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Extensive coverage on campaign against pirated and porn VCDs

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MAJOR Chinese dailies have given extensive coverage to the campaign against pirated CDs and pornographic VCDs over the past few days.

Echoing the strong-arm tactics deployed against smut VCDs, Sin Chew's editorial on Friday believed that such massive crime prevention campaign should be run nationwide to include the rural areas and outskirts of other major cities.

Calling for full co-operation from the public and other government enforcement agencies to ensure success of the campaign, the editorial also urged the Government to look into other criminal activities as well.

On Wednesday, Home Ministry enforcement unit's intention to raid private residences to search for pornographic VCDs was front-paged by Nanyang as the Press welcomed the initiative of bringing the anti-pornography campaign to the next level. The only concern, said its news commentary, was the bearing of the campaign on individual privacy.

Further elaborating on the issue in its editorial on Thursday, Nanyang said the public had reason to doubt the efficiency of the house raids as there was no guarantee that the raid would not be abused.

In this regard, the editorial believed that the focus of the campaign, as pointed out by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi recently, should be on the distribution network instead of private homes.

The battle against smut VCDs also dominated the front page of Sin Chew which headlined the police's nationwide blitz on pirated and porn VCDs on Thursday.

China Press picked the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) internal investigation against its enforcement chief Abdul Kudus Ahmad over alleged corrupt practices as its front page story.

In another major development, Nanyang on Friday revealed that the former MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek might be heading for a bigger assignment as Malaysian envoy in foreign countries.

According to reliable sources, Ah Lek was said to be close to landing the job as a diplomat pending royal consent from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Sources added that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had held discussion with Ah Lek concerning the matter. But Ah Lek, when contacted, claimed he has not received any notice regarding the appointment.

On education, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting told Sin Chew that the Government has instructed the Civil Service Department (JPA) to look into the proposal of offering scholarships to students who initially failed to secure the perks because they scored less A1s than others.

Ong said a number of students, despite obtaining 9As to 10As in their SPM exam, missed the scholarship because some of their As were A2s.

But the MCA was prompted to take the matter up with the Cabinet when the party learnt that some all A1s students had declined the scholarships, Ong added.