The Voice of th

lssue 256 A fortnightly print and digital magazine August 17, 2021

We are back

The Upper Barrakka Gardens in Malta's capital, Valletta is one of the most popular venues for Maltese and tourists as it affords the best vintage spot to view Malta's Grand Harbour

Malta ckejkna f'dinja kbira - Il-valuri li jmexxuna



Evarist**Bartolo** Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej

ed naħdmu biex fis-snin 2023 u 2024 Malta tkun fil-Kunsill tas-Sigurtá tan-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda.

Ghalina din hi xi haġa importanti. Imma m'għandix dubju li l-fatt li nkunu fil-Kunsill tas-Sigurtá tinħass bħala xi ħaġa 'l bogħod mill-ħajja ta' kuljum ta' ħafna nies u li xi ħaġa bħal din tinteressa l-aktar lid-diplomatici fi New York.

Ghax li jinteressana fil-hajja ta' kuljum hu li jkollna x-xoghol, dhul biżżejjed ghall-familja, servizzi tajbin tal-edukazzjoni u s-sahha, pensjonijiet u servizzi socjali ohra. Li nkunu kapaci nhallsu l-kontijiet ghall-htiġijiet taghna u nghixu bla nkwiet, u ngawdu hin tal-mistireh mal-familja.

X'ghandu x'jaqsam dan kollu man-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda?

Ghandu u ghandu hafna. Ghall-pajjiżi żghar bhal taghna l-importanza tan-Nazzjonijiet Maghquda tmur lilhinn minn jekk u meta jkollna siggu fil-Kunsill tas-Sigurtá.

Aħna u pajjizi bħalna għandna bżonn in-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda u l-valuri u l-prinċipji tagħha li l-pajjiżi kbar u żgħar huma sovrani ndaqs bid-dritt li jmexxu lilhom infushom u li t-tilwim jiġi solvut bid-diskussjoni bir-raġuni madwar mejda u mhux bl-armi filkamp tal-battalja.

Aħna għandna bżonn li jkollna rispett u ħarsien tal-liġi internazzjonali għax f'dinja fejn tirbaħ il-forza u ssaħħa tal-armi aħna ma jkollna l-ebda influwenza fid-dinja.

Anki meta ma jkunx hemm gwerra ma nistgħux ninfluwenzaw id-dinja imma rridu nkunu bil-għaqal biex naraw kif id-dinja tinfluwenza lilna u r-rabtiet li nfasslu mal-bqija tad-dinja.

Ghax jekk ma nibnuhomx bil-għaqal u kemm jista' jkun għall-gid tagħna, inkunu sovrani u indipendenti talisem biss. Taparsi nmexxu lilna nfusna.

Żgur li ma nistgħux ninqatgħu middinja. Bħala pajjiżi żghar għandna bżonn il-bqija tad-dinja iżjed mill-pajjiži l-kbar għax biex inbiegħu dak li nagħmlu u noffru, biex nixtru dak li għandna bzonn ... irridu bilfors it-turisti, l-investituri, il-konsumaturi ... filbqija tad-dinja.

Ġĥalhekk aĥna rridu Nazzjonijiet Magħquda b'saħħitha. Għalhekk aħna favur il-paċi u l-kalma fir-relazzjonijiet bejn il-pajjiżi. Waqt li ħaddieħor jitfa' l-ħatab fuq in-nar, hu fl-interess tagħna li nitfgħu l-ilma.

Ghalhekk, fl-interess taghna li nahdmu kemm nifilhu ma' pajjizi żghar ohra bhalna li ma jistghux iweġġghuna kif iweġġhuna pajjiżi kbar jekk ikunu jridu jġiegħluna nagħmlu dak li mhux għall-gid tagħna.

Ahna l-iċken ghaxar pajjiż f'dinja ta' 193 stat. Ma rridu niġġieldu ma' hadd minnhom. Ma rridux li jdaħħluna filġlied ta' bejniethom. Fejn ikun hemm pajjiżi miġġielda ma' xulxin, flok inżommu ma' pajjiż kontra ieħor, inħaddmu n-newtralitá tagħna u nippruvaw ngħaddu kelma għall-ġid, biex ma jiġġieldux ma' xulxin.

Ma nqisu lil hadd ghadu taghna u lesti nahdmu ghall-gid komuni tannies taghna u ta' pajjiżi ohra. Ghandna hafna hbieb fid-dinja. Jafu li m'ahniex theddida ghalihom ghax ghandna filkostituzzjoni taghna li ma nintużawx iżjed fi gwerer kontra taghhom.

F'din id-dinja ta' iżjed minn seba' biljun ruħ għandna ħafna sfidi biex insalvaw il-pjaneta u li nsibu mod kif tant nies ta' kulturi u interessi differenti jgħixu flimkien minflok joqtlu lil xulxin.

L-akbar sfidi: il-pandemija, il-bidla fil-klima, il-qawmien ekonomiku u soċjali, il-kriminalitá internazzjonali, l-armamenti nukleari, il-gwerer cyber, il-ħila li ngħixu flimkien ... kollha għandna bżonn naħdmu flimkien biex nilqgħu għalihom.

La għandna naraw kbir. Iżda lanqas ma għandna narmu lilna nfusna. Fiċċokon tagħna nistgħu nagħtu sehemna biex inkunu parti mis-soluzzjonijiet u mhux mill-problemi fid-dinja tagħna.

Lawrence Renes: Proud of his heritage; His soul is Maltese

Proud to be of Maltese descent? There is no one better to get acquainted with that than Lawrence Renes, the Dutch-Maltese world-renowned orchestra conductor.

Renes, born in Holland in 1970, is highly regarded in both the operatic and symphonic spheres. He is praised for his impeccable ability to balance orchestra and singers and for delivering performances of passion, nuance and style.

The Voice of the Maltese caught up with Renes while he was serving his COVID-19 quarantine in a Melbourne Hotel before conducting the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

The conductor, who calls Birgu his home was born of a Maltese mother, Josephine Bonnici known around Birgu by their nickname of "*tal-iskarpan*". He remembers his youth as he spent every summer in Malta. He was named after San Lawrenz, the patron saint of the city of *Citta Vittoriosa* (Birgu).

"Malta is my home; as I step off the plane and smell the clear air, I know I am home, where my family is, this small country with so much to do, so much culture, caring people, my people. It defines who I am as a musician; my soul is Maltese," Lawrence said with so much pride.

Together with his friend tenor Joseph Calleja, Lawrence Renes is a Cultural Ambassador for Malta with full diplomatic credentials. During their many travels, they both promote Malta as an island with so much to offer.

Malta needs a concert hall, and both Lawrence and Joseph are certain this will happen soon.

Renes studied violin at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and conducting at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, from which he graduated *cum laude* in 1993. He was the first prize winner at the 1992 Nederlandse Omroep Stichting conducting course NIS. In 1992, he also won the Elisabeth Everts Prize.

He made his professional conducting debut with the Orchestra of Gran Canaria and has served as an assistant conductor to Edo de Waart with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic.

Renes' international prominence increased after his emergency replacement of Riccardo Chailly to conduct a 1995 concert with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In 1996 he was named principal guest conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and in 1998 became chief conductor of *Het Gelders Orkest* (Arnhem, the Netherlands), a post he held through to 2002.

Outside of the Netherlands, in 1996 Renes became the principal guest conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra. He served as *Generalmusikdirektor* of the Bremer Philharmoniker from 2001 to 2006, and in November 2011 was named the next chief conductor of the Royal Swedish Opera (*Kungliga Operan*), as of the 2012–2013 season, with an initial contract through the 2016–2017 season.



Renes concluded his chief conductorship of the Royal Swedish Opera in 2017.

In contemporary music, Renes has championed the music of John Adams. He conducted both the first commercial recording of Adams' opera *Doctor Atomic*, with De Neder-landse Opera, and the UK premiere of the work at Opera He has also conducted commercial recordings on such labels as Erato.

Renes returned to San Francisco Opera for *Billy Budd*, in Michael Grandage's acclaimed production. He conducted a programme of Strauss and Prokofiev for his third visit to the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The season included debuts with the Orchestre National de Lyon and the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra.

Renes returned to the Mahler Chamber Orchestra (on tour in South America), Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (following a spectacular Verdi Requiem), Residentie Orkest, Tampere Philharmonic and Malta Philharmonic.

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(Part 4)

Tasting again the Maltese bread that helped win the war

Bad planning



MartinG**Debattista**

(Institute of Tourism Studies - Malta · Centre for eLearning Technologies PhD Candidate - MSc in Digital Media)

he shortcomings in the provisioning of food supplies in wartime were laid bare in a secret report presented to the British governor of Malta that same month. The lax attitude of the authorities at the beginning of the war was subject to criticism in a report prepared by two commissioners from London and published in June 1942.

The Report on the Food Situation in Malta compiled by Messrs Drummond and Wall concluded that the government's complacency in 1939 led to an understock of animal fodder that was mainly imported from Italy.

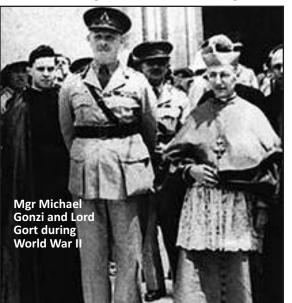
There was no detailed plan for the supply and storage of food in wartime. There were no updated statistics on the number of farmers and the size of their fields and their output.

The commissioners also reviewed down to just three months the food stocks in 1939, which is far less than what the government has publicly boasted.

In peacetime the population and garrison of Malta needed 3,000 tonnes of flour each month and this was restricted to 2,000 tonnes in wartime but the tenuous supply from convoys was making this harder to come by in 1942.

Messrs Drummond and Wall concluded, "stocks of essential foodstuffs like flour and sugar as existed in the Island [at the start of the war] were allowed to go into consumption at a rate higher than we consider necessary".¹⁶

They also noted "we have found few signs that the gravity of the situation was always appreciated by authorities outside the Island, although we admit no knowledge of the



naval factor involved. Stocks never reached the target of nine months supply and the need for constant replenishment even in periods of goods supply was overlooked ... they [the Maltese] have stood up their trials on magnificent fashion ... they certainly deserve a better fate than to be handed over to the enemy with exhausted food supplies."17

When the members of the Council of Government requested the Drummond and Walls report to be made available to them, the Lieutenant Governor refused on the grounds that it was a secret report.18

The target date

At exactly the same time Lieutenant-Governor Jackson, had to go on the cable radio service and explain in no uncertain terms the severity of the situation: "I have said that, in examining our position, we calculated first the time for which our bread could be made to last ... I shall call it the "target-date" ... Our next task was to see how we could make our other vital neces-

sities last to the target date ...

"I cannot tell you what that date is, for if the enemy ever came to hear of it, he would learn something that he would very much like to know. But I can tell you that it is far enough off to give very ample opportunity for fresh supplies to reach us before our present run out.

'So let us approach the difficult time ahead with confidence and courage. England will not forget us and her Navy and Air Force will see us through."19

Today we know that the "target date" was the 7th September, the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Victories. If adequate food supplies would not reach Malta by that date, the island-fortress would have to surrender.

Gozo's wheat

One generous contribution towards the situation came from Mgr. Michael Gonzi, the Bishop of Gozo. Governor Lord Gort, who replaced the tired and sick Dobbie in May 1942, approached Mgr. Gonzi and enquired whether he could intervene with the Ĝozitan farmers to deliver any extra wheat in their possession.

The Bishop accepted with just one request, that he would be afforded the necessary petrol for his car to tour the island. And so he did, with great success, and tonnes of wheat appeared out of nowhere and were transported to Malta.²⁰ This gesture paved the way for Mgr. Gonzi to become Archbishop of Malta with the blessing of the British.

Gozitan farmers were not the only ones to



hoard some of their produce. The authorities had a hard time convincing farmers to voluntarily hand in their cereals to be centrally milled into flour.

When government officials tried to convince farmers by speaking to them directly, they were usually reserved a hostile reception, with the newspaper Il-Berga (sister paper of the Times of Malta) putting the blame on the local Quisling (pro-Italian Maltese) elements.²¹ The authorities were left with no choice but to issue requisition orders on cereals, which, however, would leave farmers some stock for seeding purposes. Governor Gort lamented that "the collec-

tion of grain has fallen off very seriously and the total amount so far collected is less than we had hoped."²² Parish priests tried to convince farmers to be generous with some success.23

At the same time the government published details of the new 'recipe' for bread making: "Out of seven bags of flour each baker will receive three bags of wheat flour, two bags of maize mixture and two bags of barley mixture ... Senior Bread Inspectors, some of whom have expert knowledge, have already been appointed or are being appointed to supervise the operations of bakers in Qormi and the other main baking centres."2

Theft and pilfering of foodstuffs, even in such small amounts as a few cans of corned beef, were sanctioned by heavy fines and prison terms.

