

Plotters took oath at Kalurghat

Killers fired volley of shots at a time on Zia

By A Staff Correspondent

The third instalment of the White Paper on the killing of President Ziaur Rahman was issued on Thursday. This part of the White Paper dealt with how the mutineers executed the plot of killing the President and inadequate Police guard at the Circuit House on May 29/30, 1981.

The White Paper stated that out of required 127 uniformed policemen and 39 plain clothed Special Branch personnel only 45 uniformed and 12 plain clothed Special Branch personnel were posted for the security of the President.

The White Paper further said that the mutineers went to the Circuit House in three groups. One group headed by Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman was assigned for the killing of President who was sleeping in his room in the first floor. Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman started looking for the President. He knew that President was staying in room No. 4. It had two doors, one near the stairs going upwards which was bolted from inside and the other opening towards the southern verandah was locked from outside. Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman and Capt. Sattar started kicking the locked door. At that moment, the White Paper stated, the President came out opening the door near the stair side. He was stated to be calm and cool without any sign of alarm on his face. Some one shouted, "President is coming out." The White Paper said every one rushed and fired at the President. The President fell down to the floor near the stairs with his chest littered with the bursts of sub-machine guns from pointblank range. Even after this, the White Paper said, his face was turned upwards by Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman who by that time went completely berserk

and hysterically fired and emptied a complete magazine on him.

The White Paper said that Lt. Col. Mahfuz contacted Army Headquarters over wireless and talked to Director of Military Operations and his staff and asked for a helicopter to be flown with Chief of Army Staff, Military Secretary to the President and Home Minister so that President's body could be taken out.

The following is the third part of the text of the first instalment of the White Paper issued by the Government on the abortive mutiny in Chittagong on May 30, 1981.

TROOPS FROM BANDARBAN. Major Fazlul Haque brought 2X Platoons 1E, Bengal, with 2X Junior Commissioned Regiment (40 Persons) along. Officers namely Subedar M.A. Zafar Chowdhury and Naib Subedar Solaiman Major Khalid briefed the officers and Junior Commissioned Officers of 1 East Bengal Regiment about the impending operation at Circuit House where President was staying for night but the response from them were not encouraging. Lieutenant Matfur was left behind with his troops and Major Khaled told him to

collect all the vehicles including the civil car of Lieutenant Colonel Mehboobur Rahman and park them on the other side (Bandarban) of the bridge.

PREPARATION AND BRIEFING. The magazines of Sub-machine Guns were filled with rockets and grenades were fitted in the hand launcher and Grenade Firing Rifles by the officers.

Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman called all officers present at Kalurghat inside one pickup because of space a few kept standing outside. He briefed them about the details of the plan of President's assassination with a sketch of Circuit House. He conducted oath to all officers with the Holy Quran and put them into three groups. Each group was further briefed by him separately. The first group was selected from the volunteers who were to be for the first floor of the Circuit House where the President was staying. Grouping and tasks distributed to each were as under.

(i) FIRST GROUP
(a) PERSONS
(i) Lieutenant Colonel Mehboobur Rahman
(ii) Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain
(iii) Major S M Khaled
(iv) Captain Jamil Haq

(v) Captain Md Abdus Sattar
(vi) Lieutenant Rafiqul Hassan Khan

(b) TASKS

(i) Once the pick up will cross the main gate of the Circuit House Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain will fire Hand Launcher at the main door of the ground floor.

(ii) Simultaneously Lieutenant Rafique and Captain Sattar will fire grenades from Grenade Firing Rifles towards the Circuit House and Captain Jamil will spray the area with 7.62 mm Light Machine Guns fire.

(iii) On reaching the portico they will rush to the first floor with Sub Machine Guns and go for the room each one assigned to.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROOMS

(i) Room No. 7—Captain Jamil Haque

(ii) Room No. 8—Lieutenant Rafiqul Hassan Khan

(iii) Room No. 9—Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain and Captain Abdus Sattar.

(d) TRANSPORT 1 X Pick up to be driven by Lieutenant Colonel Mehboobur Rahman

(e) COMMAND Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain

(2) SECOND GROUP
(a) PERSONS

(i) Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman

(ii) Major Mominul Haque

(iii) Major Mozaffar Hussain

(iv) Captain Salahuddin Ahmed

(v) Captain Md Riyas Uddin

(vi) Lieutenant Mosleh Uddin

(b) TASKS. To stop out side interference while first party went for the President.

