

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

## Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Third Prosecution Witness

(Continued from Wednesday)  
Cross-examination of Mohammad Selim alias Abdul, the third prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, continued for the third day on Wednesday, July 23.

Excerpts from the cross-examination by advocate TM Akbar, defence counsel for accused Col (LPR) Muiyuddin, follow:

Q: Can you read *halafnama*?  
A: No, I can't.  
Q: Can you read and write Bangla and English?  
A: I can neither read nor write.

Q: Do you know the names of the months of the English calendar?  
A: Not all the months.  
Q: What names can you mention?  
A: January, February, April, June, August, September.

Q: Can you say what was the month on 3.10.96?  
A: I can't.  
Q: Where did you work as moshalchi?  
A: Then my services was at Bangabandhu, but I worked at the residence of Bangabandhu.

Q: From where did you receive salary?  
A: From Bangabandhu.  
Q: Where did your fellow pantryman work at that time?  
A: He worked at Bangabandhu.

Q: At that time there was no pantry at the house of Bangabandhu. What did you do then?  
A: I did what I was asked to do.

Q: Is it true that there was an attached bathroom in the north of Bangabandhu's bedroom?  
A: Yes, true.

Q: Adjacent to this, there was a staircase in the north-western side. Correct?  
A: No, there was a backside staircase adjacent to the room of Hasina apa.

Q: One had to go through the dining room for Bangabandhu's room to the northern staircase.  
A: Yes.

Q: Where was the hall room?  
A: A room without any partition was used as hall room and also as dining room.

Q: Where did you sleep?  
A: In front of the door of the dining room.

Q: Was there any separate bathroom for you?  
A: We had no separate bathroom. Usually, we used the bathroom of Hasina apa.

Q: Did you enter the bathroom to hide yourself?  
A: No, I entered the bathroom to protect me from bullets.

Q: Was the door of Bangabandhu's room made of wood?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Was it the President's house?  
A: The house was not built for President. It was built for general people.

Q: Was it difficult to open the door of Bangabandhu's room?  
A: No, it could be opened easily.  
Q: There was an open place in the north of Bangabandhu's house.

A: Yes, several small cars could be kept there.  
Q: What type of car?  
A: Private car.

Q: Was there any room in the west of pigeons' nest?  
A: There was a tinshed for cows.

Q: There was another shed in the south of the pigeon-holes?  
A: Not at that time.  
Q: Earlier?  
A: I can't remember.

Q: There was another tinshed in the west of the cowshed?  
A: This is not correct.  
Q: Where was the kitchen?  
A: The kitchen was in the south of the cowshed.

Q: Was the garage two-storey?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Was the garage in the north-west corner of the main building of Bangabandhu's house?  
A: Yes.

Q: You didn't tell the Investigation Officer (IO) that "I got courage when two black uniformed men came to me as I thought they had come after receiving the news of attack on the house of Bangabandhu", did you?  
A: I told him.

Q: You didn't tell the IO that "one armyman indicating me told another to take me to hospital as bullet struck me".  
A: I told him.

Q: You didn't tell him that "I told them that all have been killed when they asked me about Bangabandhu's house".  
A: I told him.

Q: The cowshed was in the south of the pigeon holes.  
A: This is not correct.  
Q: All you said are false.  
A: Your statement is not

true.  
Examination by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for Col (ret'd) Syeed Farooqur Rahman:  
Q: You are from Mehendi-ganj of Barisal. I also hail from the same district. Was your village home devoured by river erosion?  
A: No.

Q: Was there any relative of Bangabandhu in Barisal?  
A: Yes.  
[Judge Kazi Golam Rasul smiled and remarked: He is more smart today.]

Q: Did they come to the house of Bangabandhu?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Was your service full time at the house of occurrence?  
A: Excepting the time for sleeping.

