

2G SCAM PROBE Indian police quiz tycoon, politician

AFP, New Delhi

The chairman of India's Videocon Group and his politician brother were questioned by the country's top police agency yesterday as the probe into a suspected multi-billion dollar telecom scam widened.

Venugopal Dhoot, chairman of the industrial conglomerate Videocon and his brother, Rajkumar Dhoot, a member of Parliament from the Indian state of Maharashtra, "were examined in Delhi as part of an ongoing investigation into the 2G scam," a police spokesman told AFP.

Yesterday's questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is part of the probe into the government's allegedly fraudulent sale of second-generation (2G) mobile licenses at cut price rates to favoured companies in 2008.

The national auditor last year said that

irregularities in awarding the sought-after licences cost the exchequer up to \$40 billion in lost revenues.

Dhoot, who runs Videocon, a conglomerate that includes Videocon Mobiles, is one of several high-profile tycoons with interests in the telecom business to be questioned by the CBI recently.

Last week the CBI questioned the chief executive of the Essar conglomerate, Prashant Ruia, and the Indian billionaire, Anil Ambani as part of its probe.

Telecom minister A. Raja was arrested along with two former aides earlier this month, as was a senior executive of one of India's biggest real estate firms DB Realty, which has a joint telecom venture with Abu Dhabi's Etisalat.

All the individuals and companies under investigation have denied any wrongdoing.



US gunman a CIA agent

Says Pak intelligence

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistani intelligence official said yesterday that an American in custody for killing two men was an undercover CIA contractor, in remarks likely to inflame a crisis with the United States.

Washington insists that Raymond Davis, who says he acted in self-defence, is a member of its Islamabad embassy's "administrative and technical staff" who has diplomatic immunity and should be released immediately.

But the unpopular government in Pakistan is under huge pressure from the political opposition not to cave in to US demands, with analysts even warning that the case could bring down the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"It is beyond any shadow of a doubt that he was working for CIA," an official from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"He's on contract. He's not a regular CIA guy, but he's working for CIA. That's confirmed," the Pakistani official said.

Pakistan's powerful intelligence services and military have been angered by accusations that they support Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked networks fighting US troops in Afghanistan, and need to do more to eliminate Islamist militants.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Congo colonel gets 20 years for rape

AP, Baraka

A Congolese court sentenced an army colonel to 20 years in prison yesterday, convicting him of crimes against humanity in the highest-profile sexual violence case ever tried in this nation where thousands are brutally raped each year.

The trial held in a torridly hot makeshift courtroom in the lakeside village of Baraka marks the first time a commanding officer has been tried for such a crime.

Prosecutors had sought the death penalty for Lt. Col. Mutuare Daniel Kibibi, 46, who was accused of ordering his troops to attack the village of Fizi on New Year's Day where doctors later treated 62 women for rape. One woman testified that Kibibi himself raped her for 40 minutes.

As the defendants were being led away in handcuffs, hundreds of people jeered at them, booed and shook their fists. Some shouted, "Kibibi! You thought you could get away with this! Now you are going to jail!" and "You must pay for your crimes!"

Kibibi, who is married with eight children, was convicted of four counts of crimes against humanity but will serve no more than 20 years in prison. He denies all the charges and says the court testimony by his bodyguards was all part of a plot to denigrate him.

US drone kills 5 militants in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

A US drone attack late on Sunday killed at least five militants in northwest Pakistan's lawless South Waziristan tribal district, officials said.

The drone strike was the first since a US gunman shot and killed two Pakistanis in the eastern city of Lahore on January 27, triggering a diplomatic row between Pakistan and its key terror ally the United States.

"Five militants were killed in the strike," a military official told AFP. "The target was a house used by militants," he added, requesting anonymity.

An intelligence official who confirmed the attack put the toll at six dead and three wounded.

Taliban bomber kills 31 at Afghan office

AFP, Kunduz

A Taliban suicide bomber struck an Afghan government office yesterday, killing 31 people and raising to more than 100 the death toll from a surge in high-profile bomb attacks.

A string of insurgent attacks has targeted civilians and government forces over the last three weeks, just a few months before limited withdrawals of US-led Nato forces are due to start in July.

Yesterday's attack took place as people queued outside a district office in Imam Sahib in the northern province of Kunduz to collect new identity cards and other paperwork.

Insurgents have made increasing inroads into the north, expanding from their traditional power bases in the south and east, along the Pakistan border, as they press a nine-year insurgency against the government and US-led troops.

District governor Mohammad Ayob Haqqani said a suicide attacker detonated his explosives in the waiting area.

"The number of people killed in the suicide blast rose to 31," he said. "Some of the critically wounded also died in hospital. Thirty-nine people are wounded."

Officials locally and in Kabul said that all of the dead were thought to be civilians.

A local man, Mohammad Ismail, described the scene in the hospital where the wounded were being treated as chaotic.

MUMBAI ATTACK

Indian High Court upholds death sentence to Kasab

PTI, Mumbai

The Bombay High Court yesterday confirmed the death penalty to 26/11 terrorist Ajmal Kasab, terming the case as rarest of rare and holding there was "no scope of reform" of the convict.

"There is no scope of reform or rehabilitation of the convicted accused. It is a rarest of rare case and the court cannot be more confident than it is today that death penalty must be given," a division Bench of Justices Ranjana Desai and R V More observed, upholding the death sentence to 24-year-old Kasab.

"Aapko saza-e-maut yeh adalat barkar karti hai. Aap Supreme Court mein appeal zari kar sakte hain (Your death sentence is upheld. You can appeal before the Supreme Court," Justice Desai told a bearded Kasab, clad in a spotless white kurta and sporting a grin, through video conferencing.