(c) TRANSPORT 1 X Pick up to be driven by Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman.

(d) Command Major Mominul Haque

(3) THIRD GROUP
(a) PERSONS

(i) Major Fazlul Uddin

(ii) Major Fazlul Haque

(iii) Captain Ghyas Uddin Ahmed

(iv) Captain Syed Md. (page 2 col. 1)

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(b) TASKS. To act as cut off party near Almas Cinema Hall behind the Circuit House and shoot if any one wanted to escape from the Circuit House.

(c) TRANSPORT 1 X Jeep
(d) COMMAND Major Gias Uddin

APPROACH TO CIRCUIT HOUSE. The mutineers once briefed by Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman left Kalurghat at about 3.30 a.m. on 30 May 81 when it was raining heavily.

The order of march was as per the groupings discussed earlier. Keeping the Chittagong club to the left first 2 pickup went straight to the Dewanhat over bridge round about and took left turn. Again these two pickups turned left and came straight in to the Circuit House through the C&B Road. The third group in the jeep stayed back near the Almas Cinema Hall.

SECURITY OF THE CIRCUIT HOUSE. On that fateful night the following policemen were posted for the security of the President as stated by Mr Zaman, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police Chittagong. Further it is revealed by Inspector Bazlur Rashid Officer in Charge of the House guard that Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz Rahman Personal Staff to the President had ordered to remove two constables meant for guarding the President's suite on night 29/30 May 81.

(1) Uniformed Police Personnel Required actually Posted

Nature of Duty	Number of Persons to be Posted	Actual Number Posted	Remarks
House Guard	34	8	2 constables were withdrawn on the order of Personnel Staff to the President
Inner Cordon	30	14	
Outer Cordon	38	17	
Main Gate	12	4	
Outer Gate	8	4	
Water Tank	4	1	
Supervision	3	1	
Grand Total	127	45	

(2) Plain Clothed Police/Special Branch Personnel Required

Actually Posted	Required
Isolation Cordon	3
Inner Cordon	12
Outer Cordon	15
Supervision of Inner and Outer Cordon	8
Main Gate	6
Grand Total	39

It will be seen out of required 127 uniformed Policemen and 39 plain clothed Special personnel only 45 uniformed and 12 plain clothed Special Branch personnel were posted for the security of the President.

It may be mentioned here that the responsibility for security of the person of the President while staying in the area lying with the civil Police. According to the rules for the protection of the person of the President of Bangladesh as laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs this responsibility lies with the Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs which it will exercise through the Inspector General of Police. The Rules again state that when the President is within the Cantonment this responsibility entirely rests with the Army authorities. Police will continue to exercise full responsibility outside the Cantonment areas and defence installations. This Rules further state that the military Sentries at the President's residence will be in addition to the inner cordon of affect or reduce the responsibility of military guard does not affect or establish a share of responsibility of the police for the protection of the President.

The Assault. Meanwhile the two pickups commanded by the rebels entered the Circuit House unopposed and unchallenged. Everything went as per plan of the mutineers. Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain fired his Hand Launcher followed by the grenades of the Grenade Firing Rifles and simultaneous firing from Light Machine Guns/Sub Machine Guns. Occupants of the first pickup rushed to the first floor. They fired indiscriminately towards the door of each room. Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain was hit by a bullet. Just after he got down from the vehicle and could not reach the stairs. Captain Jamil was also hit when he was midway between the ground and the first floor. Both of them presumably hit by the fire from their own comrades who got down from the second vehicle. However Captain Jamil reached the upstairs even with his wounds. Out of the six officers tasked for the first floor only Lieutenant Colonel Mehboob stayed at the ground floor. On the other hand following officers who were responsible for the ground floor went upstairs and joined the first group.

(1) Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman

(2) Major Khaled

(3) Major Mozaffar

(4) Captain Salahuddin

(5) Lieutenant Mosleh Uddin

The officers went banging/kicking each door of the first floor. Captain Sattar found Dr. Amin Rahman in room No. 8.

In the meantime Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan and Captain Hafiz came out of their rooms and were shot by the rebel officers. No. 3940075 Naik Rafique Uddin East Bengal the bodyguard of the President was wounded near the door of room number 2 where he was staying with wireless operator and could not come out. This fire was from the Sub-Machine Guns of Captain Jamil according to the statement of the officer himself.