Q: Where there army security at the house before the outsider army personnel came there?  
[Defence counsel Abdur Razzak Khan, hearing some words from the prosecution side, urged the court to refrain them from giving suggestion to the witness. One of his junior lawyers said they would be compelled to boycott the court if such situation continued.]

Prosecution lawyer Ramjan Ali said objection is a must if any question is repeated. The court told him: You can raise the point of repetition, but can't suggest an answer. Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman urged the court to record that the witness was silent regarding his question. The judge explained the questions to witness Selim.

A: Yes, there were army and police security personnel.  
Q: There were army security at the main gate on the road?  
A: There were both army and police security personnel.

Q: The outsider army were coming from eastern side by firing.  
A: I was inside the house. I thought it was from the south.  
Q: When did the inmates of the house wake up? Before the firing or after hearing the firing?  
A: I can't say.

[As the defence counsel asked the question again, prosecution lawyers said he already replied that he couldn't say. Advocate Rahman sought protection from the court.]  
Q: Did you wake up hearing the firing?  
A: I woke up hearing the sound of the door of Bangabandhu and I heard firing.

Q: Where you an associate-friend of Sheikh Kamal?  
A: Yes, I played with him, before joining work at the house.  
Q: Did your friendship continue. They were very good people.  
[Court: Did you have the same relationship as before?]  
A: The relation was as servant.

Q: Did you have any special relation with anyone of the Bangabandhu family or there was a distance?  
A: There was no special relationship.  
Q: Did all the bedrooms at Bangabandhu's house have attached bathrooms?  
A: Please tell me one after another.

Q: Bangabandhu's?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Kamal's?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Jamal's?  
A: Yes, but it had two doors.  
Q: What about the rest four rooms on the first floor?  
A: There was a bathroom attached to the room of Hasina apa. It had two doors. The rest didn't have any.

Q: How wide was the corridor?  
A: I don't know the meaning of corridor.  
Q: You mentioned about it. [Court: Do you not know the meaning of corridor?]  
A: I took it as verandah.  
Q: How wide was the corridor?  
A: Of the first floor?  
Q: Yes.

A: I don't know the measurement.  
Q: Measurement by your hand.  
A: Approximately four to five hands.  
Q: Was the corridor open form the south direction?  
A: There was boundary wall.

Q: I am not talking about the ground floor.  
A: Yes, it was open.  
Q: Do you have any injury on your backside?  
A: No, there isn't any injury or any injury mark.

Q: On the two sides?  
A: There is bullet wounded mark on the left side.  
[Court: On the left side of your abdomen?]  
A: Yes. On both sides — left and right.  
Q: How many wheels does a tank have?  
A: I am a civilian. I didn't

count the number of wheels of a tank.  
Q: Is there any hood at the back of a tank?  
A: I can't say. I didn't notice.  
Q: At the front?  
A: There is a barrel to fire at the front.

Q: Did the outsider army personnel go at the back of the house?  
A: Didn't notice.  
Q: Was there any south-facing door of any room at the north of the house?  
A: No.

Q: Did you watch TV at the house of Bangabandhu?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Did you watch TV with the family members or there was a separate arrangement for you?  
A: We watched TV together.

Q: Also with the female members?  
A: With all members — males, females, boys and girls.  
Q: Where did you sit? On the floor or sofa?  
A: I sat on the floor.

Q: How many TVs were there at that house?  
A: Four.  
[Several lawyers of the prosecution in low voice remarked that the killers who also looted the house on the night were perfect persons to give the answer.]

Q: Members of Bangabandhu family, did not they come to the ground floor to watch TV?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Was there a separate bathroom for you on the ground floor?  
A: Did the securitymen come to the house afresh on the night or they were posted earlier?

Q: They were not allowed to watch TV with others of the family as there was a distance because you were a servant.  
A: Not correct.  
Q: For the same distance you had used separate bathroom. They did not allow you to use their bathroom.  
A: No, we were allowed.

