

# Horrid tale of Pak Army bestiality

RAJSHAHI, Feb. 3:—A father and a husband in two neighbouring houses died at the same time while a pious 30 years old woman offering her daily Tahajjat prayer lay prostrate as in shame. It was on the morrow of the last day of Bengal year 1377 that this had happened in this town about which very little has been written, reports BSS.

The hub of Northern Bangladesh Rajshahi town, flanked by the mighty Padma was then shrieking and crying in horror in the midst of history's greatest human bestiality.

The father who could not bear the scene of his young daughter being raped died of shock and the husband at the neighbouring house who was bound and forced to see the scene of five hungry, beastly looking men ravishing his young wife breathd his last quietly.

The woman who never missed her Tahajjat prayer, could hardly realise anything when she was thrown on the same prayer sheet denuded and raped to death.

This is an insignificant part of the horrid tale of "reconquest" of Rajshahi town by the Occupation Pakistan Force three weeks after the Pakistani crackdown upon the innocent and unarmed Bengalees.

## Bloody battles

Reconstructing the yet untold story of Pak Army atrocities in Rajshahi, a BSS correspondent, now touring North Bengal said they had to fight three bloody battles with the assorted group of ill-armed police, the then EPR, Ansars and the students before they entered the town and rampaged the city population for next eight months.

The Pakistan Army was in full control of the city till the first of April when, the EPR Jawans returning from the border checked the fleeing police and joined hands with them to force the Pakistani hordes into the Cantonment outside the town. To rescue the Army here a strong column of Army set out from Dacca to the Northern district. The Pak Army column

which wrought havoc and destruction for about three miles in depth on both sides of the road between Nagarbari in Pabna and Rajshahi met the first resistance at Jhalmalia about seven miles West of Natore.

After a brief encounter with an assorted group of students and Ansars the Army marched forward but left behind burning villages and five hundred dead. They reached famous Puthia without further resistance but they continued their killings. The beautiful bazar was put on fire and indiscriminate killing started.

The Army column met another resistance at Biraldah only four miles from Puthia. Caught unawares the Pak Army had to pay a heavy price in men lost.

The Mukti Bahini retreated and the Biraldah village was wiped out.

After burning Baneshwar, a sprawling market place and killing a large number of Bengalees, the Pak Army branched out to Savdah and Rajshahi. They shelled the famous police college at Shardah and collected about five hundred people on the adjacent char (sand island) and machine-gunned them.

## Courtyard of execution

Reaching Rajshahi, the Army column camped at the Uni-versity Halls and turned Zoha Hall into a courtyard of execution. The Hall is associated with another memory of Army atrocity in Rajshahi in 1969 when Dr. Shamsuzzoha of the University's Chemistry Department was brutally killed in broad daylight by the Pakistani Army.

The hordes swooped on the panic-stricken townsfolk just before dawn, incidentally the last of Bengali year 1377, and began the carnage. They burnt the famous Shaheb Bazar, shelled in all directions before they began killing and raping.

After five days they marched out further west and reached Chapai Nawabganj, the tiny Subdivisional town where on

the very day of their arrival, the hordes killed about eight hundred people, according to a very conservative source.

Almost everyday the Pak Jawans used to move out to the nearby villages to kill people and pick up young girls. These unfortunate girls, the villagers told BSS correspondent, never or hardly returned home.

At a village called Basbheria the Pak Army Jawans collected about 150 young women, married and unmarried, and raped them before the villagers. Ten of the unfortunate girls died.

All villages around the town today present a desolate look even though nine months have passed.

Gopalpur today is remembered not for its big sugar mill but for the inhuman Army atrocities associating the name of a Punjabi woman.

## Invitation to kill

Desperate Bengalees of the area caught and killed a group of occupation force who included one Major Aslam. The following day the Army hordes arrived and told the people that they should remain peaceful forgetting whatever happened in the past and urged the people to join the Army to offer Janaza for the dead Army personnel. From behind the congregation of about five hundred people which included the employees of the mills, the hordes opened up with machineguns.

The wife of the said Major used to visit the area, often inciting Pak Jawans to kill and even wipe out the last vestiges of vegetation, the people said.

After the liberation, local Administration began searches and found out three mass graveyards at Boalia Club ground, Boianpur brickfield and Dr. Zoha Hall.

From the Boalia Club ground was recovered some of the missing men during the liberation. The bodies which could be identified included one of Rajshahi University teacher Dr. Abdul Qayyum. It is believed about fifteen hundred people were executed and buried at these places.

Samad explains principles of