The Assassination of the President. Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman started looking for the President. He knew that President was staying in room number 4. It had two doors, one near the stairs go-

ing upwards which was bolted from inside and the other opening towards the southern verandah was locked from outside. Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman and Captain Sattar started kicking the locked door. At that moment the President came out opening the door near the stair side. He was stated to be calm and cool without any sign of alarm on his face. Some one shouted "President is coming out." Every one rushed and fired at the President whose last words were "ভায়া কি চাও?" Before he could hear any reply he fell down to the floor near the stairs with his chest littered with the bursts of Sub-machine Guns from pointblank range. Even after this his face was turned upwards by Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman who by that time went completely berserk and hysterically fired, and emptied a complete magazine on him. Immediately after this Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman gave the call to withdraw.

WITHDRAWAL. The withdrawal took place hurriedly the wounded officers were put into the first pickup which was then driven by Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman. The pickup entered Cantonment via B-yaz d lines and came to Headquarters 65 Infantry Brigade at about 4.30 AM on 30 May.

helicopter to be flown with Chief of Army Staff, Military Secretary to the President and Home Minister so that the President's body could be taken out. Mr. Badruddoza, Mr. Mahibul Hassan and Mrs. Amina Rahman left with a car for some unknown destination. Mr. Saifuddin the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong took along with him Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz, Lieutenant Colonel Mahtab, Captain Mazhar and wireless operator to his house.

CASUALTIES. From list provided by the police it was seen that only three police guards received bullet injuries out of 18 injured persons of which one died. The remaining ones were injured due to splinters, a rasion, fiction and crawling. The army casualties were:

(1) Lieutenant Colonel A F M Moinul Ahsan, Security Officer to the President—dead

(2) BS-4090 Captain Ashraful Haiz Khin, President Guard Regiment—dead

(3) Number 3940877 Naik Atu Taher, President Guard Regiment—dead

(4) Number 3955714 Sepoy Md Abul Quasem, President Guard Regiment—dead

(5) Number 3970357 Sepoy Abdur Rouf, President Guard Regiment—dead

(6) Number 3953993 Sepoy Shah Alam, President Guard Regiment—dead

(7) Number 3955842 Sepoy M'ne Uddin, President Guard Regiment—wounded

(8) Number 3956072 Sepoy Abdul Hal Sardar, President Guard Regiment—wounded

(9) Number 3940075 Naik Rafique Uddin 8 East Bengal Regiment, Bodyguard to the President—Wounded

(10) Number 2520 Constable Dulal Miah, Chittagong Metropolitan Police dead

GRIEF STRICKEN CIRCUIT HOUSE. When the firing at the Circuit House was going on, Captain Mazhar ADC to the President tried to contact the President through telephone but could not get any response from the other side. He contacted Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz over the telephone who asked him to contact the President through the telephone. In the meantime the ADC of the Naval Chief also rang up Captain Mazhar from the city and enquired about the firing. He tried to contact Headquarters 24 Infantry Division and could not find any-body from the Headquarters but found Major Mujib of Field Intelligence Unit on telephone to whom he requested for immediate help. Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz also received telephone calls from Mr Saifuddin, Divisional Commissioner and Mr Zaman Metropolitan Police Commissioner both of whom asked about the firing incident. When Mazhar heard the moaning sound of Naik Rafique the bodyguard of the President. He crawled to room number-2 (Naik Rafique) and found him profusely bleeding from bullet wounds. Captain Mazhar picked his (Naik Rafique's) Sub Machine Gun and crawled back to his room. In the meantime Lieutenant Colonel Mahtabul Islam, of Army Medical Corps, personal Physician to the President came out of his room. By that time firing had completely stopped. He went to Naik Rafique with first aid box and gave him first aid. The time then was about 5 AM 30 May 81. Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz came out of his room wearing a lungi and a shirt. By this time Mrs. Amina Rahman also came out from her room but the door of Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury and Mr. Mohibul Hassan was closed. Lieutenant Colonel Mahtab arranged evacuation of six army police injured persons to the civil hospital. Captain Mazhar talked to Military Secretary to the President at about 5.30 AM over telephone and informed him about the President's killing. Subsequently following persons visited the Circuit House:

(1) Rear Admiral M A Khan Chief of the Naval Staff

(2) Mr. Saifuddin, Divisional Commissioner

(3) Mr. Ziauddin, District Commissioner Chittagong

(4) Mr. Zaman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Lieutenant Colonel Mahfuz contacted Army Headquarters over wireless and talked to Director of Military Operations and his staff and asked for a