Q: What was the distance?  
[Prosecution lawyer Ramjan Ali wanted to know what did advocate Khan Saifur mean by the distance.]  
Q: You didn't feel any distance in watching TV, using bathroom. Obviously, the meal was also the same. Then what was the distance between you and others of the family?  
A: I can't say.

Q: Then distance?  
A: They were special from others.  
Q: Distance?  
A: We were servants. We watched TV sitting on floor, they took meal on table... we did not.

Q: There were big changes at Bangabandhu's house after the liberation.  
A: Some changes...  
[A prosecution lawyer urged the court to allow the witness go for details and Selim said a very small change.]

Q: There was a security system at the house if any outsider wanted to get there.  
A: What do you mean by outsiders?  
Q: People from outside.  
A: There were several stages. Security personnel saluted and allowed high-level army and police officers to enter.

Q: And the low level?  
A: It depended on their necessity.  
[Court: Regarding others?]  
A: The necessity had been checked.

Q: Was Sheikh Kamal injured after the Liberation War when you were at that house?  
A: I can't remember now.  
Q: Please try to remember.  
A: I can't remember.

Q: Can you remember that the Bangabandhu family went to hospital to see Kamal?  
A: I can't remember that they went to hospital to see sick or bullet wounded Kamal. Sometimes, they went to hospital to see their ailing relatives.  
Q: Can you not remember all the family members went to the hospital on a day?  
A: I can't remember.

Q: Did you participate in the War of Liberation?  
A: No, I was stranded with the Bangabandhu family.  
Q: Were you allowed 'polau-korma' or tortured by Pakistani army?  
A: They had a principle. Their duty was only to guard us.

Q: Were the other servants also stranded?  
A: I was alone among the servants.  
[Court: Where were others?]  
A: They went to their respective homes.  
Q: You were injured Khan senas with rifle butt?  
A: Not correct.

Q: Khan senas sent you to medical college hospital for treatment in 1971.  
A: Not true.  
Q: Will you be bleeding if you are fired a shot at?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Did you press yourself when you sustained bullet wounds?  
A: No, I didn't press.

Q: Were you under guard at hospital?  
A: No, the armymen left me at the hospital.  
Q: One group, during the incident, wanted to keep you alive while the other wanted to kill you.  
A: I don't know.

Q: Were there bedsteads at the servant quarters?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Can you remember the bed number at the hospital?  
A: No, I can't remember the bed number, but can remember the ward number at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where I was admitted to. Ward number 32.

Q: What kind of treatment is given at that ward?  
A: I don't know. I found various types of patients there including bullet wounded.  
Q: Did you know people came to hospital to meet you?  
A: My relatives came.  
Q: Please mention the names.  
A: My brother Taher, brother-in-law Kader Mia.

Q: Did they know that you worked at the house of Bangabandhu?  
A: Yes, they knew.  
Q: They did not come to see you on August 15?  
A: They did not know if I was alive or not.

Q: Did you not try to inform them? You were unconscious, your brain was not working?  
A: I couldn't inform them for my ailment.  
Q: You became sick at the house of Bangabandhu?  
A: I became sick being wounded at that house.

Q: You did not submit any document to the IO that were wounded.  
A: I can't remember now.  
Q: In which face you kept your head while sleeping that night?  
A: Facing south.

Q: Was there any room on the southern side.  
A: Yes.  
Q: On which side you used to keep your head while sleeping in bed allotted to you in the servant quarters?  
A: I don't remember.

Q: Often Sheikh Kamal used to take you out in his microbus.  
A: It is not correct.  
Q: The microbus of Sheikh Kamal was damaged during an exchange of fire with police somewhere in Dhaka.  
A: I don't know.

Q: Sheikh Kamal used to go out with his friends from the house carrying arms.  
A: To my knowledge, there were no arms in that house. And I have not seen Kamal bhai going out with his friends carrying arms.

