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Flood relief coming
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City beat Stripes 2-1
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Solidarity vigil

A vigil was held in Sliema last night in support of refugees as Europe tries to decide how to handle its migration crisis. Photo: Alan Carville » See page 3

Fiduciary services law is on the cards

Ivan Martin

It is time to have a new law covering fiduciary services, as the current legal framework is outdated, Economy Parliamentary Secretary José Herrera has said.

"I would not exclude a review of the laws in the near future. These need to reflect the reality facing the industry today," he told the *Times of Malta*.

Fiduciary services are offered by law firms or financial service professionals who take on the responsibility of managing assets on behalf of businesses. About 50,000 companies with foreign beneficiaries are registered in Malta through fiduciary schemes.

The fiduciary services industry was thrust into the national spotlight in August when the name of former prime minister Lawrence Gonzi's son, David, emerged in a money laundering probe by Italian investigators.

The investigation was part of a crackdown on the Calabrian Mafia, known as 'Ndrangheta, which was traced all the way to a betting company in Gzira.

The level of due diligence of clients carried out by fiduciary companies has been one of the major concerns raised.

Many have suggested that this is too lax and could jeopardise Malta's reputation in the financial services industry.

Dr Herrera said he had undertaken a review of the current

Continued on page 2 »

Migrant worker abuse must end, says Muscat

Kurt Sansone

Joseph Muscat has given the strongest signal yet that the government wants to end employers 'shopping' for migrant workers, evident daily at the Marsa roundabout.

The Prime Minister yesterday said employer exploitation of migrants looking for work had to stop. "I am hurt by the third world scene at the Marsa roundabout... I do not want to see those scenes," he told supporters in Sliema.

He was referring to the migrants who sit at roadside walls in Marsa waiting for prospective employers to give them work. Most are engaged illegally in temporary work in the construction industry.

The situation has often led to abuses, with migrants claiming they are paid a pittance, or nothing at all. However, Maltese workers com-

plain that employers prefer the cheap labour provided by migrants.

Dr Muscat said the government was evaluating its options and asked whether the time was ripe to regularise the process by making

"I am hurt by the third world scene at Marsa"

employers apply to engage migrants on a temporary basis. "Is it time to ensure migrants are paid the minimum wage? They are vulnerable workers and we have to defend them and in this way we will also be defending Maltese workers from exploitation by employers," he said.

Addressing the wider European issue, Dr Muscat said no wall could stop migration.

He was alluding to the four-metre-high fence erected by Hungary in a bid to stop thousands of migrants from entering the country.

The EU will hold an emergency summit this week as thousands of migrants, mostly Syrian refugees, pour into Europe.

"No wall will stop this phenomenon but it will simply lead to a shift in migration flows."

Describing the current situation as an "ugly period" for Europe, Dr Muscat said the EU needed a new system to deal with it.

Under current proposals to relocate migrants among all member states, Malta will take in 75 migrants from Italy and Greece.

But the number may have to become higher under new Brussels proposals, Dr Muscat added. "If that is the case we will take more."

Malta had to be at the forefront of solidarity on the migration issue, Dr Muscat stressed.



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International

**Russia for Assad**

Russia will continue with military supplies to Syria's government led by President Bashar al-Assad, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying yesterday. » Page 8

German border controls

Germany re-imposed border controls yesterday after Europe's most powerful nation admitted it could scarcely cope with thousands of asylum seekers arriving every day. » Page 9

**Clashes in Turkey**

Kurdish militants killed two police officers in a car bomb attack on a checkpoint in southeast Turkey yesterday, as authorities imposed a curfew in the city Diyarbakir where clashes broke out. » Page 11

Corbyn's UK Labour

Britain's Labour Party must unite behind new leader Jeremy Corbyn, his deputy said yesterday as he revealed his own differences with his new boss. » Page 13



Allan Shaw's handprint at Baystreet in St Julian's. The word 'Ohio' was carved by Mr Shaw himself, using a screwdriver. Photo: Mark Zammit Cordina

Ohio hero's ashes to be scattered in land he helped save

Sarah Carabott

The ashes of Allan Shaw will be scattered in Malta, more than 70 years since the *Ohio* war hero was cheered into the Grand Harbour by the starving and desperate Maltese.

The last of the heroes aboard the tanker that formed part of the Santa Maria Convoy, Mr Shaw passed away on Friday, aged 91.

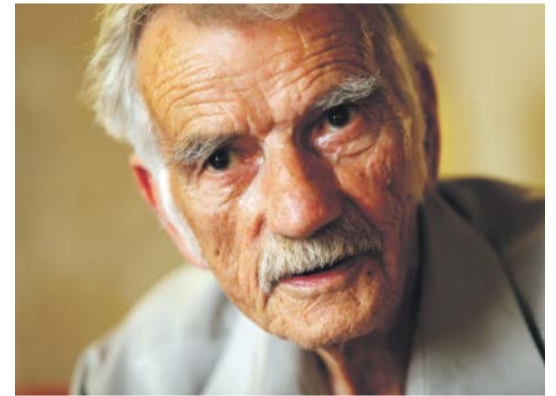
His son Pete told this newspaper that the funeral service will be held in Blyth, England, on October 13, and his ashes, along with those of his wife, will be brought to Malta. A date for the scattering has not yet been set.

“He had a mischievous sense of humour and a great love of life, and always referred to Malta as ‘The Warm Place’”

For Pete, his father was not only a father but a best friend and a humble, brave and courageous man till the end.

“He had a mischievous sense of humour and a great love of life and always referred to Malta as 'The Warm Place'. It always held a special place in his heart.

“Dad always kept his past on the *Ohio* very close to his chest, most of which only came to light because of his inclusion in the celebrations in Malta in 2002, thanks to Simon Cusens' dedication in finding those surviving veterans who took part in Operation Pedestal and bringing them together,” he said.



For his son Pete, Allan Shaw was not only a father but a best friend and a humble, brave and courageous man till the end. Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi

Mr Shaw was in fact one of more than 100 veterans who came to Malta to celebrate 60 years since the arrival of the convoy, after Mr Cusens tracked him down in 2001.

They had kept in touch, and the two last spoke over the phone on August 15 - 73 years to the date since the battered tanker made it to Malta. Mr Cusens will be attending the funeral service next month.

Mr Shaw made many friends during his visits to Malta between 2002 and 2012, and the *Times of Malta* online portal was flooded with messages of condolence when news broke of his death.

“A part of dad will always be in Malta, as will a piece of all of us lucky enough to have experienced the love, warmth and generosity of the Maltese people, being myself, my older brother Michael, sister Patricia and sister-in-law Anne. It all gave dad a new lease of life and for that we will be eternally grateful,” Pete Allan added.

Alternattiva's suggestion considered 'a step too far'

« Continued from page 1

system when the mafia probe was first announced.

One of the main areas that may be subject to change is the liability of local professionals offering these services.

Dr Herrera said the Trustees Act and the Companies Act laid out who could offer fiduciary services and how these people

should conduct themselves. However, there was no breakdown of what obligations these professionals had to the State.

“We only have a mention of their obligation in the Criminal Code and this is limited to their clients and not the public. This needs to change,” he said.

Alternattiva Demokratika even suggested ditching fiduciary services legislation, claiming it was a

means through which foreign companies could evade tax, or worse, that it could provide a stepping stone for an invasion by organised crime.

Dr Herrera, however, said this was a step too far.

“What do you mean, do away with the fiduciary services? That would be devastating to our financial services industry,” he said.

National

Lighting candles in solidarity on the Sliema front. Photo: Alan Carville



"We come on a broken boat, not knowing what to expect and what will happen to us"

'Let us open our hearts and borders to refugees'

International vigils call on the EU to provide legal, safe ways to seek refuge

Kim Dalli

A candlelight gathering was held on the Sliema seafront yesterday evening in solidarity with refugees forced to flee their homes to save themselves and their loved ones.

Wedeb Desira, a half-Eritrean, half-Ethiopian former refugee who is now a Maltese citizen, told this newspaper that she wished she could thank each and every person for showing their support and solidarity.

The peaceful event was part of an international call for action in

favour of refugees, with similar events being held in 27 European countries, the US and Australia, propelled by the slogan #RefugeesWelcome.

"It means so much to me," said the 29-year-old Ms Desira. "I wish to see a greater sense of understanding of what refugees go through - it is not about people coming to take the locals' jobs."

I experienced this at a young age. We come on a broken boat, not knowing what to expect and what will happen to us. You only do that when you are left with no choice."

The full horror of the human tragedy unfolding on Europe's doorstep was brought home by images of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy whose lifeless body washed up on Turkey's shores earlier this month.

His death galvanised public opinion and put pressure on European governments - who are to meet today - to tackle the crisis.

The biggest mass migration since World War II has divided Europe, with Germany pushing for compulsory quotas within the EU but eastern European nations snubbing the proposal.

One of the gathering's organisers, Erika Borg, said the message was that refugees were welcome in Malta and she called upon EU member states to live up to their international obligations and to provide legal, safe and dignified ways of seeking refuge.

Another one of the organisers, Maria Pisani, said that for more than a decade, people have watched an immigration system that made no sense slowly implode: "People have looked on as the fortification of the external borders of the EU contributed to the needless deaths of thou-

sands of refugees and other forced migrants. The message is one of solidarity with persecuted people, people who have lost their lives and their families."

"We will reach out. Let us open our hearts and open our borders and reach out to them. If we can't do this, what do we stand for as humans?" Dr Pisani said.

The International Organisation for Migration has said more than 430,000 people had crossed the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year, with 2,748 dying or going missing en route.

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BOV U-turn on performance bonuses

Ivan Camilleri

BOV has reversed its controversial decision to halt payments of its employees' performance bonus for last year and has instructed its managers to make a correction, the *Times of Malta* is informed.

In an internal letter to employees, outgoing CEO Charles Borg said that following a review of the situation, "the bank has directed management to rectify any anomalies that may have been created".

The bank has told employees it will give them a further extension, the third, until the middle of this month, so that all work related to the performance appraisals for last year can be concluded. "Following the closure of the exercise, the bank would be

"The bank will be in a position to pay out any differences to employees whose 2014 performance exceeds their preceding three-year average"

in a position to pay out any differences to employees whose actual 2014 performance exceeds their preceding three-year average," Mr Borg wrote.

"I also confirm that where it results that an employee would have scored lower than the average score used for the calculation basis, no deductions will be made."

The bank's reversal of its unpopular stance follows reports by this newspaper of an upheaval among BOV employees over the unprecedented move.

The issue goes back to last December, when the usual yearly appraisals for each employee's performance targets should have been ready but were not.

In the absence of a collective agreement, the bank issued a unilateral decision to grant a one-time ex gratia bonus to all employees in recognition of their efforts throughout the year.

The bonus was calculated on the average of the previous three-year performance appraisals and came with the proviso that

adjustments would be made for those employees who achieved a better actual score in 2014 than the average score used to calculate the bonus paid out in December.

However, to the surprise of employees, many of whom were expecting a top-up, the bank last month failed to honour its promise and decided that no additional bonuses would be paid irrespective of the scores in the individual appraisals.

A flood of complaints followed, with the unions insisting that the bank must correct this anomaly. Following further discussions, the BOV management has now conceded that it made a mistake.

According to Mr Borg, there are still 79 appraisals to be concluded and he urged all those involved not to surpass the September 15 deadline.

National

PN backs GRTU call to drop energy prices

Kim Dalli

The Opposition fully supports the GRTU's call for a 30 per cent reduction in electricity rates to reflect the drop in oil prices, Nationalist Party leader Simon Busuttil said yesterday.

Speaking on Radio 101, Dr Busuttil pointed out that the price of oil had dropped to a third of what it was under the previous administration. He now expected to see a resultant drop in electricity, petrol and diesel prices.

The Chamber of Small and Medium Enterprises, or GRTU, was joined by the Chamber of Commerce in demanding further reductions in businesses' energy bills. The organisations said that, for years, Malta had to shoulder hefty electricity prices due to the international price of oil.



Simon Busuttil advocating a 30 per cent drop in electricity prices on Radio 101. Photo: Nationalist Party

“It squandered so much money on Café Premier and Gaffarena, why not prioritise the police force?”

But now that the price has fallen to \$40 a barrel, combined with savings through the efficient BWSC operation and the interconnector, a corresponding reduction in energy bills was expected.

Turning to the scandal leading to the arraignment of the former treasurer of the Labour Party, Joe

Sammut, Dr Busuttil reiterated his call for an independent, public inquiry into the 14,000 residence permits dished out to non-EU citizens last year.

If the government had nothing to hide, it would not shy away from ordering a public inquiry into how many visas and residence permits were issued irregularly. Mr Sammut did not operate alone but had the support of people in different institutions, he said, adding that a refusal to order a public inquiry was tantamount to institutionalised corruption.

Asked by his interviewer whether the arrest of five Eastern Europeans suspected of a string of

robberies had quelled people's concerns about the police, Dr Busuttil said the police force has been suffering from declining trust ever since 2013. It had seen no less than four police commissioners appointed during that time.

People should feel protected by the police but were instead they were questioning their motives. The problem, he hastened to add, was not the police themselves but one of political interference, as the Prime Minister was responsible for selecting the commissioners.

Thanking the mayors, he said the localities of Swieqi, Sliema, San Ġwann, St Julian's and St Paul's Bay remained sensitive localities

plagued by theft and a general sense of lawlessness, including loud noise lasting into the night. “The police should do more and the government should increase the police's resources. It squandered so much money on Café Premier and on Gaffarena, why not prioritise the police force?”

Reacting, the Labour Party said that before the election, Dr Busuttil had claimed water and electricity tariffs could not be reduced and that the idea was “Alice in Wonderland”. The government had a credible energy plan for families and businesses to benefit from cheaper prices of petrol, diesel and gas, it said.

PM: Opposition is rudderless

Kurt Sansone

Joseph Muscat harbours little hope the Nationalist Party will take a stand on changes to the in-vitro fertilisation law, insisting the Opposition lacks direction.

Government is in the process of drafting changes to the IVF law, which could include egg and sperm donation and the freezing of embryos.

The ethically contentious issues have sparked criticism from various quarters, with Opposition leader Simon Busuttil calling for wider consultation.

But when addressing supporters at the Sliema Labour Party club yesterday, the Prime Minister insisted the Opposition leader had no position on the matter.

“The Opposition leader is lamenting about consultation but he has failed to realise there was a consultation process that closed last month... Let us see if the Opposition will do as it did with the Civil Unions law and abstain,” Dr Muscat said.

He then criticised the abstention by PN MEPs on a European Parliament report that urged age-appro-

priate sex education in schools. “These are supposed to be the brightest sparks in the lot but they abstained on the excuse that sex education was an issue that should be determined by the individual countries and not the EU,” Dr Muscat said.

He accused the PN MEPs of not being consistent, since on the citizenship scheme they had wanted the EU to interfere.

“These are supposed to be the brightest sparks in the lot”

This was the result of the PN's lack of direction, he added. “On the other hand we [the Labour Party] are a movement with a progressive direction.”

Dr Muscat reiterated criticism the PN was being negative at every turn and insisted the country was experiencing a sense of optimism.

The economy was growing well above the EU average, unemployment was at historically lows and more people were entering the job



Joseph Muscat speaking in Sliema yesterday. Photo: Labour Party

market, he said. Taking a leaf from the request made by the Chamber for Small and Medium Enterprises, or GRTU, for a reduction in electricity tariffs by an additional 30 per cent, Dr Muscat said the government had to be responsible.

“We honoured our pledge to cut tariffs by 25 per cent... Our policy is to seek long-term stability,” he said. It was the same argument the PM used to justify the current

price of petrol and diesel, which has remained unchanged since April despite falling oil prices.

“We take the long-term view and every time we spoke about fuel it was to reduce the price,” Dr Muscat said.

He acknowledged still more had to be done to end precarious employment and ensure pensioners and low-income earners also benefited from economic success.

Six knifed in Paceville

A Libyan man allegedly knifed six people during an argument in Paceville in the early hours of yesterday, leaving an 18-year-old Dutchman in critical condition.

The 20-year-old was caught by the police soon after escaping from St George's Street at around 4am.

Sources said the 18-year-old Dutchman suffered life-threatening injuries to his torso. The other five victims sustained grievous injuries.

They were two 19-year-old Dutchmen, two Libyan men, aged 31 and 38, and a 29-year-old Maltese man from Kirkop. While some claimed on social media that the Libyan man had injured 25 people after going on a rampage, the police insisted only seven people, including the aggressor, were injured.

Duty magistrate Aaron Bugeja is conducting an inquiry, while police investigations are ongoing.

Swimmer critical

A 23-year-old Turkish man was in a critical condition yesterday after finding himself in difficulty while swimming at the Blue Lagoon.

The police said the man's friend noticed he had lost consciousness. He was given first aid by an emergency team and was then taken to the Gozo hospital. An inquiry is being held.

Man badly hurt in fall

A 41-year-old Frenchman is in a critical condition after falling from a height of around one storey in Rabat.

The police said the incident happened at a private residence in Francesco Azzopardi Street at 1.30am yesterday.

Police investigations to establish what caused the fall were under way. A magisterial inquiry is being held.

Rockestra's tent success

Over 11,000 people rocked to the music under the tent at Ta' Qali for the annual charity concert Rockestra.

Saturday was the seventh edition of the concert, organised by the Community Chest Fund, a philanthropic organisation run by the President's office, and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

This year's main attraction was veteran rock singer Marc Storage. The concert featured other top Maltese musicians.

The national orchestra played under the musical direction of Sigmund Mifsud, while Rockestra was under the artistic direction of Paul Borg Bonaci.

National



The impressive underground tunnel in Ta' Xbiex whose diameter measures 6.5 metres. Inset: The tunnel's outfall in Ta' Xbiex. Photos: Chris Sant Fournier

Birkirkara, Msida to get flood relief by November

Keith Micallef

Residents' long wait to be rid of floods in Birkirkara, Msida and nearby areas is almost over, with the ambitious project aimed at solving this perennial problem set to be completed by the end of November.

The complex network of underground tunnels stretching 11 kilometres will be able to handle up to 40 millimetres of rain in an hour, which will be channelled into the sea at Ta' Xbiex. This kind of downpour is normally experienced once every five years.

However, some of the excess water will be pumped back to a reservoir in Gżira as part of a plan to replenish the water table.

Project leader Carm Mifsud Borg briefed the *Times of Malta* on the works left to be done in this major component of the EU-funded National Flood Relief project, which covers 12 localities in all. This part costs €28 million of the €52 million being spent on the whole project.

By the end of this month, Valley Road in Birkirkara and Msida - notorious for torrents of water strong enough to sweep vehicles away - will be connected to the rest of the flood-relief system.

The end of November should see the completion of similar works all the way up to Wied Inċita in Attard and the area near the Lija cemetery.

Apart from these areas, the flood-relief project also has three other independent components. The one in Żebbuġ was completed last July, the Marsascala component is due to be inaugurated soon and that in Qormi has already been operational for a year.

Excavations started in 2012 in Attard and were completed this time last year, when the boring machine broke through the other end of the tunnel at Ta' Xbiex.

The original plan was to transport the debris by sea but it was eventually scrapped. Instead the excavated material was loaded



The project is set to alleviate the heavy flooding at Valley Road in Msida.

on to trucks and transported all the way up to Attard via the tunnel itself, to minimise the impact on traffic.

For the past year the project was hampered by the porous Ta' Xbiex rock, which needed special concrete reinforcement injected from the surface.

Another obstacle was seepage from the sewerage system in Lija.

"In addition, we obtained new funds to expand the final 1.3 kilometres of the tunnel at Ta' Xbiex in case the project would need to be further expanded," Mr Mifsud Borg said.

"This part of the underground complex is similar in size to the St Venera bypass tunnels, with a diameter of 6.5 metres.

"Though it may seem impressive, its full capacity of 30,000 cubic metres is almost insignificant when compared to the deluge which big storms bring about," he pointed out. Once operational, the system will require regular maintenance to its filtration system, designed to prevent contaminants like oil from being flushed into the sea and possibly into the water table.

"The worst enemy are plastic containers, but the system is designed to cater for any

blockage in one of the various gratings spread out along the network," he said.

Though the final part of the underground water course is seven metres below sea level, the tunnel was designed in such a way as to siphon out its contents into the sea.

The remaining works before the project's inauguration include the exterior finishing of the outfall and the closure of a nearby temporary access in Ta' Xbiex. Meanwhile, residents who have for years watched helplessly as their streets became raging rivers are keeping their fingers crossed that no major storms will hit before the project is completed.

National



Students from the Malta campus of Middlesex University at their graduation ceremony, which was held last Friday.

Middlesex University eyes Malta expansion



Middlesex University's vice-chancellor, Prof. Tim Blackman

Keith Micallef

Buoyed by the success achieved after just two years in Malta, Middlesex University is planning to expand its presence here by rolling out more courses and increasing its student population.

The vice-chancellor, Tim Blackman, was in Malta last Friday for the university's first-ever graduation ceremony since opening its Pembroke campus in 2013. Just three out of the 65 graduates were not Maltese.

At the moment, the university is offering four undergraduate and two post-graduate programmes but will be adding more courses next year.

"We are not looking for a massive expansion of thousands of students, as our foremost priority is quality. I would say our plan is to increase our intake by several hundreds," Prof. Blackman said.

"We are not looking for a massive expansion of thousands of students, as our foremost priority is quality"

In preparation for this step, the university is investing in more interactive teaching aids and better video-conferencing facilities for closer collaboration with its central campus in London.

At present there are about 200 students taking the various courses being offered by the Faculty of Science and Technology and the Business School.

Prof. Blackman heaped praise on the academic level of Maltese students. He pointed out that the proportion of first-class honours degrees obtained in Malta was double that in London.

"But why do Maltese students decide to pay from their pocket to follow these courses when they have the option of studying for free at the University of Malta?" this newspaper asked.

Prof. Blackman was quick to point out that Maltese students were nowadays able to afford the tuition fees thanks to government scholarships.

"A major attraction is that we offer a British degree, and we strive to ensure that the curricular standard is the same as in London," he said.

All the courses offered from the Pembroke campus were scrutinised through high-level quality assurance

procedures. Feedback was also sought from other universities to ensure parity of standards, he said.

"Once the programme is under way, there are regular reviews, student-satisfaction surveys and every number of years we are inspected by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education."

In addition, students' projects are also vetted by external examiners from other universities.

"This is part of the hallmark of British quality in tertiary education," Middlesex University associate director Lesley Marks said.

She stressed that their presence here was not meant to compete but complement the University of Malta or any other future tertiary institution like the American University of Malta.

"All the competition in the world is welcome," she said.

In the UK, Middlesex University has a student population of 24,000 but is also present in Mauritius, Dubai and most recently in Malta.

Malta's thriving financial services sector and the government's drive in favour of the IT industry were the major reasons it decided to venture here.

Two years down the line, 95 per cent of its students were able to find a job straight after completing their studies.

"The content we are offering is in synergy with the Maltese economy. We are interested to grow in those areas which provide graduates with direct routes to employment" Ms Marks said.

Commenting on their experience so far, Prof. Blackman remarked that Malta was very particular, as most of the teaching staff were not full-time academics but actively involved in industry.

"In this respect, this is quite a unique situation and in London we can learn a lot from this model, as it gives a more hands-on approach to teaching."

During their studies students are expected to give presentations, liaise with employers and bring the solutions back to the classroom. In March they will be competing for the best robot made from scrap material they gather from a landfill.

Some of the devices constructed by Middlesex undergraduate students last year were showcased on the highly popular television series *Gadgets*.

As for the future, apart from further expansion, the university aims to attract more foreign students.

"We would like more students from our London campus to come over and maybe spend a year in Malta: it would widen their perspective and contribute to a more cosmopolitan mix," Prof. Blackman said.

On the dot



Landfill in the making

The abandoned Fort Benghisa is turning into a dumping ground where people dispose of all kinds of waste. Someone even disposed of construction material at the fortification. Complaints to Mepa have fallen on deaf ears. Can the authorities tackle this before the problem escalates?

Moon surface road

The road leading to Homemate at the Mriehel industrial estate is in dire need of a good resurfacing job. The street is laden with potholes, leading to an uncomfortable ride and damage being caused to vehicles. The road is not only used by those visiting the popular outlet but also the government's bring-in site, as well as other popular businesses.



Safety hazard

Workers carrying out plastering work at Luigi Onofrio Street in Swatar have not been taking any safety precautions while working. Those working in the balconies are risking life and limb by working without any harnesses. The balconies and roof have no railings either. Why is the safety of such workers only given priority after someone gets hurt?

Dirty parking

Commercial vehicles belonging to two outlets in St Paul's Street in Naxxar are on a daily basis taking up all the parking spots in the area. This has been brought to the attention of both the local council and the police, however the situation has remained unchanged. Recently, another issue cropped up, as caravans for sale have started to appear and are being parked there indefinitely. Is this legal? Can the authorities involved do something about this situation?

Office chaos

What should have been a quick document drop-off at Transport Malta for one driver took well over an hour, as customer service halls there are a complete mess. The information desk at hall B is useless, as nobody is available to offer help. A ticket system is in place to control queues but this is not being enforced. Chaos ensues when customers walk straight up to the front of the lines. To make matters worse, clerks take their time with every case, often spending over 15 minutes on each one. Transport Malta needs to sort this out as soon as possible.



Illegal dumping

Why do people still resort to illegal dumping when there are free sites, such as the bring-in sites, where people could easily dump their unwanted items free of charge?

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Mickey Mouse gas mask and other stories of war

Sarah Carabott

The hulking table upon which Malta was signed off to the British by the French is on display for the first time, in the new National War Museum at the restored fort St Elmo.

The table has been stored in different places, including the Museums' Department and the Malta Maritime Museum, but is now a centrepiece in a section of the new museum.

"This table was used when the French surrendered to the British. Although it was the Maltese who revolted against the French, the locals were considered rebels. The armistice document was signed on this table," curator Charles Debono explained.

Behind him, a stark white crucifix hangs behind a glass pane. It was carved from a piece of bone by a French prisoner of war.

This is not the only souvenir by prisoners of war at the new museum, housed in a fort that lived through a siege and two world wars. One particular section, which trails the events between 1943 and 1945, includes a cabinet lined with souvenirs, such as jewel boxes and handbags, which prisoners crafted out of plane Perspex, stone and wood to earn some money.

Some 2,500 German prisoners of war were brought to the island to help with the reconstruction of buildings, Mr Debono said.

"The sleek museum, housed at the Upper Fort St Elmo in barracks built by the Knights and the British, trails events from as early as the Bronze Age to modern times"

The sleek museum, housed at the Upper Fort St Elmo in barracks built by the Knights and the British, trails events from as early as the Bronze Age to modern times, as Malta - and its culture - changed when powers fell and new ones rose.

The display includes what could have been the very first weapons - copper daggers. They date from a time before the first

fortification wall was built in Borg in-Nadur, a wall which in itself stands testament to the fear of attacks 4,500 years ago.

The museum opened its doors this year following three years of research, and work is still ongoing in some sections. The exhibited items used to be stored at the Armoury, the Inquisitor's Palace and the Archaeology, War and Fine Arts museums.

As visitors make their way from room to room, they are greeted with sounds of battle that set the scene for tales of military action explained in pictorial placards lining the wall of the fort.

Prominence has been given to the complex power struggle in the Mediterranean and Europe between Christians and Muslims that led to the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.

To depict this battle 450 years ago, Matteo Perez d'Aleccio's frescos at the President's Palace in Valletta have been brought to life on a large screen, back-to-back with another interactive screen where visitors can learn more about the Siege's protagonists.

These are two of the several audio-visual shows at the museum. Another one shows the movement of the Great Siege across the island, starting from the landing of the Ottomans at Mgarr after they were spotted off Delimara in May of 1565.

Another important part of the museum hosts two halls dedicated to Malta's roles in the First and Second World Wars and the period in between.

This section includes memorabilia that used to be housed at the former National War Museum, which until September of last year was located in another part of the fort.

Apart from the George Cross awarded for gallantry during World War II and the pre-Independence Maltese flag, this section hosts Faith, one of the three famous Gloster Sea Gladiators used in the defence of the island at the start of the war.

There is also Franklin Roosevelt's Jeep, Husky, which the American president rode during his visit here.

An interesting exhibit shows two German mother crosses awarded on 1939's Mothering Sunday. They were gifted by the German government, depending on how many children a woman brought up. A mother of six children or fewer was given a silver cross, while a woman who gave birth to eight was awarded a gold First Class Mother's Cross.

The trip through Malta's military past concludes with a walk along a real-life timeline that highlights events from the post-war rebuilding of Malta up to its accession to the EU.



The armistice document handing Malta to the French was signed on this table. Photos: Matthew Mirabelli



The Mickey Mouse gas mask was designed for children during the war so they would not scare each other.



The Husky, used by Supreme Commander General Dwight Eisenhower and later by US President Franklin Roosevelt on his trip to Malta after the Second World War. Hanging above it is the pre-Independence Maltese flag.



Visitors stand in front of the two Trench Mortars given to Malta as war trophies following the First World War.



Faith, the Gloster Sea Gladiator N5520, is on display at the new Military History Museum.



The newly restored Fort St Elmo is hosting Malta's military history dating back 4,500 years.

International

'Moscow will continue military support of Syria'

Russia will continue with military supplies to Syria, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies yesterday.

Moscow has come under increased international pressure in recent days over what Washington and Gulf states say is a Russian military build-up in Syria, where the Kremlin has been supporting President Bashar al-Assad in a four-and-a-half-year war.

"All these crises arise from systemic problems regarding attempts to freeze process of forming polycentric world"

"There were military supplies, they are ongoing and they will continue. They are inevitably accompanied by Russian specialists, who help to adjust the equipment, to train Syrian personnel how to use these weaponry," Lavrov said.

Lavrov also said that Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is travelling to New York for the UN General Assembly meeting later this month, plans to address the assembly on the topics of Syria, the conflict in Ukraine, the state of the global economy and sanctions against Russia.

"He [Putin] will touch specific aspects, such as Syria, the Ukraine crisis. All these crises arise from systemic problems regarding attempts to freeze the process of forming

polycentric world," Lavrov said. The US and its allies oppose Assad, whose government has been fighting an array of insurgent groups, including hardline Sunni Islamist militants, Islamic State. A US-led coalition is conducting air strikes on Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

Moscow says its military assistance to the Syrian army is in line with international law and that Russian servicemen, including military experts, have been present inside Syria for many years, including before the start of the war.

The Syrian civil war in which around 250,000 people have died has caused nearly half Syria's pre-war 23 million strong population to flee, with many thousands attempting to reach Europe.

Russia is under Western sanctions due to its role in a conflict in Ukraine between pro-Russian rebels and Ukrainian forces.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Putin granted Russian citizenship to Roy Jones Junior, a prominent US professional boxer who had asked for it last month when he met Putin in the disputed region of Crimea.

The move is the latest example of the Kremlin publicising cases of prominent Westerners who praise Russia or offer symbolic support for Putin's policies, at a time when Putin is at odds with Western governments over the Ukraine crisis.

