

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Political correctness is tyranny with manners.
- Charlton Heston

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Tymoshenko Jailed For 7 Years

A 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 YV Tymoshenko intentionally used her powers to criminal ends," Kireyev said in his judgement.

"The court finds her guilty and sentences her to seven years in prison," he added.

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.

"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.

Kireyev said Tymoshenko sustained a loss to state gas firm Naftogaz of UAH 1.5 billion by agreeing the 10 year contract.

"YV Tymoshenko... used her official powers to criminal ends and, acting consciously, committed actions which clearly exceeded her rights and powers which had heavy consequences," Kireyev added.

He also ruled that Tymoshenko would herself have to pay back the losses sustained.

Despite being in custody since August, Tymoshenko as ever showed up in court with her hair plaited intricately around her head and wearing an immaculate beige dress.

She shouted "Glory to Ukraine!" after being led in. Her supporters have portrayed the trial as a struggle for the future of Ukraine and a historic fight to ensure it has a future at the heart of Europe. (AFP)

Amnesty International Slams Tymoshenko Verdict

Amnesty International on Tuesday slammed the conviction of Yulia Tymoshenko on abuse of power charges as a politically motivated verdict delivered by a biased court.

"The trial against Yulia Tymoshenko highlights systemic problems within the justice system in Ukraine, and the conduct of this trial casts doubt over the independence of the judiciary," said the global rights organisation's Deputy Director John Dalhuisen.

"The prosecution of Yulia Tymoshenko is politically motivated," the Amnesty statement said while calling for her immediate release.

"The charges against her are not internationally recognisable offences, they are attempts to criminalise decisions that she made in the course of her work," the statement added. Meanwhile, the Council of Europe also criticised the conviction of Tymoshenko, saying political disputes should not be resolved in court. (AFP)

President Vows To Deliver Russian Gas Supplies To Europe

President Viktor Yanukovich promised on Monday that the country will fulfil 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 Kyiv and Moscow.

Ukraine has complained that Russia's gas prices are too high and has been demanding 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)

CPV Will Promote Ties With CPU

The Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) plans to develop traditional relations with the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU), and will foster it in the years to come, Vietnamese Party top leader Nguyen Phu Trong said in Hanoi on Monday.

Trong, General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee, made the statement during a meeting with visiting Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the CPU.

Trong praised the visit, saying it is a nice symbol of traditional relations and friendship, and all-sided co-operation, between the two countries.

The Vietnamese Party top leader expressed his belief that the CPU will further consolidate its power and prove its position in the Ukrainian political arena, and to build the country more prosperous. Symonenko expressed his pleasure to revisit Vietnam after many years and witness the country's remarkable changes. (Xinhua)

Foreign Minister Will Visit Estonia

Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko will pay an official visit to Estonia on October 12. He will hold several meetings with Estonia's political leaders, the Estonian Foreign Ministry reported.

At their meeting, Gryshchenko and his Estonian counterpart Urmas Paet will discuss Estonia-Ukraine bilateral relations, including political and economic issues.

They will also discuss Ukraine's EU accession process, co-operation in international organisations and relations with close neighbours.

Ukraine will be the chairman of the OSCE in 2013. While in Tallinn, the foreign minister will also meet with Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Riigikogu Speaker Ene Ergma, and Prime Minister Andrus Ansip. (LETA)

REGIONAL NEWS

Crimea in Focus

News from around Crimea over the past seven days. (In tomorrow's issue: Sevastopol)

Authorities Neglect Rights Of Crimean Tatars: Chubarov

The President of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars and member of the Crimean Parliament Refat Chubarov said that the government authorities neglect the rights of Crimean Tatars. He said this during a meeting with heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations accredited in Ukraine last week.

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.

Chubarov said: "In current situation the further delay in restoring the rights of Crimean Tatars can have disastrous consequences that may result in loss for humanity of one of the most original and ancient European peoples".

