## 2009

# THE TIMES

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Massa under sedation after brain scan

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Comino pontoon overturns

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# Cancer centre will cost €40m

Claudia Calleja

The new €40 million cancer centre at Mater Dei Hospital was expected to be up and running in two years' time, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi said.

Details of the "ambitious project" – that was originally meant to cost almost half the amount – would soon be revealed, Dr Gonzi said during a radio interview on Radio 103 yesterday.

He added that the planning permit had already been filed and the project was to be completed by 2013.

In the 2009 budget, the government had announced that it would be building a new Specialised Oncology Centre, worth about €24 million, at Mater Dei.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Joseph Cassar explained that care for terminally ill patients would be one of the services offered at the centre, which is to be built on a clear piece of land across the road from the outpatients car park.

This would be the first time that cancer patients will be offered proper palliative care within the public service.

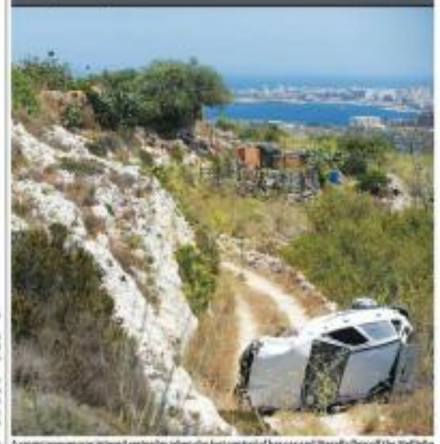
The government had originally planned to transfer cancer services from Sir Paul Boffa Hospital in Zammit Clapp Hospital but eventually decided to build the new centre at Mater Dei.

The government had said the change came about after looking into the pros and cons of all development options, the creation of sustainability while keeping in mind that everything needed to be patient-centred.

Dr Gonzi said during the interview the government was committed towards improving health services and this included existing waiting lists. He said that in the first months of the year 15,700 operations had been carried out at Mater Dei compared to 11,300 in the same period last year.

The extra €40 million cancer centre was expected to be up and running in two years' time, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi said.

Lucky escape



A young woman was injured yesterday when she lost control of her car and literally flew off the Mellieha bypass onto a neighbouring field. The car dropped about a storey and a half. A doctor who happened to be in the area stopped to give first aid and the Civil Protection Department was summoned. The reason is believed to have suffered fractures but is not critical. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

## Policeman accused of helping thieves during his night watch

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## 1994

# THE TIMES

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Ark Royal starts third visit to Malta next Monday

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Employer bodies hit out at GWU over actions

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Fruit production 70% below average

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# Procedural motion on VAT approved

## Opposition withdraws from pairing arrangements

A procedural motion limiting debating time on the Value Added Tax was approved by Parliament yesterday, leading the opposition to declare it was withdrawing from pairing arrangements reached in April 1992 when the current legislature opened.

The motion was approved with 33 votes in favour and 29 against. The motion provides that the VAT Bill would go through all stages by Saturday. The House is to meet twice daily – up to Saturday Morning sittings are being extended by 30 minutes and evening sittings by 90 minutes.

The Leader of the House, Prof Guido de Marco, said a normal 12 sittings had to be been devoted to the second reading of the VAT Bill.

The opposition had taken four hours of debating time for every hour by government MPs. Some opposition MPs had even spoken for three hours. The motion was proposing the holding of the equivalent of 11 normal sittings, which would mean that 22 sittings would have been devoted to the debate. The motion was necessary because the debate could continue forever.

The serious manner in which parliamentary business was being mutilated was the result of the ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition, Prof de Marco said.

This was in contrast to what used to happen in the past. Under the Labour government, the bill introducing the emergency budget had been restricted to ten hours debate in committee, even though this was an important bill with far-reaching consequences.

The Education Bill and the bill amending the Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance were debated in one sitting. Prof de Marco said.

Opposition Leader Dr Alfred Sant said the motion was nothing but an attempt to guillotine parliamentary procedures, motivated by the government's arrogance.

The VAT Bill was not an ordinary fiscal general legislation but a constitutional bill that would be affecting the people's lives.

The opposition had already given notice it would contest every clause of the bill in consultation with parliamentary procedures and the government should therefore have taken appropriate measures to remove adequate debating time. Yet the government went ahead with the debate just before the summer recess and during the World Cup, when the people were distracted.