A short presidential decree on the Kremlin website said Jones' request had been granted under an article of the constitution giving the president power to solve questions of Russian citizenship. Jones, a former Olympic silver medalist and winner of multiple world championship



Vladimir Putin (right) and former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (second from left) on a visit to the Bakhchisarai Historical Cultural and Archaeological Museum-Preserve in Crimea. Photo: Reuters

titles, met Putin in August in Crimea, the region that Russia annexed from Ukraine last year, where Jones appeared as a guest on a boxing television show.

In televised comments, the boxer told Putin that a Russian passport would make it easier for him to travel to Russia and that he hoped he could "build a bridge" between Russia and

the US. Jones is not the first Russophile Western celebrity to have been granted citizenship by Putin.

French actor Gerard Depardieu made headlines in 2013 when he became a Russian citizen in similar fashion. Depardieu has often praised Putin, including his policies in Crimea, as a result of which he has been banned from travelling to

Ukraine. Putin was in Crimea again on Saturday to meet his old friend Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister, who has also often defended Putin's policies.

In July, Italian newspaper La Stampa quoted Berlusconi as saying that Putin had offered him Russian citizenship and wanted to make him economy minister. (Reuters)

Jailed Kentucky clerk appeals over stance on gay marriage



Protester holding placards and singing gospels in support of jailed county clerk Kim Davis outside the Rowan County Judicial Center in Morehead, Kentucky. Photo: Reuters

The county clerk from Kentucky who was jailed after refusing to issue marriage licences to gay couples yesterday asked an appeals court to let her continue her stand until a lawsuit against her is decided.

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis, due back at work today after six days behind bars, has said her beliefs as an Apostolic Christian prevent her from issuing marriage licences to same-sex couples and her attorneys have said the 49-year-old woman will not violate her conscience when she returns to work. In her absence, deputy clerks have been issuing licenses and have said they would continue to do so.

Davis was jailed when she refused to comply with US District Judge David Bunning's order to issue licences. He ordered her released when the deputy clerks began issuing the licences.

In a motion filed with the Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals, Davis' attorneys asked that she be allowed to continue banning marriage licences for her entire office until the case is settled.

Davis' attorneys argued that Bunning's initial order had only covered couples who were suing her. They said he violated her right to due process during her appeal when he expanded his initial injunction to include any couple legally eligible to marry, the filing says. She should thus be allowed to continue her ban now that the couples covered under the first order have been issued licences, the attorneys argue.

In a separate filing, her attorneys said "this case would be over" if the governor, using the same authority that allowed him to change the certificates to be gender neutral, would simply remove her name from the documents.

Bunning warned Davis in his release order that there would be consequences if she interfered with the issuance of marriage licences when she returned to work. A deputy clerk has said he will continue to issue licences.

Last Tuesday, Davis walked out of the Carter County Detention Centre to a roaring crowd. Her supporters continued protests last week after her release, demanding the firing of any deputy clerks who provide marriage licences without Davis's permission.

Her attorneys have said marriage certificates issued without her authority have been void.

The issuance of marriage licences to same-sex couples in Kentucky and other states has become the latest focal point in the long-running debate over gay marriage that has continued even after a US Supreme Court ruling in June allowed the practice nationwide. (Reuters)

International



Railway officials secure the railtracks as migrants sit on the platform, waiting for a train at Vienna west railway station, Austria, yesterday. Photo: Reuters

Germany imposes border controls to slow migrants

Germany re-imposed border controls yesterday after Europe's most powerful nation acknowledged it could scarcely cope with thousands of asylum seekers arriving every day.

Berlin announced the measure would be taken first on the southern frontier with Austria, where migrant arrivals have soared since Chancellor Angela Merkel effectively opened German borders to refugees a week ago. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere added that this was also necessary for security reasons.

“Quotas don't make any sense and don't solve the crisis in any way”

Berlin took the step a day before EU interior ministers hold an emergency meeting to discuss spreading asylum seekers around the 28-nation bloc. A European Commission proposal that each country should accept refugees under a system of compulsory quotas is meeting strong resistance from some countries, especially in central Europe. Slovakia said yesterday it would try to block the plan.

Germany, Europe's largest and richest economy, has become a magnet for many people fleeing war and poverty in Syria and other parts of the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Police said around 13,000 migrants arrived in Munich alone on Saturday, and another 3,000 arrived

yesterday morning. Now Germany has joined the list of smaller and poorer countries such as Greece and Hungary that are struggling to manage the huge flow of desperate people.

The European Commission said Germany appeared legally justified in reimposing border controls, which have been removed in recent decades across much of the continent, and urged action at today's meeting in Brussels.

“The German decision of today underlines the urgency to agree on the measures proposed by the European Commission in order to manage the refugee crisis,” it said.

Central European countries, however, reject the idea of compulsory quotas. Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said yesterday, “We are helping, we are ready to help, but on a voluntary basis. The quotas won't work.”

In neighbouring Slovakia, Interior Minister Robert Kalinak said he had a mandate from the government and Parliament to try to block quotas. “They don't make any sense and don't solve the crisis in any way,” he said in a TV interview.

Germany has halted train traffic from Austria, a spokeswoman for Austrian rail company OeBB said yesterday.

Meanwhile amid political bickering among European governments, the crisis claimed yet more lives – 28 migrants drowned off a Greek island yesterday when their boat sank.

The Greek coastguard said the migrants drowned off the island of Farmakonisi.

In the space of 90 minutes, a Reuters photographer saw 10 dinghies packed with refugees arriving from Turkey on the Greek island of Lesbos, just as caretaker

Prime Minister Vasiliki Thanou was calling for a comprehensive EU policy to deal with the crisis.

Further up the refugee route, 8,500 migrants entered Macedonia from Greece between Saturday evening and yesterday afternoon, the UN refugee agency said.

Earlier, Berlin made clear it needed help from EU partners. “It's true: the European lack of action in the refugee crisis is now pushing even Germany to the limit of

its ability,” Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who is also vice-chancellor, told the website of *Der Tagesspiegel*.

Most asylum seekers are refusing to stay in the poorer southern European countries where they arrive, such as Greece, and are instead making their way to Germany or Sweden where they anticipate a warmer welcome. In fact, many Germans have been greeting the migrants with cheers. (Reuters)



A Syrian refugee holding a baby in a lifetube swims towards the shore after their dinghy deflated some 100m off the Greek island of Lesbos, yesterday. Photo: Reuters

Refugees cannot choose where to live – Berlin

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said refugees streaming into Europe should not be able to choose where to settle, as authorities said thousands more were on the move across the continent yesterday.

In an interview with German newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel*, de Maiziere said refugees given protection in Europe should accept that they will be distributed across the bloc.

“We can't allow refugees to freely choose where they want to stay – that's not the case anywhere in the world,” he said.

“It also can't be our duty to pay benefits laid out in German law to refugees who have been allocated to one EU country and then come to Germany anyway,” he added.

Interior ministers from the EU's 28 member states are meeting in Brussels today to discuss proposals from the EU's executive Commission to redistribute about 160,000 asylum seekers across the bloc. Tensions are rising in Germany, where states have complained about the growing burden of coping with Europe's worst refugee crisis in decades.

German EU Commissioner Guenter Oettinger told newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* that Germany should reduce ben-

efits for asylum seekers to reduce the numbers coming across its borders.

“Payments to asylum seekers in Germany need to be adjusted so that there is a certain rapprochement to the payments in other EU countries,” he said.

“Germany should reduce benefits for asylum seekers”

“We need a certain harmonisation of the cash benefits for asylum seekers in Europe because if the difference within the EU, it could create the wrong incentives,” he added.

German national rail operator Deutsche Bahn is reserving one long-distance train from Munich to Berlin on Sunday for asylum seekers, Christoph Hillenbrand, senior administrator of the Upper Bavaria district around Munich, said.

From today several hundred seats will be reserved for refugees on several regular train services from the Bavarian

capital, he said, adding that there would also be special train services to North Rhine-Westphalia and northern Germany on Monday to free up some emergency accommodation in Munich. Since Aug. 31 around 63,000 refugees have arrived in Munich and Hillenbrand said the city could not continue taking in such numbers. Around 1,400 refugees arrived yesterday morning.

“It's not feasible for us to take in the equivalent of a small town's population every day. It's simply not doable logistically anymore,” he said. While a new tent city was set up to accommodate several thousand overnight, several dozen spent the night in sleeping bags at the station.

De Maiziere said Germany, which has, since last weekend been temporarily ignoring European rules that state migrants must register for asylum in the first EU country where they arrive, needed to quickly return to “orderly procedures”.

But he said Germany needed to prepare itself to deal with “a very high number” of refugees in the long-term. Some are pretending to be Syrian in the hope of getting asylum, he said. (Reuters)

International



An explosion is seen after a Saudi-led air strike hit the weapons depots at a Houthi-controlled military base in Yemen's capital Sanaa yesterday. Photos: Reuters

Exiled government of Yemen pulls out of UN peace talks

Yemen's exiled government pulled out of UN-mediated peace talks with its Houthi adversaries yesterday as troops from the Saudi-led coalition that is seeking to restore it took part in ground fighting in a central province for the first time.

The moves push back the prospects of a peaceful resolution to the conflict that has developed into a proxy war reflecting Saudi and Iranian rivalry for regional influence.

Loyalists of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi have been battling the Iran-allied Houthis across Yemen since March, when the group forced him and his administration to flee to Saudi Arabia.

A mainly Gulf Arab alliance intervened in the conflict, mounting hundreds of air strikes and backing ground forces they hope will seize the capital Sanaa, which the Houthis seized in September 2014.

The exiled government's official news agency Saba said it would not join the UN mediated peace talks until the Houthis accepted an April UN Security Council resolution calling on them to recognise Hadi and quit Yemen's main cities.

"The gathering affirmed it would not take part in any meeting until the Houthi coup militia recognise international resolution 2216 and accepts to implement it unconditionally," a statement carried by Saba said.

It said the meeting included President Hadi, his vice president and advisors.

The conflict now appears set to intensify as thousands of coalition troops have been deployed to

the central desert province of Marib. The force includes troops from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and there are unconfirmed reports that Bahraini and Egyptian troops are present.

A local Yemeni official in Marib said foreign units had for the first time joined ground fighting alongside pro-Hadi fighters in the area yesterday, sending around 10 tanks and armoured vehicles to the frontline.

The Saudi-led alliance has stepped up air strikes on the capital and other Houthi-held areas since a Houthi missile killed more than 60 Gulf Arab troops stationed in Marib on September 4.

The raids killed at least 16 civilians nationwide on Saturday, medics said, in the latest mass casualties which have led rights groups to say that the campaign may be committing war crimes.

Peace talks in June failed to end the fighting, which has brought the country to the brink of famine, killed more than 4,500 people and led to a security vacuum that has strengthened Al Qaeda's Yemen branch.

On Saturday night, a suspected US drone strike killed at least five al Qaeda fighters gathered inside a military base outside the eastern coastal city of Mukalla, local security officials said.

The group has partly controlled Mukalla since the army withdrew from the area in April.

A mid-level commander in the organisation, Othman al-Sanaani, was killed in the strike, the sources said. (Reuters)



Houthi followers hold up their weapons as they demonstrate against Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen's capital Sanaa.

World briefs

Fans to fork out for goalie's gums

Football fans have been asked to dig deep to put a smile back on the face of a non-league goalkeeper who lost four teeth on the pitch.

Halesowen Town goalie Daniel Platt, 23, clashed heads with Tivendale striker Joel Ayetti during a game on August 8 - with Platt leaving the pitch with a broken jaw causing his teeth to fall out by the roots.

The club, who play in the Northern Premier League, did not have sports injury insurance to cover the dental work, so Platt has been left with a £6,000 bill to pay for the reconstruction of his four teeth. (PA)

Queen returns gift to sender

A royal enthusiast who sent the Queen a £50 note was delighted to find she had written back and thanked him - and returned the money.

David Vaz, 43, wanted to express his gratitude to Britain's longest reigning monarch by sending her a £50 note and a letter encouraging her to "treat herself to her favourite cup of tea", BT News reports.

But rather than spending the money on a cup of the finest Darjeeling, the Queen - who is estimated to have a £300 million fortune - refused to accept the cash and sent Vaz a reply thanking him for the gift and saying that she was "deeply moved" by the gesture.

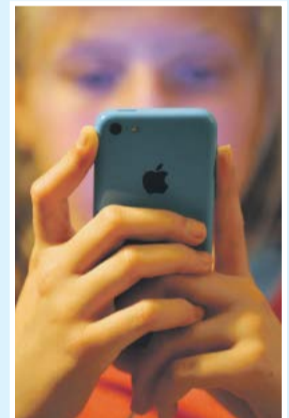
Vaz, who works as a controller at A1 Minicab in Romford, north-east London, said: "I wrote to congratulate her and to use the money to treat herself to a cup of tea or something." (PA)

No tablets in UK classrooms

Smartphones and other personal electronic devices like tablets could be banned from UK classrooms over fears they cause too much disruption to lessons.

British behaviour expert Tom Bennett is to look into the impact of such devices used by pupils under an expansion of his investigation into how to train teachers to tackle poor behaviour, Schools Minister Nick Gibb said.

Bennett said: "This is a 21st century problem and the majority of schools are dealing with it effectively. But I will now probe deeper into this issue, and behaviour challenges more broadly, to uncover the real extent of the problem and see what we can do to ensure all children focus on their learning." (PA)



Child killer Hindley's letters

Child killer Myra Hindley pledged she would "never, never" kill again in a series of secret papers that include hand-written letters where she reveals plans to flee the country and write a book about her life, the Mirror reports.

The murderer revealed she had a hidden nest egg that she would use to fund her disappearance while also outlining plans for her "survival" behind bars.

The details were revealed in a stack of papers linked to parole interviews the vile killer undertook in the 1990s. Hindley was convicted in 1966 of murdering Edward Evans, 17, and Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and of being an accessory in the murder of John Kilbride, 12. (PA)

Couple rescue 'trapped' woman

A couple looking for a scenic spot to take a photo found an injured woman who had been trapped inside her wrecked car for two days in a secluded part of a canyon.

Sergeant Spencer Cannon of Utah County said the couple heard faint calls for help and discovered 29-year-old Heather Blackwelder. Spencer Dryden said he initially thought the sounds were children playing, but after the woman cried that she was stuck in her vehicle, he rushed to look for water while his girlfriend called 911.

Authorities said Ms Blackwelder had been trapped since crashing through a guardrail and plummeting several hundred feet down the mountainside south-east of Salt Lake City. She was flown to a hospital and was expected to recover. (PA)

Mystery ice crashes through roof

A California woman said she cannot explain how a large chunk of ice came hurtling from the sky and crashed through the roof of her family's home, startling everybody inside.

Monica Savath said she and her family were in the living room of their Modesto home when they heard a loud crash. In the garage, they found a gaping hole in the roof and shattered ice. Neighbour Lisa Lawrence said she was outside when she heard a whizzing sound and saw the chunk the size of a basketball.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Mathews said he believes it was frozen vapour that broke loose from a plane flying high overhead. He said the family is lucky nobody was injured. (PA)

International

Four firefighters injured in fast California wildfire

Four firefighters were hospitalised with injuries from fighting a fast-moving wildfire in northern California that expanded yesterday and has forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes, officials said.

The fire, nicknamed the Valley Fire, spread rapidly overnight and had burned about 16,187 hectares as of yesterday morning, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said on Twitter. More than 1,000 fire personnel were battling the blaze, which was zero per cent contained yesterday after erupting a day earlier in Lake County, north of San Francisco, Cal Fire said.

Additional evacuations were ordered early yesterday. Local media showed footage of several structures ablaze in Middletown, a small community of about 1,500 residents, one of several that were evacuated.

Four firefighters, who had been dropped off by helicopter, suffered second-degree burns as they built containment lines, said Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant.

The firefighters were airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, Berlant later said on Twitter.

The hospital declined to comment yesterday on the condition of the firefighters.

About 161 km to the southeast another blaze, the so-called Butte Fire, has destroyed 86 homes and 51 outbuildings in rural Amador and Calaveras counties. The fire is 20 per cent contained and covers more than 26,305 hectares, officials were saying yesterday.

Thousands of residents in the area of the Butte Fire were required to evacuate on Friday, and the blaze threatened more than 6,000 structures, officials said.

More than 3,800 firefighters were working to contain the fire, which erupted on Wednesday near the former gold mining town of Jackson. Flames from a larger blaze,



A firefighter sprays water on a backfire while battling the Butte fire near San Andreas, California yesterday. Photo: Reuters

dubbed the Rough Fire which is burning in Kings Canyon National Park in central California, had forced officials to order about 3,500 to evacuate by Friday, said Jim Schwarber, a spokesman for the team handling the blaze. Firefighters on Saturday intentionally

set low-intensity fires in a famed grove of giant sequoia trees in Kings Canyon National Park to remove vegetation and protect the grove from the wildfire, Schwarber said. The giant sequoias themselves are naturally flame-resistant, officials said. More than 2,900 fire-

fighters were on the front lines of the blaze on Saturday, with containment listed at 29 per cent, officials said.

Ranking as California's largest active fire, the Rough has scorched about 52,000 hectares. (Reuters)

Clashes and militant bombing kill nine in southeast Turkey

Kurdish militants killed two police officers in a car bomb attack on a checkpoint in southeast Turkey yesterday, as authorities imposed a curfew in the region's largest city Diyarbakir where clashes broke out, security sources said.

Turkish forces backed up by helicopters and commandos shelled a mountainous area where the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters had fled after the checkpoint attack in Sirkat province, killing six of them, the sources added.

"The fight will go on until not one terrorist is left"

A police officer was reported killed in another confrontation.

Hundreds of militants and more than 100 police and soldiers have died since a ceasefire collapsed in July, shattering a peace process launched in 2012. It is the worst violence Turkey has seen in two decades. The Diyarbakir governor's office said it had placed the central historic Sur district under a round-the-clock curfew. Security sources said seven police officers



Riot police use water cannon to disperse stone-throwing protesters in the Kurdish dominated southeastern city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, yesterday. Photo: Reuters

were wounded in clashes there. In other central areas of the city, police fired tear gas and water cannon at small groups of youths who threw stones and tried to set

up street barricades in protest against the curfew.

Speaking to reporters near the Sur district, the leader of the pro-Kurdish Peoples'

Democratic Party (HDP), Selahattin Demirtas, has called for the Turkish state and PKK leadership across the border in Iraq's Qandil mountains to halt the violence and get back to the peace talks.

The PKK began its separatist insurgency in 1984, triggering a conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people. The group, which says it is fighting for greater Kurdish autonomy, is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the EU and the US. President Tayyip Erdogan has promised the fight will go on until "not one terrorist is left".

The PKK also launched an attack on Sunday with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles in the Silvan district of Diyarbakir province, killing one police officer and wounding another, one security source said. Locals officials said they also declared a curfew in that area.

The Sirkat governor's office said it declared a new curfew from 7pm in Cizre, near the Syrian and Iraqi borders, just 36 hours after the expiry of a previous eight-day round-the-clock curfew in the town.

Thousands of people gathered in the town yesterday for the funerals of 16 people killed during the week and who were buried alongside each other, witnesses said. (Reuters)

International

China unveils State-firm reform guidelines as economy sputters

China unveiled details yesterday of how it would restructure its State-owned enterprises (SOEs), including partial privatisation, as data pointed to a cooling in the world's second-largest economy.

The guidelines, jointly issued by the Communist Party's Central Committee and the State Council, China's cabinet, included plans to clean up and integrate some state firms, the official Xinhua news agency said. It did not elaborate.

Reform of underperforming state-owned enterprises is one of China's most pressing needs. But if not handled well, the restructuring could lead to hundreds of thousands of people being laid off and social instability.

“Overall, the economy is very weak and the central bank may have to continue cutting interest rates and banks' reserve requirement”

Xinhua said the plans included introducing “mixed ownership” by bringing in private investment, and “decisive results” were expected by 2020.

The government will not force “mixed ownership”, nor will it set a timetable, giving each firm the go-ahead only when conditions are mature, it said.

“This reform will be positive for improving the impetus of the economy and making growth more sustainable,” said Xu Hongcai, director of the economic



A labourer cuts steel bars at a railway bridge construction site in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China. As data points to a cooling in the world's second-largest economy China is planning to clean up and integrate some state firms.

research department at the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a Beijing-based think-tank.

Partial privatisation, he added, would help establish “check-and-balance and incentive systems” at state firms.

China's government manages 111 companies centrally under the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, or SASAC.

Local governments own and manage around 25,000 state-owned companies and the sector employs nearly 7.5 million people.

State firms will be allowed to bring in “various investors” to help diversify share ownership, and

more state firms will be encouraged to restructure to pave the way for stock listings, Xinhua said.

Private investors will be encouraged to buy stakes in state firms, buy convertible bonds issued by state firms, it said, adding steps will be taken to curb corruption during reforms.

SOEs will be divided into commercial and public welfare-related businesses during the reform process. Oil and gas, electricity, railways and telecommunications were identified as sectors that could be suitable for limited non-state investment.

However, Beijing will have to persuade entrenched interests at

local, provincial and national governments to relinquish some control over state enterprises and attract investors to buy shares after one of the worst stock market crashes in China's history.

And Xinhua indicated full-scale privatisation was not on the cards, saying the government was aiming to “cultivate a large number of state-owned backbone enterprises with innovation capability and international competitiveness”.

The guidelines called for a flexible and market-based compensation system at state firms by linking pay with company performance.

The details were issued after the government said growth in China's investment and factory

output missed forecasts in August. The data followed weak trade and inflation readings, raising the chances that economic growth may dip below 7 percent in the third quarter for the first time since the global financial crisis.

“Overall, the economy is very weak and the central bank may have to continue cutting interest rates and banks' reserve requirement,” said Zhou Hao, senior economist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore.

Zhou says growth would probably dip below 7 per cent in the July-September quarter. Some economists believe growth is already much weaker than official data suggests. (Reuters)

Fed to take centre stage this week

The US Federal Reserve takes centre stage in the coming week, eclipsing industry data from China, another grim inflation reading from the eurozone and rate decisions in Japan and Switzerland.

Guessing whether the Fed hikes rates on Thursday or opts for a later date, perhaps December, is something of a futile exercise because even the rate setters appear to be wavering and the decision will probably come down to the wire.

An unexpected drop in the jobless rate to 5.1 per cent and an upward revision in second quarter growth to 3.7 per cent support calls for a hike as the labour market tightens and utilisation is at its best level since the global financial crisis.

Yet, futures only price a 24 per cent chance of a hike as emerging markets, particularly China, struggle, inflation remains benign and some notable Fed watchers, like former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, argue against a hike.

“My best guess is that the committee is also confused about what the right decision is, and as a result they are waiting to the last minute with making a decision,” Torsten Sloek, chief international economist at Deutsche Bank said. “The cost of this approach is that market expectations

become unanchored but they may view this as a small cost relative to sending strong signals ahead of a meeting where there seems to be limited consensus among rate setting members,” Sloek said.

China's slowdown is likely to be a key worry for the Fed and a 14 per cent drop in Chinese imports over the past year, the 10th straight monthly drop, along with an annual factory gate price deflation of almost 6 per cent, does not help rate hike arguments.

Data yesterday showed growth in China's investment and factory output missed forecasts in August, raising the chances that third-quarter economic growth will dip below 7 per cent for the first time since the global crisis.

Factory output rose 6.1 per cent last month from a year earlier, less than the 6.4 per cent expected but up from July's 6.0 per cent.

Fears of a hard landing, the prospect of deflation and billions of dollars spent on keeping the yuan steady raise the prospect of more rate cuts and currency devaluation by Beijing, setting markets up for more volatility.

In Europe, the key item will be final August eurozone inflation data due on Wednesday, likely supplying another



The Federal Reserve building in Washington. Photo: Reuters

arguments for the European Central Bank to beef up quantitative easing.

Price growth is seen holding steady at 0.2 percent, far off the ECB's target of just under 2 percent and ECB President Mario Draghi has already warned that the eurozone could dip back into deflation on lower commodity

prices and weaker growth from emerging markets. The big inflation miss and a modification of quantitative easing are just the latest in a long list of troubles for central banks around the globe as developed nations struggle with weak growth and anaemic inflation. (Reuters)

International

UK's Labour faces divisions over newly elected Corbyn



Jeremy Corbyn leaving his home in London yesterday morning after being elected as the new leader of Britain's Opposition Labour Party on Saturday. Photo: Reuters

Britain's Opposition Labour Party must unite behind new leader Jeremy Corbyn, his deputy said as he revealed his own differences with his new boss over issues such as defence and foreign policy.

Left-wing veteran Corbyn won the support of 59.5 per cent of members and supporters but he has far less backing among Labour lawmakers, with several saying that the party cannot win the next election in 2020 if it lurches left.

"I understand the concern of my colleagues in Parliament: this is a huge change for the party; there is no point in denying this a huge political realignment too, but Jeremy Corbyn has got a huge mandate from our members," Tom Watson, who was elected deputy leader on Saturday, told the BBC.

"I say to my colleagues, watch this space, respect the mandate that he has been given from our members, try and unify."

Watson said there was "zero chance" of a coup against Corbyn but acknowledged there were differences to overcome on policy, which he said could be put to the vote of Labour members.

At odds with the existing Labour position, anti-war campaigner Corbyn opposes the renewal of Britain's Trident nuclear-armed submarine programme and has advocated withdrawing from the Nato military alliance.

"I need to be honest about where I stand on things, I think Nato has kept the peace in Europe for half a century," Watson said, adding he did not believe most members had backed Corbyn solely for his views on Nato.

"I aim to convince him of the merits of Nato... These things have got to be worked out."

"Prime Minister Cameron says Corbyn is a risk to Britain's security"

Watson, who backs the renewal of Trident, also said he would definitely be supporting Britain staying in the EU at a referendum due by the end of 2017.

The rise of Corbyn, who voted 'No' to Europe in a 1975 referendum and has been ambiguous about how he plans to campaign in the upcoming vote, has raised fears among some British pro-Europeans that he will scupper the hopes of drawing out millions of Labour voters in support.

PM David Cameron's Conservatives have quickly sought to play on Corbyn's foreign policy views, saying he is a risk to Britain's security and highlighting his past meetings with Palestin-

ian militant group Hamas and Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hizbollah - something Corbyn has defended in the interest of gathering a wide range of views.

Hamas and the military wing of Hizbollah are both officially designated as terrorist organisations by Britain.

"Unlike Corbyn, the mainstream Labour Party does not believe in ducking our international responsibilities, it would never offer succour to terrorist groups," Labour lawmaker John Mann wrote in the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper.

Mann warned if Labour achieved success at local and regional elections in May next year under Corbyn he would have earned the right to lead the party into the 2020 national election.

"But if he fails to do that, my party must act," he wrote. "We cannot sit on our hands once more if it turns out that we have indeed elected the wrong leader."

Corbyn told the *Observer* he had a "huge mandate" and members and supporters would expect Labour lawmakers to cooperate with him but Britain's mainly right-wing press was dominated by warnings over the party's future. The *Mail on Sunday* declared the party "Red and buried" while the *Sunday Times* front page said Corbyn had sparked a civil war. (Reuters)

Scottish nationalists mull over new independence referendum

Scottish nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon will include triggers for a second independence referendum in the party's manifesto for the 2016 Scottish election, she said in an interview with the *Sunday Herald* newspaper.

British Prime Minister David Cameron in May ruled out another independence referendum despite spectacular gains by the Scottish National Party (SNP) in that month's election, saying Scots had "emphatically" rejected a breakaway last year.

"A second referendum might be appropriate"

Scots voted 55-45 per cent against independence in a September 2014 referendum but the May 7 general election saw the SNP take 56 of Scotland's 59 seats in the Westminster Parliament.

"Our manifesto will set out what we think around the circumstances in which, and the possible timescales in which, a second referendum might be appropriate," Sturgeon told the paper in an interview. "It will then be down to people to accept whether they vote for that manifesto."

Citing sources close to Sturgeon, the newspaper reported the trigger list would

be limited but could include a general option allowing for a referendum in the event of a dramatic, unforeseeable event such as Cameron embarking on what they termed an illegal war.

A vote to divide England and Scotland would amount to the break-up of the United Kingdom, the world's fifth largest economy.

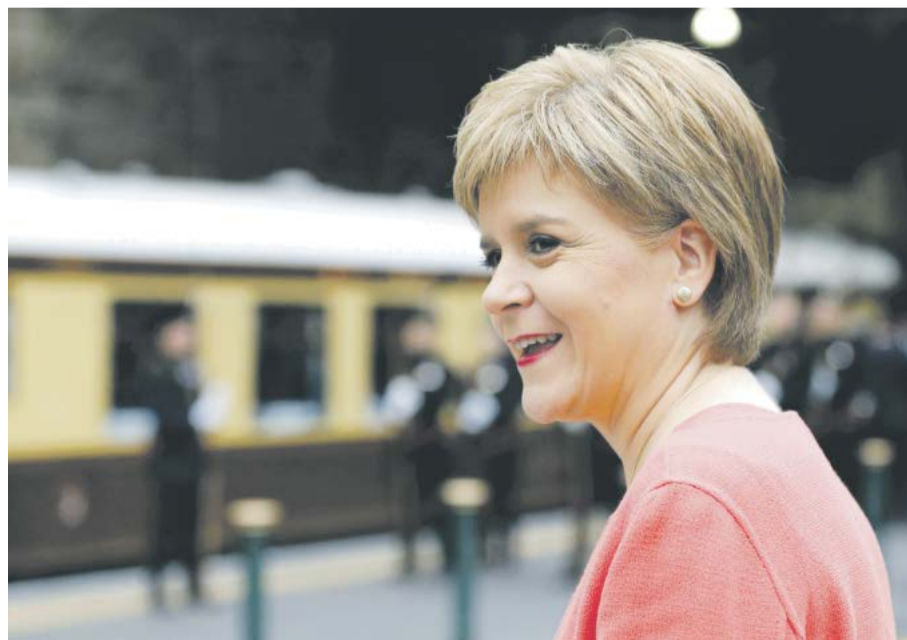
When asked for comment on the *Sunday Herald* report, a spokesman for Cameron said: "The people of Scotland voted to remain part of the United Kingdom last year and we will see through our commitments to give them the extra powers."

SNP leader Sturgeon has previously said there could only be another independence vote if Scots voted for a party which proposed one in a Scottish parliamentary election.

Scottish elections are due in May 2016 but so far Sturgeon has refused to say directly whether she would include a referendum pledge in her manifesto.

After Jeremy Corbyn was elected as the new leader of the opposition Labour Party on Saturday, Sturgeon cautioned that if his party failed to show swiftly it could beat Cameron's Conservatives in the next national election then desire for Scottish independence would rise.

"If Labour cannot quickly demonstrate that they have a credible chance of winning the next UK general election, many more people in Scotland are likely to conclude



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Photo: Reuters

that independence is the only alternative to continued Tory (Conservative) government," she said.

"The reality today is that at a time when the country needs strong Opposition to the Tories, Jeremy Corbyn leads a deeply, and very bitterly, divided party."

