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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014 + 30 BAH

Dual-track trains to get China loan

Beijing to be repaid in Thai rice and rubber

POST REPORTERS

China is to loan Thailand cash to construct three dual-track railways as part of a government-to-government deal to boost regional transport links.

The agreement was made at a full-delegation meeting led by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. The meeting followed bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday.

Gen Prayut yesterday said the project will cover three routes — Bangkok-Nong Khai, Bangkok-Map Ta Phut and Kaeng Khoi-Map Ta Phut.

The new tracks will allow better transportation from the Northeast to industrial areas in Rayong and will be a good start in developing links between Thailand, Asean and China, he said. They will accommodate mid-speed trains at first but could eventually be used for high-speed services.

The Chinese government will provide a loan to Thailand to allow the development of the lines. Under the arrangement, Thailand will be able to repay the investment costs to China with rubber and rice. Exact details of the "soft loan" arrangement are yet to be worked out.

"We have agreed to build the dual-track rail routes using 1,435-metre standard gauge to improve transport connectivity," Gen Prayut said. "China expressed a readiness to support the construction."

"If we don't start construction now, it will prove an obstacle to transport in the future. We have to make a decisive move, otherwise transport development will be delayed and the cost of the project will increase."

Gen Prayut said the government is

holding negotiations on plans to develop several rail routes, but the agreement with China is being made under a "transparent" government-to-government deal, without the involvement of private companies.

"A full delegation has discussed it and I can assure people the deal will not have any adverse affect on the country," Gen Prayut said. "A number of countries are interested in developing railway projects in Thailand but not on these routes."

The premier added that the government will make sure there is no graft in the dual-track rail projects with China or any forthcoming transport development, arguing the country has already been damaged enough by corruption.

"We cannot allow corruption to occur in these projects because we've been damaged by such activities for too long. In terms of the contract with China, the government will make everything transparent and follow all related laws," Gen Prayut said.

The majority of planned dual-track railway development in the country is set to involve one-metre wide tracks, to match existing train lines. But one-metre dual tracks can only accommodate trains at speeds of up to 160kph.

The 1,435-metre standard-gauge tracks that China will help develop could serve trains at speeds of up to 250 kph, although feasibility studies must be carried out to confirm this, Gen Prayut said.

"We will proceed with dual-track railways and mid-speed trains at first," he said. "This will be a New Year's present for the Thai people in 2015."

In discussions at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) gathering this week, Gen Prayut said Chinese leaders raised the issue of reviving the "Silk Road" trading routes. He said he agreed with the idea, claiming the policy would benefit Thailand economically.

"They proposed that Thailand and China should join hands in reviving the



Leaders put in some spadework

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and other world leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit plant trees in a garden at the Yanqi Hotel in the Chinese capital of Beijing yesterday. The five-day summit ended yesterday. GOVERNMENT HOUSE PHOTO

Silk Road since it will help link our two countries. We will discuss the next steps for that later on, but the immediate plan is our agreement on dual-track railways," Gen Prayut told reporters.

Gen Prayut also emphasised the importance of bilateral ties in the region and strengthening economic cooperation through existing and yet-to-be developed frameworks.

Shortly after the end of the Apec Summit, Gen Prayut and his delegation left China for Myanmar to attend the Asean

Summit and related meetings today and tomorrow. The summit will be attended by 10 Asean leaders and their counterparts as part of the East Asia Summit framework.

Gen Prayut plans to propose an initiative to promote border trade and economic connectivity among Asean members as well as dialogue partners, including the US, China and Japan.

Asean leaders are also expected to discuss detailed plans for the transition to the Asean Economic Community, as well as how to improve wider

regional cooperation.

Other issues, including terrorism and extremist movements, the South China Sea and the Ebola outbreak will be on the agenda of the summit joined by 18 leaders, including US President Barack Obama, Chinese Premier Li and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Obama riles Chinese: Page 5
Opinion: Page 9
Free trade pact wins praise: Page B8

Prayut asks world leaders for more time

POST REPORTERS

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has briefed world leaders including the US and Russian presidents about political developments in Thailand and asked them for time to implement reforms before they make any judgements on his administration.

Gen Prayut said he explained the political situation in Thailand to many of the leaders at the 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Beijing during brief discussions.

The leaders including presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin had expressed concerns about the situation in Thailand, he told the Thai News Agency.

He said they asked whether the situation in Thailand had returned to normal.

