

# Atrocities Committed by the Pakistani Army and Their Collaborators During Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971: An Overview of the Fukra Genocide in Gopalganj

**Muzahidul Islam**

Lecturer, Department of History, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj-8100, Bangladesh.

## ABSTRACT

One of the most atrocious and brutal genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century took place in Bangladesh during the liberation war of 1971. The Bengali was suppressed by the internal colonial process of the Pakistani ruler since 1947. Subsequently, they ignored the result of 1970 election and create uncertainty to transfer the power to the leader of the Bengali, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Rather than ceding authority, the administration of West Pakistan began genocide against the Bengali people on March 25, 1971, and it persisted until December 16, 1971. During this time, around 3 million people suffered martyrdom. On October 31, the Fukra Union was the target of a vicious genocide by Pakistani forces, which also claimed the lives of innocent villagers. This paper intended to analyze the nature of genocide, the activities of anti-liberation forces in Fukra union under Gopalganj district of Bangladesh.

**KEYWORDS:** Liberation war, atrocity, genocide, freedom fighters, collaborators, crime against humanity.

## Introduction

The Bengali people started a liberation war in 1971 with the intent to end the Pakistani regime's twenty-four years of discrimination and exploitation against them. The liberation war was like a platform of emancipation for every Bengali living in Bangladesh as well as it is also an inspiration to the oppressed and exploited people of the world to fight and survive. On March 25, 1971, in the name of Operation Search Light, Pak-invader forces embarked on a mission to kill innocent Bengalis across the country. By setting up camps in the remote areas of the country, the Pak-invader forces engaged in brutal activities like rape, looting, arson, murder and torture with the help of their local allies Razakar, Albadar, Alshas. We achieved our independence in exchange of the long bloody war of 9 months, about 30 lakh martyrs, more than 2 lakh women lost their honor and the helplessness of more than 2 crore displaced people (Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hossain, 2014).

Gopalganj, a subdivision of that time and the birth place of the father of the nation of Bangladesh. As the people of this region were politically conscious, the Mukti Sena was also relentless in keeping the region free from the enemy (Ranjan, 2016). As a result, the people of Bangabandhu's birth place became the main target of the Pakistani Army. Thus, resistance gained notoriety despite the horrendous cruelty of

the war in this area. Five upazilas in Gopalganj have yielded so far the discovery of 560 killings, 17 slaughterhouses, 66 mass graves, and 16 torture camps. (Abdus Samad, 2019). Such massacre was found in South Fukra village of Fukra Union of Kashiani Upazila under Gopalganj district. Pakistani forces and their local collaborators raided Fukra village from the Bhatiapara radio camp in Kashiani upazila between July 9 and October 31, 1971. They then seized, mercilessly shot, and bayoneted the independence fighters. A violent history was created by the burning of homes and crops, looting, gang rape of women, and forced sex labor in camps. A deadly battle started on October 31 between the Pakistan Army and the local freedom fighters. Fifty villagers, including twenty-five members of the Pakistan Army and fourteen valiant freedom fighters, martyred.

A memorial has now been built on the banks of the Madhumati River, close to the location of the incident, while the area where the local freedom fighters engaged in combat with the Pakistani soldiers has been drowned by the river (Ashrafun Nahar, 2022). The memorial erected here in 2020 is helping to inform the next generation about the history of the heroic freedom fighters' courageous battle and the heinous deeds committed by the Pakistan Army and its local supporters.

### **Method of the Study**

This research has been done in a historical method. Data has been taken from both primary and secondary sources. Some interviews have been taken as a key informant due to the vast paucity of written sources. Besides an attempt has been made to take interview of the surviving family members, eyewitnesses and those freedom fighters who luckily survived as a primary source. Moreover, interview has also been taken randomly among the victims and it has been cross checked it by the secondary information. In this study books, newspapers, magazines, government documents, articles are used as secondary source of information.

### **Rationale of the Study**

1. Numerous books have been written on the national history of the liberation war but local history of liberation war and genocide did not come out in those books. This article will help to complete the local history of Gopalganj as well as enrich the national history of the liberation war.
2. During the liberation war, it will be possible to highlight the brutality and heinous activities of the Pak invading forces at the local level in front of the common people.
3. It will be helpful for the government to prepare a list of freedom fighters and anti- independence.
4. Through this article, it will be possible to present the unknown history of the liberation war to the reading society.