Sturgeon has previously warned that if England voted to leave the European Union in a referendum on membership due by the end of 2017, then Scotland could seek a second independence referendum if its people voted to stay in the EU. (Reuters)

Comment & Letters



Overweight

Improved public transport



Michael Briguglio

Michael Briguglio is a sociologist.

In the past days, Transport Minister Joe Mizzi announced that Malta's new public transport system will have improved routes and more buses. He added that changes will be gradual and correspond to requests from the public.

In the meantime, it is very difficult to find users of public transport who would agree that the system has improved. This includes both commuters and workers.

To put things into context, prior to the 2013 general election, the then-Labour Opposition promised a new public transport road map. Labour was a main protagonist in the chorus of criticism towards all aspects of the previous public transport reform, which, in turn, was also plagued with problems, though costing much less than the system that replaced it.

Now that the Labour government is in its mid-term, the public has indeed witnessed gradual changes in public transport but there are little signs of improvement, if any at all.

Commuters are complaining on a wide range of problems, including lack of punc-

tuality, more lax standards and the replacement of day tickets with two-hour ones that are more expensive.

Workers are protesting against bad conditions, especially in relation to their shifts. The General Workers' Union is being quite vociferous on this matter. In itself, this is very significant, especially considering that the union is usually conspicuous by its lack of militancy whenever the Labour Party is in government.

Another matter I have recently noticed is the odd bus emitting black stinking fumes. This problem was supposed to have been consigned to the dustbin of history through the Arriva reform and, if anything, one could not criticise them on this. Today, is anyone checking on such matters? If yes, can the people have their at rest that such emissions represent unfortunate exceptions that are being tackled?

The contractual backdrop of public transport reform is not helping matters. To date, the government's agreement with the operators has not been published, so citizens cannot really know what one should expect from the system. For example, what are the contractual obligations of Autobuses de Leon? Which standards are obligatory and which are voluntary? Are there any standards at all?

Are the operators being fined for late trips, as was the case with Arriva? Also, are they being fined for matters that cause discomfort to users, such as occasional lack of air-conditioning?

Are workers' conditions, rights and duties clearly earmarked in the contract?

Does the contract include workings that explain the doubling of the State subsidy?

Does the increase in buses justify this increase? What else does the subsidy cover?

Where does the demarcation line between Transport Malta and Autobuses de Leon end? And where does the ministry fit in the equation?

As things stand, the public has to rely on press events by Minister Mizzi to be updated on what happens next.

This is a far cry from modern governance, where citizens would have full access to information in the respective policy field. And, unfortunately, this information deficit is not a one-off.

Let us not forget that the government has also failed to publish other public agreements in other sectors.

As we move closer to Budget 2016, the government can show that it intends to give priority to public transport reform through certain measures. For example, bus users in certain hours can be incentivised. Instead of proposing earlier school hours for children, how about rewarding students and others in rush hours by exempting them from paying?

Also, wouldn't it make sense to make certain transport services more accessible? For example, the limited number of minibus licences sometimes results in cramming of voyages in the early hours before school. Maybe an extension of minibus licences will increase choice, access and comfort.

The government can also explain whether it intends to have a holistic plan on transport in general, dealing with matters such as traffic, pollution, enforcement, alternative forms of transport, modal shifts and new ideas, such as the consideration of an underground metro, which is increasingly becoming the norm in modern cities.

In the run up to the Budget, the government should also publish its agreement with Autobuses de Leon so that civil society can put forward constructive criticism from a position of knowledge. What better way to show citizens whether the agreement is truly advantageous for all stakeholders of public transport?

“

It is very difficult to find users of public transport who would agree that the system has improved

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Government must stop and listen

The Ombudsman's Environment and Planning Commissioner has joined the growing chorus of criticism of the government's plans to demerge Mepa's environment and planning functions.

In a strong letter to the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader, the commissioner described the proposed amendments as a significant step backwards with regard to transparency, accountability and access to public scrutiny.

While recognising that the government has an electoral mandate to carry out the demerger, the commissioner said the process should lead to more efficiency, less bureaucracy and an improved quality of life for people.

He noted that, since its inception, the planning authority had always striven to increase the level of public participation and to improve access to public scrutiny. The proposed amendments would reverse all these efforts, he warned. He also expressed concern at the way the new

structures would concentrate power in the hands of few people and at the fact that the minister responsible would enjoy wide powers on the executive council that is to take over the planning authority. In fact, he suggests that this council or, at least, its chairman, should be appointed by the President after consulting the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition.

The main focus of the commissioner's proposals is autonomy and independence, a status enjoyed by the Ombudsman with very successful results. It is clear that it is only by ensuring a similar level of autonomy to the new authorities, which will be responsible for planning and the environment, that the quality leap desired by everyone can be achieved.

When the commissioner referred to the role being assigned to the new Environment Authority, he echoed the concerns of the Church's Interdiocesan Commission for the Environment that, only a few weeks ago, issued a very scathing reaction

to the proposed changes. It described the environment as the big loser in the amendments proposed, which, it pointed out, were also a "step backwards in proper development planning".

Before the summer recess, there was a controversy over whether Parliament should start debating the demerger before the public consultation was completed. Protests by environmental NGOs fell on deaf ears. Since then, severe criticism has come from practically all quarters as more and more details of the planned changes emerge.

Kevin Aquilina, dean of the Faculty of Laws at the University, listed 20 reasons against the Mepa demerger and described the authority today as a glorified government department when compared to the independent status it enjoyed in 1992. Former Mepa chairman Chris Falzon said the land use reforms being proposed were "not even fit for the most retrograde of banana republics".

The government prides itself on "listening to the people". Prime Minister Joseph Muscat stressed that point when he radically decreased the amount of ODZ that is to be allocated for a foreign university at Zonqor Point in Marsascula.

The immensely negative public reaction to that ODZ development proposal in Marsascula has demonstrated that public sensitivity to environment matters is today very high.

This country cannot afford any more mistakes in land use planning and environment protection. The common good must always come first and autonomous, transparent and accountable bodies are the means to achieve that common good.

The Mepa demerger will impact this country for years to come. As Opposition planning spokesman Ryan Callus succinctly put it: "If we get this wrong, we will get it wrong for a very long time."

The writing on the wall is clear. The government should stop and listen.

Letters to the Editor

Cycling economy

■ Much has been said about traffic congestion lately, with blame coming from all directions, whether it is pointed at school traffic, heavy vehicles or just the primary cause: the sheer numbers of private vehicles on the road.

One of the constants of the blogs and comments sections is that, while criticism is rife, few solutions are given.

We may all wish for flyovers that just get you to the next jam downstream quicker, or metros and monorails that nobody wants to pay for but wants everybody else to use. In reality, though, these are short-term band aids.

Even a metro system's success is rather dubious if it's not big enough to cover the entire island and all of its communities, remembering that most major cities' underground systems were built over decades.

The issue is finding something quick to build, cheap and that, ultimately, promises to reduce car use so that there is more space on the road for everybody else.

The use of bicycles can be a very cheap way of bringing about this mobility while also helping to create space on our roads and, more importantly, offers considerable benefits to the State as payback.

Recent public bike share data in Washington DC has indicated an improved traffic flow by up to three per cent while, on the home front, users' travel times in Malta have consistently demonstrated that it is quicker to use a bicycle during the rush hour.

This is particularly so for trips below the average car trip of 5.2 kilometres.

Coupled with significant health benefits, which account for 60 per cent of the savings,



In some cities, cargo bikes have replaced delivery vehicles.
Photo: Shutterstock

building cheap bicycle infrastructure can minimally double the return on investment and rise to as much as 35 times this according to the UK's Department of Transport.

This does not have to be limited to personal transport either.

Cargo bikes in other European cities have started replacing delivery trucks where the latter cause congestion or become unproductive or stuck in traffic jams.

Just as it is much easier to pass a cyclist than a car, promoting bicycles will avoid drivers having to face more taxes, heavy restrictions on car use or road pricing.

Therefore, very simply put, people on bicycles benefit everyone.

Jim Wightman
PRO, Bicycle Advocacy Group
St Julian's

Help for poor and desperate

■ Sr Rachele Agius, along with the sisters community in Chak, Pakistan, helps lots of poor people not only from Chak but all those who go to her to seek help.

Some travel long distances to reach her. They go for various needs, some for medical reasons. There are those who require an urgent operation and others who need medicine to get better.

Sr Rachele helps them, no matter their beliefs.

Special thanks go to all members of the Mission Fund for their donation of €2,000. This sum is of great help because, with it, Sr Rachele can see to the most urgent needs of these poor people.

Sr Rachele thanks all the generous benefactors for their contributions and promises them prayers.

I appeal to the Maltese people to send donations, used stamps and telecards to the Mission Fund at Eureka Court, Blk. A, Flat 6, Main Street, Mosta MST 1018.

It is in this way that this organisation can keep helping Maltese missionaries who are working in Third World countries.

Sr Tessie Sciortino OP
Dominican Sisters
Chak
District Toba Tek Singh
Pakistan

Mental health at workplaces

■ I refer to the editorial 'A more positive workplace health concept' that appeared on September 5.

Richmond Foundation would like to express its satisfaction that such important topics as employees' well-being are being regularly featured in the media.

During one of our recently concluded projects, themed 'Healthy mind for healthy business ESF 3.193', it was identified that 79.2 per cent of businesses that were interviewed in a research study believe that mental health problems are common in our society.

Up to 13.6 per cent of the businesses said that, over the past two years, a person at work experienced some kind of mental health problems.

Depression was the most common mental health problem encountered, accounting for up to 54.7 per cent of the responses. Stress follows with 46.3 per cent and anxiety issues with 23.2 per cent.

The research showed that the majority of businesses believe that creating more awareness can improve mental well-being at the workplace.

Targeted training may help to address stress due to workload.

As a conclusion of the 'Healthy mind for healthy business ESF 3.193' project, Richmond Foundation put forward recommendations to the business community to adopt mental health policies and to provide support and training to their employees.

Dragan Donkov
employment services coordinator
Richmond Foundation
Santa Venera

Muslim aid

■ I refer to Ray Azzopardi's letter entitled 'It is everyone's responsibility' (September 9).

I completely agree with him that the refugees issue is everyone's responsibility but that means not just Europe's but the world's as well.

This includes certain rich Middle Eastern countries that have not lifted a finger to assist, at least, their so-called Muslim brothers.

Emily Darmanin
Marsascula

Demystifying the veil



Laiq Ahmed Atif

Laiq Ahmed Atif is president of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta.

A debate on the wearing of the burqa in public places erupted in this country recently and many people from different segments of society commented and aired their opinions.

The subject of 'veil' and, particularly, 'the Islamic veil' hits the headlines from time to time. Often, the arguments made against the 'Islamic veil' or against the 'burqa' are the same: security, oppression, women's dignity, cultural identity and so on.

To start with, the wearing of a veil is not unique to Islam and extraneous to the West. A veil, hijab or some head covering is a form of religious duty found universally in the world religions, societies and traditions.

Although there are vast differences regarding the mode of using a veil and the conditions applied to it, the central idea is everywhere. Where it is not mentioned clearly, it is likely that it may gradually have either been discontinued or the practice gradually faded away.

The Holy Bible also treats the wearing of veil as an inherently righteous undertaking). The Virgin Mary is often depicted in works of art with her head covered. In fact, for a time it was compulsory for Catholic women to have a headscarf while attending church service. Today, Christian nuns and Amish women continue to cover their heads.

Similarly, in many traditional Jewish and Hindu communities, women wear head coverings.

In Islam, the veil signifies modesty and is a means of dignity, honour and protection. The requirement of using a veil is not intended to imprison a woman or render her susceptible to male dominance. Rather, it is intended to enhance her God-given faculties.

What the Holy Quran directs is that women should avoid displaying their beauty and should not look at strange men. Those women who have to go out to fulfil their responsibilities may do so but they must guard their glances.

Similarly, for men, the Holy Quran also adopts an excellent position in this regard and says: "Say to the believing men that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts. This is the act through which they will attain purification."

The Islamic injunction that men and women should both restrain themselves in certain ways aims at safeguarding them against slipping, stumbling and be disposed towards vices and evils.

Another purpose of the veil is to protect women from unwarranted harm and safeguard their dignity and honour.

Islam advises women to take protective measures and says: "They should pull down upon them their outer cloaks from their heads over their faces. That is more likely that they may thus be recognised and not molested."

Therefore, the veil is a physically-manifested barrier to unwarranted harassment. It is not a disgrace or a hindrance for a woman.

On the contrary, it honours her and frees her from the bondage of society and



The veil is a physically-manifested barrier to unwarranted harassment. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

the obstacles that prevent her intellectual, moral and spiritual advancement.

Indeed, by electing to safeguard herself and her virtues, a woman protects society from social evils such as adultery, spread of disease, children born out of wedlock, rape and divorce.

As far as the issue of freedom and equality of Muslim women is concerned, a multitude of Quranic references attest to a woman's equality to man. For example, the Quran unequivocally explains that men and women belong to the same species and possess identical aptitudes and propensities.

Islam also attributes great importance to the kind manner in which women should be treated and the Quran advises to "consort with them in kindness".

Prophet Muhammad admonished: "The best of you is he who behaves best towards the members of his family"... "Paradise lies at the feet of your mothers"... "He who brings up his daughters well, and makes no distinction between them and his sons, will enter in Paradise."

The observance of the veil is a religious duty for Muslim women, however, it should be observed with wisdom and moderation as Prophet Muhammad said: "In all things, moderation is best."

The variations of the dress are purely cultural. Which style a Muslim woman chooses to wear depends on tradition and cultural variation.

It is true that some Muslim men and even governments insist that women cover themselves from head to toe at all costs and, sometimes, there is also oppression and compulsion in this regard.

Religious extremists have victimised Muslim women.

There are many sad stories about husbands, fathers or so-called leaders abusing and even murdering women because they were not covered enough. All such actions are completely wrong. This is oppression and not Islamic.

I think it is the foremost duty of religious leaders to educate their people positively and effectively through wisdom and moderation and also to provide them with the correct understanding of matters of a religious manner.

The veil does not prevent communication. Technological advances have made it easier for society to communicate virtually without 'face-to-face' dialogue. The face has never been the only essential tool for effective communication.

Religious and political leaders can communicate effectively with the public via the radio just as they can in person. Similarly, a Muslim woman can effectively communicate with others even while wearing her veil.

Quite obviously, it is the substance of what is said that counts more than the appearance of who said it.

With regard to the issue of security, as a true Muslim I believe that national security should be given foremost importance and it should not be compromised at any cost and for any reason whatsoever. However, it is equally necessary to analyse whether the veil is truly a hindrance to national security.

To my understanding, most of the extremist and suicidal attacks reported were committed by individuals who were not wearing a veil.

Moreover, for security reasons, the civil authorities have both the right and the duty to check the identification of the person wearing a veil and Muslim women should abide by any security instructions issued and are in duty bound to willingly identify themselves.

This is also their religious duty: to cooperate with the civil authorities and to assist them in maintaining peace and security within a country.

Prophet Muhammad instructed all Muslims that the "love of one's country of residence is part of faith".

amjmalta@gmail.com

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In Islam, the veil signifies modesty and is a means of dignity, honour and protection
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Rescission on car purchase

The First Hall of the Civil Court, presided over by Madame Justice Lorraine Schembri Orland, in the case 'Edward Ferriggi v Gasan Enterprises Ltd', held, among other things, that the six-month time limit to rescind a sale under article 1431 of the Civil Code, to run when the defect was reasonably noticeable to the buyer. As this time limit was a period of forfeiture, it was not suspended simply because the buyer notified the seller of the defect.

Karl Grech Orr

Dr Karl Grech Orr is a partner at Ganado Advocates.

On January 23, 2009, Edward Ferriggi purchased a silver Ford Focus Trend from Gasan Enterprises Ltd for €18,400 for his son. After four months, Ferriggi informed Gasan that the paintwork of the car was defective.

Gasan Enterprises' reply was that there was no defect with the car and that the problem could be easily resolved by a good wash. However, the problem with its paintwork remained and Ferriggi complained to Gasan each time he took the car over to them.

In June 2010, he commissioned an independent expert to examine the paintwork under UV light and it resulted that the paintwork of the car was indeed defective.

Ferriggi claimed that the defect reduced the value of the car and if he had known beforehand, he would not have purchased the car.

Faced with this situation, he proceeded to file legal proceedings requesting the court to declare that the car had a 'rehabilitatory' defect, which reduced its value, and that he would not have purchased the car if he had been aware of the defects. He asked the court to rescind the sale and to condemn Gasan Enterprises to refund the purchase price.

Gasan, in reply, claimed that Ferriggi's legal action was time-barred under article 1431(1) of the Civil Code, as the legal action was not filed in time.

It submitted further that Ferriggi's claims were unfounded. The car, it said, had no latent defect. Though it was true that the paintwork felt rough to the touch, yet this was not a defect. It said that it offered to repair any damage in order to maintain good customer relations at its own expense but Ferriggi refused.

Gasan maintained that this defect did not reduce the value of the car as it could be easily repaired. In addition, it contended that if the sale were to be rescinded, the court should also consider the 21-one month use of the car by Ferriggi which reduced its value.

The court considered the plea of prescription raised by Gasan Enterprises under article 1431(1)(2) of the Civil Code:

(1) The *actio redhibitoria* and the *actio aestimatoria* shall, in regard to immovables, be barred by the lapse of one year as from the day of the contract, and, in regard to movables, by the lapse of six months as from the day of the delivery of the thing sold.

(2) Where, however, it was not possible for the buyer to discover the latent defect of the thing, the said periods of limitation



Claimant said that the paintwork on the roof and the bonnet of the car he bought from Gasan Enterprises was not the original factory spray.

shall run only from the day on which it was possible for him to discover such defect.

Ferriggi purchased the car on January 23, 2009, but filed legal action on September 10, 2010. He first noticed the defect in April/May 2009. According to an independent experts' report dated June 10, 2010:

"Both concurred that the paint on the roof and the bonnet are not the original factory spray. There may be overspray in these areas due to a poor quality spray

job and the boot lid was not set properly. Seen under UV light there are black specks in three places on the boot lid and the vertical part of the boot lid is not finished to the same level as the rest of the vehicle. There are also drippings in the corner indicating that the vehicle has had work on it."

Gasan attributed the problem with the paintwork owing to industrial fallout and offered to give it a polish, but Ferriggi refused.

Reference was made to case-law: in 'Darmarin v Spiteri Debono' dated February 25, 1930, it was held: "Plaintiff had no reason not to sue, even if defendant offered to settle. The term of one month [today six months] was not a term of prescription but of forfeiture: re 'Schembri v Gatt' Commercial Court dated November 5, 1926; 'Emmanuel Camilleri *noe* v Anthony Calascione *noe*' (Commercial Court dated October 29, 1956)."

In 'Edward Fenech v Gaetano Fenech' (CA) dated July 4, 1990, the court maintained that the period of one year for the buyer to sue commenced to run from when the buyer could have been aware of the defect. This term was a period of forfeiture and was peremptory.

After the lapse of such period, the buyer had to show that, in the appropriate period, he had informed the seller of the defect and that the seller promised to take the thing back and not contest the existence of the defect. The recognition of the defect by the seller in order to suspend the period of forfeiture had to be clear, formal, explicit and unconditional.

Die a quo: In 'Cushcieri v Gauci' dated May 21, 1934, reference was made to 'Fenech v Spiteri'.

This did not mean that the buyer could remain inactive, even when the defect was clearly established. The period commenced to run from when the defect was reasonably noticeable for the purposes of article 1431 of the Civil Code. Re: 'Pierre Ciantar v Mario Xuereb *et*' dated December 12, 2001; 'Emmanuele Florian v Rosario Desira' (PA) dated June 9, 1969.

In this case, by September 10, 2010, at the time when legal action was taken by Ferriggi, the time limit had already lapsed. Although Ferriggi was aware of the defect, he remained inactive, save for complaining to Gasan about the defective paintwork. It was only in June, 2010, 13 months after noticing the defect, that he approached an independent expert to issue a report.

The court noted that Gasan never admitted that the car was defective nor did it ever accept responsibility either explicitly or tacitly.

As the problem with the paintwork persisted, Ferriggi should have taken action, earlier, pointed out the court. Re 'Carmelo Buttigieg v Eucharistic Zammit *et noe*', which cited with approval 'Ciantar v Desira'.

For these reasons, on July 9, 2015, the First Hall of the Civil Court declared that Ferriggi's legal action was time-barred as it was filed after the time limit under article 1431 of Civil Code and not within the six-month period as required by law. The court upheld Gasan's plea of prescription.

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The court noted that Gasan never admitted that the car was defective nor did it ever accept responsibility either explicitly or tacitly
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Cold, fever and babies born on migrants' long journey

Trip from Middle East to Europe is exhausting for families with small children

Krisztina Than

At a makeshift medical centre at Budapest's eastern railway terminus migrant women keep coming with small children and babies, many of whom have a bad cough, fever, diarrhoea or insect bites after being on the road for weeks.

The long journey from Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq to Europe, which migrants do partly on foot, is exhausting enough for men fleeing wars, persecution and poverty. But it is especially arduous for families and women with small children.

Amina, 28, from Aleppo in Syria, and her husband have been travelling with a one-year-old boy and are now camping in a makeshift tent in the underpass, waiting to board a train to Germany. There are a few water taps for the hundreds of migrants and civilian aid groups hand out food, drinks and clothes.

“For migrant women, one of the main problems is maintaining personal hygiene on the long journey”

Amina says in broken English that their house had been bombed in Syria, and proudly shows the curly-haired boy dressed in a striped sweatshirt, saying he is strong as his father.

The boy had fever on the journey but recovered. When asked what had been the hardest part for her so far, she says with a faint smile: “Difficult to walk [with] baby... No washing.”

In front of a nearby temporary medical centre, set up by civilians and manned all day by volunteer doctors and nurses, women and men wait patiently, most of them with children.

A migrant woman holding a baby after disembarking from the *Eleftherios Venizelos* passenger ship at the port of Piraeus, near Athens. Photo: Paul Hanna/Reuters



Kathleen Leak, a nurse from the English town of Doncaster, has been working in Budapest for more than a week. She visited her daughter who is studying in the country, and decided to stay to help.

“We have had a couple of young kids that had asthma attacks, they have given them steroids... [and] we get them on the train as quickly as possible,” she said, adding that the most frequent problems for children are diarrhoea, sickness and fevers.

“We have had a few babies that have come through and their bottoms and everything have been really bad,” she said, adding that aid workers may set up a tent to bathe babies.

For migrant women, one of the main problems is maintaining personal hygiene on the long journey.

But there are also babies born, and sadly, there are also miscarriages.

Just at the Budapest eastern railway station, several women went into labour, were taken to hospital and had healthy babies born, aid workers said.

“We had one young girl who came in, [and] was really upset, it turned out... she was pregnant. She did not know, that was lovely,” Leak said.

Rania and her husband Ali have come from Iraq via Turkey with three children, aged around two to five. In broken English they explain that they had walked for 10 hours from Serbia into Hungary, and it was especially bad as it rained.

But Rania, wearing a red headscarf, was optimistic as they planned to get on the train to Vienna. Their end goal is

A migrant mother and her children crossing the border from Hungary to Austria on foot in Nickelsdorf, Austria. Photo: Leonhard Foeger/Reuters



A migrant carrying a baby on his shoulders as they wait for trains at Keleti station in Budapest, Hungary. Photo: Bernadett Szabo/Reuters

Finland. They are lucky as the children look healthy.

Temperatures have dropped to around six to nine degrees Celsius at night in Hungary in the past week. This has made things worse for the thousands of migrants who cross the Serbian border each day.

Maria Veres, a retired paediatrician, has worked tirelessly for almost four weeks now at the railway station, helping migrant children. The centre is small, with three mattresses on the floor and she has to kneel down to examine the babies.

But there is plenty of medicine, donated by Hungarians and foreigners.

“Now that the chilly weather has set in, we have many cases of children who caught a cold and have fever,” the doctor said.

And then she recalls a happy memory. “I have seen a baby who was five to six days old, who was born with Caesarean in Greece, a very beautiful and healthy baby,” she said.

“I checked the baby and then it turned out that her mother had a problem with her stitchings, which is understandable after so much walking. The baby was gorgeous, nothing wrong with the baby.” (Reuters)

Arts

World's longest-running show sheds humour on current issues

London show makes light of migrant crisis

Barbara Lewis

One of London's most exclusive enclaves provides the unlikely setting for the world's longest-running live satire show, which thrives on bad news and is rarely short of material.

The current fare of *NewsRevue* at Little Venice's Canal Café Theatre includes paedophilia scandals and the Syrian civil war.

To Europe's refugee and migrant crisis, the cult show offers Britain a simple solution: seal the Channel Tunnel with cement.

If the joke is flat on the page, on the stage it is full of the energy of four youthful performers: two men and two women, accompanied by a musical director whose harmonies add a feel-good factor to the satire's savage force. The formula is anything but new.

"The cult show offers Britain a simple solution: seal the Channel Tunnel with cement"

The 60-seat theatre above a pub, set among the hushed west London district's multimillion-pound villas, has been making light of the vexed issues of the day since 1979.

Producer Emma Taylor says the secret to winning a place in the Guinness Book of Records and keeping it, with four shows a week throughout the year, is constant reinvention.



The cast of satirical show *NewsRevue*, which changes every few weeks, look at issues of the day.

The cast changes every six weeks and the show is updated weekly, drawing on a pool of around 100 writers. They send e-mailed material which is collated by the production team and cast, and condensed into an hour of breakneck comedy.

Selected through an audition process that Taylor says is legendary in the business because of its demands for musicality, comic improvisation and an array of accents, the cast members are often writers too.

Some of the most successful to have passed through the Canal Café

are impressionist Rory Bremner and members of comedy quartet The League of Gentlemen.

The best of 50 weeks of performances is selected for *NewsRevue's* two-week August stint at the annual Edinburgh International Festival, which this year earned it five-star reviews.

That has not always been the case. In some years, the critics have found the satire too tame or the formula tired.

For Taylor, a former drama and French teacher who has been producing at the cafe theatre since 2001, a high point and a low point

were the al Qaeda attacks that year on the US. In the immediate aftermath, the team decided to go ahead with a show but scrupulously avoided 9/11 jokes.

"We could not touch it. The [written] material that came in was horrendous," Taylor said. One heckler at the back shouted: "Cowards!"

Two weeks later, *NewsRevue* was back on track with what Taylor says was one of its finest moments: a 9/11 ballad of the two Bush presidents, set to music by Muslim convert Cat Stevens. (Reuters)

L'Elisir d'Amore in Brussels

Alastair Macdonald

"Wanted: world-class soprano - must look good in bikini; dashing baritone to sing aria while taking off trousers."

La Monnaie opera may have worded their casting call for *L'Elisir d'Amore* rather differently but their version of Donizetti's evergreen comedy of love, lust and money brings a steamy extension of summer at the beach to autumnal Brussels.

Adapting Damiano Michieletto's original Valencia production to the Belgian capital's Cirque Royal, audiences are in for an immersive experience. Played in the round, on sand under the big top, it offers the added risk of being doused by a flailing hose or a shower of foamy bubbles: this is 1830s bel can to "soap opera" in more ways than one.

Donizetti's flighty landowner Adina becomes the sultry landlady of a Mediterranean beach bar, the lovelorn peasant Nemorino is now a deckchair attendant and the comic chorus of "rustics" are an unappetising tribe of sun-worshippers, agog for Belcore, the coastguard captain, and Dulcamara, charlatan vendor of the "love potion", who peddles baggies and wonder drinks from a jeep.

The circus' wide spectrum of viewing angles – a result of La Monnaie's season-long odyssey of

venues while its theatre at the old Brussels mint is renovated – challenges the focus of some of the duets that define the piece. The soaring empty space above threatens at times to swallow the voices.

But the production rests on fine singing – young Italian tenor Antonio Poli's *Una furtiva lagrima* grabs the real emotion beneath the pantomime – and tight playing by an on-stage, in-costume orchestra under the baton of Thomas Roesner, play fully resplendent in his bright red 'Lifeguard' T-shirt.

The evening is a reminder of how Michieletto, fresh from his Covent Garden debut with *William Tell*, can entertain audiences with a contemporary reading of the classics.

Alternate casts perform on successive nights: Russians Olga Peretyatko, due in *Rigoletto* at the New York Met, and Dmitry Korchak sing Adina and Nemorino, relieved by Belgian soprano Anne-Catherine Gillet, a prima donna in swimwear, and Poli, soon to be seen in *The Magic Flute* at Venice's La Fenice.

