

## Somali pirates seize German gas tanker

AFP, Nairobi

Somali pirates yesterday hijacked a German gas tanker with 13 Filipino and Indonesian crew in the Gulf of Aden, a Kenyan maritime official said.

"There was a heavy exchange of gunfire (but) the crew is believed to be safe," said Andrew Mwangura who runs the Kenya chapter of the Seafarers Assistance Programme.

He added that it was still unclear whether the exchange was between different groups of hijackers or with foreign navies patrolling the pirate-infested waters.

The MV Longchamp, with a crew of 12 Filipinos and one Indonesian, was transporting liquefied petroleum gas "from Europe to the Far East," Mwangura said, without giving exact locations.

## UN evacuates hundreds from Lanka battle zone

Troops take another Tiger village as UN staff comes under fire

AFP, AP, Colombo

The United Nations evacuated hundreds of severely wounded civilians from behind rebel lines in Sri Lanka yesterday as government troops fought to secure final victory over Tamil separatists.

Human rights bodies have called for immediate steps by both the Colombo government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to save up to 250,000 civilians trapped in the combat zone in the north of the island.

Dozens of UN workers and their relatives spent a terrifying night huddling in hastily built bunkers as artillery fire pounded a civilian "safe zone" in Sri Lanka's war-ravaged north, according to an internal UN memo.

The memo, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, said the artillery shells killed nine civilians in a nearby bunker and were apparently fired by government forces.

The military denied the charge and President Mahinda Rajapaksa renewed the government's pledge not to launch attacks in the refuge as it fought to crush the Tamil Tiger rebels and end the country's 25-year-old civil war.

Troops are pushing deep into the jungles of Mullaitivu district in what the defence ministry has described as the final phase of operations against the Tigers, who have fought for more than 30 years for a separate Tamil homeland.

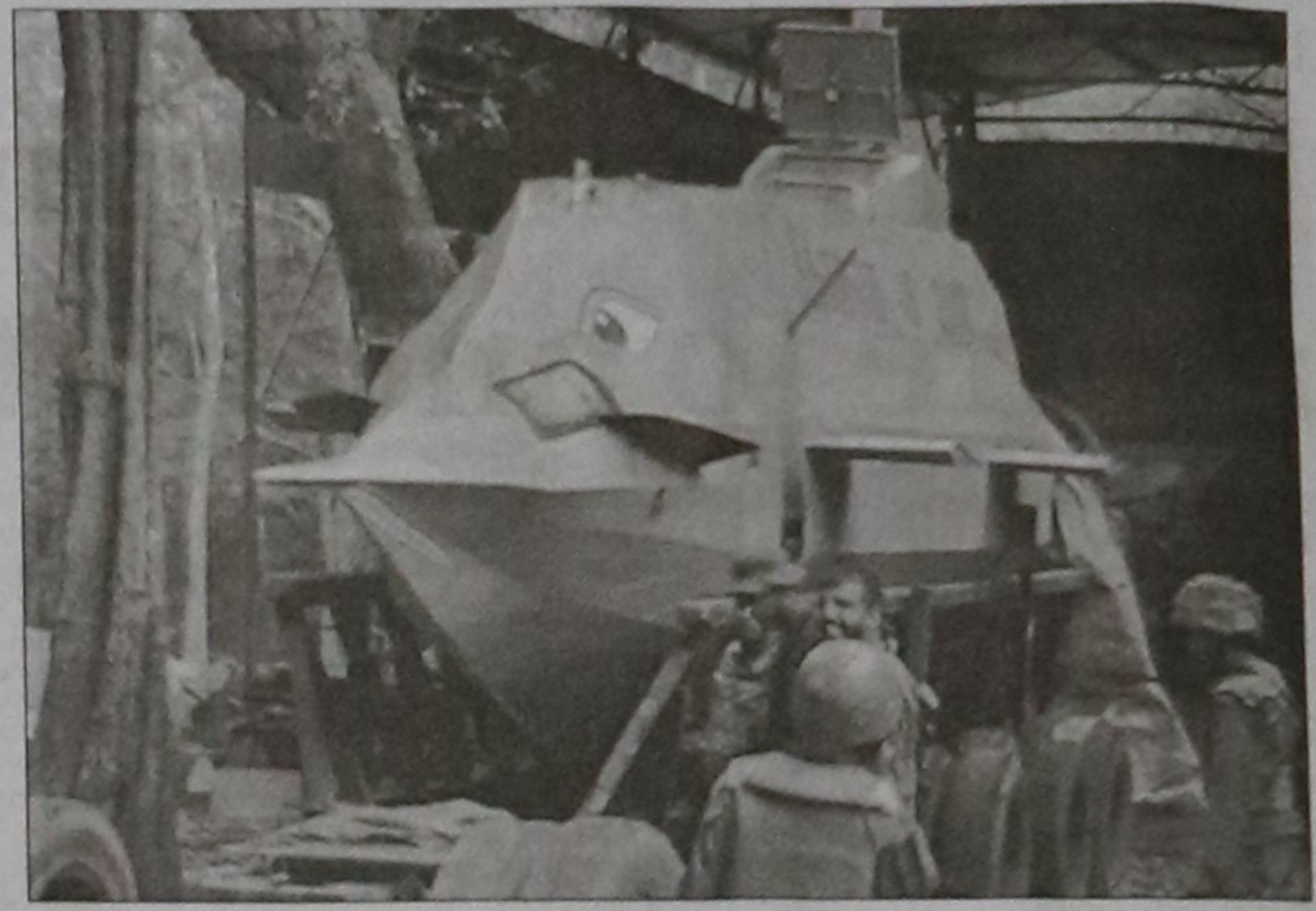
"About 350 critically wounded civilians, including 50 children, crossed the

