

World leaders mourn death of Princess Diana

LONDON, Aug 31: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles and world leaders have expressed their profound shock at the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales, who died from injuries suffered in a Paris car crash that also killed her companion, Dodi Al-Fayed, report agencies.

Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Diana's ex-husband Prince Charles are "deeply shocked and distressed" by her death in a car crash in Paris, Buckingham Palace said in a statement yesterday.

The BBC reported the statement, playing the British national anthem and showing a picture of the union jack.

Other members of the royal family are being informed of the princess's death, said the statement.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said: "I am utterly devastated. The whole of our country, all of us, will be in a state of shock and mourning."

"Diana was a wonderful, warm and compassionate person whom people, not just in Britain, but throughout the world loved, and will be mourned as a friend."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, particularly her two sons, and with all the families bereaved in this quite appalling tragedy," he said.

Clintons

President Clinton said early Sunday that he was "profoundly saddened" by the death of Britain's Princess Diana.

The princess was killed Sunday along with her companion, Dodi Fayed, in a car crash as their Mercedes was being pursued by photographers in Paris.

Hillary and I knew Princess Diana and we were very fond of her. We are profoundly saddened by this tragic event," Clinton said in a statement issued through Deputy White House press secretary Joe Lockhart.

Clinton and the first lady have been vacationing on Martha's Vineyard, where Lockhart said he spoke with the president.

Clinton said his family's thoughts were with Diana's family, friends "and especially her children."

United Nations

The United Nations on Sunday said the world had lost an important ambassador with the death of Princess Diana, killed in a car crash in Paris.

"It is a tragic loss, her commitment and dedication to a ban on anti-personnel mines brought the issue home to millions around the world," said Fred Eckhard, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"The international community has lost an important ambassador of goodwill," she said.



The Royal Family pose in the white drawing room of Windsor Castle, on the day of Prince William's confirmation, in this March 9, 1997 file photo. (L-R front) Prince Harry, Diana, Princess of Wales, Prince William, the Prince of Wales and the Queen. (L-R back) King Constantine, Lady Susan Hussey, Princess Alexandra, the Duchess of Westminster and Lord Romsey. Princess Diana died yesterday of a lung haemorrhage after surgery shortly before 0400 GMT following a high speed car crash which claimed the lives of two other people in Paris.

be missed," he said.

Diana crusaded against the worldwide use of landmines in the months before her death, first visiting Angola and then Bosnia, two war-ravaged countries where the United Nations had programmes to destroy anti-personnel mines.

"Poverty I have seen in many places, but not war damage of this kind," she said in Bosnia earlier this month before meeting 20 survivors of landmines in Tuzla.

Pakistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed grief at the death of Britain's Princess Diana.

"I am saddened by her death at such an age," Sharif's Press Secretary Siddiqui Farooq quoted him as saying. "The biggest loss is to her children with whom I have full sympathy. May God give patience to her children and other relatives."

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto also voiced sorrow.

"Benazir Bhutto is very grieved at this sad incident, more so because she personally knew the princess," a spokesman for the opposition leader said.

Diana had visited Pakistan

twice in the past 18 months as the guest of former Pakistani cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan and his wife Jemima.

On both occasions she visited the cancer hospital in Lahore built by Imran and attended fund-raising functions.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa yesterday expressed shock and dismay at the death of Princess Diana in a car accident in Paris. "I am deeply shocked and saddened to hear the death of the Princess of Wales. I would like to send my deepest condolences to bereaved members of her family," Tung said in a statement.

Israel

Israel said yesterday it shared in the British people's sorrow at the death of Princess Diana in a Paris car crash that an Israeli spokesman described as still hard to digest.

"The government of Israel shares in the sorrow of the British people over this incomprehensible accident and this awful tragedy," said Danny Navet, Secretary of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet.

Chirac

French President Jacques

Chirac yesterday expressed "great shock" at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a road accident in Paris.

