



Shahinur Begum allegedly killed over dowry demands

Fact finding Report

Odhikar

Shahinur Begum (19) was the daughter of Kalu Miah Prodhan of Baghaiakandi village of Gojaria thana in Munshiganj district. On May 20, 2011, Shahinur got married to Humayun Kabir Raju (25), son of Mohammad Badshah Miah from Lokkhipur village and soon after the marriage, Raju started demanding dowry.

According to Shahinur's family, at around 2.30 pm of February 4, 2012, Raju hacked and killed Shahinur because they could not continue giving dowry. Shahinur's brother, Mohammad Sanaullah Prodhan filed a case as a plaintiff in Gojaria Police Station. The case is numbered: 03, date- 04/02/2012 under section 11 (ka)/30 of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 (Amendment 2003).¹

On April 30, 2012, the Investigating Officer, Sub Inspector (SI) Farid Uddin submitted the charge sheet to the Court.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the matter and interviewed:

- Relatives of the deceased, Shahinur Begum
- Eye-witnesses
- The doctor who conducted the post mortem and
- The members of law enforcement agencies.



Photo- Shahinur Begum

¹ Section 11 (ka) talks about the punishment for killing someone over demands for dowry and section 30 deals with the punishment for abetment.

Kalu Miah Prodhan (55), Shahinur's father

Kalu Miah told Odhikar that he arranged Shahinur's marriage with the son of Badshah Miah, Humayun Kabir Raju of Lokkhipur village and Taka 1,50,000 was fixed as dower. On May 20, 2011, the marriage took place. At the time of the marriage, he gave gold ornaments and Taka one lac (one hundred thousand) towards Raju's business. 15 days after the marriage, Raju came to demand one lac taka more as dowry. Kalu Miah mortgaged their homestead and gave the money to Raju. However, after few days Raju demanded two lac taka more. Kalu Miah expressed his inability to give any more money. From then, Raju started abusing Shahinur. One day, Shahinur called her father and told him that Raju had tried to suffocate her while demanding dowry from her. The day after this phone call, Kalu Miah went to Raju's home and brought his pregnant daughter back. Raju came to his house after around one month and at night he dragged Shahinur out of the home and physically assaulted her. Neighbours stopped him and came to her rescue. Raju snatched away Shahinur's gold chain and threatened her father that he would not take Shahinur back unless one lac taka was given and he left. Two months passed by and then one day Raju came back to his father in law's home and apologised. He also pleaded for forgiveness from other members of the family and finally took Shahinur back home. Julekha, Shahinur's friend, called Kalu Miah to tell him that Raju was abusing Shahinur both physically and mentally all most every day. Hearing this Kalu Miah went to Lokkhipur on February 3, 2012. However, Raju again demanded one lac taka. When Kalu Miah refused to give him any more money, Raju verbally abused him and said that he would not be able to see Shahinur any more unless the demanded dowry was given. Then Raju threw him out of his home.

At around 2.30 pm of February 4, 2012, his neighbour, Mohammad Asad Ali Miyaji called him to say that Shahinur was gravely ill and under treatment in Gojaria Health Complex. Kalu Miah went to Gojaria Health Complex, where he saw Raju's brother, Babul sitting beside Shahinur. Shahinur told him that Raju, with the help of his parents, brother and sister, injured her by hacking at different parts of her body. Kalu Miah talked to the duty doctor, Tapan Kumar Bormon about Shahinur's condition. The doctor said that her injuries was so deep, they were causing her to bleed excessively. He referred her to Dhaka Medical College for better treatment. Kalu Miah went to the nearby market to

call his son, Sanaullah. Returning from the market, he learnt that Babul had taken Shahinur to Dhaka in a microbus. However, the microbus returned to the Gojaria hospital after 30 minutes and Babul escaped. The driver told Kalu Miah that they returned right after the patient died. Afterwards, the police of Gojaria Police Station went to the hospital, arrested Raju and prepared the inquest report. After preparing the report, they left with the body of Shahinur. His son, Sanaullah went with them and filed a case in the Gojaria Police Station, he informed.

Mohammad Sanaullah Prodhan (25), Shahinur's elder brother

Mohammad Sanaullah told Odhikar that at around 3 pm on February 4, 2012, he came to know from one of his friends, Shah Ali that Raju wounded Shahinur badly and she was in Gojaria Health Complex. Sanaullah reached there from Dhaka at 7 pm and found Shahinur dead. He saw Sub Inspector (SI) Farid Uddin preparing the inquest report, with the assistance of two female police officers. After they prepared the report, they left taking the body of Shahinur. He went to Gojaria Police Station to file a case. However, SI Farid Uddin kept him waiting for three hours. The SI ordered the officer in charge (OC) Shohidul Islam, on his arrival, to file the case. The OC wrote the F.I.R but took his signature without reading it out to Sanaullah. SI Farid Uddin told him that the F.I.R was filed against Shahinur's husband Humayun Kabir Raju (25) father-in-law, Badshah Miah (70), mother-in-law Monowara Begum (60), brothers-in-law Babul (40), Moajjem (35), Masud (23) and sister-in-law Jesmin Akhter (37). At around 11.40 pm SI Farid Uddin filed the case. Case number-03; Date- 04/02/2012 under section 11 (ka)/30 of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Doman Ain 2000 (Amendment 2003).

