

US vows sweeping measures to address air security threat

Airline plot 'buck stops with me', says Obama

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama declared Thursday "the buck stops with me" over huge intelligence flaws exposed by an al-Qaeda attack on a US jet and vowed sweeping and costly new measures to fix them.

Obama, speaking before the publication of two first probes into the thwarted Christmas Day bombing, blamed US spy agencies for failing to properly connect and analyse signs an al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen was planning the attack.

But, trying to temper criticism that his administration is too soft on terror, he

said the United States was "at war with al-Qaeda" while promising that terrorists would not be able to redefine the American way of life.

"I am less interested in passing out blame than I am in learning from and correcting these mistakes to make us safer," Obama said in a televised statement in the State Dining Room of the White House.

"Ultimately the buck stops with me. As president, I have a solemn responsibility to protect our nation and our people, and when the system fails, it is my responsibility."

Obama also signalled that despite a

gathering political, witch hunt in Washington, there would not be immediate firings or resignations among top spy chiefs over the threat to bring down the Northwest jet on Christmas Day.

"It appears that this incident was not the fault of a single individual or organisation, but rather a systemic failure across organizations and agencies," he said.

Obama said the US homeland security system and intelligence community broke down in three main ways, allowing 23-year-old Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to board a jet bound for Detroit with hidden explosives.



Palestinians inspect a crater on the ground opened by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City yesterday. Israeli airstrikes hit seven targets in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip early Friday, killing three men and wounding another, Palestinian medics said.

Iran leader Karroubi's car hit by gunfire

AFP, Tehran

The armoured car of one of Iran's opposition leaders, Mehdi Karroubi, was hit by gunfire in the northern town of Qazvin, his party's website reported on Friday, but only the windows were damaged.

Karroubi was in town to attend a mourning ceremony for slain opposition protesters organised by a reformist former MP, Sahamnews.org said.

"Around 500 Basiji (members of the Basij Islamic militia) and residents of nearby villages surrounded the place where he was and attacked the building with stones, breaking windows," it said.

After four hours, anti-riot police finally intervened to get Karroubi out of the building.

"As his car was pulling away, it was attacked and hit by gunfire. But, as it is an armoured car, only the windows were damaged."

Iraq bars 14 politicians, parties from election

AFP, Baghdad

Fourteen Iraqi politicians and parties accused of having links to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party have been barred from taking part in parliamentary elections in March, a senior lawmaker said yesterday.

The decision to bar them from the polls, the second since Saddam's ouster after a US-led invasion in 2003, might undermine efforts towards national reconciliation in Iraq, which was ruled by Sunni Arabs for the majority of the

20th century but whose government is now Shia-led.

Among the most prominent politicians banned was Saleh al-Mutlak, a secular Sunni who heads the National Dialogue Front.

"The decision has been taken by the commission after the emergence of evidence showing that Mutlak promoted and glorified the forbidden Baath party," said Falah Shanshal, an MP loyal to radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and head of the parliamentary panel charged with de-Baathification.

Israeli strikes kill 3 in Gaza

AP, AFP, Gaza City

Israeli airstrikes against targets in Gaza killed three men early yesterday in a smuggling tunnel along the Gaza-Egypt border, Palestinian officials reported.

The Israeli strikes came in retaliation for a rocket and mortar barrage launched into Israel on Thursday.

The bodies of two men killed when missiles hit a tunnel under the Gaza-Egypt border have reached the morgue at nearby Rafah Hospital, according to Dr Salam Abu Salem. An AP Television News cameraman saw a third body being removed later Friday

from the same tunnel.

Dozens of Palestinian smugglers have died in collapses and strikes against the tunnels, which are used to bring everything from cigarettes and chocolate to livestock and weapons into the blockaded territory. Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade to weaken Gaza's

rulers, the Islamic militants of Hamas, who violently seized power there in 2007.

Israel's military said that in addition to the smuggling tunnels its aircraft also targeted a weapons manufacturing facility and another tunnel meant to allow militants to sneak into Israel from an attack.



People help push a car up a hill on a snow covered residential road in Hartley Wintney, in Hampshire, 67km miles west of London yesterday. Europe was blasted by more snow and ice on Friday amid a brutal winter that has caused travel chaos across the continent.

Europe's bitter winter sparks energy alert

AFP, London

Europe was blasted by more snow on Friday as Britain endured its coldest night of the winter and fears for energy supplies intensified.

Britain, in the grip of its worst winter in decades, saw overnight temperatures plunge to minus 22 degrees Celsius at Altnaharra in the Scottish Highlands.

Manchester in northwest England and the Brecon Beacons mountains in Wales hit minus 16 degrees, while Glasgow recorded minus eight.

