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ONE ISLAND, ONE VISION, ONE PAPER • Friday, May 26, 2017 • No. 2229 • €1.60

UN seeks formula as Cypriot leaders are far apart on taking negotiations to finale in Geneva

Stuck on first base



MANCHESTER ATTACK

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The clock is ticking on whether a deal can be done to take Cyprus peace talks to the next level at Geneva.

Crucial decisions need to be made in the coming days to see whether stalled negotiations will move on to the give-and-take stage or become mired in failure after two years of hard graft.

Leaders continue to be "far apart" on holding a final peace summit next month that would aim for an overall deal reunifying the island as a federation.

UN envoy Espen Barth Eide said getting President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci to agree on a summit is "proving to be very difficult".

Eide's shuttle diplomacy is aimed at getting them to agree on the agenda and procedure at a make-or-break phase in Switzerland.

He said difficulties are appearing as discussions go into the details of structuring the summit.

"It's almost getting more complicated the more details we see, which I think is sad," said Eide.

It is understood that Akinci needs to go to Ankara to see if Turkey approves of discussing security first at Geneva as proposed by Anastasiades. >5



Photo by Stefanos Kouratzis

HUNDREDS of people, many of them parents accompanied by their children, yesterday marched in Nicosia to call for Marie Eleni Grimsrud to be returned to her mother. The four-year-old was snatched by her Norwegian father on April 27, amid a custody dispute with her Greek Cypriot mum >6



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