

Mass graves found in Jhalakati, Sirajganj

BARISAL, Feb 1:—A mass graveyard of above one thousand people was discovered at Jhalakathi by the Mukti Bahini after liberation where dead police were dumped in different holes dug for the purpose. A BSS correspondent visited the spot a few days ago and found torn pieces of clothes including that of sarais.

The spot popularly known as 'Tak', a raised ground by the side of Jhalakathi river was earlier used as a picnic spot by the youngsters. The said spot was converted into execution and dumping ground by the Pakistan military forces.

The holes were pointed out by one Shahjahanuddin, a collaborator now in custody, popularly known as 'Fikka' Khan for his role in the indiscriminate murder of the innocent villagers.

According to the said collaborator, 100 persons have been dumped in each hole and 10 such holes have been discovered so far.

The local people have already put up a fencing all around and arrangements are all complete for the construction of a

Shahid Minar at the spot.

A message from Sirajganj adds: About 700 hapless girls abducted and ravished by the Pakistani occupation forces, met a watery grave in the vast expanse of the river Jamuna, writes BSS special correspondent.

The Pakistanis also literally slaughtered about 4,000 men, women and children and burnt down over 5,000 houses in a frenzied campaign of massacre, rape and arson in the Sirajganj launch ghat area during the nightmarish period of their occupation.

According to eyewitness accounts now available of the inhuman atrocities committed by the Pakistanis Bengalee youths used to be brought to this inland port town from the surrounding areas slaughtered at the launch ghat and at the sub-lail which had been turned into slaughter houses and were then thrown into the river.

These barbaric acts went on for nine months since Sirajganj came under the Pak Army occupation in April. At least 3,000 persons were killed at the slaughter house at Sirajganj.

This port town which used to be busy for 24 hours before March 25 was a completely deserted look after April 27. People used to avoid the launch ghat as they knew the place to be the scene of ghastly deeds of the occupation Pakistani Army.

BSS correspondent interviewed several Awami League, NAP, Mukti Bahini and Mujib Bahini leaders of Sirajganj. They informed him that in five days from April 27 to May 1 the Pak Army had killed at least 500 men, women and children by indiscriminate firing and they continued the madhouse operation despite the fact that there had been no resistance from inhabitants of the locality.

During November last year more than 200 men, women and children were killed at village Baroitala under Kazipur police station and nearly 200 houses were burnt in a single day.

Earlier during May, 1971 more than 170 men were killed by the Pakistanis in the village Babati under Sirajganj P. S. Both at Baroitala and at Babati the Mukti Bahini offered heroic (Continued on page 4 col. 6)

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resistance.

Inhuman killing, looting and arson was also perpetrated by the Pak Army at villages Tamai and Rajapur under Belenchi P.S. at Saidabad under Sirajganj and at Singlabari under Kazipur P.S.

A Comilla message adds:— Eight mass graves containing about one thousand human skeletons have so far been unearthed in Comilla Cantonment bringing to light the hideous crimes of Yahya's hordes in their harrowing details.

According to official sources, the figure of human skeletons was sure to reach as high as three thousand with the digging of more such graves in the area.

These skeletons were believed to be those of the unfortunate Bengali Army officials and Jawans who incurred the displeasure of their non-Bengali Army brass and were slaughtered in cold blood when Pak Army cracked down on Bangladesh since March 1971.

Earlier, five hundred skeletons were discovered in seven mass graves inside Comilla Cantonment.

Urea arrives