



## **Mohammad Maniruzzaman Rubel, a medicine dealer has been killed, allegedly due to torture while in police custody at Tangail Model Police Station.**

Fact-finding report  
Odhikar

Mohammad Maniruzzaman Rubel (28), son of Delwar Hossain and Begum Razia Delwar, residents of Adi Tangail area, Haji Modhu road in Tangail Metropolitan sub-district was arrested and taken to remand and tortured at Tangail Model Police Station on April 20, 2011. He died the following day, April 21, 2011, at approximately 9:45 am at Tangail General Hospital, allegedly as a result of the injuries suffered during torture inflicted upon him at the Police Station.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mosharaf and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Mohammad Shahjahan, accused of torturing Rubel while in custody, are currently imprisoned in Tangail District Jail.

Human Rights organisation Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission with regard to this incident. During the investigation Odhikar interviewed-

- Rubel's relatives.
- Eye witnesses.
- Individuals who prepared the inquest report of the Rubel's body.
- Doctors who conducted the post-mortem.
- Affiliated members of law enforcement agencies.



Picture: Mohammad Maniruzzaman Rubel (28)

### **Iqbal Hossain Russel (30), Rubel's Brother**

Iqbal Hossain Russel informed Odhikar that Rubel was a businessman who traded in medicine. He owned a medicine shop named 'Adon Medical Hall' situated to the south of Matrishadan Hospital in the city. Russel also looked after the dealings at the same shop. Rubel sat at his shop at approximately 9:00am on April 20. Later, at 10:30 am on the same day, SI Mosharraff Hossain came to the shop and picked up Rubel without any accusation. Present at the scene was Shariful Islam, a customer at the shop. SI Mosharraff also handcuffed Shariful and took him away. At the time Russel demanded to know why Shariful and Rubel were being arrested but SI Mosharraff refused to provide any such reason and instructed him to enquire at the Police Station, if he wanted to know. Later, accompanied by his uncles Abul Haque and Golam Mostofa, Russel went to the Police Station where SI Mosharraff informed him that a motorcycle had been stolen and Shariful and Rubel had been called for questioning about the matter. Russel said that at the time he could hear Rubel's cries from inside the Police Station. When Russel asked to see his brother, SI Mosharraff insolently forced them out of the Police Station.

At 7:30 am the next morning, April 21, 2011, Russel went back to the Police Station. There he met on duty officer ASI Mohammad Shahjahan and asked to be allowed to see Rubel. ASI Mohammad Shahjahan then cursed Russel in despicable terms and said that he would recover the motorcycle from Rubel even if he had to beat it out of him. Russel then contacted numerous acquaintances in order to get Rubel out of Jail, and asked them to request officer in-charge and SI Mosharraff to release him. At approximately 9:50 am on April 21, 2011, a friend of Russel's contacted him via cellular phone and informed him that police officers had taken Rubel to Tangail General Hospital in ill-health. He immediately contacted the emergency department of the hospital and was informed by the on-duty doctor, Mohammad Muzahidul Islam, that police officers had brought Rubel to the hospital in critical condition. Rubel had passed away shortly afterwards and his body was currently at the hospital morgue. Russel arrived at the morgue to find his brother's body on a stretcher. He observed that there were several marks of wounds on Rubel's body. Russel alleges that SI Mosharraff and ASI Mohammad Shahjahan have tortured innocent Rubel to death.

### **Begum Razia Delwar(45), Rubel's Mother**

Begum Razia Delwar informed Odhikar that, at approximately 9:00 am on the morning of April 20, 2011 her son Rubel went to work at his shop. She was informed by her elder son Russel that Rubel was picked up by the police from there later that morning. At 6:53 am the next day, April 21, 2011, she received a call on her cellular phone, number-01913497256, from the number-01711006834. When she received the call she heard someone groaning on the other end and could make out an unclear voice which mumbled 'Mother it's me, mother it's me Rubel'. She then asked him where he was calling from and he informed her that a policeman at the station lockup had allowed him to make a call from a cell phone. He also said that the police had been demanding a motorcycle from him and threatened to kill him unless he provided such. Razia Begum then said that at approximately 10:00 am that morning she had been informed by Russel that Rubel had died at the hospital. She mentioned that her son was innocent and that police officers have tortured him to death.

