

Assembly of Hefazate Islam Bangladesh and Human Rights Violations



Fact Finding Report, Odhikar
Report Released on June 10, 2013

Summary of the incident

Hefazate Islam Bangladesh, like any other non-political social and cultural organisation, claims to be a people's platform to articulate the concerns of religious issues. According to the organisation, its aims are to take into consideration socio-economic, cultural, religious and political matters that affect values and practices of Islam. Moreover, protecting the rights of the Muslim people and promoting social dialogue to dispel prejudices that affect community harmony and relations are also their objectives.

Instigated by some bloggers and activists that mobilised at the Shahbag movement, the organisation, since 19th February 2013, has been protesting against the vulgar, humiliating, insulting and provocative remarks in the social media sites and blogs against Islam, Allah and his Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (pbuh). In some cases the Prophet was portrayed as a pornographic character, which infuriated the people of all walks of life. There was a directive from the High Court to the government to take measures to prevent such blogs and defamatory comments, that not only provoke religious intolerance but jeopardise public order. This is an obligation of the government under Article 39 of the Constitution. Unfortunately the Government took no action on this.

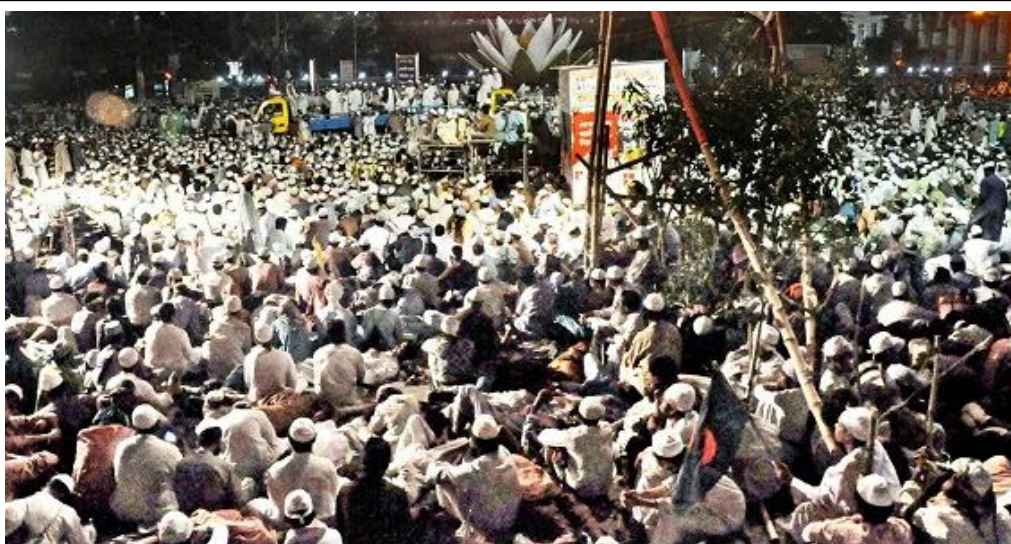
As a response to the Government's inactions and its tacit support to the bloggers, Hefazate Islam came up with an elaborate 13 point demand and assembled peacefully to articulate their cause on 6th April 2013. Since then they have organised a series of meetings in different districts, peacefully and without any violence, despite provocations from the law enforcement agencies and armed Awami League activists. All these meetings, religiously termed 'Shane Risalat' by the Hefazat were attended by thousands of people. The Government's inaction; insensitivity to the humiliated feelings of people; the unending instigation from a section of the bloggers gathered at Shahbag against them calling them 'fundamentalist' and tagging Hefazat as another front of Jamat-e-Islam; have further deteriorated the situation. Initial protests to restraint the bloggers and demands to stop defamatory publications against Islam, Allah and his Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (pbuh) slowly grew into a massive social and religious movement culminating into the last fateful programme to 'siege' Dhaka on 5th May 2013. This has perhaps fundamentally changed the social, political and cultural architecture in Bangladesh with regard to religion and exposed the threshold of tolerance from both secularists and Islamists. It has also drastically reduced the government's ability to govern without violence. In accordance to their plan, Hefazate Islam Bangladesh activists started to move into Dhaka from all parts of the country from 4th May 2013 and gathered at all six entrance routes to Dhaka; creating a blockade, from dawn on 5th May 2013. At noon, with the permission of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), activists entered Dhaka and started moving towards Baitul Mukarram Mosque in order to attend an event of *Doa* (Prayers) that was supposed to be lead by Allama Ahmad Shafi, the Amir¹ of Hefazate Islam. They were allowed to assemble and hold their programme at Dhaka's Shapla Chottor, in the Motijheel area from 3:00 pm till evening. However activists of Hefazate Islam were attacked by the ruling party Awami League activists at various places while they were on their way towards

¹ Chief

Shapla Chottor. Awami League cadres used lethal arms such as pistols and guns to attack the Hefazat activists, who used the Gulistan road near the Awami League party office to reach Shapla Chottor.



The police at that time aided the Awami League activists in attacking the Hefazat activists. Hundreds of Hefazat activists were left injured while three were killed in firing by the police and supporters and activists of the government party. In return, in order to protect themselves, Hefazat activists threw bricks at them. Then at around 3:00 pm they started their programme and their leaders' spoke of their demands and other related concerns while the media, including international ones, broadcasted the mass rally of thousands of people. Meanwhile the Secretary General of Awami League, Sayed Ashraful Islam, at a press conference, threatened Hefazate Islam and ordered them to end the meeting and leave Dhaka immediately. At the same time, the main opposition political party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) focused on the fact that it was a democratic right of the Hefazat members to state their 13-point demand and therefore morally supported their right to assemble and articulate their cause. The leaders and activists of Hefazate Islam became more determined and resilient due to attacks on them at various times on the way towards Motijheel, where many were injured and three were killed by the Awami League activists supported by the law enforcement agencies. However, the Hefazat activists kept waiting for their leader Allama Ahmad Shafi to join the rally at Shapla Chottor and give them further orders. They planned to continue remaining there till then.



5th May 2013, Hefazat activists in Shapla Chottor, Motijheel (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

Speeches by the Hefazate Islam leaders continued beyond sunset, but eventually stopped at around 8:00 pm right before the Esha prayers. From 8:30 pm, the police got into clashes with Hefazat activists around Motijheel Police Station. At one point, the police started using fire arms and according to a witness (wanting to remain anonymous), seven people lost their lives. Hefazate Islam leaders used the megaphones to request members of the law enforcement agencies not to open fire. However at around 11:00 pm, the situation was brought under control. Activists/members remained where they were and thought of spending the night there on the roads, where many used their *panjabis* to cover bags or sandals as pillows and prepared to sleep. Many continued in ‘Zikir’²

