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Manzur fled sensing collapse of mutiny

By A Staff Correspondent

The fifth instalment of the White Paper on Chittagong mutiny and the killing of President Ziaur Rahman issued on Saturday dealt with fleeing of the mutiny leader Major General M.A. Manzur along with his family and other accomplices. This part of the White Paper also dealt with the arrest of General Manzur and his killing by some agitated troops.

The White Paper said that General Manzur fled from the Cantonment at around 2 a.m. on June 1, 1961 in a jeep presumably to take shelter at Chittagong Hill Tractor across. There were four persons in the jeep—the mutiny leader Major Gen. Manzur Major Reza Major Muzaffar and the driver of the jeep. The jeep stopped near Chittagong University where after half an hour the family of Major General Manzur and Lt. Col. Delwar joined him.

Along with other officers two jeeps and one pick up proceeded towards north of Chittagong Cantonment. As they drove along the first jeep soon outdistanced the other vehicles and was not within sight of each other. Early in the morning of June 1 the passengers of the rear jeeps heard the sounds of firing in front.

These were sounds of firing the White Paper said when the mutineers of the first jeep

were confronted by the troops of 12 Engineer Battalion led by an officer who were on their way to safety and surrender. In the exchange of fires

encounter Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman and Lt. Col. Mahboob from the mutineers were killed and one Naib Subedar Shamsul Alam of 12 Engineer Battalion was also killed.

After this incident Major General Manzur along with others drove back towards Chittagong and after some time he made halt. Here Major General Manzur begged

forgiveness from wounded Lt. Col. Fazle Hussain by saying

that it was all his fault and no one else to be blamed for it.

There after Major General Manzur and his family and children and wife of Col. Delwar, Major Gias and Major Reza started walking

across the countryside leaving the other mutineers to their fate.

After walking a considerable distance with the help of local guides tired and worn out finally the General along with his party took shelter in the house of a tea garden employee at the Kulipara of Ashia Tea Garden. He reached there at about 2.30 p.m. There he sent a local man to bring some food and food was arranged. At about 4 p.m. when Major General Manzur and

Major Gias were having food they found themselves encircled by police and immediately went into hiding. But ultimately he surrendered and was brought to Hathazari Police Station.

From there they were handed over to the Escort Officer who went from Chittagong Cantonment. But there were thousands of agitated people in and around the police station

and in three jeeps Major General Manzur his family and other officers escorted by police were brought to Chittagong Cantonment. The police left the convoy when the jeep of Major General Manzur entered the Cantonment through No 2 military gate. The pick up carrying the family went straight to the Flag House and jeep carrying Major Reza went straight to the Regimental Cen

tre.

The White Paper said that when the jeep carrying Major

General Manzur entered the Cantonment the Escort Officer

found troops with arms who were moving around. This

made him cautious and as the vehicle neared the VIP house

he found more troops. This

compelled him to turn the

vehicle and move towards the Artillery Unit Lines and enter

the VIP house from East Bengal Regimental Centre Officers Mess gate via Canteen

Store Department shop. As

soon as the jeep reached near

the tri-junction a group of

about 20 to 30 armed troops

stopped the vehicle and asked

the officer to allow them to

search the vehicle. Before he

could say anything they opened

the back door of the jeep

where General Manzur was

sitting. They started shouting

"Khunkey Payachhi" and

dragged him out of the vehicle.

In the meantime the Escort Officer got down from the vehicle and pleaded that

due justice would be done

by the competent authority

and they should not do any harm to the General on the spur of the moment. But it

was in vain. The Escort Officer

left the place in fear and re-

ported it to the command-in-

charge. But after coming they

found his body lying in a

drain on chest. His body was

removed to the Combined Mili-

tary Hospital where the doc-

tors declared him dead.

COLLAPSE OF THE MUTINY AND DEATH

OF THE REBEL LEADER LEAVING THE HEADQUARTERS

It was apparent from the statements of many wit-

nesses that on the night 31 May

at Headquarters 24 Infantry Di-

vision the mutineers not very

desperate as their strength

started weakening with the

news of surrender of large

number of forces and as Brigadier Hannan Shah was negotia-

ting down the terms and

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ter at Chittagong Hill Tract or across. As such he left the Division Headquarters saying that he would be back from his re-

sidence. However he took along Major Muzaffar and Major

Reza his personal security officer. At the residence Major Reza kept sitting in side the jeep. Major General Manzur and Major

Muzaffar went in side the residence. What transpired in side the house is not known but apparently it is understood that Major General Manzur probably talked to his wife to get

prepared for leaving the Cantonment with the children and probably gave her an RV where they would be meeting. After