As bombastic lothario Belcore, Greek baritone Aris Argiris alternates with Argentinian Armando Noguera, delivering a boastful first aria that makes unusual demands: remove the trousers, replace with swimming trunks, sing throughout – and all the while hold a beach towel in place to preserve modesty. (Reuters)

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1 INSIDE OUT (2D) (U) 18:30
TED 2 (15) 20:45, 23:45

2 STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON 15
18:00, 21:15, 23:10

3 HITMAN: AGENT 47 15
14:00, 16:20, 18:45, 21:00, 23:30

6 THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. 12A
14:30, 18:20, 20:55, 23:25

11 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 12A
18:00, 20:50, 23:35

12 THE COBBLER NEW 12A
14:15, 16:25, 18:45, 20:55, 23:15

13 MAX 12A
14:05, 16:30, 18:55, 21:15

14 BOY CHOIR (PG) 16:30, 21:10
EXCLUSIVELY TO EDEN
THE WONDERS (15) 14:05, 18:50, 23:30

15 SOUTHPAW 15
14:15, 18:10, 20:45, 23:30

16 STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON 14:30 NEW
ERIC CLAPTON 20:00

17 NO ESCAPE NEW 15
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SOUTHPAW 10:35, 13:15, 15:50, 18:25, 21:00 15+

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Rupert Friend & Hannah Ware
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NO ESCAPE (15)
Owen Wilson & Pierce Brosnan
10.30, 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50pm

INSIDE OUT (U)
Voices of Amy Poehler & Bill Hader
10.00, 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.00pm

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 5 (12A)
Tom Cruise
9.10pm

TED 2 (15)
Mark Wahlberg & Seth McFarlane
4.00, 6.30, 9.00pm

THE MAN FROM UNCLE (12A)
Henry Cavill & Armie Hammer
8.50pm

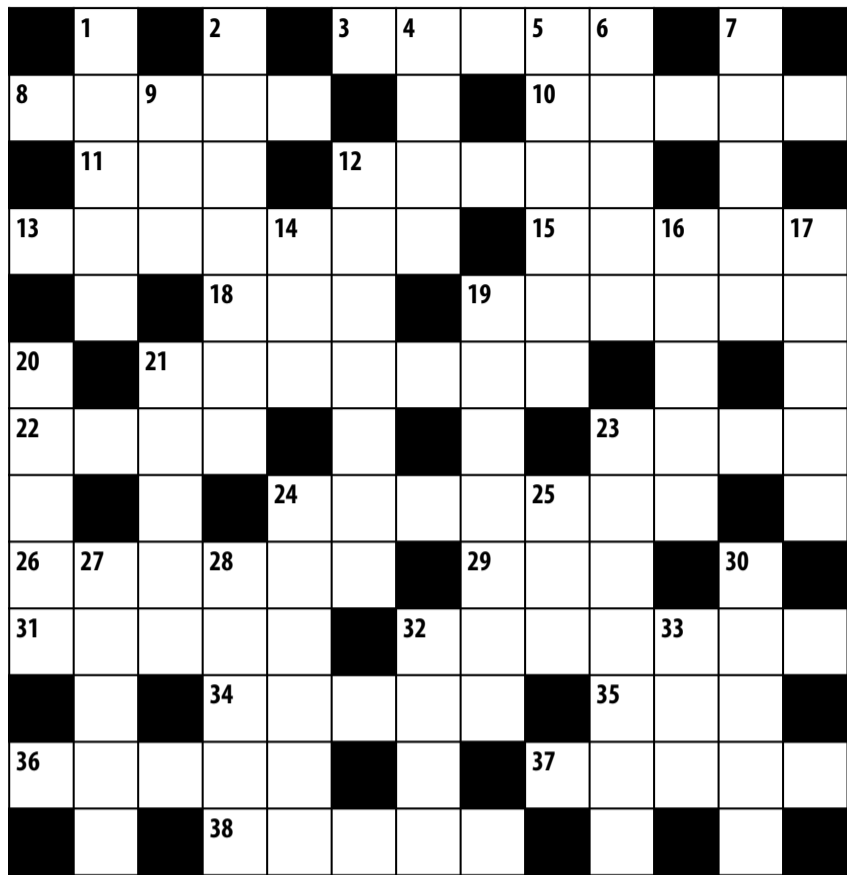
MAX (12A)
Thomas Haden Church
10.30, 1.45, 4.10, 6.35, 9.00pm

PIXELS (PG)
Adam Sandler & Kevin James
10.20, 1.45, 4.10, 6.30pm

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Pursuits

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



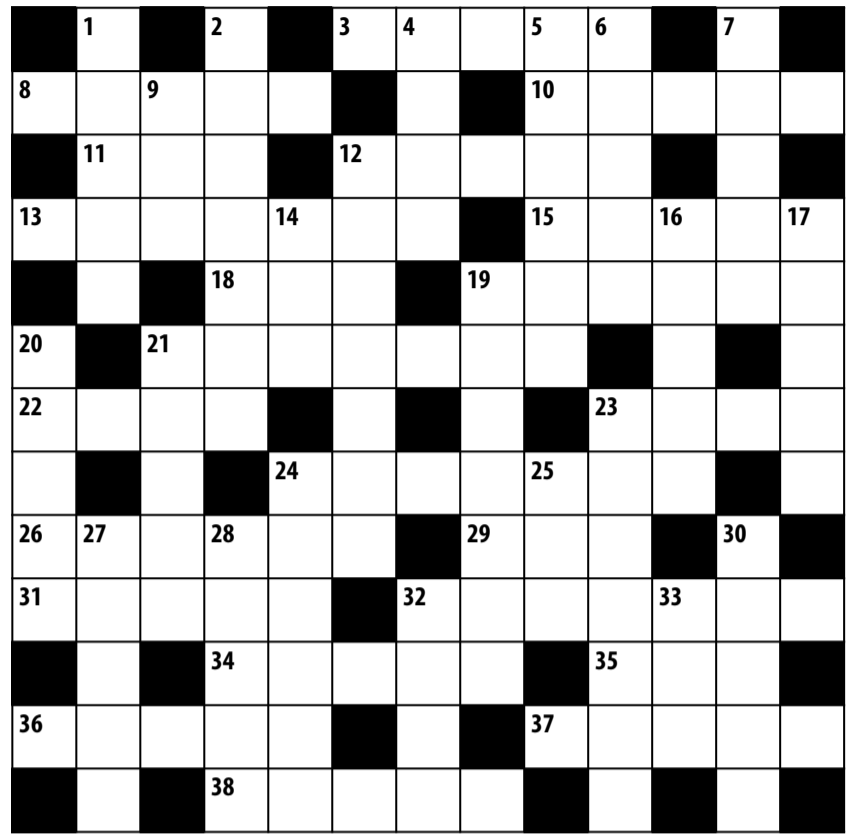
ACROSS

- 3. Pair of spectacles for a player? (5)
- 8. Do fully, as before (5)
- 10. An Irish saint and an excellent fellow (5)
- 11. Exclamation no real orator uses! (3)
- 12. Open, due to start tomorrow (5)
- 13. One-eyed thing to wear (7)
- 15. Puts pressure on, thanks to politicians (5)
- 18. Shell out for peas, etc. (3)
- 19. A broken romance (6)
- 21. Shady type chary of having his rest disturbed (7)
- 22. But not exactly oily (4)
- 23. English garden (4)
- 24. Said to be placed amid wild deer (7)
- 26. Name the girl Romeo's after (6)
- 29. It's from the laity, this song (3)
- 31. It discusses things religiously (5)
- 32. Sort of museum where Ruby gets to do her stuff? (7)
- 34. The lazier waster? (5)
- 35. So much work in the underground section (3)
- 36. Oscar, upset by a bit of mildew? (5)
- 37. An exhausting thing to do, though the purpose is lofty (3,2)
- 38. Pines irrationally for a bird (5)

DOWN

- 1. Show in advance (5)
- 2. Just one cup can cause physical deterioration (7)
- 4. Sweet nothing (4)
- 5. Two-way traffic, no cash needed (6)
- 6. The moving stair makes musical sounds (5)
- 7. Frank would have a striking effect on the public-address (5)
- 9. A speed at which not to reverse! (3)
- 12. Gaffer possibly sold a half of butter (7)
- 14. See some boys being bashful (3)
- 16. Confused by many an editor (5)
- 17. On which to chalk a tick? (5)
- 19. To put a wrong clause right is only civil (7)
- 20. Single performances can make a little chap very big (5)
- 21. Dead snail, maybe (5)
- 23. A minor point on the map of Florida? (3,4)
- 24. Seem embarrassed by a brightly coloured room (6)
- 25. It reduces one's income (3)
- 27. Poem composed by Cyril (5)
- 28. Empties the wide open spaces (5)
- 30. He's all eyes, this hard-hearted fellow! (5)
- 32. We kept inside to grieve (4)
- 33. A mineral or tea centre (3)

EASY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3. Summarise (5)
- 8. Unsuitable (5)
- 10. Lowest point (5)
- 11. Pistachio (3)
- 12. Teeth (5)
- 13. Capital of Venezuela (7)
- 15. Different (5)
- 18. Container (3)
- 19. Thick oil (6)
- 21. Kneecap (7)
- 22. Talk (4)
- 23. Obscenity (4)
- 24. Estimates (7)
- 26. Of the stars (6)
- 29. Unhappy (3)
- 31. Braid (5)
- 32. Leaves (7)
- 34. Class (5)
- 35. Attach (3)
- 36. Strong coffee (5)
- 37. Reimburse (5)
- 38. Melodies (5)

DOWN

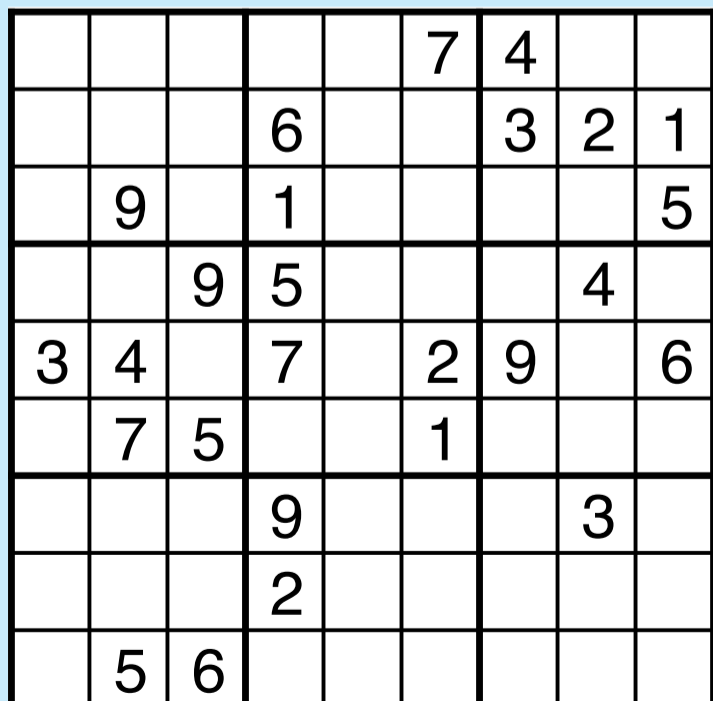
- 1. Chronicle (5)
- 2. Quick light taps (7)
- 4. Epochs (4)
- 5. Mohair (6)
- 6. Adhesive (5)
- 7. Slates (5)
- 9. Animal's coat (3)
- 12. Decisive (7)
- 14. Crib (3)
- 16. Hurts (5)
- 17. Relaxes (5)
- 19. Spectacles (7)
- 20. Fragment (5)
- 21. Spaghetti (5)
- 23. Tranquillises (7)
- 24. Cake (6)
- 25. Weaken (3)
- 27. Sailing vessel (5)
- 28. Correct (5)
- 30. Thief (5)
- 32. Nobleman (4)
- 33. Rend (3)

WORD SEARCH



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Baton | Forearm | Luxury | Skulk |
| Burst | Frequent | Muddy | Surname |
| Column | Grubs | Nickels | Swimming |
| Deepened | Humanitarians | Offed | Tassel |
| Elites | Impacts | Prattled | Teeing |
| Emulation | Insides | Prune | Theory |
| Enmity | Kneading | Quack | Tiled |
| Equity | Knife | Recited | Trips |
| Expire | Ledger | Sapphires | Tusks |
| Flank | Lushes | Sickles | Warns |

SUDOKU



Easy
Medium
Hard

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9

ALFAKODO

Letters A to Z have a number value. Some are shown in the right hand cells. Create remaining values using clues in centre cells.

A	R-D		N	P+B	
B	X-R		O	Z+D	
C	L+J		P	A+R	
D	U-J	7	Q	C÷Q	5
E	L+D		R	D+A	8
F	I-W	3	S	O-X	
G	B+Y		T	R+E	
H	T-I		U	I+P	26
I	M+A	17	V	W+X	24
J	M+F		W	V-X	
K	I+L		X	L+H	10
L	F+F		Y	H+W	
M	N+Q		Z	Q×F	

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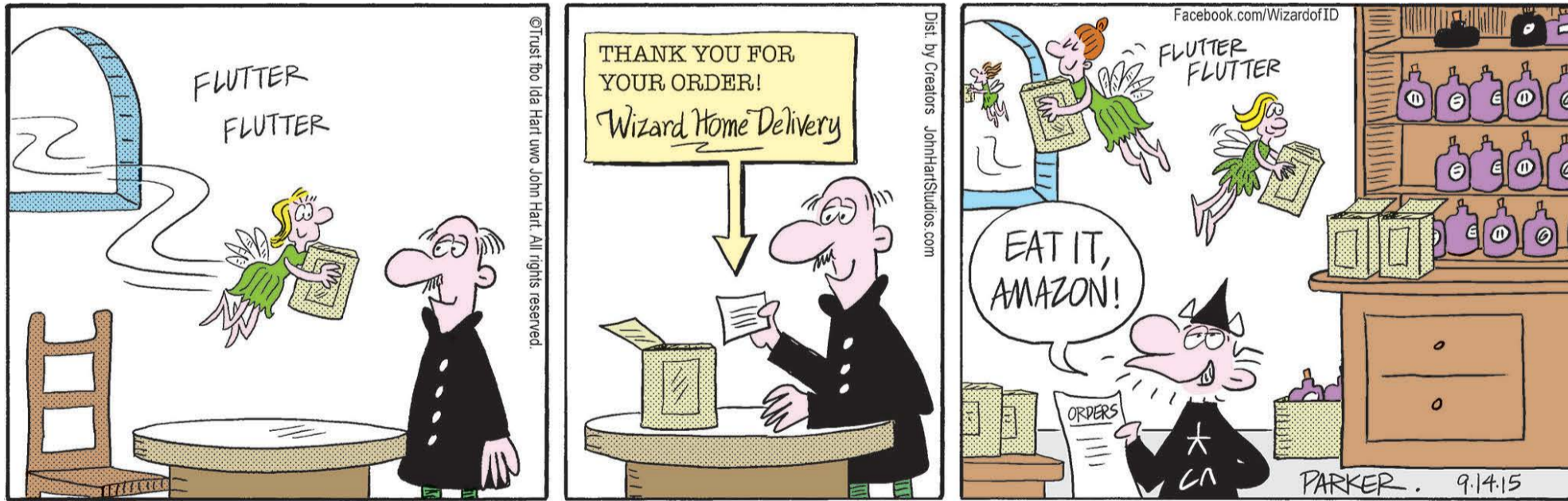
Solution to Friday's Alfabodo

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
23	4	16	18	25	17	3	14	7	20	10	8	19	11	5	15	26	12	6	2	13	21	9	24	1	22

CODEBREAKER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													

WIZARD OF ID



FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1. Tar-mac 7. Half time 8. T-one 10. Marrow 11. Fine-st. 14. E'er 16. Cur-ly 17. She'd 19. Wo-men 21. Ha-yes 22. Al-Dan 23. Sh-Op. 26. Hoard 28. See 29. In-step 30. Re-late 31. Ex-it 32. Procured 33. S-can-ty.

DOWN: 1. Thames 2. Mo-or-ed 3. Chew 4. Off-ices 5. Finer 6. Getty 8. Tree 9. No-R 12. Nun 13. Sl-I-go 15. Royal(-ties) 18. Her-on 19. Wad 20. Men 21. Hide-O-us 22. Art 23. Selina 24. Heat 25. P-lent-y 26. Hippo 27. Aston 28. Sex 30. Reds.

EASY

ACROSS: 1. Doubts 7. Helsinki 8. Bode 10. Abroad 11. Fibula 14. Amy 16. Ruler 17. Pans 19. Timid 21. Coven 22. Doyen 23. Rise 26. Forum 28. Oar 29. Arabic 30. Cavort 31. Akin 32. Cinnamon 33. Twelve.

DOWN: 1. Decamp 2. Brooms 3. Shed 4. Aspirin 5. Annul 6. Cigar 8. Bran 9. Day 12. Bud 13. Leaps 15. Diver 18. Abhor 19. Toy 20. Men 21. Comical 22. Dub 23. Ravine 24. Iron 25. Entire 26. Farce 27. Rainy 28. Oak 30. Cant.

SUDOKU

2	1	6	3	9	5	8	7	4
3	7	5	8	2	4	1	6	9
9	4	8	1	6	7	3	5	2
6	9	4	5	1	2	7	3	8
8	3	7	9	4	6	2	1	5
5	2	1	7	3	8	9	4	6
7	5	3	4	8	9	6	2	1
4	8	2	6	7	1	5	9	3
1	6	9	2	5	3	4	8	7

CODEBREAKER

A	J	M	D	F	B	E	E	P	S				
P	R	O	H	I	B	I	T	I	V	E	N	P	
P	C	M	G	L	L	I	V	E	R				
R	U	I	D	I	O	M	O	O	I				
I	L	L	I	C	I	T	Y	A	W	N	I	G	
Z	A	S	J	M	E	I							
E	A	R	L	Q	U	I	N	A	C	R	I	N	E
N	O	U	H	R	V	O							
I	N	T	O	X	I	C	A	T	E	Y	A	N	K
E	S	E	D	T	V	I							
E	X	P	E	C	T	S	S	T	I	P	E	N	D
N	I	A	A	C	T	O	R	R	N				
S	I	Z	E	D	V	R	A	R	L	E			
U	Z	G	R	O	T	E	S	Q	U	E	L	Y	
E	V	A	D	E	Y	W	I	D	S				

Pursuits

QUOTE OF THE DAY



“Emancipation of women has made them lose their mystery.”

– Said by American actress Grace Kelly, who, after marrying Prince Rainier III, became the Princess of Monaco. Kelly died on September 14, 1982.

REFLECTION

“Love, not in word or with the tongue, but in deed and truth.”

1 John 3:18

TODAY IN HISTORY

1975: Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is canonised by Pope Paul VI, becoming the first American saint.

WORD POWER

What does ‘lune’ mean?

- a. Surface of a sphere
- b. Spare room
- c. Specified amount
- d. Food container

Friday’s solution: The word ‘lummox’ means clumsy or stupid.

10 years ago, *The Times* Wednesday, September 14, 2005

EU may curb spring hunting

Malta may have to introduce new restrictions on hunting in spring before the next season in order to satisfy the European Commission which is not convinced the derogation allowing bird shooting during this period is being implemented according to EU rules.

The government has said it intended to prohibit the trapping of finches in spring and to shorten the season for hunting from sea craft by a month. But it looks more likely the government will have to go much further in order to comply with the EU Birds Directive.

Under EU law, hunting in spring is normally banned to protect birds during migration. Malta is the only EU member state where this is still allowed, although only turtle doves and quail can be shot.

A senior EU official told *The Times* that a few months ago the Commission had asked the Maltese authorities to file a report, by the end of this month, detailing how the derogation is being implemented and listing the restrictions in place.

The report has to include justification for retaining the derogation for next spring.



Half a century ago, *Times of Malta* Tuesday, September 14, 1965

Ecumenical Council

HG the Archbishop left for Rome to take part in the fourth final session of the Vatican Ecumenical Council. Mgr Gonzi told press representatives prior to his departure, that the problems tackled and discussed in the previous session will be submitted for voting. “After the opening of the session, there will be a procession with the relics of the Holy Cross from the church of the Holy Cross to the Basilica of St John. It will be led by His Holiness the Pope [Paul VI] together with the Council Fathers. HG was accompanied by Mgr Galea and Fr M. Cefair, Pastor of the church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Detroit, the US.

Bomb in harbour

A 506-lb unexploded German bomb, which was lying on the seabed opposite the fishmarket in Valletta, was brought to the surface by a Naval diving team. The bomb was taken away.

25 years ago, *The Times* Friday, September 14, 1990

Court orders jail sentence to be suspended

Mr Justice Godwin Muscat Azzopardi, presiding over the Criminal Court, yesterday sentenced Arthur Cassar, 28, of Qormi, to two years’ imprisonment but ordered the sentence to be suspended providing Cassar did not commit another crime liable to a term of imprisonment during the next four years.

The court also ordered Cassar to be put under the control of a supervision officer for a period of four years.

Cassar admitted that he, together with an accomplice, had, during the night of May 25, 1986, broken into an Escort car, property of John’s Garage, with the intention of stealing whatever items of value there might have been inside the car, causing damages amounting to less than Lm50 to the said car.

Cassar was, in fact, caught red-handed and detained by a night watchman.

In its sentence, the Criminal Court considered that Cassar had a drug-related problem since the time of the crime. He had also spent some time under preventive arrest. The court, therefore, agreed with the Attorney General’s submission that a suspended sentence was more appropriate than one of probation.



A century ago, *Daily Malta Chronicle* Tuesday, September 14, 1915

Miscellaneous

■ Sir James Porter KCB, late Director General Medical Department, Royal Navy, is doing duty at the Dardanelles. The eminent physician is on board the yacht *Liberty* which is one of the largest yachts in the world and which has been converted into a hospital ship. The *Liberty* has been several times lying in our harbour.

■ Another hospital ship carrying the Italian colours also belonging to the Illoyd Sabauda Coy entered harbour.

■ Sylvio Spiteri, a Maltese resident in Egypt, where he was employed as correspondent with the Cairo branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank and who left Egypt for England for purpose of enlisting, has now joined the RAMC and will shortly proceed to the front.

WEATHER FORECAST

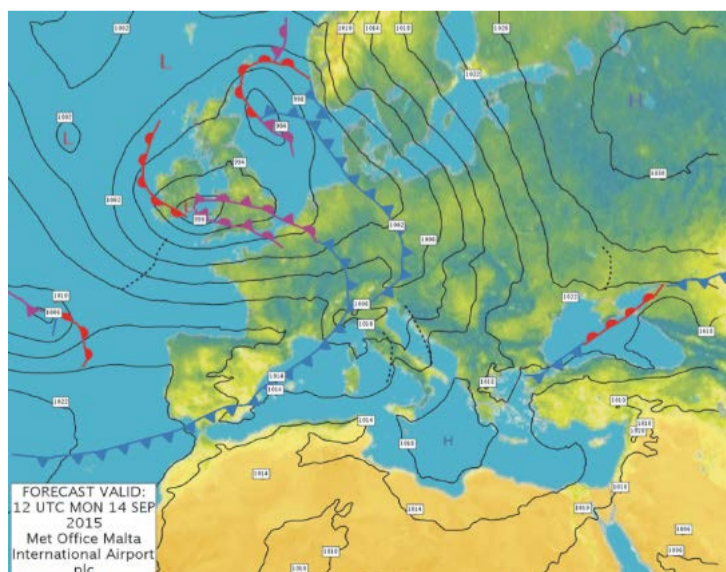
POWERED BY



TODAY’S OUTLOOK

SUNNY	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	WIND	UV INDEX
	30°C	23°C	S F3 TO 4	7

High pressure covering the central Mediterranean and Libya will move over the Ionian Sea. **Weather:** Sunny. **Visibility:** Good. **Wind:** Light to moderate southerly. **Sea:** Slight. **Swell:** Negligible. **Sea temperature:** 27°C.



NOON TEMPERATURES ABROAD

- Algiers 30 partly cloudy
- Amsterdam 18 cloudy
- Athens 29 fair
- Barcelona 26 sunny
- Berlin 23 fair
- Brussels 17 cloudy
- Cairo 36 sunny
- Copenhagen 16 cloudy
- Dublin 14 light rain
- Frankfurt 19 rainy
- Istanbul 24 partly cloudy
- Lisbon 23 partly cloudy
- London 18 partly cloudy
- Madrid 23 sunny
- Milan 16 rainy
- Moscow 14 cloudy
- Munich 25 cloudy
- Paris 17 cloudy
- Rome 26 partly cloudy
- St Petersburg 17 cloudy
- Stockholm 17 cloudy
- Tel Aviv 33 sunny
- Tripoli N/A
- Tunis 35 fair
- Vienna 24 partly cloudy
- Zurich 19 cloudy

5-DAY FORECAST

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY
HIGH	30°C	31°C	32°C	33°C	31°C
LOW	23°C	23°C	23°C	23°C	23°C
WIND	S F3 TO 4	S F3 TO 4	S F3	SW F3 TO 4 BECOMING W	W F3 TO 4
UV INDEX	7	7	7	7	7

LUQA OBSERVATIONS YESTERDAY

Mean sea level pressure: 1020.5hPa. **Wind:** SW'S 08kt. **Relative humidity:** 63%. **Clouds:** 2/8Cu 2/8Ci. **Visibility:** 20km. **Maximum shade temperature during day:** 29°C. **Minimum during previous night:** 21°C. **Average sea temperature around Malta:** 27°C. **Hours of bright sunshine:** 11.1. **Rainfall up till noon yesterday:** Nil. **Rainfall since September 1:** 24.3mm. **Sunrise:** 6.42am. **Sunset:** 7.14pm. www.malairport.com/weather

Science

Team bids for \$1m prize for best way to say 'hello' to galactic neighbours

How would we contact aliens?

John von Radowitz

It is a perfectly human reaction to be annoyed if malware infects your smartphone or laptop.

But just how extraterrestrials might respond is harder to predict.

An accidental cyber attack launched against aliens who might be hundreds of thousands of years more advanced than us is just one problem bothering British scientists working on a message to send ET.

The small team from the 20-strong UK Seti (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) group is bidding for a \$1 million prize on offer for the best method of saying "hello" to our galactic neighbours.

Russian internet billionaire Yuri Milner put up the prize as part of a huge new investment in Seti, which has the backing of leading scientists.

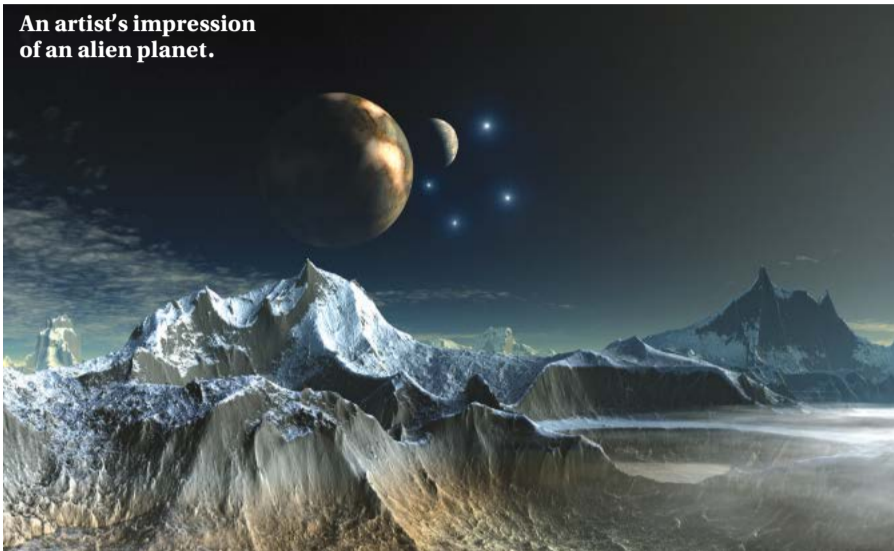
Seti generally involves listening out for alien signals using powerful radio telescopes and computer software that can scan thousands of frequencies.

But some experts believe we should also be shouting out our presence to the cosmos by beaming messages to targeted stars.

Anders Sandberg, a UK Seti member from the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University, said it was important to ensure that we stream 'clean' digital signals that do not cause unintentional offence.

Speaking at the British Science Festival, taking place at the University of Bradford, he said: "There are complications about using a complicated language or syntax for sending a message - I've written a paper about this.

An artist's impression of an alien planet.



"A too complex language can hide an awful lot of weird stuff, which is a real problem for our own computer security. Sending out a message that could hide malware might be something the aliens don't like."

So far UK Seti has not made a great deal of progress on its message. In fact it is not entirely sure one should be sent at all. A vote taken at a recent meeting was split 50/50 between those in favour and those against.

The argument against calling ET is that it might attract the wrong kind of attention. Top physicist Stephen Hawking is one of those urging caution and is quoted as saying: "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in

America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans."

Sandberg said he hoped a consensus would eventually be reached. Meanwhile, UK Seti has set up a four-man alien message working group.

Opinion is also split about what kind of content should be included in a radio broadcast to aliens.

"Pictures are iconic and easy to interpret," said Sandberg. "On the other hand you have the school that says, no, we don't know whether the aliens have eyes.

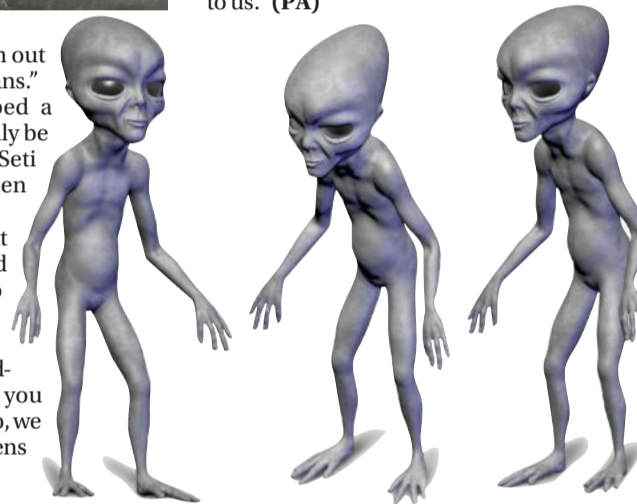
"Pictures might be totally the wrong thing to send to them. That school would say let's use something universal like mathematics."

Whatever kind of message is sent, it most definitely should not be sexist, according to Jill Stuart from the London School of Economics.

She said an example of a "wrong" message was the pictorial representation of humans carried on the *Voyager 1*, the probe launched in 1977 that is now heading out of the solar system. It shows a hand-waving man standing in front of a 'passive' woman.

"I wouldn't want to impose a narrative that has a specific gender approach," said Stuart, also speaking at the science festival.

"You might say why would the aliens care about gender? But it's also forcing us to look in. Part of the exercise is looking at our collective humanity and deciding what's important to us." (PA)



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Health

Studies find causes and ways to reduce risk of suffering from depression

Eating seafood can help to keep the blues at bay

Jennifer Cockerell

Eating a lot of fish may help reduce the risk of depression, scientists have said.

Researchers in China analysed 26 studies involving more than 150,000 participants and found higher fish intake was associated with a reduced risk of depression in those conducted in Europe - but not in the other continents studied.

They found a slightly stronger association between high fish consumption and lowered depression risk in men (20 per cent) compared with women at 16 per cent.

The team said the reason for their findings was not entirely clear, but suggested that the omega-3 fatty acids found in fish may alter the microstructure of brain membranes and modify the activity of the neurotransmitters, dopamine and serotonin, both of which are thought to be involved in depression. They said high-quality protein,

vitamins and minerals may have a protective effect on depression, while high fish consumption may also be related to a generally healthier diet and better nutritional status, which could itself contribute to a lower risk of depression.

The study, which is published online in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* and was led by the Medical College of Qingdao University, concluded that further research was needed.

"High fish consumption was significantly associated with reduced risk of depression only among studies conducted in Europe, and not in those conducted in North America, South America, Asia and Oceania," the authors said.

"Presumably, differences in fish type, fish preservation and cooking styles may be an important determinant in the heterogeneity." (PA)

Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish may alter the structure of brain membranes.



Overnight social media use can lead to anxiety among teens

A lack of sleep among teenagers who are spending the night hours on social media can cause depression and anxiety, according to a study.

Scientists measured the sleep quality and social media use of 467 teenagers and found that pressure to be available online 24 hours a day and respond to messages impacted on mental health issues.

Analysis showed that overall and night-time specific social media use, along with emotional investment in social media, were related to poorer sleep quality, lower self-esteem as well as higher anxiety and depression levels.

Led by Heather Cleland Woods of the University of Glasgow, the study suggested parents should ensure children "switch off" at night.

The study was presented at the British Psychological Society conference in Manchester last week.

Cleland Woods said: "Adolescence can be a period of increased vulnerability for the onset of depression and anxiety, and poor sleep quality may contribute to this.

"It is important that we understand how social media use relates to these. Evidence is increasingly supporting a link between social media use and well-being, particularly during adolescence, but the causes of this are unclear.

"While overall social media use impacts on sleep quality, those who log on at night appear to be particularly affected. This may be mostly true of individuals who are highly emotionally invested.

"This means we have to think about how our kids use social media, in relation to time for switching off." (PA)

"The study suggested parents should ensure children 'switch off' at night"

Quit-smoking drug not tied to depression or heart risks

Kate Kelland

Pfizer's stop-smoking drug Chantix does not raise risks of heart attack or depression, contrary to previous reports, and should be recommended to more smokers wanting to quit, scientists said last week.

