# INTERNATIONAL

# Companies probed in India bribes scam

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing 21 sizeable companies for links to a bribes-for-loans scandal that has hit lending and infrastructure shares and hurt the country's image as an investment destination.

The scandal, in which eight financial executives from the public and private sectors have been arrested, is one of several to dog the government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, putting to the test the ability of one of the world's fastest growing emerging economies to crack down on corruption.

Many of the companies the CBI has linked to the bribes scandal are connected to the booming infrastructure sector -- builders of dams, hydroelectric plants, energy equipment makers and property developers.

Shares in these sectors fell sharply yesterday. The stock market regulator SEBI has also stepped in with its own investigation into related possible

insidertrading, a source at SEBI told Reuters. The Indian bond and rupee markets remained unaffected as traders did not view it as a risk to the banking system.

Analysts said the scandal, which comes just a few days after Singh had to defend his government in another case involving mobile phone licences sold for below-market prices, could harm investor sentiment. "This is just unfolding at this point in time.

These are very serious issues which impact investor sentiments," said Nitin Jain, Singaporebased principal of fund manager Kotak Mahindra.

"If we can clearly say that we have done something right at this point in time and do proper things at this point in time then it's salvageable but otherwise it does have a potential to impact

terms and conditions:

investor sentiments towards India from a medium-term perspective," Jain said.

Investors, so far, remain keen to tap into a country with a young and fast-urbanising population of 1.2 billion. Economic growth is forecast at 8.5 percent in 2010-11, and between 9 and 10 percent a year after that, rivalled only by China among major economies.

But the revelations of one scandal after the other in recent months marks a change from the days when corruption and graft would never make it onto the front page on most of the country's top media outlets.

Analysts say this is due to the explosion of 24hour television channels, a more assertive opposition and a growing middle class fed up with rampant graft throughout society.

MORE COMPANIES LINKED TO BRIBES

"Notices have been sent to 21 companies. It includes big to medium size companies, including real estate companies," a CBI official, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

"Preliminary evidence points to the fact that the case is limited to individuals. So fall out is unlikely that it is big."

Several leading Indian companies have already acknowledged that they have been asked for information. Some of these companies were already named in court documents filed by the CBI on Wednesday, including the world's third largest wind turbine maker Suzlon Energy. Suzlon has denied any wrongdoing.

On Wednesday, federal agents arrested senior officials at state-run Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of India -- all major banks with operations across the country.

The CBI said the executives arrested had received bribes from private broker Money Matters Financial Services, which acted as a mediator of corporate loans and other facilities.

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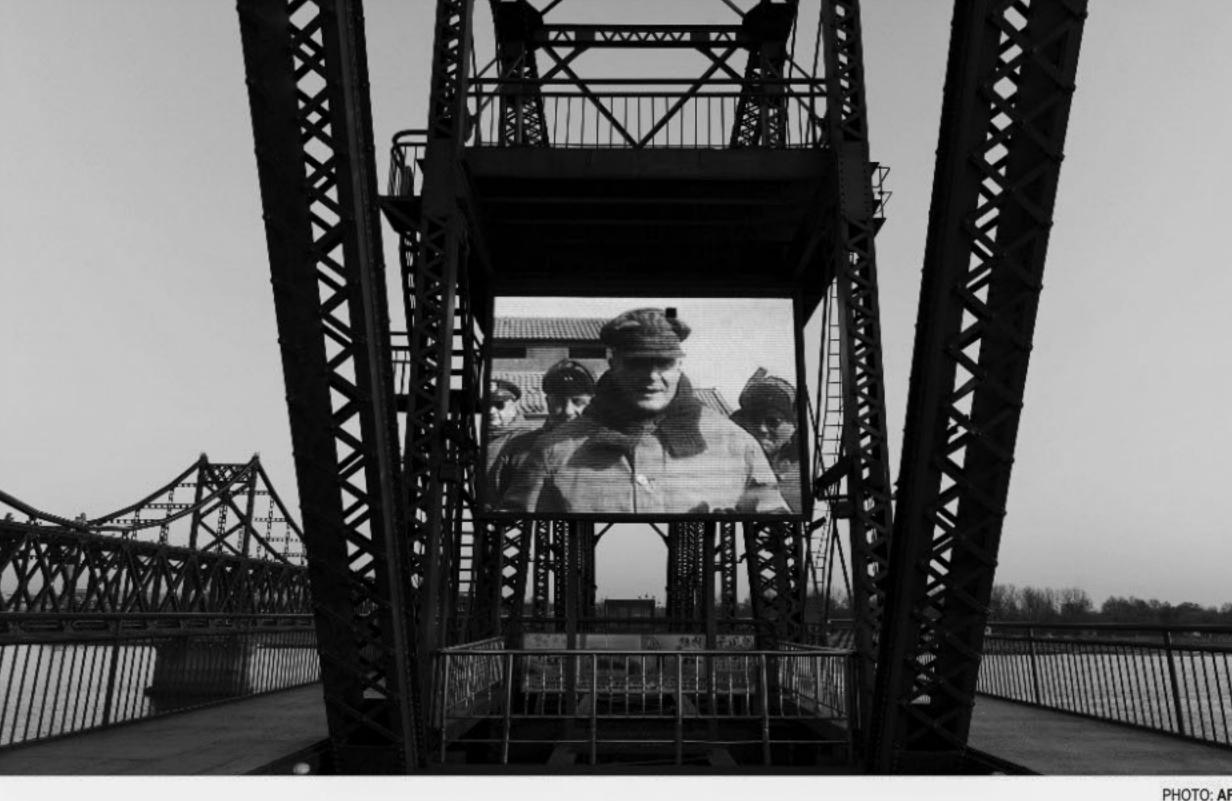
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A documentary of the Korean War is screened on the Yalu River Broken Bridge, also known as the no-name bridge, yesterday in China's Liaoning province. The bridge was bombed by the US in 1950 during the Korean War and eventually dismantled halfway from the North Korea side shortly after the Korean War armistice. Fear spread on South Korea's islands bordering North as the hardline regime threatened more attacks on South.

