



Miss America Katherine Shindle raises her eyebrows and holds on to her crown as she poses for photographers at a new conference at the Sands Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ, Sunday. Shindle told reporters that she could not ever remember not wanting to be Miss America.

— AP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Rare dinosaur fossils discovered: Chinese paleontologists have announced the discovery of rare dinosaur fossils dating back some 90 million years in central China's Hubei province, Xinhua reports from Wahan.

The fossils represent three dinosaurs from the "bird-foot family", according to paleontologists from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The body of the largest dinosaur measures some six metres in length and the smallest some two metres.

Bomb scare in HK hotel: Guests had to evacuate Hong Kong's luxury Excelsior Hotel on Sunday because of a bomb scare, days before the formal start of the annual World Bank-IMF meetings, Reuters reports from Hong Kong. The evacuation followed a telephoned bomb threat, but the object of suspicion was found to be a box of "mooncakes", Chinese stuffed pastry eaten during the mid-autumn moon festival which falls on Tuesday.

Some delegates to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings, which formally start on Wednesday, are staying at the five-star hotel in Hong Kong's Causeway Bay.

Wire walkers cross Thames river: Two tightrope walkers made history on Sunday when they successfully crossed the River Thames after setting out from opposite banks, Reuters reports from London.

To laud applause from thousands of onlookers, American Jade Kindar-Martin, 23, shook hands with Frenchman Didier Pasquette, 29, and then gracefully stepped over him at mid-point with the 300-metre walk.

Holding balancing poles but without a safety net, the two wire walkers made the dare devil feat look easy, pausing to sit and even lie on the one-inch (1) and a half centimetre wide cable suspended 150 feet (50 metres) above the river.

Air force jet crashes in US: A US Air Force F-117A Stealth fighter crashed in Maryland on Sunday after the pilot ejected from the aircraft during an air show, the Defence Department said, Reuters reports from Washington.

Amateur video showed parts of the plane broke off as it started to climb after level flight over the airfield. The plane then tumbled and rolled, trailing smoke and additional pieces of material, the videotape showed. A sharp explosion marked the pilot's ejection and the plane then dove straight into the ground.

Summit on Congo crisis adjourned: African mediators in the Congo crisis adjourned a mini-summit late on Sunday and agreed to resume their discussions at 10:00 am (0900 GMT) yesterday, AFP reports from Libreville. The summit is seen as crucial to averting full-scale civil war at former strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso and troops loyal to President Pascal Lissouba.

420 newsmen killed in Latin America: Some 420 journalists have been murdered in Latin America since 1970 and another 151 have "disappeared," according to a Latin American Journalists Federation (FELAP) report published Sunday, AFP says from Havana.

Colombia, where 108 journalists have been killed, according to the FELAP report published in the Juventud Rebelde weekly. The second highest total was 90 in Mexico.

A total of 89 journalists have disappeared in Argentina, more than in any other Latin American country.

Blast in fair hurts 25 in Turkey: Twenty-five people were injured, two seriously, Sunday when a bomb exploded at the premises of a publishing house at an industrial fair at Gaziantep in southern Turkey near the Syrian border, the governor of the province, Muammer Guler said, AFP reports from Ankara.

The home-made bomb was thrown towards the stand set out by the publisher who also sold, among other things, the Bible. Guler said, as quoted by the Anatolia News Agency. Five people were taken to a local hospital for treatment, and two were said to be in "critical" condition.

US lawmakers to back India for UNSC seat

Rupa Chatterjee writes from New Delhi

Two influential US Congressmen are to lobby in favour of India's claim to a permanent seat on an expanded U.N. Security Council.

Rep. Frank Pallone, co-chairman of the India Caucus in U.S. Congress, said he is soon to move a resolution in the House of Representatives supporting New Delhi's claim to a permanent seat.

Pallone, who was in India as part of a Congressional delegation that attended the state funeral for Mother Teresa in Calcutta yesterday, said the resolution would be an important step on the Caucus' part to "give India its proper place in the world."

