



We support the use of recycled newspaper

CMYK

# The Statesman

KOLKATA NEW DELHI SILIGURI BHUBANESWAR LC 12+4 Rs 250

8  
MARCH  
TUESDAY  
2011  
website: www.thestatesman.net  
email: thestatesman@vsnl.com

## Hasan Ali arrested, his Pune house raided



MUMBAI/PUNE, 7 MARCH: Stud farm owner Mr Hasan Ali Khan, accused of massive money laundering and tax evasion, was tonight arrested by the Enforcement Directorate which carried out multi-city searches at his Pune home and his associates' premises, cracking the whip to meet tomorrow's Supreme Court deadline.

The 53-year-old Mr Khan, who was detained in Pune, was brought to Mumbai at 6 p.m., was grilled by the ED for nearly six hours before they put him under arrest around midnight. ED officials took him to his house in Peddor Road in south Mumbai where he was quizzed till 10:30 p.m. before the ED officials took him to their headquarters at Nariman Point and inspected documents related to alleged *bawala* channels.

Mr Khan, who was further questioned about his alleged money laundering deals, has been charged under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Hot in pursuit of the black money trail after the Supreme Court's 8 March deadline to the government regarding black money hoarders, about a dozen ED officials from Mumbai went to Pune to search the premises of Mr Khan in the posh Koregaon Park area this morning. "I am innocent. I haven't done anything wrong," he said before entering the ED office. Sources said searches were also carried out on the premises of his associates in Pune, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Kolkata and Hyderabad. ED sources had said the statement of Mr Khan's associate and hotelier Mr Philip Anand Raj was being recorded in Delhi. Mr Khan's lawyer Mr RK Gaur said he is being taken to the ED's Mumbai office for further interrogation and to possibly confront him with "some documents."

The Supreme Court, while blasting the Centre last Thursday for not having the "will power" to act against black money hoarders, asked why Mr Khan and others were not subjected to custodial interrogation despite the probe agencies possessing sufficient material against them. The I-T department had previously raided Mr Khan's Koregaon home in January 2007. **pti and sns**



Mr Kashinath Tapuria addresses the media after his premises were raided. In Kolkata on Monday. **sns**

## ED raid on Priyamvada brother's house

statesman news service

KOLKATA, 7 MARCH: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials today raided the residence of the city-based businessman and brother of Priyamvada Birla, Mr Kashinath Tapuria, for his alleged links with money launderer Mr Hasan Ali Khan.

Mr Tapuria did not deny his links with Mr Khan, but said that the latter was a "bluffmaster" and he had promised to arrange for financial assistance to his "sick" firm, which he didn't. An ED team, headed by Mr Bijoy Mallick, deputy director, conducted the raid following reports that Mr Khan invested a huge amount of money in Mr Tapuria's firm.

Mr Mallick said that the search was conducted in connection with Mr Khan's

money laundering and tax evasion case. He said that they have gone through various documents, papers and computer of Mr Tapuria. However, he refused to give details of the documents they had seized and was asked to Mr Tapuria during the six and a half hour-long raid today.

Later, brushing aside all allegations, Mr Tapuria, said Mr Khan had not invested even a penny in any of his companies. "I first met him in April 1994 in Kolkata and he had assured me of providing financial assistance to revive my cable manufacturing firm, Incab Industries. I needed Rs 60 crore to revive my sick company, which is at present under the purview of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)." "He is a bluffmaster and never gave me a single penny," he claimed

adding that Mr Khan had sent him eight to 10 "transfer advices" in 2004. "But, those papers are valueless, as they do not contain Mr Khan's signature," he added.

In reply to a question on why he had kept those documents for so many years if those were of no use, he said that he did it because officials from the Income-tax department raided his house the day after he had received those papers. He claimed himself to be completely "innocent" and said that he will be surprised if he gets arrested. ED officials seized those documents along with his mobile phone and other suspicious documents found in his residence, including some air tickets and hotel bills, said Mr Tapuria. A show-cause notice — a request for information,

turn to page 2

## NURSE'S MERCY KILLING PLEA REJECTED SC okays passive euthanasia

sns & pti

NEW DELHI, 7 MARCH: In a path-breaking judgment, the Supreme Court today allowed "passive euthanasia" of withdrawing life support to patients in permanently vegetative state (PVS) but rejected outright active euthanasia of ending life through administration of lethal substances.

