

From shy teacher to elegant princes Diana gave royal family its 1st real glamour

LONDON, Sept 3: Princess Diana's style had little to do with fashion and everything to do with flair, reports AP.

She gave the royal family its first real glamour and perfected the kind of sleek polish the British expected from New York or Paris — but not from one of their own.

As a teen-age nursery school teacher, wearing the flower traditional uniform of her "Sloane Ranger" social set, she inspired imitation. Beauty parlor attendants around the world turned out copies of her short, feathery hairdo before she married Prince Charles.

The childish roundness the world saw in her engagement pictures had disappeared by the time she walked down the aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral with Prince Charles in 1981, at the tender age of 20.

Over the next several years, the thinness caused by an eating

Dodi's father looks desolate

LONDON, Sept 3: For billionaire businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, the summer romance that blossomed between his son Dodi and Princess Diana was a father's dream and a personal coup against the British establishment that had refused him citizenship, reports AP.

Now, he has to face their tragic deaths knowing that a chauffeur he employed was legally drunk at the time of the accident and at least partly responsible.

Charming and tough-minded, the Egyptian-born owner of Harrods department store and the Ritz hotel in Paris has confronted many difficult situations, but none as gut-wrenching as this.

"He's utterly desolate,"

255 hospitalised Contaminated liquor kills 50 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sept 3: Police in eastern Sri Lanka ordered people Wednesday not to drink alcohol after 50 people died after consuming contaminated arack, officials said, reports AP.

Policemen and government officials went door to door, urging people in Batticaloa district to avoid alcohol, police said.

More than 225 have been hospitalised, the officials said on condition of anonymity. The area is 210 kilometres (130 miles) east of Colombo.

The death toll is expected to rise since many of those hospitalised were in critical condition.

Hospitals were deluged by thousands of panicking people who rushed to hospitals believing they had also drunk the poisoned liquor. Doctors have been urging people to stay calm.

Coroners in the area reported that the arack had been contaminated with methyl alcohol, which police believe was done before it was distributed to pubs, eating houses and liquor stores.

**US asks Cambodian factions to accept
Sihanouk's offer**

WASHINGTON, Sept 3: The State Department on Tuesday urged Cambodia's warring factions to accept an offer by King Norodom Sihanouk to mediate in the country's political crisis, reports AP.

"We welcome the King's offer of mediation and we encourage prince Ranariddh and Prime Minister Hun Sen to accept it," State Department spokesman James Foley said.

The spokesman said Washington supported King Sihanouk's efforts "just as we support ASEAN's mediation efforts," alluding to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

On Sunday, King Sihanouk appealed to the warring parties, now fighting over his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh's last bastion on the Thai border, to call a ceasefire and enter into peace talks with him as a "referee."

Border guard killed in Tajikistan: A border guard serving with the Russian contingent in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan was killed by unknown assailants, the guards' command said Wednesday, AP reports from Moscow.

