

MOVING?

Polish News Entertainment

The New Poland

PiS MP calls Smolensk crash a 'crime'

Terrorist attack also suggested as cause

senior Law and Justice (PiS) politician has branded the Smolensk crash a "crime", hinting that it was a terrorist attack.

Speaking at a press conference announcing the launch of a parliamentary probe into the tragedy, Antoni Macierewicz, an MP from the nationalistic wing of Law and Justice (PiS), referred to the crash as a "crime" although he refused to elaborate when pressed by journalists.

"We are dealing with a situation so terrible that every word that emphasises the drama of this situation is appropriate; that is all I have to say. We will return to this issue when we will have a complete picture of the incident," said the veteran parliamentarian.

Mr Macierewicz also claimed that a terrorist attack may have downed President Lech Kaczynski's aircraft on April 10.

"We're examining all the hypotheses, notably that of a terrorist attack," he claimed.

Although the official investigation into the causes of the crash continues, experts ruled out at an early stage that the disaster, which claimed the lives of President Kaczynski, his wife and 94 others, was the result of a terrorist attack.

Pulling no punches, the PiS politician also added that the government bore some responsibility for the disaster.



Macierewicz has refused to elaborate on his 'terrorist' theory

"I share the belief that when it comes to political accountability, it is clear the Polish government will undoubtedly bear a huge responsibility for the course of events," he said.

Mr Macierewicz's comments mark a heightening of political tensions over the Smolensk disaster. In the weeks that followed the crash and throughout the presidential election campaigns, politicians, for the most part, refrained from making any political insinuations about the disaster.

But now, with the presidential election done and dusted, it appears that the Smolensk tragedy has become fair political game.

Controversial Civic Platform Janusz Palikot made a bid to join the parliamentary committee, which was set up by PiS, despite infuriating Law and Justice members by claiming - incorrectly as it turned out - that President Lech Kaczynski may have been drunk when his plane crashed.

Mr Palikot said that any attempt by PiS MPs to block him from joining the committee would mean that they were "cowards".

But on Thursday night that's exactly what they did, saying: "We only take serious people here.'

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Walesa holding illegal docs?

Lech Walesa could find himself under criminal investigation after he published allegedly classified documents on his website.

The former president and Solidarity hero posted a memo on his internet blog that revealed, apparently, how the SB, the communist-era internal secret service, tried to keep tabs on him during the 1980s.

REGIONAL

Wreck located in Baltic

Four fishermen are missing, presumed dead following the discovery of wreckage from their trawler last Saturday afternoon. The men had left port in Chlopy early Saturday morning. Torrential rainfall and a sudden squall was reported in the area at around noon. Shortly after pieces of the boat were found and a rescue operation began.

BUSINESS

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Poland top of FDI

Poland is currently the most promising country for foreign investment out of all the new nations to have joined the European Union, says a recent study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2009 was a particularly bleak year with regards to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) with all of the new EU states witnessing a decline.

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From the editor



e looks like Ming the Merciless, and to an extent he is - merciless, that is - not a minger. The 'he' in question is 62-year-old ex-spy

boss Antonin Macierewicz who has now been put in charge of leading the PiS reinvestigation into the Smolensk air crash.

He is also the man who has "not ruled out the possibility" of PO and Russian cover up nor that the tragedy was "a terrorist attack."

So, why merciless? Well, the former head of the uber-secret military counter intelligence service - the SKW - became so after scrapping Poland's James Bond agency - the WSI - which he thought to be riddled with commie agents, and leaking the names of people he believed to have worked for the commies onto the internet. Among those names was Solidarity hero Lech Walesa.

The anti-communism comes from his dad being murdered by Soviet agents before he was born but has since turned into something of a vendetta.

After helping to found the Workers' Defence Committee in 1976, 'Ming' then joined Jan Olszewski's government where he became wrapped up in over-zealous accusations of collaboration among serving secret service personnel and associates.

In 2006 he joined the Kaczynski government where he was fundamental in highjacking ambassadorial appointments by accusing all the candidates of working for Russia, and blew the cover of hundreds of agents abroad by publishing their names - again believing they worked for the Ruskies.

Now he is heading the PiS investigation into Smolensk - and that's no surprise.

PiS are looking to dig up dirt and conspiracy chasing 'Ming' is the man to do it. He has already said the accident was a crime - all he needs now is to find 'whodunnit'.

Hmm, wonder who that will be.

Quotes of the week

"I get the impression that you're behaving like Howard Webb, you see fouls that aren't there, goals that aren't there and ignore the ones that are." SLD's Bartosz Arlukowicz (member of Gambling Committee) to PO's Miroslaw Sekula (Head of Gambling Committee) over the legislation scandal.

"We will sooner let ourselves be torn apart or killed." An unnamed protestor declaring they will defend the makeshift Smolensk cross outside the Presidential Palace "to the death".

"I still value Switzerland, and especially the people of Gstaad because of the support they showed me." Roman Polanski when asked his views on the country that placed him under house arrest.

This week in history

1885 - 'Rugi pruskie' begins, involving the mass deportation of Poles from Prussia during 1885 and 1890. The deportations were conducted inhumanely and on the basis of ethnic discrimination.

1942 - The Nazi extermination camp in Trebinka is created. Situated in the east of Poland, the camp saw approximately 850,000 people killed between July 1942 and October 1943 - the vast majority Jews. It was eventually closed after a revolt which saw German officers killed and a small number of prisoners escape.

1959 - Production of the FSC Zuk car begins in Lublin. The vehicles were hugely popular because of their low prices and hit their peak, due to a modernised design, in the 1970's.

Have Your Say

Re: Europride gay festival wraps up

While it was great to see Warsaw host something like the Europride festival it's still staggering the number of homophobic and vicious comments that could be heard around the city during the event. I'm not talking about the odd joke here and there but real hatred. And this from 'liberal' student types I consider friends.

But then it's little surprise in a country where politicians and religious leaders can air their sick views without fear of being reprimanded. Poland has a long way to go.

