

Monday, May 9, 2011

## In this issue

### National

#### Aggregator website

A news aggregator website that ropes in articles from 10 Maltese websites has been developed by a team of students. » Page 4

#### Pakistani nurses

Labour leader Joseph Muscat yesterday called for a "public investigation" into the recruitment of Pakistani nurses employed by the government under "shocking conditions". » Page 5

#### Some loaf

Bakers in Qormi produced what they believe is the world's biggest loaf and yesterday it was up for grabs in its home town. » Page 6



#### Divorce

Pro-divorce chairman Deborah Schembri feels she was not given a fair hearing when she was stopped from practising as a lawyer in the Church tribunal and plans to fight for her rights. » Page 7

### International

#### Manhunt

A 12-year-old boy was among several people killed yesterday as Syrian troops hunted down opponents of President Bashar al-Assad in two restive cities, despite world anger over the bloody crackdown. » Page 12

#### Misurata

Libyan regime forces laying siege to Misurata intensified their assault on the lifeline port yesterday as smoke billowed from a fuel depot bombing. » Page 14



#### Taliban attacks

Taliban militants who staged a wave of attacks on a major Afghan city, killing four people, were holding out for a second day yesterday. » Page 13

#### Commemoration

Holocaust survivors and Austrian politicians commemorated the end of World War II yesterday. » Page 15

#### 'Al-Qaeda mutiny'

The accused Al-Qaeda mastermind of last year's Baghdad church siege overpowered a policeman, sparking a jail mutiny yesterday in which six Iraqi police and 11 inmates were killed. » Page 16

## Quick find

Letters	9, 10	Sport	41-47
Opinion	8, 11	Television/Radio	32-34
Editorial	9	Business & Finance	35, 36
Weather	27	Births/Obituaries	37
Classified	38-40	Crossword	26

## Contact us

The Times is published by **Allied Newspapers Limited**  
Strickland House  
341 St Paul Street Valletta VLT 1211

For general enquiries please call  
Allied Newspapers reception on

**2559 4100**

Fax: 2124 7901

Letters for publication should be sent to  
**daily@timesofmalta.com** or the  
address on the letters page

For advertising please call

**2559 4200**

or **display@timesofmalta.com**

**Newsroom** please call 2559 4300 or  
e-mail: [newsroom@timesofmalta.com](mailto:newsroom@timesofmalta.com)  
**Night Editorial** please call 2559 4143 or  
e-mail: [night@timesofmalta.com](mailto:night@timesofmalta.com)  
**Features** please call 2559 4141 or  
e-mail: [features@timesofmalta.com](mailto:features@timesofmalta.com)  
**Sports** please call 2559 4182 or  
e-mail: [sport@timesofmalta.com](mailto:sport@timesofmalta.com)  
**Business** please call 2559 4311 or  
e-mail: [business@timesofmalta.com](mailto:business@timesofmalta.com)  
**Arts/culture** please call 2559 4117 or  
e-mail: [arts@timesofmalta.com](mailto:arts@timesofmalta.com)  
**Junior News** please call 2559 4142 or  
e-mail: [junior@timesofmalta.com](mailto:junior@timesofmalta.com)

**Subscription rates:** Yearly subscription is  
€186 excluding postages, €217 hand delivered.  
Payments may be effected either by cheque  
payable to Allied Newspapers Ltd or by credit  
card. Requests for subscription applications  
may be made by sending an e-mail to  
[sales@timesofmalta.com](mailto:sales@timesofmalta.com) or calling 2559 4224.

## National

# Man cleared of attempted murder in Paceville fight

### Claudia Calleja

A 23-year-old man was yesterday cleared of attempted murder but found guilty of stabbing and seriously injuring a young man when he overstepped the limits of self-defence because he was scared.

A jury found Johann Montfort not guilty, by eight votes to one, of trying to kill Joseph Digby, 22, who was 18 at the time, on June 24, 2006.

Jurors in his trial, presided by Mr Justice Michael Mallia, instead found him guilty, by the same count, of seriously injuring Mr Digby in an action they deemed excusable by the fact that he acted in excessive self-defence because he was frightened.

Mr Montfort was also found guilty, by seven votes against two, of the illegal possession of a flick knife for which he was given a one-month jail term after the court noted that he had previously been

convicted for the illegal possession of a harpoon.

