That meant the leader -- Sheikh Mujib -- would have to leave the country and lead the insurrection from outside. He was under the impression that once a call was given many, if not all, would flock to Mujib and he would lead a victorious armada of liberation.

To that end, he spent several months in Calcutta, camping out with his colleagues waiting for some murmur of coming together, but nothing occurred. He was becoming disillusioned. He wanted Nehru to meet Mujib and thought once that happened, the rest would follow. It didn't, and they all returned back to Dhaka. And soon after, 1958 happened. It made him both scared and desperate.

By 1961, he made contact with the Indian High Commission for Mujib to cross over to India. Several first-hand contacts say it happened in early 1962.

Taking a car to Tejgaon, driven by Reza Ali (nephew of Moazzem Chowdhury), and then a train to Sylhet accompanied by Zakir Khan Chowdhury (BNP cabinet minister as well as the brother of another minister and freedom fighter Zakaria Chowdhury), they reached the tea garden of Syudul Hasan, aristocrat socialist follower of Maulana Bhashani.

"Mrs. Hasan gave Sheikh Mujib a large coat which fitted poorly, and then we walked the long way to the border. At one point, I left him, and he went ahead alone to India and to destiny."

It was a misadventure, something which Moazzem Chowdhury says turned Mujib bitter towards Indian intentions. "Apparently, the IHC at Dhaka failed to deliver a message that Mujib was coming, so when he reached the Indian police station expected to be treated like a visiting leader of a state to be, he was simply arrested. By the time, the misunderstandings and all the rest were cleared up by Delhi, the matter was over. It was also no longer a secret."

An angry Mujib trekked back, his

