



**Mohammad Ali Mohabbat, a leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Kushtia was allegedly disappeared by RAB from Jahanabad Cantonment Area in Khulna**

*Fact Finding Report*  
*Odhikar*

On January 25, 2013 at around 8:30pm, Mohammad Ali Mohabbat (34), son of late Intaj Ali and Rahima Khatun of Adabaria village in Kumarkhali Upazila under Kushtia district was picked up by the alleged members of Rapid Action Batallion when he got down from a bus in front of Garrison Cinema Hall of Shahid Captain Bashir Market in Jahanabad Cantonment area under Khan Jahan Ali police station of Khulna city. Since then he has been without any trace.

Mohabbat was a farmer and press secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)'s Kumarkhali Upazila unit.

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

- Relatives of Mohabbat
- Eyewitnesses of the incidence of his disappearance and
- Members of the law enforcement agencies.



Photo: Mohammad Ali Mohabbat

**Mosammat Moyna Khatun (32) Mohabbat's wife:**

Mosammat Moyna Khatun informed Odhikar that her husband used to run a dairy from home and do farming to earn a living. He was also involved in politics as press secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)'s Kumarkhali Upazila unit.

On January 17, 2013 at around 4:00pm, Mohabbat left the house on his motorcycle, went to Bashgram Bazaar (market) and came back at around 5:30pm. Mohabbat told her that a few men in 2 motorcycles had chased him from Bashgram Bazaar (market). After talking to her he wanted to flee immediately. She asked Mohabbat about who were chasing him and he replied that they might be men from the administration. That evening at 6:27pm, she got a message in her mobile phone from mobile number 01711268446. The message was- "Mohobbot ar wife mob. no....." When she tried calling the number, a man spoke to her without identifying himself. She assumed the number might be of those who were chasing Mohabbat.

After that Mohabbat went to his sister Nilufa Begum's house in the same village and maintained low profile for two days. Mohabbat stayed in touch with her constantly through mobile phone. From Nilufa's house he went to his acquaintance Montoja Ali's house in Bahla Dangi village under Pangsha Thana in Rajbari district and was hiding there.

On January 25, 2013 at around noon Mohabbat started for his other sister Laily Rahman's house in Khulna. He switched off his mobile phone. At around 9:00pm, Laily's husband Sergeant Habibur Rahman called on her mobile phone and informed her that a few men in plainclothes picked up Mohabbat after he arrived from Rajbari and got down from a bus in front of Garrison Cinema Hall at Jahanabad Cantonment under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station in Khulna. The men identified themselves as RAB members and arrested him and took him away according to some shopkeepers of that area.

After hearing the news, she went to Kumarkhali Police Station and Kushtia RAB camp and inquired about Mohabbat. Everyone denied his arrest. On January 27, 2013 after finding no trace of Mohabbat, she held a press conference at a local newspaper office of Daily Shomoyer Kagoj. At the press conference she demanded the trace of her husband.

**Mosammot Laily Rahman (23), Mohabbat's sister:**

Mosammot Laily Rahman told Odhikar that her husband Habibur Rahman is a Sergeant of the Bangladesh Army. They live at a government housing complex at Jahanabad Cantonment under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station in Khulna. On January 25, 2013 Mohabbat informed her on phone that he was at a relative's house in Rajbari and wanted to come to her place. She asked Mohabbat to come at Garrison Cinema Hall in front of Shahid Captain Bashar Market and give her a call so that she can come and pick him up from there.

At around 8:00pm, Mohabbat called her to say that he would be arriving at Garrison soon. She asked her husband Habibur to go and pick Mohabbat from there. Her husband left the house and at around 8:35pm informed her that a few men identifying themselves as RAB

members arrested Mohabbat and took him away from in front of Garrison. Upon hearing the news, she went there herself, heard the story from eyewitnesses and searched for Mohabbat without luck. On January 26, 2013 she went to Khan Jahan Ali Police station and filed a General Diary (GD). The GD number is 998; Date: 26/01/2013. She mentioned in the GD that 5/6 men identifying themselves as RAB members took Mohabbat away on a silver pajero Jeep (Dhaka Metro Gha-11-7809). She also added that it is not possible for anyone other than RAB members to take Mohabbat away from Cantonment area. She contacted RAB-6's office in Khulna with the help of her husband. However, RAB -6 informed her that they did not arrest anyone of that name. She wants to know about the whereabouts of her brother.

