

Franco

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The Franco-Belgian bank Dexia has stated that it intends to extend into Southeastern Europe, especially Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Axel Miller, Dexia's operations director, said the bank is interested in taking over some banking units in these countries in order to develop its network.

Dexia already has a subsidiary in Slovakia, which will be used as a base for further extension in the region. The Franco-Belgian bank has already organised a team of experts who work in Poland to submit a request for a banking license in Romania.

Bulgaria and Romania signed their Accession Treaties for the European Union in April 25, and are set to join the EU in January 1, 2007. This, along with economic factors, such as a more liberal fiscal policy in Romania, have given rise to a sharp increase in foreign investment in the past few years. Turkey, which is a European Union candidate country but which has not yet started accession negotiations, has recently opened up to foreign investment due to its stabilising economy and well as its large market.

Former Brazilian president Itamar Franco dies aged 81

Writing an article File:ItamarFranco.jpg The former President of Brazil, Itamar Franco, has died at the age of 81. Franco died at the Albert Einstein Hospital

Sunday, July 3, 2011

The former President of Brazil, Itamar Franco, has died at the age of 81. Franco died at the Albert Einstein Hospital

in Sao Paulo. The cause of death was announced as complications from leukemia. Franco officially became President of Brazil in December 1992 and held the role until January 1995.

Dilma Rousseff, the current President of Brazil has announced seven days of mourning in honour of Franco. She said in a statement that "[i]t was with great sadness that I received the news about the death of Senator and ex-President Itamar Franco. The nation's leader at a crucial moment in our recent history, President Itamar will be remembered for an exemplary career of political honesty."

Franco was elected as the vice president for Fernando Collor de Mello in 1990 and took over the presidential office in October 1992 when Collor faced impeachment proceedings over corruption. He officially became President in December. During his time in office he faced a financial crisis with hyper-inflation. His choice of finance minister, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, was credited with stabilising the country's economy.

At the time of his death Franco was still serving as a senator in Minas Gerais.

Small protest seeking justice for victims of Franco held in Madrid

in Madrid, Spain, a small protest demanding justice for victims of the Franco regime was held in Puerta del Sol for an hour starting around 8:00 pm local

Friday, May 16, 2014

Yesterday, on Fiestas de San Isidro Labrador in Madrid, Spain, a small protest demanding justice for victims of the Franco regime was held in Puerta del Sol for an hour starting around 8:00 pm local time.

One sign said "Contra la Impunidad Solidaridad con las víctimas del Franquismo", which translates to "Against Impunity, Solidarity with victims of the Franco regime". The protest started with speakers on a megaphone, and was followed by a march around the plaza several times with the leaders holding a large banner. They were followed by people chanting, holding flags of the Second Spanish Republic, and holding placards. There was a police presence around the protest.

Puerta del Sol has historically been important as a place for Spaniards to hold protests about concerns they have in the country including ones that coincided with the 2011 Arab Spring that demanded changes to Spain's political systems.

Franco-Belgian bank Dexia to restructure, lose 900 jobs

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The Franco-Belgian bank Dexia has announced it will restructure and cut 3% of its staff after posting a €3 billion full-year loss.

Dexia says it will close operations in Australia, eastern Europe, Mexico and Scandinavia and reduce business in the United Kingdom and the United States. Dexia specialises in finance to local governments but also runs standard retail banking outlets in Belgium and France. It will cease proprietary trading as part of the restructuring.

The bank will sell its U.S. bond insurance arm Financial Security Assurance to Assured Guaranty. Dexia Banka Slovensko in Slovakia will be retained, as will the company's Italian, Spanish and Portuguese public finance operations. In total, some 900 jobs will be lost.

Dexia will not pay a dividend or management bonuses this year, whilst board members have taken a 50% pay cut. The bank ran into trouble last year as a result of the failure of Lehman Brothers and the subsequent collapse of confidence in the banking system worldwide. The governments of France, Belgium and Luxembourg stepped in to guarantee the bank's survival, although the bank was not nationalized, and the previous executive management was removed. The bank's current chairman is Jean-Luc Dehaene, a former prime minister of Belgium.

US consumer confidence up

highest level since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center. *Most of the*

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Consumer confidence rose in December to levels closer to those before hurricane Katrina according to the Conference Board Consumer Research Center's consumer confidence index. The index was at 105.5 before the hurricane hit the port of New Orleans disrupting oil production and trade for a large part of the country. The index was at 102.7 in December last year.

The index rose to 103.6 from a revised 98.3 for November. The index was expected to only rise to 102.5.

