

Pope Francis acts as influencer in advert for COVID-19 vaccine!

n a message of unity in support of COVID-19 vaccines and access for all, Pope Francis and six Cardinals and Archbishops from the US and Latin America have come together to say that the vaccines bring hope to protect us against this deadly disease, and help end the pandemic - along with the idea that getting vaccinated can be a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulner-

The Ad Council and COVID Collaborative have tapped Pope Francis as the star of a new public service announcement

(PSA) designed to increase confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, specifically in Hispanic communities disproportionately affected by the virus across the Americas. The Cardinals and archbishops also appear in the PSA.

Lisa Sherman, president-CEO of the Ad Council noted that

Lisa Sherman, president-CEO of the Ad Council noted that to the world's billion-plus Catholics, the Pope is one of the most trusted messengers and holds unparalleled influence. "We are extremely grateful to him and the cardinals and archbishops for lending their voices and platforms to help people across the globe feel more confident in the vaccines."

In the PSA Pope Francis says, "Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They bring hope to end the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we collaborate with one another.

"Getting the vaccines that are authorised by the respective



authorities is an act of love. I pray to God that each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love, no matter how small, love is always grand."

The PSA, in 60-second and three-minute versions and three languages — English, Spanish and Portuguese — is being touted as the Ad Council's first globally distributed campaign.

The creative, made in cooperation with the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development, is the latest effort in the Ad Council and COVID Collabo-

rative's "It's Up to You" COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative, which has previously featured an array of celebrities.

The campaign will appear via donated media time and space from Facebook, Google/YouTube, Telemundo, Universo, Match Group's Upward Christian Dating, WarnerMedia, among others.

The Ad Council further partnered with the Eva Longoria Foundation, The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, Unidos US, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Hispanic Federation and the Justice for Migrant Women, for an event that streamed August 25 on YouTube and the Facebook pages of Noticias Telemundo and NBC News Now.

It featured various faith leaders, including Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect for the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development.

Message from the Governor of NSW

New South Wales is celebrated for the vibrancy and strength of its multicultural community. Nearly 28% of people living in New South Wales were born overseas. Sydney has the largest overseasborn population of all Australian capital cities.

Across NSW, 215 languages are spoken and 146 religions practised. It's no wonder then that New South Wales has the second-largest Consular Corps in the world.

These are impressive statistics by any measure. More importantly, they reflect a rich tapestry of diverse cultures which come together to create a robust and rich community in which we all take enormous pride.

The COVID-19 pandemic has touched every one of us, though perhaps in different ways. For the communities that you repre-

sent, it is not only their own experiences of dealing with COVID here in New South Wales, but they also carry the burden of concern for family and loved ones in their homeland.

New South Wales is facing its own particular challenge at present. In responding to that challenge, our community is in an enviable position to draw on its wealth of social capital as we support each other in staying the course laid out for us by our leaders.

Everyone is encouraged to come forward to be vaccinated. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have already done so.

Please convey to your communities my profound appreciation for the role that they play every day in making New South Wales such a wonderful place to live, but especially for the sacrifices that they are making at the moment to keep themselves, their families and the broader community safe.



I encourage them all to reach out to each other by phone or video call as ways of staying connected.

I look forward to celebrating our successes with you as soon as we are able.

HE the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC OC

Tasting again the Maltese bread that helped win the war



(Part 5)

Dig for Victory

Below: The stricken SS Ohio surrounded by ships that nursed the tanker as it enters Grand Harbour, Malta, on 15 August 1942 during Operation Pedestal. It was one of only five out of the nine vessels that left Gibraltar that made it, saving Malta



Martin G Debattista (Institute of Tourism Studies - Malta · Centre for eLearning Technolo-gies PhD Candidate -MSc in Digital Media)

n August 1942, the daily bread ration was down to just 300 grammes per person, who was also entitled to a meagre weekly ration of just 200 grammes of fat (lard, butter or margarine), two small tins of canned tuna, one tin of corned beef, and 100 grammes of rice. No cheese or laundry soap was available.26

The local population was exhorted to 'Dig for Victory' and exploit any available space to grow their own vegetables. Even military personnel took to vegetable gardening.2 The British and Commonwealth Forces in Malta shared in the meagre rations when they required more calories in their exhertions to fight off a stronger and more numerous enemy.

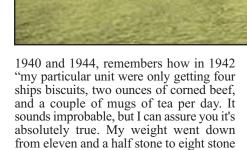
In his wartime diary for April 1942, British Royal Air Force pilot Denis Barnham laments that "Breakfast was disgusting: a sooted length of pale bacon flopped lifelessly over a partially fried piece of bread, both coldly congealed to the plate, and a mug of tea.

"Knowing that we are on semi-starvation diet because of the siege, and knowing also that oil from crashed aircraft, which we have to use for cooking, was responsible for the beastly taste of the bread and bacon, I had to accept it - but to my mind there is no excuse for the tea.

"The Maltese cook explained that water was in short supply and on the day the ration had not arrived yet. So they used the water they had boiled the beetroot the day before to make tea. That was the 'usual

Later in June, towards the end of his tour of duty in Malta, Barnham wrote: "We've very little petrol, very little food, no reliefs and practically no ammunition. So the war goes on."29

Thomas Bowker, serving with the 4th



in a matter of six weeks. "Furthermore, instructions were given that men not on watch were to conserve their strength by resting on their beds as much as possible. I cannot recommend it, but it was the most effective slimming diet that I have ever had. Also, when the 'plots' on the radar gave numbers of 50 to aircraft coming to attack, it was a sure cure for anyone with constipation."30

Operation Pedestal

After the failure of the June convoys the British government in London knew that if the necessary food supplies, ammunition and fuel were not delivered to Malta before the 7 September target date, the islandfortress would have to surrender. This gave rise to Operation Pedestal, popularly known as the 'Sta. Marija Convoy' for its timing with the feast of the Assumption of Mary on the 15 August.

The Royal Navy assembled the biggest merchant convoy ever to set sail for Malta

protected by a very strong fleet. Only five out of the nine merchantmen Gibraltar 1eft made it to the Grand Harbour, but the vital supplies they brought it were enough to keep fighting and to

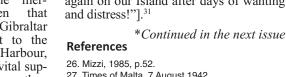
push the target date to December 1942. Malta could fight on in a decisive moment of the North African campaign: the Battle of El Alamein.

White bread appeared once again, a splendid sight for the young Laurence Mizzi: "F'Awwissu tal-1942 il-guħ kien fl-eqqel tieghu. Hafna min-nies kienu maghluba, blgħadam imqabbeż 'il barra, l-irġiel jissikkaw iċ-ċinturini sal-aħħar toqob u n-nisa įdaħħlu mill-ilbiesi ... Mal-wasla tal-bastimenti bdew jerġgħu jidhru l-affarijiet tal-ikel, l-aqwa fosthom id-dqiq li hu tant imfittex minna l-Maltin.

'Xi žmien wara l-wasla tal-convoy, ilħobż reġa' sar abjad u ma baqax lewn kannella skur kif kienu għamluh. X'ħin rajt dak il-ħobż abjad, tant hu safi, bqajt iċċassat inħares lejh ... il-barka t'Alla reggħet niżlet fuq il-Gżejjer tagħna wara l-jiem ta' ċaħda u ta' qtigħ il-qalb!"

["In August 1942 hunger was at its worst. Many people were slim, with their bones jutting out from under the skin, men tightening their belts and women tightening their dresses ... With the arrival of the merchantmen some foodstuff started to appear again, especially flour being most soughtafter by the Maltese.

"Sometime after the arrival of the convoy bread became white again and was no longer dark brown as it had used to be. When I saw the white loaf, so pure, I kept staring at it ... God's blessing had fallen again on our Island after days of wanting



27. Times of Malta, 7 August 1942.

28. The Sunday Times of Malta, 16 August 1942.

29. Barnham, 2013, p.90. 30. Barnham, 2013, p.196.

31. Pomeroy, 2006, p.177.



Another service offered by The Voice of the Maltese providing legal information to our readers

Excluding children for charity – whole estate willed to RSPCA

Case study: Flanagan v Fisher [2021] NSWSC 598 (27 May 2021)

by PaulSant

n about 1978, married couple, Ronald and Wilma, were given custody of Andrew, an Aboriginal infant, by the Children's Court of NSW. They had intended to adopt Andrew, however his birth mother withdrew her consent to the adoption. The couple was also given custody of another child, David. In about 1991, Ronald and Wilma separated, and then divorced in 1993.

Although technically by definition in the law, Andrew was not a "child" of Ronald, the court made its decision as if Andrew was Ronald's biological child, as he had been treated as a child and to him Ronald was his father and Wilma his mother. Andrew's surname was formally changed to Flanagan (that of the deceased and Wilma) in 1991.

The Will

Ronald executed a will on 22 May 2017, leaving his whole estate to the RSPCA. It included a specific clause setting out his intentional exclusion of Andrew and David from his Will, on the basis that neither his 'step-sons' had any contact with him for years, and specifically avoided attempts at contact.

The clause acknowledged Ronald had been advised by his lawyer about possible family provision claims being bought against his Estate, and instructed his executor to 'vigorously oppose any proceedings' Andrew and/or David might bring.

The deceased died in 2019, with an Estate valued at about \$570,000.

Andrew seeks provision from father's estate

Andrew filed a claim for family provision, seeking \$285,000 (half of the Estate). The Estate submitted an amount of \$80,000 should be deemed by the court to be adequate provision to Andrew.

Any family provision claimant is required to provide notice of their court case to all other persons who may be entitled to bring a claim themselves. Attempts were made to locate David to give him notice of Andrew's proceedings. The court was satisfied of those attempts and David did not make any claim.

The RSPCA did not file any evidence and did not take part in Andrew's claim for provision.

The relationship between Andrew & the deceased

In his Will, Ronald relied on estrangement at the fault of Andrew in making no provision for him. According to Andrew's evidence, despite his best efforts of maintaining a relationship with his father, Ronald became less responsive to Andrew's communication and correspondence over the years, until virtually having no relationship at the time of Ronald's death.

Other evidence

Some evidence was given by Franklin, a friend of Ronald, who since about 2000 spent time with the deceased and was listed as his next of kin from 2017.

Franklin said Ronald rarely spoke of his adopted children, other than to say 'they never tried to contact me', 'they have

never been in touch with me', and 'I'm going to cut them out of my will'.

Franklin also gave evidence about the deceased's involvement



with the RSPCA, which seemed to stem from Franklin's discussions about animals he assisted there whilst volunteering for the RSPCA. He said Ronald sympathised with the animals and said to him in early 2017 "I have decided to give everything to the RSPCA in my Will because animals don't have anyone to look after them."

Moral obligations to make adequate provision VS freedom of testamentary wishes

The court must always undertake a balancing exercise before interfering with testamentary wishes that a deceased has recorded formally in a Will, as to how they want their bounty distributed after death, as well as any additional evidence of their intentions or reasons for doing so that may have been provided.

The court assessed that Andrew had need, he was living with his mother Wilma (who was also an eligible person to bring a claim against Ronald's Estate for provision), their house required some repairs, and Andrew had a mortgage of about \$163,000.

Provision awarded

Regardless of the lack of evidence in regards to the relationship and the fault of any estrangement, the court was satisfied that Ronald had failed to make adequate provision for Andrew in his Will and went on to make an order that Andrew receive provision from the Estate of \$160,000.

Such a decision did not grossly interfere with the majority of the deceased's Estate being bequeathed to the RSPCA.

Who paid the court & legal costs?

Interestingly, the Estate made a Calderbank offer to Andrew that he receive \$170,000 from the Estate, and additionally, that Andrew's costs be paid from the Estate. This offer was not accepted by Andrew, which resulted in the court ordering that Andrew be liable for \$30,000 of the Estate's costs in defending his claim, which he would pay from his \$160,000 provision. Andrew's costs were to be paid by the Estate.

We have provided you with an overview of the topic above but you should consult a professional for advice specific to your circumstances.