Mark Lamb - Warsaw, Poland

Re: Women to retire at 60

I see the retirement age for women is to remain unchanged. And they trotted out all the usual sexist arguments in favour of it — women have to look after the family, and so on, bla bla bla. At the same time, I don't see the feminist movements doing anything to right this clear injustice visited on half the population because of their sex. I can't work out who I find more odious; the hidebound judges or the hypocritical feminists.

Gerry Millford - Poznan, Poland

The NPE weekend QUIZ

Something for all theatre lovers this week; two double invitations to see 'Pericles, Prince of Tyre' on August 7



in Gdansk. The show is part of the Shakespeare Festival which takes place around the Tricity area and began way back in 1993. Since then, it's gone on to become a part of the European Shakespeare Festival network, joining countries such as Britain, Germany and Romania.

For a chance to win, just tell us in which English town was the famed writer born?

The winners last week were Bruce Witchell and Gary Thomson, so congratulations to both of them. Send this week's answers to: editor@newpolandexpress.pl



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Town shocked by 'homo' logo

The sleepy hill town of Nowy Sacz found itself embroiled in a controversy over homosexuality and devil worshipping owing to a new emblem designed to promote the town.

Aiming to show the town in a new light, the symbol shows an open, multi-coloured hand with a black square in the centre of the palm. Under the hand comes the slogan "Nowy Sacz brings you good fortune".

While innocuous to many, the hand has been blasted by one local cleric as a sign of both homosexuality and Satanism.

"The colours of the rainbow, as everyone knows, are a symbol of the gay minorities," said Father Robert Wiecek, who runs a pastoral care centre for young people in the town, which lies close to the Slovak border. "A black dot tattooed on the inside of the hand is a symbol of devotion or surrender to Satan."

The priest said that it would have been better to have an image of Saint Margret, the town's patron saint, on the new logo or a mountain to symbolise Nowy Sacz's geography.

But claims that the new logo could promote homosexuality and devil worshipping have surprised the town's authorities with Ryszard Nowak, mayor of Nowy Sacz, saying that he was shocked by the response of logo's critics.

He explained that "An open right hand is the international symbol of goodwill and agreement, and the rainbow colouring of the hand is a sign of the town's multiculturalism."

The black square on the palm, apparently, symbolises the town hall lying in the centre of Nowy Sacz's market square, which is the second biggest square in Poland after Krakow.

Mr Nowak added that the symbol, which was designed by the Krakow-based company Papajastudio, would not displace the town's traditional emblems such as Saint Margret who appears on the town's coat of arms.

The debate over the emblem, which has already appeared on the Nowy Sacz official website, bears a similarity to one that erupted in the eastern city of Bialystok two years ago.

Bialystok had also opted for an open hand but then dropped the emblem after allegations of plagiarism. It turned out that the city's hand bore an uncanny resemblance to the logo of an umbrella group in New York that also represented gay associations.

Reality kids show causes outrage

Polish television bosses have caused a stir by announcing that Poland is set to air a kids version of the popular reality programme 'Big Brother'.

The show, which will feature a number of children aged between 11 - 13 being locked in a house for three months while cameras follow their moves, is partly inspired by a similar programme shown on Britain's Channel 4 last year.

The controversial 'Girls and Boys Alone' show sparked outrage amongst parents and authorities alike, who both felt that the children were merely being exploited for financial gain.

One person who has already spoken out against the idea in Poland is Government Education spokesperson Janina Jakubowska. As well as expressing concerns over the children's education, she believes taking part may have serious negative psychological effects.

"Every child must go to school. In order to miss school, the parents must speak to the headmaster, and of course there must be valid reasons. Participation in a reality show is definitely not one of them."

She continues, "There is also a very real danger that the children could be damaged by their experiences on a show such as this one - being cooped up for weeks on end with complete strangers in a competitive environment is not healthy."

But details regarding the show are still being kept firmly under wraps.

Jadwiga Olech, a spokesperson for Genesis PR, the company representing the Programme's ATM group, says, "We are currently in talks about the production of the show, but cannot give out specific information at the moment."



Walesa holding illegal docs?

ech Walesa could find himself under criminal investigation after he published allegedly classified documents on his website.

The former president and Solidarity hero posted a memo on his internet blog that revealed, apparently, how the SB, the communist-era internal secret service, tried to keep tabs on him during the 1980s.

Dated from 1990, during Mr Walesa's presidency, it revealed that in 1987 the SB used forged documents to buy a plot of land near Mr Walesa's summer home in order to monitor his behaviour.

While the memo revealed the efforts the SB took to spy on Mr Walesa it could land him in court as the document may well belong to the ABW, the SB successor.

"In accordance with applicable law, all documents produced since August 1, 1990 should continue to rest in the archives," Jacek Wygoda, from the

Institute of National Remembrance, the body charged with investigating and documenting communist-era crimes, told the newspaper Rzeczpospolita.

Unlawful ownership of classified documents carries a gaol sentence of up to two years.

The publication of the memo has added weight to rumours circulating that Mr Walesa removed a number of files from the security agencies' archives during his stint as president from 1990 to 1994.

Krzysztof Wyszkowski, a former activist, has long maintained that the ex-Solidarity leader has a number of documents in his home that he purloined during his time as the country's leader.

He has made a number of calls for Mr Walesa's house to be searched, and also said that he would inform the prosecutor's office over the document published on the blog.

While it could result in a criminal prosecution, Mr Walesa may hope that the memo will help eradicate the lingering belief held by some Poles that he once worked as a communist informant.

Although no evidence has emerged to support allegations of spying, and a vetting court cleared Mr Walesa of co-operating with the SB, rumours of double dealing have persisted much to his chagrin.

In particular, the former shipyard electrician has bitterly contested allegations that he was an agent called Bolek, who spied on his peers in the anti-communist opposition during the 1970s.

Send comments and letters to editor@newpolandexpress.pl

Fireman sets wife alight

A fireman in Krakow has been given 15 years in prison for setting fire to his wife after dousing her in petrol.

