

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality. - Ayn Rand

INFOTAINMENT DVD 46

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PM Holds Talks On New Coalition

Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Tuesday held intensive talks on forming a new coalition government for tough economic times, after winning weekend elections.

Tusk, whose party Civic Platform won the most votes in Sunday's election, was to hold a second round of talks on Tuesday with Waldemar Pawlak, head of the farm-based Polish People's Party that is currently his junior coalition partner.

Their meeting on Monday was inconclusive and Pawlak said they needed more time to hammer out conditions for a coalition in what looks like being a turbulent period for the global economy.

Their coalition over the past four years appeared to be harmonious and created an image of stability that helped Tusk win re-election.

Tusk promised a major shakeup of the government in his second term.

Pawlak, who has been Tusk's deputy prime minister and economy minister, said they needed more time to hammer out conditions for a

coalition in what is expected to be a turbulent period for the global economy.

Pawlak said Tusk might also explore co-operating with other parties that made it into Parliament.

According to complete voter returns, Tusk's and Pawlak's parties could have a slim majority of 234 votes in the 460-member Parliament.

The full returns show that Civic Platform won 39.18% support, the opposition conservative Law and Justice of Jaroslaw Kaczynski, won 29.89%, followed by Palikot's Movement, with 10.02% and Polish People's Party reached fourth with 8.36% while Democratic left Alliance came next with 8.24%.

Palikot's Movement, with its broad liberal programme, is introducing into Parliament the first transsexual lawmaker of the country, Anna Grodzka, and first openly gay man, Robert Biedron. "This is a sign that we are a different society now, open and tolerant," said Biedron, who reacted to his victory and added: "I am very proud of us all." (AP)

New Sejm Will Convene On October 27: Schetyna

The first sitting of the new Sejm can be held on October 27 and 28, outgoing Sejm Speaker Grzegorz Schetyna said on Monday. Schetyna added that the dates are tentative and the exact date will be announced after consulting with Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Under the Constitution, the president is obliged to summon first meetings of Sejm and Senate within 30 days from the elections date, so the Chambers should convene for their first meeting on November 8 at the latest.

If winner parties are unable to form a government or if the government fails to win a vote of confidence, the Sejm has two weeks for appointing a new PM and Cabinet proposed by him with the absolute majority of votes in the presence of at least 50% of the total number of deputies.

If this step fails, the president has 14 days for appointing the PM and government members singled out by the premier and swear them in. (PAP)

SLD Leader Indicates Plan To Step Down

Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) leader Grzegorz Napieralski declared on Monday that he would not seek re-election during an SLD congress and promised to convene a National Council at the beginning of Sejm's new term. The remark followed the poor performance of SLD in Sunday's election.

Napieralski said that a plan of preparations for the party congress would be ready for the National Council meeting.

He also promised that the congress would elect new party authorities on all levels, including SLD leader.

According to SLD spokesperson Tomasz Kalita, the congress will be held in January at the latest.

Napieralski admitted that the result of the Sunday election was "unsatisfactory" for SLD but stressed that SLD was the only party that presented "a good and realistic programme based on facts, figures and plans" during the election campaign and field a team of "great parliamentarians and professionals".

SLD's MEP Wojciech Olejniczak earlier said that Napieralski was fully responsible for the party's poor result. (PAP)

President Prolongs Polish Mission In Afghanistan

President Bronislaw Komorowski has prolonged the mission of the Polish Military Contingent in Afghanistan until April 2012.

In tune with Monday's decision, the Polish force is to count up to 2,500 soldiers and military employees and 200 soldiers in reserve stationed in Poland, spokesperson for the National Security Office Joanna Kwasniewska-Wrobel announced.

Last month, the Cabinet has turned to the president for the mandate for extending the Polish mission in Afghanistan. The current, ninth shift, counts up to 2,600 soldiers and military employs and 400 soldiers in reserve. (PAP)

Polish Mint To Issue 1kg Gold Coins

The Mint of Poland will produce 12 one-kilogramme gold coins of NZD 10,000 nominal value in co-operation with Niue, a territory associated with New Zealand. The minting of the coins began on Monday. One such collector's coin will be worth PLN 244,000, except for the first one priced at PLN 260,000.

