

Tokyo braces for radiation

FROM PAGE 1
The crisis has been prompted by last Friday's 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami in north-eastern Japan.

Yesterday morning, reactor 2 became the third to explode in four days at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, reported BBC.

A fire also briefly broke out at the plant's reactor 4, and is believed to have caused radioactive leaks.

Reactor 4 had been shut down before the quake for maintenance, but its spent nuclear fuel rods are still stored on the site.

Radiation levels in the Japanese capital - 250km away -- were reported to be higher than normal, but officials said there were no health dangers.

Tokyo residents have been stocking up on sup-

plies, with some stores selling out of items such as food, water, face masks and candles.

Housewife Mariko Kawase, 34, told AFP news agency: "I am shopping now because we may not be able to go out due to the radiation."

Koji Yamazaki, professor at Hokkaido University graduate school of environmental science, said "Radioactive material will reach Tokyo but it is not harmful to human bodies because it will be dissipated by the time it gets to Tokyo."

"If the wind gets stronger, it means the material flies faster but it will be even more dispersed in the air."

NO-FLY ZONE
In a televised address, Prime Minister Naoto Kan said: "There is still a very high risk of more radiation coming

out." He said that those living within between 20km and 30km of the plant were at risk and should not leave their homes.

Residents within 20km have already been advised to evacuate, and the premier said anyone left in that exclusion zone must leave, reported Reuters.

"Now we are talking about levels that can impact human health," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

He told residents: "Please do not go outside. Please stay indoors. Please close windows and make your homes airtight."

"Don't turn on ventilators. Please hang your laundry indoors."

Japan also announced a 30-km no-fly zone around the reactors to prevent

planes spreading the radiation further afield.

Radiation levels around Fukushima for one hour's exposure rose to eight times the legal limit for exposure in one year, said the plant's operator, the Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO).

The International Atomic Energy Agency said after yesterday's blast that radiation dosages of up to 400 millisieverts per hour had been recorded at the site.

Exposure to over 100 millisieverts a year is a level which can lead to cancer, according to the World Nuclear Association.

On Monday, a hydrogen blast at the Fukushima plant's reactor 3 was felt 40km away. It followed a blast at reactor 1 on Saturday.

All explosions have followed cooling system break-

downs. Engineers are trying to prevent meltdowns by flooding the chambers of the nuclear reactors with seawater.

Japan's nuclear safety agency said it suspects yesterday's blast may have damaged reactor 2's suppression chamber.

The BBC's Chris Hogg in Tokyo says that would make it a more serious incident than the previous explosions, which were thought just to have damaged the buildings housing the reactors.

"WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON"
Japanese media have become more critical of Kan's handling of the disaster and criticized the government and nuclear plant operator TEPCO for its failure to provide enough information on the incident.

Kan himself lambasted

the operator for taking so long to inform his office about one of the blasts, demanding to know "what the hell is going on?" Kyodo reported.

Kyodo said Kan had ordered Tepco not to pull employees out of the plant.

"The TV reported an explosion. But nothing was said to the premier's office for about an hour," a Kyodo reporter quoted Kan telling power company executives.

Lam Ching-wan, a chemical pathologist at the University of Hong Kong, said the blasts could expose the population to longer-term exposure to radiation, which can raise the risk of thyroid and bone cancers and leukemia. Children and fetuses are especially vulnerable, he said.

"Very acute radiation, like that which happened in Chernobyl and to the Japanese workers at the nuclear power station, is unlikely for the population," he said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano, talking of levels of radiation at the Fukushima Daiichi plant's No 4 reactor, said: "There is definitely a possibility that this could affect people's bodies."

Jennex said the crisis in Japan, the only nation to have suffered a nuclear attack, was worse than the Three Mile Island disaster of 1979.

"But you're nowhere near a Chernobyl ... Chernobyl there was no impediment to release, it just blew everything out into the atmosphere," he said. "You've still got a big chunk of the containment there holding most of it in."