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Maltese Spoken

A lawyer and community leader

In the State of Victoria, we have the largest concentration of Malta-born migrants with a very active community and a powerful Maltese Community Council with it's centre at 477 Royal Parade Parkville. Founded in 1958, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc. is an umbrella organisation of Maltese associations representing the Maltese community in the State of Victoria, Australia. Marlene Ebejer is its current President.

Ms Marlene Ebejer

t was at a Council Meeting held in October 2018, that Marlene Ebejer was elected the second female President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.

Marlene was a community worker for 14 years and then studied law. She became a lawyer and has practised for the last 13 years. She started her own practice in Lt. Collins Street Melbourne and Werribee.

Marlene Ebejer was born in Melbourne of Maltese parents. Her mother Carmen and father Charles Ebejer migrated from Sliema, Malta, in 1956. Marlene grew up living with her parents, sister, brother and maternal grandmother (Nanna Nina).

As a child living in a bi-lingual home, Marlene was quick to learn Maltese. When she was nine years old, her cousins came to live with her family from Sliema, Malta, for two years. Her cousin, Godfrey, had trav-

elled with a Maltese children's book and from that book Marlene taught herself to read Maltese.

There were many nights where Marlene's mother would have the Maltese newspaper and listen to Marlene reading articles or letters from relatives in

Malta. Keen on the language, she was not so keen on her culture,





Marlene Ebejer, lawyer and President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria

not knowing whether she was Maltese or Australian.

It was not until Marlene travelled to Malta when she was 22 for a 4-5 month period that she recognised she was a part of both cultures

and began to embrace her Maltese heritage.

In her late teens, she became involved with a youth group at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and enjoyed going on camps, playing in the indoor cricket team and going on outings.

She grew up in Broadmeadows and had friends from all cultures. She now lives in Melbourne. After finishing high school, Marlene began working for the Broadmeadows and District Ethnic Communities Council. She continued to work in different community agencies and returned to study part-time.

Her first degree was a Bachelor of Arts (Multicultural Studies) from RMIT, followed by a Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies from Victoria University. For 5.5 years, she ran the Meadow Heights Learning Centre.

Whilst running the Meadow Heights Learning Centre. Marlene

was awarded a Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training from Melbourne University. She then moved to a private training company with the Australian Textile and Fashion Industries. During this time, she studied for her Bachelor of Laws at Monash Univer-



Marsa Junction Project

t goes without saying that the biggest and most important project undertaken by the Government for as long as many Maltese could remember, is the Marsa Junction Project that includes the development of a new multi-level intersection that has replaced the Addolorata traffic lights system with 12 kilometres of new uninterrupted lanes, grade-separated at three

The project, a €70 million investment cofinanced through the EU's Cohesion Fund and Connecting Europe Facility, and officially inaugurated on April 15 last, consists of seven flyover structures; 12 km new lanes; 3.1 km footpaths and cycle lanes; three pedestrian bridges; 0.6 km bus lanes and safer bus lay byes; 380-space park and ride; 15 km underground pipes and cables, and 250 street lights

It has created direct northbound and southbound connections between five busy roads, and eliminated traffic lights waiting times and reduced congestion emissions in Marsa and other nearby localities. Over 100,000 road users travel through this junction every day.

The changing face of Malta - 2

Continuing our series in which we highlight the various projects, infrastructure and/or otherwise, that are changing the face of the

Malta that many of the Maltese currently living abroad, particularly those who emigrated decades ago, don't know much about.



€3m. waterfront project at Marsalforn in Gozo



The Marsalforn seafront in Gozo has been revamped thanks to a €3 million government investment. The work followed-on works done earlier at the inner harbour part of the bay, known as Il-Menqa.

Much of the seafront has been rebuilt and pedestrianised. New water culverts have been installed, and measures taken to prevent seawater damage during storms. New lighting and other utility services were laid before repaving. The project has been described as providing enjoyment for the many Gozitans, Maltese and tourists who visit the area

A new application has been submitted to the Planning Authority for the building of a new breakwater.

New lighting system for Mosta Rotunda

An external lighting system is to be installed at the Mosta Rotunda with an €850,000 investment from the National Social and Development Fund that would further enhance the architectonic elements of the Basilica, use energy efficiently and create the least amount of pollution possible. It will increase the value of this sought-after place by locals and tourists alike and further embellish the aesthetics of the Rotunda

The project has been assigned to Franck Franjou, the same architect who designed the lighting of the Parliament building and the City Gate. He has worked on more than 300 similar projects around the world including theatres, museums and train stations.

The Rotunda, a large basilica built between 1833 and 1860, features one of the world's largest unsupported domes, and displays a replica of the World War II bombshell that famously crashed through the dome but did not detonate upon impact.



A 165-year-old traditional townhouse is now a **Qormi home away from home boutique hotel**

n the fifties and sixties in particular, thousands of Maltese sought pastures new and a better future for themselves and their siblings by immigrating to far off lands, in particular to Australia and Canada. But deep down they never forgot their homeland and visits to Malta are always high on their list of priorities.

Most used to return to spend their holidays in Malta, perhaps with relatives in the same environment they had left behind. After so many years, they still consider that environment as their own, and the members of their new families eagerly consider Malta a must visit attraction.

Without close relatives to welcome and

homeland.

One such is the Palazzino Nina. charming, distinctive, 165-year-old traditional Maltese townhouse. converted into a familyrun boutique hotel in the picturesque 19th-century where ence directly

> feeling home-away from home environment with more than a touch of traditional Maltese culture they may have been used to before emigrating.

It is rich in Maltese heritage. One will come across the promi-Maltese nent Cross which is associated with the Knights of the Order of St John Malta. It has an authentic original restored facade that dates

Malta's High Commissioner in Australia HE Mario Farrugia Borg (centre) flanked by the owners, Doreen and Timothy at the main courtyard through which one may access all suites.

to the 1850s, and an original restored Statue of Saint Paul.

Various large outdoor spaces enable guests to mingle and relax at a safe social distance such as the Palazzino's courtyard, deck area, and rooftop sun deck complete with family-sized hot tub

The Palazzino boasts unique design and architecture. This can be appreciated throughout as it is built around a sheltered central courtyard.

It is interesting to find that the private suites at the boutique are named after Oormi places, like Tal-Furnar, Pinto's, Ta' Guzi, Ta' San Gorg, Ta' San Bastjan, Ta' Mira and Tal-Vitorja.

A recent visitor to the Palazzino Nina was the Maltese High Commissioner in Australia HE Mario Farrugia Borg, himself Qormi-born. He was welcomed at the hotel by the owners, Doreen and Timothy.

The HC was impressed with the boutique hotel in his hometown and had words of praise for the authentic experience one has once at the hotel. The owners told The Voice, "Coming from someone who hails from Qormi also means a lot to us".

The Palazzino Nina is a 10-minute drive from the Malta International Airport (5.0 km away) almost the same distance from the capital, Valletta and close to all ameni-

The hotel can be contacted directly on https://palazzinonina.com/





Have your say Xi trid tghid?



The Voice of the Maltese

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.

Editors: *Malta:* Joseph Cutajar *Australia:*

Lawrence Dimech: MOM, OAM, JP Rt

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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.



https://www.facebook. com/groups/thevoiceofthemaltese

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

The wars against the bad guys

Tony Agius from Middle Park Victoria writes:

After 20 years, and the longest war in history in Afghanistan, we have witnessed another disaster by the Allies as they tried to fight a war they knew they could

Our darkest days

Alan Bugeja from Penrith NSW writes:

These are the darkest days in almost a century; the headlines are screaming. The delta virus has taken over Australia, mainly the most prominent states of NSW and Victoria. It is a shame that the States are so divided while they suffer the consequences.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has miscalculated the pandemic so much. He did not secure enough vaccination and caused a disaster so grave. The usually solid Gladys Berejiklian is all over the place, and her helpless Minister of Health is no help at all

The most worrying aspect of all this is the total collapse of the States system. They are so divided and self-centred.

After the lockdowns what?

Jerry Scott from Adelaide SA writes:

It is too much now! Why all these lock-downs? We are totally fed up. My worry is how we can turn to normality again.

We are getting lazy, and lockdowns have us into a virtual world. Personal contact is now simple, switch the computer, and you are visible. What a useful system.

Will we take the trouble to again drive to our friends or even family to meet in person, to hug and to kiss our grandkids? I wonder. never win

They say the USA has to be involved in a war to keep the machines going at home. Britain's Tony Blair and Australia's John Howard had to join in.

What is worrying for a mere mortal like me is that after the devastation left behind, we then have to accept the collateral damage from Vietnam, Syria, Iraq etc.

Instead of going to war, we could make an open call to all these unfortunate people, wherever they are, that if they are unhappy in their own environment/culture, we can accommodate them; hence we could avoid many problems.

Let us sell them our democracy, or perhaps give them a loan of Donald Trump while he is still unemployed.

Nistenna bil-ħerqa ċ-ċekkjatur

Anthony Cassar minn St Albans, Victoria jikteb:

Chalkemm ilni snin twal li hallejt lil Malta biex emigrajt lejn l-Awstralja, meta kont ghadni fl-ewwel snin tal-iskola Primarja, xorta bqajt inhobb dak kollu li hu Malti. Fost dawn hemm l-ilsien Malti.

Ghalkemm nixtieq hafna, imma fi xjuhiti mhux possibbli li nikteb Malti daqshekk tajjeb. Madankollu lil uliedi tajthom kull cans biex jitghallmu jiktbuh, anke jekk lanqas mhux facil ghalihom.

Irrid nghid mill-ewwel li jekk qed taraw li din il-kitba hija qrib il-perfezzjoni, dan hu biss grazzi ghall-editur ta' *The Voice* li tlabtu, u qed jikkoregili dak li ktibt.

Inhoss li kull Malti, jghix fejn jghix ghandu jaghmel minn kollox biex iżomm hajja l-kitba ta' pajjiżna u wkoll fejn jista' jitkellem bil-Malti.

Illum qed nikteb wara li fil-harġa ta' *The Voice* Nru 255 qrajt l-ahbar, li nhossha stupenda, li l-Gvern Malti ta bidu halli forsi ma jdumx ikollna ċ-ċekjatur bil-Malti, bhala ma wara kollox ghandhom il-biċċa 'l kbira tal-lingwi tad-dinja.

Fraħt mhux ftit għax kull min bħali għandu għal qalbu l-ilsien Malti, bil-għajnuna taċ-ċekkjatur ikun jista' jsibha aktar faċli li jikteb bil-Malti. Issa nittama li ma ndumux nistennew wisq u li l-iskejjel tal-Malti madwar l-Awstralja jkomplu jħeġġu lill-istudenti, issa aktar minn qabel, ħalli jibdew jużawh.

Grazzi lil min ģietu din l-idea għax permezz ta' hekk, il-lingwa Maltija miktuba tista' tibqa' ħajja u tkun tista' tiżviluppa bħal lingwi oħra.



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Amelia Farrugia says Joseph Calleja will be worth waiting for



Who is Joseph Calleja?

Born in Malta in 1978, Joseph Calleja began singing at the age of 16, first in his church choir and then in formal training with Maltese tenor Paul Asciak. One of his native land's biggest celebrities, Calleja was selected to serve as Malta's first cultural ambassador in 2012, and he was also named a brand ambassador for Air Malta.

Joseph Calleja recently teamed up with Malta's Bank of Valletta to form the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, which will serve to help children and families in need. He is the recipient of the 2014 International Opera Awards' Readers' Award

Blessed with a golden-age voice that routinely inspires comparisons to "legendary singers from earlier eras: Jussi Björling, Beniamino Gigli, even Enrico Caruso" (Associated Press), Malteseborn Joseph Calleja has quickly become one of the most acclaimed and soughtafter tenors today.

melia Farrugia would have shared the stage with world-famous Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja in his much-awaited debut in Australia. The pandemic caused the planned Australia wide concerts to be postponed. The shows had initially been planned from October 3 – 13. 2020, then postponed to September 1–13, 2021.