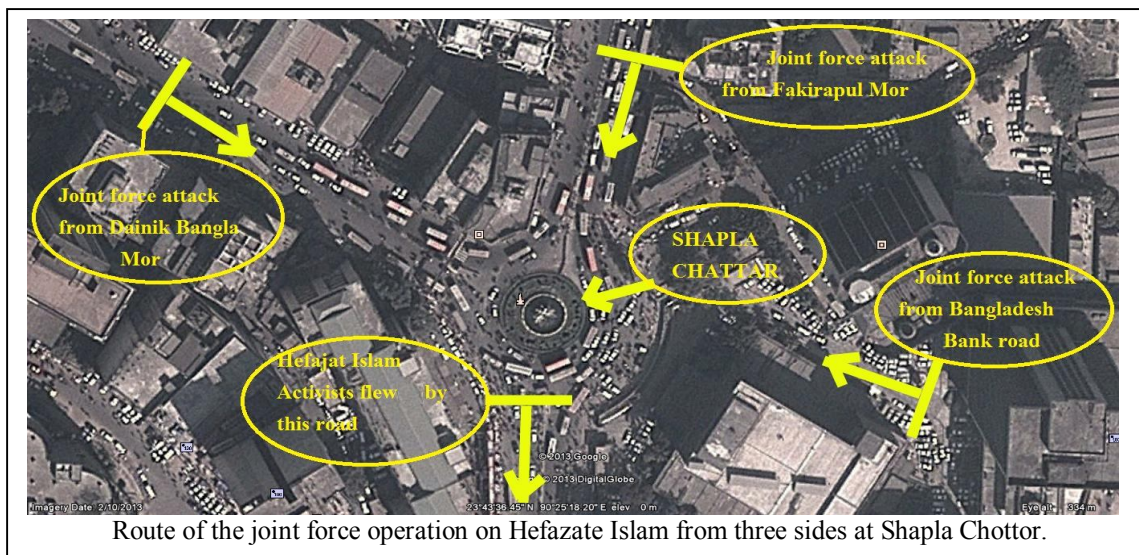


Megaphones were used during the Hefazat assembly 6th May 2013 (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB); Armed Police Battalion (APB); and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members prepared to attack in three groups. The combined force planned to move in towards Shapla Chottor’s main stage on 6th May, through three routes – Dainik

² Special type of Collective Prayer

Bangla route, Fakirapul route and the route crossing the Bangladesh Bank. However they decided not to use the Ram Krishna (R K) Mission path to carry out the operation. Tear gas, bullets and sound grenades were to be used and it was planned that the unharmed and injured would use the R K Mission road in order to exit the area, eventually leaving Dhaka.



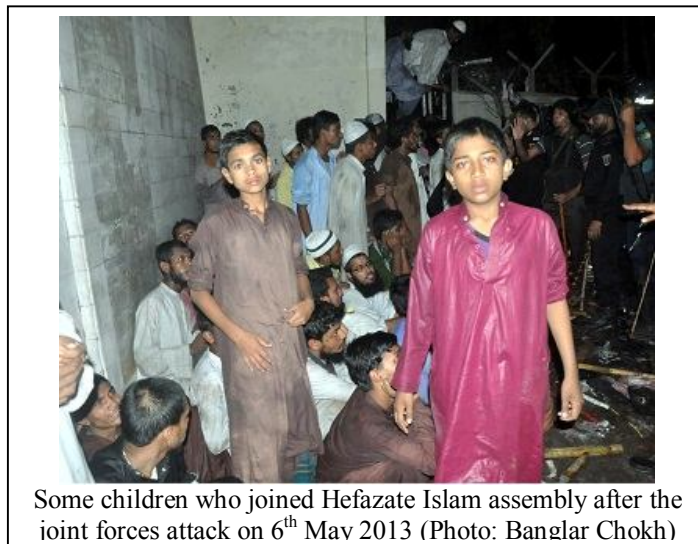
The electricity was intentionally turned off at Motijheel and its surrounding areas to darken the place on 6th May 2013 at around 12:30 am. Megaphone lines were cut off as well. Allegedly almost 10 thousand members of the combined forces attacked the unarmed Hefazat activists who were asleep in the dark at around 2.15 am on 6th May. Bullets, tear gas, sound grenades and boiling water were used on the Hefazat supporters and activists at Shapla Chottor. The operation by the combined forces had three names – the police called it ‘Operation Shapla’, the RAB named the operation ‘Operation Flash Out’ and it was ‘Operation Capture Shapla’ according to BGB. On 6th May 2013, police, as the complainant, filed six cases at Motijheel Police Station, 12 at Paltan Station and one at Ramna. On 7th May 2013, four more cases were filed at Paltan Police Station. Cases were filed against 1862 people, along with an unidentified number of around 133,500³ as being accused in the matter. The list gave the law enforcement agencies an opportunity to misuse their power against the civilian population, violating human rights.

To ensure that the incident of 6th May did not go on air, the broadcasting of Islamic Television and Diganta Television was stopped at 2:30 am and 4:27 am respectively. These two channels are still barred from airing, due to the fact that they are owned or supported by the Opposition.

It was known to the government that the Hefazate Islam had brought adolescents and children from madrassas to the mass rally of 5th May. The presence of children at political rallies is also found in government and opposition party programmes. Despite this knowledge, brutality of the attack did not spare the children. Some of the pro-Hefazat adolescent and

³ Odhikar obtained a chart from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police media cell with regard to these arrests.

children at the rally could not be found after the law enforcement crackdown of 6th May 2013. Some allegedly lost their lives. Ananya Sultana from Mohammadpur, Dhaka informed Odhikar that her maternal cousin Md. Saidul Bari (17) was killed by pro Awami League activists when he went to join the Hefazate Islam movement. She mentioned that on 7th May 2013 at around 3:00 pm, Saidul's body was found in the Islami Bank Hospital at Motijheel.



Although the government initially claimed that no one was killed, videos uploaded all over the social media show that it was indeed a fierce and indiscriminate attack of unarmed Hefazate Islam activists that led to many deaths. At one point the government mentioned that along with two pedestrians and a policeman, a total of 11 died on 5th May. A Hefazate Islam member (who wishes to be anonymous) stated that he was informed of 202 deaths and around 2500 persons missing. Fact finding of Odhikar has, to date, found the names of 61 people who were killed and many more injured. However, actual numbers are very difficult to ascertain in the present repressive political situation. The international media, Aljazeera, reported that 50 people were killed. To see the video please click on:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/05/2013514143842666992.html>

Please also find a video link from social media

http://odhikar.org/documents/2013/FF_Report_2013/Hefazat_e_islam/Hefazat%203.wmv

It was learnt that many people who were being treated at various hospitals in Dhaka for injuries from attacks by the combined forces, returned home after primary treatment. Five people among those who were severely injured died at various local hospitals. Many minors joined Hefazate Islam's rally, most of who were students of Qawami Madrassas. They come from non-affluent backgrounds. A significant number of such students were orphans, who were not provided with any sort of help by the government. These minors were unprotected in the attack by the combined forces on 6th May 2013. During fact finding it was learnt that

hardly anything was being done to search for the orphans. The number of missing orphans remains unknown.

Considering the circumstance, it is very difficult to know exactly how many people were killed and where the bodies were taken. Odhikar prepared this fact finding report on a primary basis by carrying out its own fact finding missions. The number of deaths mentioned here only confirms and highlights the identities of people killed that night.

