

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. - Albert Einstein

INFOTAINMENT DVD 46

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Fox Apologises In Werritty Row

Defence Secretary Liam Fox on Monday apologised to the House of Commons for "blurring" the lines between ministerial work and his personal life after a report found he met a close friend a total of 40 times at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and on overseas trips.

David Cameron said the interim report by MoD permanent secretary Ursula Brennan made clear that Dr Fox had made "serious mistakes" in his links with Adam Werritty and that procedures within his department needed tightening up.

The Prime Minister ordered the Government's top civil servant, Cabinet Secretary Sir Gus O'Donnell, to join Ms Brennan in completing her inquiry.

Labour said it was "beyond doubt" that the Defence Secretary had breached the ministerial code of conduct by attending a meeting in a Dubai hotel with representatives of defence

company Cellcrypt arranged by Mr Werritty, the best man at his wedding who styled himself an adviser to Dr Fox.

Shadow defence secretary Jim Murphy said Dr Fox had "driven a coach and horses through the rules" and called on the Prime Minister to refer the case to the independent adviser on ministers' interests, Sir Philip Mawer. But Dr Fox received strong support from the Conservative backbenches as he made his apology to the Commons while Downing Street said the Defence Secretary "absolutely" retained Mr Cameron's full confidence.

The Defence Secretary hit back at Labour by telling MPs that the opposition party had received a GBP 10,000 donation from Cellcrypt. The 22 visits at the MoD and 18 meetings on the margins of trips abroad detailed in Monday's report far exceeded the contacts with Mr Werritty previously confirmed by Dr Fox. (PA)

Yeates Killer 'Shopped After Death'

A killer neighbour strangled Joanna Yeates then went shopping in Asda with her body in the boot, a court heard on Monday. Vincent Tabak texted his girlfriend to say he was bored just minutes after murdering the 25-year-old landscape architect, a jury was told.

He avoided police suspicion for weeks by maintaining the pretence that he was a concerned neighbour, the prosecution claims.

As the murder inquiry made international headlines, Tabak told a guest at a dinner party the killer must be a "crazy, detached person", Bristol Crown Court heard.

The 33-year-old - who has admitted manslaughter but denies murder - also sent a string of emails to his girlfriend to cover his tracks, describing the case as "creepy", Nigel Lickley, for the Crown, said.

Bespectacled Tabak, a Dutch engineer, looked on from the dock as Mr Lickley said: "He was able to mislead and manipulate others and to hide his inner feelings. He was in complete control and knew what he was doing."

CCTV footage showed him wandering the aisles at an Asda supermarket in Bedminster, Bristol, less than two hours after the killing on December 17. (PA)

Archbishop Gives Mugabe Abuses File

The Archbishop of Canterbury on Monday presented Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe with a dossier of abuses Anglicans have suffered in his country. Dr Rowan Williams, the head of the worldwide Anglican Church, was joined by Anglican leaders in Africa in asking the president to use his powers to stop the abuses.

Dr Williams and the Archbishops of Central Africa, Southern Africa and Tanzania issued a statement saying: "We come here to be in solidarity with our Anglican sisters and brothers at the invitation of the local church - the Anglican Province of Central Africa, which includes the five dioceses of Zimbabwe."

The statement added, "As you know this has been a time of immense trial. Since 2007 Anglican congregations in Zimbabwe have suffered serious persecution at the hands of the police. They have been intimidated. Their churches have been closed. Properties, including schools and clinics, have been seized. As representatives of the Anglican Communion, and with the support of ecumenical friends worldwide, we strongly and unequivocally support the efforts of ordinary Anglicans to worship in peace and to minister to the spiritual and material needs of their communities." (PA)

PM To Clamp Down On Illegal Immigrants

David Cameron on Monday appealed for the public to "shop" illegal immigrants as he pledged to reclaim Britain's borders. The Prime Minister said he wanted the whole country to help the Government tackle the issue by reporting suspicious individuals.

He also insisted the citizenship test for legal incomers would be rewritten to include questions on British history and signalled a fresh crackdown on forced and bogus marriages.

The moves were revealed as Mr Cameron delivered a keynote speech setting out plans to control immigration.

In future, individuals applying to come to the UK for family reasons will have to show that they can speak English and have the financial means to support themselves as well as genuine family links in Britain.

