

Taliban torch 50 Nato trucks in Pakistan; 7 killed

REUTERS, Islamabad

Suspected Taliban gunmen in Pakistan set fire to more than 50 trucks carrying supplies for Western forces in Afghanistan, killing at least seven people in the first such attack near the capital, police said yesterday.

The Taliban have previously attacked trucks carrying supplies for US-led foreign forces in Pakistan's volatile northwest and southwest bordering Afghanistan, but this raid, less than 30 minutes' drive from Islamabad late on Tuesday, was unprecedented.

At least 10 gunmen arrived on motorbikes and small pickup trucks at a depot near Tarnol village, killing drivers and workers. The militants escaped, leaving the shells of supply trucks in flames.

"Seven people were killed and more than 50 trucks were set on fire," police official Ghulam Mustafa said. Six people were wounded.

The trucks were due to carry fuel, food and other supplies to Afghanistan. The trucks do not usually carry arms.

The assault underscores growing insecurity in Pakistan where the Taliban have unleashed a wave of suicide and bomb attacks across the country in retaliation for military offensives on their strongholds in the northwest.

Militants allied to the Pakistani Taliban killed more than 80 people in two brazen attacks on Ahmadiyya, a minority religious sect, in the eastern city of Lahore late last month.

But the latest attack comes after months of relative calm around the heavily guarded Pakistan capital and throws into question how safe Islamabad is from attack.

Indian govt to decide using army against Maoist

REUTERS, New Delhi

The government will this week decide whether to call in the military to help fight a growing Maoist insurgency, but strong opposition from states means involvement of the armed forces is unlikely, officials said yesterday.

State governments fear using the military would alienate local populations. Several states such as West Bengal and Bihar, where the rebels are strong in large rural swathes, will hold local elections in coming months.

"Not a single state has said that their police are incapable of handling the situation and we also see no reason to differ," India's top security official, UK Bansal, told Reuters in an interview.

Officials said though Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was under pressure to take decisive action -- without it he risks being seen as weak -- the opposition of the states would weigh on any decision a cabinet committee takes this week.

Obama to offer Gaza aid to Abbas

REUTERS, AFP, Washington/ Sochi/ London/ Gaza

President Barack Obama was expected to offer Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas a fresh US aid for Gaza as Washington seeks to contain the fallout over Israel's raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla.

Hosting Abbas at the White House, Obama will also try to ensure that heightened Middle East tensions over last week's deadly Israeli commando operation do not derail sputtering US-led peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians.

He will face a difficult balancing act.

Obama is likely to assure Abbas he will press Israel to loosen its Gaza blockade and allow in more humanitarian supplies, but at the same time the US leader wants to avoid further strains between Washington and the Jewish state.

Abbas' visit comes amid an international backlash against close US ally Israel after its forces boarded a Turkish aid ship bound for the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on May 31 and nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

KEEPING FUNDS OUT OF HAMAS HANDS

There were no immediate details on the amount and type of US aid to be offered for the impoverished coastal enclave, which since 2007 has been run by Hamas Islamists who seized control from Abbas' Fatah-dominated

Palestinian Authority.

But any fresh infusion of funds would come with strings attached to keep it out of the hands of Hamas, which is on the US list of terrorist organizations.

In recent years, US aid to the Palestinians has been sent mostly to the West Bank, where Abbas governs, or funnelled to Gaza through international agencies. Washington pledged \$900 million for the Palestinians at a donors conference in 2009.

PUTIN WARNS ON FLOTILLA RAID

Israel's deadly raid on an aid flotilla for Gaza was a tragedy that demands detailed investigation and must not be repeated, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin told AFP in an interview.

"What is especially tragic is that this act was carried out in neutral waters," the Russian prime minister said in a discussion late Monday in the Black Sea resort town of Sochi.

TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT

The EU's refusal to accept Turkey as a member swiftly has partly caused Ankara's foreign policy shift and the deterioration in its relations with Israel, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday.

"The deterioration in the relationship between Turkey and Israel over the past year or so is a matter of concern," Gates told reporters in London.



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Rajapakse's India visit marred by Tamil protests

AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapakse yesterday began his first foreign trip to influential neighbour India since being re-elected, in a visit that has drawn protests from Indian Tamils.

Rajapakse, who was re-elected in January on the back of a resounding victory over Tamil separatists that ended a 37-year-long civil war last May, has come under fire for his treatment of Tamil civilians.

The United Nations estimates 7,000 of them died in the final stages of the fighting and hundreds of thousands were displaced by the military campaign in the rebel former strongholds in the island's north and east.

In New Delhi, Rajapakse discussed the resettlement of an estimated 80,000 Tamils still living in government-run camps during talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and senior government ministers, an official told AFP.

