



Two Men Shot to Death by RAB at Keraniganj, Dhaka  
Fact-Finding Report  
Odhikar

On April 12, 2008, Anwar Hossain Anu (37) and Md. Babul (38), residents of Lalbagh, Dhaka were shot to death by RAB-10 while they were at the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory located at the South Keraniganj Police Station. This has been alleged by the family members of the deceased.

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

- 1) The family members and relatives of the deceased
- 2) Witnesses to the incident
- 3) The doctor who performed the post-mortem
- 4) The person who assisted in the post-mortem and
- 5) The law enforcement authorities

**Helena Begum (29), wife of Anu's younger brother**

Helena Begum (29), the wife of Anu's younger brother, Arif Hossain Badal, told Odhikar that at around 3.00 pm on April 12, 2008, Anu left home with his motorbike. At around 9.00 pm, Anu's younger brother Mosharrif Hossain Pappu informed her over mobile phone that at around 7.00 pm, the RAB had shot Anu to death near the Buriganga Bridge at Aganagar. Helena stated that at 11.00 pm on that night, she and Anu's wife Priya first went to the North Keraniganj Police Station and then to the South Keraniganj Police Station. The authorities at both the Police Stations informed them that they knew nothing about Anu and after that Helena and Priya returned home at Rasulpur in Keraniganj. At around 5.00 am on April 13, 2008, Helena took Priya and her youngest daughter Afrin to her house at Lalbagh. After arriving home, she came to know from her brother-in-law Pappu that Anu had been shot to death by RAB-10 inside the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory. Helena stated that at around 7.00 am that day she took her sister Selina to the premises of the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory at Boromashjid Road, Aganagar, where they saw four/five police officers sitting at the factory gate. The police officers prevented Helena and Selina from entering through the gate and this led to an argument between them. When Helena inquired into the condition of Anu's body, a police officer named Yusuf then grabbed Helena by her hair with one hand and her left arm with the other hand and dragged her elsewhere from the gate. Helena returned again in a state of tears and begged another police officer to allow her to see Anu's body just once. It was then that another police officer took them, i.e. Helena and Selina inside the factory premises. Helena saw two bodies laid side by side in the chemically coloured, waste water that was used for colouring clothes underneath a wooden platform of the factory, which was erected over a pond. She recalled that half of Anu's body was submerged in the water and his head was tilted backwards. As Helena described the state of Anu's body, she stated that the back of Anu's head bore several bullet wounds, and his right eye, nose and the right portion of his face had been scraped off. A pistol and 30/35 used

bullets were lying near Anu's right hand. Seeing Anu's body, when Helena began to cry a police officer dragged her elsewhere and verbally abused her. The police officers forced them to stay at the factory premises till 1.00 pm. She alleged that the police officers forced them to stay as a RAB team came there at around 11.00 pm and asked the police officers to do so. At around 1.00 pm, a Magistrate arrived and ordered the police officers to let go of Helena and Selina, the police officers let them go and told the two women to go to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue to collect the body. Helena stated that at around 6.30 pm, they returned home with Anu's body.

**Mosharraf Hossain Pappu (29), Anu's younger brother**

Pappu told Odhikar that at around 7.00 pm on April 12, 2008, a friend from Aganagar informed him over the telephone that Anu had been arrested by RAB and then shot to death

**Priya Begum (30), Anu's wife**

Priya Begum told Odhikar that her husband was a fruit merchant. At around 3.00 pm on April 12, 2008, Anu left for Aganagar on his motorbike after receiving a phone call from his friend named Babul. As Anu left, he told Priya that he was going to collect the Taka 240,000 that was owed to him. When Anu left he carried a mobile phone, a gold chain on his neck and a gold ring on his finger. At around 9.15 pm, she came to know through Helena, the wife of her brother-in-law Badal, Anu had been arrested by RAB. Priya immediately left for the North Keraniganj Police Station and South Keraniganj Police Station with Helena and after failing to get any information from there, they returned home at Rasulpur. Later on when she heard that her husband was shot to death by RAB at the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory, she sent Helena and Selina to the factory premises at Aganagar at around 9.00 am on April 13, 2008. Helena and Selina returned home with Anu's body on the same day at around 6.00 pm. Priya stated that seeing Anu's wounds it seemed as if he had been fired upon from close range. She demanded justice for the killing of her husband.

**Sahera Begum (60), Anu's mother**

Sahera Begum told Odhikar that from the cases that were filed against Anu, two were relating to murder and explosives from which Anu was out on bail. Although Anu was acquitted from the allegations of the other cases, he would stay in Bhutan most of the time out of fear of the police and when he would come back to Bangladesh, he would stay in hiding at Rasulpur. At around 7.00 pm on April 12, 2008, her younger son Pappu informed that Anu had been arrested by RAB. At around 9.00 pm that night she came to know that Anu had been shot to death by RAB. Sahera stated that the police had not returned Anu's motor cycle, mobile phone set, gold chain or gold ring.

