

Army used to tackle hartal after 16 years

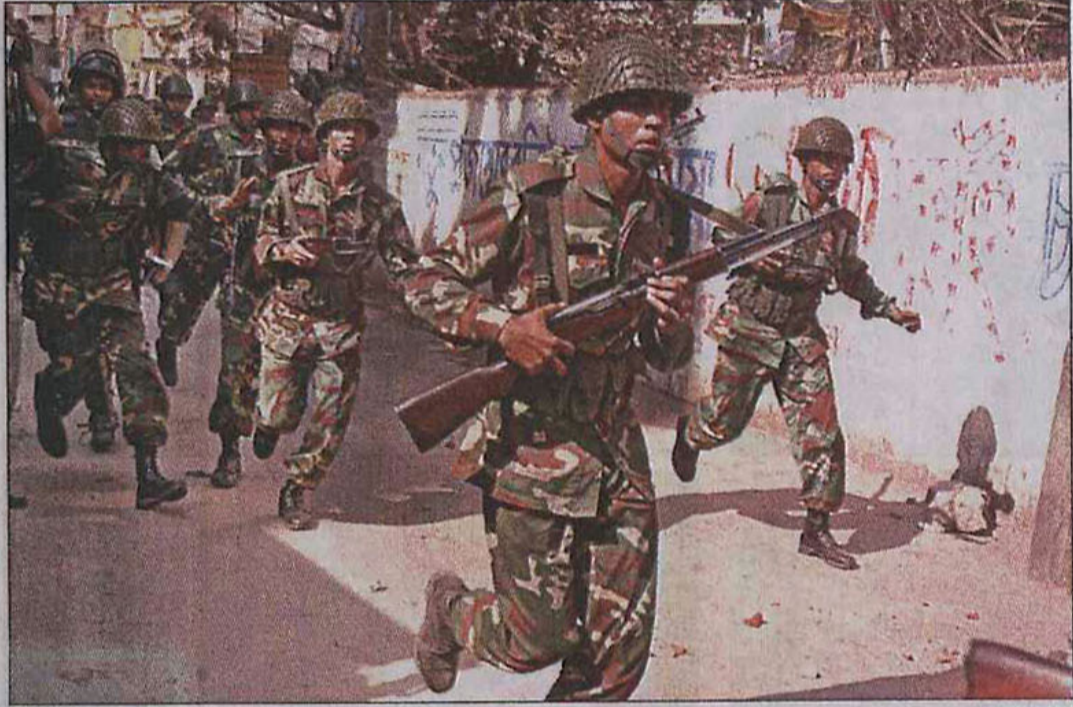


PHOTO: STAR

Army personnel chase Awami League-led 14-party alliance supporters (out of frame) at Adabor in the capital during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time since restoration of democracy through a mass upsurge in 1990, the government that too a caretaker one yesterday employed the army to tackle political demonstrations in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Deployed on December 9 following a unilateral decision of President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed, the armed forces swung into action to disperse the pickets in Dhaka yesterday. The troops chased off supporters of the 14-party combine and its allies as the latter clashed with the police, damaged a couple of vehicles and set fire to another car in Shyamoli in the morning.

Alongside the law enforcers, the military were on patrol across the city during the hartal hours. Talking to The Daily Star, some advisers to the caretaker government at first expressed ignorance of the army being engaged in countering the newly forged grand alliance's agitation.

It was only later that they came to know about it through television

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Eid on Jan 1

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Muslims, will be celebrated on January 1 as the Zilhaj moon was not sighted anywhere in the country yesterday.

This was decided at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at Islamic Foundation

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Hasina asks CG to start electoral process afresh

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the caretaker government to start anew the electoral process while her alliance enforced a nation-wide

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Zakaria absent from work

EC, advisers stop short of confirming his going on leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner SM Zakaria remained absent from office yesterday, the day after the council of advisers requested him to go on leave until the election is over to 'resolve' the political crisis.

Neither the council of advisers nor the Election Commission Secretariat, however, confirmed whether Zakaria took leave from yesterday.