The Democratic Rep. said at a news conference here today that there are "a significant number of members (in the U.S. Congress) who think it makes sense for India to be a permanent member" of the Security Council.

He said he would work on getting co-sponsors for the resolution, which is "more of an effort to show support" to India's claim, when he returned to Washington, but was not sure whether he could carry it through the House.

Rep. Sherrod Brown, Ohio Democrat, who is also a member of the India Caucus, said the best example of improved U.S.-India ties was the dropping of the Burton amendment received in Congress earlier this month. The amendment, which Pallone and Mr Brown lobbied hard to

Road mishap claims 36 in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Sept 15: Thirty-six people were killed when an intercity bus collided with a truck on a road outside Jakarta an employee at a hospital morgue said today, reports AFP.

"As of now, there are 36 corpses from the accident here," Mardiono at the morgue at state-run hospital Cipto Mangunkusumo told AFP.

Thirty-one people died on the spot when the two vehicles collided head on Sunday night, and three others died later in local hospitals, Antara News Agency reported.

It quoted police as saying the bus overtook a truck and hit another truck which was coming from the opposite direction.

Wealth more important than health to British children

LONDON, Sept 15: British children consider wealth to be far more important than other values like happiness or health, a poll indicated today, reports AFP.

Of 1,000 children aged between seven and 14 questioned by the Fox Kids television channel, 40 per cent said they would be rich while only four per cent hoped for happiness and four per cent wanted good health.

The poll showed that what youngsters wanted most were brand clothes, big houses, cars, television and also that they adored the Spice Girls.

Six boys out of 10 appreciated the group and 32 per cent of the girls said they could not live without their favourite group. Half the boys said football was a vital part of their lives and 47 per cent said they could not do without television.

New book on Di's private world

LONDON, Sept 15: Kitty Kelley's new book "The Royals" tells of Princess Diana's private world, questions the queen's lineage and says another royal is anti-Semitic, a news report said Monday, reports AP.

The London newspaper The Guardian said it had obtained an advance copy of the book which is to be launched by the American biographer before an audience on NBC Television Monday night and published in New York Tuesday.

The book is not being published in Britain, where the law makes it easier to show libel and win large sums in damages than in the United States. Kelley specialises in sensational unauthorised biographies of celebrities. "The Royals" is an 80-year history of the British royal family for which she was awarded a reported 4.5 million dollars.

The paper said the book contains what it called a string of extraordinary allegations about Queen Elizabeth II, her husband Prince Philip, the 97-year-old Queen Mother Elizabeth, and others.

The Guardian said the book accuses one living member of the royal family of vitriolic racism and anti-Semitism. The paper did not name the person concerned. It added that the book casts doubts on the queen's lineage and alleges serial marital infidelity by members of the royal family of all generations.

— India Abroad News Service

Israel to lift closure of WB, supply PA with more funds

Netanyahu vetoes plans for new Jewish settlement

JERUSALEM, Sept 15: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday vetoed controversial plans for a new Jewish settlement in a Palestinian district of annexed East Jerusalem, his spokesman said, reports AFP.

The Prime Minister considers that it is not a good time for the project and he will invoke reasons of security or the public interest to oppose its launch, spokesman David Bar-Illan said.

An Israeli interior ministry committee had earlier rejected, an appeal to stop an American Jewish millionaire from building the 70 houses for Jews in Ras al-Amoud, at the foot of the mount of Olives in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

The committee "decided to reject the appeal against the construction of six buildings in Ras al-Amoud," it said in a statement.

Jerusalem's rightwing mayor in July approved the plans by American millionaire Irving Moskowitz. But the interior Ministry temporarily halted the project after two leftwing Municipal Councillors

lodged an appeal against the decision, saying it threatened the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Reuters adds: Israel said on Sunday it would transfer to the Palestinian Authority more of the funds which it withheld after a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem in July killed 20 Israelis.