"The leaders asked about the situation in the country and I replied the political atmosphere was improving but we need more time to implement reforms," Gen Prayut said.

Mr Obama and Mr Putin expressed their concerns during brief conversations. The Russian president also asked for updates on reform progress, Gen Prayut said.

"I responded to President Obama by thanking him and assuring him that we are doing our best. Mr Putin asked if the situation had returned to normal and I replied that all is in order," the prime minister said.

The premier also revealed that his Chinese and Japanese counterparts — Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe — had promised to lift travel warnings on Thailand. The countries issued the travel warnings soon after the military coup on May 22.

More than 50 countries have issued travel warnings to their citizens about travelling to Thailand since the coup, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The Tourism and Sports Ministry recently said at least six countries had lifted their warnings. Political unrest, the imposition of martial law and the coup have hit the tourism sector in the last year.

Tourists from China and Japan accounted for 23% of 26 million foreign visitors to Thailand last year, according to the Tourism Department. About three million Chinese tourists visited Thailand in the first nine months of this year, a 17% drop year-on-year.

SOUTH

Isoc plays down Rohingya terrorist threat

POST REPORTERS

The Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc) has told the public to remain calm following intelligence reports that a renowned Rohingya terrorist has slipped into Thailand and may be planning to use the country as a base for illegal activities.

Thein "Hasan" Win, a 53-year-old Rohingya man with Myanmar nationality, is alleged to have links with insurgency networks in the deep South.

Sources said acting assistant police chief Pol Lt Gen Dechnarong Sutthicharnbancha last Friday signed an order instructing the officers to locate and arrest Thein Win.

Reports said the man plans to undergo facial plastic surgery while in Thailand before returning to Myanmar to carry out attacks.

Isoc spokesman Col Banpot Pulpian yesterday vowed to scrutinise the reports and try to arrest the man.

Members of the public should be vigilant and report any sightings of Thein Win to officials rather than getting into a panic about the matter, he said.

Citing intelligence information, Col Banpot said Rohingya people usually travel by boat through Thai territorial waters in the Andaman Sea while heading to other countries.

They may stop along the coasts of Ranong and Satun provinces, but rarely opt to take shelter in the southern border provinces, he said.

He added there is no evidence to link international or regional terror groups with violence in the deep South.

Despite a slight risk of attacks on foreign embassies and business operators, Col Banpot said Thailand is unlikely to be the direct target of terrorist groups.

Meanwhile, 4th Army chief Lt Gen Prakarn Chalayuth visited Princess of Naradhiwas University in Narathiwat's Muang



Muslim students in Narathiwat campaign against violence in the deep South. Their protest came as 4th Army chief Lt Gen Prakarn Chalayuth visited Princess of Naradhiwas University, where a student was shot dead in an attack on Nov 2. AFP

district yesterday, following a shooting that killed a student on Nov 2.

More than 1,000 students, lecturers and state officials greeted him. They held banners calling for an end to violence targeting students in the South.

Second-year student Suthida Tangjai, 20, was wounded as she and three friends rode motorcycles back to their dormitory after attending lectures.

She was taken to hospital and died three days later in intensive care.

Thai gets 10 years in Turkish prison

ISTANBUL: A Thai woman was yesterday sentenced to 10 years in jail by a Turkish court for cocaine smuggling.

Porntiwa Salarat, 23, who was travelling on a flight from Brazil to Vietnam, was arrested in the transit lounge at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul on June 14.

Turkish authorities said they stopped Porntiwa because she was acting suspiciously. A search of her luggage uncovered more than a kilogramme of cocaine, they said.

Porntiwa told police she went to Brazil on holiday with an African boyfriend who later arranged for her to fly to Vietnam. She said she did not know drugs were in her bag. The judge initially sentenced Porntiwa to 12 years in jail but reduced the term to 10 years because of her good behaviour while in custody.

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NATIONAL

Non-Thai students find their informal qualifications are invalid for further study in their home countries, writes Lamphai Intatthep

Education system fails migrant kids

Twelve-year-old Cherry, who attends an informal school in Mae Sot of Tak province, plans to continue her education in her country of origin, Myanmar.

"I live in Thailand because my parents work here. I love studying the Myanmar language and want to study in my home country. I would like to be a singer there," she said in Thai.

Cherry, whose Myanmar parents sell CDs for a living at Rim Moei market, is among more than 500 migrant students aged 9 to 15 studying at Parami centres in Mae Sot.

It is uncertain whether Cherry will succeed in her hope to further her education.

