

# 1. DEAD BABY REFUGEE NOS

Μέσο: . . . . . SUNDAY MAIL

Ημ. Έκδοσης: . . . 20/09/2015 Ημ. Αποδελτίωσης: . . . 20/09/2015

Σελίδα: . . . . . 10



## News Review

### Baby in bin

A 41-year-old clerk at Nicosia general hospital was released on Thursday after he was arrested in connection with the case of a dead baby thrown in a bin at the morgue, police spokesman Andreas Angelides said.

The clerk was arrested on Wednesday but it seems no evidence was found against him.

At present, police are still taking statements trying to resolve this "serious case that has concerned all of society," Angelides said.

Earlier this week, hospital staff realised the baby, delivered prematurely at eight months but who died two days later, was not in the refrigerator it was kept in after an autopsy.

After a search, staff found it in the trash.

### IPT extension

THE House on Thursday passed a law extending the deadline for payment of Immovable Property Tax (IPT) to the end of December, with a significant discount for those paying their tax earlier, by the end of November.

For early payments by end-November, a discount of 17.5 per cent will be given, unless payments are made online or through a bank, in which case the mark-down is 20 per cent.

The final legislation passed was as amended by the parties. Initially, the government bill entailed extending the payment deadline to the end of November and in addition offered an early-settlement discount of 15 per cent. 17.5 per cent if paid via a bank or online.

The new, November 30 deadline for early payment discounts was an amendment tabled by main opposition AKEL. It was approved unanimously.

### Cruel state

A MIDDLE-AGED unemployed refugee, who was too ill to work, was kicked out of the Nicosia housing estate where he lived on his own by state authorities armed with a court writ for his eviction.

Michalis Charalambous, a 59-year-old electrician, who needs crutches to walk because of his fragile health and requires a cocktail of pills every day, had been living in his late mother's house in the Kokkines refugee estate, but had been ordered to vacate the property on the grounds that his estranged wife owned a house, and thus was disqualified as a tenant.

A representative from the Town Planning department and a policeman turned up with the court writ on Tuesday and told Charalambous he had until Thursday to vacate the house on Mesoria Street.

### Porters' cash

IN addition to almost €30m to be paid to the Limassol port's 31 licensed porters, the cabinet on Wednesday reportedly decided to up its initial offer of €1m in compensation to the porters' 62 employees to be terminated by a further €500,000.

Although the state has no contractual relationship with the licensed porters' employees, it has agreed to undertake their compensation after the porters declined to shoulder the cost during negotiations with the government over the commercialisation of the ports.

But an initial decision of a sum total €1m of taxpayer money being offered to private employees as redundancy compensation was met with threats for strikes, and the cabinet decided to increase the amount by €0.5m in exchange for labour peace, according to daily *Politika*.

### Unlawful cuts

THE Supreme Court has rejected a series of appeals from a number of Central Bank employees who disagreed with paying a temporary contribution to the state as part of an austerity drive in 2011.

The decision was made on August 31 and included all public and wider public sector workers who would have to take a cut off their gross revenues, including



First day: Education minister Costas Kadis high fives primary school children on Monday, the first day of school

# Dead baby, refugee nos

Michalis Charalambous, 59, who needs crutches to walk, had been living in his late mother's house in the Kokkines refugee estate, but was ordered to vacate on the grounds his estranged wife owned a house

pensions. On September 14, the then Central Bank governor Athanasios Orphanides sent staff a circular informing them that according to a legal opinion, the law applied to them too. The cuts at the CBC started in September 2011.

### 10.5% GDP loss

GOVERNMENT intervention in the banking sector in Cyprus resulted in irreversible losses, amounting to 10.5 per cent of the island's GDP, a European Central Bank report said this week, describing the Cypriot case as the "worst case" in terms of government support recovery.

According to an ECB report titled "The fiscal impact of financial sector support during the crisis", Cyprus suffered the third largest fiscal impact following Ireland and Greece.

"In the worst case, a limited recovery rate could indicate that the interventions led to major irreversible losses, as in the case of Cyprus, with a holding loss for the government on equity instruments amounting to 10.5 per cent of GDP owing to the restructuring of one of its largest banks," ECB said.

### 274 refugees

THE CABINET announced on Wednesday that Cyprus would take in 274 refugees out of the 120,000 who have arrived in other European countries, as per the recent proposal of the European Commission. Deputy Government spokesman Victorias Papadopoulos said.

On September 9, Papadopoulos said, the head of the European Commission urged all EU member-states to take in some of the 120,000 Syrian refugees currently in Italy, Hungary and Greece, "as a necessary measure to manage the unprecedented humanitarian crisis EU is facing the recent months".

As regards to Cyprus, the proposal provides that it will receive 274 people; 123 from Hungary, 115 from Greece and 36 from Italy.

"These people will be in addition to those already in Cyprus. The total number will exceed 500 refugees," Papadopoulos said.

### Focus shifts

BUILDING economic support for a settlement will be front and centre over the coming months and must be in place prior to any solution, both the Greek Cyp-

riot side and the UN said on Tuesday. The financial aspects of reunification must be resolved before the Cyprus problem is, government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said, stressing that it was a necessary requirement for the Greek Cypriot side.

Christodoulides said the sides must not wait for an agreement and a positive outcome in the referendum before looking at this aspect. "It is a matter that must be resolved before a potential solution is put to the people," he said.

That view appeared to be shared by the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide who said a particular focus right now was on building economic support for a settlement.

### 'Not guilty'

TWO police officers accused of beating a detainee inside a holding cell in Paphos in 2014 pleaded not guilty on Monday and the case was adjourned for next month.

The pair face three charges including causing grievous bodily harm, and humiliating and cruel treatment of an individual.

Their trial is scheduled to start on October 22. They were released on €30,000 bail.

The two had been recorded by a security camera inside a cell at Polis Chrysothous police station beating a detainee. The video of the beating was published on social media in August showing one officer beating a man repeatedly with a truncheon while another looked on but later joined in with a few kicks while the man was on the ground.

### 'Apolitical party'

A NEW political party was unveiled on Monday by its founders under the name "Pnoi Laou" (People's Spirit) with a white dove as its emblem.

Following a heavily prominent teaser advertising campaign over the last few days, in which the misnomer "a political party with no politicians" was displayed for dramatic effect, the founding members held a news conference to explain what the new party stands for.

The party's first trait appeared to be that it wants to make a point out of excluding politicians or individuals that have held a public or party post in the past.

The party – or "movement" – is chaired by Dr Giorgos Karagiorgis. His deputy is Nakis Papadopoulos, and Athos Firanides was introduced as "political secretary".

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It is our common goal to additionally safeguard and boost the public's sense of trust that no tampering of the data contained in the file shall take place" Government spokesman after the presidency agreed to hand over a copy of the so-called 'Lagarde List' to House president Yian-nakis Omirou

"During the meetings both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are approaching the talks with a positive and constructive spirit. This has helped to generate fresh and important momentum as well as a significant progress in the talks"

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during a press conference on the occasion of the beginning of the 70th General Assembly

"What you have to hope is that the Greek government makes the same mistake as a previous Cypriot government made, and create an airport monopoly that puts up prices so you will look good, because at the moment, you don't look good"

Ryanair's Chief Commercial Officer David O'Brien saying Cyprus' airport monopoly prices are twice as high as Greece

"The remarkable record number of participants confirms that the bi-communal cafe managed to play a key role in bringing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots closer, strengthening the element of trust and cooperation between them" The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation after the number of applications for the bi-communal cooperation awards it offers quadrupled