The Maltese community has now been officially notified that Joseph Calleja's concert in Australia with soprano Amelia Farrugia and international acclaimed pianist Piers Lane has been postponed a third time, to October 4 - November 5, 2022. But the venues remain the same five cities originally planned, namely Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney. (For more details, read the last issue of *The Voice*).

Meanwhile, *The Voice* caught up with Amelia, one of Australia's best-loved sopranos, daughter of solicitor Philip Farrugia from Zejtun and a French mother. No doubt, disappointed as we all are about the changes to this tour, she told us, "I've been looking forward to singing with Joseph for a long time. The performing arts have been hard hit during the pandemic.

"I'm grateful that the shows have been postponed to next year. I have been rehearsing the programme a lot, so it's a shame to lose all that work. It is also difficult financially, a long-awaited tour indeed."

The soprano is still part of the tour and looking forward to October 2022. She told *The Voice* that Joseph Calleja has been in touch with the producer, Andrew McKinnon. The producer's assistant James Gruzman told *The Voice*, "Joseph is well and looking forward to the tour. He has recently performed in Dubai and Madrid".

When reminded that the Maltese community may be losing some of its enthusiasm after the postponements, Amelia Farrugia was emphatic, "We need your support. Joseph Calleja will be worth waiting for, and please be patient at this difficult time.



Soprano Amelia Farrugia

Piers Lane is an extremely exciting pianist, Andrew McKinnon will produce an exceptional performance".

Meanwhile, like all of us, Amelia Farrugia is struggling with the isolation that has hit Sydney very hard. "Some of my performances have been postponed. I am very fortunate to be able to teach singing out of my private studio and at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music High school."

Joseph Calleja, tenor and Malta's Cultural Ambassador, will perform in Australia. Our community will be there to honour him as one of the most extraordinary talents that came out of our beloved island.

September 8 – When Malta commemorates Victory Day

On the 8th of September Malta celebrates Victory Day, a public holiday that recalls the end of three historical sieges made on the Maltese archipelago, namely: the Great Siege of Malta by the Ottoman Empire ending in 1565; the Siege of Valletta by the French Blockade ending in 1800; and, the Siege of Malta during the Second World War by the Italian army ending in 1943.

The day also coincides with the commemoration of the birth of the Virgin Mary, better known as the Nativity of Mary (il-Bambina), which is celebrated in the villages of Senglea, Naxxar and Mellieha in Malta, and Xaghra in Gozo. The traditional regatta featuring boat races in the Grand Harbour is held on Victory Day.

Normally cultural activities commemorating the occasion take place on 7 September, in Great Siege Square in Valletta, and involve literary readings, music and artistic performances. Then on the actual day (Victory Day), the Armed Forces of Malta parade in Republic Street, Valletta, and reach the Co-

Cathedral of St. John, where they salute the Prime Minister and the Maltese anthem is finally played.

A high mass is then celebrated at St. John's followed by the placing of a symbolic garland at the foot of the monument of the Great Siege by the President to commemorate the victims of the World War. A similar commemorative ceremony is also held in Independence Square in Rabat, Gozo presided by the Minister for Gozo

For the second year running, due to COVID-19 restrictions the annual 8th September Regatta, a programme of boat race that takes place at Grand Harbour bave been cancelled

that takes place at Grand Harbour have been cancelled.
The Maltese communities in Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA in particular also comemorate the occasion with some pomp, but due to Covid and the lockdown, celebrations in are being subdued, and in Australia in particular, the occasion that is considered as one of the most important days annually, for the first time in 56 years, the concelebrated mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney has had to be cancelled.

Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at: https://ivancauchi.

blogspot.com

kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



Farsa traģika

aħseb bħali ħafna minnkom tibqgħu ċċassati tħarsu lejn ixxeni ħerġin mill-Afganistan bħalissa, bit-tluq imminenti tal-forzi Amerikani li wara dawn is-snin kollha jidher li ħa b'sorpriża lil kulħadd - l-allejati inkluża l-Awstralja fuq naħa, u t-Talibani fuq l-oħra.

Ilna għoxrin sena naqraw u nisimgħu dwar il-gwerra kontra t-terroriżmu, u dan il-pajjiż Asjatiku kien fiċ-ċentru tal-attenzjoni tista' tgħid kull jum. Qabel dan kien jissemma għall-invażjoni falluta tas-Sovjetiċi, għall-industrija tal-eroina, u dan l-aħħar għal din il-gwerra.

L-invażjoni tal-Amerikani u l-allejati fl-Afganistan kien iġġustifikat wara l-attakk fuq il-World Trade Centre u l-Pentagon organizzat minn Al Qaeda fil-11 ta' Settembru 2000, minħabba li dan il-grupp terroristiku kellu l-bażi prinċipali tiegħu taħt il-protezzjoni tat-Talibani fl-Afganistan, li kienu jmexxu lil dan il-pajjiż.

L-invazjoni mbuttat lit-Talibani 'l-boghod miċ-ċentri tal-poter, u dawn hadu r-rwol ta' gwerrillieri, haġa li huma esperti fiha, jiġġieldu u jaghmlu alleanzi fejn jistghu, jistennew il-mument taghhom. Il-forzi alleati stallaw sistema ġdida demokratika, servizzi ta' siġurtà, strutturi ċiviċi bhal dawk edukattivi u servizzi ta' infrastruttura.

Rapporti jgħidu li ntefqu mijiet ta' biljuni ta' dollari fuq dan, imma jissemma wkoll li s-sistema tal-korruzzjoni kienet dejjem preżenti f'kull livell ta' awtorità, mill-iktar baxx sal-iktar għoli.

Meta ġew għas-si u n-no, kien jidher ċar li ħadd ma kien qiegħed jafda lil ħadd, u meta l-Amerikani ddeċidew li fil-fatt se jitilqu sattali data, il-forzi ta' sigurtà li raw li ma kienx se jkollhom iktar għajnuna militari tal-barranin li kienu mdorrijin biha, ħasbu f'ġildhom l-ewwel u dabbru rashom.

Wara kollox, il-President tal-Afganistan, Ghani, fil-fatt għamel l-istess, bl-unika differenza kienet li dabbar rasu bl-elikotteru.

Issa s-sitwazzjoni hi li kull min kien qieghed jghin lill-forzi talallejati sab ruhu vulnerabbli, u jibkilhom biex jiftakru fihom fissiegha tal-bżonn taghhom, imwerwrin li t-Talibani issa se jduru ghalihom.

Kif nista' qatt ninsa l-istampa ta' ajruplan tal-gwerra qed itir millajruport, b'diversi Afgani ddisprati jiddendlu ma' kull parti talajruplan li setgħu jaqbdu, b'mijiet jiġru miegħu waqt li kien tielgħa, b'dawk imdendlin miegħu fl-aħħar jispiċċaw jaqgħu għal mewthom?

Għad baqa' eluf oħra jittallbu u jitkarrbu bil-ħniena biex ma jitħallewx f'ħalq l-ilpup, bl-uniku tama għalihom ikun ajruport wieħed f'Kabul, imdawwar b'nies ostili u mgħasses mis-suldati Amerikani. Ħafna jiġu msejħa biex imorru fuq titjira perikoluża, u lanqas biss jirnexxilhom jaslu sal-ajruport.

Possibbli li wara għoxrin sena jokkupaw b'saħħa l-post, l-invażuri ma setgħux jippjanaw it-tluq tagħhom aħjar?

Il-Prim Ministru Awstraljan Morrison digà stqarr li mhux se jkun



possibbli li jģibu lil kull min għen lill-Awstraljani u jixtieq jiģi lejn l-Awstralja, u persważ li din ukoll hi s-sitwazzjoni tal-allejati l-oħra. Mela l-Amerikani u l-allejati daħlu fl-Afganistan għoxrin sena ilu, bit-Talibani fil-poter. Issa fi ftit ġranet, se jitilqu minn hemm, bit-Talibani fil-poter, u l-għodda militari kollha li l-Amerikani ħallew għall-gvern Afgani issa qiegħdin f'idejn it-Talibani. Tajjeb ukoll!

Il-President Amerikan, Biden, stqarr li l-invazjoni tal-Afganistan laħaq il-miri tiegħu għax apparti li kien instab (fil-Pakistan) u nqatel Osama bin Laden, dakinhar kap ta' Al Qaeda, ġie żgurat li l-Afganistan qatt iktar ma jista' jkun bażi għat-terroriżmu kontra l-Amerika.

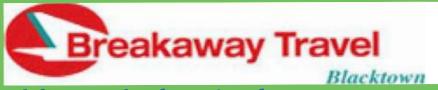
U kif ģie żgurat dan? Għax it-Talibani għamlu din il-wegħda? U x'se jiġri jekk ma jżommux il-wegħda tagħhom? Se nerġgħu nin-vadu lill-Afganistan? U min se jagħmel dan? Il-pajjiż li ddikjara li ma jridx iktar jibqa' jidħol għal dan it-tip ta' gwerer?

Is-sitwazzjoni kienet tkun tad-daħk li kieku ma kinetx tal-biki. Bħalissa madankollu hemm xi ħadd jidħak? Apparti t-Talibani, li s'issa qed jgħidu dak li kulħadd iridhom jgħidu biex juru li m'għad-homx l-estremisti li kienu għoxrin sena ilu, u qed jiddieħqu wkoll il-gruppi terroristiċi kollha ta' madwar id-dinja, li raw li lanqas liktar pajjiż b'saħħtu ekonomikament u militarment ma kien kapaċi jegħleb grupp estremist Islamiku f'pajjiż imfarrak b'tant modi.

Mill-banda l-oħra, jibku qegħdin il-pajjizi tradizzjonali tal-Punent, li soltu jkunu l-allejati ewlenin tal-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika. Raw lill-mexxej tad-dinja hekk imsejħa ħielsa jieħu disfatta umil-

janti waqt li jghajjat bi progress, jidher li jiehu decizjonijiet tattici importanti minghajr konsultazzjoni mal-allejati. Qabel konna nghidu li Trump kien jigi jitmellah mill-allejati, issa se nghidu li Biden jaghmel l-istess?

L-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika tilfet hafna mill-lostru taghha, u l-pajjizi l-ohra tradizzjonalment hbieb taghha jaghmlu tajjeb jekk ma jibqghux jigu influenzati daqshekk minnha fl-oqsma tad-difiza u dik tal-politika barranija.



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..... Will be back soon.....watch this space

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Maltese octogenarian JosephLanzon concludes his recollections of his Nineties

The Um El Faroud tanker tragedy at Malta Dockyard that killed nine workers

t was Friday the 2nd of February 1995. As was the norm on that day the Dockyard workers got their weekly wage packet. As per habit, most of them would buy some cakes from the confectionery stalls set up just outside the dockyard gate and happily return home to be greeted by their families. However, on that same day, nine Dockyard workers never returned home.

That evening a mighty explosion ripped through the dock, vibrating all over the Cottonera area and beyond. People were shocked and wondered what it was all about. Those that like me lived in Cottonera were accustomed to the fires and bangs in the Dockyard. This time however, they knew immediately that something really bad had occurred

The explosion was on a tanker in Dock 3. The blast is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of gas that ignited at about 10.30 p.m., devastating the mid and bow sections of the 115-metre long Libyan tanker 'Um El Farouk'. The blast was of such a large scale that it shook houses in nearby towns.

The Um El Farouk was in the dock for extensive repairs. The cause of the explosion on that cruel night was the ignition of the gas stored in one of the holds. It ripped the

tanker like a can of sardines. Even before rescue operations could be organised, their colleagues were trying their best to save them,



even if it meant risking their own lives in the process.

The Dockers worked in gangs, generally the same persons in each

gang, so they knew each other very well. They were like one big, close family.

While in the ambulance one of the gravely injured who was being rushed to hospital, anxiously asked the medical staff what had happened to the rest of his colleagues. It brought tears to the eyes of the nurses and paramedics accompanying

Fate can be so cruel sometimes. One of those killed in this tragedy had lost his father at the same age and at the same dock! Nine Dockyard workers were tragically killed in that tragedy. Seven of the workers died instantly, while the other two suffered grievous injuries, and later died at St Luke's Hospital.

