

Taliban torch 27 more tankers in Pakistan

BBC ONLINE

Militants in Pakistan have destroyed 27 tankers, which were carrying fuel for Nato troops in Afghanistan.

The Taliban in Pakistan said it was behind the assault on a depot near Islamabad, which left three people dead.

Pakistan has stopped Nato convoys crossing the Khyber Pass in response to a Nato air strike last week in which three Pakistani soldiers were killed.

Nato said on Monday it regretted the deaths but called for the crossing to be reopened.

The soldiers were killed on Thursday when Nato helicopters strayed into Pakistani territory while chasing Taliban militants from Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials said a military checkpoint had been hit while Nato said the helicopter crew had opened fire in self-defence.

Pakistan's President Ali Asif Zardari condemned the cross-border incident as "unacceptable" and the key border crossing was closed for supplies.

The closure has left lorries and tankers open to attack at various points along the supply route from the port city of Karachi.

On Friday, at least 27 lorries carrying supplies for Nato troops were set on fire in the southern Sindh province.

In the early hours of Monday morning, militants stormed the depot where dozens of tankers were being prepared for a Nato convoy near Rawat outside Islamabad.

"Between 10 and 12 men armed with automatic weapons stormed the depot from two sides," Umar Farooq, a senior Islamabad police

official told local TV.

"They opened indiscriminate fire on the tankers, many of [which] ignited on the impact of the bullets."

Local police said three people had died and another nine were wounded.

A survivor said the drivers fled when the shooting started. Afterwards, the gunmen simply walked away, according to witnesses.

The lorries attacked on Monday were due to travel along the Khyber Pass to the Torkham border crossing, which has been closed for five days because of the dispute.

More than 200 lorries carrying supplies for Nato troops remain stranded at the border post.

In a separate incident, another two Nato lorries were set on fire and a man was killed in southern Pakistan.

The lorries had been heading for a second crossing into Afghanistan at Chaman which has remained open.

A Taliban spokesman told the AP news agency that the attacks would continue until the supplies had completely stopped.

He added that a new wing of the group had been set up to focus on the convoys.

Nato supplies have little or no security, Islamabad police chief Kalim Imam said the entire supply operation was "very vulnerable" to such attacks and it was impossible to provide constant protection.

Speaking after his meeting in Brussels, the Nato secretary general called for the border crossing to be reopened as soon as possible and said Pakistan's foreign minister had committed himself to work on the issue.



Pakistani fire-fighters try to extinguish burning Nato supplies oil tankers following the gunmen attack on the outside of Islamabad yesterday. Three people were killed and eight others wounded when about 27 Nato oil tankers were attacked and set ablaze in the Pakistani capital, a police emergency official said.

Nato regrets Pak troop deaths, urges route re-opening

AFP, Brussels

Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen urged Pakistan yesterday to reopen a key Afghanistan supply route "as soon as possible" and expressed regret for the deaths of Pakistani troops in a Nato strike.

Pakistan has blocked a land route for Nato convoys carrying supplies to neighbouring Afghanistan since Thursday after officials blamed a cross-border Nato helicopter attack for the deaths of three Pakistani soldiers.

"I expressed my regrets for the incident last week in which Pakistani soldiers lost their lives," Rasmussen told reporters after meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

"I expressed condolences to the families. Obviously this incident was unintended," he added.

Rasmussen said Nato and Pakistan needed to "improve" and "step up" cooperation on the Afghan-Pakistani border region to prevent Taliban insurgents from crossing the frontier to attack foreign troops fighting in Afghanistan.

Three Nato soldiers killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Three Nato soldiers were killed in attacks in Afghanistan's militant-riddled south and east, the force said yesterday.

Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) announced the deaths in separate statements but gave no further details.

Two of the soldiers were killed in bomb attacks in the south while the third died fighting rebels in the east of the country, it said.

The new deaths took to 559 the number of foreign troops killed in the Afghan war so far in 2010, according to a tally by independent website casualties.org, as the toll from the nine-year Taliban-led insurgency worsens.

This year's toll is the highest on record since the war began in late 2001 with a US-led invasion toppling the Taliban regime. In 2009 the force suffered 521 deaths.

There are more than 150,000 foreign troops, the majority US and Nato, fighting in Afghanistan mostly in Taliban hotspots in the south and east.

Fonseka vows to fight from jail

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's jailed ex-military leader Sarath Fonseka vowed to fight for democracy as he was escorted out of prison to attend another court case against him.

Fonseka, 59, told supporters outside the Colombo High Court that he was prepared to sacrifice his life and will not give up his struggle "for democracy".

"I am ready to sacrifice my life," he said outside a packed court house. "I will not give up this struggle." It was his first outing since he began his 30-month jail term Thursday after a court martial conviction.

The former four-star general began his prison time on Thursday night after President Mahinda Rajapakse confirmed the court martial conviction handed down on September 17 for making improper military procurements.

Fonseka fell out with Rajapakse soon after crushing Tamil Tiger rebels in May last year and ending the island's drawn out Tamil separatist war.

