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**PHILIPS**

# Obama 'backs Syrian rebels'

## Signed secret order seeking Assad's ouster

REUTERS, Washington

President Barack Obama has signed a secret order authorising US support for rebels seeking to depose Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his government, sources familiar with the matter said.

Obama's order, approved earlier this year and known as an intelligence "finding," broadly permits the CIA and other US agencies to provide support that could help the rebels oust Assad.

This and other developments signal a shift toward growing, albeit still circumscribed, support for Assad's armed opponents -- a shift that intensified following last month's failure of the UN Security Council to agree on tougher sanctions against the Damascus government.

The White House is for now apparently stopping short of giving the rebels lethal weapons, even as some US allies do just that.

But the US and European officials have said that there have been noticeable improvements in the coherence and effectiveness of Syrian rebel groups in the past few weeks.

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Local shopkeepers remove traffic barriers on Sonargaon Road in the capital yesterday. *Inset*, rubbles are seen in the foreground after traffic installations are destroyed while shop owners and staff demonstrate in the background to press for cancellation of one-way traffic system on the road, saying such a restriction is resulting in low turnout of customers in their markets.

PHOTO: STAR



## An appeal to media leaders

An advocate, Nazrul Islam, filed a case in a Chittagong court, accusing the wife of Humayun Ahmed, Meher Afroz Shaon, and one Mazharul Islam, owner of publishing house Anya Prokash Ltd, for "killing the litterateur (Humayun Ahmed) in a planned way". The

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## ROHINGYA REFUGEE

# Operation of three NGOs barred

## Govt says prior permission required; 9 held from Dhaka hotel

STAR REPORT

The government has banned operations of three international NGOs in Ukhia and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar from last Monday for illegally providing aid to Rohingya intruders.

The NGOs are France's Doctors with-

out Borders (MSF), Actions against Hunger (ACF), and Britain's Muslim Aid.

"Any NGO wishing to work in border areas must obtain approval from the NGO Affairs Bureau which in this case the three organisations did not have," said Joynul

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## India's Mars mission in 2013

AFP, Bangalore

India plans to launch a mission to Mars next year, putting an orbital probe around the red planet to study its climate and geology, top space department officials said yesterday.

The mission would mark another step in India's ambitious space programme, which envisages the Asian giant's first

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## THE FIRE RAINBOW

Technically known as iridescent clouds, they are neither on fire nor are they rainbows. This relatively rare phenomenon is caused by clouds of water droplets of nearly uniform size, according to a release by Nasa. The photo was taken over South Florida on Tuesday.

PHOTO: MARNIE LEVY WILLIAMS / WPTV



## Four telcos set to get 2G licence renewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a stand-off with the BTRC for more than eight months, four mobile phone operators Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi and Citycell will get their 2G licences renewed on Tuesday for the next 15 years.

Zia Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), said they have sent letters to the operators yesterday asking them to send their representatives to collect the licences.

The telecom regulator made the move upon receiving a letter from the telecommunications ministry on Wednesday. The letter asked the BTRC to issue the licences to the

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Indian girls are tying *Rakhis* on the wrists of BGB members at Hili border of Dinajpur yesterday. *Raksha Bandhan* (the bond of protection) or *Rakhi Utsav* is a festival which celebrates the sacred relationship between brothers and sisters. Through the ceremony yesterday, women of the two neighbouring countries prayed for the well-being of all the brothers on the Indo-Bangla border while border guards vowed to protect the sisters on both sides.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKAR

## Bolt v Blake

### The track & field starts today

AFP, London

The countdown towards what is being hyped as the fastest race in history begins on Friday as the Olympic athletics gets underway with all eyes on the prospect of a thrilling 100m shootout.

For the first time since the advent of electronic timing, the field for the blue riband event of the Games will comprise the four fastest men in history -- champion Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Asafa Powell and

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## Face atrocities, if war heroes helped

### Kamaruzzaman threatened people during Liberation War, says witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman at a public meeting threatened people with dire consequences if they helped freedom fighters during the Liberation War in 1971, a prosecution witness and freedom fighter told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

"From a hidden place, I heard Kamaruzzaman and

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PRAYER TIMING			August 3
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	
4-06	4-11		
Juma	12-30	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-44	6-54	
Esha	8-15	8-45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS			
RAMADAN	DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
14	3 Aug		6.44 pm
15	4 Aug	4.02 am	6.43 pm

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সংঘমে  
সাশ্রয়ে

Cucumber

Tk.20

Market price Tk. 30

Eggplant

Tk.29

Market price Tk. 40

Pointed gourd

Tk.20

Market price Tk. 30

Lady's-finger

Tk.20

Market price Tk. 30

Potato

Tk.23

Market price Tk. 26

Green Chilli

Tk.40

Market price Tk. 60

Onion

Tk.20

Market price Tk. 24

Lemon

Tk.5

Market price Tk. 6

Sugar

Tk.52

BEEF

standard

Tk.235

premium

Tk.260

Mutton

Tk.398

Market price Tk. 430

Broiler Chicken

with skin

Tk.235

without skin

Tk.258

Rui

with egg

Tk.150

without egg

Tk.190

Telapia

Tk.148

Market price Tk. 160

Miniket Rice (premium)

Tk.37

Market price Tk. 42



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