In a study tracking 150,000 smokers in England for six months, researchers found that patients who took Chantix, known generically as varenicline and marketed as Champix in Europe, were no more likely to suffer a heart attack than those using nicotine replacement therapy or another quit-smoking drug.

They were also not at higher risk of depression or self-harm, the study found.

Describing the study as an "extensive analysis" of the potential risks of Chantix, Aziz Sheikh, professor and co-director at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Medical Informatics, said he considered it "highly unlikely that varenicline has any significant adverse effects on cardiac or mental health".

"Regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should review its safety warning in relation to varenicline as this may be unnecessarily limiting access to this effective smoking cessation aid," he said.

Chantix reduces both the craving for and pleasurable effects of cigarettes and is used by heavy smokers who find it difficult to quit. It is one of the biggest-selling stop-smoking drugs in the US and Britain, and generated \$647 million in revenue in 2014.

Investors had high hopes for the drug when Pfizer first launched it in 2006, but reports of mental health problems in users led FDA officials to order

a 'black box' warning on the drug's label in 2009. Two years later, the FDA changed the Chantix label further to add a warning of increased heart risks for people who already have cardiovascular disease.

The latest research, published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* journal, studied patients who had been prescribed either varenicline or Zyban, an anti-smoking drug from GlaxoSmith-Kline known generically as bupropion, to help them quit, or had used nicotine therapies such as patches, gum or lozenges.

Daniel Kotz, a professor at Germany's Heinrich-Heine-University Dusseldorf who also worked on the study, said the findings suggested the risks were low so the benefits of Chantix should be made more widely available.

"Smokers typically lose three months of life expectancy for every year of continued smoking," he said. "Our research supports the use of varenicline as an effective and safe tool to help people quit."

Smoking kills up to half of those who do it and is predicted to claim up to eight million lives a year worldwide by 2030 if current trends persist. (Reuters)



Kale or steak? Change in diet key to UN plan to end hunger

Experts say sustainable diets will require more plant-based food and less meat, which consumes 11 times more water and results in more emissions

In trendy, hipster London or New York, it's all about juicing, vegan diets and snacking on kale crisps. Thousands of miles away, in Nairobi or Bogota, the middle classes are more likely to reach for roasted goat or a juicy steak.

Later this month, world leaders are set to endorse a UN goal to eliminate hunger by 2030, but they will have to convince their citizens to adopt new eating habits first, experts say.

Diets must feature less red meat, which consumes 11 times more water and results in five times more climate-warming emissions than chicken or pork, according to a 2014 study.

The shift, like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) themselves, must apply to both wealthy and developing nations, where consumption of ecologically unfriendly foods is growing fastest.

"Sustainable and healthy diets will require a move towards a mostly plant-based diet," said Colin Khoury, a biologist at the Columbia-based International Centre for Tropical Agriculture.

Other key changes needed are cutting food waste and combating poor nutrition, he added.

There are some signs the public is starting to take such advice on board. They include the release of an EatBy app that reminds consumers to use up food in the fridge, and a new social network to help people adopt a 'climatarian' diet that shuns meat from gassy grazing animals, such as beef and lamb.

More than one million people have also signed an online petition calling on European ministers to pass laws and launch national action plans aimed at meeting a target in the SDGs to halve global food waste per capita by 2030.

Achieving the SDGs means the international community will need to find enough food over the next 15 years for the 795 million people who go to bed hungry every night.

"I don't think it's all that ambitious to eliminate hunger," said Jomo Sundaram, assistant director-general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

That is because incomes are rising in much of the world, transport to move food is improving, and new technologies are keeping yields of many key crops on an upward trend, he said.

The previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2000, aimed to halve the proportion of hungry people worldwide, a target that was largely achieved.

UN officials believe that success can now be extended to put an end to hunger, which



An organic kale field. Switching from eating meat four times a week to just once would reduce commodity prices, as less grain would go to feed animals, making food cheaper for the urban poor.

is judged according to the number of calories people consume – a system some experts say is too narrow.

Despite a rapidly rising world population, there are 216 million fewer hungry people on earth today than in 1990, the FAO reported in May.

But with the global population expected to climb to 8.5 billion by 2030, from 7.3 billion now, and climate change predicted to ravage yields in some nations, ending hunger will require tough choices in the field and on the dinner table.

"It's not going to be easy, but if you look at the arithmetic, it is achievable," Sundaram said.

The world already produces enough food for everyone, but around one-third of it is discarded or spoils in transport or storage before reaching consumers, according to the FAO.

In rich countries, individuals and grocery stores are responsible for most of the waste when they throw away imperfect vegetables or products they think are no longer safe to eat.

Developing countries lose roughly a third of their edibles due to poor refrigeration systems and infrastructure bottlenecks, which prevent food from reaching the market.

"Today we could easily feed everyone – it's a distribution issue," said Michael Obersteiner of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, an Austria-based thinktank.

Meeting the hunger goal by 2030 may be possible if funding were available to cut waste along the supply chain, and yields continued to climb, he said.

But by 2050, climate and population pressures – alongside an expanding global middle-class with an appetite for meat – will make it harder to keep up the momentum on zero hunger. "Diets will have to change," Obersteiner said.

Today half the world's agricultural land is used for livestock farming, he said, which is far less efficient for feeding people – and



Men at a Maasai market in Tanzania, Africa, eating grilled red meat prepared in a traditional way. Photo: Magdalena Paluchowska/Shutterstock.com

worse for the environment – than producing grain, fruit and vegetables for direct human consumption.

And as middle-income earners in developing nations rapidly boost their meat consumption, pressure is growing on farmland, forests and water supplies, Obersteiner said.

Switching from eating meat four times a week, as recommended by the UK-based Food Climate Research Network in 2008, to just once would reduce commodity prices, as less grain would go to feed animals, making food cheaper for the urban poor, he said.

It would also curb greenhouse emissions from the livestock sector, which account for roughly 14 per cent of the global total, more than direct emissions from transport, according to a Chatham House paper published in December.

But with around 1.5°C of global temperature rise already locked in, some regions will have to change what they grow as the climate warms, bringing more extreme weather.

"A lot of people in south and east Africa will have to move away from maize, which is the main staple at the moment," said Luigi Guarino, senior scientist with

the Global Crop Diversity Trust, a plant research organisation.

Lower yields for a key food source in a region where one in four still do not get enough to eat could spell disaster.

But farmers should be able to maintain or even increase production in the face of climate change if they switch to sorghum, millet and traditional vegetables like African nightshade or spider plant, Guarino said.

In addition, new 'climate-smart' varieties of maize and other staple crops, bred to withstand hotter, drier weather, will be crucial for meeting the SDGs, he added.

Some scientists have also been developing food crops with extra micro-nutrients – such as orange sweet potatoes containing high levels of vitamin A – to tackle malnutrition.

Large gene banks, used to breed crops containing the best traits adapted to particular environments, together with public education to shift diets to new and more diverse foods suited to a warmer world, will be crucial, the scientist noted.

"There is no silver bullet to reaching the goal [of eliminating hunger]," Guarino said. "But even if we get 80 per cent there, it's well worth it." (Reuters)

“

Ending hunger will require tough choices in the field and on the dinner table

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Television

LOCAL

TVM MELITA 101 / GO TV 101

07:00 News **08:00** Six2eight **09:30** Ghawdex illum **10:00** Kids TV **11:30** Nisġa Maltija **12:00** News **12:10** Teleshopping **12:40** L-assedju **13:30** Teleshopping **14:30** Hbieb u għedewwa **15:45** Teleshopping **16:00** News **16:30** Alexander's Lost World **17:30** Teleshopping **18:00** News **18:15** Six2eight **20:00** News **20:45** Deceduti **22:00** Tertuqa 35 **22:30** Mixage **23:15** News

TVM 2 MELITA 104 / GO TV 104

08:00 Il gwerra l-kbira **08:30** Lenti **09:00** Malta u lil hinn minnha **10:30** Alexander's Lost World **11:30** Gadgets **12:00** Six2eight **13:30** Żafira **14:30** Paqpaq **15:00** Gourmet **16:00** Madwarna **16:30** Kurrenti **17:30** Hannieqa **18:00** Kids TV **19:30** Kontrattakk **20:00** Champions League Magazine **20:30** News for the Hearing Impaired **20:40** Mill-imħazen tal-festa **21:10** Sawru l-istorja **21:45** Mr Fisherman **22:30** Malta u lil hinn minnha **00:00** Sports News **00:20** News in English

NET MELITA 102 / GO TV 102

07:00 News **09:30** Chill (rpt) **11:00** Klinika (rpt) **11:30** Teleshopping **12:00** What's for Dinner **13:00** Simpatiči **14:00** Teleshopping **15:00** News **15:30** Simpatiči **16:15** Teleshopping **18:00** News **18:05** Chill **19:30** News **20:20** Mhux Café Premier **20:40** Wiċċ imb'wiċċ **21:45** Vittmi **22:30** Flusek (rpt) **23:00** News

ONE MELITA 103 / GO TV 103

08:30 News **09:00** Executive **09:40** Teleshopping **10:30** Kelmtejn **11:00** Mad-daqqa t'għajn **12:00** Samsara **12:10** leqaf 20 minuta **12:30** News **12:40** Snajja Maltin **13:00** It-tfal **14:00** Teleshopping **15:00** Prima facie **16:00** L-evangelisti **17:00** Flimkien ma' Nancy **17:30** News **17:40** Ethos **18:15** Cooking with Lea **19:30** News **20:30** Mellieħa Feast **23:30** News

F LIVING MELITA 108 / GO TV 106

08:00 Bonġu **10:00** Junior Voices **12:00** Before F Living Show **13:00** F Living Show **16:30** Teleshopping **19:30** Overcomer's Voice **20:30** Summer Hit Song Contest **22:30** F Living Show

ITALIAN

RAIUNO MELITA 150 / GO TV 371

06:45 Unomattina **09:50** Storie vere **10:50** I conti fatti **11:00** Tg1 **12:00** La prova del cuoco **12:30** Don Matteo 7 **13:30** Tg1/Economia **14:05** La vita in diretta **16:30** Tg1 **18:50** Reazione a catena **20:00** Tg1 **20:30** Affari tuoi **21:15** Il giovane Montalbano 2 **23:30** Porta a porta **01:00** Tg1 notte

RAIDUE MELITA 151 / GO TV 372

07:45 Sorgente di vita **08:10** The McLeod Sisters **09:40** Estate con costume **10:00** Tg2 Eat Parade **10:30** Cronache animali **11:00** I fatti vostri **13:00** Tg2 giorno **13:30** Estate con costume **13:50** Tg2 Medicina 33 **14:00** Detto fatto **16:15** Castle **17:00** The Good Wife **17:55** Tg2 Flash/Sport **18:45** Elementary **19:30** NCIS **20:30** Tg2 **21:15** Pechino Express **23:30** Party People Ibiza **00:35** Tg2 **00:50** Film: Don McKay

RAITRE MELITA 152 / GO TV 373

08:00 Agora **10:00** Mi manda Raitre **11:00** Elisir **12:00** Tg3 **12:25** Geo **12:45** Pane quotidiano **13:10** Il tempo e la storia **14:00** Tg Regione **14:20** Tg3 **14:50** Tgr Piazza affari **15:00** Little House on the Prairie **16:00** Geo Magazine **19:00** Tg3/Regione **20:00** Blob **20:15** Sconosciuti **20:35** Un posto al sole **21:10** Amore criminale **23:00** Il processo del lunedì **00:00** Tg3 Linea notte

CANALE 5 MELITA 154 / GO TV 375

08:00 Tg5 **08:45** Mattino Cinque **11:00** Forum **13:00** Tg5 **13:40** The Bold and the Beautiful **14:10** Una vita **15:15** Pomeriggio Cinque **18:45** Il segreto **20:00** Tg5 **20:40** Paperissima Sprint Estate **21:10** Sole e catinelle **23:30** Supercinema **00:30** Tg5

ITALIA 1 MELITA 155 / GO TV 376

06:10 The Middle **06:40** Cartoons **08:30** Nikita **10:30** Walker Texas Ranger **12:25** Studio aperto **13:00** Sport Mediaset **13:45** The Simpsons **14:30** Futurama **15:00** Big Bang Theory **15:30** Two Broke Girls **16:00** Two and a Half Men **17:00** According to Jim **17:50** Camera Cafe **18:30** Studio aperto/Studio sport **19:20** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **21:10** Transporter: The Series **00:05** Tiki Taka: Il calcio e il nostro gioco **02:00** Champions League Magazine

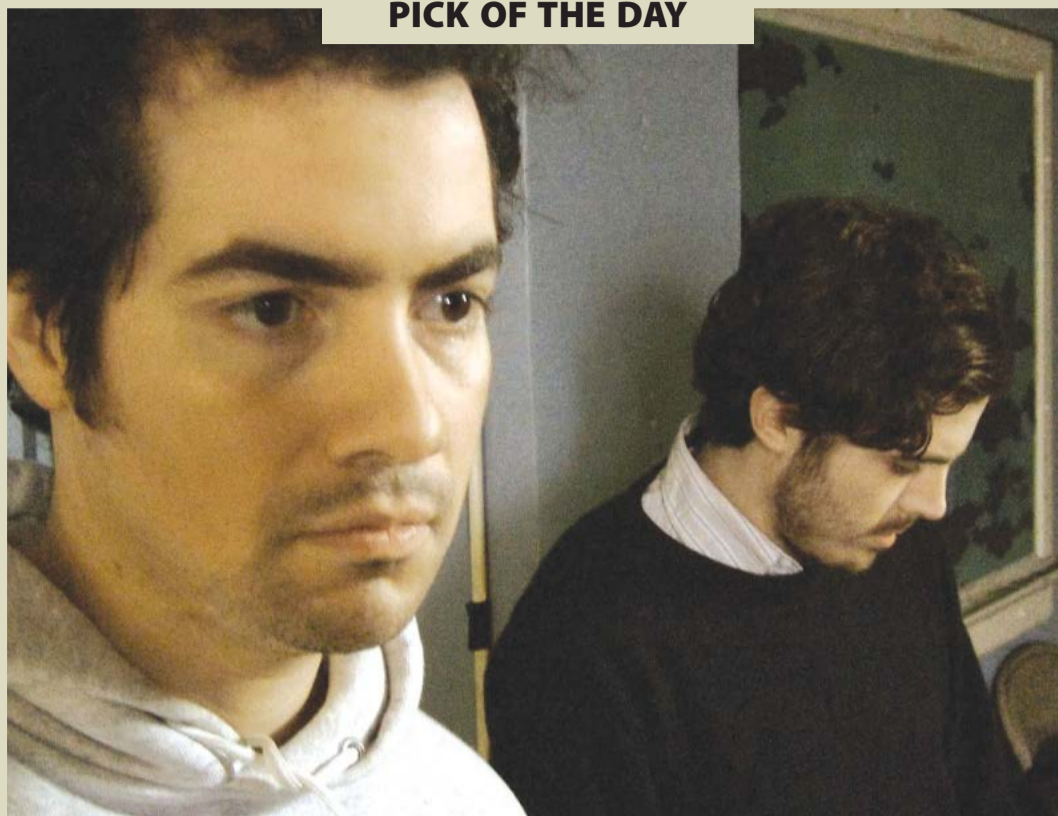
RETE 4 MELITA 153 / GO TV 374

06:40 Rescue Special Operations **09:15** Bandolera **10:30** Dalla vostra parte **11:30** Tg4 **12:00** Diagnosis: Murder **13:00** Murder, She Wrote **14:00** Lo sportello di Forum **15:30** Flikken - Coppia in giallo **16:30** Il Comandante Florent **18:55** Tg4 **19:35** Ieri e oggi in TV **20:00** Tempesta d'amore **20:30** Quinta colonna **00:15** Terra **01:50** Tg4 notte

LAS MELITA 162 / GO TV 380

07:00 Parenthood **07:45** Pretty Little Liars **08:40** Extreme Makeover Home Edition **10:30** Find My Family **11:40** A cuccia di cuori **12:10** Che trucco! **13:05** Eastwick **14:00** Pretty Little Liars **15:00** Parenthood **16:00** Giovani campionesse **17:00** Che trucco! **18:00** Cougar Town **19:15** Eastwick **20:15** Parenthood **21:10** Film: Pay It Forward **23:35** Uomini e donne **01:00** Che trucco!

PICK OF THE DAY



Lonesome Jim

SUNDANCE, 19:40

After failing to find success as a writer in New York City, Jim (Casey Affleck) slinks back to his family's home in the Midwest to lick his wounds.

But his visit is quickly complicated when his angst spreads to his brother, Tim (Kevin Corrigan), who promptly decides to drive his car straight into a tree.

Under the shadow of his sibling's injurious actions, Jim strikes up an unlikely friendship with Anika (Liv Tyler), whose centred small-town wisdom gradually rubs off on him.

The 2005 comedy drama is directed by Steve Buscemi.

Transporter: The Series

ITALIA 1, 21:10

Frank Martin returns as the Transporter with one very simple task – to deliver packages against all the odds. However, something that sounds so simple is rarely so. Joined by two new team members, Caterina Boldieu, an ex-DGSE agent and later in the series, Jules Faroux, a computer and mechanical whizz, Frank is hired to deliver a diverse range of packages – from pop princesses to priceless paintings. Starring Chris Vance, Francois Berleand and Charly Hubner.



Pay It Forward

LA 5, 21:10

Young Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment), troubled by his mother's alcoholism and fears of his abusive but absent father, is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr Simonet (Kevin Spacey). He must think of something to change the world and put it into action.



Don McKay

RAIDUE, 00:50

It has been 25 years since Don McKay (Thomas Haden Church) turned his back on his hometown. He never imagined he would ever return but when he receives a letter from his former girlfriend Sonny (Elisabeth Shue) saying she is dying, he cannot resist visiting his old flame one more time. However, his homecoming brings McKay more than he bargained for.

Television

FILMS

GO STARS GO TV 140

07:10 Edge of Tomorrow 09:00 Nanny McPhee 10:45 Ender's Game 12:45 Boyhood 15:25 All is Lost 17:15 Grace of Monaco 19:00 Downton Abbey 19:50 Two and a Half Men 20:15 Parks & Recreation 21:00 The Love Punch 22:45 The Blacklist 00:15 Joy Ride 3: Roadkill 01:50 The To Do List 03:35 Nanny McPhee 05:15 Downton Abbey 06:05 The Blacklist

SUNDANCE MELITA 314 / HD331 / GO TV 310

06:00 Rectify 07:00 Rectify 07:50 In Our Nature 09:30 Movie Talk 10:00 Cathedrals of Culture 10:30 La Tendresse (Tenderness) 11:50 Paper Covers Rock 13:30 The Writers' Room 14:00 Rectify 15:00 Rectify 15:50 In Our Nature 17:30 Movie Talk 18:00 Convention 19:40 Lonesome Jim 21:15 Rankin Presents Collabor8te – The Television Series 22:00 Passion Fish

AMC MELITA 312 / GO TV 308

07:35 Eight Men Out 09:35 The Adventures of Hercules II 11:05 Big Screen 11:20 A Guy Thing 13:05 An American Rhapsody 14:50 Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery 16:20 Eight Men Out 18:20 Everybody's Fine 20:00 Fear the Walking Dead 21:00 Crime and Punishment 23:00 The Basketball Diaries

TCM MELITA 310 / GO TV 309

06:00 Dial M for Murder 07:45 4 for Texas 09:40 Cimarron 12:05 Edge of the City 13:30 Seven Women 15:00 The Left Handed Gun 16:40 The Rounders 18:05 The Outriders 19:40 The Fighting 69th 21:00 Wild Rovers 23:10 Shaft



The Love Punch

GO STARS, 21:00

Spanning locations in Paris, London and the French Riviera, this film brings together Pierce Brosnan and Emma Thompson for the first time as ex-husband and wife Richard and Kate whose biting banter suggests that the flames of their former relationship have not been fully extinguished. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for their retirement nest egg which is wiped out when Richard's investment firm is defrauded and the pension fund is siphoned away.

CARTOONS

DISNEY CHANNEL MELITA 450 / GO TV 400

10:00 Wizards of Waverly Place 10:25 Jessie 11:15 Sabrina Secrets of a Teenage Witch 12:05 Good Luck Charlie 12:30 Good Luck Charlie 12:55 Dog With a Blog 13:20 H2O: Just Add Water 13:50 Lilo & Stitch 14:20 Liv & Maddie 14:45 Girl Meets World 15:10 Jessie 15:35 Austin & Ally 16:00 Jessie 17:40 Gravity Falls 18:05 H2O: Just Add Water 18:30 Lilo & Stitch 18:55 Hank Zipzer 19:20 Binny and the Ghost 19:45 H2O: Just Add Water 20:10 Good Luck Charlie 20:35 Wizards of Waverly Place 21:25 Sabrina Secrets of a Teenage Witch 22:10 Wolfblood 23:00 Violetta

DISNEY JUNIOR MELITA 462 / GO TV 411

09:55 Miles From Tomorrowland 10:25 Doc McStuffins 10:50 Henry Hugglemonster 11:15 Sofia the First 11:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 12:05 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 12:30 Loopdidoo 12:45 Limon and Oli 12:55 Jake's Buccaneer Blast 13:25 Doc McStuffins 13:50 Miles From Tomorrowland 14:15 Sofia the First 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:10 Lilo & Stitch 15:35 Adventures of the Gummi Bears 16:00 Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers 16:25 DuckTales 16:50 Jake and the Never Land Pirates 17:00 Miles From Tomorrowland 17:25 Messages From Miles 17:30 Sofia the First 17:55 Jake's Buccaneer Blast 18:00 Jake and the Never Land Pirates 18:30 Loopdidoo 18:45 Doc McStuffins 19:00 Adventures of the Gummi Bears 19:30 Sofia the First 19:55 Cars Toons 20:00 Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers 20:25 DuckTales 20:50 Lilo & Stitch 21:15 Zou 21:30 Art Attack 21:55 Limon and Oli 22:05 Henry Hugglemonster 22:20 Calimero 22:35 Zou 22:50 Loopdidoo 23:05 Art Attack 23:30 Henry Hugglemonster

JIM JAM MELITA 458 / GO TV 413

10:35 My Animal Friends Underwater Mission 10:50 Pingu 11:06 Snapatoonies 11:30 Jarmies 11:45 Angelina Ballerina 12:00 Bob the Builder 12:10 Fireman Sam 12:20 Barney and Friends 12:45 Nouky & Friends 12:55 Noksu 13:00 Rubbadubbers 13:10 Woody Buddies 13:20 Kipper 13:30 Oswald 13:45 What's The Big Idea? 13:55 Heroes of the City 14:25 Gombby's Green Island 14:55 Agi Bagi 15:10 Pingu 15:25 Snapatoonies 15:50 Monkey See, Monkey Do 16:00 Dougie in Disguise 16:10 Slim Pig 16:20 Connie the Cow 16:40 Angelina Ballerina 16:55 Thomas & Friends 17:05 Bob the Builder 17:15 Jakers: The Adventures of Piggley Winks 17:40 Heroes of the City 18:10 Hip Hip Hurray 18:25 My Animal Friends Underwater Mission 18:40 What's The Big Idea? 18:50 Dougie in Disguise 18:58 Slim Pig 19:09 Connie the Cow 19:28 Kipper 19:36 Oswald 19:50 Gombby's Green Island 20:20 Agi Bagi 20:35 Hip Hip Hurray 20:50 Heroes of the City 21:20 Fireman Sam 21:30 Barney and Friends 22:00 Thomas & Friends 22:10 Angelina Ballerina

NICKELODEON MELITA 452 / HD 470 / GO TV 402 / HD 403

10:50 Dora and Friends: Into the City! 11:20 Winx Club 11:45 Totally Spies! 12:35 iCarly 12:55 Victorious 13:25 Big Time Rush 13:50 Kung Fu Panda: Legends of Awesomeness 14:40 The Penguins of Madagascar 15:30 Rabbids Invasion 15:55 Sam & Cat 16:20 Marvin Marvin 16:45 iCarly 17:10 Big Time Rush 17:35 SpongeBob SquarePants 18:00 The Legend of Korra 18:25 The Penguins of Madagascar 18:50 The Fairly OddParents 19:15 SpongeBob SquarePants 19:40 The Haunted Hathaways 20:05 iCarly 20:30 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:55 Avatar the Last Airbender 21:20 Big Time Rush 21:45 Big Time Rush 22:10 The Penguins of Madagascar 23:05 iCarly

LIFESTYLE



The Job Lot

BBC ENTERTAINMENT, 22:30

Under pressure to hit targets, Karl and George are on an ill-fated stakeout, while Natalie resorts to teaching Bryony dubious new work skills.

BBC ENTERTAINMENT MELITA 300 / GO TV 302

07:20 Green Balloon Club 07:45 Mr Bloom's Nursery 08:05 Show Me Show Me 08:30 The Weakest Link 09:15 Only Fools and Horses... 09:45 My Family 10:15 The Café 10:40 Doctors 11:10 Casualty 12:00 Being Erica 12:45 The Weakest Link 13:30 The Café 13:55 My Family 14:25 Only Fools and Horses... 15:00 Casualty 15:50 Being Erica 16:35 Doctors 17:05 The Café 17:30 My Family 18:00 Only Fools and Horses... 18:30 The Weakest Link 19:15 Starlings 20:00 Doctors 20:30 EastEnders 21:00 Bedlam 21:45 Bedlam 22:30 The Job Lot 23:00 Starlings 23:45 The Weakest Link

FOOD NETWORK MELITA 410 / GO TV 351

08:00 Guy's Grocery Games 09:00 The Kitchen 10:00 Easy Chinese 10:30 Easy Chinese 11:00 Chopped 12:00 Guy's Big Bite 12:30 Guy's Big Bite 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives 14:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 14:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 15:00 Chopped 16:00 The Kitchen 17:00 Easy Chinese 17:30 Easy Chinese 18:00 Chopped 19:00 Iron Chef America 20:00 Food Court Wars 21:00 Mystery Diners 21:30 Mystery Diners 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives 23:00 Chopped

E! ENTERTAINMENT MELITA 306 / GO TV 305

08:00 Keeping Up With the Kardashians 09:00 Christina Milian Turned Up 10:00 Stewarts & Hamiltons 11:00 The Grace Helbig Show 12:00 I Am Cait 13:00 Keeping Up With the Kardashians 15:00 The Grace Helbig Show 16:00 Christina Milian Turned Up 17:00 Keeping Up With the Kardashians 18:00 Stewarts & Hamiltons 19:00 E! News 20:00 I Am Cait 21:00 The Grace Helbig Show 21:30 E! News Special: Red Carpet Confessions 22:00 Botched 23:00 The Soup

FOX LIFE MELITA 304 / GO TV 300

07:30 Glee 08:15 How To Get Away With Murder 09:05 Jamie's 15 Minute Meals 09:55 Once Upon a Time 10:40 Witches of East End 11:30 Once Upon a Time 12:15 Once Upon a Time 13:00 Glee 13:45 How To Get Away With Murder 14:30 Jamie's 15 Minute Meals 14:55 Jamie's 15 Minute Meals 15:20 Once Upon a Time 16:05 Witches of East End 16:50 Once Upon a Time 17:35 Once Upon a Time 18:20 Glee 19:10 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course 19:35 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course 20:00 Witches of East End 20:50 Once Upon a Time 21:40 How To Get Away With Murder 22:30 Witches of East End 23:15 Once Upon a Time 00:05 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course 00:30 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course

FOX MELITA 302 / GO TV 301

07:30 Family Guy 07:55 According to Jim 08:20 According to Jim 08:45 Breakout Kings 09:30 White Collar 10:15 Empire 11:00 The Simpsons 11:25 Family Guy 11:50 According to Jim 12:15 According to Jim 12:40 Breakout Kings 13:25 White Collar 14:10 Graceland 14:55 The Simpsons 15:20 Family Guy 15:45 According to Jim 16:10 According to Jim 16:35 Breakout Kings 17:20 White Collar 18:05 Empire 18:50 The Simpsons 19:15 Family Guy 19:40 According to Jim 20:05 According to Jim 20:30 The Americans 21:20 The Strain 23:00 Tyrant 23:50 The Americans 00:35 The Strain

ITV CHOICE MELITA 309 / GO TV 306

07:25 Come Date With Me Australia 08:20 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 09:15 Come Dine with Me Ireland 09:40 Sunday Night at the Palladium 10:35 Who's Doing the Dishes? 11:30 Murdoch Mysteries 12:25 Emmerdale 12:50 Come Dine with Me Ireland 13:15 Coronation Street 14:10 Come Date With Me Australia 14:35 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 15:30 More Tales From Northumberland with Robson Green 16:25 Sunday Night at the Palladium 17:20 Murdoch Mysteries 18:10 Coronation Street 19:00 Come Date With Me Australia 19:30 More Tales From Northumberland with Robson Green 20:25 Sunday Night at the Palladium 21:20 Coronation Street 22:15 Emmerdale 22:45 Murdoch Mysteries 23:40 Come Date With Me Australia

MELITA MORE MELITA 315

08:30 Rude Tube 09:00 Grey's Anatomy 09:45 Private Practice 10:30 Criminal Minds 11:15 Perception 12:00 Devious Maids 13:00 Days of Our Lives 13:45 Rude Tube 14:15 Grey's Anatomy 15:00 Private Practice 15:45 Criminal Minds 16:30 Chicago Fire 17:15 Psych 18:15 Days of Our Lives 19:00 The Amazing Race 19:45 Supernatural 20:30 The Mentalist 21:15 Person of Interest 22:00 Game of Thrones 23:00 Spartacus 00:00 Guinness World Records Gone Wild Series 01:00 Rude Tube 01:30 Mike & Molly 02:00 Go On

FINE LIVING NETWORK MELITA 307 / GO TV 350

07:15 Hawaii Life 07:40 Rehab Addict 08:30 Million Dollar Rooms 09:25 House Hunters 10:15 Cousins on Call 10:40 Killer Kitchen Makeover 11:10 Candice Tells All 11:35 Giada at Home 12:25 The High Low Project 13:15 Color Splash 13:45 Million Dollar Rooms 14:35 Extreme Homes 15:25 Hawaii Life 15:50 Caribbean Life 16:15 Beachfront Bargain Hunt 17:05 Caribbean Life 18:00 Extreme Homes 18:55 Million Dollar Rooms 19:45 Hawaii Life 20:10 Caribbean Life 20:35 Rehab Addict 21:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt 21:55 Hawaii Life 22:20 Hawaii Life 22:45 Caribbean Life

Television

DOCUMENTARIES

ANIMAL PLANET MELITA 405

07:15 The Lion Queen **08:10** Treehouse Masters **09:05** Tanked **10:00** Groomer Has It **10:55** Treehouse Masters **11:50** I'm Alive **12:45** River Monsters **13:40** Gator Boys **14:35** Tanked **15:30** I'm Alive **16:25** The Lion Queen **17:20** Biggest & Baddest **18:15** Gator Boys **19:10** Tanked **20:05** Voodoo Sharks **21:00** Biggest & Baddest **21:55** Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan **22:50** Gator Boys **23:45** Tanked

