## 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 their chauffeur. Police are investigating whether the pursuit played a role in her death.

Revulsion at the prospect spilled into displays of grief: A message left outside Diana's Kensington Palace home decried "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

to blame for creating the market in which paparazzi thrive, snapping up each juicy tidbit. And news photographers — who draw a sharp line between themselves and paparazzi fear the public will not make

the same distinction. "For most of us, news is a profession," said Tom Haley, an America free-lancer with Sipa agency in Paris. "We might spend a month in Bosnia and barely cover expenses, but we could make a fortune by hanging around and spying on people like Lady Di.

An Italian photographer, Mario Brenna, reportedly made dlrs 400,000 from a fuzzy picture of Diana and Fayed embracing. The BBC reported that the British tabloid News of The World said it turned down the offer of a photo of Diana dying in her wrecked car. The reported

price tag: dlrs 300,000. Steven Coz, editor of the American tabloid National Enquirer, said photographs of Di-ana's crash were offered to his newspaper for dlrs 250,000. Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Coz urged the world press not to buy the photos, some of which he said were being peddled for a million dol-

Fanie Jason, a photographer involved in a high-speed pursuit of Diana last year in South Africa, said he hoped French authorities would not charge the photographers being questioned for following Diana.

"Diana was made by the media, and the same people who made her have contributed to her death. But they are not solely responsible for it," he told the South African Press Association.

# its true spirit in India'

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: The

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, mo-

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

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 continu-

Suggesting drastic changes

governance to presidential Stating that manipulative politics was playing a prime role in the current system. Hegde expressed concern over

and possibility of changing

from parliamentary form of

criminalisation of politics. He suggested setting up of a committee of experts to look into "loopholes," if any, in the constitution.

Congress leader V N Gadgil called for state funding of elections to prevent money power in politics. "Power acquires money and money acquires power," he said.

He suggested better quality of debates in parliament, code of conduct for MPs, declaring of assets by members and greater powers from standing committees for making functioning of parliamentary form of government more effective and meaningful.

Stating that judiciary was of late gradually encroaching into the functioning of the executive. Gadgil cautioned against this



#### 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 Fengshui 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.

#### Dodi's body in London for burial

LONDON, Sept 1: The body of Dodi Faved was brought back to Britain Sunday for burial in a country which denied his father citizenship but welcomed his millions in investment, reports

Faved and his friend, Princess Diana, were killed in a car crash in Paris Sunday. A hearse flanked by a police

motorcyclist and two police cars carried the coffin, which was draped in a black lined cloth with gold lettering and taken to the Regent's Park

About 50 people were waiting The family have not released

details about burial. Earlier on Sunday Michael Cole. Spokesman for Mohamed Al-Fayed, father of Dodi and the owner of the Harrods department store in London and the Ritz hotel in Paris, said that Al Faved wanted his son buried in Britain.

## 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

Police in the French capital were still questioning seven photographers early today who were in pursuit of the car carrying the 36-year-old Princess and her friend Dodi al-Fayed. 42, when it crashed at high speed in an underground tunnel, killing both as well as the

While Britons awaited news of the funeral, Prince Charles returned to the royal residence of Balmoral in Scotland to comfort his sons Princes William, 15, and Harry, 12, after accompanying their mother's body back to Britain.

Around the wreckage of the tragedy a debate raged over the actions and ethics of the photographers who appeared to have literally hounded the Princess to her death. Many echoed Diana's

brother Earl Charles Spencer who said outside his home in South Africa that every proprietor and editor who had ever bought intrusive pictures of Diana now had "blood on their hands" "I 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 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

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, point-

ing 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

The BBC, whose newsreaders, reporters and interviews all wore black, played the national anthem hourly with pictures of the Union Jack flying at a half

## 'Parliamentary system failed to represent democracy in

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.

ney power and criminalisation.

goals.

ation of the present system.

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

### Di found true happiness with Dodi

#### Diana planned to withdraw completely from public life

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 Reuter.

