

New blood test confirms driver was legally drunk

'Photo shows Diana's driver blinded by camera flash'

PARIS, Sept 10: Photos taken minutes before Princess Diana's Mercedes crashed show her driver "dazzled" by a camera flash, a lawyer said. Judicial sources said a new blood test confirmed the driver was legally drunk, reports AP.

Traces of anti-depressants also were found in the driver's blood, Europe-1 radio said Tuesday. The report could not be confirmed, although investigators said they had "not ruled out" looking for substances other than alcohol.

What responsibility driver Henri Paul may have had in the August 31 crash that killed him, Diana and her beau Dodi Fayed is a key question in the investigation.

Paul was a security officer at the Ritz Hotel, owned by Fayed's father, Mohamed Al Fayed. The Fayed family has defended the driver, blaming the crash on paparazzi chasing the car.

Bernard Darveille, a lawyer for the Fayed family in Paris, said two frames from a photographer's roll of film seized at the crash site show Paul startled by a camera flash, Diana's bodyguard pulling down the sun visor and Diana looking out the back at a motorcycle in the distance.

The film is being held by police and was not made public.

Darveille said he has had access to it, but could not release prints or the name of the photographer. However, its existence was also confirmed by a

defense lawyer in the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In an interview in his Paris office, he described photos he said were "clearly" taken from in front of the Mercedes. That would buttress some witness accounts that a car or motorcycle was directly in front of Diana's car before it crashed, blocking its path.

However, it was not clear precisely where on the three-kilometre (1.8-mile) drive the shot of the startled driver were taken. Earlier photos on the roll showed the princess and Fayed getting into the Mercedes, and a later picture showed the crash scene, he said.

"The photo taken immediately before the first photo of the accident shows the Mercedes taken from very close," Darveille said.

"One sees very distinctly the driver 'dazzled by a flash,'" he said. "One sees very distinctly the bodyguard, at his side, who with a brisk gesture lowers the visor to protect himself from the flash, and one sees very distinctly Princess Diana, turning to look behind the vehicle, and one sees very distinctly the yellow headlight of a motorcycle."

Several witnesses have reported seeing a motorcycle with a yellow headlight following the Mercedes, he said.

The only survivor of the crash, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, is in a Paris hospital re-

covering from surgery and so far has been unable to speak with investigators.

The French daily Le Figaro quoted French investigators Tuesday as saying the accident was most probably caused "by alcohol and excessive speed."

A third blood test confirmed



Two earlier tests showing the level of alcohol in Paul's bloodstream was well above France's legal limit.

A highly placed judicial source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the test showed the alcohol level at 1.75 grams per liter of blood. A police source described it only as just under 1.8 grams. Two earlier tests showed a level of 1.75 and 1.82, respectively.

An anti-alcoholism group says a level of 1.75 is the equivalent of drinking nine shots of whiskey quickly.

Michael Cole, a London spokesman for Al Fayed, said: "We have not seen the report and we will be seeking professional advice."

If the report that Paul had anti-depressants in his bloodstream is confirmed, investigators could argue that the drugs intensified the effects of the alcohol.

Various reports of the crash say Paul was driving at speeds as high as 200 kph (120 mph).

But Darveille also disputed that, saying the car's speedometer was not frozen at nearly 120 mph. The vehicle might have been going as fast as 145 kph (90 mph) "but right now there are no objective means to establish this speed," he said.

It is known that the Diana's Mercedes was trailed by paparazzi; it is not known by how far. Some photographers have claimed they were as far behind as 500-600 metres (yards).

The photo Darveille described could have been taken as far from the crash site as the place de la Concorde, which was towards the beginning of the roughly 5-minute drive.

Darveille said he doubted that possibility, because if it had been under a big square, "there would have been more light in the background."

WHO launches new approach to tackle childhood diseases

GENEVA, Sept 10: The World Health Organisation (WHO) is advocating an integrated approach to the treatment of the most dangerous childhood diseases that it claims could shave up to 5 million children each year, reports AP.

Five deadly conditions — pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, malaria and malnutrition — cause the death of 70 per cent of the 11 million children who die each year before reaching the age of five.

"It is striking that just five things cause seven out of ten deaths of children worldwide," said Dr Jim Tulloch, director of WHO's Division of Child Health and Development.

That amounts to 25,000 deaths every day, which go largely unnoticed.

Despite medical progress in many areas, progress in dealing with the five diseases has "stood still," Tulloch told a press briefing. "It has been said that they are the poor sisters of the public health world."

For this reason, the World Health Organisation and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have jointly launched a new comprehensive approach to tackling these diseases, which they call "Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)."

