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# Obama vows to renew America's promise

McCain names Palin as running mate

AFP, Denver/Dayton

Barack Obama savaged John McCain and "broken" Republican politics, vowing to restore America's promise in a tumultuous climax to the Democratic convention before an 84,000 strong crowd.

"America, we are better than these last eight years," Obama said late Thursday, as he set course for November's presidential elections as the first African-American with a real shot at the White House.

"We are a better country than this," Obama said underlining the American promise of opportunity for all, 45 years to the day since Martin Luther King laid out his "I have a dream" vision of racial unity.

"This moment, this election, is our chance to keep in the 21st century the American promise alive," Obama said, handcuffing McCain to unpopular President George W. Bush.

"We are here because we love this country too much, to let the next four years look like the last eight. On November 4, we must



Barack Obama

stand up and say: 'Eight is enough.'

Obama held the massive crowd crammed into an open-air American football stadium in thrall as he swept through his speech, punctuated by multiple standing ovations.

A barrage of multi-coloured fireworks and blizzard of confetti filled the Rocky Mountain skies when he was done, in a speech, which his former primary foe Hillary Clinton praised for its "bold

solutions and optimistic vision for our nation and our children's future."

Hoping to steal the thunder, the McCain campaign announced that he had chosen his running mate.

The name was not revealed but the two were expected to appear together at a rally in the battleground state of Ohio on Friday in an effort to reclaim the headlines.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney and independent senator Joseph Lieberman were thought to be high on the Arizona's senator's short-list.

Hitting new heights just four years after exploding onto the US political scene, Obama gave notice on Thursday he would fight back hard against Republican assaults on his capabilities and patriotism.

He said McCain did not understand the struggles of working Americans, as they see their jobs disappear abroad, living expenses rise, and prospects dim.

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## FAO pledges help to ensure food security

UNB, Dhaka

A visiting high official of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) yesterday assured Bangladesh of providing necessary help in its efforts to ensure food security.

Making a courtesy call on Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam at the planning ministry, FAO Asia Pacific Region head Hey Cheng Chyue also assured that the UN body would provide assistance in the country's fight against bird flu, ongoing agriculture census and agriculture research activities.

"Bangladesh has got what is necessary for food security. If the country can utilise the potential, food security will be ensured," he told reporters after the meeting.

Mirza Aziz said the FAO official gave importance to developing hybrid as well as deep and saline water-resistant seeds to increase food production in the country while assuring technical assistance in this regard, if necessary.

He said Cheng appreciated Bangladesh for taking food security measures like increasing endowment fund for agriculture research and climate change fund.

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Pedestrians duck while walking on the pavement of Green Road yesterday as a tangle of electric, cable TV, and telecommunication wires hangs loosely over their head.

## Verdict in jail killing case frustrating

RCC mayor-elect says

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) mayor-elect AHM Khairuzzaman Liton has expressed disappointment over the High Court (HC) verdict in the Jail Killing Case, saying justice has not been reflected.

Liton, son of slain leader AHM Qamaruzzaman, said the people of Rajshahi have rejected the verdict as it has utterly frustrated them.

Liton made the remarks while addressing a discussion marking the 51st founding anniversary of National Awami Party at Rajshahi Public Library auditorium on Thursday.

"We had earlier rejected the verdict of the lower court and expected justice from the High Court. But the HC verdict disappointed us, acquitting the main killers of the four national leaders," Liton said.

He said the anti-liberation forces are still active in administration and also involved in conspiracy against Bangladesh.

Liton urged all progressive forces to come forward and launch a fresh movement against the

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## 'Promulgate ordinance to save buyers from dishonest developers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) yesterday demanded immediate promulgation of the Real-estate Management Ordinance, 2008 to reduce harassment of property buyers.

The proposed Real-estate Management Ordinance, 2008 is all right and objections raised by developers can be solved through discussions and it has to be done within the shortest possible time, said President of Bapa Prof Muzaffer Ahmad during a press conference held at WVA Auditorium on Dhanmondi Road-27.

"We are not against the reasonable amendment but this ordinance is very important for protecting the interest of property buyers," he said.

He said it cannot be that a person will not face any punishment for committed crimes.

Vice-president of Bapa and

former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said there are many buyers who lost everything after being trapped by dishonest developers. This ordinance is very necessary to protect buyers from harassments and cheats, he said.

Architect Iqbal Habib in a statement said most of the 43 clauses in the proposed ordinance will be acceptable to everybody. A number of them are already under two rules-Land Development Rules for Private Housing Project, 2004 and Building Construction Rules, 2007.