front lines," UN spokesman Gordon Weiss said, adding that the evacuations were the result of lengthy negotiations with the rebels.

A convoy of ambulances had been trapped for days behind Tiger front lines in Mullaitivu district, with the rebels refusing permission for it to leave.

It said about 50 Tigers were killed and another 150 were wounded during Wednesday's fighting while four government troops had been reported missing. Troops seized several rebel vehicles, including an armoured personnel carrier.

Sri Lankan forces fought their way Wednesday into another village still held by Tamil Tiger rebels, an official said, as neighbouring India raised fears for civilians caught up in the war.



Sri Lankan Defence Ministry photo on Thursday shows troops inspecting the submarine-type craft developed by the Tamil Tiger rebels in the northeastern village of Udayarkattu. Lankan troops advancing on Tiger-held territory found the craft developed by the rebels.

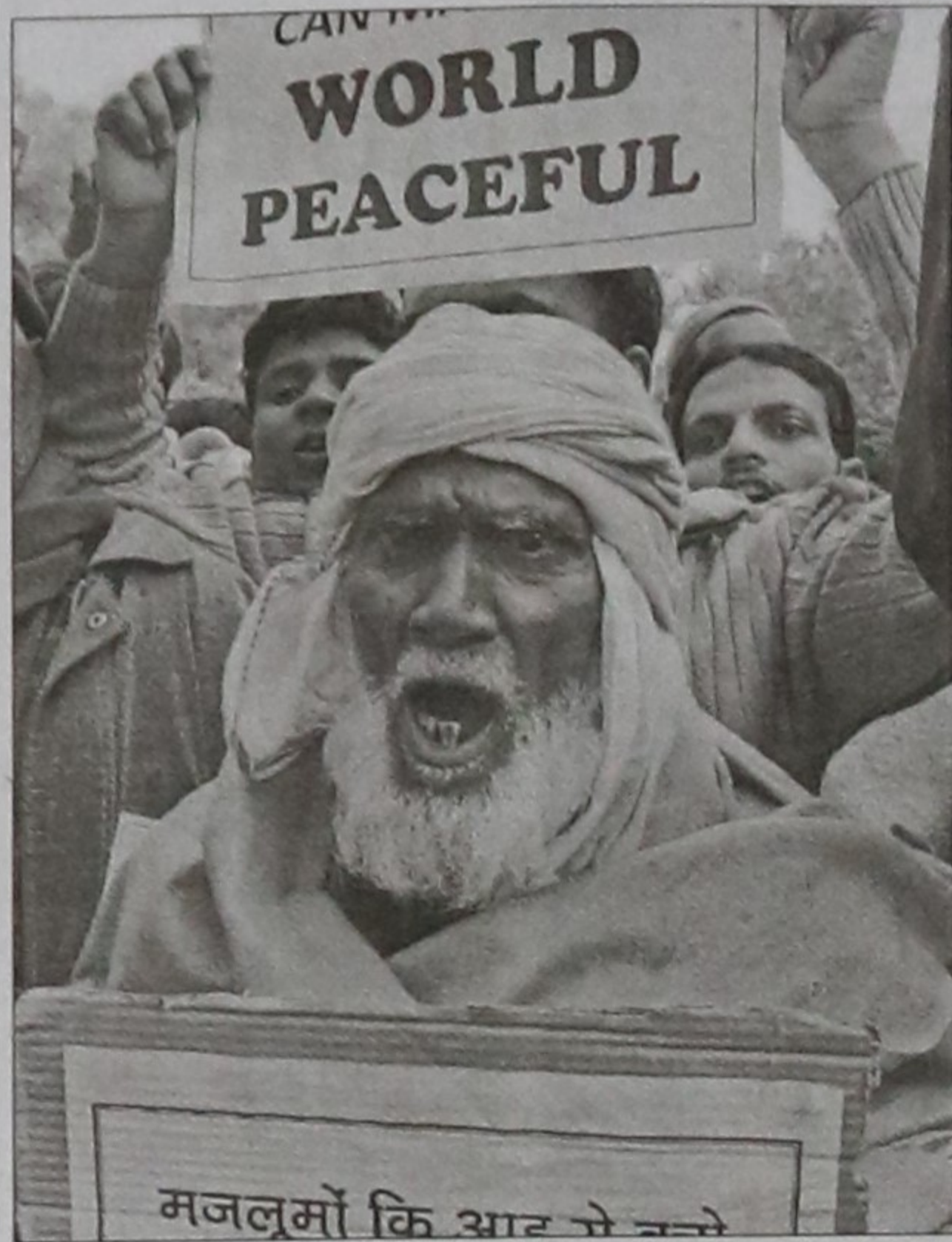
## No national alliance for LS polls, says Congress