A monument, in the form of an anchor on a pedestal (pictured left), was erected at the entrance to Cottonera in memory of these unfortunate victims 26 years ago.



ttending Court and facing Amagistrates and judges were always alien things to me. I ab-

horred them like the plague! But during my years at the HCEB I became very familiar with the Courts and with the old pedantic system of the processing of cases.

Every day there are crowds at the law court's corridors in search of justice but not always obtaining it. Many cases come up for hearing every three or four months but are repeatedly adjourned. Sometimes a case so long to be decided that it has to be continued by the inheritors.

When the case is finally decided, it is not always the victim that leaves the Court with a smile on his face.

In Malta we have twice or three times as

Courts and Magistrates

many lawyers per one thousand of the population than any other country in Europe. But then the Maltese are twice or three times as litigious as any others in Europe!

I used to attend twice weekly Court cases to assist Police on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism regarding cases of breeches of tourism legislation. I noted that in the crowded corridors of the courts, one always used to see the same faces every time.

Once we lodged a case against an unlicensed operator of holiday flats in Gozo. I was called up six times over an 18-month period to attend the Gozo Law Courts. Each time I had to cross the channel in

scorching heat or gale force winds to give my testimony.

The accused never showed up in Court. Most probably he would be informed that I had disembarked from the ferryboat, so did not turn up. The case was postponed on six occasions.

As the next summons, the seventh was set for a really bad weather day. In addition I was not feeling well so could not attend. On the morrow I was notified that as I had failed to make an appearance, the presiding Magistrate passed sentence and the accused came out scot-free!

No wonder that, when I now meet this person, even today, over 30 years later, he looks at me, smiles broadly and goes on his



Roundup of News About Malta



Maltese economy grows by 13.4% in the second quarter of this year

he Maltese economy is recovering well from the recession resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the National Statistics Office (NSO) stating in its provisional estimates for the second quarter of this year (AprilJune) that the Gross Domestic Produce, GDP increased by €448.6 million and is now over €3,475.3 million.

This is 14.8% more than it was in the last quarter of 2020. In real terms, the economy increased by 13.4%, following a decrease of 15% last year as a result of the pandemic.

When it comes to production, many economic sectors, including the service sector, industry, agriculture and construction have started to register growth.

The NSO statistics show an economic growth of \in 448.6 million over a period of three months. It was split into \in 120.7 million which went towards an increase in salaries, \in 227.5 in the profits of enterprises and another \in 100 million in taxes.



Promoting active ageing through physical activity

Senior citizens in Malta will soon have the opportunity to engage in a programme of physical activities as a means to lead a healthier lifestyle. As such, an agreement has been reached that specifically designs a sports programme to be offered to senior citizens at day centres within the community.

Minister for Senior Citizens and Active Ageing Michael Farrugi said that these organised activities would help senior citizens stay healthy, both physically and mentally, reduce stress as well as improve the senior citizens' self-confidence and abilities.

The programme includes various exercises and team-building activities.

It follows an agreement signed by the Minister for Senior Citizens, SportsAdultz, which is a private company, and the Active Ageing and Community Care directorate.

Digital technology to improve lives of people with disabilities

Through an investment of more than 6700,000 from the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA), a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) covering a period of three years that will bolster the quality of life of people with disabilities and the vulnerable through communication and information technology.

Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri explained that this agreement would lead to education and awareness campaigns, research on the use of accessible technology, and a wider range of ICT-related courses, which include online training for people with disabilities or vulnerabilities, so that these are accorded more attention

In the meantime, a study will also be carried out that should lead to more software applications in Maltese, specifically for those who use technology to communicate.

In terms of direct financial contribution, half of the money allocated will be utilised to enable FITA to recruit people with expertise in this area as well as for the Assistive Technology Fund, which will be required for each person working within FITA.

Funds will also be used to help FITA carry out research, training and to take part in various projects related to technology.

Minister for Equality, Research and Innovation Owen Bonnici and Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri signed the agreement.

Malta donates 40,000 vaccines to Libya

On the same subject, as Pope's advert and his appeal in the PSA advert (onpage 2), Malta recently donated more than 40 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 40 000 antigen-based rapid diagnostic tests to Libya. A plane carrying the donation arrived at Mitiga international airport in Tripoli and the Libyan authorities are making good use of them.

Malta's Central Procurement and Supplies Unit within the Maltese Ministry of Health undertook the delivery of these essential supplies to Libya, in coordination with the European Union, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Libyan Ministry of Health.

Ms Elizabeth Hoff, the world Health Organisation's representative in Libya said that WHO is very grateful to the Government of

Malta for its solidarity. She added, "WHO has repeatedly stressed that equitable access to safe and effective vaccines is critical to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. No one is safe until everyone is safe."

Meanwhile, HE Mr Charles Saliba, the Ambassador of Malta in Libya said that the donation confirms the support of Malta towards Libya and its people. "It is our hope that this donation will contribute to strengthening national efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

As of the end of July, Libya has received more than 1.3 million doses of COVD-19 vaccine from different sources. To date, over half a million people have received their first dose of the vaccine in the country.

Below: the vaccines on the way to Libya



N Rol

Roundup of News About Malta

Malta participates in its first registered NASA experiment

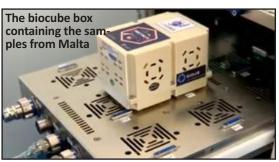
n Sunday Malta took part in its first recorded scientific NASA experiment to the international space station by the use of the SpaceX company's Falcon9 rocket, that left NASA base at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. It will deliver supplies, equipment and a number of scientific experiments including one in a sealed box from Malta in a project named

"Maleth" that includes samples of microbes found in wounds of people with diabetes for biomedical research in space.

The project on Malta's side which is made up of a biocube box containing a number of samples of skin tissue from patients with diabetes, especially with ulcers of the feet, is led by Professor Joseph Borg and a team of researchers from the University of Malta.

"Maleth" is funded by he Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and two private companies, Evolve Ltd and Arkafort, which have been facilitated by the Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT) of the University of Malta.

The capsule that was projected to arrive at the international space station on Mon-



day will be followed by researchers from Malta who will also have a direct connection to the biocube from a small mission control centre in Qormi managed by ARKAFORT. From there, the experiment would be closely monitored for progress for about 50/60 days. The researchers would be able to upload or download data from the biocube and access data such as temperature or control certain parameters.

On its return to Malta the box will be opened from the international space station. When Profs Borg and his team examine the results from space, they would be able to compare them with those from the university labs and see if there are different biomarkers or genes, and if so see what can be

done to make healing and medicines that are not currently effective, effective, in order to improve the cure for patients.

The project is also part of Christine Gatt's doctorate at the University of Malta.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology as well as Explora have also made a contribution related to Malta's relations with the European Space Agency (ESA) where the French astronaut Thomas Pesquet is expected to write about the project in the coming days.

The public can also engage directly with the project, voluntarily supporting and securing small prizes connected to the "Maleth" Project. https://zaar.com.mt/projects/maleth

Silver-T service for senior 60+ citizens

he Silver-T service, a free transport service for the 60+ senior citizens who would need to visit service providers in their locality, has been extended to 20 new localities around Malta.

With the announcement of other localities, the Ministry for Senior Citizens will have accomplished 90% of the budgetary measures for this year.

The Silver-T service operates from Monday to Friday, from 7.00am to 2.00pm and provides transport for senior citizens wishing to call for a service at places such as the local bank, the market/shopping centre, the health clinic, the local council office and other such entities.

The Silver-T service takes the senior citizens from their residence to anywhere in the same locality. To use it they just need to make a phone call.

Malta to host important 2022 Yacht Racing Forum

alta is to host the 2022 Yacht Racing Forum. The event in November next year is the only business to business conference that brings together over two days, over 300 key players from across the whole yacht racing industry to discuss the challenges the industry and sport are facing and to share best practices.

The first Yacht Racing Forum took place in 2008 in Monaco. Since then the Forum has been hosted annually, bar for a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, in some of Europe's prominent naval cities. Malta first hosted the forum in 2016

Throughout the two-day conference, key personalities and industry influencers who are very much involved and are considered to be pioneers and influential in their respective areas, will visit Malta for two full days of discussions.

The hosting of the Forum is the result of Yachting Malta's efforts to consolidate Malta's position as an international hub for major events such as Rolex Middle Sea Race, the Bailli de Suffren, the Euromed Regatta and the B'Bugia International Regatta.

MaxCom Event Organiser Bernard

Schopfer said the hosting of the Forum in Malta in 2022 was excellent news, particularly after two difficult years. He said that the Yachting community has already experienced what Malta has to offer in 2016 and they will be looking forward to a high quality event.





Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Muscat jghid tieghu

ak li ddomina parti sewwa mill-midja Maltija flaħar jiem kienet intervista' li l-eks-Prim Ministru, Joseph Muscat ta lill-ġurnal bl-Ingliż *The Times* (ta' Malta) li kienet ilha snin tiġri warajh biex itiha intervista imma iżda qatt ma kien sab ħin biex jagħtiha din l-intervista.

Kien biss, wara li ħareġ ir-rapport tal-Inkjesta Pubblika dwar lqtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia li Muscat aċċetta l-istedina u *The Times* li firxet din l-intervista fuq żewġ ħarġiet. Bla dubju li l-intervista ġibdet l-attenzjoni ta' ħafna qarrejja u għadd ġmielu ta' kummenti.

L-iktar li ngħata importanza minn parti mill-midja fl-ewwel parti tal-intervista kien li "Joseph Muscat refuses to rule out a return to politics" (The Times) u Joseph Muscat refuses to rule out return to politics in Times of Malta interview (The Independent).

Dan billi waqt l-intervista' ghall-mistoqsija jekk kienx qed gurnali l-ohrajn kwazi jirre jahseb biex jirritorna mill-gdid filpolitika, wiegeb "If they keep annoying me, I do not exclude it," u

Intervista li serqet ix-xena

kompla, "I'm giving you something for people to think about. Because people say I'm going to contest, so I figured I'd say I don't exclude it."

Imma Muscat għamilha ċara li ma kienx se jikkontesta l-elezzjoni ġenerali li ġejja jew se jerġa' jikkontesta għall-mexxej.

Anke l-ġurnal elettroniku tal-Partit Nazzjonalista ffoka fuq l-istess parti tal-intervista billi qal: "Jhedded li jidħol lura fil-politika jekk in-nies jibqgħu jdejquh".

Bil-Partit Nazzjonalista u l-kummentaturi li s-soltu jappoģģjaw lill-PN isostnu li bi kliemu Muscat kien qed jhedded lill-mexxej preżenti tal-Partit Laburista li jekk idejqu kien se jikkontesta l-elezzjonijiet. Il-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Bernard Grech żewwaqha billi qal: "Abela mhedded minn Muscat u l-kontinwità tal-iżjed bniedem korrott tal-2019" u li dan (Abela) għalhekk ma kienx se jagħmel dak li qed jgħidlu kulħadd, inkluż uħud li jimmilitaw fil-Partit Laburista, u jiċħad u jkeċċi lil Joseph Muscat.

Min-naħa l-oħra l̄-gazzetta Maltatoday iffokat fuq parti oħra tal-intervista "'I still feel the people's love', says former PM Joseph Muscat of Labour support". Dan b'referenza għal dik il-parti tal-intervista' fejn Muscat ġie mistoqsi dwar il-fatt li kien hemm xi Laburisti li kienu qed jinsistu li minħabba r-relazzjoni li kellu ma' Keith Schembri, Yorgen Fenech u oħrajn kif ukoll akkużi oħra kellu jitneħħa mill-Partit Laburista, b'Muscat iwieġeb:

"I see a charus of people supporting me. While others might share different views, in the last weeks I've seen an unprecedented number of people supporting me. In reality, it's irrelevant. I still feel the people's love but I can't gauge if I'm still popular or not... There are a number of people who have a right to express themselves and the media is promoting that opinion.

