

## US may miss

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Senior administration officials acknowledged for the first time Friday that difficulties in completing the lengthy review of detainee files and resolving other thorny questions mean the president's promised January deadline may slip.

Obama's aides have stepped up their work toward closure and the president remains as committed to closing the facility as he was when, as one of his first acts in office, he pledged to shut it down, said the officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to more freely discuss the sensitive issue.

They said the White House still was hoping to meet the deadline through a stepped-up effort.

The US military prison in Cuba was created by former President George W Bush after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as a landing spot for suspected al-Qaida, Taliban and foreign fighters captured in Afghanistan and elsewhere. But it has since become a lightning rod of anti-US criticism around the globe. There are approximately 225 detainees still being held at the prison.

Obama promised soon after taking office--and many times since--to close the prison, arguing that doing so is crucial to restoring America's image in the world and to creating a more effective anti-terror approach.

But eight months after Obama's initial pledge and with only four months to go before the January deadline, a number of difficult issues remain unresolved. They include establishing a new set of rules for military trials, finding a location for a new prison to house detainees and finding host countries for those who can be released.

This has prompted top Republicans in Congress to demand that the prison stay open for now, saying it is too dangerous to rush the closure. Even Democrats defied the president, saying they needed more information about Obama's plan before supporting it. Congress is for now denying Obama funds to shut down Guantanamo.

After Obama's promise, administration officials and lawyers began to review the files on each detainee. At issue: which prisoners can be tried, and whether to do so in military or civilian courts; which can be released to other nations; and--the hardest question--which prisoners are too dangerous or their cases too compromised that they must be held indefinitely.

A major complaint surfaced immediately--that the Bush administration had not established a consolidated repository of intelligence and evidence on each prisoner. It took longer than expected to build such a database, the officials said, because information was scattered throughout agencies and inconsistent.

That files have now been completed, and prosecutors have also concluded their initial review of the detainees and recommended to the Justice Department an unspecified number who appear eligible for prosecution, the officials told the AP. The Justice Department and the Pentagon now will work together to determine which prisoners should be tried in military courts and which in civilian ones, the officials said. They would not provide a number recommended for prosecution since it could change.

The decision on which PM addresses

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concerns.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina, now in New York to attend the 64th UNGA session, passed another busy day on Friday having sideline meetings with head of delegations and representatives of various international organisations.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the Bangladesh premier had separate bilateral meetings with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremesanayake, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma at UN headquarters.

prisoners will be prosecuted had been expected by Nov. 16, and the officials said they are on track to meet--or beat--that goal. Navy Capt John F Murphy, the chief military prosecutor, had said previously that about 65 cases are viable for prosecution.

Meantime, Obama has kept pending several war-crimes trials that were already in progress when he took office. The administration has asked judges to suspend all proceedings to give it time to complete its review of cases.

Also, Obama has adopted some changes to the military tribunals, but wants Congress to enact more to address criticism that the courts favour the prosecution and will not withstand constitutional challenges. That legislation is moving forward on Capitol Hill, but is not complete.

The government also must decide where inside the U.S. to move the detainees, and that highly fraught choice still has not been made, the officials said. A maximum security prison in Standish, Michigan, and the military penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas are under consideration as possible locations. Whatever facility is chosen, the Pentagon will have to make improvements necessary to safely house the prisoners.

The officials noted that the US prison system already holds 216 people convicted as international terrorists. Another front in the effort to close the prison is the problem of finding countries willing to take in those detainees deemed eligible for release. The administration so far has transferred 14 prisoners to other countries, the officials said.

The administration will not "voluntarily release" any detainee inside the United States, the officials said. But this does not address what might happen if any of the detainees who are tried are found innocent--a subject of considerable angst about Obama's plans, both in Congress and among the public. However, the US could--and likely would--seek to transfer those people to other countries in that case, as none is a US citizen.

## Mahanavami

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huge festivity yesterday. From the early morning people of all ages gathered at Ramkrishna Mission to observe Kumari Puja. This is the only place where Kumari Puja is arranged.