Recording of Di's funeral service may shoot to No-1 in music charts

LONDON, Sept 10: A recording of Diana's funeral service at Westminster Abbey is expected to shoot straight to number one in the music charts when it is released next week, the record maker said Tuesday, reports AP.

Polygram classics said it was expecting one million sales of its 74-minute recording of the ceremony on compact disc and cassette.

An initial 500,000 copies will be pressed at music plants in England and Germany over the next few days to meet public demand.

Hundreds of record dealers and members of the public have besieged Polygram to inquire if it was releasing a recording of the service.

After negotiations with the BBC, the corporation agreed to

Vatican to take at least 5yrs to decide on canonizing Teresa

CALCUTTA, Sept 10: The Vatican will take at least five years to decide if Mother Teresa is a saint, but some in Calcutta say they already know the answer, reports AP.

She's already a saint, we don't need the Vatican's word," said Abhijit Sen, a Calcutta businessman interviewed Tuesday in his downtown Calcutta office.

That was a sentiment shared by many of the thousands who have flocked to Mother Teresa's body over the past few days to pay their respects to the nun

see her body, kept in a glass case, stretched for five kilometres (three miles).

Since her death last Friday of a heart attack at the age of 87, the Vatican has been flooded with requests that it waive the five-year waiting period before the process for canonization can begin.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's authority on doctrine, said Tuesday it was unlikely unusual measures would be taken to speed things up.

US designates Saturday as Nat'l Day of recognition honouring Mother Teresa

The US Senate on Tuesday unanimously voted to designate Saturday as a National Day of recognition honouring the life and work of Mother Teresa, who will be given a state funeral in India that day, reports Reuter.

Senator Don Nickles, Republican of Oklahoma, recalled her remarks at a national prayer breakfast in 1994: "Every individual has the responsibility to give whatever it takes to do good to one another: To give to each other until it hurts."

VHP opposes state funeral

A militant Hindu group Wednesday criticised the Indian government for preparing a state funeral for Mother Teresa. "We don't understand why this is being done for a religious figure," said Acharya Giriraj Kishore, Secretary General of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council).

who turned her good works in the city's slums to a worldwide charity.

The crowds at Calcutta's St. Thomas' church swelled on Tuesday after rains that had kept some believers at home stopped. At one point the line to

office but still pulling strings — absolutely stripped of power.

The peace force has intervened twice so far to prevent what NATO officials have called attempted coups against Karadzic. Each time, the NATO-led force has used the crisis to seize part of the vast arsenal of weapons and other equipment that so far helped protect Karadzic from arrest and kept his clique in power.

On Monday, the peace force helped foil what Karadzic's supporters said was a rally, but actually was an attempt to oust Plavsic.

The power struggle is increasingly desperate: Karadzic's camp sent men with guns, knives and false identity papers to his rival's stronghold, backed by thousands of paid supporters on buses; Plavsic's

men held top Karadzic aides in a hotel, cutting electricity, telephone and water and scouring it for weapons.

Although Karadzic firmly holds the eastern and southern portions of the Serbs' horseshoe-shaped half of Bosnia, he has lost the west and much of the north — the most populous and prosperous part of the Serb holdings, including their largest city in Bosnia, Plavsic's stronghold of Banja Luka.

Leafy and relatively elegant, Banja Luka historically had looked more to Croatia's capital, Zagreb, than to Bosnia's Sarajevo or Serbia's distant Belgrade.

Most territory Plavsic controls borders directly on Croatia to the north, or Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation to the west and south.

Netaji's ashes Writ filed against union govt move

CALCUTTA, Sept 10: A writ petition was filed yesterday in Calcutta High Court challenging the move reportedly taken by the union government to bring ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to India from Rencoji Temple in Tokyo, Japan, reports PTI.

Subroto Mukherjee with Gouranga Bhattacharya, who appeared for the petitioner, Asim Kumar Ganguly, advocate, submitted that the government could not bring the ashes of Netaji without declaring him dead.

The counsels prayed for an interim order restraining the government from bringing the so-called ashes of Netaji when the question whether Netaji was alive or dead remained unresolved. Netaji lovers would not take this move for granted, they contended.

DUBAI, Sept 10: A senior Afghan Taliban official said on Tuesday the Muslim militia was ready to share power with the opposition provided an Islamic government was set up, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said, reports Reuter.

It said Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, head of Taliban's interim ruling council, also told a news conference in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah that the contract for a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan was yet to be awarded.

His excellency (Rabbani) expressed the willingness of the Islamic government of Afghanistan to share power with the opposition on condition that they (opposition) agree to establish an Islamic government," SPA said. It did not elaborate.

Taliban ready to share power with opposition

new Jewish neighbourhood in disputed east Jerusalem whose March groundbreaking sparked the current crisis.

