

## MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen. - Seneca*

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## Russia, China Sign USD 7bln Trade Deals

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin travels to China on Tuesday for talks likely to focus on a gas deal mired in discord, a day after the two countries signed trade deals worth more than USD billion.

Putin will be accompanied by a 160-member delegation for his two-day visit - his first abroad since he declared a planned Kremlin comeback - during which he will meet his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao.

China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday the two countries had already signed 16 economic and trade agreements worth more than USD 7 billion "in the fields of technology transfer, research and development and mineral development".

It gave no further details of the deals, which were signed at a summit on Monday held ahead of Putin's visit.

Observers say the Putin may lay out his foreign policy priorities for years to come during the trip, which follows last month's announcement that he plans to reclaim the presidency.

Putin has paid frequent visits to China - where he is very well known - in his capacities as president and then prime minister since he took power in 1999. Plans to pump Russian gas to China are expected to top talks between the two sides. Russia is the world's largest energy producer and China the largest energy consumer. (AFP)

## Govt Demands EU Action Before Helping Eurozone

Russia said on Monday it would like to see a firm rescue plan in place for Europe before committing more of its petrodollars to any debt purchase programme designed at helping the Eurozone.

President Dmitry Medvedev's top economic adviser said after talks with Spanish Finance Minister Elena Salgado that the two sides discussed Russia's participation in further bond purchases. But Kremlin aide Arkady Dvorkovich heaped further pressure on EU giants France and Germany by stressing Russia's interest in seeing the details before committing itself to a rescue.

"We expect the European countries to announce a concrete, clear crisis exit strategy," news agencies quoted Arkady Dvorkovich as saying.

"If support from Russia and other BRICS (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) nations is needed within the framework of this strategy, we are ready to render such support," Dvorkovich said.

Economists said Dvorkovich was most likely referring to short-term Spanish debt of relatively low risk - the same type of purchases that helped Russia diversify its foreign reserves during the 2008 economic decline.

There was no immediate comment from the Spanish minister and Dvorkovich made clear that "until such a strategy is announced, it is premature to talk about" Russia's involvement. (AFP)

## Iran Still Puzzled Over Scrapped Arms Deal

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has again expressed its surprise over Russia's decision to scrap a deal to deliver S-300 air defence systems to Tehran but said this was unlikely to affect relations between the two countries.

"Matters of this kind must not have any negative effect on political relations, nor are they having any such effect," ministry's spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

"However, we still cannot understand the reason for the non-delivery of what are considered to be defensive systems," he said.

Iran is seeking compensation from Russia in international arbitration for breach of the USD 800 million contract to supply five battalions of S-300PMU-1 to Tehran, signed in 2007.

The Kremlin banned the sale of S-300s to Iran in September last year, saying the systems were covered by the fourth round of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Iran over its nuclear programme.

Russia has paid back Iran's USD 166.8 million initial payment on the contract.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that Iran has no legal grounds to receive compensation from Russia over cancellation of a contract to deliver S-300 surface-to-air missile systems. "We have returned the prepayment to them and we believe the issue should be closed," he said in an interview with the Profil magazine. (RIAN)

## President Urges Govt To Improve Financial Market

President Dmitry Medvedev on Monday urged the government to lower administrative barriers for stocks public offering in the country and to improve domestic investment climate.

During a meeting of the Council for the Development of Financial Market in Russia, Medvedev admitted that the situation in Russian economy and financial markets were not good.

"Placing Russian securities on the Russian trading floors, reducing administrative barriers and quickening the issue of securities are extremely important tasks," he was quoted by Itar-Tass news agency as saying.

He urged the financial community to adopt a draft law on the central depository, which would facilitate Russian and foreign investors to trade the assets freely and develop financial services.

Meanwhile, the president warned that Russia should constantly monitor the situation on European and US financial markets and respond accordingly.

He noted that Russia has recently introduced a number of laws to prevent the "domino effect" in case of bankruptcy of the participants in the financial chain. Medvedev also said that Moscow's international financial rating rose by seven points in September and joined the top 10 cities with the fastest-growing potential. (Xinhua)

## Ukraine Promises To Deliver Russian Gas Supplies To Europe

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich promised on Monday that his country would fulfill its obligations to transport Russian gas to European consumers, the presidential press service reported.

