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## Gate of death

### Wasa plans to pump water into sewer lines to flush out bodies

TAWFIQUE ALI AND MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

The sluice gate of a sewage line from BDR headquarters turned into a hole for the dead as more bodies of BDR officers killed in Wednesday's mutiny floated out of the gate at Nawabganj Bazar yesterday morning.

Eight bodies--two on Wednesday and six yesterday--were found near the sluice gate in Hazaribagh.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) plans to pump water into the sewer lines from inside BDR headquarters to flush out bodies if any are still trapped inside.

It had initially deployed a team to search for bodies at the sluice gate but later withdrew as there was little they could do from that end.

Meanwhile, relatives of missing army personnel rushed to the spot around Wednesday noon as soon as they heard about the bodies. Six other bodies had floated out to the same place by 9:00am yesterday.

The bodies discovered yesterday were identified as those of Lt Col Kamruzzaman, Lt Col Anisuzzaman, Maj Mahub, Col Zahid, Col Tauheed and Captain Mohammad Majharul Hayder.

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Army personnel search the Buriganga for more bodies after six corpses were found at the Nawabganj Bazar Sluice Gate in Hazaribagh, inset, yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

## Search goes on for the missing

MAHUBA ZANNAT AND DURDANA GHIAS

Relatives of missing army officers continue to search the city hospitals frantically for their loved ones.

Khairul Anam, brother of an army major, enquired the wounded Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital whether they knew anything about his missing brother yesterday.

"We heard his voice over the telephone last time at about 12:00noon on Wednesday. He said 'I am in danger, cannot talk now.' We lost track of him since then," he said.

His brother moved to the BDR headquarters along with his wife and their three-month old son who remained confined there, said Khairul, who had earlier searched the Combined Military Hospital and several other hospitals for his brother.

Meanwhile, some 17 BDR members with bullet wounds were shifted to the Holy Family Hospital from the BDR Hospital.

They are Jahangir, Hazi Mir Masum, Deputy Assistant Director Kader, Anwar, Abdul Aziz, Babul, Golam Shahin, Mahub Alam, Mohsin, Masum Billah, Mosleuddin, Abdul Jalil, Havildar Rafiqe, Abul Kalam, Nurul Huda and Shahjahan.

"The condition of two BDR men is critical. They have been kept at the Coronary Care Unit. We have referred another to the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital on Wednesday night after he complained of chest pain," said

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## They line up to seek peace

EMRAN HOSSAIN

It looked like that there was nothing left to do but just wait for the exchange of fire -- or a war -- between the army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at Palkhana to get over.

No one could even think of coming down to the streets as the authorities had everyone evacuated from the three-km perimeter area of the BDR headquarters.

The army tanks had also rolled in and everyone had taken up positions for a sure encounter.

Braving the tensed situation, a group of youths came out to Satmasjid Road, approaching the BDR's gate-3 demanding peace instead of war.

"We want a peaceful solution. We do not want war. We do not want to see our brothers fighting in a bloody war," Saiful Islam,

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## Speaker rejects demand for BDR talks

### Session extended till March 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday did not allow any unscheduled discussions on the bloody mutiny at the Bangladesh Rifles headquarters.

BNP-led opposition lawmakers, who tried to raise the issue, accepted the speaker's decision and remained silent.

Shahid Uddin Chowdhury A H H E, B N P M P f r o m Laxmipur-3, began to speak

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## Find out if any plot was there

Khaleda asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people, including country's all disciplined forces, to remain calm, united and alert to preserve national interest, independence and sovereignty.

She demanded that the government find out whether there was any conspiracy behind the mutiny to ruin different national institutions and undermine the country.

Khaleda while reading out a statement at her Gulshan office last night said the nation, its defence and security have incurred a huge loss in the incident.

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## Most malls in Dhaka run without fire safety

HELEMUL ALAM

Most of the markets and shopping malls in Dhaka are running without adequate firefighting equipment, keeping at stake life and property of owners, tenants and customers.

The Fire Protection Act, 2003 directs all the buildings including the commercial establishments to have sufficient firefighting equipment and conform to measures of public security.

However, most of the commercial buildings, especially the old markets, don't have enough safety equipment, emergency exits and sufficient space between adjacent buildings. Experts say if such a building is in fire, the flames can spread rapidly to neighbouring structures.

