

## US food aid ship escapes pirate attack

AP, Mombasa

Somali pirates fired grenades and automatic weapons at an American freighter loaded with food aid but the ship managed to escape the attack and was heading yesterday to Kenya under US Navy escort, officials said.

In defiance of President Barack Obama's vow to halt their banditry, pirates have seized four vessels and over 75 hostages off the Horn of Africa since Sunday's dramatic rescue of an American freighter captain.

One pirate declared Wednesday they are grabbing more ships and hostages to prove they are not intimidated by Obama's pledge.

"Our latest hijackings are meant to show that no one can deter us from protecting our waters from the enemy because we believe in dying for our land," Omar Dahir Idle told The Associated Press by telephone from the Somali port of Haradhere.

The Liberty Sun's American crew was not injured in the latest attack but the vessel sustained some damage, owner Liberty Maritime Corp. said.

Still, the attack foiled the reunion between the American sea captain rescued by Navy snipers and the 19-man crew he had saved with his heroism.

Capt Richard Phillips was planning to meet his crew in the Kenyan port of Mombasa and fly home with them.

## TIANANMEN ANNIVERSARY Police hold activist in China

AP, Beijing

A Chinese activist said he was detained by police yesterday, the start of the sensitive period marking the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement.

Qi Zhiyong said police grabbed him in the morning just after he dropped his daughter off at school in Beijing. State security agents later arrived, confiscated his phone and drove him to the city's outskirts, where they held him in a police car all day, he said.

"They have just let me return home now," Qi said in a mobile text message later Wednesday to The Associated Press. "Police are stationed outside my door, I don't know how long they will be there for."

Qi, whose left leg was amputated after he was shot in the 1989 military crackdown on the demonstrators, has called on the communist government to break its silence and provide a full accounting of those killed and wounded in the assault.

# Pakistan calls for access to 'terror plot' suspects in UK

AFP, Islamabad

Relatives of Pakistani students arrested in Britain over an alleged Al-Qaeda-driven plot pleaded their innocence and demanded access to their loved ones.

Twelve men, including 11 Pakistanis -- 10 of them on student visas -- and a Briton, were arrested in raids across northwest England last Wednesday. One man has been released without charge.

A five-day extension of their custody ended late yesterday.

"I am celebrating the 23rd birthday of my son today with a heavy heart, not knowing what might have happened to him," Nasrullah Khattak, a property dealer based in Pakistan's northeastern city of Peshawar, told AFP by telephone.

He said his son was a third-year student of information technology in Manchester and was guilty only of practising Islam.

"I am really at a loss to understand what was his crime. Is he being punished for being a practising Muslim?"

Families said neither the British nor the Pakistani government had provided any information, charging that news of their fate was leaked in the media.

"I am clueless about my son because neither the British government nor the Pakistani foreign office or interior ministry approached me so far. I need to see my son, I want to know how is he doing and if he is alright," said Khattak.

"I will fight for my son's release come what may," he added.

The raids were carried out in daylight after Britain's top anti-terror police officer, assistant commissioner Bob Quick, was photographed carrying clearly legal details of the operation. He resigned over the blunder.

Doctor Akbar Ali, based in Dera Ismail Khan -- another city in the North West Frontier Province that has been scarred by Islamist violence -- said his nephew was studying business administration in Liverpool.

"We have no access. Nor is our government telling us anything. It is our media which keeps us posted," he told AFP by telephone.

Decades of close ties between the former colonial power and Pakistan have taken a battering over Islamist fundamentalism and militancy, with London saying most terror plots investigated in Britain have links to Pakistan.

Pakistan's high commissioner to Britain, who has flown to discuss the issue with the Islamabad government, said he was dissatisfied at not being granted consular access to the students.

## Iran makes offer to solve N-crisis

AFP, Tehran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday Tehran will offer a new package to world powers for negotiations aimed at resolving the stand-off over its controversial nuclear drive.

"We are preparing a new package which will be ready very soon," Ahmadinejad said in a speech in the southern province of Kerman, according to the official IRNA news agency.

The Far news agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying the package "will be presented to the P5-plus-1 group," referring to UN Security Council permanent members Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany.

"Iran will hold discussions based on this new package which guarantees peace and justice in the world," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying.

He said the package was a new version of one offered in May 2008, which Iran described as an all-embracing attempt to solve the world's problems, and which suggested setting up consortiums -- including one in Iran -- to enrich uranium and manufacture nuclear fuel.

