

Al Fayed issues writ against France over Di's car crash

PARIS, Oct 30 : Egyptian business tycoon Mohamed Al Fayed issued a writ against the French state on Sunday over its handling of the investigation of the fatal crash that killed his son Dodi and Diana, Princess of Wales.

"Al Fayed is bringing proceedings against the French state in the form of a writ on the grounds of gross misconduct by the investigating magistrate," Bernard Darteville, one of Al Fayed's lawyers, told AFP.

Specifically, Al Fayed accuses Judge Herve Stephan, who was in charge of the case, of ignoring a complaint of "invasion of privacy" registered by the businessman's lawyers against nine photographers and one motorcycle courier in the wake of the crash in Paris in August 1997.

He maintains that the crash in which Dodi and Diana died came about as a direct result of the high-speed pursuit of their car through the streets of Paris by the photographers.

Al Fayed claims that if the "invasion of privacy" charge had been taken up and combined with another charge of "involuntary homicide" it would have been impossible for the press photographers to be exonerated.

Judges investigating the accident ruled in September last year that the tragedy was caused by the excessive speed of the driver, Henri Paul, who was under the influence of alcohol and anti-depressants. Paul also died in the accident.

The judges said there was no evidence of criminal behaviour on the part of the press photographers and court dropped charges against them of "involuntary homicide" and "non-assistance to people in danger."

According to Darteville, the proceedings are likely to begin in a French civil court in several months time.

Meanwhile, in a related development, a court is to give its ruling on Monday on an appeal brought by Al Fayed in September against the original court decision to exonerate the press photographers.



Japanese chief negotiator Kojiro Takano (L) greets North Korean chief negotiator Jong Thae Hwa, before a meeting in Beijing yesterday. The two sides are holding their third round of talks this year on normalising relations.

-AFP photo

Jyoti Basu calls for 'third front' to oust central govt

CALCUTTA, Oct 30 : West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who steps down next week as head of the world's longest-running elected Communist government, called today for a "third front" to oust India's ruling coalition, reports AFP.

"The sooner the central government falls, the better for the country," Basu told reporters.

Basu, who has ruled West

Bengal for 23 years, has been one of the fiercest critics of the Hindu nationalist BJP party which dominated the coalition government in New Delhi.

"We have to work together to form a third front," Basu said.

The people will have to be convinced that BJP-led government at the centre is ruining the country. It should be removed from power."

Barak braces for key political test

JERUSALEM, Oct 30 : Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, his political future on the line, faced a stormy opening of parliament today as the violence raging across the Palestinian territories shows no signs of letting up, reports AFP.

Barak failed at a meeting Sunday to seal a political alliance with the hawkish Likud party leader Ariel Sharon despite media reports that he has agreed to give his political adversary the right of veto over some key cabinet decisions.

"We have done all we could to draw up a compromise satisfactory to both sides," said Communications Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, charged by Barak to negotiate with Likud officials.

"We want national union but there is one element missing to realise it: a decision by Mr Sharon and Mr Barak," he told public radio.

However, despite being without a majority, Barak's government is likely to scrape through when

Car bomb blast kills 3 in Madrid

MADRID, Oct 30 : At least three people were killed in a car bomb blast in Madrid early today which Spanish radio said was the work of the Basque separatist group ETA, reports AFP.

The three dead were in a vehicle set alight by the blast at 09:10 a.m. (0810 GMT) in Madrid's northeast Arturo Soria district. Several other people were injured.

A fire brigade spokesman said four injured people had already been evacuated from the scene.

At least 30 other vehicles were damaged or set on fire by the explosion.

Manhunt for 3rd suspect in Air India bombing

TORONTO, Oct 30 : Canadian authorities have launched an international manhunt for a third suspect in the 1985 bombing of an Air India flight and will seek help from Pakistan, where the suspect is believed to have fled, according to Vancouver's The Province newspaper Sunday.

The paper also said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) were preparing to charge "several others in the next few days" in connection with the bombing which killed 329 people, the majority of them Canadian.

"Safety is of paramount importance, and I think our customers accept that," a spokeswoman said.

"We are doing our best to keep them comfortable, serving free

Rain, winds bring floods, transport chaos to UK

LONDON, Oct 30 : Torrential rain and gale force winds lashed southern Britain today, bringing serious flooding to many regions and causing major and widespread disruption to transport services, reports AFP.

