

Monowar Hossain Monir of Sylhet was allegedly tortured and killed by RAB

Fact finding Report

Odhikar

Monowar Hossain Monir (30), the secretary of Sylhet branch of Jatio Jubo Shonhoti (JP)¹ is the son of Abdus Sattar and Monowara Begum of Gilatola village of Jointapur Upazilla of Sylhet. At around 2.30 pm on 14 September 2011, RAB-9 arrested Monowar Hossain Monir.

Parvin Begum of Shunamgonj told Odhikar that Monir appeared at her home as a false RAB officer and accused her of being involved in the drug trade. He then promised her he could get her out of a court case if she paid him 3,00,000 taka². In light of this incidence, Parvin Begum filed a case agianst Monir accusing him of fraud. On that case, officers of RAB-9 arrested Monir from the Unique Bus counter at Mendibag, Bisshoroad at Sobhani Ghat in Sylhet. On 24 September 2011, Monir died while under treatment in Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical Hospital.

Odhikar has conducted a fact-finding mission into the matter. During this, Odhikar interviewed:

- **Relatives of Monir**
- **Eye-witness and**
- **Members of law enforcement agencies.**



Picture: Deceased Monowar Hossain Monir (30)

¹ Jatio Jubo Shonhoti is a youth wing of Jatio Party

² Approximately 3681 USD.

Abdus Sattar (65), Monir's father

Abdus Sattar told Odhikar that at around 1 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, Monir went out, and that was the last he saw of him till 17 September. On that day, he found out about Monir's arrest from Sobhani Ghat and that he was at the Chatok Police Station of Shunamgonj; and at around 11 of the morning on 17 September 2011, he went there to look for Monir. He was informed that Monir was in Shunamgonj District Jail. Then he went there and met Monir. Monir told his father about the torture by RAB, the kicks, slaps and punches. Monir told him that he went to Sobhani Ghat to solve the dispute between Parvin and her husband, Kaiyum. Nevertheless, Parvin filed a false case against him and RAB arrested him on the basis of the case. Abdus Sattar claimed that his son was innocent and Parvin's complain is groundless. RAB officers tortured Monir when they failed to make him confess, he added.

Monowara Begum (50), Monir's mother

Monowara Begum told Odhikar that at around 1 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011 Monir went out. She came to know from her husband and another son named Altaf that Monir was in the Police Station. Then after two days, she came to know that her son was admitted in the Osmani Medical College Hospital due to illness. Being informed of Monir's illness, at around 10 in the night on 19 September 2011, she along with her son, Altaf and former Union Parishad (UP) member, Shiraj went to Osmani Medical College Hospital. She saw Monir wearing a different t-shirt from the one he was wearing on the 14th and was laid on the floor, as he was not given any bed. Monir was vomiting frequently. The vomit had blood in it and he was shouting in agony. The Jail Police present there did not let her talk to Monir and asked her to keep her distance from her son. When she went close to Monir, the police scolded her and turned her out. Police only allowed her to go close to Monir while taking him to the toilet. At that time, Monir told her about the torture he suffered.

She said that Monir told her that RAB hit him on his chest, stomach and back and they also kicked different parts of his body with boots. She saw fresh scars around his waist and all around his chest and stomach. Monir looked very ill and he was vomiting frequently and there was also blood in his urine. At around 3 in the morning of on 24 September 2011, the oxygen and saline was removed. Then police told that her son was dead.

Mithun Ahmed (22), who was arrested with Monir and an eye-witness

Mithun Ahmed told Odhikar that at around 3 to 3.30 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, RAB arrested him from the area of the radio station. Mithun Ahmed is the son of Md. Shofiq Mia and Monjura Begum of Munshipara, Sylhet. He was under treatment in bed 17 of ward no. 2 of the fourth floor of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital after tortured by RAB. He said RAB officers beat him and Monir together. He also informed Odhikar that he became ill after the torture. He was feeling pain in his chest while talking. He said that he would inform about the torture in details after he get well. Then his mother came and he asked to talk to her.

Monjura Begum (50), Mithun's mother

Mithun's mother Monjura Begum told Odhikar that at around 3.30 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, RAB officers arrested Mithun from in front of the radio station. She said that there is no case or GD against her son, Mithun. Riajuddin, a London dweller and Manik, her husband's step brother, offered to buy ten percent of the land from the east side of their home in Munshipara, Sylhet. When they refused to sell, the two men filed false cases against her husband Shofiq Mia and son Mithun. They also threatened to kill Mithun by giving 5,00,000 taka³ as a bribe to RAB. The next day, on 14 September, RAB arrested and then tortured Mithun. Manik and some other men stabbed and injured Shofiq Mia. She informed that her husband was under treatment in the Osmani Hospital. On 15 September she got call from the Kotwali Police Station and was asked whether she was Mithun's mother. She identified herself as Mithun's mother. She was informed that Mithun was in the Police Station. She went to the Police Station and saw her son laid on the floor like a corpse. She requested and pleaded with the police to take Mithun to the Osmani Hospital for treatment. When she went to the hospital for Mithun's treatment, she saw Monir in ill condition there. Later on, she came to know that Monir had been arrested at the same time as Mithun and then heard the death news of Monir.

Mahbubur Rahman (32), Sales Executive of Unique transportation and eye-witness

Mahbubur Rahman told Odhikar that at around 2 to 2.30 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, a white microbus was parked in front of the Unique Bus counter. 4/5 people with arms got out and called Monir. He saw them talking with Monir and just after few minutes they took Monir away in the microbus. There was no quarrelling or scuffling between them and Monir, he informed.