Both sides also discussed Colombo's plans for a "reconciliation commission" aimed at fostering unity between the majority Sinhalese population and the minority Tamils at the root of the separatist conflict.

The civil war is estimated to have claimed up to 100,000 lives, according to the United Nations.

India, which has some 62 million Tamils in its southern Tamil Nadu state, wields considerable diplomatic influence over Colombo and has been urging the island nation to step up efforts to heal the rift between the two communities.

Tamils in India and Sri Lanka share close cultural and religious links.

In New Delhi, a delegation of Tamil MPs from the ruling Congress and its regional ally, the DMK, also met Rajapakse over the issue.

Israel PM to meet Obama later this month

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to meet US President Barack Obama later this month after abruptly postponing planned White House talks following last week's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, a senior Israeli official said yesterday.

"Netanyahu is due to visit the White House between now and the end of June for talks with Mr Obama," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The date of this meeting has not been fixed. Initially, it was to have taken place at the beginning of the month but it was put off in extremis," the official added.

Under the new sanctions, humanitarian aid was also suspended, with the exception of assistance intended for children.

By banning commercial trade across the border, the South has sought to squeeze the flow of cash to its destitute neighbour in the

S Korea to send aid for North's children

N Korea denies ship sinking allegation in a letter to UN

REUTERS, AFP, Seoul

South Korea approved two shipments of baby formula for North Korean infants yesterday despite rising tensions between the neighbours after Seoul accused the North of sinking one of its naval vessels.

South Korea widened sanctions against the North last month, banning trade, travel and aid in response to the findings by an international team of investigators that Pyongyang was behind the torpedoing of the South Korean ship that killed 46 sailors.

The letter, addressed to the UN Security Council president from the North's permanent representative to the body, followed the filing of a complaint by the South last week demanding action by the international community to deter further aggression.

A team of international investigators led by South Korea's military said in May that a North Korean submarine torpedoed the corvette Cheonan on March 26, snapping the vessel in half in a blast and killing 46 sailors.

PUBALI BANK LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE
26 DILKUSHA COMMERCIAL AREA
DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Limited in its 771st Meeting held on 9 June 2010 at 4.00 P.M. resolved the following issues:-

1. The 5th Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held on 15 July 2010 at 4:00 P.M. at Bank's Auditorium (13th floor), Head Office Building, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000.
2. The "Record Date" of the 5th Extra- Ordinary General Meeting has been fixed on 17.06.2010. The Shareholders whose name(s) will appear in the Share Register of the Company / Depository on the Record Date will be entitled to attend the 5th Extra- Ordinary General Meeting.
3. The Board of Directors also resolved that market lot of the shares of the Company will be 25 instead of 5 shares.
4. The Proposed amendment as under:-

A. DENOMINATION OF SHARE VALUE OF THE COMPANY-AMENDMENT OF CLAUSE V OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION.

TO AMEND CLAUSE V OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION:-

Existing Clause "V"	Proposed amendment
The Authorized Capital of the Company be increased to Tk.1000,00,00,000/- (Taka One thousand Crores) divided into 10,00,00,000 (Ten Crores) ordinary Share of Tk.100/- (Taka One hundred) each which shall be issued on such terms and at such time or times as the Board shall determine, It is hereby further resolved that in clause V of the Memorandum of Association of Pubali Bank Limited the figures words and brackets Tk.500,00,00,000/- (Taka five hundred Crores)" and "5,00,00,000 (five Crores)" be submitted by the figures, words and brackets "1000,00,00,000/- (Taka one thousand Crores)" and 10,00,00,000 (Ten Crores)" respectively."	It is proposed that the existing clause V of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be replaced with the following new clause V: "The Authorized Share Capital of the Company is Tk. 1000,00,00,000/- (One Thousand Crores) only divided into 100,00,00,000/- (One hundred crores) ordinary shares of Tk.10.00 (Taka ten) only each with power to increase and reduce the capital."

B. AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Wherever in the Articles of Association of the Company, the value of share has been stated as Tk.100.00 shall be replaced and restated as Tk.10.00.

It is further proposed that the aforesaid new Memorandum and Articles of Association as replaced and restated in its entirely be and are hereby accepted and adopted as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

It is proposed that a certified copy of this resolution together with the amendment copy of the Articles of Association be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Dhaka, Bangladesh for record.

All members are requested to attend the meeting on the date, time and place as mentioned above.

Notes:

- a) Any member of the Company entitled to attend at the General Meeting, may appoint a proxy or representative to attend on his/her/its behalf.
- b) The instrument appointing a proxy or the letter of authority duly signed by the Member and stamped must be submitted at the Registered Office of the Company at least 48 hours before the meeting.

N.B.: No gift or benefit in cash or kind shall be paid to the Shareholders.

By the order of the Board

Sd/-

Md. Sayeed Sikder

General Manager &
Company Secretary