

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

## Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Fourteenth Prosecution Witness

Cross examination of the 14th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, Dafadar (ret'd) Abdul Jabbar Mridha, began when the court resumed Wednesday morning.

Following are the excerpts from examination by advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence counsel for accused Major (dismissed) Shariful Haq Dalim:

Q: Do you know a permission from higher authorities, besides unit commander, is essential to bring out tanks from the cantonment?

A: This was the matter of Commanding Officer. I don't know.

Q: Did you examine at the MP checkpoint whether there was legal permission for bringing out the tank from the cantonment on early August 15?

A: No.

Q: How many ammunition did you take?

A: I took two magazines, each containing 26 rounds.

Q: How many bullets did you use during the incident?

A: I didn't use any ammunition.

Q: How many army personnel were there in your tank?

A: Five.

Q: Did you take over control of the radio station under the directive of your tank commander?

A: Yes.

Q: How did you disarm the armed security personnel of the radio station?

A: I don't know.

Q: Court: Was there any armed security?

A: I saw darwans in khaki dress. They were not carrying arms.

Q: Was there any armed guard of police or any other forces at the radio station?

A: I don't know.

Q: You told the IO that military officers in civil cars had come to the radio station. Can you give their identity?

A: No, I can't.

Q: How many officers of different corps did you see at the

radio station?

A: 30 to 35.

Q: When did Army Chief General Shafiqullah come to the radio station?

A: At about 8:45 am.

Q: Was there any other person in the car of Shafiqullah?

A: He and his driver.

Q: How many cars did come along with him?

A: I saw Major Dalim in an open jeep. I didn't see any other car.

Q: Was General Shafiqullah in uniform?

A: Yes.

Q: Was his car carrying the flag of Army Chief?

A: Yes.

Q: When did Naval Chief and Air Chief come to the radio station?

A: They came four to five minutes after General Shafiqullah's arrival.

Q: Were they in uniform?

A: Naval Chief was in white dress. I can't recall the dress of the Air Chief.

Examination by advocate Prano Nath, state defence counsel for accused Major (ret'd) Ahmad Sharful Hasan:

Q: Did you go on retirement voluntarily or you were given retirement?

A: I was retired.

Q: Do you know the reason?

A: No.

Q: How long did you serve the Bangladesh Army?

A: About 10 years.

Q: Are Lancer and Armour the same?

A: Lancer is a branch of Armour corp.

Q: In which squadron of Lancer you were?

A: The Headquarters squadron.

Q: How many tanks were there in the Headquarters squadron?

A: Usually, two tanks were kept for the CO and 2-IC of the Headquarters squadron.

Q: Does the night parade take place with live ammunition?

A: No.

Q: Did you see Dafadar

Shafiquddin Sardar in fall-in?

A: Yes, I saw him.

Q: How many bullets does a magazine of a sten-gun contain?

A: 28.

Q: How many personnel are needed for movement of a tank?

A: Five.

Q: How many tanks came out from cantonment on that night?

A: I saw 8 to 10 tanks.

Q: Did the tank return from in front of the radio station after you left the place at 2 pm on August 17?

A: No, it was there.

Examination by advocate Abdus Sattar, state defence counsel for accused Lt (ret'd) Nazmul Hossain Ansari:

Q: CO Major Momin was on leave during the incident. For how long?

A: May be for one month.

Q: You came out with a tank under written or verbal order?

A: Under verbal order of the acting CO.

Examination by advocate Krishnapada Bhoomik, state defence counsel for accused Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin of Lancer:

Q: Who did inform you that night exercise will be held at 8 pm on August 14?

A: RDM Arshad.

Q: Do you know who whistled for the fall-in after 2:30 am on August 15?

A: No, I don't know.

Q: There was no person from other corp other than your regiment during the fall-in.

A: No, there was CO of 2 Field Artillery Major Khandakar Abdur Rashid.

