



**Montu and Sayed Allegedly Shot and Killed by RAB and Police in Kushtia**  
Fact-finding Report  
Odhikar

According to the family members and relatives of Sayed (24) from the village of Baniyapara and Montu Member<sup>1</sup> (38) from the village of Nandiya under Sadar upazila<sup>2</sup> of Kushtia district, they were shot and killed jointly by the officers of RAB 12, Islamic University Police Station and the Detective Branch of police [DB police] at around 5.30 am on September 11, 2008, near the bridge over a canal called Madiar Khal at Sadar upazila, Kushtia.

On the other hand, officers of RAB 12 and Islamic University Police Station stated that Montu and Sayed were shot dead during a gunfight between the police and RAB officers and Montu and his associates.

On the basis of the allegations made by the deceased's family members and relatives, Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the incident. During the fact-finding, Odhikar spoke to:

- The family members and relatives of the deceased
- Witnesses
- The concerned members of the law enforcement agencies
- The doctor who conducted the post-mortem on the bodies.

**Nargis Parvin (33), Montu's wife**

Nargis Parvin told Odhikar that due to local conflict, her husband's enemies locally known as the Mukul-Shahin Group filed a false case against her husband 7/8 years ago. Her husband was arrested in that case two/three years back and later he was released on bail. After being released on bail, Montu got entangled into conflict with his old enemies again and this time it was regarding taking over control of a water enclosure called Madiar Beel. This led to the police harassment of Montu again. This was why Montu was always in hiding.

Nargis stated that at around 2.30 am on September 11, 2008, she got a phone call from an unknown number. A manly voice told her that Montu had been picked up by officers of the DB police on a micro-bus. Before Nargis could ask further questions, the man disconnected the line and turned off his mobile phone. Nargis informed her family members of the matter.

She said that at around 3.30 am, when she looked outside from her room, she saw a large number of police officers surrounding her house digging different places with spades and shovels. She also mentioned that the police officers did not let her and her other family members to come out of their room.

Nargis stated that at around 5.30 am she heard 10/12 gunshots coming from the south-eastern side of her house. At around 6.00 am a previous acquaintance from the Jhaodia village told her over the phone that Montu had been killed in a 'crossfire'. She mentioned that the police officers who surrounded her house left at around 9.00 am

<sup>1</sup> He was an ex member of a Union Parishad – the lowest level of the local government in Bangladesh and so was popularly known as Montu member.

<sup>2</sup> Upazia is an administrative unit under a district in Bangladesh.

after they did not find anything. Later on, Montu's relatives were confirmed about his death by the Islamic University Police Station. Montu's family received his body at around 5.00 pm that day from Kushtia General Hospital. Nargis recalled that Montu's chest bore two bullet wounds on the left side and one on the right side.

#### **Imdadul Huq Shahin (16), Montu's son**

Imdadul Huq Shahin said that he used to do his college studies staying at a boarding house at Kalishankarpur, Kushtia. At around 8.00 am on September 11, 2008, his uncle Bablu told him over telephone that his father had been killed in a 'crossfire'. He then went to the Kushtia General Hospital to see his father's dead body as told by his uncle, Bablu. On his arrival at the hospital, Shahin began to wait for the body's arrival. At around 10.00 am the police arrived with Montu's body at the hospital. Shahin stated that a bullet had entered through his father's chin which came out through the back of his head. There were two bullet wounds on the left side of Montu's chest and one on the right side of his ribs. Shahin also recalled that two of his father's fingers were dismembered and one of the fingers was hanging on in a half-cut state. From the state of the body, it seemed to him that the fingers had been dismembered when his father was alive and that his father had been tortured in various ways. He alleged that his father had been deliberately shot to death.

#### **Ataul Huq Bablu (43), Montu's brother**

Ataul Huq Bablu said that at around 6.00 am on September 11, 2008, a previous acquaintance from the Jhaodia village telephoned and informed that Montu had been killed in a 'crossfire'. Hearing the news, he contacted the Islamic University Police Station and was told that Montu's body had been sent to the Kushtia General Hospital. Bablu stated that after completion of the post-mortem the police returned Montu's body to them at around 3.00 pm that day.

#### **Hamida Khatun (45), Aunt of Sayed**

Hamida Khatun told Odhikar that after the death of Sayed's mother during his childhood, she brought Sayed up because Sayed's father was handicapped and could not work. At the age of 10, Sayed got a job as a herder at the house of Munaf Ali, her neighbour. Hamida stated that Sayed suddenly disappeared one day and was never seen in the locality since then. On September 11, 2008 at around 8.00 am, she heard from her neighbours that Montu Member and Sayed had been killed in 'crossfire' at Jhaodia. At around 2.00 pm that day the police came and informed that Sayed's body had been kept at the Kushtia General Hospital. At around 5.00 pm, Hamida with the help of her neighbours brought home Sayed's body. She alleged that Sayed had been killed. She demanded justice for the killing.

