===F0CUS

1997 in the court?

before any magistrate?

September, 1997.

out by police.

Shariyar Rashid.

Shahriyar.

A: Either on 9th or 10th

Q: Did you ever had any

Q : You have identified

A: It's not true.

Q: You never served under

A : No, I didn't serve under

Q: You did not verify when

you were told that he was

but we were told Major Shahri-

beside Radio Bangladesh and it

takes only two to three minutes

if one goes on foot. And the

central police room is there.

A: I don't know.

security arrangement.

A: I don't know.

A: I don't know.

A: It's not true.

duced you with him.

A: It's not true.

A: Not correct.

A : It's not true.

to harass him.

ness of the prosecution.

was there.

dio station.

A: This is not true.

din is with the ruling party.

struction to save yourself.

this case.

A : Not Shahriyar Rashid,

Q: Suhrawardy Uddayan is

Q: Radio station had police

Q: You are an accused in

Q : Your landlord Kamalud

Q: You have given false

Q: There was none called

A: I was introduced and he

Q: After the incident.

Q: You are an arranged wit-

Q : Shahriyar has been

Advocate TM Akbar, defence

made an accused with a motive

counsel for Lt Col (LPR) Muhi

uddin Ahmed and Advocate

Sharfuddin Mukul, counsel for

accused Taheruddin Thakur.

declined to cross-examine the

witness as he didn't mention

their respective clients' names.

DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY

HE WAS ABOARD JUST TO CALM THE FEARS OF THE PASSENGERS - BUT THE PLANE ACTUALLY FLEW ITSELF!

READY TO TAKE OVER IN EMERGENCIES!

Shahriyar, about whom you

have said, did not enter the Ra-

statement following his in-

Shahriyar in the cantonment on

that night and no one intro-

mock identification exercise

A: No, except this court.

Shahriyar after being pointed

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Fourteenth Prosecution Witness

Continued from Friday

Cross-examination 01 Dafadar (retd) Abdul Jabbar Mridha. PW-14 in Bangabandhu murder case, began when the trial proceedings resumed today (Tuesday).

Following are the excerpts from his examination by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, 'defence counsel for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman

Q: There were separate tanks for A. B. C and Headquarters squadrons.

A: It depends on the commander. If squadron commander wants he can change the crews before moving the tanks. Q: Of which squadron Major Syed Farooqur Rahman was in-

charge on that day? A: He was the commanding officer. I can't remember if he was in charge of any squadron. 9: In which squadron were

Lt Nazmul Hossain Ansar and Lt Kismat Hashem? A: I can't recall.

Q: The head gears on tank riders is called tank crew hel-

met. : Correct. All riders have it. Q: Did all the tank riders wear the same uniforms? A: Except the tank com-

mander, the rest four wore the same dress. Khaki or black. Q: Were two tanks separated from Bijoy Saranee? A : Yes.

Q: Can other riders hear when the tank commander conducts radio communication? A: Riders can't hear radio communication as it takes place in separate frequencies.

Q: Radio communication was under your jurisdiction as you were a wireless operator.

However, riders hear the inter-

A : Yes. Q: Did you ask where the rest six to eight tanks went?

Q: Was your wireless set on

during the movement? A: I can't recall. Q: The frequency of radio communication of the tanks

was the same on that day. A: I don't know. Q : You didn't know which

which on exercise. A: No, I didn't know. However, it seamed to be an opera-

MY! AREN'T

YOU A CUTE

LITTLE KITTY!

James Bond

THE GLOBAL GHOST' FLEW

HUMAN PILOT

DISEMBARKING!

UNDER ROBOT CONTROL?...
THAT LOOKS LIKE A

tanks went on operation and

tion following the instructions of the CO.

Q: The tank commanders are from NCOs. JCOs and commissioned officers.

A: I don't know. I know that the commissioned officers are the tank commanders.

Q: Ranks? A: Lieutenant, captain and major ranked officers. Q: Were there 32 officers for

the 32 tanks? A: I don't know. Q: How many names you

can remember? A: 12 to 14. Q: Was there any talks be-

tween your tank and your adjacent tank? Q: You started moving to-

wards radio station after the incident at Dhanmondi 32 occurred.

A: This is not true. Q: You, being taught by police, has gave false statement. A : Not true.

Q: Had the CO any briefing for the squadron commanders about the programme?

A: I don't know.

Examination by advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shariyar Rahshid Khan: Q: Who is Kamaluddin, which was mentioned in your address as care of?