"We are ready for the winter. We have pumped more than 20 billion cubic metres of gas into underground storage and this resource will enable us to provide the necessary amount of gas to European consumers," the press service quoted Yanukovich as saying.

The president assured Europeans that Ukraine remains a reliable partner for Europe and Russia.

He added that supplying European consumers with blue fuel is a joint deal between Kiev and Moscow.

Yanukovich underlined that Ukraine and Russia have an equal relationship and that Kiev wants to build strategic relations with Moscow and resume good-neighbourly relations.

Ukraine has complained that Russia's gas prices are too high and demanded that Russia revise a long-term natural gas contract the two sides signed in 2009. Europeans are afraid that the conflict between Ukraine and Russia may lead to disruptions of Russia's gas supplies to Europe. (Xinhua)

### 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.

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### Moscow in Focus

*News from around Moscow over the past seven days. (In tomorrow's issue: St. Petersburg)*

#### Paul McCartney Will Perform In Moscow In December

Paul McCartney will perform in Moscow on December 14 as part of a year-end tour that will see the rock legend play in the UAE and a number of European cities, an organiser said on Monday.

"This is the only concert in Russia during the tour. We worked hard to organise his visit and finally we succeeded," said Vladimir Zubitsky, the head of concert organisers SAV Entertainment and Russian Show-Centre.

"Given that McCartney played in Russia only twice - in Red Square in 2003 and in St Petersburg's Palace Square in 2004 - I think the Olimpiysky Arena show will feature the best programme," Zubitsky said.

Tickets go on sale on Monday. The "On the Run" tour will begin with the rock idol's first ever show in the UAE at the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

McCartney will visit 10 cities and end the tour with a traditional Christmas concert in Liverpool on December 20.

"I'm really looking forward to the next run of shows and to playing places that I have never played before with my band," McCartney said.

"I'll be starting with my first ever UAE concert and from there I'm on the run across Europe and Russia, before finally getting back to my hometown of Liverpool in time for Christmas," he added.

"My audiences seem to get better each year and the band and I love the buzz and feedback that they give us. I can't wait to see you all for some wild nights of rock n' roll and partying," he further said. (RIAN)

#### Officials Probe School Principal's Pre-Trial Death

The investigators launched a criminal probe on Tuesday into the death of a Moscow school principal who was held in pre-trial detention on suspicion of taking a RUB 240,000 bribe to admit a student.

Andrei Kudoyarov, 48, suffered a fatal heart attack on Saturday after spending nearly five months in prison as investigators prepared his case for trial after charging him of taking a bribe of RUB 240,000 from a parent.

"As part of this probe, investigators are to find out whether there is a link between the actions of officials and prison doctors and the accused man's death," the Investigative Committee said in a statement.

Kudoyarov's death has already made ripples in Russian society, with rights activists saying his case proves that nothing has changed since the outrage over the death of jailed lawyer Sergei Magnitsky in 2009.

The case of Magnitsky, 37, who spent nearly a year in detention and died of an untreated heart condition and pancreatitis, exposed rights abuses in prison and raised the liberalisation of the country's criminal law to the top of President Dmitry Medvedev's agenda.

"The issue is not whether the principal took bribes or not," analyst Sergei Aleksashenko said in a comment in the Vedomosti daily.

He added, "The issue is that despite all the beautiful words about reforming the police, another Russian citizen who should not have been in prison has died there." Kudoyarov had a chronic heart condition and the judge was warned that jailing him might lead to his death, the principal's lawyer Alexander Manov told the Kommersant daily. (AFP)

## Senior US Diplomats Will Visit Moscow

Two senior US diplomats will visit Russia this week for talks on human rights issues, State Department said in a statement.

"Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Michael Posner and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Melia will travel to Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, and Kazan from October 10 to 15 to discuss a wide range of human rights and democracy issues," the statement added.

