Chapter- 6

THE COURSE OF ACTION OF THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF NADIA

AN OVERALL ROLE OF NADIA IN THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT

As soon as the news of the arrest of almost all the Congress leaders including Gandhiji, Vallabhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and a few others. reached the district of Nadia on the morning of the 9th August, 1942, a wave of pro-movement sensation began to flow all over the district. Immediately a hartal was called, and in certain areas of the district, it was observed more or less successfully. The students left their academic institutions, the shopkeepers closed their shops and the merchants shut their godowns. Working of the daily markets was stopped and the normal course of life was interrupted. In deep excitement people came out of their rooms and flocked into the streets. They often broke out in violence; and in a very few cases, they molested policemen and threw brick-bats towards the running police vans. One or two mini fights between the angry people and the policemen occurred in the politically important places of the district of Nadia. The police, however, dispersed the crowd by making lathi charges. In this
way people were forced to return to their houses and were thus completely controlled.⁴

While the hartal was over, the students organized different processions in different places of the district with a view to expressing their resentment against the arrest of the Indian leaders.⁵ They shouted the slogans “Bharat Mata, Jindabad,” “Bande, Mataram”, “British, ‘Quit India,’” “Mahatma Ki jay” and so on.⁶ But the police as the local agent of the British Government in India did not let them go away easily. They attacked the processions with rifles, bayonets and lathis. They made indiscriminate lathi-charges and used bayonet-butts as lathis. The students also counter-acted throwing brick-bats; but ultimately they were dispersed and controlled by the greater organized strength of the police. In such clashes many students and a few policemen were injured in different parts of the district, but no political worker was killed.⁷ However, the courage of the students in organizing the protest processions and demonstrations was a matter of pride, no doubt.

Later on, public processions and mass demonstrations, along with those of the students, were also organized all over the district, though not systematically.⁸ And the police with its mighty force suppressed them immediately. The police and military troops were posted in important places of the district to control any sort of public disturbance and to prevent further violence. Nonetheless demonstrations and
mini battles between the demonstrators and the policeman continued for next three (3) weeks with many injured, but none Killed; and the event of arrest of the political leaders and workers was then a daily affair.\textsuperscript{9}

Along with this open constitutional method, the secret method of sabotage activities was also followed in Nadia district, though in unorganized manner. \textsuperscript{10} In fact, the sabotage activities were more embarrassing than the constitutional activities to the British authority. The sabotage activities were committed in the district by an ‘action squad’ consisting of the leaders like Sanat Mukhopadhyay (Vadu Babu), Shibaram Gupta, Dhirananda Goswami (Madhu Babu), Kanai Paul, Nitai Paul, Niranjan Modak, Keshab Chandra Mitra, Harendra Nath Bose and a few others.\textsuperscript{11} There were really wide spread attempts of destruction of the public properties. Railway lines and signal posts were removed; wires of Telephone and Telegraph were cut off; the stations, trains etc. were burnt down; the Post Offices were set on fire; many events of mail robbery were committed; the incidents of attack on the Government offices and the Government servants occurred; Refugee camps (made by the British Government for the refugees) were burnt down; attempts were made to destroy the railway bridges to interrupt the war-efforts of the Government; damages were caused to a large number of Government reports and official records, and so on. \textsuperscript{12} All these sabotage activities had, however, led to a large scale arrest of leaders and political workers of the district. The arrested
persons had to often the bear the brunt of the police atrocity. In one such case, the
eyes of an important leader \(^{13}\) of the district were seriously injured, and during his
jail period he ultimately became completely blind. \(^{14}\)

An area-wise account of the movement in the district of Nadia is now given below.

**TOWN AREAS OF NADIA IN THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT**

**KRISHNANAGAR**

Krishnanagar, the headquarter of the district of Nadia, was the main centre
of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district.\(^{15}\) The arrest of Gandhiji and other All-
India Congress leaders was immediately followed by popular demonstrations in the
shape of hortal and processions in the Krishnanagar city. The normal course of the
town life spontaneously came to a stop; the shopkeepers closed their shops; the
students left their academic institutions and a large crowd flocked into the streets.
Section 144 Cr. P. C. was imposed by the local police to prevent any sort of
disturbance and violence.\(^{16}\)

The students of Krishnanagar by violating the very section 144 Cr.P.C.
organized a vigorous protest procession in the afternoon of the 10\(^{th}\) August, 1942
against the arrest of the Indian leaders. Having started from the Krishnanagar
Town Hall ground at 3 pm, the procession, led by Jagannath Majumdar and Shibaram Gupta, had stopped at the Krishnanagar Judges’ Court; and a National flag was hoisted there on the top of the Court with great enthusiasm with the effusive slogans like ‘Bande Mataram’, Gandhiji Ki, Jay’, ‘Bharat Mata, Jindabad’ and a few others. At that time the police came there and made lathi charges on the students who gathered at the Court-ground. And the students could not stand before this police violence. The warrant of arrest was issued against Jagannath Majumder, Shibaram Gupta, Mohan Kali Biswas (a student leader) and a few other student leaders on the charge of leading the processions.

It is also to be noted here that as per the decision of the Krishnanagar Students’ Organization, at the deep hours of the night of the 14th August, 1942, Mohan Kali Biswas, having taken a life-risk, had himself alone written with tar the very slogan ‘British, Quit India’ at the front gate of the Krishnanagar C.M.S School, where there was a heavy concentration of a massive military force, authorized to shoot at the very first sight at any person engaged in pro-movement activities. He was, however, arrested on the 16th August along with his five associates involved in the movement, namely, Yoganath Mukherjee, Biswanath Mukherjee, Patit Paban Chattopadhyay, Anil Dey and Sunil Maitra; and they were all, after a trial, sentenced to 6 months to 3 years imprisonment. And this was, however, the first event of arrest of the political workers engaged in the movement.
by the police in the Krishnanagar city that created a police-panic in the minds of the common people.\textsuperscript{20} Thus ended the first phase of ‘Quit India’ movement in Krishnanagar.

But the most serious event occurred on the 24\textsuperscript{th} August, 1942. On that date a large students’ procession was organized under the leadership of Manoranjan Sen and Kiran Chattopadhayay.\textsuperscript{21} In the gap period between the students’ procession of the 9\textsuperscript{th} August and that of the 24\textsuperscript{th} August, these leaders had earnestly sought to mobilize the student community of Krishnanagar. And they were more or less successful in mobilizing the school students in favour of movement, but they failed to mobilize the students of the Krishnanagar Government College, as the Students’ Union of the College was largely dominated by the Students’ Federation,\textsuperscript{22} a frontal organization of the Communist Party of India (C.P.I.) which refused to participate in the ‘Quit India’ movement due to its support to the British war-efforts against Fascism and Nazism.\textsuperscript{23} Obviously their appeal to the college students to participate in the movement found no favourable response. Nonetheless, the student leaders of the College, having political orientation of the parties other than the C.P.I., namely, Kashikanta Moitra, Salil Kumar Paul, Sunil Moitra, Anil Dey, Patit Paban Chattopadhyay, Nani Gopal Singha, Mohan Kali Biswas and a few others had been impressed at the pro-movement and anti-war
appeal of the said student leaders and had shared their sentiment regarding the movement and joined hands with them. 24

However, on the 24th August, Manoranj Sen and Kiran Chattopadhayay organized an impressive procession 25 of nearabout three thousand students, mostly school students. This procession started from the Krishnanagar Debnath School and then went to other schools of the Krishnanagar city, namely the Collegiate School, the A.V.School, the Muslim Madrasa etc. and lastly to the College; and from the College the procession had marched towards the office of the District Magistrate of Nadia with slogans “Bande Mataram,” “Mahatmaji Ki, Jay”, “British, Bharat Chharo” (“British Quit India”), “Karbo Na Hay Marbo” (“’We Shall do or die’”) and so on.