### **Limitations of the Study**

As 53 years of independence have passed, many of the eyewitnesses and freedom fighters of the liberation war are not alive today and those who are alive don't remember many events of the liberation war due to the passage of time. As a result, it has become very difficult to bring up these events of the liberation war at the local level. Still, an attempt has been made to verify what they said from memory through secondary data and present it as much as possible.

### **Genocide and Crime Against Humanity: Theoretical Aspects**

Commonly used to English the word Genocide are Massacre, Mass Killing, Mass Murder and Genocide.

But there is a subtle difference between the words. Indiscriminate killing of people is called mass killing, mass murder or massacre. And the killing planned for a specific purpose is called genocide. The term Genocide is derived from the Greek word '*genose*' and the Latin word '*cidere*'. The word '*genose*' means race or people, and '*cidere*' means killing. The term genocide was first used by the Polish jurist Raphael Lemkin (Abdus Samad, 2019). According to FBI, a mass murder is when four or more people are killed in an incident and there is no break between the killings (Akmam, 2002). There are several examples of genocide in the world. The Jewish genocide, Armenian genocide, Greek genocide, Assyrian genocide, Ukrainian genocide, Cambodian genocide, Guatemalan genocide, Bosnian genocide and Bangladesh genocide are notable among them (Abdus Samad, 2019). In 1948, the United Nation's Convention on the Prevention of the crimes of Genocide or Genocide is defined in Genocide Convention, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948 under Resolution 260 (3). Genocide is considered a punishable crime that all states are committed to preventing globally. Paragraph 2 of Resolution 260 (3) defines 5 characteristics of genocide:

1. Planned extermination of a nation or group by killing or exterminating its members.
2. Inflict physical or mental harm to exterminate them.
3. To deliberately destroy a nation in such a manner as to destroy its life in whole or in partiy
4. To take measures aimed at preventing births within groups or nations
5. Erasing the birth identity and ethnic identity of children of a caste or group by removing them to another place (Abdus Samad, 2019).

Genocide is considered genocide only if it has one of the 5 characteristics mentioned above. In 1969, the United Nations Vienna Convention declared genocide to be jus cogense or universal and unforgivable. On the night of March 25, 1971, Pakistani invasion forces massacred innocent Bengalis through Operation Searchlight (Chowdhury & Al-Amin, 2021). They premeditated this murder to suppress Bengali nationalism and wipe out the freedom fighters. The rape of Bengali women was not just for sexual harassment but their purpose was to end the Bengali ethnic identity and give birth to Pakistani children. Therefore, among the 5 characteristics of genocide declared by the United Nations, the first 4 characteristics occurred in the brutal genocide carried out by the Pakistani forces in Bangladesh in 1971 (Abdus Samad, 2019). The Guinness World Records mentions the Bangladesh genocide as one of the 5 most terrible massacres of the 20th century. However, the international recognition of this brutal genocide has not yet been met. Behind it is the politics of the world (Abdus Samad, 2019). When a genocide is recognized by the United Nations, it becomes an international issue. As a result, it became the responsibility of the United Nations to stop the genocide and punish those responsible. Due to non-recognition, the UN is still using the term massacre instead of using the term genocide in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Bangladesh is observing 25 March as Genocide Day since 2017 and has started the trial of war criminals inside the country by forming the International Crimes Tribunal. In the future, if the United Nations recognizes it, it will be possible to prosecute and recover compensation against the state of Pakistan through international courts. However, if the United Nations recognizes, the negative role of China and the United States, the two most powerful countries in the world, will be officially recognized. Because of this, the issue of recognition is also complicated (Anthony Mascarenhas, 1971).

