

Incident Report: 20/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 8 December 2009 at 0440 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 22° 12.7' N, 091° 46.3' E

Area Description: Chittagong Port outer anchorage 'B', Bangladesh

Name and Type of Ship: *Tropical Star*/Tug boat

Details of Incident

At about 0440 hrs (local time) on 8 December 2009, a Belize-registered tug boat, *Tropical Star* was anchored at the Chittagong Port outer anchorage 'B' when some robbers attempted to board the tug boat from a powered driven wooden boat. The Officer-on-Watch onboard the *Tropical Star* sighted the robbers and contacted the Chittagong Port Authority immediately for assistance. The Chittagong Port Authority informed the Bangladesh Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol boat to the incident area. Realizing the approaching of the patrol boat, the robbers escaped in their boat.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

The ReCAAP ISC commends the Officer-on-Watch for his vigilance and timely reporting of the incident to the port authorities. This enabled the port authorities to activate the Bangladesh Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol boat to the incident area immediately.

The quick response by the port authorities and the prompt action by the coast guard demonstrated the effectiveness in inter-agencies cooperation between the Chittagong Port Authority and the Bangladesh Coast Guard.

The ReCAAP ISC strongly encourages ship master to report all incidents to the port authorities or the nearest coastal state immediately. Immediate reporting permits the authorities to activate the law enforcement agencies, and prevent boarding by the robbers as demonstrated in this incident.

