

FOCUS

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Eleventh Prosecution Witness

Continued from Friday
 Cross-examination of the 11th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, LD (retd) Bashir Ahmed concluded at Dhaka District and Sessions Court on September 2.

Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman, completed his Wednesday's incomplete cross-examination. Following are the excerpts:

Q: Are the majors and the captains in army provided with jeeps for their movement?
 A: Yes.

Q: Is a tank moved by a driver?
 A: Yes.

Q: Was ALD Siraj a member of your squadron in the headquarters?
 A: Yes.

Q: Were all members of the HQSA, who took part in the night parade, issued G-3 rifles?
 A: Yes.

A: Ammunition were given at 9 pm on August 14 and also at 3:30 am on August 15.

Q: Had all of the HQSA, excepting you, taken part in the roll call at 9 pm?
 A: Many, including me, didn't take part in the roll call.

Q: Was ALD Sirajul Haq with you when you went to Bangabandhu's house by a truck on the night?
 A: No.

Q: By which truck he went? Before or after you?
 A: I can't say.

Q: Did you see him at the house of occurrence?
 A: No.

Q: Then did only your truck go to that house?
 A: At first, only our truck went there.

Q: Did other trucks reach when you were on sentry duty at that house?
 A: I didn't see the trucks, but army personnel had come.

Q: No vehicle came to that house, excepting your truck. If so, you would have seen those?
 A: I didn't see vehicles, but I saw army personnel.

Q: How many people were at your truck?
 A: Seven to eight.

Q: Was Dafadar Major Bashir at your HQSA?
 A: Possibly.

Q: Was SDM Abdul Hye at your squadron?
 A: May be.

Q: Besides you, who were at that truck while going to Bangabandhu's house?
 A: Dafadar Sarwar, Captain Bashir, Major Noor, Nayek of the Artillery and three sepoys. I can't recollect names of the Nayek and sepoys.

Q: Who was driving the truck?
 A: He was also from the Artillery. I can't recall his name.

Q: Was the truck from the Artillery?
 A: Yes.

Q: Were the vehicles of Lancer and Artillery kept at the same place?
 A: No.

Tom and Jerry



DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY



Metropolitan

Modhumita Hall installs digital sound system

Latest Hollywood films to be released from Sept 12

Modhumita Cinema Hall in Motijheel has installed digital Dolby stereo sound system.

The system was formally inaugurated yesterday with a screening of Steven Spielberg's all-time blockbuster, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

With the introduction of the new digital sound system, the first in Bangladesh, the latest Hollywood blockbusters will be released in Dhaka simultaneously with European countries from Sept 12, the hall authorities said at a press conference yesterday, held at the hall.

The inaugural function was attended, among others, by Mike Macclesfield, Vice President of International Sales and Development, United Interna-

tional Pictures (UIP), Iftekharul Alam, producer and film distributor, weekly "Chitral" editor Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury and Sarajit Singh, General Manager, Paramount Pictures, India.

Mike Macclesfield, who is visiting Bangladesh to assess the condition of movie theatres here, said the introduction of the system would definitely make a difference.

He said the young generation of Bangladesh was certainly aware of what was happening in other parts of the world through satellite television.

"It is certainly good news for them that they will now be able to enjoy newly-released Hollywood films in local cinema,"

said.

Ahmed Zaman said that satellite television had already posed a great threat to our cinema industry. "With the introduction of the new system in Modhumita Hall, we will be able to face the threat to some extent," he added.

Iftekharul Alam said the government should take necessary steps for protecting the film industry of the country.

He urged the government to reduce the existing rate of tax on cinema hall tickets.

Welcoming the attempt to release new Hollywood blockbusters in Dhaka, he said that films should be imported considering the social condition of the country.

Were you in the beginning of the rows or in the ending?

A: Possibly, I was in the middle.

Q: At one stage, you crossed the gate number-3 of Dhaka Cantonment.

A: Yes.

Q: Where is the third gate?

A: Adjacent to the old airport.

Q: It was the main gate of the Cantonment.

A: Yes.

Q: There is a check-post at the gate for 24 hours.

A: Yes.

Q: You also crossed the 46 Brigade.

A: I can't recall it right now.

Q: Which roads did you cross from the starting of the parade to the main gate?

A: Our regiment was on the extreme north of the Cantonment. It was near Balurghat. I don't know where other regiments were situated.

Q: At one stage your convoy was separated in several parts and they went to different points of the city.

A: Yes.

Q: You can't say from where the separation had begun?

