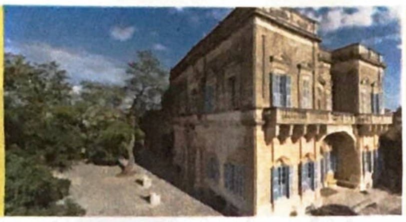
Will we be able to celebrate Christmas under COVID? 6

STATELY WAR

Strickland heirs in court feud over €23 million Villa Bologna estate PAGES 8-9



Failing on integration

GWU boss Josef Bugeja: we're all workers, whether Maltese or not MT2 INTERVIEW

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CABINET RESHUFFLE Abela reconfigures team

COVID-19 costs ministers posts in Abela reshuffle

Justyne Caruana returns to Cabinet as education minister, Sivio Parnis loses job after faltering role over virus outbreak in elderly homes

MATTHEW VELLA

ROBERT Abela has reshuffled his Cabinet eleven months into his premiership, and it is clear that COVID-10 has cost his ministers their portfolios, and in one case, his job.

Silvio Parnis is out, losing his parliamentary secretariat for the elderly after an outbreak of coronavirus inside homes for the elderly raised questions on his ability to marshal a strategy to protect elderly patients.

Owen Bonnici is effectively demoted 'sideways', losing the education portfolio after delays in school opening procedures due to coronavirus protocols, and instead is made minister of a new research and innovation ministry. However, this ministry will still be tasked to harness a post-COVID-19 strategy.

And Julia Farrugia Portelli also takes the fall after a summer opening many blamed for a spike in COVID-19 cases, with her tourism portfolio passed on to former junior minister Clayton Bartolo.

Farrugia Portelli is now minister for inclusion and quality of life, with parliamentary secretary Clifton Grima within her ministry, responsible for sports, recreation and NGOs.

PAGE 4

The great, the good, the giant of Maltese literature Oliver Friggieri 1947-2020 PG3

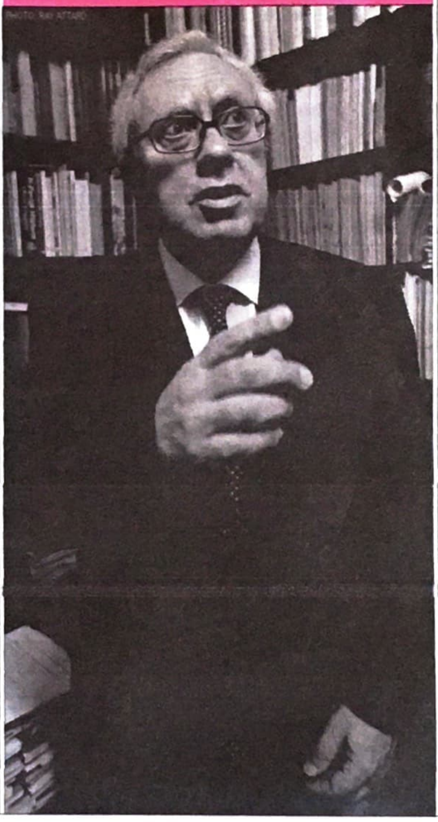
PHOTO: RAY ATTARD

Air Malta accounts still unpublished as new State aid bid beckons

PAUL COCKS

AIR Malta has refrained from publishing its accounts for the financial year ending 2019, with over seven months elapsing since the national airline's annual appointment with the press.

The national airline usually publishes its annual figures in April. In February 2020, MaltaToday had revealed that Air Malta's journey to sustainable finances had once again been hampered by a year in which operational losses had climbed to €30 million.

But that was the figure right before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the international travel industry, grounding all airplanes, and contributing to well over €100 million in losses for the beleaguered airline.

PAGE 2

'He taught me to disobey'

MATTHEW VELLA

Oliver Friggieri, giant of the Maltese literary world, articulated a national consciousness that was politically troubled and hurt

OLIVER Friggieri, the man whose work laid bare the soul of a troubled nation in its worst days of political divide, has died. He was 73. His death was announced by his son on Saturday, 21 November.

An intellectual who was a poet, novelist, literary critic, and minor philosopher, his work had an unmistakable timbre of existentialism.

He articulated Malta's national consciousness in his works, notably with his 1986 work *Fil-Parlament ma Jikbrux Fjuri* and the unforgettable paean to murder victims Karin Grech and Raymond Caruana, victims of Malta's political war in the 1980s.

Friggieri was born in Floriana, Malta, in 1947. He studied at the Bishop's Seminary and then at the University of Malta in 1968 where he acquired a Bachelor of Arts in Maltese, Italian and Philosophy (1968), and then a Masters (1975).

In 1978 he acquired a Doctorate in Maltese literature and Literary Criticism from the Catholic University of Milan, Italy.

Friggieri began his career in 1968 teaching Maltese and Philosophy in secondary schools. In 1976, he started lecturing Maltese at the University of Malta, before being appointed head of department in 1988. He became Professor in 1990.

Between 1970 and 1971 Friggieri was active in Malta's literary revival movement, the Moviment Qawmien Letterarju. He was on the editorial board of the literary periodical *Il-Polz* (1969–73) and co-founded children's magazine *Is-Saghtar* (1971).

In 1971 he collaborated in the establishment of the publishing house Klabb Kotba Maltin.

A Member of the Association Internationale des Critiques Litteraires of Paris, in 2008 Friggieri published his autobiography, *Fjuri li ma Jinxfux*. In 2016, Friggieri was awarded the Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti gold medal.

Friggieri is the author of several books and significantly contributed essays on Peter Caxaro and Mikiel Anton Vassalli. They include *Stejjer Ghal Qabel Jidlam* (1986), *Fil-Gżira Taparsi Jikbru l-Fjuri* (1990), and novels *Il-Gidba* (1977), *L-Istramb* (1980), *Fil-Parlament ma Jikbrux Fjuri* (1986), *Ġiżimin li Qatt ma Jiftah* (1998), *It-Tfal Jiġu bil-Vapuri* (2000) and others.

"Students and many others found solace in his profound humanity, in his quiet manners, in his abilty to empathise with people and share their sorrow"

'He taught me to disobey'

The TV presenter Peppi Azzopardi, speaking to MaltaToday, called him "the man who taught me to disobey".

He said that as a young man, he got hold of a pamphlet in which Olivier Friggieri had written that an unjust law had to be broken. "It shocked me. We were taught at school to obey, so how could this poet tell me not to obey? I thank God for having taken his advice. I chose to disobey from that moment on and what I have done in my life is also fruit of the seed that Friggieri sowed in me."

Azzopardi said Friggieri was a "poet in Parliament, the village square, the university, the dockyard and the factory."

"His poems were not self-gratifying or a showcase of his own deep thoughts; he did not write poems so that school children could learn their meter and rhyme. He wrote a poetry that was understood by the people without a critic interceding for him.

"Friggieri was a man of caution but he could sow courage and overcome fear in the name of what was right. It was the right thing not to make him President of the Republic, for his poems would have caused him trouble. His work keeps him alive, speaking to all our consciences."