Mother of two Gosia Jadry (40) was regularly beaten by her husband Zbigniew (43) and had even been threatened with burns on previous occasions.

But as she lay cowering on the floor, after another violent, drunken attack, Zbigniew proceeded to pour petrol over her body before lighting a match and flicking it at her, causing her to go up in flames.

The fireman then headed off to hospital to seek treatment for his burnt hands, leaving his wife laying on the ground without any medical assistance. She was later found by her children, who immediately called for an ambulance. Despite receiving burns to 65 percent of her body, she battled in hospital for one month, before eventually dying from the injuries.

After his arrest, Zbigniew pleaded his innocence, stating that his wife had suffered the burns after dropping a cigarette onto her dress.

"The Court of Appeal accepts that this man acted with the intention of killing of his wife. This means he was fully aware of what he was doing and for that reason he was convicted," said Wojciech Dziuban, a spokesman for Krakow's District Court.



S BELVEDERE

W najbliższą niedzielę *18 lipca* zapraszamy wszystkich na specjalny *BRUNCH*, podczas którego serwować będziemy nasze słynne pierogi własnej roboty z *jagodami* i z *kurkami*.

Na upalną niedzielę przygotujemy również wybór smakowitych chłodników, oraz powitamy Państwa naszym najbardziej popularnym, orzeźwiającym koktajlem bezalkoholowym*Vigrin Forest Mojito.*

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IN BRIEF

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Man found with mother porn

A man from Gorzow has been found with a number of pornographic pictures on his computer - including photos of his own mother, as well as photos of minors.

The 21-year old told investigators that the photographs, which included a child as young as 12, were part of a portfolio for an entrance examinto drama school.

The case continues.

Plane performs emergency landing

A LOT Airlines plane flying from Warsaw to Budapest was forced to perform an emergency landing after fears of a fire in its holding area.

After noticing the sensor was showing a temperature rise in the cargo compartment, the pilots decided the best course of action was to attempt to land at the Ferihegy International Airport.

While the landing was successful, a spokesman told TVN24 that the incident had been down to a simple failure of the temperature device.

Money squabbles over Kaczynski funeral

A dispute regarding the money spent on Lech Kaczynski and his wife's funeral has emerged.

The Management of Municipal Infrastructure and Transport is arguing that it is still owed approximately PLN 360,000 for the transportation of scaffolding to the Cloth Hall situated on Krakow's Old Market Square - a job that was not carried out.

"We are paying for work that never took place. It seem that someone is trying to con us," said a spokesman.

Military man in machete attack

Two men, including a soldier in the Airborne Battalion, have been arrested for attacking a man with the intention to kill.

Military man Mateusz P. and Piotr W. were both involved in the incident in which Piotr W. stabbed his girlfriend's former partner with a machete, injuring him severely and putting him in hospital. Mateusz P. is then thought to have attacked the victim with a telescopic baton.

If found guilty of attempted murder, the two may face life imprisonment.

Controversial Solidarity Chaplain passes away

Father Henryk Jankowski, famed for his role in the Solidarity movement which helped bring an end to Communism in Poland, died last week aged 73. During the late 1990's, Jankowski became known for his criticism of the EU and for a number of antisemitic remarks which eventually saw him being disciplined and suspended from preaching for one year.

Ever the controversial figure, he supported a charity fund, named after himself, by selling his own brand of 'Monsignore' wine which featured his own image.

Jankowski recently made the headlines for appearing on the front cover of rock band Apteka's latest album brandishing a pistol, in what is reported to have been a real photograph.

Poles admit to high sex drive

Polish women are amongst the most sexually active in Europe according to a new study.

The research, conducted by Pan European FC shows that Poland ranks third highest when it comes to female sex drive, with almost half of the 1,000 women asked (43 percent) stating that they have sex more than once a week.

Out of the 18 different nations that took part in the study, only two countries came above Poland; Greece (44 percent) and Russia (49 percent).

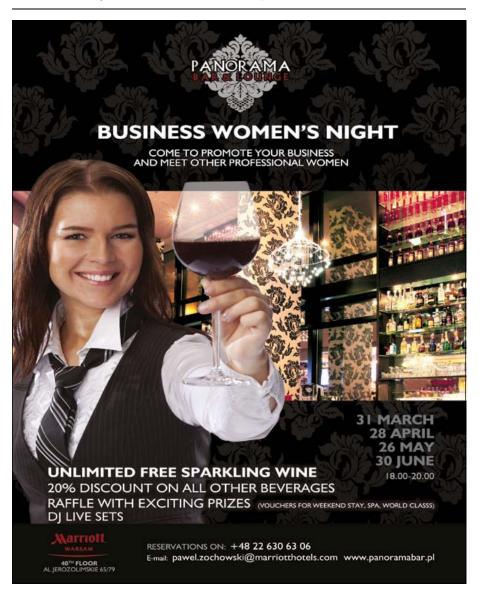
But while Polish women scored high in the frequent sex stakes, they also proved to be extremely careful when it came to taking precautionary measures.

Eleven out of the 18 countries that took part marked the pill down as their contraception of choice, whereas in Poland, condoms came top of the list. As well as admitting a fear of the hormonal side-effects and synthetic chemicals that are associated with the pill, many Polish women (44 percent) said that a fear of forgetting to take it on a daily basis was their main reason for using alternative safety measures.

Before deciding on which form of contraception to take, females in Poland very often visit a gynaecologist to discuss which method is best for them. This is in contrast with many other countries, namely Britain where family planning clinics are available and as a result, a more popular choice.

One in three Poles however, stated that they would always consult their partners before making a final decision.

The aim of the research, which quizzed over 24,000 females aged 15 - 49 from all across Europe, was to gain a better understanding of the needs and lifestyle requirements of the modern woman.



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Nationwide with Graham Crawford: Bringing you the best from across the regions.

If you have any news for Graham, send him an email at graham.crawford@newpolandexpress.pl

WITHOUT RHYME OR REGION



the cross erected in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw after the Smolensk crash is to be moved. This is good, as it switched from be-

ing a symbol of unity, to one of divisiveness, as a group of people came to defend the cross and the values it stands for. But what values?

