

# FFs finally captured Sirajganj town on Dec 14

## More than 100 decomposed bodies were recovered from the dens of the enemy camps

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 15: Sirajganj town was freed from the Pakistani occupation army on December 14, 1971, a red-letter day in the history of Sirajganj. Pride and sorrows grip the dwellers of Sirajganj district every year to mark the day. Sadly no monuments were set up in Sirajganj to recall the memories of the martyrs in the district except one constructed last year at Chandidashganti with the financial assistance of Gono Swasthya Kendro. Architect Aminul Karim Dulal of Bogra Karupalli, who has constructed the monument, 'Durjoy Bangla' is no more with us. He breathed his last before completing the works.

Since the historical call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib at Dhaka Race Course on March 7, 1971, people of Sirajganj town took initiatives to form the action committees at thana and municipality levels. After invasion and genocide of Pakistani occupation army on March 25 night, Sirajganj district remained freed till April 15, 1971. After a number of fierce guerilla fighting, the Freedom Fighters took control over the town by driving away the occupation army.

The brave sons of Sirajganj took position at Ranigram, Bahirgola, Mirpur and Jamuna river side areas on December 12, 1971. After fighting with the Pakistani army, the Freedom Fighters encircled the town on December 13. More than 15,000 Freedom Fighters and enthusiastic villagers took part in the operation led by Amir Hossain Bhulu, Late Shahzahan Ali Tara, Aminul Islam Chowdhury (injured in Bhatpiari Battle), Golam Haider Khoka, late Ali Imam Towhid, Ismail Hossain (Ismail Hossain later killed by the outlawed extremists), Firoz Bhuyan, Shafiqul Islam,

Bimal Das, Abdul Aziz Mirza and Altaf Hossain. On the night of December 13, the Pakistani occupation forces along with collaborators fled towards Ishurdi by train. At dawn on December 14, the Freedom Fighters entered Sirajganj town and assembled at the foot of demolished 'Shaheed Minar' of Sirajganj College.

After crackdown at Dhaka on 25.3.71, non-co-operation and resistance movement in Sirajganj was intensified which was originated after March 7. The resistance of the Freedom Fighters at Ghatina Bridge, Ullapara thana failed due to shortage

From Ashit Chowdhury

of ammunitions and the occupation army could pass the railway bridge towards Sirajganj. The historical Ghatina Railway Bridge Battle was participated by Amir Hossain Bhulu, Abdul Latif Mirza, Lutfar Rahman Makhani and Atiqur Rahman Baki. After retreating of the Freedom Fighters, the occupation army got easy access in Sirajganj town and started massive burning and killing steps. A section of Muslim League and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and the Biharis (repatriated non-Bengalis from India) actively co-operated with the occupation army in massacre operations.

Palashdanga Youth Camp was organised by Abdul Latif Mirza and Aminul Islam Chowdhury. Muzafer Hossain, Ishaque Ali led the guerilla units. The guerilla units and Freedom Fighters of Palashdanga Youth Camp took part in the battles with the occupation army at different points of Kazipur, Tarash, Raiganj, Ullapara and Belkuchi thanas. The vast tracts of charlands in Kazipur, Sirajganj sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahzadpur thanas were occupied by the Kaderia group led by Abdul Kader Siddiqui who entered the areas by boat from Tangail district.

The most memorable fierce war was held at Naogaon in Tarash thana led by Abdul Latif Mirza in which 25 Pakistani soldiers were killed and huge arms and ammunitions were captured by the Freedom Fighters. In a sudden attack on Pakistani army camp at Bhatpiari, near Sirajganj town, about 50 Razakars and Pak soldiers were killed. Aminul Islam Chowdhury and Abdul Motaleb sustained bullet injuries during this attack.

Amir Hossain Bhulu Golam Haider Khoka, Ismail Hossain, Ishaque Ali and Bimal Kumar Das led other teams of the guerillas to occupy the police stations and Razakar camps of Tarash, Raiganj and Kazipur. The then Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Sirajganj Shamsuddin Ahmed CSP (later killed by the occupation army) took a bold leadership at the beginning of Liberation War. In mid September, the SDO forcibly surrendered to the occupation army by some of his collaborator relatives and later he was killed.

After occupying Sirajganj town on December 14, 1971, district command council of the Freedom Fighters en-

gaged themselves to restore law and order situation of the district and thana headquarters. Amir Hossain Bhulu was the chief of the council and Ismail Hossain performed the administrative duties at district level.