The writer and academic Prof. Adrian Grima, said Friggieri had almost single-handedly established Maltese literary theory and criticism as an academic discipline.

"We owe our work in this field to him. Even today his academic writings remain fundamentally important to all those who want to write about our literature.

"But he was also scrupulously aware of his role and his responsibility both as a leading public intellectual and as an educator. Students and many others found solace in his profound humanity, in his quiet manners, in his ability to empathise with people and share their sorrow. To me, and to many others, he was a second father. I will miss him dearly."

Accolades from leaders

The Maltese government saluted Friggieri's memory. "He is one of Malta's greatest writers, whose recognition goes beyond Maltese shores. He is a patriot who celebrated Maltese identity, and whose work is a reference point for the language, contributing much to Maltese history, and promoting a sense of unity for this nation."

Accolades for the writer came from Nationalist Party leader Bernard Grech, who saluted the "giant of Maltese literature, a prolific writer whose workers were translated in various languages... he bequeathed unto us a long career to the benefit of the Maltese language."

Former prime minister Joseph Muscat described Friggieri as a "genuine friend".

"His authenticity did not recognise political affiliation, and he would call out what was good and bad in all our country's phases. His works were a symbol of the Fenech Adami 'resistance' in the 1980s. But he was also someone who recognised the good that Mintoff did. He was one of the persons whose small chats with me influenced me in my time in politics."

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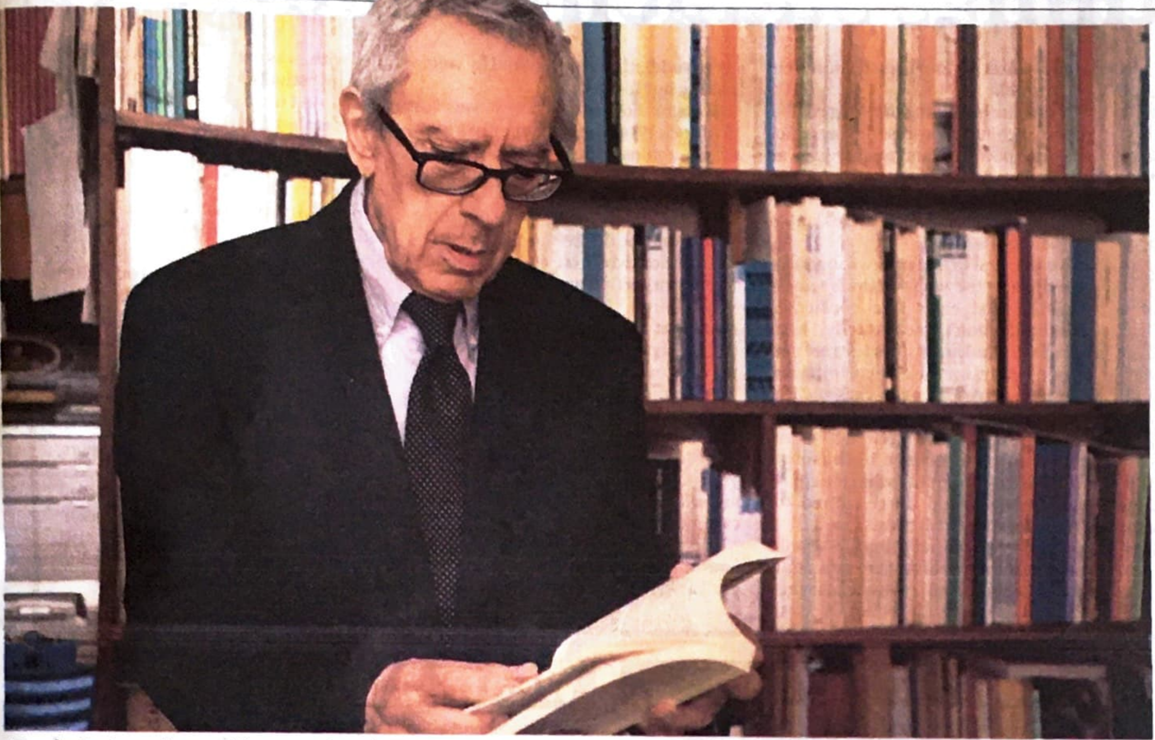

Award-winning writer and literary critic Oliver Friggieri died yesterday at the age of 73. PHOTO: MARK ZAMMIT CORDINA

SEE STORY ON PAGE 7

Polidano has €40m tax bill

Construction magnate's lawyers have begun to contest dues

IVAN MARTIN

Construction tycoon Charles Polidano has been ordered to settle more than €40 million in tax dues or face possible court action.

Times of Malta is informed that Polidano, known as *Iċ-Ċaqnu*, has over the past few days been served with a number of court documents ordering him to pay a massive tax bill, some of which stretches back to the 1990s. The company is one of the leading construction firms in Malta, regularly involved in major national infrastructure projects.

Polidano, 60, one of the wealthiest men on the island, has racked up €30.4 million in unpaid taxes on his flagship company Polidano Brothers Limited. It also has another two smaller tax bills of €6.3 million and €1.2 million, which have also long been outstanding, sources said.

The court orders, known as judicial acts, were filed by the Inland Revenue Commissioner in the first week of November.

Tax department sources said that Polidano had previously entered into a number of payment plans with onerous obligations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Most people plan to stay home this Christmas

Christmas looks set to take on a different spirit this year, with the majority of people planning to stay home in the midst of the pandemic, according to a Times of Malta survey.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the health authorities have been asking for sacrifices to be made over the Christmas period, asking people to limit their contacts with those outside their households.

And it looks like many are taking the message seriously. Just over half the respondents to a survey (53 per cent) said they would be celebrating Christmas at home alone or with their partner.

However, 37 per cent still intend to spend it with family and friends, while six per cent are unsure and the rest will do other activities, according to the survey carried out by advisory firm EMCS.

As the economic impact of the pandemic continues to bite, over a third (38 per cent) intend to spend less money *than usual this Christmas.*

On the other hand, spending patterns for 60 per cent of respondents will remain unchanged compared to last year.

Two per cent want to splurge more than they usually do over the holiday season.