"I learn with great shock of the sudden death of Lady Diana," the head of state wrote in a communique. "She was a young woman of our age, warm, full of life and generosity. Her tragic death will be deeply felt because she was a familiar figure to everyone. At this terrible moment, my thoughts go to her family and most of all to her children," Chirac added.

Imran Khan

The death of Princess Diana is a horrific loss for all those in suffering across the world, said Imran Khan former Pakistani cricket hero and a friend of the princess yesterday.

Khan who invited Diana to Pakistan two months ago to help collect tens of thousands of dollars for his charity cancer hospital in the eastern city of Lahore, said: "I am deeply shocked and grieved."

"This world has very few people like Diana who work so devotedly for the well-being of the poor, deprived and down-trodden people," he said.

"There was hardly any non-Muslim who worked in a Muslim country with as much devotion and dedication which Di-

ana demonstrated for the sick and poor in Pakistan," Khan told.

"Her death is not only a horrific loss for the British royal family but also for the suffering humanity in the entire world, he added.

Indonesia

The Indonesian government on Sunday expressed sympathy over the death of Princess Diana in an automobile accident in Paris.

"We are shocked and saddened by the devastating accident," said Ghaffar Fadyi, a spokesman for the Foreign Office.

"We express our condolences to the families," Ghaffar said.

Australia

Australians would be shocked and saddened by the death of Princess Diana, Prime Minister John Howard said Sunday.

Howard led many Australian national leaders in extending sympathy to the victims of the car crash.

"The death in such tragic circumstances of Diana, Princess of Wales, will shock and sadden Australians," Howard said in a statement.

"It has ended at a young age the life of a person who held a particular fascination for many people around the world." On behalf of the Australian government I express my deepest sympathy to her two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, and to other members of the Royal Family."

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa yesterday expressed sorrow over Princess Diana's death and said she and her missionary nuns were praying for her.

"Mother has heard the news and she is very sorry. She is praying for her and we all are praying for her," missionaries of charity, the Roman Catholic nun's religious order in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta, said in a statement.

South Africa

South African President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress said yesterday the untimely death of Britain's Princess Diana was a loss to her adoring fans all over the world, including South Africans.

"Princess Di captured the imagination of our people more recently during her visit to Angola for her principled stance in opposing the use of anti-personnel landmines and in her meeting with the victims," ANC spokesman Ronnie Manoepe told.

"The ANC joins millions of our people and nations of the world in expressing its heartfelt sympathies to the queen the people of the United Kingdom, family and friends."

All she wanted to become is queen of people's hearts

LONDON, Aug 31: For 16 years Britain's Princess Diana has been the focus of thousands of cameras as she turned from a blushing ingenue into one of the world's most elegant women, reports Reuters.

But Diana found that wealth, high living and the right connections did not necessarily buy love.

She once said she wanted to be a sort of ambassador, "a queen of people's hearts" because "she earns a lot of respect and admiration."

Her 15-year marriage to their-to-be-throne Prince Charles ended in messy, painful divorce a year ago and, despite a stream of stories linking her to various men, she appeared to have kept companions at a safe distance.

The most photographed woman in the world had dropped this reserve with Dodi Al Fayed, however.

Since their relationship became public property earlier this month, Diana, 36, had been quite happy to let the press capture moments of tenderness and passion with the heir to a fortune, including the Harrods luxury apartment store.

But in a tragic twist early to-

day, Al Fayed was killed in a car crash that left Diana seriously injured.

According to police in Paris, the accident occurred while their car was being pursued by press photographers on a motorcycle.

Her liaison with Al Fayed added to a sense of stability in Diana's life linked to her humanitarian crusade against anti-personnel landmines which had seen her make high-profile visits to Bosnia and Angola.

Diana has been frozen out of the royal circle since the divorce, but she is the mother of Prince William, the heir to the throne, and she is held in higher public esteem than the royal family as a whole.

For much of the past two years, however, the princess appeared in limbo.