Q: None of Army can take arms and ammunition according to his will.

A: They take arms and ammunition from the NCO of unit armoury under the order of superior officers.

Q: Can you recall the number of the tank by which you went to the radio station?

A: No.

Q: Number of the rest tanks?

A: No.

Examination by advocate Gazi Zillur Rahman, state defence counsel for absconding accused Lt Col (dismissed) Khandakar Abdur Rashid:

Q: Did all the four squadrons of Lancer take part in parade separately?

A: Yes, separately.

Q: Was there any officer during the fall-in after 2:30 am on August 15?

A: Yes.

Q: They were in the front row as the fall-in was by rank?

A: The officers were not on the rows of the fall-in. They were in front of us, facing us.

Q: Can you mention the names of four squadron commanders of the 1st Bengal Lancer?

A: I can recall two names. Major Mohiuddin was commander of Headquarters squadron while Major Feroz of B squadron.

Q: Khandakar Mushtaque was a minister during the incident. Did he come to the radio station by a car carrying minister's flag?

A: No, he came by a military car. Major Rashid was with him.

Following are excerpts from incomplete cross-examination of PW-14 Dafadar Abdul Jabbar Mridha by Advocate Khan Sairur Rahman, defence counsel for Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman:

Q: Tanks move with roaring sound.

A: Yes.

Q: Those who were sleeping in the cantonment as well as others in houses beside the roads would get up following this roaring sound.

A: Yes.

Q: The road straight towards north from radio station runs to the cantonment through its third gate.

A: Yes.

Q: Was it the only way to come out of the cantonment?

A: From Kurmitola Cantonment, we came to radio station through old cantonment railway station, Mohakhali and third gate.

Q: Did you come from Balurghat through cantonment area or outside the cantonment area?

A: Through outside the cantonment area.

Q: Why were the tanks outside the cantonment area?

A: The tank was within the unit. We started from cantonment area of Balurghat.

At this stage the court wanted to know whether they passed through any of the areas of cantonment while coming to the radio station. The witness replied in the negative.

Q: How far is Balurghat from Kurmitola Cantonment?

A: About a quarter mile.

Q: How far is Mohakhali from Kurmitola Cantonment?

A: About two to two and a half miles.

Q: How far is the third gate from Mohakhali?

A: About one to one and a half miles.

Q: From third gate to Firm-gate?

A: About two and a half miles to three miles.

Q: Radio station from Firm-gate?

A: About two and a half miles to three miles.

Q: There is a straight road to radio station from cantonment via third gate.

A: Yes.

Q: Was the distance through straight road less than the

roads you came through to radio station from Balurghat.

A: Yes.

Q: Tanks are kept in garages.

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any idea about operation.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you ever take part in winter exercise?

A: Yes, in Pakistan.

Q: You have an idea about exercise?

A: Yes.

Q: You have an idea about parade and also took part in parade.

A: Yes.

Q: There are illumination shells for tanks.

A: Yes.

Q: Those shells are required for the movement of tanks.

A: No, those shells are used to detect enemies. Tanks can move with headlights.

Q: Are those used during exercise?

A: Yes.

Q: At that time (August 15, 1975) tanks were T-45 B.

A: Those were T-45 model, but I don't know whether those were B.

Q: There is an intercom system in tank.

A: Yes.

Q: Intercom is used inside the tank for the roaring sound.

A: Not that. The intercom is used for communication among people sitting in different positions of the tank.

Q: There is also radio communication system to communicate with other tanks for netting.

A: Yes.

Q: There is call number for

each tank when tanks are in movement.

A: Yes.

Q: The location of one tank can be understood through the call sign.

A: Yes.

Q: At that time, there were infra-red telescopes in the tanks.

A: I can't say, but those telescopes were used in tanks.

Q: Every tank taking part in exercise needs to be prepared by fixing a heavy machine gun, two medium machine guns and a radio set.

A: Yes.

