

US, EU urge UN to focus on Lankan crisis

AFP, United Nations/Washington

Top diplomats from US, Britain, France and Austria on Monday asked the UN Security Council to address the "appalling" crisis in Sri Lanka, where thousands of civilians have died in recent months.

"The humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka is something the Security Council should address," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said during a joint press encounter with his counterparts from France, Bernard Kouchner, and Austria, Michael Spindelegger.

The three spoke after attending an informal meeting between eight Security Council members and officials from the world body and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the situation in the no-fire zone of eastern Sri Lanka.

"We will ask our colleagues to do something politically strong," Kouchner said.

The United States is "deeply concerned" about civilian deaths in strife-torn Sri Lanka, a State Department spokesman said Monday, calling on the Colombo government and Tamil Tiger rebels to end their fighting.

"We're deeply concerned," said State Department spokesman Ian Kelly, when asked to comment on reports that more than 400 civilians had been killed in a no-fire zone.

"We think that there's an unacceptably high level of civilian casualties.

We've repeatedly urged the Tamil Tigers to lay down its arms and allow the civilians to leave the safe zone," Kelly said.

The spokesman also called on the government of Sri Lanka "to abide by its April 27th statement that combat operations have concluded, and that security forces should end the use of heavy weapons, which of course could cause civilian casualties."

But the Sri Lanka issue is not on the



This undated handout picture received yesterday from pro-rebel LTTE organisation Tamilnet.com website shows what it claims are patients at a makeshift hospital in Mullivaikkal, which housed a total of 2,000 patients at the time of an alleged Sri Lankan army artillery and mortar attack that killed 49 on Tuesday morning.

agenda of the 15-member council as some powerful members, notably China and Russia, are opposed.

"There's no question that civilian life is being lost on a large scale," said Miliband, who described the crisis spawned by fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger separatists as "appalling" and "shocking."

Miliband cited reports by "credible

and serious" NGOs of the use of heavy artillery by government forces affecting civilians in the no-fire zone.

He said he and Kouchner would raise this with the Sri Lankan government "as a matter of the utmost urgency."

The British chief diplomat also deplored the "enormous strain" on civilians in internally displaced camps there as well as the "continued denial of visas and access" for UN, NGOs and journalists.

Earlier Monday, the United Nations called for an immediate end to Sri Lanka's fighting after describing the weekend shelling of civilians as a "bloodbath" in which over 100 children were killed.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged the Colombo government "to explore all possible options to bring the conflict to an end without further bloodshed" and asked the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels to agree to a halt in the fighting.

"The secretary-general is appalled at the killing of hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka over the weekend," his office said in a statement.

"Thousands of Sri Lankans have already died in the past several months due to the conflict, and more still remain in grave danger."

Artillery strikes on the small stretch of coastline still held by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northeast of the island nation have caused major casualties among the tens of thousands of non-combatants, both sides reported.

Lanka war survivors battle with new lives

AFP, Manik Farm-Camp Two

It's called a "welfare village," but the heavily armed guards who surround the tented camp seem more concerned with containment than protection.

Only those needing medical treatment and their immediate families may leave the compound where 60,000 men, women and children displaced by the Sri Lankan conflict share 7,000 white tents pitched on muddy, newly bulldozed land.

No one can have visitors and the facility is open only for those on conducted tours.

AFP journalists were briefly given access to the camp last week by top army official GA Chandrasiri, but barred from speaking to the civilians inside.

The United Nations hurriedly arranged the tents after authorities were overwhelmed last month by more than 100,000 Tamil civilians pouring out of the war zone where Tamil Tiger rebels are making a final stand against the Sri Lankan army.

The Manik Farm facility, 90 kilometres (56 miles) southwest of the war zone, has been described by the Tigers as a "concentration camp," while the government insists on the "welfare village" label.

The authorities argue that the tight security is there for the safety of the civilians themselves and has promised to resettle them as soon as possible.

Bedding for most is little more than a plastic mat, and the cramped confines of the tents combined with the oppressive heat make for harsh living conditions.

"There is no privacy even to change clothes," local aid worker and camp resident Kala Selvakumar said at a nearby hospital while caring for her mother who suffered a bullet injury in the fighting.

Initially run by the military, the administration of Manik Farm is now handled by the civilian authorities, although soldiers remain in charge of security.



