

## Mass murder trial

CALCUTTA HIGH Court on Monday directed the Suri sessions judge to complete the trial of the 1981 Kota massacre case, in which seven people were killed and their house set on fire by CPI(M) cadres. The judge set the deadline after state public prosecutor Kazi Saffiullah resented the missing case diary recovered from the house of the trial court PP who died on April 18, 2002. On August 8, 1981 about 400-500 CPI(M) cadres of Kota village in Birbhum had dragged out Anowara Bibi's four sons and three of their friends and battered them to death. The police arrested 77 CPI(M) cadres, who were later released on bail. Chargesheet was filed in 1983 and the trial judge framed charges in 1996. But trial did not begin, as the case diary was missing. Anowara then moved the high court through advocates Debasis Roy and Phiroze Edulji.

HTC, Kolkata