But while this vigorous students’ procession was passing along the College Street area of the Krishnanagar city, the processionists faced police obstruction. The police now made indiscriminate lathi charges on the procession before the Superintendent of Police (S.P) of Nadia, and within a few minutes the students, gathered in the procession, were completely dispersed.26 In the course of the lathi charges, the police severely wounded Manoranj Sen, Kiran Chattopadhayay, Hazarilal Mukherjee and Purnendu Bhattacharyya; and they were immediately hospitalized. Kiran Chattopadhyay Manoranj Sen were beaten black and blue; and Manoranj Sen, while being beaten, desperately snatched the revolver which
the Superintendent of Police (S.P.) pointed at him. But a policeman then seriously stroke him with a lathi and the revolver then fell off his hand and when he was lying prostrate the S.P. Kicked him with all his strength.

Besides, when Hazarilal Mukherjee was severely beaten, he fell on the ground with a pole of a flying tricolour National flag in his right hand, and even then also he uttered very indistinctly the slogans ‘Bande Mataram’, ‘British, Bharat Chharo’ etc. However, the police arrested Manoranjan Sen, Kiran Chattopadhyay, Hazarilal Mukherjee, Purnendu Bhattacharyya, Kashikanta Moitra and many others on the 25th August, 1942 (25.08.42), and each of them was sentenced, after trial, from six-months to one year’s imprisonment.

However, against the lathi-charges by the police on the students’ procession, Fazlur Rahaman and Smarajit Bandhyopadhyay, the-then Commissioners of the Krishnanagar Municipality, raised in an emergency meeting of the Municipal Commissioners on the 25th August, 1942 (25.8.1942) an adjournment motion criticizing the police action severely. A great number of the people of Krishnanagar town, disregarding the repressive policy of the Government, assembled in the Municipality Hall and shouted the Slogans like ‘Bande Mataram’, ‘Mahatma Gandhiji Ki, Jay’, ‘Moulana Azad ki, Jay’, ‘Samrajyabadi Juddhe ek Pai-o noy, ek Bhai-o noy’(‘Not a single pie nor a Brother in the Imperialist war’) and so on. As a result the motion raised by the said Commissioners was
unanimously passed. And this unanimous adoption of the adjournment motion by the Municipal Commissioners of the Krishnanagar Municipality in their emergent meeting had helped a lot in Stimulating pro-movement sentiment all over the Krishnanagar city which henceforth became really explosive.

Besides these students’ processions and demonstrations, mass-meetings and public processions were also organized in the city. These meetings and processions were led in different times since the 9th August, 1942, by different leaders, namely Bibhuti Bhusan Banndyopadhyay (Master Mashai), Atul Krishna Saha, Bijita Lal Chatterjee, Sukumar Gupta, Nani Gopal Singha, Dr. Someswar Chowdhuri, Chandra Kumar Chakrabarty and a few others. Atul Krishna Saha after successfully leading a public procession, held in violation of the Section 144 Cr.P.C, hoisted National flag at the top of the Judges’ Court when the procession reached the Court compound. All these leaders and others involved in the processions were subsequently arrested and sentenced to imprisonment for a period of six (6) month to two (2) years. It is to be noted in this regard that these open constitutional pro-movement activities did not, however, reach the target point due to severe government repression and atrocities of the police.

But the other mode of operation i.e., the method of sabotage activities of the August movement, committed in the Krishnanagar city, was more or less successful in this direction; it rather surpassed the open constitutional method in
terms of gravity and seriousness. The main responsibility of committing sabotage activities in Krishnanagar and its adjacent areas was undertaken by Santat Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Vadu Babu) and Shibaram Gupta who were the influential members of the ‘action squad’ of Nadia district.  

The most notable incident of the sabotage activity was the burning of a Krishnanagar City Local Train, placed in the Krishnanagar Railway Station. Near about 30 to 40 leaders and workers, dressed as milkmen, hawkers, beggars and so on, got into the train and spread out petrol in all its bogies; and lastly Sanat Mukhopadhyay set it on fire. Four boggies of the train were burnt down completely.  

For this incident of burning of the Krishnanagar City Local Train, the warrant of arrest was issued against Sanat Mukhopadhyay, Shibaram Gupta and a few others. Both Sanat Babu and Shibaram Babu, while absconding to avoid arrest for serving the purpose of the movement in secrecy, were, however, arrested ultimately on the 1st January, 1943 from Calcutta and sentenced, after a trial to one (1) year jail each, and after the completion of the jail-period both of them were once again arrested in the Defence of India Act and Rules and kept in jail for nearly two years. However, before their arrest on the 1st January, 1943, they were also engaged in other sabotage activities, like cutting of wires of Telephone and Telegraph, removal of Railway lines fishplates, and signal posts and so on.
It is also to be noted here that Sanat Babu and Shibaram Babu, while living incognito in a hired flat at the Circular Road in Calcutta, had devised a plan of armed struggle against the local authority of the British Government. For this purpose they began to collect money from their friends, well-wishers and also from their party organization; and by the money thus collected, they had bought a few military hand grenades, explosive materials etc. from the American soldiers who were then incidentally brought to Calcutta for the assistance of the war-efforts of the British Government in the Second World War. Besides, while absconding in Calcutta they used to supply regularly from Calcutta the leaflets and bulletins regarding the ‘Quit India’ movement to the leaders of the district of Nadia.

Another important event occurred during this time in Krishnanagar. When Smarajit Bandyopadhyay and Jati Bhusan Bhattacharyya (Khadu Babu) were printing the political magazine *Muktir Dak (Call of Freedom)* in a Cyclostyle machine on an open cemented floor of a desolate house of Panchudas Bandyopadhyay at Krishnanagar, a military aeroplane flew away with harsh sound just immediately above the roof of the house perhaps in suspicion of any sabotage activity being committed there. However, Smarajit Babu was arrested later on the 11th December, 1942 under the Defence of India Act and Rulas and kept in jail for two years.
It is therefore evident that the Krishnanagar city had organized vigorous activities--- both overt and covert--- open and secret--- in favour of the nationwide August movement in 1942, and thus made a notable contribution to the ‘Quit India’ movement.

