

## Body of murdered yachtsman is found

**THAILAND:** The body of a British yachtsman allegedly murdered by three pirates was found yesterday, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said last night. Three Burmese migrants have been accused of slitting the throat of Malcolm Robertson, 64, and throwing his body overboard when they raided his yacht as he sailed with wife Linda off Thailand.

## Car-makers given a deadline by Obama

**USA:** Car makers General Motors and Chrysler have been put on 60 days and 30 days' notice to prove that they can be run as viable businesses. The White House said yesterday that it was prepared to provide additional assistance to the two struggling firms during the period, but if no solution is found, bankruptcy is an option. Barack Obama said it was important to face problems in the sector head-on.

## Madonna accused of adoption bid 'bullying'

**MALAWI:** Madonna, right, was accused of using her fame to bully her way into adopting another Malawian child. A coalition of rights workers issued a statement criticising the singer's attempt as a court decided it would rule on Friday whether to grant it. "We feel Madonna is behaving like a bully," said Undule Mwakusungura, chairman of the country's Human Rights Consultative Committee.



## Police investigating human limb discovery

**HERTFORDSHIRE:** Police investigating the discovery of a human leg on farmland announced another grisly find yesterday – thought to be part of an arm. Walkers found the body part shortly after noon on Sunday on a grass verge in Drovers Lane in Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire. Officers said the arm was "highly likely" to be linked to the leg found in nearby Cotteder a week earlier.















## Don't give money to chef website – police

**YORKSHIRE:** Police yesterday warned members of the public not to make donations to a website purporting to help find missing university chef Claudia Lawrence, who was last seen 13 days ago. The site asks for donations to the "Claudia Lawrence Appeal", but North Yorkshire Police and the family of the missing chef have had no involvement in the website.

## US soldier admits executing prisoners

**GERMANY:** A second US soldier yesterday pleaded guilty to executing four bound and blindfolded Iraqi prisoners in Baghdad. Sergeant Joseph Mayo, 27, will be sentenced later. The judge overseeing the court martial in Germany told Mayo that he "entered into an agreement to commit premeditated murder" that saw the four Iraqi men shot in the head in 2007.

# Expenses review may

		Members' Travel Expenditure April 2007 – March 2008														Members' Allowance Expenditure April 2007 – March 2008									
		MP Travel: regular journeys between home/constituency/Westminster				MP Travel: other				MP spouse travel		MP family travel		MP employee travel		Cost of staying away from main home	London supply	Office running costs	Staffing	Centrally purchased stationery	Stationery associated postage	Central IT provi-	Staff cover and other costs	Comms. Allow.	
		Mileage	MP Rail	MP Air	MP Misc	Mileage	MP Rail	MP Air	MP Misc	Total	No. of journeys	Total	No. of journeys	Total	No. of journeys										
	Richard Bacon	£4,843	£1,506	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£636	12	£0	0	£751	22	£20,888	£0	£21,477	£90,163	£641	£2,500	£1,055	£0	£3,038	
	Henry Bellingham	£4,338	£866	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£266	£1,320	30	£0	0	£0	0	£22,350	£0	£14,424	£85,576	£1,257	£4,735	£1,378	£0	£3,849	
	Bob Blizzard	£4,460	£730	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£103	2	£0	0	£466	18	£23,082	£0	£21,080	£90,485	£1,112	£3,522	£1,000	£1,411	£10,268	
	Charles Clarke	£2,964	£4,517	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£366	£830	19	£29	2	£566	16	£23,083	£0	£19,844	£92,000	£1,906	£5,092	£1,192	£0	£9,831	
	Christopher Fraser	£7,618	£497	£0	£226	£350	£70	£305	£84	£1,792	28	£0	0	£198	6	£23,022	£0	£14,217	£91,412	£586	£1,896	£1,090	£0	£10,459	
	Ian Gibson	£1,440	£1,371	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	0	£0	0	£156	8	£16,216	£0	£10,754	£98,119	£796	£2,271	£1,023	£0	£4,095	
	John Gummer	£86	£620	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	0	£0	0	£655	20	£23,076	£0	£15,384	£72,787	£530	£2,577	£1,212	£0	£1,859	
	Norman Lamb	£3,133	£3,492	£0	£14	£0	£550	£136	£0	£162	8	£25	2	£297	8	£23,083	£0	£22,951	£92,443	£1,822	£4,527	£1,111	£0	£10,000	
	Michael Lord	£4,455	£617	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,260	30	£0	0	£0	0	£23,047	£0	£13,154	£73,594	£448	£1,858	£1,045	£0	£2,294	
	Malcolm Moss	£4,828	£1,114	£0	£62	£0	£0	£0	£0	£262	5	£0	0	£99	2	£23,059	£0	£20,881	£89,351	£876	£1,790	£1,134	£0	£5,514	
	David Ruffley	£5,050	£1,620	£0	£0	£0	£258	£0	£0	£0	0	£0	0	£806	24	£13,760	£0	£22,152	£94,781	£1,031	£2,046	£1,418	£0	£9,019	
	Keith Simpson	£6,134	£360	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£639	16	£21	2	£0	0	£22,076	£0	£20,123	£81,686	£527	£1,817	£1,499	£5,779	£19,426	
	Richard Spring	£5,340	£126	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	0	£0	0	£38	3	£23,083	£0	£16,805	£77,375	£1,016	£2,801	£1,427	£0	£11,013	
	Anthony Wright	£4,544	£3,041	£0	£97	£20	£29	£358	£0	£0	0	£0	0	£420	12	£23,083	£0	£23,335	£84,937	£868	£1,238	£1,325	£0	£11,330	