It described the decision as a goodwill gesture in view of Palestinian promises to Washington to combat Islamic militants seeking to sabotage Israeli-Palestinian peace-making.

It also announced that the so-called "internal closure" or siege of Palestinian-ruled towns and cities in the West Bank, imposed after a September 4 suicide bombing on Israel, would be lifted on Monday at 5 am (0300 GMT).

A general closure barring Palestinian entry to Israel would remain in force, the Israeli army said.

Palestinian officials said the Israeli moves were only a beginning.

"They should not have done it in the first place," chief

Palestinians negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters. "And they should announce to total cessation of collective punishments of any kind."

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to free up 50 per cent of the remaining monies of the Palestinian Authority funds that were held up," said a statement issued by Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak.

"The prime minister decided on this as a goodwill step in the presence of the first steps in the area of the war on terror on the part of the Palestinian Authority."

Israel transferred 12 million dollars, some 30 per cent of the funds, to the Palestinians in August.

The decision followed US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's debut visit to the region to resuscitate a peace process that broke down over Jewish settlement building and Islamic militant suicide bombings.

Albright backed both Israel's demand that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat must

act to fight "terrorism" and Palestinian demands that Israel must refrain from unilateral acts such as building new Jewish settlement on lands it occupied in 1967.

Washington had said that Israel's decision to withhold tax and customs monies owed the Palestinian Authority was "counter-productive."

Netanyahu, who has said the peace process cannot go forward in the face of attacks on Israel, told reporters at his office earlier there were now signs of action against Islamic militants.

He says Arafat must dismantle the "infrastructure" of militant groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in areas he controls. He has accused Arafat of arresting militants under pressure but freeing them at first opportunity.

Another AFP report says: Saudi Arabia stood firm Monday and opposed a US-backed Middle East economic summit with Israel until there is progress in the peace process.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, in an interview with Ashraq Al-Awsat news-

paper, also said US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tour of the Middle East has at least stopped the rot in the region.

"So long as Israel continues to ignore the principles on which the peace process is based, nothing can push Arab countries to change their stand on not taking part in multinational negotiations and the economic summit," he said.

Albright on Sunday urged Gulf Arab states at a meeting with their foreign ministers in Saudi Arabia to drop their threat of boycotting the Doha economic summit with Israel on November 16-18.

But the Gulf monarchies made their participation conditional on progress in the US-brokered peace process over the next two months. A Gulf official told AFP, asking not to be named.

"I believe what is important is not economic conferences or multinational negotiations but the peace process itself," said Prince Saud. "The other activities are not a substitute for but an addition to the peace negotiations."

Charles angry at calls for William to be next king

LONDON, Sept 15: Prince Charles is angry at calls for his son William, not him, to be the next king, saying it's upsetting the boy as he mourns his mother Princess Diana, a news report said Monday, says AP.

The London newspaper The Mirror quoted an unidentified Charles aide as saying he is enraged by opinion polls commissioned by the media after Diana's death which show a wish by many for him to step aside as heir to the throne in favour of 15-year-old Prince William.

The most recent, a Gallup poll on Thursday, showed 51 per cent of those questioned thought the royals should skip a generation, with William becoming king instead of Charles when Charles' mother, 71-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, dies.

Diana blamed Charles' relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles for breaking up their marriage. Many Britons agreed, lowering respect for Charles and the royal family in general. Charles and Diana, who (Diana) died in a car crash in Paris August 31, divorced last year.

The Gallup poll Thursday in

The Daily Telegraph said 53 per cent of those questioned said the public standing of the royal family had been damaged over Diana's death. The royals upset many Britons by their tardiness in showing any public sign of grief. Margin of error for the poll based on 1,004 interviews was 3.2 percentage points.

The Mirror quoted the aide as saying: "This form of muck raking is causing anger, hurt and distress not only to Charles but also to William. Nothing could be more intrusive for William at a time when he has just lost his mother than days later seeing his father vilified. The monarchy is hereditary, not something that can be passed over on a whim. Charles will succeed to the throne."

