

# Paparazzi's role in Di's death angers Britons

LONDON, Sept 1: Paparazzi lurked in the shrubbery, hovered outside her gym and trained telephoto lenses on her vacations. The market for intimate photographs of Princess Diana was endless and the money amazing, reports AP.

Photographers pursued Diana and her wealthy beau through the Paris streets on Sunday and, cameras flashing, were the first to the scene of the crash that killed the princess, Dodi Fayed and her chauffeur. Police are investigating whether the pursuit played a role in her death.

Revelation at the prospect spilled into displays of grief: A message left outside Diana's Kensington Palace home cried "A life wasted by the crooked greed of the media." A woman outside the palace shouted, "You're horrible," at TV cameramen, sobs choking her words.

Fayed's father, Mohamed Al Fayed, blamed the photographers for the couple's death, and Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, said he "Always believed the press would kill her in the end."

"But not even I could imagine that they would take such a direct hand in her death as seems to be the case," he told reporters at his home just outside Cape Town, South Africa.

"It would appear that every (publisher) and every editor of any publication that has paid for intrusive and exploitative photographs of her, encouraging greedy and ruthless individuals to risk everything in pursuit of Diana's image, has blood on his hands today."

Some journalists and Britons say the public is partly



## Di's last order: A pair of flat beige shoes

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1: Princess Diana's order for a pair of flat, beige shoes from Malaysian-born shoemaker to the British gentry Jimmy Choo was sadly her last, Bernama News Agency reported today.

Choo said he had received a fax order from the princess on August 4 for delivery as soon as possible. They had then fixed a delivery date for the first week of September.

"Princess Diana was more than a customer, she was a friend," Choo told Bernama News Agency in his Knightsbridge Boutique nearby the Harrods building in London.

"Whenever I visited her at Kensington Palace, she would walk with me to my car to wish me goodbye," he said.

Choo said the Princess had last visited his shop two weeks ago, where she confided in him that she was wearing a white crystal given to her by a Feng-shui master to help her calm her mind.

Diana also told him that she was very happy and there had been a lot of changes in her life, Choo added.

# Mourners maintain candlelight vigil for Diana

LONDON, Sept 1: Crowds of mourners maintained a candlelight vigil for Diana, Princess of Wales, early today as a shocked nation lamented the death of the woman some said died "a saint".

As the Princess's body lay in a private chapel of rest in central London, messages of condolences continued to pour in from nations as far as China and Japan while controversy raged over the role of the media in her death in a car crash in Paris in the early hours of Sunday.

They would take such a direct hand in her death, as seems to be the case," he said.

His comments were echoed by several politicians, notably Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in the Philippines, who said the part played by the press in Diana's death would need to be fully investigated.

In Britain, there were no signs that the sense of shock and disbelief at the death of one of the globe's most talked about women was diminishing.

Crowds of thousands stood outside Buckingham Palace and the Princess's home Kensington Palace, laying yet more flowers on the mountains of wreaths already, delivered, and talking in hushed voices or sharing their grief in muted silence.

The cruel irony that, by all accounts, her last hours at a dinner at the Paris Ritz with new love Dodi Al-Fayed were among her happiest, hung heavy over a nation that has followed every detail of her life for the last 16 years.

In Paris, at the spot where the black Mercedes 600 slammed into the wall of the underpass, flowers and mementoes piled up through the day and night.

Most British tabloids painted their mastheads black, and included pull-out sections of pictures offering a portrait of the Britain's "Queen of Hearts" or "the People's Princess" as she was called by Prime Minister Tony Blair.

In a twist of iron, the Daily Mail's royal correspondent Richard Kay, with whom Diana was known to communicate regularly, said he had spoken to the Princess hours before she died and she said she was ready



The coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, is carried off a plane of the Royal Squadron by Service Men from the Royal Air Force at RAF Northolt late on Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

to give up her campaigning and withdraw into a more private life with Al-Fayed.

Many papers, such as the Daily Star, warned that Princes William and Harry "need all our love now".

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said in a statement that after completion of the coroner's formalities at a private mortuary, Diana's body was moved just after midnight to the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, official residence of Prince Charles.

Buckingham Palace was due

to announce details of Diana's funeral later in the morning. It was expected that scores of world leaders would be invited to attend.

