
Top News Stories

A small airplane on its way to an air show crashed in a wooded area Saturday, killing four people and seriously injuring another.

A German lawyer representing 20 families with relatives who died in the Concorde crash told a newsmagazine he expected Air France to end up paying close to \$3 million per victim in compensation.

A U.S.-made Colombian warplane crashed Saturday amid heavy fighting between leftist rebels and government forces, the army said.

A Westfield man watched helplessly from the ground as a wing on his father's homemade airplane snagged a radio tower, plunging the older man to his death.

Air Canada and its pilots' union said Friday they have signed a tentative agreement on a new four-year contract with a 13-percent salary raises, averting a threatened strike.

United Airlines' flight attendants plan to picket airports around the world to protest contract violations.

United Airlines machinists sought federal mediation Friday to resolve contract talks that a union spokesman said have come down to ``crunch time."

French investigators revealed Friday that the Concorde's runway was to be checked an hour before the flight, but the inspection was bumped because of an airport fire drill.

The Pentagon put an Army Patriot antimissile battery on alert Thursday for a possible deployment to Israel because of concern that Iraq may decide to strike during the U.S. presidential campaign.

A battered and bruised New Jersey Air National Guard pilot who ejected from his crippled F-16 jet fighter over the ocean here yesterday before stunned beachgoers was in good condition last night after being rescued.

Commercial Aviation

A German lawyer representing 20 families with relatives who died in the Concorde crash told a news magazine he expected Air France to end up paying close to \$3 million per victim in compensation. Attorney Christof Wellens said his clients have already received preliminary payments from the airline of \$19,500 each, Focus magazine reported Saturday.

Air Canada and its pilots' union said Friday they have signed a tentative agreement on a new four-year contract with a 13-percent salary raises, averting a threatened strike. The airline said the 2,200 members of the Air Canada Pilots Association will vote on the tentative settlement during the next few weeks. The pilots association announced Aug. 26 that it had accepted recommendations by a federal mediator as the basis for a tentative contract agreement with Air Canada.

United Airlines' flight attendants plan to picket airports around the world to protest contract violations. The Association of Flight Attendants, the flight attendants union, said its United members are applying for picketing permits at airports including Chicago, Denver, New York, Frankfurt, London and Paris, and plan to begin

informational picketing during the month of September. Bobbie Pilkington, spokeswoman for AFA, said the picketing should not disrupt flights.

United Airlines machinists sought federal mediation Friday to resolve contract talks that a union spokesman said have come down to ``crunch time." The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers filed an application with the National Mediation Board, seeking assistance in talks representing 15,000 mechanics and related workers.

French investigators revealed a new piece Friday to the puzzle of the Concorde crash: The supersonic jet's runway was to be checked an hour before the flight, they said, but the inspection was bumped because of an airport fire drill. The inspection delay did not violate any safety rules, and it was not immediately clear whether the delay had any bearing on how a mysterious metal strip ended up on the runway that day. Authorities have said the piece of metal gashed a tire on the plane, possibly triggering the chain of events that brought the Concorde down in flames in the town of Gonesse, killing 113 people.

Military Aviation

A U.S.-made Colombian warplane crashed Saturday amid heavy fighting between leftist rebels and government forces, the army said. The C-47 airplane outfitted with .50-caliber machine guns crashed at about 5 a.m. as it was heading back to base from the scene of the fighting, a government military officer said on condition of anonymity. The fighting has been centered at a main communications complex on Mount Montezuma, 155 miles west of the capital, Bogota.

The Pentagon put an Army Patriot antimissile battery on alert Thursday for a possible deployment to Israel because of concern that Iraq may decide to strike during the U.S. presidential campaign. The action is in response to concerns that Iraq may decide to fire surface-to-surface missiles at Israel as the presidential campaign gets into full swing after Labor Day, Monday. The unit on alert is the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, based near Frankfurt, Germany.

A battered and bruised **New Jersey Air National Guard pilot** who ejected from his crippled F-16 jet fighter over the ocean here yesterday before stunned beachgoers was in good condition last night after being rescued. The pilot, with 12 years of experience flying F-16s, was not identified. He flew out over the ocean after the engine trouble developed about 30 minutes into the exercise, officials said. A second F-16 stayed with him before he ejected more than a mile offshore.

Iraq said Thursday its anti-aircraft defenses had hit one of a group of Western warplanes taking part in a bombing raid in southern Iraq on Wednesday in which three Iraqi civilians had been wounded. The U.S. Central Command said that, while all U.S. planes had returned safely, ``battle damage assessment" was in progress.

General Aviation

A small airplane on its way to an air show crashed in a wooded area Saturday, killing four people and seriously injuring another. The Piper Cherokee Six 300 had just taken off from an airport about a mile from the crash site early Saturday morning, said Lt. Joel Smith of the State Highway Patrol. The crash killed the pilot, a father and son, and another boy whose father was in serious condition. The two boys were about 13, Smith said.