The supply of wheat and flour was so precarious that bags of flour were recovered from sunken ships and sold at exorbitant prices despite the putrid stench.25

*Continued in the next issue

- 16. NAM, GMR, no.1543, p.56. 17. NAM, GMR, no.1543, p.52. 18. NAM, GMR, no.1543, p.53. 19. Times of Malta, 3 July 1942. 20. The Sunday Times, 26 June 1942.

20. The Sunday Times, 26 June 1942. 21. Vella, 1985. 22. II-Berqa, 13 and 17 August 1942. The term 'Quis-ling' derives from the name of Vidkun Quisling, a Nor-wegian who collaborated with the Germans when these invaded his country in 1940. In Malta the name was applied to Maltese who were perceived as hav-ing pro-Italian sympathies and therefore sided with the enemy.

- Ing pro-Italian sympanise and the enemy. 23. Micallef, 1981, p.169. 24. Micallef, 1981, p.170. 25. The Sunday Times, 26 July 1942.

References

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

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Q. I am 70 years of age and my husband is 72. He retired from the work force about four years ago, but I am still working full time and because of my income he does not qualify for a part age pension. I am planning to reduce my working hours to two days a week and my salary will drop to \$35,000 per annum. Is he able to apply for a part age pension if I continue to work?

A. Not only will he qualify for a part age pension if you do this, but whatever amount of pension he qualifies for, you will also receive the same amount. If the \$35,000 per annum will be the only income that you will be generating between the two of you, you will qualify for a good part of the age pension, as Centrelink does not treat the first \$300 per fortnight of your income from work as income.

Q. I am 66 years of age and I retired from the work force around 2 years ago. I have an investment property that I am planning to sell. I will have around \$200,000 in capital gains. Am I still able to invest in superannuation now that I no longer work?

A. Yes, since you are under the age of 67 you are still able to make both concessional contributions and non-concessional contributions. If you sold the property after 1 July this year, you are able to make a concessional-contributions of up to \$27,500 in order to reduce your taxable income and thus reduce tax on your capital gains.

You are also able to make a non-concessional contribution of up to \$110,000. Tax of 15% will need to be paid on the concessional contribution, but no tax is payable on the non-concessional contribution. You will be better off seeing your accountant or financial planner prior to acting on this in order for them to explain your current situation.

Q. I have been sick for the last four months and had moved in with my sister until my health is restored. I may still need to stay with her for a while. Should I inform Centrelink about this even though my house is vacant? I am concerned that it may affect my age pension entitlement.

A. *I* believe it is better for you to inform Centrelink of

your current situation. However, as your move is for medical reasons and you will be going back to your home in a short while, your age pension should not be affected at all..

Q. I am 45 years old and my husband is 47. Three months ago, we finished paying off the mortgage on our home. We have discovered however, that the amount of mortgage that we paid monthly is not being saved. We seem to be spending it and we have not much to show for it. Can you recommend how best to invest this money monthly as we were living quite comfortably without it?



Understand your options. Talk to Fiducian.

Marie-Louise Muscat is fluent in Maltese and English and can assist you in:

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- Maximising Centrelink Benefits
- Tax effective strategies in retirement e.g. sale of property
- Rearranging finances to minimise ongoing fees prior to entering Aged Care facilities



Marie-Louise Muscat CFP, Dip FP Senior Financial Planner



Call Marie-Louise for a

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Marie-Louise Muscat is a representative of Fiducian Financial Services Pty Ltd ABN 46 094 765 134 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence 231103

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This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



A. First of all, you ought to be commended for paying off your mortgage on your home at such a young age. There are a number of options that you could consider of where to invest this money. You could both make a small salary sacrifice into superannuation every month and thus build up your superannuation funds.

This will also reduce your taxable income and thus you will be making a saving in tax. You could however commence a savings plan in a managed fund. If you did this and you found that after a couple of years you needed the money, you could cash the investment in at any time.

If you invest it all in superannuation now while you are both still young, you will not have access to this money in an emergency until at least you turn 60. You should visit a financial planner and they will help you with this, as they will be able to look at your current situation and advise accordingly.

Q. My husband and I are pensioners, however because our superannuation funds are doing so well, our pension has dropped to \$40 a fortnight each. We wish to maintain this part pension. Is there anything that we can do to protect it?

A. Yes, there are a few things that you can do. You can gift up to \$10,000 per annum for the next three years. The maximum amount of gifting cannot be more than \$30,000 over a five-year period. You could each invest in a funeral bond. You are allowed to invest \$13,200 each. Funeral bonds are not treated as assets. You could also make any renovations required to your home now and this will reduce your assets. Unfortunately, there are no other investments that you can invest in, that are exempt from Centrelink's asset test.

This document contains factual information only and is not intended to provide any recommendation or opinion in relation to the topic/s discussed. Fiducian recommends that you seek advice from a professional to address any issues that may be raised by this article. Fiducian accepts no liability for any loss suffered by anyone who has acted on any information in this document

They etched their name for prosperity at the Welcome Wall

The National Monument to Migration, previously known as the Museum Welcome Wall situated on the north promenade of the museum facing Pyrmont Bay and the iconic bridge, features hundreds of names of Maltese migrants. Their name is etched on this wall for posterity.

Some of the prominent names listed are those of George Zammit (deceased) and his wife Carmen nee Zahra, formerly from Siggiewi now living at Narrabeen NSW. They were married in Sydney in 2010.

George, the son of Rita and Michael, was born only three weeks before the Italians started bombing Malta in World War II. He was baptised by his uncle Mons Emmanuel Brincat. At age of 15 he emigrated to Australia.

The life of Monsignor Brincat was acknowled as it was edged in the widelyread novel by Nicholas Monsarrat, *The Kappillan of Malta*.

Through his uncle's influence, George remembers meeting King George V1 at his uncle's house when the King visited Malta.

George came from a humble upbringing. His father served in the military and was a carpenter by trade. His mum was a successful seamstress. They made sure that George gets a good education.

George emigrated to Australia in 1955 on the Strathnaver, arriving in Melbourne

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with eight pennies in his pocket. His first job was with General Motors at Fishermans Bend building FJ Holdens. At the time George lied about his age (15) to qualify for this job; he pretended to be 21.

He spent his first fifteen years in Australia working in various fields, including a year as a cane cutter in Innisfail. Once he was ready, he moved to Sydney where he bought a boarding house with 16 rooms in North Sydney. It was an investment that proved very rewarding.

Fast forward a few years, and George was importing waterlogged timber. There was a shipping strike that halted the domestic construction industry that drove up the price of timber. With this good fortune, George started Warringah Timbers, which is still even today an iconic business in the Northern Beaches.

George had a warm and attractive per-



sonality blessed with the gift for making people smile and feel welcome.

*Anybody in the Maltese community in Austalia can have his name inscribed on the Welcome Wall at the National Monument to Migration in order to have his historical entrance into NSW always remembered.

For information go to: www.sea.museum/ discover/welcome-wall.

Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja's Australia tour postponed to 2022

Given the continued uncertainty, and following a long discussion with Joseph Calleja's management, AMK are in agreement that it is too risky to proceed with the Maltese tenor's tour in Australia in September.

As it stands, with current restrictions and border closures, the organisers would have been able to perform two of the five concerts in September, which would render the tour unviable.

The current situation could change by then of course, but it might also recur. Therefore, both parties have jointly taken the decision to reschedule the tour to October/early November of next year, which will provide a more certain framework within which to work.

Although Joseph Calleja and the organisers are naturally disappointed that he would be unable to make the tour in Australia this year, he is really looking forward to making his Australian debut next year.

Meanwhile, the venues have moved existing ticket holders over to the new dates, and provided refunds to those who cannot attend next year.

This is the organisers' website link: https://amckinnon.com.au/production/joseph-calleja-the-maltese-tenor/

Following are also the dates and booking links of the presentations by Andrew McKinnon.

Sydney: City Recital Hall on Monday 24th October 2022 – 7:30pm: https://www.cityrecitalhall.com/whats-on/events/joseph-calleja-the-maltese-tenor/

Adelaide: Adelaide Town Hall on Saturday 29th October 2022 – 7:30pm: https://www.bass.net.au/events/sosa20-joseph-calleja-in-recital/

Melbourne: Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne on Monday 31st October 2022 – 7:30pm: https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2022/ classical-music/joseph-calleja

Brisbane: Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 3rd November 2022 – 7:30pm: *https://www.qpac.com.au/event/joseph_calleja_20/*

Perth: Perth Concert Hall on Saturday 5th November 2022 – 7:30pm: https://perthconcerthall.com.au/events/event/joseph-calleja-n

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missed our fortnightly 'meetings'

enthusiasm and commitment.

these were completely dispelled during our absence in

the past few weeks for reasons beyond our control. Due

to production difficulties, we went silent for a few issues,

and we apologise to our readers for that. During our ab-

sence we were inundated with emails from readers who

They were indeed a comfort to us as we realised how

necessary and important The Voice of the Maltese has

We are now pleased to be back to continue our mission

to serve our loyal readers. Having overcome the obstacles, this magazine, that is driven by the voice of its read-

ers and has earned a reputation of being the most read and influential publication of its kind, published in Aus-

tralia for the Greater Malta but targeting all the Maltese

wherever they live around the world, has lost none of its

We promise to continue to deliver and to provide our

customed to. The Voice will be keeping the high stan-

readers with the same service that we have become ac-

dard of journalism, respecting the readers' intelligence at

all times, online (via email (free), or as a hard copy at our

f we ever had occasion to doubt the popularity of *The Voice* magazine,

become.



selling outlets or through paid subscriptions. *The Voice* is not just an e-maga-

zine. It is the only one of its kind that is printed, circulated and mailed to our many subscribers.

We print because we understand well our community. There are still thousands of Maltese who prefer to read the hard copy than online. Others rush to our distribution outlets to purchase a copy of *The Voice*.

We further apoligise to our subscribers and hard copy readers, as due to the Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions we are still being prevented from printing. However, we promise to make it up to you soon after returning to normality.

Subscribers please note:

You may have noticed that the delivery by post of *The Voice of the Maltese* since the last issue on June 15 has been interrupted. We are also faced with the covid-19 restrictions regarding printing and delivery.

This interruption will not affect subscribers' payments as we calculate subscriptions by the number of issues and not per annum. As our valued subscribers, we do apologise for this inconvenience. Hopefully, normality will return soon.

We are all in this together ...

The repeated lockdown in most states of Australia had dealt a blow to the Maltese community and the many organisations serving them. They are all in the same boat. In a recent statement on behalf of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, Tony Pace-Feraud tells it all. We are all in this together.

Due to this disastrous Coronavirus pandemic that we are going through and which has turned our lives topsy-turvy, all of our MCA plans/activities have had to be cancelled or put on hold.

To keep the virus away, we must all get vaccinated.



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Print & Digital magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can be read in flipbook or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request. Hard copy subscription is also `available at a cost.

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Letters for publication in The Voice magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be emailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.

fow you can also join us on facebook: https://www.facebook.

com/groups/thevoiceofthemaltese



Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Should we really feel lucky to get the vaccine?

Paul Debono from Fairfield NSW writes:

I fully concur with Frank Mallia's letter to *The Voice* entitled *Should we really feel lucky to get the vaccine?* in which he complained about the lack of strategy by the Australian health and government authorities in getting the people vaccinated against the pandemic in time to avoid another wave of the COVID-19 virus.

Most of the population in Australia had applauded the way the government managed to keep the infections down in the initial stages of the pandemic. But then it stood on its laurels, relaxed, created a false sense of security among the people and lost the advantage. Now we all know the current situation with lockdowns in a number of states and increasing concern all over.

The government was slow in getting the vaccine. It is a shame that only around 20% have received the jabs. Now we have been told that it will take us until the end of the year for all to get complete immunity. Compare that to Malta, which was so alert

that from the outset bought enough vac-

Request for assistance

J.L Smith, Taplow UK writes:

I was born in Egypt of Maltese descent as my parents were born in Malta. We lived in Egypt most of our lives until we were kicked out.

