

KHULNA'S DAYS OF TERROR

From Our Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb. 2.—Inhuman brutalities coupled with cold blooded murder, rape, looting and arson that was let loose by the barbarous Pakistan Army upon the innocent citizens of Khulna during their nine months reign of terror have strengthened the public demand being voiced here for the trial of all the officers of Pakistan Army in the district during this period.

According to evidence available from various sources all these officers right from the ranks of Lt. Col down to second lieutenants were solely responsible for engineering and abetting atrocities upon the people in a planned manner. These officers were also instrumental in encouraging Razakars, the non-Bengali population and other collaborators in organising murder, looting arson and rape upon the people in villages which silently witnessed his tor's most brutal massacres against humanity.

When the Army crackdown began in Khulna on the night of 25th March Lt. Col Shams, who was the Commander of Army camps in the city, called Mr Nurul Islam and Mr. Abdul Rakib Khandkar the then DC and SP respectively and imprisoned them in his Circuit House camp. Then before the presence of these officers he ordered his officers and Jawans, "burst them. He thundered to his officers, "Look, no bastard Bengali escapes. Any bastard who comes out on the street shoot them on sight. What do they think? We will raze the city to the ground." As the order passed to the camps the barbarous troops fell upon the city like the hordes of Chenghis Khan to ravish and murder after clamping a 24-hour curfew.

Main culprits

Later, describing the scene to me, Mr. HaicAr then SP, Khulna said the city appeared to have fallen into the hands of the Pakistan Army as captured prey and they had set upon the prize to commit unlimited violence and brutality. Shots of machineguns rang out at intervals all over the city and screaming of helpless victims

rent the air along with the flames of burning huts and houses. Small groups of soldiers led by lieutenants or Captains roamed all over the city night and day. Orazed with hatred and revenge against the Bengali population of the city they forced entry into houses looted, raped and murdered adults and children alike.

In Khalishpur the army aided by non-Bengali population, surrounded the various Bengali workers colonies inside the mills and factories and committed barbarous killings unknown in the civilised world. Nothing of this brutality could be known as the thousands of innocent victims with their near and dear one's had perished in the river Bhairab where they were thrown after being killed by the army or their collaborators. A Police Inspector posted in Crescent Jute Mills who was imprisoned by the Army before the operation in the mills testified that the Bengali workers in the mills were hunted like rabbits. Everyone seen to move was shot or bayoneted.

The discovery of human skeletons of thousands of men and women slaughtered in cold blood by the barbarous army all over the city leats testimony of most heinous atrocity that was perpetrated upon humanity in sheer hatred against a nation and its culture and tradition.

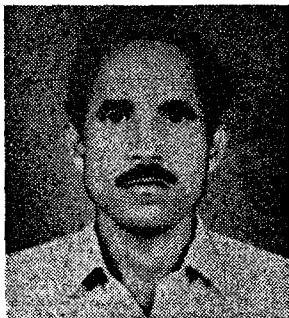
In Khulna those officers and collaborators of the barbarous army who conducted massacres and brutality upon the people were Lt. Col. Shams, Lt.

Col. J.J. Din Major Babur, Major Naser, Capts Sultan, Afsar, Noor Mohammed, Major Fazlur Rahman, Capts Pervez, Mohsin, Gulfaraj, Lt Sayeed and Lt Qurban.

Major Babur and Naser Capt Gulfaraj and Lt Qurban and Commander Gulzar of the Pakistan Navy were the most heinous culprits who deeply hated Bengali and Bengali culture and pioneered the mass genocide of Bengalees in Khulna.

Major Naser later promoted to colonel was involved in the famous Agartala conspiracy case and engineered the torture of the accused of the so-called conspiracy case for extracting evidence. Capt Gulfaraj and Lt Qurban physically participated in rape, torture and murders of intelligentsia in Khulna Capt Gulfaraj himself arrested the veteran and respected political leader Mr. Abdul Jabbar, Advocate who was also the Vice-President of NAP (Bhashani) and brutally killed him at Gallamari.

They also conducted several torture chambers set up at Khalishpur Circuit House and other places of the city where innocent civilians including officers employees labourers and political workers were tortured in a most inhuman manner. In view of their crimes against humanity the people of this district felt that all these officers posted in Khulna during their reign of terror must be brought to trial in order to uncover the stories of the world's most heinous genocide unleashed upon a nation and its culture.



Missing

By A Staff Correspondent
Mr. Mohammad Ali M'a, su-

Girls' high school to be set up in Ullapara

By A Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the local people of Salas Union under Ullapara Police Station of Pabna district, under the chairmanship of Sree Shibendra Nath Bhowmic, a veteran educationist and philanthropist, resolved to establish a girls' high school and a full fledged

Around The City

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