

Japanese tanker hit by 'terror blast'

AFP, Dubai

An explosives-laden boat carried out a "terrorist attack" that damaged a Japanese oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz last week, the United Arab Emirates, where the ship docked for repairs, said yesterday.

"The investigation and examination conducted by special teams have shown the tanker was attacked with explosives, prepared using traditional methods, which were loaded on a boat that approached the ship," a UAE coastguard spokesman said on the official WAM news agency.

"UAE explosives experts... found a dent on the starboard side above the water line and remains of homemade explosives on the hull," when they inspected the ship off the UAE port of Fujairah, the official said.

"Probably the tanker had encountered a terrorist attack from a boat loaded with explosives," he was quoted as saying on the agency's English-language website.

In Tokyo, Japanese Transport Minister Seiji Maehara said he had instructed ministry officials to ask the UAE authorities for details of the investigation, as requested by the prime minister, in order to

conduct their own analysis on the cause of the attack.

Japan "should take a firm stance" in response to such incidents, Maehara was quoted as saying by Jiji Press, because they threaten Japan's oil imports.

The world's second biggest economy sources some 90 percent of its oil from the Middle East, much of it from the Gulf, where the oil tanker was sailing from.

Militant jihadists on Tuesday claimed a suicide bomber blew himself up on the ship owned by Mitsui OSK Lines, which reported that one of its tankers, the M Star, appeared to have been hit by a blast on July 28 in international waters between Iran and Oman.



PHOTO: AFP
British Prime Minister David Cameron, right, and Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari arrive for their meeting at the former's Chequers residence in southern England, yesterday.

UK, Pak pledge 'anti-terror' unity

AFP, London

The leaders of Britain and Pakistan moved yesterday to shelve a row over a British attack on Islamabad's security record, pledging to step up their cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

President Asif Ali Zardari had vowed to confront British Prime Minister David Cameron over recent claims suggesting that elements in Pakistan back the "export of terror," which triggered the diplomatic spat.

But both leaders put on a show of unity after their talks near London, saying the bond between Pakistan and the former colonial power was unbreakable, while Cameron accepted an invitation to visit Islamabad soon.

Half a million flee as Pak floods move south

AFP, Durrani Mehar

Pakistan battled to contain flooding in its rich agricultural south, evacuating half a million people from at-risk areas as the UN warned yesterday of the "daunting" scale of the crisis.

The nearly two-week-old disaster has affected 4.5 million across the largely impoverished country hard hit by Taliban-linked violence, after floods washed away entire villages and killed at least 1,600, according to UN estimates.

Authorities in the densely populated southern province of Sindh were busy evacuating villagers, warning that major floods in the next 48 hours threatened hundreds of communities in the fertile basin along the swollen Indus river.

"At least 11 districts are at risk of flooding in Sindh, where more than 500,000 people have been relocated to safer places and evacuation still continues," said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

More than 252,000 homes are thought to have been damaged or destroyed across Pakistan, and 1.38 million acres (558,000 hectares) of crop land flooded, and it could take weeks before electricity is fully restored.

"Our cattle died and the cotton crop destroyed," said Mohammad Bakhsh, 50, a resident of Qasim Ghot village.

"I've got calls on my mobile saying 20 to 25 children from our family are stranded in the village and are holding on to tree branches.

"We are begging the authorities to rescue them. Two of my children have drowned and we don't know where they are," Bakhsh said.

The flooding has threatened electricity generation plants, forcing units to shut down in a country suffering from a crippling energy crisis.

Only three of 12 units are now functioning at the 1,200-megawatt Kot Addu Power Company plant in the central province of Punjab, the director general of the state-owned Pakistan Electric Power Co, Mohammad Khalid, told AFP.

Khalid said three grid stations in the north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also shut down, and two private plants closed.

Survivors lashed out at authorities for failing to come to their rescue and provide better relief, piling pressure on a cash-strapped administration straining to contain Taliban violence and an economic crisis.

"We have nothing. I have no food and water to give my children. We desperately need help," Janat Bibi, a 30-year-old mother of eight told AFP. Her husband Khadim Mirani was missing in the flood.

"It is a real crisis all over the country. It is unprecedented floods in our history," military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

"We do not have the kind of resources which really warrant to cope with a situation like this and I think it is needed that the international community should come to our help."

Bedraggled women, children and elderly men in shabby clothes were deposited on the banks by rescue boats criss-crossing a giant lake dotted by tree tops in the village of Durrani Mehar in northern Sindh.

The meteorological office issued a red alert overnight, warning of an "imminent" and "extreme" flood threat to Sindh, especially along the Indus, as flooding spread to Indian-held Kashmir, where nearly 90 people have now died.

"The scale of the needs is absolutely daunting," said Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

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Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), a national apex institute for employment generation, invites application from deserving candidates for recruitment to the following positions for a DFID funded project titled "Promoting Financial Services for Poverty Reduction (PROSPER)" programme, being implemented by itself. The project has two components: "Learning and Innovation Fund to Test New Ideas (LIFT)" and "Programmed Initiatives for Monga Eradication (PRIME)". The project is due to end in June 2014.

1. Deputy Programme Coordinator (Health): 1 (for PRIME)

Responsibilities: Accountable for all health related activities under PRIME; Provide leadership, guidance and direction to PRIME health staff; Design and implement training for Health Assistants (HAs) of PRIME POs as well as beneficiaries and other health staff of PKSF; Ensure proper coordination with Partner Organizations (POs), GoB and other health service providers to get the best outcome; Establish an effective monitoring system to evaluate the programme status.