Her failed 15-year marriage, relationships, fights with other members of the royal family, as well as support for various causes such as a ban on landmines, AIDS research and homelessness projects were all documented in minute detail.

The British press responded to criticism today by cautioning against rash legislation restricting press freedom, pointing

out that France's tough privacy laws did nothing to deter the seven photographers in question.

Television and radio stations continued to suspend normal programming, filling it instead with coverage of the princess's life and tributes to her or simply playing sombre music.

The BBC, whose newscasters, reporters and interviewers all wore black, played the national anthem hourly with pictures of the Union Jack flying at a half mast.

# 'Parliamentary system failed to represent democracy in its true spirit in India'

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The former Karnataka chief minister, R K Hegde, today advocates gradual transformation to presidential form of government in the country saying the present parliamentary system failed to represent democracy in its true spirit, reports PTI.

Participating in the resumed discussion on parliamentary democracy in the Rajya Sabha on the last day of special session, Hegde said the present electoral system was ridden with corruption, casteism, money power and criminalisation.

Hegde, who was expelled from Janata Dal, felt that in the present form of government the views of majority of the people were not reflected and the system cannot deliver the desired goals.

Recalling that no government during the last 50 years had secured more than fifty per cent mandate, Hegde said the aspirations of the electorate could not be met in the continuation of the present system.

Suggesting drastic changes in the electoral system, he said, "we should see the desirability

# Di found true happiness with Dodi

LONDON, Sept 1: Princess Diana declared just hours before she died that she had found true happiness with Dodi Al Fayed and planned to withdraw completely from public life, reports Reuters.

Close confidants said on Monday they had never known her so content and fulfilled now that she had a new man in her life. Wedding bells were being forecast.

"They were to use an old but priceless cliché, blissfully happy," said Daily Mail journalist Richard Kay who talked to Diana on the phone just six hours before she died.

Kay, a close confidant of the Princess for the past five years, said she told me she had decided radically to change her life.

"She was going to complete her obligations to her charities and to the anti-personnel landmines cause and then around November would completely withdraw from her former public life."

Bubblingly enthusiastic in their last phone conversation, she told Kay how she was looking forward to seeing her sons again — Harry King William, 15, and Furry, 12.

# Diana planned to withdraw completely from public life

"I'm coming home tomorrow and the boys will be back from Scotland in the evening," Diana said. "I will have a few days with them before they're back at school," she added.

Andrew Morton, whose best-selling book on Diana first revealed the heartbreak behind her failed marriage to Prince Charles, said the Princess was "Just a fingertip away from the happiness she craved."

"She was just a breath away from the new life she was attempting to build for herself," Morton said Diana had a new sense of purpose and inner resolve: "New love, new life, new hope."

But Al Fayed's spokesman Michael Cole said Dodi planned to spend the rest of his life with Diana.

Cole had warned Dodi about being seen with too many other beautiful women in case they could be rumoured to be new girlfriends.

"Dodi turned to me and said Michael I will never have another girlfriend."

And that is why Diana's closest friends found it even harder to come to terms with her sudden death at 36.



The Prince of Wales (R) leaves Sunday the Pitie Salpetriere hospital in Paris with the princess of Wales' two sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes (L) and Lady Sarah McCorquodale (C). The princess died at the hospital early Sunday from massive injuries she sustained after her car was involved in a high speed crash in Paris. Her companion, Egyptian billionaire Dodi Fayed and the driver of the car were also killed. — AFP/UNB photo

# 19 more to die in Philippines

The number of inmates facing the death penalty in the Philippines rose to 453 after 19 more prisoners were given death sentences in August, a Philippine senator said yesterday. AFP reports from Manila.

The total includes six foreigners and seven women, said a statement from Senator Ernesto Herrera, an anti-crime crusader and death penalty advocate. The 19 new additions include a Libyan national, convicted of abducting and raping a 17-year-old girl, and a Taiwan man caught with the banned drug, metamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as "ice" or "shabu".

# Heavy rains leave 4 dead in Taiwan

Torrential rains and flooding unleashed by typhoon Cass left four people dead in Taiwan, the United Daily News said yesterday. AFP reports from Taipei.

Three of the four people were washed away by floods in southern Taiwan, the daily said, adding that the typhoon the third to hit the island in three weeks also left one person injured. Cass reduced its force when nearing the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, but it brought in heavy rains in the west of Taiwan.

