



One Bangladeshi killed and two shot and wounded by the BSF at the Gazipur border under Satkhira district

Fact-finding Report

Odhikar

On April 18, 2011 at around 1.00 am, Rekatul Islam (17) was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near the sub pillar 4 of the International pillar 4 at Gazipur border under Satkhira district. Mohammad Shahadat Hossain (25) and Mohammad Zakir Hossain (28) were injured when the BSF opened fire at them as well.

It was learnt during the fact-finding mission of Odhikar that the deceased Rekatul Islam was the son of Mohammad Munsur Ali Gazi, resident of Bosontapur village under Kaliganj Police Station in Satkhira district. Rekatul was a carpenter. Injured Shahadat Hossain, son of Piyar Ali, is a fisherman and Zakir Hossain, of Kukudangi village, was engaged in the decorator business.

Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the incident. During the mission, Odhikar spoke with:

- The family of Rekatul Islam;
- Shahadat Hossain and his family;
- Doctors;
- Morgue Assistant; and
- Members of law enforcement agencies

Mohammad Munsur Ali Gazi (65), father of Rekatul Islam

Mohammad Munsur Ali Gazi told Odhikar that he has seven children. Rekatul was working in a furniture shop as carpenter at Kaliganj Bazaar. On April 17, 2011 at around 3.00 pm Rekatul left home for the shop on his bicycle. That was the last time they saw him alive.

On April 18, 2011 at about 1.00 am his elder son Mohammad Arizul Gazi had received a cell phone call. An unknown man informed Arizul Gazi that Rekatul had been shot dead by the BSF at the Gazipur border in Bangladesh while returning with cow from Gojadenga border in India. His body was lying at the Gazipur border. Arizul told his father and went to border to bring Rekatul's body back. At around 2.00 am Arizul returned home with Rekatul's body. Munsur Ali informed the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kaliganj Police Station at around 7.00 am, Syed Farid Uddin, about the death of Rekatul and filed a case. The OC recorded the case as a General Diary (GD) which was numbered 719, dated 18/04/2011. At around 8.00 am, the

OC went to Munsur Ali's home and sent the body to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for autopsy after preparing an inquest report. After conducting the post-mortem, Rekatul's body was sent to his home by the police of the Kaliganj Police Station at around 5.00 pm. Rekatul was buried at Bosontapur graveyard at around 7.30 pm. He said he saw several bullet wounds on Rekatul's back.

Munsur Ali also informed Odhikar that on April 19, 2011, the OC of Kaliganj Police Station had forwarded the GD to Satkhira Police Station. Later police took the complaint as regular case (numbered 49, dated 19/04/2011) under sections 302/34 of the Penal Code. Accused were unknown BSF members. He demanded justice for the killing of his son Rekatul.



Photo- Rekatul Islam

Mohammad Arizul Gazi (26), brother of Rekatul

Mohammad Arizul Gazi told Odhikar that on April 18, 2011 at about 1.00 am, an unknown man informed him through mobile phone that his brother Rekatul was shot dead by the BSF at the Gazipur border. After informing his parents, he rushed to the Gazipur border. He saw the body of Rekatul lying in a paddy field near sub pillar 4 of the International main pillar 4 at the border. He also found Shahadat Hossain of Maghurali village with a bullet wound lying beside Rekatul. Later Shahadat's father and brother had come to the spot. They picked up the deceased Rekatul and wounded Shahadat on a local carriage drawn by horses and brought him home. Rekatul was buried at around 7.30 pm after post-mortem. Arizul told Odhikar that some Bangladeshis went to India to bring back cattle on the day when the incident took place. While they were returning to Bangladesh from India, BSF members shot dead Rekatul and left Shahadat and Zakir wounded.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain (25), wounded in the incident

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain told Odhikar that he is a fisherman by profession. It was very hard to support his family by only fishing. One day Shafiqul, whom he knew, offered him the opportunity to bring cattle from India. He was allured by the money that would be earned by doing this work. Indian cattle traders keep cows in a specific house, beside the BSF camp at the border with specific colour marks. The BSF members on duty at the border let the cattle traders know, in exchange of money, the exact time when cows would be sent to Bangladesh.

The cattle traders were informed accordingly. Upon receiving the information, they bring cows to Bangladesh by crossing the border. For this work Taka 2500 to 3000 could be earned for each cow. Shahadat also told Odhikar that on April 17, 2011 at around 5.00 pm, he along with Shafiqul went to one Faruk at Badamtoli, where they waited for a signal from the Indian cattle brokers. At around 8.00 pm, five Indian cattle brokers came to Badamtoli. They informed them that 30 cows have been kept on the other side. They went to Gojadenga of India to bring the cows. At about 12.00 am they left for Bangladesh with 10 cows. After talking with BSF members, one Indian broker told them to cross the border with the cows. They were told by the brokers that the BSF would not shoot at them as per verbal agreement.

Being assured by the brokers, they left with cows through sub pillar 4 of the main pillar 4 near Pakhidanga BSF camp at Kalutola border area. At one stage they got entangled with the BSF members and had an argument. When they were crossing the iron fence, the BSF members started firing at them. Rekatul and he were hit in the back while Zakir was hit in his finger. After being hit, Rekatul was shouting and ran away to cross the border and fell on the ground unconscious. Shahadat laid down in a paddy field. His companions used his cell phone to call his father and Rekatul's brother Arizul. He was brought home by his father on a local carriage drawn by horses. He took first aid from a village doctor at night. On April 18, 2011 at about 8.30 am he was admitted to Nazmun Clinic at Satkhira and treated there.