Each coin will have pieces of amber embedded in gold because the entire issue is devoted to the Amber Route, a historic commercial trail of medieval Europe, connecting Europe, Asia and Northern Africa through Baltic Sea.

The Route connected such trade centres as Kalinigrad, Gdansk, Elblag, Wroclaw, Stare Hradisko, Szombathely, Carnuntum and Aquileia. The embedded amber pieces will represent the towns along the route. The obverse of the coins will feature a portrait of Queen Elisabeth II and they will be legal tender in New Zealand. (PAP)

REGIONAL NEWS

Pomerania in Focus

News from around Pomerania over the past seven days. (In tomorrow's issue: Central Poland)

EC Allots PLN 925mln Subsidy For LNG Terminal Construction

Swinoujscie: The EC has allotted a PLN 925 million worth of non-repayable subsidy for the construction of an LNG terminal in Swinoujscie, the Polish LNG company reported on Thursday. The construction cost is estimated at PLN 2.5 billion.

MARINE NEWS SUMMARY

CONTAINER VESSELS: NEXT-GENERATION WILL BE LARGEST EVER

If the need is for greater efficiency for road and rail freight during an economic slowdown, standard operating procedures might be to downgrade to smaller and lighter means of overland transport. Shipping lines, however, have a different approach: they build bigger ships. The reason, they say, is better economies of scale, costing them less to send a string of three or four huge new ships across the oceans instead of a larger fleet of smaller vessels. These bigger and newer ships will also have more efficient engines and lower emissions, which also means lower fuel costs, as the company hopes an everlasting impression on its customers. One shipping giant is reportedly spending USD 1.9 billion on 10 new ships, each of which will carry 18,000 TEUs. The new Ultra Large Container Ships (ULCS) will be more than 1,312 feet long and more than 193 feet wide, and will outdo cargo capacity of the world's largest container vessel currently afloat, by 16%. The company's chief executive said that building ULCSs was not only a top priority for the firm but also for its customers, who are heavily dependent upon this in their supply chain. Five years ago, the world's largest container ship had a TEU capacity of 9,500. According to a Paris-based maritime research firm, the container carriers' answer to challenges of sustainable shipping and reduction of emissions is to build ever-larger ships, whose sizes have doubled over a decade.

The EC decision means that the total amount of acquired subsidies will amount to 45% of the cost of the project, the company reported.

In November 2010, the project gained EUR 55 million in non-repayable subsidy.

The construction started in March 2011 by four investors, namely Gaz-System belonging to the Polish LNG, the Board of Szczecin and Swinoujscie Ports and Maritime Office in Szczecin.

The two latter are responsible for preparing the port infrastructure for receiving bulk cargo carriers of capacity of up to 216,000 cubic metres.

Transmission infrastructure is being built on the coast. The land part of the terminal includes two liquefied gas containers of 160 cubic metres capacity linked to a network allowing for gas transport inland. The terminal will be ready for exploitation on June 30, 2014. (PAP)

Criminal Division Chief Quizzed For Killing Prisoner

Gdansk: The District Prosecutor's Office in Gdansk on Tuesday questioned the Director of the Criminal Division in Sztum Andrew G, who on Sunday morning allegedly killed a prisoner in his cell. Investigators announced that they apply to the court for a hearing in the case against the director, who pleaded guilty.

He, however, declined to answer questions. Investigators announced that they have performed the psychiatric examination of Andrew G. According to sources, Andrew G wrote a letter at his home before going to the prison on Sunday.

The prosecution did not disclose its contents. Investigators take into account the two hypotheses explaining the reason for murder. The first theory suggested that the conflict between the director and the prisoner led to the gruesome incident, while the second theory talks about the personal problems of the director. (PAP)

Number Of Wealthy Poles' On Rise: KPMG

Warsaw: The number of wealthy Poles is on the rise and should cross the 650,000 mark this year, the KPMG consultancy reported on Monday. KPMG wrote that the rise was the effect of rising wages and economic growth. According to KPMG the wealth threshold starts from a monthly income above PLN 20,000 and liquid assets above USD 1 million.

