BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Sixteenth Prosecution Witness

Following are the excerpts from cross-examination of PW-16 Major (retd) M Shahidullah by a state defence counsel for

absconding accused Risaldar Moslemuddin: Q: When did you retire? A: 15/2/1987.

Q: What do you do now?

back to the unit?

YARN AROUND

IAN FLEMING'S

truck?

: Nothing. would be less than one kilome-Q: When did you give your statement to the police? A: I don't remember the date. three officers were captive? Q: Were you called for giving

the statement? A: Yes, CID called me. Q: What was the number of soldiers in your B Squadron? muddin that day.

A: Probably Major Kamrul.

name of the duty officer to

whom you had reported?

Q: Do you remember the

Q: Was there anyone with

Garfield ®

IT'S CUTE THE WAY A CAT WILL

TIULEDIN PARTICIPATION

PLAYFULLY BAT A BALL OF

town boarding the UNICEF

A: 110 to 115. A: No. Q: You did not know him Where was the military intelligence school? personally. A: Inside the cantonment. A: I knew him, because he Q: Who gave the order of clos-

worked under me. Q: You have given a false ing down the course and going statement as tutored by the prosecution.

A: At about 10 am.

A: No.

Q: When did you reach your

Q: What was the distance of

A: I can't say exactly, but it

Q: Did you enquire why those

Q: When did you see Faroog?

Q: You did not see Mosle-

the place from Bangabandhu's

house where three officers were

A: At about 10 am.

held captive?

A: No.

James Bond

SENSORS WOULD WARN IT INSTANTLY

YOU'LL ADMIT, JAMES - SIX ARMS A BULLETPROOF METAL BODY ADD

UP TO A FORMIDABLE WATCHDOG!

A: I don't tell a lie and it is not even my habit. All other state defence declined to crossexamine the witness as he did not mention the

you when you moved for the name of any other fugitives. Following are the excerpts from cross-examination of Ma-

jor (retd) M Shahidullah by Advocate T M Akbar, defence counsel for arrested accused Lt Col (retd) Muhiuddin Ahmed:

Q: Did you retire in 1987 in regular way? A: Yes. But the retirement was premature.

Q: Is the house where you stay in Dhaka owned by you? A: No, rented. Q: How long have you been staying there?

A: Since 1994. Q: Have you been staying in Dhaka since your retirement? A: For sometime I stayed in

Chittagong and Khulna. Q: Did you do anything during that time? A: For two years I was with Parjatan and for sometime I

worked for a private firm. Q: Under whose directive you joined the intelligence course? A: By the order of a director of the Headquarters through my

Q: In that case, the director was responsible for passing the order to close down the course. A: Yes.

Q: How far was the training school from your unit?

A: About 500 yards. Q: How many from your unit were in that training course?

A: None from my unit. Q: Any other officer from any of the units in Dhaka attended that course?

A: I don't remember it exactly, but there were some officers from army headquarters. Q: Did you get any order of movement when you went back

to your unit on August 15? A: No. Q: Your CO had a staff officer. A: There were several staff

officers.

Q: Was there any adjutant? A: Adjutant was also a staff

Q: What is the responsibility of an adjutant? A: Adjutant looks after the administration and training.

Q: Who was the adjutant at that time? A: I don't remember the name

Q: Whose letter you carried

while joining the intelligence

course? A: No letter required from the unit. Headquarters had de-

MAYBE "CUTE" ISN'T

DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSK

THE RIGHT WORD

BAM

BAM

SINCE ITS PROGRAMMING FORBIDS SURRENDER - THE HIJACKER WOULD

KNOW AT THE OUTSET HIS ONLY OPTIONS WERE CAPTURE OR DEATH!

Q: You reported to the adjutant on August 15 morning. A: Yes, adjutant was the duty officer at that time.

Q: What was the number of officers and jawans a the 1st Bengal Lancer at that time? A: Some 600 to 700.

