

# malta today



ETNIKA RETURN!

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Wednesday, 08 August 2007 – issue 17

www.maltatoday.com.mt

## RACHEL CALLS IT A DAY WITH PBS

Malta's most popular TV programme *Tista Tkun Int* will no longer be aired on TVM ▶ see page 3

### FISHING FRENZY DRIVING TUNA TO EXTINCTION

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### Golden Bay is Malta's third most polluted beach

BIANCA CARUANA

IT may be among the most popular sandy beaches in Malta, but according to an analysis report made by Prof. Victor Axiak, the head of the University of Malta's Biology Department, Golden Bay in the northwest of the island is also the third most polluted.

The same report identifies Mgarr ix-Xini in Gozo as the cleanest, while the dirtiest is Balluta Bay in St Julian's: an honour the same bay has enjoyed for years, most likely on account of its sewage outfall.

Choosing the five cleanest beaches on the Maltese Islands can be listed as the South of Gozo being the cleanest, Ramla l-Hamra, Marsalforn, Blue Lagoon Bay and San Niklaw Bay in Comino.

On the other end of the scale the most polluted bays are Balluta Bay, Salini, Golden Bay, Xghajra – near the pumping station – and Mistra Bay. The pumping station overlooking Xghajra bay produces a major sewage outfall of about 58,000 cubic metres every day but it is expected to be closed and replaced by a sewage treatment plant. ▶ page 6

### Gonzi frisked at Perth International Airport

Diplomatic protocol flew out of the window long before Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi even stepped onto the plane, as security guards at Perth International Airport subjected the Maltese PM to the indignity of being frisked, despite protests by the accompanying delegation.

Ignored by the Maltese press on tow for the occasion – which so far has focused only on the fanfare surrounding Gonzi's Australian tour – the diplomatic faux pas was reported last Saturday by the West Australia Newspaper, which described the security guards as "over zealous" in the way they gave Gonzi a regular security check normally waived for high-profile guests.



The upsetting gaffe was unforeseen by Australian Federal Police and diplomatic staff accompanying the Prime Minister on a tour in which he paid tribute to Maltese emigrants in Australia.

According to the report, Gonzi was frisked by the guards even despite protests from the

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