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Trade with Libya

The Maltese Embassy in Tripoli should be supplemented with an effective trade and investment office, the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry said. » Page 4

Malta Embassy

Looters broke into the Maltese embassy in Tripoli causing some damage but the bullet holes found did not imply the building was a direct target during the conflict. » Page 5

Underserved markets

The tourism authority should be empowered to continue supporting increased seat capacity from underserved markets while nurturing Air Malta's commercial sustainability, the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association said. » Page 5

Egyptian protest

Egyptian nationals gathered in front of the Egyptian Embassy in Ta' Xbiex yesterday to protest against the slow progress of the country's democratic reforms. » Page 6



Environment

The Labour Party could agree with the National Environment Policy in principle but it did not mask the government's miserable track record, Leo Brincat said. » Page 12

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International

Syria deaths

Security forces in Syria shot dead at least 12 people in operations across the country yesterday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. » Page 14



Sirte underfire

Columns of fighters loyal to Libya's new leaders surged into Muammar Gaddafi's hometown Sirte yesterday, sparking battles with loyalists in three sectors, including at the airport. » Page 14

Rogue trader

A suspected rogue trader who lived in a £1,000 per week apartment in Shoreditch in the UK, has been charged over a £1.3 billion fraud at banking giant UBS. » Page 16

Cairo unrest

Hundreds of people gathered in Cairo's Tahrir Square yesterday to protest against the recent expansion of the emergency law. » Page 16

Denmark election

Denmark's centre-left celebrated victory yesterday after narrowly winning a general election to end a decade in opposition. » Page 18

National

Lawyer blames client's partner for heroin possession charge

Waylon Johnston

A defence lawyer insisted yesterday that her client was accused of heroin possession on the basis of what his partner told the police following an argument a few days earlier.

Joseph Camilleri, 44, from Gharghur, a former drug addict, was allegedly caught in possession of heroin sachets on Wednesday. The police say the sachets were ready to be sold.

Lawyer Giannella Caruana Curran said the drugs were found in the bedroom he shared with his

partner of 16 years who was a drug addict and was on bail pending other cases. Just three days before the police raided the house in Gharghur, the couple had an argument and she decided to pin the blame on him when officers searched the place and wanted to know to whom did the drugs belong to, the lawyer added.

The woman, Dr Caruana Curran informed the court, was also involved in another serious case that involved well-known criminals such as Charles Muscat, *Il-Pips*, and Alfred Bugeja, *Il-Porporina*. Everything pointed towards the woman's intention to harm her

partner, the motivation being the argument they had just days before, the lawyer said.

Dr Caruana Curran noted that her client had a clean police record, three children to look after and would risk losing his job if denied bail when his partner was on bail pending such serious cases.

Police Inspector Johann Fenech told Magistrate Miriam Hayman the partner of the accused was the main witness and granting him bail would be putting her testimony at risk.

Mr Camilleri was remanded in custody.

Violent estranged husband gets suspended sentence

Waylon Johnston

A man who chased his former wife to the local police station and then violently resisted two officers who tried to arrest him was yesterday given a suspended jail term.

Joseph Bianchi, 39, from Vittoriosa admitted to the charges

brought against him including seriously injuring one of the officers who needed five sutures to his right arm. The incident happened on August 7 at about 6.30 p.m. in Cospicua.

Magistrate Neville Camilleri said Mr Bianchi's ex-wife had forgiven him and that he had a clean police record besides having fully cooperated with the

police. The court took these mitigating factors into consideration when considering judgement. Mr Bianchi was given a one-year jail term suspended for two years and placed on probation for one year.

Police Inspector Jesmond Borg prosecuted.

Lawyer Franco Debono appeared for Mr Bianchi.

Sta Venera bank branch reopens after fire

The HSBC branch in Sta Venera has reopened for business offering full banking services after it was closed for almost two weeks following a fire.

The branch had been temporarily closed and the staff was

relocated to Hamrun after a small fire caused by an electrical fault in a section of the branch on September 7. No one was injured and no assets were damaged. A survey was carried out and the electrical fault was identified and rectified, the bank said.

HSBC regretted any inconvenience the closure could have caused to customers and thanked all personnel involved for their support.

Get on your bike and ride on car-free day

Inspire, the Foundation for Inclusion, will be organising a Cycling For A Cleaner Future event today as part of Car Free Day being marked tomorrow.

Over 150 cyclists will leave from two locations - the National

Park at Ta' Qali and Inspire Marsascale - making their way along a predetermined route before meeting at Manoel Island for some quick refreshments and cycling collectively to finish at Piazza Tigné.

The event kicks off at 9 a.m.

The aim of the activity is to raise funds for Inspire through a participation donation while raising awareness about the environment.

Record breaker's belongings up for auction

Items found in the house of former Gzira mayor and water trading world record holder, Albert Rizzo, will be auctioned later this month.

Mr Rizzo passed away at the age of 60 in 2008, the same week he planned to contest the election as a Nationalist Party candidate. His daughter, Liz Rizzo, said her father died soon after the promotional election flyers had been printed.

He was an auctioneer by profession and was known for

his water trading world record of 72 hours and three minutes. In 1980, he won the Sportsman of the Year award.

Among Mr Rizzo's various career collectables there are paintings, silver, fine porcelain, chandeliers and his personal gold Rolex watch, will feature in the auction.

The auction, by Obelisk Auctions, will be held at Casa Rizzo in Gzira on September 24.

