



When fans give more than a hoot

» National Page 5



France held by ten-man Uruguay

» Sport Page 54

Good vibrations



Dancers perform during the opening ceremony of the 2010 FIFA World Cup yesterday at Soccer City stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg before South Africa and Mexico played the opening match of the competition. Photo: Pedro Ugarte/ATP. » Story on pages 28, 29

Sports village will include 300 residential units

Fiona Galea Debono

The White Rocks sports village will include 300 residential units, which Sports Parliamentary Secretary Clyde Puli insists is a

'calculated risk' the UK investors are willing to take.

Mr Puli said the investors were aware of the limitations of the property market. The real estate project would not rise above spec level and would not include any more.

'Without the accommodation, the sports village project will not be feasible... That is why we had to compensate with the units. The financial model would not work without this and the land is the price the government was ready to

sacrifice for sports. The investors, White Rocks Holding Company, had requested more units but the government drew a firm line at 300', he said.

Continued on page 6

Waterpolo player fails dope test

Kurt Sansone

Top waterpolo national team player Matthew Zammit has been 'provisionally suspended' from all water sport activities after failing a dope test.

The Aquatic Sports Association, which imposed the suspension, said yesterday it had been informed that Mr Zammit had tested positive in a doping test after Malta's game against Turkey on May 1. The information was communicated by the executive director of the international swimming federation (FINA).

Mr Zammit, 22, faces the prospect of a maximum two year worldwide ban by FINA. However, a spokesman for the world governing body said a decision on disciplinary measures could take 'weeks or months'.

'In accordance with FINA regulations, Mr Zammit has been provisionally suspended from all ASA activities until such time as the relative FINA procedures are concluded,' the local association said.

The ASA did not say what the banned substance was, however, sources said the player was taking weight loss supplements that could have contained a substance banned by the World Anti-doping Agency.

When contacted, Mr Zammit confirmed he had been taking 'medication' but did not specify what it was. 'I have nothing to say,' he said when asked for his reaction to the provisional suspension imposed by the ASA.

Continued on page 6



Tip for the barbecuer: Eat your meat hot

see pages 28, 29

AIR INCIDENT

Pilots protest about investigation

see page 56

Joe Azzopariti's human rights case

Psaila wants appeal to be heard again

Sharon Spiteri

An assistant police commissioner is seeking to have a human rights appeal he lost against a political activist last December heard again.

Assistant Commissioner Joe Psaila is claiming that on the basis of the evidence given during the hearing of the appeal the Constitutional Court should never have found him guilty.

The Constitutional Court of Appeal last December ruled that Azzopariti was arrested illegally and treated inhumanely when he was kept in a newspaper-infected cell for 46 hours.

And now Police Commissioner George Grech, in an interview with The Times, has admitted that when Inspector Psaila had been ordered by his superiors to arrest Joe Azzopariti.

'Psaila had a written directive

□ "Psaila had a written directive from his superiors to do what he did, to arrest the man" — police commissioner

from his superiors to do what he did, to arrest the man. There are doubts his superiors' would not doubt the commissioner if he ordered a subordinate to go and arrest a man," Mr Grech argued.

Giving his reaction yesterday, Mr Azzopariti said that in 11 years of court cases over the issue, he had never heard that Psaila might have been ordered to arrest him.

'I am surprised to hear it. And I am even more surprised that this has never come out in all this time,' he said.

His lawyer, Dr Stefan Frondo, said the written instructions might have been made a file the assistant commissioner was allowed to produce at a very late stage in the appeal.

Mr Azzopariti had originally sued the Police Commissioner and Inspector Psaila but former Police Commissioner Lawrence Pullicino was personally called into the suit by a June 1992 court decree.

The Constitutional Court had ruled Azzopariti's arrest illegal and in violation of his human rights on May 10, 1994.

Mr Azzopariti had gone to police headquarters at Inspector Psaila's request on October 10, 1994. He was questioned for 15 minutes without being told why he was being detained and kept in a newspaper-infected cell for 46 hours.

Mr Justice Joseph Said Pullicino, in the court of first instance, had decreed that the state of the

lock-up was unacceptable especially when now considered Azzopariti was not serving time but was being kept under preventive arrest.

The cell was small, without ventilation and lacked the most basic sanitary services. It was infested with mosquitoes and lacked natural light.

The cell could have led a detained man to act against his will or conscience, the first court had said, and keeping someone in it, verged on inhuman and degrading treatment.

(Continued on page 6)

Italian referendums

Victory for Berlusconi forecast

Italians voted by a clear margin in a key referendum yesterday against moves that would have forced former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to break up his television empire, television exit polls showed.

The exit polls forecast Italians had voted 'No' by a margin of between six and 14 percentage points in the referendum, which had sought to repeal a law allowing private individuals to own more than one national television station.

Two other referendums seeking to limit TV advertising which would also have hurt Berlusconi's \$7 billion a year Fininvest media empire were also heading for defeat, the exit polls said.

(Continued on page 3)

Changes to electoral process

Labour leader warns commission not to drag its feet

□ Government challenged to publish amount spent on activities to mark opening of Malta House in London

Labour Party leader Alfred Sant yesterday warned the Electoral Commission not to drag its feet over the implementation of changes to the electoral process.

He was referring in particular to the use of identity cards during the general election, a process which, he said, should be agreed upon by all parties.

Dr Sant, who was speaking at the MLP club in Mqabba, said: 'The commission must not leave things to the end and then say it is too late to change... The MLP is prepared to discuss changes to the electoral system but will give equal priority to the process. The preparations for the general election should start from now,' he said.

The Electoral Commission should not take decisions on the electoral process behind closed doors but in agreement with all

On amendments to the electoral system to ensure an equal proportion between parliamentary seats and votes, Dr Sant insisted that only the first round was not acceptable and warned the government that public money belonged neither to the Prime Minister nor to the Minister of Finance, he said.

Giving another example of squandering of public funds, Dr Sant challenged the government to publish the amount spent on activities to mark the opening of the Malta House in London last week.

Government ministers were behaving as if public money was theirs to spend as they pleased. A new Labour government would be accountable for all its actions and would investigate all cases of abuse, he promised.

The Treasury contracts committee had made clear that the tender should go to the cheapest offer. And now even the court had confirmed that the decision was not acceptable and warned the government that public money belonged neither to the Prime Minister nor to the Minister of Finance, he said.

Giving another example of squandering of public funds, Dr Sant challenged the government to publish the amount spent on activities to mark the opening of the Malta House in London last week.

Government ministers were behaving as if public money was theirs to spend as they pleased. A new Labour government would be accountable for all its actions and would investigate all cases of abuse, he promised.