The St Elmo steel footbridge to the breakwater at the entrance of the Grand Harbour in Valletta as seen from the rocks under Fort St Elmo.

The single-span arched truss steel footbridge constructed in 2011/12, stands on the site of an earlier bridge that had been built in 1906 and was destroyed during World War II in 1941.
By the beginning of next year, 2021, Malta will have a new High Commissioner in Canberra. After seven years at the helm, by the end of this year, HE Charles Muscat will end his tenure as Malta’s High Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand. Although this is not official yet, The Voice of the Maltese has acquired this information from reliable sources.

The current High Commissioner was born in Rabat Malta on July 30, 1944, and presented his credentials to the Governor-General Quintin Bryce in September 2013. He is married to Victoria nee Azzopardi. They have three children and six grandchildren. Charles Muscat is the third person to hold this position, having been appointed when he was already a permanent resident of Australia. Initially designated for three years, he served with distinction for seven.

The first High Commissioner ever appointed from amongst the migrant population was Joseph Forace who served from 1971-1978. He was followed by Nicholas Bonello who served as a non-resident High Commissioner for Malta in Australia between 1986 and 1987. They are both deceased.

The Voice believes that the new High Commissioner will be arriving in Canberra early in the new year notwithstanding the pandemic restrictions. The Malta Government has recently been reviewing diplomatic and consular postings around the world. This normally occurs when there is a change of Government. There have already been changes in Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria while in South Australia there was a resignation and the appointment of a new Honorary Consul.

In the meantime, the Council of Maltese Living Abroad has announced another resignation. Shane Delia (below), the well-known chef from Melbourne who was representing the other states of Australia (not NSW or Victoria), tendered his resignation for personal reasons. He served for two out of the three years as prescribed by the Act. His replacement is yet to be named.

Speaker Anglu Farrugia participated in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament that discussed the theme of 'Counter-terrorism and violent extremism: the perspective of victims', where he pointed out that the best way to stop illegal actions would be by implementing an effective information sharing system, through which, institutions would find it far easier to identify the global criminal infrastructure and address specific instances of trade-based money laundering. He suggested to parliamentarians to work together to put a stop to illegal actions that endanger the greater good.

He stated that funds generated from trade-based money laundering are currently going directly to finance terrorist groups that spread violent extremism.

He further questioned why as of yet, no concrete mechanism stands between the United States and the EU to tackle the international plague of trade-based money laundering.

The conference was organised by the IPU in partnership with the Parliament of Austria and the United Nations.

At the end of the virtual conference, a declaration was adopted without amendments by the speakers of parliaments and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Gabriela Cuevas Barron, on Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.
HomeBuilder Grant criteria finally locked in

by Paul Sant

On June 4, 2020 the Commonwealth Government announced the HomeBuilder Grant, in the hopes that it would act as a lifeline to the construction industry. The grant provides eligible owner-occupiers (including first home buyers) with a grant of $25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home. Announcement of the grant caused much excitement amongst home owners and tradespersons alike, and the feedback seemed to indicate that builders have observed an upswing in enquiries and contracts.

Where Can I find the details?

Although the Grant was initially announced and defined by the Commonwealth government, in order for it to apply across the nation each state and territory is required to enact its own legislation. On July 31, the NSW government released the HomeBuilder Grant will not replace existing state and territory benefits and programs as well as the Commonwealth’s First Home Loan Deposit Scheme and First Home Super Saver Scheme.

Am I eligible?

The basic criteria are as follows:
1. The “eligible contract” (see below for definition) must be signed between 4 June 2020 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive).
2. Construction must commence within three months from the date of the contract.
3. Construction cannot have commenced before 4 June 2020.
4. you must be a natural person (not a company or trust);
5. you must be aged 18 years or older;
6. your income must be below one of the following two income caps:
   a. $125,000 a year for an individual; or
   b. $200,000 per annum for a couple.
7. a contract to purchase a house and land package;
8. a contract to purchase an off-the-plan apartment;
9. a contract to knock down and re-build the dwelling; or
10. a contract to build a new home on a vacant block.
11. Owner-builders are ineligible for HomeBuilder.
12. Investment properties are ineligible for HomeBuilder.
13. Property owned or purchased by a company or trust are ineligible.

What is an eligible contract?

An eligible contract is a building contract to either:
1. build a new home as a principal place of residence, where the property value does not exceed $750,000; or
2. substantially renovate your existing home as a principal place of residence, where:
   a. the renovation contract is between $150,000 and $750,000, and
   b. where the value of your existing property (house and land) is less than $1.5 million (before the renovation).

An eligible contract can also be:
1. a contract to purchase a house and land package;
2. a contract to purchase a contract to purchase an off-the-plan apartment;
3. a contract to knock down and re-build the dwelling; or
4. a contract to build a new home on a vacant block.

Who is not eligible?

Owner-builders are ineligible for HomeBuilder.

How do I apply?

If you are eligible, you may either apply directly with your state or territory Revenue Authority, or an application can be made by your bank if you are in the process of obtaining a mortgage.

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

St Paul’s Pro-Cathedral in Valletta can now be visited in a special virtual tour

One of the most recognisable buildings on the Valletta skyline is St Paul’s Pro-Cathedral with its steeple a landmark notably visible in the Marsamxett Harbour. The cathedral was commissioned by the Dowager Queen Adelaide during a visit to Malta in the 19th Century when she found out that there was no place of Anglican worship on the island. The landmark is due to the Cathedral’s steeple constructed with Maltese limestone in a neo-classical style rising over 60 metres. The cathedral has columns with capitals of the Corinthian order while the capitals of the six columns of the portico are of the Ionic order. The internal dimensions of the building are 33.5 metres x 20.4 metres. Behind the main altar is a painting titled Ecce Homo, the work of A E Chalon, donated in 2014. The Cathedral had to close its door to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is now opening its doors to Maltese and tourists through a new virtual tour project that has recently been launched with the assistance of the Malta Tourism Authority. The tour can be accessed in the comfort of a person’s laptop, tablet or phone, on https://www.stpaulspromalta.org/cathedral-tour/. It features 12 short videos, with an English-language narrator that makes it feel like one is going around this glorious iconic Valletta landmark at Independence Square in Malta’s capital with one’s private tour guide. The tour is also accessible on the ‘St Paul Pro-Cathedral’ App that can be downloaded free on any device. The plan is for the videos to have French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese narration shortly. The cathedral was designed by William Scamp and was built between 1839 and 1844. Queen Adelaide laid the foundation stone on March 20, 1839. Her banner hangs above the choir stalls. The church building is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.
On Sunday May 17 this year the Maltese Community in Melbourne was deeply saddened by the death of our dear friend Alfred Asciak endearingly known as "Freddie" to his many friends. Alfred's life was dedicated to giving and supporting numerous religious organisations and Maltese associations, and to bringing so much joy to so many people.