**RANAGHAT**

Ranaghat, an important area of (rail and road) communication, an important business centre and a Sub-divisional town of the district of Nadia, also witnessed the wave of mass movement of the August of 1942. The news of the arrest of Gandhiji and other Congress leaders created a sense of deep resentment all over Ranaghat town. 46 But still nothing more than a mini procession and a very few unorganized acts of violence were held on the 9th August in the town.47

In the evening of the 9th August, 1942 local leaders like Harendra Nath Bose, Keshab Chandra Mitra, Gobinda Chakraborti, Bimal Kumar Chattarjee, Salil Kumar Paul, Dulal Bose, Shyamal Chatterjee and a few others decided in a meeting to organize protest movement against the arrest of the all-India leaders from the next day. Bimal Kumar Chatterjee, Dulal Bose and Salil Kumar Paul were given the responsibility of mobilizing the local students in favour of the movement, And they were more or less successful in discharging their responsibility. 48 In the same night they went from door to door of all the influential students of Ranaghat
and persuaded them to join the protest movement by leaving their academic
institutions. Thus a large protest procession of more than five hundred (500)
students was organized on the 10th August, 1942, and it marched the important
areas of Ranaghat with the slogans ‘Bande Mataram’, ‘Mahatma Ki, Jay’,’British,
Bharat Chharo’ and so on. 49

It is to be noted in this regard that the girl students of Ranaghat also
participated in the procession. 50 Among them, there were Lalima Mukherjee,
Rekha Roy (Majumder), Mamata Ganguli, Uma Mukherjee, Minati Nandi and a
few others. However, while the students’ procession was marching on, the police
dispersed the procession by making lathi charges. A few leading students were
injured. 51 The police arrested Harendra Nath Bose, the-then most popular leader of
Ranaghat and a member of the R.C.P.I., for his direct involvement in the
procession, and he was sentenced to one year’s imprisonment. 52

Peasants of the adjacent villages of Ranaghat, namely Gazipur, Polta,
Lalmath, Tarapur etc. protested against the arrest of Harendra Nath Bose. It may be
noted here that because of his live contact with the peasant movements of the
district, Harendra Nath Bose commanded respect and built up a great influence
among the peasants of the district. 53 In such circumstances Dulal Bose, another
local leader belonging to the R.C.P.I., went to the peasants of the said villages at
the suggestion of Kanai Paul, a popular R.C.P.I. leader of the district, and sought to
mobilize them in favour of a protest movement. 54 And thus on the 13th August, 1942, a small procession of peasants under the leadership of Dulal Bose marched towards the Ranaghat Court. 55 The police, however, dispersed the procession by making lathi charges. A warrant of arrest was issued against the name of Dulal Bose on the charge of leading this unlawful procession.

Another charge was also compounded against Dulal Bose, namely, the conspiracy of burning the Record Office of the Ranaghat Court fixed for the night of the 15th August 1942 (15.8.42). 56 But before the office was set on fire, Dulal Bose was, however, arrested in the same evening and sentenced, after a trial, to imprisonment for one year.

But in the course of the police inquiry regarding the activities of the pro-movement ‘action squad’ of the Ranaghat area, Dulal Bose had, however, got a severe ruler-stroke from the inquiry officer on the lower portion of his forehead (i.e., just above the eyebrows). Consequently the condition of his eyesight began to deteriorate, 57 though he had long been suffering from the familial tradition of short-sightedness; and during his jail-period he had, however, ultimately become blind.58

Another important event occurred at that time at Ranaghat. Only five men with undaunted spirit organized a mini procession on the 28th August, 1942, and
marched towards the Ranaghat Police Station with National flags in their hands raising anti-British slogans like “Bharat Mata, jindabad,” Gandhiji, jindabad,” “Moulana Azad, jindabad,” “British, Bharat Chharo” (i.e. “British, Quit India”) and so on. They were Shiba Kumar Chatterjee (Gulin Babu), Sudhir Kumar Biswas, Bhabesh Dasgupta, Purnananda Banerjee and Rabindra Nath Mukherjee. They were all arrested and kept under trial for two months; and they were later sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment.

It is also to be noted in this regard that Bimal Kumar Chatterjee, an important student leader of Ranaghat, organized a students’ protest meeting at the Radhaballabh Tala of Ranaghat at the end of the August, 1942 where a considerable number of students assembled. Besides, an open public meeting was also held on the 20th August, 1942 in the Municipality ground of Ranaghat by violating the section 144 Cr.P.C. The police, however, made indiscriminate lathi charges and dispersed the meeting.

Besides, there were other important pro-movement incidents, occurred at Ranaghat. In the middle of the August, 1942, the local leaders and supporters of the Congress Socialist Party, (C.S.P) organized a meeting in favour of the movement at the Siddheswari Tala. In this meeting, the leaders and political workers of Ranaghat, namely, Ashim Kumar Majumder, Shyam Sundar Halder, Tinkari Bhattacharyya, Bangendu Ganguli, Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty and few others
attended very spiritedly and took the decision of launching protest movement to intensify the pro-movement activities at Ranaghat and its adjacent areas in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement. They had themselves organized then a procession with the effusive slogans like ‘British, Bharat Chharo,’ ‘Bharat Mata, jindabad,’ ‘Gandhiji, jindabad,’ ‘Samrajyabadi Juddhe ek Pai-o noi, ek Bhai-o noi,’ ‘Bande Mataram,’ ‘Samrajyabad dur hato’ and so on, and marched towards the Brajabala Girls’ School. Coming to the school, they vigorously sought to break the police cordon near the gateway of the school and picketed there for some times.

It is interesting to note here that a few girl students of the Brajabala Girls’ School instantly joined the pro-movement picketing and the protest movement and also broke the police cordon first to encourage the male participants to break it boldly. Lalima Mukherjee, a student of the school, broke the cordon at first and entered the school with a pole of tricolor national flag at her right hand; and the girl students, namely Rekha Roy, Minati Mukherjee, Mamata Ganguli and a few others followed her. With the participation of the girl students, this pro-movement effort had mostly become successful.

By the end of the August, 1942, a great excitement had gradually spread out all over Ranaghat in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement. In order to control and suppress this pro-movement sensation all over the area of Ranaghat, military troops were posted at the disturbed parts of the town. And that is why special trains
carrying the army men had to reach the Ranaghat Railway Station regularly. Young Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty and his three friends were given the duty of performing the courier service of informing the local leaders regarding the appearance and departure of the military men by trains through the Ranaghat Railway Station. They had to take information of whether special troops reached the station by trains, how many they were in number approximately, what type of arms and ammunition they had brought with them and so on. For this purpose, they had to sincerely keep watchful eyes, having stood on the Railway overbridge accrossing the east part to the west part of the large Railway Station of Ranaghat. For this purpose they had to sincerely take notice of the course of incoming and outgoing trains carrying the army men at the Ranaghat Railway Station. 64b

One day in the morning when Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty had, having stood on the Railway overbridge, been watching the trains on the Railway platforms of the Ranaghat Railway Station, police arrested him on the Railway bridge and put him in the office custody of the Government Reserved Police (GRP) at the Ranaghat Railway Station. Later on, he was released from the GRP custody on the ground of lack of evidence of his being engaged in the movement activities. The-then Station Master of the Ranaghat Railway Station Mr.k.k. Chakraborty had, however, took direct initiative to release him from the police custody at the request of his father Kanai Chakraborty, a respected teacher of the Ranaghat locality. Since
then Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty had started to perform the courier service of the communication of information of the movement around the Ranaghat locality, but quite secretly. 64c