A marked divergence emerges from the survey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Malta's most recommended network is now epic.
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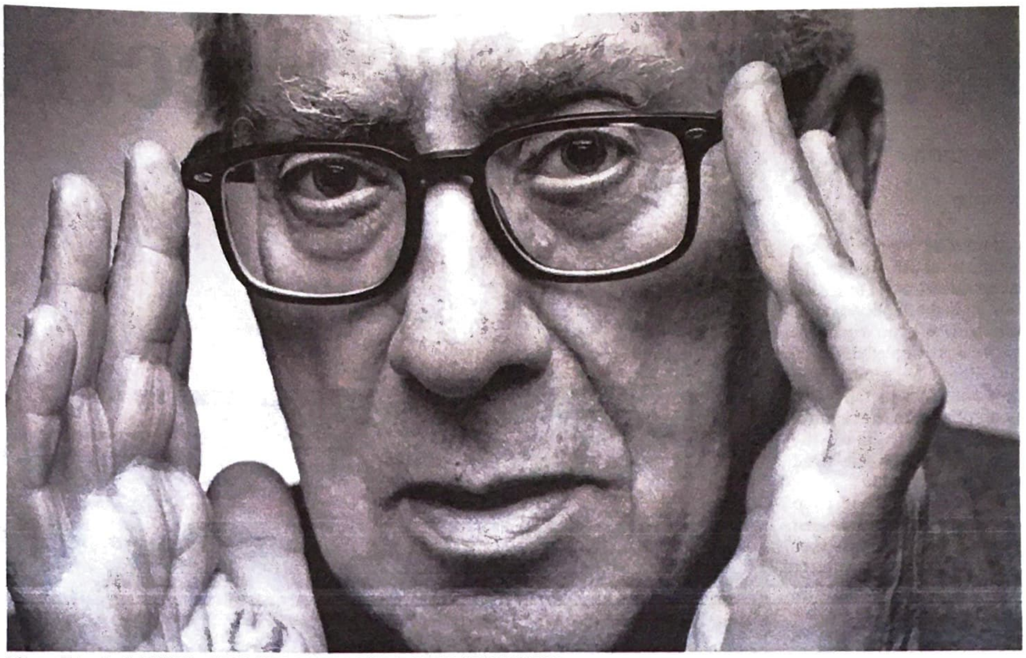
Oliver Friggieri dead at 73

SARAH CARABOTT



Oliver Friggieri. PHOTO: GEORGE SCINTILLA/THE FACE OF SUCCESS

Tributes poured in for Oliver Friggieri, described as one of Malta's greatest ever writers, after he died yesterday aged 73.

His death was announced by his family on Facebook.

Friggieri, also an educator, philosopher and literary critic, was pivotal in promoting Maltese literature and the use of the Maltese language.

He was among the co-founders of popular children's magazine *Is-Sagħtar*, as well as local publishing house Klabb Kotba Maltin.

> "His love for the arts, research and philosophy inspired one generation after the other"

Friggieri taught Maltese in secondary schools before moving on to tertiary education. He was appointed head of the University of Malta's Department of Maltese in 1988 and continued to lead the department until 2002.

He published a wide variety of books, ranging from works of literary criticism to poetry, as well as 10 novels and a collection of sketches. His works have been translated into English, French, German, Italian and Greek.

Among his most famous works was his 1986 novel *Fil-Parlament ma jikbrux Fjuri*, which sparked controversy for its frank depiction of political tribalism within Malta.

Friggieri was honoured with a gold medal in the *Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti* in 2016 and won various editions of the National Book Prize.

In one of his last interviews, published by *Times of Malta* last June, he mused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It all provides an unprecedented lesson in humility. The universe is theocentric and not homocentric," he had said.

In a statement, the government paid tribute to Friggieri as "one of this country's greatest ever writers" and said his writing had helped foster a sense of national unity.

"His love for the arts, research and philosophy inspired one generation after the other," the statement noted.

Both the Labour and Nationalist parties also issued statements paying tribute and offering his family their condolences.

Friggieri had been instrumental in establishing the PN's newspapers In-Nazzjon and Il-Mument.

On social media he was described as a man who had instilled a strong love for the Maltese language in many.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna was among the first to pay a "heartfelt" tribute. Friggieri, he said, "taught us to love the Maltese language and be proud of our literary heritage.

The news shocked fellow author Alfred Sant, a former prime minister, who had known Friggieri since the mid-1960s. He said one of Friggieri's best qualities, apart from the arts, culture and education, was a "profound sense of tolerance".

Friggieri's friend and fellow poet Daniel Massa will remember him as "working tirelessly" all his life for the cause of Maltese literature and all that is Maltese.

"Your numerous brilliant works will remain a beacon, lighting up the way for a younger generation of writers," he said, upon learning of his passing away.

Friggieri's former student, fellow writer and colleague Ġorġ Mallia penned a poetic tribute, accompanied by a portrait of his mentor.

"He was the man we emulated when we tried to understand the depths in the cavernous maws of literature... he gave us the method, he built the way with his incredible mind. The university's Faculty of Arts said the country had lost an icon: "A life has come to an end, but what a life fulfilled! What better epitaph than one from a poem by the master he spent so much of his life studying: Non Omnis Moriar".

President George Vella described him as a "staunch promoter of the Maltese language and identity".

Prime Minister Robert Abela described Friggieri as a man of great humanity and humility.

"Above all, he was a man who dearly loved Malta, its people and language."

PN leader Bernard Grech referred to Friggieri as a giant of literature.

"The literary work that Friggieri has left us, and his efforts in favour of the Maltese language, are his best heritage."

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PN candidates seek new districts to enhance election chances
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YORGEN FENECH
A year of court drama, revelations and political upheaval
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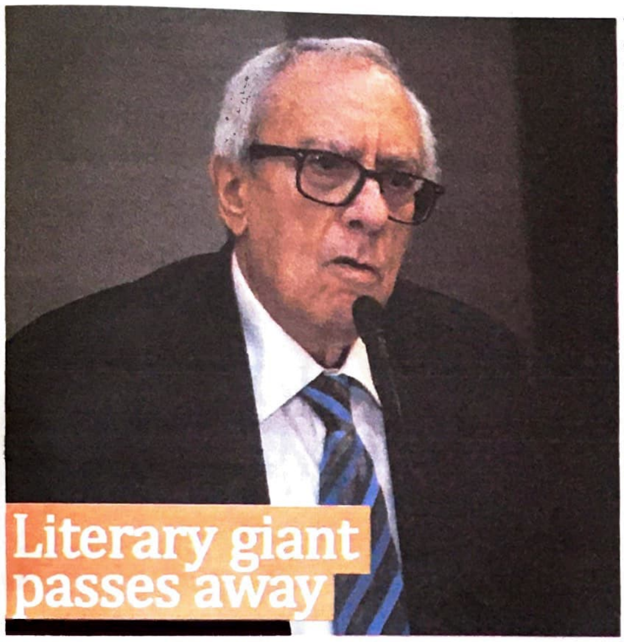

Literary giant passes away

Writer Oliver Friggieri has died aged 73. Friggieri is considered a giant in the field, having taught Maltese and won numerous local and international literary prizes over the years. He was secretary of the Moviment Qawmien Letterarju and also a co-founder of the Klabb Kotba Maltin.He lectured at the University of Malta, where he was nominated associate professor and became head of the Department of Maltese in 1988 and full professor in 1990.He has contributed many critical works dealing with literary theory, critical studies, stylistic analysis and literary biographies. Some of his works were translated into foreign languages. He has also published several poetry books, short stories and other literature, among which "Fil-Parlament ma jikbrux fjuri".

Bernard Grech should have contested 12th district, not 11th – PN insiders

STEPHEN CALLEJA

Nationalist Party Leader Bernard Grech should have contested the 12th, not 11th, electoral district, as the PN is risking losing it to Labour, party insiders told *The Malta Independent on Sunday*.

A few days ago, the PN executive committee approved the candidacy of Grech for the fifth and 11th districts. Grech will be leading the PN in an election for the first time, having beaten incumbent Adrian Delia in a leadership election held in October.