Q: How many of them were commissioned officers? A: About 20. Q: How many JCOs were

there? A: About 20 to 25. Q: How many NCOs were there?

A: I can't say. Q: Who were the commanders of all the four squadrons of

A: I can't name all of them, because I was not in the unit for more than two months. Major K S Feroz was the commander of my B Squadron.

your unit?

Q: What was the timing of your classes in the intelligence school?

A: From 7 in the morning till 2 pm. But sometimes classes Q: You had identified Muhiused to be held in the afternoon also.

Q: Did you require physical training (PT) at that time? A: It was not mandatory. cause I knew him for long. Q: Were you staying at officers' mess at that time?

Q: Did you require to wear uniform in the training school? A: Yes, khaki uniform. Q: Did you go anywhere be-

fore going to unit from the school? A: No. Q: That means when you

the khaki uniform. A: Yes. Q: Unit headquarters is also called RHQ (regimental head-

went to unit, you were wearing

quarters). A: Yes. Q: Vehicles were there for the use of the officers of the unit.

A: Only for official use. Q: JCOs also had jeep.

A: If necessary, a sepoy can also be sent for work with a vehicle, but except CO and Two-I-C no vehicle kept earmarked for Q: Where were the vehicles

garage and vehicles of

A: The vehicles of the regi-

kept?

ment were kept at the regiment squadrons in its own garages. Q: Did you go to regiment garages on August 15 morning?

A: No. Q: You went to duty coming out of the unit.

A. Yes. Q: Was the UNICEF vehicle parked or moving? A: It was moving. I stopped it

and boarded it. Q: Did you ask the duty offi-

cer for the location of the troops of B Squadron?
A: I didn't ask him. He told me that they were somewhere in the town and asked to find them

Q: The 1st Field Artillery had been in charge of security of Ganobhaban till August 16. A: I can't say.

Q: It is not true that he went to Ganobhaban on August 15. A: It is 100 per cent true that I went there.

Q: It is not true that you saw Muhiuddin at Ganobhaban. A: Your statement is not cor-

Q: Did the IO of this case interrogate you? A: Yes.

Q: You didn't tell the IO that "untying three officers you took them to the ADC's room." A: Of course I told him. Q: When did you first come to

this court? A: I came first time to this court the day I gave my deposi-

uddin in this court as showed by the prosecution side. A: You are not correct, be-

Excerpts from cross-examination of Major (retd) M Shahidullah by Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for arrested accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman:

Q: Was there any other tank in Bangladesh Army before the T-54 tanks were brought from

A: There were two to three M-24 American tanks. Q: How many tanks were supplied by Egypt?

A: 29 or 30. Q: Which squadron the American tanks were attached

A: Those tanks were for maintenance and training with

the regimental headquarters and not operational. Q: The tanks given by Egypt

were operational. A : Yes. Q: Whether the tanks' garages of A, B and C squadrons

were in same place? A: No, probably in separate places. Q: Tanks were equally dis-

tributed among the squadrons. A: A. B and C squadrons were fighting squadrons. One or two tanks were earmarked for the CO and the Two-I-C and rest were equally distributed among those three squadrons.

Q: The tanks attached with the headquarters were used for training.

A: There should be 35 tanks for armoured regiment, but we had only 30. Two tanks at-

tached with the headquarters were used for maintenance and training of the troops of the headquarters squadron.

Q: The nature of job of headquarter squadrons and A, B and C squadrons was not alike.

A: There were fighting troops in headquarters also. A, B and C squadrons will move for operation first, but by the order of the CO. A. B and C squadrons will move for field operation as per requirement and CO will decide about the strength.

Q: The tarks of the regimental headquarters were kept at the regimental headquarters' garage.

