



Libyan rebels pray at an area where they are engaged in street battles with forces loyal to Qaddafi near Brega on April 3.

Greece Says Qaddafi Seeking Exit From Conflict

Greece has announced that Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi's government is apparently seeking a way out of the conflict with rebels that have been fighting to end his government.

In another development, the United States has agreed to continue carrying out air strikes on Qaddafi targets through at least April 4 in response to a request from NATO, which is now in charge of the air campaign.

On April 3 in Athens, Qaddafi envoy Abdelati al-Obeidi held talks with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou.

Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas said after the meeting that it appears Qaddafi's regime is "seeking a solution."

"There is a need for a serious effort for peace, for stability in the region, and Greece will continue towards this effort, offering its services, and we are in contact with all our allies and partners," Droutsas said. "We will update them on our meeting today and on Greece's thoughts and proposals."

Few other details of the talks were released publicly. The Greek foreign minister added that the Libyan envoy is expected to continue his contacts in Turkey.

Greece, which is both a European Union and NATO member, is seen as having good relations with the Qaddafi regime.

The U.S. Defense Department said American air strikes in Libya would continue through April 4, at NATO's request, because of what it described as "recent poor weather in Libya." No further details were given.

The U.S. military had earlier planned to begin withdrawing its combat jets and Tomahawk missiles from the air campaign from April 3. The United Nations Security Council-mandated military intervention in Libya that began March 19 is aimed at protecting civilians caught up in the fighting between Qaddafi's forces and the rebels. Neither the rebels nor Qaddafi's forces have so far been able to dominate fighting over control of eastern Libya, despite Western-led air strikes that have targeted Qaddafi's troops.

Oldest Christian church in Thessaloniki

Among the highlights of the newly discovered church was the mosaic floor uncovered when structures of the later basilica were removed. This was shown a white field with a clematis theme, dominated by a phoenix with a halo and 13 rays in the centre. On either side are a number of birds, of which seven still survive, two of the right and five on the left.

Archaeologist surmise that there were originally 12 birds, six on either side of the phoenix, and that the picture allegorically represents Christ and the 12 apostles. The mosaic is unique in Thessaloniki and is dated sometime toward the end of the 4th and start of the 5th centuries AD.

The small, one-room church was converted into a larger basilica in the 5th century, paved in marble, its naves separated by colonades and its walls decorated with marble panels and murals. In the 7th century the church suffered extensive damage and was poorly renovated, while it was finally abandoned in the 8th to 9th century.

According to archaeologist Melina Paisidou, who announced the find at the



24th Meeting for Archaeological Work in Macedonia and Thrace, the church's position and very early age, as well as its duration and renovations, place it among the most important Early Christian churches of the city and its foundation may well be linked with one of the city's martyrs. She said that a site north of the school of theology was being considered in order to transfer the monument.

Other finds unearthed during construction of the metro include a richly carved Roman-era marble sarcophagus and the base of what was probably a storage area.

Hellenic Telecom Returns to Bond Market After Three Years

Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA is selling 500 million euros (\$712 million) of bonds in its first offering since 2008 and the second by a Greek non-financial company in more than a year.

Greece's largest phone company is issuing the notes through its special purpose company OTE Plc, according to Dimitris Tzelepis, head of investor relations. Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Co. is the only other Greece-based non-financial company to sell debt this year.

Sales of Greek corporate securities stalled and borrowing costs rose after the country was forced to accept a bailout last year to cover the European Union's biggest budget deficit. Greece's economy probably will shrink for a third year in 2011 amid cost-cutting measures that followed its rescue,

according to analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

"Hellenic Telecom will be viewed as the first real non-financial Greek issuer this year," said Suki Mann, senior credit strategist at Societe Generale SA in London. "The Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling tap wasn't viewed by the market as being exposed to Greece risk and the notes weren't priced that way."

Three-Year Bonds

Athens-based Hellenic Telecom's new bonds will mature in three years and yield 7.375 percent, according to a banker with knowledge of the transaction who declined to be identified because the deal is private.

The phone company sold 2.1 billion euros of three- and seven-year bonds in February 2008 to help finance its purchase of a s-

take in Cosmote Mobile Telecommunications SA. The yield on the notes due 2015 has fallen to 7.56 percent from 8.17 percent at the start of the year, Bloomberg Bond Trader prices show.

Alpha Bank SA, BNP Paribas SA, EFG Eurobank Ergasias, HSBC Holdings Plc and Morgan Stanley are managing the sale of new Hellenic Telecom notes, Tzelepis said.

Hellenic Telecom, which is 30 percent owned by Deutsche Telekom AG, posted a fourth-quarter net loss of 91.7 million euros and said it expects sales to be hurt by unfavorable economic conditions in all the countries it operates.

The phone company is rated Baa3 at Moody's Investors Service, the lowest investment-grade rating, and two levels lower at BB by Standard Poor's.

Starlight calls for volunteer on Starlight day the 6th of May

The Starlight Children's Foundation is calling for an army of Volunteers on Starlight Day the 6th of May, as Starlight aims to raise \$2.2 Million to continue brightening the lives of seriously ill children.

Starlight needs 7,000 volunteers in shopping centres, central business districts, and train stations throughout Australia.

2,000 volunteers have already signed up, but more are needed to help collect donations and sell merchandise through Thursday the 5th – Sunday the 8th of May.

Funds raised from merchandise sales and donations will ensure Starlight can continue to provide the vital in-hospital programs that brighten the lives

of seriously ill children and their families when they are at their worst. Starlight has a presence in all major paediatric hospitals around Australia.

Yagoona resident, Gay will be volunteering on Starlight Day at Centro Bankstown "I have been volunteering for Starlight Day for the last 8 years and the team and loves the challenge of earning more money each year to improve the lives of thousands of seriously ill children"

CEO of the Starlight Children's Foundation, Louise Baxter said "Each year the Starlight Children's Foundation brightens the lives of 156,000 children impacted by illness and disability; however, we do need your help to continue reaching thousands of children around Australia each week.

"The more volunteers we have supporting us on

the streets on the 6th of May, mean that more seriously ill and hospitalised children will benefit from Starlight's range of innovative programs. These programs are dedicated to supporting the well being and resilience of the child and family, promoting a positive hospital experience."

Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital. Thousands of these admissions will lead to a diagnosis that change their lives forever and impact upon the whole family.

The support from the Australian public this Starlight Day will help Starlight reach these seriously ill children and their families when they need it most. If you would like to find out more about volunteering for Starlight Day, please visit www.starlight.org.au or call 1300 727 827.