Authorities had previously been trying to prevent meltdowns in the complex's nuclear reactors by flooding the chambers with sea water to cool the reactors down.

A sudden drop in cooling water levels when a pump ran out of fuel had fully exposed the fuel rods for a time, an official said. Tepco had resumed pumping sea water into the reactor early yesterday.

US warships and planes helped with relief efforts temporarily because of low-level radiation. The Seventh Fleet described the move as precautionary.

South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines said they would test Japanese food imports for radiation.

False alert

FROM PAGE 1
people in Bangladesh have nothing to worry about Japan's nuclear reactor radiation leakage.

It said it is far away from Bangladesh.

"I know about the message. This is absolutely a rumour. People in Bangladesh do not need to worry about the radiation yet," said Farid Uddin, chairman of BAEC.

Citing BBC news service one of the two messages read. "Japan Government Confirms radiation leak at Fukushima Nuclear Plant. Asian countries should take necessary precaution. If rains come, stay indoor first 24 hrs, Close doors and windows, wrap your neck with a piece of cloth as radiation hits thyroid first. Take extra precaution;"

The Daily Star did not find any such news on the BBC website.

The BBC on its website later on said, "A fake text message warning people that radiation from the Fukushima nuclear plant has leaked beyond Japan has been panicking people across Asia."

"The SMS message, purporting to come from the BBC, has been circulating around Asian countries since Monday."

The BBC has issued no such flash but the hoax has caused particular panic in the Philippines, it said.

Another text message sent to mobile phones, citing the British High Commission, had similar warnings.

"We have not disseminated any such message. We are looking for the original sender," Syeda Nazneen Ferdousi, senior press officer of the British High Commission in Dhaka, told The Daily Star.

According to Japanese television NHK, the fourth nuclear reactor exploded yesterday afternoon at Fukushima, a Japanese port city, 4,967km away (straight line distance) from Bangladesh. So far 400 millisievert nuclear radiation was leaking from one of its plants, enough to affect human health.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency has described the Fukushima incident as a level-4 event on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), which is used for an accident "with local consequences".

However, nuclear experts

have voiced concerns that the incident could upgrade to Level-5, which is defined as "Accident with wider consequences".

Shahana Afroz, a member at the bioscience department of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, told The Daily Star that the commission is closely monitoring the radiation level in different parts of the country.

"So far things are normal and there is nothing to be worried about," she said.

The wind direction in Japan would be an indicator of where the radiation may flow, she said.

According to Shahana, the BAEC has radiation testing facilities in Dhaka, Savar and Chittagong where radiation levels in the air is measured and recorded round the clock.

Around eight hours after the explosions in Japan, the UN weather agency said wind was blowing radioactive material over the Pacific Ocean, away from Japan and other Asian countries. The Geneva-based World Meteorological Organisation added that weather conditions could change, Reuters reported.

Asian governments that are ramping up nuclear power will face huge pressure to curb their programmes in the wake of Japan's atomic crisis, but dozens of reactors will still be built in the near future.

Authorities in Bangladesh, which has signed a deal with Russia for two nuclear power plants, said they were monitoring events in Japan closely but they would pursue their plans.

"Our reactors will be third generation and they will be able to withstand even the most powerful earthquakes," Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission chairman Farid Uddin Ahmed told AFP.

A spokesperson for World Health Organisation, Bangladesh told The Daily Star that Bangladesh is not likely to be affected by the Japan nuclear incident but it is too early to comment.

Munir Hasan, a high school teacher from Badda, said, "At first I laughed it off as a rumour. But after hearing some of my colleagues discuss it, I could not help but panic."

"So I forwarded the SMS to my parents, younger brother and some friends just to be on the safer side."

Uproar over appointment

FROM PAGE 20
The association threatened to go on an indefinite work abstention from March 19 unless the authorities retreat from the move. It is scheduled to have a general meeting today to chart the next course of actions.