Before arriving in Australia Alfred lived with his family in Sliema. He had a strong devotion to the Salesians. Initially, his intention was to enter the priesthood. He loved to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. However, as he often said, "life was very hard and difficult after the war and so like some of my friends, I approached my father and he agreed to let me come to Australia".

His father had arranged for him to stay in Oakleigh on a farm run by the Salesians. Alfred arrived in Australia in 1949; he worked on this farm for seven years and said that he missed having his family around to talk to and to get advice when he needed to make some decisions.

This love of family and family life was central to Alfred and he always made time for his family, especially his beloved wife, Lilian. Alfred married the love of his life Lilian and had four children Michael, Allen, Jennifer and Wayne.

Alfred would often say that he and Lilian were blessed with their family. Their children all have families and Alfred was a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren and a great grandfather to one child.

A depth of devotion to his faith

Alfred's depth of devotion to his faith was demonstrated by his dedication to the Missionary Society of St Paul, the Dominican Sisters of Malta, the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver and the Salesians.

Alfred ensured that religious celebrations, and there were many he helped organise and support, embodied the solemnity, beauty and the cultural relevance for the congregation.

He would decorate St Mary's Star of the Sea in West Melbourne, Il-Festa Ta’ Marija Bambina, St Paul's Chapel in Parkville for Holy Week, and Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Nothing was too hard, every detail was planned and he would ensure that the holiness and beauty of the religious celebration embraced you.

He took pleasure in seeing the joy Il-Presepju would bring to families and how children would walk up to pray and adore Baby Jesus.

It is a difficult task to highlight some of Alfred's commitments, however the Maltese Ex Services Association and the Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Association of Victoria have to be mentioned.

His passion for the Salesians and their work was highlighted by his constant support for the Don Bosco Opportunity Shop in Sydney Rd, Brunswick.

When it came to recycling Alfred was ahead of his time. He was always collecting things and delivering them to the shop. Alfred was a long-standing member of both Associations and he always made sure that important celebrations like ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day were marked with respect and dignity.

On both occasions he would personally make the most beautiful floral wreaths and have the regimental banners ready for the members to proudly carry. He was proud to march with other members on ANZAC Day.

Following Mass celebrated on Remembrance Day, at St Paul's Chapel, a beautiful wreath made by Freddie was always ready to be placed in front of the George Cross Memorial outside the Ċentru Malti Parkville.

We all have memories of our dear Freddie, a walk around the Ċentru, a Christmas lunch for the elderly or a visit to the Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum.

When people give so much of their lives to caring and helping, it is important to say thank you to Lilian and family for sharing Alfred with us.

Alfred lived his values everyday. He was a true gentleman who practised his faith and was kind, compassionate, caring, and supportive. He always saw the good in people and never spoke an unkind word.

For us, his friends and family we can only pray and hope to bring some of Alfred’s values into our lives.
Memorji u nostalgija ...  
20 sena mill-Olimpjadi ta’ Sydney – is-sehem tal-Maltin

Lawrence Dimech

Għaddew għoxrin sena inma l-memorji għadhom hajjin ... qisu l-bieraħ. Min qatt jista’ jinsa dak l-eċitament u s-sens ta’ kburija, u fit-tmiem, is-sodisfazzjoni li s-27 edizzjoni tal-Logħob Olimpiku tal-2000 fil-belt ta’ Sydney, skont il-President tal-KOI Antonio Samaranch kien l-ikbar u l-isbaħ?


Kont inkun hemm minn filghodu sa fil-għaxija. Problemli kien jinqalqigu ta’ spiss iżda Pippo kien ta’ dixxiplina u dejjem ġust. Fil-villaġġ kien hemm sigurtà stretta.


Gili xi atleti kienu jmorru sal-belt ta’ Sydney u meta jiġu l-ura jsiju li nsew l-ID. Biex tidhol kont xgħodu li tkollna l-ID tagħhom li kien ħall mużikali u parsijjiet warahjom u wara rapport u twissija konna ndahļi lura.

*Kompli f’paġna 7
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 e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.

Now you can also join us on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/thewoiceofthemaltese

COVID-19: Back to square one

Charlene Mifsud from Melbourne, Victoria, writes:

Like most people, most probably all over the world who had been used to spending holidays abroad, this year is different from any previous ones. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel any plans we might have had to take some leisure time in abroad, for my family and me personally, in my beloved Malta. Given the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic we are unable to take the holidays we had planned.

However, I have the consolation that, thanks God, health-wise, none of my family has been affected. We have been strictly adhering to the restrictions by the health authorities and even managed to set ourselves some goals that are helping us to concentrate on things that we normally ignore.

After years of spending money by hiring a professional to look after our front and back gardens, my husband has taken to gardening once again, and he is doing a great job of it as well. Years back, gardening was his hobby, but then with three kids and later four grandchildren around, his priorities changed. I too returned to my two main hobbies of crafts and cooking.

The breadth of the impact of COVID-19 is hard to comprehend; it逼 us to concentrate on doing the things we used to love doing before the pandemic. It is very challenging, but we are succeeding in protecting ourselves and to stay safe in anticipation of better times to come. This knowledge is also keeping us sane.

We are going through a second wave, but if we are careful, my instincts tell me that common sense that prevailed previously will prevail once again.

Quo Vadis SBS TV?

