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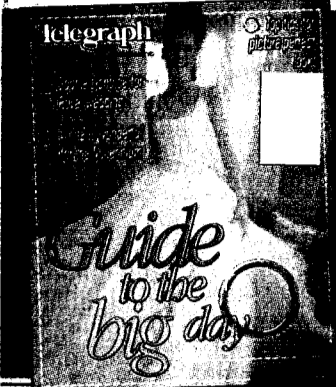
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Flying high at last...
Ulster's nervous fliers
Page 12

£100,000 UP FOR GRABS! SEE PAGE 14

PLAN TO SCRAP HEALTH BOARDS

ULSTER SEES RED FOR OLD TRAFFORD SHOWDOWN

IT was an early start today for these Ulster Manchester United fans heading over for tonight's big European clash against Inter Milan.

Two coach-loads of fans left Belfast at 5.30am for the long journey by coach and ferry to Old Trafford.

But for most of the Italian crew at Belfast restaurant Antica Roma, it will be business as usual in the kitchen.

Toni Mura, restaurant manager, said all Italians in the province would be cheering on Inter Milan in the Champions League quarter-final clash.

"Everyone will be supporting them tonight because they are representing Italy — it is a cultural thing."

But the Italian is confident his team will do well.

"I think Inter will be happy with a draw at Old Trafford because it is an intimidating arena, and then I think they will edge it over the two legs," he said.

The two coach loads from Carryduff Manchester United Supporters Club, who

By Gavin Mairs

set off early today for the Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead ferry are also hopeful.

But John White, president of the club, agreed it would be a very tight game.

"United's form has been very good recently but that will count for nothing tonight," he said.

Pubs and clubs across the province are expected to fill up tonight as thousands of local Manchester United fans tune into the match on ITV (7.30pm).

And a spokesman for the Manchester United Superstore in Belfast, said the shop had been inundated with inquiries for match tickets.

See back page



Eighty members from the Carryduff Manchester United Supporters Club had an early start for tonight's big match. Picture by Robert Ingram

THE Government wants all of Ulster's health boards scrapped as part of the biggest NHS shake-up for more than 40 years, the Belfast Telegraph can reveal today.

The radical revamp also includes plans to merge most of Northern Ireland's 20 health trusts.

The Telegraph can reveal that the dramatic changes are among the main proposals in a wide-ranging report on the future structure of Ulster's health service.

Health Minister John McFall will unveil the document at Stormont tomorrow.

Mr McFall's report is the definitive follow-up to a consultation paper, Fit For The Future, drawn up by his predecessor, Tony Worthington, last April.

The Telegraph understands that the Government received more than 200 responses to the document which recommended a series of new health service options.

It is understood that the new report contains one proposal for each of a wide range of changes which, if implemented, will transform the shape of our health service.

One key proposal is to axe four Boards. Proposed mergers will leave only a handful of Trusts — likely to be around six.

We can reveal that one expected proposal is the merger of the

McFall proposal for NHS radical revamp revealed

EXCLUSIVE
By Nigel Gould

new structure is going to be better or fairer."

The original document said: "The Government wants to see the main responsibility for commissioning services moving away from boards to a more local level, based on smaller populations and centred on primary care professionals."

Mater, Belfast City, the Royal and Green Park Trusts into one Trust.

Boards are likely to be replaced by a number of local care agencies covering populations of 200,000 to 300,000.

Any decision on the implementation of the proposals will ultimately rest with the Assembly.

The Department of Health would not be drawn at all on the matter but a Board source, said: "I think most people would agree that the status quo is not an option."

"But it will be interesting to see how such changes will pan out. It remains to be seen what is put in place and whether the

And in an interview with the Belfast Telegraph last July, Mr Worthington said Fit For The Future would "end the destructive internal market that turned patients into customers and set hospital against hospital".

Already, since becoming Health Minister, Mr McFall has poured in millions of pounds to boost services and recently unveiled his vision for the future in the Putting It Right document.