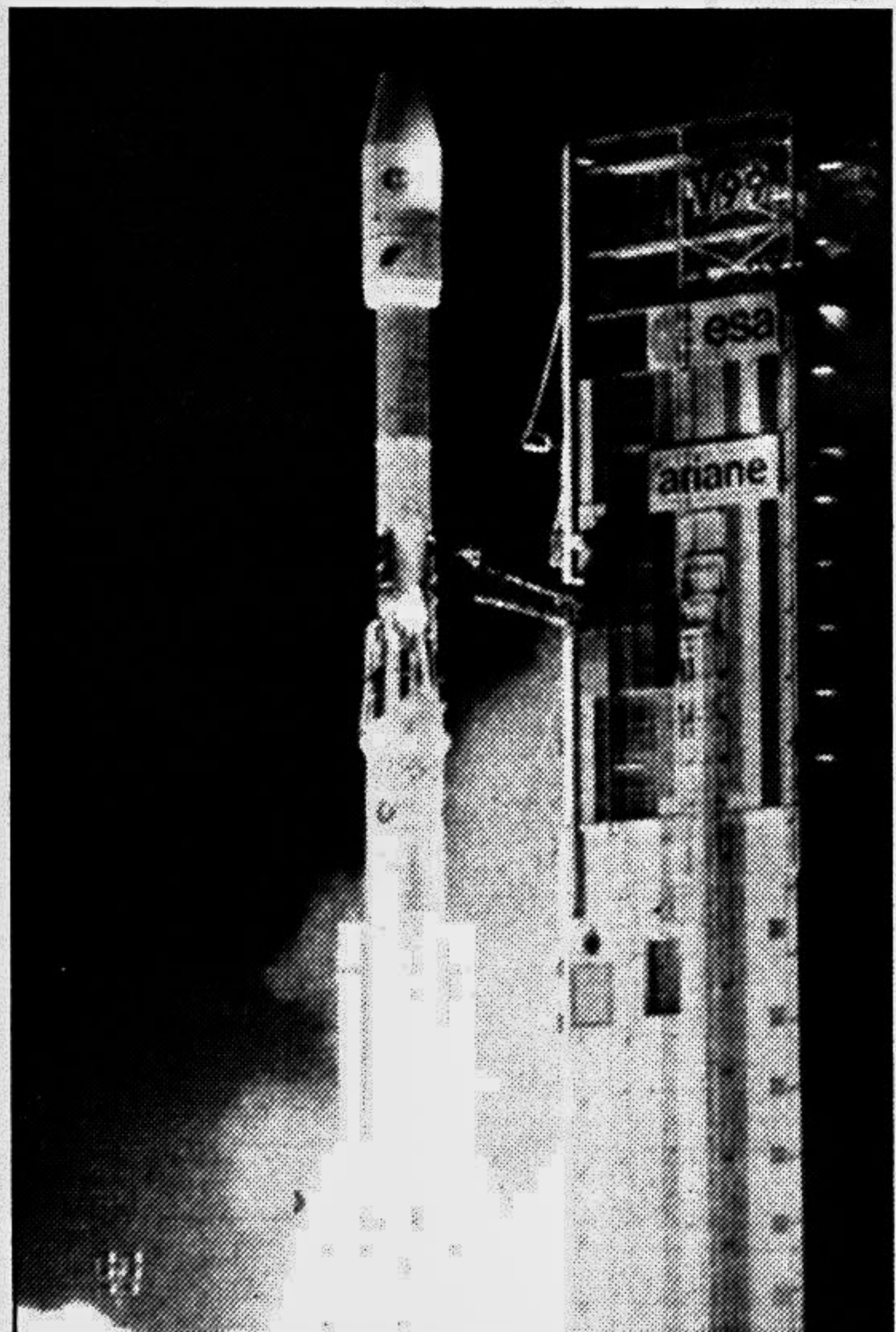
Lance-corporal Fahrudin Imamurov, an ethnic Tajik on contract service with the guards, was shot from a pistol not far from his home in a settlement 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, it said. The border guards command said his murder was a "terrorist act against the Russian guards," the Interfax and the ITAR-Tass news agencies reported. The killing was the second since February, the report added.

Bus crash kills 13 in Uzbekistan: Thirteen people were killed and 12 seriously injured when a bus crashed on the road from the Uzbek capital Tashkent to Nukus, 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) to the west, Interfax news agency reported Tuesday, AP says from Moscow.

The accident happened overnight August 28, officials in the Uzbek Ministry for Emergencies told Interfax, adding that the 43 passengers on board had been caught in a huge blaze.

Plane missing in C Philippines: An 11-seat plane to be used by police was reported missing while on a test flight, air company and police officials said Wednesday, AP reports from Manila.

Six people — the pilot, co-pilot, two police student pilots and two mechanics — were aboard the Italian-made Agusta SF600 when it was reported missing Monday afternoon, said Panfilo Villaruel, president of Philippine Aerospace Development Corp.



The 99th European rocket Ariane blast off Tuesday in the French Guyana town of Kourou. The rocket has launched two satellites, a European telecommunication satellite Hotbird 3 and a meteorological satellite Meteosat 7.

— AFP/UNB photo

7 named as official suspects in Paris car crash Britain worried to hold throngs of mourners expected at Di's funeral

PARIS, Sept 3: In a move that one lawyer angrily called "theatre justice," seven men have been named official suspects in the case of Princess Diana's fatal car crash, reports AP.

In London, meanwhile, officials said the capital's huge



squares and regal boulevards may not be big enough to hold the throngs of mourners expected at Diana's funeral Saturday. The lines of grieving admirers continued to swell Tuesday, two days after Diana died in an automobile crash in Paris, and the outpouring of sorrow showed no signs of slowing.

While Buckingham Palace grappled with that problem, a French court took another step toward charging seven pa-

parazzi in Diana's death. It placed six photographers and a motorcyclist under formal investigation, one step short of filing charges, for involuntary homicide and not helping the victims.

And yet more disturbing news emerged about the driver,

Henri Paul. Already accused of speeding and being legally drunk at the time of the crash, there were new indications that his blood alcohol level was even higher than originally believed at the time of the crash: four times the legal limit.

Paul worked for Paris' posh

Ritz Hotel, owned by Mohammed Al Fayed — the father of Diana's boyfriend Dodi Fayed, who also died in the crash. The elder Fayed joined the legal fray Tuesday by declaring himself a civil party in the case.