Nationally, MPs' claims on parliamentary allowances in 2007-08 for office, staff, second home and travel expenses ranged from £187,334 (Eric Joyce, Labour, Falkirk) to £47,737 (Philip Hollobone, Tory, Kettering). Within that, the spread for Norfolk MPs was much tighter – but still stretched from £163,746 (Norman Lamb) to £136,241 (Ian Gibson). The claim by Mr Lamb, the

### LOCAL CLAIMS

Liberal Democrat MP for North Norfolk, was the 64th highest among the 646 MPs. That by Dr Gibson (Labour, Norwich North) was the 187th lowest. His bill to the taxpayer was kept down partly by a claim of only £16,216 from the 'additional cost' or second home allowance, which had a maximum that year of £23,083. With one other exception – Richard Bacon

(Conservative, Norfolk South) – all the other Norfolk MPs claimed over £22,000 on this allowance. Dr Gibson claimed only £2,967 on travel, whereas his neighbouring Labour MP in Norwich South, Charles Clarke, claimed £9,272. Mr Clarke's total expenses claim for the year was £162,220. The overall claims contained some further marked differences in detail. For example, Keith Simpson (Tory, Mid Norfolk)

claimed over £19,000 on his communications allowance. By contrast, Henry Bellingham (Tory, NW Norfolk) claimed under £4,000. Details of MPs' second home, office and staffing claims can be seen on: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/HoCallowances0708.pdf>. Travel claim details are available on: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/HoCallowances0708.pdf>.

## Brown sets out five challenges for world leaders

Prime Minister Gordon Brown yesterday set out five tests which world leaders will face when they gather for the G20 summit in London on Thursday and urged them to "rise to the challenge" of beating the recession.

Speaking following talks with Mexican president Felipe Calderon at 10 Downing Street, Mr Brown acknowledged that tough negotiations remained to be had and promised to do everything he can over the next few days to enable an agreement at the crucial summit.

He said that the meeting came at "a decisive moment for the world economy" and he was sure that leaders of the world's 20 most powerful economies would come together to fight back against recession.

He called for "proper resourcing" of

the international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF to enable them to help return emerging market economies like Mexico to stronger growth.

This was the first test faced by the G20 on Thursday, he said, along with cleaning up the banking system; doing "whatever is necessary" to bring about the resumption of growth; resisting protectionism and boosting trade; and delivering a low-carbon and sustainable recovery for the future.

Mr Brown said: "These are five tests for the G20 summit – the tests the world must pass.

"We no doubt have some long days of negotiation ahead. These are difficult and complex problems. It will not be easy to reach the conclusions that I believe are

necessary for the world economy.

