



Former minister passes away

Former PASOK minister and former mayor of Ancient Olympia, Yannis Skoularikis, 80, was found dead in his car parked outside his home on Monday morning. Skoularikis, a career physician, was found in his car outside his home in Ancient Olympia by a neighbour, who alerted police.

An autopsy will be performed later in the day to determine the exact cause of death.

Monastery assets frozen for probe

As an investigation into the acquisition of public land by the Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos gets under way, a court yesterday froze the bank accounts of the monastery and its chief monk Ephraim. Meanwhile, the monastery declared that it would transfer any money it had acquired from property sales to the state.

But a spokesperson for the Vatopedi community refuted fresh allegations, according to which the monastery's land claims are illegitimate. He was reacting to assertions made by Bishop Panteleimon of Xanthi during an interview with Sunday's Kathimerini, according to which the Vatopedi Monastery's claims to land around Lake Vistonida are "groundless." In his interview with Kathimerini, Bishop Panteleimon claims that the land in question belongs to refugees who settled in Thrace 80 years ago.

A statement issued by the monastery dismissed the claims regarding the tracts around Vistonida as "excesses and falsities," stressing the legitimacy of the



monastery's ownership of the land and of the exchange of these tracts for land belonging to the Greek state. The monastery said the procedures followed were "absolutely legal and approved several times by state councils." "The aim of these activities was not the acquisition of any personal gain – for, as monks, we do not own personal property – but the consolidation and continuation of the historic work the monastery has been doing for over a thousand years," the statement added.

The exchange of the Vistonida land for sought-after pieces of real estate in northern Greece is one of several exchanges believed to have taken place between the state and the Vatopedi Monastery.



Hackers Deface CERN's 'Big Bang' Particle Accelerator Site

Just as scientists began testing CERN's large hadron collider in Switzerland last week, hackers made a mockery of the European lab's network security.

The LHC is a massive underground particle accelerator designed to conduct particle physics experiments. It lies beneath the border between France and Switzerland.

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According to the Daily Telegraph, the hackers derided CERN's IT security staff as "a bunch of school kids." They professed to have no plan to disrupt LHC experiments; they said they wanted to highlight the lab's security problems.

"We're pulling your pants down because we don't want to see you running around naked looking to hide yourselves when the panic comes," the hackers wrote, according to the Daily Telegraph's translation of the Greek defacement.

CERN didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

CERN spokesperson James Gillies told the BBC that no damage was done, but that the incident revealed the need for stronger security.

Though the hacked page has since been removed, the Daily Telegraph has preserved a screenshot.

An unnamed CERN scientist told the Daily Telegraph that the hackers were "one step away" from a computer that controlled one of the 12,500 ton magnets in the LHC. Had they managed to get into that machine, they could have turned parts of the LHC off.

Greece and Cyprus bringing home many medals

While the glamour and hype of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games have come and gone, the Paralympic Games in the city are ongoing, and athletes will continue to compete in 20 sports until September 17th. While it is sad that the media attention on these games is miniscule in relation to the Summer Games which took place in August, we felt that it is more than important to recognize all the hard athletes who are bringing back medals (including four gold so far these games) for Greece and Cyprus.

After a embarrassing series of set-backs dealing with scandals and doping allegations, we are proud to share with you some of the heroes of the Paralympic Games.

For Cyprus:

Antonis Aresti with two silver medals in the Men's 400m, and the Men's 200m.

Karolina Pelendritou with a gold medal in the Women's 100 M Breaststroke, and a bronze medal in the Women's 200m Individual Medley.

Greece has thus far won 11 medals, they include:

Charalampos Taiganidis, who has won four medals for Greece in the following events:

Gold medal in the Men's 100m

Freestyle

2 Silver Medals in the Men's 200m Individual Medley and Men's 100m Butterfly.

Bronze Medal in the Men's 400m Freestyle.

Georgios Kapellakis has won two medals; a silver in the Men's 100m Freestyle and a Bronze in the 200M Freestyle.

Alexandra Dimoglou has won silver in the Women's 400m for Athletics.

Anastasios Tsiou has won bronze

for the Men's Shot Put.

Ioannis Protos has won bronze for the 400m in Athletics.

Anthi Karagianni has won silver in the Women's Long Jump

Grigorios Polychronidis has won silver in the mixed individual for Boccia.

PS: We congratulate ALL the athletes who are competing in these games and want to remind you that you are NOT forgotten.

Two big ancient finds unearthed in Greece this week

Archaeologists discovered two significant ancient burial grounds this week in different parts of the country.

The first find was near the birth place of Alexander the Great, right outside Pella. There 43 graves dating from 650-279 BC were found containing very rich historical significance, that brought to light some details about the burial of soldiers and warriors.

The second find was during the excavation of the ground underneath Thessaloniki as construction continues on that city's metro system. Nearly 1,400 ancient graves and tombs were found that spanned an 800-year period from the fourth century BC to Roman times in the fourth century AD.