The day Prof SM Nazrul Islam took office as the vice-chancellor in August last year, he gave Kamal Ahammad, a non-statutory deputy registrar, the charge of the registrar as an additional duty.

The university authorities had published two advertisements seeking applications from eligible candidates after the post of the registrar had fallen vacant in June last year. Four applicants were short-listed for the job.

"But the vice-chancellor went for a third advertisement apparently to give Kamal a chance to contest for the post," said Prof Md Zoyunul Abedin, president of

the Buet Teachers' Association.

VC Nazrul Islam however said the third advertisement was published last month to have more candidates. But Kamal was the only one to have submitted an application after the third advertisement.

Kamal said he was the president of the current ruling party affiliated Buet unit of Bangabandhu Parishad till 2009, and the VC said in 1996 he himself was the executive president of Bangabandhu Prokoushali Parishad, a forum of engineers which is also affiliated with the current ruling party.

The VC said a scrutiny committee rejected Kamal's application for the post of registrar.

But Prof Abedin contradicted the claim saying the application was not rejected, the committee only asked for some additional information.

Kamal, also president of

the Buet Officers' Association, said he will not vie for the post of registrar. But he however has not made any move to withdraw his application for the post.

Kamal joined Buet as an administrative officer in 1994. He was promoted to assistant registrar a decade later. In 2009, he was appointed as the estate officer, a post equivalent to a deputy registrar, following public circulation of an advertisement for application for the post.

The Buet syndicate, led by Prof Islam, in January this year gave a retrospective effect to Kamal's promotion as the deputy registrar from March 2004, allowing him to qualify for the post of registrar, alleged Abedin.

It is an unthinkable incident to have happened in Buet, said Prof Sarwar Jahan of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Prof Islam however said, "I just followed the precedent of giving retrospective effect to a promotion."

He said the comptroller was relieved of the additional duties as the registrar, as those had become a "burden" on him. Kamal was the only deputy registrar available for the post of registrar, headed.

Abedin however said Kamal, when serving as the assistant registrar, was directly appointed to the post of the estate officer through public advertisement, and that there is no legal scope for giving retrospective effect to it.

There is precedence of giving such antedated effect only in cases of departmental promotions, he said.

About his own political affiliation, the VC said, "It is difficult to contest in elections of the Institution of Engineers without any political affiliation."

The teachers' association

demands appointment of a non-partisan person as registrar, and cancellation of Kamal's promotion, said Abedin.

Association leaders also termed the appointments to the posts of vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor as anomalous, saying the appointments paved the way for gross politicisation of Buet that had been maintaining a non-partisan identity since its inception in 1962.

The government in September 2009 appointed Prof Md Habibur Rahman as the first pro-vice-chancellor of the university, superseding more than 50 senior teachers, while Prof Islam was appointed as the VC even though he was in service on an extension, said Abedin.

In a quick reconstitution of different administrative and recruitment committees, the vice-chancellor opted for relatively junior officials.

Prof Shamsul Hoque of the civil engineering department said, "We were forced to take a tough stance to protect the institution's non-partisan image, and its reputation for excellence."

"Our goal is to ensure that Buet is run in accordance with its principles and tradition," said Md Ataur Rahman, general secretary of Buet Teachers' Association.

Every Day 2 Seminars



Share Market Fair 2011

Date : 21 to 23 April 2010
Time: 10 am - 8 pm
Venue : Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre

House # 79, Road# 12/A Dhanmondi (3rd Floor) Dhaka - 1209, E-mail: financialmirror@gmail.com

Information :

- Primary & Secondary Share • B.O account opening
- Brokerage house • Share & Debenture
- Bond & Security • Merchant Bank
- Membership information of Dhaka Stock Exchange & Chittagong Stock Exchange
- Guide lines of Security Exchange Commission (SEC)
- CBL & for all information of share market visit the Fair.

