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## **BULGARIA LURCHES INTO POLITICAL CRISIS OVER ITS MURKY DEEP STATE**

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By Christian Oliver

Bulgarias deepest institutional crisis in several years ignited with a surreal incident on Tuesday when a centrist politician tried to plant the national tricolor on a shingly Black Sea beach, but was wrestled away by security guards.

By Thursday, the complex scandal □ which cuts to the heart of who really runs the country □ had spiraled to the top echelons of power and the socialist president, Rumen Radev, accused the state prosecutors of being in league with the mafia after they arrested two of his aides.

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