

LOCAL & NATIONAL





GET THE LOWDOWN ON THE RUGBY SCHOOLS CUP -IN VIDEO, WORDS AND PICTURES



Go

del icio us

Sport **Business** Opinion Life & Style **Entertainment** Jobs Cars Homes Classified World Politics Health Education Business Environment Technology Family Notices Crime Map Sunday Life

Print Email

Bookmark & Share

Digg It

What are these?

Change font size: A A A

The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

Home > News > Local & National

It's official: No stadium at the Maze

Tuesday, 17 February 2009

Plans for a sports stadium on the site of the former Maze prison have been officially scrapped, Northern Ireland's culture minister confirmed last night.

DUP minister Gregory Campbell told the Assembly he had recommended the Executive drop the plan and said the millions earmarked might be spent on other sports projects.

But the news sparked immediate criticism, with opponents claiming he had effectively wasted the £3.6m spent so far on the plan.

The Belfast Telegraph first revealed that the plans for the Maze stadium were doomed last December.

It had been hoped that a multi-sports stadium on the site of the

top security jail which housed paramilitary prisoners during the Troubles would have hosted rugby, soccer and gaelic games.

But Mr Campbell confirmed leaks that he had recommended the idea be ditched were correct.

"In line with the commitment which I gave in the Assembly on January 12, 2009, I forwarded my conclusions on the proposed multi-sports stadium at the Maze to the Executive on January 27," he said.

"In my paper to the Executive I advised that I had reviewed all the evidence available to me, including meeting with the (sports) governing bodies involved and had come to the view that the Maze proposal should not proceed. I also advised that I intended to have a further series of discussions with the governing bodies of the sports involved in order to explore alternatives."

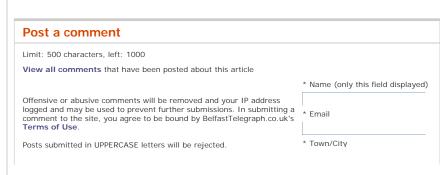
The DUP was said to have been split on the stadium plan, with some members in favour of the investment it would have brought, while others opposed the scheme.

Unionist critics claimed a plan to retain sections of the prison — including buildings associated with the 1981 hunger strike at the jail — would see it become a shrine to republicans.

The plans to develop a conflict transformation centre at the site of the former prison are expected to proceed, with a number of the buildings already listed for preservation.

Mr Campbell reacted to fears that the failure to build the proposed stadium would mean there would be no venue inside Northern Ireland that could now be used for events from the 2012 London Olympics.

"Northern Ireland's capability to actively participate (in the Games) could only be fully determined once a decision is taken on the preferred stadium option or options," he said.



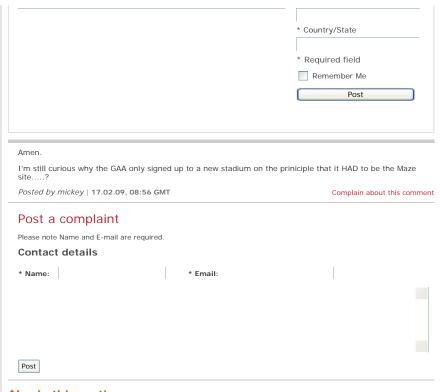
In Pictures: Northern Ireland Nightlife



Had a big night out? Click here to send us your pics







Results by

House Of Vic-Ryn Jewellers, Diesel, Fossil, Calvin Klein, Armani, DKNY, Accurist, Seiko, Thomas Sabo Jewellers

K W M Wines & Spirits
Award Winning Specialists Since 1984 Shipping Vintage Wines & Spirits Worldwide Off Licences & Wine Merchants

US SPAS DIRECT

Leading Supplier Of Luxury Hot Tubs Gazebo's Sauna's & Swim Spa's In N. Ireland Hot Tubs & Spas

Bracken Blinds

Specialist suppliers of Curtains and Blinds to all commercial premieses, deigned and fitted **Architects**

I.M.S Driver & Rider

Training
Experienced Driver Training, lessons by professional instructors Advanced and Beginners **Driving Schools**

Also in this section

- Statins trial could benefit rheumatoid arthritis sufferers
- Dying Jade Goody to marry this Sunday
- John Suchet's torment over wife's dementia
- Farmers camp out for EU grants
- · Raid cash accused was 'creating his own bank'

Northern Ireland Troubles Gallery



1988 - Corporals stripped, beaten and shot dead

In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



What's hot on the catwalks

Most popular

- 1. In Pictures: Funny football chants
- Who's the daddy? Two boys contest 13year-old Alfie's claim
- 3. In Pictures: Ireland beat Italy in Rome
- 4. Exclusive: Amazon selling rape simulation game
- Chaos at the Odyssey as 2,000 teens arrive for under-age disco
- 6. Motorists' fury at M-way madness
- 7. Dunne urges shoppers: go to Northern
- 8. Zoe skates on despite injury
- 9. Hunt for bargains as house prices fall
- 10. Jade Goody: I screamed when told my cancer was terminal