"The main reasons for the rise in the number of wealthy citizens are a steady rise in wages and a relatively high economic growth", KPMG wrote.

According to the Finance Ministry, the number of wealthy Poles has been rising steadily since 2001, crossing 600,000 in 2009. The biggest percentage of wealthy citizens can be found in the provinces Mazowieckie, Slaskie, Wielkopolskie and Malopolskie. (PAP)

GIS Releases Report On Food Quality

Warsaw: Geographic Information System (GIS) spokesman John Bondar has told the media about the latest study of the Food Science Agricultural University regarding the quality of food in various dining out places at seaside towns including Kolobrzeg, Leba, Miedzyzdroje, Sopot, Swinoujscie.

He added that a vast majority of the surveyed premises complied with good practice for dealing with oil or fat used for cooking fried.

The spokesman explained: "Studies have shown that 3.5% fat was assessed hazardous to the health of the consumer. These fats should be immediately removed and replaced with fresh grease. It should also be emphasised that at least 88% of fresh oil or fat should be used for cooking."

GIS spokesman went on to add that the Ministry of Health is making final preparations of a draft that talks about the maximum levels for contaminants that may be permitted in fats used for frying. It is expected to come into force on January 1, 2012. (PAP)

Stock Watch

WIG 20 up 3.44 to 2,265.59 points. WIG index grew 2.93% to 39,291.95 points. mWIG40 went up 2.21% to 2,192.99 points. sWIG80 rose 1.65% to 8,873.62 points. WIGdiv went up 1.86% to 916.17 points. In all, 227 shares went up in price, 106 fell, 54 remained unchanged and 26 were not traded at the Warsaw Stock Exchange session on Monday.

Turnover in the continuous trading system fell 16.2% from Friday's close and amounted to PLN 963.2 million (USD 302.8 million).

In the single price trading, four shares fell, one remained unchanged and seven were not traded. Turnover went down 65.4% to PLN 20,400. Turnover on the futures market went up 9.3% to PLN 1.23 billion. Turnover on the bond market grew 100.2% to PLN 5.17 million. (PAP)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ukraine's Tymoshenko Sentenced To 7 Years In Jail

KIEV: Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on Tuesday was found guilty of abuse of office and sentenced to seven years in jail, in a trial widely condemned in the West as politically motivated.

Judge Rodion Kireyev also barred Tymoshenko, now the country's top opposition leader, from occupying government posts for three years after the completion of her prison term and fined her USD 190 million in damages to the state.

Tymoshenko remained calm, but didn't wait for Kireyev to finish reading the lengthy ruling, standing up from her seat and addressing reporters in the courtroom as he spoke.

She compared her verdict, which she claimed was written by her longtime foe, President Viktor Yanukovich, to the horrific purges by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"The year 1937 has returned to Ukraine with this verdict and all the repression of citizens," she said, adding that she would contest the ruling.

As Kireyev was leaving the courtroom, Tymoshenko's husband Oleksandr yelled out that his time would also come for a similar verdict.

Tymoshenko was found guilty of exceeding her authority during the signing of a natural gas import contract with Russia in 2009.

The court ruled that she was not authorised to order the contract signed and that the price she agreed to was too high, causing losses to the state budget.

The EU was quick to condemn the verdict as politically motivated and urged the Ukrainian authorities to ensure a transparent and fair appeals process for Tymoshenko.

A failure to do so would have "profound implications" for Ukraine-EU relations and could jeopardise the conclusion of a landmark association agreement, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton said in a statement. (AP)

Putin In China Seeking Closer Ties

BEIJING: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is visiting China in a bid to boost diplomatic ties and overcome hurdles to increased trade and sales of his country's vast energy resources. Putin arrived on Tuesday afternoon and met with Premier Wen Jiabao for talks following a formal welcoming ceremony.

A series of agreements were to be signed following the meeting.

