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Weather



TODAY: A mixture of sunshine, cloud and rain. Temperatures will reach 19C inland, 20C along the coasts and 11C over higher ground

OUTLOOK: Remaining unsettled

YESTERDAY:

	Max Temp	Min	Humidity	Pollution
Nicosia	20	- 15	64%	Low/Low
Larnaca	22	- 16	60%	Low/Low
Limassol	23	- 15	83%	Medium/Low
Paphos	20	- 15	71%	Low
Paralimni	22	- 15	58%	Low
Prodromos	11	- 7	87%	Low

SUNRISE: 06:29am **SUNSET:** 4:36pm

Air quality in Cyprus is assessed with the aid of a network of nine advanced monitoring stations. Data is recorded hourly.

Information provided by the Air Quality Section of the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI)

Worldwide

Athens	16	Cloudy	Madrid	14	Cloudy
Budapest	8	Cloudy	Manchester	13	Cloudy
Bucharest	8	Mist	Moscow	4	Cloudy
Brussels	11	Cloudy	Oslo	5	Cloudy
Cairo	24	Cloudy	Paris	7	Cloudy
Copenhagen	10	Cloudy	Prague	8	Cloudy
Damascus	17	Cloudy	Rome	18	Cloudy
Dublin	7	Light Rain	Sarajevo	11	Mist
Frankfurt	6	Mist	Sofia	11	Cloudy
Geneva	9	Mist	Stockholm	6	Dust
Istanbul	13	Light Rain	Tel Aviv	3	Light Rain
London	13	Cloudy	Vienna	8	Cloudy

EXCHANGE



For a full list of exchange rates, see page 10

CHEMISTS

NICOSIA	25870288, 25737455 (H)
A. Hadjichristodoulou, 56D Kennedy Ave. Tel: 22496994, 22358479 (H)	A. Syngelidou, 36Z Karaiskakis St. Tel: 25746522, 25341824 (H)
M. E. Koula, 53C Kallipoleos Ave. Tel: 22377056, 22813435 (H)	K. Makridou, 66A Miltonos, Tel: 25712790, 25746954 (H)
Ch. Tsangarides, 92 A. B Makedonitissis, Strovolos Tel: 22871954, 22319608 (H)	LARNACA
T. Malloupa, 187 Gr. Arxentiou, Ayios Dometios. Tel: 22772653, 22337172 (H)	L. Georgiou, 77 S. Timayia Ave. Tel: 24631390, 24821388 (H)
Ch.. Christodoulidis, 4 Andrea Awraamidi Tel: 22879747, 22324357	M. Kyritsis, 107 Danielou Str. Tel: 24656514, 24625038 (H)
LIMASSOL	PAPHOS
Chr. Kourtellou, 84 Macedonia & Vas. Constantinou, Tel:	L. Chrisostomou (PE.O. No. 2), 31B Danais St, Kato Paphos. Tel: 26964837, 26221624 (H)
	PARALIMNI
	M. Pantelidou, 2 Mapias Sigklitakis. Tel: 23730111, 23823055

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NICOSIA 24 Vass. Voulgarootonou, P.O. Box 21144, 1502 Nicosia

Tel: 22-818585, Fax: 22-676385 email: mail@cyprus-mail.com

LIMASSOL 5A Nicolaou, Pentadromos Centre, Thessaloniki St.

Tel: 25-761117, Fax: 25-761141 email: cyprusmail@cytanet.com.cy

LARNACA Tel: 24-652243, Fax: 24-659982

PAPHOS 62 Apostolou Pavlou Avenue, Office 2, 8046 Paphos, Tel:

26 911383 Fax : 26 221049 email: paphos@cyprus-mail.com



The new system would only use water when and where needed and improve crops

WaterBee to improve water management

Worldwide, 70 per cent of water used is currently wasted

By Peter Stevenson

IMPROVING water management on the island has led to the creation of WaterBee, a co-operation between the University of Cyprus, private research centres and other academic institutes.

The move comes in response to a report by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) stating that bad water management and inefficient irrigation systems contribute to the waste of 70 per cent of the Earth's available water.

WaterBee is a complete, flexible, cost-effective Smart Irrigation and Water Management system. It enables farmers, vineyard owners, golf clubs, public authorities and landscape managers to optimise their water consumption.

According to the research team at the university, the system helps lower operating costs and increase output by being more efficient and eventually improving the quality of the crops.

It will provide a range of services to meet current

farmers' needs such as greater control over their irrigation requirements. It will also give accurate and complete information on crop and field conditions as well as easy-to-use smartphone and web apps to support crop irrigation decisions with real-time data.

Water supply in Cyprus is always an issue and the Cen-

tre for Intelligent Systems and Networks (KIOS) at the University of Cyprus has been a major contributor to the WaterBee project.

The WaterBee was presented at the International Agricultural and Gardening Machinery Exhibition (ELMA) last week in Bologna, Italy.

The introduction of the

system is of significant importance, according to the university, because agriculture is the largest industry in the world but it is also the biggest threat to the environment. The industry wastes 1,500 billion litres of the 2,500 billion litres it uses every year according to the WWF, something which is attributed to inefficient irrigation systems.

WaterBee's intelligent irrigation modelling and scheduling system goes well beyond the state-of-art. It has a unique Soil-Moisture Model for optimal water use, continuously self-adapting to each user's situation and business objectives.

It uses machine learning approaches and an open web-enabled architecture which will enable it to integrate all environmental data in the future, in line with the European INSPIRE Directive. This enables users not only to optimise the use of water by irrigating only where and when needed, but also enhancing plant growth and quality.

ARE YOU AN INNOVATOR?

INNOVATION is no longer a matter of choice, it's a prerequisite for competitiveness and progress, says the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB).

If you have applied or created something new, then you have innovated. If the application or setting-up of the innovation has been successful, then there is the opportunity to be distinguished for it.

OEB is now encouraging individuals and businesses to take part in the 7th Cyprus Innovation Award competition. The awards are open to innovation in the following sectors: Primary Sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, etc.); Manufacturing (Industry); Services; Broader Public Sector.

OEB's Cyprus Innovation Award is supported by the Ministry of Commerce and the Research Promotion Foundation.

Entries must be received by OEB by January 18 and can be found at www.innovationaward.oeb.org.cy or at OEB's new offices at the corner of Acropolis Avenue & 2 Glafkos Street, Acropolis, Nicosia (Tel: 22 665102)

Illegal betting shop

A PATROL of the crime prevention department of Larnaca police seized a computer, 15 electronic coupons and €300 in cash yesterday at a betting shop in Aradippou that was operating without a licence. Three people who were in the betting shop at the time were charged with illegal gambling, but were released and will later be summoned to the District Court of Larnaca.

Fire destroys car

A PRIVATE car burst into flames during the early hours yesterday in Larnaca.

According to a police report, the company car parked outside the apartment block of a 31-year-old using it, burst into flames at around 01:55am. The car was completely destroyed, as well as tools and various other goods in the boot of the car.

Sinai travel warning

THE foreign ministry has issued a travel warning advising people to avoid travelling to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt unless absolutely necessary due to intense activity by armed militia close to the border with the Gaza Strip. It warned that this is the case "especially on the Feast Day of St. Catherine" on Sunday due to high risk of a terrorist attack against pilgrims visiting St Catherine's monastery there.