**Geographical Location of the Fukra Area:** Gopalganj is a district in southwestern part of Bangladesh beside Madhumati River. It is one of the 13 districts of the present Dhaka Division (Ashrafun Nahar, 2022). In ancient times it was part of Banga township. Hindus ruled the region during the Sultanate and Mughal periods. After the Permanent Settlement, the district was part of present-day Dhaka, Faridpur,

Madaripur and Jessore districts(Rabindranath Adhikari, 2009).In 1909; the district got the status of the first subdivision. On February 1984, Gopalganj subdivision was promoted to district. The present area of the district is 1484.92 square km. This district lies between 23°36` northern latitude and 89°51` eastern longitude. Its average height above sea level is 46 feet. Faridpur district in the north of this district, Pirojpur and Bagerhat districts in the south, Madaripur district and Barisal district in the east, Narail district in the west(Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). The number of rivers in the district is 6. Madhumati, Kumar, Ghagar, Baigar, Barashia and Madaripur Billroot Canals. Madhumati is the largest river(Mohammad Emdadul Haque, 2017). The main occupation of the population is agriculture. Major staple crops: Paddy, jute, oilseeds, pulses, wheat, almonds. Main fruits: mango, kathal, palm, banana and watermelon. Population is about 12 lakhs. Muslims 63.62%, Hindus 35.13%, Christians 1.20%, others 0.02%(Rabindranath Adhikari, 2009). Gopalganj district currently has 5 upazilas, 4 municipalities, 68 union parishads, 607 mauzas, 889 villages. The upazilas are Gopalganj Sadar, Tungipara, Kotalipara, Kashiani and Muksudpur(Ashrafun Nahar, 2022). Kashiani Upazila has an area of 299.64 square kilometers and a population of 228,647 people(Sirajul Islam, 2011). It has Boalmari in the north, Gopalganj Sadar in the south, Muksudpur and Sadar in the east and Lohagra and Alfadanga upazilas in the west(Ashrafun Nahar, 2022). It is at 23kk14 north latitude and 89kk13 Located in east longitude. Kashiani-Bhatiapara railway and Madhumati and Garkashia waterways are the main means of communication of this thana(Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). Kashiani thana was formed in 1936 and the thana was converted into a district in 1984. It is the 4th upazila in size and population. There are 14 unions, 149 mauzas and 162 villages in this upazila(Ashrafun Nahar, 2022).



Image: (Sirajul Islam, 2011)

Fukra Union is a traditional area of Kashiani Upazila, which is built along the banks of Madhumati. South Fukra is an important village among the 13 villages of Fukra Union. On October 31, 1971, the most brutal genocide took place in this village. Which is known as Fukra Genocide. The incident site is 12 km away from Kashiani upazila. To go to the spot from Gopalganj city, you have to take a bus from Sadar Police Line to Milton Bazar, 36 km away. From there by engine van, 3 km away on the southern

border of south Fukra village, on the banks of Madhumati river, the memorial will be visible. The memorial was built in 2020 next to the site of the massacre. The list of 14 martyrs who sacrificed their lives bravely fighting with Pak forces is engraved there.

### **The Demographic and Physical Features of Fukra Area During Liberation War**

The genocide that took place in 1971 in South Fukra village of Fukra union of Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj district was 12 km from Kashiani upazila. Located far there was a dirt road from Milton Bazar in Kashiani Upazila to reach this village. The people of the village used to travel on foot and by boat. Due to the population was less at that time, there were empty mud houses all around. About 2000 people lived in the village. There was a primary school in the village for education. Few people of the village studied there. For higher secondary, one had to go to Fukra Madan Mohan High School established in 1902 in Fukra Union as well as had to go to Ramdia Srikrishna College in Bethuri Union. On October 31, 1971, the Pak army and their allies attacked this village for 5 hours from 11 am. As this village was low lying, there was water all around and on the water there was kachuripana. Launches used to stop at the genocide site from different places, that's why this place is called Launchghat(Bir Muktiyuddha Farid Ahmed Mollah, 2023).

