

INTERNATIONAL

Hostile same-sex marriage vote spurs Australia to amend anti-hate law

The alarming volume of hate-speech during Australia's ballot over whether to legalise same-sex marriage spurred parliament to pass emergency legislation to outlaw opponents spewing their vitriol while the vote was in progress. Australia began a non-compulsory postal vote that will determine whether it becomes the 25th country to legalise same-sex marriage. But with an emotionally charged campaign raising concerns about the welfare of vulnerable Australians, the government moved to strengthen laws preventing hate-speech. The opposition Labor Party supported the amendment, though it had rejected the need for a ballot on the issue.

(I.E.,13/09)

Halimah Yacob formally elected Singapore's first woman president

Halimah Yacob, a former speaker of parliament, was declared elected as Singapore's first woman president on Wednesday after the returning officer announced she was the sole candidate to qualify for the contest. Aiming to strengthen a sense of inclusivity in the multicultural city-state, Singapore had decreed the presidency, a largely ceremonial post, would be reserved for candidates from the minority Malay community this time.

(I.E.,13/09)

Violence erupts in Haiti over national budget

Protesters brought parts of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince to a standstill, setting vehicles alight and damaging local businesses in violent demonstrations against the government's budget plans. "These little thieves in Parliament voted for this budget to help the government exploit the people," said protester Marco Paul Delva, standing by a barricade of flaming tires near the legislature.

(I.E.,13/09)