At around 9 am on February 5, 2012, he also went to the Munshiganj District Hospital for the post mortem with the police. The body of Shahinur was returned home in the evening and she was buried at the Baghaiakandi village.

Al Amin (40), Eye-witness

Al Amin told Odhikar that he is Raju's neighbour. Shahinur's friend, Julekha, also a neighbour, used to tell him that Raju beat Shahinur quite often. At around 2.30 pm of February 4, 2012, Julekha informed him that Raju was beating Shahinur behind closed doors. Hearing this, Al Amin went to Raju's home and made him open the door. Then he saw a crowbar in his hand and blood on the floor. Raju injured Shahinur by beating and

hacking her with the crowbar. Al Amin sent Shahinur to the Gojaria Upazilla Health Complex with Raju's brother Babul. The locals locked Raju in a room so that he could not escape. Then Al Amin called Union Parishad member of Lokkhipur, Abdus Sattar and the Chairman of Bhober Chor Union Parishad, Professor Gias Uddin and informed them that Shahinur had little chance of survival after such injury. Professor Gias Uddin informed the Gojaria Police Station and at 4 pm SI Farid Uddin came and arrested Raju.

Mohammad Asad Ali Miyaji (60), neighbour of Shahinur's father

Mohammad Asad Ali Miyaji told Odhikar that at around 3.00 pm of February 4, 2012, he saw a crowd at the Gojaria Health Complex and stepped forward. He found out that Kalu Miah's daughter Shahinur was brought in dying. Then he called Kalu Miah and the Commissioner of Baghaiakandi village, Mohammad Mojammel. He also talked to the duty doctor, Tapan Kumar Bormon who said that Shahinur had very little chance of survival. Then he went home because he was ill.

Doctor Tapan Kumar Bormon, Gojaria Upazilla Health Complex

Dr. Tapan Kumar Bormon refused to talk about the death of Shahinur.

Abdul Mannan, Member of Lower Subordinate Staff (MLSS), Gojaria Upazilla Health Complex

Abdul Mannan told Odhikar that on February 4, 2012, a man called Babul brought a woman called Shahinur from Lokkhipur to the hospital. She had injuries on her back, chest and ears. She also had injuries to both sides of her abdomen which were so deep that there was no way to stop the bleeding or give her stitches. There was little the emergency doctors could do and they just covered her injuries with a bandage.

Sub Inspector (SI) Farid Uddin, Gojaria Police Station, Munshiganj

SI Farid Uddin told Odhikar that at around 3 pm of February 4, 2012, the Chairman of Bhober Chor Union Parishad, Professor Gias Uddin called and informed him that in Lokkhipur a woman named Shahinur had been badly injured by her husband and in-laws with the probable intention of killing her. He went to Lokkhipur and at around 4 pm he arrested Humayun Kabir Raju, who was covered in blood, despite his hurried efforts to wash himself. The SI said that there was a bloody crowbar and two big knives in the room. He also recovered some clothes covered with blood. He arrested Raju and went to Gojaria Health Complex to prepare the inquest report. After preparing the report, he took

the body of Shahinur to the Gojaria Police Station and kept it there. Shahinur's brother, Sanaullah filed a case as a plaintiff against eight people. As the investigating officer of the case, he took the body to the Munshiganj District Hospital at around 9 am of February 5, 2012. After the post mortem, he returned the body to the family. He informed Odhikar that the investigation was still going on.

On May 27, 2012 SI Farid Uddin informed Odhikar that, he submitted the charge sheet to the Court on April 30, 2012. Charge sheet number-98.

Doctor Ehsanul Karim, Residential Medical Officer, District Hospital, Munshiganj

Doctor Ehsanul Karim told Odhikar that at around 11.30 am on February 5, 2012, the SI of Gojaria Police Station, Farid Uddin and a person named Sanaullah brought in a body of a woman. SI Farid Uddin informed him that she was Shahinur Begum. He conducted the post mortem of the body of Shahinur. There were injuries on her back, chest and ear. She also had very deep abdominal wounds and her stomach was partially exposed. In the post mortem report, he mentioned that she died of excessive bleeding. On the same day, police took the body.

Taslima (45), who conducted the bath ritual of the body

Taslima told Odhikar that on February 5, 2012, she conducted the bathing ritual of Shahinur's body with two other neighbours, Rahima (50) and Kulsum (40). She saw 11 injury marks on Shahinur's back, hands, fingers, and lower abdomen.

Statement of Odhikar:

There are different reasons behind acts of violence against women and their intensity. One is the weakness of law enforcement agencies and the long process of punishment under the criminal law. Odhikar demands the government to take more effective steps to protect women against all forms of violence, especially domestic violence.