I have tried to obtain my birth certificate, but I found out that all certificates for expats that used to live in Egypt are not available. Only churches certificates are available.

Is there anywhere we can go for assistance? *Editor's note:* Try and contact this email address: sec.cmla@gov.mt

Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

For issues concerning:

Ageing and disability - community services -education - environment - health - housing - planning - Police - transport - water

P: (02) 9756 4766 E: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au 2/679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164 cines by which it could vaccine the Maltese three times over and assured itself of having enough vaccines if boosts are needed. In fact, in September, residents at old people's homes would get a the booster jab.

To say more would be superfluous. No wonder DownUnder we are so disappointed!

Ghaliex ghandna niġu skartati?

Niskanta kif ghad hawn minn ma jistax jifhem kemm il-komunitá Maltija ghad ghandha bżonn kopja f'idejha ta' *The Voice* of the Maltese.

Naf kemm għandna komunitá li xjaħet għax l-immigrazzjoni minn Malta lejn l-Awstralja waqfet zmien ilu. Dan l-aħħar qrajt attakk bla sens li wera kemm min kitbu ma jifhem xejn fil-ħtiġijiet preżenti tal-komunitá.

Jien wiehed milli nircevi *The Voice* id-dar bil-posta. Naf hafna ohrajn bhali li jhobbu li jkollhom dan il-*magazine* f'idejhom u li jmorru jixtruh ghax ihossu li b'pubblikazzjoni stampata jżommu hajja l-identitá Maltija . Ma ghandna xejn kontra l-internet jew il-medja socjali iżda aktar nippreferu li jkollna il-*hard copy*. Ghaliex ghadna nigu skartati?

Grazzi lil *The Voice* li bqajtu tieħdu ħsiebna.

Dan kollu ksuħat żejda!

Ganni Farrugia minn Newport Victoria jikteb:

Anna li ninsabu barra minn Malta ninnutaw kemm l-ilsien Malti qed jigbor fih kliem stramb/barrani jew użat minhabba l-għażż. Waqt il-pandemija ħlief vaċċinati, varjant, ikkomparat, kawtela, eċċ, m'aħniex nisimgħu.

Jien mhux xi Dun Karm, iżda tgħid ma għandniex kliem bil-Malti iktar użat u iktar komuni? Insegwi wkoll dak li jseħħ f'-Malta, l-aktar xi konferenza stampa. Ma nistax għaliha nisma' ċerti ġurnalisti (Maltin) jagħmlu l-mistoqsijiet tagħhom bl-Ingliż, minn xi daqqiet imqanzaħ, għaliex?

Imbagħad nieħu gost nisma lill-ministri kollha jwieġbu bil-Malti kif għandu jkun. Sintendi ma tista' twaqqaf lil ħadd, iżda personalment, dan jien narah kollu ksuħat żejda.

"Maltija kienet l-ewwel kelma f'fommok u bil-Malti tkellimt tifel daħkani". Forsi llum, l-anqas dan ma għadu fattibli?

Potatoes among world's most popular staple foods

Maltese farmers hoping to recover pre COVID demand to their produce

JosephCutajar

Humans have been cultivating potatoes since 8000 BC. Because they are so easy to grow in most climates, potatoes became a big part of diets all across the globe. And because they also happen to be extremely versatile, potatoes took a different form in every country and culture.

The crop is grown practically everywhere in the world, and people consider it one of 'our foods'. From pairings with fried onions and red chillies in Bangladesh to cheese curds and gravy in Canada they are eaten around the world.

When it comes to Malta, the crop has been very important for the profitability of many Maltese farmers. They have been exporting potatoes for over a hundred years. They used to harvest potatoes for export to a number of countries in Europe, particularly to The Netherlands where the Maltese potatoes are highly appreciated on the Dutch market and achieve premium prices that surpass those for similar produce from other countries

The potato season usually runs through to June with exportation taking place between April and May. In the past 15 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, exports dropped considerably and there was a drop in both demand and prices. Maltese farmers were devastated to find that their potato harvests were not accepted as exports during the pandemic.

The uncertainty was even more worrying for farmers during the pandemic as the foodservice sector, was hit particularly





badly with dine-in premises being forced to close for a few months. The farmers suffered "great" losses as a result. On the other hand, demand from local households does not seem to have been impacted by the outbreak.

With the reopening of the restaurants last May 10 and the reopening of the Tourism season, as well as, hopefully, the possibility of the resumption of exports, harvesters are keeping their fingers crossed that their business would once again, slowly but surely pick up once again.

Unique product

According to national policy, the Maltese potato product has "unique organoleptic properties" – which relate to taste, odour and texture – as well as a traditional link with Malta. On the Dutch market, Maltese

potatoes are often referred to as the Maltas.

Dutch consumers, especially those of traditional eating habits, have acquired a preference for Maltese produce, for which they are ready to pay higher prices. Malta's potatoes are also in demand in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and the UK.

As early as June last year, Malta's farmers experienced a drop in demand and were left with an excess stock of potatoes, because of the coronavirus crisis. However, the government decided to step in by buying the potatoes to save the country's farmers from losses and embarked on a humanitarian intervention in the African nation of Namibia.

At the time, Namibia was fac-

ing a food crisis due to their recent dry spell as well as problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore Malta donated the country 500 tonnes of Maltese potatoes under its overseas aid programme to feed the Namibian population. Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo said Namibia had suffered a severe drought and Malta's donation was expected to help around half a million people in the southern African country.

Statistic

According to the Annual International Trade Statistics by Country published in April this year, in 2019, the value of exports of commodity group "potatoes, fresh or chilled" from Malta, that amounted to 0.02 of total exports totalled \$869,000 sales.

Meanwhile, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade and reported by Trade Economics, Malta exports of potatoes (except sweet potatoes), fresh or chilled to Netherlands during 2019 was US\$653,000 during 2019. The data, historical chart and statistics - was last updated on May this year.

The total world production for potatoes in 2016 was 376,826,967 metric tonnes. China was by far the largest producer, accounting for 26.3% of world production. Based on a comparison of 155 countries

Based on a comparison of 155 countries in 2018, and following the 2016 statistic, Malta was ranked in 134th place of countries in potato consumption with around 10,000 tonnes. China ranked the highest with 60,964 kt* followed by India and USA. Australia is ranked 42 with 1,130,175 tonnes.

On the other end of the scale was Guinea Bissau with 1.00 kt, Cambodia with 1.00 kt and Central African Republic with 1.00 kt.

*A kt means kilotonne or metric kiloton (unit of mass) and is equal to 1000 metric tons.

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Perspettiva English may be found in the author's blog at: https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com

A version of this series in

kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



Il-libertà tal-istampa tal-għadu

tit granet ilu, l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika hadet azzjoni kontra 33 sit tal-internet ta' aħbarijiet affiljati mal-Iranjani b'tali mod li dawn twaqqfu ghal diversi sighat.

Fil-prattika, dawn is-siti reggħu kienu aċċessibbli wara li bidlu l-isem li jintuża fit-tfittix (domain names).

It-twaqqif seta sar facilment għax l-isem oriģinali tagħhom kien ikkontrollat minn kumpannija Amerikana, li ghalhekk taqa' taht il-ligijiet Amerikani. L-awtoritajiet tal-Istati Uniti stgarrew li dawn issiti kienu mmirati biex jibaghtu id-disinformazzioni lill-Istati Uniti u kellhom intenzioni

malinna. Iktar minn hekk, dawn intgal li kienu obbligati jitolbu ličenzja qabel ma jibdew l-operazzjonijiet taghhom, ħaġa li ma kinux għamlu.¹

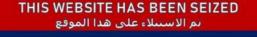
L-azzjoni kellha impatt limitat, ghax is-siti semplicement ġabu isem differenti minn kumpanniji barra mill-Istati Uniti, u komplew b'xogholhom, ghalkemm naturalment irid jghaddi hafna żmien qabel ma' n-nies li jsegwuhom jindunaw bil-bdil fl-isem.

Issa nghidu kollox, l-Iran huwa pajjiż teokratiku Islamiku, b'demokrazija li hija kkontrollata sew mill-establishment religiuż. Per eżempju, dan l-aħħar kien hemm l-elezzjonijiet ghall-President tal-Iran, fejn il-kandidati prospettiva kollha kellhom jigu mgharbla minn Kunsill Gwardjan, u l-parti lkbira ma jithallewx isiru kandidati ghal raġunijiet li ma jkunux pubblikati.

Il-libertà tal-istampa hija garantita fil-kostituzzjoni basta ma tkunx ta' detriment għall-prinċipji Islamiċi,² u f'pajjiż teokratiku ddominat minn kunsiderazzjonijiet religjuži, din x'libertà hi?

L-Iran hu ukoll wiehed mill-pajjiżi li ghad ghandu l-piena kapitali, u fl-2020 huwa maħsub li kien hemm iktar minn 250 eżekuzzjoni.3

Dan kollu ged nghidu ghax ghal Malti-Awstraljan bhali, dawn il-karatteristici u ohrajn aktarx idarrsu.



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Madankollu, jekk pajjiż bħal dan irid jippubblika l-idejat u 1-propaganda tieghu, ghalfejn dan ghandu jkun imwaqqaf? Ma jistax wiehed jagra l-partijiet li jkunu ta' interess ghalih,

imbaghad jiddeciedi ma dak li jaqbel u ma dak li ma jaqbilx?

Naraha stramba li pajjiż li jimmudella lilu nnifsu bħala xempju tal-libertà u taddemokrazija, jieħu azzjoni mifruxa bhal din, meta persważ li digà jaf li mhix se tkun dejjiema.

Meta nsemmi d-demokrazija, nagħmel daqsxein irrid ta' kwalifika, ladarba qieghda nvoluta l-Istati Uniti. Dan huwa l-pajjiż li fil-bidu ta' din is-sena stess, kellu President li ghamel minn kollox

biex ibellgħa r-ross bil-labra b'ħafna paroli fil-vojt, biex jikkonvinći lil min huwa subajh f'halqu li tkaxkira elettorali fil-fatt kienet rebħa kbira; li għandu stati s'issa qed jagħmlu minn kollox biex jaghmluha difficli lill-gruppi emarginati, bhas-suwed u l-immigranti, milli jkunu jistghu jivvutaw flelezzjonijiet u jippartecipaw fid-demokrazija taghhom; u li ghandu xi stati li ghad ghandhom il-piena kapitali fl-istatut kriminali tagħhom.

U dan il-pajjiż demokratiku, ma jxerridx misinformazzjoni? U x'kienet dik dwar l-armamenti tad-distruzzjoni tal-massa fl-Iraq?

Jien naraha li l-Istati Uniti tilfet hafna mill-awtorità morali li kisbet meta dahlet fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija u kienet strumentali biex iddawwar l-andament tal-gwerra kontra n-Nażiżmu flimkien mal-allejati l-oħra.

L-azzjoni li ttiehdet kontra s-siti Iranjani thallili lmistoqsija f'moħħi, eżattament x'kien il-punt?

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JosephLanzon continues his recollections as a Maltese octogenarian

My Nineties: A nostalgic visit back in time

n 1999 I visited our old house in St. Lazzarus Street in Bormla – now occupied by another family - where I lived during the years 1946-1948. I had for a long time, wanted to remember the place where I passed some of the best times of my life.

Sixty years had passed since that time. I climbed up the stairs; in the middle of which was a recess in the wall where I used to store my beloved comics and books. It was my 'moħba' (my hiding place) a part of the house that was my very own. I used sit on the step to read my comics.

The recess was no trace anymore of the recess. The present occupiers were not even aware of it.

While I was going round the rooms and corridors of the old house, with the present occupiers, I felt like hearing my Aunt Lela, iz-ziju Gann and my father calling out to me. I stopped in the small courtyard that has a well at the end of it. I used to play there most of the time with John.

I visited the main bedroom where I had acted as 'page boy' during the marriage of my aunt Mary to Censu Cachia.

In one of the corners in the front room my father used to set up a Christmas tree which he had brought from 'Il-Fortini' and around which he used to invite neighbouring children.

As the memories flooded back, I realised what a pleasant time I had in this old house. There were no bad times there.

The house is still there but the people who made it such a happy home for me are no longer there. A lifetime of memories had been built in this old house.