Despite warming ties, the two countries have struggled to increase trade and agree on sales of Russian gas to fuel China's booming economy. Moscow is also unhappy with China's illegal copying of Russian fighter jets and other military hardware and recently announced the arrest of a Chinese man accused of seeking to buy military secrets. (AP)

EU Backs Syrian Opposition, Ponders New Sanctions

LUXEMBOURG: The EU is reaching out to the nascent Syrian opposition movement to see if it could play an instrumental role in ousting President Bashar al-Assad, whose crackdown on pro-democracy protesters has so far killed nearly 3,000 people.

Diplomats said Syria's opposition needs more work to become an effective political force and gain formal recognition as a legal representative of the Syrian people.

Still, some drew comparisons to European backing of Libya's National Transitional Council, the rebel-led group that overthrew strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

"I believe we have to get to know them better and get to know their intentions," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said of the Syrians after the 27 EU foreign ministers met in Luxembourg and discussed the worsening situation in the Arab nation.

Earlier in the day, Syrian opposition members, including representatives of the newly formed Syrian National Council, said they had agreed on a democratic framework for a future nation and that they want international observers to be allowed into the Arab state to examine the situation there. (AP)

FINANCIAL NEWS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

1 PLN = EUR 0.23029

1 EUR = PLN 4.34239

1 USD = PLN 3.20882

1 GBP = PLN 5.01439

1 EUR = USD 1.3593

European Central Bank

German Officials Deny Use Of Trojan Horse Programme

BERLIN: Germany's Interior Ministry says no federal security services were involved in using a Trojan horse programme to spy on people through their computers. The Chaos Computer Club hacker network said it had analysed a copy of the malware received from unidentified sources, and claimed it was a government surveillance programme. But Interior Ministry spokesman Markus Beyer told reporters no federal agencies were involved, and noted that the programme used was about three years old and widely available.

Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said on Twitter that the chancellor takes the situation "very seriously" and is asking states to clarify whether Trojan horse programmes have been used. (AP)

Moody's Reviews Belgian Regions For Downgrade

BRUSSELS: Belgium's financial troubles appeared to mount on Monday as Moody's Investors Service announced it was putting the country's three regions on review for a possible downgrade, along with three of their government-related issuers.

The news followed Friday's announcement that Moody's was putting the country's Aal ratings on review for possible downgrade, in part because the country was about to pay a significant sum to prop up the French-Belgian Dexia bank.

Over the weekend, Belgium agreed to buy the bank's Belgian subsidiary for USD 4 billion as part of a restructuring of the lender amid a liquidity squeeze. Moody's said late Monday it was placing the regions and the government-related issuers on review in part because of their possible exposure to losses stemming from the Dexia restructuring. (AP)

 WEATHER

Bi al ystok: 6 to 13c Clou dy
 Gdansk: 7 to 12c Clou dy
 Krakow: 8 to 16c Rai n
 Poznan: 7 to 13c Rai n
 Warsaw: 7 to 12c Rai n
 Szczeci n: 7 to 12c Rai n

 SPORTS NEWS

Kolejarz Stroze Seal Victory Over Warta Poznan

In the I Liga match, Kolejarz Stroze sealed a victory over Warta Poznan with one unanswered goal. In the 42nd minute, Warta Poznan were reduced to 10-men after A Laskowski was sent out with a red card. Kolejarz Stroze managed to take the advantage of the surplus in players and in the 63rd minute J Wolanski scored the decisive goal of the match.

Italy To Play Poland, Uruguay In Friendlies

Italy have announced on Monday that it will face Euro 2012 co-host Poland and Copa America winner Uruguay in friendlies next month. The Azzurri will visit Poland on November 11 in Wroclaw, then host Uruguay at Rome's Stadio Olimpico four days later.

Wroclaw is one of the four cities in Poland that will host matches during next year's European Championship, which Italy has already qualified for by winning Group C. The match in Rome will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification. Italy plays its final qualifier against Northern Ireland in Pescara on Tuesday. (AP)

Montgomery Shines In PLK Round 1

Top-ranked AZS Koszalin claimed 87-68 victory over Polpharma in the PLK Regular Season, thanks to the extraordinary performance of American guard JJ Montgomery in the last round. The 29-year old player handed enough damage to Polpharma, as he helped AZS Koszalin significantly in crushing down the rivals, as he score 39 points and seven rebounds. Rafal Bigus notched 14 points and 14 rebounds.