### **The Context of Genocide in Gopalganj Area**

On March 7, 1971, Bangabandhu delivered a historic speech of 18 minutes and 31 seconds in Racecourse ground at 3.30 pm. In this speech, Bangabandhu called for the building of forts from house to house. On March 8, when Bangabandhu's speech was broadcast on radio and television, there was excitement among the common people of Gopalganj. On March 11th, after the news of all the political parties and senior politicians in Dhaka expressing their support for the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came to Gopalganj, great enthusiasm was created among the students(Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). During this time, Dummy-Rifle training of enthusiastic student youth continued at various places in Bangabandhu Government College ground (then Quaid-e-Azam College), Yug-Shikha Club, Hijalbari High School ground in Kotalipara, Muksudpur, Bhatipara, Fukra and Tungipara in Kashiani. Freedom fighter Abul Hossain was one of the instructors of Bangabandhu College field training. At this stage of preparation, on March 16, the flag of Pakistan was taken down from the top of the court building in Gopalganj. The event of lowering the flag was led by the then student leader and prominent freedom fighter late Shaukat Ali, Zakir Hossain Khosru and others(Rabindranath Adhikari, 2009). When March 23 was called as Resistance Day, it was also celebrated in Gopalganj. The people of Gopalganj were alarmed when the news of the Pak-Bahini genocide started on March 25 through Operation Search Light and the arrest of Bangabandhu in the early hours of March 26 was spread through BBC. They kept demanding that since Bangabandhu's home is in Gopalganj, the attack will be carried out here. The leaders began to leave the city. But on March 26 when Bangabandhu's telegram message of declaration of independence reached Gopalganj, the common people turned around and took part in the final struggle(Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). Gopalganj district Liberation War and Prevention Committee was formed on March 28. Awami League leader Kamrul Islam Rais became its president. On April 22, Pak army killed many innocent people by air attack on Jalirpar Hat of Mukchedpur upazila at 4 pm(Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004). About 150 Pak army came to Gopalganj by launch led by Colonel Tarek, Major Babar, Major Ghori. After leaving the launch near Gopalganj Upazila Parishad and reaching the city on foot, the local Muslim League and PDP leaders welcomed the Pakistan

Army with Pakistani flags at Chowrangi. Muslim League leader Wahiduzzaman's house in the city finalized the plan to carry out the massacre. After coming out from there, with the help of local razakars, Bangabandhu's house, Awami League office, local Awami League leaders' houses, shops in the city were looted and burned in the bank neighborhood of Gopalganj city till 3 pm. On that day 10/15 worth of property was damaged. In the afternoon Manikhar entered the village and carried out massacres (Ashrafun Nahar, 2022). After that, the Pak Army set up two camps at Gopalganj Upazila Parishad Square and Bhatiapara Wireless Center. During the Liberation War, Bhatiapara of Kashiani Upazila had wireless facilities for international communication and transit camps for fighters going to and from Jessore, Faridpur, and Khulna, making this upazila a prime target for the Pak invading forces. During the liberation war, Kashiani police station commander was Jaglul Qadir Zulu and deputy commander was advocate Abdul Halim. And the commander of Mujib's army was Ismat Qadir Gama. From the Bhatiapara camp, the Pak soldiers looted and set fire to various places including Fukra, Puna, Khaerhat, Bhatiapara, Ratail, Charbhatpara from the first of May (Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). In the first week of April, freedom fighter training camps were opened in various villages of Kashiani police station, including Fukra and Bhatiapara. Kashiani Thana area East Pakistan Parliament Akhtar Uddin Mia and Bhatiapara resident Captain (retd) Nuruddoha played the main role in this. At that time the strongest training center was in the village of Fukra. Because many people of that village were working in army, police and EPR. When Bangabandhu declared independence, they responded to Bangabandhu's call and left their jobs and came to the area. Among them, Army's Subedar Mosharef Sardar alias Kota Sardar, Ali Sardar, Habildar Chan Mia Sardar of EPIAR, Akbar Ali Sardar and Habibur Rahman of police force are notable. They started training the freedom fighters by opening training camps at different places in Fukra. Thus a strong liberation army was formed in that area (Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004).

### **The Operation of Pakistani Forces and the Aspect of Atrocities**

**Pak army's first operation in Fukra village:** Abdur Rahman Khaki was the chairman of Fukra Union during the liberation war. He was the number one Razakar. He was always in touch with Fayekuzzaman, the Commander-in-Chief of Peace Force of Gopalganj district. When the freedom fighters opened training centers at different places in the village of Fukra, they tried to build a strong force. At that time, Chairman Abdur Rahman Khaki contacted the Commander-in-Chief of Gopalganj Peace Force and planned a two-pronged operation with Pak Army and Razakars in Fukra village. On 9th of July, Pak forces crossed Madhumati river with a gunboat and two launches and stayed at the launchghat of Fukra. The Rajakars will conduct an expedition to the east of Fukra through the Beal region in Bachari boats (Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007). According to that plan, many Razakars from Gopalganj and Khayaluddin of Buronia, Sam Mia of Nizamkandi, Moni Mia of Saduhati attacked together with Pak army. At dawn that day, the Razakars landed near Fukra Pool with their native weapons and firearms (Delowar Hossain, 2023). First, (retd) Police Inspector Zainal Abedin, Dhala Mia, proceeded westwards towards Tarail Bazar to burn the houses of Tipu Sikdar. When the local freedom fighters came to know about this news, the villagers under the leadership of freedom fighters Mosharef Sikder, Chand Mia Sardar organized a counter-attack with shields, sarkis, ramdas and weapons. The Rajakars were disoriented by this surprise attack and started running to the river bank hoping for help from the Pak army. In this situation, freedom fighter Abdus Sattar and other freedom fighters attacked Tarail Bazar and three Razakars were killed. The Pak Army saw the plight of the Razakars from a distance and started firing machine guns and rifles

