

## Indian Navy destroys Somali pirate ship

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
New Delhi

The Indian Navy has sunk a mothership of Somali pirates and arrested 15 of them in the Arabian Sea after a gun-battle off the coast of Lakshadweep Islands on Friday, a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

The Thailand-registered 'Prantalay' was intercepted by navy's Fast Attack Craft INS Canskar, triggering an exchange of fire after which the pirate vessel caught fire, the spokesman said here.

The vessel was being used for piracy by Somalis at various locations in the eastern Arabian Sea since April 2010 and posed a grave threat to merchant vessels passing through there.



PHOTO: REUTERS  
Relatives of Yusef Fakhri-khlil, 17, mourn during his funeral in the West Bank village of Beit Umar near Hebron yesterday. Fakhri-khlil died of gun shot wounds during a shooting incident reportedly between Palestinian and Jewish settlers yesterday.

# Suicide blast kills Kandahar deputy governor

AFP, Kandahar, Afghanistan

The deputy governor of Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, the spiritual home of the Taliban, was killed by a suicide bomber on Saturday, the provincial chief said.

"Deputy governor Abdul Latif Ashna had just left his home and was on his way to his office when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up near his vehicle," said Kandahar governor Tooryalai Wesa.

One of his bodyguards and his driver were wounded, as were two passers-by, he added. A fifth person was slightly hurt and did not need hospital treatment.

"This is the work of enemies of Afghanistan, the Taliban. They kill anyone who is working for Afghanistan's future, to rebuild the country," the governor added.

A Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"One of our jihadists... blew up his motorcycle near the vehicle of Abdul Latif Ashna... killing the deputy governor and wounding his driver and four of his bodyguards. There were no civilian victims," he told AFP.

A policeman at the scene, Abdel Ahmad, confirmed that a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up as Ashna left his residence.

Ashna, a trained engineer, had been deputy governor since April 2010. He previously worked for UN Habitat, the UN programme to improve the urban environment, before teaching at Kandahar University.

He also headed the provincial branch of the ministry of rural development.

Kandahar, the birthplace of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, is at the heart of a nine-year insurgency by the Islamic militants who were toppled from government by a US-led invasion after the September 11 attacks.

## Some points to ponder

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passing through its toughest time in living memory, Reaz continued.

"The SEC should be given enough budget and resources so that they can hire more qualified people."

He observed that people are rushing to the bourses without understanding how the market works. They must be stopped or advised properly.

About book building, which is blamed by many for the recent debacle, he said it is a good process. "If the system is not there, many companies will not be interested to go public. We must let the process work automatically."

The market should run on its own without being subjected to repeated interference

from the regulator and the government, he added.

"The country's banking system must be protected, and the central bank should not do anything that ultimately affects the market."

Fakhor Uddin Ali Ahmed, president of Chittagong Stock Exchange, said the supply side should be ensured first.

To protect the bourses from similar volatility in future, serious consideration should be given to setting up a market apart from the existing ones.

On book building, he said the system should be revised. Instead of allowing many companies at a time, the regulator should move slowly.

"To check window dressing in financial accounts,

there should be a financial reporting council."

The CSE boss also said the SEC should not look after the micro issues in the market.

Mirza Azizul Islam, former finance adviser to caretaker government, put the accent on autonomy of regulators such as Bangladesh Bank and the SEC, of which the latter has considerable autonomy.

He said heads of the regulators must be willing to take decisions without consulting anybody and must be ready to quit in the event of unacceptable interference.

The former SEC chairman also called for strict adherence to the rules in allowing SEC officials to invest in stocks.

He said the regulator should be cautious in giving permission for IPO flotation. "No matter who does what, the ultimate responsibility lies with the SEC."

For a stable market, he noted, much more coordination, cooperation and collaboration are needed between the SEC, merchant banks and Bangladesh Bank.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the market should be allowed to go in a fundamental way, and the price earnings ratio could be set at 15 instead of 25 now.

He termed the government's probe initiative a political necessity, but said the SEC and the central bank

should undertake a serious micro scrutiny of the recent volatility.

"Policy coordination between BB and SEC is a must," he added.

The former IMF economist also said he supports book building as it is a proven method across the world.

Lawyer Ajmalul Hossain QC said stakeholders in the market should work together, and formulate a coordinated policy that covers every aspect of the business. "Investors protection is also important."

Sharif Bhuiyan of law firm Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates said the basic legal issues should be addressed immediately for the sake of a healthy stockmarket.

## Anti-capitalists clash with riot police in Davos

REUTERS, Davos, Switzerland

Anti-capitalist protesters threw bottles at riot police yesterday and officers responded with water cannon as a small demonstration on the final day of the World Economic Forum briefly turned violent.

The clash came after a group of about 100 mainly young, local protesters marched through the chic Swiss ski resort of Davos and gathered near the railway station, some distance from the conference centre hosting the Forum.

It was the second episode of violence in Davos this week.

## Civil society, NGOs

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A clinical visiting professor of law at Yale Law School in the United States, Fletcher observed that trying the perpetrators of sexual atrocities after 39 years would be difficult, but not impossible.

She believes the collaborators who did not necessarily commit rape but assisted the Pakistani occupation forces or provoked them can still be brought to trial.

"If they [collaborators] were involved in enabling the rape to happen by others, they can still be held accountable, not for the rape itself but for assisting in the crimes to take place," she said in response to a query.