But whereas the choice of the fifth district is seen as an attempt from the party to attract voters from the south, the selection of the 11th district has been received with scepticism.

The PN is weak on the fifth district, part of the Labour-dominated south of Malta, and the presence of the leader on the ballot sheet is aimed to serve as a boost. In 2017, the PN elected Toni Bezzina and Hermann Schiavone, the latter making it to Parliament without obtaining a quota.

Given the 4-1 defeats in the second, third and fourth electoral districts, the 3-2 loss in the fifth was a half-miracle for the PN, with the last PL candidate Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi losing out to Schiavone by fewer than 400 votes in the last count. Zrinzo Azzopardi was subsequently elected in a casual election.

Continued on page 8

As expected, Dalli, Caruana made ministers in Cabinet reshuffle

2 »

INTERVIEW

'My electoral mandate stays, and I will remain true to it' – Roberta Metsola

KARL AZZOPARDI

"My electoral mandate stays, and I will remain true to it," newly elected First Vice President of the European Parliament (EP) Roberta Metsola said during an interview with *The Malta Independent on Sunday*.

After being nominated for the post by the European People's Party (EPP), which she forms part of, Metsola was elected as the First Vice President for the EP two weeks ago with a unanimous vote across all political parties, replacing Mairead McGuinness who became European Commissioner.

The position is the second-highest position in the whole EP, after the President, and there are 13 other Vice Presidents who deal with different matters. She is the first Maltese MEP to become Vice President.

The Malta Independent on Sunday interviewed Metsola, who described what her role entails, how she will represent Malta, as well as her opinion on migration and the Moneyval evaluation, among other topics.

Continued on page 3

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Oliver Friggieri jibqa' għal dejjem il-kuxjenza tal-pajjiż tagħna

Malta maħsuda bil-mewt tal-Professur Oliver Friggieri

Ara reazzjonijiet miġbura minn Joe Cassar f'paġni 2 u 3

€1.5 miljun f'salarji mill-MFSA lil żewġ persuni f'sitt snin biss

...u nofs miljun ewro għal 38 safra

Dettalji ta' Joe Mikallef f'paġni 4 u 5

Robert Abela ċass u bla pjan konkret hekk kif il-vittmi tal-Covid-19 jaqbżu l-110 u jkomplu jiżdiedu l-każi pożittivi

Analiżi ta' Joe Mikallef dwar l-imġiba tal-Prim Ministru quddiem il-pandemija dinjija f'paġni 6 u 7

Ikabbar il-Kabinett tal-Ministri

Ara rapport ta' Joe Mikallef f'paġna 32

It-temp Imsaħħab b'ħalbiet tax-xita possibilment bir-ragħad. **Viżibilità** Tajba lokalment moderata għal ħażina fil-ħalbiet tax-xita. **Riħ**: Nofsinhar għax-Xlokk forza 4 li jsir Xlokk il-Lvant forza 5. (Bil-buffuri tar-riħ viċin l-maltempati). **Baħar:** Ħafif għal moderat li jsir moderat. **Imbatt:** Baxx mil-Lbiċ li jsir imħawwad. **L-ogħla temperatura**:19°C. **L-anqas temperatura**:15°C. **Temperatuira tal-Baħar**:22°C .

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L-ogħla 19°C	L-ogħla 19°C	L-ogħla 18°C	L-ogħla 18°C	L-ogħla 19°C
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Mobile Blood Donation Unit

Illum il-Ħadd l-22 ta' Novembru 2020, il-*mobile blood donation unit* se jkun maġenb il-Knisja tas-Salib Imqaddes, Żona Sant' Andrija, Ħaż-Żabbar, u fil-Berġa tax-Xewkija. Il-ħin għall-għoti tad-demm ikun mit-8.30am sas-1pm. **Kull min imur biex jagħti d-demm hu mitlub jieħu miegħu l-karta tal-identità.**

Oliver Friggieri se jibqa' għal dejjem il-kuxjenza ta' pajjiżna – L-Akkademja tal-Malti

Il-Professur Oliver Friggieri se jibqa' għal dejjem il-kuxjenza tan-nazzjon tagħna.

L-Akkademja tal-Malti sellmet b'dan il-ħsieb lill-Professur Olvier Friggieri li miet ilbieraħ is-Sibt, u fissret li se jibqa' magħruf bħala wieħed mill-awturi l-aktar rispettati tat-tieni nofs tas-seklu għoxrin kif ukoll bħala l-kritiku ewlieni tal-letteratura Maltija, poeta u kontributur regolari f'gurnali u rivisti akkademiċi kemm Maltin kif ukoll barranin.

Oliver Friggieri twieled il-Furjana fl-1947. Beda jikteb il-poeżija meta kien għadu fl-iskola Primarja tal-Furjana, minn fejn għadda għas-Seminarju u għall-Università. Hu l-awtur ta' numru kbir ta' kotba (poeżija, rumanzi, novelli u kritika) maħruġa f'Malta u f'diversi pajjiżi barranin. Ir-rumanzi, in-novelli, u l-poeżiji tiegħu ġew maqlubin f'diversi lingwi. L-istudji tiegħu, bl-Ingliż u bit-Taljan, deħru f'għadd kbir ta' rivisti akkademiċi internazzjonali.

Kien l-ewwel student li ggradwa MA (1975) fil-letteratura Maltija u aktar tard kiseb ukoll il-grad ta' Ph.D. (1978) b'teżijiet ta' kritika komparata – *La Cultura Italiana del Romanticismo e la Poesia Maltese* (1978).

Huwa kien kofundatur tal-Moviment Qawmien Letterarju, u għamel żmien l-editur ta' *Il-Polz* (1969-1973) – ir-rivista tal-Moviment. Kien ukoll kofundatur tar-rivista *Saghtar* u ħadem mill-qrib ma' Pawlu Mizzi biex twaqqaf il-Klabb Kotba Maltin fl-1971.

Beda l-karriera tiegħu bħala għalliem fl-iskejjel sekondarji fejn għallem il-Malti u l-Filosofija (1968-75) u aktar tard inħatar lettur fid-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta (1976-90). Kien Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti, kariga li żamm mill-1988 sal-2002 u Professur tal-Letteratura mill-1990. Kien editur ta' *Journal of Maltese Studies* (1980).

Ittraduċa xogħlijiet mil-Latin, mit-Taljan u mill-Ingliż, fosthom *De Arte Poetica* ta' Orazju, *Ħrejjef għat-Tfal* ta' Grimm u Andersen u *Il-Ħanut tal-Arġentier* ta' Karol Woytyla.

Aktar minn 60 ktieb tiegħu inqalbu f'diversi lingwi, f'pajjiżi barranin. Ir-rumanzi tiegħu ġew tradotti f'16-il lingwa, fosthom l-Ingliż, it-Taljan, il-Franċiż, l-Urdu, il-Grieg, il-Maċedonjan u r-Romanjan.

