

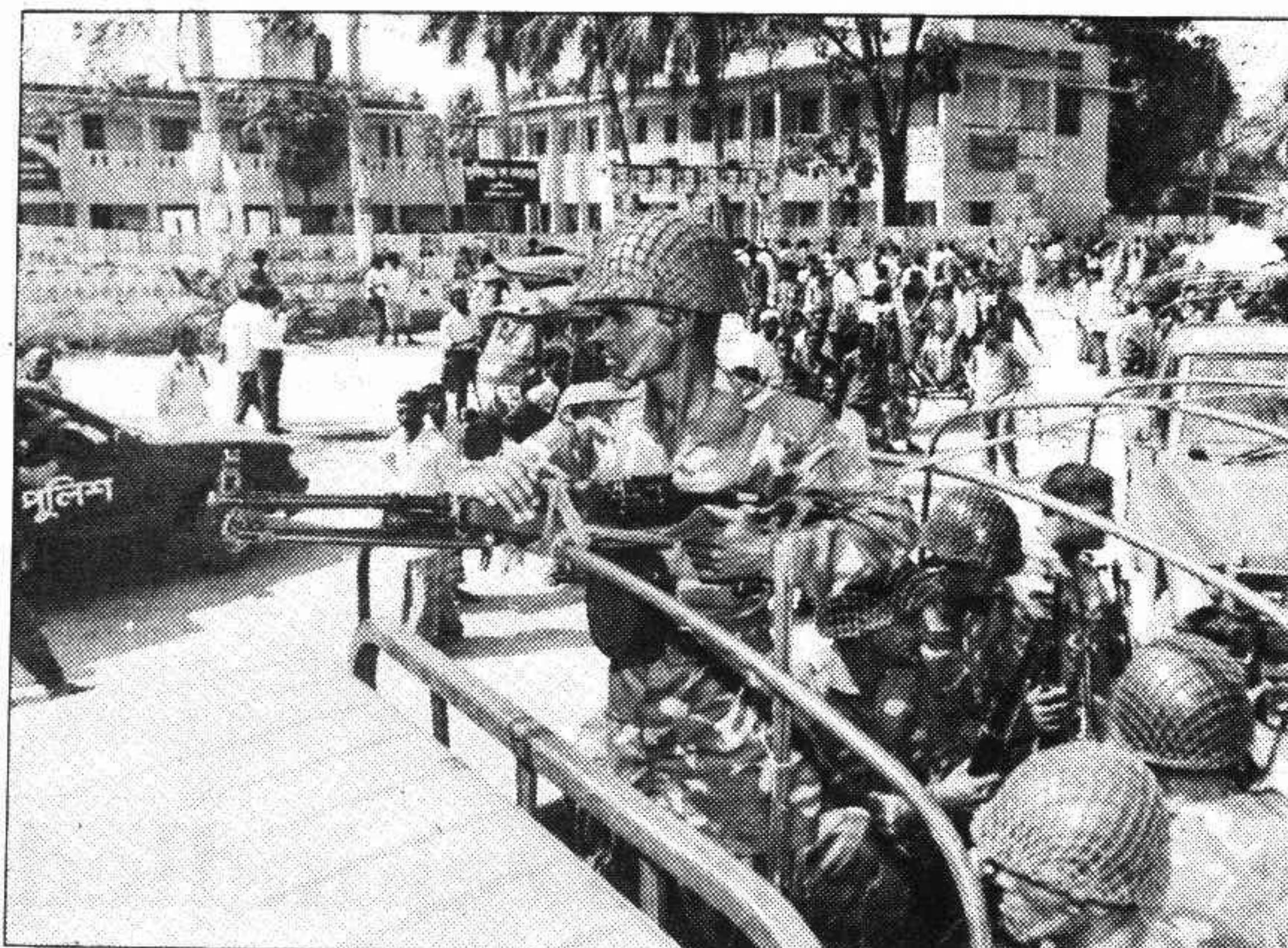


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Army personnel near a polling centre in Munshiganj Municipality yesterday. —Star photo

## Municipal polls

From Page 1

iring. The centres are Rajballypur, Sherpur High School, Kasba Kathgarh Government Primary School, Kharampuri Victoria GK Pilot High School, Adarsa Bidyapith, Government Girls High School, Sheikh Hat, Gouripur, Kaliganj and Dhaka.

Witnesses said at the Sheikhhat Centre, police opened fire to disperse a mob when the supporters of two commissioner candidates tried to capture polling booths.

Both the groups set off huge crude bombs leaving 16 people injured in the blasts, including a policeman Golam Mostafa, police said.

Election at Matlab pourashava was postponed amidst snatching of ballot papers and boxes by unruly mobs.

The trouble-makers reportedly stormed the Matlab Degree College centre, blasting crude bombs during the polling at 11:30 in the morning which scared away the voters, official sources and witnesses said.

In another incident, angry people allegedly created disturbances at JB Pilot High School and Borda High School centres.

At least 20 people were injured, seven of them critically during the stray incidents reported from the district town. The seriously injured were rushed to Matlab Health Complex.

