

Qaeda suspect worked at 6 US nuclear plants

AP, Haddonfield

An American seized in Yemen in a sweep of suspected al-Qaeda members had been a labourer at six US nuclear power plants, and authorities are investigating whether he had access to sensitive information or materials that would be useful to terrorists.

Sharif Mobley, 26, worked for contractors at plants in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland from 2002 to 2008, mostly hauling materials and setting up scaffolding, plant officials said.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Neil Sheehan said Friday that investigations are under way into which areas Mobley entered. But he noted that areas containing nuclear fuel are tightly controlled, and that a labourer typically would not have access to security information or other sensitive matters.

The plants are also checking areas where Mobley worked to ensure everything is in order, said NRC spokeswoman Diane Scenic.



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinians and foreign activists run for cover from teargas fired by Israeli soldiers during clashes in the village of Nilin, near the West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday. The clashes erupted during the weekly demonstrations, which are aimed at halting the construction of Israel's controversial separation barrier that is mostly built inside the occupied territory and cuts off farmers from their land in border communities like Nilin.

Hillary rebukes Israel over new settlements

Palestinians hail rare US condemnation

AFP, Washington/ United Nations

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has rebuked Israel for plans to build new settler homes, saying it sent a "deeply negative signal" about Israel's ties to its top ally.

In unusually harsh words, Hillary told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Washington strongly objected to the announcement made during a landmark trip to Israel by US Vice President Joe Biden.

"The United States considered the announcement a deeply negative signal about Israel's approach to the bilateral relationship," the top US diplomat told Netanyahu in an early Friday morning telephone call.

Her comments were backed by the Middle East Quartet -- made up of the European Union, the United States, Russia and the United Nations -- which said in a statement it "condemns Israel's decision to advance planning for new housing units in East Jerusalem."

The Middle East diplomatic Quartet on Friday also issued a rare condemnation of Israel for its plans to build new settler homes, warning that unilateral actions would not be recognised by the world community.

The Quartet said that unilateral actions taken by either party to the Middle East peace process "will not be recognised by the international community."

Hillary heaped further scorn on the Jewish

state's announcement after speaking with Netanyahu.

"The announcement of the settlements, the very day that the vice president was there, was insulting," she told CNN in an interview.

"I mean, it was really just an unfortunate and difficult moment for everyone."

It was an unusually strong rebuke from the United States for its main regional ally, and almost unprecedented in decades of strongly.

And the Palestinian Authority Saturday hailed the rare US condemnation of Israel over the Jewish state's plan to build more settler homes in annexed east Jerusalem.

The PA "welcomes the statements from US Secretary of State and the Quartet condemning the Israeli government decision to build settlements in the eastern sector of Jerusalem," chief negotiator Saeb Erakat said.

In June 1990, secretary of state James Baker, frustrated by the intransigence of Israel's then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, told the Israelis: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

But while today's frustration also stems from the stalemated Middle East peace process, the political landscape is completely different, analysts said.

"Hillary Clinton and Biden are very close friends to Israel. Bush and Baker weren't so close," the analyst said, asking to remain anonymous, referring to the former president George H.W. Bush.

open position announcement

AT The Westin Dhaka, a 5-Star Luxurious Business Hotel - managed by Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. U.S.A. and owned by Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd (UHRL), the following positions are open for recruitment. Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications.

Executive Assistant Manager: Bachelor's Degree required, preferably in Hotel/Restaurant or Business Administration, or equivalent education. Minimum 10 years working experience in hospitality industry. Candidate who is open minded & outgoing personality can apply with confidence.

Director of Sales & Marketing: Master's Degree required, preferably in Business Administration, or equivalent education. Minimum 7 years working experience required. The ideal candidate needs to oversee the Sales & Marketing Department and works in achieving the hotel's market positioning and revenue goals. He should provide support and advice to the General Manager in strategic planning and overall business goals relating to Sales & Marketing issues of the brand and the hotel. The ideal candidate has to protect and guard corporate standards, brand integrity and hotel image. He should have the knowledge and skill in crisis management, and should have knowledge in e-commerce, B2B and B2C business philosophy.

Rooms Divisions Manager: Bachelor's degree preferred, diploma in hotel management or equivalent education required will be an added advantage. 4 to 5 years hotel front office, service apartment, and guest relation experience required including 2 years as Executive Housekeeper. The ideal candidate has to oversee the daily operations of the Room Divisions. Ensure that the department and communications meet hotel standards for maximum guest satisfaction. Act as the main contact for Front Office and Housekeeping departments.

