

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

## Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Nineteenth and Twentieth Prosecution Witnesses

Excerpts from cross-examination of Dafadar (ret'd) Shahidur Rahman, the PW-19 in Bangabandhu murder case, by Advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence for absconding accused Major (ret'd) Dalim:

Q: Since when you are involved in Tablig?

A: Since 1972.

Q: Did you go for Tablig regularly?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Were you permitted to attend Tablig Jamaat on Thursday night and later return to the cantonment?

A: Yes, it was permitted.

Q: Who was Commander of your "A" squadron?

A: Captain Anisur Rahman saheb.

Q: Were you a regular driver?

A: No, I was not a regular driver.

Q: Were Major Dalim an officer of 1st Bengal Lancer?

A: No, he was not our officer.

Q: He was an officer of which unit?

A: Possibly of Artillery.

Q: The car you drove on the day of incident was of which unit?

A: It was of "A" Squadron.

Q: For whom the car was allotted?

A: Any officer of the squadron could use it.

Q: Did any officer outside of the squadron or unit use it?

A: No.

Q: What was the name of SDM who asked you to get your car ready?

A: SDM Mosaddek. He was of "A" Squadron.

Q: None intercepted you while coming out of the cantonment at midnight?

A: No.

Q: Was it not known to you that ministers reside at Minto Road, 200 yards from Magh-bazar crossing?

A: It was not known to me before the incident.

Q: Were there army guards on various points when you came out of the cantonment?

A: Yes, there were army guards.

Q: Did you see any other things after going to the radio station?

A: A tank was in front of the gate of the radio station. I saw another tank moving towards Suhrawardy Uddyan.

Q: Did you see Major Dalim making announcement over radio?

A: I didn't see. I heard from others.

Q: By which gate of the cantonment you entered the army Headquarters?

A: Through the gate adjacent to the old airport.

Q: Did none intercept you

while entering the Army Headquarters?

A: No, we were not intercepted.

Q: Was there extra security measures at the Army Headquarters on that day?

A: I don't know.

Q: Did you know Major Dalim earlier?

A: No.

Q: Being punished, you became aggrieved and gave a false witness.

A: This is not true.

Q: Dismissed Major Dalim in uniform did not go by your jeep. You didn't see him.

A: Not correct. He went by my jeep and I saw him.

Examination of Dafadar (ret'd) Shahidur Rahman by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman:

Q: Were you a truck driver or jeep driver of Lancer?

A: I was a jeep driver.

Q: You didn't tell the IO that you discharged the duties of distributing meals for four to five days after the incident.

A: I can't recall whether I told him or not.

Q: Did you discharge the duty of meals distribution by truck or jeep?

A: I can't say. I didn't discharge this duty.

Q: When the supper is given in the cantonment? In the evening?

A: Yes, after the evening prayer.

Q: Officers and their corps can be understood from signs of their uniforms.

A: There is nothing called sign. Officers and the corps they belong to can be identified by watching their badges.

Q: Did you see everything normal after keeping your jeep stand-by?

A: No, I saw regiment personnel coming and going.

Q: Did you see them entering or leaving the regiment?

A: I saw them moving. (Court: Anything more?)

A: The tanks were being prepared. I also saw fall-in at different points.

Q: Between 10 pm and 4 am?

A: Yes.

Q: You are a Lancer personnel. You are supposed to carry officer of Lancer not of other units.

A: I am bound to carry officers of other units if any officer of my unit asks me to do so.

Q: Is it possible to carry officers from other units without prior permission.

A: No.

Q: You are to write about passenger and his destination

on log book while receiving petrol from the depot of the cantonment.

A: Yes, but on that day it was not done.

Q: You are to fix 'on payment' board if the jeep is used by other units.

A: It was not followed on that day.

Q: The log book is kept on the car.

A: Yes, but on that day it was not used.

Q: You didn't care for rules on that day.

A: I didn't violate rules. I only carried out orders from my higher authorities.

Q: You didn't know the source of all orders made on that night.

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Are you bound to obey order of any higher official?

A: Yes, if he is of my regiment. If any superior of my unit asks me to carry out order of any outside officer I am also bound to do so.

Examination by advocate TM Akbar, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin:

Q: Why were you dismissed?

A: I was not told.

Q: Did you get any letter of dismissal?

A: No, I was not given any letter for the dismissal. I was only verbally told that I had been dismissed.

Q: How long did you take to go to Bangabandhu's house from the radio station?

A: 10 to 15 minutes.

Q: You told the IO that Army Chief General Shafiqullah came out ahead of Major Dalim.

