



# Agartala Conspiracy Case (Complete)

Agartala Conspiracy Case a case framed by the Pakistan Government in **1968** during the Ayub regime

**against Awami League chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, some in-service and ex-service army personnel and high government officials. They were accused of involvement in a conspiracy (ষড়যন্ত্রে জড়িত থাকার অভিযোগ) to secede (বিচ্ছিন্ন করা) the East wing from Pakistan with the help of the government of India. The petitis principii (পিটিটিস প্রিন্সিপিটি) in the petition was that the conspiracy was concocted between the Indian party and the accused persons at Agartala city of Tripura in India. The case was thus called Agartala Conspiracy Case. However, the Pakistan government was compelled to withdraw(প্রত্যাহার করতে বাধ্য হয়) the case in the face of a mass movement in East Pakistan. যাইহোক, পূর্ব পাকিস্তানে গণআন্দোলনের মুখে পাকিস্তান সরকার মামলাটি প্রত্যাহার করতে বাধ্য হয়।

Since the birth of Pakistan, the people of East Pakistan were deprived of their (বঞ্চিত) rights in all spheres. Consequently, a general resentment against the Pakistani rulers raised among the people of East Pakistan. The demand for autonomy as placed through the Six Point Programme of the Awami League chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman thus received the spontaneous support of the people of East Pakistan.

The acute discrimination in the armed forces led some Bangali army officers and soldiers to be united secretly. Knowing full well that the interest of the Bangalis could never be served under the rulers of West Pakistan(,শাসকদের অধীনে বাঙালিদের স্বার্থ কখনই পূরণ হতে পারে না) they decided to make East Pakistan independent through an armed revolt. With this end in view, they began to mobilise(একত্রিত ) army personnel secretly. The conspiracy was detected by the intelligence department(গোয়েন্দা বিভাগ ) of the government. Nearly one thousand five hundred Bangalis throughout Pakistan were arrested by the intelligence force.

The Home Department(স্বরাষ্ট্র বিভাগ ) of Pakistan declared through a press-note issued on 6 January 1968 that the government had detected in December 1967 a conspiracy detrimental to the national interest of Pakistan.(জারি করা একটি প্রেস নোটে মাধ্যমে ঘোষণা করে যে সরকার 1967 সালের ডিসেম্বরে পাকিস্তানের জাতীয় স্বার্থের জন্য ক্ষতিকর একটি ষড়যন্ত্র সনাক্ত করেছে।) The press-note disclosed the news of the arrest of 8 persons including 2 CSP officers and alleged that the persons seized were

**involved in attempting to separate East Pakistan through armed revolt.** Through a separate declaration issued on 18 January 1968 the Home Department implicated(জড়িত ) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the conspiracy. He was then detained in jail along with many others since 9 May 1966. They were released, only to be arrested again under martial law regulations and were taken to Dhaka Cantonment under military custody. তাদের মুক্তি দেওয়া হয়েছিল, শুধুমাত্র সামরিক আইনের বিধিতে আবার গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়েছিল এবং সামরিক হেফাজতে ঢাকা সেনানিবাসে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়েছিল।

Initially the government decided to court martial the accused, but subsequently in the interest of

the proper holding of the general elections of 1970 the government resolved to frame charge only

against 35 concerned political personalities and high government officials under civil law. The persons included in the charge-sheet were প্রাথমিকভাবে সরকার অভিযুক্তদের কোর্ট মার্শাল করার সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়, কিন্তু পরবর্তীতে 1970 সালের সাধারণ নির্বাচনের সুষ্ঠু অনুষ্ঠানের স্বার্থে সরকার শুধুমাত্র 35 জন রাজনৈতিক ব্যক্তিত্ব এবং উচ্চ সরকারি কর্মকর্তাদের বিরুদ্ধে দেওয়ানি আইনের অধীনে অভিযোগ গঠনের সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়। চার্জশিটে থাকা ব্যক্তির হাল-

1. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,

2. Commander Moazzem Hossain,
3. Steward Mujibur Rahman,
4. former LS Sultanuddin Ahmad,
5. LSCDI Nur Mohammad,
6. Ahmed Fazlur Rahman CSP,
7. Flight Sergeant Mahfiz Ullah,
8. Corporal Abdus Samad,
9. former Havildar Dalil Uddin, Ruhul Quddus CSP,
10. Flight Sergeant Md. Fazlul Haq,
11. Bibhuti Bhushan Chowdhury alias Manik Chowdhury,
12. Bidhan Krishna Sen,
13. Subedar Abdur Razzaque,
14. former clerk Mujibur Rahman,
15. former Flight Sergeant Md. Abdur Razzaque,
16. Sergeant Zahurul Haq,
17. AB Khurshid,
18. Khan Mohammad Shamsur Rahman CSP,
19. AKM Shamsul Haque,
20. Havildar Azizul Haq,
21. Mahfuzul Bari,
22. Sergeant Shamsul Haq,
23. Shamsul Alam,
24. Captain Md. Abdul Motaleb,
25. Captain A Shawkat Ali Mian,
26. Captain Khondkar Nazmul Huda,
27. Captain M Nuruzzaman,