LIFETIME MELITA 411 / GO TV 506

08:00 Flipping Boston **09:00** Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses **10:00** Judge Judy **10:30** Judge Judy **11:00** Judge Judy **11:30** Judge Judy **12:00** Pawn Stars **12:30** Pawn Stars **13:00** Flipping Boston **14:00** Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses **15:00** Judge Judy **15:30** Judge Judy **16:00** Judge Judy **16:30** Judge Judy **17:00** Dance Moms **18:00** Little Women: LA **19:00** The Real Housewives of New Jersey **20:00** Judge Judy **20:30** Judge Judy **21:00** Judge Judy **21:30** Judge Judy **22:00** Dance Moms **23:00** Black Sails

DISCOVERY CHANNEL MELITA 400 / GO TV 501

07:15 You Have Been Warned **08:10** Baggage Battles **08:40** Storage Hunters **09:05** Man, Woman, Wild **09:55** Dual Survival **10:50** Fast N' Loud **11:40** Wheeler Dealers **12:35** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **13:30** Troy **14:25** Close-Up Kings **15:20** You Have Been Warned **16:15** What Happened Next? **17:10** Baggage Battles **17:40** Storage Hunters **18:05** Wheeler Dealers **19:00** How Do They Do It? **19:30** How It's Made **20:00** Ice Cold Gold **21:00** Naked and Afraid **22:00** Dual Survival **23:00** Island of the Mega Shark

DISCOVERY SCIENCE MELITA 402 / GO TV 504

07:53 Moon Machines **08:38** Food Factory **09:01** Food Factory **09:23** Weird or What? **10:08** Weird or What? **10:53** How Do They Do It? **11:16** How Do They Do It? **11:38** Science of the Movies **12:23** Prototype This! **13:10** How It's Made **13:34** How It's Made **13:57** Weird or What? **14:44** Weird or What? **15:31** Science of the Movies **16:18** Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman **17:05** MythBusters **17:50** Outrageous Acts of Psych **18:15** Outrageous Acts of Psych **18:40** Food Factory **19:03** Food Factory **19:25** How It's Made **19:50** How It's Made **20:15** How Do They Do It? **20:38** How Do They Do It? **21:00** Outrageous Acts of Psych **21:23** Outrageous Acts of Psych **21:45** Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman **22:35** How the Universe Works **23:20** MythBusters

DISCOVERY WORLD MELITA 410 / GO TV 353

07:40 Extreme Engineering **08:30** Mystery Cars **08:55** Chasing Classic Cars **09:20** Hell on High Water **10:10** HMS Ark Royal **11:00** Mystery Cars **11:25** Chasing Classic Cars **11:50** Extreme Engineering **12:40** Abalone Wars **13:30** Out of Egypt **14:20** Solving History With Olly Steeds **15:10** Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations **16:00** Mystery Cars **16:25** Chasing Classic Cars **16:50** Extreme Engineering **17:40** Out of Egypt **18:30** Bizarre Foods **19:20** Abalone Wars **20:10** Dangerman **21:00** Bizarre Foods **21:50** HMS Ark Royal **22:40** Extreme Forensics **23:30** Out of Egypt

HISTORY CHANNEL MELITA 412 / GO TV 507

09:00 Pawn Stars **11:00** American Pickers **12:00** Storage Wars **14:00** Pawn Stars **16:00** American Pickers **17:00** Storage Wars **18:00** Pawn Stars **19:00** American Pickers **20:00** Storage Wars **21:00** Pawn Stars **23:00** American Pickers

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MELITA 406 / GO TV 505

07:30 Brain Games **08:00** Wicked Tuna **09:00** Ghost Town Gold **10:00** Wicked Tuna **11:00** Air Crash Investigation **12:00** World's Smart Cities **13:00** Science of Stupid **14:00** The 80s Greatest: Sporting Icons **15:00** Wicked Tuna **16:00** Air Crash Investigation **17:00** Highway Thru Hell **18:00** The '90s Greatest: Tragedies **19:00** Get Rich Or Die Mining **20:00** Yukon Gold **21:00** Yukon River Run **22:00** Filthy Riches **23:00** Yukon Gold

TRAVEL CHANNEL MELITA 410 / GO TV 353

07:00 House Hunters International **09:00** Building Alaska **10:00** Extreme Houseboats **11:00** Mysteries at the Castle **12:00** House Hunters International **13:00** The Vanilla Ice Project **13:30** Salvage Dawgs **14:00** Building Alaska **15:00** Baggage Battles **15:30** Baggage Battles **16:00** Ultimate Braai Master **17:00** Bizarre Foods America **18:00** House Hunters International **18:30** House Hunters International **19:00** House Hunters International **19:30** House Hunters International **20:00** World's Greatest Motorcycle Rides **21:00** Road Rivals **21:30** Road Rivals **22:00** Bizarre Foods America **23:00** Ultimate Braai Master



Road Rivals

TRAVEL CHANNEL, 21:00

Seasoned traveller Russ Malkin and VH1 Vogue's Male Model of the Year Charley Speed are road rivals, each aiming to tempt the other into trying their preferred style of travel. This series follows the boys as they race to France to visit the Mont Blanc Tunnel and the Lamborghini factory, before they take their adventure to the US.

SPORTS



Barclays Premier League GO SPORTS 1, 21:00

In tonight's Premier League match, West Ham take on Newcastle. West Ham United have won only two of their last nine league matches against Newcastle United at the Boleyn Ground, drawing three and losing four, while the Magpies have picked up only two points from their last nine league away games.

EUROSPORT

MELITA 600 / GO TV 550

08:30 Motorsports Weekend **08:45** Snooker **11:30** Spruce Meadows Showjumping Equestrian **12:30** Sports Insiders **13:00** The Ronnie O'Sullivan Show **13:30** Snooker **16:45** US Open Tennis **17:45** WATTS **18:00** Eurogoals **19:15** Vuelta a Espana, Cycling **20:15** Spruce Meadows Showjumping Equestrian **21:15** WATTS **21:30** US Open Tennis **22:30** Sports Insiders

EUROSPORT 2

MELITA 601 / GO TV 552

10:00 US Open Tennis **11:30** Ski Jumping Summer Grand Prix **12:30** Vuelta a Espana **13:30** US Open Tennis **16:45** The Ronnie O'Sullivan Show **17:15** Snooker **18:15** Vuelta a Espana **19:00** Snooker **20:00** US Open Tennis **21:00** Vuelta a Espana, Cycling **22:00** Eurogoals **23:15** Snooker

FOX SPORTS EUROPE

MELITA 603 / HD 620

06:00 Major League Baseball **08:30** MLB 162 **09:00** Speedmakers **10:00** Speedmakers **11:00** MLB 162 **11:30** World Championship Ping Pong **12:30** World Championship Ping Pong **13:30** World Championship Ping Pong **14:30** World Championship Ping Pong **15:30** Major League Baseball **18:00** Speedmakers **19:00** Live: Major League Baseball **22:00** PGA EuroPro Tour Golf

GO SPORTS 1

GO TV 151 / HD161

09:00 Inter vs Milan **11:00** Trans World Sport **12:00** Guinness Pro12: Leinster vs Cardiff Blues **14:00** Premier League World **14:30** Juventus vs Chievo Verona **16:30** Best of Rugby 2014/2015 **18:30** Everton vs Chelsea **20:30** Champions League Magazine **21:00** West Ham Utd vs Newcastle Utd - live **23:00** Premier League Sunday Review **00:00** Vincennes Horseracing

GO SPORTS 7

GO TV 157

09:00 PGA European Tour: KLM Open **14:00** Leicester City vs Aston Villa **16:00** Premier League World **16:30** Palermo vs Carpi **18:30** PGA European Tour KLM Open Highlights **19:30** Premier League Sunday Review

GO SPORTS 8

GO TV 158

11:00 PGA European Tour: KLM Open **16:00** Leicester City vs Aston Villa **18:00** Premier League World **18:30** Palermo vs Carpi **20:30** PGA European Tour: KLM Open Highlights

MELITA SPORTS 1

MELITA 701 / HD 710

10:10 2012 Alpari World Match Tour Sweden **12:15** FA Cup: Hull vs Sunderland **14:15** FC Bayern Munchen vs FC Augsburg **16:15** America's Cup: World Series: San Francisco **18:20** MPS 2013 Iron-Man Melbourne Australia **19:30** Bundesliga Highlights **20:25** Borussia Monchengladbach vs Hamburger SV **22:25** FA Cup: Hull vs Sunderland **00:25** FC Bayern Munchen vs FC Augsburg

MELITA SPORTS 2

MELITA 702 / HD 711

14:10 Swedish ATG Horse Racing **15:15** Eintracht Frankfurt vs 1. FC Koln **17:15** Hannover 96 vs Borussia Dortmund **19:15** America's Cup: World Series San Francisco **21:30** Bundesliga Highlights **22:25** Swedish ATG Horse Racing

MALTA STARS

MELITA 614

14:45 Malta Rugby Football Union Ladies International Tournament 2014 **16:05** FMA 2014-15: Balzan vs Luxol **17:45** Melita GFA: Kerčem vs Xewkija **19:35** Men's MHA Cup: La Salle vs Kavallieri **21:00** Birkirkara vs Valletta

MUSIC

MEZZO MELITA 510 / GO TV 611

09:30 Un concert pour la Chambre du Roy avec les Folies Françaises **11:00** Saint-Saëns, Lalo, Chabrier et Dukas par l'Orchestre Divertimento et Zahia Zouani **12:30** Intermezzo **13:30** "Clavigo", chorégraphie de Roland Petit **14:55** Le Diable Amoureux chorégraphie de R. Petit **16:00** Intermezzo **17:00** Le Comte Ory de Rossini au MET de New York **19:25** Intermezzo **20:30** Les dissonances jouent le symphonie n 5 de beethoven à dijon **21:05** Ensemble Les Dissonances joue le quatuor num. 9 de Beethoven **21:40** Vanessa Wagner et Pavel Gomziakov au Château de Chambord **22:40** Intermezzo **23:30** Jamie Cullum Live Au Jazz à Vienne

MTV EUROPE MELITA 500 / GO TV 311

06:00 Only Hits **07:00** Teen Mom 2 **08:00** Teen Mom 2 **09:00** 16 and Pregnant **10:00** 16 and Pregnant **11:00** Plain Jane **12:00** Plain Jane **13:00** Disaster Date **13:30** Disaster Date **14:00** Pimp My Ride **14:30** Pimp My Ride **15:00** Pimp My Ride **15:30** Pimp My Ride **16:00** Only Hits **17:00** Catfish: The TV Show **19:00** Snack-Off **19:30** Snack-Off **20:00** Brothers Green: Eats! **20:30** Brothers Green: Eats! **21:00** Ridiculousness **21:30** Ridiculousness **22:00** Ridiculousness **22:30** Ridiculousness **23:00** Geordie Shore

NEWS

BBC WORLD NEWS

MELITA 200 / GO TV 251

EURONEWS

MELITA 201 / GO TV 252

CNN

MELITA 202 / GO TV 253

SKY NEWS

MELITA 203 / GO TV 255

AL JAZEERA

MELITA 206

BLOOMBERG

MELITA 204 / GO TV 256

CNBC

MELITA 205 / GO TV 254

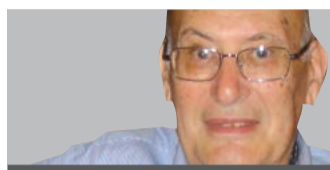
FRANCE 24 IN ENGLISH

MELITA 207

EUROSPORTNEWS

MELITA 209

Loan impairments' impact on local core domestic banks



Anthony Curmi

Anthony Curmi is a former bank executive.

In an article titled 'Impact of loan etc impairments on the profitability of local core domestic banks' (*Times of Malta*, October 14, 2014) I produced a table of comparative statistics of the then five core domestic banks. Since then the number increased by one as Medbank was reclassified because of its balance sheet size.

My previous article followed the publication by the Central Bank of Malta of their Financial Stability Report 2013 from which I quoted the following concluding comment in the report's preface:-

"In view of the upcoming regulatory measures, fragile global economic conditions, especially in the euro area, and remaining threats to the financial system, banks are still encouraged to increase their provisioning levels and strengthen their capital through prudent dividend policies. Furthermore, banks should continue to diversify their funding sources while implementing further measures to reverse the contraction in corporate loans."

The table accompanying this article includes the six banks currently classified as 'core banks' plus Fimbank, in view of that bank's substantial customer deposit base and the volatility of its net impairment provisions and, as a consequence, its erratic annual results.

Net impairment provisions (charges) are defined in the CBM's report as being "costs incurred as a result of a decline in the value of assets. These include write-down of loans, investments and non-financial assets, net of recoveries and reversals".

The table traces, over a five-year period, the banks' annual operating profits (before provisions); net impairment provisions; post-tax profits; equity base (shareholders' funds); customers' deposits and

the ratio between customers' and shareholders' funds.

In general, the indications are that the banks have adhered to the directive that capital and reserves should be raised at the expense of reducing the amount of dividends paid out to shareholders annually. Banks were also requested to raise the rate of impairment provisioning for loans and financial instruments.

The figures for impairments reveal a mixed bag with the major banks having no problem in increasing provisions and still producing an acceptable level of post-tax profits notwithstanding that HSBC's net impairments in 2014 (€22,668,000) were seven times those for 2013 (€3,220,000).

The figures for three other banks also call for comment. Until 2012 Banif's provisions were not based on a sufficiently long loan experience (having commenced business in 2007) but by using market probability for defaults. The 2014 net figure (€1,820,000) showed a 39 per cent rise on that for 2013 (€1,319,000).

Delving more deeply into the 2014 figure it transpires that this is made up of reversals of specific allowances of €3,089,000 (the main component probably being whatever provisions had been made for the loan to the Café Premier temporary leaseholders) and collective allowances of €1,114,000. Against this total of €4,198,000, new provisions made totalled €2,378,000. Thus, without the write-backs, Banif would have reverted into a loss situation and not showed post-tax profits of €858,000.

Medbank's provisions have stabilised after the disastrous result for the 15 months to March 31, 2012, when the bank's substantial operating profits were virtually all wiped out by losses on an abnormally large exposure to Greek government and corporate bonds.

Fimbank's provisions are highly volatile. Not surprising, considering the higher risk geographical area in which the bank operates and also the particular nature of its business (particularly factoring and forfeiting). Clearly 2014 was a particularly bad year for the bank with net provisions of nearly \$64 million resulting in post-tax losses of \$50 million.

Five year analysis of net impairment provisions & profitability etc. of main domestic banks (6 core banks + FIMBank)						
all amts. €000 (FIMBank US\$000)	1 Operating profits (before provisions)	2 Net impairment provisions	3 Post tax profits	4 Shareholders' funds	5 Customers deposits	6 Ratio of 4 to 5 (%)
APS						
2011	11,050	(2,625)	5,663	66,113	687,646	9.61
2012	14,068	(4,998)	6,281	80,651	745,234	10.82
2013	11,995	1,254	8,723	93,367	781,879	11.94
2014	11,813	(1,194)	6,784	107,778	895,156	12.04
Banif						
2011	67	(820)	(578)	21,330	261,873	8.15
2012	1,152	(902)	173	21,545	430,996	5.00
2013	1,572	(1,319)	124	21,718	554,007	3.92
2014	3,222	(1,820)	858	22,806	579,203	3.94
BOV						
2011	75,672	(16,041)	37,573	452,072	5,525,156	8.18
2012	129,378	(22,793)	69,462	494,061	5,810,604	8.50
2013	131,945	(25,595)	70,489	541,082	6,220,954	8.70
2014	119,190	(19,408)	64,446	573,525	7,120,674	8.05
HSBC Malta						
2011	103,698	(4,199)	66,559	311,854	4,440,646	7.02
2012	100,759	(5,561)	61,556	346,021	4,537,127	7.63
2013	90,339	(3,220)	56,415	366,282	4,554,104	8.04
2014	85,791	(22,668)	40,382	395,257	4,931,485	8.01
Lombard						
2011	11,512	(2,231)	6,009	73,257	463,761	15.80
2012	9,533	(971)	5,550	75,846	463,276	16.37
2013	10,490	(4,103)	4,111	77,783	498,724	15.60
2014	9,518	(4,609)	3,059	81,099	577,937	14.03
Medbank						
2012 ***	63,719	(62,885)	981	75,386	379,555	19.86
2013	37,644	(676)	31,198	115,083	566,047	20.33
2014	16,698	(2,081)	4,127	135,160	776,715	17.40
2015	49,955	(4,006)	41,713	169,226	1,196,752	14.14
FIMBank						
2011	690	328	1,839	111,239	408,124	27.26
2012	(18,706)	(1,691)	1,528	110,738	427,387	25.91
2013	3,878	(6,709)	(2,831)	132,803	414,846	32.01
2014	13,684	(63,992)	(50,238)	129,538	496,006	26.12
2015 +++	(951)	(9,888)	(9,398)	119,958	407,564	29.43

*** 15 months 01.01.11 to 31.03.12 '+++ FIMBank interim figures as at 30.06.15

Bank (not Group) figures. Extracted from Financial Statements as at 31st Dec. (31st March for Medbank & 30th Sept. for BOV).

Although the bank's interim figures as at June 30, 2015 still revealed the need for more provisions of nearly \$10 million, and a post-tax loss of about the same amount, the chairman affirmed at a recent meeting with stockbrokers and financial intermediaries that the worst is over and that the bank has taken determined steps to return to profitability. The market's reception was that the day after the interim results were announced on August 6, the share price dropped by 9.1 per cent to \$0.45.

As regards post-tax results Fimbank lags well behind all the other banks reviewed in the table. However, in terms of the ratio of shareholders' funds to customers' deposits, it ranks well ahead of all the other banks with an exceptionally high ratio of nearly 30 per cent. Thus the bank is very well capitalised.

This is a reassuring factor added to which it can rely on funding by its major shareholders i.e. Burgan Bank SAK (19.53 per cent) and United Gulf Bank (61.12 per cent). Significantly, Lombard's post-tax

profits halved over the five-year period to 2014.

APS, Lombard and Medbank also show very creditable double digit ratios of equity to customers' funds compared to the more normal eight per cent ratio for the two major banks.

"The indications are that the banks have adhered to the directive that capital and reserves should be raised at the expense of reducing the amount of dividends paid out to shareholders annually"

Banif is the laggard with a ratio of just under four per cent. The bank clearly needs to be recapitalised but it appears that this is being hampered by, as yet, unsuccessful efforts of the existing majority shareholder (Banif Financial Group, Madeira) that has been given until 2016 by the European Commission to disinvest its holdings in Banif Malta and elsewhere. This is a condition of the EC's approval of a restructuring plan linked to the bailout of the Group by the Portuguese government.

Finally, as regards customers' deposits it is significant that, between them, the seven banks reviewed held a total of €15.7 billion, of which 77 per cent was held by BOV and HSBC. Banif held just 3.69 per cent and Fimbank even less at 2.59 per cent.

It is noteworthy that in the six months to June 30, 2015, Fimbank's customers funds decreased by 18 per cent and this notwithstanding the fact that interest rates paid on both savings and term deposits are higher than those offered by the local retail banks.



The Bank of Valletta head office in Santa Venera.

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Shipping movements

The following ships are expected in Malta:

The *Santa Bettina* from Port Tangier to Gebze, the *Maersk Funchal* from Algiers to Algiers (both Thomas Smith Shipping Ltd) and the *MV Eurocargo Napoli* from Salerno to Salerno and the *MV Eurocargo Malta* from Genoa to Genoa (Sullivan Maritime) today.

The *Sirius* from Mersin to Antalya, the *Oued Ziz* from Tunis to Tunis, the *Corona J* from Algiers to Skikda, the *HH West* from Tobruk to El Khoms, the *El Toro* from Annaba, the *Furth* from Varma to Izmit (all CMA CGM Malta Agency Ltd) and the *Analena* from Bajaia to Sfax (Thomas Smith Shipping Ltd) tomorrow.

The *Stjerneborg* from Tripoli to Tripoli, the *ANL Warringa* from Damietta to Genoa (both CMA CGM Malta Agency Ltd) and the *MSC Beatrice* from Port Said to Valencia (John Ripard & Son Ltd) on Wednesday.

The *MV Eurocargo Venezia* from Genoa to Genoa (Sullivan Maritime) on Thursday.

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	Initial Charge	Share Price** XD	Change from previous NAV	Income Yield**
Wilena Funds SICAV p.l.c.				
Broad Opportunities Fund****	2.00%	€0.7794	-0.0025	
Euro Income Fund A - Quarterly Distributor	2.00%	€1.2820	-0.0002	2.018%
Euro Income Fund B1 - Accumulator	3.00%	€3.3821	-0.0005	
Euro Income Fund B2 - Monthly Distributor	3.00%	€2.5832	-0.0003	2.018%
European Multi-Manager Fund	4.00%	€1.8278	-0.0173	
Far East Opportunities Fund	4.00%	\$1.9858	-0.0101	
Global Balanced Multi-Manager Fund****	2.00%	€1.10950	-0.0019	0.6116%
Global Themed Fund - EUR Class	4.00%	€2.5996	-0.0185	
Global Themed Fund - GBP Class	4.00%	\$1.0779	-0.0058	
Global Themed Fund - USD Class	4.00%	\$1.1190	-0.0017	
High Yield Fund - EUR Class	3.50%	€0.7498	+0.0007	5.282%
High Yield Fund - USD Class	3.50%	\$0.9194	+0.0013	5.282%
Malta Bond Fund - Accumulator	0.75%	€574.355	+0.166	
Malta Bond Fund - Distributor	0.75%	€348.329	+0.101	3.0189%
Malta Fund - Accumulator	1.25%	€711.647	+0.942	
Malta Fund - Distributor	1.25%	€518.592	+0.886	3.242%
Malta Government Bond Fund - Accumulator	0.75%	€528.371	+0.316	
Malta Government Bond Fund - Distributor	0.75%	€321.806	+0.195	2.8805%
Maltese Equity Focus Fund - Accumulator	2.50%	€3.408	+0.010	
Maltese Equity Focus Fund - Distributor	2.50%	€2.700	+0.008	3.0301%
Maltese Opportunities Fund - Accumulator	2.00%	€10.241	+0.027	
Maltese Opportunities Fund - Distributor	2.00%	€7.309	+0.018	3.2802%
Mediterranean Rim Fund - EUR Share Class	3.50%	€1.0830	-0.0027	2.5556%
Mediterranean Rim Fund - USD Share Class	3.50%	\$1.6402	-0.0036	2.5556%
Sterling Income Fund*	2.00%	€0.9965	+0.0001	4.2005%
Sterling Money Fund	-	€1.4141	+0.0000	0.1263%
Euro Malta Money Fund - Institutional	-	€3.0032	+0.0000	0.047%
Euro Malta Money Fund - Retail	-	€2.9726	+0.0000	0.037%

*Net fee structure also applies.

** Share price as at September 11, 2015

*** Income yield as at August 31, 2015

**** Initial Charge of the Wilena Broad Opportunities Fund is currently discounted to 2% from 4%

***** Initial Charge of the Wilena Global Balanced Multi-Manager Fund is currently discounted to 2% from 3.5%

As from the 3 November 2014, the Wilena Global Themed Fund and the Wilena European Multi-Manager Fund will no longer be listed on the Malta Stock Exchange

Valletta Fund Management Limited is licensed to provide Investment Services in Malta by the MFSA.

Comment



Dealing with market jitters



John Cassar White

Retail investors in stocks and shares must have had a tough time in the last few weeks as market volatility saw prices of some shares fall by as much as 50 per cent only to recover some lost ground a day or two after. Business news channels gave various interpretations of what was causing this volatility – with almost everyone pointing their finger at the weaknesses in the Chinese economy.

One element can simply not be ignored. This is the globalisation of the world economies. So far Western consumers have seen the benefits of globalisation in the form of cheaper consumer goods that are now within the reach of most families. The more negative effect of globalisation for most Western economies has been the loss of manufacturing and white collar jobs as investors sought the benefits of low cost and high productivity in developing economies.

Globalisation has now evolved into a different phenomenon. Why was there such a slump in capital markets in the US when the American economy is showing strong signs of improvement? The answer is that today most economies are much more inter-dependent than they ever were.

The China crisis worried business leaders in the US and Europe who were getting increasingly used to seeing Chinese consumers as the target for their products. When the Chinese economy was growing at double-figure rates, Chinese consumers were buying American and European luxury cars, and Chinese manufacturers were buying raw materials like iron ore and copper as well as oil

to keep their factories producing the goods consumers wanted. All this interchange has now slowed down and the jitters have set in.

But there are other reasons for the uncertainty – dubbed by economist Paul Krugman as “the persistent weaknesses” in global economic performance – that is becoming the new normal.

Admittedly, the world has had a bad bout of bad luck in the last decade. The housing collapse in the US, the banking crisis in Europe, and weak political leadership in Europe are a lethal combination of negativity that is still affecting investor confidence, that in turn affects consumer confidence and the creation of jobs.

Krugman rightly argues that the present global weaknesses are all the result of what one expects to happen when too much money is chasing too few investment opportunities. The global savings glut caused mainly by China’s enormous success in trade in the last two decades has meant that money flowed steadily to the US in search of returns. This is perhaps the main driver that blew the property bubble in the US.

After the property bubble burst with enormous negative effects, money started to flow from rich Germany to Spain, Portugal and Greece.

We all know what happened when this bubble burst. European Union political leaders are still wondering what hit them while millions of unemployed young people in the EU wait to see when they will be offered a decent job.

Investors with trillions of cash available saw the European and US bubbles burst and rushed to the emerging markets, pouring money in countries like Brazil, Russia and China. The currencies of some of these countries, such as Brazil, rose to unsustainable heights. Gradually emerging economies lost most of their competitiveness. That is why today we are in the midst of an emerging market crisis.

Institutional investors are now turning back to the US, which they see as a safe haven. The prospects of an increase in US interest rates combined with a more effective economic management strategy in the US has become a magnet for hot money, giving rise to a major appreciation of the dollar. Many US businesses see this as more of a curse than a blessing: US exporters find it difficult to compete when their goods are priced in a strong dollar.

Decisions of central bankers to keep interest rates low and to print money to avoid a deeper economic slump in Europe are also distorting the dynamics of economic activity. Luckily strong financial regulation is slowly beginning to become accepted by stock markets and business leaders. Hopefully, political leaders will resist the temptation to implement more austere policies that partly aim to cut the social benefits of those who are most vulnerable in society.

In the meantime retail investors should not panic and should wait for better times when financial markets will bounce back. Watching share price movements on an hourly basis on TV business channels is not recommended for the faint-hearted.

johncassarwhite@yahoo.com

“
Institutional investors are now turning back to the US, which they see as a safe haven
”

Social and Personal

IN MEMORIAM

BETTS - CHARLES. Remembered with love on the 30th anniversary of his demise, today and always.

*God has him in His keeping
We have him in our hearts.*

Pauline, John Charles and Sandra.

HILI - JOSEPH. In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, last Saturday being the sixth anniversary of his demise. Remembered with love and gratitude by his wife Rose, his children and their families. Today's 6.30pm Mass at Tal-Ibrag parish church will be offered for the repose of his soul.

MIFSUD - REMÓ. Loving thoughts till the end of time of a wonderful father I am proud was mine, today the sixth anniversary of his passing away to a better life. Rachel, James, Maya and Nick.

MIFSUD - REMÓ. In remembrance of our beloved son we treasured for 51 years. We will treasure his memory with love in our hearts forever. Lord, grant him eternal rest. Mum and dad.

MIFSUD - REMÓ. Cherished memories of our dearest brother. Life on earth is transient - our love survives eternally. We miss you so much. Marie Therese, Joseph and Jackie, Lucienne, Alexander and Gloria, Kyra, Gareth and Ben.

MIFSUD - REMÓ. Remembered with love on the sixth anniversary of his death. Roberta and family.

MIFSUD. Remembering REMÓ today and every day. Family Borg Costanzi.

PACE - PIERRE. Treasured and unfading memories of a dear husband and father, today being the fourth anniversary of his demise. Always in our hearts and prayers. His wife Nathalie, his son Jean-Pierre and his daughter Gabrielle.

SPITERI MALLIA - ANTOINETTE. In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother, today the fifth anniversary of her demise. Always in our thoughts and prayers. Her daughter Joanna, her in-laws Francis and Stephen and their families.

von BROCKDORFF - daddy BROCKY, mummy MAGGIE. We miss you, we love you every minute of every day. The tribe.

Places of interest

VALETTA

Museums:
BOV Museum
Manoel Theatre Museum
National Museum of Fine Arts
St John's Museum
The Toy Museum
War Museum (St Elmo Place)
Central Bank of Malta Currency Museum

Visual shows:
Malta 5D
Sacred Island
The Knights Hospitallers
The Knights of St John
The Malta Experience
The Wartime Experience
Valletta Living History

Churches:
St Francis church
St John's Co-Cathedral
St Paul's Anglican pro-cathedral
Basilica of Our Lady of Porto Salvo and St Dominic
St Paul Shipwrecked Collegiate Church
Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
St Augustine's parish church

Gardens:
Lower Barrakka Gardens
Upper Barrakka Gardens
Hastings

Historic buildings:
Casa Rocca Piccola
Grand Master's Palace
Lascaris War Rooms
Manoel Theatre
National Library
Centre for creativity:
St James Cavalier
Multimedia exhibition:
Fortifications Interpretation Centre
Traditions and Crafts of Malta

RABAT

Casa Bernard
Domus Romana
St Agatha's Catacombs
St Paul's Grotto

MDINA

Knights of Malta
Mdina Dungeons
Mdina Experience show
Mediaeval Times
Tales of the Silent City
The Cathedral
Cathedral Museum
Museum of Natural History
Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum
Carmelite Priory
Palazzo De Piro

PREHISTORIC SITES

Borg in-Nadur temple, Birżebbuġa
Bronze Age wall, Birżebbuġa
Cart ruts in Clapham Junction, San Pawl tat-Tarġa,
San Ġwann and ta' Ċenċ, Gozo
Ġgantija temples, Xagħra, Gozo
Għar Dalam, Birżebbuġa
Għar il-Kbir, Dingli
Hagar Qim and Mnajdra temples, Qrendi
Tarxien Temples, Tarxien
Hypogeum, Paola

VITTORIOSA

Auberge of England
Church of St Lawrence
Church of the Annunciation
Church Museum
Malta at War Museum
Second World War Shelters
The Maritime Museum
The Inquisitor's Palace
Vittoriosa 1565 - Museum

MĠARR (Malta)

Bingemma chapel
Lippija Tower
Mġarr parish
Skorba Temples
Ta' Hagraat Temples
Temptra Museum
Victoria Lines
War-time Shelter

SIGĠIEWI

The Limestone Heritage

ŻABBAR

Sanctuary Museum daily from 9 a.m. to noon including public holidays

XEMXIJA

Roman road
Rubble walls
Menhir
Caves
Ancient Apiaries
Old carob tree
The cave of burials
Neolithic temple
Corbelled hut
Woodland
Punic tomb
Farmer's hut
Cave dwellings
Silo
Neolithic tombs
Defence Post
Roman baths
The farmhouse
Mistra Gate

Power cuts

Due to scheduled maintenance works on the electricity grid, there will be power cuts in or in parts of the following areas TODAY.