PTI, New Delhi

In a move aimed at avoiding pressure from regional allies seeking seats in several states, Congress today ruled out a national alliance in the coming Lok Sabha elections, limiting adjustments to state-level. "We do not have an alliance at the national level. We have alliance partners and seat adjustments at the state level..." AICC General Secretary Janardan Divedi told reporters after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee here.

The Congress stand assumes significance in the context of allies like NCP, Paswan-led LJP and SP, making demands on Congress for seats outside the states of their main influence.

He said, "alliance is basically a game of numbers. It depends on who gets how many seats. This will be clear only after the elections". "Hypothetically speaking if the Congress gets absolute majority, the situation would be different," he added.



Muslims from Azamgarh, about 800km east of New Delhi, shout anti-government slogans during a rally in New Delhi yesterday to protest against the Batla house encounter where police gunned down two terror suspects and the arrest of innocent Muslim youths in terror-related cases throughout the country.

## Obama urged to aid Afghanistan, stop Pakistan strikes

AFP, Davos

President Barack Obama should deepen US engagement in Afghanistan but show more restraint in Pakistan, ministers said Thursday as the volatile region took centre stage in Davos.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told delegates that US drone attacks on Pakistani territory were "counterproductive" and called for a new approach by Obama's administration.

Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Rahim Wardak said he welcomed the prospect of increased numbers of US troops in his country but pleaded for the larger military presence to be accompanied by more development aid.

All participants in the discussion, including French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, underlined that military efforts alone could not succeed.

"I don't think military action

is the only solution to the problems," said Gilani, who called for development and dialogue to be part of a three-pronged approach to tackling Islamic militants.

He heavily criticised attacks on Pakistan's restive western regions by US drones, which he said undermined the government's strategy of engaging tribes and separating them from militants.

"When there is a drone attack that unites them again, the tribes and the militants," Gilani said.

Obama pledged during his election campaign to continue drone attacks in Pakistan if there was evidence militants could be killed, even without approval from the Pakistani government.

Afghanistan, whose fundamentalist Taliban regime was ousted by US-led forces in 2001, and Pakistan, which has nuclear weapons, have emerged as the key areas in the fight against radical Islamic militancy.

## Zardari vows to restore order to Swat

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari Wednesday vowed to rein in Taliban militants in northwestern Swat valley, a spokesman said, amid efforts to wrest back the area.

Zardari spoke by telephone to a senior Swat politician, Afzal Khan Lala, to congratulate him over his "courageous stand" against militants and offered him full support, spokesman Farhatullah Babar told AFP.

"The president vowed that the Taliban will not be allowed to set up parallel courts and call people to appear before them or face death," Babar said.