Along with these open non-violent activities, sabotage activities also took place at Ranaghat in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement. The most notable sabotage activity committed at Ranaghat was the burning of a refugee camp at Ranaghat Court Para. 65 This camp-building was constructed by the British Government for the purpose of sheltering the Indian refugees from Burma, the victim of Japanese aggression. The leaders engaged in the incident of burning of this camp were Shyamal Chatterjee, Salil Kumar Paul, Bimal Kumar Chatterjee, Nandalal Dutta and Gobinda Chakraborty who were later on arrested and sentenced to six months to two (2) years’ imprisonment. 66

Besides, there were two definite plans of sabotage operations to be committed at Ranaghat in order to expedite the speed of the ‘Quit India’ movement throughout Ranaghat and its adjacent areas. The first plan was that of burning the Record office of the Ranaghat Court. 67 The time and date fixed for implementing the plan was the night of the 15th August, 1942. Dulal Bose, Bhabesh Dasgupta and Chandicharan Chakraborty were given the responsibility of burning the Record Office. 68 But in the same evening Dulal babu was arrested. 69 and the plan could not thus be given effect to.
The second plan was that of destroying, at the end of the August, 1942, the highly important Kalinarayanpur Railway Bridge over the Churni river. This plan was chalked out by the leaders of Ranaghat just in order to jeopardize as well as to obstruct the communication system and also to interrupt the war-efforts of the British Government as well, as this bridge was the only railway channel of communication and the only connecting link between North and South, North and East and North and West of the-then India. The task of actualizing the plan rested with Shyam Sundar Haldar, Salil Kumar Palul, Santosh Chatterjee, Tinkari Bhattacharyya, Gobinda Chakraborty and Asim Kumar Majumdar. But the police somehow came to know about the plan and many policemen in civil dress were immediately posted at the said Railway Bridge over the river Churni to prevent any sort of possible damage of the bridge and they were allowed to fire anybody doing anything suspicious on and near the bridge. Having known this police effectiveness, the leaders felt impelled to give up the very plan of destroying the bridge.

Another incident also deserves special attention which occurred in the area of the Ranaghat Police Station. When a few people were removing the railway lines near the said Kalinarayanpur Railway Bridge at the beginning of the September, 1942, a military aircraft was then flying incidentally over the area and from it a few bullets and bombs were immediately thrown and dropped at them,
considering them as movement workers, engaged in disrupting activities in favour of the movement. 73 Nine people were killed instantaneously. 74 It is indeed a pathetic event in the ‘Quit India’ movement in Ranaghat.

This is more or less all about the movement in Ranaghat.

**SHANTIPUR**

The Shantipur town of Nadia district also experienced mass movement during the period of the ‘Quit India’ movement. Kanai Paul, an influential leader of Shantipur, organized a protest procession on the 10th August, 1942. 75 The main slogans shouted in the procession were ‘British, Bharat Chharo’ (i.e. ‘British, Quit India’), ‘Jan Dabo Tabu Dhan Debona’ (i.e., ‘we shall sacrifice our lives but not our paddy’), ‘Samrajyabadi Juddhe ek Pai-o noi, Ek Bhai-o noi’ (i.e. ‘We shall not give a single pie nor a brother in the imperialist war’) and so on. The police, however, dispersed, as they did everywhere, the procession by making lathi charges. 76

The most significant event at Shantipur occurred on the 14th August, 1942. A large procession of about three thousand people was organized by the local leaders like Haridas Dey, Kanai Paul, Anil Paul, Deben Das etc. 77 Student leaders like
Balailal Mukherjee, Nitai Paul, Gour Paul, Sharat Chakraborti, Gobinda Mukherjee, Mihir Ranjan Dey etc. had also attended the procession. When the procession, while shouting the anti-British slogans, reached the Shantipur Public Library ground in the afternoon, a National flag was hoisted on the top of the Library and a declaration of India’s independence was promulgated there. And then the procession marched towards the Shantipur Police Station and gheraoed it. The people, gathered, shouted the anti-British slogans and urged the policemen to join the movement resigning their servile service. The policemen initially were confused, but latter on they, having made lathi charges, dispersed the procession. The police arrested one by one all the leading participants of the movement, namely Nitai Paul, Haridas Dey, Gokul Ghosh, Gopinath Pramanick, Deben Das, Anil Paul, Sharat Chakraborty and a few others.

Again on the 15th August, 1942, student leaders like Balailal Mukherjee, Gobinda Mukherjee etc. organized a student procession of more than four hundred students. The procession, having started from the Shantipur Municipal School, marched the town shouting anti-British slogans like ‘Bharat Mata, jindabad,’ ‘Gandhiji, jindabad,’ ‘British, Bharat Chharo’ (i.e. ‘British, Quit India’) etc.; and when it came to the prominent Strand Road of the Santipur Bara-Bazar area, the police broke it up by making indiscriminate lathi charges. And Balailal Mukherjee, Gobinda Mukherjee, Sunil Mukherjee—these three main organizing
leaders of the procession were arrested on the spot and sentenced to six (6) months’ to nine (9) months’ imprisonment. 83

Besides all these, a few mini public processions, mass meetings, street corner meetings etc. were also held in the Shantipur town during the August movement. 84

Sabotage activities were also committed in the Shantipur area. 85 The Shantipur Head Post Office was partially affected in a bomb throwing incident. The wires of Telegraph were cut off in between the areas of Ranaghat and Shantipur. Mail robbery was committed at Bag Anchra, a village near Shantipur. In all these sabotage activities Kanai Paul had a direct hand. 86

It is to be noted here that Kanai Paul was a revolutionary leader, belonging to the Nadia branch of the RCPI. It was Kanai Paul who in connexion with Shibaram Gupta and Sanat Mukhopadhyay, the ‘action squad’ leaders of the district, devised a plan of organizing armed struggle, i.e., ‘organized active resistance movement’ throughout the district. For this purpose, Kanai Paul while living incognito in Calcutta sought to collect arms and ammunition. An award of Rs two thousand (2,000/-) was announced on the part of the British Government for identifying him. 87 And when the police in 1943 surrounded the multi-storied building in Calcutta where he lived incognito, he jumped from the roof of the
second (2nd) floor of the building on the ground and his backbone was broken. He was then hospitalized under police surveillance in the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital; and after having been treated for a few days, he fled away from the hospital very carefully. 88 He was, however, ultimately arrested in 1946 and was imprisoned also; he had, however, got released in 1947.

Besides Kanai Paul, leaders like Phani Khan, Dhirananda Goswami (Madhu Babu), Shashi Khan, Gour Paul, Nitai Paul, Gopal Chakraborti etc. were also arrested for organizing sabotage activities. 89 Gour Paul fled away from the police custody and was later on re-arrested in the Guntur district of the then province of Madras in 1944. 90 Dhirananda Goswami also fled away after his arrest evading police surveillance while he was in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital for treatment; but he was re-arrested later on and was also sentenced to imprisonment and he had, of course, got released at the end of 1946. 91

From this account we find that Shantipur did play really a vital role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement.