Visiting Bangladesh recently, Fletcher has talked on several occasions about the country's move to try the war criminals.

She said there is no legal bar to prosecuting the crimes of sexual violation [crimes against humanity] years later.

"But the question is how to find the evidence. I think organisations like the Liberation War Museum and researchers have collected evidence of sexual violence of 1971. So it would not be tough to prove the widespread and systematic sexual violation during the war," she continued.

The women who had fallen victim to sexual violation can recount their experience before the tribunal, and that narration would be considered valid as evidence.

"But it is very difficult for many women. In fact, they will need tremendous amount of courage because of social stigma what is a fact to sexual violence. So, challenges remain to encourage the victims."

Fletcher suggested that the Bangladesh tribunal should gain experience from those in Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, where crimes of sexual violation were prosecuted.

"In each of the tribunals, it was difficult for the victims to testify. But the prosecutors have been able to have them talk about what happened to them."

She noted that the tribunal here can make some special arrangements for the victims to come up and testify to ensure punishment to the culprits.

It should also make sure that the victim women can testify only before the judges, defence and prosecution so that their identities remain protected from the public, she added.

"The victims should not be photographed in the newspapers. Their identities should be kept confidential."

Besides, she said, the tribunal needs to have female investigators, and the prosecutors should come on stage immediately to encourage the victims to testify.

The tribunal should also protect the victims in case they are threatened before or after their testimony.

The civil society may come forward by providing the victims psychological support. The tribunal and NGOs can initiate a public campaign to encourage the victims to tell their stories as part of making the historical record about what happened to them in 1971, Fletcher added.

Moreover, the victims should be given compensation and support so that the state acknowledges their sufferings.

In the tribunals of Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, it was possible to produce evidence of widespread and systematic sexual violence before the judges and thus convict the perpetrators, Fletcher said.

Alongside the testimony of the victims, the evidence of sexual violence should exist in the orders and the policy and in the statements that were made in 1971. Therefore, it should not be tough to prove that women were attacked and kept confined to camps during the Liberation War, she said.

"So, it can be done in Bangladesh too," she hopes. Fletcher said the trial of crimes against humanity and other war crimes may take a long time because of inherent complexities. But it should be done maintaining international standards.

## US demands release of diplomat in Pakistan

AP, Islamabad

The United States demanded the immediate release of an American arrested in the shooting deaths of two Pakistanis, saying yesterday that he is a diplomat who qualifies for immunity from prosecution and was illegally detained.

The statement from the embassy raised the stakes in what could emerge as a major dispute between Pakistan and the United States. It also showed the shaky nature of ties between the two nations, a relationship Washington believes is crucial for success in Afghanistan and against al-Qaida.

Pakistani officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but prosecutors said Friday they would pursue murder charges.

The killings in Lahore on Thursday added to already strong anti-US sentiment in Pakistan. Islamist and nationalist commentators have portrayed the incident as an example of American brutality and called on the government to punish the man.

## An elusive racket at JU campus

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racket-tailed drongos in the world, and both exist in Bangladesh. The bigger bird known as the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo is a common resident of all forests of this country. Unlike this bigger cousin the Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo can not settle in a single forest of this country for life. It shuttles annually between the Himalayan foothills and the plains of Bangladesh to take advantage of the seasonal bounty of insects it thrives on. Strangely enough, it does not usually inhabit the neighbouring plains in India.

The single Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo sallying out of trees to capture its quarry in JU campus has thrilled the bird-watchers a great deal. The campus still seems to have the right insects to feed at least one such bird.

The bird weighs no more than 50g and needs only two-three grams of insects a day to keep it healthy and fit to fly to its breeding ground in summer. The university-elders are pretty oblivious of the arrival of this splendid bird on their campus.

The undergrowth that produces insects for the bird is

allowed to be cut or burnt indiscriminately by an army of scrap-collectors combing the campus every day. The pace at which the slash and burn is going on, the magnificent bird will probably go hungry within weeks if it continues to live in the campus.

Bangladesh is rich in drongos with seven of the world's 26 species of these birds. Of the seven, the most familiar is the Black Drongo which usually lives in human neighbourhood and often rides the grazing cattle to prey on the insects escaping the trampled grass. All drongos are insect eaters, and work as pest-controllers for free in our farmlands, pastures and forests. The Lesser Racket-tailed and the Crow-billed are the two least known drongos of Bangladesh.

JU campus is now providing an exceptional opportunity for bird-lovers of the City to see this amazing bird for the first time. The bird may live there for months if the campus administration can halt the wilful damage to the bush and grassland.

Enam Ul Haque is an eminent bird watcher.



PHOTO: AFP  
Young Afghan men shout slogans against Iran's leaders and government in front of the Iranian embassy in Kabul yesterday. More than one hundred Afghan women and men protested against the Iranian regime to support political dissidents jailed in Iran.

## One killed in Palestine after settler shooting

AFP, Hebron, Palestinian Territories

A Palestinian teenager shot by settlers near the southern West Bank town of Hebron died of his wounds overnight and mourners clashed with Israeli troops at his funeral yesterday.

Yusef Ikhilil, 17, was shot in the head on Friday and taken in critical condition to Hebron's Al-Ahly hospital where he was put on life support. He died at around midnight, Palestinian police said.

## VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a post of Local Security Assistant (1 position, SB-2 level) in Service Contract modality.

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than Saturday, 12 February, 2011.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.