It further said that during their visit, Posner and Melia would meet with Russia's senior government officials, journalists, students, and representatives of religious minority and civil society groups.

"Topics for discussion will include Internet freedom and religious freedom, as well as elections, tolerance, and conditions for civil society," the statement said. (Xinhua)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Ukraine Jails Tymoshenko For 7 Years

KIEV (AFP): A Ukrainian judge on Tuesday sentenced former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to seven years in jail for abusing her powers in a 2009 gas deal with Russia, a verdict that is set to harm ties with the EU.

Amid emotional scenes in the packed court, judge Rodion Kireyev said the 10-year contract for gas imports from Russia had sustained heavy losses for Ukraine and ruled that her actions were criminal.

"The court rules that Y V Tymoshenko intentionally used her powers to criminal ends," Kireyev said in his judgement.

He added: "The court finds her guilty and sentences her to seven years in prison."

EU officials have warned that a conviction would severely jeopardise Ukraine's hopes of signing an association agreement with the EU this year, which would be a first step towards its goal of joining the bloc.

The former Orange Revolution leader, flanked by her husband Olexander and daughter Yevgenia, immediately denounced what she said was a verdict ordered by her arch enemy Viktor Yanukovich.

The verdict was in line with the demand of prosecutors, who wanted a sentence of seven years. Ukraine jails Tymoshenko for seven years. "We will fight and defend my good name in the European court," Tymoshenko said. "We have to be strong and defend Ukraine from this authoritarianism," she added.

### EU Debt Crisis Walks Slovakia Tightrope

BRATISLAVA (AFP): The Eurozone faces an acid test on Tuesday of whether it can put its house in order as a key parliamentary vote in hold-out Slovakia appeared in doubt, threatening to undo efforts to tame the debt crisis.

Slovakia is the last of the 17 Eurozone nations to vote on strengthening the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) but with the coalition government crumbling, the premier announced a confidence vote at the same time.

European stock markets were anxious, watching events closely after recent strong gains on hopes that Europe was finally getting to grips with the Eurozone debt crisis.

Fresh strikes hit Greece, the epicentre of the storm, a day after the EU postponed a key summit and Eurozone chief Jean-Claude Juncker admitted a write-down of Athens' debt could cost creditors much more than first thought.

With costly bank re-capitalisations needed to bolster the financial system, leaders faced a tough day after promising a definitive solution before G20 talks on November 3-4.

Helping Greece, the banks and, if the downward spiral continues, Belgium, Spain, Italy and even France, led Eurozone states in July to agree measures to bolster the EFSF in an effort to prevent further contagion.

### Abbas, Sarkozy Will Meet In Paris: Palestinian Envoy

BOGOTA (AFP): Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas and French President Nicolas Sarkozy will meet in Paris in the coming days to discuss the Palestinian bid for UN recognition, Abbas's envoy said.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Ryad al-Maliki said Abbas would depart for France after meeting on Tuesday with Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos on the request for UN Security Council recognition of a Palestinian state.

Both Colombia and France are on the 15-member council. We are going to have a meeting with the French president Sarkozy on the same subject, because France is also a permanent member of the Security Council," Maliki told AFP on Monday.

Earlier, Abbas said he was willing to restart peace negotiations with Israel "at any moment."

"We are in favour of peaceful negotiations leading to the creation of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel," Abbas said in Bogota, where he is on a Latin American tour to rally support for UN recognition.

"We are at any moment willing to return to the negotiating table if Israel is of the same mind," he said, during an event where he was declared an honorary citizen of Bogota by the city's mayor.

### Western Balkans Hope To Move Slowly Towards EU

BELGRADE (AFP): When the European Commission announces its progress report on Wednesday, Western Balkans countries hope for small steps forward as the realisation is dawning EU enlargement will be a very slow process.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

USD 1 = RUB 31.5736

EUR 1 = RUB 42.9319

Petroleum: Brent Spot: USD 108.200 per barrel.

As the economic crisis continues in Europe, support for EU integration has fallen in most Western Balkans countries, although the majority generally agrees there is no alternative.

Montenegro and Serbia should both get some good news with the commission expected to recommend candidacy status for Belgrade.

