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Joseph Scicluna pg 10-11

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Alfred Sant meets Charles Polidano after lambasting him

LABOUR LEADER Alfred Sant has met privately Charles Polidano known as ic-Caqnu, in the wake of a fierce campaign by the MLP against the construction giant for illegally dumping rubble at sea.

Known only among to a few people, the meeting over a drink was described by insiders as “cordial, interesting but going nowhere”.

When contacted about the nature of his meeting with Polidano, Sant replied abruptly: “Ask him.”

Asked whether he felt it was appropriate to meet Polidano after having attacked him publicly for the environmental disaster, he repeated: “Ask him.”

Polidano has been pictured as the nemesis of the Labour party, which labelled him as some kind of close PN collaborator.

Polidano said he had nothing to say about the meeting when contacted.

His company, Polidano Brothers, today represents the largest

construction business in Malta estimated to be worth millions of liri and he now has interests in various countries including Belgium and Russia.

Polidano and his businesses have been the centre of much controversy. He has shunned the press, having for ages managed to keep his picture out of newspapers. In August it was revealed that his company had dumped building waste material illegally at sea. The Labour media picked up the story and followed it persistently for weeks on end as it fomented an image of a construction giant that was unstoppable in the eyes of the law.

This led Polidano to declare publicly that a great number of his employees who were Labourites intended to destroy their voting document in the next general election. Labour hit back saying that his outburst was full of “incitement and intimidation”.



Charles Polidano (left) and Alfred Sant

Money laundering could wreak economic havoc as Malta gears to Euro

James Debono

THE CLOCK is ticking faster for those who have kept their monies under the mattress away from the gaze of the country's fiscal authorities.

As Malta gears to adopt the Euro in January 2008, concern is growing on the economic impact of a sudden burst of money laundering, as more people seek to channel their undeclared monies into legitimate

activities like property development, economist Professor Edward Scicluna warns.

Data compiled by Prof Scicluna shows that Malta has the highest amount of money in circulation per capita among the 12 new EU member states—an astounding EUR 2912 (Lm 1250) per person. This amount of cash outside the banks is three times the EU average – a mere EUR 869 per person, and more than twice that of Cyprus. ▶ page 15

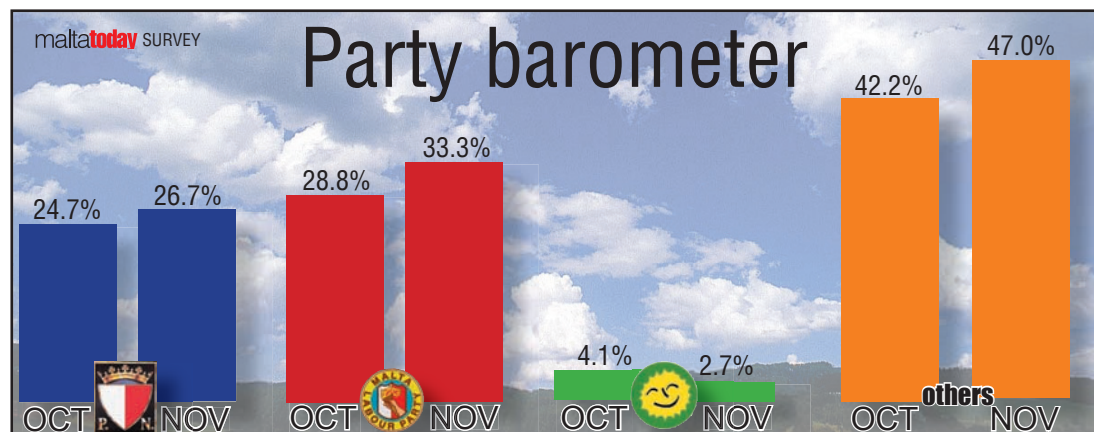
Government embarrassed as police question Mario Camilleri ‘l-Imniehru’

Karl Stagno-Navarra

CONVICTED DRUG baron Mario Camilleri – known as ‘l-Imniehru’ – was questioned by police yesterday and is expected to be arraigned in court. He will be charged with threatening two Labour MPs, in the wake of their stand against a scandalous contract awarded to the prisoner's wife and son to offer cleaning services at the law courts.

Last Sunday he phoned Labour MP Anglu Farrugia on his mobile at 9.40am from prison and used

offensive language in retaliation for the MP's public stand against the awarding of the contract. Even Labour MP José Herrera was verbally threatened by Mario Camilleri who in ▶ page 14



Labour widens lead despite budgetary tax cuts

James Debono

ALTHOUGH MOST respondents to a MaltaToday survey replied that the budget will have a positive impact on the country, Labour appears to have widened its lead on the PN. Mal-

taToday's November survey shows. Yet the budget has boosted Lawrence Gonzi's popularity with the majority of respondents preferring him to Alfred Sant as the next Prime Minister.

Only last month a slight majority preferred Alfred Sant to Lawrence

Gonzi as the country's next Prime Minister. Following the budget the number of those preferring Gonzi as their next Prime Minister rose from 31.6 to 33 per cent while those preferring Alfred Sant declined from 32.2 to 29.2. page 8 ▶

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