From Associated Press reports

ROME — An Islamic mosque is rising in this seat of the Roman Catholic Church, something that would have been almost unthinkable a few decades ago.

Not just any mosque. It's a \$45 million complex capable of seating 2,000 and believed to be the biggest Islamic house of worship in all of Europe.

And in a historic gesture of Christian-Moslem tolerance, one of the first visitors to the mosque could be Pope John Paul II.

"We will invite him to our inauguration and I am almost positive he will come," says Abdul Qayyum Khan, director of the Islamic Cultural Center of Italy.

The ceremony is tentatively set for the spring. The Vatican says it is too early to say whether John Paul will attend, but stresses that he is dedicated to pursuing dialogue with Islam and other religions.

The project is about three-quarters finished.





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THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

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52 Song refrain

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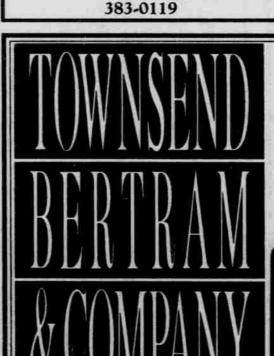
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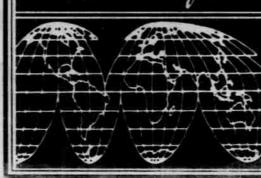
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