Rail murders suspect held in Portugal

A FUGITIVE suspected of murdering British student Isabel Peake and two other women in France was arrested yesterday in Portugal, French police confirmed.

Sid Ahmed Rezala (20), who has been on the run since last month, was arrested in Lisbon at about 2 pm.

Miss Peake (20) from Barlaston, Staffs, who was studying at Birmingham University, was discovered by the side of a railway track in France in October.

Rezala was arrested by French and Portuguese police following a Europe-wide search by detectives.

He will be questioned over the murder of Miss Peake and the deaths of Corinne Cailliaux and Emilie Bazin.

Ms Cailliaux (32) was killed on a train which was travelling from Calais to the Italian border. The mother had been repeatedly stabbed.

Ms Bazin, a 20-year-old student, was found strangled in the basement of a property in Amiens, north of Paris, in December.

Thousands of posters, featuring Rezala's face, were pasted up across France in a bid to track the fugitive down.

A French police spokesman at Orleans yesterday confirmed that Rezala had been arrested.

"At the moment details about the circumstances of the arrest are very sketchy," the spokesman said.

"But I can confirm that Rezala was apprehended by officers in Lisbon, Portugal, in the early afternoon."

Rezala was first arrested a month after the death of Miss Peake while aboard a high-speed train from Berne to Paris.

The 20-year-old was stopped by French customs officers on November 13 and found in possession of cannabis, a knife and a tear gas grenade.

Despite being listed as a suspect for the murder, Rezala spent just a few hours in custody before being set free on the orders of the public prosecutor.

He appeared to have slipped through the net again when detectives turned up at his parents' home in Marseille, where he was believed to be hiding.

Due to a delay in asking a judge for a warrant, officers were turned away at the door by the suspect's father Ali Rezala.

When officers returned to the grimy tower block apartment the following day Rezala had gone.

Miss Peake was hurled to her death from a train on the first leg of her journey back to her home in Staffordshire. The pretty student, a law and sociology undergraduate at Birmingham University, was in France after starting a year-long study programme in the central French city of Limoges.

Her semi-naked body was discovered by a dog-walker besides the railway tracks at Chabernet, a small disused station 75 miles north of Limoges.

It took police six days to identify Miss Peake and it was thought she had fallen accidentally from the train.

Two months after her murder detectives released a photo-fit of the suspected killer. He had been spotted chatting to Miss Peake at Limoges station.

Rezala was later named as the chief suspect, a French-Algerian drifter who had been stopped 42 times for travelling on trains without a ticket.

Isabel Peake.

Punters vie for record midweek lottery jackpot

THE WINNER of tonight's National Lottery draw could scoop an estimated £30 million—a record jackpot for a mid-week draw.

The double rollover sum is the third highest jackpot yet and is up for grabs after no one won the top prize in Saturday's draw for a second successive time.

The prize comes four years after the top prize of £42,008,610 was won and is the first double rollover for more than two years.

The record amount won on a Wednesday draw was in 1998 when two ticket holders shared £15 million.

The odds of the jackpot rolling over for the first triple rollover on Saturday to create the largest jackpot are 1 in 12.

But if no one wins the triple rollover the jackpot money rolls down to the winners of the five balls plus bonus prize tier.

Camelot commercial operations director Dianne Thompson said, "This is the first time we have had such a large Wednesday jackpot, so we are anticipating longer queues as more people than usual join in to play.

"Our advice is to buy your tickets early to make sure you don't miss out on the estimated £30 million jackpot."

Eastenders tops viewing figures

EASTENDERS' DOUBLE wedding and the surprise return of jailed Matthew Rose in Albert Square drew the biggest soap audience for a year, official viewing figures showed yesterday.

The will-they-won't-they-marry storylines for Natalie and Barry, and Ian and Melanie, helped the show to also become the first for nearly 12 months to top 20 million viewers.

A total of 20.89 million people tuned in for the New Year's Eve screening of the show and its Sunday repeat.

It was the highest viewed show since the exit of Tiffany (played by Martine McCutcheon) who was killed off in the show exactly a year earlier.

BBC1 screened two episodes of the Walford soap on December 31 with the 8 pm programme drawing the biggest crowd.

Vicky Hall.

Detectives quiz man over death of teenager

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was last night being questioned by detectives on suspicion of the murder of teenager Vicky Hall.

Police investigating Miss Hall's death were also questioning a man and woman in their 20s on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Miss Hall (17) vanished while walking from a nightclub in Felixstowe, Suffolk, to her home in nearby Trimley St Mary early on September 19.

Her naked body was found in a ditch 25 miles away at Creeting St Peter, Suffolk, five days later. Police are not sure how she died but believe she may have been asphyxiated.

A police spokesman said a 22-year-old man was arrested at his home on the outskirts of Felixstowe on suspicion of murder early on Monday.

