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1. CHARITY PLEDGE

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people

North poll

Former Turkish Cypriot negotiator Kudret Ozersay'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 Gezi Research Company has showed.



Wedding party

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

Charity pledge

Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou (*below*) 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 Neodeous 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 Andreas Kyriacou was filed on Tuesday at the Nicosia district court over an alleged leak of classified information to the press.



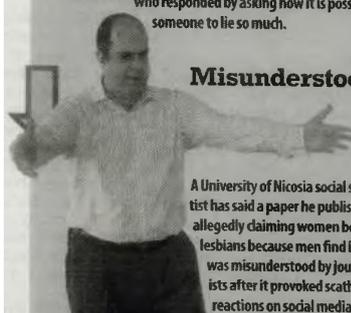
War of words

The spat between former Interior Minister Socratis Hasikos 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 lie 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.



2. TALKS TALK STRAINED GESY END

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News Review

Talks talk strained, Gesy end

'Not easy'

THE United Nations is not giving up on efforts to find common ground to resume the Conference on Cyprus in Geneva. UN special adviser Espen Barth Eide said on Monday, seeking to dispel the gloom that has befallen the talks after last week's stumble.

Following a two-hour meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Nicos Kotzias in Athens, Eide said trying to revive the conference, largely viewed as the 'final stretch' to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, is "an ongoing process".

Eide said his talks in Athens had been constructive and useful.

Eide slammed

UN Special Adviser Espen Barth Eide's remarks on avoiding a heated incident over drilling activity in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ) this summer were unacceptable, President Nicos Anastasiades said on Tuesday.

Greek daily *To Vima* published an interview with Eide, who was in Greece on Monday for a meeting with Foreign Minister Nicos Kotzias.

Eide had expressed concern over the possibility of tension escalating during scheduled drilling in Cyprus' EEZ in July and said "it is important for the talks to be resumed because they are the best medicine against an upcoming crisis".

Geneva ready

TURKEY is ready to go to Geneva for a Conference on Cyprus without any pre-conditions, UN Special Adviser Espen Barth Eide said in Ankara on Wednesday in what appeared to be veiled parting shot at the Greek Cypriot side by saying the problem lay in Nicosia.

Eide was due to leave Turkey later on Wednesday but has no plans to return to Cyprus for now, he told the Cyprus News Agency correspondent in Ankara. Though he did not spell it out, the fact that Turkey was willing to go to Geneva, meant the Turkish Cypriots were also willing, implying that the obstacle to a new Geneva conference was President Nicos Anastasiades.

'Deaf dialogue'

IF THERE is potential for substantive talks on the issue of security and guarantees, then flexibility is part of the dialogue, not a concession, President Nicos Anastasiades said on Thursday.

Anastasiades said Sunday's joint meeting he and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci will have with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is "how the dialogue becomes not a dialogue of the deaf but on the substance of the chapters of security, territory, and the rest".

The president repeated his assertion that his demand that security and guarantees are discussed at a possible international conference on Cyprus is not a precondition for attending, and expressed hope that the UN will agree.

EU pressure

THE UK should resettle soon six families of refugees living in the British bases in Cyprus since 1998, Niels Muiznieks, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, said on Monday.

Asked by CNA to comment on the judgement of the UK court of appeals, which ordered last week the home secretary to reconsider the case.

The judgement "reinforces the conclusions reached by the UN and myself that the UK authorities should resettle the refugees living in the Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus", Muiznieks told the CNA.

Akel objects

MAIN opposition Akel criticised the



The mayor of Limassol and municipal councillors visited the Ayios Antonios primary school on bikes on Thursday

'How the dialogue becomes not a dialogue of the deaf but on the substance of the chapters of security, territory, and the rest'

government on Tuesday over a decision to transfer a well-known lawyer from prison, where he is doing time for corruption, to a rehabilitation centre, supposedly for dental treatment.

Panayiotis Neocleous, jailed for two and a half years for corruption together with former deputy attorney-general Rikkos Erotokritou, will undergo dental treatment and will be accommodated at the EOKA rehabilitation centre in Palodhia.