A: I can't recall.

Advocate Sharfuddin Mukul and advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan declined to cross-examine the witness as their clients names were not mentioned by him in his deposition.

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## Twentieth Prosecution Witness

Following are excerpts from cross-examination of PW-20 Lance Naik (ret'd) Alauddin Molah by Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence counsel for Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin:

Q: There is a fire brigade station beside the road in front of Ganobhaban.

A: Yes.

Q: It is quite a big fire Brigade station.

A: Yes.

Q: There were separate barracks for Army and Police at Ganobhaban.

A: Yes.

Q: There were round the clock duty of Police and Army at all the gates of Ganobhaban.

A: Yes.

Q: How many days before the incident you came to Ganobhaban?

A: About a year before the incident after Col Jamil got his official residence there.

Q: How many army troops were there at Ganobhaban.

A: I can't say.

Q: Col Jamil ordered you to ask the police and army troops to get ready to move for Bangabandhu's house. Did you carry out the order?

A: Yes.

Q: When did you wake up on August 15 morning — at 4 to 4:45 am?

A: No, at about 4:45 to 5 am. I was in the toilet when I heard the calling bell ringing.

Q: How long did you take to reach Col Jamil's house?

A: Within five minutes. I used to stay on the ground floor

of the house.

Q: How far was the army and police barracks from Col Jamil's house?

A: About 200 yards.

Q: How long did the army and police troops take to get ready after you passed the order.

A: They got ready within five to seven minutes.

Q: Army and police went out of Ganobhaban together?

A: Army troops left Bangabhaban before we got out.

Q: How did they move?

A: By truck.

Q: When Col Jamil spoke of moving to Bangabandhu's house, did he tell you the reason?

A: No.

Q: From which direction the bullets were coming?

A: From the south.

Q: Did Mrs Jamil talk to

Brig Mashrurul Huq?

A: I don't know.

Q: Drivers had a separate place at Bangabhaban to wait with the car after going there with the officers.

A: Yes.

Q: General Osmany, General Shafiqullah and Brig Khaled Mosharraf used to visit Bangabhaban regularly after August 15.

A: I knew Gen. Osmany and his office was at Bangabhaban, but I did not know general Shafiqullah and Brig Khaled Mosharraf. Probably I have seen them, but can't remember.

Q: You have given a false statement.

A: It is not true.

Following are excerpts from cross-examination of PW-20 Lance Naik (ret'd) Alauddin Molah by Khan Saifur Rahman,

defence counsel for Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman:

Q: To watch the movement of the army officers was also your responsibility.

A: No.

Q: You have seen the military truck that came out from Ganobhaban parked near Mohammadpur Boys' High School on Mirpur Road.

A: Yes.

Q: The truck was waiting there for you to come.

A: Yes.

Q: Col Jamil asked the troops to wait there.

A: Sir asked them to stay there and wait there till he called them.

Q: The Sobhanbagh mosque could be seen from the place where the army truck was parked near the school.

A: Yes.

Q: Whether you listened to Col Jamil or he listened to you.

A: I listened to him and carry out his orders. Sometimes, he listened to me.

Q: The mussels at the mosque could recognise you and asked you to leave the mosque.

A: They recognised me and to save me and also to save themselves from the attack asked me to leave the mosque.

Q: Did the mussels come out with you?

A: No, they stayed there.

Earlier, state defence counsel for Major Dalim cross-examined the PW-20 and other state defence counsels adopted that.

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

## In Quest of Safe Water: Ensuring Community Health

by Onirvan Shahu

**Pressure on underground water is dangerously increasing. Unless some initiatives are taken to hold the monsoon waters in reservoirs to use in dry season irrigation, soon even the technologically advanced Tara tubewells will be rendered ineffective ... And not only supply of water but also sanitation of the community should be ensured ... Otherwise the dream of developing our main resource — Manpower — may not be realised.**



Tara tubewell: Easy water now, and the surrounding is getting greener too, but can it be sustained in the long run?

itary latrine in these thanas till 1992, except only a few hand-driven No. 6 tubewells which provided no water during dry season, and number of hygienic latrine users was only 10 per cent which over these past five years has risen to 50 per cent.

