

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EU BACKS SYRIAN OPPOSITION, PONDERES 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. (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.

EC Set To Publish Opinion On Serbia's Membership Bid

The EC is expected to publish its report on the membership bid of Serbia on Tuesday. The opinion of the EC is the key in the country's progress towards a candidate for membership. According to sources, although the draft opinion of the EC was positive on granting candidate membership, no date set for opening the talks for the same.

The sources added that both France and Germany are currently negotiating on the matter, while Berlin is trying to get the support of Paris in its hard line on the Balkan nation over the Kosovo issues.

According an AFP report Serbia will reap the reward for arresting the last two remaining fugitives of the UN war crimes court, earlier this year.

It however, added that 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, AFP reported.

Ivan Vejvoda, a Serbian diplomat and analyst who currently works for the German Marshall Fund, a US public policy institute, stressed that even small steps forward matter enormously.

"Maintaining the momentum (towards the EU) even if we advance just millimetres is very important for those who are pushing through reforms" in the Balkans, he told AFP.

Meanwhile, on Monday, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt expressed optimism over EU's report on Serbia, saying that Kosovo could not block Belgrade's path towards the EU, pointing out that Serbia was not responsible for the conflict in Kosovo north.

Speaking to the media in Luxembourg ahead of the EU Council of Ministers meeting, the Swedish foreign minister added: "Belgrade's authorities can influence the events in the north only very little."

He noted that the authorities in Pristina had not yet gained the trust of the local citizens. The EU Council of Minister will take a final decision on Serbia's progress on December 9 (with inputs from AFP)

General Election Will Be In December, Hints Speaker

Parliament Speaker Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic on Tuesday gave a hint that chances are high for holding the Parliamentary Elections in December this year. Speaking to the media in Belgrade, the speaker candidly stated that she "would not be surprised" if the General Elections were held ahead of schedule.

Elections are expected to be held in next spring but the speaker said that it could take place "this year, for instance, in December".

Djukic-Dejanovic explained: "Most likely the president will call elections next year, probably in March, but I would not be surprised if this were to happen sooner, say, in December."

Meanwhile, activities of the senior leaders of ruling Socialists (SPS) also threw weights behind the December election plan, as the party is already in campaign mood and political subjects already invited heated debates.

Serbia, Cambodia Resume Ties After Over 4-Decade Hiatus

Serbia and Cambodia on Tuesday announced to re-bridge bilateral relations and co-operation and pledged to give mutual support on international arenas.

Speaking in a joint press briefing after meeting with visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremic, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs, said this was the first visit of a Serbia minister to the Asia Pacific nation after the visit of Marshal Josip Broz Tito in 1968 during the reign of former King Norodom Sihanouk.

"The visit is to re-bridge and revive the historical friendship relations between Cambodia and Serbia," said Hor Namhong adding that Cambodia extended its support to Serbia against the state secession regime in the province of Kosovo.

"Cambodia has a principle policy not to recognise and not to encourage state secession," he said.

 WEATHER

Bel grade: 11-17c Cloudy
 Ni s: 7-14c Sunny
 Novi Sad: 9-21c Rain
 Pri sti na: 7-16c Sunny

Vuk Jeremic expressed grateful thanks to Cambodia for principle support against the secession regime in the province of Kosovo.

"By not recognising the secession in Kosovo, Serbia and Cambodia are making contribution to the world peace and stability," he said.

Vuk Jeremic added that Belgrade would fully support Cambodia's candidacy for the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the 2013-14 mandate.

Besides pledging to support each other on all matters internationally, the two ministers also promised to strengthen bilateral co-operation on economic, trade, agriculture, education, tourism and national defence.

Vuk Jeremic said Serbia would provide scholarships to Cambodian civilians and military officers to study in Serbia from next year. Vuk Jeremic arrived in Cambodia on Tuesday for a two-day visit. He is also scheduled to meet with Cambodia's Minister of Defence Tea Banh for military co-operation. (Xinhua)

Mladic Shifted To Hospital Due To Pneumonia

The ICTY indictee, Ratko Mladic, who has been in the Scheveningen detention centre since May 2010, has been transferred to a local hospital, where he will be treated for pneumonia, Belgrade-based media reported on Monday evening, citing Mladic's attorney Milos Saljic.