Q: All those things are kept in different stores.

A: Yes.

Q: Those who remained inside a tank used a helmet and wore apparatus on ear.

A: Not helmet, head gears are used.

Q: The head gear is called Tank Crew Helmet (TCH).

A: Yes.

Q: Each tank had a definite destination.

A: I can't say.

Q: Your one had a definite destination.

A: Yes.

Q: All the tanks moved together.

A: Tanks were in garages and started simultaneously.

Q: How far did the tanks move together?

A: Coming from Balurghat, the tanks were together up to Parjatan Office near Bijoy Sarani. After that I can't say. About 8 to 10 tanks moved together.

Q: Was there any military residential area on your way to

radio station?

A: No.

Q: Did you ask where the other tanks had gone.

A: No.

Q: Did you enquire about the tanks which were with you?

A: Only one tank followed us, we did not enquire about it as it was the matter of the tank commander.

Q: On that day, how long you took to prepare all the 30 to 32 tanks.

A: Normally, it takes about an hour to prepare a tank.

Q: Were you with the preparation process?

A: No.

Q: Who were in the preparation process?

A: All the three squadrons prepared their tanks separately.

Q: You were in a tank. Now say whether you were going for operation, exercise or parade.

A: With the idea of an operation, we boarded the tanks under the order of the Commanding Officer.

Q: Artillery and armour help the infantry during exercise and infantry also takes part in exercise.

A: Yes.

Q: At that time (August 15, 1975), 46 Brigade was the infantry in Dhaka.

A: Yes.

Q: There was no tank for headquarters squadron.

A: There were two tanks for headquarters squadron, one was for the CO and another for Two-i-C.

— UNB

Further verbatim texts of cross examination will be published as and when received.

## MOTHER TERESA

## A Symbol of Love and a Protest against Greed

by Dr. Mahboob Hossain

MOTHER Teresa was not only a great humanist, but also a pioneer for peace. Throughout her life she worked for the downtrodden and the unloved, regardless of their caste or creed. She did not hesitate to leave her beloved motherland for the sake of humanity. From an early age, the girl who would become Mother Teresa felt the urge to help others. Born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje (now in Macedonia), Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was the daughter of Albanian parents — a grocer and his wife. As a public school student she developed a special interest in overseas missions and, by age 12, she realized her vocation was helping the poor.

Reports sent home from Jesuit missionaries in Bengal inspired her to work in India. And at the age of 18, she left home to join a community of Irish nuns with a mission in Calcutta. Here, she took the name "Sister Teresa," after Saint Teresa of Lisieux, the patroness of missionaries. She spent 17 years in teaching and being principal of St. Mary's High School in Calcutta. However, in 1946, her life changed forever. Her contribution to humanity can be categorized into various fields.

As reliable friend of the poorest of the poor and destitute: Mother Teresa did not feel pity for the poor like modern day rich people, but she loved them from the core of her heart. In 1946 while riding a train to Darjeeling to recover from suspected tuberculosis, she said she received a calling from God "to serve Him among the poorest of the poor." In 1947 she moved to

Calcutta's slums to set up her first school. In an interview in 1947 she offered her great words of love to the distressed, "I see God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?" In 1952 she opened Nirmal Hriday or "Pure Heart", a home for the dying, followed next year by her first orphanage. She used to use money from the prizes she got to found homes. In India and beyond, Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity devoted their time to the blind, the disabled, the aged, and the poor. She opened schools, orphanages and homes for the needy, and turned her attention to the victims of AIDS as that disease increased. By 1996, she ran 517 missions in more than 100 countries.

Her protest against unjust western policy: She was very much unhappy at the irresponsibility of the West and others toward hungry people of Ethiopia. She hated the emphasis on profit instead and the disregard for humanity. She expressed her anger (which she did not like at all), "When I see waste here, I feel angry on the inside. I don't approve of myself getting angry. But it's something you can't help after seeing Ethiopia."