"What I can say is there's a lot of support. I did what I had to do, I never feared people's judgement and I never told anyone to shut up. I hope I'm allowed the same freedom to express myself." Il-gazzetta Illum ghafset dwar il-parti fejn Muscat ikkritika bisshih lill-Partit Nazzjonalista: "FATF: 'Filwaqt li ħaddieħor magħ-



qud ... f'Malta hawn oppożizzjoni li tinċità kontra Malta"

Illum irreferit għal dik il-parti tal-intervista fejn Muscat sostna li hu jinsab infurmat li kien hemm pajjiżi bħall-Finlandja li kellhom rapporti dwar l-immaniġġjar ta' ħasil ta' flus u ffinanzjar tat-terroriżmu li kienu "ħafna agħar" minn dak ta' Malta iżda li xorta ma spiċċawx fuq il-Lista l-Griża tal-FATF.

Muscat sostna li "id-differenza hija li filwaqt li pajjiżi oħrajn kienu magħqudin, fil-każ tagħna kull meta jkun hemm Gvern Laburista, l-oppożizzjoni ma tgħinx."

Dan ġab reazzjoni mill-Partit Nazzjonalista li qal li Muscat

"Għadu jwaħħal fil-PN għan-nuqasijiet qarsa kollha tiegħu." L-aktar li spikka bħala titlu dwar it-tieni parti tal-intervista ma Muscat kien jirrifletti t-titlu li għażlet The SundayTimes għall-Intervista: 'I will never ditch Keith Schembri' - Joseph Muscat, bilgurnali l-oħrajn kważi jirrepetu l-istess titlu: 'Keith did several

gurnali l-oħrajn kważi jirrepetu l-istess titlu: 'Keith did several good things': Muscat's unbreakable bond with former chief of staff (Maltatoday). "Former PM Joseph

Muscat says he will not ditch Keith Schembri in Times of Malta interview (The Independent).

Muscat kien qed iwiegeb ghall-mistoqsija dwar jekk kienx ihossu ttradut minn Keith Schembri li kien iċ-ċhief of staff tiegħu, u jekk kienx għadu f'kuntatt miegħu.

Muscat ikkonferma li hu kien għadu f'kuntatt ma' Schembri għalkemm kien hemm xi zmien li kien qata' dan il-kuntatt, imma meta sar jaf minn x'hix Schembri kien għaddej (dan bħalissa għaddej minn problemi serji ta' saħħa) kompla b'dan il-kuntatt: "I believe that Keith did several good things. I will allow justice

"I believe that Keith did several good things. I will allow justice to take its course, he is being investigated. I will definitely not ditch a person I know in this situation, knowing what he is going through. I might be in the wrong, I might be in the right. But I will definitely not ditch him."

Min-naħa l-oħra, l-Illum iffokat fuq l-insistenza ta' Muscat li hu ma kellu x'jaqsam xejn mal-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia billi kitbet: "Muscat dwar Schembri: 'L-investigaturi fil-qtil ta' Daphne qatt u b'ebda mod ma semmew ismu miegħi' u kkwotat lill-eks-Prim Ministru jgħid: "I think that Keith took many decisions with genuine intentions. Time and the course [of affairs] will tell us what his role was in all these things. And I'm not going to judge him in advance. What is sure is that in Daphne's case, investigators never, in any way, flagged him to me. Never."

Il-ġurnal elettroniku *Onenews* tal-Partit Laburista u dak tal-General Workers Union: *iNews* injoraw totalment din l-intervista.

Digá inkiteb ħafna dwar din l-intervista fejn mhux biss kien hemm għadd ġmielu ta' kummentaturi li sintendi sfugaw dak li kellhom fl-istonku tagħhom, iżda saħansitra kien hemm min ħadha qatta' bla ħabel għax it-*Times* intervistat lil Muscat u anke waslu biex qalu li Muscat inqeda b'dan l-istess ġurnal.

U naħseb li għad nisimgħu u naqraw ħafna aktar dwarha. (Wieħed jista' jara u jisma' l-intervista' kollha (80 minuta) ta' Muscat ma The Times billi jidħol f'The Times tat-23 ta' Awwissu 2021)

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija



minn Ġużè Camilleri



Sorijiet Filippini jiģu għal klawsura f'Malta

nwarrbu ftit dak li pjuttost għandu x'jaqsam mal-politika u mmorru filqasam reliġjuż.

Kulhadd jaf kemm l-ghadd tal-kleru u tarreliģiużi f'Malta kulma ma jmur qed jonqos. Dan qed ihossuh mhux biss il-Maltin f'pa-jjiżhom, imma wkoll dawk il-Maltin imsiefra li sa ftit taż-żmien ilu kienu mdorrijin li jsibu xi saċerdot jew reliģiuż Malti fil-parroċċi tagħhom, u issa ma għadhomx isibuh.

Wiehed mill-akbar monasteri tas-sorijiet li jinsab il-Belt hu dak ta' Santa Katerina tal-Agostinjani li jilqa' fih is-sorijiet talklawsura.

Il-mewt ta waħda mis-sorijiet ftit tal-jiem ilu ħalliet lil dan il-kunvent, li fiż-żminijiet imgħoddija kien jospita' madwar 60 soru, b'erba' sorijiet biss, ilkoll kemm huma mdaħħlin fl-etá.

Minkejja, li f'dawn l-aħħar snin għadd ta'

nies kienu jagħtu daqqa t'id lil dawn issorijiet, issa kien u għadu diffiċli biex wieħed iżomm monasteru daqshekk kbir għal erba' min-nies u għalhekk bosta kienu qed jaraw li l-futur tal-Monasteru kien se jfisser l-għeluq tal-bibien tiegħu darba għal dejjem.

Imma jidher li hemm tama li dan ma jsirx, għax bil-ħidma tal-Kommunitá Agostinjana ġew imħajjra xi sorijiet barranin talistess Ordni mill-Fillipini biex jiġu jgħixu f'dan il-Monasteru u hekk ituh ħajja ġdida. Insomma fejn qabel konna nibagħtu s-sori-

jiet minn Malta ghall-missjoni u f'diversi pajjizi, fosthom fejn hemm l-emigranti

Maltin, spiċċajna biex se jkollna nġibu s-sorijiet minn barra biex inżommu l-Kunventi tagħna miftuħin

Il-pandemija COVID 19 u Malta

Jidher li f'Malta r-regolamenti li qeghdin fis-sehh u fejn fil-fatt ghandna l-oghla rata ta' tilqim fid-dinja, qed ihallu effett ghax ghalkemm xorta ghad qed jit-faccaw ta' kuljum xi nies li jigu nfettati bil-Covid-19 — bl-ghadd totali jibqa' taht il-100, kif ukoll xi mwiet, jidher li s-sitwazzjoni tinsab taht kontroll.

Dan ikompli jikkonfermah il-fatt li l-ghadd ta' persuni rikoverati fl-Isptar nizel ghal 33, bi tnejn minnhom ghall-kura fit-Taqsima tal-Kura Intensiva.

Ghal dak li ghandu x'jaqsam mat-tilqim, Malta ghandha percentwal ta' aktar minn 90% talimlaqqmin minn 12-il sean 'l fuq biż-żewġ dożi.

Li jispikka hu l-fatt li filwaqt li f'diversi pajjiżi l-Covid-19 gabet il-qagħad, mhux hekk f'Malta. Anzi bil-maqlub għax skont l-aħħar ċifri l-qagħad bħalissa huwa l-inqas li qatt kien fl-istorja, bl-għadd ta' dawk jirreġistraw għax-xogħol f'Lulju jkun ta' 1,542, tnaqqis ta' 2,439 meta mqabbel mal-istess xahar fl-2020.

Saħansitra kien reģistrat tnaqqis ukoll fost il-persuni b'diżabilità. L-aktar xogħol li kienu qed japplikaw għalih l-irġiel u n-nisa kien dak klerikali bi 22.8% u 42.5% rispettivament.

Qassis kontroversjali

Mis-sorijiet induru għall-membri maskili tal-kleru, u kif jiġri fi kwalinkwe qasam tas-soċjetà, insibu dawk l-individwi li b'dak li jgħidu, jiktbu u jagħmlu jispiċċaw fl-istampa.

Wiehed minn dawn huwa Fr David Muscat, li mhux darba u tnejn semmejtu fl-artikli tieghi ghal xi azzjoni li jkun ghamel jew ghal dak li jkun qal jew kiteb.

Din id-darba inqeda mis-sitwazzjoni prezenti fl-Afganistan biex fil-blog tiegħu taħt it-titlu "The Taliban are us" qabbel lill-poplu Malti mat-Talibani. Fost ir-raġunijiet għal dan mogħtija minn Muscat kien hemm l-introduzzjoni tal-whitepaper mill-Gvern għall-użu responsabbli tal-Kannabis, li, qal hija eżempju ta' dan billi qal li bħalma fl-Afganistan il-fjura tal-opium hija importanti għall-ekonomija, il-Gvern Malti qed jittanta jagħmel l-istess bil-ħaxixa.

Skont dan il-qassis, ir-raģuni għaliex il-Maltin huma bħat-Talibani messet ukoll mal-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna. Fr David Muscat kkritika lill-Arċisqof talli ippoża għal ritratt fl-inawgurazzjoni tal-proġett tad-dwal li fiż-żmien li ġej se jixgħelu l-koppla tar-Rotunda fil-Mosta.

Il-qassis konoversjali sahansitra ta' x'jifhem li ftit hemm differenza bejn it-Talibani u l-membri tal-Kleru f'Malta.



Patri jaghmel ta' rasu

Eks-patri Frangiskan Adrijanu Cachia ta' 75 sena kien iddecieda li minflok jibqa' fil-Kunvent imur jgħix fid-dar privata tiegħu u baqa' jgħix hemm minkejja li s-superjuri tiegħu ordnawlu biex jimxi skont ir-regolamenti tal-Ordni talpatrijiet u imur lura l-Kunvent. Hu rrifjuta u baqa' fid-dar jagħti kenn joffrilhom saqaf u ikel lil min ma għandux.

Hames snin ilu l-Ordni Franģiskana hadet il-passi biex Adrianu ma jibqax jitqies bhala membru tal-Ordni. Minkejja dan, baqa' attiv fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-festi f'diversi lokalitajiet, li wassal biex il-Kurja tohroġ stqarrija tfakkar li Adrijanu m'ghadux Patri Franġiskan Minuri u m'ghandux permess jeżerċitá l-ministeru saċerdotali fil-pubbliku.

Hu baqa' jisfida u Quddiesa fil-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Hal-Gharghur fejn kienet qed tiċċelebra l-festa ta' San Bert twaqqfet hesrem wara li l-kappillan telaq minn fuq l-altar fil-mument li Cachia nghaqad maċ-ċelebrant fil-mument tat-tqarbin.

Parruccani qalu li raw l-argument bejn il-kappillan u l-patri sospiż biswit l-altar; sakemm il-kapillan Christopher Galea waqqaf il-quddies u daħal fis-sagristija.

L-argument inqala' meta l-patri sospiż libes l-istola u ngħaqad mal-kappillan fuq l-altar qabel beda t-tqarbin. Huwa mifhum li l-patri kien ikkontesta d-deċiżjoni u l-każ għadu pendenti.



A quick glympse at Australia

Rallies across Australia against

the vaccine

ore than 4,000 people flocked to the Melbourne CBD on Saturday for the unlawful anti-lockdown protest, as similar, smaller 'freedom rally' demonstrations were also held in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. Outside Flinders Street Station police faced off with protesters and pepper sprayed them. Footage posted on social media also showed crowds of mask-less people cheering and letting off flares. Victoria Police said in a statement that the majority of those who attended the protest "came with violence in mind".

In Sydney, the NSW Police Force of 1,500 prevented large numbers from attending a demonstration in the city. An alleged organiser of the Sydney protest was sentenced to at least three months' jail for failing to comply with NSW public health orders.

In Brisbane, the National Rally for Peace, Freedom and Human Rights was held at Botanic Gardens; no arrests were made, while in Perth, about 1,000 people gathered at the Kings Park war memorial for a rally that was condemned by RSL (Returned Service League).