The TV said Arafat would also urge Arafat to crack down on Hamas, the militant Islamic group blamed for two suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile Yossi Beilin, one of the leading architects of the Israel-PLO accords, urged Yasser Arafat in a meeting Tuesday to accept any proposal to enter talks on a final peace settlement with Israel.

Beilin said he traveled to the autonomous West Bank town of Ramallah "to tell (Arafat) that if there is an US suggestion" to accept Prime Minister Netanyahu's offer for final status talks, "please take it."

Albright hopes to rescue collapsing ME peace process

TEL AVIV, Sept 10: With Israeli-Palestinian relations at their lowest point in years, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hopes to rescue the collapsing peace process during her visit to the region this week, reports AP.

Albright was headed to Israel on Wednesday to begin her first trip to the region as secretary of state.

The visit comes as the peace accords signed four years ago this week in Washington are unraveling: Political contacts are stalled, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat refuses to crack down on Islamic militants, and Israel says it won't turn over any more land until he does.

Albright was scheduled to meet with President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem Wednesday morning, then meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the afternoon.

She meets Arafat on Thursday in the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho.

Albright's visit has been eagerly anticipated by both sides. Security experts have warned that a violent confrontation is likely unless the crisis is resolved.

And while there is considerable pessimism about the chances of a breakthrough, Israeli media reports have been rife with speculation about what Albright might propose.

Israel's Channel 2 TV said Tuesday that her proposals would include a 45-day freeze in construction at Har Homa, the

BRIEFLY

NATO army body in Canada: Members of NATO's military committee, the alliance's highest military authority, arrived in Ottawa Tuesday for four days of meetings in Canada, the Canadian department of national defence said, AFP reports from Ottawa.

Topping the agenda at a three-day meeting in nearby Montebello, Quebec, is the situation in the former Yugoslavia where the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation heads an international force.

Landslide kills 2 in China: A deadly landslide that buried houses in a southeastern Chinese village has killed two people, but dozens of others were rescued, a newspaper said Wednesday, AP reports from Beijing.

The landslide hit Rui'an in Zhejiang province at 4 am on Friday, the Jiefang Daily newspaper reported.

Two more sentenced to death in Grozny: Two more people sentenced to death by an Islamic shariat court will be executed by firing squad in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday, Interfax News Agency reported Tuesday, AFP says from Moscow.

The two men were found guilty of murdering a man, his wife and child, Interfax said, quoting Chechen security officials. President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian officials condemned the public execution of a man and a woman last week in the north Caucasus Republic, and Russian prosecutors launched a murder investigation into the incident, Interfax reported.

Mexican President fires PRI chief: President Ernesto Zedillo fired the chief of his Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) Tuesday two months after the party suffered a historic defeat in mid-term elections, AFP reports from Mexico City.

The move to renew the party leadership by sacking Humberto Roque Villanueva had been largely expected after the PRI lost in a July 6 vote its absolute majority in the chamber of deputies, which it had controlled for 68 years. Villanueva's successor has not yet been named.

4 drug smugglers killed in Iran: Iranian police have killed four drug smugglers in several shootouts in a mountainous northeastern region near the border with Afghanistan, Iran's official news agency IRNA said on Tuesday, Reuter reports from Tehran.

It said police had seized 550 kg (1,200 lb) of drugs and some weapons in the clashes during the past two days, in which an unspecified number of the armed traffickers were also wounded. Police hauled an additional 220 kg (480 lb) in other parts of Khoras province, including the provincial capital of Mashhad, it added.

20 students detained in Chile: At least 20 students were detained Tuesday after police stormed the University of Santiago campus where they stage a protest to mark the anniversary this week of the 1973 coup that began 178 years of dictatorship, AP reports from Santiago.

"We can feel it, we can feel it, Allende is present," the students shouted, evoking Socialist president Salvador Allende, who committed suicide September 11, 1973 while the air force bombarded the presidential palace.

Move on to help hunt for ill-gotten assets of Mobutu

GENEVA, Sept 10: Authorities in former Zaire have handed over more documents to Swiss officials that may help the hunt for ill-gotten assets of late Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, Swiss police said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Mobutu's death on Sunday is expected to touch off legal battles over the fortune he reputedly squirreled away in bank accounts and real estate around the world. The government of Laurent Kabila in Kinshasa has been on the trail since Mobutu was toppled in May.

Federal police spokesman Folco Galli said Switzerland needed details of the banks where assets were held, and that Kinshasa was expected to come up with more information by November on Mobutu assets believed to be held in Switzerland.