Pakistan's military is battling extremists

loyal to radical cleric Maulana Fazlullah waging a violent campaign to introduce Islamic Sharia law in a valley that once attracted Western holidaymakers to its snow-capped peaks.

Fazlullah this week released the names of 40 people, including provincial ministers, MPs and local government officials "wanted" by the Taliban.

The cleric had told them to appear before a Taliban court or face death, blaming them for the unrest in the area.

Lala, a veteran politician of the ruling Awami National Party who lives in the rural town of Druskhela in the troubled Swat valley, had refused to leave the area after threats from militants.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- General Manager Marketing & Sales-01 vacancy**  
**Position.** Responsible for resource optimization within the various GSA-businesses. Monitor market trends, compile statistical information; provide feedback/recommend sales policies to Management to plan and update an effective marketing strategy.  
**Requirements.** Post Graduation with relevant IATA certificates. Management experience with an airline or GSA for past 8 years. Having knowledge on BSP and Airline Revenue Management. Skills and techniques, being responsible, for developing and improving business operations.
- Manager Marketing & Sales-01 vacancy**  
**Position.** Ensure resource optimization within the various GSA-businesses. Monitor market trends, compile statistical information and provide feedback/recommend sales policies.  
**Requirements.** Post Graduation with relevant IATA certificates. Management experience with an airline or GSA for past 5 years. Having knowledge on BSP and Airline Revenue Management. Skills and techniques, being responsible, for developing business operations.
- Sales Executive-04 vacancies**  
**Requirements.** BBA from reputed university. Familiar with Global Distribution System (Amadeus/Galileo). Three years in the Travel Industry with working knowledge of Operations and Credit Control. Field Sales background in Hospitality or Service industry.
- Manager Air Cargo-01 vacancy**  
**Position.** Develop Air Cargo Product, monitor market trends, compile cargo related statistical information and provide feedback/recommend sales policies to Managing Director to plan and update an effective marketing strategy.  
**Requirements.** Post Graduation, preferably MBA with relevant IATA certificates. Updated certificates on safety aspects and dangerous goods are essential. Management experience with airline/GSA/Logistics Company for past 5 years. Knowledge on Airport Ground Handling Services, air cargo route network and aircraft.
- Assistant Manager Air Cargo-02 vacancies**  
**Position.** Prepare and verify cargo documentation; maintain & update the status of consignments. Manage irregularities and discrepancies to achieve high quality service standards. Liaise with cargo handling agent and provide support in cargo commercial activities. Optimize available cargo space and revenue of the flights.  
**Requirements.** Graduation preferably BBA with minimum 3 years experience with the airline/GSA/logistics company. Knowledge on cargo related environment. Training on basic safety, dangerous goods, cargo and ground handling courses would be desirable.
- Executive Air Cargo-02 vacancies**  
**Position.** Same as above with 2 years of experience.
- Manager Holiday & Tours-01 vacancy**  
**Position.** Implement the sales philosophy, including policies, sales quota and goals. Develop travel agents and holiday staff with potential to support the revenue growth plan. Create, maintain and enhance travel trade relationships by providing professional assistance and reliability on all aspects of the Holidays, quotations, booking or documentation processes.  
**Requirements.** Post Graduation from any discipline, with a minimum of 8 years in the travel industry, including 3 years in a Holiday Company at similar capacity. Knowledge on Holiday & Tours Revenue Management. Working knowledge on East Asian languages would be advantageous.
- Manager Finance-01 vacancy**  
**Position.** Manage Treasury, Financial Management, Accounting and Information Services functions. Oversee financial policies and procedures for recording, budgeting, external & internal financial reporting; project cost accounting, project and operational performance analysis, audit activities and taxation.  
**Requirements.** FCMA/Master of Accounting or equivalent degree from reputed institution, with 5 years experience in a Financial Management role in a complex financial environment; experience in airline/banking sector is preferred. Skill in examining, developing, reengineering, and recommending financial policies and procedures.
- Executive Accountant-02 vacancies**  
**Position.** Under direction of Financial Manager, perform accounting work, including auditing, analyzing and verifying fiscal records and reports, preparing financial and statistical reports and reconciling general ledger accounts. Assist in preparing budgets, audit reports and schedules.  
**Requirements.** Graduation with major coursework in accounting, finance, or a related field having experience of 3 years in Airline, Financial Institutions and similar organization.
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We offer competitive remuneration packages, attractive travel benefits, and career development supported by training at home and abroad, and e-learning programmes for those seeking a long-term future with us.
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Please quote the name of the position applied for at the top. CV (along with 2 copies of photographs) must reach to Box No. C-03, C/o The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 by 10 February 2009. CV may be mailed to [careerinaviation@yahoo.com](mailto:careerinaviation@yahoo.com) as attachment (.doc extension, paper size A4, file size <200 kb). Please do not attach certificates.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Senior Manager, Accounts and Finance