A: Yes. Q: Troops of different squadrons were respectively attached with their respective

tanks. A: Every squadron had its own tanks and troops. Q: Each and every soldier of

Lancer had black cap and belt with a "distinctive identity." A: Yes. Q: You knew it earlier that Army Chief General Shafiullah

would go to radio station on August 15 morning. A: This is the first time

came to know that General Shafiullah was scheduled to go to the radio station.

Q: Why did you come towards south direction of the

cantonment? A: I was asked to go to the town and the town was on the

south of the cantonment. Q: Dhanmondi road number

32 was on the right side when you came from west end of Manik Mia Avenue to the nursery on the south end of the lake. A: Yes.

Q: Did you find the presence of military from the Manik Mia Avenue to the nursery in a truck of UNICEF? A: Not on the road.

Q: Did you see any military truck or jeep on the way?

Q: Any tank?

Q: What was the time at that

time? A: Around 10 am. Q: Were the army troops

seemed to be mutinous? A: I didn't see any mutinous tendency among them. They were normal. They gave me

salute as usual and talked to Q: Was the house of Bangabandhu seen straight from north of the nursery?

A: May be. Q: How far the house would be? About 1 km?

A: Less than 1 km. Q: For how long you know

Farooq saheb?

and when received at a sit.

■ Metropolitan =



Three interim chairmen of the three hill district local government councils, Samiran Dewan of Khagrachhari, Ching Qu Roaza of Rangamati and Thoaing Cha Prue Master of Bandarban, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

Analogue phone bills: Last date of payment Oct 7

T&T board has already issued the analogue telephone bills for the month of August to the subscribers of Dhaka Multi exchanges by post on Sept 18. reports UNB.

The deadline for the payment of the bills is October 7 The bills may be paid to the specified branches of Agrani, Janata, Krishi Banks, United Commercial Bank City Bank. National Credit and Commerce Bank, Bank of Small Industries and Commerce, Bangladesh, and Prime Bank.

In case of non-receipt of the bill by Sept 30 the subscribers are requested to collect duplicate bills from the concerned telephone revenue offices and make payment within Oct 7.

1 killed, 5 injured in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent One person was killed and five others injured as a bus hit the pedestrians at Sonir Akhra on Dhaka-Narayanganj highway under Demra thana in the

city yesterday. Police said the dead, who was killed on the spot, was identified as Robiullah, 42, son of Lesh Mahmood of Kishoreganj district. The five injured were released after first aid in local clinics.

The accident occurred around 11:30 am as the driver of the Narayanganj-bound passenger bus allegedly lost control. Police seized the bus but failed to arrest the driver. The body of Robiullah was sent to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Demra thana in this connection.

Jiang Zemin, Li Peng greeted

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday greeted President Jiang Zemin of China on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of People's China, reports BSS.

Felicitating President Zemin on this auspices occasion, President Shahabuddin expressed the hope that the existing friendly and cordial relations that exist between the two countries would grow further. The President wished con-

prosperity of the people of In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated Chinese Premier Li

tinued peace, progress and

In a message felicitating Premier Li on the National Day of China, Sheikh Hasina noted with happiness that the countries government and peoples enjoy excellent relations.

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposi tion Begum Khaleda Zia felicitated the people of China on the occasion of their National Day.

IBA of DU Graduation ceremony Friday

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University will hold its 29th MBA Graduation ceremony at TSC auditorium on Friday, reports UNB

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest and give away certificates among the graduates of the 29th batch

Malaysian envoy calls on PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed the hope that the Malaysian investors would avail themselves of the favourable investment opportunity in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh has vast natural resources and is offering incentive packages to the foreign investors to invest in the country", she said when the newly appointed Malaysian High Commissioner Zulkifly Ibrahim Bin A Rahman called on the Prime Minister at her

The High Commissioner said that the Malaysian investors are already investing in Bangladesh and more people are interested to do so.