The first unofficial results came from Barguna where district committee vice-president and Patharghata thana BNP president Mallick Mohammad Ayub was elected Chairman of Patharghata Municipality beat-

**Oil tanker owners postpone strike till Feb 28**

Bangladesh Oil Tanker Owners' Association has postponed its proposed strike programme till February 28, reports BSS.

The association, considering the national interest, postponed its programme at a meeting recently between the leaders of the association and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

It would, however, enforce its programme from March 1, if the demands were not met by February 28.

(Incomplete)

## BNP: Voter turnout

From Page 1

of the remaining 25 percent did not turn out to cast their vote in the one-party election.

Mian Bhuiyan urged the experienced and senior leaders of Awami League to observe the situation in the country and persuade the government to cancel the polls and fulfil the 4-point demand to avoid a "conflicting situation".

The BNP leader claimed that the hartal was more spontaneous and successful than on previous occasions. People from all walks of life observed hartal spontaneously ignoring threat and attacks by ruling party "terrorists", he claimed.

The hartal will end at midnight Thursday night.

Bhuiyan alleged that ruling party terrorists under police protection attacked opposition activists at Mirpur, Pallabi, Dhamondi, Mohakhali, Uttra, Gulshan, and other areas in the city. Similar incidents also took place in other parts of the country, he alleged.

He expressed the apprehension that the government, in collaboration with the Election Commission, might show a high percentage of vote by casting false votes.

He said the opposition parties have given sufficient time to the government to fulfil their 4-point demand. The Opposition enforced a 12-hour nationwide hartal on January 26, a 60-hour hartal on February 9-11 and staged peaceful demonstrations, but the government didn't pay any heed to its demands, he said.

Instead, the government leaders including the Prime Minister continued to make provocative statements and resorted to repressive measures.

Moreover, the ruling party activists launched armed attack on opposition activists during hartal and obstructed

opposition programmes in the name of capturing the streets.

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Replies to a question on the death of a ruling party activist at the city's Motijheel area yesterday, the BNP Secretary General said, "It was a same side incident". There was no opposition procession in the area at that time, he said. "It's an outcome of Awami League's activities to capture the streets."

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrak, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhamondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: [dstar@bangla.net](mailto:dstar@bangla.net)

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## Series of clashes in Savar, 30 injured

By JU Correspondent

At least 30 people were injured and about 15 shops burnt to ashes as a sequel to a series of clashes between shopowners and employees of Savar Dairy Farm and students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday morning and Monday evening.

The clash broke out Monday evening after an altercation between two JU students and some shopowners over cleanliness in a hotel at the JU dairy farm gate. The shopowners, at one stage, beat Alim, a JU student and later manhandled Arif, another student, who tried to save Alim.

As the news of the assault broke out on the campus, enraged students attacked the shopowners and set fire to the roadside shops near the dairy farm gate area. At least 15 shops were raged to the ground. It was followed by another round of clash after another JU student came under attack from some dairy farm youths near the social science faculty on the university campus at around 9:30 am yesterday.

As news of the incident reached halls, hundreds of students attacked the dairy farm and damaged several buildings there. The shopowners and dairy farm residents in a bid to resist the students launched a counter-attack using handmade bombs and firearms. At least 10 rounds of bullet were fired during the hour-long battle.

Four pro-peace activists were abducted from Pujjan area in Panchhara thana of the hill district today, reports UNB. The PCJSS in a press release blamed the anti-peace Proshanti-Sanchay faction of Pahari Chhatri Parishad for kidnapping four students Sumon Chakma, Shanti Bikash Chakma, Pulin Bihari Chakma and Gul Chakma at gunpoint at 11 am.

Leaders of the Parbatya Chhatri Jana Sanghat Samiti demanded immediate rescue of the four students and exemplary punishment to the kidnappers.

"There has been a spurt of terrorist acts like abduction, killing, toll collection and intimidation perpetrated by the terrorists since the signing of the peace accord to foil it," said the PCJSS with a note of concern.

**Violation of code of conduct by minister alleged**

Some chairman candidates vying for Khagrachhari municipal election brought allegations against a minister for violating the election code of conduct, reports UNB.

Mong Kaw Ching Chowdhury, who is contesting for chairman post in the Khagrachhari pourashava with bus symbol, in a statement yesterday alleged that CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma is campaigning for Awami League backed chairman candidate Arunoday Chakma.

Among the five chairman candidates, the other three are Abul Kashem, former district president of BNP and incumbent chairman, Zafarullah and Nirmal Dash.

Polling in the municipality is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mong Chowdhury alleged that the CHT Affairs minister along with supporters of Arunoday is campaigning by using government vehicles and residing in the district Circuit House.

Hospital sources quoting Salma's relatives said her husband and mother-in-law had seriously beaten her on Friday for dowry collection. Later, they poured kerosene and set her on fire. Critically injured Salma was rushed to DMCH where she succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

When contacted, the duty officer at Dhamondi thana said a unnatural death case was lodged by the victim's father yesterday. None was arrested till yesterday night.

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