

SK chairman grilled over bribery

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Prosecutors have questioned SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won on bribery allegations as part of the investigation of the corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye.

Chey left the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office Sunday at around 3:30 a.m. after 13 hours of questioning over 11.1 billion won (\$9.8 million) SK gave to the Mir and K-Sports foundations controlled by Park's close friend Choi Soon-sil.

Prosecutors suspect that SK, the third-largest donor to the foundations after Samsung and Hyundai Motor, gave the money in return for a presidential pardon for the imprisoned Chey and winning a license to operate a duty free store.

Chey, who had been sentenced to four years in jail for embezzlement and other financial crimes, was



Chey Tae-won

released on Aug. 15, 2015, after two years and seven months in prison. He was the only high-profile businessman among 6,527

granted pardons that day.

During questioning, Chey denied the allegations.

But prosecutors are suspicious about the timing of the donation. Kim Chang-geun, who led SK while Chey was in prison, approved the donation shortly after a private meeting with Park on July 24, 2015.

Also, in a mobile message to former presidential secretary An Chong-bum on Aug. 13 that year, Kim said, "We will never forget your great kindness for granting a pardon to Chairman Chey. I offer you my

heartfelt thanks on behalf of all SK family members."

An, a key figure in the scandal, has already been indicted on charges of receiving bribes and mishandling of state secrets.

According to the special investigation team led by independent counsel Park Young-soo, SK Vice Chairman Kim Young-tae also visited Chey a few days before the pardon and told him things that implied a "backdoor deal" between Park and the company.

In addition, SK is suspected of receiving favors from the government in winning a license to operate a duty free store. Last year, the government eased requirements for companies seeking the licenses and allocated four new ones, sparking suspicions the measure favored certain companies.

Lotte Group Chairman Shin Dong-bin may also soon be summoned for questioning over similar

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Korea-born former Minister of Culture and Sports, Fleur Pellerin was in Seoul on March 13 as Grand Marshal of the Francophonie Summit. PyeongChang Winter Olympics. "Korea can be proud of its country in North Korea's institutional links with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)," she said.

reception at French President Fabien Penone's residence. "This is a strong message of diplomacy, related to Korea to be a global player on the world scene. The OIF was created to embody the mission between its 80 member governments (57 member states and 23 observers). Together, they have more than one-third of the world's population."

- Prosecutors have questioned SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won on bribery allegations related to former president Park Geun-hye and her close friend Choi Soon-sil. Prosecutors suspect that SK gave the money in return for a presidential pardon for the imprisoned Chey and winning a license to operate a duty free store. In addition, prosecutors have accused of Park and Choi of conspiring to collect money from the nation's biggest companies - either through "deals" or pressure.

↳ 박수경: I'm proud that we did try to carry out democracy against the Korean government

↳ 홍예경: I hope corruption of other enterprises can be revealed, too.

↳ 김주연: All things go straight to the right path.

↳ 강민경: As BTS (Korean boy group) promotes SK products, the percentage of favorable impression of the company was 93% actually before but it decreases to 90% after reading this. Therefore, I hope BTS can be a model of the products again.

My Opinion: I hope citizens of Korea can realize how important a role of president is and vote prudently on upcoming presidential election.

Even though I don't have the right to vote now, I will try to have much interest in politics of Korea.

[WORDS] (that I do not know)

- prosecutor 검사
- allegation 혐의
- indict 기소하다
- vice chairman 부위원장