A Westfield, IN man watched helplessly from the ground as a wing on his father's homemade airplane snagged a radio tower, plunging the older man to his death. Edward L. Mockler, 76, of Indianapolis died in the 8:20 a.m. crash in an open field in the shadow of Carmel City Hall, said city police spokeswoman Officer Janet Uhrick. A severed wing was wrapped near the top of the 125-foot, metal-frame radio transmission tower.

Financial Update

Atlantic Coast Airlines Holdings Inc. said on Friday its third- and fourth-quarter earnings would fall short of Wall Street forecasts due to bad publicity surrounding the United Airlines labor dispute. Atlantic is the second company in as many days to blame United for its problems. On Thursday Hertz Corp. said it expected lower third and fourth-quarter earnings because of the dispute at United, a unit of UAL Corp.

In the first high-level opposition to pilots' contract extension with American Airlines, two union leaders have urged members to reject an agreement with the nation's second biggest air carrier. United Airlines' recent settlement pact with its pilots, which reportedly includes an immediate 28 percent raise, prompted changes in position by the two Allied Pilots Association leaders, who both supported the one-year American extension in a union board vote. The extension calls for a 5.5 percent pay raise.

British Airways, long expected to emerge as a serious suitor for Air India, has asked for details of the Indian flag carrier's privatization in the first indication of its intentions. A BA spokeswoman said chairman Colin Marshall sought details of Air India's planned sale during meetings with Indian Civil Aviation Minister Sharad Yadav and Minister for Disinvestment Arun Shourie earlier this week.

Name	Close	Change	Name	Close	Change	Name	Close	Change
AAR CORP	11.6875	0.438	EDO CORP	6.9375	0.250	OGDEN CORP	17.0625	-0.313
AIR CANADA	11.07813	0.078	FAIRCHILD AIR	7	0.125	RAYTHEON CO	26.75	0.188
AIRBORNE EX	14.875	-0.063	FEDEX	39.55	-0.800	ROCKWELL INTL	39.5625	-0.875
AIRPORT SYS	2.5625	-0.125	FORWARD AIR	42.25	-3.625	RYANAIR HLDG	37.5	0.750
AIRTRANS HLD	3.25	0.000	FRONTIER AIR	17.0625	-0.063	SEQUA CORP	45.9375	-0.313
ALASKA AIR	25.8125	-0.188	GENERAL DYN	62.875	-0.063	SKYMALL INC	3.625	0.125
AM TRAN	12.25	-0.250	GENERAL ELEC	58.5	-0.125	SKYWEST INC	50.1875	0.500
AMERICA WEST	14	-0.500	GREAT LAKES AV	1.6875	0.031	SOUTHWEST AL	22.125	-0.457
AMR CORP	32.6875	-0.125	HAWAIIAN AL	2.4375	-0.063	SPAR AEROSP	8.4	0.000
ATLANTIC CST	28.375	-3.375	HAWKER PACIFIC	6.5	-0.125	UPS	55.875	0.438
ATLAS AIR	43.1875	-0.063	HEICO	15.8125	0.313	TELEFLEX INC	35.9375	0.313
AVIALL	6	0.000	HONEYWELL	39.4375	0.563	TEXTRON INC	56.25	0.168
BE AVIONICS	16.5	0.313	JAPAN AIR LINES	7.125	0.063	TRIUMPH GRP	30.75	0.063
BFGOODRICH	40.5	-0.332	KELLSTROM IND	5.15625	0.031	TOWER AIR	2.0625	0.000
BOEING CO	54.75	1.105	KLM ROYAL DUTCH	25.5625	0.188	TWA	47	-0.750
BRITISH AW	48.375	1.250	LITTON IND	55.875	0.563	UNITED AL	62	-0.438
CDN AIRLINE	0.63	0.000	LOCKHEED MART	28.0625	-0.313	UNITED TECH	34	0.000
CHINA EAST AIR	16.9375	0.563	MERCURY AIR	7	0.000	US AIRWAYS	2.5	0.000
CHINA SOUTH	15.3125	0.438	MESA GROUP	5.75	0.188	VIRGIN EXP	7.625	0.125
CONSOLIDATED FRT	4.8125	0.234	MESABA HLDGS	10.75	-0.125	WILLIS LEASE	0.6875	0.000
CONTINENTAL	48.5625	0.438	MIDWEST EXP	22.0625	-0.563	WORLD AW	8.875	-0.063
CURTISS WRIGHT	45.3125	-0.125	NORTHROP	78.375	0.543			
DELTA AIR LINES	48.5625	-0.938	NORTHWEST AIR	30.8125	-0.500			