"Consumer confidence continues to bounce back and is now at its highest level since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast" said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center.

Most of the change is attributed to falling gas prices and an improved job outlook.

"The resiliency of the economy, recent declines in prices at the pump, and job growth have consumers feeling more confident at year-end than they felt at the start of 2005," Franco said. "Even though all of the improvement over the past twelve months has been in consumers' assessment of current conditions, and expectations remain below earlier levels, consumers are confident that the economy will continue to expand in 2006."

Angola hold Mexico to 0-0 draw in Group D

to Mexico's Guillermo Franco. A long ball into box on 44 minutes bounced off a defender but Ricardo was in the way of Franco's weak shot. Ricardo La Volpe

Friday, June 16, 2006

João Ricardo was the hero as Angola held Mexico to a 0-0 draw in the AWD Arena, Hanover, Friday.

While the Angolan's game was not all defense, they had eight shots and five corner kicks, it was Mexico who had much the best chances in the game and will be disappointed not to have scored a number of goals.

Three minutes into injury time Ramon Morales hung a high ball that dipped over the Angolan keeper. Ricardo stretched and the 36 year old goalkeeper, who did not have a football club, clinched the ball like a trophy and earned his team a 0-0 draw. It was Angola's first World Cup point.

For a nation where average life expectancy is 38 years this was the biggest result in Angolan football history. The result also meant if Angola beat Iran they still had a mathematical chance to get into the knock-out stage of the FIFA World Cup.

In the first half the crowd was subdued as chances were few. Mexico had free kicks saved, one from Rafael Marquez had come off the post. For Angola Figueiredo's free kick found Fabrice Akwa only for the captain's header to go nowhere near the goal.

The best chance in free play before the break fell to Mexico's Guillermo Franco. A long ball into box on 44 minutes bounced off a defender but Ricardo was in the way of Franco's weak shot.

Ricardo La Volpe had been banned from smoking on the touchline by FIFA after being observed doing so in his first game. Against Iran the Mexican coach was credited with a change in the game after half time.

Sans cigarettes, this happened again against Angola but his team just couldn't get past Ricardo.

Franco was denied once more on 55 minutes when he tried to lob the keeper but Ricardo got a hand to it. The ball then dropped to Jesus Arellano but his shot was tame and a defender on the line cleared.

When a defensive clearance rebounded to Omar Bravo Ricardo was in the right place to pick up the striker's scuffed shot.

Ricardo, the FIFA Man of the Match, missed a few crosses but when he got them he didn't drop them. On 64 minutes a cross was whipped in from the right and he caught the cross spectacularly with one-hand.

Angolan attacks were limited. Mendonca's drive went straight to Oswald Sanchez while a Figueiredo blast from outside the box cleared the bar.

On 80 minutes Andre was sent off for deliberate hand ball, his second yellow card offense in the game. All Angolan energies were now diverted to keep the scores level.

It was a difficult last ten minutes. Jesus Arellano floated a cross from midfield to Jose Fonseca but his volley went wide. With great technique Marquez connected superbly with a long 35 yard drive but Ricardo leapt to his right and used both hands to push the ball behind for a corner.

While two minutes remained Mexico hit the post for the second time in the match. Ricardo missed a fast cross but Omar Bravo's instinctive redirection toward goal was centimeters out.

The qualifiers from Group D was not settled by the result, Friday. Mexico's progress became more tricky. But the Central Americans still had the upper hand. Luis De Oliveira Goncalves's side had to score goals against Iran while Mexico needed only to not lose to Portugal in their last game to certainly go through.

Italian senators lobby for ice cream

Italia and South Tyrol senator Helga Thaler. Last March, Senate's president, Franco Marini, allowed senators to hold a wine sommelier course in Palazzo Madama

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Two Italian senators, Rocco Buttiglione (UDC) and Albertina Soliani, (L'Ulivo), on behalf of many other colleagues, forwarded a request to Senate's administrators on June 8th for ice cream in the Senate's cafeteria.

The text of the request is very concise:

Three of the senators are administrators who will decide about the request: senator Gianni Nieddu, Ulivo; senator Romano Comincioli, Forza Italia and South Tyrol senator Helga Thaler.

Last March, Senate's president, Franco Marini, allowed senators to hold a wine sommelier course in Palazzo Madama, Senate's seat, and previously senators got regional (and then provincial too) speciality during the "special gastronomic weeks".