Family migration made up almost a fifth of non-EU immigration last year, with 50,000 visas issued, he told an audience at the Institute for Government in central London. But a survey suggested that more than 70% of UK-based family sponsors had an income of less than GBP 20,000 after tax, creating "an obvious risk" that they may become dependent on welfare.

Mr Cameron said the Migration Advisory Committee would consider whether the minimum level of financial support should be higher and whether a "bond" from migrants could be demanded in some cases. (PA)

FTSE Surges By 2%

The prospect of concerted action to tackle Europe's debt and bank crisis triggered a rally on the London market on Monday. The FTSE 100 Index closed nearly 2% or 95.6 points higher at 5399 after France and Germany said a response to the debt crisis would be finalised by the end of the month.

Investors were reassured by sketchy details of a plan to ensure European banks have adequate capital which emerged after German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Biggest Risers: ARM Holdings up 36.5p at 591p, Old Mutual ahead 5.5p at 113.3p, Schroders up 52p at 1147p and Essar Energy ahead 12.5p at 278p. **Biggest Fallers:** Compass Group down 6.5p at 528.5p, Imperial Tobacco off 24p at 2153p, Tate & Lyle down 6p at 628p and Experian off 5p at 743.5p. (PA)

REGIONAL NEWS

Scotland in Focus

News from around Scotland over the past seven days. (In tomorrow's issue: Wales/Ireland)

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.

Visit Scotland More, PM Urged

EDINBURGH: David Cameron was accused by one of the candidates to lead the Scottish Tories of failing to spend enough time north of the border.

Ruth Davidson, a Glasgow MSP elected to Holyrood for the first time in May, appealed to the Prime Minister to prove the party was "serious" about winning in Scotland by showing his face and sending ministers.

"You don't need to get interested in Scotland a year before a General Election; we need your help and assistance right now," she told a hustings meeting at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester.

The party has suffered a series of beatings at the ballot box, returning just one Scottish MP at the last UK General Election and seeing its number of MSPs drop to just 15 in May's Scottish elections.

Ms Davidson, one of four candidates vying to take leadership of the Scottish Conservatives from the retiring Annabel Goldie, levelled her criticism as the rivals went head-to-head in front of a packed hall.

Asked what her message would be to Mr Cameron if she landed the top job, she said: "Look, if the party is serious about Scotland, we need to see you in Scotland a bit more." (PA)

Fraser Wins Backing Of Rifkind

LONDON: Tory grandee Sir Malcolm Rifkind backed Murdo Fraser on Monday in his bid to be the party's new leader north of the border. As part of the leadership contest Mr Fraser has set out plans to scrap the party in Scotland and replace it with a new centre-right alternative.

And Sir Malcolm, who served as Scottish Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary during his political career, argued that if party members voted for the status quo they would be "letting Scotland down".

Giving his support to Mr Fraser, he said: "The status quo is continuing to be impotent at a time when Scotland needs a strong centre-right party. If we vote for a continuation of the status quo I don't think we would just be letting down ourselves. We would also be letting down Scotland."

Sir Malcom, the MP for Kensington, spoke out as ballot papers started being sent out to party members in Scotland. He said he thought Mr Fraser had "real leadership qualities of a very significant kind". (PA)

Leak Found At Former Nuclear Plant

DOUNREAY: Scotland's environment secretary has called for a full investigation after a radioactive leak was found at the former Dounreay power station. The leak was discovered during routine operation of the plant which is destroying the liquid metal used as the coolant in the Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR).

Monitoring systems detected drips of caustic liquor from pipework in a shielded cell.

Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) said the plant was immediately shut down and the leak isolated and stopped.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) said no material had been released into the environment and that the leak was "minor". Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said the Scottish Government was in close contact with SEPA over the incident. (PA)

Group Wants Scotland Bill Abandoned

EDINBURGH: Legislation to devolve more powers to Holyrood should be "killed off" because it does not add "one iota to the effective and efficient delivery of public services", according to the head of the body representing Scotland's voluntary sector.

Martin Sime, chief executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Services, told MSPs the Scotland Bill would preserve a system which was "grossly inefficient" and "wasteful of public money".

The Bill - which would hand greater borrowing and tax-raising powers to the Scottish Parliament - does not address the issues where devolution is "not working", such as divergence between the Scottish and UK governments in policy areas such as social care, health, employment and benefits, Mr Sime said.

