



## **BSF members shot Muktar Dai and Mohammad Nur Islam to death at Bojruk border of Horipur Police Station in Thakurgaon district**

*Fact Finding Report*

*Odhikar*

On January 1, 2013 at around 4:30 am Muktar Dai (23), son of Ainul Dai and late Rekha Dai of Dhirganj village under Haripur police station of Thakurgaon district in northern Bangladesh and Mohammad Nur Islam (32), son of Abdur Rahman and Nurjahan of Bojruk village were shot to death by the members of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India.

On January 1, 2013, Muktar, Nur and a few others went near pillar 361/5 S in the border area to bring cows. BSF members opened fire at their appearance. Muktar and Nur got shot and died while Azad Ali of Bojruk village, Mohammad Samad and Raju of Manikchhari village got injured and a cow got killed.

Muktar was a barber and a believer of Christianity. His barber shop was in front of his house. Four months ago Muktar's pregnant wife Bonna went to her father's house in Dhonu Chengthi, a Christian neighbourhood in Debiganj police station of Panchagarh district. On December 27, 2012 Bonna gave birth to a baby girl at Thakurgaon's Rodela General Hospital. On December 27, 2012, in the evening, Muktar Dai told Bonna on phone that he would come to Thakurgaon in the morning of January 1, 2013, to meet Bonna and pay the hospital fees. Muktar went to bring cows from India so that he could pay the hospital fees, said his father Ainul Dai.

Another person who died at the same time due to the BSF firing, Mohammad Nur Islam, was a poor agricultural labour. He worked as a day labourer in lands of other people, as he did not have one himself. He used to earn Tk 120-Tk 150 daily. With that meagre income he struggled to maintain a family consisting of his wife Mosammat Halima, son Momin and daughter Shurobhi. Since they were very poor, Nur worked as cattle trader sometimes to make extra money, said his wife Halima.

It has come to our knowledge that Indian cattle traders buy cows at low prices from various huts around India and gather them in the villages at the frontiers to sell them to Bangladesh. They inform Bangladeshi cattle traders on mobile phones. Since it costs more if cows are brought to Bangladesh by Indian men, Bangladeshi cattle keepers are used to ferry in the cattle in exchange for token amounts. BSF members allow the Bangladeshi men to ferry the

cattle from India to Bangladesh in exchange for bribe. In cases when Bangladeshis fail to pay amounts BSF members demand, they kill them.

It was not possible to take statements of those, who were injured in the incident. Azad Ali, Samad and Raju, as they were in hiding to evade Police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Odhikar carried out a fact finding mission into the incident. During the fact finding mission Odhikar interviewed:

- Relatives of Muktar Dai and Nur Islam
- The doctors who conducted the post mortem of the two bodies and
- Members of the law enforcement agencies



Picture: Muktar Dai and Md, Nur Islam (from left)

**Bonna (22), Muktar Dai's wife:**

Bonna informed Odhikar that her husband was a barber by profession. They used to somehow manage with Muktar's limited income. About four months ago since she was pregnant, she went to her father's house at Dhonu Chengthi, Christian neighbourhood in Panchagarh district. On December 27, 2012, she got admitted to Thakurgaon's Rodela General Hospital and gave birth to a baby girl. Due to some financial crisis her husband could not see her at that time. On December 27, 2012, Muktar informed her on mobile phone that he would meet with her on January 1, 2013 in the morning and clear the hospital fees. Later she learnt from her mother Jhorna Rishi that on January 1, 2013, at night, members of BSF shot her husband to death at the Indian border when he was bringing cows from India.

**Mosammat Halima (21), Mohammad Nur Islam's wife:**

Mosammat Halima told Odhikar that her family consisted of her husband, their son Momin (3) and daughter Shurobhi (1). Since, they did not own any field, her husband worked as a day labourer on the fields of other people. He used to earn Tk 120-Tk 150 per day, which was not enough to run their family of four. On January 1, 2013, at around 1:00am, her husband woke her up and said that he has to go out for some important work. Nur left soon after that and Halima went back to sleep. At around 5.30am, she woke up to the sound of commotion outside her house. Then she got to know from her father in-law Abdur Rahman that while bringing cows from the border in the early hours, BSF members shot Nur to death. On January 3, 2013, at night when the body was brought home after completion of the post

mortem, she saw a bullet wound on the chest of the body. Later her husband's body was buried at Bujruk graveyard.

**Abdur Rahman (66), Mohammad Nur Islam's father:**

Abdur Rahman informed Odhikar that on January 1, 2013, at around 5:00am, an unknown man came up to him and told him that Nur Islam, Muktar and a few others including him had gone to the border at night to bring cows. At that time BSF members opened fire at them. As a result Nur Islam and Muktar Dai died. A cow also got killed. Abdur Rahman sent his relative Mohammad Khairul to the border area to verify the news. At around 8:00am Khairul returned from the border area and informed him that Nur Islam's wounded body is lying near 361/5 S pillar. When he along with Khairul and a few others went to the border area, the BSF members told them to go near the body. Khairul went near the barbed wire fence and saw Nur Islam and Muktar Dai's wounded bodies and a dead cow. After identifying Nur Islam and Muktar Dai's body Khairul came back. Later the BGB brought the two bodies to Bangladesh.

**Al Mamun Chowdhury, Correspondent, Daily Lokayon, Haripur, Thakurgaon:**

Al Mamun Chowdhury told Odhikar that on January 1, 2013, at around 7:00am, he learnt from the local people that Nur Islam and Muktar Dai were killed and three others were injured during BSF firing at the border. He learnt that at around 4:30am, when a few men were bringing cows from the Indian border, BSF members killed Nur Islam, Muktar Dai and a cow near 361/5 S pillar and injured Azad Ali (25) of Bujruk village, Mohammad Samad (29), and Raju (23) of Manikchhari village.