More than 100 decomposed bodies were recovered from the dens of Pakistani army and the Biharis in Sirajganj town. The dead bodies of school teacher Abdul Momen, Jinnat Ali, Abul Hossain, Nurul Islam and Jyotibhai were recovered from the rest houses of the then WAPDA (power) and WAPDA (water) now PDB and WDB respectively.

The Pakistani army killed about 100 people at Bagbati, about eight kilometers from Sirajganj town. Genocide in Rajapur under Belkuchi thana also claimed more than 50 lives. The victims took shelter in these areas after invasion of the occupation army.

The nation observers silver jubilee of our great Liberation War but no monument was set up at the points of historic wars Ghatina Railway Bridge, Bhatpiari, Bagbari, Naogaon, Simla Rajapur and at Bhadrachhat, where Palashdanga Youth Camp was formed. However, a self arranged place was set up at Sirajganj College Road in memory of the Freedom Fighters. Abul Kalam Azad who died on July 17, 1971 during fighting with the occupation army in Kurigram near Hill in Dinajpur district. While visiting the residence of martyr Abul Kalam Azad, his mother, Nani Bewa, 81, told this correspondent that the government have sanctioned a monthly allowance amounting to Tk 1500 and leased out eight decimals of land and a pond for the shaheed family.

# People were shocked by the brutal atrocity of enemy

From Alimuzzaman Mia

GOPALGANJ, Dec 15: Gopalganj district (the then sub-division) was freed from the Pakistani occupation armies and their collaborators on December 14, 1971.

During the Liberation War, several fierce battles were fought against the Pakistani armies and their collaborators by the Freedom Fighters in Gopalganj. Hemayetuddin Ahmed, Kamallesh Badgya, Shihabuddin and Ismat Kadir Gama led the Freedom Fighters in the battles.

On the 30th April, 1971 the enemy forces invaded Gopalganj town and burnt various parts of the towns to ashes and looted the Gopalganj branch of the then State Bank of Pakistan. On that day they also set ablaze the houses in the village of Manihar under Gopalganj Sadar thana and killed hundreds of men and women including Professor Santosh Kumar Das of the then Quadi-e-Azam Memorial College (presently Bangabandhu Govt. College).

On the 19th May, '71, the Freedom Fighters under the leadership of Jhaluddin Ahmed launched an attack on the positions of the Pakistani collaborators at Gopalganj and the collaborators fled away. The Freedom Fighters could take away the arms and ammunitions from Gopalganj Treasury.

The so called Peace Committee of Gopalganj, the Pakistani armies again invaded Gopalganj and set ablaze almost all the villages of Gopalganj and killed thousands of innocent people. Thus they had been carrying out the most brutal atrocity and genocide. The Freedom Fighters started to resist them in different face to face battles. The grip of the Pakistani forces gradually weakened since early November.

On the 14th October '71, the Pakistani armies and their collaborators attacked the position of the Freedom Fighters in the village of



"Badya Bhumi" in Gopalganj district where the Pak armies killed many known and unknown freedom loving people in 1971. — Star photo

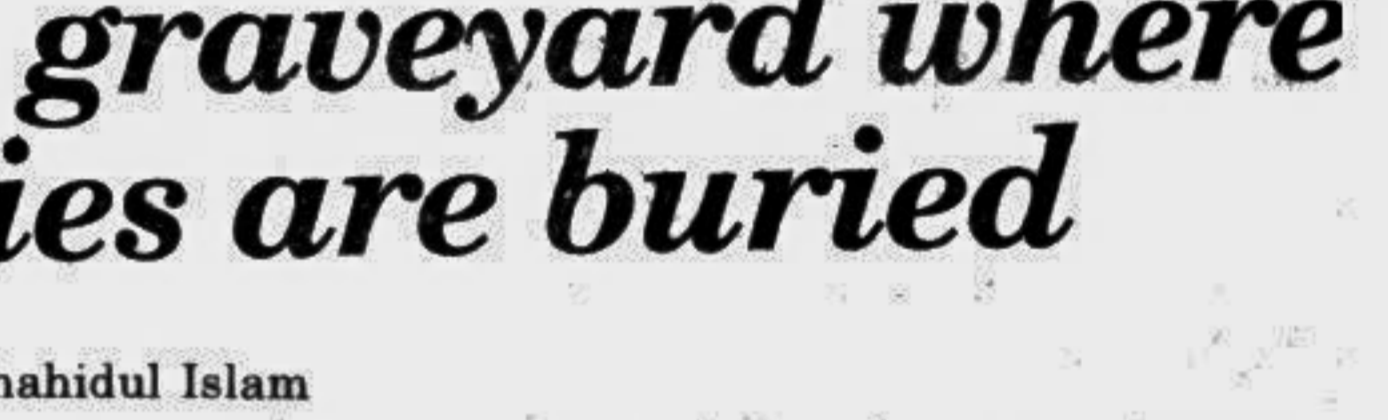
Rajapur under Kotwalpara thana. The battle continued the whole day. The valiant Freedom Fighters under the leaderships of Hemayetuddin Ahmed and Kamallesh Badgya fought unit victory the same day. Freedom Fighter, Mohammad Ibrahim was killed in the battle. Many Pak soldiers were kept as prisoners of war.