For Podgorica, a candidate member since December 2010, it would be a date for the start of accession talks.

Serbia will reap the reward for arresting the last two remaining fugitives of the UN war crimes court, earlier this year. But Belgrade's hopes that it could also set a start date for accession talks have largely evaporated after the recent unrest in northern Kosovo and the decision to ban a gay pride parade.

Leaked drafts of the evaluation report show that the commission will demand Serbia "show a more constructive attitude" on Kosovo, whose 2008 declaration of independence Belgrade does not recognise.

### Japanese Scientist Unveils 'Thinking' Robot

TOKYO (AFP): Robots that learn from experience and can solve novel problems - just like humans - sound like science fiction. But a Japanese researcher is working on making them science fact, with machines that can teach themselves to perform tasks they have not been programmed to do, using objects they have never seen before.

In a world first, Osamu Hasegawa, associate professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has developed a system that allows robots to look around their environment and do research on the Internet, enabling them to "think" how best to solve a problem.

"Most existing robots are good at processing and performing the tasks they are pre-programmed to do, but they know little about the 'real world' where we humans live," he told AFP.

"So our project is an attempt to build a bridge between robots and that real world," he said. The Self-Organising Incremental Neural Network, or "SOINN", is an algorithm that allows robots to use their knowledge - what they already know - to infer how to complete tasks they have been told to do.

 WEATHER

Moscow: 6 to 8c PM Showers/Wind  
 St. Petersburg: 5 to 8c Light Rain  
 Archangelsk: 2 to 3c PM Showers  
 N Novgorod: 4 to 7c Rain  
 Volgograd: 13 to 24c AM Showers  
 Tomsk: 3 to 13c Showers  
 Vladivostok: 4 to 18c Partly cloudy.

 SPORTS NEWS

## Football: Big-Spending Anzhi Line Up New Targets

Anzhi Makhachkala joint Coach Roberto Carlos told French television that the ambitious Russian club are considering moves for Neymar, Nicolas Anelka and Robin Van Persie.

"We want to make a club of the calibre of Real Madrid or Barcelona," Carlos told Canal Football Club on Canal Plus as he outlined Anzhi's plans to add to a squad that already includes Samuel Eto'o, former Russia wing-back Yuri Zhirkov and ex-PSV Eindhoven winger Balazs Dzsudzsak.

Brazilian World Cup winner Carlos, now 38, was the first big arrival at the club based in the republic of Dagestan, in the Caucasus, in February, and was made joint caretaker boss in the wake of Gadzhi Gadzhiev's dismissal last month.

With the funds of billionaire owner Suleyman Kerimov being pumped into the club, the former Real Madrid man believes the likes of Anelka, van Persie and Neymar are now realistic targets.

"Anelka is not the only player," Carlos said when asked about possible moves.

He added: "Nene from PSG and Van Persie from Arsenal are players we are following. And Neymar? I talked to him. If Real, Barca or Manchester United cannot pay the transfer fee, we will pay it. Suleyman Kerimov can offer what he wants."

Neymar, of Santos, has been heavily linked to a move to Madrid in particular, but no deal has been finalised despite endless speculation, while Anelka's contract at Chelsea is due to expire at the end of this season.

Van Persie, who recently scored his 100th Arsenal goal, has yet to open talks on an extension to his current contract at the Emirates Stadium which expires in June 2013. Anzhi, whose players live and train in Moscow for security reasons and travel 1,250 miles to Makhachkala for home games, lie eighth in the Russian Premier League. (AFP)

## Tennis: Shanghai Masters: Youzhny Loses To Ferrero

Former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain beat **Mikhail Youzhny** 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in the first round of the Shanghai Masters on Monday. The Spaniard took one hour 52 minutes to outclass the Russian, who is currently ranking 34 in the world.

