

Hillary, Obama  
embark on  
primary  
endgame

AFP, Philadelphia

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama set off Thursday on a five-day dash towards the Pennsylvania primary, as the endgame opens in their grueling Democratic White House tussle.

Campaign aides for each White House hopeful claimed victory after the senators clashed in a tense and grim debate here late Wednesday, both arguing their candidate was best placed to beat Republican John McCain in November.

Obama was already looking past next Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary to a knockout win in North Carolina, which along with Indiana votes on May 6 in the closing stages of the arduous nominating epic.

"North Carolina is going to be critically important. If we can win in North Carolina, I think we can wrap up this nomination," he said at a campaign stop in the southern state before heading back to Pennsylvania.

# Carter, Hamas leaders talk Gaza truce

Israel closes off West Bank, Gaza for Jewish Passover

AFP, AP, Gaza City

Former US President Jimmy Carter and Hamas leaders discussed the possibility of a truce in the Gaza Strip during their talks in Cairo, a source of the Islamist group said yesterday.

The discussions also centered on a crippling embargo against Gaza which Israel imposed in retaliation for rocket and mortar fire from the territory.

Carter, who was due to meet exiled Hamas chief Khaled Meshal in Damascus on Friday, also raised the issue of an Israeli soldier seized in 2006 just outside the Palestinian territory, said Mahmud Zahar, who took part in Thursday's meeting in Cairo.

"We had common points of view and the talks will continue today during the meeting with the political leadership of Hamas in Damascus," Zahar said in a telephone interview.

President Carter talked of humanitarian proposals linked to

the truce," he said in reference to attempts to halt the bloodshed in Gaza, where 18 Palestinians and three Israeli soldiers were killed in the latest explosion of violence on Wednesday.

The discussions also centered on a crippling embargo against Gaza which Israel imposed in retaliation for rocket and mortar fire from the territory.

During the four-hour meeting, Carter also asked about Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier seized by Palestinian militants in a cross-border raid from Gaza in 2006 claimed by Hamas and two other armed groups, Zahar said.

"We promised to give an answer after we complete internal consultations," Zahar said.

Carter's talks with Hamas have angered officials in the United States and Israel, where the Islamist

movement that controls Gaza is considered a terrorist organization.

The Hamas delegation also met Egyptian officials, including intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, to discuss a possible truce with Israel and a reopening of border crossings.

"We are working toward a truce on the condition that the crossing points be opened and that all enemy conditions stop immediately," said Taha Nunu, a Hamas spokesman and a member of the Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

Meanwhile, Israel closed off the West Bank and Gaza for the Jewish Passover holiday on Friday, a day after Gaza militants attacked a vital crossing, raising the possibility of a large-scale Israeli offensive within weeks.

The closure, which went into effect in the early morning, was to last until the end of the holiday on April 26, according to a statement

from the military. Palestinians are banned from entering Israel, except for doctors and lawyers and in humanitarian cases, it said.

