



Physically disabled sub contractor of a garment factory, Abdul Momin Molla was allegedly shot dead by RAB

Fact Finding Report

Odhikar

Mohammad Abdul Momin Molla (24) was the son of late Abu Sayed and Rojeba Khatun of Gajirkandi village of Nobinogor thana in Bhammanbaria district. At around 1 pm of April 1, 2012, the members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-4 arrested Mohammad Abdul Momin from in front of his home at East Chorayil of Keranigonj, Dhaka. Then sometime after midnight on April 2, 2012, RAB-4 tied Momin to a tree in front of house no. 383 of the 'Tin shed Colony'¹ at road no. 12 of section 13, Mirpur, Dhaka. They allegedly shot Momin dead there.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the matter. During this they interviewed:

- Relatives of Mohammad Abdul Momin
- Eye-witness
- Doctor who conducted the post mortem
- The morgue assistant and
- The members of law enforcement agencies.



Picture: Abdul Momin Molla

¹ The Tin shed Colony is an area of very low-income homes, mainly made of corrugated tin or iron sheets – hence the name. It is mainly a settlement for squatters, rickshaw pullers, garment factory workers and the like.

Jotsna Akhter Poly (22), Momin's wife

Jostna Akhter Poly told Odhikar that her husband used crutch to move around. At around 1 pm on April 1, 2012, Amin, the owner of a cell phone 'flexi load' shop at Purbo Chorayil, Keranigonj called him and said that six or seven RAB members in civilian dress arrested Momin from in front of the signboard 'Nobodhara Multi Purpose Company Limited' on the road near his home. Poly called her husband on his cell phone and when he answered, in the background she heard some people scolding him and telling him not to talk to her. Then, the line was disconnected.

At around 9 in the morning of April 2, 2012, Rubel, (also known as 'Leader Rubel') the General Secretary of 'Bangabondhu Shoinik League'², Kafrul thana, who was a RAB-4 informer, called her and told her to go to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue to see her husband's body. Rubel, who is a resident of Building-1, Kafrul, Shenpara, also told her that Momin was killed because he did not listen to him. Rubel warned Momin several times not to compete against him or cause any conflict with him.

Poly came to know from a local resident of the Tin shed Colony, that RAB members tied Momin to a tree and shot him dead. She recalled that a few days after her husband's death, a stranger called her cell phone and asked her whether she had filed any case against anyone or not. She asked the caller who he was and he replied that he was Momin's friend. He also suggested that she should not file any case as it is not easy to win a case against the 'administration'.

Abdul Halim Bhuiyan (37), Momin's cousin

Abdul Halim Bhuiyan told Odhikar that at around 1 pm of April 1, 2012, he came to know from Momin's wife that between six and seven RAB officers in civilian dress arrested Momin from in front of the house at East Chorail, Keranigonj. At around 10 am of April 2, 2012, he went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue and at around 5 pm he received the body of Momin. He saw injuries on the left side of Momin's forehead, right side of his chest and on both knees. He recalled that when Momin was five years old, he contracted Polio and lost the use of his left leg. Despite his physical inability, Momin was honest and hard working. He worked as a contractor for mending zippers for garment manufacturing factories.. At around 11 in the night of April 2, 2012, Momin's body was buried in the family graveyard at Gajira Kandi village of Nobinogor thana in Bhramanbaria.

² The branch organization of the Awami League

Mohammad Amin (27), Eye-witness, East Chorail, Keranigonj, Dhaka

Mohammad Amin told Odhikar that at around 1 pm of April 1, 2012, he saw Momin on a rickshaw. The moment that rickshaw came in front of his shop, six or seven people identified themselves as RAB members and surrounded the rickshaw. They handcuffed Momin and two of them sat beside him on the rickshaw and left that area. Other RAB members also took rickshaws and followed them.

Mohammad Rubel Miah (32), General Secretary, Bongobondhu Soinik League, Kafrul Police Station, Dhaka

Mohammad Rubel Miah told Odhikar that on April 2, 2012, he came to know of Momin's death from the 'breaking news' aired on different television channels. From there, he learnt that Momin died in cross-fire with RAB-4. He also heard of the death in more detail from the local residents. He heard that at around 12.30 at night between April 1 and 2, 2012, Momin, a notorious person from Mirpur died in a cross-fire with RAB-4 at Tin shed Colony (behind Krishi³ Bank) at section 13, Mirpur. He also informed Odhikar that Momin was involved in different crimes like demanding 'extortions' from the garment owners of Kafrul, making threatening phone calls, etc. The garment factory owners of the number 1 building area at Shenpara, used to give him 3,50,000 taka monthly. Moreover, the garment owners of Kochukhet used to give him 5,50,000 taka monthly. To the peace loving locals, he was a terror.

