



ALL HAIL THE KING

The King's Speech and True Grit storm Oscar nominations page 34



Experts: team up to tackle violence

Clear policy in desperate need to stamp out increasing acts of hooliganism

By Patrick Dewhurst

HOOLOGANISM experts yesterday called for an integrated approach by government, police and football clubs to solve Cyprus' 'unacceptable' hooliganism problem.

The call came at a seminar, organised in cooperation with the British High Commission, only three days after the latest bout of violence saw an off-duty police officer stabbed. Government and politicians continued to beat their breasts over the situation yesterday with Justice Minister Loucas Louca censuring club officials and the media for inflammatory remarks they sometimes make in the run up to games, which incite fans to violence.

He also revealed that an

MP once bought lunch for football fans who threatened not to vote for him after he spoke out against them.

Addressing yesterday's seminar, Permanent Secretary of the Justice Ministry Petros Kareklas said the issue of football hooliganism must be considered in the context of the more general rise in juvenile crime and delinquency.

"Furthermore, parameters such as media influence, racism and xenophobia, alcohol consumption and drug taking, are also crucial elements in generating football violence," he added.

"We must find ways to tackle this problem through drawing a clear policy, including surveillance and monitoring techniques, segregation of fans, placing of stewards and restrictions on

TURN TO PAGE 7



A tourist takes pictures of the snow covered lake under the Bow Bridge in New York City's Central Park yesterday. The city was hit by another winter snowfall with more snow expected today (AFP)

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Cyprus



Main roads could go one way to facilitate buses **3**

World



Hezbollah backed Mikati named Lebanon PM **11**

Sport



Federer flying but Djokovic bars the way **40**

INSIDE



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