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BRIEFLY

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**Greece and Russia
Announce Accord**

SALONIKA, Greece — Greece and Russia announced a joint initiative Tuesday to convene high-level meetings between southeastern European countries and international organizations.

Greece's foreign minister, Theodoros Pangalos, said, "Since there are already initiatives in the region by the United States and European Union, we thought it would be a good idea to have a common action with Russia."

The two nations hope the plan will pave the way for Russia's participation in a regional economic union. The pact was announced during a two-day summit meeting of Balkan officials. (AP)

3 Shot in Belfast

BELFAST — Three young Protestants were being treated in a hospital for gunshot wounds to the knee, the police said Tuesday, marking a return to terrorist "punishment shootings" in Northern Ireland after a respite of several weeks.

The men, aged 17, 19 and 24, were found in an alley in West Belfast, where they had been "kneecapped," a spokesman said.

Early Monday, a 24-year-old Catholic had to have a leg amputated after a similar attack.

(AFP)

Mass Grave Found

ZAGREB, Croatia — War-crimes investigators have unearthed 68 bodies from a mass grave in the village of Lovas near Vukovar in Croatia's last Serb-held enclave, officials said Tuesday.

The exhumations were carried out last week by UN war-crimes investigators and Croatian officials. Officials say they believe the victims were Croat civilians executed in October 1991 during the war between Serbs and Croats. (AP)

Shooting in Bilbao

BILBAO, Spain — A man was shot in the head Tuesday in Bilbao in an apparent attack by ETA Basque separatist rebels, the police said.

The Basque police said three attackers approached Javier Perez, 40, while he was walking his dog and shot him. He was taken to a hospital where he is undergoing surgery, officials said. (Reuters)