"Would we be better off just parking this Bill and getting on with a discussion about the issues that really matter?" he said.

"Let's get rid of it and talk about things that really matter," he added. Mr Sime's comments came as he appeared before Holyrood's Scotland Bill Committee to give evidence on welfare and benefits in relation to the legislation. (PA)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tymoshenko 'Criminally' Exceeded Powers: Judge

KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko clearly exceeded her authority in signing a gas deal with Russia in 2009 and used her powers to "criminal ends", the judge in her trial said in the verdict Tuesday.

"Y V Tymoshenko... used her official powers to criminal ends and, acting consciously, committed actions which clearly exceeded her rights and powers which had heavy consequences," said judge Rodion Kireyev.

Kireyev has yet to announce his final judgement in the case or give any details what sentence the former Orange Revolution leader could face if found guilty. But his initial summary was a clear blow for Tymoshenko who appeared distressed in the packed court, flanked by her husband Olexander and daughter Yevgenia. Prosecutors have demanded a jail sentence of seven years.

Kireyev said Tymoshenko sustained a loss to state gas firm Naftogaz of USD 190 million by agreeing a 10 year contract on gas imports from Russia in 2009 when she was prime minister.

Despite being held under arrest 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.

Egypt Probes Deadly Sectarian Clashes

CAIRO (AFP) - 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 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.

Abbas, Sarkozy To 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' envoy said.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Ryad al-Maliki said Abbas would depart for France after meeting 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 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.

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 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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

GBP 1 = USD 1.5631

EUR 1 = GBP 0.86890

EUR 1 = USD 1.3593

European Central Bank

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.

Russia is the world's largest energy producer and its plans to pump gas to China are expected to top discussions, although Chinese state media played down the prospect of any breakthrough on a long-delayed deal. (AFP)

US Duo Wins Economics Nobel, Could Shed Light On Crisis

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Two US researchers won the 2011 Nobel Economics Prize Monday for research on how different events affect economies and which could help find answers to the current crisis, the Nobel jury said.

Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, have developed methods that untangle "the causal relationship between economic policy and different macroeconomic variables, such as GDP, inflation, employment and investments", the Nobel jury said.

"Their combined work constitutes a solid foundation for modern macroeconomic analysis. It is hard to envisage today's research without this foundation," it added.

Economies are constantly affected by both anticipated events, like long term fiscal policy and shifts in monetary policies, and unanticipated events like sudden hikes in the price of oil or an unexpected drop in household consumption.

The laureates' work, carried out in the 1970s and 80s, provides methodologies that facilitate understanding of how both systemic policy shifts and so-called "shocks" affect the macroeconomy in the short and long run.

Sargent, an economics and business professor at New York University, has worked with structural macroeconomics, analysing the reciprocal relationship between the expectations of the private sector regarding future policy and actual long-term policy decisions about wages, prices and investments.

SPORTS NEWS

Worthington Calls It Quits

Nigel Worthington will step down as Northern Ireland manager after Tuesday's match against Italy after admitting recent results had left him no option.

 WEATHER

Sunny spells and showers in Scotland. Mostly cloudy elsewhere with outbreaks of rain for Northern Ireland, northern England, Lincolnshire Wales and south-west England. However, remaining parts of England should stay dry. Remaining rather windy.

Worthington, who has been in charge since Lawrie Sanchez walked away in 2007 to take over Fulham, has been under increasing pressure in recent weeks after a home defeat to Serbia was followed by back-to-back losses against Estonia.

That wrecked any chance the side had of securing a Euro 2012 play-off and they face the Azzurri lying fifth in Group C, ahead of only the Faroe Islands.

Some supporters produced banners and called for Worthington's head after Friday's 2-1 defeat to the Estonians, while Sanchez made some scathing remarks about his successor in a recent radio interview.

A handful of senior players, including Chris Baird, Chris Brunt, Maik Taylor and David Healy, rallied around the boss, insisting he should be retained by the Irish Football Association when his existing deal expired on December 31, but Worthington conceded his time had come. (PA)

Rooney Awaits Euro Fate

Wayne Rooney will discover the length of his Euro 2012 suspension on Thursday, European football governing body UEFA said on Monday. The 25-year-old Manchester United player will definitely miss England's first game in the tournament after kicking Miodrag Dzulovic in the 2-2 draw with Montenegro.

