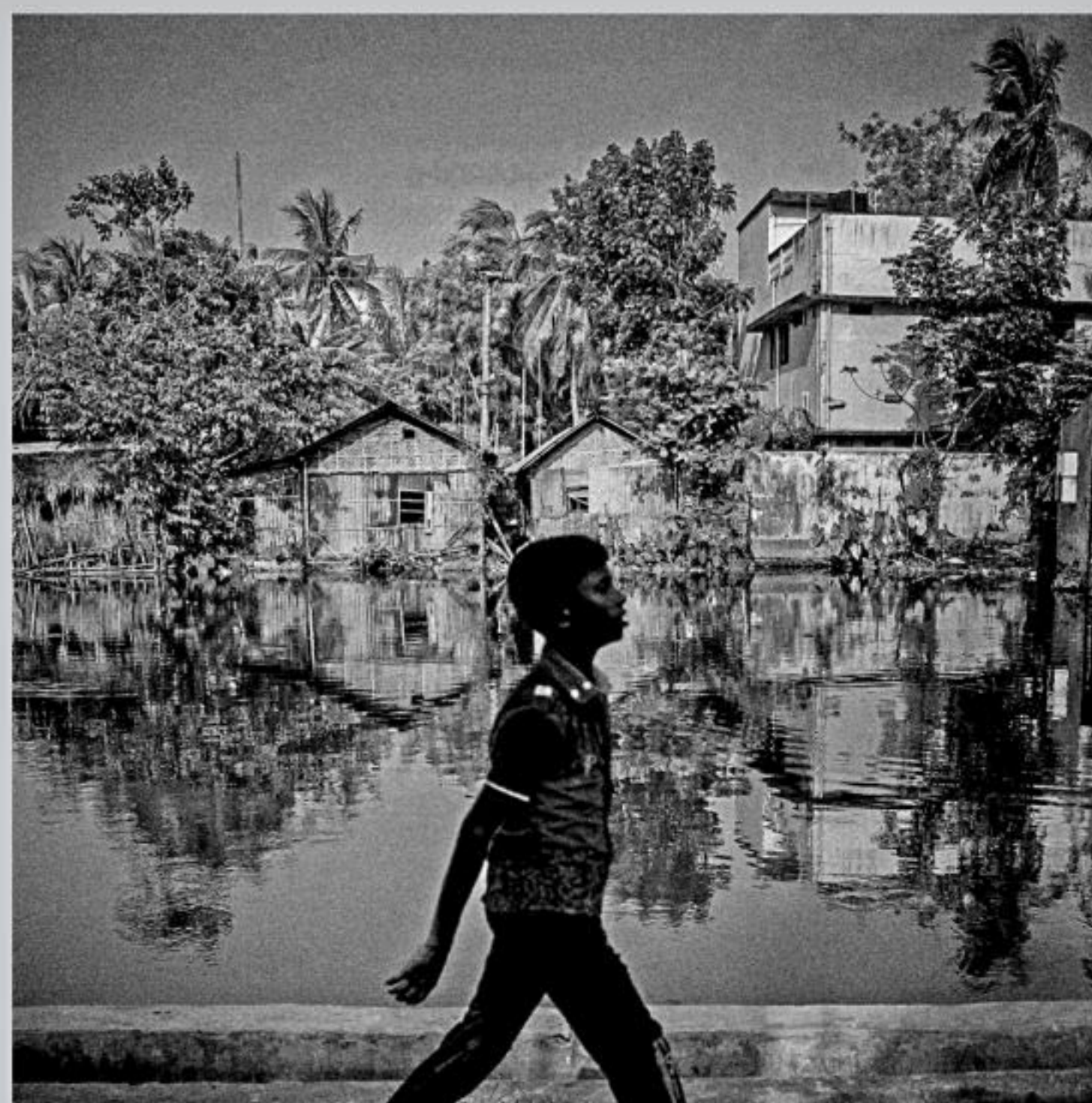




A recent grave in the local graveyard, in a place that is suspected to be the old mass grave. 300 Biharis lived in Deara village and was a prominent spot for anti-Bengali collaborators. A Rajakar camp was established here in August 1971 with Shawkat as the commander. Around the end of August, the Rajakars perpetrated vicious attacks against the villagers. Houses were looted, people killed and the village was set on fire.



Munshi Siddiqur Rahman was affiliated with Awami League and his house 'Munshibari' was an important centre of activism in Goalkhali. On April 7, 1971, the Pakistani Army and their collaborators surrounded the house but Siddiqur managed to escape. Enraged, the Pakistani juntas rounded up 12 members of his family who were later gunned down at a nearby pond. The Munshibari family graveyard testify to the atrocity.



Charer Haat jetty on the Bhairab river is a centre of commerce and transport in the area. On May 8, a launch carrying hundreds of passengers set off for Khulna from Narail. As it neared the jetty, two Pakistani gunboats forced the passengers to disembark and line up. The Bengalis were first robbed of their valuables and then killed. A further 5 launches were stopped in similar fashion, and nearly 600 people were killed.



Adjacent to the courthouse near Forest Ghat was the Khulna Circuit House, commonly referred to as "Helipad". In 1971, this served as an interrogation cell for the Pakistani military—people were brought from all over the place and held at Khulna Circuit House to be tortured, raped and killed.



Chuknagar is located west of Dumuria upazila—adjacent to Khulna, Shatkhira and Jessore, with highways from all three regions meeting at Chuknagar. Chuknagar *bazaar* was a common transit point for people going to India; the adjacent Bhadra and Ghangrail rivers, now dried up, were commonly used waterways as well. Between the night of May 19 and morning of May 20, around a hundred thousand religious minorities gathered at Chuknagar as a result of vicious attacks by the Pakistanis on May 19 at the nearby Botiyaghata locale. On May 20, two trucks arrived down the highway from Satkhira and the mass killings at Chuknagar started around 10-11 am. One of the two trucks entered the village beyond the bazaar, and the first shot was fired upon farmer Chikon Morol, who was working the field. Chikon's nephew, Md Noor Ali Morol, witnessed the incident from their home adjacent to the field.