



# Prices will explode in March, warns Reginald Fava

## Medicines importer warns of impending price hike

THE price stability agreements signed between the government and individual importers will simply lead to an "explosion of prices" in March.

The stern warning was made by medicines importer and President Emeritus of the Chamber of Commerce Reginald Fava during TV programme Reporter on Monday.

By signing these voluntary agreements with the government, private operators have bound themselves to keep prices fixed in the six months

between October and March.

But according to Fava, after the "price freeze" is lifted in six months, prices will rise suddenly. "There will be an explosion in prices. Instead of rising gradually prices will increase all of a sudden."

The veteran businessman and lobbyist described these agreements as "unacceptable".

"In the past we had an imposed price freeze. Today we have an agreed price freeze, that is the only difference."

Fava also argued that the price freeze will not be extended, as happened in the past. "I do not think that we would repeat what happened in the past when the price freeze was extended year after year."

In his reply to the budget speech, Opposition leader Alfred Sant also expressed concern of an explosion in prices in March, hinting that a Labour government

▶ page 4



## Closer to Labour?

### Mizzi ponders political career

THE tenacious former Sea Malta chairman Marlene Mizzi could be getting closer to a party candidacy. And she has vowed to choose a party that can bring 'change' and 'alternation of power' if she decides to throw in her hat.

It may be an unsurprising admission by the former chairman who resigned from the national shipping line when government steamrolled ahead with the privatisation of Sea Malta, amid a bitter feud between Mizzi and Investments Minister

▶ page 6



Marlene Mizzi

## Special report



### 'SUPERGRASS' DRUG PUSHER PUT IN JUVENILE DETENTION 'FOR HIS OWN SAFETY'

THE case of a 26-year-old convicted drug trafficker, housed for safety reasons in the juvenile wing of the Corradino prison after testifying against a former partner in crime, has raised questions regarding double standards in drug-related offences, as well as concerns that Malta's Correctional Facilities are ill-equipped for the detention of vulnerable prisoners.

Ian Ciantar, 26 from Swieqi, was the key prosecution witness in the recent trial by jury of Godfrey Ellul, 59 from St Julian's, who was

convicted last month for possession of 1.2 kg of cannabis resin, sentenced to 18 years in prison and fined Lm18,000.

Ciantar was himself convicted on 7 February 2007 for possession of 500g of cannabis resin and 282 ecstasy pills, as well as an unspecified amount of cocaine packaged in two sachets, under circumstances which suggested that the drugs were not for his personal use.

After taking into consideration the fact that he provided information leading to Ellul's

▶ page 8

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