Director/Manager Human Resources: Master's Degree in Human Resources, Industrial Relations, Psychology or related field. 5 years experience in a similar role or as a stand alone manager. He should organize, direct and manage the operations of the Human Resources Department to ensure that the Human Resources functions guide, support and align the Hotel's Culture with the Hotel's vision. He has to participate in all operational, human resources, financial and marketing decisions. He has to provide a proactive and supportive Human Resources service, contributing to the achievement of Hotel goals of ASI, CSI and Profitability and to develop initiatives which embrace Starwood values and ensure that all associates are treated in a positive, fair and supportive manner throughout their employment. The Director/Manager of Human Resources will be required to conduct their duties in a courteous, safe and efficient manner, in accordance with the hotel's policies and procedures, ensuring that a high level of service is maintained.

Communications Manager: University education required. 3 to 7 years experience in Communications Department, including at least 2 years as Communications Manager with managerial experience in multinational environment. S/he will be responsible in achieving the Brand and Hotel positioning objectives locally and internationally through Public Relations and Promotion activities. S/he has to assist the Director of Sales & Marketing in the development of Public Relations and Promotion plans and in budget preparation. Represents and promotes the Hotel by maintaining constant contact with the media, local community, the customer base and Starwood offices. S/he has to supervise the Public Relations department to ensure all daily tasks are completed in a timely fashion and to project the correct image and positioning of the Hotel and Brand by meeting corporate standards in all collateral and advertising materials. S/he has to develop and follow through in public relations activities and be responsible for the production of promotional materials, press kits and arrange press and media coverage. S/he should have knowledge in mass communication, creative graphic design, innovative copy writing, and editing.

Executive Sous Chef: Culinary Certificate from a recognized institution. At least 10 years of experience in kitchen with 3 years as Executive Sous Chef. The position of Executive Sous Chef concerns the overall operation & co-operation of the kitchen operation as per instructed by the Executive Chef. He is responsible to assist the Executive Chef in supervising the kitchen. He is also responsible for the training, development, utilizing, and reinforcement of skills and ensures that a consistent five-star product is achieved.

Workout/Gym Instructor (Male & Female): IISC or equivalent education preferred. Previous workout/Gym experience preferred. S/he should have Knowledge of workout/Gym equipments. S/he has to manage all aspects of the fitness centre to ensure the satisfaction and safety of guests / members.

If you feel that you are the right person we are looking for and if you are ready to take the challenge, please apply with confidence to the Manager - Human Resources & Training, Westin Dhaka, Plot II, CWN(B), Road II 45, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212 or e-mail: hr@westindhaka.com no later than March 30, 2010.

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Main Lankan Tamil party ready to accept self-rule

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's main ethnic Tamil party said yesterday it is ready to accept regional self-rule instead of total independence, which it had previously demanded.

The Tamil National Alliance, which backed the now-defeated Tamil Tiger rebels, says in its platform for April 8 parliamentary elections that it is ready to accept a "federal structure" in the north and east provinces with key powers including over land, law and order, and finance. The platform was released Friday.

Since its inception in 2001, the alliance has acted as a proxy for the separatist Tamil Tigers until their military defeat by government forces last year in a 25-year civil war for an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils. Between 80,000 and 100,000 people were killed in the

fighting.

Tamils have long complained of discrimination at the hands of the island's majority Sinhalese, but Sri Lankan authorities have rejected any self-rule for them, saying it would be a prelude to secession.

The alliance has 22 members in the outgoing 225-seat Parliament.

It has previously supported the separatist goal of the Tigers, whose organisation disintegrated after their battlefield defeat.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa called the April parliamentary vote after winning re-election in January in a presidential vote called two years ahead of schedule in an apparent attempt to consolidate his political dominance. The opposition leader, former army chief Sarath Fonseka, has been detained on sedition allegations.

Jackson's luxury furniture up for auction in June

AFP, Los Angeles

The luxury furniture Michael Jackson commissioned before his death will go under the hammer in June in Las Vegas along with other personal items from the King of Pop, Julien's Auctions announced Friday.