**Nabadwip**

The wave of the August movement in 1942 had also reached the town of Nabadwip. The local leaders like Niranjan Modak, Ramani Mohan Goswami,
Mohini Mohan Saha and many others organized a few protest processions and public meetings in the Nabadwip area.\textsuperscript{92}

The biggest procession in the area of Nabadwip in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement was organized on the 16\textsuperscript{th} August, 1942 in which more than one thousand people participated with slogans like ‘Bande Mataram’, ‘British, Bharat Chharo’ (‘British, Quit India’) ‘Gandhi, jindabad’ and so on.\textsuperscript{93} The police, however, dispersed the procession by making lathi charges. And leaders like Balai Goswami, Ramani Mohini Goswami, Kazi Md. Mahisin Reza, Sachindra Mohan Nandi, Mohini Mohan Saha, Shyamapada Bhattacharyya, Mukunda Mohan Goswami, Upendra Nath Ghose and a few others were arrested, and most of them were sentenced to imprisonment. It is to be noted here that leaders like Niranjan Modak, Ramani Mohan Goswami, Ranjit Bagchi and a few others had, however, absconded during the ‘Quit India’ movement for continuing it underground.\textsuperscript{94}

The student community of Nabadwip had also participated in the ‘Quit India’ movement in the area of Nabadwip and its surrounding areas. The students of the Nabadwip Vidyasagar College and the boys’ high schools like the Hindu School, the Saraswata Vidyamandir, the Bakultala School had also played an effective part in the movement by observing strikes, organizing processions and holding meetings all around the town of Nabadwip.\textsuperscript{95}
Sabotage activities were also committed in the Nabadwip area in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement. 96 The railway lines were removed in the narrow gauge section in between the Railway Stations of Nabadwip and Krishnanagar. Telecommunication was interrupted by cutting off the wires of telephone and telegraph. Attempts were of also made to set the Head Post Office Nabadwip on fire, but timely police intervention had, however, saved the Post Office. Incidents of mail-robbery were committed in the area of Nabadwip. Nabadwip Railway Station was seriously deranged by the political workers. Besides, an attempt was also made to burn the Nabadwip Railway Station, but it failed due to orgasational laxity.

It is to be noted here that Shyamapada Bhattacharyya and Ramani Mohini Goswami, the two influential local ‘action squad’ leaders, had a direct hand in almost all the sabotage activities committed in Nabadwip and its adjacent areas. They used to keep close contact with the other ‘action squad’ leaders of the district like Sanath Mukhopadhayay, Dhirananda Goswami, Shibaram Gupta and so on. However, while Ramani Mohan Goswami absconded, Shyamapada Bhattacharyya was arrested at the end of 1942 and was also sentenced to imprisonment and ultimately he got released at the end of 1945. 97

So Nabadwip had also played an effective role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement.
RURAL AREAS OF NADIA IN THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT:

Besides the town areas, the rural areas of the district of Nadia had also participated in the ‘Quit India’ movement and played a grave role too. In this regard the villages Majdia, Tehatta, Karimpur, Muragachha etc. deserve special mention. In all these villages, in favour of the historic movement, protest processions were organized; public meetings were held; National flags were hoisted; lathi charges were also made by the police upon the processions and the meetings; the political workers and the leaders were arrested and also imprisoned from six months to three years. In a word, the wave of the overt mass movement also reached the rural areas of the district.

Besides the overt constitutional mass movement, covert violent sabotage activities were also committed in the rural areas of the district of Nadia. The leaders and workers of the villages of Nadia had committed the pro-movement covert violent activities like removal of railway lines, fishplate and signal posts, cutting of wire of telephone and telegraph, burning of shelter shedes, Government offices and record rooms and Railway Stations, looting of mail bags, political dacoity and so on. It is with all these serious pro-movement covert sabotage activities, that the rural areas of Nadia had raised a great wave of romantic
nationalist sensation in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia and also thereby created a serious sense of panic and fear in the mind of the local British administrative authority of Nadia.

**MAJDIA**

Majdia, a tiny but important village of the-then Nadia in terms of railway communication, had played a very important role in the ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942. The local leaders, workers and supporters of the movement actively followed both the overt constitutional and covert sabotage ways to make the movement a success in Majdia and its nearby areas.

In Majdia, the most remarkable public meeting in favour of the movement was held in the middle of the August, 1942, in the compound of the Majdia High School with the participation of about five hundred leaders, workers, supporters and general people along with the recurrent slogans like ‘British, Bharat Chharo’, ‘Bharat Mata ki, Jay,’ ‘Gandhiji, jindabad,’ ‘Moulana Azad, jindabad’ and so on. The meeting was attended by leaders and workers like Hemanta Sarkar, Haripada Chatterjee, Nani Lahiri, Ramesh Sanyal, Shakti Chakraborty, Bhutnath Moitra and many others, who resolved to accelerate the speed of the movement all over Majdia and its surrounding areas and they acted accordingly later on in favour of the movement with all seriousness.
Another important meeting in favour of the movement was also held in the last part of the August, 1942, in a mango forest just on the west side of the Majdia Railway Station. Important leaders like Haripada Chatterjee, Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Jagannath Majumder, Sudhiranjan Lahiri (Kabu-Da), Amritendu Mukherjee, Bholanath Dutta and so on attended the meeting and decided to invigorate the movement with constitutional means like open meeting, street campaigning, picketing, procession, demonstration, hoisting of national flag etc.

It is also to be mentioned in this connection that the Majdia High School had, curiously enough, become the local center of pro-movement activities all around the areas of Majdia. A few serious secret meetings of the leaders, workers and supporters of both the district level of Nadia and the local level of Majdia as well were held at the deep night in the School premises. Mr.Tarapada Ghosh, the Head Master of the School and an influential and popular personality of the locality, used to preside over the meetings. The leaders and workers like Sudhiranjan Lahiri, Haripada Chatterjee, Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Satyesh Bhattacharyya, Ramesh Sanyal, Bholanath Dutta, Shikharesh Chandra Moitra, Shakti Chakraborty and a few others used to attend the pro-movement meetings. Even the senior students of the School used to join the meetings and were greatly influenced by the meetings to get involved in the pro-movement activities all around Majdia locality.
In fact, the students of the Majdia High School, especially those who used to stay in the School boarding, played a great role in accelerating the ‘Quit India’ movement in Majdia and the nearby areas of Majdia. Generally they used to write anti-British and pro-movement posters on newspapers with red ink, mainly lac-dye and also paste the posters on the walls of the Railway Station, High School, Post Office, Government offices and even on the trees. They also observed students’ strike with success in their School. They were highly inspired by Sudhiranjan Lahiri (Kabuda) and a few other leaders to continue the pro-movement activities in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement. Mr. Tarapada Ghosh, the Headmaster of the School, used to protect the students from C.I.D queries and police harassment and arrest as well.

