

malta today every sunday



Edward Scicluna pg 12-13

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The Beauties and the Beast



The 27 Middlesea Race kicked off yesterday with 69 participants including 11 Maltese yachts. Here they are seen sailing past the beastly shell of the Tigné Seafront with a light south-west wind taking them right out of Marsamxett. See full story page 29

Scicluna on the budget – “a political decision”

Matthew Vella

IN AN interview with MaltaToday, economist Edward Scicluna describes this year’s budget as a “calculated political decision” to go for a budget that is “closer to home”.

“The past two budgets have been in the main addressed to the EU... We had the last opportunity before the examination to impress Brussels with our expenditure reforms, showing them we’re geared for the euro. The government decided to leave that and go for those closer to home. And that’s the choice that was taken, a calculated political decision. The language of the budget speech is local as well.”

Scicluna also says he is unsure of Malta’s preparedness to join the euro zone, in what he described as his “cold-blooded, objective assessment” that Brussels would tell Malta there were too many risks and uncertainties. ▶ page 4

Uncertain future for L-Istrina as bidders are dismissed by PBS

Karl Schembri

THE TWO bidders for the tender of L-Istrina have been dismissed by PBS after both of them failed to cost their proposals, provide bank guarantees and a bid bond to hold the annual charity telethon, shedding serious doubts on whether the event will be held at all.

Both Razzett tal-Hbiberija and

a consortium formed by Eden Foundation and Sign It have refused to abide by the commercial requirements laid out in the L-Istrina tender document, asking PBS to set its own budget instead and doing away with the required bank guarantees and bid bonds. Both Razzett and Eden have also committed themselves not to partake in any of the funds raised if they

were selected to organise the event, and both of them believe the call for tenders was the wrong way of going about to organise the event.

“We put in our proposal because we are honestly concerned that several NGOs stand too much to lose if L-Istrina is not held,” said Razzett’s General Manager Mark Sultana. “But we said it on black and white that we would exclude

our organisation from being a beneficiary if we were selected.”

PBS CEO Albert Debono said the station will “stick to tender procedures” in what is taken by observers as a clear sign that the two proposals fell short of the requirements laid out in the tender document. MaltaToday is in fact informed that one of the bidders was told its proposal was declined but

was asked for a meeting for further discussions in the station’s last ditch attempt at somehow holding the event despite the late hour to organise the mammoth event.

Debono however declined to elaborate when probed further, accusing MaltaToday of somehow having both a “transparent” and “hidden agenda” at the same time. ▶ page 4

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Sant’Antnin will not cope with waste load after 2013

James Debono

BY 2013, the Sant’Antnin recycling plant will not be able to cope with the increased load of domestic waste as Malta seeks to

meet the targets envisaged in the EU’s Landfill Directive.

The government has lambasted the MLP for not naming the site of the four regional recycling plants proposed in its environmental

policy, but the government has still to show how it plans to meet the targets of the EU directive.

According to the landfill directive, Malta will have to reduce the amount of domestic

waste which goes to the landfill. By 2008 the island will have to reduce biodegradable waste which is land-filled to 75 per cent of the amount produced in 1995. By 2013 it will have to reduce it to 50

per cent of the amount produced in 1995. This amounts to 40,000 tonnes of domestic waste, a bare fraction of the 150,000 tonnes of domestic waste which is currently land-filled. ▶ page 14

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