### Rio braces for more violence

Drugcrackdown continues; 30 killed in six days

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Residents of Rio's northern slums braced for more violence yesterday as hundreds of reinforcements joined a widening crackdown on drug gangs that has killed at least 30 people in six days.

Armoured vehicles rumbled through the pockmarked streets of the Vila Cruzeiro slum on Thursday as elite police units backed by helicopters and snipers battled drug traffickers under a cloud of black smoke from torched buses.

Police claimed to have wrested control of the densely populated area back from drug gangs but TV helicopters filmed scores of armed men fleeing up the surrounding hills into neighbouring districts.

"We've taken an important step, but nothing's been won," state security chief Jose Beltrame told reporters, warning that operations would continue.

"It's important to arrest people, to gather up drugs and ammunition, but it's more important to get them out of the territory," he said, referring to the drug traffickers that rule many of Rio's largest slums.

BRAC

UNIVERSITY

# N Korea warns of US-South war drill

ICDDR.B

BBC ONLINE

North Korea has warned that impending joint military exercises by the South and the US are pushing the region to "the brink of

A group of naval ships, led by a nuclearpowered US aircraft carrier, is heading to the Yellow Sea to take part in the drills, due to begin on Sunday. At least four South Koreans died on Tuesday

when the North shelled the Southern island of Yeonpyeong.

The incident has led to the South replacing its defence minister.

Kim Kwan-jin, 61, a former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, has been named to replace Kim Tae-young, who resigned after criticism that he was too slow to respond to the attack on Yeonpyeong.

The barrage of shells was one of the worst incidents between the two Koreas since the end of the Korean war in 1953, which concluded without a peace treaty.

"The situation on the Korean Peninsula is inching closer to the brink of war due to the reckless plan of those trigger-happy elements to stage again war exercises targeted against the [North]," the North's official KCNA news agency said.

1 Agency

'OUTRAGEOUS ACT' Fresh artillery-like sounds were heard on North

Korean territory close to Yeonpyeong on Friday. The BBC's Chris Hogg, in Seoul, says military sources reported that it could have been a

military exercise by the North. However, he says many on the island suspect it may be an attempt to manipulate a tense

situation. Residents were ordered to take cover in shelters. The US commander in South Korea, Gen Walter Sharp, was inspecting the damage on

Yeonpyeong on Friday but US officials said he did not hear the latest blasts. Gen Sharp said Tuesday's attack was a clear violation of the 1953 armistice.

"We at United Nations Command will investigate this completely and call on North Korea to stop any future attacks," he said.

Meanwhile, Japan's parliament yesterday adopted a resolution calling the attack "an outrageous act of violence".

The resolution said Japan "should consider new sanctions and make more efforts to strengthen ties with countries concerned in order to step up international pressure on North Korea".

Pyongyang blames Seoul, which was holding military exercises close to Yeonpyeong at the time, for this week's incident.

#### Top UN official to meet Suu Kyi

AFP, Yangon

A senior UN official will meet Myanmar's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi during a two-day visit to Yangon this weekend, a government official in the military-ruled country said yesterday.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's chief of staff, Vijay Nambiar, will also hold talks with the leader of the armybacked party that has claimed victory in this month's election, said the official, who did not want to be named.

Suu Kyi was released from seven straight years of house arrest on November 13, less than a week after a poll that her party boycotted because of rules that appeared to exclude the dissident from participating.