A: He is the landlord of my house. Q: How long you have been

staying there? A: About three years. Q: Earlier, you used to stay

at Bauphal since your retirement in 1976.

A: I came to Dhaka four to five years ago and at the beginning I used stay in another house. Before coming to Dhaka I was involved in cloth trading in Bauphal.

Q : You were all along in Dhaka till your retirement. A : Few months before my retirement I served in Bogra.

Q: You were with 1st Bengal Lancer during your service life in Bangladesh Army. Q: 15th East Bengal Regi-

ment was in Rangpur. You do not have any idea about that. A: I have no idea.

Q: You can't say that the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) was in Comilla at that

A: I can't say. Q: You can't say about the location of the 14th East Bengal Regiment.

A: I can't. Q: The 1st Bengal Lancer was located at Balurghat and Balurghat is in the Dhaka Cantoninent area.

A: The entire Balurghat was not within the cantonment area, but the station of our regiment was inside the canton-

ment territory. Q: What was the total area where your regiment was situ-

ated? A: It was about 200 to 250 yards long and about 100 to

150 yards wide. Q: Did the regiment had its own security arrangement? A: The guards were posted

to different places. Q: The distance of the Balurghat check post, through which you came out, will be about two and a half miles from the regiment.

A: About a quarter mile Q: The entire cantonment is a restricted area.

A: Yes. Q : Army personnel guard all the check posts and one needs his identity card to move.

A: Identity cards are not required inside the cantonment area.

Q: While entering into the cantonment area? A: Then ID card is needed.

Q: Did you give any statement to any other before giving statement to CID on October 10, 1996? A: No.

Q: Did Major Momin or any other from the army authorities showcaused you?

A: No. Q: You did not take part in parade with any civilian. A : On that night three to four people were in plain

Q : Before August 15 did you take part in any exercise with any ex-army personnel?

Q: You did not want to know the reason when you were told that some civil dressed people would be with you and asked to carry out their orders. A: No, I didn't ask.

Q: When you received the Further texts of cross examisummon that you will have to nation will be published as and give statement on September 9. when received.

Land for the Landless

by Ranesh Maitra

Through its activities and struggles, launched in a lawful manner for establishing lawful rights of the landless peasants over land, Samata Samaj Kalyan Samity virtually started a sustained movement for achieving the most important fundamental rights — right to food and work — for the rural poor.

N 1986, an international journal, Society and Culture, ran in its April-May issue a Lbig story - after their correspondent Amand Millgan visited Samata, a welfare association in Pabna district -on the landless peasants and the khas land around the famous Ghughudaha Beel. I would like to quote some

portions from the story below. "Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries with 90 per cent of the people living in the countryside and at least half of them owning no land. In order to survive, the poor work in other people's fields; in low periods of the agriculture cycle, they often starve. New land is being created all the time in Bangladesh and officially the poor are entitled to it. Rich alluvial soil is continually being deposited by the country's three biggest rivers, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna and the sedimentation builds up with what is known as khas

land ... "An example of this is Ghughudaha Beel, in Pabna district, which twenty years ago was a large lake used for fishing. With the passage of time, it has silted up and initially 360 hectares of low-lying agricultural land appeared. By law, this land around the Ghughudaha Beel should have been leased to landless poor people. with 0.6 hectares of land per family. But in fact the rich and influential people of the area

have taken it as their own. journal observed the condition of our government's khas lands and also of the condition of the huge number of landless peasants who have got only the knowledge of cultivation and of nothing else, since almost all of them are literally illiterate. The excerpt also indicates how the khas land of the government is being illegally grabbed. But the government hardly comes forward to resist such persons from taking illegal possession or in recovering the lands already grabbed them. Nor the Government - however strange it might appear to the law-abiding people - acts according to its own laws to find out the real landless peasants and distribute khas land among them despite the fact that this is obligatory or mandatory for them

since the law is so. Another aspect not yet looked into much by our people and the press alike is that the political parties, especially the major ones, running always after power, hardly take up such issues of the common voters. They are hardly found to ob-

serve "days", not to speak of "weeks" or "months" - what they usually do otherwise - for highlighting the issues that touch the hearts of the rural poor - the exploited ones. The front organisations of such political parties, either in power or aspiring for if, despite all highsounding words, have got no branches across the villages nor do they have any link with the real problems of the people. Rather they have perhaps, in most cases, deep connections with such solvent people known mostly as 'touts' who are the real land-grabbers in the rural

The leadership crisis that had been prevailing in the countryside led ultimately, for meeting the needs of the society. Samata Samaj Kalyan Samity and such other organisations to grow. Samata started its tortuous journey in 1983, in organising the landless poor people around the Ghughudaha Beel, for finding out the longterm solutions to their poverty. Initially, there were only seven members to begin with the huge task. They motivated the poor peasants, male and female alike, by forming small groups where they discussed the problems and let the poor tillers know, for the first time in their life that, according to the law of the land, they were the genuine owners of the khas land and not the zamindars or jotdars or the other rich people.

