

AGARTALA CONSPIRACY THE MASS UPRISING

- ❖ 1968 Agartala conspiracy case,
- ❖ 11 points demand,
- ❖ 1969 mass movement and the fall of Ayub Khan
- **❖** Significance

AGARTALA CONSPIRACY CASE

- The Agartala Conspiracy Case was a sedition case in Pakistan during the rule of Ayub Khan.
- The case was against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of the Awami League and East Pakistan, and 34 other people.

BACKGROUND

- Ayub interpreted Sheikh Mujib's six demands as similar to a call for independence.
- When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman demanded the six-point, Ayub Khan became very upset.
- So, he called Sheikh Mujib as a separatist and rejected the six-point demand.



BACKGROUND

 Later, Sheikh Mujib and others were accused of conspiring at Agartala in India to separate East Pakistan from Pakistan through an armed revolution with India's help.



THE BASIS OF THE CASE

- In 1962/1963 Bangabandhu visited Tripura secretly.
- In Agartala, he met Shachindralal Singha, the then Congress leader who became the Chief Minister of Tripura later.
- Bangabandhu sent a message to the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru seeking his support for the armed movement through Shachindralal Singha.
- But it was uncovered by Pakistan intelligence.

CASE

- A case was filed in January 1968.
- The Government framed the charged saying Bangabandhu led a secret meeting with Indian government officials in Agartala.
- In the meeting a plan was designed to liberate East Pakistan through armed movement with the assistance from the Government of India.

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

- A special tribunal was formed for the disposal of the Agartala Case.
- The hearing of the case started at 11 a.m. on 19 June 1968 in a chamber inside Dhaka Cantonment.
- There were 227 witnesses including 11 approvers.

DEFENSE TEAM

- A defense team of the lawyers of the accused persons was formed under the leadership of prominent lawyer Abdus Salam Khan.
- Sir Thomas William filed a writ petition in Dhaka High Court on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman challenging the legality of the formation of the tribunal.

MASS UPRISING AND CASE WITHDRAWN

• At last, in the face of the mass movement, the Ayub government was ultimately compelled to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy Case.

• All the accused including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were released on 22 February 1969.

- This case played a vital role to ignite nationalist consciousness among Bangalis.
- The purpose that inspired Ayub Government to lodge the case did not gain any success; rather it acted as a boomerang against Ayub Government.

- Sheikh Mujib became an unrivaled leader.
- The withdrawal of the case exposed the weakness of the Pakistani government.
- In the minds of the Bengalis intense hatred, anger and mistrust were created against the Pak rulers.

 On March 25, 1969, Ayub Khan was forced to step down.

• The direct effect of this case can be seen in the election of 1970. In the 1970 elections, the Awami League won 167 out of 169 seats.

MASS UPRISING

 The 1969 uprising in East Pakistan was a democratic political movement in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).



MASS UPRISING

- •The mass uprising in 1969 is that the entire people of East Pakistan staged against the dictator Ayub Khan on the basis of
 - >Six-points and 11 points in 1969.

AIM

•Implementing democracy and establishing autonomy and ending all anti-people forces and military rule is known as the 1969 uprising.

DAC AND SAC

- Gradually the mass movement in East Pakistan turned to mass upsurge in 1969. Some political parties including Awami League, National Awami Party formed a Democratic Action Committee (DAC).
- The students of East pakistan were united against this repressive policy. They formed an All- Party Struggle council which later came to be known as the Student's Action Committee (SAC).

AGITATION

- The student agitation turned into a vigorous mass movement under the leadership of Maulana Bhashani.
- As a part of joint program, the National Awami Party, East Pakistan Workers' Federation and East Pakistan Peasants' Association arranged a public meeting at Paltan Maidan to observe the Repression Resistance Day on 6 December 1968.

MAULANA BHASHANI

• <u>(147) মওলানা ভাসানী: A Forgotten Hero's Untold Legacy | Nasir Tamzid</u> <u>Official - YouTube</u>

HARTAL

- Maulana Bhashani declared a hartal the next day, following the violent clash between the police and the demonstrators.
- Awami League observed Repression Resistance Day on 10 December.
- A 'Gherao' program was staged on 29 December.

GHERAO MOVEMENT

- From the end of November 1968 onwards, Maulana Bhashani called upon the rural poverty-stricken peasantry to 'Gherao' (surround) the houses of the corrupt development officers and Tahsil offices.
- In many districts such 'Gherao' started from December.

STUDENT UNITY

 The leaders of Chhatra League, Chhatra Union (Matia and Menon group) and Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) sat together on 4 January 1969 and formed a united front known as Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All Parties Student Resistance Council).

11 POINT BY STUDENTS

- The 11 Points included the Six Points of Awami League as declared by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,
 - >including provincial autonomy,
 - >the demands centering around students own demands
 - >as well as the demands relating to the problems of the workers.

11 POINT BY STUDENTS

- The demands relating to the interest of the Bangali middle class peasants and workers were also included in the Eleven Points demand.
- Consequently, the Eleven Points movement addressed wide public support in East Pakistan, and the leadership of the anti-Ayub movement virtually came within the grip of the student leaders.
- The student movement was initiated in October 1968, reached its climax in January 1969, and by mid January culminated into a mass movement.
- The Eleven Points movement of the students had direct contribution towards preparing the background of the War of Liberation.