When I finally walked away, I had tears in my eyes but inevitably one has to move on in life and seek pastures new. But the memories remain. Smetimes I' imagine I'm again a nine-year-old boy there reading my favourite comics.

Lesser-known facts about St John's Co - Cathedral

Every morning, practically without fail, before going to the office, I would drop at St John's and say my prayers for the wellbeing of my family and for the repose of the souls of my departed relatives. It was a ritual. Then, with a small guide book in hand, I would visit each chapel and explore the wonderful paintings and sculptures left to us, as a legacy, by the Order of St. John.

Countries from which the Knights hailed – Italy, Spain, Germany, France and others - competed with each other to have the best chapel in the church. So each chapel, set up by a different langue of the Order, was a treasure chest of art and culture.

By visiting them I learned so many things, not commonly known, that I felt it proper to recount them here because they had influenced my love of local history. Undoubtedly, St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta is the most wonderful legacy left to us by the Knights of the Order of St. John.

This church was built under Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere (1572-1581), a Frenchman. Its foundations were laid in 1573, completed under Maltese architect Gilormu Cassar in 1577 and solemnly blessed on 20th February 1578. When it was finally completed, it was a masterpiece of intricate marble carvings, fine paintings and other decorative art. Sir Walter Scott described St John's as the finest church he had ever seen.

The Chapel of Baviere, the last chapel contains a number of relics brought to Malta from Rhodes by the Knights of the Order, including a thorn from the crown of Our Lord is above the altar. It is said in Rhodes that at noon every Friday it blossomed. There's also a fragment of His infant cradle and one of the stones slung during the killing of St Stephen.

In the same chapel is a large white wooden figure of St John. This was part of the 'Grand Carraque', the ship that in 1530 brought the heroic but defeated Knights from Rhodes to Malta.

On the walls of the Chapel of our Lady hang a set of old keys of the Turkish fortresses of Lepanto, Passava and Mahometta, that were captured by the galleys of the Knights.

It has been a tradition that each year, on the 7th of September, the eve of the commemorative day celebrating the victory of the Order over the Turks in 1565, a flame burns on a tomb in the Chapel of Auvergne pertaining to Melchior de Robles, a Knight from Santiago who was killed at Fort St. Michael

in Vittoriosa during the Great Siege.

The Chapel of Italy is a finely sculptured naval battle hidden contains a marble monument of Grand Master Gregorio Caraffa, an admiral of the fleet of the Order who commemorated one of his naval victories.

In the Chapel of St. George, assigned to the Knights of Aragon, are artistic marble monuments to Grand Masters Despuig, De Rohan, the brothers Cottoner and Perellos. In the reliquary on the altar is preserved what is reputed to be a fragment of the Cross on which our Lord was crucified.

The Chapel of our Lady of Philermos is surrounded by silver railings and gates reputed to have escaped the notice of the pillaging French in 1798 for the simple reason that they were given a coat of black paint. This chapel once housed the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Philermos, presumably painted by St. Luke and brought from Rhodes along with the organ in the oratory.

In the Chapel of France, there is a beautiful marble monument to Louis Charles of Orleans, brother of King Louis Philip of France, who died in Malta in 1808 at the young age of 29. The great Bernini designed the High Altar, made of lapis lazuli and other precious marbles.

At St John's there are 400 marble tombs of admirals, generals, bishops and knights of



every nation, all with Latin inscriptions on the colourful marble floor, described as 'the most beautiful floor in the world'. One reads *You who tread on me, you will be trodden upon, reflect on this and pray for me.*

There is a story behind this inscription that commemorates a French knight who, having been passed over when due for promotion, wished to remind the Grand Master that one day he would be trodden upon! The position of this memorial obliges anyone entering St. John's from Republic Street side to tread on it.

Only one Englishmen, Sir Oliver Starkey, knight secretary to La Vallete took part in the Great Siege of 1565. He is the only person not a Grand Master who is buried in the Crypt under the church. He used to live in a small house on the corner of Merchant Street with St Lucia Street in Valletta. Only one woman was ever buried in St John's, the niece of Grand Master De Rohan.

That is where I would be every morning, flitting from chapel to chapel with a guidebook in hand, looking up details of a story, a sculpture, a painting or an interesting curiosity from the remarkable period in Maltese history dominated by the Order of St John. Then I would go to work.

*to be continued in the next issue

Roundup of News About Malta S

Malta retain's Moody's A2 rating in pandemic

alta has retained its A2 rating by International agency Moody's that it was awarded in July 2019. It remains the best rating achieved since September 2011.

The rating has been retained while the island was going through a major economic and fiscal shock due to a pandemic that decimated tourism, and FATF's decision to put Malta on the grey list.

The only change in Moody's rating is, that it has changed the outlook for the rating to negative. In their current assessment Moody's experts noted that while the national debt increased due to the pandemic, this effect is "mitigated by the government's strong affordability metrics".

This means that this burden remains sustainable and shows how important Malta's past fiscal track record is. The rating agency also indicated that its decision to reaffirm the rating "reflects the relative resilience of the non-tourism-oriented parts of the Maltese economy, the resilience of the banking system to the pandemic shock as well as the government's efforts to address some of Malta's longstanding institutional challenges".

While the national debt increased due to the pandemic, this effect is "mitigated by the government's strong affordability metrics".

Moody's has predicted that the government's strong support for businesses and their workers would lead to the Government's deficit remaining sustained in the immediate term and thus the national debt will continue to grow.

As regards the FATF decision, the Moody's report notes the importance of Malta building a track record of effectiveness as regards the major reforms that have taken place in recent months.

It points out that "both FATF and the Council of Europe's anti-money laundering MoneyVal have recognised the progress made to date in strengthening the supervisory framework in Malta".



Ryanair CEO David O'Brien (left) and Minister of Tourism Clayton Bartolo Tourism on way to recovery as three new flight

Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo said that in spite of the pandemic, the future of the economy and particu-

larly tourism in Malta is on the way to recovery especially following the announcement by David O'Brien, the CEO of the Ryanair subsidiary MaltaAir, of the increase in routes for the winter season.

As of November, and throughout the winter months, Ryanair subsidiary MaltaAir will be operating a total of 62 routes, and 154 flights per week. Ryanair has announced it would be operating to three new routes, with two direct flights per week to/from Tel Aviv in Israel, Lisbon in Portugal, and Parma in Italy.

To celebrate the route launch, until March 2022 Malta Air is offering travellers on these routes a $\in 19.99$ sale on flights.

Minister Bartolo said that the increase in routes would attract more tourists to Malta so that the winter tourist season will be much better than last year when it was severely affected.

The Malta-Israel route has been described as especially invigorating for Malta's tourism sector. In 2019 Malta

Malta to recognise vaccine certificates issued by Australia

A s of last Friday August 13, Malta has started to recognise COVID-19 vaccine certificates issued by Australia, Health Minister Chris Fearne has announced.

The recognition by Malta of Australian vaccination certificates took place after talks between the parties concerned. It follows the recognition of certificates issued by EU member states, the UK, the US, and a number of other countries and territories that include Serbia, Gibraltar, Jersey and Guernsey and passes issued by the United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Malta is currently also in other discussions with other jurisdictions regarding its own vaccination certificates.

The recognition is very important to the Maltese community in Australia. Since Malta has made vaccination certificates mandatory for entry into the country, the High Commission in Canberra had been receiving many queries from concerned Maltese citizens asking what they can do if they need to travel to Malta and have already been vaccinated in Australia.

For any other information one is advised to contact the offices of the Malta High Commission or Consul Generals in Sydney and Melbourne

This is the latest development in a process that started with the recognition of certificates issued by EU member states and was gradually extended to include the UK, the US, and some other countries and territories including Serbia, Gibraltar, Jersey and Guernsey and passes issued by the United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Malta's Superintendent of Public Health, Charmaine Gauci, said recently that the Maltese authorities were also considering whether to recognise certificates by Canada, but they faced a problem in that such certificates lacked a QR code, which is needed to safeguard authenticity.

Vaccination certificates are needed by all people wanting to visit Malta without having to quarantine.

The authorities only recognise certificates issued 14 days after the second dose of the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca, or one dose of Jannsen (Johnson & Johnson).

operating routes are announced

recorded over 20,000 tourists from Tel Aviv and despite the fact that due to the pandemic the figure dropped to around 3,000 during 2020 the Minister is confident that the tourism industry would pick up and be "moving forward from such unchartered waters."

He added that the success also comes from the fact that the majority of the population in Malta and Gozo is vaccinated, which would continue to instil more confidence in tourists intending to visit Malta.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

The Voice of the Maltese 13

Roundup of News About Malta Chinese, Maltese FMs hold talks on boosting cooperation

hina appreciates Malta's long-term adherence to the one-China principle and its support on issues concerning China's core interests, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo during bilateral talks last month in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.



Malta's first balloon let off into the skies

Malta's first space balloon, the Stratos-1, was let off into the skies to capture never-seen-before aerial and space photos of the islands enabling scientists to carry out studies of the Mediterranean stratosphere.

The balloon soared 37km above Malta, collecting information about the atmospheric conditions, the depth of the seas and the health of its vegetation to provide one of the island's first hyperspectral images — an exact map of the area.

The launch from Esplora at Villa Bighi at Kalkara followed the signing of a threeyear collaboration between the Research and Innovation Ministry and the University of Malta, through its Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy (ISSA), to make space more accessible.

Describing the experiment as "another first for Malta", Minister for Equality, Research and Innovation Owen Bonnici explained that this project is also aimed at engaging the young generation and raising their interest in STEM subjects and space research, in particular.

The operation, coordinated by the Space Task Force, required the expertise of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Armed Forces of Malta. They joined the Ministry and ISSA's team to coordinate the rescue of the camera and its photos. Talks mainly also focused on strengthening bilateral collaboration, the need to cultivate peace within the Euro-M e d i t e r r a n e a n amongst, other regions, and ensuring a stable and secure cyberspace.

Both sides expressed their willingness to continue to nurture the long-standing relations that have reaped rewarding progress throughout the years. Next year marks the 50th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

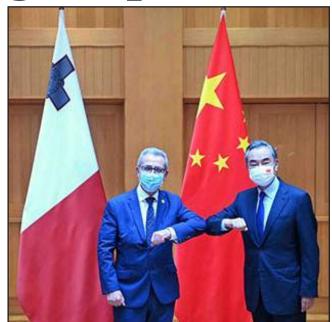
Wang told Bartolo that China was willing to sign an implementation

plan for the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative with Malta, and would support Malta in playing its due role in international and regional affairs.

Collaboration in areas related to education, the Covid-19 pandemic, the film industry, aviation and the maritime sector were discussed.

Wang said that China is willing to sign an implementation plan for the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative with Malta, and would support Malta in playing its due role in international and regional affairs.

During these talks, climate action featured prominently in view of the investment that both China and the European Union have made in intensifying the use of cleaner en-



Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo (*left*) with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi in Chengdu

ergy to reach their targets in connection with carbon neutrality.

Minister Bartolo stated that planet survival not only depends on reversing the climate crisis but also on the need for preventive diplomacy to stop the world from descending into a new cycle of military confrontation, and asserted that we need to learn to live together, managing differences so as not to become enemies intent on destroying each other.

He said that Malta advocates that Europe and China should strengthen cooperation instead of competing with each other



Tuesday, August 17, 2021



rġajna lura... u għandna mhux ħażin fuq xiex niktbu....anzi nistgħu ngħidu li żgur li b'dak kollu li seħħ f'dan iż-żmien li ma ltqajnix tant kellna attivitá, li impossibbli nikkumenta dwarhom kollha. Attwalment għalhekk se nillimita ruħi għal ġrajja waħda.

Bla dubbju dak li l-aktar li għamel ħoss fl-istampa u l-midja lokali, kien ir-rapport tal-Bord ta' Inkjesta magħmul minn tliet Imħallfin dwar il-qtil tal-ġurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Jekk wiehed jaqra r-rapport ta' din 1-inkjesta jsib li dawn ilġudikanti li ġew nominati mill-familja Caruana Galizia u aċċettati mill-gvern, marru lil hinn mill-qtil attwali tal-ġurnalista erba' snin ilu għax indagaw dak li direttament u /jew indirettament ħassew li kellu x'jaqsam mal-omiċidju.

