



Young man shot dead by RAB in Narayanganj Bandar Upazila

Fact-finding Report

Odhikar

The family of Mahey Alam Bipu (32) alleged that Bipu was shot dead by a special patrol team of RAB-11 at Narayanganj Bandar Upazila¹ in Narayanganj district on 5 March 2008. However, RAB-11 claimed that Bipu was killed in an encounter between RAB and the cohorts of Bipu.

Human rights organisation, Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the incident. During the fact-finding, Odhikar spoke with:

- The family and relatives of the deceased
- Eyewitnesses to the incident
- Law enforcement agencies
- Hospital authorities
- Two hospital employees who assisted the doctors during the dissection of Bipu's body at the hospital

Sakhina Begum (60), Bipu's mother

Sakhina Begum told Odhikar that Bipu was the eldest amongst her three sons. Bipu did not continue his studies after completing his Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C.). He would financially contribute to the family by selling the waste products of mills. In 1996, a group of mill owners had shut down the construction work of their mill near the village of South Lakshmankhola for extortion of money by BNP² cadres. It was Bipu who asked the mill owner of Shohagpur Textile Mills to start construction work again and assured him that no one would demand money from him. From that time onwards the mill authorities used to give their mill wastes to Bipu regularly. She added that Bipu used to sell the empty gas drums of the nearby Oxygen Gas Company and work in dredger-related activities at the River Shitalakshma. The BNP cadres took a stand against Bipu due to his privilege in taking the wastes from the Oxygen Gas Company and mills. Bipu's mother also stated that the Kader group of BNP cadres cut off a finger of her second son, Shamsujjaman's hand after being denied of the opportunity to get the construction work of the Shohagpur Textile Mills. A case was file relating to the incident but the police failed to arrest those accused and this led Nurey Alam Titu, Sakhina Bagum's youngest son to abduct Kamal Uddin, a member of Kader's group on July 10, 1997, in order to hand him over to the police. Sakhina Begum went on to say that Titu tied Kamal Uddin with a tree in her front yard. When people near her

¹ Upazila means sub-district.

² One of the major political parties of Bangladesh.

house along with Bipu's group of associates saw Kamal Uddin they became agitated and began to beat him. At a certain point, Kamal Uddin died on the spot following the beatings. This resulted in the police including the names of Bipu and 20 others in the Kamal Uddin murder case. Amongst the 21 accused, her husband—Doctor Shah Alam, her second eldest son—Shamsujjaman and Bipu's paternal cousin—Sohel were currently serving a life sentence. She said that 5 others who were also convicted in the murder case, were absconding. She added that Bipu's younger brother Nurey Alam Titu was in hiding in India. Sakhina Begum spoke to Odhikar relating to Bipu's murder on 5 March 2008. She said that since there were arrest warrants against Bipu in four separate murder cases, he used to hide in different places. At 10.00 am on March 5, 2008, a reporter named Mohiuddin from a local newspaper informed Bipu's paternal cousin Najma via mobile phone that Bipul had been shot to death by RAB and that his body had been kept at the Narayanganj General Hospital. It was Najma who informed Sakhina Begum about Bipu's death. Sakhina Begum told Najma to look into the truthfulness of the news and fainted soon after. She saw Bipu's body at her house that day at 5.00 pm. Her assumption was that her enemies had informed the RAB about her son which was why he was killed by the RAB.

Lucky Akhter (20), Bipu's paternal cousin

Lucky Akhter (20), daughter of Jamal Miah told Odhikar that she spoke with Bipu over the mobile phone in the morning on March 4, 2008, regarding family matters. She informed that her paternal uncle Doctor Shah Alam and paternal cousin Jaman were serving life sentence as they were convicted in the murder case filed in connection with the murder of the BNP activist Kader. She also stated that Bipu's younger brother Nurey Alam Titu had been in hiding in India. She accused RAB for killing her brother and demanded justice to the government.

Mosharraf Hossain (33), Bipu's maternal uncle and business partner

Mosharraf told Odhikar that Bipu used to hide in different places because various cases were filed against him. Due to this reason he took the responsibilities of Bipu's job. He stated that he used to equally divide his earnings from Shohag Textile Mills, Oxygen Gas Company and the dredger-related work and give half of the earnings to Bipu's family. Mosharraf recalled seeing Bipu's dead body at his house at 5.30 pm. He also stated that Bipu received three bullets on his chest.

Muktar Hossain (35), an eyewitness to the incident

Muktar Hossain, guard of the Ahmed Textile Mills, which is located northwards from the area where the incident had occurred, told Odhikar that at 3.30 am on March 5, 2008, he heard 10/15 gunshots fired at intervals. After hearing the gunshots he got scared and pointed his lighted torch here and there. At a certain point went towards the place where the incident had taken place. Muktar saw that 7/8 RAB officers were randomly flashing their torch lights. He got even more scared and tried to

leave but was called by the RAB officers who then took him to the river bank near the western side of the sand field of the Rupali Residential Area. There he saw a man bearing bullet wounds lying on the ground. The man was wearing a check full sleeved shirt and jeans. A RAB officer also showed Muktar everything and said that if anybody would ask anything, he should describe only what he had been shown. He said that the RAB officers then took his signatures in three separate pages as witness to the dead body. Muktar said that the RAB officers also took signatures of Arab Ali (55) and his son Lalu Miah (25), the residents of the Rupali Residential Area.

- Odhikar was unable to contact Arab Ali and his son Lalu Miah and thus instead contacted Arab Ali's wife.