According to Hindu philosophy, Kumari puja was initiated to establish the importance of women who symbolise the power that regulates creation on the earth, and Devi Durga, the idol of divine power against all evils, manifests herself more in a pure-hearted girl. Kumari Shakti is the basis of all creation.

A huge gathering was noticed at the city's temples as devotees thronged there to offer prayers for the blessings of Durga, the saviour of mankind against all dangers. They recited hymns while offering Anjali before her.

The ambience of puja mandap gets a festive mood as the dhakis (drummers) attracts the devotees near the puja place beating drums amidst hymns chanted by Brahmins.

Deputy Leader of parliament and ruling Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Qader, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Jatitya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty among the eminent personalities visited different puja mandaps in the city including Dhakeswari National Temple.

Today, Mahanavami Puja, the fourth day of Durga Puja, will begin at 9:00am.

Additional law enforcers have been deployed around the puja venues to ensure security during the puja festivities. Stringent security measures are in place at main puja mandaps of the capital including Dhakeswari National Temple, RK Mission, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir.

## 3 killed

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Keraniganj around 2:00pm. They were going to join a bridal party at Louhajang.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Nafisa succumbed to her injury around 4:00pm.

Bus helper Sohel died on the spot and six passengers were injured as their bus overturned when it hit the road divider at Mirpur-1 around 1:00pm.

Officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station said the accident occurred as helper Sohel was driving. The injured were rushed to local hospital and clinics, he added.

In another incident near Salehpur Bridge at Amin Bazar in Savar, university student Mizanur Rahman and three others sustained injuries as a bus rammed their car around 2:00am.

The injured were taken to DMCH where Mizanur succumbed to his injury around 3:00am.

Savar police seized the bus while the driver managed to escape.

## Terrorism

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and terrorism.

She claimed law-and-order situation is now better than under the previous governments. The law enforcers, including police and Rab, are doing their job to ensure peace at all puja mandaps across the country, said the minister.

Later, she visited the puja mandaps at Civil Aviation and Lake City Concord and talked with leaders of the Hindu community.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad accompanied her during the visit.

## Tk 1 crore

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illegal grabbers, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmudul Kabir Murad, First Class Magistrate Mahmudul Kabir Murad, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Rafiqul Alam, forest officials and Kaliakoir police freed the land from the illegal occupants in a combined raid.

The forest department planted some tree saplings on the recovered land. The UNO said the other illegal occupants of forest land would be evicted in phases. The factory officials were not available for comments.

## Mayor race

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Nurul Islam said they do not want Mohiuddin anymore as the mayor candidate even though the mayor has already declared himself as the AL-backed candidate for the next CCC elections. Talking to The Daily Star AL lawmaker and Chittagong District (north) President Eng Mosharrif Hossain said it was not proper on the part of the mayor to hold a two-and-a-half-hour-long meeting with a "war criminal". He said, "It is time we sat urgently to decide on the matter."

"Our business activities have dropped drastically due to the bad condition of the road as customers prefer to go to other markets to avoid the hassles on the road," said Anis, another businessman of the market. Anwar, a resident of the area, said the road goes under knee-deep water after a shower due to lack of drainage system. He said DCC started to repair the road but it has remained stalled for the last two months.

## Bomb hoaxes

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five battalions in the capital so that criminals cannot carry out any subversive activities. Many detainees told reporters Rab picked up them from the road when they were returning home from workplaces. They added the elite force detained them although they were not accused in any cases.

Rab sources say they have handed the detainees over to the police stations concerned.

## ACC opens

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might be extended, if needed. "Primarily, we shall work based on the findings of parliamentary sub-committee," said ACC Assistant Director and committee member Zahid Hossain.

CPA Chairman RU Ahmed told The Daily Star, "I have instructed the officials concerned to be available at their offices during the committee members' stay at the port." The ACC formed the committee following directives from the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry. A parliamentary sub-committee had earlier found evidence of corruption in the matters in, an enquiry and asked the ministry to take necessary action. The committee will get 15 days to complete investigation but it can extend the deadline for another 15 days if necessary.