**Mohammad Nasir Ali (35), fruit vendor, Shahid Captain Bashar Market, Jahanabad Cantonment, Khulna:**

Mohammad Nasir informed Odhikar that on January 25, 2013 at around 8:00pm, he was standing in front of N.H Khan Library when he saw a man, with his face and head covered by a muffler, being taken somewhere by two men in plainclothes. Suddenly the man tripped on something and was about to fall when the two men on his either side held him straight and continued moving forward. The man kept on tugging backwards and saying that he will not go with them. He told the library owner SM Helal Khan and Market Chairman Babul Akhter about the matter. He along with few stopped the three men and asked them to identify themselves. The man in the muffler replied "Save me, they are going to kill me." After hearing this he told the other two men to release him. However, since they were not letting him go, he snatched the man away from them. The man informed him that his name is Mohabbat and his sister's house was inside Cantonment and her husband Habibur Rahman is a Sergeant in the Army. He spotted silver Pajero Jeep, whose number is Dhaka Metro Gha-11-7809. A tall, fair and slim man got out from the microbus and punched him. The man identified himself as Captain Mehedi of RAB. Nasir punched back Captain Mehedi and asked for their ID card. Captain Mehedi showed his ID. He noticed that two people were carrying pistols on their waist. Since he was not letting go of Mohabbat, Captain Mehedi threatened to shoot him. Moreover, Captain Mehedi said that the person is notorious and if he escapes then Nasir would be held responsible. So he released the man to them. Five RAB members tried to put him inside the microbus as the man used all his strength to hold back. The struggle between the man and the five RAB members went on for about 30 minutes. At one point when the man's shirt got torn, they strangled him with a muffler around his neck, wounded him by kicking and punching and when he finally lost all his strength to fight, they put him inside the back of the microbus and drove away. Bystanders tried to find someone by the name of Habibur, but since no one knew him, they could not stop the men from taking Mohabbat away. After some time a man came and identified himself as Sergeant Habibur Rahman. Nasir told him about Mohabbat being taken away.

**SM Helal Uddin Khan, owner of N.H Khan Library and eyewitness:**

SM Helal Uddin Khan told Odhikar that on January 25, 2013 at around 8:00pm, Nasir Ali came to his shop and told him that two men in plainclothes outside were trying to take a man away forcefully. He spotted a silver pajaro jeep parked on the road. Two more people got out from the jeep. In total there were four people attempting to take away one man with them. Nasir, Market Chairman Babul Akhter and he went there and asked the men why they were forcing this man to go with them. One of them said that the man is a criminal that is why he is being taken away. He asked for their identification when a tall, fair and slim man got out of the jeep and identified themselves as members of RAB. The tall man said that he was Captain Mehedi of RAB. Then he asked the victim who he was and why RAB was trying to take him away. The man said that his name is Mohabbat and the men were going to take him and kill him. Mohabbat pleaded to them for saving him from the men. Captain Mehedi tried to drag Mohabbat in the jeep when Nasir went and freed Mohabbat from Captain Mehedi. Mehedi and Nasir then got into a fistfight. Seeing the fight, 20/25 people of the area gathered there. Captain Mehedi told the other RAB members to take out their guns and told Helal Khan in a loud voice that Mohabbat is a notorious criminal and if he escaped then he will arrest Helal. Helal Khan asked Mohabbat whether he has any relative here or not to which he replied that his sister Laily Rahman lives in Cantonment and her husband Habibur Rahman is a Sergeant in the Army. Mohabbat then requested him to call Habibur.