Odhikar interviewed the following persons:

Hafez Md. Israfil, elder brother of missing Monowar Siddiki

Hafez Md. Israfil informed Odhikar that his younger brother Mawlana Monowar Siddiki (28) was *Imam*⁴ of a mosque in Comilla district. He refused to name the mosque. He went to Dhaka on 5th May 2013 in order to join Hefazate Islam's tally, without informing anyone at home. Israfil only found out when he talked to Monowar over the cell phone at around 5:30 pm on 5th May. He asked Monowar to come to his house; however Monowar chose to stay at Motijheel. Ever since then, Monowar's phone has been switched off. On 9th May 2013 Israfil tried calling Monowar. A stranger answered the phone at around 2:00 pm. He said he picked up the cell phone from a road in Dhaka. However he was unwilling to say anything else and switched off the phone. Md. Israfil informed Odhikar that his mother became bedridden since Monowar went missing. He is still searching for his brother Monowar Siddiqui.

Ananya Sultana, maternal cousin of deceased Md. Saidul Bari (17)

Ananya Sultana told Odhikar that Md. Saidul Bari was an 8th grade student of Baitul Fozol Islamia Madrassa located in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. He went to Motijheel on 5th May 2013 for the purpose of joining Hefazate Islam's rally. Her family then tried to contact Saidul, however failed, since his cell phone was switched off. Saidul did not return to his Madrassa either. On 6th May 2013 Ananya learnt from various media that the police attacked and killed many at Shapla Chottor, Motijheel. Ananya and her elder sister Sabiha Sultana then went to various hospitals in Dhaka to search for Saidul. On 7th May 2013, Saidul's body was found in Motijheel's Islami Bank Hospital. There was a fatal injury at the back of his head due to an attack with some heavy object. The front the head appeared to have been wounded using something long and sharp and a two-inch long stab wound was found on his chin. The hospital authority notified that on 5th May 2013 at 7:00 pm, some Hefazate Islam activists brought the deceased Saidul to the hospital. His body was taken home and buried at Yusufdia village under the jurisdiction of Golta Police Station in the district of Faridpur. Ananya Sultana informed Odhikar that the family filed no cases in this regard.



Deceased Saidul Bari
(Photo: Collected by Odhikar)

⁴ Religious teacher

Omor Farooq, elder brother of deceased Md. Yunus (32)

Omor Farooq notified Odhikar that his younger brother Mawlana Mufti Md. Yunus was a teacher of Forkhola Hafezia Madrassa in the Daudkandi Upazila of Comilla. At around 5:30 pm on 5th May 2013, Yunus informed him that he was in Motijheel, Dhaka to join the rally of Hefazate Islam. Omor asked Yunus to leave the place, however he replied that the situation at Shapla Chottor was peaceful and he would stay till the end of the programme. Then at around 10:00 pm at night, when Omor called Yunus, he informed Omar that the situation was chaotic near Shapla Chottor and people were waiting for Hefazate Islam leader Allama Shafi's arrival and speech; and until then, he would stay at the place. Md. Yunus asked Omor to pray for him. Those were Yunus's last words. Yunus could not be contacted after that. At around 6:00 am on 6th May Omar called Yunus again. His phone was received by an unknown person who claimed to be a policeman, who informed Omor of Yunus's death. Omor was notified by policemen that Yunus's body was found on the steps of a bank in Motijheel. The police took his body to the mortuary at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Omor went there at around 10:00 am in search of Yunus's body. He noticed what seemed to be a bullet wound in his right knee. No other marks of injury could be found on the body. Omor thinks the cause of his death was due to loss of blood from that wound.

Omor Farooq informed Odhikar that with regard to his brother's death, he had filed no cases. The reason being that he and his family may be harassed by the law enforcement agencies later on.

Omor Farooq further notified that Yunus had a daughter who was eight months old and that he had never been involved in any political party.

Hafez Md. Hafizul Haq, elder brother of deceased Moazzemul Haq Nannu (35)

Md. Hafizul Haq informed Odhikar that, on 4th May 2013, his younger brother Moazzemul Haq Nannu travelled from Jessore to his friend's house in Dhaka. At around 2:00 pm on 5th May 2013 Nannu went to Shapla Chottor along with his friend in order to join Hefazat-e-Islam's rally. Ever since then, Nannu has been out of contact. On 6th May 2013 at around 6:00 am, Md. Hafizul Haq was called by a stranger who informed him that Nannu had been hit by bullet and was being treated at Mohammadpur's Al-Manar Hospital. As he was in Jessore, he sent some relatives who were residing in Dhaka to the hospital. Nannu was operated on in the hospital, but his health was not improving. On 11th May 2013 Nannu was taken to the Jessore district Modern Hospital, since the family could not afford to pay for his treatment in Dhaka. Nannu died that day at around 3:30 pm.

Hafizul Haq further notified Odhikar that the doctor at Jessore informed him, that a piece of a bullet could be seen lodged inside Nannu's lungs. While



A Madrassa student caught by police in early morning of 6th May (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

Nannu's body was bathed before burial, Hafizul noticed many wounds on his body. Bruises could be found on his chest and his left toe. The injury marks remained visible in both of the legs. He assumed that Nannu was badly beaten up and then shot from a close distance.

Nannu's funeral prayers were arranged on 12th May at 7:30 am at Khorki Idgah field, however the night before (on 11th May) at around 11:30 pm, the Officer-in-Charge of the local police station, Imdadul Haq, visited his home and asked the family not to hold the programme there. Later, other members of the detective branch of police called and told the family not to hold the event in public. Thus, arrangements were finally made in a small local mosque. Hafizul told Odhikar that strangers regularly wandered around near his family's house, invading their privacy and making them feel insecure.

Jewel (19), injured, Panchagar District

Jewel informed Odhikar that he is a student of a Madrassa⁵ in Panchagar. Along with his Madrassa teacher Mr. Alamgir and six others, Jewel reached Motijheel Shapla Chottor at around 5:00 pm on 5th May 2013 in order to join Hefazate Islam's rally. He was near the main stage set for the speeches. At around 8:30 pm, he could hear the noise of gun fire from the west side of Shapla Chottor. Hefazat activists who were located on the west side started moving away from there. Along with the crowd, he moved towards the east side from the platform and took shelter inside Darul Ulum Mosque which is situated to the left of Madhumita Cinema Hall in Toyenbi Circular Road. The noise of gun fire was so loud that many activists began to enter into the various narrow streets around Motijheel in fear. Then from the platform, a Hefazate Islam activist, using the megaphone said, 'Please stop firing at the innocent unarmed activists and supporters of Hefazate Islam'. After a while the firing stopped. Jewel said his *Esha* prayers in Motijheel's Boro Masjid and when he left the mosque, he saw that rickshaw, cycle vans and other vehicles were being used to carry injured Hefazat members towards the hospital. He even noticed seven dead bodies being carried away. Later at around 12:30 am, Jewel walked towards the main stage, Hefazat members had created a barricade surrounding the stage and set piles of wood on fire so that police could not approach. At that moment there was no electricity in the Motijheel area. At around 2:15 am, he could hear the noise of gun fire from all sides. He noticed that thousands of police men were coming towards the platform while constantly firing on Hefazat members, from the west and the south of Shapla Chottor. Hefazat members scattered in different directions towards the streets around the Shapla Chottor. Jewel also took shelter in a nearby lane on the east side where there was a small shop. Almost 70 other Hefazat members joined him there while the shooting was going on. Jewel did not find the place safe and thought of getting into a house after crossing the road. However the moment he got out of the shop, he was shot in his hand and leg. He fell in a drain at the side of the road. When the hail of firing slowed down, he got up, and crossed the road. While he was crossing the road, he witnessed 20-25 bodies lying on the ground. He entered a room, where almost 100 Hefazat members had taken shelter. Most of those Hefazat members were injured. At around 4:00 am, megaphones

⁵ The name and address of Madrassa kept undisclosed by the request of victim.

were used to order everyone to come out from hiding. After they came out, locals took him to the National Orthopedic Hospital.

