

Poland ponders how to replace lost leaders

The air disaster that killed President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and a host of other decision-makers will have a profound impact on Poland's political scene and key institutions. Acting president Bronislaw Komorowski must now name replacements and bring forward October's presidential election



1 Lech Kaczynski: Close supporter of Solidarity leader **Lech Walesa** during Gdansk shipyard strike in 1980 which led to communist Poland's transformation into modern democratic state. Founded right-wing **Law and Justice Party (PiS)** with his twin brother, **Jaroslav**, in 2001. **Elected president in October 2005.**

He was bitterly opposed to Prime Minister **Donald Tusk's** pro-market economic policies and push to join eurozone. Presidential candidates include Jaroslav and acting president, **Bronislaw Komorowski**

2 General Franciszek Gagar: Head of Joint Chiefs of Staff died with commanders of air force, army and navy. Deaths coincide with dispatch of 600 additional troops to reinforce Poland's 2,000-strong contingent in Afghanistan and modernising of military

3 Sławomir Skrzypek: Governor of Poland's central bank. Deputy governor **Piotr Wiesiolek** is in charge temporarily but is not member of bank's rate-setting **Monetary Policy Council**. Potential candidates include **Jan Krzysztof Bielecki**, Tusk's senior economic adviser and ex-head of Poland's second-largest bank, and former central bank deputy governors **Jerzy Pruski** and **Andrzej Bratkowski**

Also lost: Jerzy Szmajdzinski, Presidential candidate of leading leftist opposition SLD and **Stanislaw Komorowski**, deputy Defence Minister

4 Bronislaw Komorowski: Acting president and Speaker of Sejm – lower house of parliament – and also ruling **Civic Platform's** candidate in forthcoming presidential election. **Has power to name replacements for bank governor and military chiefs who died**