The busy cross-channel port of Dover was shut, leaving six ferries carrying about 6,000 passengers stranded off the south coast waiting for a lull in the weather to allow them into port.

Ferry operator PO Stena directed the vessels from Calais to a calm natural bay known as The Downs.

"Safety is of paramount importance, and I think our customers accept that," a spokeswoman said.

"We are doing our best to keep them comfortable, serving free

'Belgrade cannot recognise Kosovo polls results'

BELGRADE, Oct 30 : Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica said Sunday that Belgrade could not recognise municipal elections held in Kosovo, in an apparent slight to Western praise of the province's first post-war vote, reports AFP.

"Yugoslavia cannot recognise the results of local elections and calls upon international bodies to look toward the full application of

UN Security Resolution 1244," Kostunica said in a statement.

Kosovo's ethnic Albanians peacefully went to the polls in large numbers on Saturday, to elect 920 councillors in 30 municipalities.

But the province's 100,000-strong Serb minority boycotted the election, rendering the poll irrelevant in Serb-dominated areas.

The high-speed express between London and the country's main international airport, Heathrow, also ground to a standstill, as did the underground service there.

"A lot of services have come to a complete standstill," a transport police spokesman said.

The Eurostar high-speed train service between London and Paris was halted, until at least noon (17:00 BST), officials said.

The overnight curfew in the tea-growing districts of Nuwara Eliya and Badulla was eased but authorities slapped another 24-hour curfew on the town of Talawakele which saw intense mob violence, officials said.

"Troops are patrolling the streets in a show of strength," a local tea official said, adding workers stayed away Monday amid tensions in the mountainous tea-growing region.

At least one man was killed when police opened fire Sunday at rampaging mobs in Talawakele where public transport, state buildings and private shops were damaged.

US presidential race tightens as time running out

WASHINGTON, Oct 30 : With the presidential race tight and time running out, George W Bush and Al Gore raised the decibel level of their campaigns Sunday, as their aides traded charges over misleading advertising, mud-slinging and plain lies, reports AFP.

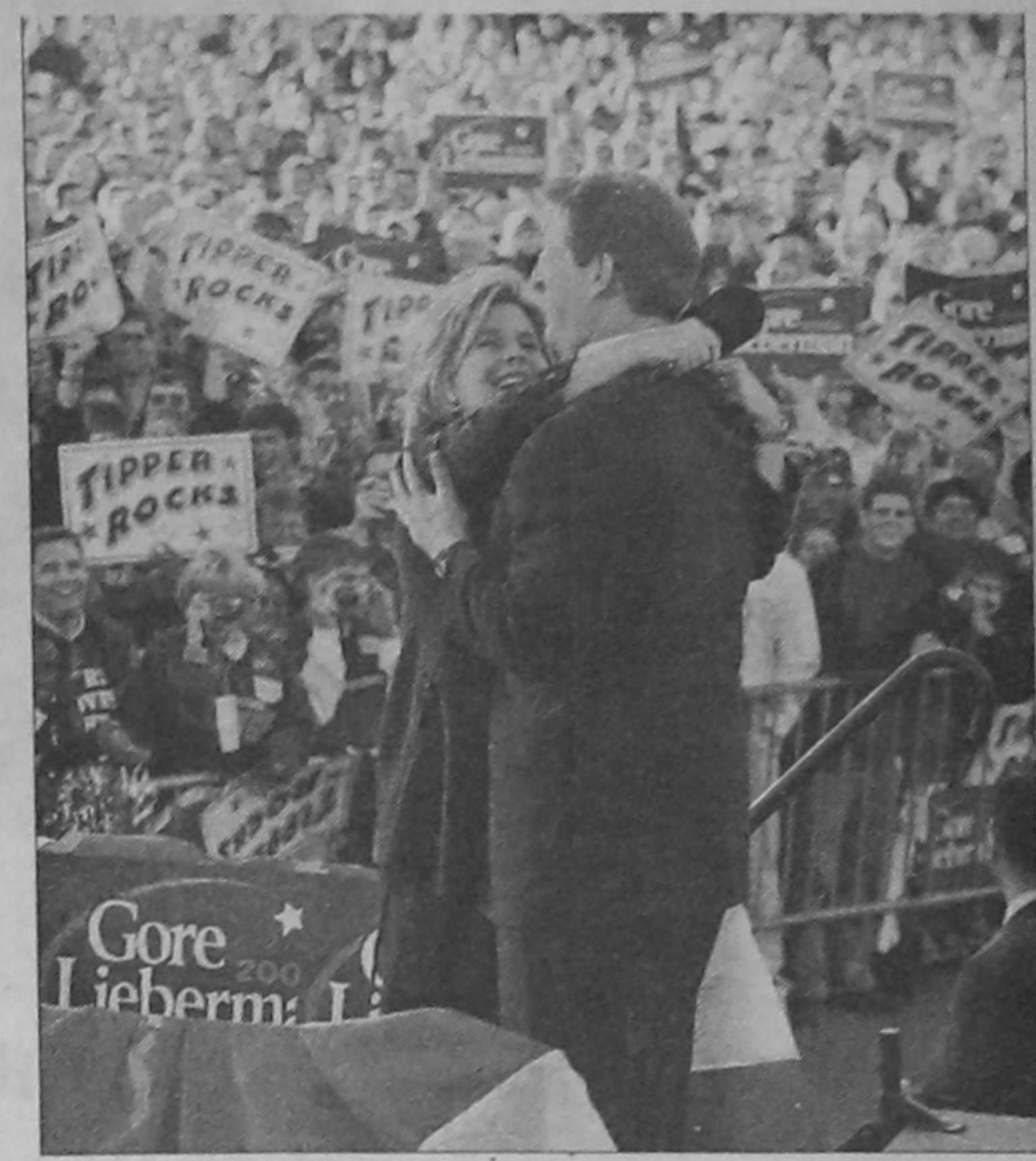
With just one full week of campaigning left before election day, agitated aides to Republican nominee Bush and Democrat Gore accused one another of misrepresenting their candidates' positions and resorting to scare tactics.