from gunboats and launches. The villagers did not dare to advance any further. In this campaign, the Paksenas and the Razakars were extremely defeated (Bir Muktiyuddha Habilder Hamayet Uddin, 2023).

**Second operation:** To avenge the defeat of the first campaign, the Paksena and the Razakars landed at the old launch station near Aditya Rishi's house on the banks of Madhumati for a second raid in the village of Fukra with three launches loaded with three hundred Razakars and the Paksena at the end of August and proceeded along the road to Saratar Para. Hundreds of houses on both sides of the road were burnt down and 40/50 people including Maulana Sirajul Haque Sheikh and Lal Daptari were killed (Shaha, 2020). A part of the force destroyed and destroyed many villages in Bhulbaria, Tarail area by fire and killed many people. They brought 15 Hindu and Muslim youths captive from all those areas and tied them with ropes one after the other and brought them to Tarail Bazar and brutally killed them and left in the afternoon (Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004).

**Third operation:** In the joint operation of Pak army and Razakar, the residents of Fukra, Tarail, Fulbaria etc. suffered huge damage to their lives and property. To take revenge, the freedom fighters of Fukra and neighboring areas decided to teach Pak Army and Razakars an extreme lesson. They bide their time. On October 28, 1971, three Pak army-laden launches went from Khulna to Bhatiapara wireless camp through the Madhumati River near Fukra (Kumar, 2020). Seeing this, the local freedom fighters took advantage of the opportunity and decided to hide in different places while the launch was returning and teach them extreme lessons. For this reason, Subedar Abul Kashem and his forces dug bunker number one near Battala in Fukra Char (Gautam, 2022). Bunker number two was in charge of LMG driver Akbar Sardar and grenade thrower Abdur Rahman Mia and other freedom fighters. Naik Subedar Sobhan Mia and Shihabuddin were in charge of banker number three. Seeing the modern weapons of the enemy, they did not participate in the war because they did not have high-quality weapons. The local Rajakars informed the Pak army about the plan of the freedom fighters (Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004). The freedom fighters came to know that the invading forces would return to Khulna by launch from Bhatiapara on 31st October. On this day, the freedom fighters under the leadership of Commander Shah Jahan Sikdar adopted new tactics to prepare fully. The freedom fighters divided into 3 parts by cutting a trench on the banks of the Madhumati River in South Fukra and took a position on the banks of the river. When the Pak army with two launchers came near the defense position of the freedom fighters with Madhumati, the freedom fighters attacked heavily. First, Commander Shah Jahan started firing mortar shells at the Pak forces. The freedom fighters tried to shoot at the launch, but firing from the high bank of the river resulted in the bullet hitting upwards (Dr. Tapan Bagchi, 2007).

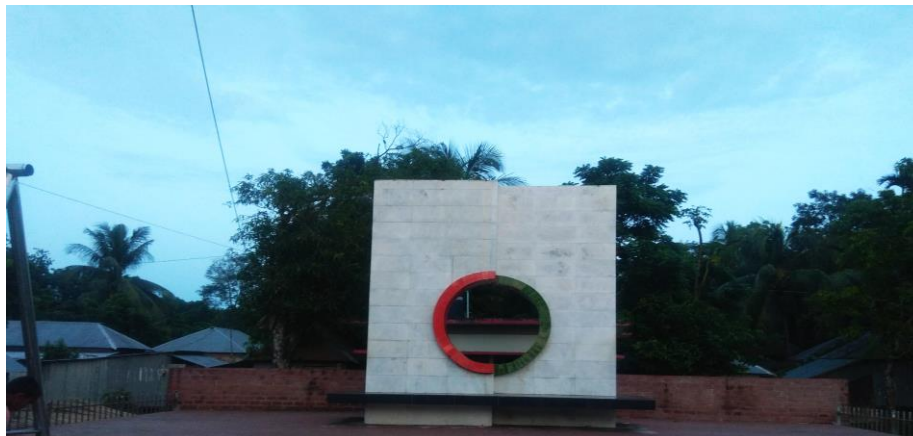


Image: Fukra Launchghat Memorial, Captured by the author.