Md. Majedul Islam (18), injured by a bullet, Student, of a Madrassah in Dhaka⁶

Md. Majedul Islam told Odhikar that he studies in a Madrassah which is situated in Dhaka. When the Hefazat rally was declared, students of the Madrassa were interested to take part. However, since the Madrassa authority is in support of the ruling Awami League, they did not support their students' wishes to join the movement and barred them. The authority further threatened the students with arrest if any of them joined the Hefazate Islam programme. However, despite all such warnings, the students were determined to join. On 2nd May 2013, the Madrassa was declared closed by the authority, clearly not willing to take the risk of the negative image the government and people might have, regarding the institution. Md. Majedul Islam then went to Shapla Chottor at around 5:00 pm on 5th May 2013 in order to participate in Hefazate Islam's programme. At around 9:00 pm after saying his Esha prayers, he could hear the noise of gun fire near Motijheel Boro Masjid and decided to stay in the mosque, till 10:30 pm, when the situation was a little calmer. He noticed that some Hefazate Islam members were wounded and were being taken to hospital.



A wounded Hefazat activist after the early morning crackdown on 6th May 2013 (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

On 6th May 2013 he was sleeping inside the boundary of the Shapla monument in Shapla Chottor, at around 2:30 am, he woke up hearing the noise of gun fire and the unpleasant smell of tear gas. He noticed that everyone was running in different directions and he ran as well. Hit by tear gas, he jumped over a railing and entered the Sonali Bank premises where he found 7-8 bodies that he thought had been shot at. Hundreds took shelter there along with him. However soon after police threw three tear shells there.



Three bodies beside Shapla Chattar, Motijheel of early morning crackdown on 6th May 2013 (Photo: Banglar

Majedul Islam, along with 10-12 others ran to Dilkhusa Road taking shelter in the stairwell of a building. He noticed that members of police were heading south in a vehicle. Unfortunately a policeman noticed them and called to the others. When the police wanted to shoot them, they requested the police not to, although they were hit with sticks. While they were being hit, Majedul Islam and a few others tried to run away, but they were caught. They were then not only hit with sticks, but were hit with rifle butts and some men started bleeding

⁶ Name of Madrassah has been suppressed for security reasons.

from their heads. Then the police left them and focused their anger on the ones hiding on the staircase. That was his chance to run away towards a big dustbin and take shelter by one corner. He said that while running, he saw 10-12 men lying still on the ground. He was found by two policemen and hit with sticks. He was then shot by the police in his right thigh and immediately lost consciousness. After a while, a splash of water on his face by a person wearing jeans and a shirt made him gain consciousness. The man then said to him ‘you did not die yet’, and kept hitting him. Majedul Islam then grabbed his leg requesting him to stop; however he was hit even more after that. At one point the police asked him to stand up and run. He was physically unable to run and was hobbling away when the police hit him from behind and he then tried his best to run away and managed to enter a nearby street. He then found some Hefazat members there and he requested them to take him to the hospital. At around 4:00 am they took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was under treatment.

Rahmatullah (35), Injured, Faculty member, Rampura Darul Ulum Madrassa, Rampura, Dhaka

Rahmatullah told Odhikar that he is a teacher of Hadith Studies in the Darul Ulum Madrassa situated in Rampura, Dhaka. In order to join Hefazate Islam’s programme, he went to Motijheel Shapla Chottor with hundreds of his students and colleagues and about 10 thousand people from Rampura, at around 3:00 pm on 5th May 2013. He was standing between the main stage and the Janata Bank Tower on the west side. At around 2:15 am on 6th May 2013, along with many others, he was sitting in Shapla Chottor in protest, while praying. Suddenly members of RAB, Police and BGB attacked from the Dainik Bangla crossing, constantly firing. Frightened at their action, Hefazat members gradually began to gather in front of the main stage. The combined forces also started firing at the Hefazat members around the stage, where he was hit in the leg by a bullet. When he saw some members of RAB walking around, he requested them to take him to the hospital, but he was hit with a stick. At around 4:30 am, members of the fire service picked him up in their van and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was admitted.

He said that there was no electricity and thus no way to see precisely when the combined forces attacked. However there was light in some buildings around Shapla Chottor and the barricades created by Hefazate Islam members were set on fire. He noticed about 200-300 Hefazat members lying on the ground with injuries. He said that other than law enforcement agencies, many other people wearing t-shirts and jeans also carried lethal weapons. They kept swearing at the unconscious Hefazat members, who were lying on the ground and also hit them. Rahmatullah said that it was possible that the plain clothed men helped removed the bodies.



Police are taking away a dead body of early morning crackdown on 6th May 2013 (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

A journalist (who wishes to be anonymous), witness

A journalist who wishes to be anonymous told Odhikar that he is a photo journalist of a photo agency and his office is near Shapla Chottor. From 5th May evening, he was observing Hefazate Islam's programme from his office. At around 9:30 pm he heard a commotion and looked down from a window and saw members of Hefazate Islam throwing bricks and stones at Motijheel Police Station. Policemen were trying to defend themselves and this eventually led to a clash between the two groups. In order to scatter the Hefazat members, police used rubber bullets, tear gas shells and sound grenades. Hefazat members then scattered in different directions. At around 10:30 pm, he observed that a significant number of policemen were in front of the Motijheel Police Station and lined up from near Purbani Hotel to Shapla Chottor; and all the way to the Office of the City Corporation, a huge contingent of RAB and police had been deployed. Then the situation calmed down. At around 11:30 pm, Hefazate Islam members used tree branches, concrete slabs and pieces of wood to create several barricades near the Purbani Hotel, Motijheel City Center and Bank Asia, to prevent the law enforcement agencies from moving towards Shapla Chottor.



Barricades of concrete slabs made by Hefazat activists
(Photo: Banglar Chokh)



To observe the situation better, he went to Shapla Chottor on 6th May at around 12:15 am and talked to leaders of Hefazate Islam and took photos of the rally. He asked two of his colleagues to stay with members of Hefazate Islam and take more photos, while he went back to the office. At that time it was raining a little when he heard from his personal source that the BGB was on their way towards Shapla Chottor in order to move the Hefazat members from the area and that a big operation would take place. At around 2:00 am on 6th May he went with a colleague on a motorcycle to the Dainik Bangla crossing. While he was going

home to Fakirapul, he noticed that barricades were set up and fires had been lit at close intervals. He went further and noticed that a large number of police, members of the armed police battalion, RAB and BGB members were situated near the Motijheel Police Station with two riot cars and a water-cannon. Just before reaching the Fakirapul turn, he could see a number of people in black and some journalists wearing jackets that said 'PRESS'. According to him, there were more than two thousand Police, RAB, Armed Police and BGB members present and a Joint Commissioner was explaining their job to them. With this team, there was one riot car and a water-cannon.