(Continued on page 11)

# Charles Mangion resigns as deputy speaker

Rosanne Zammit

CHARLES MANGION

Deputy speaker Charles Mangion resigned the post yesterday, saying he was backed a victim of unconscionable factors, but denied he deputy speaker and his party's spokesman on industry.

"I am leaving with a clean conscience. Believing I have done my job as best as I could – but as the consequences I am feeling a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde," he told the media yesterday.

In a letter to the Speaker, Dr Mangion said he was resigning from deputy speaker, a position he had accepted following an agreement between the government and the opposition, which led to his nomination being accepted unanimously.

Dr Mangion was the Nationalist Parliamentary Deputy speaker from the opposition benches.

But the developments at the end of last week went against the spirit of the agreement, reached two years ago and the opposition, including himself, felt the agreement had failed, Dr Mangion said.

The developments he referred to were the debate in the House on value added tax. Labour's chief opposition to it, and a government procedural motion limiting debating time on the bill.

Dr Mangion told a news con-

(Continued on page 11)

Vice-Admiral Joseph Prather (second from right) on board the USS Philippine Sea in Grand Harbour. He is with (left to right) commander Robert Mosier, Mr Matthew McGrath (far left) and PO Charles Patterson. Photo by PO Lathrop.

## Four policemen, soldier injured

By a Staff Reporter

Four soldiers and a policeman were injured in two traffic accidents on Monday evening and yesterday morning.

Colonel Farrugia, 47, of Swieqi, who was travelling on a passenger motor driven by Gaunter Martin Sulla of Gharb, was seriously injured.

The police said the accident occurred yesterday at 7 a.m. in Lehbrat Road, Mosta when a car driven by Joseph Barbara, 30 of Gudja collided and crashed into the other car.

The other accident happened on Monday at 11.45 p.m. in Triq Burmeg Street, Santa ta' Mqabba.

A self-drive Mazda 626, driven by PC Alexander Azzopardi, was involved in a crash with a truck driven by Raymond Farrugia, 20, of Zejtun.

Also in the car were PC George Farrugia, PC Fausto Vella and PC Walter Sheldon. Both PCs Sheldon and Azzopardi were seriously injured.

Sources said the car was being driven at high speed and there was evidence in the brake marks which were some 20 metres long.

Magistrate Patrick Vella held an on-site inquiry. He appointed Dr Joe Mirabelli Bonnici and mechanical expert Joe Zammit to draw up a report.


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## 1969

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# MOON DUST EXPOSURE

## Astronauts in Pearl Harbour

(Reuter's Service)

HOUSTON, July 26.

TECHNICIANS at the Moon sample laboratory here are believed to have been accidentally exposed to moon dust last night.

Space officials here said that the technicians were opening a new container, a 10 millimetre film taken by an moon landing team where were carried that the film was covered with dark, powdery dust.

The officials recalled that astronaut Neil Armstrong reported finding in a crater of the Moon that dropped on his boots and gloves.

The technicians who opened the case, Dr Terry Hodges and four other technicians awaiting task of their clothes for a two-minute decontamination chamber.

Officials said the apparatus expected to move dust would never let anyone in quarantine as all the men were in quarantine.

Meanwhile, preparations were stepped for the opening of a film box of moon rock samples which arrived in the laboratory from the Apollo-11 recovery carrier "Hornet" yesterday.

The film box was originally due to have been opened early today but ship was delayed partly. It was believed, due to some misunderstanding as to who would open it.

NASA officials said that it had been decided that technician Jack Warren would do it.

A second larger box of rock samples is being kept in a vacuum chamber until the first is opened and the samples of dense material are analysed.

Television and film cameras were recording every moment of the slow process of taking each layer off the material, wrapped sealed wooden box which weighs just over 15 lb with the rock samples.

The three Apollo 11 astronauts returned to U.S. soil today. The CSS, from where they arrived in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on board the "Hornet" still in their mobile quarantine unit they will be taken by air to Houston, where they are expected to arrive early on Sunday morning. Dr William Carpenter, quarantining with the astronauts, allow their spacesuits, but Hodge said, as a medical hobby, that he could find "nothing wrong with them".

**Late news:**

### BOX OPENED

HOUSTON, July 26.

SCIENTISTS today opened the first box of rock and other material picked up from the moon by Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin.