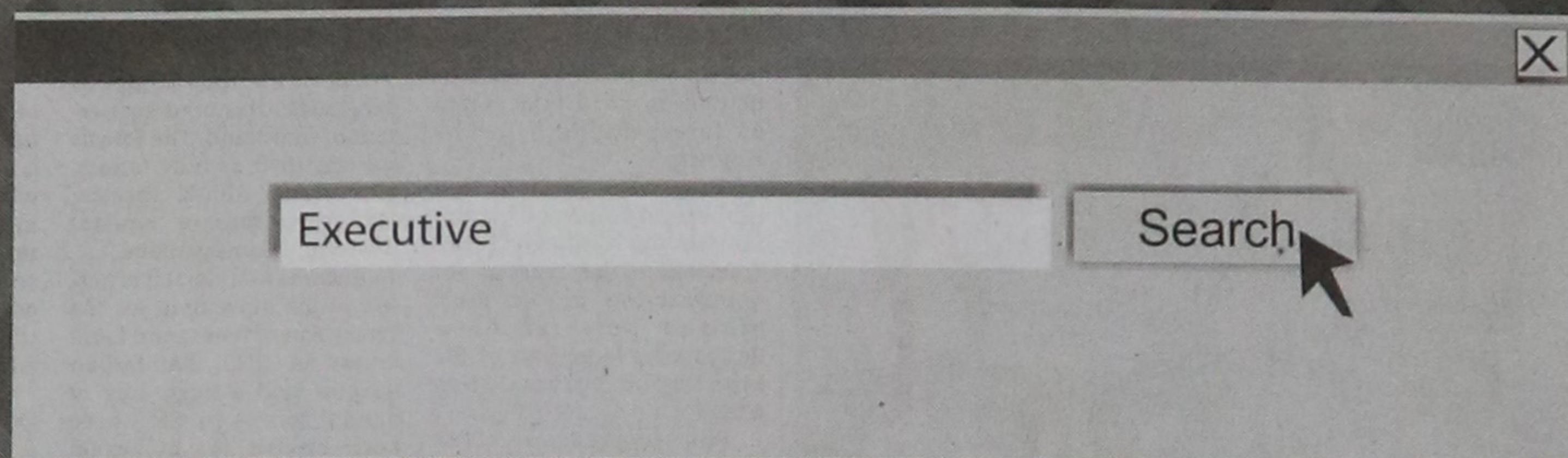
The US space shuttle Atlantis lifts off on Monday at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on the final shuttle mission to service NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

Astronauts inspect Atlantis while chasing Hubble

AP, Cape Canaveral

Shuttle Atlantis is racing after the Hubble Space Telescope a day after taking off on a daring repair mission.

On Tuesday, the seven astronauts will spend the entire day inspecting virtually every inch of the shuttle for any launch damage. They surveyed the thermal shielding on their crew cabin Monday evening.



As a part of its expansion program, Bank Asia intends to recruit experienced professionals for the following positions

A. Centralized Trade Services Unit

1. Position : In charge (For Export Department)

Rank and status : Assistant Vice President / First Assistant Vice President
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 40-42 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : Minimum 10 years experience in any major Private Commercial Bank with adequate working knowledge in Export Department for over all supervision.

2. Position : Officer (For Export Department)

Rank and status : Officer / Senior Officer / Executive Officer / Senior Executive Officer
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 30-40 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 8-10 years experience in any major Private Commercial Bank with adequate working knowledge in Export Department for entire process of master LC Lien, BTB LC issuance, Amendment, Foreign bills purchase/negotiation, Foreign bills collection, Local bills purchase/negotiation Local bills collection, payment, Proceeds realization, PCC, ECC Reporting to Bangladesh Bank and Corporate Office and all types of Correspondence with local and foreign counterparts.

3. Position : Officer (For Import Department)

Rank and status : Officer / Senior Officer / Executive Officer / Senior Executive Officer
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 30-38 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 4-9 years experience in any major Private Commercial Bank with adequate working knowledge in Import Department for entire process of LC issuance, Amendment, PSI, Documents Scrutiny, Lodgment, Payment, Documents Retirement, shipping guarantee, Reporting to Bangladesh Bank and Corporate Office for all types of Correspondence with local and foreign counterparts.

B. Centralized Account Processing Unit

1. Position : In-charge

Rank and Status : Executive Officer / Senior Executive Officer
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 35-38 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 6-8 years experience in any reputed Private Commercial Bank with special focus in General Banking and Supervision of Customer Account Management. The person should have sound understanding of IT. Candidates should be articulate, innovative, self-motivated and result-oriented with leadership qualities.