At around the same time a 21-year-old woman from Trimley St Mary was arrested in Ipswich on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Later a 23-year-old man from Trimley St Mary was also arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

None has been named.

Cathedral restoration work in limbo as dispute continues

THE ONGOING restoration of St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee is apparently in limbo while the dispute between its provost, the Very Rev Miriam Byrne, and her opponents within the Scottish Episcopal Church continues.

One of the accusations previously levelled at Ms Byrne was that she had suspended restoration work at the cathedral without consultation.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds have already been spent on the work, which started more than 15 years ago.

Apart from funds raised by the church itself, the project received funding from Historic Scotland and a £772,600 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is understood much of the lottery money has yet to be drawn on by the cathedral.

However, the cathedral's assistant treasurer Mrs Gina Cummings said the congregation is still raising cash for the church's restoration fund and is optimistic about the future.

She said she was not aware of the planned phasing of future work at the cathedral but she had been assured by the cathedral architect that the lottery funding was still in place.

She rejected the suggestion that it must be difficult to make plans for the future, saying, "Not if you believe the cathedral has a future, as we do. The people are the future, not the clergy or the bishops."

Earlier phases of the improvements have included overhauling the bells, spire and tower and work around the windows and roofs.

Designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and built in 1852, the cathedral building itself is category-A listed.

The ambitious programme of improvements started in 1984 and included work to all three buildings in the complex-St Roque's and B-listed Castlehill House, as well as the cathedral itself.

However, the improvements were said to have been halted by Ms Byrne with the intention of revising and reappraising the remaining elements of the restoration project.

With the current uncertainty over the running of the cathedral—Ms Byrne has been suspended pending proceedings raised against her under church law and the cathedral vestry has been locked out—it would seem unlikely that new work will be able to get under way in the near future.

From the start it was clear Ms Byrne would have to take a firm grip on the financial reins of the cathedral that she took on with debts reported to be in excess of £100,000.

Running costs have been estimated as high as £146,000 per year but a source close to the church suggested a more realistic figure would be in the order of £50,000.

It is accepted that the congregation has fallen since Ms Byrne was installed in September 1998, with the provost's supporters estimating only a handful of people have left and her opponents claiming the number could be as high as 100.

In any case, though, the remaining members of the congregation—on Sunday they numbered only about 40 adults—are now having to meet all the cathedral's expenses.

However, Mrs Cummings maintained they were coping with the financial burden.

"We are not rich, but we are managing at the moment," she said.

Another member of the vestry, Dr Cathy Mitchell, said she was unaware of any delay in the cathedral work and insisted that it was continuing as planned.

Mother's concern whether daughter's baptism is valid

A YOUNG Dundee mother voiced her concern yesterday at the possibility that her daughter may not have been "properly" baptised in a service conducted by the controversial provost of St Paul's Cathedral in the city six months ago.

The woman, who did not wish to be identified, said the recent questioning had prompted her to study the order of service when it emerged that the Very Rev Miriam Byrne, had turned her attention to the wording of the rite.

Senior figures within the Scottish Episcopal Church appear divided as to whether the actions of Ms Byrne, in modifying the wording of the traditional baptismal liturgy to remove any reference to gender in language applied to God, affect the validity of the rite.

She had replaced the familiar wording, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" with the non-gender-specific "God, Christ and the Holy Spirit."

Bishop Neville Chamberlain was unavailable for comment last night. However, Bishop Richard Holloway, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, has said that he considers Ms Byrne's form of baptism "acceptable."

The woman said she felt it important that her daughter be correctly baptised.

"We never noticed at the time that the wording was any different from the usual," she added.

Cathedral sacristan Mrs Gina Cummings, who assisted at the baptism, gave an assurance last night that the traditional form had been used in this case.

Mike Tyson.

Boxer Tyson may be banned from UK

MIKE TYSON's first UK fight was hanging in the balance yesterday after immigration officials said he could be refused entry into the country because of his criminal convictions.

The Home Office said the promoters of the January 29 fight would have a chance to argue the case for letting Tyson into the country.

They will have to show "strong compassionate reasons" why rules which normally ban entry to anyone convicted of an offence carrying a sentence of a year or more should be waived in the case of Tyson, who was convicted of rape in 1992.

Promoter Frank Warren said he hoped the matter could be resolved before the multi-million-pound fight with Julius Francis—and expressed outrage that officials had left it so late to sound the alarm.

Tyson was jailed for six years in 1992 for raping a Miss Black America contestant. He served half the sentence.

He was also jailed in February last year for 12 months for attacking two motorists, and was released in June.

Immigration rules ban entry into the UK of anyone convicted either here or overseas of an offence which carries a sentence of 12 months or more under UK law.

Although Tyson has no right of appeal against the ban supporters in the UK can make representations.