Picture: (1) Mohammad Nur Islam, (2) Muktar Dai shot dead (Marked areas indicate the sign of bullet hits)  
[Picture taken by Odhikar, dated January 03, 2013]

**Habildar Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Bujruk BGB Camp Commander, 2 Border Guard Bangladesh, Dinajpur:**

Habildar Mohammad Khurshed Alam informed Odhikar that on January 1, 2013 at around 4:30am, he heard sound of gunshots coming from the border. At around 6:00am, BGB members on patrol informed him that two bodies with bullet hits and a dead cow were found lying near 361/5 S pillar of the border. After receiving news he informed 2 Border Guard

Battalion Bangladesh's Ops Officer Mohammad Muktadir Mamun. Mamun ordered him to send BSF a letter for holding a flag meeting. At around 8:00am he sent the letter for a flag meeting. At around 11:00am a flag meeting was held near the 361/5 S border pillar. He headed the meeting on behalf of BGB and Bipen Shakhawat, staff officer of BSF 121 Khurka BSF camp represented the BSF. A few individuals from Bujruk and Dhorganj villages were present at the flag meeting to identify the bodies. After the flag meeting he and others went near the bodies and identified Mohammad Nur Islam and Muktar Dai's bodies.

**Abdul Wahab Ali, Karigaon D Company Commander, 2 Border Guard Bangladesh, Dinajpur:**

Abdul Wahab Ali told Odhikar that on January 1, 2013, at around 4:30am, Mohammad Nur Islam and Muktar Dai died in BSF firing. In the morning on January 2, 2013, a letter was sent to 121 battalion Khurka BSF camp regarding the return of the bodies. It was informed on behalf of the BSF authorities that the bodies will be handed over at around 5:30pm near pillar 361/5 S. Then at around 7:30pm the bodies were handed over through a flag meeting near pillar 359/4 R. He represented the BGB and Bipen Shakhawat represented BSF in the flag meeting. Among others at that time were Bujruk Camp Commander Habildar Khurshid Alam, Sub Inspector (SI) of Haripur Police Station Mofizul Islam, Chairman of Bokua Union Parishad 3, Abu Taher and Sub-Inspector of Karandighi Police Station in North Dinajpur district of India, Arun Kumar Karmakar.



Picture: On January 03, 2013, at around 7:30pm bodies of the victims were handed over to the BGB by Bipen Sakhawat, Staff officer of 21 Battalion of Khurka BSF

**Jyotindranath Sharma, Officer in-charge (O.C), Haripur Police Station, Thakurgaon:**

Jyotindranath Sharma informed Odhikar that on January 1, 2013, at around 8:00am news came from Bujruk BGB camp that two Bangladeshis died at the border. After receiving the news he and SI Mofizul Islam went to Bujruk BGB camp at around 10:00am. Bujruk Camp Commander Habildar Khurshid Alam told him that the bodies would be handed over through a flag meeting. The police station would be informed when the bodies are brought to Bangladesh. On January 2, 2013, at around 3:30pm, when he heard the news about the

handover of the bodies, he ordered SI Mofizul Islam to receive the bodies through flag meeting.

**SI Mohammad Mofizul Islam, Haripur Police Station, Thakurgaon:**

SI Mohammad Mofizul Islam told Odhikar that on January 2, 2013, he filed a general diary (GD) at Haripur Police Station on orders of OC Jyotindranath Sharma. The case number is: 68; dated: 02/01/2013. At around 3:30pm, he went to Bujruk BGB camp. From there he went near border pillar 359/4 R with the BGB members. After the flag meeting at around 7:30pm, he received the bodies of Mohammad Nur Islam and Muktar Dai through the BGB. After bringing the bodies at Bujruk BGB camp, he prepared the inquest report of the bodies. He mentioned in the report that there was a bullet wound on the left side of Nur Islam's chest and a bullet wound on the left side of Muktar Dai's throat. On January 3, 2013, at around 12:45pm, he took the bodies to Thakurgaon Modern Sadar Hospital. After the completion of the post mortem the bodies of Mohammad Nur Islam and Muktar Dai were handed over to their respective families.

**Dr. Abdul Jubbar, Resident Medical Officer, Modern Sadar Hospital, Thakurgaon:**

Dr. Abdul Jubbar informed Odhikar that on January 3, 2013, at around 12:45pm, members of Haripur Police Station brought the bodies of two men named Nur Islam and Muktar Dai into the hospital morgue. At around 3:00pm he completed the post mortem of Nur Islam. The post mortem number is 2; dated: 03/01/2013. Then at around 3:30pm he conducted the post mortem of Muktar Dai. The post mortem number is 3; dated: 03/01/2013. He mentioned in the post mortem report about a bullet wound on the left side of Nur Islam's chest and on the left side of Muktar Dai's throat. He mentioned that the bullets from Nur Islam and Muktar Dai's bodies had already been taken out during the post mortem that was conducted in India.

**Odhikar's view:**

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India are shooting unarmed Bangladeshi citizens at whims. India has been persistently killing Bangladeshis to death violating international law and policies. Odhikar demands that a proper investigation be conducted regarding the killing of Nur Islam and Muktar Dai by BSF members and that the perpetrators are brought to trial. Odhikar believes that the Bangladesh government should carry out sincere efforts to prevent its citizens from being killed or tortured by BSF and acquire compensation from the Indian government for the victims or their families.

-End of Report-