The region is Barindra tract — vast stretch of fields, often undulating, interspersed only by enduring palms here and there. Tracking by the road with newly planted Shishu trees on either side you suddenly come across a pond with blooming pink lotus, and children playing with them. A happy scene indeed! But these waterbodies are not many and whatever newly grown vegetation and green crop fields seize one's sight are results of government's Barindra Project. Yet there will be only one crop in the year and trees will attain only a retarded growth, because of scarcity of water and excessive heat in dry season, when the water bodies dry up and even the soil seems to be burning out. Localities are also sparse because of the same reason — scarcity of water. Once the Padma and the Mahananda flowed full-brim through this region, now they are only drying streams. Moreover the level of Barindra tract is higher than other regions of the country, thus the water level is naturally very low here resulting in a scarcity of drinking water. Rainwater also cannot stay to seep into soil because of the higher ground level, not to speak of very lesser number of ditches and canals than in other parts of the country.

Kakanhat, a village in Godagari thana, now has a village sanitation centre where Md Erfan Ali produces five to eight latrine sets (ring and slab of sanitary latrine). "Obtaining training from CARITAS I developed this centre with financial assistance from Trinamul in late '95", said Erfan Ali who has by now sold 500 latrine sets. Keeping in mind the financial stringency of the average member of the community, he has kept the price of slab at Tk 70 and ring at Tk 60 only. Even then the demand for sanitary latrine is not upto expectation primarily for two reasons — financial and topographic. What-ever low the price is, it yet remains inaccessible for the majority poor and the typical soil remains too soft in wet season and too hard in dry season, seldom suitable for setting the ring-slab. The situation necessitates economic development of the community as well as introduction of improved (appropriate) technology.

Rajul Huq of neighbouring Narayanpur village told, most of the 700 residents of his village have never heard of such terms as 'safe water' and 'sanitation'. There is no branch of any government or non-government organisation to enlighten them of the importance. For the 700 villagers there are only four hand-driven No. 6 tubewells which become useless during dry season. And when any of the tubewells go out of order, there's no mechanic in the village to repair, you have to fetch one from faraway town. "And sanitary latrines, only a couple of them are there in the villages; most people still go to bushes or banks of waterbodies to answer the call of nature." This is not only want, many are yet to shun the old habit, as could be assumed from conversation with college-going Rajul.

Trinamul Project Director Mr Ferdous said they have some activities going on in 40 vil-

lages of the five thanas. But many a village is yet to be covered because Trinamul itself is a small organisation with its natural limitations. Hence it is for the Government and other non-government organisations to play their roles in alleviating the problem. Further away from Kakanhat village centre it is grey gradually overriding green, perched barren tracts all around, lesser water bodies, lesser population, interspersed only by small narrow canals and little white pump houses of government's Barindra Project. This project, however, has been successful to an extent in irrigating the land under it. But for how long, if the water level falls further down? A vital question, indeed, in everyone's mind.

And further away you notice a change in topography. It is Sankonaganar village of Nache thana in Chapainawabganj district. Here households have two/three additional palm trees besides the typical palm. But dry season is no less dry here too — waterbodies dry up to the bottom, ordinary tubewells refuse to yield water. Yet not all the inhabitants suffer much. There is a Tara tubewell in front of Md Tofazzal Hossain's house, serving seven/eight neighbours who all have corn-tributed in its sinking but with initiative and loan from Trinamul. Trinamul worker Badi-

But it's a desperate effort. Pressure on underground water is dangerously increasing. Unless some initiatives are taken to hold the monsoon waters in reservoirs to use in dry season irrigation, soon these Tara tubewells also be rendered ineffective, opined Trinamul's Ferdous. He also felt, not only supply of water but sanitation of the community, too, should be ensured, providing them with requirements and motivating them to change habit. Otherwise the dream of developing our main resource — manpower — may not be realised.

Governments in Bangladesh have till date sunk 800,000 tubewells with UNICEF assistance. Besides this, on various voluntary, NGO and private initiatives 1,500,000 more tubewells have been sunk. And many more will be sunk in the coming days. According to World Health Organisation, underground water is completely safe (barring of course in areas where arsenic pollution is found to be present of late). But can it be a permanent and effective solution for Bangladesh where water level is found to be going down signalling other topographical hazards as well? Some alternative has to be found, with alternative and appropriate technology within easy access of the generally poor common masses.

## Garfield®



## James Bond



## Metropolitan



Air Vice Marshal PJ Goddard (RAF) and the 19 members of the Royal College of Defence Studies tour group recently visited the Liberation War Museum. Bangladesh Air Force organised the visit by RCDS group and the Defence Attache at the British High Commission in Dhaka accompanied them.

## ATAB team meets Mohiuddin

A delegation of Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) led by its President Dr HBM Iqbal MP met State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at his office in the city yesterday, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The delegation informed the state minister of their various problems. The minister gave them a patient hearing and assured them of all possible help.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ismail Hossain and Managing Director of Bangladesh Binan Air Commodore M Rafiqul Islam were present on the occasion.

