Army



For the first time since restoration of democracy through a mass upsurge in 1990, the government employs the army to tackle political demonstrations in the city and elsewhere in the country. Deployed on December 9 following a unilateral decision of the president-cum-chief adviser, the armed forces swing into action to disperse pickets and chase off supporters of the 14-party combine and its allies as the latter clash with the police.

Back from Guantanamo

US authorities hand over a Bangladesh national to immigration and police at Zia International Airport after he has being held at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba for the last five years for his alleged links with al-Qaeda. Mubarak Hossain, 30, son of Abul Hashem of Moin Madhyapara in Brahmanbaria, was arrested in Afghanistan in 2001. Following his return, Mubarak is later detained for one month in Dhaka Central Jail by order of the home ministry for his anti-state activities. His release from Guantanamo is secured by the joint efforts of the Red Crescent, the home and foreign ministries and his father.



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Four advisers resign



Four advisers to the caretaker government finally resign in frustration over the president-cum-chief adviser's repeated unilateral actions on election issues. Advisers Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, CM Shafi Sami, and Sultana Kamal send in their resignation letters to the president and later tell reporters that despite their constant efforts they are not able to contribute in creating a congenial atmosphere for holding the next parliamentary election.

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