A multi-millionaire after her divorce, she filled her life with work for the handful of aids and children's charities she still patronises, workouts at her gymnasium and endless visits to counsellors and new age therapists.

Her relationship with the media she once mentioned - even cooperating with a book by



A fairy-tale marriage between Diana, the Princess of Wales, and Prince Charles.

a tabloid reporter that revealed intimate details about her failing marriage - became strained.

At 36, Diana bears little resemblance to the blushing virgin who captivated Britain when she married Charles in a lavish ceremony at St Paul's cathedral in 1981.

The demure, slightly plump, 19-year-old wore a fresh face for the fusty royal family and was at first its greatest asset.

"I'm amazed that she's been brave enough to take me on," Charles said at the time of their engagement.

Diana, 12 years his junior, said that they were in love "whatever that means." Charles added hastily, a hint of the problems ahead for the cerebral Charles and the emotional Diana.

Diana's childhood had been overshadowed by her parents' broken marriage.

She was only six, living with two sisters and a brother on the royal family's Sandringham estate in eastern England, when the breakup occurred.

In the early years of her own marriage, Diana outshone her husband, the heir to the throne, on every royal occasion, drawing the attention of the crowds and the focus of the cameras.

But privately she was in despair over her disintegrating marriage and a husband whose affections still belonged to another woman and who was envious of her fame.

As far as Queen Elizabeth was concerned, Diana's duty was to remain silent, accepting with dignity the traditions of royalty which have long sanctioned male infidelity.

In November 1995, Diana gave a television interview, without the knowledge of her advisers or even the Queen, in which she broke the cherished royal tradition of reserve and set out her demands for her future as an ex-royal.

Clearly still bitter from Charles' television admission earlier that he had been unfaithful only after the marriage broke down, Diana told of her own affair with a cavalry officer and gave an anguished account of her suffering over her husband's undying passion for Camilla Parker Bowles.

Most damaging of all, she cast doubts on Prince Charles' ability to handle the responsibilities of a monarch.

It was an interview designed to portray her as the injured party in the marriage and an appeal for public support.

She also wrong-footed Charles by telling the world that she did not want a divorce because she feared it would harm their two sons, William, 15, and Harry, 12.

BRIEFLY

Gulf War missile blast kills 1 in Iraq: A Gulf War missile that lay dormant in southern Iraq for six years has killed one farmer and injured another, the official Iraqi News Agency said Saturday, AP reports from Baghdad.

Bandits kill 1 in Italy: Two bandits held up a bus full of Italian pilgrims in southern Italy Saturday, killing a passenger who tried to resist, Italian news reports said, AP reports from Foggia.

Air crash leaves 12 dead in Peru: Twelve people were killed - including 10 foreign tourists - when two private Cessna planes collided in midair Saturday as they flew over archaeological sites south of Lima, police said, AFP reports from Lima.

Pakistan seeks clarification from India over talks

ISLAMABAD, Aug 31: Pakistan Saturday voiced its unease over recent "signals" by Indian leaders about the current bilateral dialogue and said it had sought "necessary" clarification from New Delhi, reports AFP.

"Pakistan would remain hopeful about the dialogue process while it awaits clarifications which appear necessary in the wake of the signals carried by the statements emanating from New Delhi," a foreign office spokesman said.

A third session of talks is due in New Delhi next month, but no dates have been fixed and press reports later Saturday quoted government officials as saying India wanted to delay the talks.

The next session is likely to be put off until the end of October, the News daily said.

Pakistan and India resumed the normalisation dialogue in March after a break of more than three years.

The spokesman referred in particular to a statement by Indian Prime Minister Indira Kumar Gujral that he would meet US President Bill Clinton in

Dodi: Lived like a prince, died with a princess

PARIS, Aug 31: The son of an Egyptian billionaire, Dodi Fayed partied with the rich and famous and became a celebrity in his own right when he was romantically linked with Princess Diana, reports AP.