Refusing mercy killing of Aruna Shanbaug, lying in a vegetative state for 37 years in a Mumbai hospital, a two-judge Bench of Justice Markandeya Katju and Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra, laid a set of tough guidelines under which passive euthanasia can be legalised through high court-monitored mechanism. The Supreme Court, while framing the guidelines for passive euthanasia, asserted that it would now become the law of the land until Parliament enacts a suitable legislation to deal with the issue. The Bench also asked Parliament to delete Section 309 IPC (attempt to suicide) as it has become "anachronistic though it has become Constitutionally valid."

"A person attempts suicide in a depression, and hence he needs help, rather than punishment," Justice Katju, writing the judgment, said. The Supreme Court said that though there is no statutory provision for withdrawing life support system from a person in permanently vegetative state, it was of the view that "passive euthanasia" could be permissible in certain cases for which it laid down guidelines and cast the responsibility on high courts to take decisions on pleas for mercy killings.

"We agree with senior counsel TR Andhyarajina (who assisted the court in the matter) that passive euthanasia should be permitted in our country in certain situations, and we disagree with Attorney-General (Mr GE Vahanvati) that it should never be permitted," said the Bench.

While dismissing writer Pinky Virani's plea for subjecting to mercy killing of the KEM Hospital nurse who was sexually assaulted by a ward boy, the Supreme Court cast the responsibility of taking a call on passive euthanasia on high courts, if the plea is made by close relatives or friends who have strongly opposed such a step.

The Bench, in its 141-page ruling, said in the case of Aruna, the plea for her mercy killing could be permitted if the Mumbai King Edward Hospital makes it to Bombay High Court on her behalf and the high court accepts it.

"A decision has to be taken to discontinue life support either by the parents or the spouse or other close relatives, or in the absence of any of them, such a decision can be taken even by a person or a body of persons acting as a next friend," it



While framing guidelines for passive euthanasia, the Supreme Court asserted that it would now become the law of the land until Parliament enacts suitable legislation to deal with the issue

added. "It can also be taken by the doctors attending the patient. However, the decision should be taken bona fide in the best interest of the patient," and should be approved by the high court, it said.

In the case of nurse Aruna "it is for the KEM hospital staff to take that decision," and not writer Pinky Virani, the Bench said, adding that "the hospital staff have been amazingly caring for her day and night for so many long years, who really are her next friends, and not Pinky Virani."

"Hence it is for the KEM hospital staff to take that decision. And the KEM hospital staff have clearly expressed their wish that Aruna Shanbaug should be allowed to live," the Bench said, rejecting the plea for Aruna's mercy killing at present.

"Assuming that the KEM hospital staff at some future time changes its mind, in our opinion in such a situation the KEM hospital would have to apply to the Bombay High Court for approval of the decision to withdraw life support," the bench said. Laying down the law on the issue, the bench added that "even if a decision is taken by the near relatives or doctors or next friend to withdraw life support, such a decision requires approval from the high court concerned."

CUE FROM NUREMBERG

Aruna's condition was filmed and screened in the Supreme Court and a cue for this was taken from the Nuremberg trials in which a screening was done in the courtroom of some of the Nazi atrocities during the Second World War. "We had arranged for the screening of the CD in the courtroom so that all present could see the condition of Aruna Shanbaug," Justice Markandeya Katju and Gyan Sudha Mishra said in the judgment.

**Error of judgment: PM**  
NEW DELHI, 7 MARCH: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today termed as an "error of judgment" the appointment of Mr PJ Thomas as Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and told the Lok Sabha that he accepts "full responsibility" for it. "I have no hesitation in repeating what I said in Jammu. Obviously, there was an error of judgment. I accept full responsibility for it," Dr Singh said. **sns**  
details on page 2

**Medical entrance**  
NEW DELHI, 7 MARCH: The Supreme Court today cleared the deck for the Centre and the Medical Council of India to hold a single eligibility-cum-entrance examination for MBBS and post-graduate medical courses in the country from this academic session. **sns**

**Hate crime**  
WASHINGTON, 7 MARCH: In a suspected hate crime, an elderly Sikh man Surinder Singh (68) was shot dead and another Gurmej Atwal (78) seriously injured at Sacramento in the USA by unidentified assailants, triggering panic in the neighbourhood in which reside a sizable population of the community. **pti**  
details on page 3