It is true that Pakistani soldiers were injured or killed but the launch was not damaged. The mortar shells were not exploding as they fell into the river water. A shell hits the top of the launch and blows off the roof. The Pak forces then crawled towards the defense position of the freedom fighters by crawling a launch on the bank of the river with great difficulty. Commander Shahjahan Sikdar, seeing the situation, signaled the freedom fighters to leave with a whistle. But the 8 freedom fighters fighting in the 1st train at the front, who did not hear the commander's warning whistle, continued to fight from the trench. When Akbar and his companions tried to drive the Pakistani army's launch ashore, freedom fighter Akbar opened fire with his LMG. Meanwhile, other freedom fighters started firing rifles at the launch. This blew up the bridge in front of the launch and when the Pak forces tried to land around 40/50 Pak forces were killed by Akbar and his companions. In a while, a new army launched with the help of Pak forces. They left the launch on the bank of the river and surrounded the freedom fighters of bunker number one from the back inside the bunker. During this time, 4 warriors were shot dead and 4 were captured by Pak forces. The bodies of the martyrs were lost by the Pak army and those who are caught were killed at the railway station slaughterhouse near Bhatiapara Pak camp in Kashiani (Morshed, 2021). It stated that Rezaul's family would be released if he joined the peacekeeping forces. But due to disagree his family, he was killed (Bir Muktiyuddha Farid Ahmed Mollah, 2023). At that time, the freedom fighters of the 2nd and 3rd bunker left the bunker and ran towards the village for self-defense. Pak forces chased them and entered the village and indiscriminately shot dead hundreds of people and burnt their houses for 5 hours and about 60/70 Pak forces were killed and 14 freedom fighters were martyred. The Pak Army lost the bodies of the martyred freedom fighters and took the dead bodies of the Pak Army in a launch and floated the dead bodies of many innocent people of the village in the Madhumati river. Two days after the murder, the common people collected the bodies and buried them at the present memorial site. The memorial, established in 2020, continues to highlight the glorious history of the selfless sacrifice of patriotism of Bengalis in the liberation war to the younger generation. Keep the memory of the great sacrifice of the martyrs alive, the common people of south Fakra pay their respects by offering flowers at the altar of this memorial on national days. Subedar Akbar Ali and his fellow freedom fighters, motivated by patriotism, left a great example of self-sacrifice for the freedom of Bangladesh, which will forever be etched in golden letters in the history of independence (Rahman, 2023).

### **Identity of the Collaborators**

On Friday 30th April 1971 at 7 am about 150 Pak army came to Gopalganj by launch led by Colonel Tarek, Major Babar, Major Ghorri. After leaving the launch near Gopalganj Upazila Parishad and reaching the city on foot, the local Muslim League and PDP leaders welcomed the Pakistani troops at Chowrangi with Pakistani flags. For conducting regular operations, they set up military camps in front of Sadar Thana Parishad office (now Joy Bangla Pukur Badhyabhoomi Par), Bhatiapara of Kashiani Police Station, next to Kotalipara Police Station and Kurpala. A meeting of Gopalganj's local Muslim League, Islami Chhatra Sangh, Student Federation and UP Chairman, members and government officials was held on this night. In this meeting, the invading forces were called upon to help (Rabindranath Adhikari, 2009). Muslim League leader Fayekuzzaman was made the chief of peace committee in Gopalganj district. Abdur Rahman, who was the chairman of Fakra Union, joined the Khaki Shanti Bahini. At this time, the freedom fighters started training at various places including Madan Mohan High School ground in Fakra. As a result, the local chairman Abdur Rahman Khaki contacted the Commander-in-