On the other hand, the Samata leaders approached the District Revenue Department officials and apprised them of the real situation and claimed that the huge area of land owned by the government but grabbed illegally by certain quarters, be recovered and distributed among the landless poor of the area, as per the existing laws.

The vested quarters, however, did not remain idle. They began to spend a lot, moved heaven and earth, even allegedly bribed a section of unscrupulous officials. They also filed a number of cases, resorted to delay-tactics in solving the disputes and dragged the proceedings for months and years. But, at the field level, the poorest people continued to be organised and the membership strength of the samity continued to grow in number. A year later, the court finally decided some of the many cases giving their verdict in favour of leasing out 21 hectares of land in favour of Samata. But still, the court's order proved insufficient to deter one of the area's most powerful landlords who did not give up his illegal possession showing respect to the decree of

The poor, however, imbued with the victory in their legal struggle, became more organised and determined to take possession of their land. Assembled before the Samata office in thousands carrying sticks etc., they marched to the Beel areas chanting slogans but they found that the jotdars had already deployed hired lathials to 'protect' their illegal possession. But the hired protectors seeing such large number of people organised against the jotdars, got frightened and fled and the landless farmers occupied the land and earned another victory peacefully. Meanwhile, OXFAM, an in-

ternational organisation, came forward to help Samata and the landless peasants of the area. The then country Director of OXFAM, Saidur Rahman Ruku, took personal initiative in this regard and did a lot for the down-trodden organised under the banner of the newly-born NGO, known as the Samata Samaj Kalyan Samity. By the time, the so-called local elite known as jotdars, resorted to attacks upon the landless peasants, killed a number of them, tortured women, resorted to arson and looking, filed a large number of false cases in criminal, civil and revenue courts and thus the poor peasants and the Samata were put under constant strains and harassments.
They police instituted false

murder cases against the land-

less peasants and the Samata leaders. Many were arrested in connection with a number of such falsely instituted cases. Among those arrested by the police and sent to the prison were Abdul Kader, the Executive Director of the Samata and his colleagues. But strangely enough, the Samata leaders, its organisers and even the poor landless, who live hand to mouth, remained undaunted. They rather cemented the bonds of their organisational unity further, faced the challenge heroically, strengthened and widened their organisational structures, and except one, they ultimately won all the criminal cases and also most of the civil suits. In one criminal case, however, the Sessions Court of Pabna, sentenced several "Samata leaders to suffer imprisonment for several years but the convicted persons including the main leader of Samata, promptly preferred an appeal with the Hon ble High Court where the appeal was still pending for hearing.

Through its laudable activities and struggle, all launched in a lawful manner, for establishing the lawful rights of the

landless peasants over land, they won peoples support too. The NGO virtually launched a sustained struggle for achieving the most important fundamental right - right to food and work for the rural have-nots. The successes they achieved so far were distribution of khas land among 780 families land being 681.13 acres in area in total, from Ghughudaha Beel in three phases.

Imbued with the same spirit, the Samity extended its area of activities in some other parts of Pabna district and in the same manner, recovered 540.01 acres more of government khas land and got it distributed among the rural poor. The total area of land thus distributed now stands at 1221.83 acres, valued in total, according to the present market rate, to nearly Taka 12 crore. In these recovered lands, in 1996 alone, the beneficiary peasants grew crops worth about Taka 12 crore and thus succeeded in alleviating the poverty of over 2000 landless families comprising over 12,000 men, women and children, to a great extent.

The Samata Samai Kalyan Samity has also been working for getting discriminatory communal laws like Vested Properties Act etc. repealed, and thus institutionalising democracy and associating the masses with the development activities at the grassroots level.

Recently, the Samity held a three-day workshop of district level journalists of North Bengal in Pabna with the objective of creating bonds between the journalists and the grassroots level development workers and activists.