MAULANA BHASANI

- Mass discontent with Ayub Khan's rule increased.
- Maulana Bhashani, meanwhile, was the first to end his support to the 11-Point demand of the students.
- He took recourse to the "Gherao" movement to realise the demands of various other groups, particularly workers and peasants.

MAULANA BHASANI

 On 8 January eight parties formed an alliance known as 'Gonotantrik Sangram Parishad' (Democratic Action Committee/DAC) and placed forward 8 points demand.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

• 18 January, hartal by students and police brutally attacked them.

 On 20 January students observed hartal in East Pakistan to protest that brutality.

ASAD AND OTHERS

- On 20 January 1969, there were numerous clashes between police and students. During these clashes, Assaduzzaman, a student of the Law Department of the Dhaka University, was killed.
- In protest of killing Asad, students undertook extensive program on 22, 23 and 24 January.
- The police shot dead 6 students from Nabakumar School. This led to a broader anti-government movement, and violent mob agitation gradually spread throughout East and West Pakistan.



KILLING OF JAHIRUL HAQ & SHAMSUZZOHA

- Meanwhile, two incidents added fuel to the fire.
- These were the unfortunate deaths of
 - >Sergeant Jahirul Haq, accused of the Agartala Case on 15 February 1969,
 - **▶Dr. Shamsuzzoha** a teacher at Rajshahi University, following a shooting incident on 17 February 1969.
- Riots became intense and a curfew was imposed in Dhaka.

RELEASE OF SHEIKH MUJIB

- With almost all sections of society students, laborers, peasants, educationists, thinkers and artists opposing his rule, Ayub Khan was forced to make concessions.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was released on 22
 February. On the same day the Agartala Conspiracy
 Case was dropped.

ROUND TABLE

- At the round table conference, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman demanded autonomy for East Pakistan, as set in his 6 points (and the 11 points of the Students' Action Committee).
- Ayub Khan would not accept this demand and the talks ended in failure.

CONSEQUENCES

- After the failure of the talks, the situation in East Pakistan deteriorated to such an extent that law order began to break down.
- Production dropped to dangerously low levels and the economy an to suffer.
- On 25 March 1969, Ayub Khan was forced to resign and hand over power to Yahya Khan Commander in Chief of the Pakistan Army.

- □On March 25, 1969, Ayub Khan was forced to resign.
- □ The Agartala conspiracy case was withdrawn on 22 February.
- □Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was conferred the title of Bangabandhu.
- **□** Awareness of rights of Bengalis increased.
- **□** Democratic aspirations are awakened.

- □The political prisoners were released from prison.
- **□Bengali nationalism was strengthened.**
- □The mass uprising of 1969 played a vital role in 1970 elections.
- □The mass uprising of 1969 inspired the war of independence.

Mass Uprising of 1969

The 1969 uprising in East Pakistan was a democratic political movement in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The mass uprising in 1969 is that the entire people of East Pakistan staged against the dictator Ayub Khan on the basis of six points and 11 points in 1969 with the aim of implementing democracy and establishing autonomy and ending all anti-people forces and military rule is known as the 1969 uprising.

The mass uprising of 1969 brought down the oppressive and dictatorial ruler Ayub Khan.

Background of the Mass Uprising in 1969:

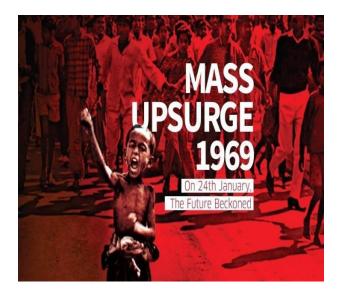
- ➤ Reluctance to grant autonomy to East Pakistan.
- ➤ An unreasonable decision to make Urdu the state language.
- ➤ The election of 1954.
- ➤ Military rule which was imposed in 1958.
- ➤ Boundless inequality between East and West Pakistan.
- ➤ Students' movement of 1962 and 1964
- ➤ Six-point movement and reluctance to grant due rights.
- > Agartala conspiracy case of 1968.

Events of Mass Uprising:

The mass uprising of 1969 was divided into several stages.

- 1.From 6th December to 29th December, 1968
- 2.From 4th January to 19th January 1969.
- 3.From January 20, 1969 to February 22.
- 4.From February 23 to March 25, 1969.





The student agitation turned into a vigorous mass movement under the leadership of Maulana Bhashani.

December 6, 1968:

The National Awami Party, East Pakistan Workers' Federation and East Pakistan Peasants' Association arranged a public meeting at Paltan Maidan to observe the Repression Resistance Day on 6 December 1968. Maulana Bhashani declared a hartal the next day, following the violent clash between the police and the demonstrators.

December 10, 1968: Awami League observed Repression Resistance Day on 10 December.

December 29, 1968:

A 'gherao' program was staged on 29 December.

January 4, 1969

- ❖ The leaders of Chhatra League, Chhatra Union (Matia and Menon group) and Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) sat together on 4 January 1969 and formed a united front known as Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All Parties Student Resistance Council).
- Chhatra Sangram Parishad presented 11 points program, a combination of the six points of Bangabandhu and few other demands.11 points got support of the Bangalees from all strata of life very soon.

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