The wealthy film producer, who police said was killed Sunday in an accident that also killed Diana, became an international celebrity - but not because of the films he produced or co-produced, such as the 1981 Oscar-winning "Chariots of Fire." "The World According to Garp," "F/X" and "Hook."

Three weeks ago, Fayed's name became a household word when tabloids published photographs of Fayed and Diana basking in the sun on his father's luxury yacht.

The photographs were the first evidence of a relationship between Diana and another man since her divorce from Prince Charles in August 1996 - and rocketed the 42-year-old Fayed to the status of international celebrity.

With Fayed's new-found fame came some embarrassing revelations.

His high style of living and entertaining produced a trail of lawsuits over unpaid bills. He bounced checks and failed to pay rent on several luxury

homes in Southern California, his spokesman acknowledged before his death.

In Beverly Hills, he leased a series of mansions for prices ranging from \$20,000 a month to \$35,000 a month and was sued repeatedly for leaving landlords in the lurch.

But Fayed's father, self-made billionaire Mohamed Al Fayed, owns London's famed Harrod's department store, the Hotel Ritz in Paris and has 11 homes around the world.

Dodi Fayed was also renowned for his real estate. The mansions he occupied were "amazing," a frequent Fayed guest told The Associated Press.

"He had a party at one of these places, and it had a full bowling alley," said the guest, who requested anonymity. "There was a band and he showed movies in a screening room."

Some of his party guests included actors Tony Curtis, Ryan O'Neal, Farrah Fawcett, Brooke Shields and Robert Downey Jr. the source said.

"He just collected celebrities. He would invite them over for dinner and just sit back and listen. He didn't say much," the source said.

"And he was always with very pretty women."

Significant dates in life of Diana

LONDON, Aug 31: Here are significant dates in the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, reports AP.

July 1, 1961 - Lady Diana Frances Spencer is born, the daughter of the 8th Earl Spencer.

July 29, 1981 - Married Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, at St. Paul's Cathedral, while millions watched the "fairytale wedding." He is 12 years of senior to her.

June 21, 1982 - Prince William Arthur Philip Louis born.

September 15, 1984 - Prince Harry (Henry Charles Albert David) born.

June 15, 1992 - After months of speculation about the state of the royal marriage, Andrew Morton's book "Diana: Her True Story" says Charles has had a long-time affair with a married woman, Camilla Parker Bowles, driving Diana to injure herself and attempt suicide.

August 25, 1992 - The Sun newspaper prints transcript of phone call monitored in December 1989 between Diana and a man who affectionately calls her "Squidgy."

December 9, 1992 - Prime Minister John Major announces to Parliament that Diana and Charles are separating but there are no plans for divorce.

January 12, 1993 - The Sun publishes transcript of intimate phone call said to be between Camilla and Charles, reportedly monitored December, 1989.

June 29, 1994 - In a TV documentary, Charles says he had committed adultery after the marriage broke down with "both having tried."

October 3, 1994 - Anna Pasternak's book "Princess in Love" says Diana had five-year affair with her riding instructor James Hewitt.

November 20, 1995 - In a television interview, Diana admits adultery with Hewitt.

August 1995 - Reports link Diana and rugby star wife Carling, Carling and wife separate September 29.

December 1995 - Charles receives letter from Queen Elizabeth II urging divorce, and he agrees.

February 28, 1996 - Diana agrees to divorce.

August 28, 1996 - Final decree of divorce.

August 31, 1997 - Diana seriously injured in Paris automobile accident. Her companion, Dodi Fayed, is killed.

DI-Dodi spent last holiday together in Saint-Tropez

SAINT TROPEZ, France, Aug 31: Diana, Princess of Wales and Egyptian playboy Dodi Al-Fayed, who died in a car crash in Paris on Saturday night, spent their last holiday together in the southern French resort of Saint-Tropez and cruising in the Mediterranean, reports AFP.