Acting Chief Election Commissioner Mahfuzur Rahman told the press yesterday that he did not know anything about Zakaria's going on leave.

Secretary to the Election

Commission (EC) Secretariat Abdur Rashid told reporters that Zakaria might go on leave in line with the request of the advisers.

Shafiqul Haque Chowdhury and a few other advisers, who seemed upbeat about resolving the political crisis, yesterday said they believe the Awami League-led electoral alliance will dramatically change its stance not to participate in the election under the current schedule.

The advisers claimed that they decided to request Zakaria to go on leave and the EC rescheduled the official polls plan after consultation with the AL-led-14 party combine.

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All issues of polls resolved, says Iajuddin

UNB, Dhaka

President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said all issues raised by some political parties as preconditions for participating in the upcoming general elections have been resolved.

"Despite constitutional barrier, the Council of Advisers has unanimously taken the decision to request Election Commissioner SM Zakaria to go on leave," a Bangabhaban spokesman told the news agency quoting the president as telling a delegation of the European Union (EU) election observation mission.

The three-member EU delegation, led by Alexander Lambsdorff, made a courtesy call on the

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Concern over army tackling political programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former advisers to caretaker government and a security analyst have expressed concern over involving army in tackling political programmes like hartal while a former top bureaucrat said it would have been better if yesterday's hartal pickets were dispersed without involvement of the armed forces.

Advisers to the 2001 caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan and ASM Shahjahan, and major general (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim strongly reacted to army's involvement in dispersing hartal supporters in the capital, saying

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100 hurt in first hartal of interim govt history

Krishak League chief Mirza Jalil sent to jail for 'attacking cops'

STAR REPORT

The army was used for the first time since HM Ershad's military regime to prevent picketing in the capital and Narayanganj during yesterday's hartal enforced by the Awami League (AL) led grand alliance, first of its kind during any caretaker government's tenure.

More than 100 persons were injured in clashes between demonstrators and police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) during the hartal in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country.

The army, along with the police, chased pickets at Shyamoli and patrolled different streets in the city while they took position at several

points on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Narayanganj.

The police fired rubber bullets and lobbed teargas shells to disperse pickets at Shyamoli and arrested eight persons, including Bangladesh Krishak League President Mirza Jalil.

The AL-led grand alliance enforced the countrywide hartal to press home their demands for a congenial atmosphere for the next general election.

The hartal was declared from a rally on December 18 following formation of the grand alliance of the AL-led 14-party, Jatiya Party (Ershad), and Jatiya Oikya Front comprising Liberal Democratic

Party (LDP), Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Tarikat Federation.

However, the Jatiya Oikya Mancha, which does not favour hartal in principle, did not observe yesterday's shutdown programme but held rallies at different parts of the city.

The hartal, which was peaceful except for a few incidents, paralysed the country as vehicular movement was very thin and educational institutions, offices and business enterprises remained mostly closed.

Pickets damaged several vehicles in Mirpur, Farmgate, Gabtoli, airport and other areas in the capital, but none was reported hurt.

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14-party may again go for Bangabhaban siege

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led 14-party alliance may announce "Bangabhaban siege" programme again to force the caretaker government (CG) to implement the package (CG) proposed earlier to create an atmosphere congenial for holding a free and fair election.

"If we announce the siege programme, this time we'll ensure that the President's House become paralysed," Abdul Jalil, 14-party coordinator and Awami League general secretary, said while briefing reporters after a 14-party meeting last night.

The meeting was held with AL

leader Tofail Ahmed in the chair at Abdul Jalil's house.

The alliance will decide its next course of action at a meeting today.

Jalil told reporters that the combine had agreed to participate in the election within 90 days after getting a package proposal from the caretaker government that included replacing election commissioners SM Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury with two new commissioners, correcting the voter list and displaying it for public scrutiny before final publication.

"They told us that the election schedule will be announced after

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It was army's duty to resist anarchic actions

Says Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday defended the army personnel's actions against 14-party alliance activists during the dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal.

He said, "They [the army] cannot sit idle when somebody torches and vandalises vehicles, and damages properties in the name of 'political programme'."

