

FOCUS

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Nineteenth and Twentieth Prosecution Witnesses

Excerpts from cross-examination of Dafadar (retd) Shahidur Rahman, the PW-19 in Bangabandhu murder case, by Advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence for absconding accused Major (retd) 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 : Was 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 (retd) Shahidur Rahman by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman:

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

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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.

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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 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 : Yes.

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

A : I knew Gen. Osmany and his office was at Ganobhaban, but I did not know general Shafullah 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 (retd) Ainuddin Molah by Khan Saifur Rahman,

Brig Mashrurul Huq?

A : I don't know.

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

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 : No.

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. —UNB

uzzaman informed, at the moment there was no other source of safe water in the village besides this lone but all-season provider. So others are also contemplating to have one but for the required fund they look for assistance from bigger NGOs.

In fact NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation provided Trinamul with six Tara tubewells of which they distributed one to this Sankonanagar village, informed Trinamul Project Coordinator Ferdous. He however admitted that despite NGO Forum's financial aid and training to Trinamul, there is need for other agencies to come forward in meeting the need of the villages. Asked about maintenance of these apparently superior technology