L -aktar konklużjoni li għamlet ħoss kienet dik li, skont ilġudikanti għalkemm ma nstabet l-ebda prova ta' xi involviment tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika fl-eżekuzzjoni tal-qtil, l-Istat kellu jerfa' r-responsabbiltà għall-assassinju. Il-Bord saħaq li kien sodisfatt mill-provi li dan hu delitt kommess għall-flus u fuq kummissjoni, u li min wettqu ma kellu l-ebda interess personali li jeliminaha. Qal ukoll li l-eks Prim Ministru Muscat għandu responsabbiltà indiretta

Qal li l-Istat kien responsabbli li holoq atmosfera ta' impunità, iggenerata mill-oghla livelli fil-qalba tal-amministrazzjoni f'Kastilja u bhal qarnita nfirxet ghal entitajiet ohra bhal istituzzjonijiet regolatorji u l-Pulizija li wassal ghal dak li sejjah bhala kollass tas-saltna tad-dritt.

Qal li li ghalhekk l-istat u l-entitajiet li kkomponewh ma gharafx kif kellu jaghraf ir-riskju reali u immedjat, inkluż mill-aġir kriminali ta' terzi ghall-hajja ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia. Żied li l-istat naqas milli jiehu miżuri fi hdan il-firxa tas-setghat tieghu li b'ġudizzju raġonevoli, kien mistenni li jiehu biex jevita dak ir-riskju.

Sintendi ma naqasx li, minhabba s-saħna politika, tingħata interpretazzjoni ta' dan ir-rapport, skont fejn iħabbat il-polz ta' dak li jkun u tal-midja.

Reazzjoni

Nista' ngħid li l-ewwel li kkummentaw dwar ir-rapport kienu l-mexxejja tal-Partiti Politiċi, bil-Prim Ministru Robert Abela jkun pront isejjaħ konferenza tal-aħbarijiet f'Kastilja fejn fost kollox talab apoloģija lill-familja tal-mejta u "kull min kien affetwat ħażin" meta l-Istat naqas mid-dmirijiet tiegħu.

Hu stqarr: "Še nibqhu niehdu ttaghlimiet kollha, billi fost ohrajn inwettqu l-proposti kollha li qed jaghmel dan ir-rapport." Kompla jsostni li l-aħħar xhur kienu xhieda cara ta' "ġustizzja li ma tħares lejn wiċc ħadd. Illum għandna l-ewwel persuna misjuba ħatja b'sentenza ta' priġunerija, proprja fuq il-każ ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia. U hemm ukoll sitt persuni

ohrajn li qed jiffaċċjaw il-ġustizzja." Abela qal li dan jikkonferma li "hadd ma ghandu la immunità u lanqas impunità."

II-PM qal li I-Gvern se jkompli jassigura li jkun hemm ir-riżorsi kollha meħtieġa, kif dejjem ra li jsir "biex issir ġustizzja malfamilja Caruana Galizia u mal-poplu Malti u Għawdxi li ma jridx li nies jinqatlu għal dak li jemmnu jew jiktbu."

Huwa wiegħed li se jibda proċess biex ilprinċipji tar-rapport jiġu diskussi u jsiru proposti. "Il-Gvern se jerfa' r-responsabilità tal-bidliet meħtieġa kif għamel bil-proposti tal-Kummissjoni Venezja u anke bil-Moneyval," qal Abela li ħabbar ukoll li flimkien mal-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin se jkun qed jiddiskuti biex jara x'bidliet jistgħu jsiru għal aktar protezzjoni tal-ġurnalisti u lmidja b'mod ġenerali.

Fakkar ukoll fil-bidliet kbar li saru kemm ilu Prim Ministru tant li Malta inbidlet



minn dakinhar lil hawn.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Bernard Grech filwaqt li semma l-konklużjonijiet tal-Inkjesta, għamel emfasi qawwija fuq il-ħtijiet tal-eks-Prim Ministru, Joseph Muscat,

"Il-konklużjonijiet tal-lum juruna li l-istat kien responsabbli għall-impunità," qal, u fakkar li l-impunità tfisser li l-kriminali jkunu moħħhom mistrieħ, "li se jkun hemm min jgħattilhom. Dak li ġara lil Daphne

Joseph Muscat dwar ir-rapport

Bla dubju li hafna kienu qed jistennew ir-reazzjoni ta' Joseph Muscat *(lemin)* għal dan ir-rapport. Għalkemm, minħabba li rreazzjoni ma kienetx immedjata, kien hemm min ħaseb li kien se jibqa' fommu sieket. Iżda fil-fatt Muscat mar fuq il-*Facebook* u ppublika r-reazzjoni tiegħu bilMalti u bl-Ingliż.

Stqarr: "minkejja r-riżervi serji ħafna min-naħa tiegħi u nnuqqasijiet tal-inkjesta, naċċetta l-imsemmija konklużjonijiet kif dejjem għamilt fl-imgħoddi b'rispett lejn l-istituzzjonijiet.

stituz-

* Għal paġna 15

II-Prim Ministru Robert Abela filkonferenza tal-aħbarijiet fejn ta r-reazzjoni tiegħu għar-rapport tal-inkjesta

Caruana Galizia jindika li għandna problemi serji ta' ġustizzja - għax ilġustizzja tipproteġi lil min għandu ssaħħa."

Grech sostna li "min irid jikxef ilverità għandu jsib lill-istat jipproteġih mhux ifixklu, min irid jitkellem u jesprimi ruħu għandu jagħmel dan, mingħajr ma jibża' minn xi transfer," sostna.

Hu appella lill-Prim Ministru biex jikkundanna lil Joseph Muscat u biex dan saħansitra jkeċċieh mill-Partit Laburista. Qal ukoll li l-PM għandu jammetti li "Joseph Muscat wassalna f'dan l-istat u jkeċċieh mill-Partit

Laburista, filwaqt li jneħħilu kull unur mogħti mill-istat."

Qal li Muscat żamm lil Konrad Mizzi u Keith Schembri ma djulu u baqgħu kollha jipproteġuhom u jgħinuhom, inkluż Robert Abela. "Minflok għażlu lil Malta, għażlu lil sħabhom il-kriminali," sostna filwaqt li saħaq li kull Ministru fil-Kabinett ta' Muscat ma jistax jiġi aktar skużat u kull min kien fil-Kabinett ta' Muscat kellu jitkeċċa mill-Kabinett kurrenti.





Ir-reazzjoni ta' Muscat

*ikompli minnpagna 14

"Nispera li oħrajn jaċċettaw ir-riżultat ta' inkjesti oħra minn membri tal-istess ġudikatura, bħal fil-każ ta' Egrant, aktar milli kontinwament jitfgħu dubji infondati dwarhom.'

Filwaqt li sostna li ma jista qatt ikun hemm ġustifikazzjoni għall-assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, qal li hu ma ġabx ruħu bħal dawk ta' qablu "li tkellmu ħafna imma ma għamlu xejn dwar delitti maġġuri li xxukjaw lill-pajjiż." Hu ha passi mmedjati biex dan il-qtil jiġi nvestigati u adegwat illi l-allegati eżekuturi ngabdu fingas minn xahrejn u lallegat moħħ ftit xhur wara, wara investigazzjonijiet li kienu jinvolvu fost l-oħrajn lill-Europol u lill-FBI.

"Dan il-fatt iģib fix-xejn kull impressjoni li seta kellhom dawn in-nies li kienu jgawdu minn xi impunitá"

Ikkonkluda: "Kif ghedt meta habbart li ma kontx se nibqa' nokkupa l-kariga ta' Prim Ministru, kont qed naghmel dan biex nerfa' responsabbiltajiet li kienu tieghi u anke dawk li ma kienux tiegħi, inklużi dawk imsemmija f'din l-Inkjesta. Jien hallast il-prezz politiku aħħari għal dan."



halkemm fid-diskorsi tiegħu, dwar 1-inkjesta, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni talab ir-riżenja ta' kull min kien fil-Kabinett ta' Muscat u min ma jirriżenjax jitkecca mill-Kabinett kurrenti, baqa' ma talabx għar-riżenia tal-Gvern.

L-NGO Repubblika qalet li l-Ministri u d-Deputati msemmijin fir-rapport ma ghandhomx jithallew johorgu ghall-elezzjoni.

Min-naħa 1-oħra 1-eks mexxej tal-Partit Laburista u MEP, Dr Alfred Sant hareg bilproposta li għandha ssir elezzjoni ġenerali mill-aktar fis possibbli.

Dil-proposta wasslet ghal reazzjoni minnaħa ta' Bernard Grech (lemin) li qal li rigward l-elezzjoni bikrija Alfred Sant, "żelag għax mhux jara l-interess tal-pajjiż"

Sostna li "b'elezzjoni bikrija m'aħna se nsolvu xejn" ll-pajjiż għandu jmur għal elezzioni bikrija meta jkun l-aħjar għall-pajjiż u kont hu, meta tghaddi l-pandemija tal-Covid-19 u meta l-poplu jaghżel gvern Nazzjonalista għax huwa biss jista' jaqla' lqarnita kriminali mill-politika.

Sintendi malajr kien hemm min interpreta li qal Grech f'li l-Partit Nazzjonalista u l-



allejati tiegħu jibżgħu li jekk issir elezzjoni bikrija din tintrebaħ mill-Partit Laburista b'maggoranza kbira.

L-apoloģija accettata

Fuq nota pożittiva jrid jingħad li l-familja Caruana Galizia mhux biss aċċettat l-apologija tal-Prim Ministru, u saħansitra qablet li tiltaqa' miegħu. Fil-fatt iltaqghu u ghalkemm li ntqal bejniethom inżamm sigriet, ingħad li kienet kordjali. Ilfamilja Caruana Galizia Itaqghed ukoll mal-President tar-Repubblika, Dr George Vella.

Tal-PN jibqgħu jinsistu

1-Partit Nazzjonalista flimkien ma' dawk li ħaduha qatta bla ħabel kontra Joseph Muscat xejn ma mpressjonaw ruħhom bilfatt, li kif qal l-ex-Prim Ministru, "Jien hallast il-prezz politiku aħħari għal dan.'

Żiedu fid-doża ta' kritika għal Muscat, b'uhud iridu jarawh mtella' l-qorti u mitfuh il-ħabs, bil-mexxej Nazzjonalista u l-NGO qrib hafna tal-PN, Repubblika jkompli jinsistu li 1-Prim Ministru kellu mhux biss jikkundanna u jitbieghed minn Muscat imma wkoll li ikeċċih mill-Partit Laburista.

Jitfaċċa Busuttil

Barra mit-talba ta' riżenja mitluba mill-mexxej Nazzjonalista, spikkat it-talba mill-eks-kap tal-PN Simon Busuttil li ghandu jirizenja wkoll il-President tar-Repubblika Dr George Vella.

Busuttil, fakkar li Vella kien Ministru filkabinett ta' Joseph Muscat u għalhekk, ġaladarba r-responsabiltà għall-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia hija waħda kollettiva, "jekk jirrispetta l-Ufficcju tiegħu," anke hu għandu jirriżenja.

Saret ukoll talba oħra għal riżenja mill-Partit Nazzjonalist, 1-NGO Reppublika u oħrajn, tal-Ministru tal-Gustizzja Dr Zammit Lewis, wara li gie zvelat li dan kellu korrispondenza shiha ma Yorgen Fenech meta kien sar maghruf li l-kont Black 17 kienu tiegħu. Dak inhar Zammit Lewis, ghalkemm kien membru tal-Parlament ma kienx Ministru.

Hemm min isostni li din l-insistenza dwar it-tkeċċija ta' Muscat mill-Partit Laburista (attwalment il-Prim Ministru m'ghandu ilpoter li jkecci lil hadd mill-Partit Laburista, ghax dan huwa kompitu tal-Eżekuttiv talpartit) mhix imsejsa biss fuq dak li hareg mill-bord tal-inkjesta, iżda jista' wkoll tkun strateģija politika min-naĥa tal-PN għax minĥabba l-appoģġ li għadu jgawdi Muscat, jista' johloq firda fil-Partit Laburista.

Ma naħsibx li it-talba ta' tkeċċija se tiġi milqugħa.

Covid-19 u l-Awstralja

agħlaq b'aħbar pożittiva, l-aktar għall-Maltin li jgħixu fl-Awstralja.

Id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru tas-Saħħa Chris Fearne ħabbar li l-Gvern iddecieda li Malta se tibda taccetta ċ-ċertifikat tat-tilgim tal-Awstralja.

