

Bahraini ship lost in cyclone found near an island



Rescue team found the ship floating near an Island



- Crew members saved by rescuers
- Efforts continue to rescue the ship
- Ship found next to an Island near to the port

TDT | Manama

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Relief finally for the family members of the crew of a Bahraini ship that went missing when cyclone Mekunu hit the port of Salalah in Oman late May.

A source told *Tribune* that the ship, once hosted 18 crew members, has been found near an island after many weeks of intense search.

Only three crew members were on board when the vessel got drifted away in the Cyclone, as the others, who were in dispute with the company regarding pending salaries, had left the ship earlier.

The crew members, a Jordanian, a Syrian and a Myanmar national chose to stay back on the ship employed by a Bahraini company to transport goods around the Middle East.

Following the successful res-



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Cyclonic Storm Mekunu was the most intense tropical cyclone to make landfall in the Arabian Peninsula in recorded history.

cue mission, one of the crew members, reportedly, returned to his home country Myanmar. Others are staying in a hotel arranged by the port authorities.

Tribune reported on June 12 that Omani coastguard is operating a rescue mission.

Most of the crew members resorted to leaving the job as the company managed to pay them only a portion of the salary promised even after spending seven months on board. Three of the crew members, however, decided to stay.

“The sheer force of the cy-

clone pushed the ship deeper into the sea and for weeks nobody knew where it went. It was floating freely in the sea and was found next to an island near to the port after a long search,” the source said.

The incident occurred even as the Port of Salalah management activated an emergency plan in preparation for the Tropical Cyclone Mekunu on May 23.

The authorities shifted ships and hazardous containers to safe areas, but it didn’t go as planned for the Bahraini vessel.

“It is not known how they will

retrieve the vessel, as it is in a tricky situation. Efforts will be made, but it will not be an easy operation,” the source added.

Cyclonic Storm Mekunu was the most intense tropical cyclone to befall the Arabian Peninsula. It was only the third Category 3 tropical cyclone to hit the Arabian Gulf since record-keeping began in 1960. The impact of the disaster was calamitous with around 40 reported to be missing initially. The death toll of the cyclone reached 30 as Mekunu barreled across Oman and Yemen last month.



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