The governing body's disciplinary panel could decide to increase the punishment to three matches, but England remain hopeful it will only be a one-game ban after referee Wolfgang Stark admitted Rooney's acceptance of his red card could work in his favour.

England Coach Fabio Capello has warned Rooney that he cannot expect to stroll back into the Euro 2012 reckoning after serving his suspension.

"Yes," replied Capello, when asked if he was prepared to leave Rooney out of his team.

"In my life as a manager I have put on the bench a lot of players. I always decided who was the best player at that moment."

The Italian added: "I need to find the solution for the first game, or two games, that Rooney will not play. And if we find that solution, he needs to work to return to the first 11. You know me. Sometimes I make mistakes but I try to select the best players, in the best moment of form." (PA)

Young Lions Sink Norway

Norway 1-2 England: England took a stranglehold on European Under-21 Championship qualifying Group Eight on Monday after holding on to beat Norway in Drammen. Stuart Pearce's Young Lions maintained their 100% start to the new campaign and ended that of their opponents to put them firmly on course to qualify for a fourth successive finals.

Like their senior counterparts in Montenegro on Friday, England raced into a 2-0 lead, prolific defender Craig Dawson and captain Jordan Henderson both scoring inside seven minutes.

The dangerous Valon Berisha pulled one back midway through the first half but, unlike Montenegro, Norway failed to equalise, wasting more than one opportunity to do so.

The result left England on nine points, three clear of Norway ahead of next month's double-header against Iceland and Belgium.

Monday night's match was also part of a double-header, one that was expected to provide the toughest test of the campaign for Pearce's latest batch of youngsters. But Thursday's victory in Iceland was a cakewalk and despite a spate of injuries - including one to left-back Matthew Briggs in the warm-up - Norway also appeared cannon fodder early on in Drammen. (PA)

Tokyo Woe For Male Gymnasts

Great Britain's men's gymnastics team missed their first chance of qualifying for the London Olympics after they finished outside the top eight in the 2011 artistic gymnastics World Championships in Tokyo.

Poor performances on the high bar, including two falls, proved costly for the team who slipped down the standings and eventually finished a disappointing 10th.

Britain's women have already secured their place at the 2012 Games, but the men's team must now try to qualify in an Olympic test event at the Greenwich Dome in London next year.

They will compete against the teams who finished eighth to 16th in Tokyo and the teams who place in the top four will earn the chance to take a full team to London 2012. (PA)

Cleverley Pens United Deal

Tom Cleverley has signed a new four-year contract with Manchester United, the Old Trafford club have confirmed. The deal was announced on Monday morning and will keep the midfielder at United until 2015.

"Tom is one of the brightest prospects in the English game," said Manager Sir Alex Ferguson. It is a reward for an outstanding start to the season for Cleverley, who would almost certainly have won his first England cap against Holland in August had the game not been called off. (PA)

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Tough Task Ahead: Fletcher

Darren Fletcher knows Scotland could upset the odds against Spain in their final Euro 2012 Group I qualifier in Alicante on Tuesday night and still not finish in a play-off spot.

Craig Levein's men are one point ahead of Czech Republic going into the last set of fixtures and a win against the world and European champions would guarantee them second place.

However, the Scotland skipper knows that in order to do that they will have to stop the Spanish juggernaut which is hurtling towards a clean sweep of Group I wins, while the Czechs have, on paper, the easier task in Lithuania.

With different possible scenarios in mind, the Manchester United midfielder anticipates a fraught night.

"To speak about getting a point, although it might be a great result, it might be irrelevant, it might not be enough," he said.

"We know going into the Spain game that it is in our hands and if we win we will finish in second place. But we might lose and be in second place and we might draw and not be in second place so it is going to be one of those nights."

He added: "We can only try to do our best and we will give it everything and although people are maybe writing us off, while there is still a chance we will keep believing." (PA)

Scotland Held By Austria

Scotland 2-2 Austria: Jordan Rhodes continued his impressive goalscoring form for Scotland Under-21s but his double was not enough to earn victory over Austria in Monday night's European Championship qualifier.

The Huddersfield striker - who netted a hat-trick in a 5-1 win in Luxembourg on Thursday - twice levelled to cancel out goals from Andreas Weimann and Deni Alar but the Scots had to settle for a share of the points.

Despite the emphatic win on the road, Billy Stark's side have now drawn both their home games following a goalless stalemate against Bulgaria in last month's opener. (PA)