Laily Begum (50), wife of Arab Ali and eyewitness to the incident

Laily Begum told Odhikar that they were all awakened by 2/3 gunshots fired near the dredger at the river bank. After they had completely wakened up, they heard 8/10 more gunshots. At around 3.45 am a man asked them to open their door. Laily Begum opened the door and saw a RAB officer standing outside. The officer called upon her husband Arab Ali and her son Lalu Miah and took them to the place where Bipu had been shot to death. Laily Begum went on to say that she could see from a distance the RAB officers use their torch lights to write something on paper. They showed her husband and son the area where the incident had occurred and took their signatures on their paper.

Syed Ali (32), Bipu's political friend and neighbour

Syed Ali told Odhikar that Bipu was a member of the local wing of the Jubo League³ and a potential candidate for the position of Cultural Secretary of the party. He said that Bipu had committed many crimes but it was unfair to shoot him to death. He felt that RAB might have killed Bipu due to instigation from the BNP leaders.

Mokhtar Hossain (38), owner of Choton Enterprise, Rupali Residential Area

Mokhtar Hossain from the Rupali Residential Area told Odhikar that he heard 12/14 gunshots at around 3.30 am on 5 March 2008. A few minutes later a man introduced himself a RAB officer and asked to open the door. Mokhtar said that his wife opened the door and told the RAB officers that her husband was ill. The RAB officers in response told Mokhtar that they a robber had been killed by their gunfire and asked him to see if he could recognise him. However, finally, the RAB officers did not take him to the spot because of his illness.

³ The youth front of the Bangladesh Awami League, a major political party of Bangladesh.
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Captain Kausar, Crime Prevention Special Company, RAB-11, Narayanganj

Captain Kausar told Odhikar that a seven-man team of RAB officers were on mobile duty along the river Shitalakshma on March 5, 2008. At around 3.30 am, the RAB officers noticed the suspicious movement of a group of 8/10 people near the M N Jewel Dredging Project-1 M 16567 , which was established for temporary use on the eastern bank of the river Shitalakshma. He said that the RAB officers then turned off the engine of their speedboat and gradually approached the area but were soon fired upon by that group of people. When the bullets hit the windshield of the speedboat, the RAB officers also fired back and to save themselves from the counter firing, they jumped into the shallow end of the river and got on to the bank. Captain Kausar said that the RAB officer found one the miscreants seriously injured by bullets, though others managed to flee. After conducting a body search of the injured person, a total of Taka 5,135 was seized from his wallet along with a foreign revolver, two rounds of bullets, a torch light and two mobile phone sets. The RAB officers immediately informed the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station of the matter. After the injured person was transferred to the hospital by the police from the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station at around 6.00 am, the attending doctor there declared him dead. Captain Kausar went on to say that while the deceased's body was undergoing identification in the morning he realised that the dead person was Mahey Alam Bipu (32), a listed criminal of the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station. He also said that Bipu's address was: Village: South Lakshmankhola under the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station. The RAB officer told Odhikar that after inquiring at different police stations, they unearthed that there were a total of 29 cases filed against Bipu, 27 of which were at the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station, one at the Siddirganj Police Station and one at the Savar Police Station of Dhaka. He stated that with regard to the incident of March 5, 2008, Waliullah, the Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) of RAB-11 filed two more cases as plaintiff.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdul Jalil, Narayanganj Bandar Police Station

SI Abdul Jalil told Odhikar that at around 5.00 am, they received a phone call from RAB-11 whereby they were informed of the presence of a dead body near the sand dredger on the river bank near the Rupali Residential Area. He said that he took four other Constables with him to the place of the incident upon the orders of the Officer-in-Charge (OC), M A Matin and found out upon their arrival that the body was top listed criminal Mahey Alam Bipu's. He took the body to the Narayanganj General Hospital at around 6.00 am. After his duty finished at 8.00 am, he left the hospital leaving behind two Constables to attend the body. He went on to say that RAB-11 as plaintiff filed two cases on that very day regarding the killing of Bipu.

SI Habib, the police officer who prepared the Inquest Report of Bipu's body

SI Habib, the Second Officer of the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station, told Odhikar that a total of three bullets entered from the front and pierced through the back of Bipu's body. He said that two of the bullets were shot on the left side of the

chest and one on the right side of the stomach. The body was wearing a check shirt, jeans and a silver neck chain with a silver ring hanging on to it. The police officer said that the eyes of the deceased were open and there were blood clots all over the body.

Md. Jakir Hossain, Clerk, Narayanganj General Hospital, Narayanganj

Md. Jakir Hossain told Odhikar that the police brought in Bipu's body at around 6.00 am on March 5, 2008 while he was on duty. It was written in the hospital register that Constable Farid Uddin of the Narayanganj Bandar Police Station was the person who brought the body. He also stated that three bullets hit the body two of which entered from the left side of the chest and one from the right side of the stomach, all three of which pierced out through the back. Jakir informed that there were blood clots all over Bipu's body.

Darpan (32), the man who assisted the doctors during the dissection of the body

Darpan told Odhikar that a 3-member medical board was formed to carry out the post-mortem into Bipu's body. He said that the Chairman of the board was Dr. Masdul Huq Shiraji while the other members were Dr. Palak Kumar Hemonto and Dr. Pradip Kumar Das. Darpan informed that there were two bullet wounds on the left portion of the chest and one bullet wound just below those two wounds. He said that all three of the bullets entered from the front and pierced through the back. There was also a mark of flesh being peeled off on the right thigh.

Aslam (35), the man who assisted the doctors during the dissection of the body

Aslam told Odhikar that, Bipu's body bore two bullet wounds on the left side of the chest and one bullet wound just below on the right side. All three wounds showed that the bullets entered through the frontal region and shot out through the back. There was also a mark of flesh being peeled off on the right thigh. He stated that it appeared to him that Bipu was grabbed hold of and then shot which were why there were no other signs of injuries on his body other than the marks of flesh being peeled off on the thighs.

-End of Report-