keep interest rates low and to encourage spending and hiring. Stock index futures rose overnight. Stocks surged when the market opened Thursday and stayed high for the rest of the day. "The Fed has made it unequivocally clear that they are not in any hurry to do anything," said Alec Young, Global Equity Strategist at S&P Capital IQ. "It's very bullish for stocks." The S&P 500 index jumped 22.40 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,675.02, surpassing its previous record close of 1,669 from May 21. The index rose for a sixth straight day, its longest

Another record

The Dow Jones industrial average reached another record high Thursday after Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke assured investors the central bank would keep interest rates low. Closes on the benchmark index since it first closed above 15,000.



The Fed has also said it plans to keep short-term rates at record lows, at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent. Bernanke emphasized Wednesday that the level of unemployment is a threshold, not a trigger. The central bank might decide to keep its benchmark short-term rate near zero even after unemployment falls that low. "It's back to the old accommodative Fed, so the markets are happy again," said Randy Frederick, Managing Director of Active Trading and Derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. The market pulled back last month after Bernanke laid out a timetable for the Fed to wind down its bond-buying program. He said the central bank would likely ease back on its monthly purchases if the economy strengthened sufficiently. On Thursday, Advanced Micro Devices was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500 after news that it the company will make chips for two big gaming devices. The company rose 47 cents, or 11.8 percent, to \$4.45. Homebuilders, which are sensitive to the outlook for interest rates, were also among top gainers. D.R. Horton rose \$1.93, or 9.2 percent, to \$22.98 and Lennar Group climbed \$2.88, or 8.3 percent, to \$37.44.

Police: 24 Bodies Found In Quebec Train Crash

LAC-MEGANTIC, Quebec (AP) — Crews worked Thursday to find the burned remains of the 50 people presumed dead in Saturday's catastrophic oil train derailment, as Quebec's premier toured the traumatized town and took the U.S. railway's chief to task for not visiting sooner. Police said 24 bodies have now been found. The first to be identified by the coroner's office was 93-year-old Eliane Parenteau. The intensity of the fire has slowed identification of the dead. Premier Pauline Marois arrived in Lac-Megantic hours before police said Thursday afternoon they had recovered four more bodies, raising the official body count to 24. Burkhardt, president and CEO of U.S.-based Rail World Inc., which owns the runaway train, remained in town after arriving Wednesday with a police escort and facing jeers from residents. Burkhardt has blamed the engineer for failing to set the brakes properly before the unmanned train hurtled down a seven-mile (11-kilometer) incline, derailed and ignited in the center of Lac-Megantic. All but one of its 73 cars was carrying oil, and at least five exploded. Burkhardt said the engineer had been suspended without pay and was under "police control."

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