

Curtailed commemorations, services for annual OXI Day, marking Greece's entry into Second World War



Military and pupils' parades in Greece, on the occasion of the national holiday commemorating the country's entry into WWII, known as OXI day, have been cancelled, in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The annual commemoration falls on October 28, which is tomorrow, Wednesday. OXI means "no" in Greek.

At the same time, annual doxology and te deum memorial services, along with the laying of wreaths at monuments for the fallen, have also been significantly curtailed.

On the political front in the country, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias on Monday held talks in Athens with his visiting counterpart from Israel, Gabi Askenazi. The meeting was followed by exploratory talks with expanded

delegations from both sides.

The latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean, especially in light of the latest Turkish provocations, as well as the situation in the Middle East and EU-Israel relations dominated the agenda of talks.

Today, the Greek foreign minister hosted both his Israeli counterpart and the foreign affairs minister from Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, for trilateral talks, as part of the Greece-Israel-Cyprus' meetings.

In another corner of the world, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered state services to undertake studies and forecasts aimed at ensuring the more effective operation of healthcare institutions in the vast country.

The initiative comes after the Moscow Patriarchate's standing programs to educate psychologists and medical professionals, especially gynecologists, obstetricians and nurses, on how to counsel women on avoiding abortions.