

International

ASEAN FMs' meet welcomes Yangon ASEAN urged not to grant Myanmar observer status

PARIS, July 20: Myanmar's pro-democracy leader is urging that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) reconsider granting Myanmar observer status when ASEAN meets over the week end, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

"Such constructive engagement will only reinforce the regime in place without improving the situation," Aung San Suu Kyi told the French Le Monde.

The ASEAN nations—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam—say dealing with the generals rather than ostracizing them will coax them to improve human rights.

Suu Kyi, reiterating her call for economic pressure, fingered the French oil regime.

"Investors shouldn't come, because all the money goes to an elite," she said. The com-

US team inspects Dhahran blast site

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, July 20: A US team inspected a military complex Friday where 19 American servicemen died in a bombing last month, hoping to find ways to prevent future terrorist attacks, reports AP.

The best business opportunities always go to the same elite, she said. "There's a class here that is becoming very rich, to the point of not knowing what to do with its money."

Reuter adds from Jakarta: ASEAN today welcomed Myanmar as an observer at the annual foreign ministers meeting of the seven-nation Southeast Asian grouping.

The association of Southeast Asian Nations has rejected Western calls for sanctions over the confrontation between Myanmar's military rulers and pro-democracy activists.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told Burmese Foreign Minister OHHN Gyaw at the 15-minute ceremony he wanted to "extend a most cordial welcome" to Myanmar.

The Movement for Islamic Change did not specify its intended target, and so far there has been no link established with the TWA explosion. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Mamata challenges state govt to arrest her

CALCUTTA, July 20: Congress MP, Maniata Banerjee, who has been indicted by the Yusuf Commission in its report on mob violence during a by-election in 1992 today challenged the state government to arrest her, reports PTI.

Taking a belligerent stand on the commission's findings which also evoked strong reactions from her party MLAs in the state assembly yesterday, the Youth Congress leader threw a challenge to the state government to take action on the basis of the biased report.

If they have the guts, let them arrest me. I don't have any faith in the state government, let alone the Yusuf Panel report, Banerjee told a gathering near the writers Building (the state secretariat) in the busy BBD Bag area.

Prince Andrew to leave Royal Navy in '99

LONDON, July 20: Newly divorced and now seeking a career change, Prince Andrew is to leave the Royal Navy in 1999 officials announced Friday, reports AP.

Queen Elizabeth II's second son, whose exploits as a navy pilot included flying helicopters as a decoy for Argentine missiles in the 1982 Falkland Islands war, will take a desk job in London as a final posting.

The Duke of York has decided not to make the Royal Navy his long-term career, the defence Ministry said in a statement.

A short spell in military service is traditional for the sons of British monarchs. But 36-year-old Andrew was, until Friday's announcement making the navy his career.

We intimidated Karadzic and his supporters into resigning by threatening to bar the SDS from Bosnian elections and to reimpose economic sanctions on the

Bosnian Serbs and on Serbia, Burns said.

Turning up the heat on the Bosnian Serbs, he said, adding that Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic "ought to end up in the Hague."

In Sarajevo, Ejup Ganic, vice-president of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation, said Karadzic's stepping down was a significant step forward which had created the conditions for the September 14 elections to go ahead.

He said the move had "simplified" the arrest of Karadzic, who has been indicted for war crimes in Bosnia. "Now war criminals cannot hide behind any political function," he said.

Ganic warned, however, that Karadzic would continue to act behind the scenes until he was arrested.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, who has 50,000-plus troops in Bosnia under the NATO-led

Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), said Karadzic's resignation was significant, but added: "Justice remains to be done."

The proper place for Radovan Karadzic is in the international criminal tribunal in The Hague to stand trial for the war crimes for which he has been indicted," he said.

Norway paid homage to the achievement of Holbrooke, whom the Norwegian press have said is a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize to be awarded in Oslo in October.

AP adds from Pale, Bosnian Serbs in Radovan Karadzic's stronghold are pledging to protect their leader if anyone tries to deliver him to the international war crimes tribunal.

If anyone tried to take Radovan to the Hague, he would be killed. I would take up a weapon and kill him," said Radovic, a Sarajevo native. "If you club one Serb on the head, it's like hitting the whole nation."

The nation should hang its head in shame," they said.

Thungon, former urban development minister Sheila Kaul, and one of Kaul's close aides have been accused of taking bribes to allot subsidised government housing out-of-pocket.

Twelve people have already been arrested in connection

with the case — a major embarrassment to former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party, which was soundly defeated in the April-May general elections.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's top intelligence agency, told the Supreme Court that raids on Thungon's homes revealed 371 million dollars that could not be accounted for. The court ordered the CBI to seize his assets.

The judges said the CBI indicated "prima facie the involvement of Thungon in this racket."

The CBI report accused Kaul's personal staff of charging between 15,000 to 40,000 rupees (428 to 1,142 dollars) a piece to applicants seeking expedited grants of government housing.

Normally there is a lengthy waiting period for the housing

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