2. Position : Officer

Rank and Status : Assistant Officer/ Junior Officer/ Officer
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 30 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 2-5 years experience in any reputed Private Commercial Bank including exposure in General Banking, Customer Service, and Account Management. The candidate must be well conversant in computer operation especially in MS word & MS Excel. The candidate must have the ability to work individually as well as a member of a team.

C. Information Technology Department

1. Position : Programmer

Rank and Status : Executive Officer/ Senior Executive Officer
Educational Qualification : B Sc (Engr) in Computer Science or Post graduate in related subjects without any third division/class.
Age : 35-38 years as on 23rd May 2009.

Requirements : 6 years including 3 years in banks and above in the field(s) of IT Consultancy, System Analysis, Database Programming/ Administration. The candidate should be experienced in analyzing, designing, implementing & configuring banking software and administering Database of large scale with Oracle 8i/9i/10g in Windows and Linux platform. Ability to analyze the business logic for development of banking S/W. Optimizing of Oracle 8i/9i/10g databases: optimizing indices, plans, memory usage, fragmentation etc. Coding Queries to report on databases. Importing data into databases, coding transfer procedures. Should be self-motivated, Self-learner, High achiever and ability to work under extreme pressure and should be a good team player.

2. Position : Officer, Software /HW/Network/Delivery channel support

Rank and Status : Junior Officer / Officer
Educational Qualification : B Sc (Engr) in Computer Science or Post graduate in related subjects without any third division/class.
Age : 30 years as on 23rd May 2009.

Requirements : 3-5 years or above experience in the field of Programming/ database Administration. ATM software Management. Hardware & Network Management. Net / Tele banking / Kiosks Management. Work experiences in Banking Software are preferable. The candidate should be experienced in implementing, installing, configuring, and administering Software /HW/Network and Delivery channel services. The candidate is expected to work to support the above operations. Should be self-motivated, Self-learner, High achiever and ability to work under extreme pressure and should be a good team player.

D. SME Department:

1. Position : SME Centre Head

Rank and Status : Executive Officer / Senior Executive Officer
Age : 35-38 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Requirements : 6-9 years experience of which at least 5 (five) years business exposure to Small & Medium segment in any reputed private commercial Bank, preferably having branch working orientation. Collecting and maintaining information of existing & prospective clients in the assigned domicile. Developing & servicing relationship with Remittance & SME clients to sell products of the Bank. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

2. Position : Customer Service Manager

Rank and Status : Officer / Senior Officer.
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 30 years as on 23rd May 2009.

Requirements : 4-6 years experience of which at least 3 (five) years customer service exposure to Small & Medium segment in any reputed private commercial Bank, preferably having branch working orientation. Developing & servicing relationship with Remittance & SME clients according to the confined requirement. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

3. Position : Relationship Manager

Rank and Status : Assistant Officer/ Junior Officer
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 28 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 3-4 years business exposure to Small & Medium segment in any reputed private commercial Bank. Must have existing relationship with the aforementioned segment. Developing & servicing relationship with Remittance & SME clients to sell products of the Bank. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

4. Position : Relationship Officer

Rank and Status : Banking Officer/ Assistant Officer.
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 27-28 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirement : 1-2 years business exposure to Small & Medium segment in any reputed private commercial Bank. Must have existing relationship with the aforementioned segment. Developing & servicing relationship with Remittance & SME clients to sell products of the Bank. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

5. Position : Customer Service Officer

Rank and Status : Banking Officer/ Assistant Officer.
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 27-28 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Position Requirement : 1-2 years customer service exposure to Small & Medium segment in any reputed private commercial Bank. Preferably having branch working orientation. Developing & servicing relationship with Remittance & SME clients according to the confined requirement. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

6. Position : Cash Service Officer

Rank and Status : Banking Officer/ Assistant Officer.
Educational Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 27-28 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirement : 1-2 years cash / teller management exposure in any reputed private commercial Bank. Must have branch working orientation. Must be capable to work in computerized environment.

E. Credit Administration Department

1. Position : Custodial Service Officer

Rank and Status : Officer/ Senior Officer/ Executive Officer
Education Qualification : Masters in any discipline without any third division/ class
Age : 30-35 years as on 23rd May 2009.
Requirements : 4-7 years' experience in a large commercial bank in its Credit Administration Department of Corporate Office. Should have thorough knowledge of CRM and good command in handling loan, documentation independently.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their online applications in the prescribed format to www.bankasia-bd.com on or before 23rd May, 2009

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.