The battle of Fukra under Kasiani thana was another event worth remembering. In the later part of October '71, a fierce battle was fought between the Freedom Fighters and the Pakistani armies. Captain Shihabuddin led the Freedom Fighters in the battle of Fukra. In the 6 hours face to face fight, Freedom Fighters, Rabiul of Fukra, Imamuddin Ahmed of Bahirbagh under Kasiani thana and others sacrificed their lives for the cause of Liberation of our motherland.

The most heroic battle of Gopalganj district took place on the 6th November '71, in curbing down the atrocities carried out by Pakistani armies at Bhatipara wireless camp under Kasiani thana. The Freedom Fighters under the joint leaderships of Hemayetuddin Ahmed and Ismat Kadir Gama attacked the strong hold of the Pakistani armies at the Bhatipara Wireless Camp on the day and the battle continued for 15 hours.

On the 9th December 1971, the Pak armies fled away from their camp at Gopalganj town and their collaborators, namely, rajakars took position at their stronghold of the district at Gopalpur under Kotwalpara. Both the stronghold of rajakars at Gopalpur and Pak army was captured on the 14th December, 1971.

Thus Gopalganj district was totally freed from the grip of the Pakistani armies and their collaborators on the 14th December, '71.



Freedom Fighters (from L to R), S Hossain, A H Biswas and A S Molla.

