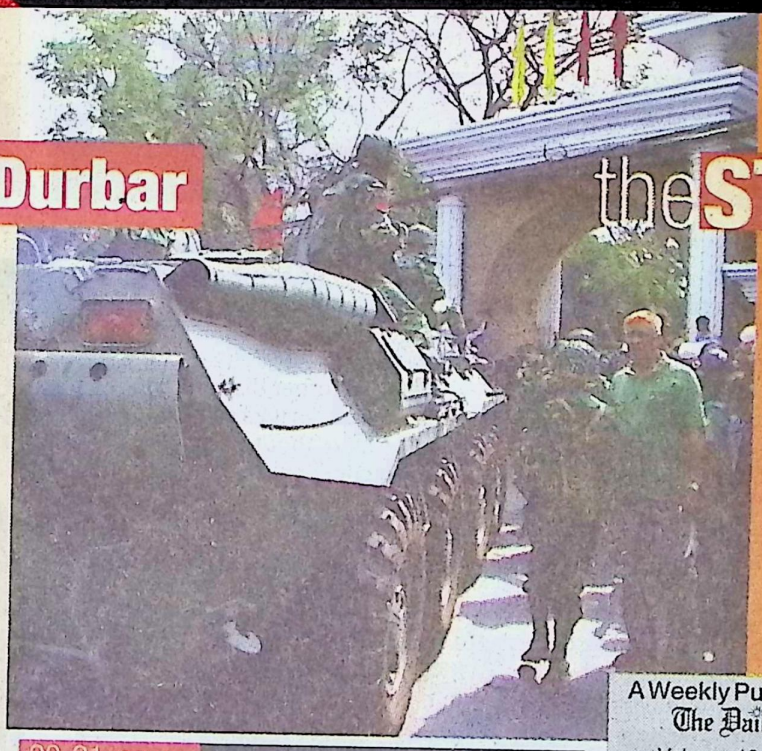
the STAR
inside

Cover Story 8-19

The Bloody Durbar

On the last three days of February, some of the brilliant officers of Bangladesh Army have been brutally murdered at the Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters in Pilkhana. As the nation mourns the loss of these valiant sons and daughters we try to find out the missing links. There are unanswered questions, which need to be probed. The government must allow a free and neutral investigation into the carnage to bring the masterminds of this massacre to justice. The blood of the shaheeds of the Pilkhana carnage will not go in vain.



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A Prayer for Peace

20-21 Tribute

Shakil Ahmed
my scholar-soldier friend

When he rose to the rank of a major general and then joined the Bangladesh Rifles as its chief, my happiness was indescribable. I called him, to tell him that it was my pride, my hubris if you will, to be his friend, to know that the Bangladesh army had in its midst a scholar-soldier of his stature. He laughed. He was too sophisticated, too humble to admit he was that. But he was. Three days before he was gunned down by a bunch of mutineers, we had spoken of Shakil Ahmed's intellectual brilliance.

26-30 Special Feature

The Meaning of Empowerment



When does a woman feel empowered? Is it when she gains a certain financial independence, when she gains respect from her community, when she sees images of others who are empowered or through religion? The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research programme set out to map out the processes that have contributed to women's empowerment.

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