Switzerland froze Mobutu's assets, including a 30-room, 5.5 million US dollar house near Lausanne, after he was toppled by Kabila in May. But a search of banks turned up only a few million dollars.

Mobutu's family once had cosy links with Switzerland. His son Kongolo attended school in the country, and Swiss media say he gave diamonds as gifts to friends, had close links with Geneva financiers and set up a firm in the town of Martigny to channel funds from Zaire's mineral riches into family bank deposits.

Swiss press reports have said Mobutu once kept 4 billion US dollars in Switzerland. But bankers doubt much is left in the country and some experts believe the money has long been exhausted.

Clinton hopes to win over Jiang in ensuing talks

WASHINGTON, Sept 10: President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he was confident he can win over Chinese President Jiang Zemin by engaging the communist leader in one-on-one talks when he visits the United States next month, reports AP.

"President Jiang's visit is an important opportunity," Clinton told university students in an address outlining the priorities of his second term.

"It's... a chance for us to address, candidly and face to face, our differences on issues like human rights and religious freedom," said the president, who faces opposition from the Republican majority to his policy of engagement.

"Sitting down together across the table is far more likely to produce progress than pointing fingers across the Pacific," he said.

"China will choose its own destiny, but if we engage China instead of isolating ourselves from her, we can help to influence the path it takes," he added.

The list of differences between the two countries is a long one — including nuclear proliferation, trade and US ties to Taiwan — and Clinton will have his work cut out for him when Jiang visits in late October.

But Clinton stressed that the effort was a necessary one.

"So when President Jiang comes here, I hope the American people will welcome him and will say: 'Yes, we have things that we disagree with you about, but you represent a quarter of the world's people, a large measure of the world's future, and your people and our people will be better off if we find a way to forge that future together.'"

The report was written well before the funeral, though it was published only on Monday. But the political push given by the funeral to reforming the monarchy has given the report added significance.

"The monarchy adapts and changes, and will change and modernise with each generation as it does and has been doing," Blair said in a BBC television interview on Sunday, the day after the funeral. That emphasis on a changed monarchy was being seconded by many. Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay spoke of the need to "blow away the cobwebs."

The argument of traditional royalists that the Queen cannot apologise over something like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre has taken a beating over the past few days. Royalty has been forced by the government and the people to do what it has never done before. The changes brought upon by royalty after the death of Princess Diana are expected to accelerate changes in the monarchy in the direction of the Demos report.

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Think-tank suggests British monarchy should apologise for past atrocities

Sanjay Suri writes from London



group is the most significant policy advising group to Blair. The policies of the new Labour government are in line with such thinking. Blair is evidently pursuing such policies in his pledge of "New Labour, New Britain."

The recommendations have been taken on a new urgency after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, when royalty was forced out of its stuffy ways and popular resentment at its role.

The recommendations have shocked traditional royalty and the traditional British. "We cannot have the Queen flying around the world apologising for the past," a retired Army officer said strongly. "And we have little to apologise for."

But the recommendations come at a time when the hold of traditional thinking in Britain has been cracking. The funeral of Princess Diana did much to shake traditional royalty out of its palaces and bring it on to the streets of London.

After the funeral on Saturday, Blair met the Queen for four hours and emerged to say that he will help modernise the monarchy. The Queen is now reported to be more prepared than ever before to follow the tune of the government of the day — even in its non-tradi-

tional ways. The Demos report is expected to lead political thinking on a now changed monarchy.

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A think-tank closely supported by British Prime Minister Tony Blair has called upon the monarchy to apologise for Britain's wrongdoings in its imperial past.

A report by the group Demos on British Identity says that in the world today, "many will respect British democracy and the rule of law but resent our arrogance and insensitivity." This is where the Queen can play a role in promoting Britain, it says.

"A truly bold step to rekindle our relationships, particularly with the great burgeoning nations of Asia, would be for the reigning monarch to use the millennium to visit all the major sites in the world where there is still bitterness over Britain's past, healing memories of everything from the Opium Wars in China to the legacies of the empire, from Africa and the Caribbean to Iran and Ireland," the report says.

Some observers infer this as an expression of support for a royal apology over, among other things, the massacre of 379 peaceful protesters by British troops in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, in 1919. The issue has stirred



The Bangladeshi Community in Tehran observed with due solemnity the National Day of mourning commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — the Father of the Nation on August 15, 97. The Bangladesh embassy had drawn up an elaborate programme which included flying of the national flag at half-mast, rendering of the national anthem, reading out of messages of Hon'ble President and Prime Minister by the ambassador, holding of a discussion meeting on the significance of the day, recitation from the Holy Quran and offering of special prayers for the salvation of the departed soul of Bangabandhu and members of his family who were also assassinated on that day.