# Jamalpur liberated on Dec 11

## 413 Pak soldiers, 12 FFs were killed in fierce battles

From Meherullah



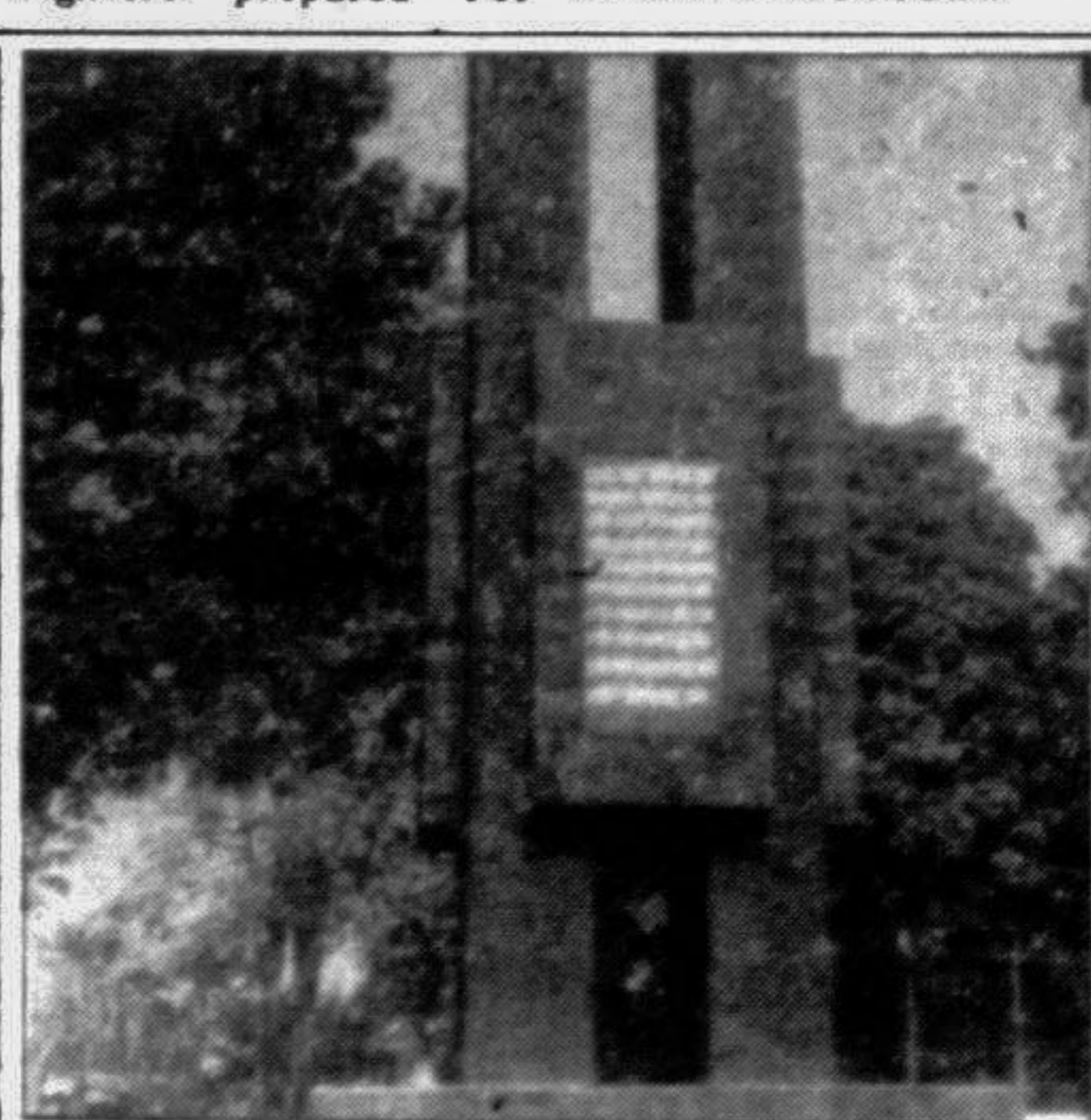
JAMALPUR: On December 11, 1971 Jamalpur was liberated from the grip of Pak armies. The picture shows Company Commander, of Sector Number II, Faizur Rahman with stengun in his right hand raised in air as a gesture of liberty and other cheering Freedom Fighters on PTI ground after hoisting of the national flag of Bangladesh.

JAMALPUR, Dec 15: Jamalpur town was freed from the Pakistani occupation on December 11, 24 years ago. The day is a special one for the people of Jamalpur in the history of Liberation War. Jamalpur was under Muktibahini Sector No-II, led by Col Abu Taher who lost one of his legs in the battle of Kamalpur. After his injury it was led by Squadron Leader Hamidullah Khan till the end of the battle.

The Freedom Fighters took position in Bogfaith, south of Jamalpur. Dewanganj, Dhunua-Kamalpur, Nalerchar, Nakshi, Nandina, Chandra, Degreerchar, Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Ghenai, Gingiram river side areas from December 7 to 9. After fierce battle with the Pak occupation army, the Freedom Fighters encircled Jamalpur town and adjoining areas on December 10. More than 7000 Freedom Fighters and villagers took part in the operation led by Company Commander Faizur Rahman (now Chairman of Jamalpur Pourashava and District Unit Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President) under Sector No-II. On December 9, 10 and 11 face to face battles were fought near Jamalpur Primary Training Institute (PTI). At least 413 Pak army soldiers

were killed and 12 Freedom Fighters gave their lives. On December 11, Bangladesh flag was hoisted for the first time by Company Commander Faizur Rahman at PTI ground. At dawn of December 11, the Freedom Fighters prepared PTI

ground premises to take oath of reconstructing the country. PTI Bhaban was a big Pak army camp in the district. On the day, at least six Pak army officers, 212 Pakistani soldiers and over 200 injured Pak occupation soldiers surrendered to Muktibahini.



The Memorial of Shaheed police officers and men who laid down their lives during the historic War of Liberation in Pabna district. — Star photo

# We recall some names of the martyrs of Pabna dist

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Dec 15: Innumerable Freedom Fighters, as in other districts of Bangladesh, died in Pabna districts during the historic War of Liberation in 1971. These Freedom-Fighters included political activists, writers, artists, police officers and men, ansars and people from all other walks of life.

