

More details of Pak savagery

20,000 killed in Comilla

COMILLA, Feb. 4.—The barbarous Pakistani occupation Army and their collaborators, during their nine-month reign of terror killed at least 20,000 people and burnt or destroyed about four lakh houses rendering more than 15 lakh people of three lakh families homeless, according to an estimate available from various sources.

The occupation forces destroyed and burnt down all movable properties and houses located on one to three miles depth on the Indo-Bangladesh border. The bordering towns of Akhaura and Brahmanbaria were the worst affected. Most of the huts and bazars in the district were wiped out causing serious economic disaster throughout the district.

The actual extent of genocide and destruction of properties made by the occupation forces is feared to be much higher when the house-to-house assessment is made.

Pakistan Army and their collaborators also picked up civilians, especially the youths from streets, houses, bazars, trains and buses and dragged them to unknown places. Their fates were still not known. Very few of those who were taken to the Mainamati Cantonment came back.

Mr. Ali Akbar of Bishnupur in the outskirts of Comilla was fortunate enough to come back alive to tell the BSS correspondent the horrid tales of the torture chamber he was put to with many others.

He said that on April 8 last his house at Bishnupur was surrounded and searched by the Pakistan Army and one Rashed, a young man of 23, was killed. They looted the house and picked Ali Akbar up to the Circuit House, the headquarters of the DSMLA (Deputy Sub-Martial Law Administrator) Sector three where he, along with 12 others were locked up in a small

room for the night. On the following morning, with their hands tied and eyes blindfolded they were taken to an unknown place in a truck. There they were put in a godown like building. As their eyes were unfolded they found many other unfortunate victims lying on their chests on the floor—their legs were bound and hands tied behind. Mr. Jatindra Bhadra, Advocate, was among these unfortunate people, he said. He found the advocate with multiple cut and burn injuries on his person waiting in agony.

Giving details of the torture Ali Akbar said about 300 people were in the hall and all were in agony from bruises, cuts and burn injuries

Fresh batches were brought every day, put to similar torture unto death. As regards his own position in that inferno he said that he endured inhuman atrocities and starvation for 12 days.

Recent discovery of mass graves and slaughter houses in the Cantonment area and on the outskirts of Comilla town has created a sensation in the locality. In fact, they have revealed the intentions of these "Satanic forces" against the people of Bangladesh.

Besides killing people and looting and burning their properties, the other heinous crimes committed by the occupation forces were debasing and dishonouring women, old and young. The brute forces picked up young girls from their houses, herded them into camps and cantonment areas and violated them. In many cases most of the girls were killed.

Bodies of young girls were recovered from the bunkers of the Pakistani forces in Kashba area. Some girls were recovered from the bunkers after the defeat of the Pakistani forces.

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