## Climate role

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Friday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly Session 2009.

During the bilateral talks at the UN booths, Sheikh Hasina discussed various issues and matters of development.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremesanayake described Sheikh Hasina's plans and programmes as wise and visionary in the process of attaining the Bangladesh people's long-cherished well being and prosperity.

He mentioned the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord signed during the last Awami League government that had been successful in reinstating peace in the hill districts.

Wickremesanayake said Sheikh Hasina's government has a deep experience in establishing peace across a highly unstable region like Chittagong Hill Tracts.

In this context, he said Bangladesh can help Sri Lanka in maintaining peace in that country.

In reply, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured her Sri Lankan counterpart of all necessary support from Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina was also hailed for her role in making the world community beware of dire impacts of the global climate change and providing guidance for finding out solution to protect people from natural disasters.

As the bilateral trade and business between the two South Asian countries came up in the discussion, Sheikh Hasina emphasised on zero tariff entry of Bangladeshi goods to the Sri Lankan market.

She said Sri Lanka can import ceramics, pharmaceuticals and iron-sheet products from Bangladesh in larger volume. The two prime ministers also discussed admission opportunities of Sri Lankan students to the universities of Bangladesh.

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma recognised that Bangladesh has been contributing significantly in restoring peace in various places of the world under the UN peacekeeping missions.

He also hailed the Bangladesh prime minister's proposal to form a South Asian anti-terrorism task force.

Sheikh Hasina told Kamalesh Sharma that Bangladesh attaches high

importance to the values and objectives of the Commonwealth and always stands by the world humanity.

She informed the Commonwealth secretary general that she will lead a Bangladesh delegation to the upcoming summit of Commonwealth Heads of Governments to be held in Trinidad and Tobago next November.

During the meeting with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Sheikh Hasina was informed that he and his wife will visit Bangladesh soon to attend the convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Gazipur.

They expressed the hope for further consolidating the fraternal bond among the countries of the Muslim Ummah for the betterment of the two peoples.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meetings.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes and ambassador MZiauddin, among others, were present at the meetings.

## 2 JMB men

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Station attack in 2003, from his house at about 9:30 am, said a Rab press release.

Our Nilphamari correspondent adds: Police arrested JMB member Azizul Islam, 35, son of late Muhammed Shamsuddin, from his residence at Purbo Khutamura village in Jaldhaka upazila on Friday.

Superintendent of Police Golam Rasul at a press briefing yesterday said Azizul Islam is a 'Gaeri Ehsar' member of JMB and he went into hiding after the countrywide serial bombings in 2005.

During primary interrogation, Aziz told police that he along with 15 other people was provided arms training by executed JMB leader Khalid Saifullah at a Teesta shoal (Char Bharat) in 2003.

He returned home on Friday morning and on information police arrested him after Jumina prayer, said a Rab press release.

Officer-in-Charge of Jaldhaka Police Station Arman Hossain told newsmen that police produced Aziz before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court yesterday and sought seven days remand but the court granted five days' remand.

## Three killed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Police recovered one revolver and three bullets and seized the private car.

Johnny was an accomplice of top-listed criminal Bikash in Mirpur and was accused in seven cases including murders, the OC alleged.

Constable Akramul Islam of the patrol team sustained bullet injury to the hand in the gunfight and was undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh police hospital.

In Kushtia, Mohon Malitha was killed at Lalnagar village in Daulatpur upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-12 raided Lalnagar where PBCP cadres, led by Mohon, was holding a meeting at about 4:00am.

As the outlaws were asked to surrender, the criminals opened fire on the Rab personnel. The Rab team retaliated that left Mohon dead.

His accomplices, however, managed to flee the scene. Rab recovered a locally-made gun, one bullet, two bombs and two knives after the incident.

Mohon was accused in seven cases, including six for murders, said Daulatpur police.

In another incident, Shanu was killed at Nandabala Canal in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat.

On information, police swooped on Nandabala Canal at about 7:00am where the pirates were preparing to commit robbery. Officer in-charge of Mongla Police Station Kazi Jalaluddin told The Daily Star.