"Currently, Crimea is experiencing a decline in representation of our people in local government. Also, educational and cultural programmes are not funded properly. Proportion of the population of Crimean Tatars in Crimea is about 13%, and in power - less than 4-5%, and the situation is getting even worse," he added.

For his part, the chief of Mejlis, Verkhovna Rada deputy, Mustafa Jemilev, said: "The Ukrainian government has now completely distanced itself from these problems".

In particular, according to Jemilev, it is about enacting appropriate laws regarding the rights of Crimean Tatars, solving problems related to the housing, social protection, religion and land issues.

In addition, he mentioned the problem of discrimination against Crimean Tatars and the deprivation of the right to educate children in their native language.

The Crimean Tatar leaders urged foreign diplomats, representatives of international organisations to organise an international forum on restoring the rights of Crimean Tatars as soon as possible under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe or the Council of Europe. (Ukrinform)

Black Sea Region Should Become A Common Tourist Space: Psariov

The Black Sea region should become a common tourist space, Deputy Chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers and Resorts and Tourism Minister Heorhiy Psariov said while speaking at the 2nd International Black Sea Economic Forum in Yalta.

The press service of the Crimean Council of Ministers reported that the establishment of close international links in the tourism sector would help the Black Sea basin countries overcome the global economic crisis.

"We have to look at the Black Sea region as a single tourist space and jointly make every efforts so that tourists who visit one of the cities in the region would like to cross the sea from east to west and from south to north. We should offer them such programmes so that they do not want to visit other regions," Psariov said.

"It's not easy, but the main principle is that the states of the Black Sea region should act as one team and become a subject of the global economy and should be able to co-ordinate its strategies," the official added. (Ukrinform)

Russia Among 5 Largest Foreign Investors In Crimea

Russia is among the five largest foreign investors in Crimea, which accounts for 30% of the total foreign direct investment, according to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

According to Deputy Head, Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on financial and economic activities, Kateryna Yurchenko, the list also includes Cyprus, Germany, the UK and Austria.

She added that the Crimean government carried out a series of presentations of investment projects in foreign countries.

In particular, the last presentation was made at the 5th Vienna Financial and Economic Forum of CIS Countries and Eastern Europe. However, according to the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, at the beginning of July this year, about EUR 750 million in foreign investment 'operated' in the Crimean economy. (Ukrinform)

Simferopol Airport, Lufthansa Consulting Sign Agreement

Simferopol International Airport and Lufthansa Consulting signed an agreement on co-operation in Yalta last week. The agreement foresees the drafting of a strategy of public-private partnership with a view to developing the airport and modernising facilities that provide services to passengers.

In particular, the document envisages the construction of new terminals, the reconstruction of the runway, the development of retail and entertainment infrastructure, as well as ensuring the professional management of the airport and bringing it in line with international standards in safety and quality.

According to the press service of the Crimean government, Lufthansa Consulting was selected by Simferopol Airport for co-operation after the tender. (Ukrinform)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Putin Arrives In China After USD 7bln Deals

BEIJING - Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese leaders, a day after his gas-rich nation signed deals worth over USD 7 billion with the world's top energy consumer.

Putin is due to meet his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao on his two-day visit - his first abroad since he announced plans last month to reclaim the Russian presidency.

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 Monday, held ahead of Putin's visit.

Observers say the Russian prime minister may lay out his foreign policy priorities for years to come during the trip. 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. (AFP)

Roma, Jews Commemorate Holocaust In Romania

BUCHAREST - Dozens of Romanian Roma and Jews on Tuesday commemorated the start of the Holocaust 70 years ago, laying red carnations in memory of the thousands of victims of the pro-Nazi Romanian regime.

"The Holocaust triggered unprecedented cruelty, not only against Jews but also against Roma and other minorities in the name of nothing more than blind hatred", the US Ambassador to Romania Mark Gitenstein said during a ceremony at the Holocaust memorial in Bucharest.

Between 280,000 and 380,000 Romanian and Ukrainian Jews died during the Holocaust in Romania and the territory under its control, according to an international commission of historians headed by the Nobel Prize for Peace, Elie Wiesel, himself a Romanian-born Jew.