The 22 pieces of furniture Jackson ordered from Italy's Colombostile Artisans to fill the home where he was to live during his "This is It" London concert series will be featured in the June 25 "Music Icons" auction at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino.

Before the event, the furniture and a recreation of Jackson's home in Kent, England will be exhibited at Newbridge Silverware's Museum of Style Icons, in Ireland, from March 16 to May 30, Julien's said in a statement.

The exhibit will then be shown in Las Vegas from June 14-25.

Nepal army refuses to induct Maoist fighters en masse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

Nepal Army chief General Chhatraman Singh Gurung has refused to hire fighters from the opposition Maoist party's guerrilla army en masse on Friday.

Gurung, who became army chief last year after his predecessor, General Rookmangud Katawal, caused the collapse of the Maoist government, told visiting UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs B Lynn Pascoe that the fighters of the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) should not be taken en masse in the Nepal Army.

The general's stand goes against a peace pact signed between the Maoists and the ruling parties in 2006 that saw an end to a communist insurrection that had killed over 13,000 people.

Maliki marches ahead to keep his top Iraqi job

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi premier Nuri al-Maliki's bid to retain his job gained steam yesterday, as early results crucially put him ahead in Baghdad, while rival blocs began jostling over the formation of a government.

Though the preliminary figures represent less than one-third of all votes cast, they have put Maliki firmly in pole position in the race for the top job, with only ex-premier Iyad Allawi having emerged as a potential rival.

The results from Iraq's second parliamentary election since Saddam Hussein's ouster seven years ago, which sparked widespread sectarian bloodshed, come less than six months ahead of a dramatic US military downsizing which will see all American combat troops leave the country by the end of August.

Analysts said, however, that Maliki could be blocked in his bid to hold onto office even if his State of Law Alliance was the biggest single party in parliament, as other groups could manoeuvre to form a government without him.

With 18 percent of ballots counted in Baghdad, Maliki's State of Law Alliance was comfortably ahead with around 150,000 votes, followed by the Iraqi National Alliance (INA), a coalition led by Shiite religious parties, with 108,000. Allawi's secular Iraqiya bloc was third on 105,000.

Baghdad and its seven million residents account for 70 parliamentary seats, or more than one-fifth of the 325-member Council of Representatives, making it a crucial win for any would-be government.

News of Maliki's lead in Baghdad came shortly after a senior member of his coalition said State of Law had formed a committee to begin negotiating with rival blocs to hammer out a government.

"The committee met with representatives of four political entities that made progress in the elections," Abbas al-Bayati, a candidate for the coalition, told AFP, but he declined to say with which blocs the talks were held.