"But I know from my talks last week and my talks today with President Calderon that the world wants to come together, so tomorrow and the day after, I will continue to do all that I can to build a consensus and to enable an agreement to take us out of this recession and put the world back onto the path of growth.

"This is a decisive moment for the world economy. We have a choice to make.

"We can either let the recession take its course and retreat into isolationism and protectionism – that is a do-nothing approach that will push us further into recession – or resolve as a world community to fight back against the global recession that is hurting people in every country and every continent."



**VISIT:** Mexican president's wife Margarita Zavala yesterday.



# be hurried up

By JOE CHURCHER  
PA political correspondent

A sleaze watchdog was poised last night to bring forward its inquiry into MPs' pay and perks as fresh controversy and a £5m increase in expenses claims sparked calls for an urgent shake-up.

Members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life were said to be "minded" to accept calls from party leaders, including Gordon Brown, that their review – not due to start until September – be brought forward.

Pressure for change mounted yesterday as the prime minister defended under-pressure home secretary Jacqui Smith over revelations that her taxpayer-funded allowances were used to pay for adult films watched by her husband.

In a new development last night, it emerged that Commons authorities are hunting for a mole who is trying to sell the expenses records of all MPs for £300,000.

Sir Stuart Bell, a member of the ruling Commons Commission, told BBC2's Newsnight: "All of the receipts of 650-odd MPs, redacted and unredacted, are for sale at a price of £300,000, so I am told."

"The price is going up because of the interest in the subject."

Meanwhile, the delayed publication of official figures showed the total bill to the public purse for MPs' allowances rose around 6pc last year.

News that MPs would get a 2.33pc pay rise added yet more momentum.

In a letter to the committee's chairman Sir Christopher Kelly, Gordon Brown requested that he "both start and conclude the review earlier to make progress on this issue as soon as practical".

And he urged the committee to look at the possibility of scrapping the controversial second-home allowance – for which two ministers, including Ms Smith, are under investigation – in favour of a simpler system.

London MPs should be prevented from claiming for second homes altogether, he suggested, and others moved to "a simpler, overnight allowance that is independently determined".

The prime minister's letter was published after Tory leader David Cameron and Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg renewed their calls for a more urgent review of the system.

A committee spokeswoman said



**UNDER PRESSURE:** Jacqui Smith at an awards event in London last night to recognise the contribution of Muslims to British society.

members were "minded" to do so, although they were concerned not to repeat the previous mistakes of over-hasty piecemeal changes. A formal announcement is expected today.

The House of Commons figures showed the total amount claimed by 646 MPs in 2007/08 was just over £93m – some 6pc up on last year's £87.6m.

It was also announced yesterday that MPs will receive a pay rise of 2.33pc from April 1, bringing their

salary – before allowances – up from £63,291 to £64,766.

But Downing Street said ministers' salaries would be frozen.

The expenses figures showed that more than 150 MPs claimed the maximum £23,083 to cover the cost of staying away from home on parliamentary business.

Ms Smith received £22,948 towards the cost of running her family home in her Redditch constituency.

■ **ANALYSIS – Page Eight**

## Orwell novel is given to president by the Queen

The president of Mexico received one of the more unusual gifts given by the Queen during an incoming state visit yesterday – a copy of the classic dystopian novel 1984.

At Buckingham Palace, Felipe Calderon was presented with a first edition of George Orwell's nightmarish book, which tells of a totalitarian regime and coined the concept Big Brother.

The Royal Household seeks guidance from the staff of incoming VIPs when deciding what to offer during the official exchange of gifts, and the president admires Orwell.

## Police search the flat of G20 protest suspect

Detectives removed forensic evidence last night from the flat of a man being held under counter-terrorism powers.

The suspect, named by sources as Andrew Sprague, reportedly in his mid-twenties, was one of five people to be arrested under counter-terrorism powers in Plymouth, Devon, in the last three days.

Police refused to confirm or deny the arrest was connected to a plot to disrupt the G20 summit.

Officers dressed in blue overalls removed clear plastic bags containing documents from the flat.

Police swooped on homes in the city

after officers uncovered a cache of imitation firearms, makeshift explosive devices and "political literature".