Dan jista' jsir għax Malta għandha s-sistema li tista' tivverifika li certifikat huwa ġenwin. Il-problema minħabba l-pandemija I-Awstralja, mhix thalli nies johorgu millpajjiż u min jidhol irid jogghod kwarantina.



Mix-xelluq: il-President George Vella, Edward Zammit Lewis, Adrian Delia u Yorgen Fenech

Zammit Lewis insista li 1-messaģģi li baghat hu dejjem kienu fi spirtu genwin (bona fede), sostna li hu qatt ma qaghad jiddiskuti 17 Black u li meta kellem lil Yorgen Fenech 17 Black "kienet ghadha allegazzjoni." Ifakkar ukoll li hu kien Deputat u mhux Ministru meta kellu din il-komunikazzjoni.

Din tar-rizenji finalment lagtet ukoll lill-Partit Nazzjonalista billi wara li gie allegat li l-eks-kap Adrian Delia kellu chat ma Jorgen Fenech, l-NGO Repubblika qalet li jekk dan huwa minnu anke Delia kellu jirriżenja minn membru tal-Parlament.

Delia caħad li kien bagħat messaġġ lil Fenech wagt dibattitu parlamentari fug is-17 Black, li tagħha Fenech huwa s-sid u saħansitra fetaħ libell lis-sit elettroniku Loving Malta li ġab din l-istorja.

Hawn ukoll kien hemm min sostna li dan kien manuvrar biex Delia jitwarrab mill-PN meta hu maghruf li fil-partit tieghu hemm min ma jarax għan ma għajn miegħu.

Naħseb li minkejja dawn it-talbiet ta' riżenji mhu se ikollna l-ebda riżenja, ghalkemm tibqa' l-possibiltá li jekk dawn il-persuni johorgu ghall-elezzjoni jistghu, xi whud jistghu jigu effettwati radikalment.



Target for herd immunity in Australia could be December

ustralia's COVID-19 vaccine targets to reopen the nation and ease restrictions on vaccinated people could realistically be reached by the end of the year, according to infectious disease experts.

The federal government is promising every Australian who wants a vaccine would be offered one by Christmas. But there are no hard timelines set for the rollout to be completed. National Cabinet announced a four-stage plan to guide the nation out of the pandemic and towards life without coronavirus restrictions.

Australians will move to the next phase of dealing with the pandemic - potentially out of lockdowns and internal border restrictions - when 70 per cent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated.

"Because if you're vaccinated, you present less of a public health risk. You are less likely to get the virus. You are less likely to transmit it." PM Scott Morrison has already apologised to the Australian people for not having the required supply to vaccine the Australian people much earlier.



In comparison, the islands of Malta had already reached 86% herd immunity by early August and are in the process of delivering a booster to the elderly in September.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison ...apologised to the Australian people

Calls for mandatory jabs

NSW Health data reveals that from the start of the outbreak on June 16 until July 24, about ten per cent of healthcare workers who caught the highly transmissible Delta strain of the virus were fully vaccinated, and about one-quarter had received at least one shot.

Catholic Health Australia last month called on the national cabinet to require vaccination for all hospital staff, with some hospitals redeploying unvaccinated workers to clinical areas with a lower risk.

Director of health policy at CHA, James Kemp, said that while many hospital workers were already vaccinated, a "mandatory policy would send a potent message to the minority who need the push. If canned fruit companies can make vaccinations mandatory, they should surely be mandatory for hospital staff."

In Australian first, canned foods giant SPC announced that if its staff wanted to gain entry to worksites and retain their jobs they would have to be vaccinated by November.

CHA, which employs more than 45,000 workers, said a blanket rule for COVID-19 vaccination should be in place regardless of whether a hospital worker is employed in an emergency department, ICU, or a clinical or support position.

Australian Medical Association president Dr Omar Khorshid said that while the AMA does not have a mandatory vaccination policy for healthcare workers, it is "extremely likely" that mandatory vaccination will be a part of workplaces "as we move into a living-with-COVID life".

Australia hardens its international border rules

A ustralians who normally live overseas have been banned from returning to their usual country of residence without the federal government's permission. There are currently more than 35,000 Australians waiting in the queue who have indicated they want to return to Australia.

The latest hardening of Australia's international border removes an automatic exemption that had allowed Australian citizens and permanent residents to travel overseas.

Travel rules were quietly overhauled in parliament. Changes came into effect from August 11 under revised emergency health orders. Until now, Australians who normally resided overseas had been permitted to leave Australia if they could prove they lived abroad.

The government's explanatory statement tabled in parliament explains a person will now have to demonstrate to the Australian Border Force "a compelling reason for need to leave Australian territory". The government says the amendment would "reduce pressure on Australia's quarantine capacity, reduce the risks posed to the Australian population from COVID-19, and assist in returning vulnerable Australians back home".

Bravery Awards

The Governor-General General David Hurley has announced 52 Australian Bravery Decorations to recognise the courageous acts of 48 people. Two Australian Bravery lists are announced every year.

The independent Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations to the Governor-General regarding who should be recognised and at what level of award.

"In a dangerous situation, each recipient was brave, selfless and put their own safety at risk to help someone else," the Governor-General said.

The list does not include any Maltaborn recipients.



This year's national survey is going ahead despite the pandemic - but the country might look a little less diverse than usual. Australia's national survey takes place every five years, and the results gathered from it are crucial in tracking the country's changing migration patterns and providing a population snapshot.

Economists say Australia's population growth is at its lowest in a century. "At one point in time, pre-COVID, we would have about two million arrivals in Australia per month. Now we can't even get to 25,000," said Gabriela D'Souza from the Committee for Economic Develop-

The Census and the pandemic

ment of Australia (CEDA).

"For this year, we're looking at about minus 72,000 in terms of our net overseas migration numbers, so that's quite low." It's become a common story for many young people as Australia's international education system - which previously contributed about \$37 billion to the national economy - has been decimated by international border closures as a result of COVID-19.

The last time Australia experienced such low levels of migration was soon after World War II. "Even the recessions in the '90s, we had low migra-

tion, but we still had net migration gains," demographer Thomas Wilson from the University of Melbourne said. "We generally have 200,000 to 300,000 net overseas migration growth each year, so this is very unusual for Australia."

It's not the first time Australia's Census has taken place in a global pandemic. The survey was also conducted as the country was recovering from the Spanish flu.



The right to be counted

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1971 census, the first ever to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It followed the successful 1967 referendum to change Australia's constitution, allowing First Nations people the right to be counted as citizens in their own country.

"The census is the largest time where our voices are heard as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," says Haidee Allan, a Census Spokesperson for 2021. She added, "The census tells us things like housing, education, who's living at home, and those things are really important for the services that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders need so vitally."

The census is expected to include some 745,000 First Nations respondents, or three per cent of the population. In that first count 50 years ago, only 120,000 people, or about 1 per cent of the total, identified as First Nations.

"Historically, we've had a huge undercount in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," the Gamilaraay woman explains.

"It's they're not feeling comfortable participating in the census, or they may not know that they need to identify."

An appeal to the Catholics

It was not only the Maltese community that appealed to its own to take the Census 21 very seriously. The Catholic Church was urged to ensure that its members and their friends and family tick "Catholic" on the Census, while Easternrite Catholics have been advised how to complete the Census forms to reflect their faith and practice.

"Many Christians, perhaps most, through most of history, have not 'practised', in the sense of going to church on Sundays, or have practised only irregularly". Anthony Fisher OP wrote in the *Weekend Australian*. "There's recently been a campaign to get them to tick "No Religion" on the coming census," Fisher wrote.

Archbishop Fisher said religious believers "constitute a very broad church and to accuse most of them of having no religion is to misunderstand human beings and to misunderstand religion. "To say that 'anyone who isn't a full-time, every-time, religious hardliner believes none of it' is nonsense," Archbishop Fisher said.



Taghrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija ^{(Ir-raba'}

nkomplu nġibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjoniijiet meħuda mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar forom li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti ħalli jkun hemm uniformitá.

It-tagħqid tal-kliem

B'mod ģenerali, kull kelma tinkiteb mifruda (ara 3.1), izda hemm kazijiet fejn għal xi raġuni jew oħra l-elementi ta' frazi jinkitbu magħqudin.

Frazijiet bl-elementi mifruda, u Frazijiet bi kliem imtenni

Fi frazijiet li jikkonsistu mill-istess kelma mtennija, iz-zewġ kelmiet għandhom jinkitbu separati.

EŻEMPJU: baxx baxx, biss biss, ftit ftit, fuq fuq, ħelu ħelu, kemm kemm, inkiss inkiss, qajl qajl, xejn xejn

Kliem il-għadd Frazijiet b'nett Frazijiet bi kliem il-għadd jinkitbu mifrudin.

EŻEMPJU: tnejn u għoxrin ċentezmu, disa' mija u tlieta u tletin biljett, erba' mitt persuna, erbat elef student. **Nota:** Kliem il-għadd bejn ħdax u dsatax jibqa' jinkiteb bis-

sing. Bl-istess mod tinkiteb kemm-il. EŻEMPJU: erbatax-il ktieb, dsatax-il karozza, ħmistax-il ewro, kemm-il kaxxa.

Frazijiet b'nett

Frazijiet li t-tieni element lessikali tagħhom huwa nett jinkitbu mifrudin.

EŻEMPJU: l-isbaħ nett, fuq nett, wara nett, taħt nett, l-ewwel nett, l-aħħar nett, mill-bidu nett, quddiem nett.

*Ikompli fil-ħarġa 258

Ta x'inhu l-Hajbur? X'aktarx li ftit huma dawk li

qatt semgħu bil-kelma ħajbur, u wisq inqas jafu x'inhu jew x'inhi. Il-ħajbur fil-fatt huwa sħab pjuttost żgħir li jkun kemxejn fil-griż, biżżejjed biex idallam xi ftit u li jgħaddi fil-baxx. Normalment dan it-tip ta' sħab jagħmel biss ftit irxiex.

F'deskrizzjoni li jagħti ta' nżul ix-xemx, il-Poeta Nazzjonali Dun Karm iddeskriva l-ħajbur b'dan il-mod: 'is-sema b'xi ħajbur ħafif tas-sajf qisu weraq tal-felċi...'

Dan in-nom intuża b'mod metaforiku minn Temi Zammit f'*Il-Holma ta' Żeżina*, meta l-omm tagħti parir lil bintha: 'Binti, il-ħolm sħab tassajf, ħajbur, jitrabba u jisfa fix-xejn f'radda ta' salib.' (Sors: Nies Bla Sabar u stejjer oħra, p. 47)

Fil-ktieb tiegħu *Qiegħda fuq il-Ponta ta' Lsieni*, Ġużi Gatt, jispjega li hemm il-ħajbur sajfi (is. xj. *Cumulus)* u l-ħajbur xitwi (is. xj. *Cumulonimbus*). Bl-Ingliż: *cumulus clouds*.

Il-festa ta' Marija Bambina f'St Mary's fi NSW imħassra

Il-festa ta' Maria Bambina (il-Vitorja) fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary's Sydney, kellha tigi thassret minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet tal-pandemija fi NSW.

Ghalkemm hu ta' dižappunt, Fr Tarciso Micallef MSSP kappillan tal-kommunitá Maltija f'Sydney qal li huwa importanti li wiehed jobdi r-regolamenti tas-sahha ghall-ġid ta' kulhadd. Fl-istess hin ta hajr lil dawk li kienu diġá qed iħejju biex jattendu jew jgħinu halli jieħdu sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni.

Ittama li sen'oħra kollox ikun sew biex bħal snin oħra għal aktar minn 56 sena kollox jiġi għan-normal. Issokta jgħid li tkun ħaġa sabiħa li kieku fdan il-jum isir talb għal xulxin u għal Malta lill-Marija Bambina.



Minghajr ma huma assoċjati mal-ebda għaqda, sa qabel il-*lockdown*, ġemgħa ta' anzjani nisa fl-inħawi ta' Greystanes fi NSW għalqu għoxrin sena sħaħ jiltaqgħu kull ġimgħa fis-swali komunitarji tal-knisja OLQP taħt it-tmexxija u d-direzzjoni ta'

Għalqu għoxrin sena ...

Jessie Gatt.