The sample box was opened at 10.34 (1.34 GMT) to draw out a sample of dry gas that might have been given off by the moon material.

A special committee was used to punch a small opening in the side of the box. Inside gas was then drawn out through a reinforced hose into a special gas analysis laboratory for initial spectroscopic analysis. Samples were to be cooled for immediate biological analysis. The box opening was televised across the U.S.

IN RUNNING ORBIT: Michael Collins and Neil Armstrong inside the command module Columbia, which has been successfully placed in orbit around the moon. Lunar module Eagle, with Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin on board, will separate from the Columbia and land on the moon on Sunday. Astronaut Richard Nixon on board the aircraft carrier Hornet, which will be the first to pick up the Apollo on Thursday at the end of their moon visits.

# POPE PAUL MAY MEDIATE IN NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR

(Reuter's Service)

LAGOS, July 26.

NIGERIA is to send a delegation headed by two Federal commissioners to Kampala next week during Pope Paul's visit to Uganda, it was announced here tonight.

The team, leaving by Uganda President Milton Obote, will be led by Information Commissioner Chief Anthony Enahoro, chief Nigerian negotiator at peace talks with secessionist Biafra.

Chief Enahoro will be accompanied by federal Finance Commissioner Mr Joseph Tarka, the Federal Affairs Ministry said.

Authoritative sources said last night that the Nigerian Head of State, Major-General Yakubu Gowon, had unofficially contacted Ugandan President Obote to ask if Kampala, apparently in a bind but to get peace talks with Biafra resumed.

Authoritative sources at Entebbe City said today that Pope Paul, who is going to Uganda on Thursday for three days, would take the opportunity offered him to mediate in the two-year-old civil war.

# LONE BRITISH YACHTSMAN STAYED IN ATLANTIC

(Reuter's Service)

LONDON, July 26.

A lone British yachtsman, who is presumed to have perished at sea, was sighted today to have visited in the Atlantic so far he was presumed to be at 3 o. discovery two round the world.

The discovery was made by the Sunday Times newspaper which sponsored a round-the-world race for single handed yachtsmen.

It was the first Donald Crowhurst, who at one stage thought to be a frontrunner for the £5,000 (£10,000) prize, had in fact remained in the Atlantic for the 243 days he was thought to be on his 30,000 mile world.

The trimaran, in which the 36-year-old Crowhurst set out, was found drifting and deserted on July 10 last.

# SUPPORT FOR TED KENNEDY

(Reuter's Service)

SUVANNA, HAWAII, July 26.

SENATOR Edward M. Kennedy has been identified as the Democratic rallying rallying point in his home state, where he is expected to be asked to resign his senate seat, it was reported here today.

The decision was made by the Democratic State committee which adjourned a meeting here tonight. If duly ratified by the committee, it will be the first time that a Democratic senator has been asked to resign his seat, remaining in the Alaskan for the 340 days he was thought to be on his 30 mile round the world.

The trimaran, in which the 36-year-old Crowhurst set out, was found drifting and deserted on July 10 last.

# 35 PERISH IN ALGERIAN "CARAVELLE" CRASH

(Reuter's Service)

ALGIERS, July 26.

THIRTY-FIVE of the 39 occupants of an Algerian "Caravelle" jetliner perished when it crashed in flames early today while attempting a forced landing two miles south of Algiers.

Eyewitnesses said the plane was engulfed in flames and exploded as it crashed into a field.

The military, chartered from the National Airline, Air Algerie was making a regular weekly flight from Paris to the North Algerian oil center of Hassi Messaoud with a crew of seven, 29 passengers, three and one woman, the wife of a protector. Most of the occupants were believed to be French.

The two survivors were rescued by Flight Commander Roger Gottner and co-pilot Mazouni, who escaped with slight burns on the chest and shoulders. A local Police officer reporting that the bodies of the victims were completely unrecognisable.

The crash said that according to the airliner's captain, a short-circuit occurred in the aircraft's electrical system. This broke out and the crew tried to radio to this effect, with extinguishers.

It was then decided to attempt a forced landing on the ground near the hamlet of Ain Nagn. Two unidentified people around the plane hanged off the aircraft as it swerved out of control.

An investigation team led by officials from the Algerian Ministry of Transport was on the scene of the accident this afternoon but their findings were not expected to be made public for some time.

The Police official added that weather conditions at the time of the accident were perfect.

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