The 2008 package was offered after global powers proposed economic incentives to help Iran's civilian nuclear programme in return for a halt to enrichment activities.

Uranium enrichment is a process which makes nuclear fuel as well as the core of an atom bomb, and the West fears Iran is secretly trying to build nuclear weapons -- a charge persistently denied by Tehran.

## N Korea to restart nuke programme

AFP, Seoul

An unrepentant North Korea yesterday hailed its rocket launch as a historic victory, a day after vowing to restart its nuclear weapons programme in response to UN censure of the exercise.

The communist North has ordered UN atomic inspectors to leave the Yongbyon complex, which produced weapons-grade plutonium until it was shut down under a six-nation nuclear disarmament deal.

Incensed by the Security Council's condemnation of its April 5 blast-off, Pyongyang pledged Tuesday never to rejoin six-party talks. It vowed to restore and reopen Yongbyon and to reprocess reactor fuel rods.

North Korea "informed IAEA inspectors in the Yongbyon facility that it is immediately ceasing all cooperation with the IAEA," said Marc Vidricaire, spokesman for the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"It has requested the removal of all containment and surveillance equipment, following which IAEA inspectors will no longer be provided access to the facility," he said.

The inspectors have also been asked to leave the DPRK (North Korea) at the earliest possible time.

The White House said Pyongyang was making a big mistake.

"We call on North Korea to cease its provocative threats and to respect the will of the international community and to honour its international commitments and obligations," said spokesman Robert Gibbs.



PHOTO: AFP  
Afghan Shiite Muslims shout during a demonstration in Kabul yesterday. Angry women parliamentarians and rights activists marched outside a Kabul university demanding "justice" and distributing a declaration that says the Shiite Personal Status Law "insults the dignity of women".

## Angry Afghans protest new marriage law

AP, Kabul

A group of some 1,000 Afghans swarmed a demonstration of 300 women protesting against a new conservative marriage law yesterday. The women were pelted with small stones as police struggled to keep the two groups apart.

The law, passed last month, says a husband can demand sex with his wife every four days unless she is ill or would be harmed by intercourse a clause that critics say legalizes marital rape. It also regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave her home alone.

Women's rights activists scheduled a protest Wednesday attended by mostly young women. But the group was swamped by counter-protesters both men and women who shouted down the women's chants.

Some picked up gravel and stones and threw them at the women, while others shouted "Death to the slaves of the Christians!" Female police held hands around the group to create a protective barrier.

The government of President Hamid Karzai has said the Shiite family law is being reviewed by the Justice Department and will not be implemented in its current form. Governments and rights groups around the world have condemned the legislation, and President Barack Obama has labeled it "abhorrent."

Though the law would apply only to the country's Shiites 10 to 20 percent of Afghanistan's 30 million people it has sparked an uproar by activists who say it marks a return to Taliban-style oppression. The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001, required women to wear all-covering burqas and banned them from leaving home without a male relative.

Shiite backers of the law say that foreigners are meddling in private Afghan affairs, and Wednesday's demonstrations brought some of the emotions surrounding the debate over the law to the surface.

"You are a dog! You are not a Shiite woman!" one man shouted to a young woman in a headscarf holding aloft a banner that said "We don't want Taliban law." The woman did not shout back at the man, but told him: "This is my land and my people."

Women protesting the law said many of their supporters had been blocked by men who refused to let them join the protest. Those who did make it shouted repeatedly that they were defending human rights by defending women's rights and that the law does not reflect the views of the Shiite community.



PHOTO: AFP  
Thai people and foreigners play with water on Khao San road during the Songkran festival in Bangkok yesterday. Songkran is regarded as Thailand's traditional New Year. Thailand's fresh political dramas will inflict huge tourism losses, weigh down the stock market, and crimp growth in an economy already in crisis from the global downturn, analysts said.