Tony Mangion from Sunshine, Victoria, writes:

You may not realise how much we miss The Voice magazine. It was indeed a blank weekend when on Sunday August 23 we had no magazine and no SBSTV news from Malta.

This no news from Malta on Sunday SBSTV is getting so tedious. It is happening much too often. SBS keep telling us that when there is an international sports event on, that takes priority. This is the same channel that has taken the UK Premier League and the A-League off air. This year they even deprived us of transmission of the FA Cup Final from Wembley Stadium.

To deny us of our half-hour slot on Sunday is a slap in the face for the Maltese community. What else are we going to lose? This is occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst period in our State when news becomes even more important than usual. Quo Vadis indeed SBS?!

We need to heed the advice

The COVID-19 pandemic is here to stay. But we must not let it run our lives. We must not take it lightly. We need to listen, and heed the advice of the health authorities, otherwise it will ruin our lives, literally.

Stirring the feelings and the emotions

Ron Borg from Adelaide, South Australia writes:

Very often we read stories and articles in newspapers and newsletters, but I think none are so engaging as those that express strong emotions by their authors. Two such items appeared in the last edition of The Voice of the Maltese.

Lawrence Dimech’s nostalgic reminiscence about Lino Vella in the fifties certainly painted a vivid picture of the feelings of many a Maltese migrant that emigrated to a foreign shore.

Also, Peter Paul Ciantar’s write up about the traditional Ghana Malta. It conveyed the expressionism that the Maltese Ghannejja, like il-Budaj and Indri il-Pupa, were able to impart with their Ghana. It is great to be able to read such emotive articles that can stir our feelings and imagination.

Dr Hugh McDermott MP

State Member for Prospect

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We need to heed the advice

The COVID-19 pandemic is here to stay. But we must not let it run our lives. We must not take it lightly. We need to listen, and heed the advice of the health authorities, otherwise it will ruin our lives, literally.
Il-Kanonku Mikiel Attard u Santa Katarina tad-Daħla limiti tar-Rabat

D


Il-Kappella sabiha ta’ Santa Katarina tad-Daħla fil-limiti tar-Rabat

Il-ħidma b’serjetà kbira. Imna minħabba f’hekk il-festa, l-aktar diż ċitba, kibret sewwa, u minbarra s-sehem tal-Banda Konti Ruggjeru tar-Rabat, kienet tiehu sehem fiha wkoll il-Banda Santa Katarina taż-Zurrieq. Qabel kienet tiehu sehem il-Banda St Patrick.


Il-Kappella sabiha ta’ Santa Katarina tad-Daħla fil-limiti tar-Rabat

Il-Kanonku Mikiel Attard ta’ Dun Mikiel, bdiet issir fl-ahhar Hadd ta’ Settembru, f’temp ferm ahjar.

Minhabba f’hekk il-festa, l-aktar diż ċitba, kibret sewwa, u minbarra s-sehem tal-Banda Konti Ruggjeru tar-Rabat, kienet tiehu sehem fiha wkoll il-Banda Santa Katarina taż-Zurrieq. Qabel kienet tiehu sehem il-Banda St Patrick.


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Il-Kanonku Mikiel Attard ta’ Dun Mikiel, bdiet issir fl-ahhar Hadd ta’ Settembru, f’temp ferm ahjar.
X'sena qed ngehaddu minnha, l'ux? Lejn tmiem ta' qabilha, konna bdjeina nisimgħu b'virus gid, infettiv u qattiel, bir-rapporti johorgu biss minn post wiehed fid-dinja - Wuhan f' ċena. Forsi whud minnkom, u jien ukoll, hsibna jew ittamajna b'mod feraħ li l-effetti jimmiesxielhom ikunu mażraħa f'dak il-post geografiku.


Hemm min jisfida l-ordijiet li jsiru fl-interess tas-saħħa pubblika, anke b'riskju għal saħħithom personalment u anke l-biża' li jlaqqtu xi ċitazzjoni sħuna sħuna. L-attienziċi ti fjit jew wiżq bdiet iddur fuq dik il-ħaga li tista' taghtij xi xaqq ta' dawli fid-dam tal-lum, ċjoe vaċċin. Dīgā bdew il-polemiċi dwar jekk vaċċin li jkun rakkomandat, għandux jittieħed. Ġieb u laħaq!


The article by Ron Borg in which he gave his version about the plan for the invasion of Malta, titled Operation HERKULES that was hatched by the Germans and Italians, that thankfully never came, generated a lot of interest among our readers, and rightly so. As an overview, it is worth recalling that in 1942, in the midst of World War II, the European Axis forces had most of Europe under their control, ruling with iron fists. The Germans had conquered France, the Low Countries, Poland, and the Balkans, and were battling it out with the Soviets, while the Italians had to keep their control of North Africa firm, and were pushing the British back into Egypt.

Enter Operation Herkules, the plan for the invasion of Malta drawn up in 1938 after the 2nd Italo-Ethiopian War. The Italians wanted to seize Malta to cut off British supply to Egypt and their Middle Eastern colonies. With the Germans now in the war, and seeing how frequent the Mediterranean convoys’ movements are, the Italians believed it was the perfect time to strike. However, in our timeline, the Italian Royal Navy disagreed with many of the generals’ ideas, and didn’t want to waste their ships on an invasion of a tiny island, so the operation was cancelled.

In this issue of The Voice, Joseph Buttigieg from Toongabbie NSW, another avid reader of the magazine, who is well versed on the war years, gives other versions about the “Operation” put forward by two other authors in particular, namely Ernle Bradford, the noted 20th-century British historian specialising in the Mediterranean world and naval topics, and James Holland, an English historian, author and broadcaster who specializes in the history of World War II.

Now Read on….

“It was interesting to read Ron Borg’s version of ‘Operation Herkules’ during the Second World War in Malta. The English Author, Ernle Bradford who wrote “Siege: Malta 1940-1943, had another version of the intended land invasion of Malta. James Holland who wrote ‘Fortress Malta’ also reasoned that if the Italians tried to invade, they should have done it at the outbreak of war because at the time there were only four trained infantry battalions on Malta, and although in May the following year, the 8th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment arrived, they had less than four thousand fighting men.