It is also to be mentioned here that often pro-movement secret meetings were also held in the house at Manmatha Roy of the village Tungi, adjacent to Majdia. In these meetings the condition of the ‘Quit India’ movement, its possible course of action and local strategy of accelerating the movement in the local areas were discussed. The local leaders and workers used to attend the meetings and as per the decisions of the meetings, they used to organize both the overt constitutional and covert violent sabotage activities in the local areas of Majdia in favour of the movement. They organized a few processions, starting from the Majdia High School with the slogans of ‘British, Bharat Chharo,’ ‘Bharat Mata,
Jindabad,’ ‘Gandhiji, Jindabad’ and so on. They had often faced police torture and harassment.

Along with the constitutional efforts in favour of the movement, covert sabotage activities were also committed in Majdia and its surrounding areas. Railway lines were removed and displaced, railway wires were cut off, railway signal posts were damaged, telephone wires of the Railway were cut off and so on. Besides bombs were also thrown to create a pro-movement sentiment. Sudhiranjan Lahiri (Kabu-Da), Bhutnath Moitra, Sashti Ghosh, Krishna Ghosh (Kesta), Tusher Moitra, Sunil Roy, Sudhir Roy, Manmatha Roy, Bholanath Dutta, Shakti Chakraborty, Tusher Bhaduri and a few others took active part in all these sabotage activities.

It is really interesting to mention here that the leaders and workers of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the Majdia locality had been quite successful in organizing the movement in the locality and also in raising a pro-movement wave in the minds of the local people, especially the youth and the students. Despite the occurrence of a great many pro-movement violent and non-violent activities in Majdia and its adjacent areas, no inhabitant of the Majdia locality had ever given witness against any movement leader or worker. Even the local people like Dr. Nani Lahiri used to supply money to the leaders and workers and Mr. Ramesh Sanyal used to look after the fund of the movement. Moreover the local people
used to give shelter to the movement leaders and workers. It is with this wide support and co-operation of the local people of Majdia that the ‘Quit India’ movement in the area of Majdia and its surrounding areas had become quite strong and effective indeed.

Sudhiranjan Lahiri (Kabu-Da), Bholanath Dutta, Shakti Chakraborty and a few others were arrested due to their engagement in both the overt constitutional and covert sabotage activities. Sudhiranjan Lahiri (Kabu-Da) was sentenced to one year imprisonment. Besides, other leaders and workers of the Majdia area were also arrested and some were also sentenced to imprisonment, though some arrested leaders and workers were, however, acquitted due to the lack of evidence.

In this way Majdia as a rural part of Nadia district played a vigorous part in the ‘Quit India’ movement and sincerely sought to make it a success in its own area.

**MURAGACHHA**

Muragachha, a peaceful tiny village of the-then Nadia, had also played a grave role in the ‘Quit India’ movement. The local leaders and workers of Muragachha had actualized both the overt constitutional and covert violent modes of pro-movement operation in Muragachha in expediting the speed of the movement.
It goes without saying that Muragachha and other rural areas of the district of Nadia have been marked mainly for the sabotage activities during the period of the historic ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942. The act of burning of the Muragachha Railway Station had created a history in the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia. At the end of the August of 1942, a large procession of the students (of the Muragachha High school) and the general people was organized by the student leader Shyamlal Biswas at the inspiration of Gopendra Nath Mukhopadhayay (Junior), the-then most influential local leader. The procession marched towards the Muragachha Railway Station with the effusive anti-British slogans like ‘British, Bharat Chharo,’ ‘Bharat Mata, jindabad,’ ‘Gandhiji, jindabad’ etc. After the procession had reached the Station, it (i.e. the Station) was set on fire and it was burnt down and damaged seriously.

Not only that, the people, gathered in the procession, also burnt down a government camp, built by the British Government in a mango forest near the Railway Station for the purpose of sheltering the Indian refugees from Burma. For the incident of Muragachha Station burning, Gopendra Nath Mukhopadhayay (Jr.), Shyamlal Biswas, Ramapada Raha, Gourananda Brahmachari, Rishipada Nandan, Bimalendu Biswas and a few others were arrested and also imprisoned.

In this way Muragachha as a rural area of the district of Nadia had played a serious role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement.
TEHATTA

Tehatta, a village and a Police Station of the-then Nadia, had also played an important role in the ‘Quit India’ movement through both the overt constitutional and covert violent sabotage activities and thereby created a romantic sensation about the movement in its own area.

Besides the open-constitutional activities like pro-movement meetings, processions, demonstrations and so on, violent sabotage activities were also committed very gravely at Tehatta in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942, and they were really serious in nature. The Post Office of Shyamnagar at Tehatta was burnt down under the direction of Ramesh Chandra Goswami. For this incident Ramesh Babu, Hamanta Kumar Para, Lalmohan Biswas, Kalipada Biswas, Haradhan Malakar and a few others were arrested and also imprisoned after trial.

Besides, the mail robbery of Barnia at Tehatta was deliberately committed just to enrich the movement fund in order to continue the movement smoothly and really it was also an important event in favour of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia. For this robbery, Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty, Jashoda Kumar Biswas and a few others were arrested and were also sentenced to imprisonment.
Other important sabotage activities committed at Tehatta during the period of the movement were the burning of the Sahib Kuthhi (i.e., European Bungalow) of Raninagar at Tehatta and that of the office building of the Zamindar of the Midnapore area at Tehatta. In these burning incidents, Raghunath Biswas, Ramesh Chandra Goswami, Siddheswar Biswas, Nitai Chandra Biswas, Hemanta Kumar Patra etc. were directly involved, and they were all arrested and imprisoned.

In this way the leaders and workers of Tehatta had played a very significant role in the ‘Quit India’ movement.

**KARIMPUR**

Karimpur, a tiny village and a Police Station of the-then Nadia, had also played a very sincere role in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942. The leaders and workers of Karimpur and its adjacent areas had followed both the overt constitutional and covert violent modes of operation while organizing and conducting the movement in their areas and thereby raised a romantic pro-movement sensation all over the areas of Karimpur.

The village of Karimpur was, however, marked in the history of the ‘Quit India’ movement in Nadia for its serious sabotage violent activities. The leaders and workers of Karimpur committed a lot of sabotage activities during the period
of the ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942 in order to expedite the speed of the movement in Karimpur in particular and in the district of Nadia in general. In favour of the movement in Karimpur, Wires of Telegraph and Telephone were cut off; mail robbery was committed and the Post Office was set on fire. ¹⁰⁸ In all these pro-movement sabotage activities, Amal Kumar Sarkar, Aditya Kumar Ghosh and a few others of the Karimpur village were directly involved; and all but Amal Babu, ¹⁰⁹ who absconded and continued pro-movement sabotage activities underground, were arrested and imprisoned. ¹¹⁰

In this way Karimpur had played its own role in the ‘Quit India’ movement in 1942.

**OTHER RURAL AREAS OF NADIA AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES:**

Other sabotage activities, committed in other rural areas of Nadia district during the August movement, were the armed robbery at the house of Bhudebcharan Bhatta of the Village Valuka, the burning of the Post Office of the village Kaliganj ¹¹¹ and so on. District leaders and workers like Manoranjana Sadhukhan, Narayan Kumar Dutta, Balai Goswami, Debeash Singha Roy, Kanai Paul, Markanda Mohan Sarkar and a few others were directly involved in such sabotage activities. ¹¹²
It is in this way that the rural areas of Nadia had been greatly marked in the history of the ‘Quit India’ movement in the district of Nadia for their serious sabotage activities.