Meta ltqajt magħhom biex fakkarthom dwar id-dmirijiet li l-Maltin għandna fiċċensiment 2021 qaluli kemm dal-grupp itihom serhan u opportunitá biex kull gimgħa jiltaqgħu flimkien, minn xi daqqiet għal attivitajiet

organizzati, inkella biex ikun hemm tiġdid soċjali. Ikomplu jiltaqgħu kull nhar ta' Tlieta kif tispiċċa l-*lockdown* fis-sala San Ġorg tal-knisja fi Greystanes . Law**Dimech**

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

The Voice of the Maltese $1\overline{9}$



Swor Antoinette (*tielet mil-lemin*) flimkien ma' xi familjari tagħha, fosthom, (*mix-xel-lug*): Sonny, Maria, Shania, Ela Marie u I-Kardinal Grech

50 Sena ħidma b'risq tfal u żgħażagħ

I-komunità tas-sorijiet Ulied Marija Ghajnuna tal-Insara, maghrufa ahjar bhala s-sorijiet Salesjani, fakkru gheluq il-hamsin sena minn meta Swor Antoinette Pace mill-belt Victoria, hadet il-voti perpetwi u nghaqdet mal-kongregazzjoni tas-sorijiet imwaqqfa minn San Gwann Bosco flimkien ma' Santa Maria Domenica Mazzarello.

Ghal din l-okkażjoni l-Eminenza Tieghu l-Kardinal Mario Grech meghjun minn Dun Gorġ Borg, rettur tal-kappella tassorijiet iċċelebra quddiesa ta' hajr. Mal-komunità ta' Għawdex ingħaqdet ukoll il-komunità żgħira tas-sorijiet Salesjani f'Malta.

Tul dawn il-ħamsin sena Sr Antoinette ħadmet fil-qasam edukattiv, skolastiku u kateketiku. Għal ħafna snin kienet il-Kap tal-iSkola Laura Vicuna fl-Għasri u responsabbli mit-tagħlim tad-duttrina għattfal u mill-Friday Club li s-sorijiet waqqfu biex tfajliet adolexxenti jkomplu jattendu lezzjonijiet ta' katekiżmu mfassla għalihom.

Waqt din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni s-sorijiet ġeddew il-wegħdi reliġjużi tagħhom u kantaw l-innu ddedikat lill-Ulied Marija Ghajnuna tal-Insara li huma wkoll segwaći ta' Don Bosco.

Kienu wkoll preżenti Swor Rita Said, li flimkien ma' Swor Nazzarena Calleja kienu wkoll ipprofessaw bħala sorijiet Salesjani f'Għawdex. Illum it-tnejn jagħmlu parti minn komunitajiet oħra barra minn Malta.

Mill-Gżira Ghawdxija Charles Spiteri

Virtual Summer Club minn ta' Don Bosco

Ghat-tieni sena wara l-oħra, l-Oratorju Don Bosco qed jorganizza d-Don Bosco Virtual Summer Club minħabba li r-restrizzjonijiet marbuta mal-pandemija, ma kienx possibbli li jkun organizzat is-Summer Club bħas-soltu, bit-tfal jiġru ġol-Oratorju minn attivita' għal oħra.

Ghal disa' ġimgħat, kull nhar ta' Tnejn, l- Erbgha u l- Gimgħa, qed jittellgħu madwar tmien posts kull darba b'attivitajiet li jvarjaw minn arti u crafts għal drama, żfin u sfidi kreattivi oħra għat-tfal.

Fost l-ohrajn qed jittellghu żewġ sensielet ta' features li jhajjru lit-tfal u lill-familji taghhom iżuru ċerti postijiet fGhawdex. Sensiela minnhom maghrufa bhala "Il-Qaddisin u d-Dar Taghhom" tiffoka fuq ilknejjes parrokkjali fil-festa tal-qaddis patrun. Hemm ukoll sensiela ta' żjarat fpostijiet kulturali u storiċi madwar Għawdex.



s-Socjetà Filatelika ta' Għawdex organizzat illaqgħa Generali Annwali li fiha ingħażel il-kumitat il-gdid. Fl-istess laqgha l-president Jesmond Borg qassam iċ-ċertifikati u premijiet lillpartecipanti kollha tal-

wirja annwali li tittella' fix-xahar ta' Novembru fis-swali tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex li tiġi or-



Premjazzjoni

ganizzata mill-viĉi president Anthony Grech, bil-Malta-Post bĥala sponsor ewlieni.

Inghatat ukoll it-

tazza msemmija għal George Vella, wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-Gozo *Philatelic Society*, għallaqwa xogħol esibit magħżul millġurija.

Preżentazzjoni ta' pittura fix-Xagħra F¹-okkażjoni tas-70 sena mill- l-Arcipriet ta ħajr lill-familja Scicluna u għal din l-għotja prestiġjuza.

mewt tal-Arċipriet Mons Mawrizju Cauchi (it-Tieni Arcipriet tax-Xagħra) il-pro neputi tiegħu, Joe Scicluna, ippreżenta lill- Arcipriet Carmelo Refalo żewg abbozzi ta' pittura, tal-artist Taljan Virgilio Monti, li qed issebbhu l-Knisja Bażilika ta' Marija Bambina tax-Xagħra. F'diskors qasir,



n recent years especially, the Maltese government and private investors embarked on a num-

Changing the face of Malta

some may not blend with the Malta the Maltese living abroad remember. When it comes to infra-

ber of new projects that are changing the face of Malta. Many of the Maltese who have lived overseas for decades might still envisage Malta as it was in the fifties and sixties when they emigrated.

Since then, Malta has made progress in all sectors, which certainly also include infrastructure as new projects or extensive renovations are often announced and completed. Perhaps structure, opinions vary: is it progress or destruction of the environment?

The Voice of the Maltese is embarking on a series of articles, illustrated with relevant pictures, intended to bring to the attention of the readers, some of the recent important projects so they can judge for themselves. The first article deals with a €4.5 million investment in a project completed recently.

Wied Fulija: from a landfill to a natural rehabilitation project

ited Fulija, limits of Zurrieq that for 17 years, between 1979 and 1996 had served as a landfill for two billion kilograms of waste and then left abandoned, has successfully been rehabilitated into a safe open and green space, in sync with its natural surroundings that will serve as a public park *(above)*.

The Wied Fulija park, a $\notin 4.5$ million investment project co-funded by the European Union, that includes the planting of 43,000 trees and shrubs, now serves as an attraction and can now be enjoyed, benefiting the community and wellbeing at large. However, this has not always been the

case. Just two years ago, you would have

been met with unregulated land where waste of all sorts was piled with no rhyme or reason, as well as an area dominated by toxic fumes and pests.

Anybody visiting the site today would never guess that this expansive piece of land was once used as a landfill. Works on the rehabilitation comprising of around 10 hectares were completed recently in a project that was managed and overseen by WasteServ.

A new pathway at *Wied Fulija* has been paved and lined up with trees snuggled between two slopes on each side, both planted with shrubs. The path eventually emerges to reveal sweeping views of the



sea up to the islet of Filfla, and benches are also available for persons to sit and enjoy the view. This allows for the landscaping of the two slopes with shrubs.

Designated as a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area, throughout this project, special attention was given to enhance the local biodiversity by choosing plant species adapted to these surroundings. Also forming part of a 'Natura 2000' site, WasteServ partnered with BirdLife Malta to provide an important pit stop for birds looking to refuel before continuing their travels.

For this reason, several nesting boxes were placed strategically along the cliffs to serve both as a shelter, and also as a breeding ground for these migratory birds.

In another partnership with the Malta Beekeepers Association, this area also hosts Malta's indigenous honeybee, *Apis mellifera ruttneri*, as several beehives were placed on top of the slopes. This would hopefully attract more wildlife to the area in the coming years, as nature takes over.

Inaugurating the project, Prime Minister Robert Abela said that one of the country's nicest areas that had been buried under rubbish has now returned to the people.

He added that it was a project based on sustainability and the government's belief to make the environment a bigger priority.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

11-il-sena ohra fi Brisbane ...



L-Awstralja *tirbaħ* l-Olimpjadi għat-tielet darba

Lawrence Dimech

aqt li kienu qed isiru l-Olimpjadi ta' Tokyo fil-Gappun, liema logħob kellu jsir is-sena l-oħra iżda li ġie pospost minħabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19, il-Kumitat Olimpiku Internazzjonali, KOI, ħa d-deċiżjoni importanti li jafda l-organizzazzjoni tal-Logħob Olimpiku tas-sajf u l-Logħob Paralimpiku tal-2032 lill-belt Awstraljana ta' Brisbane. Id-deċiżjoni li ttieħdet ħdax-il sena qabel, minħabba li għad iridu jsiru żewġ Olimpjadi oħra, f'Pariġi fl-2024, u dawk ta' erba' snin wara, f'Los Angeles fl-2028.

Il-belt ta' Brisbane kienet f'kompetizzjoni ma' tlett ibliet oħra, mill-Ġermanja, mill-Qatar u mill-Ungerija, imma ftit li xejn kien hemm dubju li l-Kumitat Olimpiku Internazzjonali seta' jagħżel x'imkien ieħor.

Hekk, bhall-Istati Uniti, l-Awstralja se tkun l-uniku pajjiż fid-dinja li jorganizza tliet Olimpjadi. Qabel, il-kumitat Olimpiku Awstraljan organizza l-Loghob fil-belt ta' Melbourne fl-1956 u fil-belt ta' Sydney fis-sena 2000.

Il-loghob fi Brisbane se jkun mifrux f'-

diversi nħawi. Din il-belt kienet organizzat avveniment importanti kbir ieħor fl-2018, dakinhar il-Logħob tal-Commonwealth li għalihom kien attenda l-Prim Ministru Malti li dak iż-żmien, Joseph Muscat bħala l-kap tal-Common-

wealth of Nations.

Il-belt ta' Brisbane kienet għamlet lewwel tentattiv biex torganizza l-avveniment f'Settembru 2019 meta l-Premier Laburista kurrenti Annastacia Palaszczuk, bint immigrant Pollak għamlet l-ewwel preżentazzjoni għand il-KOI f'Luasanne l-Isvizzera. Kien irnexxielha tikkonvinċihom bil-fatti li Brisabne għand-ha l-ħila torganizza l-aqwa wirja tal-isports fiddinja.

Meta belt bhal Brisbane tirbah id-dritt li tospita' dan il-Loghob ma jfissirx biss l-ispettaklu sportiv li jgib mieghu izda t-thejjija vasta fl-infrastrattura li jkun hemm bżonn. Tfisser ukoll attrazzjoni turistika u holqien ta' xoghol.

Brisbane hija waħda mill-eqdem bliet fl-Awstralja b'popolazzjoni ta' madwar 2.5 miljun. Hija l-kapitali tal-Istat ta' Queens-



land fejn hemm jgħixu madwar 18-il elf membru tal-komunitá Maltija.

Analisti indipendenti jbassru wkoll li Brisbane se takkwista benefičju ta' \$8.1 biljun għall-Istat ta' Queensland u madwar \$17.6 biljun għall-Awstralja. Sintendi, il-Gvern Federali ta l-appoġġ kollu tiegħu biex dan l-avveniment ikun jista' jsir fl-Awstralja u anke wiegħed kull appoġġ finanzjarju meħtieg.

Jien ghandi affinitá qawwija mal-loghob Olimpiku ghax thajjart nigi l-Awstralja filhamsinijiet biex ikun hawn ghal loghob ta' Melbourne fis-sena 1956. Imbaghad f'Sydney 2000 kont parti integrali millkontingent Malti u assistenti tac-chef de mission Pippo Psaila. Kelli wkoll l-unur li nimmarėja kemm fil-ftuh u wkoll flgheluq tal-loghob Olimpiku li sar f'Sydney, fl-ewwel tal-millenju 2000. Memorji li ma ninsa qatt.

SBSTV features Malta's precious historical treasurers



It is not often that SBSTV features Malta, but during prime time on Sunday 4th July was an exception. During a visit to the Maltese islands Bettany Hughes (*left*), the English historian, author and broadcaster discovered how Malta, an island where civilisation from East, West, North and South have met and cross fertilised, became a cultural hub laden with some of the world's precious treasurers.

Her interesting and entertaining travels took her to look for treasures beyond the seas, the Co-Cathedral of St John, and the Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio's master paintings. There were visits to Il-Ggantija in Gozo, the three-storey deep hypogeum at Hal Saflieni, and the war rooms at Lascaris Ditch. She even examined the underground war shelters.