Qualifications: MBBS with BMDC registration and post graduation degree in the field of public health from any reputed university. Candidates with Masters in Social Science with post graduation in the field of public health from a recognized university may also apply. Candidates having third division/class in the academic result need not to apply.

Experience and other competencies: At least seven years experience in the field of public health. Experience in any reputed organization /International NGO will be preferred. Should have programme supervision and monitoring skill. Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to interact and negotiate effectively with different classes of people. Demonstrated experience in networking/liasing across different sectors, including Government Departments and non-Governmental organizations. Excellent in oral and written communication, report writing, analyzing, problem solving and decision making.

Duty station: Dhaka with frequent field visits to the project areas.
Salary: Consolidated Tk. 70,000/- per month and other benefits as per PKSF rules.
Age: Below 45 years

2. Senior Assistant Programme Coordinator (Training): 1 (for PRIME)

Responsibilities: Assess training and development needs within the organization, of the beneficiaries and POs; Design and develop training programmes based on needs; Devise individual learning plans; Produce training materials as required by the programme; Formulate training strategy and conduct training programmes; Evaluate training programmes; Select and liaison with quality/certified vocational training providers at local and national level, and also implement vocational training through negotiating contract between PRIME POs and selected vocational training providers; Prepare training budget, materials, manuals, modules, posters, leaflets, flip charts, etc. as required; Develop market linkages through PRIME POs to ensure self-employment and job placement of trained PRIME beneficiaries.

Qualifications: Master's Degree in relevant field with minimum two first class/division from any reputed university. Degree in agriculture/social science with experience in development programme will be given preference. Candidates having third division/class in the academic result need not to apply.

Experience and other competencies: At least seven years of professional experience in training and human capacity development. Proven experience in designing and implementing various types of training initiatives. Excellent skill on report writing, training guidelines and manual preparation. Well conversant in computer operating system specially in MS Word, Excel and Power Point. Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to interact and negotiate effectively with a wide range people. Demonstrated experience in networking/liasing across different sectors, including government departments and non-government organizations. Good oral and written communication skills, including report writing, analysing and problem solving skills.

Duty station: Dhaka with frequent field visits to the project areas.
Salary: Consolidated Tk. 50,000/- per month and other benefits as per PKSF rules.
Age: Below 42 years

The appointment would be on a contract basis for an initial period of one year and may be extended up to the project period subject to satisfactory performance and requirement of PKSF. Interested persons are requested to send their CV capturing detailed work experience related to the position together with all copies of the certificates and two copies of recent passport size photographs to the undersigned on or before August 22, 2010. Please write the name of the post applied for on top of the envelope. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidature. Only short-listed candidates would be called for participating in the selection process.

This vacancy announcement can also be seen on the web site of PKSF.

General Manager (Administration)

Sister joins

FROM PAGE 1
 Kamalapur home Thursday distraught over her husband's second marriage.

Rajani died around 6:00am. Bilashi is undergoing treatment at the same hospital. Her condition was stated to be critical as she sustained burns on 70 percent of her body.

Bilashi's brother Selimuzzaman yesterday filed a case with Motijheel Police Station under the Children and Women Repression Prevention Act accusing Bilashi's detained husband Sayed Rajeeb Ali and five others of forcing his sister to commit suicide.

The others accused include Rajeeb's second wife Afreen, his father Syed Rustum Ali, and three family members of Rajeeb. Rajeeb was arrested on Thursday and was produced before a court yesterday, which sent him to jail.

Motijheel police said Rajeeb was produced before the court with a prayer for police remand.

Motijheel Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tofazzal Hossain told The Daily Star last night that they were going to file two separate cases against Bilashi in connection with attempt to suicide and killing her two children.

While talking to The Daily Star, human rights leaders and police blamed Bilashi for killing her two children and Rajeeb for provoking her to commit suicide.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Executive Director Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government, said, "The father of the children could file a case against his wife for killing the children. If he does not do it, police should file a case in this connection as none has the right to kill anybody."

"Suicide attempt and suicide are criminal offences," Sultana Kamal said, adding, "The children were killed by their mother and she should not be spared."

Expressing concern, human rights activist Elna Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, said, "If such tendency to commit suicide and kill children are not stopped, it could get a shape of an epidemic soon."

Elna said her organisation would think about whether they would take any measures against the mother.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said he already directed the police officials concerned to implicate the mother in the case in connection with killing of the children.

If the mother survives, she would be charged with attempting to suicide and killing her children, the DMP Commissioner said.

Replying to a query, Bilashi's brother Selimuzzaman, who filed the case, told The Daily Star, "It is also true that my sister did not do the right thing by killing her two children."

Locals rescued Bilashi Akhter and her two children from the roof of their 108 South Kamalapur house after she set fire on her body and her two children.

VACANCY

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Experiences: At least 15 (fifteen) years experience in teaching or administration or financial management in any well-known university/large organization including 8 (eight) years in the professorial rank or in the senior most position. The candidate having experiences of teaching with administration and/or financial management will be preferred.

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Age limit: Not above 55 years.

Salary and Benefits: Attractive salary package & benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Exceptions: Any of the above requirements may be relaxed for exceptionally deserving candidates.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Those who applied for the position earlier need not apply further.

The position sought must be clearly stated on the envelope. Please apply with detailed CV with a passport size photograph and copies of all certificates and transcripts by **25 August 2010** to:

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