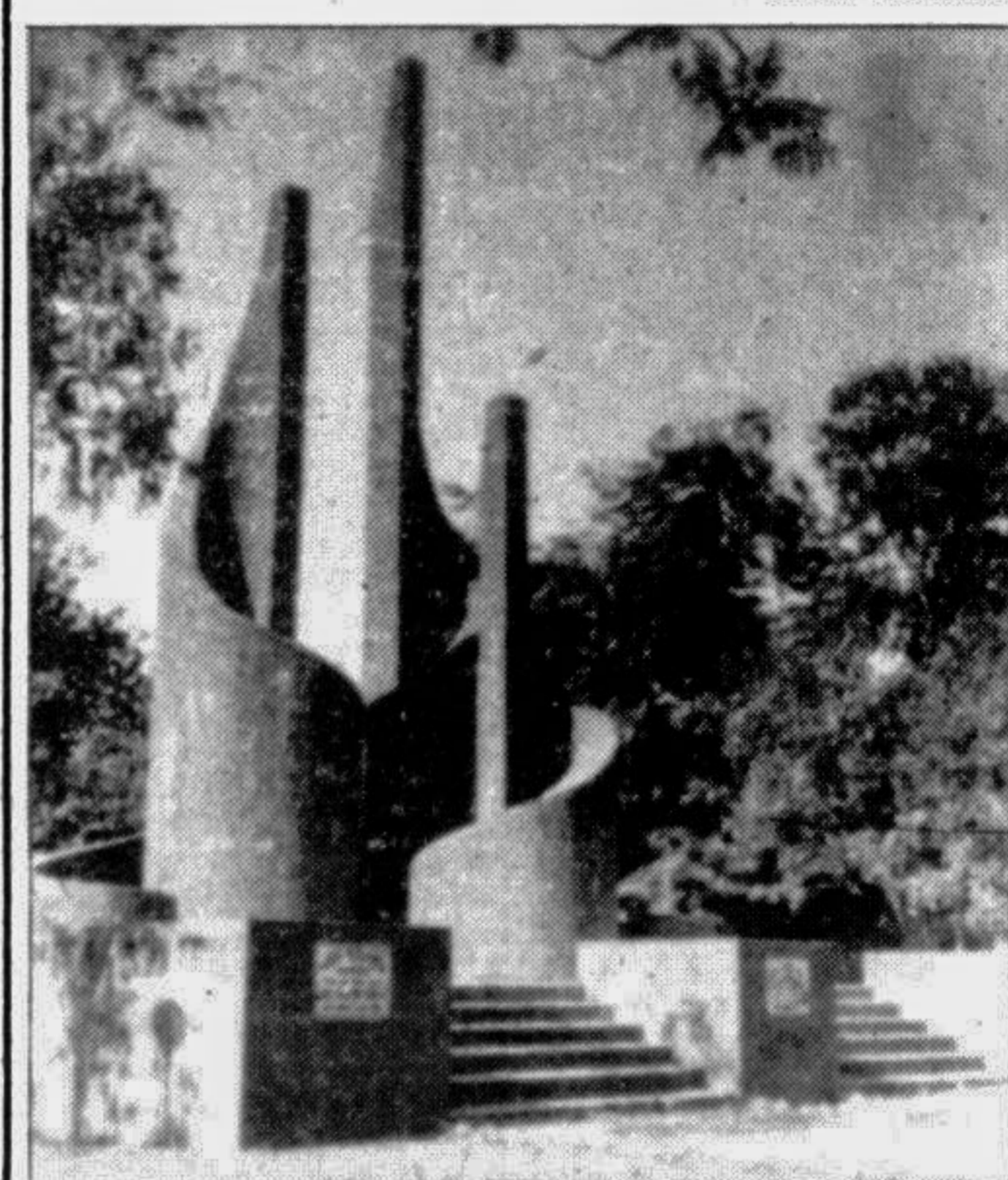
The names of martyrs in Pabna, as recorded are advocate Aminuddin, the then secretary, Pabna District Advocates Bar Association and an ex-MPA, Advocate Shafiquddin, Amalendu Dakshi, Moulana Kasim Uddin Ahmed, Shibaji and Babu.

The police department of Pabna district, built a unique memorial with stone, on four sides of which, names of all the Shaheeds have been inscribed. The memorial has been constructed on one side of the famous police parade ground of Pabna near the Police Line.

