



Delwar Hossain of Madaripur disappears, after being picked up by RAB

Fact finding Report
Odhikar

Delwar Hossain (30) a trader of scrap paper, metal and plastic, is the son of Bonde Ali Mia and Shinavan Bibi who lives in Kolatola, Ward 3 of Shantinogor in Madaripur municipality. The family alleges that at around 9.30 pm on 23 June 2011 Delwar was taken away by some people who identified themselves as members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), from the boat terminal of Gachbaria market at Mostofapur in Shodor Upazilla. There were witnesses who saw Delwar being taken, but who refrained from approaching the men, after being shown RAB identity cards.

Odhikar, conducted a fact finding mission in to the matter. During this, they interviewed:

- Relatives of Delwar and
- Members of law enforcement agencies



Delwar Hossain

Sharmin Akter Mina (25), Delwar Hossain's wife

Sharmin Akter Mina informed Odhikar that at around 10:00 pm on 23 June 2011 she came to know from an acquaintance that her husband was at Gachbaria boat terminal of Mostofapur at around 9:30 pm at night. At that time some people took her husband after blind folding him with a black cloth. Then people around asked them why they were doing so. The men with Delwar claimed they were members of RAB and showed their identity cards. After that, no one resisted or questioned them after hearing this. Sharmin Akter went to the Madaripur Police Station to file a General Diary (GD) but the police officer refused to register the GD. After that, she went to the Madaripur RAB head office but the RAB members denied arresting Delwar. She also said that there were several cases filed against Delwar in different police stations.

Farida Yasmin Munni (24), Delwar's sister

Farida Yasmin Munni informed Odhikar that on 23 June 2011 Delwar went on business matter to Gachbaria market at Mostofapur. At around 10:00 pm she was informed by the local people that some men had taken her brother away forcefully in a microbus when he was returning from the market. The local people had wanted to know why Delwar was being taken, so they asked the men and the men said they were from RAB and then showed them their RAB identity cards. Then she went to look for her brother at the head office of RAB in Madaripur. But the RAB member guarding the main door said that nobody named Delwar had been arrested. She was not allowed to enter the office.

Gopal Chondro Das (70), Boatman at Gachbaria boat terminal; Sekendar Bepari (27), Businessman of Gachbaria boat terminal

Gopal Chondro Das informed Odhikar that he heard from the local people that at around 9.30 pm at night on 23 June 2011, Delwar had been abducted by some men. That is all he knew of the incident. Sekendar Bepari informed Odhikar that on the morning of 24 June 2011 he went to the terminal and heard from the people that Delwar, whom he was acquainted with, had been abducted by some people at night.

Captain Mohammad Shirajul Islam, Officer in charge, RAB head office, Madaripur

Captain Mohammad Shirajul Islam informed Odhikar that he heard the news of the abduction of Delwar from people. Though he did not get any written complaint until now, he is trying to find Delwar.

Sub Inspector (SI) Masudur Rahman Khan, Second Officer, Madaripur Police Station

SI Masudur Rahman Khan told Odhikar that Sharmin Akter Mina, wife of Delwar from Kolatola, Shantinogor came to the police station one day and informed him that some people claiming to be RAB members took away her husband from the boat terminal of Gachbaria market. But he did not find any evidence of the fact after investigation and gathering information. Also, Sharmin Akter Mina did not tell him anything about filing any case or GD at the police station.

SI Masudur Rahman Khan also said that the abducted Delwar Hossain is a member of an inter-district dacoit group. There are several cases against him in Nogorkanda of Faridpur; Shodorpur; Naria of Shoriotpur in Madaripur; and at the Kotoali and Agoiljhora Police Stations of Barisal. He informed that in his jurisdiction, Delwar was involved in a miscreants group. He commented that Delwar was also involved in committing different crimes in the area.

Sub Inspector (SI) Shamelendu Ghosh, Warrant Officer, Madaripur Police Station

SI Shamelendu Ghosh told Odhikar that Delwar Hossain is known to the local people as 'Dyata Dacoit'. There are several cases in different police stations filed in the name of 'Dyata'. Among these a case in Naria Police Station of Shoriotpur is numbered 12; date: 16/10/2009 under sections 395/397/412/413/109 of the Penal Code. At Madaripur Police Station there are two cases among those one is in the Additional Sessions Judge Court of Madaripur (case number 22/2006 under sections 395/397 of the Penal Code) and one in the Madaripur Police Station,

numbered 2; date: 2/11/2010 under 395/397 of the Penal Code. A warrant has been issued in the name of Dyata as his name is on each of the charge sheets.

During the fact finding mission Odhikar took statements of the RAB members, Police officers and local people. From the statements of local people, members of RAB took Delwar with them from a public place showing their identity cards. But RAB members deny arresting anyone named Delwar. Madaripur police did not register the GD or case that Delwar's wife wanted to file. Rather, the SI of Madaripur Police Station claimed that Delwar is a listed criminal. Until the completion of this report, Delwar remains untraceable.

Odhikar demands that the initiative is taken to find the missing Delwar and that after an impartial investigation the government brings those responsible to trial.