"About 25,000 Roma were also victims of cruel persecutions", the director of the Holocaust museum in Washington Radu Ioanid said.

The ceremony opened with children symbolically wearing the yellow star imposed on Jews by the Nazis showing pictures of the pogroms that took place in many Romanian towns in 1941, signalling the beginning of mass deportation and extermination.

To a sad tune played by an accordionist and a violinist, they also sang in memory of the victims and read poetry in the Romani language. (AFP)

Polish Prime Minister Holds Talks On New Coalition

WARSAW - After winning weekend elections, Poland's prime minister held intensive talks on Tuesday on forming a new coalition government to guide the country as its booming economy is expected to lose momentum.

Donald Tusk, whose party Civic Platform won the most votes in Sunday's election, will hold a second round of talks with Waldemar Pawlak, head of the Polish People's Party, Tusk's junior coalition partner.

Tusk's party is a centre-right pro-European group while Pawlak's is conservative and mainly represents farmers' interests.

Their coalition over the past four years appeared to be harmonious and created an image of stability that helped Tusk win re-election. A meeting between Tusk and Pawlak on Monday was inconclusive.

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.

Tusk has promised a major shake up of the government in his second term. Pawlak said Tusk might also explore co-operating with other parties that made it into Parliament. (AP)

EU Debt Crisis Walks Slovakia Tightrope

BRATISLAVA - 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 but with the coalition government crumbling, the premier announced a confidence vote at the same time.

FINANCIAL NEWS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

USD 1 = UAH 8.0011

EUR 1 = UAH 10.892

NBU

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. (AFP)

Egypt Probes Deadly Sectarian Clashes

CAIRO - Egypt's military rulers ordered a speedy probe into clashes which killed 25 people, mostly Coptic Christians, as the cabinet held crisis talks and thousands attended the funerals of 17 victims.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) "tasked the government with quickly forming a fact finding committee to determine what happened," in a statement read on state television on Monday as world leaders urged restraint.

It called for "all measures against all those proven to have been involved, either directly or by incitement".

Both the ruling military council and the Cabinet held crisis talks, a day after the clashes in Cairo left 25 dead, most of them Copts, and more than 300 people injured, according to health ministry figures.

The SCAF, which took power when president Hosni Mubarak was ousted in February, stressed it "continues to bear national responsibility to protect the people" until it hands over to an elected civilian authority. Thousands of people attended a service at the Copt cathedral for the funerals of 17 demonstrators. (AFP)

SPORTS NEWS

Badminton: Ukrainians Win Int'l Tournament In Bulgaria

Ukrainians Valeriy Atrashchenkov and Anna Kobceva have won gold medals in the mixed doubles event at the international badminton tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

 WEATHER

Kyiv: 11 to 13c Mostly cloudy
 Lviv: 9 to 13c Light rain
 Kharkiv: 9 to 17c Partly cloudy
 Luhansk: 11 to 23c Partly cloudy
 Odesa: 8 to 19c Mostly sunny.

On their way to victory, the students of Kharkiv Coach Hennadiy Makhnovsky defeated badminton players from Bulgaria, England, India, and Taiwan, and beat Britons Gary Fox and Samantha Ward 21-18, 19-21, 21-14 in the finals.

In the men's singles, Atrashchenkov and Dmytro Zavadsky reached the quarter-finals, losing to Chun Seang Tan of Malaysia (14-21, 12-21) and Ville Lang of Finland (21-23, 21-17, 14-21) respectively. With this victory, the Ukrainians have improved their positions in the world ranking of the best badminton players. (Ukrinform)

Boxing: Haye Set To Announce Retirement

Former WBA heavyweight champion David Haye is set to announce his retirement after informing the British Boxing Board of Control he intends to quit the sport, according to reports in London on Tuesday.