The court upheld Kasab's conviction on

all charges including multiple murders, conspiracy and waging war against the nation.

The confirmation comes nine months after the lone 26/11 terrorist captured alive was ordered to be sent to the gallows by the trial court on May 6, last year.

The court, however, dismissed the Maharashtra government's petition against the acquittal of two Indians Faheem Ahmed Ansari and Mohammad Sabaudin Ahmed, accused of aiding the commission of the crime.

"We are with the trial court's observation that there is no corroboration of evidence to prove involvement of Faheem Ansari and Sabaudin Ahmed in the case," the judgement said.

"Kasab has never shown any remorse after his arrest and we have observed that even on video conference he has not shown any signs of regret," Justice Desai said reading out the judgement for the Bench.

Rape victim kills herself

FROM PAGE 1
Abidashi Parashad.

After being raped by nine indigenous men on April 4 last year, the victim filed a complaint with Godagari Police Station, accusing Kallus Mardi, Nirmol Murmu, Julian Mardi, Jewel Mardi, Semon Hembrom, Simon Murmu, Porimol Soren, Ilias Murmu and Ranjan Mardi.

She was denied justice as the accused managed to lure her family into a Tk 1.40 lakh out-of-court settlement, the Abidashi leader said adding the accused are influential in local indigenous community.

As part of the settlement, the girl's family married her off to one of the accused, Nirmol Murmu, adding to her torment.

Fresh clashes erupt in Ivory Coast

AFP, Abidjan

Fresh clashes erupted between supporters of the Ivory Coast's rival presidents yesterday, with a man shot dead in army gunfire, as four African leaders launched a new bid to break the impasse.

At least a dozen people were also injured in clashes in Abidjan between forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo, who refuses to concede defeat after a November 28 election, and his rival Alassane Ouattara, witnesses said.

Three Ouattara supporters were killed in violence in the city on Saturday while security forces loyal to Gbagbo announced yesterday they had lost three men in the unrest in the past two weeks.

Soldiers with Gbagbo opened fire yesterday with live ammunition to disperse young supporters of Ouattara who had made barricades of tables and burning tyres in Abidjan, residents said.

A civilian man crossing the road was shot dead, they said. Pro-Ouattara supporters have called for a "revolution" similar to one that toppled president Hosni Mubarak in Egypt early this month.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH						
Office of the Director			Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka.			
Memo. No. MH/MSR Equip./2010-11/11/4296			Dated:20/02/2011			
Invitation for Tender						
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide Experienced Importers/Agent/Suppliers/distributors to Supply MSR Equipment (Code:6813) as per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008. Terms & conditions are as follows:-						
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH						
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare					
2. Agency	Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka-1100					
3. Procuring Entity Name	Director, Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka-1100					
4. Procuring Entity Code	GOB					
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka-1100					
6. Invitation for	MSR Equipment (Code: 6813)					
7. Invitation Ref No	No. MH/MSR Equip./2010-11/11/4296					
8. Date	Dated: 20/02/2011					
KEY INFORMATION						
9. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)					
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB					
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
11. Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka-1100					
12. Tender Package No.	02(Two)					
13. Tender Package Name	MSR Equipment (Code: 6813)					
14. Tender Publication Date	22/02/2011					
15. Tender Last Selling Date	22/03/2011					
16. Tender Closing Date and Time	23/03/2011 upto 11.00 noon.					
17. Tender Opening Date and Time	23/03/2011 at 12.30 pm.					
18. Name & Address of the Offices	Office of the Director, SSMC Mitford Hospital, Dhaka-1100.					
a. Selling Tender Document	a) Office of the Director, SSMC Mitford Hospital, Dhaka-1100.					
b. Receiving Tender Document	b) Office of the Director(Hospital), DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.					
c. Opening Tender Document	c) Office of the Deputy Commissioner(DC), Dhaka District, Dhaka.					
19. Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Office room of the Director, SSMC Mitford Hospital, Dhaka.					
Date: 13/03/2011; Time: 11.am.						
Information for Tenderer						
20. Eligibility of Tenderer	a. The tenderer should have valid upto date trade licence, VAT registration certificate & up to date income taxes clearance certificate b. The tenderer shall be a Manufacturer/Importers/Agent/Supplier/Distributor. If the tenderer is supplier then the tenderer shall have a minimum 3(Three) years of specific experience for supply of similar goods & related services. c. Others terms & conditions are enclosed herewith(in the tender documents)					
21. Brief Description of Goods or Works	MSR Equipment (Code: 6813)					
22. Brief Description of Related Services	After Sale Service.					
23. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk 4000-(Four thousand) only (Non-refundable) for each set deposited from any schedule Bank by treasure chalan with C.T.R. by District Accounts Officer in the Financial Code No. 1-2711- 0000-2366.					
Identification of Tender	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months			
MSR Equipment * (Code: 6813)	SSMC Mitford Hospital, Dhaka	42,00,000(Forty two lac) Refundable by Bank draft / pay order/Bank Guarantee on behalf of Director, Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka	06 Weeks from signing of Contract			
Procuring Entity Details						
24. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brig Gen A K M FARIDUZZAMAN, ndc					
25. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director					
26. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, Dhaka					
27. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. 7317466	Fax No. 7319006	e-mail : mitford@hospidg.gov.bd			
28.	a. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders. b. If the date of selling, receiving or opening of tenders is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively. c. Tender schedule or any item/specification can not be modified/alterred by the tenderer. d. Itemwise quantity mentioned in the schedule may be increased/diseased. e. Work order will be issued after Administrative approval by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.					

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the following positions of "Poverty Environment and Climate Mainstreaming" project.

1. Training, Knowledge Management & Communication Expert (SB-4 level, 1 post)
2. Planning Expert (SB-4 level, 1 post)
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