A: I can't say.

Q: You also can't say who was in which part and where they went?

A: I know him since Pakist

Q: You might be an accused in this case. For this you, being taught by the police, have given statement to the magistrate even after the chargesheet was submitted. Being a killer, you have given false statement to the court.

A: Your statement is not true.

Examination by advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (retd) Abdul Wahab Joardar:

Q: Eighteen trucks of the Artillery came out from the Cantonment on August 15.

A: I don't know the exact number.

Q: You didn't count the trucks. There was one more truck.

A: I don't know. I had been informed only about my truck.

Q: Do you know anyone named Subedar Major Sayeed?

A: No.

Q: Can you say who were deployed at the house at road number 32 when you were deployed there?

A: No.

Q: Had you been given any promotion since your repatriation to retirement?

A: No.

Q: You are able to identify the rank badges of a subedar and a subedar major.

A: Yes.

Q: You didn't tell the investigating officer that there was a subedar major of Artillery at the house at road number 32.

A: I told him.

Q: Did you tell him that he was a subedar or subedar major of the Artillery?

A: Yes.

Q: What did you tell the IO — a subedar came out or a subedar major?

A: I told him a subedar or a subedar major.

Q: Quoting the officers present there, you told IO that they asked a subedar to confirm whether all were finished or not.

A: I didn't say subedar. I said subedar or a subedar major.

Q: So, you could not confirm whether he was a subedar or a subedar major.

A: Yes.

Examination by advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (retd) Sultan Sharif Khan Rashid Khan:

Q: Did you go to the night parade for the first time on that day or you attended such parade earlier?

A: Many times earlier.

Q: Normally, when the night parade comes out?

(Judge: did any night parade come out earlier than that you attended?)

A: All the night parades in which I took part in Bangladesh Army were limited within the respective units.

Q: Normally, a night parade starts at 8 pm and ends at dawn.

A: Yes.

Q: The ending means back to the Cantonment.

A: Yes.

Q: What was your position in the night parade on August 15?

A: I was not afraid of court-

martial after the incident?

A: I was not afraid of court-martial as I went there only under the command of my senior officers. But I was panicked and afraid of the incident.

Q: After the incident, did you ask Major Md Nurul Haq whether he received less ammunition that he distributed on that night?

A: No, I didn't ask him.

Q: All the incidents took place since August 14 night were under the order of the Chief of Army Staff. Major General Sharif Khan Rashid Khan:

A: I don't know it.

Q: There was no court-martial as all the incidents took place under the supreme command of the Army.

A: This is not true.

Q: A Sepoy Revolution took place after the August 15 incident. Were you in job at that time?

A: I retired on September 15, 1975.

Q: Didn't you hear that the sepoys killed many officers?

A: I didn't hear such news.

Q: The August 15 incident was occurred by JCOs, NCOs and rankers of the Army.

A: I know him since Pakist

Q: You might be an accused in this case. For this you, being taught by the police, have given statement to the magistrate even after the chargesheet was submitted. Being a killer, you have given false statement to the court.

A: I can't say.

Q: You also can't say who was in which part and where they went?

A: I know him since Pakist

Q: Before making statement at the CID office, you had been assured that you would not be charged if you make statement according to their desire.

A: Your statement is not true.

Q: According to your own statement, you should be an accused.

A: No.

Q: Do you repent for the August 15 incident?

A: I repent and I am sorry for the incident.

Q: You had an active participation in the incident.

A: This is not true.

Q: You disarmed the police guards near Bangabandhu's house. You threatened the civilians brandishing arms.

A: This is not true.

Q: There were shouts and groaning when firing continued inside the house and you continued your duty.

A: I had no connection with accounts.

Q: What was your job then?

A: I went in front of the store at the order of my Havildar Major to attend the parade falling.

Q: There was no documentary evidence of the order of the Havildar Major.

A: No written order was

given.

Q: Did you need to wear uniform while on duty at the ration shop?

A: Yes.

Q: When did you arrive at Bangabandhu's residence?

A: We arrived at Road-32 at about 4:30 to 4:45 am.

Q: You were deployed for duty on the road.

A: Yes.

Q: Your duty was not to allow people from passing the road and shoot, if they did not comply.

A: Yes.

Q: Col Jamil was shot dead on a road.

A: Yes.

Q: In which direction is the lake on the southern side of Road-32?

A: East-West.

Q: Had you seen in your own eyes the gathering of some civilians on the southern side of the lake?

A: Yes.