The attorney told the press that the Scheveningen detention unit administration said Mladic had been transferred to a hospital, without revealing which one.

The ICTY neither confirmed nor denied this information. Former Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, siege of Sarajevo and persecution of civilians. He was arrested in May, nearly 16 years after he was first indicted by the UN court. (HINA)

Thieves Snag Valuable Horse Tail

A resident in Belgrade said although she knew it sounds mean, she hopes her horse at least tried to kick the person that cut the hair off her tail. Belgrade-area resident Alisha Novotny said that she noticed her mare, Raz, was missing the hair from her tail last Sunday morning.

She says it looks like whoever did it "just grabbed pretty fast and chopped."

Novotny says horse hair can be valuable, especially white hair like Raz's, for making belts and bridles and key chains.

She says she felt "violated" when she realised a stranger had been in the horse's pen. Gallatin County authorities say this isn't the first time a horse owner in the area as found an animal missing hair from its tail. Officials with the Belgrade Police Department say it's been an ongoing issue for about six months. (AP)

 SPORTS NEWS

Basketball: A League Season Kicks Off

The Regular League Season began with the 90-76 victory of Vojvodina over Proleter Naftagas. The game was mostly one-sided, as Vojvodina put the rivals under constant pressure, except in the second period in which Naftagas calimed a lead of 31-28. But that was not sufficient to seal a victory at the end.

Dusko Bunic scored 23 points for the winning side and Slobodan Dundjerski added 13 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Zoran Majkic notched 17 points and seven rebounds and Bogdan Obrenovic scored 16 points and five rebounds respectively for Proleter Naftagas in the losing efforts.

In the next game, Vojvodina will meet OKK Beograd at home and Proleter Naftagas will face Zeleznicar in Indija.

Top scorers: Novi Sad: D.Bunic 23, D.Zekovic 13+2reb+2ast, S.Dundjerski 13+6reb+4ast, O.Kuzeta 11+7reb+1ast, N.Kalinic 9+4reb+1ast, S.Stojacic 6+3reb.

Proleter Naftagas: Z.Majkic 17+7reb, B.Obrenovic 16+5reb+1ast, P.Peterson 14+2reb+3ast, M.Bjegovic 11+6reb+2ast, L.Igrutinovic 8+1reb+1ast, M.Vulin 5+6reb+2ast.

Results: Proleter Naftagas - Vojvodina 76-90; Sloga - BKK Radnicki 89-92; Smederevo - Zeleznicar 93-78; Borac - Tamis 71-48; Metalac - Radnicki Basket 87-83; OKK Beograd - Napredak 90-66; Mega Vizura - Sloboda Uzice 85-74.

Tennis: Tipsarevic Loses To Lopez At Shanghai Masters

Janko Tipsarevic faced an upset in the opening round of the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday against Spain's Feliciano Lopez. This is the sixth time, Tipsarevic squared off with Lopez in his career and the Spaniard has claimed victory four times.

In Tuesday's match, the unseeded Spaniard posted a score of 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3) to seal a victory over the ninth seeded Serb, who is ranked 13 in the world.

Results on the third day of the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday are as follows (x denotes seeding): 1st rd Radek Stepanek (CZE) bt Zhang Ze (CHN) 6-3, 6-3; Feliciano Lopez (ESP) bt Janko Tipsarevic (SRB x9) 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3); Dmitry Tursunov (RUS) bt Thomaz Bellucci (BRA) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 7-5; Jurgen Melzer (AUT x14) bt Ivan Ljubicic (CRO) 6-4, 6-2; Kei Nishikori (JPN) bt Robin Haase (NED) 0-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/5).

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 FINANCIAL NEWS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

USD 1 = RSD 74.4788

USD 1 = EUR 0.7356

Football: 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.

"It is almost mission impossible but even so I believe deep down we can do it," said midfielder Jimmy Simons, who plays for Bundesliga side Nuremberg.

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. (AFP)