Three men and two women have been held under the Terrorism Act over the last three days, Devon and Cornwall Police confirmed yesterday.

Security minister Lord West of Spithead yesterday backed the advice of city firms which are suggesting staff "dress down" to avoid becoming targets of G20 protesters.

But Lord West, a former head of the Royal Navy, who is noted for his impeccable attire, said he may defy demonstrators and "dress up".

# Pakistan gunmen target police school

Gunmen launched a co-ordinated attack on a Pakistani police academy yesterday in an hours-long rampage that ended with 19 people dead.

The unidentified attackers struck in Lahore where earlier this month a similar group tried to ambush the Sri Lankan cricket team in a city-centre shoot-out.

This time they threw grenades, seized hostages and killed at least eight police and three civilians before being overpowered by Pakistani security forces in armoured vehicles and helicopters.

Six attackers were arrested and eight others died in the eight-hour battle to retake the academy.

More than 90 officers were wounded by the attackers, some of whom wore police uniforms.

The attack on the Manawan Police Training School began as dozens of the officers carried out morning drills. About 700 trainees were inside at the time.

"We were attacked with bombs. Thick smoke surrounded us. We all ran in panic in different directions,"

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

said Mohammad Asif, a wounded officer taken to a hospital. He described the attackers as bearded and young.

"Some of the attackers are wearing (police) uniforms," officer Ahsan Younus said. "They have also taken some of our police as hostage."

The forces had surrounded the compound, exchanging fire in scenes reminiscent of the Islamic extremist siege in the Indian city of Mumbai in November and the cricket attack.

Armoured vehicles entered the compound while helicopters hovered overhead. At times, explosions rocked the scene.

At one point, security forces cornered several militants on the top floor of a building on the compound, where the gunmen held about 35 hostages.

"The eight hours were like eight centuries," said Mohammad Salman, 23, one of the hostages. "It was like I died several times."

## Headliners for festivals

The Arctic Monkeys, Radiohead and Kings of Leon will headline this year's Reading and Leeds Festivals, organisers confirmed yesterday.

Dance pioneers the Prodigy, whose latest album is titled Invaders Must Die, will also be on the main stage at both sites.

Other acts confirmed to join in the fun include Maximo Park, Ian Brown, Bloc Party, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Vampire Weekend, Kaiser

Chiefs and Placebo.

Gossip, Glasvegas, Florence and the Machine and White Lies will feature on the Radio 1/NME stage.

The action will see 150 acts play over three days in August.

The Arctic Monkeys will headline in Leeds on Friday August 28 and the following day in Reading.

■ **For more information visit**  
[www.readingfestival.com](http://www.readingfestival.com) and  
[www.leedsfestival.com](http://www.leedsfestival.com).

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**CHARLES ROBERTS**  
LETTER FROM  
FRANCE



## Let's hear it for the underdogs

Curious, but I've always had a soft spot for the underdog. It doesn't need to be human, though Man has more than his fare share of examples to relate.

We are enjoying a beer with a good friend in a brasserie. We've just settled in and the place is comfortably busy.

A man of Middle Eastern looks, who appears to hesitate outside the glass door, takes a deep breath and comes in. He buys a drink and takes stock of the PMU, "the betting shop".

When he sits down, those nearest the gamblers move surreptitiously away from him.

He tries contact once or twice but a gruff 'bonjour' is all he gets.

I've seen the ritual acted out several times since then. And on each occasion I feel a real tinge of sympathy for this underdog.

But let's look at another kind of underdog: the fox.

On this issue, I have to wonder... who is the persecuted and who the protected?

And why?

Nice touch of irony there. And even more ironic when a garbled letter to a local paper here in France, attempting to defend the "poor fox, so-called harmful", sets out to convince us that teeming waves of voles and mice are on the march!

These even smaller beasts will have "the pleasure of devouring our lawns and flower beds" as observed in the Vienne area, according to the letter.

Never was ecology so unbalanced.

To hunt, why not? But to destroy – certainly not.

Having a promenade in the woods of a rural commune near Poitiers, suddenly we were surrounded by fierce noises and ferocity.