He inquired about Sergeant Habibur Rahman among the people present at the scene and some residents of the cantonment area but no one could say anything about him. Almost half an hour went by like this. Helal then asked Captain Mehedi whether they have any ID card or not. Captain Mehedi showed him a card made of plastic and he did not say anything further to avoid unnecessary conflict. Since no one named Habibur was found, Mohabbat's statement was disregarded. The RAB members continued their efforts to put Mohabbat inside the jeep. The struggle between them and Mohabbat went on for some time. RAB members began assaulting him as he continued to resist them. His muffler, jacket, t-shirt and pants came off. RAB members forcibly put him inside the jeep and drove away. About half an hour later a man came to the place seeing the crowd. When he overheard people talking about a man named Mohabbat being taken away, he identified himself as Habibur Rahman. Helal told Habibur about the incident, adding, it would not be possible for any miscreant to take someone away from the Cantonment gate.

**SI Mohammad Sajib Rahman, Khan Jahan Ali Police Station, Khulna Metropolitan Police, Khulna:**

SI Mohammad Sajib Rahman informed Odhikar that on January 26, 2013 a woman named Laily Rahman from 28/3 Shimul building, a government complex in Cantonment came to the police station and filed a General Diary (GD). She mentioned in the GD that a few men

identifying themselves as RAB members took her brother away. He also confirmed this news by going to the scene of incident and talking to the nearby shopkeepers, all of whom said that 5/7 men identifying themselves as RAB members picked up Mohabbat Ali and drove away. During this incident, local fruit vendor Mohammad Nasir Ali tried stopping them and at that time one Captain Mehedi of RAB assaulted him. He contacted the RAB officials in Khulna but they informed that they have not arrested anyone named Mohabbat. Since he is still investigating the GD, he was unwilling to speak any further about this matter.

**Additional DIG Mohammad Lokman Hakim, Commanding officer, RAB-6, Khulna:**

Additional DIG Mohammad Lokman Hakim told Odhikar that learnt from his sources that on January 25, 2013 at around 8:30pm, a man identifying himself as Captain Mehedi of RAB picked up JSD leader Mohabbat.

He informed that there is no RAB member named Captain Mehedi in RAB-6. If anyone files a case about this matter, an investigation can find who abducted Mohabbat.

**Captain Mehedi Hasan, RAB-12, Sadar office, Chok Shialkol, Sirajganj:**

Captain Mehedi Hasan informed Odhikar that since January 25, 2013 a lot of people have been calling him on his mobile phone and coming to him personally and inquiring whether he arrested JSD leader Mohabbat of Kushtia from Khulna and made him disappear. After hearing such accusations he informed RAB headquarters and urged the authority to prove that the accusation against him is false. He also added that he has not arrested anyone named Mohabbat and did not go to Khulna on the date of the incident.

**SI Joynal Abedin, RAB-12, Crime Prevention Company- 1, Khustia:**

SI Joynal Abedin informed Odhikar that he holds the mobile number 01711268446. He is working at RAB-12. He informed Odhikar that he didn't know about the message (SMS) which was sent from his mobile phone to Ms. Moyna Khatun, wife of Mohobbat on January 17, 2013. But he heard someone has taken Mohobbat in the name of RAB. He didn't want to talk any further.

**Mohammad Masud Alam, Assistant Director, Engineer, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Dhaka Circle North, Mipur-13, Dhaka:**

Mohammad Masud Alam was sent a letter from Odhikar requesting to provide information about the jeep in which Mohabbat was taken away on the night of January 25, 2013. The BRTA letter receipt number is 1596; date: 06/02/2013.

On March 20, 2013 Mohammad Masud Alam verbally informed Odhikar that the pajaro jeep number Dhaka Metro Gha-11-7809. Chassis number- KMHNM 81 CR 5U-166611; Engine

number-G6CU4043953 is owned by the Inspector General of Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

**Golam Mohsin, President, JSD, Kushtia district branch, Kushtia:**

Golam Mohsin told Odhikar that he heard the news of the disappearance of Mohammad Ali Mohabbat, press secretary of JSD Kumarkhali Upazila unit that Mohabbat has been taken away by some people identifying themselves as members of RAB from Khulna. He expressed his concern that Mohabbat might have become the victim of political vengeance. Whatever be the case, he requested the law enforcement agencies to investigate the incident and take appropriate actions.

-The End-