Their holiday was meant to be extremely discreet, with the Princess and her companion spending most of their time on-board the Jonikal, the luxurious yacht owned by Dodi's father, the Egyptian millionaire Mohammed Al-Fayed, making only rare appearances on land.

Princess Diana again adorned the front pages of the British tabloids Friday, this time as she raised her leg over Dodi Al-Fayed's shoulders to clamber aboard his jet-ski.

Media had been speculating about the couple's relationship since fuzzy photographs of Diana and Dodi hugging and supposedly kissing during a week-long cruise were published all around the world four weeks ago.

The princess swung a leg over Dodi's shoulder as they larked around on a jet-ski trip in the Med," said the Sun, which

carried a series of photos showing how Diana, wearing a set of enormous flippers, got herself into the perilous position.

The pictures came just a day after the first anniversary of Diana's divorce from Prince Charles on August 28.

The Princess, spending her fourth holiday with Al-Fayed in the south of France last week, sparked outrage among Britain's opposition Tories when she reportedly used the word "hopeless" to describe their attitude towards her campaign for an international ban on land mines.

It was while in Saint-Tropez that the 36-year-old Princess enjoyed her first summer holiday this year with sons William and Harry on board the Yacht with the Al-Fayed family.

Early in August Diana and Dodi, 41, who have known each other for 10 years, spent a week sailing around the Mediterranean, when photographers first took pictures of them together.

The Princess and her Egyptian companion arrived in the Cote D'Azur again on August 21.

A plane belonging to Harrods brought the couple from London to Nice.

SIEM REAP, Cambodia, Aug 31: Calling his country "an island of war," King Norodom Sihanouk offered Sunday to mediate an end to fighting between his son and the strongman who deposed him in a bloody power grab, reports AP.

The frail monarch returned to his homeland Friday after six months of medical treatment in China, hoping to restore peace after two months of factional warfare.

"If they allow me to do something, I would also like to participate in the informal talks," he told reporters, referring to possible negotiations between Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and royalists led by his deposed son, Norodom Ranariddh.

Several thousand royalists are holding out along the northern border with Cambodia, and more fighting was expected Sunday in the wake of reports that fresh Hun Sen troops were heading for the frontlines.

The two sides exchanged small arms, rocket and mortar fire Saturday around the Cambodian border village of O'S-mach, where Ranariddh's stubborn troops have held off Hun

Series of run-ins between celebrities, photographers

LOS ANGELES, Aug 31: The car crash that killed Princess Diana early Sunday, apparently as paparazzi trailed the couple in Paris, follows a series of run-ins between celebrities and those who take pictures for big money, reports AP.

Five photographers were in custody after the death of Diana and her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their driver.

France Info radio said at least some of the photographers took pictures before help arrived and that one of the photographers was beaten at the scene by horrified witnesses.

On May 1, Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, were ambushed by celebrity photographers and trapped in their Mercedes-Benz between two cars piloted by paparazzi.

Two photographers face misdemeanor charges of false imprisonment in connection with the incident.

Alec Baldwin and his wife, Kim Basinger, were confronted by a photographer as they brought their newborn daughter home from the hospital. Baldwin scuffled with the photographer, and was acquitted of misdemeanor battery charges in March 1996.

Actor George Clooney, upset about a broadcast on his girlfriend, urged a boycott of Paramount Pictures Television Group because of its tabloid TV shows' use of "video paparazzi" footage.

Other celebrities are going to violent extremes as they fight back against the paparazzi.

Will Smith and Woody Harrison both took swings at tabloid shooters in separate airport incidents. Robert De Niro battled with a photographer in New York.

Still others have maintained a vocal opposition to the paparazzi, including a former publicist for Fayed, Diana's boyfriend.

Gaddafi rewards 5 women with HR awards

TRIPOLI, Aug 31: Libya's Col Moammar Gaddafi awarded human rights prizes to five women from around the world.

But the spotlight remained on Gaddafi as speech after speech extolled the triumphs of the military leader's 28-year reign, reports AP.