Winter schedule of Nat'l Museum

The Bangladesh National museum authorities have fixed a new schedule for visitors during the winter season (October-March), a museum press release said yesterday, reports BSS. Under the new schedule, the museum will remain open from

Shishu mela begins in Mirpur

9:30 am Saturday to Wednes-

A week-long shishu mela (children's fair) for disadvantaged and working children began yesterday at Bangla High School in Mirpur Section-10, says a press release.

The fair, organised by Social Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) in observance of Child Rights Week '97, will remain open from 3 pm to 6 pm daily.

What's on today

Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of International Day of the Aged will be held. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 10:15 am. Chief guest: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman.

Discussion: Bangladesh Association for the Aged has organised a discussion on the occasion of International Day of

the Aged. Venue: Probeen Bhaban. Agargaon. Seminar: A seminar on diabetes mellitus will be held under the CME programme of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS). Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11 am-4:30 pm.

Cultural Centre, Rd: 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm. Photo exhibition: The inaugural and prize distribution ceremony of the Annual Photography Competition and Exhibition '96, organised by the Bangladesh Photographic Society, will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Time: 5 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm

Reunion: On the occasion of the 19th founding anniversary of Dhaka Little Theatre, a reunion will be held. Venue: German

Children's film festival: Dipu Number Two directed by Morshedul Islam will be screened on the concluding day of the three-day festival organised by Dhaka Little Theatre and Chalchitram Film Society. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 5:30 pm

General knowledge contest: A 2-day Ninth Inter-College General Knowledge Competition '97 will begin. Organiser: Notre Dame Biggyan Club. Venue: Notre Dame College auditorium. Time: 2 pm. Premiere show: The premiere of a TV drama serial titled 'Shabuj Shathi', written and directed by Humayun Ahmed, will

will be broadcast from tomorrow. Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm. Guest speaker: Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will talk on The challenges facing higher education in Bangladesh'

be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. The 13-episode serial

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Obituary

at the Academy gallery till Oct 4.

Begum Hashmat Ara died on Sunday at the Shaheed Shurwardy Cardio-Vascular Hospital. She was eighty, says a press

She was buried at her family graveyard at Begum Bazar. She is survived by her two sons Rehman Sobhan and Farooq Sobhan. Her qulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers on Friday at the residence of her son Rehman Sobhan at House 9. Road 69. Gulshan in the city.

Begum Kamrunnesa Islam, wife of renowned educationist late Khondokar A K M Shamsul Islam, died on Sept 29 due to old-age ailments. She was 79. says a press release She has left behind seven daughters, four sons and many

Her qulkhwani will be held

tomorrow after Asr prayers at

her Arambagh residence.

grandchildren

* * * *

BATEXPO '97 begins tomorrow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day exposition in the morning, while Finance Minister S A M S Kibria and Minister for Commerce and Industry Tofael Ahmed will be present as special guests.

ufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is organising this annual exhibition. Members of the BGMEA will

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (BATEXPO) '97 will begin tomorrow at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

said a T&T official. Bangladesh Garments Man-

display various garments-related products at the exhibition aimed at foreign and local buyrainwater in low-lying areas of the city.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday talking with destitute freedom fighters

10000 phone lines under Nilkhet Exchange partially out of order

By Staff Correspondent Nearly 10,000 digital telephone lines under Nilkhet Exchange have been partially out of order since Sunday night due to some technical fault, according to T&T officials. Phone numbers with the pre-

fix 86 cannot be reached from

other exchanges and vice versa

since 8 pm Sunday. However,

the phone numbers can be called within the same exchange. To minimise sufferings of phone users, the T&T restored "full functioning" of a smal portion of phone lines on a temporary basis Monday morn-

ing. But the main problem is yet to be identified. "We don't know exactly when the lines will be completely restored, but our engineers are working hard at the Nilkhet Exchange to restore the total system as soon as possible.