**AN OVERALL STUDY OF THE MOVEMENT IN NADIA DISTRICT**

We, therefore, find that the district of Nadia had tried its level best in launching and conducting a strong movement, though mostly in an unorganized manner, in support of the historic ‘Quit India’ movement, i.e., the revolutionary August Revolution in 1942. While launching the movement, the political leaders and workers of the district had adopted both the non-violent and violent, i.e., the constitutional and the sabotage, i.e., the open and secret methods of operation as the situation demanded.

**Table No-1**

**THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF NADIA**

<p>| 1. Number of the events of strikes/ hartals | 10 |
| 2. Number of the events of Processions, meetings and demonstrations | 100 |
| 3. Number of the events of burning of trains | 3 |
| 4. Number of the events of burning of Post offices | 10 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Number of the events of burning of Government offices</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Number of the events of removal of railway lines, fishplates and signal Posts</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Number of the events of mail robbery</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Number of the events of political dacoity</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Number of the events of cutting of wires of Telephone and Telegraph</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Number of the events of police lathi-charges innumerable</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Number of the events of of injury</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Number of the events of murder of the movement workers</td>
<td>Nil*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Nine railway workers, not the movement workers, were killed in an incident of machine-gunning from air.

Source: This table is based on the statements of the interviewees.

A careful observation of the ‘Quit India’ movement, as launched in Nadia district, clearly indicates that the secret method of sabotage activities was far more strong and serious than the open constitutional method of non-violent activities. It also indicates that the rural areas of the district were more militant than the town areas, for the military activity and the police action were more prompt and effective in the town areas than in the rural areas.
However, it is true that the police had arrested almost all those leaders and workers who were involved in the movement both in the town and rural areas of the district. According to an estimate\(^\text{113}\) more than five hundred persons starting from the leaders down to the workers and common people, engaged in the movement in the district of Nadia, were arrested; more than three hundred arrested persons were convicted and fostered detention for six months to three years; and the rest arrested persons were acquitted either on the ground of the lack of evidence or on the execution of a bond of not becoming entangled with any such movement in future, though in a very few cases.\(^\text{114}\)

**Table No-2**

**THE ‘QUIT INDIA’ MOVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF NADIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons arrested in the district during the movement</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons sentenced to imprisonment</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons kept under detention as security prisoners</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons acquitted either on the ground of lack of evidence or on bond</td>
<td>150 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: This table is based on the statements of the interviewees
It is, however, to be noted here that the detainees were held in high esteem and earned public sympathy.\textsuperscript{115} It is also true that though common masses paid high respect to the heorism of these imprisoned patriots, yet they (i.e., common masses), especially in the town areas, often used to avoid direct contact with any leader actively engaged in the movement, particularly in the sabotage activities of the movement because of the fear of police harassment.\textsuperscript{116}

It is, however, a queer fact that no incident of murder of any leader or worker or even any participant of the movement was committed in Nadia district as a result either of the police repression and military atrocity or of the direct clash between the police and the public during the movement.\textsuperscript{117} Only nine men were killed in an event of machine-gunning and bomb-throwing from a military aircraft near the Kalinarayanpur Railway Bridge under the Ranaghat Sub-division when they were supposed to remove the railway lines.\textsuperscript{118} This event of aircraft bombing and machine-gunning, committed in the district, was really an historic one, for the events of such bombing and machine-gunning from the flying military aircraft under the direct direction of the Higher authority of the British Government, were practically rare in the whole history of the ‘Quit India’ movement in India in 1942.\textsuperscript{119}

All these events,\textsuperscript{120} enumerated above, clearly demonstrate that the district of Nadia did play really a vital part in the historic ‘Quit India’ movement in India.
NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Interviews with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Shibaram Gupta and Harendra Nath Bose on 14.2.1985., 27.2.85. and 12.5.85. respectively.

2. Smarajit Bandyopadhyay gave an overall description of the ‘Quit India’ movement (as) launched in the district of Nadia in his interview on 14.2.1985.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Interviews with Manoranjan Sen on 29.5.1985

6. Ibid.

7. Nobody in the district was killed in the police atrocity during the August movement. All those whom I interviewed expressed the same opinion.


9. Ibid.

Nath Bose, Ashim Kumar Majumdar on 14.2. 1985., 27.2.85., 8.8.85., 16.6.85., 15.7.85., 2.6.85., 12.5.85., 31.5.85. respectively. Also letters of Jagannath Majudmar (19.7.85), Fazlur Rahaman (23.7.85) and Gopendra Nath Mukherjee (23.7.85).

11.Interviews with Shibaram Gupta, Sanath Mukherjee, Salil Kumar Paul, Niranjan Modak and Shayamapada Bhattacharyya on 27.2.1985., 16.6.85., 6.5.85. and 15.7.85 respectively.

12.Ibid.

13.The name of the leader is Dulal (Sisir)Bose. He used to live at his Ranaghat residence.

14.Interviews with Dulal Bose on 23.5.1985. He gave a description of the event that led to his blindness. A detailed account regarding this has been given below.

15.Interviews with Smarakit Bandyopadhyay and Shibaram Gupta on 14.2.1985. and 27.2.85 respectively.


18.Ibid.

20. Ibid.


Manoranjan Sen also opined (in an interview on 29.5. 1985) that the Government College of Krishnanagar was, at the time of the August movement, a strong hold of the C.P.I. Its Students’ organization, Students’ Federation, held the office of the Students’ Union of the College.


26. Manoranjan Sen gave me a detailed account of the students’ procession and the reaction of the police in an interview on 29.5. 1985.

27. Interviews with Manoranjan Sen on 29.5.1985.
28. Ibid.

29. Ibid.

30. Ibid.


32. See Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., p.189.

33. Ibid.

34. Interviews with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Shibaram Gupta, Manoranjan Sen on 14.2. 1985; 27.2.85 and 29.5.85 respectively. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., pp.189-9

35. Ibid.

36. Ibid.

37. Interview with Shibaram Gupta on 27.2. 1985.


Mukherjee’ in the Ananda Bazar Patrika (18.12.1946) and the Hindusthan Standard (28.11. 1945) respectively.

40.ibid.

41.Interviews with Shibaram Gupta on 27.2. 1985.


43.Interviews with Shibaram Gupta and Smarajit Bandyopadhyay on 27.2. 1985 and 14.2.85 respectively.

44.Interview with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay on 14.2. 1985. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., p.192 and also p.372.

45.ibid.

46.Interviews with Dulal Bose and Harendra Nath Bose on 23.5. 1985 and 12.5.85 respectively.

47.Interview with Salil Kumar Paul on 6.5. 1985.

48.Interviews with Bimal Kumar Chatterjee and Dulal Bose on 6.6. 1985 and 23.5.85 respectively.

49.ibid.

50.Interview with Srimati Rekha Roy (Majumdar) on 31.5. 1985.

51.Interviews with Salil Kumar Paul and Bimal Kumar Chatterjee on 6.5. 1985. and 6.6.85. respectively
52. Interview with Harendra Nath Bose on 12.5.1985.