Haye, who celebrates his 31st birthday on Thursday, had always said he would not fight past the age of 30, but many had expected him to delay his retirement for one more big fight, possibly against Ukraine's Vitali Klitschko, who holds the WBC title.

Board secretary Robert Smith told The Sun: "I received an email on Monday advising me Haye would not be carrying on. The board will discuss it on Wednesday but there is no way we could go against his wish not to renew his boxing licence. Without it, he can't fight."

The Londoner lost his WBA belt to Klitschko's brother Wladimir by an unanimous points decision in Hamburg, Germany in July. The contest was a heavyweight unification fight for the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts and the three judges scored 117-109, 118-108 and 116-110 all in Klitschko's favour. (AFP)

Chess: Anand Slips To Last Spot In Final Masters

World Champion Viswanathan Anand was shocked by Levon Aronian of Armenia in the ninth and penultimate round of the fourth Final Masters as he slipped to the last spot with just one round to go in the category-22 super tournament in Bilbao.

World number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway completed his second victory in as many games against tournament leader **Vassily Ivanchuk** of Ukraine to emerge as the joint leader on 14 points in the soccer-like scoring system being used here.

Ivanchuk, who enjoyed a three-point lead coming into this round, ran into a determined Carlsen who came with some imaginative manoeuvres to jump to joint lead after being wayward in the first half of the tournament played at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

The shocker of the day came from none other than lowest ranked Francisco Vallejo Pons of Spain who proved yet again that he is no-mug when it comes to handling "big boys" of the game.

Pons, who had earlier beaten Carlsen and Ivanchuk in the tournament, perplexed Hikaru Nakamura of the US, who was declared lost on time on move 40 in a position, which was quite defensible. With just one round to go, Ivanchuk has the better chance of annexing this tournament as he plays Aronian with white in the final round game. (PTI)

Gymnastics: World Men's Qualifying Results

Following are the top eight teams after men's qualifying sessions on Sunday and Monday at the world gymnastics championships in Tokyo. 1 Japan 364.291 2; United States 361.583; 3 China 359.126; 4 Germany 354.132; 5 Russia 353.725; 6 South Korea 351.331; 7 Romania 350.900; **8 Ukraine 350.434**; 9 France 349.818; 10. Britain 348.742; 11.

Spain 348.725; 12. Canada 347.076; 13. Brazil 346.626; 14. Puerto Rico 344.460; 15. Italy 343.642; 16. Belarus 342.575. (Xinhua)

Football: England To Be Based In Poland At Euro 2012

England will be based in Poland during next summer's Euro 2012 finals, it was confirmed on Tuesday. English FA official Adrian Bevington told Sky Sports News England would stay in Poland rather than Ukraine during the tournament.

"We are just finalising a few contractual arrangements now. We will be in Poland but I won't be able to say any more at this particular moment," Bevington said.

"We are not far away from (confirming the location) but out of respect to all the people we have been dealing with we have to get everything finalised before we make any public statement on it," he added.

Football Association chief David Bernstein hinted last week that England were considering staying in a more central location at the tournament after opting for a remote base at the World Cup in South Africa. England sealed their qualification for Euro 2012 after securing a 2-2 draw with Montenegro in Podgorica last Friday. (AFP)

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Football: Prandelli Set To Ring The Changes For Irish

Italy Coach Cesare Prandelli is set to ring the changes for Tuesday's Euro 2012 Group C qualifier against Northern Ireland here. Italy have already qualified for the finals in Poland and Ukraine next year having ensured they would win the group with two games to spare following the 1-0 defeat of Slovenia in Florence last month.

Northern Ireland were in contention for second place and a play-off spot until Friday when they lost 2-1 at home to Estonia, having led 1-0.

It means there is nothing riding on the game for either team except pride and UEFA ranking points. And Prandelli has admitted he will use the game to try out some fringe players. "I would like to stick with the same formation but I would also like to evaluate those who have played less so far," he said. (AFP)

Football: Belgium Up For Mission Impossible Against 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 Timmy Simons, who plays for Bundesliga side Nuremberg.