A source at her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, which has been officially disbanded because of its decision to shun the election, also confirmed the planned meeting between Nambiar and Suu Kyi.

## Nitish Kumar sworn in as Bihar CM

IANS, Patna

Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar was sworn in as chief minister for a second consecutive term at Gandhi Maidan here yesterday.

Nitish Kumar, who is Bihar's 32nd chief minister, steered the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to an incredible victory -- winning 206 of 243 seats.

Nitish Kumar was Thursday formally invited to form the government again. Earlier, Nitish Kumar was unanimously elected leader of the NDA legislature party comprising legislators of his JD(U) and BJP.

He along with other NDA leaders met Governor Debananda Konwar and handed over letters of support from the newly elected legislators of the twin-party alliance.

According to sources close to Nitish Kumar, a 35-member council of ministers with 20 from the JD-U and 15 from the BJP would also be sworn in Friday.

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For Admission Form and further details contact the Admissions Office, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 or visit our website at www.bracu.ac.bd, Phones: 8824051-4 ext. 4003, Fax: 8810383, email: info@bracu.ac.bd. Prospective candidates are strongly advised to visit the respective Departments in person before submitting the application form.

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(b) Tender Invitation notice may also be seen from CPTU web site : www.cptu.gov.bd

be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

## Tender Notice for Construction of TB & Immunology Labs at Level-8 of Hospital Building ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

	Agency		ICDDR,B			
2	Procuring	Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B			
3	Procuring	Entity District	Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
4	Invitation	for	Works			
5	Invitation	Ref. No. & Date	ICDDR,B/P&M/10/25 date: November 25, 2010			
6	Procuren	nent Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
7_	Budget an	d Source of Funds	ICDDR,B / GOB			
8	Project /	Program Name	Construction of TB & Immunology Labs at Level 8 of Hospital Building ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212			
9	Tender P	ackage Name	Construction of TB & Immunology Labs at Level – 8 of Hospital Building ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212			
10	Tender P	ublication Date	November 27, 2010			
11	Tender L	ast Selling Date	December 14, 2010			
12		osing Date and Time	December 15, 2010	Time: 11	:30 AM	
13	Tender Opening Date and Time		December 15, 2010	Time: 12		24: 030,000 64
	Name & Address of the office(s)		Address	1 (1110) 12	.00 1 111	N==1000 - 1000 -
	- Selling Tender Document		Treasury Unit, Cash Counter-2, Ground Floor, IPH Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali Dhaka between 10:00 AM to 03:30 PM			
	Populating Tander Decument					
	- Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document		Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.  Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
		AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY				
15	Pre-tende	er meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on December 07, 2010 at 10:00AM in Finance Meetin room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Main Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
17			following qualifications:  (i) The Tenderer shall have minimum 5 (five) years of general experience on building construction works including civil, sanitary, electrical & electro-mechanical works.  (ii) Tenderers having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number building works of Tk. 40 (forty) lac in single work order comprising of civil, sanitary electrical works within the last 5 (five) years. Evidence regarding successful completion of works in the form of Work order/award and Completion Certificate must be submitted signed by the appropriate authority.  (iii) Minimum tender capacity Tk. 50 (fifty) lac.  (iv) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual construction works turnover during last 5 (five) years at least Tk. 50 (fifty) lac.  (v) The tenderer shall have sanctioned credit line facilities/liquid asset at least Tk. 2 (twenty) lac.  (vi) Tenderer must have qualified & experienced Technical Personnel Civil, Electrical Mechanical and essential equipment as stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) is the Tender Documents.  (vii) Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities.			
17		ender Document	Tk. 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only		<u> </u>	10-14
0	SL No.	Description	Location	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF	r Security	Completion
18	1	Construction of TB & Immunology labs at level 8 of Hospital Building.	ICDDR,B, 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	Amount (TK)  Tk. 1.00 (one) lac only in the formarani, Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of ICDDR,B Dhaka from any scheduled Bank Bangladesh.		n Time 3 (three) months
		The state of the s				
19	Name of C	Official Inviting Tender	Kamruzzaman			
_	Designati		Sr. Manager, P & M			
20	Designati Inviting T	ion of Official ender	Sr. Manager, P & M	epartment ICDDR R	Mohakhali Dhaka	
19 20 21 22	Designation Inviting To Address of Contact	ion of Official ender Official Inviting Tender details of Official		epartment, ICDDR,B,	e-mail: zaman@io	CALL STATE OF THE
20 21	Designation Inviting To Address of Contact Inviting To	ion of Official ender Official Inviting Tender details of Official ender	Sr. Manager, P & M  Procurement & Materials Unit, Finance De			CALL STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE

(c) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will

Kamruzzaman

Senior Manager, P&M

**Procurement & Materials Unit**