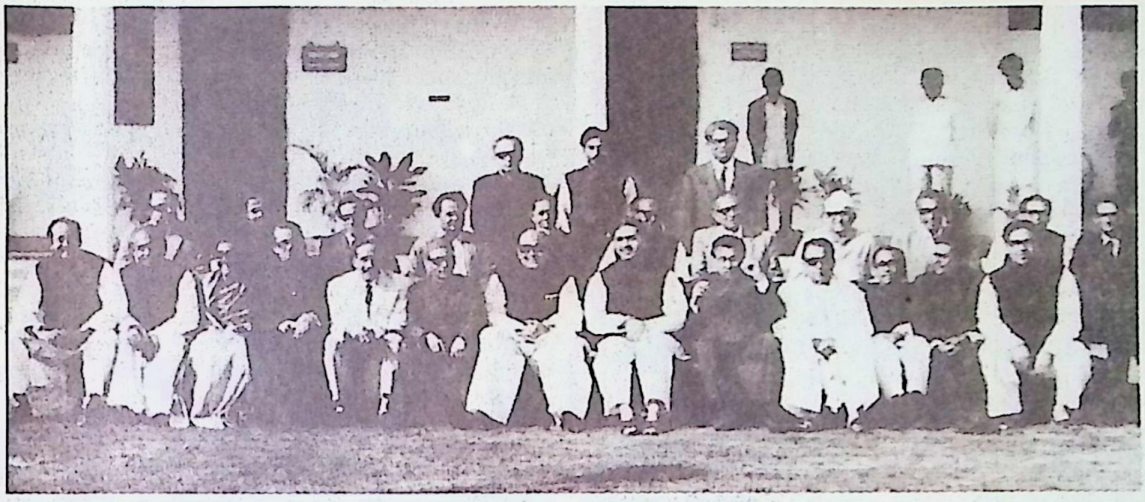
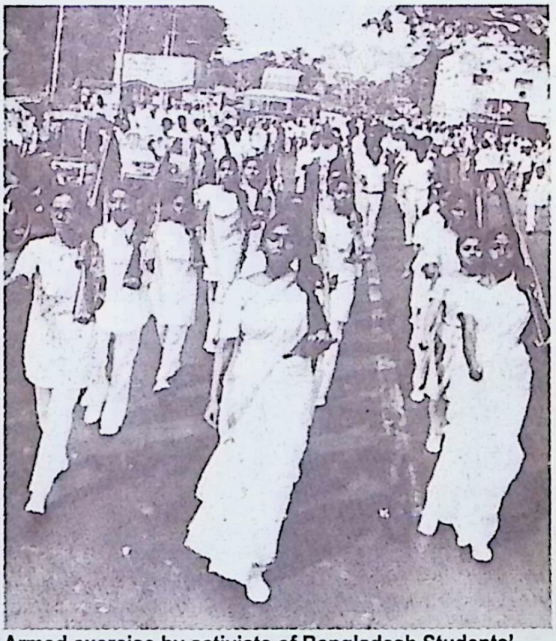
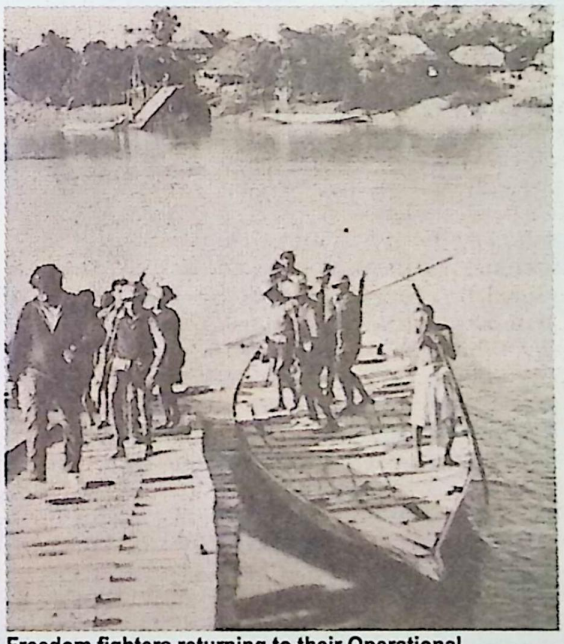


Members of the Constitution Drafting Committee: Syed Nazrul Islam to Dr Kamal Hossain's right amd Tajuddin Ahmad to Dr Kamal's left.

PHOTOS: ARCHIVES



Armed exercise by activists of Bangladesh Students' Union, March 7. 1971.



Freedom fighters returning to their Operational Headquarter by river Ichhamoti.

to accept the position of Law Secretary. The Constitution was to be written in Bangla. Dr Anisuzzaman of the Bangla Department at Chittagong University joined the team responsible for the preparatory work on the Constitution. The Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh Order was promulgated on January 11, 1972, and the first meeting of the Assembly was convened on April 10, 1972. "The first meeting was charged with deep emotion," recalls Dr Kamal. "It was a moment of communion with the souls of the martyrs who had paid with their lives to vindicate the rights of the people to make a constitution for a sovereign and independent People's Republic of Bangladesh."

A Constitution Drafting Committee comprising of 34 members and chaired by Dr Kamal was formed. Members included Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Mansur Ali, Kamruzzaman, Khandhaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Amirul Islam and others. It also included Suranjit Sengupta, a member of the opposition and Razia Banu, a woman member. Dr Kamal says, "Guidance on general principles provided by the resolution of the Assembly, declared that the high ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism, which had inspired the brave martyrs to lay down their lives in the national liberation struggle, would be the fundamental principles of the Con-