The developers are opposing a number of clauses, including clause-29 and 41, in which punishment for defrauding a client is mentioned to be non-bailable and against which a prayer will be untenable. The punishment has been kept for valid reasons but the criteria for the punishment can be

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## Tigers take on Aussies in first ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team take on world champions Australia in the first one-day international of a three-match series at the TOI Stadium in Darwin today.

The match will be telecast live on Star Cricket from 6:00am.

The Tigers have been in the northern Australian city for almost two weeks and played five warm-up games of which they won two, including a 120-run win over Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI.

Among the batsmen, skipper

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Prayer Timing		
August 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## Vow to continue agitation for trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters, civil society members and cultural activists yesterday vowed to continue the movement demanding trial of war criminals at all levels across the country until the execution of verdicts against the war criminals.

They urged the present caretaker government to take initiatives to bring the war criminals to book as the whole nation wants their trial.

"The demand for trying war criminals has become a demand of the entire nation and the government will have to respond to it. This movement will continue until our demand is met," said liberation forces deputy chief Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandakar, Bir Uttam.

AK Khandakar was addressing a two-day national conference of juvenile cultural organisation Khelaghar Ashor. He inaugurated

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## Georgia snaps diplomatic ties with Russia

West faces stark choice

AFP, AP, Tbilisi

Georgia has broken off diplomatic ties with Russia and ordered Russian diplomats to leave Tbilisi, Deputy Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze told AFP yesterday.

"Georgia is cutting diplomatic ties with the Russian Federation," he said. "In such situations, Russian diplomats will have to leave Georgia."

Georgia is to withdraw all of its diplomats from its embassy in Moscow in "the coming days," a foreign ministry spokeswoman told AFP on Friday.

"Within the coming days, Georgia will withdraw all diplomats from its embassy in Moscow. Consular relations with the Russian Federation will be maintained," said the head of the foreign ministry's press department, Khatuna Losava.

Russia's invasion of Georgia presents the West with a difficult choice: Punish Moscow by kicking it out of clubs like the Group of Eight or pursue a strategy of placating it that could invite further bullying in places like Ukraine, the Baltic states or Moldova.

So far, the West's actions have not matched its tough words.

Other than cancelling some joint military exercises and decrying Moscow's actions, European democracies and the United States have found little consensus, and Moscow has seized on the opening on Tuesday formally recognising the independence of South Ossetia and another Georgian enclave, Abkhazia.

The US and Britain have talked tough with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warning Moscow that the West will not sit idly by like it did during the Cold

War invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

On Wednesday, her British counterpart, David Miliband, reacted to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's claim that his nation is "not afraid of anything, including the prospect of a Cold War."

"The Russian president says he is not afraid of a new Cold War," Miliband said during a visit to Ukraine, where he was on a mission to find allies for a coalition against Russian aggression. "We don't want one. He has a big responsibility not to start one."

Miliband suggested Thursday that an unwelcome chapter had begun in European history: "We are in a situation which marks a clear end to the relative and growing calm in and around Europe since the collapse of the Soviet Union,"

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## Zia Hyder critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned and pioneering figure in the country's theatre and former teacher of theatre at Chittagong University Prof Zia Hyder has been fighting for life at a city hospital. He has been suffering from Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma for four months.

Hyder, founder president of theatre troupe Nagorik Natyasampradaya, was admitted to City Heart Hospital at Lalmaia on August 26 for chemotherapy. But doctors said his condition has deteriorated because of old age

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PHOTO: STAR

Farmers at Shajahanpur in Bogra harvest paddy which they grew between Boro and Aman seasons.

## Local-variety paddy as interim crop

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Farmers in Bogra produced large quantities of local-variety paddy as interim crop between Boro and Aman. According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Bogra, the farmers of Bogra would earn around Tk 210 crore in addition by growing the interim crop.

Deputy Director (DD) of DAE, Bogra, Rustam Ali said the department expects about 70,000 tonnes of local variety rice, including Jhapri and BR-5, produced in 12 upazilas without any irrigation cost and with very little agricultural inputs used.

The DAE had the target to pro-

duce 63,994 tonnes of local variety rice in Bogra on 26,120 hectares of land but farmers cultivated on 11,446 hectares more land and look forward to crossing the production target.

Sherpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Abul Hashem said on an average BR-5 yielded 7.5 tonnes per hectare in his upazila.

The DAE official told The Daily Star that 40 kg of finer quality moist paddy is selling between Tk 560 and Tk 600 now while dry paddy was being sold at Tk 700.

Farmer Khorshed Alam of Kharna in Shajahanpur upazila said he produced about 400kg of

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