We have a vacuum, let as all admit, politically and organisationally, none having connection with the toiling masses. Vacuums are often being fulfilled by different NGOs and other such organisations. Growing awareness among the masses is also being noticed.

I observed, very keenly, a new sense of awareness among the people which one day might lead to removing the political vacuum by destroying the existing rural power-structure and by building a new social structure where the people will be supreme. The genuine propeople, pro-poor political forces and organisations might also be benefited ultimately if they proceeded with a positive outlook.

At least Samata Samai Kalyan Samity seems to have been slowly but steadily proceeding towards building a society that would be developed for the people and by the peo-

A Unique Academy—a Noble Step

UNKU Abdul Rahman Memorial Academy founded in 1992, two years after the demise of the great national leader of Malaysia, is the humble beginning of a great task by a group of enthusiasts at

a village of southern

Bangladesh The organisers established the institution with a mission to kindle the torch of education in the area, and named it so mainly being guided by twin objectives of further cementing the age-old bond of friendship between the two brotherly countries and upholding the common cultural heritage shared by both the peoples right from the dawn of Islam.

The academy set up as part of an educational complex already having one Government Primary School and a Dakhel Madrasa, is growing over the years in terms of its size, role and strength. The academy is located on a sufficiently large

by Abul Bashar plot (about 4 acres) beside a wide rural road and is having about 500 students both male and fe-

Nazarpur, home of Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial Academy, is only five kilometres off from Senbagh Thana headquarters under the district of Noakhali. The Academy campus and its adjoining areas are already covered by national power distribution grid and easily accessible by road network. It takes only a three-hour drive from the capital city of Dhaka to reach the academy. The academy ground is wide enough to be used as helipad, if needed. With adequate health, sanitation, water supply facilities at present, the academy is housed in a 170'x60' tin-shed. An eleven-member governing body comprising of eminent persons of the area is striving to carry forward the mission of the academy. They have an ultimate plan to further develop the

academy by adding to it a college wing. Five years back, it was a

mere dream of a group of enthusiasts who laid the first pillar of the academy-house. In course of time, a good number of celebrated personalities, journalists, educationists, businessmen and high government officials have joined the noble efforts in the form of an Advisory Committee to effectively translate the dream into reality. The academy, first of its kind in Bangladesh, has evoked considerable attention of education circle with its on-going drive and contribution in eradication of illiteracy in the coun-

As it was told earlier, the organisers had in mind a unique idea of marking memory of and respect to celebrated national hero of Malaysia, late Tunku Abdul Rahman, by naming the institution after him, which they thought would inspire the young learners to take lessons from his life and works and prepare themselves to be the future leaders.

The late Tunku was the father figure in the then turbulent politics of Malaysia for two decades. Born in a royal family, he served the causes of the commoners till his death. He led his nation to independence uniting all the communities and served his nation throughout his eventful and chequered career. An emerging economic tiger of South East Asia and a stellar democracy, the modern Malaysia has by now made room for herself in the global leadership, thanks to the vision and wisdom of Tunku Abdul Rahman and Malaysia's present leadership headed by Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

To show honour to memory of Tunku Abdul Rahman is in a sense honouring the leaders all over the world who struggled for peace, freedom and democracy.

S Korean donation for Rotary Club of Dhaka North West By Staff Correspondent

The South Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh Han-Tae Kyu handed over a cheque for USD 3000 to Rotarian President Shamsuzzoha Chowdhury of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West at a simple ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the Dhaka Club.

This donation from the Rotary Club of Seoul South has been made as part of the World Community Service (WCS) project for buying hearing aids for the deaf students of Bijoynagar Deaf High School run by the Bangladesh National Federation of the Deaf. Rotarian M Ali Hossain a past president of the club and also a life member of the National Federation of the deaf was also present at the function. Past District Governor lebal Ansari Khan proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the club members while past president and chairman of the WCS committee Rtr. Zainul Abedin spoke on the project.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Lion Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, founder of Liton Tutorial and Liton Speech Training Institute and General Secretary of Shishu Mangol and Social Welfare Society will be held on Friday after Juma prayers at his residence K-5. Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Mohammedpur, says a press re-



JAMES ...

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, speaking as the chief guest at the 5th installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka held recently at Sasakawa Hall, ICDDRB.

UNCTAD Secty Gen calls on Abul Hasan Chy

Visiting UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury at his office yesterday, reports

Ricupero expressed satisfaction at people's spontaneous participation in different trades in the private sector as well as in economic activities. according to a press release of the Foreign Ministry.