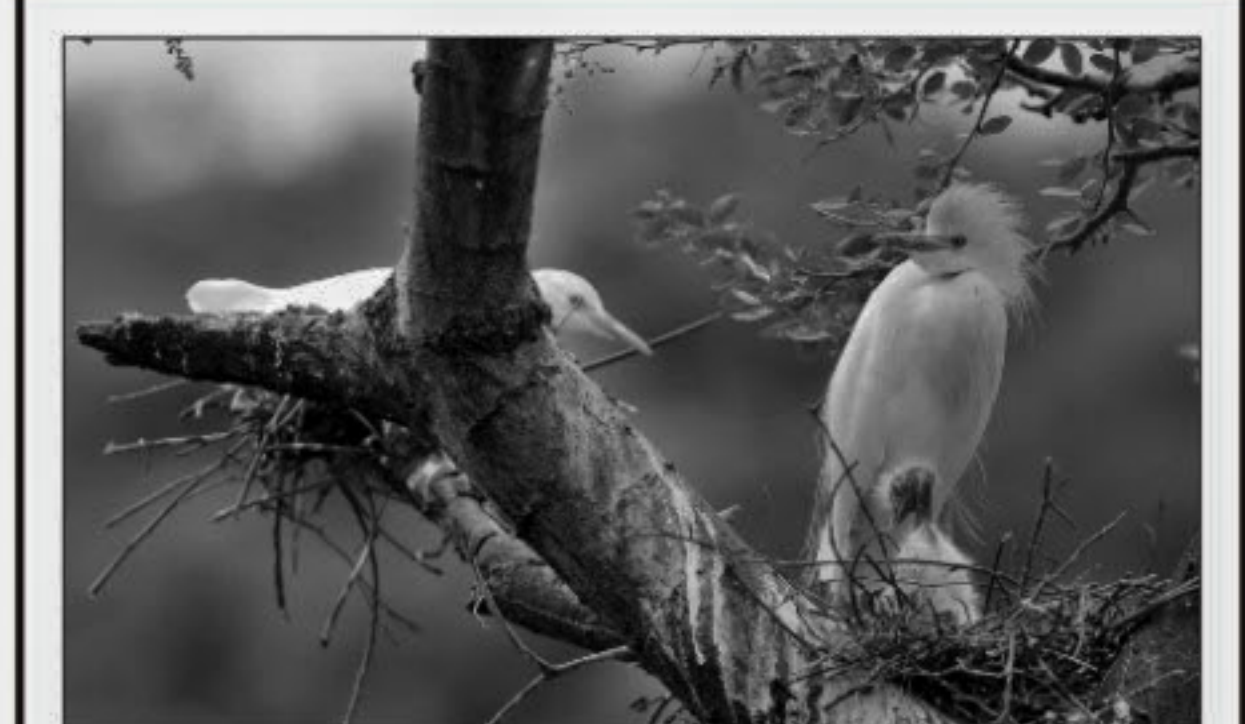


PHOTO: AFP

Cattle egrets (bubulcus ibis) remain next to a one-week old baby in the lake of Las Garzas eco-park, on March 9 in Cali, Valle del Cauca department, Colombia. In the area of 4.7 hectares of the eco-park, some 74 species of trees, 109 species of birds, and 11 species of mammals can be found.

World's birds shrinking due to global warming

ANI, Washington

A new study by scientists has shown that many birds in the world, particularly in North America, are shrinking in response to warmer temperatures.

In biology, there is a general rule of thumb that animals tend to become smaller in warmer climates: an idea known as Bergman's Rule.

Usually, this trend can be seen among animal species that live over a range of latitude or altitude, with individuals living at more northern latitudes or higher up cooler mountains being slightly larger than those below, for example.

Quite why this happens is not clear.

To find out, Dr Josh Van Buskirk of the University of Zurich, Switzerland and colleagues Robert Mulvihill and Robert Leberman of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Rector, Pennsylvania, US, decided to evaluate the sizes of hundreds of thousands of birds that pass through the Carnegie Museum's Powdermill ringing station, also in Pennsylvania.

DHAKA NATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE
Invitation for Tender

1 Agency	Dhaka National Medical College		
2 Procuring Entity Name	Principal Dhaka National Medical College		
3 Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
4 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5 Invitation for	Single		
6 Invitation Ref No	GA-NA/MA/KA/121/2010/275		
7 Date	11.03.2010		
KEY INFORMATION			
8 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9 Budget and Source of Funds	Own Source of College		
10 Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11 Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A		
12 Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A		
13 Tender Package No.	N/A		
14 Tender Package Name	N/A		
Date			
15 Tender Publication Date	14.03.2010		
16 Tender Last Selling Date	04.04.2010		
Date			
17 Tender Closing Date and Time	05.04.2010	12.00 PM	
18 Tender Opening Date and Time	05.04.2010	12.30 PM	
Address			
19 Name & Address of the office(s)	Pubali Bank Ltd. Johnson Road Branch, Dhaka-1100		
- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Dhaka National Medical College, Dhaka-1100.		
- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Principal Office. DNMC		
- Receiving Tender Document	Principal Office. DNMC		
20 Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	N/A		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	All Eligible Tenderers which are Mentioned at TDS		
22 Brief Description of Goods or Works	600 ± 10% KVA Diesel Generator		
23 Brief Description of Related Services	Mentioned at TDS		
24 Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk-1000/- (One Thousand) in favour of Principal		
25 Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks
1	600 ± 10% KVA Diesel Generator	DNMC	Tk 2,00,000/- Two Lacs only
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
26 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Md. Aref Rahman		
27 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal		
28 Address of Official Inviting Tender	53/1, Johnson Road, Dhaka-1100		
29 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	7118272 dnmacadm@hotmail.com		
30 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(Prof. Dr. Md. Aref Rahaman) Principal, DNMC

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New Zealand: Ntec - National Tertiary Education Consortium, Auckland University of Technology, University of Canterbury, AIS St. Helens

venue: Marble Foyer, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
date: 14th and 15th March 2010 (Sun and Mon)
time: 11am to 8pm

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