Fonseka unsuccessfully tried to unseat Rajapakse at a presidential election in January, but managed to win a parliamentary seat which is in doubt since his jailing on Thursday.

Fonseka leads the opposition

Democratic National Alliance, which accuses the government of a political vendetta against the former army chief.

The only four-star general to have been in active service in Sri Lanka's army is sleeping on the cement floor of a cell at the maximum security Welikada prison and eats off a metal plate after lining up for food, his wife said.

Fonseka was hailed as a hero after soldiers under his command crushed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) last year. Tamil separatist leaders were killed in a no-holds-barred offensive led by Fonseka.

The Tigers' defeat ended nearly 40 years of separatist conflict in Sri Lanka, but rights groups led by Amnesty International and the Human Rights Watch say thousands of civilians were also killed in the final onslaught.

Fonseka's lawyers said he faces a charge of "inciting people to violence" by commenting to a newspaper that surrendering rebel leaders were executed during the final days of the separatist war.

If convicted, Fonseka could face up to another 20 years in jail.

Fonseka maintained that the published comments -- which suggested defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse, the younger brother of the president, had ordered the executions -- were in fact misquotes.

Rajapakse has vehemently denied the allegation and is listed as a key prosecution witness in the case.

Pak floods curb food aid to Afghanistan: UN

AP, Kabul

Pakistan's devastating floods have interrupted delivery of food aid to neighbouring Afghanistan that would have fed about a million people this winter, the UN World Food Program said yesterday.

Many people in rural areas of impoverished, war-ravaged Afghanistan risk starvation, and the poorest subsist on bread and tea through the long, harsh winter. The World Food Program normally tries to move its aid there in autumn, before winter weather blocks mountain roads for months.

The agency had planned to supply

about 3.8 million people with food in November. But about 16,000 metric tons of Afghan-bound wheat were in warehouses in neighbouring Pakistan awaiting customs clearance when the country was engulfed in floods, said Challiss McDonough, a spokeswoman for the organization. The warehouses were swamped by water about 10 feet deep.

Another 6,000 metric tons was diverted to feed Pakistanis who have no food because of the flooding, she said.

"That means 22,000 metric tons of wheat that we were counting on having in Afghanistan right now simply isn't here," McDonough said. "We have enough for

this month, but will start running short in November, and the situation will be really critical in December."

Winter snows start cutting off roads in much of mountainous Afghanistan in late October or early November. The World Food Program typically sends a full winter's worth of food out to those areas that get blocked by snow about this time of year.

"If we cannot get food into those areas before the roads close, we won't be able to reach those people until spring, or in some places early summer," McDonough said. "So a shortage now can continue affecting people for months."

Japan's Ozawa to be indicted

AP, Tokyo

A court official says veteran Japanese lawmaker and powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa will be indicted over a political funding scandal.

The official at the Tokyo District Court said yesterday that judicial panel of ordinary citizens decided Ozawa should be indicted. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to talk to the media.

The decision will prompt the Tokyo District Court to appoint lawyers to prosecute Ozawa.

Ozawa challenged Prime Minister Naoto Kan for the ruling party's top leadership vote in September. While Ozawa has championed deregulation and bureaucratic reforms, he is unpopular in opinion polls and is widely seen as an old-style back-room wheeler-dealer.

RE-TENDER NOTICE SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY (SMC) SMC TOWER, 33 BANANI C/A, DHAKA 1213

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of about 800 KVA diesel generator for SMC Tower, Banani, Dhaka only from suppliers who have successfully supplied and installed generator of capacity 800 KVA (prime) and above.

Interested Bidders are requested to collect Tender documents from 05.10.2010 to 24.10.2010 during office hours (8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Sunday through Thursday) from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (Five hundred) only non refundable for each set of tender document.

The Tender must be accompanied by Earnest Money (1% of quoted amount) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank in favor of "Social Marketing Company".

Tenders will be received at 1st floor of Social Marketing Company, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka 1213 up to 3:00 P.M. on 25.10.2010 and will be opened on the same day at 3:15 P.M. in the presence of the tenderer(s) or their representative if any.

SMC authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bidder.

Manager, Procurement
Social Marketing Company (SMC)
SMC Tower, 33 Banani C/A
Dhaka-1213

We are looking for
Committed individuals

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worldwide

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to elimination of extreme poverty. Currently we have opening for the following core positions:

Head of Haor Context Programme

This is a Senior Management position.

The Head of Haor Context Programme is responsible for ensuring commitment to the extremely poor people in Haor areas through delivering a quality development programme which unlocks community potential, impacts on poverty and results in lasting positive change.

Major areas of responsibility:

- To develop and lead a programme, which is based on a sound understanding of people's circumstances and how this contributes to their poverty in Haor areas.
- To lead the Haor Context Programme Team, in a manner that empowers them to deliver high quality programmes and deliver lasting changes to the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To enable pro-poor change through effective advocacy, which identifies and tackles critical factors impacting on poor people.
- To ensure the programme contributes actively to the learning process of the organisation, adopts best practices and embraces cross cutting themes.
- To ensure optimal use of financial, human and material resources within Concern work; in a transparent and accountable manner consistent with Concern's systems and procedures delivering quality results and demonstrating value for money.
- As a member of the Senior Management Team, to provide effective leadership to the organisation.