Q: You were with Sheikh Kamal that night and received bullet during firing with police.  
A: It is not true.  
Q: You had free access to every room and every place of that house anytime.  
A: If necessary and if called, I would go.

Q: You were sleeping at the servant quarters during the time of occurrence and you came across the army while going up through the backside staircase after hearing the sound of firing.  
A: Not true.

Q: Bangabandhu used to give description of conversation after talking with anyone over phone or after making any telephone call.  
A: It is far from fact.  
Q: Do you understand VIP?  
A: Yes.

Q: Do you understand what is surrender?  
A: Yes.  
Q: The front staircase was for the use of VIPs and the backside one for the working people and the frontside staircase was prohibited for the use of the servants.  
A: It is not true.

Q: While giving statement you said that you had fear of life at the time of occurrence.  
A: Everyone has got fear for life.  
Q: Hearing the sound of firing from east and then from south you fled away.  
A: It is not true.

Q: During the time of occurrence the height of the wall on the northern side was three feet and there was no barbed wire.  
A: Not correct.  
Q: The bullet struck from the front.  
A: I was shot from front.

Q: Whoever were killed by military that night, bullet went out through their back.  
A: What happened to whom I don't know.  
Q: You were not injured that day.  
A: It is not correct.

Q: On that night police and army also opened fire to resist those who were coming from eastern side.  
A: Not correct.  
Q: While resisting Sheikh Kamal was with the house guards.  
A: Not correct.

Q: Did you meet any of Bangabandhu's relatives in Barisal, down to enquire about the incident?  
A: I did not go.  
Q: You did not neglect your duty as 'moshalchi' till the date of incident.  
A: I did not do any negligence of my duty.

Q: Your duty was to look after the food kept in the pantry of Ganobhaban.  
A: Till my duty time, it was my responsibility to look after the food.  
Q: How was the duty roster used to be prepared by order or there was any register?  
A: I did not have idea till that time how the duty was divided, but now there is a system.

Q: The Ganobhaban was as it is during the time of occurrence.  
A: I was at Bangabandhu's house at Road-32 at the time of occurrence. I don't know what happened at Ganobhaban.  
Q: The file and papers of your job were intact at Ganobhaban.  
A: I don't know, but the file and papers were kept at Bangabhaban.

Q: Your claim as moshalchi during the time of incident was false.  
A: It is not correct.  
Q: To become false witness in this case the job of moshalchi has been created.  
A: Not correct.  
Q: After the incident, the

clothes you were wearing were in your custody.  
A: Those were with me, but were blood-stained.

Examination by Habibur Rahman Mandal, junior to Haji Nazrul Islam, defence counsel for Col (ret'd) Sultan Sharyar Rashid Khan, Mandal was also helped by Abdur Rezzak Khan, counsel for Hon Capt (ret'd) Abdul Wahab Joardar.  
Q: Was there any police case after you were admitted to hospital with bullet wound? Was there any police investigation?  
A: I do not have any idea. The August 15, 1975 incident was of different nature.

Q: Don't you know whether there was any police case?  
A: Yes.  
Q: You have said the August 15, 1975 incident was of a different nature. The president and others were shot. Did you tell the doctors or any patient in the hospital about the incident?  
A: I did not tell them anything, but they wanted to know about it.

Q: No high officials, top political leaders or ministers went to see you at the hospital.  
A: Yes.  
Q: Because, you were neither injured nor went to hospital.  
A: It is not correct.

Q: When you first heard the sound of firing, was it from long distance or from close range?  
A: Probably from close range.  
Q: First, it was two to one.  
A: I don't know whether it was two or one, but I heard the firing.

Q: Was it first intermittent and then continuous?  
A: First at interval.  
Q: What was the number of guards on duty that night?  
A: Through the window of Jamal bhai's room I saw police and army guards on the gate and black-uniformed people entering the house showering bullets.