A fire broke out on the ground floor of Madina Traders, a chemical shop at Yakub Super Market opposite to Gausia Mart on February 20. Before firefighters doused the flames, the fire caused a loss of Tk 17.8 crore, say owners of the market.

As many as 56 shops were burned down during the fire, which is the latest example of neglect in adopting fire safety measures.

Another fire broke out on February 14 on the fourth floor of Annexco Tower in Fulbaria, very close to the head office of Fire Fighting and Civil Defence. Owners of six warehouses at that market suffered around Tk 15 lakh loss due to the blaze, they inform.

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A soldier stands guard near the bodies of six army officers after they were recovered from the Nawabganj Bazar Sluice Gate area. Picture inset shows a relative breaking into tears as the bodies were brought up.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN, INSET FOCUS BANGLA

## Mutiny halts exams, other programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scheduled examinations and programmes of different institutions and organisations have been postponed for an indefinite period due to the unprecedented mutiny in Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Wednesday.

All academic institutions

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## 3 of a family killed brutally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals yesterday killed three of a family--a one-and-a-half-year-old baby and two women--in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital.

The deceased are Anwara Begum, 65, her daughter-in-law Sayema Begum, 25, and Marvina.

Rokeya Begum, mother of Marvina and sister-in-law of Sayema, said she found the bodies, with their throats slit,

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## US sees rights problems in South Asia

AFP, Washington

The United States on Wednesday reported widespread human rights violations across South Asia but also noted glimmers of hope thanks to political transitions in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

In an annual report on human rights, the State Department said abuses remained rife in South Asia with major problems in the treatment of women in much of the region.

But the report saw progress as Pakistan shook off military rule, Nepal's insurgents transformed into a ruling party and a caretaker government guided Bangladesh into elections. Bhutan and Maldives also witnessed dramatic changes.

"There were several improvements with regard to elections and political competition in South Asia," the study said.

The State Department said that Pakistan -- a frontline ally in the US "war on terror" -- had a poor human rights record due to extrajudicial killings, torture and disappearances.

But the report said the number of politically motivated disappearances declined last year, during which military leader Pervez Musharraf -- who had imposed a state of emergency -- stepped down.

It saved some of its harshest criticism for Pakistan's prison system, which it called "extremely poor" with serious overcrowding, inadequate food and frequent abuse of non-Muslim inmates.

The State Department also deplored Pakistan's treatment of

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## Stray bullet hits car on SC premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A stray bullet hit the car of a Supreme Court (SC) lawyer on the SC premises yesterday spreading panic among counsels and judges.

Following the incident, a number of benches of the High Court (HC) division of

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Prayer Timing		
February 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Pakistan sets 30-day deadline for India

Asks Delhi to reply on its Mumbai dossier

ANI, AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan has now demanded that India reply to its 30 queries, within 30 days, regarding the Mumbai terror attacks, which it tabled before New Delhi following acceptance of its involvement in the 26/11.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's Advisor on Interior Affairs, Rehman Malik has asked India to respond by mid-March so that the accused taken into custody could be interrogated during the remand period.

"The court can give maximum 30 days remand of the accused to FIA, therefore it is very necessary that India must give the reply the earliest," The Dawn quoted Malik, as saying.

Talking to media persons after holding a

meeting with Interior Secretary Kamal Shah, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Director General (DG) Tariq Khosa, and other top officials, Malik said Islamabad is investigating the incident sincerely and is fully committed to bringing the perpetrators to book.

He said India's response was necessary for further proceedings.

FIA DG Tariq Khosa informed that the Anti-Terrorism Court has granted remand to the accused persons till March 12.

Pakistan has asked India for several documents including the mobile phone number which Ajmal Amir Kasab, the lone surviving Mumbai terrorist, was using during the three day cease, and logs of terrorists' and

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## BSF shuts border trade, passage thru' Benapole

STAR REPORT

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday stopped trade through Benapole border when the BDR mutiny in Dhaka was going on.

They also stopped passage of all people through the border, though there was no official order to close the border.

The BSF move caused untold sufferings to hundreds of people, including patients, intending to go to India, our correspondent in Benapole reports.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BDR soldiers position themselves for a possible confrontation hours before their surrender at the BDR headquarters yesterday. The photo was taken from the BDR gate in Azimpur.