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Shibir vs BCL at Dhaka Polytechnic Instt

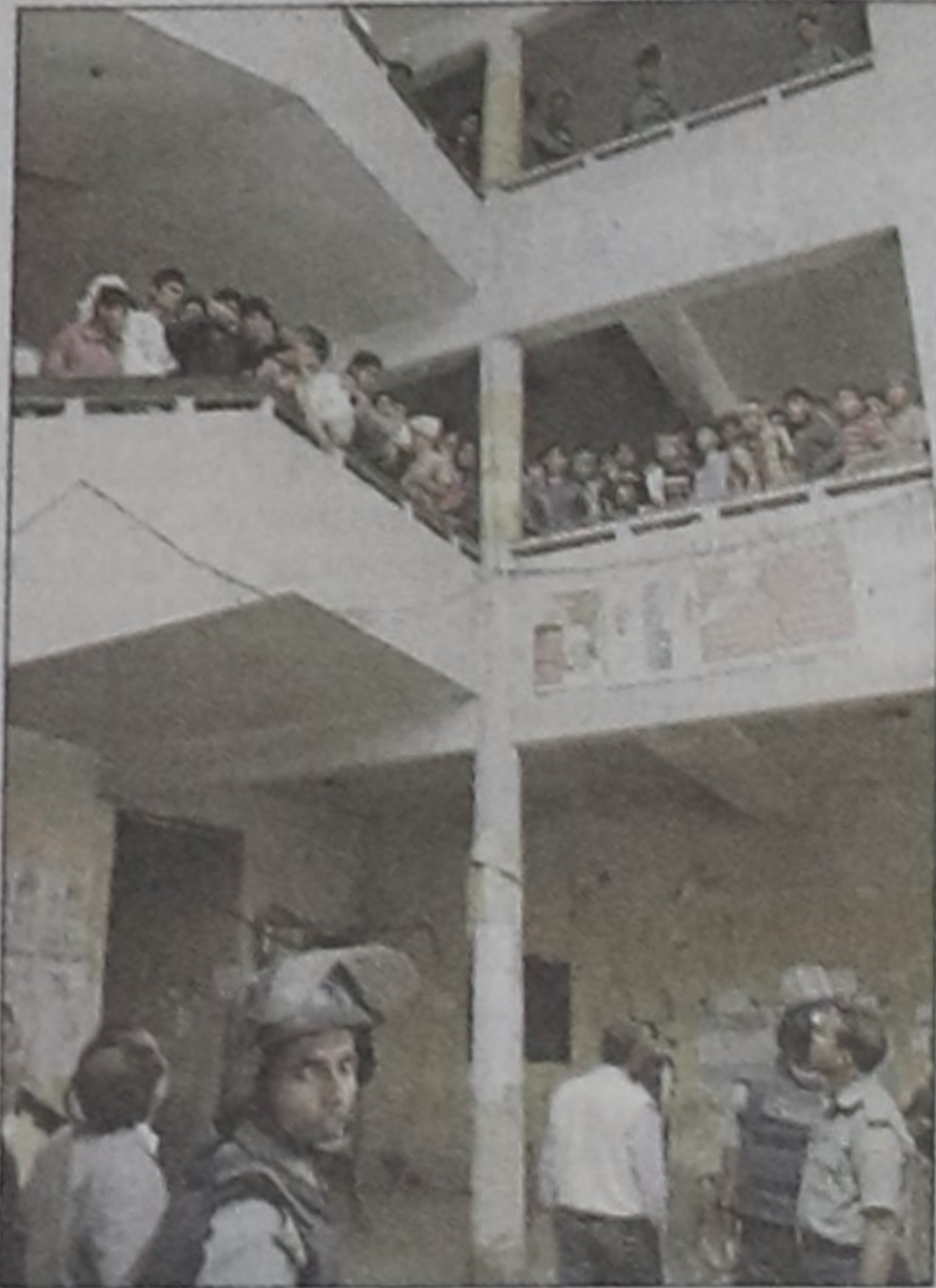


PHOTO STAR

FROM LEFT... Riot police ask activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir to come out of their dormitory and leave the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute premises following clashes between them and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists yesterday. Being chased by police, Chhatra League men break open an iron grille on their dormitory veranda to escape. Armed Chhatra League activists chase Shibir men on the campus. An injured student is being rescued after Shibir activists allegedly slashed him with a razor.

Anti-graft drive in education sector soon

Says ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday said the anti-graft watchdog would soon launch a drive to free the educational institutions from corruption.

The ACC has made a move to collect information about the irregularities and malpractices in educational institutions and it will launch a drive to expose the corrupt people after gathering necessary information, the ACC chief said while inaugurating the annual convention of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

"We shall make sure that the corrupt people in this sector are punished," said Mashhud referring to the recent arrest of a person who

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RATS DAMAGE CROPS

CHT people facing acute food crisis

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, from Hupbang, Barkal, Rangamati and MONIRUL ISLAM MONU, Bandarban

People in remote areas of Rangamati and Bandarban in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are facing a severe food crisis following the recent invasion of rats on their jhum crop fields.