Shanu came in the line of fire as the criminals opened fire on the law enforcers.

After the gunfight, he was found dead while his accomplices fled the scene.

Police recovered one rifle and nine cartridges from the spot.

He was accused in several cases, including murders.

Constable Zakir Hossain and Havildar Abu Musa were bullet-wounded in the gunfight and admitted to Mongla Upazila Health Complex.

Two separate cases-- one under arms act and another for assaulting police--were filed with Mongla Police Station.

## 1 killed

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upazilas of the district.

Zahir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bera Police Station, told The Daily Star that additional police were deployed to avert further clash.

Locals said the clash took place over acquiring supremacy in the area between Manu Mannan and Main Uddin groups. Manu Mannan is president of Bera municipality unit AL and Main Uddin secretary of Bera municipality unit Jubo League.

The long-drawn internal feud between the two groups resurrected in recent weeks, said sources.

The supporters of two groups were locked in a clash with iron rod, hockey stick, bamboo and other sharp weapons in front of Bera Dak Bungalow around 1:00pm.

Caught in the melee, Azizul Haque fell into a pond and died.

Among the injured, Jafrul, Zia, Raju, Hasna, Milon, Monirul, Shaful, Milan, Arif, Farhad, and Alauddin were admitted to Bera upazila health complex.

## Rice price

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Of the fine varieties, miniket was yesterday sold at Tk 34-38 a kg, which was Tk 32-36 before.

"We have not ordered for fresh supplies after Eid, but have information that millers have increased the rice price," said Abdur Rahim, a rice trader at Karwan Bazar.

"After Eid, we are buying miniket at Tk 35 a kg from Kushtia, about Tk 3-4 more than the earlier price. We shall have to sell rice of the new consignment no less than Tk 36-38 a kg. However, in the retail market the price rose by Tk 0.5-2 a kg although the traders are selling from their old stock," said Bijoy Chowdhury, a trader at Karwan Bazar.

Layek Ali said not only in Dhaka, rice price in the rural areas is also on the rise. "Price of each variety has increased by Tk 3-4 in Joypurhat and Naogaon. After the 18th day of Ramadan, coarse rice was Tk 16-17 a kg, but yesterday it sold at Tk 19-20 in these districts," he said.

Bholanath, manager of Janata Rice Agency in Babu Bazar, said a few millers control the business of fine rice. They are manipulating the markets in Dhaka and other cities, apprehending poor harvest during Aman season.

Layek said the rice market could be made stable if the government launches programmes like open market sales and rationing.

## Twin car bombs

**FROM PAGE 16**  
of Gilgit, wounding four people, Pakistan's SAMA news channel quoted local police Chief Ali Sher as saying. He described it as a "low-intensity bomb" but provided no further details.

The latest strikes came two days after the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan said it was ready to stage more suicide attacks in the region after it was ousted from the Swat Valley in July by an army offensive.

Qari Hussain Mehsud known for training Taliban suicide bombers warned of more attacks in an AP interview at a secret location in North Waziristan on Thursday, just hours before US missiles hit the area and killed 12 people.

"We have enough suicide bombers and they are asking me to let them sacrifice their lives in the name of Islam, but we will send suicide bombers only if the government acts against us," he said in the interview.

The US has fired dozens of missiles from unmanned drones to take out top Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders in the northwest over the past year. Although Pakistan routinely protests the strikes, it is widely believed to secretly cooperate with them.

A CIA drone attack felled former Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud on Aug. 5.

Qari Hussain Mehsud phoned the AP to claim responsibility for the police station attack Saturday. "We

have broken the silence as the government did not understand the pause in attacks, and from now there will be an increase in the number of suicide bombings," he said.

He urged civilians to stay away from police and security force installations.

The US Embassy in Islamabad condemned the bombings. "These attacks highlight the vicious and inhuman nature of this enemy whose true target is the democratically elected government of Pakistan and the security of all Pakistanis," it said in a statement. Taliban attacks surged in the region last week. Militants ambushed a convoy of prominent anti-Taliban tribal elders in Bannu district on Thursday, spraying their cars with gunfire and killing nine people. Pakistani authorities have urged tribal elders to speak out against the Taliban, and in turn the militants have killed scores of local leaders.