Fost ix-xogħlijiet ewlenin tiegħu nsibu d-*Dizzjunarju ta' Termini Letterarji* (1996) meqjus bħala l-*Magnum Opus* tiegħu. Kiteb l-ewwel Oratorja bil-Malti – *Pawlu ta' Malta* (1989) u l-ewwel kantata – *L-Għanja ta' Malta* (1989).

Kien editur ta' għadd sabiħ ta' antoloġiji, fosthom *Il-Poeżija Maltija* (1996), *Ħodon Qronfol* (1990) u *L-Antoloġija tan-Natura* (1995) ma' Mario Azzopardi.

Oliver Friggieri rebaħ għadd sabiħ ta' premjijiet internazzjonali fosthom l-ewwel premju għall-Kritika Letterarja fil-XIV Concorso Silarus (1982); il-Premio Internazionale Mediterraneo, Palermo (1988); il-Premju Letterarju mill-Gvern Malti (1988, 1997, 1999, 2002) u l-Premio Sampieri per la Poesia, Marsa Siklaħ, Sqallija (1995). Kien membru tal-Association Internationale des Critiques Litteraires ta' Pariġi.

Fl-2003 ngħata l-Midalja tad-Deheb mis-Soċjetà Manifattura tal-Arti u l-Kummerċ. Fl-istess sena ngħata r-raba' 'Premio Internazionale Trieste Poesia' – mogħti lill-awturi internazzjonali għall-kontribuzzjoni poetika tagħhom f'kotba ppubblikati barra minn pajjiżhom.

Fl-2016, l-Akkademja tal-Malti onoratu bil-Midalja tad-Deheb 'Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti' għall-kontribut letterarju eċċezzjonali tiegħu f'ċerimonja speċjali taħt il-Patroċinju tal-Presidenta ta' Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

■ Tislima oħra lil Oliver Friggieri waslet mill-Kumitat tal-**Għaqda tal-Malti** – Università li sellmet lil Oliver Friggieri bħala pilastru fil-lingwa u l-letteratura Maltija.

"Kien b'inizjattiva ta' Prof. Friggieri li l-Għaqda tal-Malti għaddiet f'idejn l-istudenti fid-disgħinijiet, billi qabel, kien ikun il-Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti fil-Fakultà tal-Arti tal-Università li kien jokkupa din il-kariga. B'insistenza ta' Prof. Friggieri, l-Għaqda bdiet titmexxa mill-istudenti. Billi kien Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti bejn l-1988 u l-2002, Prof. Friggieri kien ukoll membru ex-officio fil-Kumitat tal-Għaqda tal-Malti.

L-istudenti tal-Malti jibqgħu jiftakru lil Prof. Friggieri għall-imħabba li kattar fihom lejn l-ilsien u l-letteratura Maltija.

Poeta, kittieb, għalliem... imma fuq kollox ġentlom – L-attur Mario Micallef

L-aħbar li ħalliena Oliver kienet għalija xokk kbir. Poeta, għalliem, imma fuq kollox ġentlom. Bniedem umli u maħbub minn kulħadd.

Kellna ħbiberija reċiproka bejnietna. Diversi drabi tellajt serati ad unur tiegħu, kif kien jixraqlu. L-aħħar waħda kienet fil-palazz tal-President, f'Sant'Anton, taħt il-patroċinju tal-President innifsu, George Vella, u s-Sinjura tiegħu. Ippreżentajt diversi xogħlijiet tiegħu, kemm fuq il-palk, kif ukoll fuq it-televiżjoni.

Illum Malta tilfet kolonna importanti fil-letteratura Maltija. Żgur li se jibqa' mfakkar mal-eluf ta' studenti li għaddew minn taħt idejh. Oliver jagħmel parti importanti mill-istorja ta' pajjiżna.

Tkellimna għall-aħħar darba l-ġimgħa li għaddiet, permezz ta' email, peress li dan l-aħħar ma stajniex nikkomunikaw sew fuq it-telefon kif konna nagħmlu s-soltu. Fost affarijiet li tkellimna, ferħan qalli li għadhom kif ħarġulu tliet kotba oħra bi tliet lingwi differenti. Talabni biex fil-jiem li ġejjin immur għandu d-dar biex jagħtini kopja.

Il-gost tiegħi kull meta kont immur inżuru d-dar tiegħu kien li nisimgħu jitkellem. Kien jaffaxxinani bl-intelliġenza u l-kariżma tiegħu. Ftit ilu kiteb l-aħħar poeżija tiegħu u ddedikaha lili. L-isem tagħha kien proprju 'L-Aħħar Kelma'.

Din il-poeżija issa se ngħożżha aktar minn qabel, kif żgur se nibqa' ngħożż it-tifkiriet sbieħ li kelli ta' dan il-ħabib tal-qalb.

Malta maħsuda bil-mewt tal-Professur Oliver Friggieri

Oliver kien figura nazzjonali – Ugo Mifsud Bonnici

Il-mewt ta' Oliver Friggieri ħasditni. Kien ħabib. Imma iktar minn ħabib kien figura nazzjonali.

Nista' ngħid li kien il-Poeta Nazzjonali, wara Dun Karm, li fuqu kiteb ukoll għaliex Oliver barra li kien poeta kien ukoll kritiku tajjeb ħafna. Kien poeta nazzjonali fis-sens li għanna għan-nazzjon kollu. Tana l-ewwel nett għadd ta' innijiet reliġjużi. Ħafna drabi fil-liturġija nkantaw dak li kiteb hu.

Imma barra minn dan ta ħafna aktar. Kellu ġo fih funtana ta' kliem sabiħ fuq kollox. Kien kapaċi jikteb rumanzi... imma fuq kollox l-ikbar don li kellu kien il-kapaċità li jesprimi opinjoni poetika fuq kollox. Jiġifieri f'dan is-sens kien poeta tan-nazzjon, mhux poeta għalih innifsu. Barra li kien poeta liriku kien ukoll oratur, għan-nazzjon kollu.

Kienet ħasda kbira l-mewt tiegħu. Kien ħabib kbir għalija Oliver Friggieri. Għaddejna ħafna żmien flimkien. Nibkih. Għadu żgħir u seta' tagħna aktar. Imma dak li tagħna hu imprezzabbli u, naturalment, se nibqgħu ngħożżuh għal dejjem.

Ġgant tal-letteratura Maltija – Il-PN

Strumentali għat-twaqqif tal-gazzetti In-Nazzjon u Il-Mument u kontributur kbir f'In-Nazzjon sa mill-ewwel ħarġa fl-1 ta' Lulju tal-1970 għal kważi 50 sena

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista sellem il-memorja tal-Professur Oliver Friggieri, li kien ġgant tal-letteratura Maltija.

David Agius, Viċi Kap tal-PN għall-Affarijiet Parlamentari; Clyde Puli, Kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Edukazzjoni u t-Tiġdid tad-Dinja tax-Xogħol u d-Djalogu Soċjali Parteċipattiv; u Therese Comodini Cachia, Kelliema tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti, l-Kultura u l-Midja; qalu fi stqarrija li Oliver Friggieri jibqa' mfakkar għall-kontribut kbir li hu ta fil-letteratura, fejn kien kittieb prolifiku, poeta u kritiku letterarju Malti magħruf madwar id-dinja. Huwa kien ukoll għalliem tal-Malti u tal-Filosofija u Lettur fl-Università ta' Malta. Hu laħaq Professur fl-1990 u fl-2013 inħatar Chairman tal-Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali Maltin. Oliver Friggieri kien ruħ ta' nazzjon.