In addition, there was the King’s Own Malta Regiment and with one whole company of the 2nd Battalion made up of Boy Scouts, it was hardly inspirational.

According to Ernle Bradford, the only suitable places for landing were on the northeast coast in the areas of Mellieha and St. Paul’s Bay, but these beaches were so well defended that it would have been suicidal for the Italians if they landed on our shores.

The other place they could have landed was in the big open bay of Marsaxlokk in the south. But once again this “South Harbour” with its sloping ledges or rock surrounded by immediately rising ground, would have been a death trap and the Italians were shaking their heads in despair. Therefore they decided that the only way to neutralise Malta would be an invasion from the air.

It was reasoned at the time that heavy weight of bombing, coupled with mining of the approaches, so that no shipping could get through to relieve it, would be seen as the only answer to the problem. Even that plan wasn’t going to be easy because of the patchwork of tiny fields and terraces, all lined and crisscrossed with silvery-grey dry-stone walls that made landing impossible. Ernle Bradford was right when he wrote that the Luftwaffe pilots thought they had nothing to fear when they invaded Malta from Sicily and felt disdain for such a humble mission targeting an island with a few British soldiers and inhabited by peasants.

However, their losses taught them absolute respect for the word ‘fortress’ and an understanding of its meaning.

Those readers who are interested in reading about the Battle of Malta should pick up a book by Tony Spooner titled Warburton’s War. This is the story of the life of Maverick Ace pilot, Adrian Warburton, who fearless in the air shot down nine enemy aircraft and won fame in Malta for his invaluable photoreconnaissance work at Taranto, Sicily and North Africa.

Joseph Buttigieg
Prime Minister Robert Abela presented the Government’s vision concerning the future of Malta’s economy during a historical cabinet meeting held at the Exchange Buildings of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise, and Industry. During the historical cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister spoke about his economic ambitions for Malta for the coming years, which, he said, would be based on five pillars that would serve as an economic model for the future. They comprised good governance, economic growth for a better quality of life, education for a long-term healthy economy, infrastructural improvements, and the quality of air (for the island to be carbon neutral by 2050 with intermediate targets every ten years).

The Chamber President David Xuereb praised the Government’s vision. He said these principles matched exactly the Chamber’s. The Prime Minister noted that the model is based on the two billion euro acquired by the Government from the EU Budget over the coming seven years.

He said that despite Malta having to focus on the continual changes caused by the pandemic in the last seven months, he still felt the need to share the Government’s vision over the coming years.

The Prime Minister said that the first point of basic principle was that good governance was empirical to a healthy economy, and with regards to commerce and business, having a level playing field could only be accomplished through transparent governance. This was supported by the first result achieved during the past six months.

When it comes to economic growth for a better quality of life, Dr Abela stated that it was futile to have economic growth if society is not living better. He added that it was vital that sustainable economic growth leads to quality work, more quality time for families and more compassionate society to achieve overall equality.

He maintained that the Covid-19 pandemic provided the right opportunity to re-think and re-strategise more comprehensively. Hence, together with the Ministry of Tourism, the focus would be shifted on attracting quality tourists who appreciate Malta culturally and historically.

Another pivotal element for an efficient economy was a strong educational system, the Prime Minister said. He added that an educational reform would take place to prepare students in subjects such as Life Sciences, robotics, coding, IT infrastructure, software development, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Quantum, Cyber Security and Industry 4.0 which were the backbone of the Government’s vision for the economy.

He said that support would be given to educators as well as students to modernise the educational infrastructure.

Malta’s infrastructure

Another principle the government is following is the strengthening of infrastructure, that is, the construction of roads all around the Maltese islands, better transport systems and digital infrastructure. The Prime Minister stated that serious discussions and studies are needed to make even more efficient the public transport system.

Dr Abela pointed out that the project to have a stronger second fibre-optic cable connecting Malta and Gozo was nearing completion that could help to attract new industries to Malta’s sister island. The Prime Minister said that the final point of principle, relating to Malta becoming completely Carbon Neutral by 2050 (with intermediate goals in 2030 and 2040), might be the hardest challenge yet, as in he believes that the environment was the most crucial element needed to achieve a better quality of life. He pointed out the need to get the sharpest minds in Malta to work on such a project that would span over six legislatures.

Dr Abela also addressed the need to include more women within his economic vision. He said he wanted to see more women within high economic roles making decisions. Not because they are women, but because they are competent and can give a different perspective.

The Prime Minister concluded his presentation by stating that COVID-19 did not alter his views towards Malta’s economic future. It merely strengthened this overall strategy that can only be achieved through better governance, a stronger social model, and a healthier environment.
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo expressed Malta's full support for the declarations by Libya's rival administrations, the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the House of Representatives in Tobruk to immediately cease all military activities in Libya. The ceasefire in Libya's long-running conflict and the call for the lifting of an oil blockade by rival authorities based in the east of the country was announced by GNA Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj.

In his meeting in Malta with two high officials from the GNA, Libya’s Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Mateeg, and the North African country’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Taher Siala, Minister Bartolo expressed Malta's full support for the two declarations by the respective factions to immediately cease all military activities in Libya.

Both sides discussed at length the critical importance of inter-Libyan dialogue and the inclusion of all actors, including youth and women. The important role of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Central Bank of Libya to address the economic challenges and the needs of the Libyan People was also emphasised.

Throughout the discussions, Malta also reiterated its support for a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political solution, and its readiness to serve as a channel of communication towards this end. The unification of Libya remains imperative for the well-being and benefit of the Libyan people. In this spirit, the resumption of the negotiation process within the framework of the UN-led Berlin Process is the way forward.

The Libyan delegation was also received by President of Malta George Vella at Sant’Anton Palace where discussions focused on the latest developments in Libya and the need to ensure the economic development and social progress of that country and the Libyan people. Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled long-time leader Muammar Al Qathafi, who was later killed. The country has since split between rival east- and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Analysts of the Libya scene state that the surprise ceasefire announcement offers a glimmer of hope for peace, however, caution scepticism after years of violence.