## CFSD poll shows

## Newspapers first source of news for most people

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly eighty-five per cent of newspaper readers of the country depend on the print media as their primary source of getting news. However, of these readers 63 per cent depend on news broadcasts of the BBC or Voice of America when a major incident happens at home.

This was revealed in an opinion poll on the credibility of mass media, conducted by the Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD) between Sept 25 to 28 in four metropolitan cities — Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

According to the opinion poll, in cases of major incidents, 53 per cent of the readers scan newspapers the next morning for details while only 38 per cent depend on the news aired on Bangladesh Television (BTV) or Bangladesh Betar. About 27 per cent of the readers discuss among neighbours or friends to get a clear picture of the incident under consideration, the poll showed.

The sample of the poll included 625 persons in Dhaka and 313 in the other cities.



BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday visited puja mandap at the Ramkrishna Mission in the city.

## Speaker condoles death of Dr SD Chowdhury

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury has expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of eminent scientist and former Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr SD Chowdhury, reports UNB.

In a condolence message received here yesterday, the Speaker paid a rich tribute to Dr SD Chowdhury and recalled his contributions in the field of science and agriculture.

Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury who is now leading a parliamentary delegation to Germany for the salvation of his departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## RB secy holding 3 charges at a time

RAJSHAH, Oct 8: The secretary of Rajshahi Education Board, Prof Shamsul Alam, is also acting as the chairman and Controller of Examinations.

Prof Alam is facing difficulties in discharging the duties of the three posts.

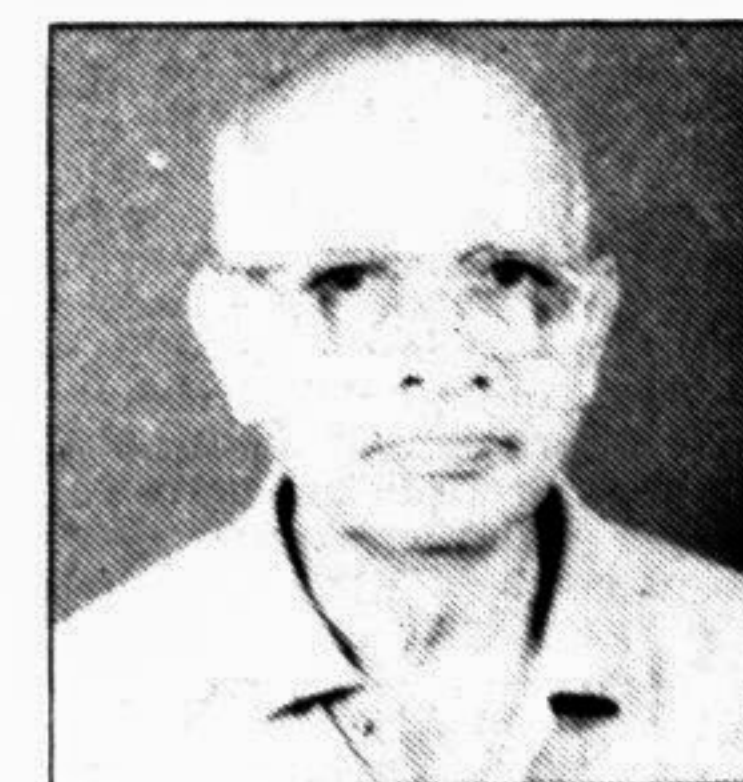
He was given the current charges when the Chairman of the Board Prof Sher Mohammad Haque went on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) between September 15 and September 30.

## Death anniversary

The 13th anniversary of death of Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, former assistant editor of The Bangladesh Times will be observed today, reports BSS.

The former correspondent of Voice of America, World Service and the British Daily, The Guardian, Amin Chowdhury died of a massive heart attack.

To observe the day *quaran khuan* will be held at the residence of the deceased at 47, Purana Palitan Line and at Mid Mahfil will be held at Purana Palitan Line Mosque in the city after *asr* prayer.



## Obituary

RK Biswas, a retired district and sessions judge died on October 3. He was 77, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters. The last rites of late Biswas will be held on Oct 14 at the Dhakeswari National Temple.

Meherban Shahed (Begum), the eldest daughter of Khwaja Mohammed Adel and Nawab Adhmad Begum of the Dhaka Nawab family died of cardiac failure on Sept 26 in London, said a press release.

She is survived by her husband K M Shahed, son of Late Khwaja Shahabuddin and her only daughter and son-in-law Sarwat and Amer Huq who are resident in England.