Georges Kiejman, a well-known lawyer who represents Fayed and once represented the family of the late President Francois Mitterrand, made it clear he aims to establish the fault of the photographers.

"There is a causality between the pursuit (by paparazzi) and the accident," he said.

Also joining the case as a civil party were Paul's parents. They want access to documents to determine how their son was judged to be legally drunk at the time of the crash.

The photographers who went before the judge all were arrested at the bloody crash scene, and had been in custody since then. They were freed — two on bail.

Along with "involuntary homicide and injuries," they were also placed under investigation for failing to aid people in danger. France has a "Good Samaritan" law requiring people to come to the aid of victims of road accidents.

The step means the photographers will be further investigated. It does not, however, mean that they will necessarily be charged with any crimes.

If convicted, the photographers could be sentenced to five years in prison and fined 500,000 francs (\$183,000).

Excavators remove corpses from large Bosnian mass grave

HRGAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sept 3: Recovery workers descended into a cave Tuesday to carry out corpses — some with socks and shoes dangling off decaying limbs — from one of the largest mass graves yet discovered in Bosnia or neighboring Croatia.

Up to 300 bodies, mostly Muslim war victims, were believed buried in a labyrinthine cave near the northwestern Bosnian village of Hrgar. Bosnian officials began exhuming bodies Monday, and by Tuesday had removed 10 corpses. Some remains still had identification cards.

Ervin Lipovic, a 30-year-old alpine climber working for the excavating team, said trash was mixed in with the bodies, and the stench below ground was "horrible." Several barrels of acid also were buried in the cave.

Tens of thousands of people still are listed as missing from the 3 1/2-year Bosnian war. Many are believed to have been slaughtered and dumped into pits.

The UN war crimes tribunal has been using evidence gathered from exhumations to build cases against suspects accused of committing atrocities during the Bosnian war and the six-month war in Croatia.

The cave near Hrgar is a moss-filled, 120-foot (40-meter) shaft that splits into several tunnels. Excavators enter the shaft in a large metal basket that slides down a wire connected to an above-ground generator.

Tents and wooden table have been set up around the shaft, in a patch of forest cleared of trees, for examining the bodies.

"We won't have a real idea of what we are dealing with until all the material is removed," said Joseph Cruz, a human rights field worker who is among UN officials monitoring the excavation. "There is no real idea of how far the hole goes down there."

The exhumation will take at least a month, said Adem Jakupovic, a local judge in the pits.

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Police inspect a Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (KMB) bus which crashed into a shop at a busy junction in the Mongkok district of the Kowloon peninsula in Hong Kong Tuesday. One person was killed and 14 others injured in the accident. Last week three people were killed when a car careered into a crowded pavement in Central district in Hong Kong island.

— AFP/UNB photo

New US official begins South Asia tour

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: The United States newly-nominated Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia has arrived here on a familiarisation tour of the world's most populous region, a spokesman said today, reports AP.

Rick Indurthi, on his first visit to South Asia, after replacing Robin Raphael, arrived here late Tuesday on a two-day visit, a spokesman for the US embassy said.

He was due to meet high-ranking Indian government officials today and Thursday.

His visit is the first in a series of high-level talks between the two countries which are expected to culminate in a trip to India by US President Bill Clinton in 1998.

Indurthi will leave for Lahore, Pakistan, from here Thursday evening, the spokesman said. He will later travel to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, before returning to the United States.

Indurthi's trip is expected to be followed by a visit by the Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering, in return paying the way for a visit by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, meanwhile, is due to meet Clinton this month during a visit which will also see him address the United Nations in New York.

Gujral had said he would meet with Clinton on the thorny issue of Indo-Pakistani ties were kept off the agenda.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947. Their relations continue to be blighted by a territorial dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

India updating Hajj law

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: The Indian government is drafting a new law to replace the outdated provisions regulating the annual Hajj pilgrimage from the country, according to India's Foreign News Service.

The Ministry of External Affairs has set up an advisory panel of sitting and former Muslim members of Parliament to suggest changes in the Hajj Committee Act of 1959.

An estimated 75,000 Indians make the Hajj pilgrimage every year of whom, 56,000 are sent by the government-appointed Hajj Committee of India. But unlike in earlier days when the pilgrims travelled by sea and embarked from Mumbai, all now fly to Jeddah from Mumbai and eight other cities.

The government is acting to meet the long-standing demand from Indian Muslims to update the 1959 law which is no longer suited to the changed nature of the pilgrimage, says Salamat Ullah, chairman of the Hajj Committee of India.