"Temperatures will struggle to rise above freezing across most of the country by day, with severe and penetrating frosts at night," said chief forecaster Richard Young at the Met Office national weather service.

The conditions sparked concern for energy supplies in Britain, as gas was cut off on Thursday to almost 100 major firms in a bid to avert a crisis.

"We've got plenty of supplies, the gas storage is about 70 percent full," Environment Secretary Hilary Benn told GMTV television in a bid to reassure the public.

France may slap 700-pound fine for women wearing burqas

ANI, London

A proposed new law in France will enable authorities to impose a fine of 700 pounds on women wearing burqas.

French MPs will vote later this month on whether it should be made illegal for people to cover their faces in public.

If the bill becomes law, full Islamic face veils like the burqa and the niqab will be banished from the French streets, The Sun reports.

Jean-Francois Cope, the head of President Nicolas Sarkozy's ruling UMP party, said he wants anyone caught wearing a burqa or a niqab to be fined.

BRAC Notice for Enlistment. Applications are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers / Service providers for enlistment of the following items under the terms and conditions mentioned below on their Letter Head Pad. Reference No & Date for Enlistment: IFT/BRAC/BPD-Enlist/10-01 January 03, 2010. Group Name: Group-A: Sub-Station, Generator, Elevator/ Lift. Group-B: All types of Fridge and Deep fridge. Enlistment Period: For the Year of 2010 & 2011. Application Dropping Place, Date & Time: Application to be dropped on January 25, 2010 between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Tender Box # 01 kept in front of Procurement Department, Ground Floor, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Security Deposit: Only Selected supplier will have to deposit Tk. 40,000/- (Tk. Forty Thousand only) for Group-A and Tk. 25,000/- (Tk. Twenty five Thousand only) for Group-B in the form of pay order in favor of BRAC as Security Money which will be returned after enlistment period against an application. Documents to be submitted along with the application: 1. Copy of up to date Trade License, 2. Copy of up to date VAT Registration Certificate, 3. Copy of up to date Tax payment receipt, 4. Bank solvency certificate, 5. Company Profile and proof of experience in the field, 6. Copy of Electrical Supervisory License and Electrical Contractor License for Electrical equipments supplier. Additional Requirement: 1. Must have an office along with phone & fax no. 2. To furnish list of employee Skilled and Unskilled separately with qualification & experience. 3. Minimum "03 years" Experience Certificate. 4. Client List with date of supplying goods / services. 5. Size and location of Warehouse / Store/ Workshop.

Wavelink Maritime International & Marine Point. AN OPPURTUNITY OF A LIFETIME- JOIN THE DECK CADET TRAINING PROGRAMME OF WAVELINK MARITIME INTERNATIONAL, SINGAPORE. On behalf of Wavelink Maritime International--- A premier Singapore Institute & A Partner of Singapore Maritime Officers Union (SMOU) & National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), Singapore--- we invite applications from eligible candidates for Pre Sea Training as Deck Cadets on Foreign Going Merchant Vessels. Training will be conducted under Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore(MPA) approved, structured DECK CADET PROGRAMME of WMI (Wavelink Maritime International, Singapore). After successful completion of training, students will be placed onboard Foreign Going Merchant Ships as DECK CADETS. Eligibility: Age: 22 years on 01st January 2010. Educational Qualification: SSC or O Level (Minimum 1st division or GPA 3.5). HSC or A Level (With Mathematics, Physics and at least 55% marks in English) Minimum 1st division or GPA 3.5. Other Requirement: Candidate must be physically fit in all respect with perfect eyesight and a good swimmer. Candidates must have good oral and written proficiency in English. Short listed candidates will undergo written, oral, and appropriate medical test. Procedure Of Collection Of Application Form: Application forms can be collected directly from Marine Point Limited- during Office hours (Except Friday and Public Holiday). Application forms will be available from 07th January 2010. Application form is also available for download from www.marinepointbd.com. Course details and other information related to admission process are also available in this website. Submission Of Application: Duly Filled application forms along with 3 copy of recent passport size photographs and other supporting documents (copy attested by first class gazetted officer or notary public) must reach to " Course Co-Ordinator, Marine Point Limited- HBFC Building (3rd Floor), 1/D Agrabad C/A Chittagong-4100" by 25 January 2010. For further details & collection of application form please contact to the following address during office hours (Except Friday and Public Holiday) MARINE POINT LIMITED : HBFC Building (3rd Floor), 1/D Agrabad C/A, Chittagong-4100, Bangladesh. Tel: (880) 31 2522568/69, 2513272/73 Fax: (880) 31 718197 Email: info@marinepointbd.com WEB: www.marinepointbd.com Course Co-ordinator Marine Point Limited.