The rhetorical battle centred on a Democratic recorded telephone message, in which a distraught woman alleges her husband may have died in a nursing home in Texas four years ago due to deregulation of the sector introduced by Governor Bush.

"This is a vicious and sleazy and nasty attack to suggest that the governor of Texas is guilty of manslaughter," said Karl Rove, the chief Bush campaign strategist, on the "Fox News Sunday" show.

The attack was indicative of the level of desperation to which the Gore campaign has sunk," he fumed.

Bob Shrum, a strategist for the Gore campaign, dismissed the charges and went immediately on the offensive, accusing Bush of failing on health care, one of the major election issues. November 7 vote, US pollsters warned.



Democratic presidential candidate and US Vice President Al Gore (R) hugs and kisses his wife Tipper at a campaign rally on Sunday in East Lansing, Michigan. Gore is on a bus campaign trip across Michigan.

-AFP photo

Troops take to streets in central Lanka after riots

COLOMBO, Oct 30 : Police reimposed a curfew today as hundreds of heavily armed troops took to the streets in central Sri Lanka despite calls for calm in the riot-hit region, officials said, reports AFP.

The overnight curfew in the tea-growing districts of Nuwara Eliya and Badulla was eased but authorities slapped another 24-hour curfew on the town of Talawakele which saw intense mob violence, officials said.

Police said a local Tamil politician who represents the Tamils of recent Indian origin was taken in for questioning early Monday in connection with the unrest.

The Marxist JVP, or People's Liberation Front, accused the government of inaction and called for an emergency session of parliament to discuss the crisis.

There are political elements which are part of the government as well as the main opposition (United National Party) who are trying to make political capital out of this," JVP spokesman

Wimal Weerawansa said.

Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramayake held an emergency meeting with top military commanders Sunday, urging them to bring the situation under control in the Nuwara Eliya district.

Government officials said the authorities had taken a series of measures, including sending additional troops to the area, to quell the unrest and restore law and order.

The defence ministry also ordered the suspension of 14 constables and two civilians employees responsible for providing protection to the open prison while investigations were under way.

In the northern town of Vavuniya, shops and offices remained closed Monday as a sign of protest against the massacre, local residents said.

Russians bid farewell to sunken Kursk crew 12 more bodies recovered

MOSCOW, Oct 30 : Russian divers have recovered 12 bodies from the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk, Northern Fleet spokesman Valdimir Navrotsky said today cited by interfax news agency, reports AFP.

The divers, who had pulled out the corpses of four sailors last Wednesday from section nine of the sub, managed to lift more bodies from there on Sunday.

