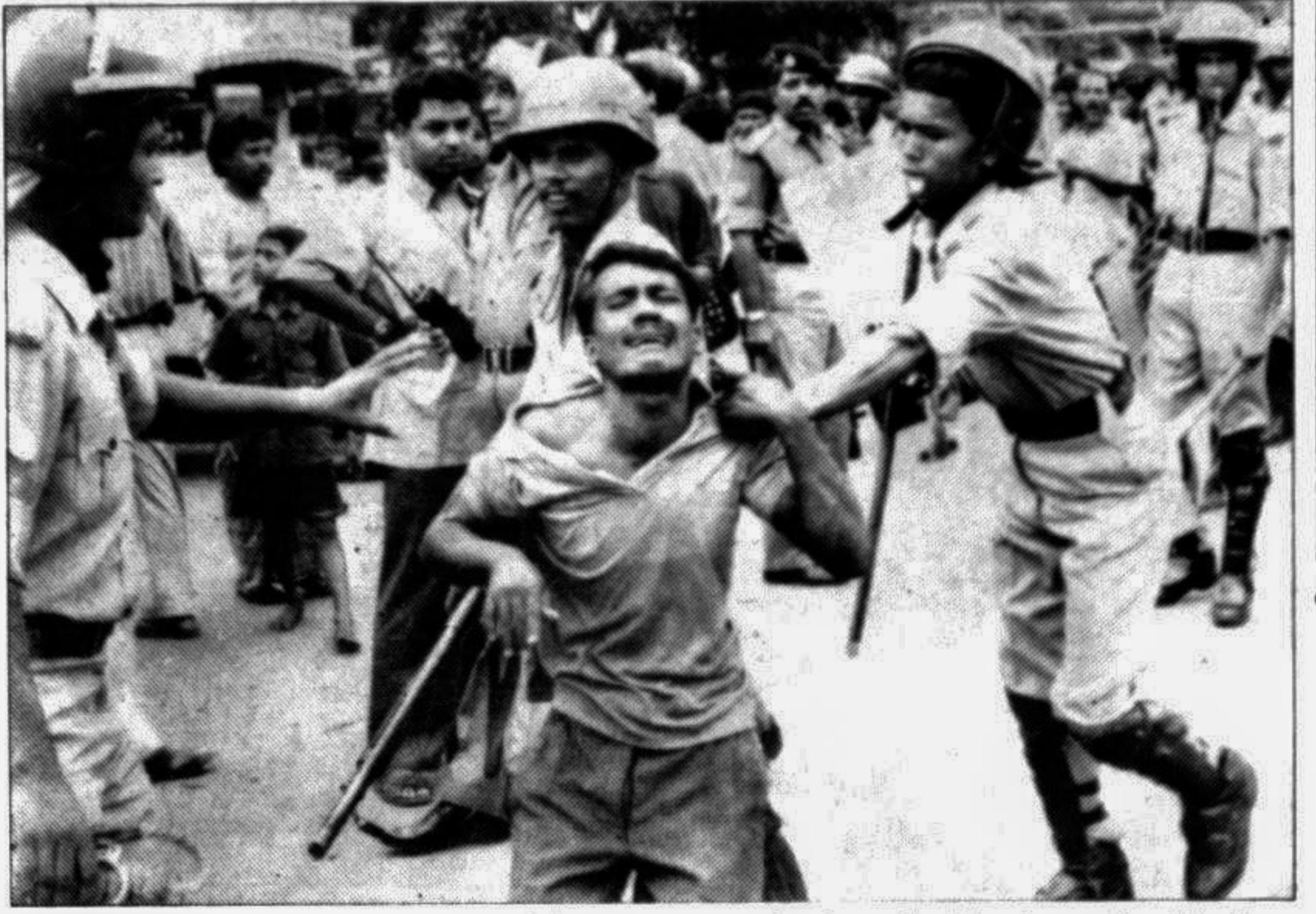


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Police nabbing a transport worker while removing trucks from the Nayabazar Road in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Shantibahini kill 28

From Page 1
by the former. Shantibahini demanded high rate of tolls for each cubic feet of timber collected from the forests. Some of the traders, however, said that the outlawed Shantibahini carried out this mass killing following a theft of a water pump owned by a tribal member who lives near Churukhali.

Dipankar Talukdar, an MP of Rangamati district, Rabindral Chakma, Chairman, Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council and Jalaluddin Muhammad Alamgir, President Parbatya Gano Parishad have condemned the brutal killings.

UNO adds: Police and military sources said soldiers began the search after one woodcutter, injured by bullet, escaped on Tuesday. Five woodcutters were still missing. The injured woodcutter, Yunus, was admitted to Rabetta Hospital at Lan-

gadu. Unofficial sources, however, said 35 people were kidnapped by the Shantibahini insurgents. Of them, two managed to escape and bodies of 30 woodcutters were found. Three were missing, they said.

They further said that the woodcutters had been picked up by Shantibahini men from their houses in Mahilla, Pablahali and Churukhali areas of Bagairchari thana on the pretext of holding a meeting on toll collection.

The 28 bodies were brought to Langadu thana in the after-

noon. Local people thronged the police station to see the bodies.

Different organisations, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts National Coordination and Peace Council, condemned the killings and demanded compensation for families of the dead.

The Council will observe 'mourning day' in the hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban on Friday (tomorrow).

Probe body

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina yesterday constituted a seven-member parliamentary committee headed by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdulla to probe into the incidents of killing of 30 woodcutters in Rangamati district, reported BSS.

The committee will make on the spot enquiry into the incidents which caused the killing of so many innocent people and submit its report within the shortest possible time.

Bodies of the wood-cutters who were kidnapped on Monday from Pakkahali forest were recovered from Gurusatang area under Mainimukh police station of Rangamati district.

Other members of the committee are Kalparajan Chakma, Dipangkar Talukdar, Bir Bahadur, Advocate Fazle Rabbee, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and Zainal Abedin Far-

noon. Local people thronged the police station to see the bodies.

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Witnesses said the truck drivers, protesting the arrest of one of their colleagues, barricaded the roads of Tantibazar, Badamali, Dholaiapar, Siddik bazar and Court Kachari for around three hours starting from 10:00 am.

Police lobbed tear gas shells, resorted to lathicharge and with the help of the people removed the trucks from the roads, said witnesses.

A truck driver was arrested on Tuesday allegedly for assaulting a constable.

The treaty has yet to be ratified by the Nepalese parliament.

The government is to get the required two-thirds majority in the two houses of the Nepalese parliament.

In a related development today nearly 12,000 Maoists led by the Nepal Peasants and Workers' Party (NPWP) held an anti-government, anti-India and anti-NCP-UML demonstration, witnesses said.

They marched 16 kilometres from the main opposition Nepal Communist Party United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) released a list of changes it wants made to the treaty before it will ratify the project.

They are opposed to the signing of the multi-billion dollar Mahakali River Integrated Development Project (MRIDP) which has the potential to generate 4,000 megawatt of electricity besides harnessing the border river for irrigation.

When the prime ministers of Nepal and India had signed the MRIDP treaty in February, the two neighbours pledged to invest equal amounts in the project for equal benefits. But, opposition leaders say India will gain the most.

The treaty is to be ratified if the NCP-UML supports it. If it will be a misfortune for the country, NPWP Chairman and MP Narayan Man Bikchhu said.

Another NPWP MP, Ashakali Basukala claimed "the NCP-UML wants to support the Mahakali treaty just to come to power again."

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