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North poll
Former Turkish Cypriot negotiator Kadri Ozanar's People's Party (HP) would be victorious if there was an election today, taking 30.8 per cent of the votes, a survey by Turkish Gezci Research Company has showed.

Wedding party
To celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary, a British couple that have lived in the Paphos village of Amergeti for the past 30 years hosted a party last Sunday for the entire community.

Charity pledge
Sir Steff Bos Haj Holland is one of 14 new individuals added to the Giving Pledge, a charity programme set up by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett in 2010 that sees wealthy people contribute the majority of their wealth to philanthropic causes, it was announced on Tuesday.

Cypriot mayor
The town of Cambridge has elected an immigrant, Cypriot George Pippas from Paliometocho, as mayor for the first time in the 811 years the position has existed, the Cyprus News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Lawyer moved
Main opposition Akel criticised the government on Tuesday over a decision to transfer well known lawyer Panayiotis Nicosia from prison where he is doing time for corruption, to a rehabilitation centre, supposedly for dental treatment.

Criminal case
A criminal case against former deputy police chief Androulet Kyriacou was filed on Tuesday at the Nicosia district court over an alleged leak of classified information to the press.

War of words
The spat between former Interior Minister Socrates Katikas and the auditor general stepped up a notch on Tuesday as the former called on the latter to resign, who responded by asking how it is possible for someone to be so much.

Misunderstood
A University of Nicosia social scientist has said a paper he published allegedly claiming women become lesbians because men find it sexy was misunderstood by journalists after it provoked scathing reactions on social media.
Talks talk strained, Gesy end

‘Not easy’

THE United Nations is not giving up on efforts to find a common ground to restructure the Conference on Cyprus in Geneva, UN special adviser Espen Barth Eide said on Wednesday, saying that the talks had been delayed by "the very same problems that have prevented the talks from going anywhere in the past".

Following a two-hour meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades in Athens, Eide said he was "very satisfied" with the Greek Cypriot leader’s impression of "what the parties have been achieving in Geneva".

"The talks have continued and are still continuing," he said, adding that "the parties have been working very hard to try to find a way to resolve the problems that have held up the talks in the past".

Eide said that the talks had been "very difficult" but that they were "progressing slowly".

"We have made some progress in the last few days," he said. "The parties are working very hard to resolve the problems that have held up the talks in the past."