



**Shafiqul Islam Allegedly Stabbed and Killed by the BSF at the Uksa Border, Kaliganj
under Satkhira District**

Fact-finding Report

Odhikar

On January 13, 2010 early in the morning, Md. Shafiqul Islam (27), a resident of Sheetalpur village of Kaliganj Upazila under Satkhira District was allegedly stabbed and killed by the BSF members at Barunhat camp of the Hasnabad Police Station under North Chobbis Pargana in India.

It was learnt during the fact-finding mission that at around 4:00 pm on January 1, 2010 Shafiqul, son of Nuruddin Khan and Shahadat Hossain (24) of Khainja village took the responsibility of bringing some cows from India for one Kawsar Ahmed of the same village. On January 9, 2010 on their return with cattle to Bangladesh, the BSF chased them with a speedboat. Shahadat were able to flee away while Shafiqul was caught by the BSF. The BSF members stabbed Shafiqul to death and dumped his body in the Kalindi river. On January 13, 2010 at around 8:00 am the policemen of Kaliganj Police Station recovered Shafiqul's dead body from the bank of the river adjacent to the BDR camp at the Uksa border.

Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the incident and spoke to the following persons:

- Relatives of the victim Shafiqul Islam
- The eye-witness of the dead body
- The doctor who performed the post-mortem
- Members of law enforcement agencies



Picture: Md. Shafiqul Islam

Saleha Begum (50), mother of the victim

Saleha Begum told Odhikar that she had three sons. Her elder son Azad Rahman (35) who lives with his family in the Katakhal village situated near the bank of the Kalindi River under Hasnabad Police Station of North Chobbis Pargana in India. Her second son Shafiqul Islam used to visit Azad in India without a passport and visa. For almost a year, Shafiqul had started to bring cows from Indian cattle traders to Bangladesh by crossing the Kalindi river. She said that the cattle traders used to pay Shafiqul 2500-3000 taka for each cow taken across to Bangladesh. On January 1, 2010 Shafiqul and Shahadat of Khainja village and another person took the responsibility to bring some cows from India for Kawsar of the same village. Even after she repeatedly told him not to go, Shafiqul left the house at around 4:00 pm and crossed the river to reach the Katakhal village. She stated that although Shahadat and the other person were able to return alive with cattle from India on January 9, 2010, around 6.00 a.m. her son Shafique did not come back alive.

Saleha Begum also informed Odhikar that on January 9, 2010 at 9:00 am after hearing the death of her son from Masura Begum of Shamostopur village, she informed her elder son Azad over cell phone. She had been looking for Shafiqul's body in the Kalindi River all day. On January 13, 2010 at 8:00 am a woman from Uksa village told her that Shafiqul's body was lying on the bank of the river adjacent to the BDR camp at the Uksa border. She along with Shafiqul's wife Anjuara went to the river bank at around 10:00 am. After recognising Shafiqul's body, she sent Anjuara to the Uksa BDR camp to inform them. The BDR, instead of visiting the spot, told Anjuara to go to the Kaliganj Police Station. At around 2:00 pm Sub-Inspector Abdul Huq came to the spot and prepared an inquest report. Later the police sent the dead body to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for postmortem. On January 14, 2010 at around 5:00 pm one of her relatives brought

back the body of Shafiqul from the hospital and had buried it. She alleged that the BSF members stabbed her son to death. She urged the Bangladesh government to give her justice.

Masura Begum (42), Resident of Shamostopur village, Kaliganj, Satkhira

Masura Begum told Odhikar that on January 9, 2010 at around 7:00 am her son-in-law Shahadat, on his way returning from India, told her that the BSF members of Barunhat Camp killed Shafiqul Islam of Sheetalpur village by stabbing him and threw his body in the river while he was bringing cows from India at midnight. Shahadat told Masura Begum to pass this information to Shafiqul's family at Sheetalpur village. At around 9:00 a.m. she conveyed the news to Saleha Begum and her relatives after going to Sheetalpur village.

While returning to Khainja village, Shahadat told Masura Begum, wife of Wajed Ali of Shamostopur village that they fell into the Kalindi River beside Barunhat camp of Hasnabad village at night with cows. At that time the BSF started to chase them in a speedboat. Shahadat and the other person left the cows in the river and hid in the jungle beside the river. Shahadat saw that the BSF members were chasing Shafiqul in the speedboat. At one point the BSF also stabbed Shafiqul with a knife. He stated that the BSF members were swearing in Hindi. After a few minutes they brought Shafiqul to shore and started kicking him. According to Shahadat, Shafiqul shouted a few times and called 'mother' 'mother' while the BSF kicked him. Later the BSF threw him in the river and left the scene on the speedboat. He also told Masura that after this incident he took two cows and reached Sultanpur on the Bangladesh side, by swimming.