Operation of Joint force with riot car in the early morning of 6th May (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

Realising that quite a big operation was about to take place, he decided to be there instead of going home. He noticed that the commanding officer of the operation team, for the purpose of inspiring his men, loudly said, “Are you all prepared to go to war?” And all the men replied ‘Yes sir’. At 2:15 am, the team of combined forces moved towards Shapla Chottor from Fakirapul. The first in line to have moved were members of the police force, then the Armed Police Battalion, then RAB and finally BGB members.

Despite there being megaphones attached to the riot car, the combined military forces did not warn the Hefazat members to move away, but instead moved forward while constantly firing. Thus the Hefazat activists had no other choice but to move back. Due to the barricade he could not proceed much further. So he kept his motorcycle in a petrol pump near the T&T Colony and started walking with the combined armed forces. In Toyenbi Circular road near Norte Dame College, the Hefazate Islam activists had set up a strong barricade and two riot cars and a water-cannon could not initially move through. An officer of the combined forces then ordered that the barricade be moved, while firing was still going on. After the removal of the barricade, the combined forces kept moving forward while Hefazat activists had no choice but to retreat. The operation team threw tear shells at the Hefazat activists near the Notre Dame College, but since the direction of wind was towards the south, the gas moved away from them. Members of the combined forces set up smoky fires to save themselves from the tear gas blowing towards them. Then at around 2:45 am, the combined forces threw

sound grenades towards the Hefazat members from near the Daily Naya Diganta office which is at the Eden Complex Road. When the combined forces reached Shapla Chottor still firing, they found that Hefazat members had already vacated the place. An operation by another team of combined forces had moved in towards the Shapla Chottor from the Doinik Bangla crossing road, forcing Hefazat activists to run away. In order to save themselves, Hefazate Islam members ran into various side streets around Motijheel area.

During that time he noticed a Hefazate Islam member being chased by the police and fall to the ground. A policeman aimed to fire but was stopped by another policeman. However, he paid no heed and fired at the fallen Hefazat member's stomach. The injured man then put his hand over his wound and stumbled towards a side street. After the journalist reached the stage, he found four bodies on the ground.



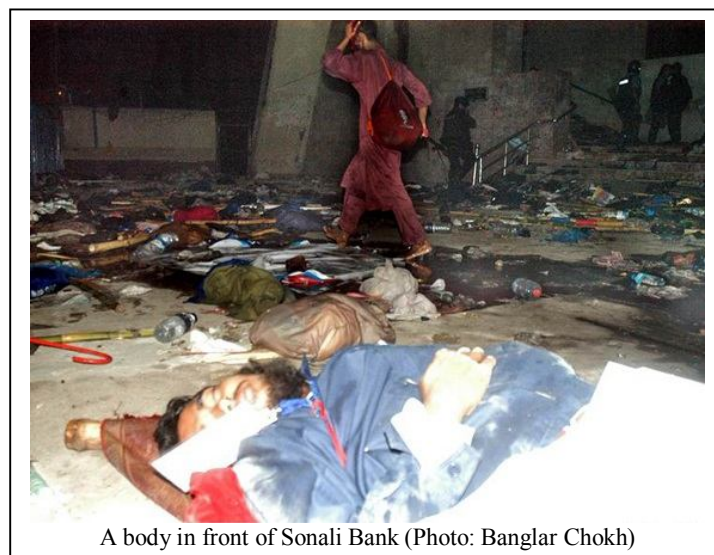
He took photos of the bodies and headed towards the main branch of Sonali Bank where hundreds of Hefazat activists took shelter. Members of the combined forces directly opened fire there and he witnessed two persons injured by bullets fall to the ground.



Since firing was going on near Sonali Bank, he went towards the Shapla fountain in the Shapla Chottor. He saw some Hefazat members jump into the shallow water to hide; however the police caught them. Returning to the Sonali Bank, he saw two bodies lying on the ground of Sonali Bank's parking lot. Firing was still going on inside the Sonali Bank when he found that some Hefazat members had crossed the fence around the right corner of the car park of Sonali Bank and had taken shelter there. He then saw five people injured by bullets and in critical condition.



He then found another injured man on the stair case of Sonali Bank.

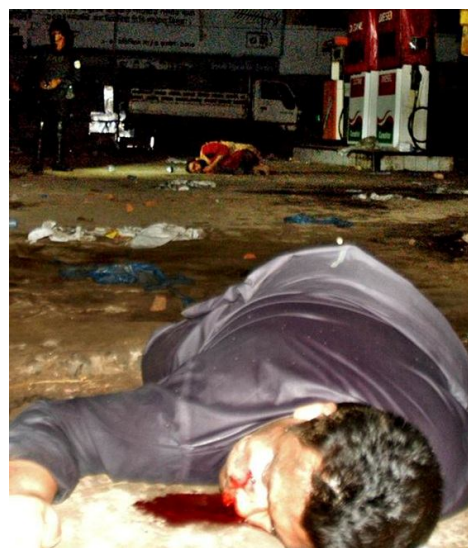


While climbing to the upper floor, he saw a man wearing a black shirt and jeans who had been shot and his body was lying on the staircase. He went further and saw three bodies of Hefazat members on the ground. After he came downstairs he found two bodies under a car. Firing was still going on when he was in the veranda of Sonali Bank.



Dead body of a man with black shirt and jeans at the staircase of Sonali Bank building (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

At around 3:15 am, he went to the south of Shapla Chottor, towards Ittefaq Mor along with the members of police. Barricades were still burning at various places. The water cannons were used to put out the fires while the riot cars still continued firing at the Hefazat activists. He then saw two more bodies near Madhumita Cinema Hall – one had been shot in the head and blood was pouring from the other.



Two dead bodies near Motijheel petrol pump (Photo: Banglar Chokh)

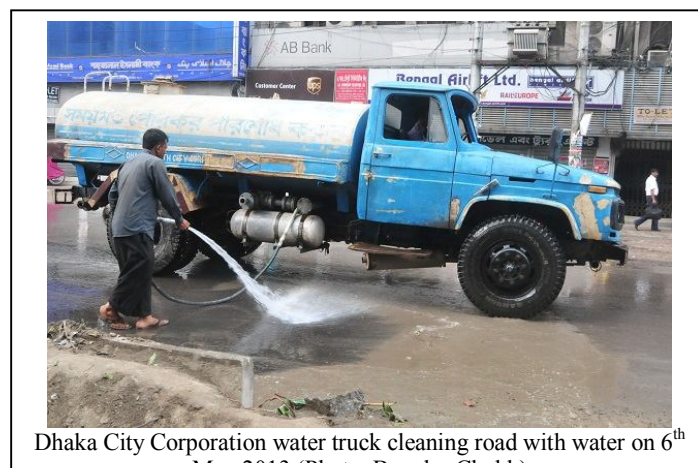
He then noticed some policemen running and yelling ‘Catch him catch him’ and went after them. With the help of a ladder, some Hefazate Islam activists were trying to get up on a roof while a police man started shooting at them, despite others trying to stop him. Unfortunately one Hefazat member was hit and fell on a sunshade below the roof. Then when he was on his way back, he saw a tarpaulin near a fuel disposal/petrol pump meter that was over a dead body.