Malta fully supports ceasefire between Libya warring factions

Malta allotted EU funds to alleviate COVID-19 pressure on employment

Malta is amongst the first tranche of countries to be allocated funds by the European Union, amounting to EUR 243.6 million in loans, as part of the Commission’s implementing decision on the European instrument for temporary support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE).

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Malta is supporting employment and enterprises through various schemes and SURE is meant specifically to assist in alleviating the pressure placed on public finances that emerged from the increase in public expenditure required in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

SURE is an instrument that provides financial assistance to European Member states of up to €100 billion in the form of loans from the EU. It has been created to fight the negative economic and social consequences of the outbreak.

This source of financial assistance targets specifically policies related to the preservation of employment, mainly short-time work schemes and related measures.

Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna expressed satisfaction at this development as Malta has expressed full support for SURE, which aims to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on employment.

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High honour for Maltese in ITLOS

For the second term running, Malta’s Professor David J. Attard has been elected as Judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) by virtue of the highest number of votes (160) amongst the candidates.

The voting was made during the meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Professor Attard (photographed), who has dedicated over thirty-five years to the service of the codification and progressive development of the law of the sea, was elected as Judge for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), which also include Australia and Canada. He was first elected to the Tribunal in June 2011 and also served as the V/P President of the same Tribunal.

He has held the position of the Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) since 1992. Under his expert directorship, over a 1000 government lawyers and officials hailing from 146 states have graduated in International Maritime Law Institute.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo extended his congratulations to Professor David J. Attard and conveyed his appreciation to the officials within the Ministry and the Malta Missions abroad.

Malta welcomed the increased and timely support for work schemes and related measures. Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna expressed satisfaction at this development as Malta has expressed full support for SURE, which aims to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on employment.

During his meeting with two high officials from the GNA, Libya’s Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Mateeg, and the North African country’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Taher Siala, Minister Bartolo expressed Malta's full support for the two declarations by the respective factions to immediately cease all military activities in Libya.

Both sides discussed at length the critical importance of inter-Libyan dialogue and the inclusion of all actors, including youth and women. The important role of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Central Bank of Libya to address the economic challenges and the needs of the Libyan People was also emphasised.

Throughout the discussions, Malta also reiterated its support for a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political solution, and its readiness to serve as a channel of communication towards this end. The unification of Libya remains imperative for the well-being and benefit of the Libyan people. In this spirit, the resumption of the negotiation process within the framework of the UN-led Berlin Process is the way forward.

The Libyan delegation was also received by President of Malta George Vella at Sant’Anton Palace where discussions focused on the latest developments in Libya and the need to ensure the economic development and social progress of that country and the Libyan people. Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled long-time leader Muammar Al Qathafi, who was later killed. The country has since split between rival east- and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Analysts of the Libya scene state that the surprise ceasefire announcement offers a glimmer of hope for peace, however, caution scepticism after years of violence.

High honour for Maltese in ITLOS

For the second term running, Malta’s Professor David J. Attard has been elected as Judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) by virtue of the highest number of votes (160) amongst the candidates.

The voting was made during the meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Professor Attard (photographed), who has dedicated over thirty-five years to the service of the codification and progressive development of the law of the sea, was elected as Judge for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), which also include Australia and Canada. He was first elected to the Tribunal in June 2011 and also served as the V/P President of the same Tribunal.

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Il-COVID-19 u Malta


Ħafna mit-tort tat-tieni mxija ntefa fuq il-fatt, li meta nfetħu l-bibien għall-attivitajiet ġew aċċetati wkoll dawk tal-massa, u ngħata permess ta’ xi marċi f’jum il-festi titulari ta’ xi bliet u rħula.


Saħansitra kien hemm l-Għaqda Republika, u individwu jitolbu għal inkjesta Maġisterjali fuq il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela. Dan barra x-xita ta’ kummenti li dehru f’diversi ġurnali lokali.


Il-Gvern huma:
• L-ebda stabbiliment ma jista’ jippermetti nies bil-wieqfa;
• Jingħalqu ċirkus u night-clubs;
• Għall-ebda ċirkustanza m’huma permessi ġemgħat ta’ iktar minn 15-il persuna fi spazji pubbliċi. Din se tapplika għall-knejjes, postijiet sagri u funerali, fid-dawl li dawn huma diġà regolati bi protokol ta’ distanza soċjali stretta;
• Se jitħallew isiru tiġijiet bilqiegħda (sit-down) biss, madanakollu ż-żfin mhux se jkun permess.

Aktr dwar il-COVID-19 u Malta

Figuri u statistika

\textbf{MEP influenti}


\textbf{Il-vaċċin: Malta hasbet li tiġi allokkata 330,000 doża}

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F’każ li fil-gimghat li ġejjin jiġi zviluppat il-vaċċin għall-COVID-19, Malta digħa ghandha allokkati 330,000 doża.

Dan qalu d-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministro għas-Saħħa Chris Fearne li sp-jega li dan ifisser li Malta tkun fost l-ewwel jieħtu l-tuż li tkun lestli mill-ewwel; tipproteġi l-vulnerabbli u l-frontliners.

Zied jikkonferma li wara mistenni jkun hemm ukoll dożi għall-poplu kollu.

Dan waqt li bhaliessa madwar id-dinja kollha għaddjejja hidma intensiva biex jinħadem vaċċin li jkun effiċjenti u sigur biex iwaqqaf l-imxija.
New Covid-19 vaccine – ethical dilemma?

Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Sydney Anglican Archbishop Dr Glenn Davies and Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios raised concerns about the deal with AstraZeneca that would ensure Australians would be among the first in the world to receive the Oxford University COVID-19 vaccine if human trials are successful.

They are concerned with the ethics of using foetal cells in a potential coronavirus vaccine and asked the Government to pursue similar arrangements for alternate vaccines that are not “morally compromised”.

The letter had three demands of the Government: That the Oxford vaccine not be made mandatory, that people who decline it for religious beliefs not be punished, and that the Government ensure a different “ethically uncontroversial” vaccine also be made available. They stated the churches are not anti-vaccination, but pray for a vaccine that is not ethically tainted may be found.