**Other Results:** Donald Young, US, bt Gong Maoxin, China, 6-1, 6-4; 16-Fernando Verdasco, Spain, bt Li Zhe, China, 6-2, 6-2; Tommy Robredo, Spain, bt Stephane Bohli, Switzerland, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4); 10-Andy Roddick, US, bt Lu Yen-hsun, Chinese Taipei, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, bt Marsel Ilhan, Turkey, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; Matthew Ebden, Australia, bt Pablo Andujar, Spain, 6-4, 6-4; Bernard Tomic, Australia, bt Kevin Anderson, South Africa, 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3; David Nalbandian, Argentina, bt Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, 7-5, 6-4; Albert Montanes, Spain, bt Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5); Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, bt Somdev Devvarman, India, 6-4, 6-3 (Xinhua)

## Ice Hockey Results

**KHL:** Amur Khabarovsk 6 Spartak Moscow 1; Sibir Novosibirsk 6 Salavat Ulaev UFA 3; Pen. Avangard Omsk 3 HC Torpedo 2; Metallurg Magnitogorsk 5 UHC Dynamo 6 **VHL:** Zauralye Kurhan 1 Kaztsink-Torpedo Ust-Kamenogorsk 4; Aryada-Akparis Volzhsk 4 Kristall Saratov 1; Pen.

Neftyanik Almetyevsk 3 Lada Togliatti 2; Dynamo Tver 5 Sputnik Nyzhnui Tahil 0; Izhstal Izhevsk 2 Molot Perm 4; Donbass Donetsk 0 VMF St Petersburg 3.

## Football: France, Portugal Braced For Euro 2012 Qualifiers

Star-studded France and Portugal face a nail-biting on Tuesday night if they're to fill two of the five remaining automatic qualifying places for Euro 2012.

Germany, Italy, Netherlands, England and world and European champions Spain are already through, leaving four group winners spots to be decided as well as a best runners-up slot from the nine groups. The eight remaining second-placed teams will go into the play-offs, a lottery that 1998 World Cup winners and 2000 European champions France and Portugal, the Euro 2004 runners-up, are desperate to avoid.

France tackle Group D rivals Bosnia-Herzegovina in Paris where a draw will put Laurent Blanc's side into the finals in Poland and Ukraine next summer.

France are a point ahead of Bosnia and will be buoyed by having won the first match between the two sides in Sarajevo last year thanks to quickfire second-half goals from Karim Benzema and Florent Malouda. Blanc's team are already certain of a play-off place having defeated Albania 3-0 on Friday. (AFP)

## Football: Klose Leaves German Camp, Returns To Rome

Veteran striker Miroslav Klose left the Germany camp on Monday on the eve of their final Euro 2012 qualifier against Belgium and returned to his club Lazio for treatment on a knee injury.

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Klose played no part in Germany's 3-1 win away to Turkey on Friday and was not expected to feature against Belgium in Dusseldorf, with Coach Joachim Loew set to stick with Mario Gomez in attack.

Klose is the second player to be sent home from the Germany squad in recent days after Borussia Dortmund's Mario Gotze was allowed to rejoin his club to prepare for their Bundesliga clash away to Werder Bremen.

However, Real Madrid's Mesut Ozil is likely to return to the side after missing the Turkey win with a painful achilles tendon.

Bastian Schweinsteiger (thigh) and Jerome Boateng (muscle problems) will remain doubts until the last minute, but Loew has admitted that their Bayern Munich teammate Toni Kroos could start. Germany are already through to the European Championship finals, but are looking to end their qualifying campaign with a perfect 10 wins from 10. (AFP)

## F1: Hamilton Will Bounce Back, Warns Team Boss

McLaren team chief Martin Whitmarsh has backed Lewis Hamilton to bounce back from his recent string of disappointments to win again and be a title contender next season.

Whitmarsh said he believed the 26-year-old Englishman's difficulties this year have sapped his confidence, but he is just one win away from rediscovering his form as the world's fastest and most exciting racing driver.

Speaking after Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix won by Hamilton's teammate and fellow-Briton Jenson Button, Whitmarsh said: "He's a great racing driver. His heart is in it and he is very open about his emotions. He doesn't like not winning, but it will come good. He added: "I hope that this time next week we are celebrating one of Lewis's greatest ever victories - and that is entirely possible.

We all know he's got it, we know we've got a car that can win and he has got the capability to do it."