Chief of the Gopalganj Peace Force and planned a two-pronged operation with Pak Army and Razakars in Fukra village. At his invitation, the Pak Army launched an attack on South Fukra region on July 9. Khyaluddin of neighboring Buronia, Sam Mia of Nizamkandi, Moni Mia of Sadhuhati joined the Pak army in that attack (Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004). Most of them are not alive today. And those who are alive are always under the umbrella of the ruling party and the common people are afraid to reveal their names. Even during the interview, the children of the brave freedom fighters and martyrs' families, who witnessed the incident, did not mention the names of the members of the then peace committee out of fear. Those whose names are mentioned in the books on Liberation War are highlighted below:

Serial	Name	Father's Name	Address
1.	Khealuddin Molla	Bochon Molla	Soraikandi, Fukra, Kashiani
2.	S M Soleman Sordar	Abdul Hamid Sordar	Pingulia, Kashiani, Kashiani
3.	Abdur Rahman Khaki	Adon Khaki	Fukra, Kashiani, Kashiani
4.	Motaleb Mridha	Lalmia Mridha	Fukra, Kashiani, Kashiani
5.	Baher Mina	Rahim Mina	Fukra, Kashiani, Kashiani
6.	Tuku Munshi	Baka Munshi	Fukra, Kashiani, Kashiani
7.	Fayek Sarder	Abu Sarder	Fukra, Kashiani, Kashiani

(Rashid, 2020)

### List and identity of martyrs

On October 31, 1971, the Pak invading forces killed those killed in the village at Fukra Launch Ghat, along with residents of Kalsi Fukra, Chhota Bahirbagh, Bara Bahirbagh, Dhopapara villages of Kashiani upazila, along with residents of Gunar village of Mukchedpur upazila, Khagail and Dasair villages of Gopalganj sadar. Inscribed on the wall of the memorial which has been built in 2020, on 31st October 150 freedom fighters divided into 5 groups under the leadership of 4 commanders took part in 150 freedom fighters war. 14 freedom fighters were martyred and 120 innocent villagers were killed in the war with Pak forces. The identities of the martyred freedom fighters have been highlighted.

SL	Name of Martyr's	Father's Name	Occupation	Address
1.	Ali Akber Sarder	Late Hingul Sarder	Farmer	Kolshi Fukra, Fukra, Kashiani
2.	Imam Hossen Mia	Late Moksed Mia	Farmer	Soto Bahirbag, Fukra, Kashiani
3.	Habibur Rahman Sarder	Late Fagu Sarder	Farmer	Soto Bahirbag, Fukra, Kashiani
4.	Rabiul Sikder	Moksed Sarder	Student	South Fukra, Fukra, Kashiani
5.	Rezaul Karikor	Sayen Uddin Karikor	Farmer	South Fukra, Fukra, Kashiani
6.	Abu Karikor	Kanai Karikor	Farmer	South Fukra, Kukra, Kashiani
7.	Chand Molla	Abdul Hamid Molla	Farmer	Khagail, Horidaspur, Kashiani
8.	Abul Hossen	Barek Sikder	Police	Dohisar, Rajpat, Kashiani

9.	Abdul Mannan	Goni Molla	Police	Dhopapara, Rajpat, Kashiani
10.	Akram Hossen	Sayed Munshi	Farmer	Boro Bahirbag, Fukra, Kashiani
11.	Nur Hossain	Unknown	Farmer	Gunor, Muksedpur
12.	Moslem Uddin	Unknown	Farmer	Gunor, Muksedpur
13.	Abdul Kuddus	Unknown	Farmer	Choto Bahirbag, Fukra, Kashiani
14.	Babar Ali	Unknown	Farmer	Choto Bahirbag, Fukra, Kashiani

(Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia), 2004)