Officer in –Charge (OC) Mohammad Abdul Latif, Kafrul Police Station, Dhaka

OC Mohammad Abdul Latif informed Odhikar that there was a cross-fire between Momin and RAB-4 at the Tin shed Colony area (behind the Krishi Bank) of section 13, Mirpur on April 2, 2012 and that Momin died as a result. He said that Momin's associates escaped. Mohammad Abdul Latif also informed Odhikar that there were several cases against Momin in Kafrul, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Pollobi Police Stations for different crimes. He told the fact finders to contact Sub Inspector (SI) Tofajjol Hossain to know details about Momin and the inquest report. Moreover, he also requested them to go to RAB-4 office to know more about the different cases against Momin and the cross-fire.

³ A Mirpur branch of the Agricultural Bank

Sub Inspector (SI) Tofajjol Hossain, Kafrul Police Station, Dhaka

SI Tofajjol Hossain told Odhikar that at around 1.30 am of April 2, 2012, Kafrul Police Station was informed by RAB-4 about the cross-fire that happened at the Tin shed Colony at section 13, Mirpur where Momin died and his associates escaped. Receiving the information around 2 am Tofajjol Hossain went to house no. 383 of road 12 and found Momin's body lying on the road. He also recovered one revolver, two rounds of bullets and four bottles of Phensydil⁴ of which one bottle was half empty; and one packet of Gold Leaf cigarettes with five cigarettes in it near from the body of Momin. SI Tofajjol Hossain then brought the body at around 3.55am to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the duty doctor confirmed the death. SI Tofajjol Hossain then prepared the inquest report in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, Raselul Kabir Chowdhury. He saw signs of a bullet wound on the right side of Momin's forehead, right side of his chest and on the right groin. However, he did not agree to give the inquest report to Odhikar.

Captain Tahsin Salehin Rana, Operation Officer, RAB-4, Payikpara, Mirpur-1, Dhaka

Captain Tahsin Salehin Rana told Odhikar that on April 2, 2012, a regular patrol team of RAB-4 was on duty at road 12 of the Tin shed Colony of section no. 13, Mirpur. At 12.30 in the night, the patrol team got involved in a cross-fire in which Momin died. To know the details about the cross-fire, he gave a copy of a press note signed by Nigar Sultana, Additional Police Superintendent, Senior Assistant Director (Media coordinator). The memo number is -4220/media/press note/45. In the note it is mentioned that Mohammad Momin, the chief assistant of wanted criminal Taj, was killed in cross fire with RAB-4 in section 13 of Mirpur. Arms and bullets were recovered from the scene and there are six cases in Kafrul Police Station, one case in Pollobi Police Station and one case in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station filed against Momin. Moreover, there are also two general diary (GD) filed in Kafrul Police Station, as mentioned in the press note.

Dr Kamrul Hasan Shorder, doctor who conducted the post mortem, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka

Dr Kamrul Hasan Shorder told Odhikar that on April 2, 2012, SI Tofajjol Hossain of Kafrul Police Station brought the body of Momin to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He conducted the post mortem after the duty doctor declared Momin dead. During post

⁴ This is a cough medicine that is manufactured in India and banned in Bangladesh. It is smuggled across the border and used by addicts as a cheap 'high', due to, among other things, its alcohol content.

mortem he saw marks of bullet wounds in his body. He said that he prepared the post mortem report but expressed his inability to talk about it.

Shri Ramu Chandra Das, morgue assistant, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka

Shri Ramu Chandra Das told Odhikar that the post mortem took place at around 1 pm of April 2, 2012. While assisting, he saw what he thought were bullet wounds on the body. The post mortem number is 580/12.

The statement of Odhikar

This government has repeatedly failed to keep its promise about stopping extra-judicial killings. The issue of abducting people by law enforcement agencies in plain dress and then killing them is a matter of grave concern and against the judicial system of the country. The government needs to take effective steps in this regard otherwise; the government will be liable for the failure of our judicial system. Regardless of whether the men in plain clothes were law enforcement officers or not, such incidents deserve a thorough and impartial investigation and the perpetrators punished by the Law.

Odhikar demands proper investigation and justice for the death of Abdul Momin Molla.

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