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FOR WOMEN

### OPEN POSITION

#### VACANCY FOR DEAN OF THE ACCESS ACADEMY

The Asian University for Women ([www.asian-university.org](http://www.asian-university.org)) based in Chittagong, Bangladesh is an independent, all residential, international university dedicated to serving as a center of excellence for undergraduate and graduate professional education for women from all walks of life throughout Asia. The University seeks an exceptional leader and administrator to serve as the Dean of its Access Academy.

The Access Academy is a year-long, pre-collegiate bridge program, designed to ensure that promising students who lack adequate secondary school training have an opportunity to acquire the requisite preparation for a rigorous University education in English. The Dean will be responsible for providing inspirational leadership and effective management to the entire Access Academy community.

This position is based in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The Dean will be expected to live in an apartment located within the Access Academy facilities complex to ease supervision of the resident student body.

#### General Responsibilities:

- Establish a learning climate and Academy culture conducive to quality instruction and continuous improvement of learning, leading to entry into the Asian University for Women
- Direct the planning and implementation of Access Academy curriculum
- Develop a system of assessment for the Academy, including diagnostic tools to identify individual student's strengths and weaknesses
- Develop assessment tools to determine student readiness for entrance into AUW
- Identify learning goals for the students, as well as academic strategies for AA teachers to support these goals
- Develop and/or select instructional materials, projects, and assessment plans consistent with these goals and in support of the curriculum
- Support the Recruitment and Admissions teams as appropriate
- Manage and administer the Access Academy budget

#### Job Requirements:

- Master's or PhD
- Minimum of three to five years of work experience in the leadership of an educational setting that prepares students in academic English skills for a tertiary institution
- Substantial experience in teaching ESL and developing ESL curriculum and assessments
- Strong computer skills (e.g., Knowledge of Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.))

The ideal candidate will have been in a leadership position, with the added experience of (a) academic program development and implementation (b) integration of cultural and social issues into student experiences and (c) residential community management.

Interested applicants are suggested to visit the following site for detailed requirements for this position:

[http://www.asian-university.org/careers\\_at\\_AUW.htm#dean](http://www.asian-university.org/careers_at_AUW.htm#dean)

Applications should be e-mailed to [nicole.santamaria@asian-university.org](mailto:nicole.santamaria@asian-university.org). Qualified applicants must submit a list of the names and contact information for at least three references on the application and attach an electronic copy of their letter of application addressing qualifications and experience, resume, and transcripts from all universities/colleges attended (official transcripts required upon employment). All completed applications should be submitted by February 15, 2009.

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Sealed quotations are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers/Sole Agents/Importers for supply & installation of imported, reputed & proven brand air-coolers (Namely Carrier/National/General/Daikin/york/Hitachi/Mitsubishi/Fuji Brand) for Uttara Bank Limited. Intending Tenderers having prerequisite qualification & experience may apply on their letter head pad alongwith the attested copies of requisite work completion certificates, IT clearance certificate, VAT Registration Certificate, Valid Trade Licence for purchasing Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk. 1500/- (Non refundable) per set on or before 18-02-2009 during office hours. Firms having no working experience for at least 2 (two) instance for supplying, installation & maintenance of split type Air-coolers Valued not less than Tk. 25.00 Lac in a single work order in each instance in any Govt./Semi Govt. Organization or Corporation or Autonomous Body or Bank or in any Organization of above category within the last 3(three) years need not submit any application.

Quotations will be received upto 02-30 P.M. on 19-02-2009 in the Tender Box placed at the office of the undersigned. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 3-00 P.M. in presence of the Tenderers, if any. Other details will be available in the Tender Document. For any further details, anybody may contact the undersigned during office hours.

The Uttara Bank Limited reserves the right not to accept the lowest Tender and to reject any Tender or part thereof or all Tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

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GENERAL MANAGER