Yuwadee Silapakit, project coordinator of the Help Without Frontiers Foundation, said Myanmar children who completed their studies at learning centres for migrant children in Thailand were unable to further their education in Myanmar, since the centres could not provide them with official education certificates demanded by Myanmar's authorities.

"They have to study in Thailand as their parents work here. Many of them return to their countries one day, so the educational system should allow them to continue their



A group of Myanmar migrant workers' children in Thailand at Parami learning centre in Mae Sot district of Tak are taking part in a joint project with Myanmar's Myawaddy township authority to introduce a study course valid at the centre for migrant children. LAMPHAI INTATTHEP

higher education in Myanmar," she said.

Progress has been made in helping children who want progress with their studies in Myanmar in the form of cooperation with Myawaddy Township authority in Kayin State.

Myanmar's non-formal education curriculum was first introduced into Parami and A-yeon-au learning centres in Mae Sot this year to teach 81 Myanmar students, including Cherry.

The courses take two years to complete, and all lessons are taught in the Myanmar language by Myanmar teachers from Myawaddy schools.

After the courses are completed, the students receive certificates issued by the schools.

"Then they can continue their higher education in Myanmar. In future, we would like to see the educational system be more flexible and help children with different backgrounds because education is their

fundamental right," Ms Yuwadee said.

Daw Aye Myint Kyi, an official from Myawaddy township, agreed it was unfair that Myanmar children who graduated from Thailand were unable to continue their higher education in Myanmar due to the lack of academic certificates.

"More cooperation between both countries' education systems is necessary so students who graduate in Thailand can continue their higher education in Myanmar and that educated young people can return to the country," she said.

According to the Foundation for Rural Youth, there were about 300,000 migrant children — Myanmar, Lao and Cambodian nationals — who were accompanied by their parents to work in Thailand or were born here.

In 2013, about 30% were enrolled in schools.

Of them, about 70,000 studied in schools under the Office of the Basic

Education Commission; 3,000 under the Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education (NFE); 1,000 under the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration; and 20,000 at informal migrant learning centres nationwide, mostly established by NGOs and private sector.

As well as NGOs, Thai authorities have been working to develop formal basic education for non-Thai children.

Gasinee Fukfon, director of the Mae Sot NFE, said there were many obstacles to migrant students entering the formal education system.

Not being able to speak Thai was a major problem, she said.

The NFE introduced a pilot project to teach non-Thai children last year in its eight centres in Tak and other provinces including Chiang Rai in the North, Samut Sakhon in the Central Plains, and Ranong and Phangnga in the South, to make learning more

relevant to migrant students' lives.

However, of the 900 migrant children who applied for the three-year pilot project in Tak, only 201 of them successfully passed the Thai language exam.

"The learning of the pilot project is more flexible than that of the formal one," Ms Gasinee said.

Attendance varies from three days a week to every week day, depending on students' ability. Teachers can speak Myanmar and lessons can be changed to suit students' needs, she said.

Thai culture and tradition is also taught.

"Importantly, when these students graduate under the NFE project, they will earn a certificate which can be used to apply for further education in Myanmar. As the Asean Community draws closer, the education system should change so that students' qualifications are valid in neighbouring countries," Ms Gasinee said.

CRIME

Police kill five drug suspects

CHEEWIN SATTHA

Border patrol police have killed five armed men attempting to smuggle drugs into northern Thailand.

A gun battle erupted late yesterday morning when the officers, who were patrolling the Thai-Myanmar border near Chiang Mai's Chiang Dao district, tried to stop the drug traffickers.

Five suspects were shot dead on the spot. They were carrying six bags of *yaba* (methamphetamine pills). The officers escaped the clash without injury.

Pol Lt Col Rattakorn Inthanin, chief of the 335th border patrol police company in Chiang Dao, said each of the bags contained 70,000 pills, with 420,000 speed pills seized in total.

His unit earlier sent 12 officers to inspect an area near Ban San Pakia in tambon Mae Na, which borders Myanmar.

The officers said they unexpectedly spotted a "caravan" transporting about 10 armed men.

Five of the men managed to escape after the two sides exchanged fire, Pol Lt Col Rattakorn said.

Authorities confiscated arms left by the suspects at the scene. The weapons included an AK-47 assault rifle, a 9mm calibre handgun and a shotgun.

Police are inspecting the crime scene to collect evidence to track the drug traffickers.

