



Japan's justice minister quits over gaffe

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's justice minister resigned yesterday after his quip that his job was easy sparked howls of outrage and threats of parliamentary stalling tactics from the conservative opposition.

Centre-left Prime Minister Naoto Kan -- whose media poll ratings have dived into the mid 20-percent range -- accepted the resignation of the minister, Minoru Yanagida, who had been in the job for just two months.

Yanagida, 56, sparked the storm when he joked last week that "being justice minister is easy as I only have to remember two phrases, either of which I can use in parliament whenever I'm stuck for an answer".

He told local supporters in Hiroshima prefecture that the two phrases were: "I refrain from commenting on individual cases" and "I am acting appropriately based on the law and evidence."

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) -- which was ousted last year after a half-century reign -- lashed out at the remarks, saying they were insulting to the Diet legislature.

Lawmakers had planned a non-binding but embarrassing censure motion and, more worryingly for the government, had planned to block new economic stimulus measures in the upper house, reports said.

A vote against the bill to help fund a 60 billion dollar stimulus in the upper chamber would delay its passage by at least 30 days, after which the lower house automatically overrides the upper house on budget bills.

Yanagida suggested at a press conference that he didn't have much of a choice other than to resign after Kan had told him that "we have to definitely pass the supplementary budget as soon as possible".

Yanagida became the first minister to step down since Kan reshuffled his cabinet in mid-September, shortly after his re-election as president of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ).

Kan's right-hand man, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku, said he would perform the duties of justice minister for the time being.

2G SPECTRUM ISSUE

Indian all-party meeting ends without compromise

AFP, NDTV, New Delhi

India's ruling party sought yesterday to defuse a giant telecom corruption scandal that has embroiled the government, stalled parliament and further tarnished the country's political class.

For more than a week, the government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been battling opposition pressure and lurid allegations about what could amount to one of the biggest scams in Indian history.

Former telecom minister A Raja, who resigned on November 14, is accused of losing the national treasury up to 40 billion dollars over the sale of 2G mobile phone licences in 2007 for a fraction of their value.

The opposition led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) again blocked the functioning of parliament on Monday, continuing its demand that a cross-party probe be set up to investigate the alleged scam.

After the adjournment -- for a seventh day -- Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee called an all-party meeting to seek an end to the disruption that has prevented any new legislation being discussed in the winter session.

But the BJP as well as fellow right-wing

Hindu group Shiv Sena and other opposition groups were adamant they would hold more protests in parliament until the government accepted their demands.

PM NOT GUILTY, SAYS SWAMY
Janata Party president Subramanian Swamy has told the Supreme Court that the Solicitor General misled the court in the matter relating to the demand for prosecution of former Telecom Minister A Raja in the 2G Spectrum case.

In an affidavit filed Swamy stated that there was no malafide on the part of the Prime Minister. The PM, he said, was badly advised by Law officers, the Law Ministry and bureaucrats.

Swamy said his stand had been vindicated by the affidavit filed by the PM through his office. He sought court guidelines so that "such incidents do not recur".

The Janata Party leaders petition in the Supreme Court has led to a huge storm on the 2G Spectrum issue.

Before filing his affidavit, Swamy said on Monday that the Prime Minister was "sabotaged by his bureaucrats, as the files just kept moving from one department to another."

NEW ANTI-GRAFT WATCHDOG UNDER FIRE
Elsewhere, India's Supreme Court raised doubts

Monday about the recent appointment of a new top anti-corruption official, adding to a damaging perception that the government is soft on graft.

PJ Thomas was sworn in as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) in September amid protests from the BJP who claimed at the time that he was a tainted figure.

During a legal challenge to Thomas's appointment, Chief Justice SH Kapadia questioned the nomination of a man who was charged by police over his role in an alleged palm oil import scam in his home state of Kerala.

"In every matter he deals with, he will face embarrassment and under these circumstances we want to know if he will be able to function as CVC," Kapadia told the court.

Police charged Thomas in 2000 over his role in allegedly fraudulent imports of palm oil from Malaysia while he worked as a senior civil servant in the Kerala state government in the 1990s. He has not been prosecuted.

ARREST OF CWG TREASURER
In a separate but unwelcome reminder of another corruption scandal, Indian police on Sunday arrested the sacked treasurer of the Delhi Commonwealth Games organising committee.

The vastly over-budget Commonwealth

Games, which took place in October, were widely criticised after a CVC probe and a host of media reports revealed suspect contracts and substandard public works.

The Games were overseen by a senior Congress figure, Suresh Kalmadi, who has since been stripped of his party role.

The Congress party was also roiled by the resignation of the chief minister of the powerful western state of Maharashtra, who stepped down two weeks ago over his alleged role in a housing scam that saw apartments reserved for war widows sold to politicians and military officers.

"SHRINKING MORAL UNIVERSE"
Faced with a daily drip feed of damaging stories, Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi said last week that India's fast economic growth was coming at the price of a "shrinking moral universe".

India fell three places to 87th in Transparency International's latest ranking of 178 nations by their perceived level of corruption, with the fall attributed to the Commonwealth Games fiasco.

Concern about corruption has been raised recently by senior public figures and leading businessmen.

Karnataka CM heads for Delhi, likely to resign

PTI ONLINE

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa, who had ignored summons by the BJP top brass to come for a meeting in Delhi, could no longer hold out yesterday evening and took a flight to the national capital amid indications that he had been asked to resign over corruption charges.