**Conclusion:**

Bengali nation is a nation of heroes. It has been a struggle for ages to be freed from the exploitation and discrimination of the imperialist forces. From Haji Shariatullah and Titumi to Khudiram, Prafulla Chaki, Master Da Suryasen and Pritilata Waddeda, the anti-British struggle inspired the Bengali nation to stand up against injustice and discrimination. But the Pakistani ruling group wanted to deprive the Bengali nation of their political, economic and cultural rights and bind them in the chain of subjugation. As a result, the Bengali freedom struggle against Pakistani exploitation began through the language movement and culminated in the Liberation War of 1971. In the war of liberation, Bengali responded to the call of Bangabandhu and jumped with all the energy of life. Today's independent sovereign Bangladesh has been given to Bengalis in exchange for the sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs, the pain and destruction of 2 lakh mothers and sisters in 9 long months. The best sons of the nation fought only because of immense love for the country despite knowing certain death. The exploited and oppressed nations of the world have sacrificed their lives to fight against discrimination and dream of survival. The brave freedom fighters fought not to get anything from the state but to create an independent Sonar Bengal free from exploitation and discrimination. It is normal that the government will work for the socio-social welfare of those whose sacrifices made independent Bangladesh. Providing allowances and rations to the families of martyred freedom fighters and providing allowances to living freedom fighters, building heroic residences for distressed freedom fighters, giving them titles and guard of honor are really commendable initiatives of the government. But with the rehabilitation of Razakar, Al Badr, Al Shams involved in the brutal massacre of 1971 in the politics of independent Bangladesh and the change in the government, the change in the list of freedom fighters is very painful. As the hearts of real freedom fighters bleed, the patriots are also disappointed. Therefore, in the 52 years of independence, the expectation of the common people is to put the liberation war above politics and publish the final list of the real freedom fighters and rajakars, preserve the places where the memories of the liberation war are intertwined, rise above the political identity and ensure the trial of all the war criminals, face the challenge of recognizing the genocide and carry out activities in the international arena. There will be and through meetings, seminars, symposiums and media, the history of sacrifice of Gaurabganth of Liberation War should be highlighted. Besides, the cruel, merciless and brutal activities of the Pak invading forces and their allies should be highlighted and the young generation should be enlivened in the spirit of the liberation war.

**References:**

1. Abdus Samad. (2019). *History of the liberation war of Bangladeshe*. Aparajeyo Bangla Prakashani.

2. Akmam, W. (2002). Atrocities against humanity during the liberation war in Bangladesh: A case of genocide. *Journal of Genocide Research*, 4(4), 543–559. <https://doi.org/10.1080/146235022000000463>
3. Anthony Mascarenhas. (1971). Genocide. *The Sunday Times*.
4. Ashrafun Nahar. (2022). *Gonohotta-Boddhobhumi O GonoKabor Zarif: Gopalganj Zela*. Gono Hotta- Nirjaton Archieve O Zadhughar Trust.
5. Bir Muktiyuddha Farid Ahmed Mollah. (2023). *Interview*.
6. Bir Muktiyuddha Habilder Hamayet Uddin. (2023). *Interview*.
7. Chowdhury, M. A. B., & Al-Amin, M. (2021). *Genocide in the Liberation War of Bangladesh: A Case Study on Charkowa Genocide*.
8. Delowar Hossain. (2023). *Interview*.
9. Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hossain. (2014). *History of the Emergence of Independent Bangladesh*. Bishobidyalay Prokashoni.
10. Dr. Tapan Bagchi. (2007). *Muktijuddha Gopalganj*. Oitza.
11. Gautam, D. (2022, December 19). Kashainai Mukto Dibos Aj. *Amar Sangbad*.
12. Kumar, A. (2020, December 19). Gopalganjer Muktozuddher tinti Oitihasi sathan songrokhana koresa sarkar. *Doinik Ittefaq*.
13. Mohammad Emdadul Haque. (2017). *Muktijuddher Kishor Itihas: Gopalganj Zila*. Tamrolipi.
14. Mohammad Sayedur Rahman (Chad Mia). (2004). *Amar Dekha Rajniti O Gopalganjer Muktiyuddho*. A.S.M Khaled.
15. Morshed, N. A. (2021, December 19). Aj 19 december, Kashani Mukto Dibos. *Dainik Jai Jai Din*.
16. Rabindranath Adhikari. (2009). *Gopalganj Zilar Itihas O Songskriti*. Gotidhara.
17. Rahman, S. S. (2023). *Interview*.
18. Ranjan, A. (2016). Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971: Narratives, Impacts and the Actors. *India Quarterly*, 72(2), 132–145. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0974928416637921>
19. Rashid, H. or. (2020). *Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Gayankosh*. Bangladesh Asiatic Society.
20. Shaha, M. (2020, December 19). Smrishodho O Jadhughare Muktozuddhor Birrotogatha. *Samakal*.
21. Sirajul Islam. (2011). *Banglapaedia* (p. 58). Bangladesh Asiatic Society.