Monash University head of microbiology Professor Stephen Turner said human embryonic kidney 293 cells – which are being used in Oxford's vaccine research – had been widely used in cell biology research for decades. The cell line was originally derived from cells grown in tissue culture taken from an aborted female baby.

Qantas Airline – wings clipped

Australia Post isn't immune to the impacts of COVID-19, and old fashioned letters stand to be the first casualty. In the face of the pandemic, the national service is being overhauled to cope with the immense increase in demand.

Like many businesses, Australia Post has had to make some tough calls to keep their service running – and letters have drawn the short straw. Soon there will only be a letter delivery every second day most areas.

Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate said, “We’ve almost had 10 years put into one month.” With many Australian businesses now in hibernation, the rate of letters being sent has dropped by as much as 50 per cent. Parcel deliveries, on the other hand, have sky-rocketed.

The changes being made that were announced are enabling the Postal Services to retrain 2000 posties,” the other hand, have sky-rocketed. The cost of the local postage stamp has gone up by as much as 90.6 per cent.

Australian Post letters deliveries delay

Australia Post has faced incredible challenges over the last 12 months. The airline has already suffered a $4 billion revenue hit from the COVID-19 crisis, reporting an underlying profit before tax of $124 million for the 2019/20 financial year - a 90.6 per cent decline - compared to $1.33 billion the year before.

A week ago Qantas Airways Ltd also said it planned to cut up to 2,500 jobs by outsourcing its Australian ground handling operations to lower costs.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said the second half of the financial year was the toughest set of conditions the national carrier has faced in its 100-year history. But he remains positive about the outlook for Qantas and its Jetstar subsidiary following its restructuring and once restrictions are eased domestically and internationally.

“The Flying Kangaroo wings are clipped for now, but it’s still got plenty of ambition and we plan to deliver on it,” Mr Joyce told reporters.

Defends seal of confession

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB has defended the seal of confession before a West Australian parliamentary committee of inquiry. “I understand why people are confused, or even dismayed by my insistence on upholding the principle of the absolute confidentiality of confession, as it is practised in the Catholic Church.

I have always understood the seal of confession to be something that modern secular societies have always understood to be beyond the limits of their authority.”

Solidarity with Lebanon

The cedar symbol of Lebanon adorned the sails of the Sydney Opera House, with photos of the moment shared by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian. The Lebanese cedar has been projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House, The Lebanese cedar has been projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House.

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**Vaccine – as mandatory as possible?**

The Federal Government of Australia announced it had signed an international deal to produce an Oxford University vaccine if trials succeed. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has refused to rule out a proposal to strip welfare from people who refuse a coronavirus vaccine. “Our first goal is to encourage as many Australians as possible,” Mr Hunt said.

“I’m confident that with a vaccine that can save lives and protect lives, and give people hope and give people their freedom back … that a very large number of Australians will take it up [but] we reserve the right, subject to medical advice, to take steps that might assist.”

Both Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Mr Hunt have recognised that people in the community may be hesitant to take up the vaccine.

Mr Morrison initially said on radio that a vaccine to the virus - once secured - would be made “as mandatory as possible”. But Mr Morrison later stepped back these assertions, clarifying his comments, “It is not going to be compulsory to have the vaccine … there are no compulsory vaccines in Australia.”

The legal question is, can the Government mandate vaccination? The right to bodily integrity is a fundamental legal principle in

**Lack of cultural diversity on TV**

Who Gets To Tell Australian Stories? A report analysed 81 news programmes over two weeks in June 2019, equating to approximately 19,000 news and current affairs items across free to air television.

The study revealed that when it came to on-screen appearances, only six per cent of reporters, presenters and commentators had either an Indigenous or non-European background, with more than 75 per cent being of Anglo-Celtic background.

The exception was SBS, where 76.6 per cent of on-air reporters, commentators and presenters were of non-European background.

When it came to on-air representation, the Nine Network was the least diverse of the commercial networks, with 88 per cent of on-air talent being Anglo-Celtic.

No more than five per cent of presenters, commentators and reporters on all free-to-air commercial networks were identified as having a non-European background, while at the ABC the number sits at 9.1 per cent.

**Ruby Princess inquiry slams NSW Health**

After three weeks of hearings, the Special Commission of Inquiry commissioned by the NSW government found that authorities made a litany of errors in their handling of the ill-fated Ruby Princess cruise ship, including NSW Health’s “inexplicable” and “unjustifiable” decision to assess the vessel as low risk.

The Ruby Princess owned by Carnival Cruises visited five New Zealand ports in early March before returning to Australia. It docked in Sydney on March 19 despite signs of illness on board, about 2700 passengers and numerous contagious people disembarked at Circular Quay. The ship has been linked to hundreds of cases and more than 20 coronavirus-related deaths across Australia.

In the scathing 330-page report by commissioner Brett Walker to the NSW Government, the eminent barrister reserved his harshest criticism for NSW Health. Reflecting on the “sorry episode”, Mr Walker laid bare multiple failings during the “sorry episode”.

He found that all passengers on board should have been tested for Covid-19. He said it would be “unhelpful” to make recommendations as they would not amount to much more than “do your job”. “There are no ‘systemic’ failures to address, put simply, despite the best efforts of all, some serious mistakes were made.”

The commission said 663 Australian passengers went on to contract Covid-19, together with 191 crew members. The inquiry said the total number infected with Covid-19 may never be known due to over a third of the passengers returning overseas.
GUŻŻE CGETCUTI – awtur, poeta, edukatur u drammaturgu popolari


Chetcuti jibqgħu xogħlijiet wkoll bosta awturi l-awtur juri ċar il-konsejżi ma' bosta awturi f'maqtub, ġinna ta' Ġuzé Chetcuti jgħidu li l-proża tiegħu għall-Ingliż u l-Għarbi.


The MMG Concert Band of Victoria (MMGCBV) was established in early 2018, following the amalgamation of two Maltese bands, the St Albans Melita Band established in 1984 and the Malta Gozo Concert Band that was established in 1981. The amalgamation followed discussions regarding the decline of the Maltese culture in the Victorian Community.