"The Jew Tusk wants to remove the cross by night before Saturday's parade of perverts." Or, "We beseech you God, to finally deal with this Jewish government"

Our new President is not what he seems: "Komorowski's grandfather was a Bolshevik called Szczynukowicz. He murdered Poles at the Battle of Warsaw, escaped from Polish captivity, slit the throats of the entire noble Komorowski family and stole their name. Now his grandson Bronislaw is pretending to be a Pole."

An English couple strolling past the group evoked the following response, "Be careful. The Jews from Gazeta Wyborcza come here to eavesdrop. They dye their hair blonde as a disguise. They speak foreign languages. I can always spot them from their big hook noses and the hate in their eyes."

This would be funny, if there weren't thousands of bewildered people in Poland that actually believe this claptrap. They claim to represent Catholicism and Polishness, but in many European countries they would face charges of inciting racial and religious hatred. Instead, they receive vocal support from the main opposition party.

As a young man in a t-shirt walking past the Palace put it, "This cross has become a focus for people who are frustrated and full of hate. It's a disgrace."

WIELKOPOLSKIE

Dam beavers!



nvironmental-Lists are raising the alarm after two dams made by beavers near a Poznan lake were deliberately demolished this week. Ecologists fear the vandalism is

a result of the misguided accusations against beavers during the recent floods - where even government ministers appeared on television accusing the creatures of being at fault.

"Heavy machinery is being used in the areas where the beavers live. Last Saturday I saw that a digger had destroyed a beaver dam. This is against the law, because beavers, their dams and their lodges are protected," an angry Jerzy Juszczynski of the Polish Ecological Club told reporters.

The dam was on the stream running alongside the cycle path between Rusalka and Strzeszynski Lakes, a few hundred metres from a public beach.

The meadows surrounding Streszynski are rented, and it appears the tenant is treating the land as his own. "He uses heavy machinery to cut the grass, destroying the topsoil, damaging shrubs and he uses cycle paths as roads for heavy vehicles. And all this on protected land that belongs to the city," continued Juszczynski.

On Wednesday afternoon a group of workers with shovels set about destroying another dam. Anna Zielke-Zylinska of the REP commented, "We will check the area immediately. If there is evidence of illegal destruction of a dam, we will inform the authorities."

Water palaver

Poznan's water supplier Aquanet and the city authorities set up water curtains in central areas of the city this Thursday to cool off pedestrians in the baking temperatures. Many are asking why it has taken the authorities so long to act, and are pointing out that by Saturday, temperatures are expected to drop significantly, rendering the whole thing pointless.

Many other cities in Poland set up similar water curtains weeks ago, even neighbouring Swarzedz. Rafal Lopka for Poznan City Hall told Gazeta Poznan, "I don't know why the water curtains are only going up now, but it's better late than never."

Free as a nightingale

Poznan court this week decided to re-**A**lease convicted paedophile Wojciech K., the disgraced former conductor and director of the Poznan Slowiki (or Nightingales) choir. The judge changed the six years sentence into a suspended sentence, but made it conditional on continuing therapy with a sexologist. He also retains a six year ban on working with children or young people. Wojciech K. had requested early release on grounds of ill health on three previous occasions, but they were all turned down.



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MAZOWIECKIE

EuroPride almost peaceful



Warsaw's EuroPride gay rights festival passed off peacefully, with police successful in keeping those demonstrating for tolerance and under-

standing apart from other demonstrations in favour of more traditional views of society and sexual relations. In all nine people were arrested and 236 had their IDs checked.

"Our main task was to ensure there was no confrontation and we achieved that," commented Maciej Karczynski, press officer for the capital's police.

Ewa Gawor, director of Warsaw's Office of Security and Crisis Management, was also positive, "I'm pleased with the way all the gatherings passed off, apart from one incident in Plac Bankowym." In that incident supporters of the neo-Nazi National Radical Grouping and the All-Polish Youth tried to block the progress of the EuroPride march. These groups had concluded their marches an hour earlier, but couldn't pass up the opportunity to let the gay rights groups know what they think of them, so joined another march "in defence of Europe's Christian roots". They headed straight for the EuroPride march, police rapidly threw a cordon around them and prevented a direct assault, but eggs and plastic bottles were thrown.

The nine people were arrested, among other things, for assaulting police officers, throwing eggs and one for possession of drugs. One officer was injured but released home after hospital treatment.

When a rat isn't a rat

Rumours this week that a plague of rats are infesting children's sandpits in Mokotow's Arkadia Park are untrue, the offending rodents turning out to be harmless water voles. "Voles have shorter tails, shorter heads

and are smaller than rats," Andrzej Kruszewicz, director of Warsaw's Zoo explained to reporters. "They're native to this country, herbivorous and pose no risk. They're an endangered species that require protection," he continued. At least one complaint regarding the creatures has been received by Mokotow council, who plan to improve the fencing around the playground concerned.

Got any change, mate?

A treasure trove of over a thousand ancient coins has been discovered by archaeologists involved in renovation work in the city's Old Town. A total of 1211 coins, weighing a massive 4kg were displayed to journalists this week. "We were taking a plaster cast and then workes began scraping away the sand under the paving, when we found the patinated coins lying around. Even a piece of the cotton sack they were stored in has survived," architect Ryszard Cedrowski told reporters. The treasure includes such exotic items as 950 sixes, 250 orts and some tymfs.

SLASKIE

Station of the cross



Katowice architects and art historians are up in arms at the reconstruction of Katowice's main station, which work began on this week. The

station is a remnant of the communist period's love of concrete, in the modernist brutalist style widely applied the 1970s.

"We have to show that this is serious, that we won't let the bulldozers into the station. This could be another Rospuda," declared architect Robert Konieczny, head of Katowice's Society of Polish Architects. "They're trying to persuade us it's a choice between filth and a shopping centre. We can't tolerate this," he continued.

Mr Konieczny is backed by Dr Irma Kozina, an art historian from Slask University. "On the last day of August we're planning a funeral ceremony. We want to show that we don't agree with knocking the station down and putting up yet another shopping mall."