According to the law, when a crime is excusable by excessive self-defence due to fear, there is a declaration of guilt but no punishment is handed down for that action.

Jurors reached their verdict after about 10 hours of deliberation that started on Saturday evening.

Mr Montfort's mother heaved a sigh of relief and burst into tears of joy on hearing that her son would not have to face the maximum punishment for attempted murder, 30 years in jail – a Mother's Day present like no other.

The verdict showed that jurors believed Mr Montfort's version of events. The accused had claimed he had gone to a car park, near Axis nightclub in Paceville, to urinate and the victim and his friends started a fight with him.

The argument originated earlier that evening when Mr Montfort,

who was also 18 at the time, had been reminded by one of the victim's friends, Christopher Vella, that he owed him Lm10 (€23).

Mr Montfort pulled out a flick knife to defend himself and, as the group of young men approached him, he brandished the knife injuring Mr Digby.

The prosecution had claimed that Mr Vella and the accused got into a fight over the money. The accused drew a knife from his pocket and began waving it around.

At that point, Mr Digby jumped out to defend his friends and was hit on the elbow, left arm and back. He was rushed to hospital and was operated upon due to the seriousness of the injuries, the prosecution had said.

Lawyers Franco Debono and Marion Camilleri appeared for the accused.

The prosecution was led by lawyer Maurizio Cordina from the Attorney General's office.

# Three men arrested in foiled Sliema burglary

Three would-be burglars not only walked away empty-handed but also handcuffed on Saturday night, after their planned operation in St Dominic Street, Sliema was foiled by suspicious residents.

It is understood they wanted to gain entry to a house which they knew was empty because the family was attending a wedding.

It was around 8.30 p.m. when residents in the usually quiet street heard dogs barking. When one man looked out onto the road he realised there was a man

waiting in a car, parked in a corner.

Soon after, he and other residents saw two men jumping from roof to roof on residences across the road. They called the police who were on site within minutes.

The 26-year-old man from Valletta was apprehended straight away in what was meant to be the getaway car but the search for the other two carried on.

As residents gathered outside their houses, the police went into every residence, including

their back yards, in search of the burglars who seemed to have vanished.

When they re-appeared, the police chased them across the rooftops until they were both arrested. Police sources said one of them tripped, fell a height and fractured his arm, forcing him to give up and turn himself in. These two men are both 31 years old, also from Valletta.

A balaclava was found in the back garden of an uninhabited house which is currently being renovated.

# Seven injured in two fights

Three men were grievously injured and another three and a woman suffered slight injuries in two separate fights on Saturday night, the police said yesterday.

The first incident took place at around 11.45 p.m. outside a bar in Zakak Street in Mosta when an argument between two men from Mosta, a 26-year-old man and a 34-year-old, got out of hand. An iron

bar was allegedly used in the fight, the police said.

The 26-year-old was seriously injured while the 34-year-old man was hurt in the face. Two bystanders, a man and a 34-year-old woman, were also slightly injured.

In another fight at 1 a.m. in Kennedy Square, Victoria, two men were seriously hurt and a total of six were hospitalised.

Following hospital check-ups, a 47-year-old from Xewkija and a 27-year-old from Nadur were found to be unhurt, a 36-year-old and a 21-year-old from Victoria suffered slight injuries while a 21-year-old from Xewkija and a 33-year-old from Victoria suffered serious injuries.

Police are investigating both cases.

# Woman, 90, assaulted, bound and robbed

A 90-year-old woman was assaulted, bound and robbed in her home in Victoria on Saturday afternoon, the police said yesterday.

The incident happened in Kerċem Road at about 3 p.m.

The police said the woman's doorbell rang and when she

opened the door, two young men barged in, tied her up and demanded money. They escaped with some cash.

The men were not hooded but one of them carried a knife. The woman was slightly injured.

Gozo Magistrate Paul Coppini is holding an inquiry.

# Żabbar man seriously injured in fall

A 58-year-old man from Żabbar sustained serious injuries in a fall in Xrobb l-Għagin Road, Marsaxlokk early yesterday morning.

The police said the man fell a height of eight feet but did not give further details on the extent of his injuries.