TENDER NOTICE. The Southeast Bank Limited is one of the leading scheduled commercial banks in Bangladesh. The bank intends to deploy a Mobile Banking System solution. The bank invites bids from renowned vendors for the same. The RFP document can be collected by payment of Taka 5000 (Five Thousand) only (non refundable) from the Information Technology Division, Head Office (1, Dilkusha C/A, 4th Floor, Dhaka - 1000) from 10:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. on all working days between 09th January, 2010 and 14th January, 2010. The response will be received up to 12:05 P.M. on 11th February, 2010. The tender box will be opened at 12:15 P.M. on the same day. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever. Southeast Bank Limited A Bank With Vision

BASIC Bank Limited. Serving people for progress. A STATE OWNED SCHEDULED BANK. Head Office: Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Phone: 9568190, 9564830, 7175691, 7175692, Fax: 88-02-9564829. Office Space Wanted for Purchase. We are looking for space to Purchase for setting up our Head Office at Motijheel Commercial Area and for a branch at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A in Dhaka. For Head Office: Preferred locations: 1. Near to Bangladesh Bank at Motijheel Commercial Area. 2. The space should be in front of the main road(at least 60 to 70 feet wide). 3. Ready Space will be given preference. Preferable Size: 30,000 to 35,000 square feet. Preferable floor: Space should be available at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and Ground floor with required car parking facility. For Branch: Preferred locations: 1. At Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani Commercial Area, Dhaka. 2. The space should be Near to Airport Road in front of the Kemal Ataturk Avenue of Banani. 3. Ready Space will be given preference. Preferable Size: 7,000 to 8,000 square feet. Preferable floor: Space should be available at 1st floor with the facility for required car parking on the ground floor. Interested Land / Space owners are requested to submit their financial & technical offer within 24th January 2010 at Bank Head office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban(5th Floor). # Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers in full or part without assigning any reason whatsoever. Deputy General Manager Branch Control & Establishment Division.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আমাদের মক্কেল জনাব শেখ হাফিজুর রহমান, পিতাঃ মৃত শেখ হাবিবুর রহমান, স্বামী শেখ হাফিজুর রহমান, উভয়ের ঠিকানা ফ্ল্যাট নং- সি/২, বাড়ী নং-১২১, রোড নং-১, ব্লক-এক, বনানী, ঢাকা। স্বামী ঠিকানাঃ গ্রাম ও ডাকঘর- ইসীপাড়া, জেলা- গোপালগঞ্জ। নিম্ন বর্ণিত তফসিল ভুক্ত সম্পত্তি এবং উহার উপর নির্মিত ৪ তলা বাণিজ্যিক ভবন ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে জনাব শাহ মোঃ ইয়াহিয়া ও জনাব মোঃ জাকারিয়া উভয়ের পিতা মৃত আলহাজ্ব মোঃ মনজির আলী, গ্রাম- মজলি, ডাকঘর- গুদামল, থানা- জলিগঞ্জ, জেলা- সিলেট, বর্তমান ঠিকানাঃ বাড়ী নং- ২৯/বি, রোড নং-২, কর্ণফুলী কমপ্লেক্স, হাবিশহর কে ব্লক সংলগ্ন, থানা- হাবিশহর, জেলা- চট্টগ্রাম- এর সহিত ০৪/০১/২০১০ইং তারিখে একটি বিক্রয় চুক্তি সম্পাদন করেন। নিম্ন বর্ণিত তফসিল ভুক্ত সম্পত্তির উপর নির্মিত ভবনে কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করিতে অনুরোধ করা হইল। অন্যথায় নিম্ন বর্ণিত তফসিল ভুক্ত সম্পত্তির উপর নির্মিত ভবনে কাহারো কোন আপত্তি নাই মর্মে ধরিয়া নেওয়া হইবে এবং এই ব্যাপারে কাহারো কোন দাবী সর্ব আদালতে অগ্রাহ্য হইবে। তফসিল: জেলা- চট্টগ্রাম, থানা- ডবলমুরি, মৌজা- গোসাইলডাঙ্গা, জে.এল.নং-১৬, সি.এস. খতিয়ান নং- ৮৩/১১৫, সি.এস.দাগ নং-১২৯৮/১২৯৯, আর.এস. খতিয়ান নং- ১০৯৮, আর.এস. দাগ নং- ৯০৭, বি.এস. খতিয়ান নং- ১১৭, বি.এস. দাগ নং- ২৭২৯, জমির পরিমাণ- ৪৭৫ শতাংশ ও তদস্থিত ৪ তলা বিশিষ্ট বাণিজ্যিক ভবন। মোহাম্মদ মেহেদী হাসান চৌধুরী, ব্যারিস্টার-এট-ল, শেখ এড চৌধুরী, বালোর বাগী ভবন, ৮১, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।