

# malta today



Wednesday, 03 October 2007 – issue 25

www.maltatoday.com.mt



**MLP MEETS FKNK**  
No vindictiveness, Falzon promises, but no defiance of EU law either

## Labour will not reopen Spring hunting season

### Former PN consultant turned MLP guru slams free press

THE man entrusted by Labour to restructure Super One TV and aid Labour's image had been formerly contracted out by Nationalist secretary-general Joe Saliba years back.

In his brief at the PN headquarters, Silvio Debono, a former Xandir Malta reporter, had been responsible for reforming the PN's administration and media. Soon after his intervention, a number of officials left the PN after spending years working for the party.

Last Sunday, Debono, now delivering a weekly newspaper analysis on One TV, lashed out at the independent press for hitting out at Labour.

See Saviour Balzan page 13

Falzon told hunters on Monday.

The MLP deputy leader outlined his party's strategy on hunting and trapping while addressing representatives of the hunters' federation (FKNK) at a private meeting.

Although stopping short of specifying his party's intention not to open the Spring hunting season if elected, the implications of Falzon's message to hunters remain inescapable.

"We will abide by all the existing legal obligations, including those as laid down in the Birds Directive, and as a full member

state of the European Union," Falzon told some 500 hunters at a meeting organised by Labour MP Charles Buhagiar at Ray's Auto Dealer in Zebbug.

Malta's legal obligations under the Birds Directive include the immediate cessation of hunting in Spring.

"Should the EC institute legal proceedings against Malta before we are in government, we will continue to follow the case, with our aim being (obviously) that of winning. We will, however, abide by the decision of the European Court, whatever that may be."

Falzon also hinted that hunters would not return to the "free-for-all" scenario they used to enjoy in years gone by, claiming that

law enforcement will remain a priority for his party. However, he promised that bona fide hunters will not be "persecuted like criminals" under a Labour administration

"Enforcement of the relevant laws, both local and European, is important and will remain and if need be improved; and nobody can expect to break the law and get away with it," Falzon warned.

"Hunters and trappers are to enjoy all civil rights apertaining to their fellow citizens in Malta, as well as to other hunters within the European Union. Any sense of 'vindictiveness' currently felt by hunters is not to remain."

But Falzon also suggested that certain laws which

▶ page 5

#### RAPHAEL VASSALLO

A future Labour government will not openly defy the European Commission on any of Malta's contractual obligations as EU members, but Labour will nonetheless fight any court case brought against Malta in the European Court of Justice, Michael

## TONIO BORG KEEPS FIREWORKS INSPECTIONS UNDER WRAPS pg7

### BirdLife ranger shot in the face

THE ranger of the Foresta 2000 site in Mellieha, Ray Vella, was shot in the face by a hunter while tending to his own field in Wied il-Mizieb, BirdLife said yesterday.

Vella, a long-time member of BirdLife, has been the ranger of the Foresta 2000 site in Mellieha for the last four years personally tending to the trees, near the Red Tower where 3,000 trees were damaged by vandals last May.

On Monday afternoon at 5:52pm, Vella had just arrived



at his field and was tending to his land when a hunter shot in

his direction from a distance of around 35 metres.

"I was hit in the face in several places and shouted out in pain, making it clear to the hunter that I was hit," said Vella.

"The hunter in turn aggressively shouted back at me, swearing at me and cursing BirdLife, clearly showing that he knew who I was. He then ran off, while taunting me over his

shoulder to call the Police."

▶ page 5

### Fuel market liberalised

APPLICATIONS for operating licences for petroleum imports were yesterday opened by the Malta Resources Authority in one of the final steps towards the effective liberalisation of the petroleum market.

It represents another step away from the monopoly so far enjoyed by Enemalta Corporation, after the independent regulator was set up to monitor petroleum operations and oversee market liberalisation.

The applications cover operating licences for petroleum

imports and wholesale, and operation of a primary storage facility.

The MRA said all efforts will be made to ensure an expeditious consideration of applications.

"The consumer is the main focus of this liberalisation. All operators should be aware the consumer deserves and expects upgrading of standards, not least where quality, price of service rendered and safety in operations are concerned."

HAVE A  
**BETTER  
RELATIONSHIP**  
WITH YOUR HAIR

**andrew collinge**

andrewcollinge.com

DISTRIBUTED BY **Chemimart** TEL: 2149 2212