**Md. Shamim (31), late Babul's younger brother**

Babul's younger brother Shamim told Odhikar that since there were two cases filed against Babul at the Lalbagh Police Station, Babul was in hiding at Aganagar of South Keraniganj for about three months. On April 13, 2008, the news of Babul's death in crossfire during a mission of RAB-10 was televised on Bangladesh Television (BTV) at the 8 o'clock news. Seeing the news, Shamim immediately informed his household

members and left his house at Islambagh for the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory at Aganagar, where he saw Babul's body. Shamim stated that he saw two bodies side by side. He said that Babul's body chest downwards was underneath the dirty water of the factory. As he described the condition of the body, he stated that there was one bullet wound on Babul's right wrist and one at the back of his head which pierced out through the left eye. Shamim returned home with Babul's body at around 6.00 pm after collecting it from the Sir Salimullah Medical College hospital.

**Johura Begum (60), Babul's mother**

Johura Begum told Odhikar that although there were two cases filed against Babul, he was granted bail in both cases. Babul was employed at a plastic factory. She alleged that RAB had shot Babul to death.

**Md. Selim Mahmud (Badhon) (26), Manager, Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing, Aganagar, Keraniganj**

Md. Selim Mahmud Badhon (26) told Odhikar that on April 12, 2008, operations at the factory were on. At around 5.00 pm, Lalbagh's Anwar Hossain Anu, Islambagh's Babul Hossain, Hajaribagh's Najir, Jatrabari's Nahid and a few others arrived at his factory for the purpose of selling colours. At around 7.00 pm, operations at the factory came to a halt due to load-shedding and they all began to chat on the road in front of the factory. When the electricity returned an unknown group of people entered the factory premises with them and after entering, they dressed into RAB uniform and closed the factory gate. As these men were closing the gate, Anu pushed his way through the crowd and ran outside the factory. A few RAB officers ran after him. The remaining 7/8 RAB officers began questioning each and every single employee at the factory. Selim stated that at one point the RAB officers put handcuffs on Tarek Rahman, the factory owner and blindfolded him with a black cloth. He stated that the RAB officers punched and elbowed him several times and threw him on to the ground. They also forbid the labourers from making any noise. If the labourers spoke they would hold their pistols against their necks and verbally abuse them. The RAB officers blindfolded Hajaribagh's najir's eyes and tied his hands from the back and kicked and punched him. They also arrested Jatrabari's Nahid. Selim recalled that the RAB officers identified Babul from the labourers and handcuffed him and hit the back of his head with a pistol three to four times. Babul fell on the ground after receiving these blows. At around 10.00 pm, the RAB officers encircled the whole Aganagar area held in custody Tarek, Najir and Nahid in front of the factory in blindfolds. They then took Babul into the premises of the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory. A while later, Selim heard many gun shots. The following morning on April 13, 2008, after coming out of the factory, Selim heard from various people that the RAB officers had shot and killed Anu and Babul and kept their bodies in the pond of the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory.

**Obujh Kashem (42), owner of Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory**

Obujh Kashem told Odhikar that at around 7.00 pm on April 12, 2008, the Manager of his factory telephoned him and informed that since a group of alleged criminals had taken refuge inside the factory premises, RAB officers had cordoned the factory and shut down its work and was continuously shooting inside. After hearing the news when Kashem was

heading towards his factory, he was stopped by RAB officers as he approached Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing. Kashem stated that the firing continued with breaks till 11.00 pm which created a curfew-like atmosphere. At around 12.00 am on April 13, when he arrived at the factory, he saw that the RAB officers had locked up 20 labourers inside a room of the factory. He also said that he saw the bodies of Anu and Babul in dirty water below a platform.

**Jashim (27), labourer, Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory**

Jashim (27) told Odhikar that RAB officers in plain clothes were roaming the area from 5.00 pm on April 12, 2008. At around 7.00 pm, the RAB officers completely cordoned the Aganagar area and began to fire continuously. Jashim stated that Anu left the Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing factory and entered Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory premises when he was chased by RAB. The RAB officers then shut down the operations of that factory and locked up its labourers inside a factory room. Even after locking the labourers up in that room the RAB officers fired numerous times. After the firing stopped the RAB officers summoned the labourers and showed them the bodies of Anu and Babul below the platform of the factory. The RAB and Police officers took the bodies away from factory at noon on April 13, 2008.

**Farida Begum (32), witness and a resident of House No. 6 on Boromashjid Road,**

Farida Begum informed Odhikar that at around 7.00 pm on April 12, 2008, when Anu was chased into the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory by a group of men, she ran downstairs and stood in front of the gate of their house opposite to the factory. She saw four to five people chase Anu inside the factory and this was followed by the arrival of 10/12 more people wearing borkhas<sup>1</sup>. Farida tried to see where these borkha wearing people were off to. She saw these people entered the factory premises and take off their borkhas to reveal their RAB uniforms. Farida stated that the RAB officers then loaded their guns and began to fire numerous bullets towards the platform which was suspended above the pond. In half an hour, the RAB officers cordoned the whole area. At around 9.00 pm, the RAB officers caught Babul from the Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing and took him inside the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory after which Farida recalled hearing gunshots. As the RAB officers were taking Babul into the factory they declared through a hand-mike urging those who were in hiding to come out. They said that if they did do so, they would not be fired upon. 60/70 RAB officers cordoned the whole Aganagar area including the Buriganga Bridge.

