



## **BNP<sup>1</sup> Leader Shipu Abducted and Killed in Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

### **Fact-finding Report Odhikar**

At around 11.00pm on June 18, 2009, Manjur Morshed Shipu (41), son of late Abul Hossain and the owner of house 24/8, Bijli Maholla, Block 'F' of Mohammadpur Joint Quarters, under the Mohammadpur Police Station, was abducted by 7-8 people at the gate of his rented house located on road number 1 in the Mohammadia Housing Limited. At around 4.30am on June 19, 2009, his shot dead body was found in the playing field of Kisholoy Girls School and College. Shipu's family and witnesses stated that his body bore a lot of marks of beating. His family believed that he was not abducted by miscreants. They alleged that members of the law enforcement agency picked him up and tortured him and then shot him to death, leaving his body in the field.

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

- The relatives of the deceased
- Witnesses
- The doctor who conducted the post-mortem and the morgue-assistant
- Law enforcement agencies

### **Hasina Morshed Kakoli (31), the Wife of the Deceased**

During a conversation with Odhikar, Hasina Morshed Kakoli said that her husband was a businessman and Joint Convener of the BNP for Ward<sup>2</sup> 44. She said that since her husband was involved in politics, he wanted a safer residence and that was why he left his own house and rented a flat on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of house number 30 on road number 1, which was close to the Shia Masjid Camp of RAB<sup>3</sup> 2. She added that her husband started living in the rented house from May 2009. Kakoli said Shipu left home for Mohammadpur Town Hall for business purposes at around 4pm on June 18, 2009. While talking to her over the cell phone at around 10.40pm, Shipu told her that he was on his way back home. He returned home in his Noah microbus numbered Dhaka Metro Cha-11-8782 at around 11pm and while parking the vehicle in the garage, 7-8 people, who came in another microbus, abducted her husband and left. Immediately informed by the gatekeeper, Md. Russel, she, along with her younger brother Abul Kalam Azad, went to the Shia Masjid Camp of RAB 2, which was adjacent to her house, to report what had happened. Hasina said that when they reached the camp and wanted to inform the RAB officers who were at the gate, of the incident, the latter did not listen to her complaint. The female RAB officer, who was at the gate, asked them to come again after registering a General Diary (GD) with the police station. The male officer asked them to drop off a written complaint, accompanied by a copy of the GD. Following their suggestions, she went to the Mohammadpur Police Station and filed a GD which was numbered 1506 and dated June 18, 2009. When she returned to the RAB camp again, a RAB officer at the gate asked her to drop the copy of the GD in the complaint box. The RAB officer also told her that his superior would come in the morning and check the complaint.

<sup>1</sup> BNP - Bangladesh Nationalist Party, one of the major political parties in Bangladesh.

<sup>2</sup> Dhaka Metropolitan City is divided into wards.

<sup>3</sup> RAB - Rapid Action Battalion, special law enforcement agencies

She then expressed her fear to the RAB officers that if they did not conduct an immediate operation in the search for her husband, those who had abducted him might kill him. The RAB officers did not take her worry into account. She informed her relatives of the matter via cell phone on the night of the incident. Kakoli said she learnt from her brother-in-law, Alamgir Morshed, at around 4.30am on June 19, 2009 that her husband had been beaten and then shot to death and his body had been left in the playing field of Kisholoy Girls School and College. She then went to the school playing field to see her husband's body. She said that Shipu was a potential candidate from the BNP for the position of Ward Commissioner<sup>4</sup> in the coming City Corporation elections. She believed that his political opponents might have plotted the murder and killed him. She guessed from the marks of beating on the body of her husband, that he was not killed by general people, hired killers or miscreants. She said that Russel, the gatekeeper, told her that those who abducted Shipu, had short hair and were carrying something tucked in their waists which they tried to hide by their shirt tails. This made her believe that the abductors might have been law enforcement agents in plain clothes. Kakoli filed a case with the Mohammadpur Police Station on June 20, 2009 against 5-6 unidentified persons for killing her husband. She demanded that the perpetrators be tried, through proper investigation into the incident.

**Alamgir Morshed (42), Shipu's Brother, 24/8 Bijli Maholla, Block F, Joint Quarters, Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

Alamgir Morshed said that he heard the sound of a gunshot in the playing field of Kisholoy Girls School and College at around 4.30am on June 19, 2009. Immediately after the gunshot, Md. Golam Mostafa, the general secretary of 'Tajmahal Noisho Prohori and Cleaning Service' (Tajmahal Night Guards and Cleaning Service), told him over the cell phone that several miscreants had shot and killed Shipu and left on a microbus, dropping the body in the playing field of the school. He then informed Shipu's wife of the matter and asked her to go to the place of the incident. He himself also went to the spot and saw Shipu's body lying at a corner of the playground. Alamgir said he saw a bullet wound on the left side of Shipu's forehead and marks of beating all over his back. He also claimed to have seen marks of tying around his hands and legs. At around 10am, the police took the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Alamgir went to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and brought the body home at around 2pm. The deceased's brother said the body was buried at around 8pm. Alamgir Morshed remarked that the RAB officers' inaction, even after they were informed of Shipu's abduction, and the fact that comments on the marks of beating were missing in the earlier version of the inquest report the police submitted to the doctor, pointed to the involvement of law enforcement agents in the incident.

**Md. Russel (25), Gatekeeper, House No. 30, Road No. 1, Mohammadia Housing Limited, Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

Md. Russel told Odhikar that Manjur Morshed Shipu, the tenant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, honked the horn at the gate at around 11pm of June 18, 2009, asking him to open it. When he opened the gate, a stranger entered inside on a motorcycle. He asked the stranger what he wanted. While talking with the man, he looked outside and saw a white microbus stop beside Shipu's microbus. Russel said that there were 7-8 people in the vehicle and their hair was cropped short. The witness said that two people got out of the microbus and one of them stood by, holding its door. Another man approached Shipu's vehicle and rested a hand on Shipu's shoulder. Russel continued by saying that the man then said something to Shipu and took him

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<sup>4</sup> In Bangladesh, metropolitan cities are divided into wards with a Commissioner for each ward.