Il-Professur Friggieri kien qrib ħafna tal-gazzetti tal-Partit Nazzjonalista u kien strumentali għat-twaqqif tal-gazzetti In-Nazzjon u Il-Mument, u kien kontributur kbir f'In-Nazzjon tant li mill-ewwel ħarġa fl-1 ta' Lulju tal-1970 baqa' jikkontribwixxi fiha għal kważi 50 sena.

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista ta l-kondoljanzi lill-familjari f'dan il-mument diffiċli.

Il-Partit Laburista sellem ukoll il-memorja ta' Oliver Friggieri u esprima s-sogħba għall-mewt tiegħu.

Fi stqarrija, l-Uffiċċju tal-Komunikazzjoni tal-Partit Laburista qal li Oliver Friggieri se jibqa' mfakkar għan-numru ta' poeżiji, kotba u rumanzi bil-lingwa Maltija.

Apparti kittieb u poeta, huwa kien ukoll għalliem tal-Malti u tal-Filosofija u kien anke Lettur fl-Università ta' Malta.

Isem Oliver Friggieri jibqa' jissemma sakemm iddum teżisti Malta – Victor Camilleri

Għalija Victor Camilleri jfisser ħafna affarijiet, imma nibqa' nħares lejh l-aktar bħala ħabib personali li trabbejna flimkien il-Furjana.

Bħalma jiġri dejjem, wara ż-żmien tal-iskola flimkien, kulħadd jaqbad toroq differenti, imma fil-każ tagħna t-toroq li għażilna reġgħu ġabuna flimkien anki għaliex Oliver nazzarda ngħid li hu l-aktar kittieb li ppubblika kotba bil-Malti u li mbagħad ħafna minnhom ġew tradotti f'lingwi oħra.

Imma mbagħad Oliver Friggieri ma waqafx hemm biss. Il-kontribut tiegħu kien f'għadd ta' oqsma oħra. Fil-qasam li ġej minnu jien, dak tal-ġurnaliżmu stampat, Oliver kien wieħed fost l-ikbar kontributuri, partikolarment b'kitbiet regolari kemm f'Il-Mument u f'In-Nazzjon. Hu beda jikteb f'In-Nazzjon sa mill-ewwel ħarġa tiegħu f'Lulju tal-1970 u baqa' jikteb sa ftit xhur ilu, sakemm ippermettietlu saħħtu.

Ir-rubrika tiegħu f'In-Nazzjon ta' kull nhar ta' Tnejn, li damet għaddejja għal numru ta' snin, kien iqaxxar fiha dak li l-element l-aktar kien iħobb jikteb dwaru: Malta u l-Maltin.

Bil-mewt ta' Oliver Friggieri pajjiżna tilef persuna li tat kontribut enormi lill-pajjiż u lis-soċjetà tagħna. Bħala Furjaniż għamel ġieħ matul ħajtu kollha lil-lokalità li twieled fiha bi studji, kotba u diversi kitbiet oħra. Proprju fil-bidu ta' din is-sena fil-knisja ta' San Publju fil-Furjana ttella' oratorjo bit-titlu 'Ħodon Fjuri lil San Publju' li fih wera kemm kien iħobb lil-lokalità tiegħu.

Kull fejn daħal Oliver Friggieri ta l-kontribut kbir tiegħu. Ma waqaf qatt. Ried jibqa' għaddej anki waqt li kien ikiddu l-mard. Ismu jibqa' jissemma mhux f'dawn il-jiem biss imma sakemm Malta tibqa' teżisti.

Malta tilfet ikona – Louis Galea

Aħbar li sewditli qalbi immens. Oliver u jien tista' tgħid li trabbejna flimkien, konna l-iskola primarja flimkien, sekondarja, l-Università u bqajna nikkollaboraw tista' tgħid sal-lum.

Bħala student Oliver kellu karattru ferrieħi, mill-iktar bravu, intelliġenti... fl-Università mill-ewwel beda jiddistingwi ruħu u aktar tard kien għalliem li ħabb lill-istudenti, professur, ħassieb, poeta, kritiku.

Kien kritiku fin ta' dak li kien iseħħ f'pajjiżna, imma l-kritika kien jagħmilha dejjem b'ħafna mħabba għal Malta.

Malta tilfet ikona. Tilfet Malti li kabbar lil Malta u lill-Maltin. Persuna b'kontribut enormi lill-Ilsien u l-Letteratura Maltija. Kien ħabrieki fil-Moviment Qawmien Letterarju fil-bidu u ko-fundatur tar-rivista letterarja tat-tfal 'Sagħtar'. Ħadem ħafna biex isir aktar magħruf Dun Karm Psaila, li tiegħu ġabar il-poeżiji kollha, u ħabb ħafna wkoll lil Rużar Briffa, poeta ieħor.

Oliver kien wieħed mill-aktar kittieba prolifiċi, kiteb poeżiji, novelli, letteratura kritika. Probabbli l-iktar awtur tradott f'lingwi barranin, f'madwar 60 lingwa. Kiteb l-Oratorju 'Pawlu ta' Malta' u oratorji oħrajn. F'mument ta' kriżi f'pajjiżna kiteb 'Fil-Parlament ma Jikbrux Fjuri' u kattar fin-nies il-kuraġġ, il-fidi, it-tama. Kellu wkoll bosta kitbiet reliġjużi.

L-aħħar vrus li kiteb kienu fuq l-annimali. Kien qed jikteb trattat ta' ħsieb, ta' filosofija, fuq l-annimali, it-tbatija tagħhom u x'inhu s-sehem tal-annimal flimkien mal-bniedem. Aħna li konna qrib tiegħu tlifna ħabib kbir.

Tlifna kittieb mill-aqwa – Bernard Grech

Insellem il-memorja ta' Oliver Friggieri li kien ġgant tal-letteratura Maltija. Pajjiżna llum tilef kittieb prolifiku mill-aqwa, awtur ta' numru kbir ta' kotba ppubblikati f'Malta u barra.

Ix-xogħol letterarju li ħalliena Friggieri u l-ħidma tul issnin b'risq l-ilsien Malti huma l-aqwa wirt ta' ħajtu.

Tagħlim u ħsibijiet profondi

Il-Gvern ta' Malta wkoll sellem il-memorja tal-kittieb, poeta, kritiku letterarju, u ħassieb Oliver Friggieri.

Il-Professur Friggieri tfisser bħala wieħed mill-ikbar awturi li qatt kellu pajjiżna. Magħruf mhux biss f'Malta imma wkoll fuq livell internazzjonali, f'Oliver Friggieri kienet tispikka l-kreattività sinonima ma' personaġġ ta' rispett u suċċess li se jħalli legat kbir warajh.