It was hoped that the two bands working in unity, for the Maltese culture would give 2nd and 3rd generation Maltese people, a place still to come together and participate. The bands that were once rivals have both shown great leadership. At their Gala Night, it was described as asking Carlton and Collingwood to join clubs, in Australian Football.

The amalgamation was in the best interest of the music and the arts aspect to the Maltese Culture in the state of Victoria. It has been more successful than most would have anticipated. In its repertoire, the band plays Maltese, popular and other cultural music for the broader community.

So far during the first two years of its inception, the band has seen many retired players re-join the fold, three generations of musicians in one family play together, the formation of its Music School with 22 students - ranging from five to 60+ years - the 2019 Gala Night and a family Christmas Spectacular event that had over 350 people attend each event, both showcasing new musical pieces for all to enjoy.

The MMG Concert Band of Victoria’s vision is to be able to continue to grow the Maltese music culture in the community. The committee is made up of a group of 10 passionate members and musicians from various backgrounds and ages who work hard to ensure that the band continues to be successful now and into the future. It performs at many Maltese patron saints celebrations in Victoria, along with other cultural/community festivals that include the Italian and Indian community performing their very own cultural music.

A unique service

The MMG Concert Band’s music school offers a unique service that accommodates and provides music lessons for free to all the members of the community, including free instrument hire to their students. It has volunteer teachers that support young and old in learning woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and when they are ready to perform, gives them the opportunity of joining the Concert Band. The band’s aim is to continue to help the school to foster music and ensure it is preserved for our future generations to enjoy. The band has two conductors, Tanya Schembri and Harrison Merrifield who have been longstanding members of the Maltese community in Victoria.

Both conductors were introduced and taught by the bands they had come from. They are both strong and confident leaders in the community, and as a part of MMG Concert Band, they work together to raise the bar on the musical ability of the band. The MMGCBV is always looking for like-minded passionate musicians of any musical ability to join it. Anybody interested should get in touch to arrange a meeting with the team.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the band had to suspend rehearsals. However, lessons continue via zoom, the same as members do on Wednesday night for their chats at rehearsal time.

On the first Anniversary of Il-Messagg, also known as ‘Ma tagħmlu xejn’ the band recently came together through the virtual world to perform this very popular Maltese song. It has been well received by the community.

To view, one should head to this link on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpajFweGnA4

Another virtual performance will soon follow. Readers are requested to like their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MMGConcertBandofVictoria, follow their Instagram: @mmgconcertbandofvictoria, or subscribe to their YouTube channel – MMG Concert Band of Victoria.
Il-pandemija tal-COVID-19 dis-se na t-ċelebrazzjonijiet li dejjem isiru f’Għawdex f’jum Santa Marija fil-15 ta’ Awwissu, imma fil-jiem ta’ qabel fil-Katidral xorta saru kważi ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet kollha, b’xi tibdil żgħir.

Il-quddies kollu ta’ jum il-festa sar fil-pjazza tal-Katidral. Għal dan il-għan bejn il-5.00 am u s-1.00 p.m inħarġet l-istatwa ta’ Santa Marija fil-bieb tal-Katidral. Fil-għaxija l-Banda Ċit-tadina Leone, laqgħet l-istatwa ta’ Santa Marija fil-bieb tal-Katidral bid-daqq tal-innijiet.


Il-Festa ta’ Santa Marija fil-Katidral

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Papal honour to our man in Gozo, Charles Spiteri

At the end of the Ceremony of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Loreto in Għajnsielem, Gozo, Bishop Mario Grech, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Gozo, presented the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” to Charles Spiteri. This Award is granted by His Holiness the Pope to members of the Church who have distinguished themselves in their service to the Church in some specific sphere of society.

In a short address on the occasion, Bishop Grech said that Charles has over many years given a service in the field of journalism to Gozo, to the Gozitan Society and in particular to the Gozo Diocese.

Charles Spiteri has engaged in this activity since the days when communication was hard to achieve and was not at everyone’s fingertips as it is today. Over the years, by his contribution to various social media, Charles has promoted the activities of the Gozo Parishes and of Gozitan Catholic Lay Organisations and brought them to national awareness. He always gave this service voluntarily, with commitment, and often with persistent requests, first to get the information and then to procure space for it in the press.

For decades, Charles Spiteri, who is currently also The Voice of the Maltese correspondent in Malta’s sister island, has been a correspondent of “Il-Ħajja f’Għawdex” the monthly organ of the Gozo Diocese.

Considering this steadfast dedication, Bishop Mario Grech made the award to him on the request of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Festa Marija Bambina in Melbourne cancelled

The celebrations of the Feast of Marija Bambina (Il-Vittorja) that was scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 13, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Each year, Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group (RMASG) organised the event on behalf of the Fathers of the Missionary Society of St. Paul in Victoria. But after discussion with the Fathers of the MSSP, and the present restrictions by the Victorian Government it was agreed and in the interest of the safety, to cancel the feast.

Speaking to Fr Edwin Agius and Fr Lonnie Borg, both said they were sure the Maltese Community would keep the devotion to our Lady of Victory alive in their hearts and say special prayers on the day.

One hopes this pandemic could be over soon so the event could be celebrated again next year.

For the same reason, Reskeon has also cancelled their Bambina (Vitoria) Dinner Dance due on September 12.

First 25 professionals awarded a conservator-restorer warrant

In a ceremony held at the Museum of Archaeology, Minister for the National Heritage, 25 professionals working in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage were presented with warrants. It is the first time that such warrants are being issued by the Board of Warrants of Restorers-Conservators that regulates the works related to the activities of conservators and restorers as also stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Act, Chapter 445.

Making the presentation, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera (pictured) said that this was a very significant step in the field of cultural heritage, as through these warrants, “we are beginning the process of giving formal and prestigious recognition to all those who work as conservators and restorers of cultural heritage”.

The Minister pointed out that cultural heritage is an essential element of any society, and therefore the preservation of the same heritage is necessary to be entrusted to capable, competent and professional people. He stated that the work done on prestigious and valuable heritage should be regulated and thus entrusted to individuals who are professionally doing this work and ethical context.
Politics do not usually hit the headlines when they are advocating ways to better health. But Michelle Rowland MP the Shadow Minister for Communications and popular federal member for the electorate of Greenway has revealed to the readers of The Voice of the Maltese, her battle with the bulge.