There was a pickup van nearby and the journalist noticed that a body was inside. He also saw two pickup vans near in the Ittefaq crossing. Right in front was a barricade created with concrete from the island of the road. The two pickups could not move due to the barricade. There were some chairs in the pickup. Hefazat members were probably there, but got down and ran away. Then from the Ittefaq Mor, he headed towards Shapla Chottor. Near the Shapla Chottor, around Ghorowa Hotel, the forces kept firing towards the American Life Insurance Company building. Then at around 4:00 am, he walked towards Dainik Bangla, crossing Shapla Chottor. He noticed two policemen and two plain clothed persons carrying a dead body towards Purbani Hotel, where ambulances of the fire service were waiting.

Mohammad Hazrat Ali, Guard, ATM Booth, Motijheel, Dhaka

Mohammad Hazrat Ali informed Odhikar that he was guarding the ATM Booth of a bank⁷ near Shapla Chottor at 10:00 pm on 5th May 2013. According to him, almost 40 thousand Hefazat activists were present near Shapla Chottor. At 2:15 am on 6th May, according to him, around two thousand members of the Police, RAB and BGB headed towards Shapla Chottor from the Dainik Bangla crossing. He could then hear the noise of gunfire. Hearing the noise he went inside the bank's building. Till around 4:30 am, he could clearly hear gun fire. When it was quiet at around 6:00 am he left the bank's premises. He did not see dead bodies, however he noticed blood stains on the roads. He also noticed that the employees of Dhaka City Corporation were cleaning the surroundings with water.



⁷ The name of the Bank is not mentioned as per interviewee's request

Abu Yusuf, Assistant Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Media and Community Service, 36 Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Road, Ramna, Dhaka

Abu Yusuf told Odhikar that with regard to the combined forces forcing members of Hefazate Islam to leave Shapla Chottor on 6th May 2013, the DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed BPM arranged for a press conference on 8th May 2013. He asked Odhikar to download the copy of press release from

http://www.dmp.gov.bd/application/index/pressdetails/press_20.

He was, however, reluctant to name the officers who commanded the combined forces during the operation.

Abu Yusuf informed Odhikar that with regard to the incident on 6th May 2013, police, being the complainant, filed six cases in Motijheel Police Station, 12 in Paltan Police Station and one in Ramna Police Station. On 7th May 2013, four more cases were filed in Paltan Police Station.

Details of the cases filed during the incident on 6th May 2013 (Translated from Bangla)⁸

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Police Station</i>	<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sections</i>	<i>Names of the accused mentioned in First Information Report</i>	<i>Total arrest</i>
1	Motijheel	09	06/05/2013	143/147/148/435/427/389/109/114/34 of the Penal Code	6 people FIR named along with 1000 anonymous people	6 people
2	Motijheel	10	06/05/2013	143/147/148/447/323/427/435 of the Penal Code	500/600 anonymous people	
3	Motijheel	11	06/05/2013	143/147/149/447/332/333/353/186/307/427/109/104/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of Explosive Substance Act	237 people FIR named along with 3000/4000 people	
4	Motijheel	12	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/447/332/333/353/186/307/427/435/380/109/114/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of Explosive Substance Act	237 people FIR named along with 30/40 thousand people	
5	Motijheel	13	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/447/332/333/356/186/307/302/427/435/380/379/109/114/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of Explosive Substance Act	247 people FIR named along with others	
6	Motijheel	14	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/307/325/326/302/109/114/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of Explosive Substance Act	237 people FIR named along with 40 thousand anonymous people	
7	Paltan	07	06/05/2013	302/404/109/34 of the Penal Code	34 anonymous people	16 people
8	Paltan	08	06/05/2013	143/147/149/342/435/436/379/380/323/324/326/307/427/189/295/109/34 of the Penal Code	Anonymous several thousand people	

⁸ Collected from Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Media Cell on 13th May, 2013

9	Paltan	09	06/05/2013	143/147/149/448/436/427/109/34 of the Code	14 people FIR named along with several hundred anonymous people	
10	Paltan	10	06/05/2013	143/147/149/447/435/436/427/109/34 of the Penal Code	14 people FIR named along with several hundred anonymous people	
11	Paltan	11	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/186/332/333/353/307/435/427/120 (Kha)/109/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of the Explosive Substance Act	194 people FIR named along with 10/12 thousand anonymous people	
12	Paltan	12	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/186/332/333/353/307/435/436/427/120 (Kha)/109/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of the Explosive Substance Act	194 people FIR named along with 10/15 thousand anonymous people	
13	Paltan	13	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/186/332/333/353/448/380/436/427/109/34 of the Penal Code	Anonymous indefinite people	
14	Paltan	14	06/05/2013	143/147/149/448/406/380/436/435/506/427/109/34 of the Penal Code	Anonymous indefinite people	
15	Paltan	15	06/05/2013	143/147/149/323/448/435/436/427/506/109/34 of the Penal Code	6 people FIR named along with 4000/5000 anonymous people	
16	Paltan	17	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/435/436/295/427/120 (Kha)/109/34 of the Penal Code	190 people FIR named along with 10/15 thousand anonymous people	
17	Paltan	18	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/186/332/333/353/307/435/436/427/120 (Kha)/109/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of the Explosive Substance Act	69 people FIR named along with 100/150 anonymous people	
18	Paltan	19	06/05/2013	143/147/148/149/186/332/333/353/307/435/436/427/120 (Kha)/109/34 of the Penal Code and sections 3/6 of the Explosive Substance Act	69 people FIR named along with 100/150 anonymous people	
19	Paltan	20	7/5/2013	143/147/149/435/436/295/109/34 of the Penal Code	60 people FIR named along with 20/25 anonymous people	
20	Paltan	21	07/05/2013	143/147/149/435/436/427/295/109/34 of the Penal Code	18 people FIR named along with 80/90 anonymous people	
21	Paltan	22	07/05/2013	143/147/149/379/109/34 of the Penal Code	18 people FIR named along with 80/90 anonymous people	
22	Paltan	23	07/05/2013	143/147/149/435/427/109/34 of the Penal Code	18 people FIR named along with 80/90 anonymous people	
23	Ramna	10	06/05/2013	147/148/149/332/353/307/435/427 of the Penal Code	Anonymous 1000/1200 people	

Lt. Colonel Kismot Hayat, Director, RAB-1, Dhaka

Lt. Colonel Kismot Hayat informed Odhikar that on 6th May 2013 at around 2:15 am, RAB along with combined forces started the operation from Fakirapul through the Rayerbag crossing. Almost 1500 RAB officials took part in the operation. RAB named the operation ‘Operation Flash Out’. The operation went on for about 45 minutes when he headed the team of RAB-1. Officers who commanded RAB-3, 4 and 10 were Majors Shabbir, Kamrul Hassan and Lt. Colonel Imran respectively.

