

Manzur, Moti, Mahboob conceived conspiracy

Mutineers wanted to capture state power

By A Staff Correspondent

The second part of the submission of the Prosecution in the Chittagong Mutiny case was issued on Tuesday which stated that Major General M.A. Manzur and his accomplices conspired to stage the mutiny and kill the President for forcible capturing of power.

The Prosecution submission stated that by the end of 1980 Major General M.A. Manzur's attitude towards late President Ziaur Rahman became very apathetic and disrespectful. His conduct during the passing out parade dinner on December 20, '81 is an instance in point.

The plan for a possible mutiny and conspiracy to kill the President was prepared and conceived by Major General Manzur in collaboration with two other architects namely Late Lt. Col. Motiur Rahman and Late Lt. Col. Mahboobur Rahman nephew of Major General Manzur. Other accomplices who rendered assistance to implement the conspiracy included Lt. Col. Delwar Hossain and Major Khaled.

Following is the text of the third instalment of Chapter Three of the White Paper:—

"By the end of 1980 Major General M. A. Manzur's attitude towards late President Ziaur

Rahman became very much apathetic and disrespectful. His conduct during the passing out parade dinner on 20th December, 1980 is a case in point.

"The plan for a possible mutiny and conspiracy to kill the President was prepared and conceived by Major General Manzur in collaboration with two other architects, namely, late Lieutenant Colonel Motiur Rahman and late Lieutenant Colonel Mahboobur Rahman, nephew of Major General Manzur. Other accomplices of the above who rendered assistance to implement the conspiracy included Lieutenant Colonel Delwar Hossain and Major Khaled. It was planned and thought necessary by above conspirators along with others to stage the mutiny and kill the President for forcible capturing the State power. The Junior Officers JCO's and other ranks should be won over to their side by focussing the failures of the Government and the miseries and sufferings of the people to them. By exploiting the alleged corruptions in the Government among the politicians, particularly the Ministers, inflation, deteriorating law and order situation, the conspirators thought of achieving their success to misguide the forces in the area and for siding with them as rebels in staging the mutiny and violently overthrowing the legally established Government headed by late President Zia.

"For the success of the conspiracy Major General Manzoor compromised Army discipline and official formalities and began to mix with the officers freely, entertained them in his house including playing cards with them for becoming closer to them. He went on addressing all ranks whenever he got an opportunity to motivate for subscribing to and supporting

his political philosophy and plan.

"Towards the end of February, 1981 Lt. Col. Delwar was apprised by Lt. Col. Moti about two plans of mutiny. His first plan was on 19th December 1980. A passing out parade of the BMA Cadets was due on 20th December 1980. President Ziaur Rahman and other senior Armed Forces Officers were also due to attend the same. It was decided that Major General Manzoor as GOC would host a dinner on 19th December 1980 in the EBRC Officers Mess where all VIP's including the President will be invited. There all of them were then planned to be hauled up. Alternatively, if the President stayed at the Circuit House at Chittagong then two groups were to raid the Circuit House and lift him to the EBRC Parade Ground.

"The next plan was during the Exercise Ironshield amphibious landing which was planned at Cox's Bazar. It was decided that the said landing should be witnessed by late President Ziaur Rahman, Services Chiefs and other senior Officers. The plan was to lift the President and other senior Officers to East Bengal Regimental Centre Parade Ground and forcibly ask the President to accept their demands which included, among other formation of a Revolutionary Council, abrogation of the Constitution and no election for three years and no political activities during that period.

"Major General Manzur continued with his plan to motivate the Officers Junior Commissioned Officers and other Ranks and dept on addressing them on every opportunity. The last such address he delivered was on 23rd May 1981 at the Hathazari Long Range

where Divisional Anti-Tank Cadre was being run. Instead of talking about their profession and performance he dwelt at length all aspects which were political and objectionable. For building up his so-called personal image as an intellectual he became the chief patron of an organisation operating under the name and style "The Trend Setters".

"This clandestine organisation is headed by a student of the Chittagong University and this organisation organised a seminar on 10th May, 1981 which was presided over by Major General Manzur and the seminar was aimed at popularising the so called political philosophy of Major General Manzur. Interestingly the President of "The Trend Setters" named Mr Ziaur Rahman as mentioned above met the rebel Major General Manzur on 29th May 1981 at about 8 P.M. in his office and thereafter on 30th May 1981 this Ziaur Rahman carried a coded message connected with the mutiny to other places.

Amendment White Paper released on 06 August 1981.

Mutineers

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"Government attention is drawn to a portion of the content of the White Paper which deals with the deployment of Police personnel for the security of the Circuit House. The columns of the appropriate headings should read as follows: "Total number of persons available for deployment" instead of "Number of persons to be posted" and "Actual number posted on shift duty" instead of "Actual number posted". The first sentence following the table should read 'It will be seen out of 127 uniformed Police men and 39 plain clothed Special Branch Personnel were posted on shift duty for the security of the President'. Instead of existing sentence.