A note written by one of the Kursk officers found on his body Wednesday revealed that at least 23 of the 118 crew members had not died immediately on August 12 when two strong explosions sank the submarine but had sought refuge in section nine, at the rear of the vessel, and had survived for at least a few hours.

A Reuter report from Murmansk, Russia adds: Russians bid a final farewell on Sunday to the 118 sailors lost aboard the nuclear submarine Kursk, united in sorrow more than two months after the vessel sank in the Arctic Barents Sea.

"A Reuter report from Murmansk, Russia adds: Russians bid a final farewell on Sunday to the 118 sailors lost aboard the nuclear submarine Kursk, united in sorrow more than two months after the vessel sank in the Arctic Barents Sea.

"Four armoured cars carried the

bodies of four unidentified sailors, raised from the Kursk by divers during the past week, to Courage Square in the centre of the Northern Fleet's base at Severomorsk.

News that several more bodies had been brought up on Sunday from the submarine, lying 100 metres down on the sea bed, deepened the drama of the memorial ceremony attended by several hundred people.

"Forgive us," Defence Minister Sergeyev told the mourners. "Farewell, and let the ground beneath you be soft as down."

Top officials addressed the crowd beneath a towering bronze World War Two monument of a marine machine-gunner. A heavy snowfall gave way suddenly to thin sunlight, leaving the square blanketed in white.

A small child's wailing could be heard over the murmuring of the crowd as a loudspeaker blared a mournful seaman's song.

A man slowly read out the names of all 118 dead crew members.

Churchill's great wartime radio addresses read by actor

LONDON, Oct 30 : Some of the most famous radio addresses given by Winston Churchill, which roused and united the British during World War II, were read for the BBC by an actor, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday, reports AFP.

The claim was made by the son of actor Norman Shelley, who uncovered an old recording of his father's made in 1942.

To say that Churchill was busy at the time would have been the understatement of the century," Anthony Shelley told the Observer.

The discovery of the recording, on a 78 rpm record marked "BBC, Churchill: speech, artist Norman Shelley, 7 September 1942" laid to rest decades of debate over claims that an actor had been asked to impersonate Britain's wartime prime minister on the radio, the paper said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Commerce Administration-8, Section No-MOC/2(17)198/Administration-8/260 Dated: 19-10-2000

Re-auction Notice

Tenders in prescribed forms under following terms and conditions for selling the Nissan car No Dhaka-Va-2369 used in the administrative work of abolished Coal Directorate (Cell) under the Ministry of Commerce. Form can be purchased from the undersigned from room No 23 of the building No 3 of Bangladesh Secretariate on payment of Taka 200/- (two hundred) Taka (non-refundable) till 05-11-2000. Tenders can be dropped in the box kept at the said address on 06-11-2000 till 2 PM. Tender box will be opened the same day at 2-30 PM in presence of tenderers (if anyone remains present).

Terms & conditions:

1. Tenders will have to be submitted in the box kept on 06-11-2000 by 2-00 PM.
2. 25% of the money of the quoted rate (refundable) in the forms of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of the senior Assistant Secretary (Admn-8) will have to be deposited with tender.
3. The car can be inspected at garage at Sadharan Bima Bhaban, 33, Dilkusha during office hours.
4. If the highest tenderer is given work order for selling car, then the rest of the 75% will have to be deposited 5 (five) days from the issue of work order through chalan in Bangladesh Bank and the original copy of the chalan getting it certified by the Treasury Office, Dhaka will have to be deposited alongwith the application to the Senior Assistant Secretary (Admn-8) of the Ministry of Commerce.
5. The work order will be cancelled and security money will be forfeited if it is failed to take the car within stipulated time after depositing copy of chalan.
6. The tender committee reserves the power to reject or presence the said tender (all or partially) without assigning any reason.

S M Shawkat Ali

Senior Assistant Secretary

Phone: 8617095

Ivory Coast ready to accept int'l probe of mass grave

ABIDJAN, Oct 30 : Ivory Coast's new government is prepared to accept an international inquiry into the mass grave of 57 victims of post-election violence last week, Defence Minister Moise Lida Kouassi said Sunday.

As we want to exonerate ourselves, we are ready to accept the investigative commission that was proposed to cast light on the mass grave," Kouassi said.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces for the killings.

The opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) said most of the victims in the grave were its members. One youth who said he was the only survivor of the massacre that produced the mass grave blamed security forces