#### **Md. Saidul Islam (32), Mathpara, Jhaodia**

Md. Saidul Islam told Odhikar that at around 5.00 am on September 11, 2008 when he was feeding his cows, he saw a police pick-up and three white micro-buses stop on the bridge over Madiar Khal. He said that four men in civilian clothes came out from the micro-bus which was parked in between the other vehicles with two persons whose hands were tied and eyes blindfolded and pushed them onto the field beside the Madiar Khal towards the bank of the canal by walking them along the *ayil*<sup>3</sup> of the land. After this 7/8 police officers and 5/6 RAB officers got off their vehicles and went to that place. The remaining RAB and police officers divided into two groups and went to the two ends of

---

<sup>3</sup> Ayil is the very narrow border between two pieces of land.

the bridge and stopped commuters from traveling on the bridge. At around 5.30 am in the morning, roughly 70/80 yards away from his house, Saidul heard 10 gunshots being fired from the place where the two men were taken. After 5/7 minutes he again heard two gunshots. During the firing he heard the police shout out, "Escaping! Escaping! Catch! Catch!" At around 6.00 am, when the RAB and police officers again allowed commuters passage over the bridge, people from the village began to gather. Saidul said that the police officers then showed the villagers two dead bodies and told them that they were shot and killed in an encounter with the police and RAB officers. He said that at around 8.30 am, another police car came and took the two dead bodies and left.

#### **Sajeda Khatun (27), Mathpara, Jhaodia**

Sajeda Khatun said that when she was awakened by gunshots at around 5.30 am on September 11, she heard some people shouting "Catch! Catch! Escaping! Escaping! " According to Sajeda, she came out of her house and looked towards the bank of Madiar Khal, to see 5 or 6 RAB officers, 7 or 8 police officers and other 5 or six people in civilian clothes surrounding 'something'. She said she thought that they had arrested someone. Later on, she heard others say Montu and Sayed had been killed in 'crossfire'. However, she added, that police let nobody see their bodies. Sajeda finished her talk with Odhikar by saying that the police left with the bodies at around 8.30 am.

#### **Hujur Ali (48), Jhaodia**

Hujur Ali said he was on his way to his paddy field on the west bank of Madiar Khal in the early morning of September 11, 2008. As he was walking along the Jhaodia-Halsha road, he saw three micro-buses standing on the bridge over the canal and some police officers standing on the road to block it. The police officers did not allow him to move along toward his destination. Then he saw a crowd of some police officers, 5 or 6 RAB officers and 4 or 5 people in civilian clothes. It seemed to him that they were surrounding 'something'. Suddenly he heard ten gunshots which he felt, were coming from the crowd. At around 5.45 am, all the police and RAB officers and the people in civilian clothes left that place and came at the place of their vehicles which were parked on the road, excepting 4 or 5 police officers who remained on the bank. They allowed the movement on the road again at around 6.00 am. Then the police officers showed the villagers two dead bodies and told them that the two persons had been killed while exchanging gunfire with the police and RAB officers. He said that one of the deceased was Montu Member from the village of Nandia. He could not recognise the other body. However, the police told the people that the other body was of Sayed from the Alampur Union. He concluded by saying that the police later on left with the bodies.

#### **Khalilur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC), Islamic University Police Station, Kushtia**

The OC, Khalilur Rahman, said that on September 11, 2008, they received information from a secret source that Montu, whom he termed as the 'top criminal' and 'the regional leader of 'Gonobahini', was holding a secret meeting with his associates near a bridge two kilometres west of Jhaodia Bazaar. He said that he himself led a team of law-enforcers consisting of officers from the Islamic University Police Station, Detective Branch of police [DB police] and RAB to the place of the meeting at around 5.00 am, where 'the miscreants' opened fire on the law-enforcers. According to the OC, Montu and Sayed were killed in 'crossfire' when the law-enforcers retaliated.

**Sazzad Hossain, Deputy Director, RAB 12, Kushtia**

The RAB officer, Sazzad Hossain, said that Montu and Sayed were killed in an 'encounter' with the law-enforcers. He refused to further comment on the incident.

**Dr. Abdus Salam of General Hospital, Kushtia, the doctor who conducted the post-mortem on the bodies of Montu and Sayed,**

Dr. Abdus Salam commented that Montu and Sayed died due to loss of excessive blood from their bullet injuries.

He said that Montu received two bullet injuries on the left side of his chest and one on his right rib. He added that another bullet hit him in his chin and made its way through the back of his head. The doctor also said that two fingers of his right hand were dismembered while another finger was hanging in a half-cut state.

As for Sayed, Dr. Salam said that he saw three bullet wounds in Sayed's body – two in the right side of his chest and one below the left shoulder.

**-End of Report-**