Between 8am and noon in St Francis, Fieres, Dun Ġwann Mamo, Alfier de Medran and Qalgha streets, **Tarxien.**

Between 8am and 1pm in Sir Harry Luke, Ta' Hagraat, Ramiro Cali and Main streets and Jubilee Square, **Mġarr.**

And TOMORROW:

Between 7.30am and noon in Santa Venera Street and Msida Valley Road, **Msida.**

Between 8am and noon at Fraxxnu, Abbe R A de Vertot, George P. Badger, Francesco Balbi, Ta' Giorni, Mikiel Anton Vassalli and William Hardman streets, **St Julian's.**

Between 8am and 1pm in Parish, Markiża Bugeja, St George and Parades streets, **St Paul's Bay.**

Between 9am and noon at Panoramika, Taż-Żellieqa, Haġar Qim, Wied Hoxt, Fishermen, Majla, St Peter, Our Lady of the Rosary, Congreve and Wied iż-Żurriq streets, **Qrendi.**

Between 2.30pm and 5pm in Ghajn Qatet, 31st March 1979, Sir Paul Boffa, Wistin Camilleri, Cangar, St Dominic, 8th December, Dr Anton Tabone, Ġużè Micallef, Manwel Dimech and Ġużè Cremona streets, **Victoria.**

Opening hours for booking of adverts for inclusion in

TIMES OF MALTA and THE SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA

Monday to Friday:
8 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

at Word for Word Bookshop,
1st Floor, Castille Place, Valletta

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY
(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me here you are my mother. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. O Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

M.G.

This prayer must be said for three days and after the request is granted, this prayer must be published.



In loving memory of our dear **REMÓ MIFSUD** on the sixth anniversary of his demise, **24.12.1957-14.9.2009**

**Memories are like leaves of gold
They never tarnish or grow old
Locked in our hearts
You will always be
Loved and remembered
For all eternity**

A Mass for the repose of his soul will be said today at 4pm at The Millenium chapel, St Julians.

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TIMES OF MALTA

- **STANDARD ADVERT** (black text on white background) €0.42 per word* - minimum 12 words
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*Prices exclude VAT.

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- 1) Send an e-mail with all details to **classified@timesofmalta.com**
- 2) Call by at Allied Newspapers' **Cash Office, Word for Word, 4, 1st Floor, Castille Place, Valletta** any time between Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

For more information, call **2559 4100/200.**

Classified

Property for Sale

100% UPMARKET properties. Excel Homes Real Estate Ltd. www.Excel.com.mt Phone 9945 1255 or 2141 3355.

17,862 PROPERTIES for sale on Malta's best rated property website: www.simonestates.com Phone 2388 0009, 7900 8287.

BUSKETT. Bungalow and .44ha (four tumoli). €500,000. Phone 7949 2605.

BUSKETT. Field with rubble walls, for recreation, complete with gate, room and well. €55,000. Phone 7949 2605.

KAPPARA. New on the market, spacious three bedroom groundfloor maisonette with yard, in a quiet area. Priced for a quick sale. €220,000. Sole agent. Phone 7905 8592.

LIJA. New, corner, first floor, three bedroom maisonette with roof. €199,000. Underlying garages. Phone 7944 6688.

MDINA. Unique opportunity to acquire a small two bedroom house in the silent city, in need of some renovation. €290,000. Phone 7905 8592

MSIDA. House, main road, near LiDL, 9.6 x 15.3m (32 x 51ft). Part exchange for small maisonette/townhouse considered. Phone owner 9944 0293.

QORMI. Unconverted four bedroom house of character in the quaint part of the village. Lots of authentic features, spacious rooms, mill room and possibility of a pool. €330,000, negotiable. Phone 7905 8592.

To Let

10,000 APARTMENTS/VILLAS with pool for rent Malta. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

7,877 PROPERTIES for rent on Malta's best rated property website: www.simonestates.com Phone 2388 0026, 7979 8282.

MADLIENA. Villa, pool, sea views, four bedrooms. €3,200.

www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

PACEVILLE. Office, own door, roof, 70sqm. €450. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2143 8264/9999 7777.

QORMI, Handaq. Warehouse, industrial 60 x 110 x 15. €26,000/annum. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

SLIEMA. Furnished townhouse, four bedrooms, courtyard, office. €1,500. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2143 8264/9999 7777.

SLIEMA. New two bedroom apartment near Plaza. €600. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

SLIEMA. Seafront three bedroom apartment, terrace, garage. €2,200. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

SLIEMA. Villa with pool, lift, kitchen, garage. €1,700. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

ST JULIANS. New two bedroom/two bathroom apartment. €600. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

SWATAR. Modern, two bedroom apartment near university. €500. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

SWIEQI. Spacious three bedroom maisonette, terrace, garage. €950. www.simonmamo.com Phone 2141 0907/9999 7777.

ZEBBUĠ. Modern, fully furnished one bedroom apartment with TV, etc. €350. Phone 7940 5038.

Tuition

AAT/ACCOUNTING/Economics/Marketing/Computerised Accounting, all levels. Phone 2167 5137, laurencecauchi@gmail.com www.businesseducationtutors

ACCOUNTING at Advanced Level, no Ordinary Level required, for September 2016. Phone 2167 5137.

GERMAN LANGUAGE lessons once weekly, from complete Beginners (MQF Level 1) to Postgraduate Diploma level (MQF Level 7) starting October 5. Short courses (morning and evening) also available. German-Maltese Circle, Triq San Kristofru, Valletta. Phone 2124 6967. Ask for more info by e-mail at: gmc@germanmaltesecircle.org or visit our website: www.germanmaltesecircle.org

MALTESE for foreigners, short course of 15 lessons for complete beginners. German-Maltese Circle, Triq San Kristofru, Valletta. Phone 2124 6967. Ask for more info by e-mail at: gmc@germanmaltesecircle.org or visit our website www.germanmaltesecircle.org

Situations Vacant

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY. Property consultant with Simon Estates, Naxxar. Immediate income. Please send CV to: josbri@simonestates.com Phone 7979 8282.

LINGUAGO St Julians, is recruiting a full-time bilingual Spanish and French speaker for translations and online marketing. Please send CV and cover letter to Ms Milan at: c.milan@linguago.com

For Sale

CIRCULAR overhead reading lamp with marble base and shade, movable. Phone 9947 7292.

TWO BEIGE real leather two seater sofas with individual manual recliners. Phone 9943 2777.

Health and Beauty

AMAZING MASSAGE awaits you for total relaxation. EU female therapist. Phone 9949 8757.

Repairs

FIXWELL sales and repairs - all kinds of washing machines. Phone 2133 9678 or 9949 3696.

QUALIFIED experienced technician repairs TVs, LCDs, plasma, microwaves. Phone 9944 6918.

Property Wanted

A BRITISH retired couple seeking to rent property from Qawra to Melieha, €300-€600 monthly. Phone 7947 7497.

PROPERTY FOR SALE in central areas, Mosta, Naxxar, Iklin and Swatar. Phone 7940 5038.

TO LET SHORT OR LONG LET

Open Sea View Corner Penthouse near Hilton Hotel . One double bedroom, large living room, combined kitchen & large terrace with jacuzzi pool.

Call 79422678

In accordance with Article 35 of the Local Councils Act (Section IV of the Consolidated Version with Amendments made by Act XVI of 2009), the Qrendi Local Council intends to propose a bye-law entitled Activities in Open Spaces 2015. A copy of which is being exhibited on the Qrendi Local Council office's notice board at 7, Church Street, Qrendi.

Draft copies of this bye-law are available daily from the Qrendi Local Council offices and can be collected between 10am and 11am against a payment of €2 per set. The draft bye-law shall be discussed during the forthcoming Local Council meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 28th September 2015.

Monday, September 7, 2015

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Post/s of Part-Time Research Support Officer II

CIMULACT – Horizon 2020
CREMO – ERASMUS+ 2015
and any other project undertaken by The Edward de Bono Institute
for the Design and Development of Thinking


Closing date: Monday, 21 September 2015 till noon

Further information on the above post is available from the Office for Human Resources Management and Development, Rm 215, Admin. Bldg., University of Malta.
Web site: <http://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/vacancies>. Applicants should submit their letter of application, a copy of their curriculum vitae and copies of their certificates. Applications should be sent by e-mail to: projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt

Late applications will not be considered.



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Erasmus+

Sport

BOV PREMIER LEAGUE

VALLETTA RALLY TO BEAT RIVALS BIRKIRKARA 2-1

» pages 38, 39



MOTORCYCLING

MARQUEZ WINS AS ROSSI EXTENDS OVERALL LEAD

» page 34

FOOTBALL

RANIERI'S LEICESTER GO SECOND AFTER BEATING ASTON VILLA

» page 37

Tennis US Open

Pennetta lifts the title

...then promptly announces her retirement

Tom Allnutt

Italy's Flavia Pennetta became a shock grand slam champion by winning the US Open title and then revealed another surprise by announcing her retirement from tennis.

Pennetta had been rated 150/1 to triumph at Flushing Meadows before the tournament began but became the oldest female in the Open era to win a first major title after beating fellow Italian Roberta Vinci 7-6 6-2 late Saturday.

Vinci's challenge was even more of a surprise, having knocked out top seed Serena Williams in the last four on Friday, but the world number 43 was unable to repeat her heroics in what was the Open era's first all-Italian grand slam final.

Pennetta, aged 33, flung her racket into the air after sealing victory in one hour and 33 minutes, before embracing her compatriot with an affectionate hug at the net.

The champion addressed a jubilant crowd at a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium but as the interview concluded, she asked to take the microphone for one more announcement.

"I am going to say goodbye to tennis," world number 26 Pennetta said.

"This is what all players want to do, go out taking a big trophy home. This is my last match at the US Open and I couldn't finish in a better way."



Flavia Pennetta posing for photos after being presented with the US Open trophy.

It was a suitably unpredictable finish to a baffling tournament that had just witnessed a final contested between two players with a combined ranking of 69, age of 65, and

who had never before made a grand slam final between them.

It is only the seventh time a female player from outside the top 25 has won a major title

and Pennetta's success in her 49th grand slam is the longest a woman has ever had to wait to achieve the feat.

"I am really happy, I have to say before this tournament I never think to be so far, I never think to be champion," Pennetta said.

"That's why it's amazing, this is coming as a big surprise for me. It's a dream come true."

Only two weeks ago, Pennetta and Vinci, girls doubles winners together at the 1999 French Open, were having dinner in New York, oblivious to the extraordinary tournament about to unfold and which will surely define both their careers.

Vinci admitted her shock win over Williams, which ended the American's hopes of a first calendar grand slam since 1988, had been the greatest day of her life and perhaps it was too much to expect the 32-year-old to recover her poise less than 24 hours later.

"It shows miracles can happen," Vinci said.

"I beat Serena - a miracle. Two Italians reach the grand slam final - a miracle. One Italian wins a grand slam - a miracle."

Pennetta's run to the final was less mind-boggling but no less impressive, given she had to beat Samantha Stosur, Petra Kvitová and Simona Halep along the way.

She plans to play in Wuhan, Beijing and, if she qualifies, the WTA Finals in Singapore before hanging up her racket at the end of the year.

Sports round-up

ATHLETICS

■ Mo Farah's superb recent form continued yesterday as he successfully defended his Great North Run title. The 32-year-old, who last month retained both his 10,000 metres and 5,000m world crowns in Beijing, became the second British man to win the half-marathon event twice as he crossed the line on Tyneside ahead of Kenya's Stanley Biwott. Finishing with a time of 59 minutes and 23 seconds, Farah, in completing a back-to-back triumph, matched the achievement of Mike McLeod, the winner in 1981 and 1982.

BASKETBALL

■ Holders France and Spain cruised into the European Championship quarter-finals with emphatic victories. They were joined by 1987 champions Greece who destroyed Belgium 75-54 late Saturday. The opening last-16 clashes produced enthralling basketball in Lille's soccer stadium, adapted for the 24-nation tournament. Roared

on by a record indoor crowd of 26,135, France thrived on home support as they thumped Turkey 76-53. The Spaniards, aiming for a fifth successive podium finish, recovered from a patchy group stage with a resounding 80-66 defeat of Poland on the back of 30 points by Chicago Bulls centre Pau Gasol.

MOTOR RACING

■ Melbourne has secured the hosting rights to the Australian Formula One Grand Prix until 2023, the Victoria state government announced yesterday. Melbourne last year signed an agreement to continue hosting the race until 2020 and Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the state government had agreed to a three-year extension to 2023. "There's nothing quite like the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne and the buzz it creates around our state," Andrews said in a statement. Melbourne has hosted the Australian Grand Prix since 1996, when the race was switched from Adelaide.

Boxing

Mayweather happy to call it quits... as planned

Floyd Mayweather Jr. signed off from professional boxing as he had planned on Saturday, going out unbeaten and on his own terms as 'The Best Ever' after improving his career record to 49-0.

After a stellar 19-year run that produced world titles in five weight divisions and earnings in excess of \$800 million, Mayweather bade farewell to the ring with a clinical display to earn a unanimous decision over fellow American Andre Berto.

"I had a game plan from the very beginning," Mayweather, 38, said of his career during a lengthy news conference after retaining his WBC and WBA welterweight titles in the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

"I always knew what I wanted to do in boxing - be outspoken, be

one of a kind. To be in the sport for 19 years and to be world champion 18 years, I've had a remarkable career.

"If you put them (opponents) in front of me, we see what they can do. It's all about that IQ. I'm 10 steps ahead of any fighter.

"I take whatever is your best attribute and take that away from you, make you do what you don't want to do."

Mayweather, who matched the 49-0 career record set by former heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano, is widely regarded as one of the best defensive practitioners of all time while his ability to out-think opponents and adjust strategy midway through fights is unparalleled among contemporary fighters.



Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Sport

Motorcycling

Marquez wins as Rossi extends overall lead

MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez won a San Marino Grand Prix thriller for Honda yesterday while Valentino Rossi extended his overall lead to 23 points despite a strategy blunder that cost him victory.

Yamaha's Rossi, the home hero at Italy's Misano circuit, ended up fifth after delaying a switch back to slick tyres on a drying track following earlier rain while Honda's Marquez made the right call.

In a race full of surprises and changing weather, with the top riders pitting twice to switch bikes, Rossi's team-mate and rival Jorge Lorenzo crashed out in another blow to the Spaniard's title hopes.

Britain had two non-factory riders on the podium instead, with Bradley Smith second for Tech3 Yamaha and Scott Redding taking his first top-three finish on the Marc VDS Honda despite a fall.

Rossi now has 247 points to Lorenzo's 224, with Marquez on 184 with five rounds remaining.



Marc Marquez on the winners' podium, yesterday.

Basketball

New Luxol registrations

Luxol Basketball Club, the oldest and most successful on the islands, will resume with their activities for the new season on September 26.

Training, conducted by qualified coaches, will be held at the Luxol gymnasium in Pembroke on weekdays and Saturday mornings.

This season, Luxol will again take part in all Malta Basketball Association (MBA) competitions, men and women.

Registration of newcomers are being received at the club. One may obtain more details by phoning 7953-7061 or by sending an e-mail at louiswolves@onvol.net.

Results

FOOTBALL

FA Trophy, first round: Xghajra vs Ghajnsielem 0-1; Dingli vs Munxar 2-0; Nadur vs Mdina 1-0; St Lawrence vs Oratory Youths 1-0 (aet); Marsaxlokk vs Ghaxaq 2-1 aet. Youth FA U-15: Birzebbuga vs Mtarfa 4-0; Msida vs Zebbug 1-0; Kalkara vs Naxxar 3-4 (Msida, Naxxar through to next round). Youth FA U-17: Birzebbuga vs Attard 1-1; Gzira vs Fgura 1-3; Swieqi vs Mgarr 1-2 (Fgura, Swieqi through to next round). IASC Division One: Floriana Ajax vs Marsa Trinity 1-0; Gzira United vs Mosta Gunners 1-4; Senglea vs Burmarrad AFC 0-1.

SHOOTING

LTP Trap Trophy: 1. Stephen Vella 43/50 - 10/15+1 - 11/15; 2. George Mifsud 42/50 - 12/15 - 8/15; 3. Carmel 41/50 - 10/15+0 - 13/15; 4. Frank Scorfna 44/50 - 10/15+0 - 9/15; 5. Alvin Vella 44/50 - 9/15; 6. George Cassar 43/50 - 7/15.

Judo

Galea addresses IJF Congress in Astana

The International Judo Federation (IJF) Congress, the first official and public business on the occasion of the 2015 World Championships, took place recently at the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Among those addressing delegates during the congress was Envic Galea, head of the Maltese Judo Federation and IJF Academy director.

He summed up a report for the last two years of the academy and introduced a brand new website, now running in six languages - English, French, Italian, Georgian, Spanish and Turkish - with other languages being planned.

In his address Marius L. Vizer, president of the IJF, said judo continues to reach a wider spectrum.

"Our events show our dynamic rules are generating more active judo and they are appreciated by athletes and fans," he said.

"Our sport has undergone massive development... practitioners and heroes join together for 19 global events each year.

"In 2014 there was a cumulative TV audience of 176 million people with over 3,000 hours broadcast."

Galea said that during the World Championships, several appointments were planned.

In fact, during the next semester, starting in 2016, the IJF Academy will be visiting all five continents to establish itself as a national qualification system for coaches.

"The academy is already established in Italy, Turkey and Georgia," Galea noted.

"A special academic course for coaches, put forward by national federations, has three levels and already attracted interest from 48 countries with 91 graduates so far. This also thanks to the support of the Olympic Solidarity."

The IJF also holds seminars in refereeing, showing unity and continuity with the next seminar planned for the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo at the end of January.

Meanwhile, the 67th Ordinary Congress of the European Judo Union, represented by 36 member nations, was also held in Astana last month.

Galea, the EJU general secretary, led delegates through the points and introduced bureau members responsible for various sectors including refereeing, marketing and education, treasury and administrative matters.

During the assembly, Kosovo became the 51st member of the European judo organisation.



Envic Galea (left) delivering his speech during the IJF Congress in Astana, last month.

Rallying

Ogier clinches third world title with win in Australia

France's Sebastien Ogier clinched his third successive world rally championship for Volkswagen yesterday after winning the Rally of Australia.

The 31-year-old became just the third driver to win three titles in a row, joining his countryman Sebastien Loeb and Finland's Tommi Makinen.

"It's an amazing season, the best I've ever done," said Ogier.

"No mistakes, so many great performances and this one is once again a very high one."

Ogier won the final seven stages in Australia, including all five held yesterday, to win the three-day gravel road event near Coffs Harbour in northern New South Wales.

Teaming up with his long-time co-driver Julien Ingrassia, Ogier completed the rally 12.3 seconds faster than his Finnish team-mate, Jari-Matti Latvala.

Northern Ireland's Kris Meeke finished third, a further 20.3 seconds behind.

Ogier's victory was his seventh in 10 rounds this season, securing the championship with three rallies still to go, and the 31st of his career, moving him above Marcus Gronholm into outright second place overall for the most career wins.

Loeb, who won nine consecutive titles between 2004 and 2023, holds the record with 78 wins.

Ogier became just the third man to win at least three titles. Only Loeb, Juha Kankkunen (four) and Makinen (four) have won more.

Kankkunen won twice in the 1980s and twice in the 1990s while Makinen stitched together four on the trot between 1996 and 1999.

Sport

Football news

Hodgson keeping close eye on Ibe

Roy Hodgson has told Jordon Ibe he can break into the England squad if he performs well over the next few weeks.

Ibe received his first England U-21 call-up earlier this month, but Hodgson is considering fast-tracking the Liverpool winger into the senior set-up.

"He is someone we have been looking at," the England manager said of the 19-year-old.

"I want Jordon to fight for his place in the team but he is certainly a player we like very much, one who we have our eyes on and no (it's) far from impossible that he gets called up in one of the next games."



Marchisio could skip Etihad trip

Claudio Marchisio (picture) looks set to miss Juve's opening Champions League clash against Manchester City this week due to a thigh injury.

The *Bianconeri* midfielder was taken off for precautionary reasons during Saturday's 1-1 draw against Chievo, but there is concern he could be set for yet another spell on the sidelines after only recently returning from injury.

Marchisio featured for 45 minutes before being substituted at half-time after feeling his muscle harden, as Juve slumped to a disappointing 1-1 result at home.

Tests will be conducted to determine the severity of the knock, but there is concern that the Italy international will be ruled out of Juve's trip to the Etihad Stadium tomorrow.

Vermaelen sidelined again by injury

Thomas Vermaelen's struggles with injury continued on Saturday when the Barcelona defender picked up a calf problem in the 2-1 *La Liga* victory at Atletico Madrid.

The Belgian international damaged his hamstring at last year's World Cup in Brazil, shortly before he joined Barca from Arsenal. The 29-year-old eventually needed surgery and did not make his debut until the final weeks of last season.

Barca said that Vermaelen, who had to come off in the 27th minute at the Calderon and was replaced by Frenchman Jeremy Mathieu, had damaged the calf muscle in his left leg.

The club did not say how long he might be sidelined but Spanish media reported he would be out for three weeks.

Adebayor released

Tottenham striker Emmanuel Adebayor has been released from his contract by mutual agreement, the English Premier League club said yesterday.

The 31-year-old Togo international has not played for Spurs this season and was left out of both their Premier League and Europa League squads.

"We can confirm that we have reached a mutual agreement with Emmanuel Adebayor which will see him released from his contract with the club," Tottenham said in a statement.

Adebayor joined Tottenham on a loan from Man. City in 2011, then signed a permanent deal in 2012 but has since fallen out of favour with the London club.

McClaren rules out Papiss Cisse sale

Steve McClaren has no intention of allowing striker Papiss Cisse to leave Newcastle.

The 30-year-old Senegal international was the subject of persistent speculation over the summer and continues to be linked with clubs in the Middle East, where the transfer window does not close until later this month.

However, McClaren is adamant Cisse is not for sale.

"He's not going anywhere. I came here and there was a lot of debate and talk about Papiss coming or going," McClaren said.

"He's a threat... a goalscorer. When you've got Papiss in the team you always have a chance of winning games."

Luis Enrique defends Messi decision

Barcelona coach Luis Enrique defended his decision to start Lionel Messi on the bench for Saturday night's 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid.

Messi brought a tight game to life and capped his performance with a superb winner.

The Argentine had been dropped to the bench after missing a day of training during the week as he attended the birth of his second child.

"He (Messi) is key for us and we have to take care of him," Luis Enrique said.

"We knew he had been travelling and we wanted to reserve him for later in the game. Barca have a deep squad and that is important."

Referee apology

Referee Knut Kircher has issued an apology to Augsburg after getting his decision wrong to award Bayern Munich a last-minute penalty in a 2-1 derby win for the Bavarians.

Kircher pointed to the spot after consultation with his linesman when Douglas Costa barged into Markus Feulner inside the penalty area and went to ground.

Kircher yesterday said he regretted making the decision.

"I've spoken to (Augsburg's director of sport Stefan) Reuter and I have apologised," Kircher told reporters.

"We've seen the images again and our perception of it was simply wrong."

Football Champions League

Aguero is a major doubt for City ahead of Juventus clash

Andy Sims

Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini hopes to have David Silva and Raheem Sterling available against Juventus tomorrow but Sergio Aguero is a major doubt for the Champions League opener.

Spanish playmaker Silva was left out of Saturday's last-gasp 1-0 win at Crystal Palace to rest an ankle knock and England winger Sterling was sidelined by a hamstring strain.

But the key duo are expected to be in the frame when City get their European campaign under way at the Etihad Stadium and Pellegrini said: "I hope both of them can be fit on Tuesday (tomorrow). We'll see."

However, striker Aguero could miss the Group D curtain-raiser

after limping off during the first half against Crystal Palace with a knee injury.

Pellegrini, who was angry that the challenge by Eagles skipper Scott Dann which forced Aguero off was not punished with a red card, is waiting for an update on the Argentinian's fitness.

"It was an important kick on his knee," he said.

"We'll see if he can recover between now and Tuesday (tomorrow). It's very difficult to say now."

Following Aguero's premature departure it was left to 18-year-old substitute Kelechi Iheanacho to hit City's last-minute winner and maintain their 100 per cent record this season.

Victory left City top of the Premier League on Saturday - a

whopping 11 points ahead of champions Chelsea.

"It's important to have a good start, to have 15 points from five games," added Pellegrini.

"We're not just playing against Chelsea, although they are the champions. It's an important gap."

"We were eight points behind last year and, in January, we were level."

"If you lose points at the beginning, you can lose them in other parts of the year. We have to continue playing the way we are."

Palace manager Alan Pardew admits City already have the look of potential champions, but warned that they are not home and hosed just yet.

"It's a great result for City. The other teams have it all to do and will take some making up. But it will be an unpredictable league," he said.

NAPOLEON'S INVASION IN 1798

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Football In Italy

Guarin floors Milan

A second-half goal from Fredy Guarin saw Inter edge city rivals Milan last night to pick up a third consecutive win and go clear at the top of Serie A.

The Colombian midfielder broke the deadlock in the 58th minute with a left-footed shot that beat Milan goalkeeper Diego Lopez.

Mario Balotelli, playing in his first league game since returning to Milan on loan from Liverpool, entered the action four minutes later and almost equalised in the 78th minute.

The Italian striker drilled a bullet strike from 25 yards that rattled the left-hand post.

Inter held on to earn victory in the first San Siro showdown of the season.

The win sees Inter, who were hosting the game, move two points clear at the top of the table – a position they had not held alone for five years.

Milan, meanwhile, slipped to a second defeat of the season to drop to 12th place.

Yesterday, Inter coach Roberto Mancini handed new signings Ivan Perisic and Felipe Melo starting debuts.

Stevan Jovetic, who had scored all three of Inter's goals this season going into the game, partnered Mauro Icardi in attack, with the Argentinian returning from a hamstring injury.

Inter almost went ahead 10 minutes after the restart but Guarin's header from Perisic's cross was pushed over the crossbar by Lopez.

The Milan goalkeeper could do nothing as Inter went in front three minutes later.

Davide Santon fed Guarin just outside the area and he drilled a left-footed shot towards the near post and out of the reach of Lopez.

Earlier, Atalanta forward Mauricio Pinilla scored two goals, the first with one of his trademark bicycle



Fredy Guarin scoring Inter's goal against Milan, last night.

kicks, only to get sent off in a pulsating 2-2 draw at Sassuolo in which both teams missed penalties.

The afternoon's three other Serie A matches also ended 2-2, with Carpi denied a first-ever top flight win after conceding a late goal at Palermo and Napoli still winless this season after being held at Empoli.

Sassuolo forward Nicola Sansone saw an early penalty saved by Marco Sportiello and Pinilla quickly made them pay.

A cross was floated over from the left and the Chile forward quickly got into position and met it with a perfectly executed overhead kick from 12 metres.

Francesco Magnanelli equalised with a 35-metre rocket, Pinilla pounced on a dreadful back pass to put Atalanta back in front and

Antonio Floro Flores made it 2-2 with a spectacular half-volley, all before half-time.

The drama continued as Pinilla was dismissed early in the second half for a reckless and pointless sliding tackle, then Sassuolo's Sime Vrsaljko was sent off and conceded a penalty for a clumsy challenge.

Atalanta forward Maxi Morales saw his effort saved by Andrea Consigli.

Napoli, who have only two points from three games, twice came from behind for a 2-2 draw at Empoli with Lorenzo Insigne and Allan scoring to cancel out goals by Riccardo Saponara and Manuel Pucciarelli.

Serie A debutants Carpi led 2-1 at Palermo until Uros Djurdjevic headed home with two minutes left for the Sicilians, although the

visitors still took home their first Serie A point.

Former Milan, Roma and Juventus forward Marco Borriello had given Carpi the lead with his first goal for the club.

The 38-year-old Luca Toni, who was joint top-scorer last season with 22 goals, scored his first this term when he converted a penalty in Verona's draw at home to Torino.

In the 6pm kick-off, two second-half goals from substitute Alessandro Matri saw Lazio beat a resilient Udinese 2-0 in Rome to pick up their second win of their Serie A season.

Udinese tested Lazio goalkeeper Federico Marchetti on four occasions in the second half but failed to find the back of the net for a second straight game to lose for the second time this campaign.

Results

SERIE A

Empoli Saponara 3 Pucciarelli 18	2 Napoli Insigne 7; Allan 50 HT: 2-1. Att: 10,000	2
Inter Guarin 58	1 Milan HT: 0-0. Att: 79,154	0
Lazio Matri 64, 73	2 Udinese HT: 0-0. Att: 27,000	0
Palermo Hiljemark 6 Djurdjjevic 88	2 Carpi Vitiello 24og Borriello 63 HT: 1-1. Att: 20,250	2
Sampdoria	p Bologna (postponed for today at 20.45)	p
Sassuolo Magnanelli 22 Floro Flores 40	2 Atalanta Pinilla 13, 33 HT: 2-2. Att: 8,000	2
Missed penalties: Sansone (S) 6; Moralez (A) 86		
Red cards: Pinilla (A) 48; Vrsaljko (S) 84		
Verona Toni 49 pen Gomez 71	2 Torino Baselli 66 Acquah 73 HT: 0-0. Att: 17,868	2

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Chievo	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Torino	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Roma	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Sassuolo	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Palermo	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Fiorentina	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Lazio	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
Sampdoria	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
Atalanta	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Genoa	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Milan	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Udinese	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Napoli	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Verona	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Juventus	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
Empoli	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Carpi	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Bologna	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Frosinone	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

TOP SCORERS

4 goals	Eder (Sampdoria)
3 goals	Saponara (Empoli)
	Paloschi (Chievo)
	Jovetic (Inter)
	Baselli (Torino)

NEXT FIXTURES

Saturday: 18.00 Udinese vs Empoli; 20.45 Milan vs Palermo.
Sunday: 12.30 Chievo vs Inter. 15.00 Atalanta vs Verona; Bologna vs Frosinone; Genoa vs Juventus; Roma vs Sassuolo; Torino vs Sampdoria; 18.00 Carpi vs Fiorentina. 20.45 Napoli vs Lazio.

SERIE B

Spezia vs Pro Vercelli.....1-1
PLAYING TODAY
 Latina vs Trapani20.30
Standings: Livorno 6; Cagliari, Salernitana, Bari, Pro Vercelli, Vicenza 4; Trapani, Cesena, Perugia, Lanciano, Entella, Avellino, Crotona, Pescara 3; Latina, Spezia, Brescia, Ternana 1; Ascoli, Como, Modena, Novara (-2) -1.