He told Odhikar that by abiding the Government’s order, they started the operation at 2:15 am. At first the police and RAB started moving forward, continuously shooting, while a riot car and a water canon covered them. They threw many sound grenades and tear shells initially during the operation. Even then the Hefazat leaders used a megaphone to tell Hefazat activists that they should not move from where they were situated and the speeches continued. Then tear shells and sound grenades were thrown right towards the stage. Moreover, the noise of gun shots, rubber bullets and tear gas scared the Hefazat members. Then the Hefazat activists began to move away from the stage. Some ran towards Tikatoli, some hid inside the Sonali Bank and a building nearby and some entered streets around. In order to save themselves from aggressive members of Hefazate Islam, RAB and police wore bullet proof jackets.

Mohsin Khan, Public Relations Officer, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Pilkhana, Dhaka

Mohsin Khan informed Odhikar that BGB members took part in the operation on 6th May 2013 with the combined forces at Shapla Chottor. However the BGB members followed the orders of the police officials during the operation. BGB named the operation ‘Operation Capture Shapla’. He was unable to state the number of BGB members involved with the operation.

Md. Mahbubul Alam, Executive Director, Diganta Television, Purana Paltan, Dhaka

Md. Mahbubul Alam informed Odhikar that on 6th May 2013 at around 4:20 am, a combined team headed by Col. Sajjad Hossain of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and the Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch of Police Molla Nazrul Islam entered Al-Razi Tower that is situated in Syed Nazrul Islam Avenue in Bijoy Nagar. They entered the news room and said that broadcasting a Diganta was to be shut down according to a Government order. At 4:24 am they seized the uplink and downlink machinery used for broadcasting. Then they locked the master control room, the production control room and another equipment room. At 4:27 am, Diganta TV was no longer on air. Mahbubul Alam further informed that on 6th May 2013, when Col. Sajjad Hossain and Molla Nazrul’s team came to close down broadcasting Diganta TV, they brought no written order from any concerned authority on 6th May 2013. However, on 7th May, BTRC sent a letter with regard to the closing down of Diganta Television.

N.B: Diganta Television is still off air at the publication of this report.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Moinuddin, Additional Chief of Waste Disposal Unit, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Dhaka

Abu Saleh Mohammad Moinuddin was reluctant to mention anything with regard to the vehicles belonging to DCC that were sent to clean the roads of Motijheel on 6th May 2013. He suggested that Odhikar talk to the transport unit of DCC.

ASM Emdadud Dostagir, Deputy Secretary, Transport Unit, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Dhaka

ASM Emdadud Dostagir notified Odhikar that his 'higher authority' ordered him not to speak about anything regarding the trucks of DCC that were used on 6th May 2013 at Shapla Chottor and therefore refused to talk to Odhikar.

Major Mohammad Mahbub, Commander (Operations), Fire Service and Civil Defense, Dhaka

Major Mahbub informed Odhikar that from 1:00 pm on 5th May 2013, he was continuously at work, putting out the fires that were set by Hefazate Islam members at various places. His men used 11 cars and five water pumps that were brought from the Headquarters of the Fire Service and Civil Defense in Polashi and some were also brought from the Tejgaon branch. At 1:00 am on 6th May, the fire service officials went back to their respective branches. Upon hearing the news of fire once again, 25 fire fighters from the Headquarters with five cars arrived at Shapla Chottor at around 4:00 am.

Azizul Haq Islamabadi, Organizing Secretary, Hefazate Islam Bangladesh

Azizul Haq Islamabadi informed Odhikar that on 5th May 2013, Muslims gathered from all over the country to join the movement. At first they created blockades at all six entrances of Dhaka and then after it was decided that there would be 'Doa' held at Shapla Chottor, they all entered and walked towards Motijheel and peacefully gathered there. They thought of spending the night there and going home early the next morning. However on 6th May, combined forces shot at and killed many members of Hefazate Islam who were for the most part asleep and were unarmed and innocent.

Azizul Haq Islamabadi brought to Odhikar's notice that Hefazate Islam strictly asked members not to bring children/minors to the rally. However, some of the minors were too enthusiastic and joined the movement.

He informed that the Hefazate Islam activists had nothing to do with breaking public property and setting fires and creating chaos. He informed that barricades were set up by police and members of Awami League activists at Dainik Bangla crossing towards the Awami League office and other places in Paltan. He said that attacks on the Hefazate Islam activists by the above mentioned were so frequent on that day that it is in no way possible for Hefazate Islam members to create turmoil. Azizul Haq blamed various bodies of the ruling Awami League for creating the chaotic situation.

Moinuddin Khandakar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

‘Operation Flash Out’ was the name of the operation of 6th May 2013, given by the Home Ministry according to Moinuddin Khandakar. With regard to the operation, a press note was provided on 11th May 2013 that contained his signature. He notified that the press note contains all information the Secretariat acquired. A few extracts from the press note have been incorporated here: At the beginning of the operation, all were cautioned to leave the area by making repeated requests over a megaphone. Security forces started proceeding steadily from the direction of Arambagh and Dainik Bangla crossing towards Shapla Chattar and steps were taken for the safe exist of the people by keeping the road facing the daily Ittefaq crossing open.

Within 10 to 15 minutes of the beginning of the operation, the people left Shapla Chattar and moved towards the Sayedabad-Jatrabari area. Four dead bodies wrapped up in 'kafan' cloths were found beside the podium. It was known from the police sources that, a total of 11 people, including three pedestrians and a police, were killed at different stages of the clashes throughout the day.

A doctor, who wishes to be anonymous, Islami Bank Hospital, 24 Outer Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka

The doctor informed Odhikar that from 4:00 pm on 5th May 2013 till 8:00 am on 6th May 2013, around 600 injured Hefazate Islam members visited the hospital. They were given free primary, basic treatment. However on 6th May at around 6:00 am, five members of Hefazate Islam were brought to the hospital by van. It is notable that all of them had bullet wounds and were in such a critical condition that minutes after they were brought to the hospital, they died. In order to be on the safe side and considering the pressure from the higher authority, he was reluctant to provide Odhikar with a list of names.