Building in Barcelona damaged by explosion

spokesman Filip La Rosa, occurred while police were investigating the object. Franco Giordano, Italian consul in Barcelona, described the home-made bomb as a

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

The Italian Cultural Institute in Barcelona was damaged today by an explosion. One Spanish policeman was injured and his bomb-sniffing dog killed. Staff at the Institute discovered a suspicious object and called police. Police then arrived with a bomb squad and bomb-sniffing dogs.

The explosion, described as small by Italian Embassy spokesman Filip La Rosa, occurred while police were investigating the object. Franco Giordano, Italian consul in Barcelona, described the home-made bomb as a coffee maker (a macchinetta di caffè) with cables.

The Italian Cultural Institute is located at the passatge Méndez Vigo, in the Eixample district of the Catalan capital. Italian language courses were suspended for the day.

Explosion in Madrid; Basque separatists blamed

explode soon after. ETA grew out of a call for action against Francisco Franco, who ruled Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975. A Basque nationalist

February 10, 2005

At 8:30 am UTC yesterday a car bomb exploded in downtown Madrid, Spain, near the city's main convention center. The explosion occurred shortly before King Juan Carlos and Mexican President Vicente Fox, were due to open the ARCO art fair.

Forty-three persons were hurt, including 6 police officers. Reuters reports 24 were taken to the hospital, though none were seriously injured. The Juan Carlos I Convention Center suffered major damage to its facade from the blast.

Explosives experts estimated the size of the bomb between 20 and 30 kg (44-66 lb) of explosive material, according to Spain's Interior Minister José Antonio Alonso.

The blast is the most serious explosion in Spain since the March 11, 2004 al-Qaeda train bombings. It coincides with a police crack-down on the Basque separatist group ETA in the lead up to the Basque regional elections in April.

The Basque newspaper Gara received a warning from a caller claiming to be with the separatist group ETA half an hour before the blast, announcing that a car bomb would explode soon after.

ETA grew out of a call for action against Francisco Franco, who ruled Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975. A Basque nationalist movement, ETA grew into a guerrilla force which, to date, is responsible for killing more than 800 people.

The goals of ETA are to force the creation of an independent Basque nation, including both the French and Spanish Basque regions. Initially, under the Franco dictatorship and during the transition periods following his death, ETA enjoyed widespread support in the Basque communities. With the increasing radicalism and violence of their methods, this popularity has waned, and organizations such as Gesto por la Paz (the Association for Peace in the Basque Country) now hold silent protests after ETA acts of terrorism.

Mexico score three against Iran in Group D

for his second goal. In the first half Bravo had deflected a Guillermo Franco header into the net for his first. Iran, in all red kit, had a good first

Sunday, June 11, 2006

Two half-time substitutions by Ricardo La Volpe helped Mexico to a 3-1 win over Iran in Nuremburg, Germany on Sunday.

The first half of this Group D tie ended 1-1 and it appeared to be a close contest between two hard-working teams. Then the Mexican coach Ricardo La Volpe, who was observed smoking a cigarette during the game, made two substitutions at half time. This seemed to change the game.

Shifting from three to two forwards, in the second half the Central Americans won the ball more often in midfield; they then piled pressure on the Iranian goal with an effective short passing game. Iran failed to adequately adapt to this tactical change.

With 15 minutes remaining an Iranian defensive error led to the game-winning goal, and a great flowing move four minutes later made the result look convincing for Mexico.

The Mexican team did lose experienced striker Jared Borgetti to what seemed to be a leg muscle injury on 46 minutes. This will be a concern to the coach. But the majestic performance of captain Rafael Marquez, who seemed to be nearly everywhere, ensured onfield leadership was unaffected.

His team had to wait a while for the go-ahead goal. On 75 minutes Ebrahim Mirzapour's clearance fell short; his centre back then failed to control the ball and Omar Bravo was put through to slide the ball in for his second goal. In the first half Bravo had deflected a Guillermo Franco header into the net for his first.

Iran, in all red kit, had a good first period but was out-played in the second. Iran equalised from a goalkeeper error on 36 minutes. Centre back Yahya Golmohammadi poked into the top of an empty net after Mexico keeper Oswaldo Sanchez had leaped and missed at a ball crossed in from a corner kick.

Branko Ivankovic's Iran side conceded the third goal on 79 minutes, Mexico's familiar green and white shirts now swarming all over the Iranian defence. Zinha passed the ball wide to the right of the penalty area. Zinha, surging forward, rose unmarked on the penalty spot to greet the cross and guided the ball into the bottom right corner of Mirzapour's net.

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