Sporting briefs

SPRINGETT DIES: World Cup-winning goalkeeper Ron Springett has died aged 80, former club Sheffield Wednesday have said. The Owls said Springett, who made 384 appearances in their colours, had passed after a short illness. While he did not win any of his 33 England caps during the 1966 World Cup, the Londoner was one of the squad members given a medal in 2009 after FIFA introduced a rule to reward all members of World Cup-winning squads. Prior to the 1966 World Cup, Springett had been England's first-choice at the 1962 tournament in Chile.

FABINHO: Monaco returned to winning ways in *Ligue 1* as they beat newly-promoted Gazelec Ajaccio 1-0 away courtesy of an early Fabinho penalty, yesterday. The Brazil defender converted from the spot in the 16th minute after David Ducourtieux was penalised for a handball in the box. Monaco struggled to pose much more of a threat but the result at least means they have bounced back from the 3-0 home loss to Paris St Germain suffered last time out.

OLDHAM: Oldham have appointed former England midfielder David Dunn as their interim manager following the departure of Darren Kelly. The 35-year-old joined the League One club on a one-year deal in July, making eight appearances during Kelly's short reign at SportsDirect.com Park.

SACKED: FC Botosani's Leontin Grozavu has become the sixth coach to quit or be sacked just over two months into the Romanian season. The 48-year-old's second spell as coach of Botosani ended after the team's goalless draw at Concordia Chiajna on Saturday. All six of the bottom teams in Romania have now changed their coaches since the start of the season.

MARTINS: Seattle Sounders salvaged a 1-1 draw with San Jose Earthquakes thanks to a late goal by former Inter and Newcastle striker Obafemi Martins last weekend as the Sounders eked out a point on the road at San Jose's Avaya Stadium. The win in MLS championship allowed the Sounders (13-13-3) to move into fourth place in the Western Conference.

Football results

BUNDESLIGA

Hoffenheim vs Werder Bremen 1-3; Schalke 04 vs Mainz 2-1.
Leading standings: Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich 12; Wolfsburg 8; Eintracht Frankfurt, Hertha Berlin, Cologne, Ingolstadt, Schalke, W. Bremen 7.

PRIMERA LIGA

A. Bilbao vs Getafe 3-1; Celta Vigo vs Las Palmas 3-3; Granada vs Villarreal 1-3; Malaga vs Eibar 0-0; Real Betis vs R. Sociedad 1-0.
Playing today: 20.30 Rayo Vallecano vs Deportivo.
Leading standings: Barcelona 9; Real Madrid, Celta Vigo, Villarreal, Eibar 7; Atletico Madrid 6; Valencia 5; Real Betis 4.

LIGUE 1

Ajaccio vs Monaco 0-1; Nantes vs Rennes 0-2; Marseille vs Bastia 4-1.
Leading standings: Paris SG 13; Rennes 12; Reims, St Etienne 10; Cannes 9; Lyon, Angers, Monaco 8; Bastia, Nantes 7.

LEGA PRO

Group A: Cuneo vs Alessandria 0-1; Pro Patria vs Cittadella pp; Renate vs Giana 1-1; Padova vs Pro Piacenza 2-0; FeralpiSalo vs Bassano 1-2; Lumezzane vs Reggiana 0-2; Pordenone vs AlbinoLefte 1-0; Sudtirol vs Mantova 2-1; Cremonese vs Pavia 1-0.
Group B: Arezzo vs L'Aquila 0-1; Maceratese vs Savona pp; Pistoiese vs Robur Siena 0-0; Prato vs US Ancona 0-1; Teramo vs Pisa pp; Carrarese vs Santarcangelo 1-1; Rimini vs Spal 0-1.
Group C: Akragas vs Monopoli postponed; Catania vs Cosenza postponed; Castelli Romani vs Benevento 1-1; Martina vs Paganese 1-1; Messina vs Ischia postponed; Fidelis Andria vs Matera 3-0; Foggia vs Catanzaro 1-1; Casertana vs Melfi 1-0; Juve Stabia vs Lecce 0-1.

Sport

Football In England



Leicester City's Nathan Dyer (centre) anticipates Aston Villa goalkeeper Brad Guzan to score his side's third goal at the King Power Stadium, yesterday.

Leicester storm back to beat Aston Villa

Spurs leapfrog Chelsea with first win of the season

Leicester City staged a remarkable comeback from two goals down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 and go second in the Premier League table yesterday, scoring three times in 18 minutes.

Aston Villa seemed in control when Carles Gil's curling shot following a lightning counter-attack put them 2-0 ahead just past the hour after youngster Jack Grealish's first goal for his club had given them the half-time advantage.

But Claudio Ranieri's vibrant Leicester side halved the deficit in the 72nd minute through Ritchie De Laet and, roared on by a raucous home support, equalised through Jamie Vardy before substitute Nathan Dyer's brave headed winner.

Ranieri hailed the spirit of his side after the remarkable comeback.

"It's fantastic. Fantastic spirit and good character from my team," the Italian told Sky Sports 1.

"After 2-0 I watched my players but they believed that anything was possible and that's the spirit I love. You can lose but it's important to fight until the end of the match.

"This victory is very important to restart well and get three points. It's fantastic."

The former Greece and Juventus manager added: "I have a lot of experience but this group is fantastic. We must play every match in this way."

Leicester have 11 points from five games, four less than Manchester City who still have a 100 per cent record.

Earlier in the afternoon, Ryan Mason scored a late winner and was then carried off on a stretcher as Tottenham Hotspur beat Sunderland 1-0 to take their first Premier League victory of the season.

The win lifted Spurs to 12th in the table and dropped champions Chelsea, beaten 3-1 at Everton on Saturday, down to 17th and in danger of falling into the bottom three when Newcastle United play at West Ham United tonight.

Mason's mishap

Mason's 82nd-minute dinked goal, with Erik Lamela splitting the defence after combining with Harry Kane, broke the deadlock and provided a rare burst of brilliance in an otherwise uninspired encounter at the Stadium of Light.

The midfielder was then carried off injured after colliding with Sunderland goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon.

Manager Mauricio Pochettino said the player's condition would be assessed today.

"It was a big knock on the knee. It was a great goal and we showed how we try to play," he said.

Sunderland, still searching for their first win after five games this season and now with 11 goals conceded, dropped to the bottom of the table and behind Stoke City on goal difference.

South Korean Son Heung-min, who joined from Bayer Leverkusen in August and scored a hat-trick for his country during the international break, made his Spurs debut but missed a good first half chance and was taken off after 62 minutes.

Even if Son did not shine as brightly as some had expected yesterday, Pochettino sounded pleased with the new signing's performance: "I am very happy with Son, he played really well. He is a good player for us."

England striker Kane, still to get off the mark for his club this season, squandered a chance in the 67th minute when he failed to connect with a Mason cross with the goal begging.

Results and standings

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester City 3 Aston Villa 2
De Laet 72 Grealish 39
Vardy 82 Gil 64
Dyer 89

HT: 0-1. Att: 31,733

Sunderland 0 Tottenham 1
Mason 82
HT: 0-0. Att: 40,303

PLAYING TODAY

West Ham vs Newcastle21:00

NEXT FIXTURES

Saturday: 13.45 Chelsea vs Arsenal. 16.00 Aston Villa vs West Brom; Bournemouth vs Sunderland; Newcastle vs Watford; Stoke vs Leicester; Swansea vs Everton. 18.30 Manchester City vs West Ham.

Sunday: 14.30 Tottenham Hotspur vs Crystal Palace. 17.00 Liverpool vs Norwich City; Southampton vs Manchester United.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Fulham vs Blackburn Rovers2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man. City	5	5	0	0	11	0	15
Leicester	5	3	2	0	11	7	11
Man. United	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Arsenal	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
C. Palace	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Everton	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Swansea	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Norwich City	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Liverpool	5	2	1	2	3	6	7
West Ham	4	2	0	2	9	6	6
Southampton	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Tottenham	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Watford	5	1	3	1	3	4	6
West Brom	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Aston Villa	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Bournemouth	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Chelsea	5	1	1	3	7	12	4
Newcastle	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Stoke City	5	0	2	3	3	7	2
Sunderland	5	0	2	3	6	11	2

Walcott wants cutting edge to nail down role

Matt McGeehan

Theo Walcott knows he and Arsenal need to be more clinical after their 2-0 win over Stoke.

The England forward started up front and missed a number of chances before netting the opening goal to reward manager Arsene Wenger's faith.

"I was pleased with that goal," Walcott said.

"Luckily I managed to grab one out of my many chances against Stoke. I was disappointed because I should have got many, many more goals, but I'm getting the chances so I'm happy with that.

"When you get given the opportunity you have to try to grab the goals when you can.

"We create chances so we just have to put them away. We're starting to get back to the old Arsenal."

It was arguably Walcott's most difficult chance that he scored after he missed the target from close range twice previously.

Francis Coquelin won the ball in midfield, fed Mesut Ozil to play a delightful pass over the top and Walcott brushed off Marc Muniesa before firing beneath Jack Butland.

Team-work

Walcott recognised the contribution of Coquelin in the goal.

He added: "It's things that people might not notice, like the tackle from Francis. He's in that position for a reason, you can see it there, and that just started off the rhythm of the movement.

"Mesut's ball was fantastic, and it was all down to the touch. It put the defender out of the game."

Wenger suggested Walcott and Olivier Giroud, who came on to score

the second, will be rotated in the coming days, with Dinamo Zagreb and Chelsea the opposition this week.

Walcott added: "I've said to the manager that I'd like to play up front.

"I can play in any of those three positions up front, so it's a good option for the manager to have.

"It's nice to see Olivier Giroud among the goals as well, which shows it's great competition that we have for places here."

Chances were at a premium for Stoke as Butland repelled the Gunners time and again.

The Stoke keeper said: "For almost 80 minutes it was still 1-0. Whether we were good enough or not we were still in the game.

"We didn't create enough clear-cut chances, Arsenal certainly had more.

"We've got to look at ourselves and do enough and we didn't warrant getting anything from the game in the end."



Theo Walcott

Sport

Football BOV Premier League

Cassar keeps Balzan at bay

Kevin Azzopardi
National Stadium

BALZAN 0

TARXIEN RAINBOWS 0

Tarxien Rainbows were indebted to goalkeeper Andrea Cassar for salvaging a point from their clash with Balzan, yesterday.

A close-season signing, Cassar extended his fairytale start to this spell with the Rainbows as the 22-year-old goalkeeper pulled off a series of spectacular, at times vital, saves to keep Balzan at bay.

In a largely slow-burning encounter, Balzan, who are badly missing the scoring prowess of the injured Bojan Kaljevic, were the more enterprising and adventurous side as Tarxien seemed content to rely on counter-attacks but the Reds lacked a cutting edge.

When Balzan did find a way past the Tarxien rearguard, in which man-of-the-match Oliveira was outstanding, they were thwarted by Cassar.

In-form Malta striker Alfred Effiong flanked Godwin Mensha in attack as Balzan coach Oliver Spiteri opted for a 3-5-2 approach.

Balzan were without three key players as Kaljevic, Dylan Grima and Ryan Fenech are recovering from injuries.

Rainbows coach Jacques Scerri deployed Daniel Zerafa alongside Oliveira in the centre of a four-man defence while up front, Carlos Hevia played off Anderson with Pedro tucking in from the left.

The game was off to a quiet start but a promising opening beckoned for Effiong on 15 minutes.

Latching on to a long ball after Balzan had repelled a Tarxien set-piece, Effiong sped into the box but he was closed down by the Rainbows defenders.

Balzan

V. Senatore-6, S. Bezzina-6, C. Brincat-6 (53 L. Micallef-6.5), E. Zarate-6.5, S. Arab-6.5, T. Agius-6 (72 R. Darmanin-6), G. Mensha-5, A. Effiong-5.5, E. Serrano-6, L. Sciberras-6 (87 M. Focsa), J. Grioli-7.

Tarxien Rainbows

A. Cassar-8, E. Baker-5.5, M. Caruana-6, B. Oliveira-7, T. Tabone Desira-7, T. Caruana-5.5 (55 A. Azzopardi-5), C. Hevia-5, D. Zerafa-6.5, A. Alves-6 (70 L. Montebello-6), Pedro-5.5, Anderson-5 (78 B. Muscat).

Referee Glen Tonna.

Yellow cards Agius; T. Caruana; Hevia; Arab; Serrano; Zarate.

BOV player of the match Oliveira (Tarxien Rainbows).

Justin Grioli's cross-shot from a corner was fisted away by Cassar with the aid of the crossbar.

Mensha then hit wide from inside the box as Balzan began to exert a modicum of control.

Tarxien had been subdued so far but, midway into the first half, two of their Brazilian players came to life. Alex Alves drifted infield from the right before passing to Joao Pedro who advanced on the left before whipping in a cross that Samir Arab headed past the far post in an attempt to clear.

There was another chance for the Rainbows when Anderson found himself unmarked inside the box after Hevia's initial pass had been blocked. Balzan screamed 'offside' but as the flag stayed down, the Brazilian hit goalwards. His tame



Luke Sciberras, of Balzan, tackled from behind by Tarxien's Ayrton Azzopardi.
Photo: Paul Zammit Cutajar

flick, however, was blocked by Valerio Senatore before Arab cleared.

When Balzan began to press further up the pitch, especially their midfielders, they managed to gain ground, forcing a series of corners. They were all taken by Grioli but the Tarxien defenders dealt well with his inswingers.

On the cusp of half-time, Edison Bilbao Zarate's free-kick was wide.

Spiteri was forced into a tactical reshuffle early in the second half after defender Clive Brincat limped off with injury.

Lydon Micallef, a winger, came on for Brincat as Spiteri switched to 4-3-3.

Balzan were setting the pace but Tarxien's counter-attacking threat was not to be dismissed.

On 63 minutes, Effiong once again relied on his speed to get into the Tarxien penalty area but the uncompromising Oliveira cut across to shackle the Balzan striker whose effort was parried away by Cassar who was prominent again soon after when fisting away Grioli's teasing cross from a free-kick.

After bringing on Ayrton Azzopardi, Tarxien coach Scerri introduced Luke Montebello for Alves with 20 minutes left.

Balzan thought they had scored when, with nine minutes remain-

ing, Micallef's cross from the right soared towards the unmarked Ryan Darmanin, a second-half substitute, but the latter's glancing header brought a fine save from Cassar who tipped the ball away for a corner.

Cassar was at it again, fisting away Maxim Focsa's header from Grioli's corner.

In a counter-attack, Pedro released Montebello who closed in on goal but lifted his shot high and wide as Focsa slid in to put pressure on the Tarxien striker.

Focsa then took a free-kick at the other end but his effort was stopped by Cassar.

Football BOV Division One

Borg strikes to give Magpies deserved victory

RABAT AJAX1
ST GEORGE'S0
Rabat Ajax started their Division One trek with a narrow but merited victory over St George's, yesterday.

The Magpies, who practically kept the same side of last season, held the edge for much of the match and could have registered a more pronounced victory had they profited from the chances that came their way.

The match was off to a slow start and the first goalmouth action came midway through the first half when a Mark Tanti free-kick sailed just over the Rabat goal.

As time ticked by the Magpies started coming more into the picture and they went on to open the score on 35 minutes.

Wayne Borg was on the right spot to collect a Lawrence Chiedozie pass before placing his shot in the far right hand corner of the net.

Rabat continued to play the better football and two minutes before the break a Chiedozie header, from a Borg delivery, finished inches wide.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamrun	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Senglea	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Melita	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Rabat Ajax	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Gzira	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Pieta	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
San Gwann	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Zebbug	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
St George's	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lija	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Vittoriosa	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gudja United	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Fgura United	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Mqabba	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

In stoppage time, the Saints could have scored an equaliser but Dalato Ayuba fired wide from a good position.

Rabat started the second half in attack mode and Chiedozie saw his firm grounder saved in style by Sean Cini.

At the other end, Timmy Thomas was put clear by Tanti but was foiled by the quick-thinking keeper Jamie Azzopardi.

Chiedozie latched on to a David Azzopardi pass but saw his effort beating Cini and coming off the foot of the post.

A minute later, Dalato Ayuba profited from some hesitant defending inside the Rabat half but he drove his shot out of range. Thomas then flicked just wide following a Dalato Ayuba cross.

Rabat should have wrapped up the points late on but Adam Smeir hit badly from in front of the Saints' goal.

RABAT: J. Azzopardi, N. Caruana, J. Caruana, S. Gauci, W. Borg, C. Vella, A. Smeir (S. Abela), D. Falzon, L. Chiedozie, F. Azzopardi (B. Micallef), D. Azzopardi.

ST GEORGE'S: S. Cini, R. Brignone (C. Vella), N. Falzon, I. Uwadia, R. Buhagiar, L. Doretto (M. Thorne), C. Farrugia, B. Dalato Ayuba, M.

Tanti (K. Abela), U. Nwoko, T. Thomas.

Referee: Trutan Farrugia Cann.
Man of the match: Shaun Gauci (Rabat Ajax).

SAN ĠWANN1

ŻEBBUĠ RANGERS1
SAN ĠWANN: M. Grech, Z. Bowman, J. Azzopardi, R. Zammit, J. Briffa, N. Muscat, A. Borg, J. Cutajar, S. Vella (A. Cachia), J. Tanti (C. Cuschieri), F. Udoh.

ŻEBBUĠ: J. Spiteri, R. Bakare, K. Sacco, G. McKay, K. Borg (K. Zammit), A. Catania, S. Hili, T. Paris (C. Carl Pace), M. Gauci (D. Tabone), L. Galea, D. Fernando.

Referee: Stefan Pace.
Scorers: Cutajar (SĠ) 24; Catania (ŻR) 82.

Man of the match: Matthew Gauci (Żebbug Rangers).

FGURA UNITED1

HAMRUN SPARTANS3
FGURA: R. Marmara, Q. Bregman (C. Vella), J. Bugeja, R. Costa (D. Attard), I. Curmi (J. Farrugia), J. Dalli, Y. Gisse, D. Vukovic, J. Ruiz Perez, L. Vella Critien, A. Farrugia.

HAMRUN: F. Tabone, G. Azzopardi, L. Grech, M.A. Borg, M. Hrubsa, O. Anonam, R. Spiteri (A. Micallef), A. Tabone, S. Nanapere (M. Muchardi), T. Cilia (R. Refalo), H. Garba.

Scorers: Garba (H) 39, 75, 83; Ruiz Perez (F) 69.

Missed penalty: Tabone (H) 50.

Referee: Etienne Mangion.
Man of the match: Haruna Garba (Hamun Spartans).

GUDJA UNITED1

MELITA2
GUDJA: D. Balzan, I. Cachia, D. Bonnici, D. Alof (J. Chase), G. Chircop, B. Bondin, C. Grech, X. Kapaj, A. Agius, D. Pirota (D. Farrugia), J. Clifford.

MELITA: J.C. Debattista, I. Tufegdizic, E. Cornago, B. Jaccarini, L. Bianco, D. Cachia, J.P. Attard (L. Mifsud), N. Micallef, F. Mennini Righini, A. Borg Olivier, A. Attard (L. Busuttill).

Scorers: J.P. Attard (M) 25; A. Attard (M) 38; Bondin (G) 69.

Referee: Emmanuel Grech.
Man of the match: Alan Borg Olivier (Melita).

Sport

Football BOV Premier League

Valletta substitute Priso turns tables on Stripes

BIRKIRKARA 1 **VALLETTA** 2
Liliu 39 Falcone 44; Priso 86

Birkirkara

J. Haber-5, E. Herrera-5, N. Vukanac-6 (68 Z. Muscat-5.5), M. Mazzetti-6.5, J. Zerafa-6, R. Muscat-7, E. Agius-5.5 (67 J. Quero Barraso-5.5), P. Fenech-6, Liliu-7 (77 V. Plut), F. Miccoli-6, R. Camenzuli-5.5.

Valletta

H. Bonello-6.5, J. Caruana-6, I. Azzopardi-6.5, R. Camilleri-6, J. Cruz Gill-6.5, R. Briffa-5.5 (66 L. Cremona-5), A. Bruce-7, F. Falcone-6.5, C. Pani-6.5, Jhonnattann-7 (85 J.P. Mifsud Triganza), R. Romao-7 (76 N. Priso-7.5).

Referee Andre Arciola.

Yellow cards Zerafa; Pani; Fenech; Bruce.

BOV player of the match Rowen Muscat (Birkirkara). **Attendance** 2,883.

Kevin Azzopardi
National Stadium

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valletta	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Mosta	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Hibernians	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Pembroke	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Tarxien	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Balzan	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Birkirkara	3	1	1	1	7	4	4
Floriana	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
Sliema	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Qormi	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
St Andrew's	3	0	0	3	3	10	0
Naxxar	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

Valletta's pre-season gloom is fast giving way to rising optimism.

Back-to-back wins in their opening two league games had already gone some way towards lifting the mood of the City fans but this showdown with rivals Birkirkara was always going to be viewed as the first acid test for this revamped team.

In keeping with expectations, the two heavyweights served up a gripping encounter, especially in a highly-charged first half, with Birkirkara tearing out of the blocks only for Valletta to grow in stature as the game progressed.

Much of the pre-match focus had inevitably been on Paul Zammit as this was his first encounter against his former club since moving to Valletta in summer.

Zammit was composure personified throughout as his team rallied from a goal down to turn the tables on the fading Birkirkara.

There had been little between the two teams but Zammit played his cards better than his counterpart Giovanni Tedesco as the late introduction of Njongo Priso and the tactical switch to 4-3-3 changed the dynamic of a tight game.

It was Priso, the Cameroon-born winger who is expected to be granted Maltese citizenship in the coming weeks, who delivered the game's box-office moment as, with four minutes left, he tricked his way into the box to strike the winner.

Given the way the game panned out, a draw would probably have been a fair result but Valletta surely deserve credit for holding their nerve after falling behind and for finishing the game as the stronger side.

While Valletta now have maximum points from three games, Birkirkara have dropped five from their last two.

Defeat will increase the pressure on Tedesco but these are still early days and, judging by the team's performance yesterday, there is no reason to panic.

The Stripes played well, especially in the first 20 minutes of both halves, but again they lacked continuity and looked short of energy in the final stages.

There was a nice moment before kick-off as Zammit marched towards the section occupied by the Birkirkara fans to receive a memento amid shouts of 'Pawlu, Pawlu'.

Zammit sprung a surprise as he opted for three at the back, a decision that brought a recall for defender Ryan Camilleri who was flanked by Jonathan Caruana and Juan Cruz Gill.

In attack, pacey Brazilian Jhonnattann was partnered by towering Argentine Federico Falcone with Roderick Briffa roaming behind.

Tedesco duly restored striker Liliu to his starting XI but there was no place for Zach Muscat as the Italian tactician started with Edward Herrera at right-back.

Tedesco went with 4-1-3-2 with Fabrizio Miccoli and Liliu in attack and Rowen Muscat marshalling the back four.

The game was just over a minute old when Birkirkara captain Paul Fenech attempted an audacious lob from long range but his effort was high.

Birkirkara went close again when Miccoli's cross seeped into the six-yard box but Nikola Vukanac's scrambled header was high.

Tedesco's team stormed out of the blocks. They appealed for a penalty when Liliu went down after being challenged by Cruz Gill but their claims were waved away by referee Andre Arciola.



Birkirkara's Edward Herrera (front) in a tussle for possession with Federico Falcone, of Valletta, at the National Stadium, yesterday. Photo: Paul Zammit Cutajar

On 11 minutes, Claudio Pani, the Valletta midfielder, was wide from the distance.

Miccoli, served by Edmond Agius, cut inside Romeu Romao but his rising shot was off target.

There was a scare for Valletta when Miccoli's cross from the left was met by Liliu but his downward header was wide.

Valletta were finding the going tough in the early stages. With Briffa playing close to the strikers, they looked bereft of flair in midfield relying as they were on two defensive players in Albert Bruce and Pani and two flank defenders in Ian Azzopardi and Romao, albeit the latter is fast emerging as one of the most powerful right-backs in the Premier League.

When Jhonnattann tracked back to receive the ball, Valletta posed an instant threat as the Brazilian brought Briffa into play. The Malta midfielder supplied an excellent through-ball to Jhonnattann who was crowded out as Justin Haber dashed out to close the angle.

Jhonnattann was first to the loose ball but his rising effort was too central to unsettle Haber.

At the other end, Henry Bonello, the Valletta goalkeeper, saved from Liliu after the latter had shaken off Caruana's challenge.

The game opened up. Romao glided past Ryan Camenzuli before arrowing a cross that was picked up by Falcone but his grounder was stopped by Haber.

Bonello punched away Miccoli's corner and, moments later, the former Italy striker went down clutching his face after a duel with Bruce.

Birkirkara struck six minutes from half-time.

Having won a free-kick after being felled by Pani, Miccoli played the ball short to Liliu whose incursion into the box went unchecked by the white-shirted players. Liliu unleashed an angled drive that appeared to come off Camilleri whose deflection wrong-footed Bonello.

The Birkirkara supporters were in delirium.

Two minutes later, Valletta threatened to equalise but Cruz Gill's drive was charged down by Muscat after Azzopardi had nodded Romao's cross into the Argentine's path.

Another flowing Valletta move saw the marauding Jhonnattann trade passes with Azzopardi whose cross was again met by the Brazilian but his first-time flick was saved by Haber.

There was nothing Haber could do to prevent Valletta from leveling matters on the brink of half-time. Bruce played a key role as his raking ball from midfield soared above the Birkirkara defenders and towards the advancing Falcone who beat Haber with a reverse chip to the evident delight of the City fans.

As in the opening half, Birkirkara sought to take the initia-

tive when the second period got underway.

Miccoli lifted his shot over the bar after getting on the end of Camenzuli's low cross.

Zammit then made his first substitution, sending on Llywelyn Cremona for Briffa.

Tedesco responded by introducing forward Juan Quero Barraso for Agius while Zach Muscat replaced the hobbling Vukanac.

The second half became a battle of attrition as tiredness appeared to catch up with both teams.

With 21 minutes remaining, Falcone drifted infield from the left but his long-range drive was off target.

Vito Plut replaced Liliu while, for Valletta, Priso came on for Romao as Zammit adjusted to four at the back.

The Whites threatened five minutes from time when Caruana flashed in to connect with Jhonnattann's corner but his sliced header was wide.

Barely a minute passed when Valletta seized the lead thanks to Priso who nutmegged Mauricio Mazzetti before firing past Haber from a tight angle.

Birkirkara looked stunned but fashioned a chance only for Plut to head over from Mazzetti's cross.

In stoppage time, Mazzetti cushioned the ball to Barraso inside the box but out came Bonello to deny the Spaniard as Valletta held on.



A cyclists' pilgrimage

Thousands cycled or rode a motorbike to Żabbar yesterday morning, where the feast of Our Lady of Graces was celebrated in the evening. The 64th edition of the pilgrimage started in Rabat for cyclists and Mosta for bikers, all heading out behind a painting of their patron saint. Participants noted that this year's attendance seemed higher than in previous years. *Photo: Mark Zammit Cordina*

Talking Point

Arthur Galea Salomone

Arthur Galea Salomone is President of the Cana Movement



A precursor to abortion

The Prime Minister is on record stating that he is "resolute on the introduction of embryo freezing" and that "any IVF law must have the function of freezing for it to be successful".

Whereas the Embryo Protection Act, in its current form, allows the freezing of (as yet unfertilised) female oocytes, embryo freezing involves the freezing of life after conception. If the Prime Minister's stands have been reported correctly, they are objectionable on a number of grounds.

Firstly, the amendments to the Embryo Protection Act are supposedly under consideration and review by the Inter Ministerial Committee. The Prime Minister's statement pre-empts the complex legal, ethical and medical considerations inherent in any discussion relating to embryo freezing and rushes to a pre-determined conclusion.

Prudence would suggest that he should have refrained from expressing his opinion in such absolute terms, if the Inter Ministerial Committee is to be allowed to perform its task serenely and if the consultation process is really intended to be consultative in substance and not merely in form.

Secondly, Muscat's reported

assertion that any IVF law must include freezing in order to be successful is contradicted by the government's own statistics, which confirm that the current IVF programme, which excludes embryo freezing, enjoys a comparable success rate to IVF treatments in other European countries which allow embryo freezing.

Thirdly, the introduction of embryo freezing is predicated on a utilitarian view of conception which considers embryos as masses of cells which may be used selectively and/or set aside, depending on the success or failure of the in vitro fertilisation process. Human life begins at conception and it should be treated with respect and dignity from the moment of conception.

The ethical dilemmas which arise in respect of frozen embryos are many. What are the consequences of depriving embryos of immediate maternal reception and gestation? Does the prospect of an increased success rate of IVF justify the risk of exposing embryos to physical harm or death, as a result of freezing and thawing? What happens to frozen embryos that are subsequently unutilised? Who is to decide on their destiny?

These difficult issues inevitably arise when embryos are treated as commodities and their destiny

becomes dependent on the choices of man, who attempts to role play God.

Whereas the desire to bear and/or rear children is natural and noble, and efforts to improve fertility are laudable, they should not justify the selective freezing and/or subsequent discarding of embryos. Children are gifts and not entitlements. IVF policies

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If the frozen embryos can be justifiably discarded outside the womb, the next step is to justify abortion within the womb

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should therefore not relegate the rights of the unborn child to the desire to bear children, no matter how noble that desire may be.

The balance between the rights of the unborn child and the interests of infertile couples is currently struck by an Embryo Protection Act which allows freezing of (as yet unfertilised) female oocytes without embryo freezing and that balance should not be disturbed to the detriment of the unborn child.

Proponents of embryo freezing often attempt to mitigate the attendant difficulties of embryo stockpiling by suggesting that frozen embryos could be put up for adoption rather than destroyed. Evidently this has not been borne out by the countries where embryo freezing has been introduced and stockpiling of embryos remains a controversial issue.

Adoption of frozen embryos is not an easy solution. Sadly, rejected embryos are often perceived as inferior and those that are unwanted are often manipulated or discarded.

The freezing and discarding of embryos is the precursor to the introduction of abortion. If the frozen embryos can be justifiably discarded outside the womb, the next step is to justify abortion of the unborn child within the womb. Once human life is commoditised,

it is a matter of time before abortion is legalised. The justifications will come in various shapes and forms. Initially the extreme cases where the mother's life is at risk or the unwanted pregnancy of a raped mother will be cited.

Selective access to abortion for those who have the means to travel overseas to abortion clinics will be portrayed as an injustice for those who resort to clandestine abortions. Risks of clandestine abortions, it will be argued, may be mitigated by having abortion in a controlled environment.

Finally, the pro-choice argument will rear its head, claiming that women are entitled, as of right, to decide upon the destiny of their body and human life within.

Meanwhile the voice, choice and rights of the unborn child will be discarded, as the mutilation and murder of unborn children are sugar coated in officialdom, with the silent conspiracy of omission of those who should have stood up for the unborn child.

It is hoped that the Prime Minister will reconsider his misplaced resoluteness to introduce embryo freezing and that civic society and politicians of goodwill from both sides of the political spectrum will take a stand in favour of the unborn child, be it within or outside the womb.