53. Interviews with Salil Kumar Paul and Dulal Bose on 6.5.85 and 23.5.85 respectively. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., p.230.


55. ibid.

56. ibid.

57. ibid

58. It is, however, said that Dulal Bose had been suffering from eye disease due to familial tradition of short sightedness, which might have led to his later blindness. But he himself told me emphatically that a ruler stroke was made by a policeman on the portion just above his eyes which ultimately led to his blindness during his prison-life. Interview with Dulal Bose on 23.5.1985

59. Interviews with Shiba Kumar Chatterjee and Dulal Bose on 30.5.1985 and 23.5.85 respectively.

60. ibid.

61. It is, however, to be noted that Shiba Kumar Chatterjee and Sudhir Kumar Biswas got early release when they signed, due to the growing pressure of their families, a bond declaring that they would not be involved in any future movement. Shiba Kumar Chatterjee has himself informed me in his
interview on 30.5.1985 that he had been compelled to do so under the pressure of his family.

Interview with Shiba Kumar Chatterjee on 30.5.1985.

62. Interview with Bimal Kumar Chatterjee and Gour Chandra Kundu on 6.6.1985 and 1.6.85 respectively. In the said students’ meetings Gour Chandra Kundu (sitting CPI (M) M.L.A. of Ranaghat at the time of his interview on 1.6.1985), along with other students, had participated, which he himself admitted.

63. Interviews with Salil Kumar Paul on 6.5.1985

64. Ibid

64a. Interview with Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty on 28.05.1985.

64b. Ibid.

64c. Ibid.

65. Interviews with Harendra Nath Bose, Dulal Bose, Bimal Kumar Chatterjee, Salil Kumar Paul and Asim Kumar Majumdar on 12.5.1985., 23.5.85., 6.6.85., 6.5.85 and 31.5.85 respectively.

66. Interviews with Shiba Kumar Chatterjee and Bimal Kumar Chatterjee on 30.5.1985 and 6.6.85 respectively.


68. Ibid.
69. In his conviction period Dulal Bose became blind. See reference No 58.

70. Interviews with Harendra Nath Bose and Salil Kumar Paul on 12.5.1985 and 6.5.85 respectively.

71. Interviews with Asim Kumar Majumder and Salil Paul on 31.5.1985 and 6.5.85 respectively.

72. Ibid.

73. Interviews with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Shibaram Gupta, Asim Kumar Majumder, Salil Kumar Paul and Hatendra Nath Bose on 14.2.1985., 27.2.85., 31.5.85., 6.5.85. and 12.5.85. respectively. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., p.247.

74. Some say, the people killed in an incident of machine gunning from air or aircraft bombing on the Railway lines near the Kalinarayanpur Railway bridge under the Ranaghat Sub-division and Police Station were not the leaders or the workers of the August movement and were not seeking to remove railway lines and fishplates, but were simply the labourers of the Railway Maintenance Department, working on the railway lines to check up the lines and to repair the affected parts of the lines. It is true that the military men in the air-craft, considering the Railway labourers to be those engaged in the pro-movement sabotage activity, had thrown bullets and
bombs at them; and nine persons (originally Railway workers) were thus killed on spot.

Be that as it may, the Killing of nine persons in an air-craft bombing or machine gunning—be they movement workers or they Railway workers—is no doubt a very painful and sordid affair and also a matter of historic importance especially in terms of the intensity of the ‘Quit India’ movement in Ranaghat area in particular and in the district of Nadia in general.

75. Interviews with Baidyanath Pramanick, Balilal Mukherjee and Bhabadeb Bhadra on 2.6.1985., and with Nitai Paul and Mihir Ranjan Dey on 8.7.1985

76. Ibid.

77. Interviews with Balilal Mukherjee, Baidyanath Pramanick on 2.6.1985 and Nitai Paul on 8.7.1985.

78. Interview with Balilal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985. He gave detailed description of both these public and students’ processions organized on the 14th August and 15 August of 1942 respectively.

79. Ibid.

80. Ibid.

81. Ibid.

82. Ibid.
83. Ibid.

84. Interviews with Bhabadeb Bhadra and Balailal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985.

85. Interview with Balilal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985. He gave an overall picture of the sabotage activities, committed in the Shantipur area.

Beside, interview with Nitai Paul and Mihir Ranjan Dey on 8.7.1985 helped me get a clear picture of the activity.

86. Interviews with Baidyanath Pramanick and Balailal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985.


88. Interview with Balilal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., pp.193 and 231.

89. Interview with Nitai Paul on 8.7.85 and Baidyanath Pramanick and Balailal Mukherjee on 2.6.1985.


93. Ibid.
94. Ibid.


98. Interviews with Harendra Nath Bose, Smarajit Bandyopadhyay, Balailal Mukherjee, Shibaram Gupta, Manoranjan Sen and Shyamapada Bhattacharyya on 12.5.1985., 14.2.85., 2.6.85., 27.2.85., 29.5.85. and 15.7.1985 respectively.

99. Interview with Shibaram Gupta on 27.2.85. He opined that in terms of the sabotage activities the rural areas of Nadia district were more explosive than the town areas.


101. Ibid.

102. Interviews with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay and Shibaram Gupta on 14.2.1985. and 27.2.85 respectively. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., pp.222, 242, 298, 324 and 336 respectively.

104. See Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., pp.322 and also p.382.

105. Interview with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay. See also Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., pp.314-15 and also p.360.

106. Interview with Shibaram Gupta on 27.2.1985.


108. Interviews with Smarajit Bandyopadhyay and Shibaram Gupta on 14.2.1985 and 27.2.85 respectively.


110. Interview with Shibaram Gupta on 27.2.1985.

111. See Swadhinata Sangrame Nadia, op.cit., p.266 and also p.306. Also letter of Narayan Kumar Dutta (16.7.1985)

112. Interviews with Mohan Kali Biswas, Shibram Gupta and Balai Goswami on 7.7.1985., 27.2.85 and 15.5.85 respectively.

113. This estimate is given by Balailal Mukherjee in an interview on 2.6.1985.

114. Only four or five detainees executed such a bond in Ranaghat. Interview of Shiba Kumar Chatterjee and Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty on 30.5.1985 and 28.5.85 respectively.

116. Ibid.

117. Nobody in the district was killed in the police atrocity during the August movement. All those whom I interviewed expressed the same opinion.

118. Interviews with Shiba Kumar Chatterjee, Bimal Kumar Chatterjee and Dulal Bose on 30.5.1985, 6.6.85. and 23.5.85. respectively.

119. See Sumit Sarkar; op.cit., p.396. Here Sarkar noted:

“As early as 15 August, Linlithgow (the Viceroy) had ordered the use of ‘machine-gunning from air’ against crowds disrupting communications around Patna, and aeroplanes were used also in Bhagalpur and Monghyr in Bihar, Nadia and Tamluk in Bengal, and Talcher in Orissa. (Emphasis ours).”

120. Besides these events, just mentioned above, there are a lot of events which occurred in Nadia district during the August movement of 1942 which I could not mention here due to unavoidable reasons.