As a messenger for peace: She was very much puzzled by war, and she believed that the creation of war is against religion and God. In 1982 during the war between Palestinian army and Israeli guerrillas, she said, "I have never been in a war

before, but I have seen famine and death. I was asking (myself), 'What do they feel when they do this?' I don't understand it. They are all children of God. Why do they do it? I don't understand." She was very much shocked at the Gulf War and urged both sides not to war against each other to prevent the suffering of innocent people. Bush and Saddam did not hear what she said, but people of the whole world respected her for her efforts for peace. In 1991 in her letter to President George Bush and Saddam Hussein, she wrote, "Please choose the way of peace... In the short term there may be winners and losers in this war that we all dread. But that never can, nor never will justify the suffering, pain and loss of life your weapons will cause." Today, we see the innocent people are facing enormous sufferings because of the Gulf War by the power hungry 'slaves of Malia'.

Human dignity: Mother Teresa did not hesitate to tell that it is not only a people who do not have clothing are naked but also the people who do not have human dignity are also naked. In her home "Nirmal Hriday" homeless people — uncared for and unacceptable at other institutions — were washed, fed and allowed to die with dignity.

Fight against arms merchants with humanity: She could not remain idle when arms merchants who basically created the war forgot the innocent children. In 1982, at the height of the siege in Beirut, the frail nun, Mother Teresa, res-



cued 37 children trapped in a boat off the coast of Bangladesh by brokering a temporary cease-fire between the Israeli army and Palestinian guerrillas.

Tolerance to critics: Some people criticized her activities from the beginning till her death. She never got angry. Rather she faced her critics with her divine smile. I very strongly believe that lack of this kind of wonderful tolerance is one of the biggest reasons for quarrels, wars, and unhappiness in this world.

She conquered the death: Mother Teresa's body has passed away from this world, and we can never be able to see her person moving from here to there, but she will remain alive among the destitute, the orphans, the unloved, the untouchables, and the sick. She will remain in the hearts of those to whom material gain is not important. She will remain in the hearts of those who believe in love, humanity, and the Almighty.

## Tom and Jerry



## IAN FLEMING'S James Bond



## Metropolitan

## President, PM visit Nurunnahar Samad at BIRDEM

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed visited ailing Nurunnahar Samad, the wife of Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, at BIRDEM Hospital Thursday night, reports UNB.

The President stayed there for some time and enquired about her condition from the attending doctors. He wished her early recovery.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Dr Sitara Parveen, daughter of the President, accompanied him.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited ailing Begum Nurunnahar Samad, wife of Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the BIRDEM hospital, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister stayed for sometime with the patient and asked the attending doctors to take all measures for her treatment.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare M Amanullah accompanied the Prime Minister.

## Obituary

Mominul Hossain, Assistant Managing Director of Uttara Bank Ltd and the youngest son of late Mir Hossain (Retired) Commissioner of Taxes died on Wednesday after prolonged illness, says a press release.

His qukhwan will be held on Saturday after Asr prayers at his residence (House # 49, Road # 4A, Dhanmondi R/A).



## Fowzia Ally gets 'best teacher' gold medal

By Staff Correspondent

Fowzia Ally, educationist and principal of Chittagong Girls' College, has been awarded a 'best teacher of the country 1997' gold medal for lifelong achievement in her profession.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presented her with the gold medal at a ceremony on Tuesday at the Osmany Auditorium in the city.

Fowzia Ally completed her honours and masters degrees in Economics from Dhaka University and joined the education service in 1967 as a lecturer at Badrunessa Girls' College in the city.

In the eighties, Fowzia became involved with various international organisations during her stay abroad for about eight years.

In 1981-82, she became an International Red Cross Volunteer. She became involved with the National Commission for UNESCO in 1982-83 as an assistant secretary. During 1984-86, she joined

## Alleged hundi trader arrested

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested an alleged hundi trader from Ramna area in the city Tuesday night.

