



Forbes lists three Greeks among world's richest people

Three Greeks are on the annual list of the world's richest people compiled by American business magazine Forbes, which includes 1,426 names headed by Mexican telecoms magnate Carlos Slim Helu and his family, with a fortune of \$73 billion, followed by computing giant Bill Gates with assets worth \$67 billion.

Greek banker and shipping leader Spiros Latsis (photo),

age 66, and his family rose in the ranking to the 412th spot this year from number 464 in last year's list, with assets of \$3.3 billion. The second-wealthiest Greek on the list is British-born Aristotelis Mistakidis, 51, of Glencore International with a fortune of \$2.7 billion, while art collector Philippos Niarchos, 59, came in 554th place with assets worth \$2.6 billion.

Man found dead at Greek-Albanian border identified as fugitive

A man found dead a few meters away from a tributary stream of the Drinos River, near the Kakavia train station at the border between southern Albania and northwestern Greece, has been identified as a 40-year-old Albanian fugitive.

According to police, the convict had escaped last August from a Nafplio hospital where he had been transferred for medical tests, with the help of armed accomplices.

According to reports, his death was not a result of foul play.

Nea Philadelphia blaze destroys apartment

A fire that broke out in a first-floor apartment in Nea Philadelphia, northern Athens, on Monday, was brought under partial control later in the day.

According to initial reports the cause of the blaze was unknown, while no injuries were reported. The apartment was destroyed.

Prisoners riot in Nafplio over inmate's death

Inmates at Nafplio Prison in the northern Peloponnese on Tuesday burned mattresses in the exercise yard and refused to return to their cells, prompting authorities to call in the riot police to restore order.

According to local media reports, the prisoners were reacting to the death of a 26-year-old Palestinian inmate who had complained to guards of feeling unwell. He was taken to a local hospital, where he was reported to have died of a heart attack.

The news of his death sparked the riot, which was later quelled by police.

Anastasiadis to visit Athens

Cyprus's new President, Nikos Anastasiades, is due to visit Athens next week for talks with Greek leaders and officials, according to reports in Nicosia.

Phileleftheros newspaper reported that Anastasiades will discuss the economic crisis, gas and oil exploration and the Cyprus problem with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and other officials. The visit to Athens will be Anastasiades's first official trip abroad. Cyprus's new Foreign Minister, Yiannis Kasoulides, is due to visit Greece ahead of Anastasiades. He will meet his Greek counterpart Dimitris Avramopoulos.



Eurogroup expresses 'satisfaction' with Greece over February targets

Euro area finance ministers meeting in Brussels expressed their «satisfaction» with Greece for meeting the targets for February set out in its second bailout agreement with international creditors, but said that the disbursement of the next tranche of funding, worth 2.8 billion euros, will depend on whether Athens achieves targets set for March.

«The Eurogroup notes with satisfaction that the MoU milestone for February, agreed between Greece and the troika, has been achieved,» a statement issued following Monday's meeting said. «In particular, the medium-term fiscal strategy has been updated, introducing three-year expenditure ceilings for line-ministries and the health sector.

«Moreover, the Eurogroup welcomes that, going beyond the requirements of the milestone, Greece also prepared monthly targets for the largest state-owned enterprises (SOEs) with a view to later extending them to all SOEs. This step further safeguards the delivery of fiscal commitments and represents a sign of strong program ownership.»

The statement goes on to call «on the Greek authorities to keep the reform momentum and, in particular, to fully implement the agreed milestones for March, as a precondition for the disbursement of a further sub-tranche of 2.8 billion euros under the second installment» of bailout funding.



Thirteen of 17 men arrested in Katerini on Sunday during a raid on a stable where dog fights were being organized, were given sentences of between two to eight months in jail, with the possibility of parole, and cash fines by a court in the northern Greek city on Tuesday.

The stiffest sentence was handed to the owner of the stable in which the dog fights were being held with an eight-month jail term and a fine of 5,000 euros for the inhumane treatment of animals. Three of the men were handed four-month jail sentences and another nine were given two-month terms and fines of 5,000 euros each. All charges were dropped against four of the suspects for lack of evidence that they were actively involved in organizing or betting on the dog fights.

Officers recovered seven dogs at the scene of the raid, one of which had died. The animals were taken to a local veterinarian for treatment.

Macedonia regional official among 7 facing charges for breach of duty

A row has broken out among local authorities in northern Greece over who should have the right to build an Alexander the Great theme park, dubbed Alexanderland.

The mayor of Veria, Haroula Ousoultzoglou, held a news conference on Tuesday to complain that the plans unveiled last week by Central Macedonia's Deputy Governor Giorgos Tsamaslis for such a theme park to open near Thessaloniki were a copy of a scheme that Veria had drawn up in 2007. «We consider the proposal for an Alexander the Great park to be created in Thessaloniki as being unacceptable,» she said.

The Municipality of Veria's plan includes a theme park, hotel, amphitheater and library to be housed in a 35-hectare plot near the ancient site of Vergina, birthplace of the Macedonian warrior king.