

Pak hackers shut Indian crime bureau website

REUTERS, New Delhi A group calling itself the "Pakistani Cyber Army" has hacked into the website of India's federal crime investigation bureau and left a warning message to Indian hackers, local media said on Saturday.

The website of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was penetrated as nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan have made efforts to repair relations and build trust that evaporated after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The website has remained shut for the day after the action against it on Friday night. The group has warned it would carry out the "mass defacement" of Indian websites, according to the Press Trust of India.

"CBI registered a case for the defacement of its website," the agency said on Saturday. "It has come to the notice of CBI that its official website was unauthorized accessed and defaced. A case has been registered in this connection."

South Asian neighbors India and Pakistan have gone to war three times since independence but each remains twitchy about perceived threats from the other.

The Indian government has flagged concerns over its cyber security after a series of attacks on government websites by suspected Chinese hackers, including the office of the National Security Adviser.

Obama returns to US after a surprise Afghan visit

Hails progress of US troops

AFP, AP, BBC ONLINE, Washington/ Bagram Air Field

US President Barack Obama returned to the US capital early yesterday after a surprise visit to Afghanistan where he assured US troops they were winning the war against the Taliban.

A plane carrying the president touched down at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington at about 6:25 am (1125 GMT).

The president arrived in Kabul under cover of darkness Friday, with aides announcing nothing of the trip beforehand due to security concerns.

Obama's surprise visit to the war zone, his second as president, came 10 days before he is to address the nation about a new review of US strategy to defeat the Taliban and strengthen the Afghan government so American troops can begin leaving next year.

Obama, who has tripled US troop numbers in Afghanistan, spent a mere four hours in the country, all at the Bagram air base outside Kabul.

A face-to-face visit with President Hamid Karzai was replaced with a 15-minute phone call, and nasty weather scuppered plans to fly Obama by helicopter to the nearby Afghan capital.

The trip came as the Obama administration faced new friction with Karzai over embarrassing assessments of



US commander in Afghanistan General David Petraeus (R) introduces US President Barack Obama as he arrives to address troops at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan on Friday during a surprise visit for the holidays.

Afghan leader in leaked diplomatic cables, but war adviser Douglas Lute told reporters the topic did not come up between the two leaders.

CHEERING TROOPS In his rousing holiday-season visit,

President Obama on Friday told cheering US troops in Afghanistan they're succeeding in their vital mission fighting terrorism.

Obama said: "Today we can be proud that there are fewer areas

under Taliban control." He said there would be "difficult days" ahead in their fight against the Taliban.

"We said we were going to break through the Taliban's return."

what you're doing." He also said he was looking forward to "a new phase next year, the beginning of transition to Afghan responsibility".

But he added: "You're achieving your objectives, you will succeed in your mission."

The president spoke to more than 3,500 service members packed into a huge airplane hangar. After his remarks, he spent more than 10 minutes shaking hands, going around the hangar three times as they grabbed his hand and held cameras and cell phones high to take photos.

Obama stayed on this US military base, the headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division, the entire time he was here, just under four hours. He huddled with US Gen. David Petraeus, the top Nato commander in Afghanistan and US Ambassador Karl Eikenberry. And he visited wounded soldiers at a base hospital, personally dispensing five Purple Hearts to wounded service members.

"Because of the progress we're making, we look forward to a new phase next year, the beginning of the transition to Afghan responsibility," Obama told the troops. He thanked them for their efforts, noting the difficulty in being away from home during the holidays, and they repeatedly cheered him in return.

CBI to question Raja soon say sources

NDTV, New Delhi

Former Telecom Minister Raja will be questioned by the CBI in connection with the 2G scam - estimated to be worth 1.76 lakh crore rupees and described as India's biggest swindle.

RK Chandolia, a close associate of Raja's, will also be questioned. Chandolia was Raja's secretary in 2008 when the controversial 2G licenses were allotted. More recently, he was an economic advisor for the Telecom Department till earlier this month, when he was transferred.

The Supreme Court, which is hearing various cases related to the 2G scam, has recently asked the CBI why it hadn't questioned Raja, even though a report by the government's auditor faulted him for blatantly under-valuing 2G spectrum to favour a group of companies who won 2G licences. Some of those companies were ineligible for the licenses they were granted.

CBI sources say that while Raja is certain to be confronted, the agency is still in the process of gathering evidence against him. 5900 conversations gathered by taping the phone of PR executive Niira Radia - have been transcribed and are now being analysed.

First foreign secy Fateh passes away

FROM PAGE 16 He leaves behind his wife Mahfuza, two sons, two granddaughters and a grandson in London.