"It is their duty to resist such activities to ensure security of life and property," he said at a press briefing at Hawa Bhaban in the capital last night.

Replying a question, the BNP

secretary general said the four-party would announce the names of the party-ticket winners for the next elections today or tomorrow.

Blasting the Awami League-led 14-party alliance for enforcing hartals and blockades, he said the democratic process is facing obstacles due to the 14-party's anarchic activities.

Accusing his political opponents for placing obstacles to the electoral process, Bhuiyan said the 14-party alliance is working so that the elections cannot be held, as they know they would lose in the next polls.

"They [14-party alliance]

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Rising sea sinks 2 Sundarbans islands in India

Study reveals

Rising sea levels have submerged two islands in the Sunderbans, where tigers roam through mangrove forests in the Ganges river delta, and a dozen more islands are under threat, scientists say.

A six-year study of the impact of future climate change on the world natural heritage site that India shares with Bangladesh came up with alarming results.


Official records list 102

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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A vast part of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh is threatened to be submerged due to sea level rise for global warming.



পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

পপুলার লাইফের একক বীমাতে বর্ধিত হারে পলিসি বোনাস ঘোষণা

৩১শে ডিসেম্বর ২০০৫ তারিখের কোম্পানীর এ্যাকচুয়ারিয়াল ভ্যালুয়েশনের ফলাফল অনুযায়ী পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর চালু পলিসির উপর নিম্নের বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী পলিসি বোনাস ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে।

(ক) রিভার্সনারী বোনাসঃ

বোনাসের হার ভবিষ্যতে অপরিবর্তিত থাকলে পলিসি চালু থাকা সাপেক্ষে সকল একক বীমার লাভযুক্ত সঞ্চয়ী বীমা পলিসিতে মেয়াদ শেষে এক লক্ষ টাকা বীমা অংকের জন্য পলিসি বোনাসের অংক হবে নিম্নরূপঃ

পলিসির মেয়াদ	সম্ভাব্য মোট বোনাস
১০ বছর	টাকা ৪২,০০০
১৫ বছর	টাকা ৬৯,০০০
২০ বছর	টাকা ১,০৩,৫০০
২৫ বছর	টাকা ১,৩৮,০০০
৩০ বছর	টাকা ১,৭৭,৫০০

(খ) অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন বোনাসঃ

২০০৬ সাল থেকে আগামী ভ্যালুয়েশন পর্যন্ত একক বীমার অধীনে সকল লাভযুক্ত পলিসির উপর মেয়াদপূর্তিতে অথবা মৃত্যুদাবীর ক্ষেত্রে একই হারে অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন বোনাস প্রদান করা হবে।

বোনাস বীমার দাবী প্রদানকালে পরিশোধযোগ্য। আশা করা যায়, ভবিষ্যতে বোনাসের হার আরও বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

বাংলাদেশের শ্রেষ্ঠপটে ব্যক্তি ও পরিবারের আর্থিক নিরাপত্তায় জীবন বীমার গুরুত্ব অপরিসীম। পপুলার লাইফ দ্রুত গ্রাহক সেবা নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে তার সুনাম প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে এবং বোনাসের হার বৃদ্ধি করতে সক্ষম হয়েছে যা ইতিমধ্যে সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছে।

মাসিক প্রিমিয়াম ভিত্তিক ক্ষুদ্র বীমা চালু হওয়ায় যে কোন আয়ের ব্যক্তি জীবন বীমার সুফল ভোগ করার সুযোগ পাচ্ছেন।

অতি স্বল্প সময়ে ক্ষুদ্র বীমা পলিসিতে বোনাস ঘোষণার মাধ্যমে জীবন বীমা শিল্পে পপুলার লাইফ সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে সক্ষম হয়েছে।

তাই নিজের ও পরিবারের আর্থিক নিরাপত্তার জন্য পপুলার লাইফের বীমা গ্রহণ করুন।

হেড অফিস : পিপলস ইনস্যুরেন্স ভবন, ৩৬ দিলকুশা বা/এ (৪র্থ তলা) ঢাকা-১০০০