# Inmates controlling Venezuela jails

Venezuela's jails are controlled by their prisoners, the country's justice minister says, AP reports from Caracas.

In an interview published Sunday, three days after 29 inmates at El Dorado prison were hacked to death and burned, Hilario Cardozo told the newspaper El Universal, "There is no authority, rather, the jails are in the hands of the inmates."

Staffing by guards is so low, and prisoners so well armed with homemade knives and even smuggled handguns, that guards don't venture regularly into some of the country's 32 prisons.

# 12 bodies of Peru crash recovered

Authorities retrieved the bodies of 12 victims of a small airplane collision over a coastal archaeological site in Peru and drove them to Lima for identification late Sunday, AFP reports from Lima.

Five German and five Italian tourists died when two private Cesena planes collided in mid-air late Saturday as they flew over the Nazca Lines, an archeological site some 428 kilometres (265 miles) south of Lima. The two Peruvian airplane pilots also died in the crash.

# 18 drown in Congo

Eighteen people drowned in a crowded swimming pool at a resort near the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Sunday following a rape and shooting incident, police said.

Police Inspector Raus Chalwe, Reuters the tragedy at the Nsele resort, about 40 km. (25 miles) outside Kinshasa, occurred when soldiers fired in the air in a bid to save a girl who was being raped. Panic swept through the pool packed mainly with students and schoolchildren, resulting in the deaths he said.

# US jet crashes in Japan

A US fighter jet assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Independence crashed off the coast of Japan but the two crewmembers aboard ejected and were not seriously injured, the Navy announced Monday, AP says from Tokyo.

The F-14 jet crashed at sea about 225 kilometres (140 miles) east of Yokosuka, a port just south of Tokyo where the Independence is based, while conducting a routine training mission Sunday night, the Navy said in a statement. The statement said the pilot and radar officer aboard the fighter ejected before it hit the water, were rescued by helicopters from the carrier and suffered only minor bruises.

# Yeltsin won't run for 3rd term

MOSCOW, Sept 1: President Boris Yeltsin said in a surprise announcement Monday that he has no plans to run again for office when his current term expires in 2000, reports AP.

The 66-year-old Yeltsin made the comment during an address at a Moscow school, where he was marking the start of the new school year. He gave no indication of what he intends to do after his term expires.

"My term ends in 2000. I will not run anymore," said Yeltsin in remarks broadcast on Russian television channels.

Looking happy and smiling, Yeltsin said younger, more energetic people would be needed to run the country in the future. He also praised the young advisers and officials in his administration.

# 'Queen's visit to Amritsar not yet decided'

SINGAPORE, Sept 1: British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said today no decision had been taken on whether Queen Elizabeth would visit the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on her trip to India in October, reports Reuters.

Cook told a news conference on the last day of a four-nation tour of Southeast Asia that the Queen's itinerary had not been finalised.

Amritsar, home of the Golden Temple which is the holiest Sikh shrine, has been proposed for a place on the Queen's tour to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of British imperial rule in the Subcontinent.

# Soldiers kill 6 rebels in Manipur gunbattle

GUWAHATI, India, Sept 1: At least six separatist guerrillas were killed in a gunbattle with soldiers in India's northeastern state of Manipur, police said today, reports Reuters.

Police said the clash took place on Sunday in Irong, about 40-km (25 miles) south of the state capital, Imphal. The dead militants were from the Kangleipak Communist Party, a group of tribal guerrillas, police said.

Authorities recovered arms and ammunition from the dead militants.

# King turns down Hun Sen's request to join him in war-torn Cambodia

SIEM REAP, Cambodia, Sept 1: Surrounded by Buddhist monks and nuns, King Norodom Sihanouk prayed Monday for peace to prevail in his war-torn country while rejecting a request by the country's strongman to join him, reports AP.

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and Ung Huot, the politician chosen to replace Prince Norodom Ranariddh as co-premier after Hun Sen ousted him in a bloody coup in July, asked to join the prayers but were told by the king he wished a private ceremony.

The king repeated an appeal to warring parties led by Hun Sen and Ranariddh, the king's son, to stop fighting and to unite "Not in the interest of the king but in the interest of all of Cambodia."