The paper quoted the aide as saying Charles believes the commissioning of the polls is a calculated attempt to whip up public feeling against him.

The Sun reported that Buckingham Palace aides have banned a new set of postage stamps commemorating Diana's life. It said mail chiefs hoped to rush them out by the end of the month but permission was

refused when the stamps were sent to the queen for approval.

The service is called the Royal Mail in acknowledgement of an ancient royal monopoly. The Royal Mail title means little in day-to-day operations but the queen's head appears on all stamps and aides acting on her behalf have the last word on stamp designs.

The Sun quoted an unidentified senior mail service source as saying: "It seems royal protocol judged the idea unacceptable. It will take a long time for the anger among the very top management to simmer down."

The Sun said the tribute was expected to outsell the 90 million stamps bought to celebrate the 1981 marriage of Charles and Diana.

It quoted a palace spokesman as saying: "There was a decision taken in the aftermath of the death of the princess to put all these sorts of ideas on hold for the time being. No one is keen to rush into anything. This will give people time to reflect on the huge number of suggestions. All of them will be looked at again in time."



A man attending a memorial service for Diana, Princess of Wales in New York uses the programme to shield his eyes from the sun as he watches a sky-writing aircraft sketch a heart in the sky. Some 14,000 people attended the hour long service organised by the Cathedral of St John the Divine and the City of New York to pay their last respects to the Princess who died 31 August in a car crash in Paris.

— AFP/UNB photo

New Yorkers gather to pay respect to Diana

NEW YORK, Sept 15: Thousands of New Yorkers gathered on Sunday to pay respects to the late Diana, staging a uniquely New York memorial service to the Princess who had voiced her love for the city, reports Reuters.

An estimated 14,000 people, many dressed in shorts and T-shirts, sat on blankets in Central Park and listened to renditions of Bach and Verdi and prayers by an episcopal dean, a rabbi and Muslim imam. Many wept.

The occasion was not entirely mournful, however, before the ceremony, a skywriting airplane drew a heart and "DI" in large letters overhead. Looking skyward, the crowd cheered and burst into applause.

Many New Yorkers felt a deep connection with Diana. She visited often, not just for glittering parties but to visit AIDS-stricken babies in hospitals, homeless families in shelters and welfare mothers in public housing.

"She obviously had a special connection with New York City. We were drawn to her because of her heart, not because of her nobility," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The appeal of the Princess, who was killed on August 31 in a car crash in Paris, spanned the city's mosaic of ethnicities and origins.

Mary Beauchamp, a Puerto Rican-born secretary at a city hospital, never met Diana but said: "I grieve for her early departure and I'm here to pay homage to her because she was so young and because she was given the shaft by the Windsors."

"She left us too early, we will not find another like her soon," said Dr Margaret Haggerty, director of the Pediatric AIDS Unit at Harlem Hospital where Diana visited.

Nieves Garcia, who lives in the city's impoverished Bronx Borough, brought a porcelain Princess Diana doll to the park for the memorial. Garcia had sewn the doll a special dress, a hunter green gown, for the occasion.

Diana came down to the poor people and made them come up," Garcia said. "She worked for the people who needed her."

"We loved her very much," said Mahmud Marei, an Arab native studying English at Hunter College.

Indian train mishap death toll rises to 68

NEW DELHI, Sept 15: A passenger train traveling through central India derailed and fell into a river killing 68 people, police officials said Monday, reports AP.

At least 181 people were injured in the mishap said GL Darro, a senior police official who visited the site of the accident.

The accident happened Sunday evening near Champa village in the state of Madhya Pradesh, 950 kilometres (600 miles) southeast of New Delhi. The train was on its way from Ahmedabad in western India to Calcutta in the east.