The suspects have not been identified, but Pol Lt Col Rattakorn said he suspected the men were members of the Lahu ethnic minority group, also known as the Muser hill tribe.

The officers said the armed men were probably hired to escort the illegal drugs over the border into Thailand.

The operation comes less than a week after the Office of Narcotics Control Board vowed to tighten cooperation with neighbouring countries to curb the transnational drug trade.

Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and China agreed to join forces to fight drug trafficking along the Mekong River, where officials estimate they are failing to intercept 80% of smuggled narcotics.

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Notice of the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court

Black Case No. KorKhor. 155/2552 (2009)

Re: Service of Process and Notification to the Defendant as to Dates of Submission of Defence and Pre-trial Conference

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration V. Steyr-Daimler-Puch Spezialfahrzeug AG & CO KG (GD European Land System-Steyr GmbH)

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Plaintiff) has filed a civil action in this Court against **Steyr-Daimler-Puch Spezialfahrzeug AG & CO KG (GD European Land System-Steyr GmbH) (Defendant)**, claiming, among others, on July 30, 2004, the Minister of Interior signed a memorandum of understanding for the provision of fire trucks and public relief equipments in Bangkok Metropolis between the governments of the Kingdom of Thailand and Republic of Austria and pursuant to the said memorandum, the Plaintiff entered into a purchase agreement with the Defendant on August 27, 2004. The said purchase agreement was concluded by fraudulent means collaborated by civil servants and holders of political offices with the Defendant to mislead the Thai Council of Ministers into belief that the purchase was by means of government to government. As a consequence, no bid tenderings were conducted and resulted in the subsequent transaction being utterly unfair to other perspective sellers and thus illegal. The National Anti-corruption Commission has ruled a prima facie case of corrupt practices to be answerable on behalf of the civil servants and holder of political offices concerned. The Defendant also implicated as an accomplice to the offence. The Plaintiff claims that the Defendant's involvement in the corrupt practices which resulted in the purchase agreement is wrong both under the law and government's regulations. The Plaintiff suffers damage from the act of the defendant and, therefore, requests, among others, the following reliefs: (1) Revocation of the purchase contract dated August 27, 2004, between Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the purchaser and **Steyr-Daimler-Puch Spezialfahrzeug AG & CO KG**, the seller. (2) The Defendant to recompensate 90,882,749.51 Euros to the Plaintiff with interest of 3.5 per cent per annum of the sum of 81,970,253.04 Euros, from the date of filing of this action until the payment is completed. (3) Injunction prohibiting the Defendant from collecting installment No. 6-9, totalling 51,779,126.64 Euros from Krung Thai Bang Co., Ltd. (4) Costs and legal fees

The Court made an inquiry as to the service of process on the Defendant and discovered the following facts: the Plaintiff had twice effected the service of process through diplomatic channel via the Office of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Defendant's domicile in the Republic of Austria on October 30th, 1999 and March 15th, 2001 respectively. On both occasions, the result of the service of process could not and hitherto cannot be ascertained. On the other hand, it seems to appear that the Plaintiff and Defendant are under an agreement to settle the dispute by negotiation and arbitration under ICC Rules and now the dispute is pending arbitration in Geneva.

The Court is of the opinion that the parties to the dispute are attempting to settle their dispute by arbitration and believes that the institution of an action in the present Court is yet another form of relief exercised by the Plaintiff, whether of its own volition or being motivated by the National Anti-corruption Commission. It is time the Defendant submitted itself to the jurisdiction of this Court and informed the Court as to its intention of dispute resolution in this case including its answer to the claim submitted by the Plaintiff. It is the duty of this Court to provide fair and equitable treatment to both parties. No parties should have any cause deliberately to avoid the appearance in this Court.

By virtue of the Intellectual Property and International Trade Court Establishment Act, Section 26, in conjunction with the Civil Procedure Code, Section 83octo paragraph one, the Plaintiff shall inform the Defendant as to:

Summons for the Defendant to answer the claim within December 1, 2014, and;

Appear for the pre-trial conference on January 15, 2014 at 10.00 hours.

Notification to the Defendant shall be effected by way of posting at the Court and in the Court's website, publication in the Bangkok Post and the Nation for seven consecutive days and by registered Post.

This is to notify **Steyr-Daimler-Puch Spezialfahrzeug AG & CO KG (GD European Land System-Steyr GmbH)**, the Defendant in lieu of service of process.

Done on August 15th, 2014.

Vichai Ariyanuntaka, Judge