Dominik Tokarski from the Moje Miasto society pointed out, "Everyone can see that the station on the side of Plac Andrzeja has been cleaned. It can be done! This just makes it more outrageous, they find it easier to knock it down than to clean it." However, Monika Olejnik-Okuniewska, spokesperson for Neinver Polska, who are carrying out the construction work pointed out that the

project is well-advanced and the protests are unjustified. "Any changes whatsoever are out of the question. I don't understand where this sudden outpouring of emotion is coming from. We put our position forward a year ago."

Bikes for blood

A blood donor centre in Raciborz, alarmed at the drop in donor levels during the summer months has organised a lottery in order to increase stocks. Every time

you give blood at the station, you receive a ticket for the blood lottery, with a chance of winning a bike, microwave or an iron. And it's working - donor levels are now up above a hundred a week, despite the holidays being in full swing. Aleksandra Dylag of Katowice Blood Donor Centre ruled out a similar lottery there, though, "Personally, I view it not as a voluntary blood donation, but for money - I heard that in Lublin they're even offering the top prize of a car."

Is it so difficult to find the perfect place?

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PODKARPACKIE

Religious court for religious offence



Jacek Kotula, president of the "Contra in vitro" association is threatening Rzeszow MP Tomasz Kulesza with suing him for slander via

a religious court. MP Tomasz Kulesza remarked that Kulota was an, "Atheist and a practising unbeliever," following a conflict over a billboard that Kulota drove around the city on a trailer showing president-elect Bronislaw Komorowski and an aborted foetus, accusing him of being responsible for the deaths of sick children.

Kotula explained, "There are different procedures there, than in a normal court. This is about faith. A church court is more competent in areas of faith. We want the court to state that we have been offended, then we'll broadcast the fact. That will satisfy us."

Kotula is also upset that police haven't returned his trailer with the billboard on it, asking reporters, "Where are we living? Belarus?"

After that his association intends to gather 100,000 signatures for a petition calling for banning the promotion of homosexuality to send to parliament. "We will not accept homoparaded, homopromotion. A family is a mother and a father. Homosexuality leads to degeneration and the destruction of the nation."

Paedophile priest in custody

A regional court in Ropczyce this week remanded Father Roman J., parish priest of Mala, in custody for a further three months in connection with the sexual abuse of young girls. The court decided that, "It is highly likely that he committed the offences," and that the remand sentence will ensure the case is investigated without interference.

Father Roman J. has been in custody since April this year, accused of molesting two young girls under the age of 15 and of having intercourse with another teenager under the age of 18. Father Roman faces up to 12 years in prison and has admitted some of the offences.

In a related enquiry, prosecutors are investigating the activities of a group of people who attempted to pressurise the priest's victims via the Internet into withdrawing their charges against the cleric. Police have the IP addresses of the people involved and are establishing who owns the computers.

POMORSKIE

Wreck located in Baltic



Pare missing, presumed dead following the discovery of wreckage from their trawler last Saturday afternoon. The men had left port in Chlo-

py early Saturday morning. Torrential rainfall and a sudden squall was reported in the area at around noon. Shortly after pieces of the boat were found and a rescue operation began.

Due to the high water temperatures there were real hopes of finding the men alive within the first twelve hours. The search involved two units of the Maritime Search and Rescue Service, the Szkwal and the R27, as well as three cutters and a Navy helicopter. An area of 60 square miles was searched but only fragments of the ship's equipment was found; it's logbook, nets, waterproof clothing and wellingtons. None of the fishermen were found.

After Tuesday, units continued searching for the wreck, but were hampered by a lack of sonar until joined the following day by the boat Marzenka from Ustka. On board the Marzenka was a brother of one of the missing fishermen. On Thursday morning the wreck was found.

"A prosecutor and a group of divers are on their way there, where they will conduct a search of the wreck," Tomasz Bobin, the director of the Maritime Office in Slupsk.

Record number of drownings

Last weekend saw more people die in the water than on the roads, with a staggering 52 people dying in various incidents. On Monday a father and son died after going swimming off a beach in Leba. People on the beach watched as they swam out too far and got into difficulties and ran to lifeguards that were on a patrolled section of the beach a few hundred metres away, but it was too late. Both died.

Already since the beginning of the summer season 395 people have drowned, 189 in July alone. "That works out to ten people a day on average," commented police spokesman Mariusz Sokolowski, adding that, "The main causes are alcohol and swimming in places where there are no lifeguards."

Disabled beach

During the hot weather many in Gdansk take for granted the ability to go for a dip in the sea to cool off, but disabled people face severe difficulties in doing the same. So, Gdansk leisure services have bought a special amphibian trolley to help disabled people enjoy the sea this year as part of ongoing moves to improve levels of enjoyment and safety on beaches in the area.

The trolley has been bought as part of the "Closer to water" programme. It has rugged wheels for travelling smoothly over wet sands and large yellow floats enabling the user to enjoy the sea in comfort and safety. The trolley is available on the beach at Gdansk Stogi. It's enough to ask the lifeguards for assistance, and they will take care of the rest.



BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Warsaw more expensive than western neighbours

Flat owners in Warsaw are forking out more for their homes than their neighbours in Berlin or Vienna.

According to research conducted by Home Broker, the Polish capital is the 16th most expensive capital in Europe, with one square metre setting the buyer back an average EUR 3.600.

Monaco topped the list with a whopping EUR 35,000. London was second (EUR 14,400) followed by Moscow (EUR 11,900).

Berlin featured relatively low, with one metre costing approximately EUR 2,900 and the cheapest capital was Budapest where buyers can expect to pay as little as EUR 1,700.

Bad time for tourism

A number of Polish tour operators face bankruptcy after booking up more cheap package holidays than they can sell.

Agencies have snapped up a record number of deals, in an attempt to make up for incurred losses during 2009, but for many, the move has backfired.