Q: Did you tell the IO that the armymen who were in the house were in black uniform?  
A: I told him that they were both in black and khaki.  
Q: The black and khaki-uniformed people fired into the main building.  
A: The black fired, but I didn't see any khaki men firing.

Q: You did not tell the IO that you had seen khaki uniform people with the black uniform men.  
A: I said.  
Q: After going to the minister's residing area after your release from the hospital after one month and three days, did you tell the minister about the incident or did the minister ask you anything of it?  
A: I didn't meet the minister. I was with my sister.

Q: You did not try to meet the minister.  
A: No.  
Q: What is the name of your brother-in-law and what was his job?  
A: Abdul Kader. A policeman of special branch.

Q: He used to carry a gun.  
A: A pistol.  
Q: Did you tell your brother-in-law anything?  
A: He was aware about the incident.

Q: Did you ask your brother-in-law whether his minister fled on the day of occurrence?  
A: I did not ask.  
Q: Whether the size of rooms of Bangabandhu's house was big or medium.  
A: I never measured. Kamal bhai's room was quite big and rest were of medium size.

Q: There was a bed, a table and four to five chairs in every room.  
A: In some rooms, there were single beds and in some double beds.  
Q: You heard sound of firing from different sides when you were in that house after being wounded.  
A: I heard firing from bedroom and also from other sides.

Q: You told the IO that after being wounded you heard sound of firing from different sides.  
A: Yes, I told him.  
Q: You did not have any conversation with any of the guards after you were wounded and you did not tell it to the IO.  
A: I did not have any conversation with those who were guards in that house.

Q: Although you have given a false evidence.  
A: It is not true.  
Cross-examination by Sharfuddin Muktal, counsel for accused Taheruddin Thakur:  
Q: You are neither Selim nor Abdul... neither stayed at Bangabandhu's house nor at Ganobhaban. You are a man from agency and are in undercover and saying what you were taught.  
A: Not correct.

Q: None, not even Bangabandhu, was murdered on August 15 in that house.  
A: It is not correct.  
Q: Did you ever see Sheikh Naser's wife?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Is she still alive.  
A: No.

Q: Did you meet Naser's wife after his (Naser) death?  
A: I don't remember.  
Q: Does he (Naser) have any grown-up child?  
A: He was then a child and now a grown-up man. His name is Sheikh Helal.

Q: What does he do.  
A: Probably business.  
Q: Does he do politics?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Where did Sheikh Kamal get married?  
A: In Dhaka.

Q: He was married to the daughter of Badruddin, Chief Engineer of Dhaka University.  
A: Yes. They used to stay beside Medical [Dhaka Medical College Hospital].  
Q: Village home was at Matuail and you used to go there regularly.  
A: I don't know.

Q: Where did Sheikh Jamal get married?  
A: He married his cousin (fufuta bon).  
Q: Daughter of Syed Ahmed.  
A: Yes.  
Q: Where Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana were at the time of incident?  
A: Probably in German (Germany).  
Q: Hasina went to India from Germany.  
A: I don't know.

Q: When was the case, in which you are a witness, filed?  
A: I don't know.  
Q: Who were the youth leaders in August 1975?  
A: I knew the leaders. I don't know whether they were youth leaders or not. I knew many of the Awami League leaders, but I don't know their position or responsibility.

Q: Did you know Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu and Abdur Razzak?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Do you know that Tofael and Razzak are ministers now?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Abdul Malek Ukil was the Speaker during the time of occurrence?  
A: Yes.

Q: Was he in the country at that time?  
A: I can't say.  
Q: You know Sheikh Selim and Sheikh Maruf.  
A: I used to know all the relations of Bangabandhu.  
Q: Tell some names among his (Bangabandhu) relatives who are known figure.  
A: Hasnat bhai (Abul Hasnat Abdullah), Selim bhai (Sheikh Selim).

Q: Sheikh Selim and Maruf are brothers.  
A: Yes.  
Q: Sheikh Hasina came to Delhi on August 25, 1975.  
A: I don't remember.