Photo- Injured Mohammad Shahadat Hossain

Mohammad Piyar Ali (70), father of Shahadat Hossain

Mohammad Piyar Ali told Odhikar that on April 18, at around 1.00 am Shahadat informed him that he had been shot by BSF at Gazipur border. He was laid down by his companions in a paddy field. The body of Rekatul of Bosontapur village was beside him. Shahadat told his father to bring him from the border and admit him to a hospital immediately. Piyar Ali went to the Gazipur border and brought Shahadat to Satkhira on a local horse-carriage and admitted him to Nazmun clinic. On April 20, 2011 Shahadat was released from hospital. Later police of Kaliganj and Satkhira Sadar Police Stations recorded his statement. He also

said that he was informed by the doctor that 11 pellets had been removed from Shahadat's back and 61 pellets were still inside him.

Dr. SM Mokhleshur Rahman, Nazmun Clinic, Satkhira

Dr. SM Mokhleshur Rahman informed Odhikar that Shahadat, a resident of Maghurali village under Kaliganj Upazila, was brought to him at around 8.30 am on April 18, 2011. He treated Shahadat. He said that 11 pellets have been removed from Shahadat's back and 61 pellets were still in him. He was given treatment regularly. Furthermore, Zakir's pellets had been removed.

Syed Farid Uddin, Officer-in-Charge, Kaliganj Police Station

Syed Farid Uddin informed Odhikar that Munsur Ali Gazi of Bosontapur village filed a case on April 18, 2011. Munsur Ali mentioned in the First Information Report (FIR) that on April 17, 2011, the BSF personnel chased his son Rekatul Islam when he and his friends reached near the Pakhidanga BSF camp through Bhomra border. The BSF opened fire on them while they were trying to return to Bangladesh territory. Rekatul and Shahadat got shot. Rekatul died after returning to Bangladesh. Upon receiving a message from a man, Rekatul's brother Arizul Gazi brought the body at home from Gazipur border at 2.00 am. He prepared an inquest report of the body. There were a number of pellet wounds on Rekatul's back, which was mentioned in the inquest report. Later he sent the body to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The body was handed over to the deceased's family at 5.00 pm after post-mortem.

The OC told Odhikar that the case had been shifted to Satkhira Sadar Police Station as the place of occurrence was under the said police station. He also said that a number of incidents like Rekatul's took place often in this border area but most of them are not formally reported.

Sub Inspector Shahriar Hasan, Satkhira Sadar Police Station, Satkhira

Sub Inspector (SI) Shahriar Hasan informed Odhikar that on April 19, 2011, Munsur Ali Gazi of Bosontapur village in Kaliganj, filed a case against some unknown BSF members for killing his son Rekatul Islam, which was numbered 49, dated 19/04/2011 under sections 302/34 of the Penal Code. He said that the body was recovered from Kaliganj Police Station and the post-mortem was done by the same police. He said, he was given the responsibility to investigate the case. However, the investigation has been obstructed as he did not receive the inquest report, post-mortem report and a copy of GD registered with Kaliganj Police Station.

Habildar Abdul Khaleque, BGB, Gazipur Border Camp, Satkhira

Habildar Abdul Khaleque informed Odhikar that on April 18, 2011 at 1.00 am 28 cows had come into Bangladesh by crossing the border through sub pillar 4 of the main pillar 4. Though cows were taken to the BGB camp by the BGB members, they could not arrest any cowherd who brought the cows from India. In the morning, cattle traders came to the camp. They got the cows released cows through customs clearance.

He also told Odhikar that patrolling at the border was regular. No untoward incident happened. When his attention was drawn to the incident of the killing of Rekatul and the injury of two other Bangladeshis by the BSF on April 18, 2011, he made inquiries at the concerned area and communicated with the BSF members at the Pakhidanga camp.

Lt. Col. Enayet Karim, Commanding Officer, 41 Battalions, BGB, Satkhira

Lt. Col. Enayet Karim told Odhikar that on the night of April 18, 2011 some cows came into Bangladesh illegally. When he was asked about the incident of the killing of Rekatul, he informed Odhikar that members of the BGB were inadequate in numbers. That is why they can not keep watch proper on all areas or monitor all situations.

Mohammad Akhter Hossain, Office Assistant, Satkhira Sadar Hospital, Satkhira

Mohammad Akhter Hossain told Odhikar that police brought the body of Rekatul to the hospital in the morning of April 18, 2011. Dr. ASM Maruf Hasan conducted the post-mortem, which was numbered 92, dated 18/04/2011. Later police took the body away and handed it over to the deceased's family.

Ujjal, Morgue Assistant, Satkhira Sadar Hospital

Morgue assistant Ujjal told Odhikar that police of Kaliganj Police Station brought the body of Rekatul to the hospital morgue in the morning of April 18, 2011 for autopsy. He helped the doctors conduct the post-mortem. He informed Odhikar that several bullets had been removed from Rekatul's back.

Odhikar expresses concern and also protests the incidents of killing of Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF at the border areas. According to information gathered by Odhikar, between January 1, 2011 and May 20, 2011, a total of 12 Bangladeshis have been killed by the BSF.

Odhikar demands that the Bangladesh Government take effective measures to stop killings and torturing of Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF and also to ensure the security of those citizens residing at the border areas.

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