Oliver Friggieri huwa meqjus bħala patrijott Malti li ħabb u ċċelebra l-identità Maltija, bix-xogħlijiet tiegħu huma punt ta' referenza għal-lingwa Maltija u kontribut enormi għall-istorja Maltija. Bil-kitbiet tiegħu kien jippromwovi sens ta' għaqda għal dan in-nazzjon u għal dan il-poplu.

L-imħabba tiegħu lejn l-arti, ir-riċerka, u l-filosofija ispirat ġenarazzjoni wara oħra. Filwaqt li jwassal il-kondoljanzi tiegħu lill-familja Friggieri, il-Gvern ta' Malta rringrazzja lil Oliver Friggieri għas-sehem imprezzabbli li ta lis-soċjetà tagħna b'tagħlim u ħsibijiet profondi li se jibqgħu ħajjin għal dejjem.

>> f'paġna 48

Imut Oliver Friggieri...

Malta titlef l-aqwa ħassieb, kittieb, ricerkatur u ħabib tal-Malti.

>> f'paġna 47

Gzira United jilħqu lil Hibernians fil-quċċata tal-klassifika

Filwaqt li l-Maroons jirbħu, il-Pawlisti jiġu miżmuma.

L-invażjoni tal-Alleati fin-Normandija

>> f'paġna 14

Pjan biex it-tifkira tkun kummerċjalizzata... imma l-veterani joġġezzjonaw.

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>> p 5 - €900,000 għall-immaniġġjar aħjar tal-iskart fl-ibliet u rħula tagħna >> p 12 - Lejn tisħiħ tal-prodott turistiku tagħna

DIŻABBLI MĦALLSIN INQAS GĦALL-'ISTESS XOGĦOL'

VICTOR VELLA
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Ritratt: Roger Azzopardi

Jaħdmu taħt l-istess saqaf. Jagħmlu prattikament l-istess xogħol. Grupp imħallas mod u persuna oħra għandha inqas. Irraġuni għaliex hemm din id-differenza fil-paga ma ssibha mniżżla mkien. Jekk tistaqsi għaliex wieħed mill-ħaddiema għandu inqas paga, jgħidulek li xogħlu mhux eżatt bħal tal-ħaddiema l-oħra, għax għandu xi doveri neqsin. Jekk tistaqsi aktar, min iħaddmu jgħidlek li "anke responsabbiltà għandu inqas

>> ikompli f'paġni 6 u 7

Reshuffle fil-Kabinett

Ilbieraħ filgħodu, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela kien għaddej b'ħidma biex issir reshuffle fil-Kabinett. Sa minn kmieni filgħodu beda jibgħat għal diversi Ministri u Segretarji Parlamenari u anke Deputati.

>> ikompli f'paġna 4

Il-familji f'pajjiżna fost l-inqas li ħassew impatt ekonomiku mill-COVID-19

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Stħarriġ magħmul mill-Parlament Ewropew fost il-familji f'kull pajjiż fl-Unjoni Ewropea wera kif il-familji Maltin u Għawdxin huma fost l-inqas li qalu li ġew affettwati ekonomikament mill-pandemija.

>> ikompli f'paġna 4

IMUT OLIVER FRIGGIERI

Ritratt: Alan Saliba

... Malta titlef l-aqwa ħassieb, kittieb, riċerkatur u ħabib tal-Malti

"Miet l-aqwa ħassieb, kittieb, riċerkatur u ħabib tal-Malti. Ħabib tiegħi li ispirani, li ħabbibni mal-kelma Maltija u dak kollu li jagħmilna Maltin fil-kelma, fil-ħsieb u t-tradizzjoni letterarju u lill Hinn. Kemm inti kbir Professur. Kemm inti Uniku. Kemm inħobbok. Kemm kont umli. Inwegħdek li sejjer inkun jiena fuq quddiem biex ħadd ma jiċħad l-ilsien twelidek. Intenni kemm kont u tibqa' kbir. Kemm kont u tibqa' umli *quddiem Alla. Kull min iħobb il-Malti u l-lingwa tagħna kważi mitlufa* imexxi dan."

Hekk ikkummenta l-edukatur Charles Azzopardi, hekk kif ilbieraħ tard filgħodu ħarġet l-aħbar li kien miet il-Professur Oliver Friggieri fl-età ta' 73 sena.

IT-TORĊA fl-aħħar snin tkellmet diversi drabi mal-Professur Oliver Friggieri dwar diversi temi.

Ma' IT-TORĊA kien tkellem dwar xewqa li kellu, dik li f'pajjiżna jsir simpożju dwar Dom Mintoff.

Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela f'kumment li għadda qal li "l-mewt tal-Professur Oliver Friggieri hija telfa kbira għal Malta. Se jħallilna warajh xogħlijiet letterarji li l-kobor tagħhom huma bla qies u li għamlu isem lil pajjiżna. Kien bniedem ta' umanità kbira u minkejja l-għerf li kien mogħni bih, dejjem apprezzajt fih l-umilità tiegħu. Għal għexieren ta' snin, Oliver Friggieri kien protagonist ewlieni fl-istorja intellettwali ta' pajjiżna. Raġel li b'kitbietu, bil-lezzjonijiet tiegħu fl-Università ta' Malta kkontribwixxa bil-kbir fil-formazzjoni ta' mijiet ta' studenti. Illum pajjiżna tilef punt ta' riferiment u bniedem li serva lil art twelidu b'lealtà f'kull irwol li kien fdat fih."

Enfasizza li "fuq kollox kien bniedem li ħabb b'imħabba kbira lil Malta tagħna, lil niesha u *lill-ilsien Malti. Illum* Malta tinsab imnikka b'mewtek għax tilfet wieħed mill-aktar ulied li qatt ħabbewha iżda l-memorja tiegħek se tibqa' dejjem imnaqqxa f'qalbna u f'dan il-ġens li tant għożżejt. F'isem il-Gvern kollu nagħti l-kondoljanzi tiegħi lill-qraba u lill-għeżież tal-Professur Friggieri."

Aktar imwiet bil-Covid-19... ifiqu 159 persuna u jfeġġu 141 każ ġdid

Fl-aħħar aġġornament dwar il-Covid-19 f'pajjiżna, irriżulta li wara li saru 3,391 swab test, instabu 141 każ ġdid ta' COVID-19.

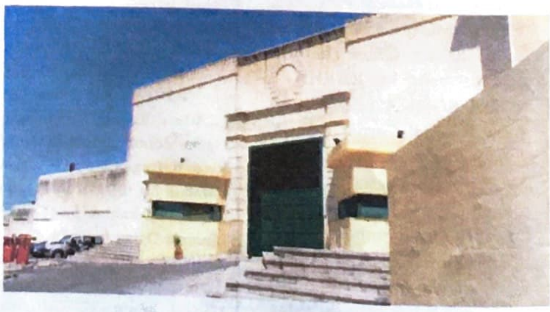
Matul il-jum tal-Ġimgħa kienu ċċertifikati mfejqa 159 persuna. Il-każi tal-lum għadhom qed ikunu investigati.

ill-każi li kienu rrappurtati lbieraħ 20 minn dawn kienu familjari li kellhom kuntatt ma' qarib ieħor infettat bil-COVID-19, 21 kienu kolleggi li ġew f'kuntatt ma' kolleggi oħrajn li kellhom il-vajrus u 11-il każ ieħor kienu individwu li ġew f'kuntatt ma' persuni li kellhom il-COVID-19.