Born 1924 in Kishoreganj, Abul Fateh passed his Matriculation exams from Ramkrishna High English School in Kishoreganj in 1941. After passing his intermediate exams from Ananda Mohan College in Mymensingh in 1943, he studied Masters in English Literature at Dhaka University in 1947.

He joined the first batch of Pakistan Foreign Service trainees in 1949 and attended London School of Economics' training in 1951. Then he was sent to Paris as third secretary in the Pakistan embassy. He received his first posting as ambassador, at the Pakistan embassy in Baghdad, in 1970.

After the Pakistani military crackdown in March 1971, Fateh received a request from his friend Syed Nazrul Islam, the acting president in the Bangladesh government-in-exile, to join the Liberation War.

At about the same time, in July 1971, Fateh fled Iraq with his wife and sons across the border into Kuwait, from where

they took a plane to London to avoid Pakistan government's summons to attend a conference in Tehran of regional Pakistani ambassadors. Before leaving for London, he had cleared out the Pakistan embassy bank account in Baghdad to the benefit of the Bangladesh government.

The announcement of Fateh's defection to the Bangladesh cause marked the first time a full ambassador had joined the fledgling Bangladesh diplomatic service. The military regime in Islamabad was furious with the news and their request to extradite Fateh from London was rebuffed by the British government.

The Mujibnagar government made him ambassador-at-large. He had a leading role, as the Bangladesh movement's senior-most diplomat, in a delegation under Justice Abu Sayed Choudhury which went to the United Nations in New York to lobby for the Bangladesh cause.

He was one of the first high officials to reach Dhaka after its liberation, and was quartered with other senior officials in Bangabhaban until January

1972. He was also the highest Bangladeshi official in Dhaka until the acting president and cabinet arrived after independence. Already the effective head of the incipient Foreign Service, he became Foreign Secretary at the end of 1971.

In 1972, he took up the position of Bangladesh's first ambassador in Paris where he stayed till 1976. The early part of this posting involved extensive travels in Africa to persuade African governments to recognise the independence of Bangladesh. In 1973 he represented Bangladesh at a Commonwealth conference for Youth Ministers in Lusaka.

In mid-1975 he was selected to be high commissioner in the UK, which post he took up in early 1976. His two years in London (1976-1977) saw him chairing the Commonwealth Conference on Human Ecology and Development and the Bangladesh government approved his recommendation that dual citizenship be permitted.

Retiring in 1982, he lived with his wife in Dhaka for ten years before they settled in London to be near their sons.

Court allows CBI to arrest 3 execs in loan probe

REUTERS, Mumbai

A special court yesterday said it would allow the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to re-arrest three executives from Money Matters Financial Services, the company implicated in the bribes-for-loan investigation.

The three officials, including the company's chairman, were due to appear before the court later in the day and would be placed in police custody until Thursday, CBI prosecutor Eijaz Khan told reporters.

India's federal investigator is probing 21 companies. It ordered the arrest of eight officials from banks and financial institutions last month for allegedly taking bribes in exchange for large corporate loans, or in some cases, sharing insider information.

All eight were granted bail on Friday.

Sarkozy on four-day India trip

AFP, Bangalore

French President Nicolas Sarkozy began a four-day trip to India yesterday, pitching for new nuclear energy contracts while stressing his hosts' increased power in world affairs.

Sarkozy, accompanied by his pop star wife Carla Bruni, is the latest in a long line of world leaders beating a path to India, the world's second-fastest growing major economy.

His visit came after those by British Prime Minister David Cameron and US President Barack Obama in recent months, and will be followed in swift succession by China's Premier Wen Jiabao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Sarkozy, accompanied by a bevy of ministers and a large delegation of business leaders, will lobby for multibillion-dollar Indian contracts for fighter jets and nuclear technology, an industry in which France has a leading position.

"We all know how critical it is for India to ensure its energy security," Sarkozy said in a speech at the Indian Space Research Organization in the southern Indian tech and IT hub Bangalore.

"India and France share the belief that nuclear energy can provide an unparalleled response to this challenge."

India's environment ministry last weekend gave clearance for the estimated one-trillion-rupee (22-billion-dollar) project, which will see French state nuclear company Areva supply six, third-generation pressurised water reactors.

Like Cameron and Obama before him, Sarkozy emphasised



French President Nicolas Sarkozy (R) and First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy attend a meeting at the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) satellite centre in Bangalore, yesterday as he begins his four-day official visit to India.

India's increased influence in the world, which analysts say stems from its fast-growing economy and its robustness in the face of the global financial crisis.