Heal the divide over lockdown rules

A s residents in parts of western and south-western Sydney (12 local government areas) come under harsher COVID-19 rules, community leaders have called on the state's premier to "heal the divide that has emerged in Greater Sydney".

Twenty-one councillors across the LGAs of concern wrote a joint letter to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian calling for more "consistent" restrictions and enforcement across the Greater Sydney region. "For many

Six million doses, still in lockdown

The State of NSW has its coronavirus vaccination target of six million doses administered across the State. Leading the State was the suburb of Edmondson Park in the city of Liverpool, where the suburb is located.

The Mayor, Wendy Waller said that the suburb's strong uptake is because most of the folks are migrants. "They've got family members who are obviously doing it tough overseas with COVID, and they've seen what's coming; they've decided right before anyone else to go and get their vaccines.

Meanwhile, the New South Wales government has unveiled a roadmap to re-opening, with new "freedoms" on offer for fully vaccinated residents from 13 September. It came on the same day the State marked another record jump in COVID-19 infections.

weeks now, our LGAs have faced restrictions over and above the rest of Sydney. The recent implementation of a curfew, exclusively for the LGAs of concern, despite your prior statements that curfews weren't effective, being the latest example," they wrote.

"Clear, consistent and easy to follow information during a crisis saves lives, especially amongst low socio economic and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

"It has also fomented a dangerous undercurrent of resentment in our community, creating a deep divide between the 'LGAs of concern' and the rest of Sydney," they wrote.

No blank cheque on climate change

Prime Minister Scott Morrison is making no commitment to adopt a more ambitious 2030 emissions reduction target after a new United Nations report's dire warning on climate change. Mr Morrison has stressed he is committed to action on climate change but said regional Australia would not be made to carry the burden of driving down emissions.

"I won't be signing a blank cheque on behalf of Australians to targets without plans. I will not be asking people in the regions of this country to carry the burden for the country alone," he said.

Many international counterparts have committed to net-zero by 2050, and others, including the United States and the United Kingdom, have recently substantially increased the ambition of their 2030 targets.

The Australian government has committed to cutting emissions by 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. Labor's Senate Leader Penny Wong said Australia had an "obligation" to take action and accused the government of refusing to "shoulder responsibility". "The race against climate change is one we have to win," she said.

The coalition simply occupy space

The Labor Federal leader of the Opposition, Anthony Albanese, in a fiery article in one of the leading daily newspapers, accused the Prime Minister and the Liberal/National coalition in office of nearly a decade for their many failures and lost opportunities.

"They do not think ahead; they do not have an agenda. They simply occupy space, and if things go wrong, he refuses to take responsibility. The PM had no plan for the Black Summer Bushfires; he bungled the two main jobs he had this

year. Roll out vaccinations and fixing our broken quarantine system.

"As a result, millions of Australians are in lockdown as the rest of the developed world begins to get back to normal.

"There is no economic management. While the covid pandemic has hammered the economy, the truth is that before we even had heard of Covid, debt was at record high levels and growth in family incomes had stalled while costs like health care were rising" concluded Mr Albanese.



A quick glympse at Australia



More refugees from Afghanistan?

iberal MP John Alexander says his government's allocation of just 3,000 places this financial year for at-risk Afghans falls short of commitments made by other countries.

The Federal Government should follow the example of previous prime ministers that created special programmes to take in tens of thousands of refugees.

Under Tony Abbott, an intake of 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees was announced. Bob Hawke and Malcolm Fraser also created dedicated programs for Chinese and Vietnamese refugees.

"We have a duty to provide sanctuary to Afghan refugees, as Australia played its own small part in the creation of the situation that we now see before us. It's a matter of national honour."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said the figure was a "floor, not a ceiling" and the allotment could increase. The government says it has granted more than 8,500 visas to Afghans through Australia's humanitarian programme since 2013.

Australia's stay in Afghanistan was not in vain

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has denied Australia's 20-year involvement in Afghanistan was in vain after the Taliban seized control in Kabul.

PM Scott Morrison says

Meanwhile, the Taliban claims 'war is over in Afghanistan', and is calling for ever, the

"No Australian who has ever fallen in our uniform has ever died in vain - ever, Freedom is always worth it, fighting for it, whatever the outcome.

"But importantly, the reason that we went there was to track down Osama Bin Laden and to ensure that we denied al-Qaeda a base of operations out of Afghanistan," the PM said. Meanwhile, the Taliban claims 'war is over in Afghanistan', and is calling for peaceful relations with foreign powers. The final Australian troops left Afghanistan on 28 May, and some 400 locally engaged employees and their families have already been resettled in Australia since April this year.

According to the Costs of War project at Brown University, as of April 2021, the war has killed 171,000 to 174,000 people

in Afghanistan; 47,245 Afghan civilians, 66,000 to 69,000 Afghan military and police and

at least 51,000 opposition fighters. However, the death toll is possibly higher due to unaccounted deaths by "disease, loss of access to food, water, infrastructure, and/or other indirect consequences of the war".

In March 2013, Linda Bilmes, a Senior Lecturer of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, estimated that the total costs of the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq would come to total at least US\$4 to \$6 trillion.

The two wars were counted as one cost due to their occurring simultaneously and using many of the same US troops. Collectively, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are expected become the most expensive wars in US history.

Moral obligation to rebuild Afghanistan

Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen says Afghanistan is in "dire need" of foreign assistance and claims the militant group will provide a "secure environment" to foreign nationals to facilitate it. In a number of audio messages sent in response to questions from SBS Pashto, he says countries that were involved in the "occupation" of Afghanistan like America and Australia during the decades-long conflict had a "moral obligation" to rebuild the country.

"During the past 20 years, our country was occupied, and we were fighting for the liberation of our country. Now that this chapter is coming to an end, foreign forces are withdrawing completely from our country, there is a need for foreign construction in Afghanistan," Mr Shaheen, who was a member of the group's negotiating team during peace talks with the US said.

"A new phase has started where all countries who were involved in the destruction of our country and occupation, have a moral obligation to also [be] involved in

helping the people of Afghanistan have a dignified life and to help [in the] rebuilding of Afghanistan."



Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija u dawk li matul is-sekli ħadmu għall-iżvilupp tal-ilsien Malti

Wieħed mill-aktar kittieba u awturi ta' kotba magħruf f'Malta f'dawn iż-żminijiet huwa Trevor Zahra li għall-ewwel il-popolaritá beda jiksibha bil-kotba tiegħu immirati lejn it-tfal. Tant li x'aktarx li ma ssibx tifel jew tifla li ma jafux bih jew li mhumiex kapaċi jsemmulek imqar xi ktieb wieħed minn tiegħu jew xi karattru li ħoloq.

Imma Trevor li kiteb patafjun ta' kotba hu popolari wkoll mal-qarrejja kbar li permezz tal-kitba leġġera u minn xi daqqiet umoristika tiegħu, u tal-karattri li ħoloq, tħeġġew biex jaqraw bil-Malti. Għal ftit żmien Trevor anke kkontribwixxa b'kitbietu għall-istazzjon tat-TV nazzjonali bħala scriptwriter u pproduċa wkoll programmi għat-tfal.

TREVOR ŻAHRA – awtur tal-kotba li għin ikebbeż l-imħabba għall-qari

revor Zahra, bin Walter u Ġuża nee Caruana, imwieled iż-Zejtun fl-1947, it-tielet minn erba' aħwa beda l-istudji tiegħu fl-iskola primarja ta' raħal twelidu qabel għadda għall-iskola sekondarja Teknika ta' Raħal Ġdid u l-Liċeo.

Sa minn kmieni f'zogħzitu kien diġa' beda juri interess fil-kitba u l-arti, u ippubblika l-ewwel poeziji tiegħu fil-gazzetta għat-tfal ta' dak iz-zmien, *The Children's Own*. Ippubblika wkoll xogħol minn tiegħu fil-gazzetta Il-Berqa u f'xi rivisti oħra.

Bħala membru tal-Azzjoni Kattolika taż-Żejtun kien attiv ħafna fil-palk billi jirreċta, ipinġi x-xenarju u jikteb xi fares. Kien ukoll idoqq fi grupp mużikali u jeditja rivista bejn il-membri.

Fl-1966 dahal jiehu t-tahriģ fil-kulleģģ tal-ghalliema St Michael's f'San Ġiljan u sentejn wara iggradwa biex beda jghallem il-Malti u Arti fl-iskejjel Sekondarji.

Għal xi żmien fl-istess sena li beda l-kors ta' għalliem daħal jaħdem ukoll mal-istaz-zjon nazzonali tat-televiżjoni bħala kittieb, presentation officer u produttur ta' programmi għat-tfal.

Fl-1971 fl-etá ta' 24 sena huwa żżewweg lil Stella, xebba Agius, u kellhom żewg ulied, Ruben u Marija. Huwa romol (fl-1989) wara l-mewt ta' martu wara 18-il sena żwieg. Għamel karrirea ta' 33 sena bħala għalliem qabel irtira mill-professjoni, biex intefa' aktar għall-kitba tal-kotba bil-Malti li żiedu jagħmluh popolari

mal-qarrejja.

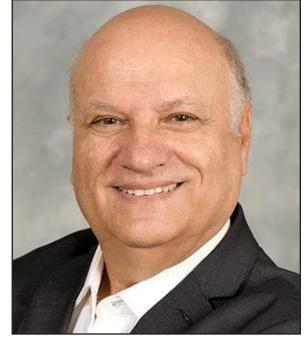
Fost l-ewwel kitbiet tiegħu f'dak iż-żmien, kien hemm *Il-Praspar ta' Kunċett u Marinton* li għadhom popolari sal-lum, u li bosta minnhom kitibhom meta kien fir-raba' sena ta' l-iskola sekondarja.

Kien fl-istess sena taż-żwieġ, fl-1971 li ippubblika l-ewwel ktieb tiegħu, *Il-Pulena tad-Deheb* li kisiblu suċċess millewwel u tah il-kuraġġ biex minnufih jinxteħet b'ruħu u b'ġismu fil-qasam tal-kitba għat-tfal.

B'danakollu lanqas qatt ma waqaf mill-kitba maħsuba għall-kbar u fl-1972 ippubblika l-ġabra ta' poeżiji *Eden*, filwaqt li s-sena ta' wara ippubblika l-ewwel rumanz tiegħu, *Is-Surmast*, li għoxrin sesena wara anke adattah għallpalk u għal sentejn wara xulxinġie ippreżentah b'suċċess fit-Teatru Manoel.

Imbagħad fl-1974, ippubblika r-rumanz *Taħt il-Weraq tal-Palm* li bih kien rebaħ lewwel premju f'konkors imniedi mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin.

Minn dakinhar Żahra baqa' jippubblika mingħajr waqfien kemm kotba għat-tfal kif ukoll għall-kbar. Ippubblika wkoll l-ewwel



workbooks ta' tagħlim tal-Malti għat-tfal.

Sal-lum, bejn kotba għat-tfal iż-żgħar, traduzzjonijiet, kif ukoll letteratura għall-kbar, huwa ippubblika 'l fuq minn 130 ktieb

Žahra huwa kapaći wkoll fit-tpinģija u filfatt, minbarra li jikteb, hu stess ifassal u jipprodući l-kotba tiegħu u jagħmel ukoll it-tpinģijiet dwar il-karattri, xenerji u episodji li dwarhom ikun qed jikeb, xi haġa li tkompli tagħmel kitbietu aktar attraenti.

Huwa anke esebixxa għadd ta' illustrazzjonijiet tiegħu f'wirjiet internazzjonali u attenda wkoll seminars fil-Finandja u fl-Awstrija dwar il-midja u l-produzzjoni tattextbooks. Zar ukoll fuq stedina l-Ġermanja għal workshops dwar il-kitba kreattiya għat-tfal.

Zahra, li jghid li aktar haġa diffiċli ghalih hija li jsib materjal oriġinali ghall-istejjer tieghu, rebah ghadd ta' premjijiet letterarji prestiġjużi, fosthom, ghal seba' darbiet, il-Premju Letterarju mniedi mill-Gvern. F'Diċembru tal-2004 bhala rikonoxximent ghall-hidma tieghu b'riżq il-letteratura ghat-tfal, inghata l-Midalja ghall-Qadi tar-Repubblika.