Contact:

9132486, 8191639, 9137086,
Mobile: 01715-068878
01911178836, 01711830036

Media partner Strategic partner Event Management Organizer






HIGHLIGHT



BANK & Financial Institutions Fair 2011

Date : 21 to 23 April 2010
Time: 10 am - 8 pm
Venue : Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre

House # 79, Road# 12/A Dhanmondi (3rd Floor) Dhaka - 1209, E-mail: financialmirror@gmail.com

Stall Booking going on :

- Bank • Leasing Company
- Debit & Credit Card Service Provider
- Master & Visa Card Company
- Insurance Company
- Bank Online Service Provider
- Banking Software Provider

Contact:

9132486, 8191639, 9137086,
Mobile: 01715-068878
01911178836, 01711830036

Media partner Strategic partner Event Management Organizer






Stall Booking Going on



LIFESTYLE FAIR 2011

Date : 21, 22 & 23 April 2011
Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)

House # 79, Road# 12/A Dhanmondi (3rd Floor) Dhaka - 1209, E-mail: mirrorfashion@gmail.com

Real Estate • Mobile service provider
SME products • Fashion House • Furniture
Jewellery • Parlour & Skin care • Leather Shoes
Handicrafts • Ceramics • Mobile & Electronics goods
Watches • Cosmetics • Restaurants
Tour operator • Airlines • SME Banking
Bank & Financial Institute & All kinds of lifestyle products...

Contact:

9137086, 9132486, 8191639
Mobile: 01715-068878
01711830036

Media partner Strategic partner Event Management Organizer






AKK A. K. Khan & Company Limited
Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 15, 2011 Memo No. AKK/ADMIN/166/2011

Sealed national bids are invited from the eligible bidders for supply and driving of U-Type Cold Rolled Steel Sheet Pile for the under mentioned work as per the brief terms and conditions stated below:

1. Name of the Work	Supply and driving of U-Type Cold Rolled Steel Sheet Pile for River Shore Project
2. Objective of the Work	To protect the land of A. K. Khan & Company Limited from river erosion at Kalurghat.
3. Procuring Department	Engineering Department, A. K. Khan & Company Limited
4. Eligibility of the Bidders	This Invitation for Bids is open to all eligible bidders as mentioned below : - Bidders (lead partner in the cases of joint venture) must have successfully completed at least 03 (three) contract of supplying cold rolled steel sheet pile within the last 01 (one) year on the date of bid opening and the cost of at least one contract should be more than 01 (one) Crore Taka. - Bidders must have liquid assets and annual turnover (average of last 01 (one) year) or more than Tk. 01 (one) Crore and Tk. 02 (two) Crore, respectively.
5. Collection of the Bidding Documents	Attention : Senior Deputy General Manager A. K. Khan & Company Limited Head Office: Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000
6. Price of the Bidding Documents	- Purchase in Person : Tk 12,000.00 (Direct Purchase) - Purchase by Mail : A cash cheque of Tk 12,500.00 in favor of A. K. Khan & Company Limited is to be enclosed with a request letter.
7. Submission of the Bidding Documents	Attention : Senior Deputy General Manager A. K. Khan & Company Limited Head Office: Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000
8. Date of Collection of the Bidding Documents	March 16, 2011 to March 20, 2011 during the office hour.
9. Amount of Security Deposit	Tk. 100,000. 00 (Taka One Lac) only in the form of a unconditional and Irrevocable Bank draft or Pay Order from a reputed Bank in favor of A. K. Khan & Company Limited.
10. Last date of Submission of the Bidding Documents	On or before March 30, 2011 during office hour.
11. Special Instructions	- The Company will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the participation or delivery of bids. - The bids will be opened in the presence of the team members assigned for this work and will be evaluated accordingly. Only the short listed bidders will be contacted for further discussion. - The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any bid offer at their own complete discretion. - Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of the concerned bid. - To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact the following from March 16, 2011

Mr. Md. Shamsuddin Khan
Senior Deputy General Manager
A. K. Khan & Company Limited, Head Office: Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000
Tel : +880 31 611050-2, Ext. 111; Fax : +880 31 610596
E-mail : samsuddin.khan@alkkhan.com