The T&T Chairman and other high officials visited the Nilkhet Exchange and stayed there for some hours Monday to restore the system. This correspondent repeat-

edly tried to contact T&T executives and engineers of Nilkhet Exchange to know about the problem but none would talk. According to T&T sources, these problems were caused by

October Service week of Lions Club Int'l begins today

'October Service Week' of Lions Club International will begin today. Lion Dist 315 B1, Bangladesh has taken different programmes to uphold its ethics — "We serve", says a press

The programme will be inaugurated through tree plantation followed by a press conference. Other programmes include eye and dental test of unfortunate and poor people tomorrow, Motivation for pisciculture for solving nutritional problem on October 3. Colourful rally, blood donation and seminar on 'ensure clean environment and child right for better future', on October 4. Food distribution among distressed and less fortunate people and donation to BLF on October 5. Educational materials distribution among non-government primary school and publicity for consciousness about pollutionfree environment on October 6. Peace poster contest and seminar on diabetics awareness will be organised October 7.

The closing session of the service week will be held on October 8.

District Governor Ln Abdul Hamid MJF, Vice Dist Governor Ln Engr Iqbal H Khan and October service week observance committee's Chairman Ln A F M Jamir-ul-Islam request to make the programme a success.

met Farooq saheb. It was before 10 am. A: Around at 10 am. Q: Was he in the jeep of 2-IC? A: He was in a jeep. I can't

A: When I joined the 1st

Q: All military officers in

A: I don't know about others.

Q: All troops were on duty on

Q: Did you know that mar-

Q: Did you know curfew was

Q : You, what you claimed,

tial-law was announced in the

Dhaka Cantonment were on

alert on August 15 morning.

I was asked to go to my troops.

Bengal Lancer in April, 1974.

He was 2-IC of Lancer at that

time.

that morning.

morning?

imposed?

A: No.

A: No.

A: I don't know.

recall whether it was the jeep of the 2-IC. Q: Was it being driven by

driver or Farooq himself? A: Possibly, it was being driven by Major Faroog him-Q: Who is the highest au-

thority of Military Police? A: The chief of Military Police is called Provost Martial. Q: Is it a separate establishment? A: Yes.

Q: Was there infra red telescope at the T-54 tank? Q: How many seats were in a

A: Four.

Q: No tank moved at night. They moved in the morning to keep peace. You would have heard the sound of tank movement, had they been moved at night.

A: I don't know when the tanks moved. Q: You would definitely have heard the sound of tanks, had

they been moved at night.

A: No, I was busy with some important tasks in a closed door room. Q: If the doors and windows were opened?

they been moved on the roads in front of my room. Otherwise Q: You were given emergency

A: I would have heard the

sound of tank movement, had

duty in the morning. A: I was asked to go to my unit when I went to the school. Q: You were given emergency duty after you went to the regi-

ment headquarters. A: Yes. - UNB

 Further text of cross examination shall be published as

who have been staging a sit-in demanding rehabilitation in front of the Jatiya Press Club for 15 days.

SA parliamentary team calls on Speaker

-Star photo

The visiting South African parliamentary delegation called on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday,

reports UNB.

mayun Rasheed Chowdhury apprised the delegation of the commitment of Bangladesh government to institutionalize democracy and eradicate poverty. The leader of the South African delegation, BM Tuli MP

During the meeting, Hu-

said Bangladesh and South Africa can work in close co-operation for realizing common goals in different fields.

Oil Tanker Owners' Assoc polls held

An 11-member executive committee of Bangladesh Oil Tanker Owners' Association for 1997-99 has been elected with TM Ghyasuddin Ahmed as its chairman and Habibul Alam and MH Khan Monju as vice chairmen. The election was held after

annual general meeting of the association held on Monday last, says a press release. The other members of the

committee are, Farzana Rahman, Eng. Md Shajahan, Rehan Hamid Chowdhury, Sayed Azam Bin Hossain, Sohel Humayun Mohammad Zahinul Islam, Mahbubur Rahman Khan and Nurul Islam.