Imutu tliet anzjani

Il-Ministeru għas-Saħħa jinsab infurmat li tliet anzjani mietu waqt li kienu pożittivi għall-Covid-19. Fl-ewwel każ, anzjan ta' 80 sena, li kien ikkonfermat pożittiv għall-Covid-19 fid-9 ta' Novembru, miet ilbieraħ fl-Isptar Mater Dei. Fit-tieni każ, anzjana ta' 82 sena, li kienet ikkonfermata pożittiva għall-Covid-19 fid-9 ta' Novembru, mietet aktar kmieni llum fl-Isptar Mater Dei. Fit-tielet każ, anzjan ta' 70 sena, li kien ikkonfermat pożittiv fis-6 ta' Novembru, miet aktar kmieni llum fl-Isptar Mater Dei.

Il-priġunier Pakistan li nstab mejjet fiċ-ċella m'għaddiex id-dettalji tal-ġenituri tiegħu



Nhar il-Ġimgħa fi stqarrija, kien ikkonfermat li nstab priġunier Pakistan ta' 25 sena mejjet fiċ-ċella tiegħu. Matul il-ġurnata tal-bieraħ ġie allegat li l-ġenituri tal-priġunier saru jafu bil-mewt ta' binhom minn fuq il-midja.

Fid-dawl ta' din l-istqarrija mill-ġenituri, l-Aġenzija u t-tmexxija tal-ħabs iċċarat li "waqt il-proċessi uffiċjali li jsiru, il-persuna involuta m'għaddietx dawn id-dettalji. Għalhekk wara l-mewt skattaw il-proċeduri normali fejn il-pulizija bħala parti mill-investigazzjoni tagħha tagħmel kuntatt mal-Konsulat tal-pajjiż konċernat biex ikunu identifikati u mgħarrfa l-qraba. Dan huwa l-uniku mod uffiċjali kif setgħu jkunu mgħarrfa l-qraba ladarba ma ngħataw l-ebda dettalji lill-aġenzija."

IMUT IL-KITTIEB OLIVER FRIGGIERI

Il-kittieb rinomat Oliver Friggieri, meqjus fost il-ġganti tal-letteratura lokali u promotur tal-Ilsien Malti, miet ilbieraħ fl-età ta' 73 sena. Dan tħabbar minn qraba tiegħu fuq il-midja soċjali.

Ix-xogħlijiet tal-Professur Friggieri kienu jvarjaw minn poeżiji, kotba, rumanzi bil-Malti u aktar riċenti tpinġijiet bil-lapes. Dawn tal-aħħar ġew ippubblikati għall-ewwel darba fl-aħħar xhur fi ktieb, li inkluda wkoll poeżiji tiegħu, u li l-qligħ minnu mar b'risq l-assoċjazzjoni lokali Beating Hearts, li taħdem favur adulti u tfal li jitwieldu bi problemi f'qalbhom.

Waqt li sellem il-memorja tal-kittieb, poeta, kritiku letterarju u ħassieb, il-Gvern spjega kif il-Professur Friggieri kien wieħed mill-akbar awturi li qatt kellu pajjiżna u rikonoxxut anke fuq livell internazzjonali.

"F'Oliver Friggieri kienet tispikka l-kreattività sinonima ma' personaġġ ta' rispett u suċċess li se jħalli legat kbir warajh," qalet stqarrija tal-Gvern.

Friggieri tgħallem fl-Iskola Primarja tal-Furjana u fis-Seminarju tal-Arċisqof, waqt li fl-1968 ġab il-Baċellerat tal-Arti fil-Malti, Taljan u Filosofija, fl-1975 il-Masters u tliet snin wara d-Dottorat fil-Letteratura Maltija.

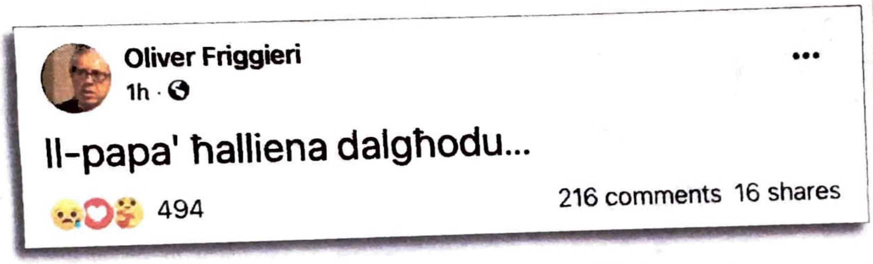
Hu se jibqa' meqjus bħala patrijott Malti li ħabb u ċċelebra l-identità Maltija, tant li x-xogħlijiet tiegħu huma punt ta' referenza għall-Ilsien Malti u kontribut enormi għall-istorja Maltija. Bil-kitbiet tiegħu kien jippromwovi sens ta' għaqda għal dan in-nazzjon u għal dan il-poplu.

Dan l-element patrijottiku wassal biex, fost l-oħrajn, fl-2013 inħatar Chairperson tal-Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali Maltin u fl-2016 ingħata l-midalja tad-deheb "Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti".

Il-Gvern tenna li l-imħabba tal-Professur Friggieri lejn l-arti, ir-riċerka u l-filosofija ispirat ġenerazzjoni wara oħra.

Waqt li wassal il-kondoljanzi tiegħu lill-familja Friggieri, il-Gvern irringrazzja lil Friggieri għas-sehem imprezzabbli li ta lis-soċjetà b'tagħlim u ħsibijiet profondi li se jibqgħu ħajjin għal dejjem.

Il-Partit Laburista wkoll esprima s-sogħba tiegħu għat-telfa ta' Friggieri.



Il-Professur Friggieri u l-Professur Victor Grech bil-ktieb ta' tpinġijiet u poeżiji mniedi riċentament

FEARNE FI GRUPP DINJI TA' ESPERTI

Id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa Chris Fearne ġie magħżul biex jifforma parti minn grupp internazzjonali ta' 26 espert, bejn prim ministri, ministri u professjonisti, biex jagħtu pariri u linji gwida lill-istituzzjonijiet ewlenin tas-saħħa madwar id-dinja fosthom l-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa (WHO), il-World Organisation for Animal Health u l-Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

One Health Global Leaders Group se jkun qed jiffoka fuq Antimicrobial Resistance u kif il-pajjiżi madwar id-dinja qegħdin jieħdu ħsieb lill-popolazzjonijiet kontra dawn il-mikrobi li jistgħu jwasslu għall-imxija ta' mard reżistenti għall-mediċini eżistenti.

Id-Deputat Prim Ministru rringrazzja lill-komunità internazzjonali xjentifika tal-fiduċja li wriet fih.