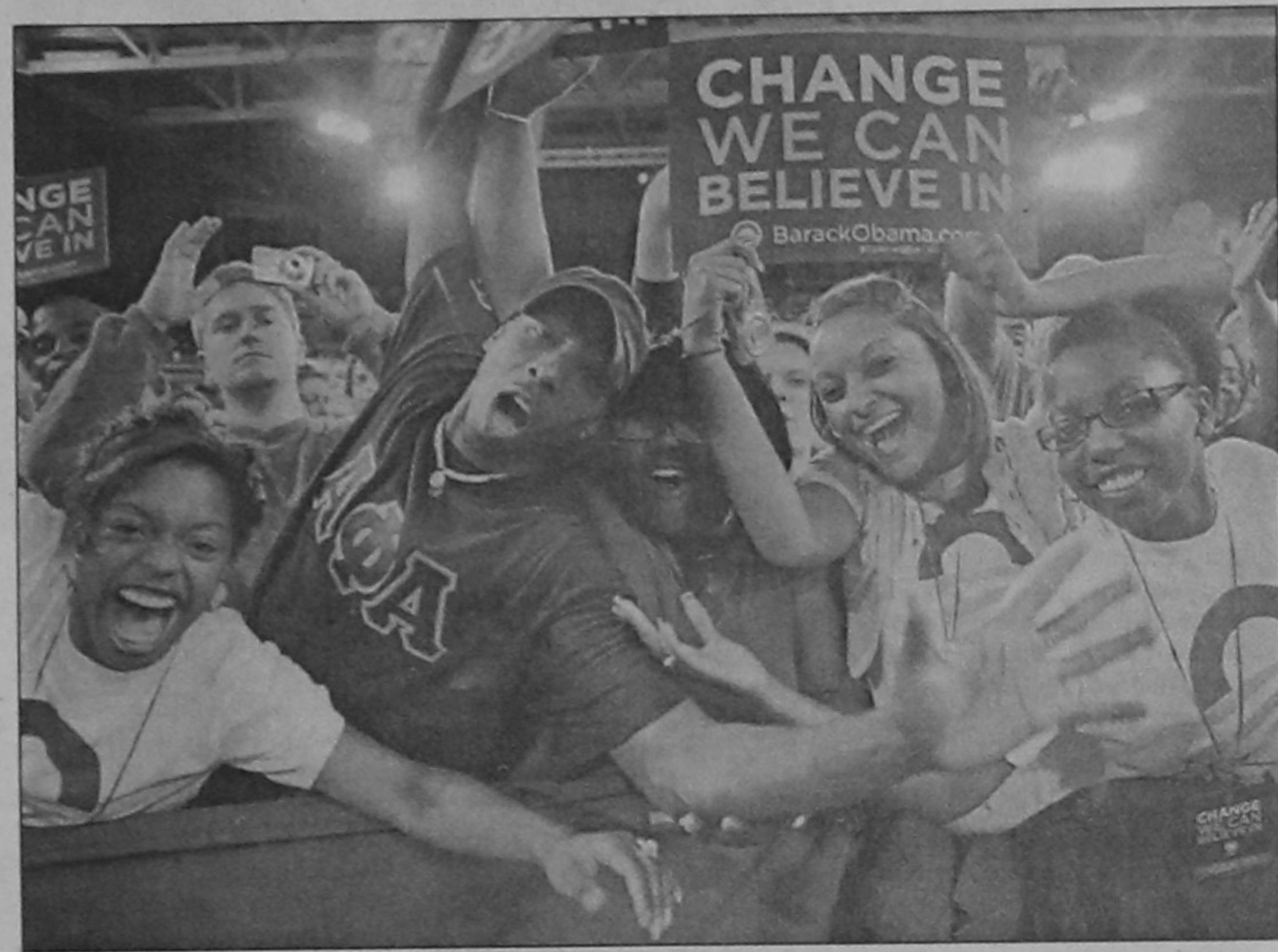
The military regards the holiday period "as a highly sensitive time, security wise," the statement said. The military "will increase its alertness... while preserving, to the best of its ability, the daily life of the Palestinian population," it said.

In violence Friday, Israeli troops killed a militant leader during a raid on the West Bank city of Nablus, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades group said. Another militant from the Islamic Jihad was seriously wounded, medics said.

Israel's army confirmed that a militant had been killed in an operation in Nablus, saying he fired at troops from a rooftop when they surrounded a house in an effort to arrest him.



A Palestinian man throws stones at an Israeli army armoured vehicle in the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, following clashes in which Palestinian militant Hani al-Kaabi was killed yesterday.



Supporters of Democratic presidential candidate US Senator Barack Obama cheer during a rally at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina on Thursday.

## Mugabe rounds on critics, silent on polls outcome

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe came out fighting yesterday in his first major speech since disputed polls, fending off criticism over his rights record and accusing Britain of stirring up unrest.

In a wide-ranging speech to mark the 28th anniversary of independence from Britain, the 84-year-old Mugabe fired off a string of insults against the former colonial power and said democracy had only been established in Zimbabwe after the demise of whites-only rule.

Mugabe did not speak about the outcome of the March 29 presidential elections, the results of which

are still to be announced, or whether he would contest a second round run-off against opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

"Today we hear the British saying there's no democracy here, people are being oppressed, there's dictatorship, there's no observance of human rights, rule of law," Mugabe said at a rally at a football stadium in Harare.

"We are not the British, established democracy based on one person one vote, democracy which rejected racial or gender discrimination and observed human rights.

"We are the ones who brought democracy to this country, we are the ones who removed the oppression which was here."