Indigenous people in Chhotomerung, Ramghar, Dighinala, Panchhari, Guimara Laxmichhari of Khagrachhari, Thanchi, Alikadam, Lama, Ruma and Nikhiyangchhari in Bandarban have been passing days practically half-fed and many of them are living on jungle potato.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), 766 families in Bandarban-363 in Ruma upazila, 295 in Thanchi and 108 in Roangchhari upazila—lost

their yearly production. But locals claimed that about 1,800 families in the hill district have been affected by the invasion of rats. They also alleged that no block supervisors under the district DAE yet visited the affected areas.

The DAE has meanwhile launched a programme to exterminate rats from February 3 across the country. However, district DAE Deputy Director Abdullah Ibrahim said no special measures were taken for the affected areas in CHT.

Many jhum farmers in Rangamati have meanwhile left their homes and took shelter at their relatives' while a few even left for India hearing that the Indian government is providing food and financial assistance, sources said.

Special Assistant to the chief

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Move taken to free man in jail for 15 years without sentence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Moulvibazar Md Alkama Siddique has taken an initiative to release Ali Hussain Allya who has been in jail for 15 years without any conviction in connection with a murder case.

Meanwhile, former lawmaker of Moulvibazar advocate Ebadur Rahman Choudhury has taken up the case as Allya's lawyer.

The DC constituted a five-member committee to give legal assistance to Allya. The committee members are Sabbir Choudhury, Maya Wahed, Hasanat Kamal, Yahyah Mujahed and Khaled Ahmed.

Alkama told The Daily Star that Allya's situation has drawn his attention and that is why he has taken the legal step. He hoped that

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Obama sweeps 3 US states

AP, Washington

Sen Barack Obama swept the Louisiana primary and caucuses in Nebraska and Washington state Saturday night, slicing into Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton's slender delegate lead in their historic race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Illinois senator also won caucuses in the Virgin Islands, completing his best night of the campaign.

"Today, voters from the West Coast to the Gulf Coast to the heart of America stood up to say 'yes we can'" Obama told a cheering audience of Democrats at a party dinner in Richmond, Va.

He jabbed simultaneously at Clinton and Arizona Sen John McCain, saying the election was a choice between debating the Republican nominee-in-waiting



Sen Barack Obama

"about who has the most experience in Washington, or debating him about who's most likely to change Washington. Because that's a debate we can win."

Hillary Clinton preceded Obama to the podium. She did not

refer to the night's voting, instead turning against McCain. "We have tried it President Bush's way," she said, "and now the Republicans have chosen more of the same."

She left quickly after her speech, departing before Obama's arrival. But his supporters made their presence known, sending up chants of "Obama" from the audience as she made her way offstage.

Obama's winning margins ranged from substantial to crushing.

He won roughly two-thirds of the vote in Washington state and Nebraska, and almost 90 percent in the Virgin Islands.

Nearly complete Louisiana returns showed Obama with 57 percent of the vote, to 36 percent for the former first lady. As in his earlier Southern triumphs in Alabama, Georgia and South

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BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE 700 miners on strike for pay hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 700 Bangladeshi miners of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) continued their strike yesterday demanding conditional raise, among others, after talks with the authorities failed to produce any result.

The workers pressing home their seven-point demand,

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Clarification

Inspector General of Police (Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan yesterday clarified one of his quotes in a report headlined "Dhaka Jail library left unused for years", published in The Daily Star on February 7.

He said he was misquoted in the report as saying "we collect only Islamic books for the library". He actually said, "We've in our collection few religious books, novels & others".



PHOTO STAR

SPREAD SCARE... Dhaka City Corporation places barrels at the city's kitchen markets, asking people to dump dead fowls in it to prevent spreading of avian influenza.

Prayer Timing

February 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

4 robbers lynched in Chittagong

One shot dead by the bandits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four robbers, who shot dead a youth during a robbery, were beaten to death at Azampur village in Chittagong's Mirsarai upazila early yesterday.

Police said the bandits stormed the house of Nazrul Islam Shipon, 23, in the village at about 3:30am and shot him dead as he tried to resist them.

Hearing the hue and cry of the house residents, hundreds of villagers chased the fleeing robbers and caught nine of them. The angry mob beat them up mercilessly,

killing three on the spot. Another bandit, identified as Shawkat, died on his way to a local hospital. Police rescued the other five in a critical condition and sent them to hospital.

MAN KILLED BY FATHER-IN-LAW In another incident, a man was allegedly chopped to death by his father-in-law in Sitakunda upazila on Saturday night.

He was identified as Alauddin Ridwan, 28, organising secretary of Sonachhari union unit Jubo League. Sources said he earned the enmity of Rowshan Uzzaman

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