## International Tender Notice (2nd Call) for Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare												
2	Agency	ICDDR,B												
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B												
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka												
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Balancing of Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System for ICDDR,B, all complete including in house operator training under the Project Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka.												
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/Mohakhali/Procurement/08/12 (Re-tender), Date: 01-04-2009.												
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).												
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB/USDA												
9	Project (if applicable)	Strengthening of ICDDR,B Capacity for Improved Hospital Services at Mohakhali Campus under Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh.												
10	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No.12 : Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Balancing of Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System for ICDDR,B, all complete including in house operator training under the Project Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka.												
11	Tender Publication Date	April 16, 2009												
12	Tender Last Selling Date	May 17, 2009												
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	May 18, 2009												
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	May 18, 2009												
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	<p>- Selling Tender Document</p> <p>- Receiving Tender Document</p> <p>- Opening Tender Document</p>												
16	Pre-tender Meeting	Pre-tender meeting will be held on May 07, 2009 at 11.00 AM in the Finance Conference Room, Procurement and Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.												
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	<p>(i) The Tenderer shall be Manufacturers/Principal from eligible source countries having overall 10 (ten) years experience may participate in the Tender through their local agent in Bangladesh.</p> <p>(ii) The Tenderer shall have minimum 05 (Five) years of specific experience in the supply, installation, testing, commissioning and balancing of Central Air-conditioning (HVAC) System - Minimum 1000 TR having supply value under a single contract BDT 150 million or equivalent foreign currency. Evidence regarding successful completion of works in the form of Work Order and Completion Certificate signed by the authority.</p> <p>(iii) All price of imported items shall be quoted on C &amp; F, Chittagong by sea freight basis (Cost of items and freight to be specified as per Form G-2A). L/C will be opened by ICDDR,B in favour of the Tenderer aboard against Pro-Forma Invoice.</p> <p>(iv) Supply and installation of local items shall be quoted in Bangladesh currency on site delivery basis by the authorized local Agent.</p> <p>(v) Authorized local agent shall have work experience for supply, installation, testing, commissioning and balancing of Central Air-conditioning (HVAC) System of same brand in Bangladesh which is running successfully for minimum last 5 (five) years.</p> <p>(vi) The local Agent must have authorization certificate from the Manufacturer/Principal.</p> <p>(vii) Authorized Local Agent shall submit Bank Certificate in terms of credit line facilities or liquid asset of at least BDT 6 Crore.</p> <p>(viii) Authorized Local Agent shall submit specific evidence related to physical facilities, Technical Manpower to provide after sales service during and after the warranty period.</p> <p>(ix) Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities.</p>												
18	Brief Description of Goods	Central Air-conditioning (HVAC) system equipment, Control equipment & other related equipment of the system.												
19	Brief Description of related services	Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Balancing of Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Systems all complete including in house operator training.												
20	Identification of Lots, Tender Security, Completion Time and Price of Tender Document	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pack. No.</th> <th>Identification</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Tender Security Amount</th> <th>Completion Time</th> <th>Price of Tender Document (in cash)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pkg-12</td> <td>Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning &amp; Balancing of Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System for ICDDR,B, all complete including in house operator training under the Project Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka.</td> <td>ICDDR,B 68, Saheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh</td> <td>Tender Security amount in Tk (BDT) 36 lac Or equivalent foreign currency by Pay order or Bank Guarantee</td> <td>18 (eighteen) months from the date of signing of contract agreement.</td> <td>BDT 5000.00 or Equivalent foreign currency</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Pack. No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time	Price of Tender Document (in cash)	Pkg-12	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Balancing of Central Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System for ICDDR,B, all complete including in house operator training under the Project Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka.	ICDDR,B 68, Saheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh	Tender Security amount in Tk (BDT) 36 lac Or equivalent foreign currency by Pay order or Bank Guarantee	18 (eighteen) months from the date of signing of contract agreement.	BDT 5000.00 or Equivalent foreign currency
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21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abu Masum												
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Manager, Procurement												
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Gyanaloy Project, Finance Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.												
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel:8802-8860523-32 Fax:8802-8860520 Ex:3747,3735												
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning reason what so ever.	e-mail Masum@icddr.org												
26	Special Instruction :	<p>(a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods will be guided as per rule of "The Public Procurement Rules 2008".</p> <p>(b) If it is not possible to receive &amp; open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.</p>												

For all posts other allowances will be admissible in addition to pay scale mentioned.

Age limit for serial 7-9 is 30 years as on 30.06.2009. Applications to be submitted in prescribed form, obtainable from Room # 208, BIRDEM, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, on all working days (from 9-00 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.). The price of each application form for serial 1-6 is Tk. 40/- and serial 7-9 is Tk. 20/-

Name of the applied post to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form.

For the post of Sl. # 3 & 4 applicants should mention clearly the speciality. The application along with required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 25.04.2009 either dropped in the box placed in front of room # 230 or sent by post. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. Incomplete applications may be rejected.