Ministry officials say the government may issue an ordinance to give effect to the provisions if the legislation is ready before the next session of Parliament. Minister of State for External Affairs Salim Sherani has scheduled a meeting with Muslim MPs on September 17 to consider the panel's recommendations.

The 1959 Act talks only of sea travel, while Hajj pilgrims, known as Hajjis, stopped using this mode of transport to Saudi Arabia two years ago, says a senior Ministry official. "Even Saudi authorities now encourage air travel," he said.

The Hajjis embark for Jeddah from Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Srinagar, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad. Immigration and customs formalities are done at all these cities although they finally fly off only from the few cities which have international airports.

The government offers the Hajjis a substantial concessional passage on the national carrier Air India between Delhi and Jeddah and back. For the last three years, the Hajjis sent by the national committee have each paid Rs 12,000 for the passage, irrespective of the city of embarkation, which is about Rs 7,000 less than the normal fare. Only pilgrims sent by the Hajj committee are eligible for the concession.

However, the parliamentary

Bahrain, fighting a Shi'ite Muslim insurgency, has stripped some of its citizens of their passports and expelled them.

East governments to reject forced repatriation. "No one should be sent back to a country where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations, such as torture, extra-judicial execution or 'disappearance,'" it said.

On Iraq, the report noted that thousands of Iraqi Kurds and Shi'ite Muslims were forced to flee repression after their failed uprising against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein following the 1991 Gulf War.

Most are in Iran, the report said, but others have ended up in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. The report warned against sending them back home under announced Iraqi "amnesties," saying that "hundreds of refugees who returned 'disappeared' were tortured or executed."

Amnesty called on Middle

Photographers swarmed Di's Mercedes wreckage like shark after raw meat'

HEAWLETT HARBOR, New York, Sept 3: Photographers swarmed the wreckage of the Princess Diana crash and snapped pictures like "sharks after raw meat" as Paris police stood by, said a man who happened by the scene in a taxi, reports AP.

Jack Firestone, his wife, Robin, and their 12-year-old son were returning to their hotel early Sunday after a day of sightseeing when their taxi stopped briefly by the demolished Mercedes.

Firestone, 42, said Tuesday after arriving home here in Long Island that photographers swarmed the wreckage "as if they were mosquitoes," taking photos from every conceivable angle.

"They were 'clicking away' like mad, running around the car, snapping from every position they could. The police were 10 feet (3 meters) away, just standing there," Firestone said.

Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed and the driver were killed after the speeding car flipped in a tunnel as they were pursued by paparazzi on motorcycles. A bodyguard survived.

Authorities said the driver's blood-alcohol level was well above the legal limit.

Seven photographers are under investigation for manslaughter and failing to come to the aid of the crash victims.

In the minutes just after the wreck, "it seemed apparent that the police didn't know who was in the car, but it was obvious these paparazzi knew they had struck gold," Firestone said.

He said he and his family didn't know the princes had been killed until they woke up later Sunday. They then went to the police to tell them what they saw.

"There was no movement of one human being trying to help

another human being in a tragedy. It was a surreal setting: lights from the police cars, the police standing there, and a half dozen more photographers climbing all over the car with about 12 motorcycles parked nearby," Firestone said.

Fergie dumps on paparazzi

NEW YORK, Sept 3: On the cover of the brochure promoting a new Weight Watchers regimen, the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, sits cross-legged, smiling at the camera, reports AP.

It's harder than outrunning the paparazzi, the opening line says about losing weight.

The Weight Watchers campaign featuring Fergie, as she is popularly known, was scheduled to begin Tuesday in New York but was pulled indefinitely after the duchess' former sister-in-law, Princess Diana, was killed in a car crash in Paris early Sunday.

Police say motorcycle-riding paparazzi photographers may have contributed to the accident.

Castro jokes about rumours of his death

MEXICO CITY, Sept 3: In his first public appearance since reports of his death swept the Cuban exile community, Fidel Castro joked about the rumours, according to reports Tuesday from Havana, reports AP.

Last week, a Miami television station reported on talk that Castro had fallen ill or died. The rumours spilled into other Spanish-language radio and television reports and cafes in Miami's Little Havana.

But reporters reached by telephone in Havana said the Cuban leader elicited laughs several times during a Monday night ceremony commemorating the start of the school year. He looked tan and relaxed, they said, as if he had been away for a few days of vacation.

"If we don't bother to respond, they will create a problem," said Castro about the rumours. "We all have to die someday. If it happens, how do we convince people that it is true?"

Castro, 71, wore an olive-green military uniform and spoke energetically to a crowd of hundreds of schoolchildren, teachers and officials.