Western democracies are also seen as embracing India as a natural ally to counterbalance the influence in Asia of authoritarian China.

"India is probably far greater and stronger than even it probably realises," Sarkozy added, stressing that he expected the rupee to emerge one day as a world currency.

Sarkozy reiterated France's support for India to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, which was also backed by Obama during his trip to New Delhi last month.

The French president heads a high-powered delegation of seven ministers and around 60 chief executives, including the heads of aircraft-makers Dassault Aviation and EADS, and Areva.

Dassault is hoping to pick up a 1.2-billion dollar contract to revamp 56 Mirage-2000 aircraft that France sold India nearly two decades ago, though Indian officials have said no defence deals will be signed during the visit.

On Sunday, Sarkozy and Bruni, who wore a classic peach-coloured combination as she stepped off the presidential plane in Bangalore, travel to the Taj Mahal city of Agra later Saturday before visiting the "monument to love" on Sunday.

Sarkozy's visit to India is his first to a G20 state since France took the presidency of the group of developed and major developing economic powers.

Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd. T. K. Bhaban (13th Floor) 13, Kawran Bazar Dhaka-1215.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. invites sealed tenders from the eligible bidders for the Interior Decoration & Fit-Out Works in "Fareast Tower" (±64000 sft) for the Corporate Office of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. at 35 Tophkana Road, Dhaka. Tenders will be evaluated and contract awarded collectively for all the lots together. The eligible bidders should have the followings attached-qualifications from the relevant authority:

- 1. Contractor's Qualifications: Firms who have proven experience in successful supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of similar work within the past five (5) years in a single contract in any Financial / Corporate/ Multinational/ Government of Taka 60 (sixty) Million only. The intending bidders shall have to apply in their letterhead pad along with the following documents in support of their eligibility and obtain permission for the issuance of the Tender Document.
2. Tender Documents will be issued only to the contractors or their authorized representatives upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Taka 6,000/- (Taka Six Thousand) only from the Engineering Section, Fareast Tower (Level - 2), 35 Tophkana Road, Dhaka 1000 during office hours from 05.12.2010 to 03.01.2011.
3. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11-00 AM on 15/12/2010 at Fareast Tower (Level-2).
4. Earnest Money amounting minimum three (3%) percent of the Quoted Price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh must be submitted along with the tender in favour of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and without the Earnest Money the tender shall be rejected outright.
5. Tender will be received in Engineering Department at 12:00 hours on 04.01.2011. No Tender shall be received after this designated time & date. FILIC would open the tender privately.
6. For any clarification regarding preparation & submission of Tender, the bidder(s) may contact with the Project Incharge, Fareast Tower (Level - 2), 35 Tophkana Road, Dhaka, Phone: Cell - 01730052780 or Land - 7176833.
7. The work must be completed in all respect within Six (6) Calendar months.
8. Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. reserves the right to accept any tender or to reject any/or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Managing Director (cc)

Musharraf vows never to visit India again

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf has vowed never to visit to India again after being denied a visa by the Indian government, a report said Friday.

"I have no words to explain my disappointment," Musharraf was quoted as telling The Indian Express newspaper by telephone from his home in Dubai.

"Your government has dashed my hopes. I think it shows a lack of confidence on the part of India to face me," he said, according to the paper's website.

The former president, who was born in New Delhi before the partition of the sub-continent, had been invited to India by private organisations to attend seminars and meet the media.

"I don't plan to come to India ever again," Musharraf said, citing the visa refusal as an affront to his "honour and dignity."

Indian government officials have confirmed the visa request was denied, but declined to elaborate on the reasons.

India press reports earlier this week said the decision stemmed from India's belief that Musharraf was responsible for a large-scale militant incursion in Kashmir in 1999 that brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

Raffles Be a Raffles Designer and Raffles Entrepreneur. Inspired to become a Fashion Designer and a Young Entrepreneur but are not quite sure how and where to start, look NO FURTHER! Take part in these FREE Seminar Talks for the first time in Dhaka brought to you by Raffles Design Institute, an Award Winning International College and Institution worldwide! SEMINAR PROGRAMS: What is Fashion Design?, Career in Fashion Industry, How to be an Entrepreneur?, Career in Business Industry. DATE: 10, 11, 17 & 18 December 2010. TIME: 4pm - 5.30pm (10 & 17 December 2010), 11am - 12.30pm (11 & 18 December 2010). Raffles Design Institute Dhaka. Australia | Bangladesh | China | Hongkong | India | Indonesia | Malaysia | Mongolia | New Zealand | Singapore | Thailand | Vietnam.