BDR seized goods worth Tk 22.51cr during 8 months KHULNA, Sept 24: BDR

jawans in the southern zone of the country have seized smuggled goods worth Taka 22.51 crore during the last eight months, reports BSS.

A source of the BDR said that under Khulna sector smuggled goods worth about Taka 10.96 crore were seized during January 1 to September 11, 1997 from border areas of Khulna and its adjoining areas.

Formulation of law to try anti-liberation forces demanded

Metropolitani

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee has detry those who speak against the Liberation War and satire its spirit, reports UNB.

The demand came from the second council of Dhaka city unit of Nirmul Committee held at Dhaka University TSC auditorium yesterday with Shamim Akhter presiding.

It was addressed, among others, by Shahriar Kabir, Muntasir Mamun, Sheymoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Mojammel Haq. Prof Zerina Rahman Khan, Salma Haq. Kazi Mukul and Sadiqur Rahman Parag. Later, a rally was held at the

Central Shaheed Minar with Prof Kabir Chowdhury in the chair. It was addressed by Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Shahriar Kabir and Dr Anwara Syed Haq. Addressing the rally, Muktijoddha Sangsad Chairman Abdul Ahad Chowdhury blamed late President Ziaur Rahman

for rehabilitating the anti-lib-

eration forces "Although Zia was a freedom fighter, he rehabilitated the Al Badrs and Rajakars and made Shah Azizur Rahman prime minister of the country to strengthen his chair," he said. Members of martyred fami-

lies, including Towhid Rezanur, Asif Munir, Salma Haq, Laila manded formulation of a law to Arjumand Banu and Dharitree also addressed the rally and demanded trial of the war criminals. Later, a colourful procession

was brought out that paraded

different city streets. A cultural

function was also held at the TSC auditorium in the evening. A 41-member Dhaka city unit of the Nirmul Committee was formed at the council with Sadiqur Rahman Parag as convenor and Mahabbat Hossain

member secretary. Other office-bearers included joint convenor Taher Ahmed Taru, coordinators Swapan Das, Luna Shirin, Tuhin and Russel and women affairs secretary Selina Tarkabagish.

Chehlum



Chehlum of eminent water expert and exchairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board Md Amjad Hossain Khan will be held on tomorrow after

Asr prayers at House No. 19. Road No 6, Dhanmondi R/A.

BCL, JCD hold rallies on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Student organisations of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP held two separate rallies on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to drum up support for and against the BNP called hartal.

The leaders of ruling party backed-Chhatra League (BCL) urged the opposition BNP to refrain from giving any programmes which would hamper the ongoing economic development of the country.

They said that government of Sheikh Hasina could not be ousted through hartal. BCL leaders also warned that politics of destruction would

not be tolerated for long. The BNP backed-Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called upon the students to make the BNP called hartal a success. The JCD leaders said that

the BNP and JCD leaders across the country. They urged the government to stop oppression or face a tougher agitation in the days

the government was oppressing

ahead. The BCL rally was addressed, among others, by BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, General Secretary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna, and DU unit president Bahadur Bepari.

Jazz Night: Live Performing Club of the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will organised Jazz Night. Time: From 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Venue: Allaince Française.

Lions Club of Dhaka Parijat: The fifth installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the club will be held: Venue: White House Hotel, 155, Shantinagar. Time: 7 pm.

Lions Club of Dhaka Golden: The board and regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 6:30 pm.

Chalachitram Film Society: The third programme of Focus on Asian Cinema: Films from India will be held. The programme has been organised by the society in collaboration with the High Commission of India in Dhaka. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre at Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6 pm. The film 'Charachar' will be screened.

Lions Club of Dhaka Glydia: The installation induction and charter night ceremony of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 6:55 pm.

Sergei Bandarchuk Club: On the concluding day of the three-day session of Russian Feature Film on the occasion of the second foundation year of the club and the 77th birth anniversary of renowed Russian film director and actor Sergei Bandarchuk, the film 'Fate of a Man' will be screened. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. House No 510, Road No 7, Dhanmondi R/A, Time: 6:30 pm.

Painting exhibition: An exhibition of paintings created during a camp (from Sept 14 to 24) jointly organised by the Shilpakala Academy and Goethe Institute, Dhaka, German Cultural Centre will be opened. Venue : Shilpakala Academy Gallery. Time: 5 pm.