Shamsuddin Gazi (36), Cattle Trader, Barunhat Sardarpara, Police Station: Hasnabad, District: North Chobbis Pargona, India

Shamsuddin Gazi, an Indian cattle trader, called Odhikar from India through cell number +91-9002-352925 and informed that on the night of January 1, 2010 Shafiqul from the Bangladesh border went to his home. Shafiqul was waiting for the opportunity to cross Kalindi River with cows to enter Bangladesh. On the night of January 9, 2010 Shafiqul left his home to bring the cows. He said, after a few days he learnt through a cell phone call that while crossing the river Shafiqul had died in the hands of the BSF.

Mosammat Fatema Begum (28), Eye-witness of the dead body

Mosammat Fatema Begum told Odhikar that at 8:00 a.m. on January 13, 2010 she went fishing in the Kalindi River adjacent to the Uksa BDR camp. As the water level went down she saw a dead body in the mud on the river bank. She saw a black tube was around the chest of the dead body and the body was nude. The left cheek was cut and there were also wounds on his feet, back of the left knee, lower part of the waist and right side of the neck. She said that by the blades of speed boat and chopping, Shafiqul was killed. She called other fishermen around to see the dead body. The fishermen said that it was the body of Shafiqul of Sheetalpur village. Then the fishermen informed Shafiqul's mother. When the BDR of the Uksa camp was informed they said to contact with the police. When the police was informed at around 2:00 p.m. the police of Kaliganj Police Station came and left with the body.

Sub Inspector Abdul Huq, Kaliganj Police Station, Satkhira

Sub Inspector (SI) Abdul Huq told Odhikar that on January 13, 2010 at around 1:35 p.m. Anjuara of Sheetalpur village filed a murder case with the police station. The number of the case was 12; dated 13/01/2010 under section 302 of the Penal Code. In the FIR, Anjuara mentioned that her husband Shafiqul Islam was killed by some unknown persons. His dead body was lying on the bank of the river adjacent to the Uksa BDR camp. Then he went to the river bank and examined the body properly and sent it to the Satkhira Sadar Hospital morgue with Constable Amjad Hossain. On January 14, 2010 after the post mortem, the relatives brought and buried the dead body. He said that while investigating he learnt that Shafiqul went to India to bring cows. He also came to know that while Shafiqul started to swim across to Bangladesh holding the tail of the cow and wearing a tube around his chest, the BSF members ran the speedboat over him. As a result Shafiqul's body got cut by the blades of the speedboat. He also assumed that Shafiqul was also stabbed. He said that the Bangladesh Police had no authority to frame charge against the BSF. He also informed that this type of incident took place quite often. The BSF members kill Bangladeshis and throw them into the river. If the dead body comes to the river bank on the Bangladesh side then the dead body is identified and is taken by the relatives. But if the dead body goes to the India side then wild animals eat it. He said that dead bodies were occasionally seen floating on the river, but cannot be returned due to fear of the BSF.

Nayeb Subedar Saidur Rahman, Uksa border camp, 7 Rifles Battalion, Kaliganj, Satkhira

Nayeb Subedar Saidur Rahman told Odhikar that he was absent from the camp on January 13, 2010. Moreover, he denied having any knowledge about the death of Shafiqul Islam.

Dr. Madhu Sudan Mondal, Resident Medical Officer, Sadar Hospital, Satkhira

Dr. Madhu Sudan Mondal informed Odhikar that on January 13, 2010 at 1:00 pm Constable Amjad Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station brought in the body of Shafiqul Islam for post mortem. On January 14, 2010 at 2:30 pm, he performed the post mortem, numbered 1635. He mentioned in the post mortem report that the body had a number of scars and died due to drowning.

Ujjal, Morgue Assistant, Sadar Hospital, Satkhira

Ujjal told Odhikar that on January 13, 2010 police brought in the dead body of Shafiqul Islam. On January 14, 2010 the post mortem was conducted by the Resident Medical Officer. According to him, there were stab wounds on the body. The body was also decomposed. He said that after the body was washed, the relatives collected it.

Note: Shafiqul's wife Anjuara and Shahadat an eye witness of the incident could not be reached for interview.

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