**Saiful Islam, DAD, No. 1 Special Company, RAB-10, Dholpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka**

Saiful Islam told Odhikar that upon the basis of secret information, he led a 10 member RAB team on a mission to Aganagar of South Keraniganj on April 12, 2008. During the mission he continued investigation at the Haji Abdul Berek road at the south end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buriganga Bridge. Later on, he came to know that the owner of the Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing factory Md. Tarek Rahman, former Member of Parliament (MP) Haji Selim's bodyguard and accused in 13 cases Anwar Hossain Anu alias Tiger Anu, former MP Nasir Uddin Pintu's cadre Babul Hossain, Hajaribagh's Najir Hossain, Jatrabari's Nahid Ahmed Torik, Nadim who was an accused in 22 cases and some other alleged criminals were all at a meeting inside the Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing factory

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<sup>1</sup> Borkha is a kind of garment used by Muslim women, covering the whole body from head.

premises. When the RAB team reached the factory premises the alleged criminals began to fire towards them and tried to escape. The RAB officer stated that the mission began at 8.15 pm and the exchange of fire began at 8.30 pm. Although Tarek, Najir and Nahid got caught, Anu and Babul escaped to the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory. DAD Saiful said that Anu and Babul kept firing towards the RAB officers while escaping. The RAB officers also continued to fire towards those two. DAD Saiful Islam went on to say that Anu and Babul hid in the dirty water which was underneath a wooden platform of the factory. The gun fire exchange continued. Saiful informed the news of the on-going clash to RAB-10 through the radio. Later on more officers from RAB-10 joined them. At 10.30 pm, the firing from the side of the alleged criminals stopped. This allowed the RAB officers to advance and they saw Anu and Babul beneath the wooden panel with arms. When the wooden panel was broken down, the RAB officers saw the dead bodies of Anu and Babul half submerged in the dirty water. At 11.00 pm the OC of the South Keraniganj Police Station arrived with his force. The RAB officers then handed over the bodies of Anu and Babul to the police and returned to their RAB-10 base at Jatrabari. Saiful Islam stated that on April 13, 2008, he filed two cases against the five accused at the South Keraniganj Police Station for interfering with State work and committing crimes under Arms Act as the Plaintiff.

**Syed Selim Sazzad, Officer-in-Charge (OC), South Keraniganj Police Station**

Syed Selim Sazzad told Odhikar that at around 8.00 pm on April 12, 2008, they were informed by RAB-10 over the telephone that RAB10 was conducting a criminal hunt mission at Aganagar. Upon receiving the news, he and his force went to an area near the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buriganga Bridge where he saw that the RAB had cordoned the whole area and were urging the criminals to surrender. Selim said that when he arrived at the Anika Washing Plant and Dyeing factory, he saw Tarek, Najir and Nahid in handcuffs and in blindfolds. He asked the RAB officers to take off their blindfolds. Later on when he went to the Shaon Washing and Dyeing factory, he saw the dead bodies of Anu and Babul. After discussing with the RAB officers, OC Selim left for the Police Station leaving behind a 3 three member police force to guard the bodies.

**SI Amirul, the Investigation Officer of the two cases filed by the RAB authorities**

SI Amirul told Odhikar that DAD Saiful Islam of RAB-10 had filed two cases against 5 accused on April 13, 2008.

The case filed for interfering with State work was numbered 17; Date 13/04/08 and Section 332, 333, 353, 307, 302, 34 of the Penal Code. The accused in this case were: 1) Anwar Hossain Anu, 2) Md. Babul, 3) Md. Tarek Rahman, 4) Najir Hossain and 5) Nahid.

The case filed under Arms Act was numbered 18; Date: 13/04/2008. The accused were the 5 people mentioned in the previous case.

SI Amirul stated that the FIR of the cases stated that a gun fight existed between the RAB officers and alleged criminals for two and a half hours. 10 RAB officers took part in the mission. It was further stated in the FIR that the RAB officers retrieved one Yamaha XL

motorbike, two revolvers, two bullets and two bullet cases from the scene after the mission was over.

**Nabo Jyoti Khisha, OC, Lalbagh Police Station**

Nabo Jyoti Khasha told Odhikar that a total of 11 cases were filed against Anwar Hossain Anu alias Tiger Anu and 2 cases against Babul at the Lalbagh Police Station.

**Dr. K. M. Azad, Lacturer, Forensic Medicine Department, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka**

Dr. K. M. Azad told Odhikar that since three bullets were fired at the back of Anu's head, his right eye, ear and a part of his nose were removed from his face. It seemed to him from observing the nature of the wounds that Anu was fired at from point blank range. Dr. Azad stated that there were no signs of blood loss from the places on Anu's body which received bullet wounds.

Describing the state of Babul's body, Dr Azad stated that a bullet entered Babul's head from the front and came out through the back. It was however not possible to determine exactly how many bullets had struck his head. There was also another bullet wound on babul's left leg. Dr. Azad stated that the bullet wounds on Babul's body gave him an impression that he was shot from a close range to make sure his death.

**The End of Report**