Frank Warren.

A Home Office spokesman said they were being invited to do so.

He stressed that nobody involved in the fight had taken any steps to get in touch with the Home Office.

The issue would be one for the Immigration Service to resolve and would not be put before Home Secretary Jack Straw.

The much-hyped multi-million-pound fight is due take place at Manchester's MEN arena on January 29 and nearly all the 22,000 tickets have been sold.

Fight promoter Frank Warren said he would oppose any decision to stop Tyson's entry into the country.

Warren said he was disgusted that he had not been made aware of the potential difficulties and had learned of the problem through the media.

Dundee plant unaffected by Michelin job cuts

DUNDEE'S Michelin plant will not be affected by the loss of over 470 jobs this year at Stoke, the tyre company's oldest manufacturing site in Britain.

The workforce of 2700 at Stoke were told that the jobs would go in a restructuring that would also result in investment of £11 million to update buildings and equipment.

However, Dundee plant manager Chris Dawes said that the Stoke plant was undergoing the same restructuring process that was already under way at Dundee.

"We have implemented our own restructuring strategy and are committed to seeing it through, so the position has not changed and will not be affected by what happens at Stoke," he said.

"They are simply starting the process we have already begun," Mr Dawes added.

Business activities at the Stoke site include production of steel reinforcing components for tyres, car tyre production and truck tyre remoulding.

Relaunch for radio station

COMMERCIAL radio station Talk Radio is to be relaunched as Britain's first dedicated sports channel, it was announced yesterday.

The talkSPORT station will go on air next Monday, with early highlights set to include a series of live broadcasts and four shows hosted by England football coach Kevin Keegan.

Chief executive Kelvin MacKenzie said the aim was to attract 2.1 to 2.2 million listeners, rising to three million in three years.

Among the station's main selling points would be a four-hour sports breakfast show, a mid-morning sports talk show, live coverage of major events and a motoring show.

Mr MacKenzie said rights had been cleared for all England's Wembley football games, Manchester United's European matches and all FA Cup rounds.

England's summer cricket tours for 2001 and 2005, rugby Lions tours to New Zealand and Australia, the Tri-nations rugby between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and major boxing will also be broadcast live.

Van was on wrong side of road —court told

A CONSTABLE driving a police van involved in an accident with Scots newsreader Sheena McDonald was on the wrong side of the road as he answered an emergency call, a court heard yesterday.

PC Glenn Whiteley believed Miss McDonald had seen him as she waited to cross the road—but instead she stepped out and was knocked down, suffering serious head injuries, London's Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court was told.

Whiteley (27) denies driving without due care and attention.

The collision on February 27 last year happened near Miss McDonald's home in Islington, London.

Helen McCormack, prosecuting, told the court the case rested on Whiteley's driving falling below satisfactory standards.

Miss McCormack said, "The Crown says that once he departed from the usual rules of the road the standard of care required of him remained that of a reasonable, prudent and competent driver.

"He must have been aware that when he moved on to the opposite side of the carriageway pedestrians and drivers are not going to expect him to be there."

Police driving expert PC Malcolm Cumberlidge said that if Whiteley had adopted a different position on the road he would have had more time to react and a better chance of avoiding the accident.

He added, "The vehicle was clearly visible and it was showing blue lights and sirens. I can't account for the fact that Miss McDonald failed to see it."

However, the prosecutor said Whiteley failed to ensure Miss McDonald knew the van was there.

The case resumes today.

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Mortgage Advice	2480
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Dundee Airport Information Line	2460
Perth & Kinross Schools Infoline	4050
Food Poisoning Advice	1604
Meningitis	1600

All calls are charged at standard rates.

Long hours causes stress, says report

THE UK's long working hours culture is "alive and kicking" despite mounting evidence that it causes workplace stress, according to a new report today.

Talk of family-friendly policies was too often rhetoric rather than reality, with few workers daring to speak up for fear of damaging their career prospects.

However, firms were urged to help staff balance home and work as a way of improving their productivity.

The Industrial Society report suggested that the slow take-up of family-friendly policies was because they focused mainly on women, especially those with young children.

"Balancing work and home is in danger of becoming ghettoised as something for a needy few, rather than a concern for everyone," said the report.

The Prime Minister's wife, Cherie Booth, supported the report.

She provided a foreword stressing that innovative ways of working were important to the success of companies in the United Kingdom.

Recent surveys have shown that a growing number of people feel pressured into working long hours.

The latest report argued that there was a case for helping employees balance work and private lives.

War historian branded 'a liar' in court

CONTROVERSIAL historian David Irving was branded a liar yesterday as he launched his High Court libel action over a claim that he was a "Holocaust denier."

The 62-year-old author of Hitler's War and Goebbels: Mastermind Of The Third Reich, claims that Penguin Books and academic Deborah Lipstadt were part of "an organised international endeavour" to destroy his career and "vandalise" his legitimacy as a historian.