**CWG scam arrest**  
NEW DELHI, 7 MARCH: The CBI today arrested the director of operations of a Swiss-based company, Mr Sandeep Wadhwa, in connection with the CWG scam. Earlier on 18 February, the agency had carried out searches at Mr Wadhwa's office. Today he was first called for questioning at the CBI headquarters and was subsequently arrested. **sns**

## A day's breather for UPA

statesman news service

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI, 7 MARCH: The DMK today put on hold the resignation of six of its ministers from the UPA government in a dramatic new turn with the party and the Congress engaged in hectic negotiations to sort out their seat-sharing problems in Tamil Nadu. DMK ministers Mr MK Alagiri and Mr Dayanidhi Maran tonight met Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi and are understood to have discussed the deadlock between the two parties on the seat-sharing issue for the Tamil Nadu Assembly poll.

On a day of hectic developments, Congress leader and Union finance minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee telephoned DMK chief and Tamil Nadu chief minister Mr M Karunanidhi twice and urged him not to pull out his ministers from the Cabinet during the Budget Session and sought a day's time to resolve problems.

"Pranab Mukherjee called our president M Karunanidhi twice during the



day. The Congress has asked for a day's time. So, the withdrawal of ministers from the government has been put on hold till tomorrow," deputy chief minister and DMK treasurer Mr MK Stalin told reporters at Anna Arivalayam in Chennai.

Asked when the issue will be resolved, Mr Stalin said: "They have asked for a day." DMK MP Ms Kanimozhi said the talks between her party and the Congress were on and that a "clear picture" will emerge only tomorrow. Mrs Gandhi's political secretary Mr Ahmed Patel,

Congress in-charge of party affairs in Tamil Nadu Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad and Union home minister Mr P Chidambaram were present during the discussions between Mr Maran and Mr Mukherjee. Shortly before the six ministers, including Mr Maran and Mr MK Alagiri, were to meet Dr Manmohan Singh and hand over their resignations in the evening, Mr Chidambaram met Mr Mukherjee for a second time. The Union finance minister then called Mr Karunanidhi seeking a day's time to come back with the Congress' position on the seat-sharing issue. Sources said the DMK made it clear that the offer of 60 seats to the Congress was final and the choice of constituencies could be negotiated.

Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar, Biju Janata Dal supremo and Orissa chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik ruled out his party's support to the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. "The BJD will certainly not support the Congress," Mr Patnaik said.

## Free-for-all after YC poll

statesman news service

KOLKATA, 7 MARCH: Youth Congress activists belonging to a rival faction today went berserk, ransacked the makeshift counting booth at Nazrul Manch and forced MP Ms Mausam Noor to seek police help for rescuing her moments after results were announced declaring her elected state president of the youth wing. Ms Noor was so shaken by the violent turn of events that she held an impromptu Press conference outside the Lake Police Station to say she might have been killed as shots were also fired during the vandalism.

The members of the Congress team from Delhi, who conducted the election, had also to be escorted by police. Both Ms Noor and the team members said they would apprise Mr Rahul Gandhi,



Ms Mausam Noor

AICC general secretary, of the incident. Hours before the violence erupted around 6:35 p.m., supporters of Mr Arindam Bhattacharya, a rival candidate

of Ms Noor and a known loyalist of Mrs Deepa Das Munshi, MP, surrounded the dais, hurled abuses at some of the team members and raised slogans complaining ballot papers were being manipulated to help Ms Noor.

The team members pleaded with the group to let them announce the results of "a democratically conducted election." The results were announced amidst the din that showed Ms Noor had got 1,061 votes against her nearest rival, Mr Bhattacharya's tally of 900 votes. This led to a free-for-all with supporters of Mr Bhattacharya jumping onto the dais and indulging in violence with bamboo sticks. Shots were also heard. Immediately, the team members and supporters of Ms Noor sought the help of the police who were on duty outside Nazrul Manch.

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS ON YOUR MONEY**

**9.75%\* p.a.**  
For 1111 days  
Annualised Yield 11.19%

**9.65%\* p.a.**  
For 1000 days  
Annualised Yield 10.90%

**9.55%\* p.a.**  
For 555 days  
Annualised Yield 10.15%

**Hurry! Offer valid for a limited period**

On International Women's Day, we salute her march to the glorious future

For further details contact your nearest PNB Branch or Dial 0120-2490000  
All India Toll Free No. 1800 180 2222 [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in)

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक** **punjab national bank**  
...मरते का प्रतीक ! ...the name you can BANK upon !

\*This includes 0.50% extra for senior citizens

CMYK