The candidate we are looking for will have a Masters Degree with at least 8 years progressively responsible professional work experience at senior level in participatory programme designing, proposal writing for donor funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation, within a development organisation/NGO. Experience of managing a team of senior staff including expatriate staff, proven ability to conceptualize and develop programmes in Bangladesh, experience in networking and liaison with GoB high level officials, donors and NGOs, knowledge and experience of latest developments in the Haor areas and international work experience would be an advantage.

Head of Socially Excluded Minorities Programme

This is a Senior Management position.

The Head of Socially Excluded Minorities Programme is responsible for ensuring commitment to people who are extremely poor and results in lasting positive change.

Major areas of responsibility:

- To develop and lead a programme, which is based on a sound understanding of people's circumstances and how this contributes to their poverty due to their marginalization and exclusion.
- To lead the Socially Excluded Minorities Programme Team, in a manner that empowers them to deliver high quality programmes and deliver lasting changes to the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To enable pro-poor change through effective advocacy, which identifies and tackles critical factors impacting on poor people.
- To ensure the programme contributes actively to the learning process of the organisation, adopts best practices and embraces cross cutting themes.
- To ensure optimal use of financial, human and material resources within Concern work; in a transparent and accountable manner consistent with Concern's systems and procedures delivering quality results and demonstrating value for money.
- As a member of the Senior Management Team, to provide effective leadership to the organisation.

The candidate we are looking for will have a Masters Degree with at least 8 years progressively responsible professional work experience at senior level in participatory programme designing, proposal writing for donor funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation, within a development organisation/NGO. Understanding of latest development in the areas of socially excluded minorities and experience of managing programmes with socially marginalized groups is essential. Experience of managing a team of senior staff including expatriate staff, proven ability to conceptualize and develop programmes in Bangladesh, experience in networking and liaison with GoB high level officials, donors and NGOs.

If you feel that your qualification and experience matches with our requirements, and you share a commitment to Concern's values and vision, please forward an application letter and a CV to: Concern Worldwide, Human Resources Department, House # 15 SW (D), Road # 07, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 or by email to: recruitment.bgd@concern.net

Equal opportunities: Concern values diversity in the workplace and is a committed equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all suitable candidates regardless of gender, race, family or marital status, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability, class, caste or religion. Anyone working for Concern must agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Concern Staff Code of Conduct and the Programme Participant Protection Policy. Each of which is intended to ensure the appropriate behaviour of Concern staff and ensure the maximum protection of programme participants.

Please mark the position applied for on the envelope or in the email subject line. Any canvassing will result in disqualification.

Closing date for applications: October 11, 2010.

.....committed to a world without poverty

We are looking for
Committed individuals

CONCERN
worldwide

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to elimination of extreme poverty. We are initiating a new project entitled **Transforming Lives of Urban Homeless People through Amrao Manush Model** with an aim to improve the lives of urban pavement dwellers funded by UPPR, UNDP which will be implemented in Dhaka, Gazipur and Chittagong. For this new project currently we have opening for the following position:

Project Officer

The Project Officer is responsible for supporting partner agencies (NGOs), relevant city corporation and pourashavas personnel to implement the project aiming to improve the lives of urban pavement dwellers.

Major areas of responsibility:

- To ensure that Amrao Manush model activities are implemented with maximum efficiency and professionalism that would bring a positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries of the project, through providing guidance to partner agencies (NGOs), relevant city corporation and pourashavas' personnel.
- To arrange necessary resources for the project and utilise them efficiently for implementation of project activities with high quality for bringing positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To facilitate and provide strategic guidance to partner agencies to implement multi-purpose and night shelter facilities in close collaboration with the partner agencies, UPPR, UNDP, community development committee and management committee, City Corporation and Pourashavas.
- To assist partner agency to carry out advocacy and awareness campaigns successfully so that perception of relevant personnel from public sector including the local government unit about urban homeless people's rights and entitlement as citizen are established.
- As a member of the Project team, provide high quality and effective support to staff of the project/beneficiaries/partners.

The candidate we are looking for will have a Masters Degree in Social Science or any other relevant discipline with at least 3 years progressively responsible work experience in the area of participatory programme planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation, and capacity building within a development organisation/NGO. Solid understanding of urban poverty issues, experience of working with Municipality/City Corporation, NGOs and extreme poor people, good facilitation skill, writing skill in Bangla and English.

This is initially a 1 year duration project with possibility of further extension.

If you feel that your qualification and experience matches with our requirements, and you share a commitment to Concern's values and vision, please forward an application letter and a CV to: Concern Worldwide, Human Resources Department, House # 15 SW (D), Road # 07, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 or by email to: recruitment.bgd@concern.net

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Please mark the position applied for on the envelope or in the email subject line. Any canvassing will result in disqualification.

Closing date for applications: October 9, 2010.

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