Md. Iqbal (35), eye-witness

Md. Iqbal informed Odhikar that at around 2 of the noon on 14 September 2011, 4/5 people with arms came and stood in front of their Thai Aluminum shop named 'Thaikon'. He saw them talking to a man and then left with him in the microbus. After they left, Iqbal came to know that RAB-9 had arrested a man.

Md. Mobarak (35), owner of tea stall and eye-witness

Md. Mobarak informed Odhikar that at around 2 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, a white microbus was parked in front of the Unique Bus counter almost next to his tea stall. He was in the stall and observed the whole incident. He said that the men identified themselves as RAB officers and began asking Monir about his profession and residence. Monir gave his identity. One of them told Monir that they needed some information from him and suggested he get into the microbus with them. Monir got into the microbus without any protest. In the microbus, two RAB officers sat on both sides of him. At that time he also saw Monir call to Abdullah, the person in charge of the Unique counter and requested him to talk to the RAB officers. However, Abdullah

³ Approximately 6,135 USD

did not come forward. He stood in fear at the counter and the RAB officers took Monir away.

Abdullah, Unique Bus counter ticket seller and eye witness

Odhikar wanted to talk to Abdullah but on receiving our call, he said to call after one hour as he was busy. Later on, the Odhikar reporter failed to contact him, as his cell phone was switched off. When the Odhikar fact finder went to the Unique Bus counter at Sobhani Ghat, he was no longer there.

Abdul Latif, Imam of Bohorposhchim Jame Mosque, who conducted the bathing ritual of Monir's body

Abdul Latif told Odhikar that at the time of bathing Monir's body, he saw an injury on Monir's arm. He saw scars on his chest, back, stomach, waist, and feet and saw injury marks all over his body.

Parvin Begum, Plaintiff of the case against Monir

Parvin Begum told Odhikar that at around 12 in the afternoon on 12 September 2011 Monir went to her home. Monir identified himself as a RAB officer and accused her of being involved with drug dealing. Monir also said that he would help in the case filed against her. In exchange, he demanded 3,00,000 taka. Monir told her to come alone to Sobhani Ghat with the money on 14 September, 2011. Due to this Parvin filed a case of fraud against Monir.

Dr. Md. Abul Monsur, Assistant Professor of Forensic Department of Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital

Dr. Md. Abul Monsur told Odhikar that on 24 September he conducted the postmortem of Monir. He could not say specifically when the inquest report would be available. He informed that during the post-mortem of Monir, Dr. Abdul Hai Minar and Dr. Sadekul Islam were present there. He informed that he would be sure of the reason of Monir's death after taking note of the supporting pathology. He refused to talk about this matter.

Shorbottom Deoan, Deputy Jailer of Sylhet Jail

Shorbottom Deoan told Odhikar that at 6 in the evening on 19 September 2011, Monir was sent to MAG Osmani Medical College hospital from the Shunamgonj jail. From the hospital he was sent to Sylhet Jail. Sylhet Jail surgeon, Dr. Mizanur Rahman was not present to examine Monir. Pharmacist Abul Kalam Ajad and Nurse Shofiul Azam examined his condition and they suggested sending him back to Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical Hospital immediately.

He said that the condition of Monir was critical because of beating. He said that he clearly saw the injuries on Monir's body. In Shunamgonj Jail Monir's prisoner number was 2334/11 and in Sylhet jail it was 5829/11.

Sub Inspector (SI) Kamal Uddin, Chatok Police Station, Shunamgonj

Sub Inspector (SI) Kamal Uddin informed Odhikar that at around 8.30 in the night on 15 September RAB-9 officers handed Monir over to the Chatok Police Station. The authority received Monir and the GD no is 605. The next day, he was sent to the Court. In Chatok Police Station the case filed against Monir was numbered 22 and dated: 15 September 2011. It was recorded at 8.30 in the night. The plaintiff was Parvin Begum, father late Shamsul Islam, of Shang Lokkhi Baur of Chatok in Shunamgonj; who complained that Monir frightened her by identifying himself as a RAB officer and demanded 300,000 taka. The case number was 170/385. SI Mashuk Mia of Chatok Police Station was given charge of this case as the Investigating Officer.

Md. Fazle Shaheen Hoque, Squadron leader, RAB-9, Sylhet

Md. Fazle Shaheen Hoque told Odhikar that at around 2 in the afternoon on 14 September 2011, Monir was arrested from Sobhani Ghat area. On the next day, he was sent to Police Station. He denied that Monir was tortured and said that he was sent to the Police Station in a perfectly normal state. He said that Monir frightened a woman named Parvin and asked her to give him 300,000 taka. Moreover, Monir sent a message to Parvin's mobile to ask for the money. Parvin informed RAB. Monir asked Parvin to bring the money to Sobhani Ghat on 14 September. There the RAB officers arrested him. He said that at the time of arrest Monir might have been injured because there had been a scuffle. Moreover, he said that if RAB had tortured him then the police would not have put him in jail. If the Magistrate saw him injured then he would send him to the hospital. He was fine and he was sent to the Court from Police Station and then to the jail. From 19 to 24 September 2011, he was under the observation of the physicians. He was fine for 4/5 days there. Regarding the arrest of Mithun, Md. Fazle Shaheen Hoque said that there are 7/8 cases against him and he is involved with different crimes in his area.

Odhikar demands the Government to conduct a fair investigation into Monowar Hossain Monir's death.

-End of report-