PK Naik, an official of the state-run Indian Railways said the Ahmedabad-Howrah Express train was about to cross a bridge over the Hansdev River when five of its carriages derailed and fell into a deep dry ditch close to the river bed.

Police officer Panu Lal said local rescue workers reported that an iron link between one of the cars came apart and the cars derailed.

Rescue teams from the nearest town Bilaspur had rushed to the accident site to take the injured to a government hospital nearby. Some of the injured were also being treated at a hospital run by Christian missionaries.

US biophysicist admits passing N-secrets to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, Sept 15: US biophysicist Theodore Hall, the youngest member of the Los Alamos team that developed the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945, admits in a new book that he passed nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union, reports Reuters.

Statements from Hall, who is now 71 years old and living in Cambridge, England, appear in a new book, "Bombshell: The secret story of America's unknown Atomic Spy Conspiracy."

The book, published by Times books/Random House, arrives in bookstores this week and will be officially released October 1. Statements from the book were released Sunday.

In over 100 hours of interviews with the book's authors, foreign correspondents Joseph Albright and Marcia Kunstel of the Cox newspapers, Hall told of his concern about a possible US monopoly on nuclear weapons and said he felt no remorse about sharing information with the Soviets, since they were US allies at the time.

FBI and national security agency documents cited in the book show that Hall was the target of an FBI espionage investigation in the 1950s and 1960s, but was never charged.

No comment was immediately available Sunday from the FBI or the Justice Department.

"During 1944, I was worried about the dangers of an American monopoly of atomic weapons if there should be a postwar depression," Hall is quoted as saying.

"To help prevent that monopoly I contemplated a brief encounter with a Soviet agent, just to inform them of the existence of the A-bomb project."

Hall said he anticipated a very limited contact, but things turned out differently.

"Now I am castigated in some quarters as a traitor, although the Soviet Union at the time was not the enemy but the ally of the United States the Soviet people fought the Nazis heroically, at tremendous human cost, and this may well have saved the western allies from defeat," he said.

He said some people had even argued that he changed the course of history with his action. "Maybe the course of history, if unchanged, would have led to atomic war in the past 50 years — for example the bomb might have been dropped on China in 1949 or the early fifties," he said.

15000 genocide victims buried in Rwanda

KANZENZE, Rwanda, Sept 15: The remains of some 15,000 genocide victims were buried Sunday in the town of Kanzenze, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Kigali, in one of series of ceremonies aimed at helping Rwandans come to terms with the bloody events of 1994, reports AFP.

Kigali's archbishop Thadeo Ntshinyurwa officiated at the ceremony. Attended by more than 5,000 people including several government officials and survivors' associations outside a church where nearly 6,000 people were massacred in April 1994.

Two huge pits, four meters (13 feet) deep, had been dug for the interment of the thousands of skulls and bones of people massacred there and in the surrounding hills by fellow Rwandans using machetes, grenades and guns.

They were among between half a million and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus who were killed by Hutu extremists in three months of genocidal terror that ravaged Rwanda in 1994.

Rwandan authorities have held several similar ceremonies

to commemorate the victims of the massacres throughout the country, most at the actual sites of massacres.

Many of those massacred thought that by taking refuge in churches, public buildings and schools they would be safer, but in fact they facilitated their own slaughter.

3 cosmonauts battling to repair Mir's main computer

MOSCOW, Sept 15: The three cosmonauts aboard the troubled Mir space station were battling to repair its main computer system on Monday after yet another breakdown, a spokesman for ground control said, reports AFP.

The spokesman said the failure of the central computer system — which keeps the orbiting station aligned to the sun, vital if it is to continually recharge its solar-powered batteries — occurred at 1100 GMT on Sunday.



Actor Dennis Franz (R) of "NYPD Blue" and actress Gillian Anderson (L) of "The X-Files" pose with their Emmy Awards for the categories of "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series" and "Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series" at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium Sunday. The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is presenting the 49th Emmy Awards in Pasadena.

— AFP/UNB photo