A pack of dogs appeared, followed by a pack of humans disguised as warriors... launched in pursuit of a dangerous terrorist.

The Fox!

The source of this information is unclear but it is an interesting detail that "a fox kills, on average, about six thousands voles each year".

Unfortunately it is a much quoted-line, each time more than the last, without any real scientific foundation.

The fox features in much folklore, usually as a wily villain, though sometimes also as the underdog who triumphs over human efforts to control or destroy him.

One thing is for sure. These underdogs, you can't keep them down.

Here's another animal tale which might be titled Top Dog for a Day – or for four hours, to be precise. It tells of a young bull on his one-way ticket to the slaughterhouse in the suburbs of the old market town of Montmorillon.

The drama began when, in the early afternoon, the bull made a bid for freedom.

Weighing five hundred kilos, healthy and moving fast, he provided a tough opponent for the forces lined up against him.

First came the slaughterhouse workers, followed up by help from the gendarmes and the town police. Quickly there were about 10 men mobilised, including the deputy mayor, Claude Lasnier. Half a dozen cars, two trucks and their drivers completed the force. Made furious by all the manoeuvres and mayhem going on around him, the bull decided on a change of scene – an outing to the medieval town of Le Dorat.

At one point the force made a determined effort to drive the bull on to a truck. But he was too fast for them. He broke his way through two hedges and found himself on the main road. It became a dangerous cat and mouse game.

Finally, with the help of an obliging farmer, the breathless, panic-stricken creature allowed himself to be secured, cowboy style, with a lasso.

Still, he hadn't quite finished. Tied to a tree, he struggled for a long time before he allowed himself to scramble into a truck. There he had time to calm down. Frankly, I would have voted him the Freedom of the Town for his courage.

■ cvr\_in\_france@hotmail.com

# Some MPs will be living in fear of being next

The cabinet career of home secretary Jacqui Smith may soon be over. And quite a few other MPs are sweating in fear, says political editor **CHRIS FISHER**, that dodgy expenses claims are about to be dragged into the daylight.

porno films were watched by him in her absence and without her knowledge. It looks as if they were included in claims under her second home allowance by mistake. But she would have had to sign the claim form. If she did nothing else wrong, she didn't check well enough what she was signing for.

How did this matter get out into the public domain? That question was causing a great deal of concern at Westminster yesterday.

Later this year, more than a million individual invoices submitted by MPs will be made public following a freedom of information battle in the courts. All of these have apparently been put on computer disk already, and there are fears that someone has accessed this material and is touring 'Fleet Street' offering juicy pieces of information from it for big sums of money.

If that is so, several MPs may be living in fear that they are next for what Ms Smith has just been subjected to in the Sunday papers. And those who do have something to hide will experience only a short reprieve if there has not been a major breach of security regarding the invoice records. A media frenzy can be expected when the documents are finally published.

Coincidentally, MPs' expenses claims for April 2007-March 2008 – a period ending just before Mr Timney saw the films that have embarrassed him and his wife – were released yesterday, and they contained an abundance of material to reinforce the view that the present

rules have to be reformed.

They included a £12,600 second homes claim by work and pensions minister Tony McNulty who found himself in some damaging headlines last week over the disclosure that he was obtaining the money for a house in which his parents live in his Harrow East constituency

though his first home is only a few miles away in Hammer-smith (and both properties are only a few miles from Westminster).

There are several other examples of MPs appearing to take advantage of the rules on second homes claims without breaking them.

And it isn't just a matter of big claims on that allowance – a maximum of £23,083 in 2007-08 – by MPs whose constituencies are within comfortable commuting distance of the Commons.

The five Sinn Féin MPs refuse to take their seats in Parliament. Nonetheless they claimed a total of more than £681,000 in expenses that year.

When will reform come? Not this side of the general election, it would seem.

And the favourite proposal for change among MPs is an increase in their basic salary that would compensate for the removal of the most contentious elements of the allowance system.

Unless that were qualified, however, it would put extra money in the pockets of MPs who aren't claiming second home expenses, and it would most probably be deeply unpopular with voters.

**TROUBLE ON THE HOME FRONT:**  
The cabinet career of home secretary Jacqui Smith could soon be over.