(Shipu) into their microbus. He said that the two people who got out the microbus were frequently pulling down the front part of their shirt tails, trying to hide 'something' tucked in their waists. He noticed all these in the moon light as there was no power. Those people left with Shipu in their microbus. He then rushed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and informed Shipu's wife of what had happened. In the morning of June 19, 2009, he learnt from others that somebody had beaten and shot Shipu to death.

**Md. Titon (22), Night Guard, Tajmahal Noisho Prohori and Cleaning Service (Tajmahal Night Guards and Cleaning Service), Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

Md. Titon told Odhikar that while on duty in the early morning of June 19, 2009, he saw a white microbus drive towards the playing field of Kisholoy Girls School and College. He said that he heard a gunshot coming from the corner of the playground after the microbus entered it. Before he reached the field, the microbus had left. At that time, he saw 7-8 people in the microbus. Interested to see what happened there, he, along with a guard of a neighbouring market, entered the field and saw a body. Titon informed his commander, Mofazzal Hossen and the duty officer at the Mohammadpur Police Station of the matter. The police came and recovered a wallet, a driver's license and a family photo from the body. Titon said that the police identified the body as being Manjur Morshed Shipu on the basis of the driver's license found in his pocket. He said that he informed Md. Golam Mostafa, the general secretary of his company, of the matter over the cell phone. He added that Shipu's relatives came to the spot later on and then the police left with the body.

**Md. Golam Mostafa (47), General Secretary, Tajmahal Noisho Prohori and Cleaning Service (Tajmahal Night Guards and Cleaning Service), Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

Md. Golam Mostafa said that at about 4am of June 19, 2009, Md. Titon, a member of his security service company, who was on duty near the playground of Kisholoy Girls School and College, told him over the cell phone that a few minutes ago, a white microbus had entered the school playground and a gunshot was heard just after the vehicle entered the field. The car left the playing field immediately after the gunfire. Titon informed him that he went to the playground and saw a body lying on the playground under the light of his torch. Titon told him that, being informed by him, the police came and identified the body as being Manjur Morshed Shipu, based on the driver's license they found in the pocket of his shirt. Mostafa said that he informed Shipu's brother, Alamgir Morshed, over the phone of what he heard from Titon and he himself went to the school playground and saw Shipu's body. He opined that those who were involved in the murder of Shipu should be tried, through proper investigation.

**Sub-inspector (SI) Md. Mosharaf Hossen, Mohammadpur Police Station, Dhaka**

Sub-inspector (SI) Md. Mosharaf Hossen said Hasina Morshed Kakoli, the wife of Shipu, filed a case with the Mohammadpur Police Station on June 20, 2009 against unidentified persons for killing her husband. The case was numbered 80, filed under sections 302/34 of the Penal Code. SI Mosharaf said that he was assigned the investigation. He referred to the inquest report as saying that a bullet hit Shipu in the left side of his forehead and pierced through the back of the head. He said that the inquest report also stated that there were marks of beating on Shipu's arms, back and feet and that marks on his hands, feet and eyes indicated that he had been bound and blindfolded.

**Flight Lieutenant Mashrur Rahman, Shia Masjid Camp, RAB 2, Mohammadpur, Dhaka**

Flight Lieutenant Mashrur Rahman said that at around 11pm of June 18, 2009, a woman called Hasina Morshed Kakoli came to the camp and complained that her husband, Manjur Morshed Shipu, had been abducted. He said he immediately informed all RAB teams on mobile duty of the matter via the wireless and asked them to conduct rescue operations. The RAB officer said that he informed Kakoli that the RAB officers had started operations to rescue her husband. He claimed that he had suggested that Kakoli register a General Diary (GD) with the police station and then submit a written complaint accompanied by a copy of the GD to the camp. He denied the allegation that the RAB officers did not cooperate with her. Flight Lieutenant Mashrur Rahman concluded by saying that for insufficient personnel and logistics, they cannot always carry out immediate operations in all cases.

**Doctor, Who Conducted the Post-mortem of Shipu's Body, Department of Forensic Medicine, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka**

The doctor, who carried out the post-mortem of Shipu's body, agreed to talk to Odhikar as long as his name remained unreported. He told Odhikar that while starting the post-mortem of Shipu's body on June 19, he noticed that the inquest report, prepared by the police, did not mention the marks of beating on the body. That was why he told the police officers that he would not conduct the post-mortem if the inquest report was not prepared by a Magistrate. The doctor said that when SI Md. Ali Hossen Duary from the Mohammadpur Police Station corrected the inquest report later on by mentioning the existence of marks of beating on the body, he conducted the post-mortem. He said that he had submitted the autopsy report to the proper authority.

**Sekendar, Morgue-Assistant, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka**

Sekendar said that at around 10am of June 19, 2009, several police officers from the Mohammadpur Police Station brought Shipu's body to the hospital morgue for autopsy. Shipu was brought to the morgue under Mohammadpur Police Station's GD No. 1479; Mobile CC No. 2090, dated June 18, 2009. He said that a doctor from the department of forensic medicine conducted the post-mortem. The post-mortem was numbered 1201. Sekendar said that though the inquest report mentioned the existence of only a bullet wound in the body, the body bore a lot of marks of beating and the doctor refused to conduct the post-mortem. However, he added, that after the police corrected the inquest report, the doctor carried out the post-mortem.

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