28. Sergeant Abdul Jalil,
  29. Mahbub Uddin Chowdhury,
  30. Lt. M Rahman, former Subedar Tajul Islam,
  31. Ali Reza, Captain Khurshid Uddin Ahmed
  32. Lt. Abdur Rauf.
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A special tribunal was formed after an amendment was made in the penal code to that end for the disposal of the case. মামলা নিষ্পত্তির জন্য দণ্ডবিধিতে সংশোধনী আনার পর একটি বিশেষ ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করা হয়। The hearing of the case started on 19 June 1968 under Sections 121-A and 131.

**Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was enrolled as accused No.1.** The case was entitled '**State vs Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others**'

. The tribunal started proceedings of the case in a highly protected chamber inside Dhaka Cantonment. ট্রাইব্যুনাল ঢাকা সেনানিবাসের অভ্যন্তরে একটি অতি সংরক্ষিত চেম্বারে মামলার কার্যক্রম শুরু করে। A charge-sheet consisting of 100 paragraphs against the

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accused was placed before the tribunal. There were 227 witnesses including 11 approvers.

However, 4 approvers were declared hostile by the government. ট্রাইব্যুনালে ৩৫ আসামির বিরুদ্ধে ১০০টি অনুচ্ছেদ সম্বলিত চার্জশিট পেশ করা হয়। 11 জন অনুমোদনকারী সহ 227 জন সাক্ষী ছিলেন। তবে, 4 অনুমোদনকারীকে সরকার শত্রু হিসাবে ঘোষণা করেছিল।

Thomas William, a British lawyer and a member of the British Parliament, filed a writ(আদেশপত্র) petition in Dhaka High Court on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman challenging the legality of the formation of the tribunal(ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠনের বৈধতা চ্যালেঞ্জ করে). He was assisted in conducting legal proceedings in the special tribunal by Abdus Salam Khan, Ataur Rahman Khan, and others. The government lawyers leading the case were the former foreign minister Manzur Quader and Advocate General TH Khan. Justice SA Rahman, the Chairman of the three-member tribunal, was a non-Bangali.

The other members MR Khan and Maksumul Hakim were Bangalis. The government was bent on identifying Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a **seperatist and an Indian agent** thereby arousing public support against him. But the approvers on the witness-box declared that the government had compelled them by threat and oppression to submit false evidence in its favour. কিন্তু সাক্ষী-বাক্সে অনুমোদনকারীরা ঘোষণা করেছে যে সরকার তাদের পক্ষে মিথ্যা প্রমাণ দাখিল করতে হুমকি ও নিপীড়নের মাধ্যমে তাদের বাধ্য করেছে। Thus the governmental conspiracy against the accused got exposed. এতে অভিযুক্তদের বিরুদ্ধে সরকারি ষড়যন্ত্র ফাঁস হয়ে যায়। By this time the Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad supported by Maulana Abdu Hamid Khan Bhasani organised mass movement against the conspiracy of the government and demanded immediate withdrawal of the case and release of all prisoners including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. এই সময়ের মধ্যে মওলানা আবদু হামিদ খান ভাসানী সমর্থিত সর্বদলীয় ছাত্র সংগ্রাম পরিষদ সরকারের ষড়যন্ত্রের বিরুদ্ধে গণআন্দোলন সংগঠিত করে এবং অবিলম্বে মামলা প্রত্যাহার ও শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানসহ সকল রাজবন্দীর মুক্তির দাবি জানায়।

At a point when the streets of Dhaka became a hot bed of turmoil(অশান্তির শয্যা), Sergeant Zahurul Haq, 17th accused ( ১৭তম আসামি) in the case, shot to death while in confinement (বন্দি) in Dhaka Cantonment. The news of his death led a furious mob( উত্তেজিত জনতা) to set fire to the State Guest House(রাষ্ট্রীয় অতিথি ভবন) as well as other buildings. S.A Rahman, Chairman of the tribunal, and Manzur Quader, chief lawyer on the government side, who were then residing in the guest house, evacuated secretly. (গোপনে সরিয়ে নেন) Some of the files concerning the case were burnt to ashes.(মামলার কিছু ফাইল পুড়ে ছাই হয়ে গেছে) In the face of the mass movement, the Ayub government was ultimately compelled to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy Case on 22 February 1969. All the accused, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were released unconditionally. On the following day (23 February), a grand public reception(গণসংবর্ধনা) was accorded to the accused at Paltan Maidan in Dhaka where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was vested with the appellation(উপাধিতে ভূষিত করা) of '**Bangabandhu**'.