Jigi mfakkar l-Assedju tal-1551 ta' Għawdex

an l-aħħar saret it-tifkira tal-470 sena mill-Assedju ta' Għawdex fl-1551, il-ġrajja traġika, meta l-flotta Ottomana attakkat il-gżira wara li kienet qatgħet qalbha milli tirbaħ lil Malta. Dakinhar kienu tilfu ħajjithom għadd kbir ta' Għawdxin filwaqt li l-bqija tal-popolazzjoni ġiet imkaxkra lejn l-eżilju fejn ħafna qattgħu l-bqija ta' ħajjithom fil-jasar u qatt ma reġgħu kura lejn art twelidhom.

Din it-tifkira saret fuq inizjattiva tal-Kumitat Čelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali u Reģjonali fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex u għalija kien preżenti l-Ministru għal Għawdex, Clint Camilleri u għadd ta' mistednin distinti oħra.

Fil-lejla sar qari ta' siltiet mill-ktieb *L-Assedju ta' Għawdex tal-1551 u l-Ġrajja ta' Bernado De Opuo*, il-ktieb li ħareġ fuq inizjattiva tal-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

Il-qari sar minn Lily Said, li wkoll ipprezentat l-attivitá, u l-awtur tal-ktieb Carm Cachia. Kien hemm ukoll siltiet mużikali mill-Cordia String Quartet u żifniet adattati għall-okkażjoni minn Cristabel & Co. Dancers.

Fit tmiem tpoġġew kuruni mal-Monument tal-Assedju tal-1551 fit-telgħa lejn iċ-Ċittadella.



Kamp tas-Sajf tal-iscouts b'differenza

Minhabba il-pandemija l-Kamp tas-Sajf ta' kull sena tal-Victoria Scout Group u li normalment isir f'Awwissu, u l-ahhar wiehed f'Lulju 2019 bil-partecipazzjoni ta' 100 membru tal-grupp, din is-sena kien differenti b'ghadd ferm izghar.

(xellug) ipoġġi l-kuruna mal-monument tattifkira fiċ-Ċittadella. LEMIN: Żfin minn Crista-

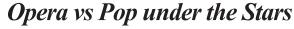
bel & Co. Dancers fit-tifkira tal-Assedju

Il-kamp kien miftuh ghal-leaders u l-Venture Scouts, imma l-membri żżghar xorta wahda kellhom l-opportunità li jissiehbu maghhom f'ġurnata ppakkjata b'attivitajiet, fosthom bilcamp BBQ u l-camp fire.

Ghal-leaders il-kamp serva wkoll bhala team building u ghalhekk ġew organizzati diversi attivitajiet fosthom loghob fil-bahar, scuba diving, u ikliet b'temi kulinarji differenti, fosthom, ikel Indjan.

harles Spite

Xi haga ġdida kien *workshop* dwar is-Safeguarding of Minors, immexxi minn Fr. Joseph Farrugia bil-għan li jikber l-għarfien dwar kif toħloq ambjenti iktar sigur għat-tfal u adoloxxenti.



Fil-bitha nterna tal-bini li jospita' l-Ministeru għal Għawdex saret it-13-il edizzjoni tal-ispettaklu mużikali *Opera vs Pop under the Stars*, li fih ħadu sehem is-solisti Nicola Said, Noel Galea, Ludwig Galea, Francesco Nicodeme u ż-żagħżugħa Sarah Bonnici.

Is-Sopran Pamela Agius din is-sena ma setgħetx tiġi mill-Istati Uniti imma bagħtet messaġġ permezz ta' video. Fl-ewwel parti tas-serata ħadet sehm il-Gozo Youth Wind Band & Orchestra, immexxija mill-fundatur tagħha Mro Joseph Grech.

Din l-orkestra esegwiet siltiet mużikali mill-opri u mużika klassika tal-magħrufa kompożituri Giuseppe Verdi, Gaetano Donizetti, Johann Strauss, Giacomo Puccini, Mozart u De Curtis, u wkoll mużika pop minn sound tracks tal-films u musicals popolari.

Opera vs Pop under the Stars ittellghet bil-kolloborazzjoni tal-Ministeru ghal Ghawdex, l-Ambaxxata Amerikana ghal Malta, is-Sezzjoni tal-Kultura fi hdan il-Ministeru ghal Ghawdex, l-MTA u sponsors ohra.



The Tampa affair – 20 years on The boat that rocked Australia's asylum seeker policy

numbers of people attempted to travel to Australia by boat to seek asylum. boat in distress: On 24 August 2001, a small wooden fishing boat, the Palapa 1, began to sink about 140 kilometres north of Christmas Island; off the far north coast of Western Australia, in what is

Even though the boat was small, it was carrying 438 mainly Hazara asylum seekers from Afghanistan. At the time, Hazaras were fleeing Afghanistan fearing persecution from the resurgent Taliban.

On 26 August, Australia's Rescue Coordination Centre sent a message to all ships in the vicinity of the sinking Palapa 1 saying a 35-metre Indonesian-type vessel with the words HELP and SOS written on the roof was adrift.

The closest ship to it was the Norwegian Tanker, MV Tampa, and its captain, Arne Rinnan, agreed to give assistance to the stricken boat, as was the customary law of the sea. The Tampa reached the sinking fishing boat, guided by an Australian Coastwatch aircraft.

considered international waters.

In an interview about the incident, Captain Rinnan said: "When we arrived, several of the refugees were obviously in a bad state and 10 to 12 of them were unconscious, several had dysentery and a pregnant woman was suffering abdominal pains".

After Captain Rinnan and his crew had rescued all on board, he received a call from Jakarta advising him to take them to the ferry port of Merak, Indonesia. But five of the asylum seekers visited the captain's bridge, demanding they were taken to Australia, specifically Christmas Island.

Fearing the asylum seekers might jump overboard or riot, Captain Rinnan agreed to alter course and head for Christmas Island. But the Australian government refused permission for the ship to enter Australia's territorial waters and threatened to prosecute Captain Arne Rinnan as a people smuggler if it did so.

As the ship prepared to cross into Australian territory, Captain Rinnan pleaded for permission to dock at Christmas Island, saying several of the asylum seekers were unconscious, and others were suffering from dysentery.

The Australian government provided medical assistance and food, but the standoff continued. Prime Minister John Howard vowed that none of the asylum seekers would be allowed to set foot on Australian soil.

On 29 August, Captain Rinnan lost pa-

tience with Australian authorities, declared a state of emergency, and proceeded to enter Australian territorial waters without

permission. The ship crossed the Australian maritime boundary and Australian authorities advised Rinnan that he was in "flagrant breach" of the law.

he Tampa affair, as it became known, was an incident at sea in 2001 that changed Australia's policy toward asylum seekers. At the time, increasing

> The government dispatched 45 Special Air Service tro-

ops to board the ship and prevent it from sailing any closer to Christmas Island.

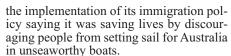
The 'Pacific Solution'

In just days, the government passed a series of laws known as the 'Pacific Solution' which meant asylum seekers arriving by boat could be processed offshore. Mr Howard said at the time: "I believe it is in Australia's national interest that we draw a line on what is becoming an uncontrollable number of illegal arrivals in this country".

By 1 September the government had secured agreements for the Tampa asylum seekers to be taken to New Zealand and Nauru to have their claims for refugee status processed. While 150 were sent to New Zealand, the rest remained on Nauru, some for up to three years.

Australia's handling of the Tampa affair and the implementation of the Pacific Solution attracted international criticism, which continues today. A 2018 article in The New York Times described the incident as "a lesson in how the dehumanisation of

> litical strate g y ". But the government of the time fended



on board

Just five weeks after the Tampa crisis, another wooden boat carrying 223 asylumseekers sank off Christmas Island. It was intercepted by the HMAS Adelaide on 7 October and the immigration minister at the time Phillip Ruddock claimed passengers on board had thrown their children overboard as part of a ploy to be rescued.

Even though a Senate inquiry into the incident found no children were at risk, the government's handling of the so-called incident, and of the Tampa affair, worked in its favour, with the Liberal-National Coalition gaining in popularity in opinion polls in the lead-up to a federal election.

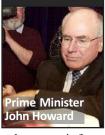
Mr Howard's government campaigned on tough border protection policies and national security, particularly in the wake of the 11 September terror attacks in New York that followed only weeks after the Tampa affair. During the campaign, Mr Howard said: "We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come".

The Labor Opposition

The Labor opposition leader at the time, Kim Beazley, accused the Howard Government of wedge politics by using asylum seekers as an issue to divide the electorate by polarising public opinion along racial lines. Border protection was also part of Labor's election campaign. Mr Beazley pledged to introduce "a proper coast guard", saying the country needed "a cop on the beat 52 weeks of the year".

Australia and its neighbours needed to work together to send the boats back or stop them before they leave, he said.

In November 2001, the Liberal-National Party was re-elected with an increased majority, despite having lagged behind the Labor opposition in opinion polls in the months preceding the Tampa crisis.





*to opposite page

The ultimate question

his short article may shock some of The Voice of the Maltese readers - but because of its critical importance I am sharing this information with everyone. As an afterlife expert researching the topic for thirty years – I urge you to obtain more information about this critical topic (take a look at my book on the internet A Lawyer Presents the Evidence For The Afterlife).

I submit that there is absolutely nothing in life as important as knowing in absolute terms what is going to happen to us when we inevitably die. The evidence presented by scientists and other experts has not been disproved by anyone in the world and cannot be rebutted because the evidence is objective and repeatable.

Willi

Basically, science now confirms many of the things we were brought up with in our Catholic religion in Malta - that there is God who created everything, that life continues after we die and that we will find ourselves in a place that corresponds with the level of spirituality we attained in life.

But while science accepts that there are 'low vibrational dark regions' in the afterlife that some people call 'hell', we now know that help is always available to those who are ready to accept it. Scientists have been, and are obtaining information directly from the higher afterlife spirits who confirm that there is no such thing as eternal damnation.

A great amount has changed in afterlife studies in the last thirty years and we now have testimonies from many thousands of people who have been dead for a short time and brought back to life through the miracle of modern resuscitation. These people are telling us what they experienced when they were physically dead for a short time.

We also know that at least 50% of people hear, see or otherwise sense a loved one after they have died. I have talked to a number of Maltese people who say "I saw my mother standing at the foot of my bed after she died. She looked much younger, was smiling and told me that she was fine. I know it was not a dream."

I also had sensational experiences when investigating materialisations (spirits materialise and become solid as we are) with materialisation medium David Thompson.

My younger sister who had died five years previously materialised for a few moments in the presence of seven people. It is sensational in the extreme to have a loved one materialise and speak with the same voice they had when they were alive. In my book I have a chapter on materialisations where I included scientists and others attesting to the 'miracle' of materialisations.

One of the most brilliant scientists in the world of his time, Professor Charles Richet, winner of the Noble Prize for Physiology, writes in his book 'Thirty Years of Psychical Research, "A living being ... formed (materialised) under our eyes ... a human being!"

The archives of the British Society for Psychical Research and the American Society for Psychical Research contain numerous accounts of materialisation mediums that were investigated for years by some of the leading scientists and professors of the day such as chemist and physicist Sir



William Crookes, Professor W.J. Crawford and Dr. Gustave Geley.

The answer to the question "what is going happen to us when we die" is very simple. If you have been a reasonable person, have no history of violence, cruelty, selfishness and negative behavior, you are very likely to end up in the Third Level of the Light – where you will be as solid as we are on earth. Just imagine a really beautiful place, with trees and flowers and accommodation as we have here.

Under normal circumstances we are met by our loved ones who help us cross over. For those who were reasonable in life, helped those who they could help – there is no need to fear at all. One does not have to be perfect to enter the realm of the Light.

