

**By-election now Apr 2**  
*Polls to reserved seats also deferred to March 30*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday rescheduled the elections to 45 reserved seats for women in Parliament to March 30 and the by-elections to seven vacated parliamentary seats to April 2.

According to the previous schedule, the elections to the reserved seats for women were to be held on March 29 and the by-elections on March 30.

Election Commissioner M Sohel Hussain told reporters at his EC office yesterday that the EC was forced to reschedule the elections due to the

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## PM focused more on saving the innocent

She defends decision on BDR at JS; govt seeks UN, FBI probe help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that her government has sought assistance from the US and UN, and will request the UK as well for cooperation in probe into the massacre at BDR headquarters last week.

Referring to her telephone conversation with the United States assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, she said, "I've had a talk with Mr. [Richard] Boucher today. I told him I want FBI assistance in the probe."

She said she has asked for cooperation

from UN as there is no question of belittling the barbaric acts of violence at BDR Pilkhana.

"I'll also request the British high commissioner for Scotland Yard's assistance."

Hasina, also leader of the House, was speaking on an obituary reference on the death of army officials in the hands of disgruntled border troops on Wednesday and Thursday.

About the government's tackling of what she termed a pre-planned massacre at Pilkhana, she said the focus all along was on saving lives of thousands of innocent people.

"I opted for talks to save lives, to save the officers and their families," she said refuting claims that not resorting to force was a tactical mistake.

She said her government has already directed the army, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to round up the BDR men who did not report for duty within the 24 hour time limit that ended at 4:00pm yesterday.

She also said she has asked the law minister to arrange for a special tribunal to try those responsible for the vicious killings.

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## PM talks with army officers

Reaffirms punishment to culprits

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIER KHAN

A large number of army officers yesterday expressed their deepest emotions, frustrations, excitement and expectations at a three-hour grand conference with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussing the BDR carnage in which the nation lost at least 74 people, including 60 officers.

At the Sena Kunja auditorium of Dhaka Cantonment, around 700 to 800 officers -- from the army chief to second lieutenant ranked officers -- discussed with the premier from 11:30am 32 points related to the carnage.

Hasina assured the army that each and everyone of the culprits involved in slaying would be traced and tried. She said the investigation would be free and fair and she would not spare anyone, even if someone of her party is found to have links with such a heinous act.

Responding to an idea from the officers, she agreed on forming a special tribunal for trial of the culprits.

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### THE DEAD

- 40. LT COL GOLAM KIBRIA
- 39. MAJ GEN SHAKIL AHMED
- 38. NAZMIN SHAKIL
- 37. BRIG GEN MA BARI
- 36. COL MUJIBUL HUQ
- 35. COL ABU MUSA AYUB KAISER
- 34. COL IMAM
- 33. COL ELAHEE
- 32. COL REZA
- 31. COL ANISUZZAMAN
- 30. COL ZAHID
- 29. COL AFTABUL ISLAM
- 28. LT COL RAIHAN
- 27. LT COL EHSAN
- 26. LT COL LUTFAR
- 25. LT COL NOKIB
- 24. LT COL SAJJAD

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## Over 1,500 BDR men back before time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 1,500 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men, who left the Pilkhana headquarters during or after the mutiny, reported back to the headquarters yesterday.

The deadline set for them to report back expired yesterday afternoon.

Apart from them, 140 BDR men reported to police stations, sector headquarters and battalion headquarters in Rajshahi, Sylhet Dinajpur, Gazipur, Mymensingh, Pabna, Barisal and Chittagong yesterday. Four BDR jawans surrendered at police stations in Sylhet and Joydevpur while Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two jawans in Comilla and Faridpur yesterday.

They started gathering at the

Pilkhana headquarters following a home ministry order issued Saturday asking all BDR members, who did not take leave but are absent at their stations, to report back within 24 hours.

"I assume between 1,500 and 2,000 jawans gathered at the BDR headquarters. We do not have any official count yet," newly appointed Director General (DG) of BDR Brig Gen Moinul Hossain said.

"Those who have already entered the headquarters will be considered reported back. Some of them are being given leave while others will start working with us," he added.

A number of BDR jawans, who returned yesterday, said many of them were given 15 to 30 days' leave

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Worried family members accompany BDR men as they report back to the BDR headquarters yesterday.

## Army called in to nab BDR fugitives

Deployment ordered for indefinite period

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to deploy members of the armed forces across the country indefinitely to help law enforcement agencies arrest the absconding rebels of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and recover the missing firearms and ammunition.

The deployment begins today morning in aid of the civil administration under the 'Operation Rebel Hunt' mission, sources said.

A notice was issued by the home ministry in this regard hours after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held talks with army officers at Sena Kunja at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

The forces will be stationed at district headquarters and carry out operations on the basis of specific information from their intelligence, said sources.

Hasina told the House last night that her government had already assigned members of army, Rab and police to hunt down

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**We will March from Grief to Glory ...**

They protected our freedom in the line of fire.  
They sheltered our dreams in time of despair.

This loss can not be repaired in thousand years..

We mourn...

**Bank Asia**  
Limited

*Grief makes us speechless as words no longer suffice...*

No words can express the agony of the bereaved families. In unison we stand, sharing the grief with those who have lost their dear ones.

grameenphone