

In Brief

Road deaths

Four people, including boy aged 5, killed in head-on collision

Four people, including a 5-year-old boy, were killed when two cars collided on the Patra-Corinth national highway near the Pounta junction. According to police, the accident occurred when one of the two vehicles veered out of its lane and hit the other car. The three people in the first car, including the boy, are believed to have been Albanian nationals, according to police who said the car's registration plates were Albanian. The motorist in the second car is believed to have been Greek.

Power charges

Rates up 11 percent for most
Electricity charges for households consuming up to 800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) every four months are to increase by 11 percent as of January 1, as compared to the originally planned rise of 13.7 percent, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Ministry said yesterday. According to the ministry's decision, the increase in electricity charges for households consuming between 800 and 2,000 kWh will range from 1.5 to 3 percent. Households consuming more than 2,000 kWh will see their bills reduced by between 3 percent and 17 percent.

Kallithea shooting

Police in Athens are investigating the death of a 33-year-old mother of two shot by an unidentified assailant who rang the doorbell of her apartment in the southern district of Kallithea. The woman was shot in the head after opening the door of her third-floor apartment, according to police. The victim's 4-year-old daughter and 9-month-old baby had been in the apartment at the time of the attack while her husband had been at work, police said.

New mayor

Giorgos Kaminis, the new mayor of Athens, was officially sworn in at City Hall yesterday. The municipal councilors and Kaminis's advisers are also to be sworn in.

Doctored drugs?

The Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) ordered the withdrawal of two products trading under the names Fat Burner No. 1, intended to aid weight loss, and Durazest, a libido-enhancing substance, after tests revealed that the former contains sibutramine, an appetite suppressant, and the latter sildenafil, a drug which is the active ingredient in Viagra. According to EFET, Fatburner No. 1 and Durazest are not recognized by the National Organization for Medicines (EOF). According to EOF, sildenafil can cause serious side effects if not taken as prescribed by a doctor. The same applies to sibutramine which has been withdrawn in other European countries over health concerns.

Dead pensioner

Rescue workers recovered the body of a 77-year-old man with Alzheimer's disease from a hill on the outskirts of the central city of Tripoli. It was unclear what provoked the death of the man, who had been reported missing on Monday by his relatives.

Illegal games

Police in the Cretan port of Hania detained 13 Greeks and an Albanian on charges of illegal gambling. Two of the suspects are owners of bars alleged to have allowed patrons to play craps and poker. Officers confiscated more than 8,400 euros - believed to be proceeds from illegal gambling.

New Year Horoscopes

Find out what 2011 holds for you



Capricorn ● December 22 to January 19

Despite what your bank balance suggests, this year you're in the mood for extravagance. Cash arrives, but there seems little chance of it accruing any interest. You're also likely to pursue a new image and a great social life, with some health awareness creeping in. Most things should go to plan, but life will still throw the occasional curve ball. Many might find themselves battling against an authority figure, but no matter how fierce the provocation, stay in control. Although that's easier said than done, Capricorns like being neither shaken nor stirred, so stay committed and your tenacity should bring about a result worth feeling proud of. But what you truly gain this year is the courage of your convictions - no apologies needed.

Aquarius ● January 20 to February 18

This month, you fall into a meditative mood, with urgent matters best tackled after some thought. And if you're still feeling uncertain, do what most do in times of confusion, and call in the experts - be they financial, physical or spiritual. It's a sure bet someone else has already mapped the pitfalls and plotted a safe way home. There's a mine of good advice for tapping. You don't need everything yourself.

Pisces ● February 19 to March 20

When the sun and Mars settle into your house of friendship, should you lay out a welcome mat or call pest control? Luckily, you're dealing with big-hearted friends and a generous cosmos. You've been feeling uninspired, so welcome this phase of creativity. Are we talking more friends, better money, hotter romance or career goal? In short, yes! Treat January as a pick 'n' mix and choose where to shine.

Aries ● March 21 to April 20

You've always been courageous and excitable, but that was nothing compared with now. This month, there's too much happening to keep you sitting still. This pace works well for you, and when you're all fired up, few dare mess with your symbolic horns. They're an asset in January, when Jupiter can steer you towards success. After the 21st, ease up on the workload and give love and friendship a chance.

Taurus ● April 21 to May 20

Obsessions, or one particular project, rule January's agenda. Ideas become more intense as spiritual and intellectual awareness deepens. Taureans seek greater personal power through the use of knowledge, travel or meditation. For many, this means a step up a career ladder. Others notice your talents

and welcome you into a new work arena. Interestingly, economic and romantic dabblings aren't too far removed.

Gemini ● May 21 to June 21

Many of the planets seem in no rush to go anywhere, so it's up to you to hurry them on. A big ask for anyone else, but for Geminis the need to get things moving means taking an electric prod to reluctant schemes. You have energy and ideas, but keep the workload realistic. Take time after the 9th for Venus's treat. No-one should be denied the pursuit of pleasure - least of all you.

Cancer ● June 22 to July 22

The sun and Mars give you the go-ahead for practically anything. Money pressures are off, so there's more cash to play with. You'll be drawn to adventure and relationships could develop a crazy rhythm, which should encourage spontaneity. Long-term stability and contentment are strong possibilities. Love tangles aside, there is a new openness with siblings and ex-partners. It's a welcome turning point.

Leo ● July 23 to August 22

This month sees you charging ahead, with little regard for formalities. So does this mean you're making progress, or just being reckless? Some find your zeal tough going. Others are delighted by your passion. When you're this determined, it can be difficult to give up a dream or two - even when necessary. You needn't always multi-task, Leo; just work on one project at a time.

Virgo ● August 23 to September 22

In January's treasure hunt, Venus will guide you past the group activities Mars has in store, past business dealings with the sun and Jupiter - and into the arms of new love. But don't lose your pragmatism. Negotiations are as demanding as ever, so be careful. Stay alert to the risks of rekindled passion. Nostalgia may not only cloud your judgement, but leave you a tad misty-eyed.

Libra ● September 23 to October 22

Something distasteful is brewing and, unless you really enjoy exercising your talent for damage control, now could be the time to take a holiday. Still, not everything is cause for concern. Communicative Mercury keeps up some lively talk at home; Mars urges you to let lovers (and wannabe lovers) know you care; and jovial Jupiter lends even tired relationships a new lease of life.

Scorpio ● October 23 to November 21

While there's some extraneous noise creeping into your month, you'll keep a degree of objectivity. Perhaps this is because the issues don't refer directly to you. Be warned: you may stand in the crossfire and find yourself an unwitting referee between a partner and a friend. Keep control, no matter what. Those with a freer hand on the social scene are in for a more relaxed time, finding success with flirtations and new friendships.

Sagittarius ● November 22 to December 21

This is it: a month of romantic possibilities. Advertise your availability and be showered with licentious reciprocation that flings you into colourful social circles. You may go uncharacteristically overboard. For some, new love just happens; for others, a chance encounter means rekindling an old flame. Lasting friendships may be forged in this hectic, happy time. Health, wealth and career also get the planetary thumbs up.