Ms Rowland, 48, considered to be one of the rising stars within the Labor ranks decided to shed a few kilos as she was feeling run down. At 100kg and being a mum of two young daughters, it was time for her to diet and start exercising.

The result was a complete success. The transformation was amazing. She dropped almost 50kg.

The transformation was evident for all those that were watching Q&A on ABCTV on August. 17. The MP looked healthy, well and with more energy and “mental clarity” than before.

Unlike some of her colleagues in Canberra, Ms Rowland wanted to lose weight through diet, will power and consistency, not through surgery.

Labor’s communications spokeswoman, has her main office in Main Street Blacktown NSW, the centre of the Maltese community in those parts of the Western Suburbs.

Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) is looking for the next generation of diverse Australian writers

Emerging Writers’ Competition

SBS is inviting aspiring writers from diverse backgrounds to share their stories and have their voices heard with the launch of the SBS Emerging Writers’ Competition. Are you, or do you know an aspiring writer in the Maltese speaking community in Australia?

An initiative from SBS Voices, SBS’s online platform which champions the voices of diverse and often underrepresented Australians, the competition has been created to support the discovery and development of emerging talent and contribute to greater diversity in Australian storytelling.

Entries opened August 15 and SBS is to keep them open until September 15 2020. The SBS Emerging Writers’ Competition is searching for the next generation of bold new voices that reflect the diversity of contemporary Australia, providing them with a platform to share their unique experiences and perspectives.

Your memoir piece may be poignant, humorous or a mix of both. The important thing is that it’s your story, and no one else’s.


Writers aged 18 and over are being invited to submit a memoir piece of 1,000-2,000 words on the topic of ‘Growing up in diverse Australia’.

The winning submission will be awarded a $5,000 prize to further their storytelling future, as well as having their story published on SBS Voices.

How to enter:

During the Competition Period, entrants must go to www.sbs.com.au/writers and follow the directions to complete the online entry form.

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Important Notice

If interested in advertising on The Voice of the Maltese magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

Events for 2020

Sunday October 18:  
Fete

Saturday November 14

Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6

Festa San Nikola

Tune in to Radio and Television

Some Radio stations may be off due to covid-19 restrictions

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 - 7.00pm. 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’ l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta’ NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar ġabrijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avviżi u suġġetti ta’ interessa.

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

For television news from Malta - SBS2 TV 32 (Viceland on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or 98.9 North West FM, and Saturdays 9.00 -10.00 am.

The Voice of the Maltese Council of Victoria Inc.

Avviż lill-qarrejja


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Hibs only club to win in Europe comp

Hibernians managed to keep Malta’s flag flying in Europe when they became the only club to win their first qualifying round commitment in the 2020/21 UEFA club competitions. They beat Vaduz 2-0 with a brace by Jurgen Degabriele in Liechtenstein in the Europa League.

The other two Maltese representatives in Europe, Valletta and Sirens, and Floriana in the Champions League, all lost their matches. Hibernians are now in the draw for the second qualifying round to be played on September 17.

They will be joined by Floriana who lost their home Champions League tie against CFR Cluj of Romania 2-0 but will now play in the second round of the Europa League. The Romanians dictated play in the first half but Floriana held out. When it looked as if the locals were in for a better second half, they suffered an early goal and then a second in stoppage time.

Also in the Europa League, Valletta were a great disappointment when they suffered a 2-0 at the Melita Stadium in the match regarded as the newest Maltese Derby with goals from Ali Dulleh (2nd minute) and Michael Martinovic (85th).

On their debut in Europe, Sirens came very near to causing an upset against CSKA in Bulgaria, but in the end lost to a goal in added time by 1-2. They missed a penalty by Maxwell who then made amends by putting them ahead (69’). CSKA drew level on 75 minutes and then clinched the win with a goal by in added time.

Bayern Munich crowned kings of Europe for sixth time

At the end of a tight and tense match with a few chances for either team, Germany’s Bayern Munich were crowned kings of Europe for the sixth time by beating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 to win the UEFA Champions League final. They were deserved victors. Ironically, the winning goal was headed in by Kingsley Coman who had kicked off his footballing career as an eight-year-old at PSG, his hometown club. His goal put his club en route to a treble of trophies this season and a sixth triumph in this tournament.

More dramatically, it was coach Hansi Flick’s first job in top-flight management. The 55-year-old accepted the job last November. Playing an attractive, high-pressure game, Bayern registered 33 wins and just two defeats in 36 matches in all competitions.

It was a first appearance for PSG in the final, and Bayern’s 11th.

Also a sixth Europa League title for Seville

The other top UEFA club competition, the Europa League was won by Spain’s Seville, also for the sixth time.

They beat Inter (Italy) 3-2 in a thrilling final.

The drama started when Sevilla defender Diego Carlos fouled Romelu Lukaku for an Inter penalty that the Belgian striker scored. It ended when Lukaku deflected Carlos’ bicycle kick into his own net.

Then Luuk de Jong scored from two headers for Seville to put them ahead, while Diego Godin levelled for the Italians at 2-2 in the 35th minute.

With extra-time looming, Lukaku stuck out a leg to Carolos’ overhead kick and diverted the ball into his own goal.

Vale 21-year-old Luke Gardoni

Parramatta Melita Eagles is mourning the loss of Luke Gardoni, a former Under 20 player from their 2018 NSW NPL2 season who died on August 20 at the age of 21 after a suffering a cardiac arrest on the field five days earlier representing a local club.

In a post on the club’s Facebook page, the PMESC president David Frendo said that Luke’s impressive performances had earned him a call up to represent the club’s 1st Grade side for a match against Western Sydney Wanderers FC.

He said that while representing Castle Hill United FC in a Hills Football Premier League competition match on August 15, Luke sadly suffered a cardiac arrest. An immediate CPR and quick paramedic response appeared to have saved Lu-ke’s life, but sadly, on the 20th, they received the devastating news of his passing way yesterday afternoon. He had just turned 21 this month.

We offer Luke’s family and friends deepest sympathy.