DUP voters want deal to work: poll

By Martina Purdy
Political Correspondent

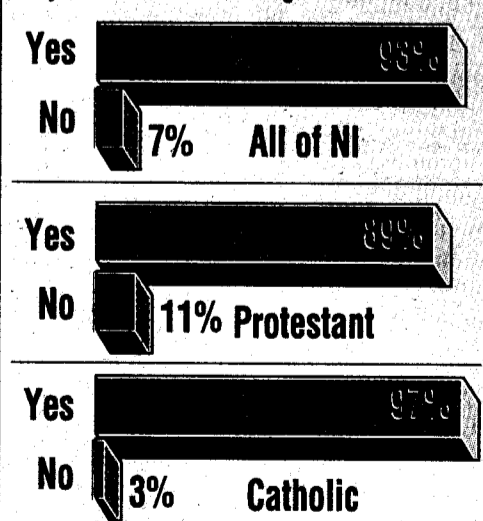
MORE than 70% of DUP supporters want the Good Friday Agreement to work, a poll published in the Belfast Telegraph today shows.

The survey further reveals that an overwhelming 93% of people in Northern Ireland hope the Agreement will succeed.

The Queen's University/Rowtree Trust poll, conducted by Dr Colin Irwin of Queen's University's Institute of Irish Studies, involved 1,000 face to face interviews with a cross-section of opinion.

Deep divisions remain, however, between Catholics and Protestants as to what is considered very important within the Agreement.

Do you want the Belfast Agreement to work?



Protestants view decommissioning, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Commission for Victims as the three most important elements.

Catholics put reform of the RUC at the top of the list, followed equally by the Human Rights and Equality Commissions, the Assembly,

North-South bodies, and reform of the justice system.

Some 42% of Catholics thought decommissioning very important compared to 69% of Protestants.

The poll further showed that both communities felt the maintenance of the IRA ceasefire and an

end to all paramilitary violence was more important than token decommissioning.

Almost 85% said the maintenance of the IRA ceasefire was very important, compared to 72% who thought the start of token decommissioning was very important.

The poll comes as the Prime Minister toughens his stance on the decommissioning issue, as the target date for devolution, March 10, nears.

Mr Blair is preparing to intensify behind-the-scenes efforts to resolve the arms impasse.

He again insisted that all of the Good Friday accord had to be implemented, "and that includes the decommissioning part of it".

"The reason is perfectly simple: people have got to know if they are sitting down with people who have given up violence for good."

See page 6; Poll details in full: page 11

Europa staff suspended in TV probe

TWO employees have been suspended from the Europa Hotel following allegations some guests were supplied with prostitutes, it was confirmed today.

The suspensions follow a BBC Spotlight investigation, broadcast last night, which revealed staff at the world famous hotel provided "escorts" for some guests.

Members of staff at the hotel were secretly filmed agreeing to supply an undercover journalist, posing as a guest, with an escort.

John Toner, the Europa's manager, today said an inquiry had started into the allegations contained in the BBC Spotlight programme and that two members of staff had been suspended.

"The Europa Hotel unreservedly condemns wrongdoing of any description which may take place in the hotel, whether by residents, staff or the general public."

"Management of the Europa has vigorously — and successfully — confronted previous known attempts to use the

By Claran McGuigan

hotel for anti-social or unlawful activities.

"The Europa is the preferred hotel of leaders in politics, business and entertainment and our determination to maintain our good reputation remains unwavering," he said.

Mr Toner added The Europa would support the RUC in any criminal investigation which may follow the programme.

"It is now for the BBC to hand over any evidence in its possession to the police as a matter of urgency so that these allegations can be fully investigated," he added.

A RUC spokesman said: "We have been examining the context of the Spotlight programme and are in liaison with the hotel management."

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Weather Outlook

GREATER BELFAST AREA: It will be a rather cloudy and breezy night with longer spells of rain turning to showers. Some of these showers may turn wintry during the early hours, falling as sleet or snow over the hills. It will feel cold with a fresh to strong north-westerly wind. Min temp 1 to 3C. SEE BACK PAGE



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