Immediately after physical death our spirit body just comes out of the dead physical body and continues to live. But the most important thing to keep in mind is the purpose for our existence – to keep evolving spiritually.

Of course, there will be those who would like to know all the scientific evidence for the existence of the afterlife and that is the reason why I wrote the above-mentioned afterlife book where I included some twenty areas of afterlife evidence that have not been rebutted during these last twenty-five years

Some of the chapters are: Scientists Who Investigated the Afterlife, Quantum Physics and the Afterlife, Xenoglossy, Instrumental Trans-Communication, the Scole Experiment, Remote Viewing, The Cross Correspondences – and many other very interesting chapters.

Those who want to ask me any questions can contact me on victorzammt2@gmail.com or write to P.O. Box 1810 Dee Why NSW 2099. If you cannot afford my book as advertised on Amazon, I will send you a copy free of charge.

Victor**Zammit** (retired lawyer)

Victor Zammit has a B.A. in Psychology. He is a Graduate Diploma in Education, M.A. in Legal History and Constitutional Law, Bachelor of Laws degree, and Ph.D. in law. He is a retired attorney (solicitor/barrister) of the Supreme Court of the New South Wales and the High Court of Australia. Dr Zammit and his father, Virgilio Zammit OBE were both Presidents of the Maltese Community Council of NSW.

*from opposite page

Human rights lawyer Julian Burnside, along with several others, criticised the Australian government's handling of the Tampa crisis, saying it was a triumph of electoral cynicism over humanitarian need. The policy of boat turn-backs and offshore

The Tampa affair that changed Aussie policy

processing, implemented in the wake of the Tampa crisis, has remained a feature of conservative politics since. In May 2002, Captain Rinnan and his crew were pre-

sented with the Nansen Refugee Award, a human rights honour "for their personal courage and unique commitment to refugee protection" for rescuing the 438 asylum seekers.

*Reproduced by courtesy of SBS News – Felicity Davey

Palazzo Carafa u l-emigrazzjoni

l-belt storika ta' Malta Valletta għandha hafna palazzi u bini prezzjuż li jfakkarna fl-imghoddi. Fejn ghandha x'taqsam l-emigrazzjoni minn Malta u l-konnessjoni mal-knisja kattolika, il-belt hemm dak magħruf bħala Palazzo Carafa.

Wara hafna snin ta' diskussjonijiet, il-Kummissjoni tal-Ippjanar approvat irrestawr ta' dan il-palazz li jinkludi wkoll fih teatru. L-izvillupatur Neville Agius flimkien mal-perit Patrick Calleja ghandhom biċċa xogħol iebsa biex jispiċċaw dan il-proġett. Jingħad li f'dan il-palazz kien hemm l-ewwel cinema f'Malta, li sintendi dan ukoll se jigi restawrat.

Dan il-palazz għandu storja ta' 400 sena u



Il-faċċata ta' Palazzo Carafa

jinsab fil-kantuniera ta' bejn Triq 1-Ifran u Triq Řepubblika. Fisseklu 17 kien id-dar tal-Gran Mastru Fra Gregorio Carafa. Ilknisja kisbet din il-propjetá fl-1944 fi żmien 1-Arcisqof Mikiel Gonzi u serva bhala ċentru ghażżgħażagħ kattoliċi tal-belt Vallatta. Fih kien hemm ukoll 1-Unione Cattolica ta' San Ġużepp u 1-Istitut Taljan, Umberto Primo. Il-binja tal-palazz hija protetta bil-ligi bħala Grad

Il-palazz kien ukoll l-ewwel ufficcju li kellha l-Kummissjoni Emigranti qabel setghu jibnu Dar 1-Emigrant, biswit il-Barrakka ta' Fuq fl-1971. Izda aħna l-antiki niftakru sewwa kemm dan Palazzo Carafa għandu konnessjoni mal-emigrazzjoni għax fil-ħamsinijiet kien iċ-ċentru fejn kont trid tmur biex tikseb taghrif dwar l-emigrazzjoni li tant kienet meħtieġa biex "jeħilsu" mill-popolazzjoni stmata żejda ta'dawk iż-żmienijiet.

Hemmhekk kienu jsiru wkoll intervisti minn ufficjali Awstraljani biex stajna ningħażlu "bħala tajbin biżżejjed" biex nemigraw. Konna irridu ngħaddu minn process shih ta' eżamijiet medici u fiżiċi. Xejn ma kien faċli, u finalment kont trid togħġob lill-Awstraljan. Il-konessjoni bejn l-emigrazzjoni u l-



knisja kienet ħaga waħda. Il-knisja dejjem riedet li tibgħatna lejn l-Awstralja mhux biex nirnexxu biss fil-hajja ġdida tagħna iżda biex inżommu ħajja r-reliģjon kattolika. Dnub li illum il-knisja kattolika abbandunatna waqt li dhalna fl-ahhar ta'

Meta l-użu ta' ċerti binjiet storiċi bħall-Palazzo Carafa, jongos, jithellew fi stat ta' abbandun. Hekk ġralu dan il-palazz iżda dan l-aħħar il-knisja għaddietu lil żviluppatur biex jirresawrah u jiehdu lura lejn il-palazz ġlorjuz li kien qabel. Skont il-knisja, din minn dejjem kienet il-filosofija taghha u mhux dik li taghmel xi gwadan finanzjarju.

Lawrence Dimech

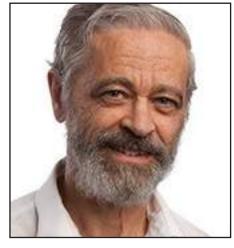
Fr. Peter Caruana who served Ingleburn and Minto communities as Parish Priest for 36 years dies at 76

On August 3 last, the Bishop of Wollongong Brian Mascord made a statement that shocked the Maltese of Wollongong and the Catholic congregation of the Holy Family Catholic Parish of Ingleburn. He sated: "It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Fr Peter Caruana, retired parish priest of 36 years at Holy Family Catholic Parish, Ingleburn".

The Bishop went on to state that Fr Peter died in Wollongong Hospital after his condition deteriorated very quickly that same

morning, "and he passed away peacefully." Fr. Peter emigrated to Australia when he was still only five-an- a-half-years old with his mother Mary and four other siblings in 1951 to join their father and Mary's husband Abraham who arrived in Australia in 1949 from Birkirkara, Malta. They Arrived in Sydney on January 26. Mary and Abraham Caruana had fourteen children. The family lived at Lake Heights NSW, suburb of Wollongong.

From an early age, Peter the eldest of the fourteen children knew he wanted to be-



come a priest and at age eighteen he began his studies for priesthood at the Springwood Seminary and later at St. Patrick's College, Manly. At the age of 25 on 15 August 1970, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Wollongong, by

Bishop Thomas McCabe at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

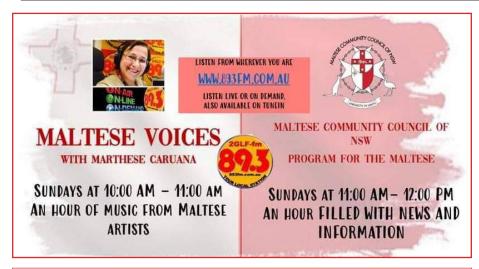
Fr Peter was appointed parish priest of Holy Family Catholic Parish Ingleburn in 1984 and faithfully served the Ingleburn and Minto communities

Fr Peter was a committed parish priest of Ingleburn and Minto for over 36 of his 51 years in the priesthood. He was resolute in the construction of the new Holy Family Church at Ingleburn. In February 2017, the church was joyfully dedicated to the honour and glory of God. At the age of 75 on 17 August 2020, Fr Peter reluctantly retired and moved to the neighbouring suburb of

During his 51 years in the priesthood he had several appointments: 1971–1972 West Wollongong Assistant Priest; 1972–1976 Dapto Assistant Priest; 1976-1980 Campbelltown Assistant Priest Camden Locum Tenens; 1980–1982 Port Kembla Assistant Priest; 1982–1984 Nowra Assistant Priest; 1984–16/08/2020 Ingleburn appointments.

George**Bartolo** OAM

Community News



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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-Ħadd 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-

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. 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

PARAL CANTELLA

Malta with three World Cup qualifiers

n the next six days starting on Wednesday September 1, Malta's national football team will resume its commitments in the Group H of the European Qualifiers of World Cup 2022 with three matches, against Cyprus, Slovenia and Russia.

The first match on Wednesday will be played at the National Stadium at Ta' Qali; the other two are both away.

Malta have already played three matches in the group, managing only one point in the away 2-2 draw against Slovakia. They lost the other two, 3-0 at Croatia and 1-3 on home soil against Russia.



Former World Champion Gużi Grech dies aged 66

August 21 of former World Billiards Champion and former Maltese Snooker Champion Guzi Grech at the age of 66.

In his playing career spanning decades, Guzi was one of the best snooker and billiards players Malta has ever produced and was always an example to follow for his dedication and gentlemanly behaviour.

Gużi won several prestigious titles in snooker and billiards and represented Malta in both the amateur as well as the professional circuit in billiards and snooker.

He was six times Malta National Snooker Champion, the World Amateur Billiards Champion, and was also a member of the European team and the European Over 40s teams winners of their respective championships.

In 1997, the Maltese Government awarded Guzi the medal of Qadi tar-Repubblika for the honour he brought the country forwinning the World Billiards Championship.

in six days

National Head Coach Devis Mangia (picturd right) is trying to change the mentality of the national squad and everybody can see an improvement under his guidance. "We are working to change a mentality and create a unified approach", he said.

In other comments on the eve of the match against Cyprus he said that this game is not important because the opponents are the same level as Malta, but because it is the

Then added, "After we play Cyprus, then the most important match will be the one against Slovenia and so on".

He expressed disappointment that his choices were limited because of injuries that might be connected to the fact that some of the players had not played competitive football since March of this year due to the early termination of the domestic football season. He said that together with his team, they are trying to prepare the players in the best phys-



ical condition for the matches in this international window.

The match against Cyprus will be Devis Mangia's first with the spectators in the stadium since his appointment as Malta's head coach and he is looking forward to this.

Champions Hamrun suffer their second successive loss

Defending champions Hamrun Spartans could not have envisaged a worse scenario for the start to their reign as Premier Football League Champion. After the 1-2 loss against Valletta on the opening day of the new season, they suffered a second defeat, by a similar score against Birkirkara that leaves them anchored to the bottom spot with Gudja, both point-

Hamrun were the better team in the first half against Birkirkara and created more scoring changes, but in the second half their opponents did enough to deserve their second victory in as many outings.

Thanks to a late goal in the second half by which they defeated Balzan in their second outing, Valletta registered their second win on the trot. It enables them to share the top placing in the Premier league standings this early in the season with Birkirkara, and Hibernians.

The Paolites followed the season opener's 3-1 victory over Gzira by defeating Gudja 2-1.

Hibernians won all DAY 2 RESULTS

Valletta v Balzan 1-0
Birkirkara v Hamrun 2-1
Hibernians v Gudja 2-1
Floriana v Sliema W. 0-0
Gzira U v Sta Lucia 1-1
Sirens v Mosta 1-1
DAY 1: Hibs-Gzira 3-1 lowed the season opener's 3-1 victory over Gzira by defeating Gudja 2-1.

three points following a dramatic last-gasp goal in added time from Jake Grech.

Balzan's loss against Valletta was undeserved as they had as much of the play as their opponents. But in football it is the team that scores most goals that wins. The other three matches on Day 2 ended in draws, including Gzira's late penalty tally against Sta Lucia.

Only the three leading teams can boast of a hundred per cent record after just two rounds of the 2021/22 Premier League and up to the first stoppage for the Malta national team international commitments.

The league campaign resumes after the international window on September 9.

Neptunes beat San Giljan to win 27th waterpolo title

By virtue of a 10-6 victory over derby rivals and outgoing champions San Giljan in the final decisive match of the 2021 season, Neptunes were crowned this year's Waterpolo Champions for the 11th time in 16 years and 27th overall.

The two teams went into the final game level on points, 24 therefore no wonder the match was highly anticipated. In fact it turned out to be a thriller.