According to Akel spokesman Stefanos Stefanou, taxpayers would have to pay some €500,000 for a room to be turned into a cell and the guards.

Criminal case

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

The proceeding is set to begin on July 3 before the Nicosia Criminal Court.

Kyriacou was fired some two weeks

ago by President Nicos Anastasiades after Attorney-General Costas Clerides announced he appeared to have been behind the unauthorised leaking of confidential information, including the tip from Serbian Interpol of a foiled assassination attempt, and the likely leaker of a 2015 internal police report on preventing and combating corruption to an MP and the press.

Easyjet pledge

SIR Stelios Haji-Ioannou 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.

The Giving Pledge, which includes 168 signatories from 21 countries, saw 14 new individuals and couples added to its growing list of signatories, among them the Cypriot entrepreneur.

Peace push

THE Unite Cyprus movement, a group of peace-supporting Cypriots from both sides of the divide, aims to help push the two leaders towards a settlement, but also keep the momentum of co-operation and co-existence alive even if the talks fail.

Ten days ago, inspired by a piece by Turkish Cypriot pro-solution journalist Ezra Avign about "a future that never was", a handful of peace-loving Cypriots decided to hold daily gatherings at the Ledra Street crossing point, and has now grown to 100 on weekdays, from 7pm to 9pm, and over 250 on Saturday, from 11am to 1pm.

Gesy end

HEALTHCARE in Cyprus reached the end of "a long and painful" road on Thursday after the House health committee signed off on three bills for the national health scheme (Gesy), which will be put to a vote at the plenum on June 16.

Health Minister Giorgos Pamborides, who attended the committee meeting to convey the cabinet's final decisions on healthcare reform, welcomed the development.

Pamborides said that the government will support any overruns in public hospitals for the first five years, but that there will be strict controls and monitoring for proper utilisation of the resources absorbed by Gesy.

Police problems

EXCESSIVE overtime pay in the police force and unpaid fines were two major operational issues identified by auditor-general Odysseas Michaelides in his 2015 justice ministry report, it emerged on Thursday.

According to Justice Minister Ionas Nicolaou, who was invited to attend the House watchdog committee's discussion of Michaelides' report findings, "it seems that the ministry and its departments are heading in the right direction".

"One issue that featured heavily in the auditor-general's report was unpaid fines, for which both he and committee members have acknowledged the police's efforts, in collaboration with the ministry, to collect them," Nicolaou said.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Even though it concerns the Cypriots, failing to find a solution could have international repercussions, impacting relations between Greece and Turkey, Turkey's relations with the EU and the general situation in the Mediterranean"
UN special adviser Espen Barth Eide

"I hope that the UK government will soon resettle to the UK these refugees, thus putting an end to a situation that has caused unnecessary human suffering for too long"
Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe Niels Muiznieks on the plight of six families living on the British bases of Cyprus since 1998

"It's an extremely important decision, which to a large extent brings the co-op back to the citizens' hands"
Finance Minister Harris Georgiades on the decision by the government to hand over 25 per cent of the co-op bank's central bank to its customers free of charge

"My worry is not whether we will reach an agreement in Geneva. My worry is whether we will ever get to Geneva"
UN special adviser Espen Barth Eide

"Voting is an expression of the will of citizens. One's will in a democracy must be free and unaltered. Once it is mandatory then it stops being democratic"
Interior Minister Constantinos Petrides on a bill abolishing compulsory voting in elections

"When a drug exists and can be used to slow the progression of a disease and to provide a better quality of life for the patient, then it is the duty of the state to help"
Chairman of the multiple sclerosis association Savvas Christodoulou saying the government doesn't do enough to give patients access to new drugs

"A long and painful procedure has been completed today at the House health committee on the reform of the healthcare sector, (state hospital) autonomy, employment issues concerning the autonomy, and the Gesy"
Health Minister Giorgos Pamborides (left) after the House health committee signed off on three bills for the national health scheme (Gesy)

"It is not the police's job to be the state's debt-collector. Instead of focusing on law enforcement, we have 69 members of the police running after unpaid fines"
Justice Minister Ionas Nicolaou