It was a very interesting documentary indeed by Ms Hughes, a specialist in classical history. She published books covering classical antiquity, myth, and the history of Istanbul. She is active in efforts to encourage the teaching of the classics in UK state schools. Ms Hughes was appointed OBE in 2019.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Community News

The Census: the last word

The Voice of the Maltese has been at the forefront, of reminding all our Maltese readers in Australia to do the right thing during the current national Census. We are pleased to note that all the Maltese Community Councils in Australia have joined together to make this appeal a national one.

Even at this late stage, the MCC of NSW has released the following message:

Thank you to those who are sharing the Census messages via email and/or by sharing the Facebook posts to spread the word amongst the Maltese community to encourage everyone with Maltese heritage and anyone who speaks even a little Maltese to say so in the Census.

People can complete the Census as soon as they receive their letter from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and will have



several days after to complete it.

There is still time for associations to communicate with members and for you all to share the message with your families and friends. It is important for the Census statistics to accurately reflect the size and breadth of the Maltese Australian community to maintain or improve the health, welfare, social services and programmes available to us.

Please spread the word. It is up to every one of us to state that we're Maltese where it counts: in the Census!

Tixtieq li jkollok kopja ta' The Voice f'idejk?

The Voice of the Maltese, mhux biss magazine online. Hu wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll hu ippubblikat, u ħafna qed approfittaw ruħhom billi jabbonaw u qed jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Min jixtieq jibda jircevi kopja pprintjata kull darba li joħroġ imħeġġa jabbonaw għal sena u jkun żgur mill-kopja kull darba.

Dan isir billi wiehed jibghat email lil *maltesevoice@gmail.com* u jitlob taghrif dwar ilhlas ta' abbonament ghal sena fl-istat fejn jghix. Imbaghad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tieghu, f'idejhom jgharrafna u jkun moqdijin.

7une in to Radio and Television

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.

(To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV..)

SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' I-programm tar-radju bil-Malti



mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq I-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au) On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) II-Hadd 11.00 am: I-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avviżi u suġġetti ta' interess.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: *sbs.com.au/maltese* (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** ((Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Chan-



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Sunday October 17: Fete Sat. November 14: Dinner Dance Sun. December 5: Festa San Nikola

nel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 -8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: Sunday: 7.30am; Monday: 8.00 am; Monday: 6.00pm.

Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM Melton Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella

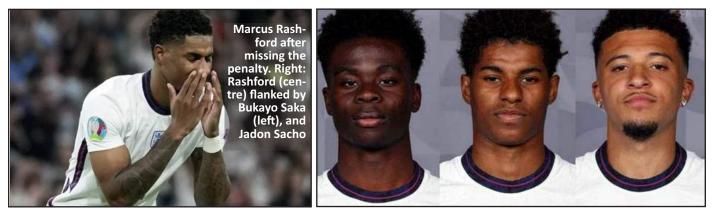
Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

Sundays @ 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Marthese Caruana: 11.00 a.m.: MCC programme

These programmes are also on Demand for 4 weeks from the website of 2GLF 89.3 FM - follow - Ethnic - Sunday 10.00am and 11.00 am

Tuesday, August 17, 2021





Racism in sport: why it comes to the surface when teams lose

n the penalty shoot-out that last month saw Italy defeat England in the UEFA Euro 2020 final, the skill of the goalkeepers was overshadowed by the perceived failure of the English players who missed their shots. Three young players – Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka – were subjected to torrents of anti-black racist abuse.

One of the worst things about this racism was how predictable it was. Racism has long been found in European sports, and is intensified when players of colour are put in the spotlight during major international competitions. A tweet in response to the harassment captures this phenomenon: "When you score, you're English. When you miss, you're an immigrant."

It wasn't only English players who experienced such treatment during the tournament. French player Kylian Mbappé faced online abuse when Swiss goalie Yann Somer successfully defended his penalty in the secondround clash that sentles bleus home. Racist abuse resurfaces constantly.

The massive increase in the visibility and popularity of sports over the past century, thanks to television, radio and the internet, has intensified the way that fans relate to players as local and national representatives. Athletes become the face of a nation, and many of us pin patriotic hopes, fears and frustrations on them.

See this off-cited quote from historian Eric Hobsbawm about the power of football to capture national feelings: "The ... imagined community of millions seems more real as a team of 11 named people."

When visibly diverse teams win world cups, it is seen as an anti-racist triumph. It is one reason South Africa's win in the 1995 rugby world cup was so symbolic, coming so soon after the collapse of apartheid.

The French men's football team inspired waves of pride in French multiculturalism after their 1998 and 2018 wins. This was symbolised in the slogan Black-Blanc-Beur (Black-White-North African) – a riff on bleu-blanc-rouge (blue, white and red) the colours of the French flag.

But the idea of achieving racial harmony through diverse sports teams has sparked controversy. Historian Laurent Dubois detailed how the national joy of winning a tournament glosses over difficult histories of racism and exclusion in his book on France's "soccer empire".

Slso, the celebrations last only as long as the win. Research has shown that when visibly diverse teams lose, existing exclusionary and racist nationalist undercurrents rise to the surface, manifesting as denial that players of colour belong to the nation. If the team is not "us", then "we" didn't lose. It wasn't the nation, or "my" people that failed, it was this interloper.

This can take different forms in nations where white people aren't the majority, but the underlying vitriol is the same. Muslim Indian sports stars have been subjected to such abuse in their own countries, as have Japanese players with black heritage. Racism and reality

Such abuse is a particularly ugly mix of grief, fandom, patriotism, rage and scapegoating. In the case of the English players, it denies the reality of their birth, citizenship and cultural upbringing in England – and the history that has made the country, and Europe more widely, a profoundly mixed and ethnically diverse space.

When fans engage in racist abuse, they are targeting players because they are seen as "not belonging". Perhaps rejecting them feels safer than rejecting people who share an imaginary "genuine" white national identity, and strengthens a sense of superiority. Doing this requires both forgetting and reinvention, and suggests deep insecurity about one's own identity.

Lilian Thuram's assessment of the racism he received from so-called "fans" was more generous. As Dubois wrote, he has repeatedly said and written that the problem is simply that they are caught up in a way of thinking, and that they haven't had the opportunity to escape that.

He has repeatedly said and written that the problem is simply that they are caught up in a way of thinking, and that they have



Rachel AnneGillett

Assistant Professor in Cultural History, Utrecht University

and that they haven't had the opportunity to escape that.

Sociologists, historians, art critics, antiracist activists and media scholars would agree with Thuram about the scale of the problem. There is a long, deep and pervasive tradition of designating players of colour in Europe as "other" than the norm and as being more "physical" or less "strategic".

It is no coincidence that only 3.9% of coaches in Europe's 14 biggest leagues have an ethnic minority background. Researcher Irene Blum and anti-racism activist John Oliveira noted that this replicates age-old historic patterns of black labourers and white owners supported by scientific racism, slavery and colonialism.

Could we, then, move beyond the abusive denial of history into a more mature and joyous fandom and national pride? A mural of Marcus Rashford – defaced by racists then transformed by fans and supporters into a moving site of honour and respect – bears witness to this potential

Perhaps this latest ugliness will achieve a transformation from scientific reports and policy documents to action and structural change. That would take commitment from (social) media, funders, coaches, players, training academies, and also from fans. It might take penalties to achieve, but it is a noble goal.





Valletta stun Champions Hamrun in their season 2021/22 opener

alletta spoiled Hamrun Spartans' start to their reign as Premier Football League Champion in their 2021/22 opening day fixture by beating them 2-1. The Citizens came from a goal down to win, thanks to a brace in a five-minute span from man-of-the-match Mario Fontanella.

Hamrun had looked coasting to victory following a glowing first half that had been crowned by a goal scored by Darko Gojkovic on 41 minutes. But Valletta came into their own in the second half and levelled the score in the 68th minute with Fontanella's first goal, from a penalty. The same player got his second five minutes later.

On the opening day, Balzan obtained a goal at the death to beat Sliema Wanderers with a goal by Milan Djuric in the 90th minute.

In other matches, Birkirkara enjoyed a comfortable winning start with a 3-0 victory over Mosta. They enjoyed the initiative but had to Sirens v Gudja U 1-0 wait for the second Floriana v Sta Lucia 2-2 Monday late kick off Half to get all three Hibernians v Gzira U goals.

Floriana and Santa Lucia shared the spoils in an entertaining 2-2 draw. The Saints were twice ahead before surrendering the initiative on two occasions to even-

tually get only a point Sirens earned a much deserved yet narrow victory and the three points that go with it by beating Gudja United with a first-half goal.

Controversial decisions deny Hibs historic feat

When Hibernians beat FC Riga in Latvia 1-0 in the first leg of UEFA's newly launched competition, the UEFA Conference League football supporters enthusiastically anticipated that Hibernians could make it to the history books by becoming the first Maltese club to make it to the play-off of a UEFA club competition.

They were one minute away from qualification but in the end, unexpectedly and unfortunately, lost the return tie in Malta 4-1 and 4-2 on aggregate, and were eliminated.

Hibs rightfully hold a number of recriminations after controversial decisions by the Irish referee, starting with his decision to annul a perfectly legitimate second goal scored by Degabriele.

However, Hibernians were still in charge and on the verge of qualification with a 2-1 aggregate score, after Jurgen Degabriele equalised Riga's goal. The same player scored again soon after but was ruled offside.

The Paolites were down to ten men following the dismissal of Jake Grech, and Riga took the game into extra time by scoring in the sixth minute of added time.

In overtime, the Maltese completely lost their cool and had players Bjorn Kristensen and Jake Grech and coach Stefano Sanderra red carded. FC Riga scored three more goals to qualify.



Malta Fans return to football stadia efore the start of the new Premier tickets are allowed from stadium booths or

BLeague season, amid hopes of a gradual return to normality following the disruption in the previous two seasons that were severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Malta Football Association in collaboration with the Premier League Standing Committee unveiled a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing the profile and visibility of the local top football competition

Season 2021/22 is seeing the partial return of spectators to local football stadia after the successful implementation of the return-of-supporters protocol for the home matches involving Maltese clubs in the UEFA competitions this summer.

The stadium capacity will be eventually increased in accordance with the Legal Notice that came into effect on Monday. Before that date, the amount of spectators allowed at the match venues was 200 persons per sector, excluding the VIP sector.

Match tickets can only be purchased online through the MFA's website. No sale of

outlets on matchday, and ticket holders buying their tickets online are being asked to register and upload their vaccination certificate before printing or downloading the ticket that will be valid for the indicated fixture (one match only). Tickets will be for single match use. The stadium gates are opening 90 minutes before kick-off giving ample time for the necessary checks.

On the playing side, the number of substitutions during matches remains five, unchanged from last season. Teams have three opportunities during the game to make substitutions plus half-time.

From this season Premier League teams can include nine foreign players (non-home grown) – up from seven – in their team sheet but still only seven non-home-grown players can be on the field of play at any given time.

62nd Middle Sea Race: Scorpios to be biggest yacht ever to participate

With just over two months to the start of the 2021 Rolex Middle Sea Race, the race to be on the start line on Saturday October 23 is heating up as 64 yachts are currently entered, exceeding the number reached at this same point in 2019, when 113 crews eventually participated.

There is still plenty of time for entries to be lodged and the 42nd edition of the Mediterranean's famous 606nm offshore classic looks set to provide another enthralling chapter in its burgeoning history.

The cut off date for entry is officially September 12, but the organiser, the Royal Malta Yacht Club, has retained the discretion to accept late entries up to October 1.

One yacht making its racing debut at the Rolex Fastnet Race is the stunning ClubSwan 125 Skorpios. With a 55metre mast, it will be the biggest yacht ever to participate in the race, dwarfing the already impressive 35-metre, Nikata, which took part in 2018.

Hamrun player named MFA's Footballer of the Year for 20/21

amrun Spartans and Malta midfielder Matthew Guilamrun Spartans and Iviana Interference in the 21 laumier, 23 (above right), is pictured receiving the 21 Malta Football Association's Player of the Year trophy for the 2020/21 from MFA president Bjorn Vassallo.

The player enjoyed an excellent season as his influential performances helped Hamrun Spartans to win their eighth Premier League title after a lapse of 30 years.

Guillaumier has also established himself as a key player for the national team.

DAY 1 RESULTS Valletta v Hamrun 2 Balzan v Sliema W. 1 Birkirkara v Mosta 3 1-0 3-0