### **Shariful Islam (26), Individual who had been arrested along with Rubel**

Shariful Islam informed Odhikar that, on the morning of April 20, 2011, he had gone to Adon Medical Hall to purchase some medicine. SI Mosharraff's house is next to Adon Medical Hall. SI Mosharraff entered the shop that morning and arrested him and Rubel, handcuffed them and took them to the Police Station.

He said that they were taken to a room on the 1st floor of the police station building. There SI Mosharraff hit both of them severely with a thick wooden stick, told them that a motorcycle had been stolen and demanded to know where they had hidden it. At one stage SI Mosharraff placed the wooden stick inside Rubel's handcuffs and hung him by them and repeatedly struck his legs. SI Mosharraff spoke at them in despicable terms while he tortured two of them. Shariful said that, after a while SI Mosharraff took him down to the police station lockup leaving Rubel in the room. In the afternoon Rubel was brought down from the room on the 1st floor in ill-health and kept in the same lockup with him. At approximately 9:00 pm on the evening of April 20, 2011, Shariful was released while Rubel was left jailed in the station lockup. Shariful returned home upon release.

### **Jasim Uddin Sharkar, Officer-in-Charge, Tangail Model Police Station, Tangail**

Jasim Uddin Sharkar informed Odhikar that, there had been two cases filed against Rubel at the Police Station, one of which involved stealing a motorcycle. On April 20, 2011, Rubel was arrested on the charge of having stolen a motorcycle. He further said that during questioning at the station lockup Rubel had given them the names of a few people apparently involved in the

motorcycle theft. Later police, accompanied by Rubel, conducted a search at Shokhipur sub-district and certain other locations. OC Jasim Uddin learned from SI Mosharraff that Rubel had fallen ill during the search and that he passed away later while under treatment at Tangail General Hospital. He further informed Odhikar that Rubel's brother filed a case with the Tangail Police Station alleging that ASI Mohammad Shahjahan and SI Mosharraff had tortured Rubel to death. SI Mosharraff and ASI Mohammad Shahjahan have been arrested and are currently imprisoned in Tangail District Jail by order of the court.

#### **Dr. Mohammad Muzahidul Islam, Tangail General Hospital, Tangail**

Dr. Mohammad Muzahidul Islam informed Odhikar that, at approximately 9:40 am on the morning of April 21, 2011 SI Mosharraff brought Rubel to the hospital in an unconscious state. He was admitted into the hospital under registration number: 3034/8; Date: 21/04/2011. Dr. Muzahidul then immediately administered oxygen to the patient but he died about 5 minutes after. The doctor said he observed various wounds and signs of injury on Rubel's body.

#### **Mohammad Rabiul Islam, Executive Magistrate, Tangail**

Mohammad Rabiul Islam informed Odhikar that, at around 3:00pm on the afternoon of April 21, 2011, he went to the Tangail General Hospital and prepared the inquest report of Rubel's body. He said that there were dark wounds in various places on the deceased's body and distinct signs of injury on the deceased's knees, elbows and ankles.

#### **Dr. Rafiqul Islam Miah, Resident Medical Officer, Tangail General Hospital, Tangail**

Dr. Rafiqul Islam Miah only said that he stated the reason for Rubel's death in the post-mortem report and refused to reveal any further information.

#### **Kari Anwar Hossain (85), the individual who washed Rubel's body before burial**

Kari Anwar Hossain informed Odhikar that he had gone to the deceased's house after having been informed of his death. He bathed the body and there was blood on the deceased's body and wounds and signs of injury in various places.

#### **Analysis of the fact finding report**

During the fact finding mission Odhikar interviewed members of the police, eye-witnesses and others affiliated with the incident.

Rubel's family alleges that on April 20, 2011, suspiciously, in the event of SI Mosharraff's motorcycle being stolen, Rubel was forcefully picked up from his work place by SI Mosharraff without any allegation. Along with him, Shariful Islam, son of Shamser Ali from the same village

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was picked up. SI Mosharraff inflicted inhuman torture on Rubel at the Police Station. As a result on April 21, 2011, Rubel died moments after being taken to the hospital. Perpetrators ASI Mohammad Shahjahan and SI Mosharraff, are currently in jail under a court order upon a charge filed against them by Rubel's brother, Russel.

Rubel's death in custody is another addition to the regular inflow of cases where citizens have been tortured in remand. Odhikar demands a fair investigation into Rubel's murder and calls for the government to ensure punishment for the perpetrators of the crime.

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