

THE MALTA INDEPENDENT

www.independent.com.mt

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2008

No. 3,375 Price €0.37

ANALYSIS US PREPARES FOR POST-MUSHARRAF PAKISTAN « PAGE 6 »

FOREIGN RUSSIAN SOLDIERS TAKE PRISONERS IN GEORGIA PORT « PAGE 9 »

FEATURE DON'T LET THIS SUMMER GO TO WASTE « PAGES 14 & 15 »

Junior doctors encouraged by on-the-job training programmes

...but MAM warns government not to be complacent

FRANCESCA VELLA

The country still has a brain drain among doctors, but the improved on-the-job training programmes for junior doctors are encouraging, Medical Association of Malta (MAM) president Martin Balzan told *The Malta Independent*.

Dr Balzan warned however, that doctors were angered at the fact that no posts have yet been created for higher specialist trainees.

The MAM president said that out of the 52 students who sat for the finals

in medicine and surgery at the University of Malta, five failed, 17 (two of whom are foreigners) left the country to specialise or work abroad, and 30 stayed on.

"This means that we only lost about 30 per cent of this year's graduates. Moreover, the best graduate, a foreigner, also stayed on. Almost all the students had applied to work abroad and had been accepted, but most of them chose to stay here."

Dr Balzan said the medical sector in the UK has changed. He explained that right now, the chances of getting

a training post to specialise in the UK are very low.

It is still relatively easy to get a job as a doctor in the UK, and more doctors had to be employed due to the Working Time Directive, said Dr Balzan, adding however, that the training programmes' capacity was not increased at the same rate.

"It's difficult to get a training job in the UK at the moment, especially since competition is on the increase. We cannot force doctors to stay here, but we have to make it worthwhile for them to do so," said Dr Balzan.

He mentioned three crucial factors: a good salary and working conditions, quality training programmes, and opportunities for career progression.

Salaries and working conditions have improved, he said, and things are happening very fast with regard to the training programmes. Much more needs to be done, however, to ensure that doctors have good opportunities for career progression, said Dr Balzan.

Continues on page 2



SAIL AWAY

Britain's Nick Rogers (left) and Joe Glanfield compete before winning the silver medal for the 470 men sailing competition (AP). See round-up on back page and more stories and photos on pages 24-27

Global Business Payments

solution

Inaccurate payments can cost companies thousands of pounds through lost revenue, delayed shipments and damaged relationships.

At Travelex we take **YOUR** payments personally.

Travelex offers a range of worldwide business payment solutions

- € Cross Border Euro Payments
- € International Swift Transfers
- € Forward Contracts
- € Rate Lock
- € Incoming foreign currency payments

Call Now

800 7 33 22
www.travelex.com.mt

Travelex worldwide money
the world's foreign exchange company