Yeddyurappa ignored summons to reach Delhi this morning but had rushed his trusted Cabinet minister VS Acharya.

Under mounting pressure to step down in the wake of alleged land scams, a defiant Yeddyurappa also appeared to be sending feelers to the BJP top brass to refrain from pushing for his resignation, hours after he cancelled his visit to Delhi last night.

Yeddyurappa had rushed a team of his loyalists including Acharya and Home Minister R Ashok to Delhi apparently to persuade the BJP top brass against change in leadership.

Israeli bill seen as threat to future peace deals

AP, Jerusalem

With Mideast peacemaking at a standstill, Israel's hard-line parliament called a vote yesterday to push through a bill that could sink future peace deals with the Palestinians and Syria.

The proposed legislation, which appeared headed for approval later in the day, would make it much harder for an Israeli government to cede east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights captured territories that would be central to any future accords.

The legislation would require 80 of Israel's 120 lawmakers to approve any withdrawal from those two areas. Without that super majority, the government would need to win approval in a binding national referendum.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet supports the bill.

An official in Netanyahu's office said the prime minister supports the idea of a referendum "in principle," but was waiting to see the final language of the legislation before taking a firm position. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss internal political matters.

The bill already has received preliminary approval but would need additional voting in parliament to go into law.

The Palestinians want sovereignty over east Jerusalem in any peace deal, while Syria insists on reasserting control over the Golan as its price for making peace.

Israel captured both territories in 1967 and later annexed them, and Netanyahu has given little indication that he is prepared to give up either area. The international community does not recognize those annexations.

The referendum bill would not apply to the West Bank, also captured in 1967, because Israel has not annexed it.

Peace talks with the Palestinians broke down in late September, three weeks after they began after Israel resisted Palestinian and US pressure to extend a moratorium on new West Bank settlement construction.

Under US pressure, Netanyahu has since agreed to a new, 90-day moratorium. But he is having trouble working out a formula with Washington that would mollify hard-liners in his coalition who want east Jerusalem exempted from the moratorium.

Indirect Turkish-mediated peace talks with Syria broke down in late 2008.

US resolution backs India's UNSC seat bid

PTI, Washington

Lauding India's commitment to global peace and development of the South Asian region, a resolution introduced in the US House of Representatives has appealed to the United Nations to take necessary steps to make New Delhi a permanent member of the Security Council.

The resolution by Congressman Gus Bilirakis gives the sense of the House of Representatives that the UN should forthwith take the procedural actions necessary to amend Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations to establish India as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The resolution, which has been sent to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for necessary action, noted that India is the largest democratic country in the world in which all political views are freely expressed and respected.

India is the world's second most populous country, with over one billion citizens residing within its borders and is one of the largest contributors of troops to UN-mandated peacekeeping missions, it said.

The resolution also said that India has demonstrated a strong commitment to global peace and promotion of the peaceful development of the South Asian region.



A file picture taken on July 20, 2010 shows Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev sitting at the table in front of an antique tiger rug during a visit to restored Aleksandrovsy palace outside of St Petersburg. World leaders sought on Sunday to come up with the hundreds of millions of dollars they say are needed to save the tiger from extinction and double the big cat's number by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022.

PHOTO: AFP

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited

Operations Wing, Establishment & Common Services Division
Dead Stock Department (DSD)
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SOLAR POWER SYSTEM

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers / Local Agents for the works of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of **Solar Power System** to be used for IBBL Head Office at 40, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 under the following terms and conditions:

Terms and Conditions

- The intending suppliers have to apply in their letter head pad and must submit documentary evidence like: Trade License, VAT registration Certificate, Up to date Tax clearance certificate, Distributorship/ Local agency of the mentioned item. Manufacturer must submit trade license where it will be clearly mentioned that they are the manufacturer of the item to be offered. Experience Certificate/Performance Certificate of the company from local clients. **On being satisfied with the documents submitted by the applicant**, Tender Schedule will be sold to the intending bidders during office hours from **November 24, 2010 to December 05, 2010** on payment of **Tk.2,000/- (two thousand)** only in cash for each package (non refundable). No Tender document will be issued/received by mail.
- Tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to **3:00 PM on December 08, 2010** and will be opened at **3:15 PM** on the same date and same place in presence of the suppliers or their representatives who may like to attend at the time of tender opening.
- Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders or may divide the works amongst the tenderers without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- 2.5% (two point five percent) of the total tender amount in favor of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh (Preferably Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited) must be submitted along with Tender documents as Earnest Money (refundable) without which the Tender shall be rejected outright.
- The offer will be evaluated both technically & financially.
- The details technical specifications, all other terms and conditions will be mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

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Executive Vice President

ROAD-SHOW FOR THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS FOR PRICE DISCOVERY

All eligible institutional investors (EII) [as per Securities & Exchange Commission (Public Issue) Rules, 2006] are invited to participate in the Road-Show for discovery of indicative price for Initial Public Offering (IPO) under Book Building method of Navana Real Estate Limited. The Schedule of the Road-Show is given below:

OFFERING SUMMARY	
Public Offer	: 30,000,000 ordinary shares
Face Value	: Tk.10.00 per share
Issue Manager	: ICB Capital Management Ltd.

SCHEDULE OF THE ROAD-SHOW	
Venue	: Ballroom, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
Date	: 09 December 2010 (Thursday)
Time	: 6.30 P.M.



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