He says that the "waves of hatred" generated by their book, Denying The Holocaust: The Growing Assault On Truth And Memory, had robbed him of financial security for the future.

However, Penguin and Professor Lipstadt, holder of the Dorot Chair in modern Jewish and Holocaust studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, deny libel and plead justification.

Their counsel, Richard Rampton QC, told Mr Justice Gray, who is hearing the case without a jury, "Mr Irving calls himself an historian. The truth is, however, that he is not a historian at all, but a falsifier of history. To put it bluntly, he is a liar.

"Lies may take various forms and may as often consist of suppression or omission as of direct falsehood or invention, but in the end all forms of lying converge into a single definition—wilful, deliberate mis-statement of the facts."

Counsel continued, "Mr Irving has used many different means to falsify history—invention, misquotation, suppression, distortion, manipulation and, not least, mistranslation.

"But all these techniques have the same ultimate effect—falsification of the truth."

Counsel said it was an important case—the essence of which was Mr Irving's honesty and integrity as a "chronicler."

Earlier Mr Irving, who is representing himself, said that his career was destroyed by a "cumulative, self-perpetuating, rolling onslaught from every side—engineered by the same people who have propagated the book which is the subject of this action."

The hearing, which is estimated to last 12 weeks, was adjourned until today.

Mar

By Andrew Arbuckle, the farming editor

THE COUNTRY may have come to town yesterday with the farmers petitioning the Scottish Parliament but the comments of a business man who went into farming told the story for many of the 700 food producers who converged on Edinburgh yesterday.

As he prepared to march along Princes Street, David McLeod, Glenguoy, Fort William, reflected, "I did not think that I would be doing this when I went into farming."

Despite being the owner of around 8000 acres of hill, Mr McLeod said it had been several years since his farming operation had made a profit.

After coming out of a business involved with computer technology, Mr McLeod took over a hill unit that carried a commercial flock of sheep.

He then diversified into pedigree sheep, added suckler cows to the unit and started a fish farming operation, but he admitted that the prices he was

Hauliers hit lamb prices

LIGHT LAMBS prices fell by 14% in livestock markets in Wales on Monday, the result of temporary loss of access to Continental markets.

This blow to farmers came as buyers responded swiftly to industrial action by French hauliers which restricted deliveries by the country's ports.

"This rapid reaction proves beyond doubt that the economic success of the UK sheep industry relies on access to markets," said David Owen, chief executive of Farmers Ferry.

"With this level of proof, no

Appointed com

DONALD CURRY, chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, has been appointed as a Crown Estate Commissioner.

He will be a part-time, non-executive member of the Crown Estate Board of Commissioners,

SPORT

National stad good for athle

OLYMPIC GOLD medal contender Colin Jackson is delighted plans for a combined national stadium have been ditched—he didn't want it anyway.

Jackson is aiming to end his Olympic drought in Sydney later this year when he attempts to capture the one title to elude him in his illustrious career.

As one of the senior British athletes, he has forthright views too on the recent decision to rule Wembley into a football-rugby only stadium.

Athletics officials have been forced to look at alternative sites for an Olympic-standard stadium after the proposal to build a running track at the new Wembley were axed.

Jackson, in Glasgow yesterday to promote the forthcoming CGU indoor international featuring Britain, Canada, France, Russia and probably Italy on Sunday, March 5, could not be more delighted.

"The Great Britain athletics team is the most successful team in British sport," he said.

"We deserve a stadium that is solely for our use.

"I was hoping we weren't going to be at Wembley because once you start sharing stadiums with other sports it can be difficult to arrange training times.

"That is the kind of thing which happens in Cardiff at the moment, because of it

"We have where else a thing which environment athletics.

"The decis one which co taken for all

Jackson, w OBE in the Honours, is maintain his the last two y been him capt European ou onship gold, indoor cham last year.

His world r for the 110 m set in 1993, benchmark fo

Colin Ja

Classic line-up for

FOUR OF the five fastest marathon men of all time will compete in next year's Flora London Marathon, it was revealed yesterday.

One of the strongest fields ever assembled outside of an Olympic Games will line up for the 20th running of the race on April 16.

Defending champion Abdelkader El Mouaziz was one of seven top-class runners to confirm his participation yesterday—and will line up against fellow Moroccan Khalid Khannouchi, the new world record holder.

The duo will be joined by Brazil's Ronaldo da Costa, the former record holder, along with South Africa's Gert Thys and Kenya's Josephat Kiprono, who boast the fourth and fifth best times respectively.

The only m Kenya's Mose set the third when runner-u last year as lowered the w 2 hr 5 min 42

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"It cannot fai great spectac certainly not asked to predic

"London has tation as t number one m year's elite fiel to confirm its s

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