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 cliche, 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 formal public life.

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

"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 bestselling 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

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

Michael I will never have an-



The Prince of Wales (R) leaves Sunday the Pitie Salpetriere hospital in Paris with the princess of Wales' two sisters, Lady Jane Fellows (L) and Lady Sarah McCorquiodale (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 AFP/UNB photo Dodi Fayed and the driver of the car were also killed.

## 3 2 5

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 includes 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"

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 in-

mates at EI Dorado prison were hacked to death and burned, Hilarion 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

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

Five German and five Italians 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 Republi of the Congo on Sunday

following a rape and shooting incide t police said. Police Inspector Raus Chalwe 101. Reuters the tragedy at the Nsele resort, about 40 kr., (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 Indepen-

dence 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 ex-

pires 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 ex-

"My term ends in 2000, I will not run anymore," said Yeltsin in remarks broadcast on Rus-

sian 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 ad-

#### ministration. '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 Reuter. 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 guerillas were killed in a gunbattle with soldiers in India's northeastern state of Manipur, police said today, reports Reuter.

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 guerillas, police

Authorities recovered arms and ammunition from the dead

## King turns down Hun Sen's request to join him

## Sihanouk prays for peace 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 wartorn country while rejecting a request by the country's strongman to join him, reports

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and Ung Huot, the politician chosen to replace Prince Norodom Ranariddh as copremier 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

the first holy day of the Buddha and was observed throughout the country.

"The noblest meaning of today's prayers is peace," said Sihanouk, who has sought a role in mediating an end to fighting. He raised the subject in a meeting with Hun Sen and Monday rejected reports his offer had been rejected.

Resistance troops loyal to Ranariddh have waged a stubborn defense against Hun Sen's larger forces for more than two weeks at O'Smach, a village near the northern border with Thailand. Hun Sen's troops are eventually expected to take the stronghold, but have so far failed to overrun the heavily mined defences.

Ranariddh's commanders have gradually deployed their troops in the jungle further east and say they will wage a guerilla war when O'Smach falls. They are receiving support from a Khmer Rouge fac-

tion opposed to Hun Sen. The Khmer Rouge caused the deaths of up to 2 million Cam-

Maoist-inspired movement fragmented last year, and both prime ministers had wooed different factions for their military prowess. Thailand, which is sheltering 22,000 Cambodians who fled the fighting, was briefly

drawn into the conflict last

week when a shell crossed the

frontier and killed a Thai sol-

dier. Thailand fired 14 shells

back at Hun Sen's positions,

bodians when they ruled be-

tween 1975 and 1979. The

killing three of his men and knocking out an artillery piece. Hun Sen and Ranariddh, battlefield enemies in the 1980s, formed a tense coalition after UN-supervised elections in 1993. Sihanouk has said he still recognises his exiled son as

an official premier, but says

#### Thai provinces BANGKOK, Sept 1: More than 30 crocodiles took advantage of

46 die as floods hit

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, said an official contacted by telephone in the southern province of Chumpon, the hardest hit area of the country.

The official, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said

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

since the floods began August 20, according to the ministry. Although the waters had neceded in all but seven of the provinces, the meteorological department warned people to be prepared for more floodwaters.

the south, north and northeast

especially in eastern regions. 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.

#### Ung Huot is a "de facto" one, UN to step up peace efforts

## Taliban warplanes pound opposition posts

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

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, Sun-

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 Masood.

No other details were imme-

diately available and opposi-

tion 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.

says, the United Nations is determined to step up efforts to end the war in Afghanistan, the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a UN envoy yesterday as saying.

Earlier report from Tehran

"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 Taliban's opponents. 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

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

Friday in the Pakistani capital

Islamabad, included a halt to

#### 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 oppositioncontrolled Congress in decades, reports AP.

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.

The announcement Sunday

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,

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 be-

head of the PRI faction in

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

gin hours after its initially

control of the new Congress from the PRI. Zedillo, despite his call for reconciliation, had refused to intervene in the dispute.