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In an exclusive interview to Savvas Limnatis (to be published in tomorrow's edition of eKosmos) Maria Stavropoulou talks candidly about her career so far: from the first tentative steps as a child prodigy, to dewy-eyed teenager harboring dreams of hitting the big time, travelling to the jungle that is Athens for a chance to shine, her innocence shielding her from the big, bad wolf that lurks behind every corner and her eventual return to Australia,

where she established herself as the premier performer of Sydney's bumbling Greek Australian music scene, her story reads like a fairy tale. With her first album proper just around the corner, Stavropoulou has every legitimate reason not only to feel content with her career so far, but also to be enormously proud of sticking it out under her own terms. After all, according to her "life's what you make it". Keep on rockin', Maria...

Police break teen gang in northern Athens

A total of 13 people are to face trial in connection with a series of break-ins in northern Athens that were allegedly carried out by a gang of teenagers.

The 10 teenagers, aged between 15 and 19, allegedly broke into 19 homes and businesses in the suburbs of Maroussi and Penteli over the last six months. They gave whatever they stole to three Albanian men, aged 18, 36 and 53, who supplied the teenagers with drugs, police said.

Afghan man killed in central Athens, suspect arrested

A 47-year-old Georgian man has been arrested in central Athens on suspicion of killing a 28-year-old Afghan man.

The victim was found dead near Omonia Square early on Monday, police said.

It was not clear how he died but authorities suggested there had been a fight between migrant groups.



Police to investigate officers over violence at basketball cup final

The violence that disrupted the Greek basketball cup final between Olympiakos and Panathinaikos in Athens on Sunday is to be subject of an internal investigation by police.

Flares were fired by supporters, with one hitting an Olympiakos player, rival fans clashed in the stands and on the court

and a Panathinaikos player was injured by what appeared to be a rock.

As a result, the police said that 24 officers who were on duty at the game are to be investigated.

The match, which was severely delayed, ended with Panathinaikos gaining a narrow victory over its crosstown rival.

Women allegedly hit by police car dies from injuries

A 20-year-old woman who was allegedly hit by a police car in Korydallos, near Pireaus, on February 1 has died from her injuries.

Polina Kelebesioti passed away on Saturday. Her funeral is due to take place on Monday. The precise details surrounding the accident on Grigoris Lambrakis Avenue in which she was injured remain unclear.

Her family has appealed for witnesses to come forward and the local traffic police department is investigating the matter.



Police release photos of weapons used in Velvento bank robberies

Police have released photos of the weapons and other equipment used by four men who are suspected of links to urban guerrilla groups to carry out a double bank robbery in Velvento, northern Greece, earlier this month.

According to the police, the suspects were carrying three Kalashnikov assault rifles, a Scorpion submachine gun, a shotgun and two handguns. They also had bulletproof vests and cleaning equipment.

The four suspects, aged between 20 and 25, have declared themselves anarchists but deny any links to the group Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire. They also claim they were beaten in police custody but the force's internal investigation concluded that their injuries were caused during their arrest.

Police searched a hotel in Volos, central Greece, on Saturday, where the four suspects and up to four more people allegedly involved in the robberies stayed before the raids in Velvento. The other suspects are still at large but police believe they know their identities.

Passenger train kills man near Veria station

A 57-year-old man was hit and killed by a passenger train in Veria, northern Greece, on Monday morning.

The accident happened near Veria station. It was not immediately clear what led to the man finding himself on the train tracks.