## UN plans summit on food crisis

THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN/ ANN, Tokyo

The United Nations will call a summit meeting in the coming months to tackle the problems of rising food prices and violence triggered by food shortages, according to a UN document obtained by The Yomiuri Shimbun on Thursday.

Prior to the summit meeting, a high-level working group headed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon will be set up, according to the document.

If realised, the working group and summit will be the first organised to deal with emerging international food crises.

The plans are contained in a document on global food issues submitted to Ban that was compiled by concerned departments and organisations of the United Nations, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. It will be adopted at a policy committee meeting to be attended by Ban and

**HOTELS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
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Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Hotels International Limited (HIL) for the under mentioned work/job of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh from eligible contractors.

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- Project Engineer.

## Brown seeks tighter Iran sanctions

AFP, Washington

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Thursday called for tightening European sanctions on Iran over its suspect nuclear programme, specifically targeting investments in liquefied natural gas.

Brown, meeting at the White House with US President George W. Bush, said he had been talking to fellow European leaders on how to broaden sanctions against Tehran and to make sure that existing measures are properly enforced.

"In the next few weeks, we want to extend the measures and sanctions to include investment in

liquefied natural gas. I believe that sends another signal to the regime that what is happening is unacceptable," said Brown.

Iran has defied UN demands to freeze its uranium enrichment programme -- a process that can be a key step towards obtaining nuclear weapons -- and spurned three rounds of UN sanctions meant to bring it in line.

Bush, confronting critics of his hardline policy against Tehran, said anyone who thinks the Islamic republic's enrichment programme serves no military aims "is, in my judgment, naive."

Gordon Brown seriously sees the threat, as do I. And now is the

time to confront the threat. And I believe we can solve the problem diplomatically," the president said during a joint appearance with Brown in the Rose Garden.

"Our position is clear: That we're going to work together along with other nations to make it abundantly clear to the Iranian regime that they must not have the capability of developing a nuclear weapon," said Bush.

"I'm talking to other European leaders about how we can extend European sanctions against Iran over the next period of time, and to ensure that what sanctions are taken are effectively implemented," said Brown.

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Key responsibilities are to manage Corporate Secretarial and legal issues including obtaining all required regulatory approvals for safeguarding rights of the Corporate, recommend optimal solutions to the management regarding these issues.

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### Deputy General Manager - Administration

Key responsibilities are to provide meaningful inputs for formulating and implementing Admin and logistics related policies and operate Business Unit through effective planning, monitoring and controlling of the functions of Admin Department to achieve corporate objectives.

Reporting to Director and work station will be Factory (Konabari). Candidate should be MBA and having minimum six years practical experience in managerial position in the relevant field in a large Group.

### Deputy General Manager - Marketing

Key responsibilities are to develop marketing policies, strategize and ensure their effective implementation to achieve business excellence of Spinning Mills.

Reporting to Director and work station will be Corporate Office. Candidate should be MBA (Marketing) and having minimum six years' practical experience in managerial position in the relevant field in a large Group.

### Deputy General- Manager / Asst General Manager - Audit

Key responsibilities are to appraise the effectiveness of internal controls to assist Management in achieving corporate objectives while maintaining the appropriate balance of risk and control.

Reporting to Chief Executive Officer and work station will be Corporate Office. Candidate should be CA Inter/PE-I CMA Inter qualified and having experience in any large group in similar position for four years.

### Sr. Executive/ Executive - HR

Key responsibilities are to implement HR related policies e.g. human resource planning, recruitment and selection, compensation and benefit structure, update HRIS etc. Reporting to section head and work station will be Corporate Office. Candidate should be MBA / BBA major in HR or equivalent and having minimum three years practical experience.

### Sr. Executive - Admin

Key responsibilities are to carry out day to day Admin related activities as per guideline of supervisor. Reporting to concern section head and work station will be Corporate Office. Candidate should be MBA and having minimum three years practical experience.

### Sr. Exe - Inventory

Key responsibilities are to inventory planning, management, monitoring order processing. Reporting to concern section head and work station will be Corporate Office/Factory (Konabari). Candidate should be Masters / Bachelors with five years experience in relevant field.

Candidates satisfying the job requirements are invited to apply with detailed resume along with one recent passport size photograph by April 27, 2008 to

**Manager - HR, Purbani Group**  
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- o To maintain good house keeping practices throughout his section
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(Please indicate the position you applied for on top of the envelope)