"It's common to make up for losses the following season," says Jacek Dabrowski, former Finance Director of Triada, one of Poland's top operators. "But in Poland many are now making a loss for the second year in a row."

IN NUMBERS

45%

The number of Poles who have considered moving abroad to look for work according to data from the EU's Eurostat statistical office. In 2005 the figure was over 70%.

PLN 3.1 bln

The amount of money Poles are expected to spend on wine this year.

6 mln

The number of Polish citizens who do not have internet access and do not plan to use the web in the near future.

NBP OFFICIAL CURRENCY RATES 23/07/2010

Currency Czech Koruna Danish Krone Estonian Kroon Euro Hong Kong Dollar Hungarian Forint Japanese Yen Norwegian Krone Pound Sterling	Symbol 1 CZK 1 DKK 1 EEK 1 EUR 1 HKD 100 HUF 100 JPY 1 NOK 1 GBP	Mid-rate 0,1614 0,5453 0,2597 4,0633 0,4043 1,4237 3,6057 0,5100 4,8364

Poland top of FDI

Poland is currently the most promising country for foreign investment out of all the new nations to have joined the European Union, says a recent study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2009 was a particularly bleak year with regards to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) with all of the new EU states witnessing a decline. However Poland was the one country that came out looking better than its neighbouring competitors.

"In Poland, investment fell by 22 percent. And, in the ten new EU countries with which Poland mainly competes with, the decline was as high as 54 percent," says Professor Zbigniew Zimny, a consultant and a representative of the UNCTAD report, at a recent press conference.

Statistics from the report state that last year, Poland's FDI was worth an approximate USD 11 bln, proving that it is amongst one of the few countries in the region which is still able to attract the interest of outside investors.

According to Zimny, the majority of FDI comes from mergers and acquisitions, but, he states, in Poland this has not been the case. This form of investment accounts for a mere 7 percent of FDI, compared to the Czech Republic, where the figure sits at 85 percent.

This bodes well for Poland, where the 'starting from scratch' ethic has helped to create more jobs and boost the economy.

"It seems that investment reached the bottom of the world for a while, but now things are beginning to change and Poland's fortune is beginning to rise," adds Zimny.

New pension proposals bad for OAPs

The government is on a collision course with OAPs over its controversial pension plans.

Labour minister Jolanta Fedak has said she wants to cut the amount people pay in pension contributions to Personal Pension Schemes from 7.3 percent of their salary to 3 percent and instead increase the amount of contributions paid to ZUS - the state-funded pension. The main reasoning behind the move is to help reduce public debt and the budget deficit.

But although good for the budget, it isn't good for OAPs. If Fedak's plan is given the green light, it will mean pensioners receive three times less upon retirement than they do at the moment.

Pensioners are also unhappy with PM Tusk who in January said: "For the time being we will not talk about shifting a substantial part of contributions to ZUS. This topic is closed."

However, Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Waldemar Pawlak sees the future of pensions in a different light, suggesting that everyone pays a small contribution to ZUS and in return everyone would receive the same, low pension. People who wanted to bolster this, could do so by the use of private savings or investment funds.

With so many different ideas being bandied around, Pawlak has even proposed holding a referendum on the issue, allowing the public to have their say in how the future pension scheme would work.

"This would be an extreme strange way of doing things," says Victor Wojciechowski, an economist at the FOR foundation. "What would happen next - a referendum over tax increase?"

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SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND: Travel musings from inyourpocket's 'Uncle' Alex Webber



¬inally, after a month of non-events and lazy football I've got a top weekend to report on; my mate Melons was celebrating her 21st, and it was on her com-

mand The Wild Bunch ended up in Le Cedre - a Lebanese spot in the Praga part of town. Now back in the day this was one of Warsaw's top restaurants, a culinary beacon in a city that, ten years ago, had yet to embrace any food more exotic than turnips. Over the decade I've been a bit of a big spender at Le Cedre, but that's usually been in a home delivery capacity by way. Well, from now on I'm giving those chaps a swerve and heading there in person.

Now, for those that haven't been there for ages let me tell you, gone is the dull design, replaced instead by an Arabian

Nights theme that looks like a Bedouin whore tent: satin cushions and mystery curtains. What's stayed the same is the food, as fantastic as ever, and even better when you push the tables together and cover them with bottles. We had a great time, every whim catered for by a fun, friendly staff and the owner Tony; a Lebanese native who knows hospitality inside out. Complimenting the evening, some scented water pipes to suck on – I've always been a big fan of hookahs, and the stuff you smoke here is knock-out in style.

With dinner done it was human crocodile time as we weaved our way to another place with a French prefix - La Playa, an open air beach bar on the banks of the Wisla. Now Warsaw has never really utilized its river in the same way say Paris has the Seine or Budapest has the Danube, and there's a simple reason for that. The Wisla is rubbish,

a brown looking slurry flanked by scrub, so to find that La Playa is a letdown wasn't too surprising. First off you're surrounded by whooping morons under the misguided notion they're in some sort of Ibizan bacchanal. Secondly, there's sand - lots of it, an evil entity which I'm still finding in my socks. But, worst of all, is its sheer popularity. That means queues, something the Poles have never mastered; you see it in McDonald's, you see it in the airport put a local in a line and they'll turn it into mayhem. Maiming sneaky queue bargers is part of the deal, and the reward is warm, watery lager served in plastic glasses. In its favour, and it does redress the faults, the skirt-bloke ratio is just too high to compute. But while the odds were in my favour the Gods certainly weren't - another evening empty-handed, another blow to the woman catching rep. Better luck tonight, certainly.

Gdansk

25.07 Sunday - 01.08 Sunday - 30th Festival of Folk Music - "Sounds of the North"

www.dzwiekipolnocy.pl ▶ Full schedule available at www.dzwiekipolnocy.pl. Admission free.

Katowice

24.07 Saturday - Man Music

Wilson Shaft Gallery, ul. Oswobodzenia 1 (Janów-Nikiszowiec), tel. (+48) 32 730 32 20

▶ Concert starts at 16:00. Tickets 60zł. Available at www.eventim.pl.