Q: Sheikh Selim and Maruf were in Delhi with Sheikh Hasina for quite some time.  
A: I don't know.  
Q: Hasina came to Bangladesh from India.  
A: Yes, from abroad.

Q: Can you say the date of Hasina's return? You were waiting for their return.  
A: I was not waiting for their return.  
Q: Did you go to the airport to receive them?  
A: I was in Natore, Rajshahi.

Q: Do you know Obaidul Kader, Mohammad Nasir, now a minister, and Mostafa Mohsin Montu?  
A: Yes. Which Montu, Khasru-Montu... yes I know him.  
Q: Do you know Latif Siddiqui, Dr SA Malek?  
A: Yes.

Q: They used to have political chat with Sheikh Hasina in Delhi.  
A: I don't know.  
Q: Hasina became President of Awami League while in India.  
A: I don't remember.

Q: Where did the marriage of Sheikh Rehana took place?  
A: London.  
Q: Is her (Rehana) husband a foreigner or deshi (Bangladeshi)?  
A: Deshi (Bangladeshi).

Q: When did Ziaur Rahman die, before or after Sheikh Hasina's return?  
A: I know he died, but I don't know when he died, whether before or after the return (of Sheikh Hasina).  
Q: Awami League took part in 1986 elections.  
A: Yes.

Q: In 1978 Osmani was a candidate of Awami League for presidential election.  
A: Probably.  
Q: Did you tell anyone of the incident?  
A: I told something to Hasina apa and Rehana apa, but nothing to others.

Q: Do you know Qahar Akand?  
A: Yes. He recorded my statement.  
Q: How do you know Qahar?  
A: I went to the place of occurrence.

Q: That is now a museum.  
A: Yes. I went there after my higher authorities informed me.  
Q: Was there any curator or any officer at that time in the museum?  
A: I don't know.

Q: How did you know Qahar then?  
A: I asked the policeman at the gate.  
Q: You did not meet anyone at the house in Road-32 and you did not give any statement.  
A: It is not true.

Q: Did you tell the IO that as firing started you went to Kamal bhai's room and took shelter in his bathroom?  
A: I told the IO, but not Kamal bhai's room but Jamal bhai's room.  
Q: You have said when you were in Kamal bhai's bathroom armymen said "you surrender where you are." and then two black-uniformed men came and shot you in the bathroom.  
A: I did not tell about Kamal bhai's room, but I said that I was in Jamal bhai's bathroom.

Q: You did not see anything and are giving evidence in line with what you were taught.  
A: It is not true.  
Q: Bangabandhu and others were killed at the residence of Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal.  
A: It is not true.

—UNB  
Verbatim texts of further cross examinations in Bangabandhu Murder Case shall be published as soon as we received them.

## Garfield®



IAN FLEMING'S

## James Bond



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JIM DAVIS 3-2

## by Jim Davis



JIM DAVIS 3-2



HEY, WAIT! WHAT'S THE HURRY, CHIEF?



SORRY, CHIEF! NEXT TIME KEEP YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS!

## Metropolitan

## Weather

## Moderate rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

Slight rise in day temperature is likely throughout the country.

In its outlook for the subsequent two days weathermen forecast little change. Giving extended outlook for another five days the Met Office predicted increase in rainfall activity at the end period.

Meantime, Mymensingh had 22 mm rain and Sylhet 15 mm shower during last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Barisal.

## Asiatic Society workshop

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh has undertaken a five-year project for compiling a national encyclopedia of Bangladesh in ten volumes. Distinguished scholars from home and abroad have combined to compile this encyclopedia. To discuss the design and core entries of the proposed encyclopedia, a five-day workshop will be held at the Asiatic Society July 25-29, says a press release.

The total budget towards preparing and publishing the encyclopedia in English and Bangla has been estimated at about Taka nine crore. The initial fund for preparing the project proposal will be provided