



Muslims pray in Thessaloniki mosque, but for one day only

Eighty-eight years since it was closed and turned into a museum, Thessaloniki's New (Yeni) Mosque heard prayers again on Saturday, on an initiative of Mayor Yiannis Boutaris to open the historical monument to a group of students from the Muslim School of Komotini, northern Greece.

Boutaris, however, said that the mosque, which was built in 1902 and closed in 1925 following the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, will not be used for regular worship, but conceded on special

occasions, "maybe two or three times a year."

"Opening a mosque is not in the jurisdiction of the municipality, but of the government," Boutaris said, adding, "As cynical as it sounds, the possibility for Muslims to carry out their religious obligations when they come to the city would boost tourism, which the city is in dire need of."

Successive promises for a state-backed mosque in Greece have forced the country's Muslims to use makeshift facilities.

Islanders reject Golden Dawn's free food distribution

Members of the community of Potamia on the northern Aegean island of Thasos prevented members of the far-right Golden Dawn party from distributing free food products to villagers on Sunday afternoon.

Carrying banners condemning fascism, a large group of residents told the Golden Dawn members they were not welcome and prevented a truck carrying free food

from being unloaded.

The residents also stopped fellow villagers who had wanted to accept the handouts from doing so, according to local reports. Golden Dawn, whose members have held several free food drives in Athens and other Greek cities, said in a statement on Monday that the food initiative on Thasos had not been obstructed.



Cyprus bailout draft links recovery to gas reserves

A draft bailout agreement between Cyprus and the troika, which was published in the Cypriot daily Phileletheros on Monday, foresees the exploitation of offshore hydrocarbon deposits as part of an economic reform program aimed at putting the country back on the path to fiscal health.

The plan set out in Phileletheros envisages the creation of infrastructure to exploit undersea reserves and of a fund that would manage state revenues derived from natural gas finds. It also gives Nicosia one more year than anticipated to post a primary surplus – setting a deadline of 2017 rather than 2016.

As details of a memorandum signed between Nicosia and troika officials were leaked to the media, a Cypriot minister said that the center-right administration was

considering the possibility of reaching out to political rivals, communist-rooted AKEL and socialist EDEK, to form a "national unity government." "We are in a state of emergency," Transport Minister Tasos Mitsopoulos told the Athens-Macedonian News Agency on Monday.

As expected, Nicosia's agreement with the troika foresees tax hikes and wage cuts. Less predictably, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades said he would allow casinos to operate in Cyprus, as they do in the Turkish-occupied north of the island.

Separately, the president refuted reports that a firm owned by his son-in-law's father transferred 21 million euros abroad a few days before a Eurogroup decision on March 16 to impose a levy on depositors in Cyprus.



Giorgio's
will cater for birthdays,
corporate functions,
christenings
and your next event.

- THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS**
- CHICKEN SOUVLAKIA:** Greek Salad, Tzatziki & Pitta Bread \$18.50
 - T-BONE:** Grained Garden Salad & Shoestring fries \$25.00
 - MIXED SEAFOOD:** Prawns, Octopus, Squid, Garden Salad, Fries & Tartar Sauce \$25.00
 - SAGANAKI PRAWNS:** Tiger Prawns, Feta, Olives, Tomato, Garlic, Butter & Vienna Bread \$16.50
 - FISH & CHIPS:** Beer Battered Flathead Fillets, Garden Salad, Fries, Homemade Tartar sauces \$18.50
 - SAGANAKI (KEFALOGRAVIERA):** Mixed Leaves, Balsamic Glaze, Pitta Bread, Lemon Dressing \$13.50
 - SWEET POTATO FRIES:** Sour Cream, Sweet Chilli \$8.50

...and happy mood, and most importantly its delicious home-style recipes.

cafe • bar
Giorgio's
family environment

104 Kingsgrove Road, Belmore • Ph.: 9718 8555