Poznan

26.07 Monday - Stanisław Soyka Pod Pretekstem, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82 (entrance from ul. Kościuszki 79), tel. (+48) 61 853 30 47

▶ Concert starts at 21:00. Tickets 50/45zł. Available at City Information Centre, ul. Ratajczaka 44, B-3 (Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun) and before the event.

Sopot

27.07 Tuesday - 01.08 Sunday - Cepeliada Sopot Pier, tel. (+48) 61 853 30 47 ▶ Admission free.

24.07 Saturday - Pink Freud

The Sopot Polish Chamber Philharmonic Concert Hall, ul. Moniuszki 12, tel. +48 58 555 84 52

▶ Concert starts at 19:00. Tickets 45/35zł. Available at BART box office, ul. Kościuszki 61 (Open 10:00 -17:00. Closed Sat, Sun).

25.07 Sunday - Renata Przemyk

Pick&Roll, ul. Zamkowa Góra 3-5, tel. (+48) 58 **555 85 23** ► Concert starts at 20:30. Tickets 50zł. Available at Aquapark Sopot's Box Office, ul. Zamkowa Góra 3-5, M-2 (Open 09:00 - 20:00).





Gdynia

23.07 Friday - 25.07 Sunday Globaltica - World Culture Festival Kolibki Park, Al. Zwycięstwa 291 (Sopot and Gdynia border), www.globaltica.pl



Taking place in the beautiful Kolibki Park, this is an annual event which tips its hat to world culture and traditions from all over the place. Last years' stars were Sinead O'Connor, Natacha Atlas and Lydia Lunch presents Teenage Jesus & The Jerks and Big Sexy Noise. This year's 'going to press' confirmed artists are Radiokijada - Gotan Project's Christoph H. Müller and Peruvian percussionist Rodolfo Muñoz. Ska Cubano - an exceptional combination of music from the two Caribbean musical hotbeds of Jamaica and Cuba. Tashi Lhunpo - 8 Tibetan monks from the cloister of the same name will present their meditation and dances. ▶ Full schedule available at www.globatica.pl. Tickets 15-30zł.

24.07 Saturday - Gran Turismo Polonia 2010 Skwer Kościuszki, www.gt-polonia.com

I blame Clarkson and the gang for this. If you are a fan of fast shiny bits of metal, for example the Ferrari F458 Italia, then this is most definitely for you. On 24th July between 15:00 and 18:00 come along with other enthusiasts and admire an Ariel Atom, Dodge Viper SRT-10 and Porsche 997 GT3 RS, surely one of those is a type of washing powder. Organised all over Europe, the last time it came to Poland was in Poznań where 40,000 attended. Wroom wroom... ▶ Admission free.

Gdansk

23.07 Friday - 25.07 Sunday - Malbork Siege www.rokgrunwaldzki.zamek.malbork.pl

More celebrations of Polish historic military might vis a vis our Germanic neighbours. this time surrounding the aftermath of the Battle of Grunwald. You shouldn't need an excuse to go to Malbork Castle, it's such an amazing place, but if you do, then the siege is as good as any. About 10 days after the victory over the Teutonic Order at Grunwald King Jagiełło and his knights, sound vuvuzelas here, started their attack on the Order's headquaters at Malbork. It took 2 months before the Polish/Lithuanian side decided that this was actually guite a tough nut to crack and that other methods might be worth exploring. They ended up buying the castle and basically paying the remnants of the order to go elsewhere, not guite as glorious as a week ago, but who cares they won. Expect about 100,000 people to attend the event taking place around Marlbork Castle. There are reconstructions of the fighting with archery, crossbow and fencing contests, fireshows and shopping at a medival-like market. That could be most Polish country markets, but I think they mean they have got lots of old-style fare on offer. The most important events are at 22.00 on Fri and Sat evenings with re-enactments of the seige. All for free - a cracking day out, take an umbrella! ▶ Admission free.

Krakow

23.06 Wednesday - 28.08 Saturday Wawel at Twilight

Wawel 3, tel. (+48) 12 422 51 55 ext. 219

Another event organised to celebrate Chopin year. Over the summer we will get the chance to hear his compositions played on piano at chamber concerts taking place on July 23rd and 24th July and 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 28th August. If the weather's fine, Batory's Courtyard will be the venue. If not, they will be moved into the Royal Castle. ▶ Concerts start at 20:00. Tickets 35zł. Available at City Information Point, ul. Św. Jana 2, C-3. Open 10:00 - 18:00.

Warsaw



23.07 Friday - 25.07 Sunday Chopiniana - 8th Frederick Chopin Days Warsaw University courtyard, Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, tel. (+48) 58 555 85 23, www.mckis.waw.pl

This year Chopiniana has left Łazienki and moved to new venues: Warsaw University courtyard and Holy Cross Church, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 3. If you don't know, the church is where the composer's heart is buried and it is here, appropriately, that the finale will happen. On 23rd July there are three jazz-Chopin concerts starting at 17:00. First Filip Wojcechowski Trio, then Krzysztof Herdzin Quintet and finally the Nahorny Sextet will play. On 24th you can give your kids a bit of classical music education. There's a concert accompanied by a cartoon show about the Symfollies, a world inhabited by musical instruments. On 25th at 20:30 you can enjoy three piano recitals by the Hungarian Endre Hegedos, Slovak Tomas Nemec and Paweł Kowalski. ▶ Admission free.

04.07 Sunday - 05.09 Sunday Warsaw Outdoor Cinema

Skaryszewski Park (Bemowo), tel. (+48) 58 555 85 23

Every Sunday in Bemowo park there's a concert film show for free. Come along and see David Bowie, Deep Purple, Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam and Santana. There is a joke there about Madonna's lips inc performance at the same venue a while ago, but I'm not that sort of chap. ▶ Event starts at 21:15. Admission free.

Chris the Cat Saves Lech

ech Poznan went to the edge of the abyss of elimination from European competitions this Wednesday only to be dragged back from the brink by their 33-year-old keeper Krzysztof Kotorowski who performed heroics in a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out. Following a 1-0 away win over Inter Baku last week, the return match was supposed to be a mere formality, but a walk in the park turned into nightmare of missed passes and slip-ups.