American forward Jeremy Simmons reacted with 15 points and seven rebounds in the losing efforts, followed by the 16 points and five rebounds of Daniel Wall. **Results:** AZS Koszalin - Polpharma 87-68; PGE Turow - Kotwica 76-74; Zastal ZG - PBG Basket 71-57; LKS Lodz - Anwil 89-71; AZS PW - Trefl Sopot 66-83; Siarka Jezioro - Energa Czarni 81-93.

Belgium To Face Stronger Germans

Belgium have not qualified for a major finals since the 2002 World Cup and to keep alive their hopes of reaching Euro 2012 they will need to do something no-one else has managed in the qualifiers and beat Germany on Tuesday.

The Belgians are presently in second place, which would give them a play-off spot, but only a point ahead of Turkey, who should take three points against Azerbaijan.

Both Belgian Coach Georges Leekens and his players acknowledge that beating Germany in Dusseldorf let alone denying them a record 10th successive win in the qualifiers is a tough ask - the last Belgian win on German soil dates back to 1983 against East Germany.

Leekens - who is in his second spell as national coach having guided them to the 1998 World Cup finals but was sacked after they exited in the first round - said that but for a couple of moments of slapdash defending they would already be in the play-offs.

Leekens faces problems on the personnel front with Bayern Munich defender Daniel Van Buyten - whose mistake handed Germany a 1-0 win in Brussels - definitely out while more worrying are doubts whether highly-coveted playmaker Eden Hazard will be fit after being given a tough time by the Kazakh defenders during the 4-1 victory last Friday.

Striker Dries Maartens is also a doubt, but Leekens can welcome back Everton creative midfielder Marouane Fellaini.

The Germans have continued to progress since their young side reached the World Cup semi-finals last year and while Coach Joachim Loew is ready to make some changes from the side that impressed in the 3-1 away win over Turkey on Friday he doesn't want to let the record slip from their grasp.

Loew is likely to recall Real Madrid playmaker Mesut Ozil - who missed the Turkey game because of an Achilles tendon injury - while he has sent young star Mario Gotze back to Borussia Dortmund.

The Belgians will also have to find a way past outstanding German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer who has not let in a goal for Bayern in 1018 minutes and denied the Turkish strikers with some extraordinary reflex saves on Friday. (AFP)

Murray, Nadal Say Players' Meeting Not Imminent

Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal have cast doubt on whether the top men's tennis players will be able to sit down with each another this week, or perhaps anytime soon, to discuss their grievances with the ATP Tour. Murray and Nadal have been among the most vocal in advocating changes to the packed tennis calendar.

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Murray said last month the top players would meet during the Shanghai Masters this week to discuss the best way to present their concerns to tour officials, adding that a strike was not out of the question.

On Tuesday, however, he said the players would try to get together by the end of the year, though he acknowledged that this may also be difficult to organise. Nadal also said "it's not the right time to talk about that." (AP)

Tour De France Organisers In Route Slip-Up

Tour de France organisers inadvertently published next year's route on their official website according to several specialist cycling websites on Monday. Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO) refused to comment when contacted by AFP about the embarrassing slip-up over the race which gets underway in the Belgian town of Liege on June 30.

The page is no longer accessible but Dutch journalist Stephan van der Zwan has some images he took of it on www.Wielerland.nl, the website that revealed the error.

The 2012 Tour will feature nine flat stages, five mountain stages including two finishing at altitude, two individual time-trials and a prologue.

There will also be two rest days. The race will comprise a total of 25 climbs of 2nd, 1st or Hors categorie: one in the Vosges, three in the Jura, four in the Swiss Jura, six in the Alps and 11 in the Pyrenees. The official unveiling of the route is due to take place in Paris on October 18. (AFP)

Haye Signals End Of Career

The British Boxing Board of Control says former WBA heavyweight champion David Haye does not want to renew his license to fight. The Board of Control's General Secretary Robert Smith told the BBC on Tuesday that his organisation has received confirmation in an email from Haye, who lost a heavyweight unification bout to Wladimir Klitschko in July.