30-40 minutes i.e. probably around 2 a.m. on 1 June 81 Major General Manzur and Major Gen-

eral Manzur got out of the house and embarked the jeep waiting outside. The General Officer Commanding's flag was removed from the jeep. There were four persons in the jeep: driver of the jeep Major General Manzur Major Muzaffar and Major Reza. The jeep got

out of the Cantonment with full speed and followed the road leading to Hathazari. Near the Chittagong University the jeep stopped and Major General Manzur told the driver to park the jeep in a camouflaged area. They all disembarked from the jeep. When Major Reza asked Major Muzaffar why they had stopped Major Muzaffar replied that the General Officer Commanding's family would be coming. After about

half an hour they saw two vehicles crossing them one jeep and then the General Officer Commanding's staff car. All of them then got into the jeep and the jeep followed and caught up with the staff car. In

side the staff car were General Officer Commanding's wife with children and Lieutenant Colonel Dilwar's wife with children. After going a long distance they all stopped. A pickup also joined them. In the pick up were Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain and Captain Jamil who were wounded and the vehicle was driven by Major Khaled. In the meantime few more officers joined them in other jeep. Those who gathered there were General Officer Commanding and his family Lieutenant Colonel Mehbob Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman Major Gias Major Iazdani Major Mu-

zaffar Major Reza Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain Captain Muzaffar Captain Jamil and Lieutenant Colonel Dilwar's family. From there

General Officer Commanding told the staff car driver to go back with the car to the Cantonment along with the General Officer Commanding's jeep driver. Other vehicles were then marched as follows:—

(1) 1st Jeep (a) Lieutenant Colonel Moti (Driving) (b) Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob (Co-driver's seat) (c) Major Muzaffar (d) Captain Munir.

(2) 2nd Jeep (a) Major General Manzur (co-driver's seat) (b) Major Gias (Driving) (c) Major Reza (d) Major Manzur's children.

(3) 3rd Jeep (a) Major Iazdani (Driving) (b) Major General Manzur's Dilwar's (c) Lieutenant Colonel Moti (wife and children).

(4) Pick up (a) Major Khaled (Driving) (b) Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain (wounded) (c) Captain Jamil (wounded) (d) Encountered Jamil along the first jeep they outdistanced the other each other. Early in the morning of 01 June 81 the passengers of the second jeep heard sounds of the first jeep were the sounds of the first jeep were the mutineers of the 12th Battalion led by an officer who were on their way to safety and surrender. In the exchange of fires Lieutenant Colonel Moti Lieutenant Colonel Muzaffar Lieutenant Colonel Moti Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob and one Naib Subedar B.I.O. 474 Shamsul Alam of 12 Engineers Battalion

was also killed. On hearing the sounds of firing Major General Manzur stopped his vehicle and asked everyone to get down.

Meanwhile the remaining two vehicles from behind joined them. They decided to turn back towards Chittagong but

finding Major Manzur's jeep

out of order the passengers

Major General Manzur and his children transferred them

themselves to third jeep driven by Major Iazdani Major Gias and Major Reza embarked the pick

up which Major Khaled was

driving.

The Cross-Country March.

After journeying some distance towards Chittagong Major

General Manzur made a halt. Here Major General Manzur begged forgiveness from wounded Lieutenant Colonel Fazle Hussain by saying that it was all his fault and no one else to be blamed for it. There after Major General Manzur and his family and children Lieutenant Colonel Dilwar's wife and children Major Gias and Major Reza started walking

across the country side leaving the other mutineers to their fate Major Iazdani and Major Khaled along with remaining

mutineers kept on driving their vehicles towards Chittagong. After walking a considerable

distance with the help of local guides and taking rest at intervals from place to place

the party of Major General Manzur tired and worn out

finally reached the Kulipara of Ashia Tea Garden and took

refuge in the house of a tea garden employee at about 2.30 p.m. Here he sent a local to

fetch some eatables for the family and the children. The local returned soon from the bazar and reported that he

found an Army vehicle in the bazar in which two Army per-

sonnel were arrested with their

eyes and hands tied.

The Surrender. Meanwhile

food was arranged for the family and children. At about

4 p.m. when Major General Manzur and Major Gias were

having food they found them-

selves encircled by the police

party of Hathazari Police Sta-

tion. Major General Manzur and the other two officers im-

mediately went into hiding the

tea garden. The police took

charge of the ladies and the

children and gave a call for

the surrender of Major Gen-

eral Manzur and his two accom-

plices. Finding no alternative

Major General Manzur and Ma-

ior Reza came out of their hid-

ing and surrendered. The Police

searched for Major Gias for

sometime and being un-

able to apprehend him finally left for the Police Station

along with the party of Major

General Manzur. It was about

5 p.m. when they reached the

police station. As soon as the

news spread that Major Gen-

eral Manzur had been appre-

hended a large number of agi-

tated people collected around

the police station. Major Gen-

eral Manzur was handed over

to the police by the police

officer. The police took

the party of Major General

Manzur and Major Reza

and Major Gias and Major

Iazdani and Major Motiur

Rahman and Major Muzaffar

and Major Jamil and Major

Reza and Major Motiur and

Major Iazdani and Major Gias

and Major Motiur and Major

Iazdani and Major Motiur and

Major Motiur and Major Motiur

and Major Motiur and Major

Reza and Major Motiur and

Major Motiur and Major Motiur

and Major Motiur and Major