Inter Baku, Champions of Azerbaijan won a pretty dire game of football 1-0 in 90 minutes, remaining compact and disciplined, occasionally trying to break dynamically. Lech were more dysfunctional, dominating the game to little effect and committing numerous blunders in sensitive areas. Particularly at fault was the Serb midfielder Djurdjevic who barely managed a completed pass all night, frequently giving the ball away close to the Lech goal. But the ring rustiness was apparent throughout the team.

There are also problems with the squad, which was shown to be imbalanced and lacking in quality. In the 78th minute the ageing attacker Wichniarek was substituted leaving Lech without a recognised hit man. This was compounded when Inter scored in the 84th minute through Karlsons,

following a series of errors in defence. Extra-time was relatively incident free, Lech attacking determinedly, but lacking any sort of cutting edge.

The penalty shoot-out supplied the emotions that had been missing throughout the match, swinging one way, then the other. At first both keepers seemed agonisingly close to each kick, then the takers gained the upper hand. All ten outfield players having taken their turns, it fell to the keepers to settle the match. Kotorowski stepped up and nervelessly slotted his penalty home, then saved his opposite number Lomaia's weak kick, which almost wriggled under him, but he snaffled it at the second attempt.

The delight at winning soon evaporated in a heated press conference, Lech manager Jacek Zielinski losing his cool with reporters. When asked if he considered the game a success, because Lech qualified, or a failure, because the match went to penalties, he exclaimed, "What do you want from me? To commit hara-kiri?"

The win does guarantee that Lech will play either in the Champions or Europa League, depending on the result of the next tie against Sparta Prague. Disgrace was avoided by the skin of their teeth, now glory could be 180 minutes away.

Athletes with nothing to wear

he Polish national team heading to the European Athletics Championships in Barcelona are facing all sorts of problems with their kit. Some athletes, including world record holder and gold medal contender Anita Wlodarczyk, have nothing to wear.

"There isn't a kit in my size. They've given me the men's set, so I guess I'll be competing with the boys. I know we're slightly larger women than our friends from other disciplines, but we don't want to be treated like men," commented

Wlodarczyk.

It's not just the sizes that are the problem, she continued, "We're flying to a warm country, where the temperatures are certain to be high, and we haven't got short skirts for daily wear."

According to Michal Gornicki, Reebok's head of marketing for Central Europe, they have supplied what they were asked for, "I don't know where the mistake was made or by who. We need to look into it. We'll do what we can to keep the athletes happy, though."





What's going on in Poland?



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SPORTS BRIEFS

Kubica rules out Polish Grand Prix

Following an astonishing turnout of 140,000 spectators to see Robert Kubica perform a few doughnuts in his F1 racing car at Poznan's race track last Saturday, few can doubt the popularity of the sport among Polish petrolheads. However, when asked about the chances of Formula 1 coming to Poland, Kubica was quick to douse expectations. "The truth hurts, but I always try to be honest. We can't talk about the track in Poznan in terms of Formula 1, we should be grateful we have it though,

because without it motor sports in Poland would have ceased to exist."

So, is there no chance, he was asked? "Never say never. There are lots of people in favour of it, but from enthusiasm to building a track or organising a Grand Prix is a long and winding road. I'd love to watch Formula 1 in Poland one day. But I'll never compete here, not unless I drive till I'm forty."

Ski jump rules shorten Malysz

Adam Malysz's Finnish trainer Hannu Lepistoe is

concerned changes in the rules of ski-jumping could adversely affect Malysz's jumping. "We're most concerned about the information concerning the shape of the skis. Up till now, Adam has been jumping in skis slightly rounded at the back, and this is forbidden in the new rules. It's a pity because it was something we had based our training around and brought good results in the Vancouver Olympics. We'll have to train slightly differently, but we'll cope," Lepistoe told reporters.

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Poland Tartan Army

A new Poland Tartan Army Facebook group has been created. If you are a fan of Scottish football and our national team please join the group by visiting Facebook and conducting a search for Poland Tartan Army. If anyone, who is not a part of Facebook, is interested in this idea then please email murraymaw@hotmail.com to register your interest.

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

We are a Polish and Expat social group who organise a walk/run in a forest, park or around the city, followed by a few beers (or whatever takes your fancy!). We meet at the Marriott hotel on alternate Saturdays at 2pm. "Hash House Harriers" is an international group, which was originally established in Malaysia 70 years ago.

All are welcome. For details, call Martin at 502-052-958.

All are welcome. For details, call Martin at 502-052-95 Email warsawh3@gmail.com or www.warsawhash.pl

International Women's Group

Meetings are held twice a month on the first Monday (at rotating locations between 10:30 and 12:30) and the third Monday of the month at Restauracja Tapa y Toro located in the Zlote Trasy Shopping Mall (ul. Zlota 59) from 10:00 - 11:00. For more information see www.iwgwarsaw.com or contact us at iwgwarsaw@yahoo.com

International Rotary Club

International Rotary Club - Warszawa Wilanow is the only English speaking Rotary Club in Warsaw. Visiting Rotarians are warmly welcomed to join the weekly meetings held at the Polonia Palace Hotel, Al. Jerozolimskie 45. Tuesday's at 12:00, except the last Tuesday of each month when the meeting is at 19:00. For more information: +48 601 897 731

Gospel Baptist Church

Services are held in Polish and English languages: Sun. 11:00, Thurs. 19:00. For more information contact: Pastor Paul Sock, mob. 0500-270-990, e-mail: paulesock@yahoo.com

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Toastmasters club

Toastmasters club (Polska) invites all to its weekly meetings. Toastmasters is the international organization for learning the art of public speaking and enhancing leadership skills. Meetings every Wednesday at 19.00 at the Palace of Culture 12th floor (premises of Collegium Civitas) - entrance from ul. Marszałkowska side. For more details visit www.toastmasters.org.pl or call Ftan at 696-292-451

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