North West Frontier Province's information minister, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, said the attacks would not deter the government from fighting militants. He said security forces had arrested 40 would-be suicide bombers in recent months in the northwest, thwarting efforts by the Taliban to create chaos.

"It is not only our duty... to fight this menace of terrorism, it is a responsibility of the whole world," Hussain told reporters in Peshawar. "We are on the front line today, that's why our blood is being shed."

## Iran to allow

**FROM PAGE 16**  
He said the new plant was on the road between Tehran and the holy city of Qom -- the first official disclosure of its location.

"It is 100 kilometres (60 miles) far from Tehran and more details will be given about the site later to the Iranian people," he added.

On Friday, the IAEA said Tehran wrote to the agency on September 21 disclosing that it is building a new uranium enrichment facility.

"God willing this new plant will become operational soon and make the enemy blind," Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's chief of staff, was quoted by Fars news agency as saying on Saturday.

He did not give any time frame.

The announcement of the new facility came just days before an October 1 meeting in Geneva between Iran and six world powers to discuss Tehran's disputed atomic programme.

Ahmadinejad denied Tehran was building the plant in secret, as charged by Western leaders, and told reporters in New York on Friday the facility was "completely legal."

"We actually informed the agency (IAEA) 18 months ahead of time. Is this the right thing to do or the wrong thing to do? I thought we are supposed to be encouraged for taking this action."

Salehi said building the plant was a "guarantee" that Tehran's nuclear war would continue.

"Considering the threats (to existing nuclear sites), our organisation decided to do what is necessary to preserve and continue our nuclear activities," he told state television.

"So we decided to build new installations which will guarantee the continuation of our nuclear activities which will never stop at any cost."

Obama and other Western leaders have threatened Tehran with new sanctions if it does not come clean during the Geneva talks between Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and representatives of Britain, France, Russia, China, Germany and the United States.

Obama warned Iran on Saturday it must prove that its nuclear programme has peaceful intentions or the country will face increased pressure and isolation.

Obama's warning came one day after he announced with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown that Iran admitted to the UN nuclear watchdog that it had built a second uranium enrichment facility.

The six world powers

suspect Tehran is developing atomic weapons under the guise of a civilian nuclear energy programme, a charge Iran vociferously denies.

Uranium enrichment lies at the heart of the nuclear controversy, since the process can be used to make an atomic bomb as well as producing fuel for nuclear reactors.

Iran has refused to suspend enrichment, and government-run daily Iran on Saturday trumpeted the announcement of the new plant with the headline: "A new victorious step taken in the nuclear domain."

Tehran's new facility "is a serious challenge to the global non-proliferation regime, and continues a disturbing pattern of Iranian evasion," Obama said in his weekly audio and video address on Saturday.

"But Iran must now cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and take action to demonstrate its peaceful intentions."

Obama said "the international community is more united than ever before."

Iran's leaders "must now choose -- they can live up to their responsibilities and achieve integration with the community of nations. Or they will face increased pressure and isolation, and deny opportunity to their own people."

On Friday he did not rule out a military option to halt Tehran's galloping nuclear drive.

On Saturday, Iran's arch-enemy Israel called for an "unequivocal" response from the West at Geneva.

"The revelations of this second nuclear enrichment site in Iran prove beyond any doubt that this country wants to equip itself with nuclear weapons," Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told public radio.

"We are not surprised by the recent revelations, because we have been saying that Iran is developing its nuclear activities for military purposes, and the facts prove it now," Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told public radio.

"We hope that an unequivocal answer is given on October 1," he added, referring to next week's meeting between Iran and six major world powers involved in negotiating over the nuclear dispute.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in a joint appearance with Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at the G20 summit in Pittsburgh on Friday, threatened rapid sanctions against Iran.

"In December, if there is not an in-depth change in Iranian leaders, sanctions will have to be taken," he said.