Police said that a DB team arrested Md Iqbal, 28, from Eakston Tower and seized a fax machine and papers used in hundi business (illegal foreign exchange trading) with other countries.

According to the DB, Iqbal is a member of an organised network of international hundi traders, and had been involved in smuggling Taka currency for a long time.

A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection.

## JCD holds rally on DU campus

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the 'conspiracies' of BNP and its front organisations, reports UNB.

JCD general secretary Habib-Un-Nabi Sohail and leaders Shahabuddin Laitu, Nasrudin Osim, Selimuzzaman Selim and Monjur Elahi addressed the rally.

The JCD leaders alleged that the university authorities, being directed by the ruling party, is rehabilitating BCL outsiders in the JCD dominated halls.

"It is nothing but a conspiracy hatched by the Awami League government to efface JCD from the campus," they said.

They urged the government as well as the university authorities to refrain from such activities, otherwise, they warned massive action programmes against them.

## DU Biochemistry Dept's 40th anniversary Dec 13

Biochemistry Department of the University of Dhaka is going to celebrate its 40th founding anniversary on December 13, reports UNB.

A celebration committee of the department has planned elaborate programmes, that include honouring noted biochemists, commemorative lecture, science fair and cultural function. A souvenir will also be published on the occasion.

All graduates of the department have been requested to contact Prof M Anwar Hossain to register their names by October 15, said a press release.

## BSD against DCC-designated meeting venues

By Staff Correspondent

Convener of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Khalequzzaman in a statement yesterday demanded withdrawal of Dhaka City Corporation's recent decision regarding venues for holding rallies in the city.

He said, the decision was taken without consulting all political parties and without making the selected venues use-worthy for holding rallies.

## BOU exams results announced

Results of BEB first semester December '96 term have been announced examination of Bangladesh Open University (BOU). 3576 candidates appeared at this examination of which 2477 came out successful. Pass percentage is 69.27, says a press release.

## Swedish envoy calls on PM

The ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, Sven Anders Johnson, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister highlighted the policies and programmes of her government for poverty alleviation and eradication of illiteracy by the year 2006.

The Swedish Ambassador appreciated the overall economic policy of the government and supported its privatisation strategy. "Bangladesh can be proud of agro-production, measures taken for checking population boom and the governments thrust to uplift the standard of life of the working children," he said.

Johnson said Bangladesh has tremendous potentialities for investment and Sweden is exploring the avenues where investment could be made.

## Malaysian envoy meets Yusuf

The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh, Dato Zulkipli Ibrahim Bin Abdul Rahman called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual interests.

Meanwhile, Alain P Mauchiroud, UNFPA representative to Bangladesh and Narina B Perea, Deputy to the Director and Chief of South and South West Asia and Pacific Division, held a meeting with the Minister.

Ongoing projects in the health sector funded by the UNFPA came up for discussion. Nurul Abedin, Additional Secretary of the Health Ministry was present.

## What's on today....

**Condolence meet:** A condolence meeting on Mother Teresa will be held. Venue: St Mary's Cathedral, Kakrail Road, Ramna. Time: 5 pm. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**Musical soiree:** Moutushi and her group will perform modern songs at a soiree, organised by the Indian High Commission. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754, Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Closing ceremony:** The closing and certificate distribution ceremony of a 3-day seminar on "Human rights in trade union movement" will be held. Organisers: Paralegal Training Services Centre and Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights. Venue: Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet. Time: 6 pm.

**Conference:** A conference of Chandraloke Khelaghar Asar will be held. Venue: Jafarabad Government Ideal Primary School premises, Rayer Bazar. Time: 9:30 am-6:30 pm.

**Function:** 'Kishori Club' has arranged a function to celebrate its first founding anniversary. Venue: Pulki Dibajatra Kendra, 7 no Basti, Kalyanpur. Time: 3 pm.