Sihanouk's two-hour traditional prayer ceremony, held at the royal chapel near his residence in Stem Reap, honoured

# 46 die as floods hit Thai provinces

BANGKOK, Sept 1: More than 30 crocodiles took advantage of high floodwaters to slither out of farms in southern Thailand and breeders elsewhere have been warned to keep their reptiles penned up, officials said Monday, reports AP.

Crocodile farming is widespread, and two years ago a number of the animals escaped into the countryside during similar flooding, sparking crore hunts and exaggerated media reports of jaws lurking in every waterway.

The Interior Ministry said at least 46 people have died and four others were reported missing as monsoon flooding continued to ravage areas of the country.

We told people not to worry because these are not fierce types. They are used to eating cooked food, not raw meat.

The worst damage and loss of life has been reported in the peninsular provinces of southern Thailand, where low-lying areas were inundated by rains from tropical storms off the South China Sea.

# 31 crocodiles were reported missing from 10 farms in the district around the provincial capital, located 390 kilometres (240 miles) south of Bangkok.

Two teams have been sent out to recapture the wayward reptiles, the official said.

Uthane Youngprapakorn of the country's largest crocodile farm said the Department of Fisheries last week warned all breeders to keep their animals well contained.

Almost 200,000 families had been affected in 17 provinces of the south, north and northeast since the floods began August 20, according to the ministry.

Although the waters had receded in all but seven of the provinces, the meteorological department warned people to be prepared for more floodwaters, especially in eastern regions.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

# UN to step up peace efforts Taliban warplanes pound opposition posts

ISLAMABAD, Sept 1: Warplanes of Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban militia bombed front-line opposition positions north of Kabul today as Taliban fighters attacked in Farza district, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service reported, says Reuters.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said Taliban jets carried out at least one bombing rapid to support ground forces who launched their latest assault at about four am (2300 GMT, Sunday).

AIP said one Taliban fighter had been killed and three wounded in the operation, which followed the Taliban's capture on Saturday of the nearby town of Guldara, 22-km (14 miles) from Kabul, from opposition forces led by Ahmad Shah Masoud.

No other details were immediately available and opposition spokesman could not immediately be contacted for comment.

The mainly ethnic Pashtun Taliban, seeking to impose their strict version of Islamic law throughout Afghanistan, control about two thirds of the country, but face opposition from a northern alliance of ethnic Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara militias.

Earlier report from Tehran terminated to step up efforts to end the war in Afghanistan, the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a UN envoy yesterday as saying.

"The UN is determined to step up its efforts to solve the Afghan crisis," IRNA quoted Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi as saying in Tehran, where he is holding talks with officials.

The United Nations says the mission of Brahimi is to assess UN peacekeeping activities in Afghanistan and submit his findings to the 52nd session of the UN General Assembly in September.

Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic movement said on Saturday it had captured territory north of Kabul and announced a new offer of peace talks to halt the civil war.

It said the offer, which was conveyed to two UN envoys on Friday in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, included a halt to all air strikes, if the opposition forces did the same.

The Taliban on Friday accused Iran of arming and training Afghans for sabotage in Afghanistan. Iran has denied providing military aid to the Taliban's opponents.

# Mexican president urges divided Congress to resolve dispute

MEXICO CITY, Sept 1: House leaders of Mexico's longtime ruling party said they would allow the president to deliver his state-of-the-union address Monday, withdrawing a threat to boycott the first opposition-controlled Congress in decades, reports AP.

The announcement Sunday came hours after President Ernesto Zedillo urged a badly divided Congress to work out its differences. All parties should follow the constitution and "Undertake their best efforts to resolve the controversy," Zedillo said.

Zedillo's Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, lost its seven-decade control of the lower house of Congress in July 6 elections. On the opening day of the new Congress Saturday, opponents of the PRI consolidated their control of the legislature and elected their own man as speaker.

Calling the manoeuvres illegal, PRI lawmakers had threatened to boycott the president's annual address to the nation and even set up their own legislature elsewhere.

But Arturo Nunez Jimenez, head of the PRI faction in Congress, backed away from the threat late Sunday, saying what is traditionally the most important presidential speech of the year must be delivered.

Barring further complications, lawmakers said they expected the annual address to begin hours after its initially scheduled start of 10 am (1500 GMT).

"We opted for a decision in the interest of the nation," said Nunez Jimenez, adding that the faction would formally protest the opposition move wresting control of the new Congress from the PRI.

Zedillo, despite his call for reconciliation, had refused to intervene in the dispute.