The names of Shaheed Policeman of Pabna are Sub-Inspector, Mirza Habibur Rahman; Sub-Inspector Md. Mazbul Hoque; Sub-Inspector, Ali Azam Bhuiyan; Sub-Inspector Tawhid Khan; Sub-Inspector Gias Uddin Pramanik, Sub-Inspector Manotosh Ali, Sub-Inspector Binoy Bhusan Singha, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Abdul Jalil, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Anil Kumar Ghosh, Habilder Md. Israel Haque; Habilder Sirajul Islam Siddiqui, Habilder Rajab Ali, Nayek Abbas Ali, Constable Sheikh Rahimuddin, Constable Hujjat Ali, Constable Ashraf Ali, Constable Md Mehaj Uddin, Constable Md. Hossain Ali, Constable Moslem Uddin, Constable Abul Kashem, Constable Abdus Samad, Constable Iman Ali Molla, Constable Lal Khan, Constable Abul Kashem, Constable Foyez Uddin, Constable Mohiruddin Sarkar, Constable Yatim, Constable Renu Miah and Constable Ramzan Ali.

# Kullapathor — a graveyard where many memories are buried

From Sk. Md. Shahidul Islam



BRAHMANBARIA: To pay respect and to remember the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to free the nation during the Liberation War in 1971, a monument, "Shaheed Smriti Saudha" was constructed in the heart of the district town. — Star photo

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 15: "Kullapathor" reminds us the glorious history of Liberation War of 1971 as innumerable Freedom Fighters were laid to eternal rest at Kullapathor.

"Kullapathor", a martyrs' graveyard is located in a small mound area under Kasba thana of Brahmanbaria district some three kilometres from bordering Salda Nodi Railway Station of the district. A visitor can easily reach the historical martyrs' graveyard on foot or on a rickshaw from Salda Railway Station. A road of about three km runs from Salda to the hillock, Kullapathor where a big gate is at first seen in which a sign reads 'Shaheed Sorani'. This is the main gate of martyrs' graveyard — Kullapathor where hundreds of Shaheed Freedom Fighter were laid to eternal rest.

According to Bir Mokti Juddha a Freedom Fighter, Abdul Karim, Salda under Sector No 2 was one of the most heavy fighting sports of the area under the sector commanding officer late Khaled Musharraf. Salda spot was the only way for Pakistani military to enter into Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet and other north eastern areas of Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan). Freedom Fighters of Salda made camp at Kullapathor. They often ambushed nearly Salda rail bridge to trap and to take control of Pak-Army and seize weapons of enemy forces.

However, Pakistan Army being well equipped fought against the Freedom Fighters to take control at Salda, an important spot. Consequently, Freedom Fighter Havilder Toyeb Ali lost his life in a face to face battle along with many of his colleagues while the enemy side also suffered heavy losses. The exact figure was not available. The camp commander Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Abdul Gaffar had requested Freedom Fighter Md Abdul Karim to arrange for a piece of land bury Shaheed Toyeb Ali and others Md Abdul Mannan, father of Md Abdul Karim.

donated 0.65 acres of land including his family graveyard to bury the Shaheed Freedom Fighters. One by one 49 martyrs were buried here. Unfortunately, during the war the Freedom Fighters and the villagers who had helped to bury the bodies of the martyrs, could not collect the names of the all martyrs. As a result, some of the names of the martyrs remain unidentified here. It was possible to identify the names of only 47 martyrs at that time.

The name of the martyrs are: Sepoy Abbas Ali, Nayek Hayder Ali, Habilder Toyeb Ali, Abdul Jalil, Jakir Hussain, Fakrul Alam, Sepoy Dorson Ali, Md Ahammad, Muhammad Rongu Mia, Nayek Muzammel Hoque, Muhammad, Md Nuab Ali, Sepoy Muslim, Engineer Nazrul Islam, Md Abdul Adud, Sepoy Tomij Uddin, Mattur Rahman, Musarrarf Hussion, Nayek Subader Mainul Hussion, Sepoy Nazrul Hoque, Md Abdul Quaum, Sepoy Humaun Kabir, Abdul Momin, Nayek Md Ajijur Rahman, Md Taru Mia, Nayek Awal, Md Safikur Rahman, Md Murshed Mia, Sree Ashu Ranjan Dey, Md Mahmud, Md Shahim, Md. Abdur Rasheed, Md Amir Hussion, Md Tahidur Rahman, Sree Poresh Chandra Mollick, Md Jamal Uddin, Md Abdul Hoque, Md Taher Ahmed, Md Shirazul Islam, Farid Mia, Mattur Rahman.



Ongikar, a monument in Chandpur district built in memory of martyrs of Liberation War, 1971 at Chandpur Stadium Road. — Star photo