Mohammad Abdur Rahim Talukdar, Manager, Pan Pacific Hospital, 24 Outer Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka

Mohammad Abdur Rahman Talukdar informed Odhikar that starting from 4:00 pm on 5th May 2013 to 8:00 am the next day, injured/wounded people constantly visited the hospital for treatment. A signifant number of them had been shot at. Mohammad Abdur Rahman Talukdar got to know from them that they had been wounded after joining the Hefazate Islam rally. He provided many of them with free treatment and some of them were referred to the National Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital and National Eye-Hospital by him. Despite the chaos, he could still list 53 patients.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Primary treatment/where referred</i>
1	Barbis		Primary Treatment
2	Moklesur Rahman		„

3	<i>Mehedi Hasan</i>		„
4	<i>Raihan (1)</i>		<i>Eye Hospital</i>
5	<i>Shariful Islam</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
6	<i>Siddiqur Rahman</i>		„
7	<i>Raihan (2)</i>		„
8	<i>A.Matin</i>		„
9	<i>Rafiqul Islam</i>		<i>Orthopedic Hospital</i>
10	<i>Md. Monjur</i>		„
11	<i>Md. Ismail Hossain</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
12	<i>Johirul Islam (1)</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
13	<i>Alhaj Harunur Rashid</i>		„
14	<i>Johirul Islam (2)</i>		„
15	<i>Ashiqul</i>		„
16	<i>Jamal</i>		„
17	<i>Md. Najmul Haq</i>		„
18	<i>Monir</i>		<i>Orthopedic Treatment</i>
19	<i>Jewel</i>		„
20	<i>Shahidul Islam</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
21	<i>Abdul Khair</i>		„
22	<i>Belal</i>		„
23	<i>Kawser</i>		„
24	<i>Malek</i>		„
25	<i>Shofiqul</i>		„

26	<i>Habib</i>		<i>Orthopedic Treatment</i>
27	<i>Helal-Uddin</i>		<i>Eye Hospital</i>
28	<i>Yasin</i>		<i>Dhaka Medical College</i>
29	<i>Imran</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
30	<i>Saadman</i>		„
31	<i>Rokonuzzaman</i>		„
32	<i>Aminur Rahman</i>		„
33	<i>A.Matin</i>		„
34	<i>Johirul Islam (3)</i>		„
35	<i>Md. Ismail</i>	<i>Noakhali</i>	„
36	<i>Arafat Ullah</i>		„
37	<i>Shumon</i>	<i>Bogura</i>	„
38	<i>Arif</i>		<i>Orthopedic Hospital</i>
39	<i>Neyamot-Ullah</i>	<i>Rampura, Dhaka</i>	<i>Primary Treatment</i>
40	<i>Ashraf</i>	<i>Kamrangirchor, Dhaka</i>	„
41	<i>Abu Bakr Siddique</i>	<i>Mohammadpur, Dhaka</i>	„
42	<i>A.Rahman</i>		<i>Central Hospital</i>
43	<i>Khokon</i>	<i>Savar</i>	<i>Orthopedic Hospital</i>
44	<i>Ashiqur Rahman</i>		<i>Primary Treatment</i>
45	<i>Aliur Rahman</i>	<i>Sylhet</i>	„
46	<i>Ali Ahmad</i>		„
47	<i>Foez Ahmed</i>	<i>Ramongor, Khagrachuri</i>	„
48	<i>A.Razzak</i>		„
49	<i>Mobinur Rahman</i>		„

50	<i>Mohibur Rahman</i>		„
51	<i>Mominul Haq</i>		„
52	<i>Bazlul Huq</i>		„
53	<i>Rumon</i>		„

A nurse, who wishes to be anonymous, Emergency Unit, National Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital, Shyamoli, Dhaka

The nurse told Odhikar that after the police attacked the Hefazate Islami members at Shapla Chottor on 6th May 2013, a total of 16 Hefazat activists were shot at and wounded on various parts of their bodies. Odhikar has not published the address and registration number in this regard.

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>
1	<i>Md. Alim</i>	22
2	<i>Jewel</i>	19
3	<i>Monir</i>	35
4	<i>Mahbubul Alam</i>	22
5	<i>Habib</i>	37
6	<i>Arif</i>	18
7	<i>Abdullah Farhad</i>	19
8	<i>Ali Hossain</i>	27
9	<i>Mehedi Hasan Parvez</i>	23
10	<i>Taizul Islam</i>	38
11	<i>Anowar</i>	22
12	<i>A.Jolil</i>	30
13	<i>Md. Mojibor</i>	45
14	<i>Md. Ashraful Haq</i>	30
15	<i>Belayet</i>	35
16	<i>Md. Yusuf</i>	42

A ward boy, who wishes to be anonymous, Emergency Unit, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka

A ward boy informed Odhikar that from 8:00 am till 7:00 pm on 6th May 2013, nearly 200 injured people visited the hospital, out of which 46 got admitted. With regard to the number of deceased, he refused to answer, but asked Odhikar to contact the morgue official.

Sekander, morgue official, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

Sekandar notified Odhikar that a postmortem examination was done on 16 bodies. Out of 16, two were policemen, two belonged to BGB and 11 others were civilians. 15 bodies have already been handed over to the relatives or concerned persons.

Deceased persons in DMCH morgue:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name and Age of the deceased</i>	<i>Address of the deceased</i>	<i>Bodies hand over to</i>	<i>Address of the person the body was handed over to</i>	<i>Postmortem Examination No. and Date</i>
	<i>S I Md. Shahjahan (55)</i>	<i>Batch no- 8513, POM, South D Company, Mirpur, Dhaka</i>	<i>Rezaul</i>	<i>Room 23807 Kollan Office 01725484393</i>	<i>808, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Siddikur Rahman (30)</i>	<i>Labour Leader</i>	<i>Kazi Selim Sarwar</i>	<i>Chittagong Labour Secretary, Saydabad Bus Stand, Dhaka 01711057133</i>	<i>809, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>AKM Rohan Ahsan (28)</i>		<i>Dr. Shahriar Mahmud</i>	<i>353/1 B South Paikpara, Dhaka 01716328850</i>	<i>813, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Kazi Roqibul Haq (40)</i>		<i>Kazi Shahidul Haq</i>	<i>208/3 Sheikhpura, Jatrabari, Dhaka 01819188593</i>	<i>814, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Md. Yunus (35)</i>	<i>Father- Mawlana Najimuddin</i>	<i>Omor Farooq</i>	<i>Bangal Hawla, Kaliganj, Gazipur 01720368364</i>	<i>815, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Zakaria Molla(46)</i>	<i>room 120</i>	<i>Gaffar Hussain</i>	<i>Room 9675, Kallyan Office</i>	<i>816, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Firoz Khan Nayeab (53)</i>		<i>Gaffar Hussain</i>	<i>Room 9675, Kollyan Office</i>	<i>817, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Deen Islam (36)</i>		<i>Alauddin</i>	<i>Baluchor, Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj 01922155725</i>	<i>818, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>Shah Alam (55)</i>	<i>Nayek Subedar, batch no. 7072</i>	<i>Nayek Subedar Mannan Molonta</i>	<i>48 BGB, Pilkhana, Dhaka</i>	<i>819, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>Naheed (21)</i>		<i>Shahjahan</i>	<i>Lalganj 7 no. building, 7 no. street, Dhaka</i>	<i>820, 6/5/2013</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Md. Al Alim (30)</i>		<i>Shofiq</i>	<i>Kacharitekerhat, Kotyali police station, Faridpur</i>	<i>822, 6/5/2013</i>

				01937434746	
12	Angkat (35)	Male			823, 6/5/2013
13	Mawlana Abdul Wahab Molla (45)		A.Hannan	Talab, Bhaluka, Mymensign 01716631477	824, 6/5/2013
14	Mohammad Lablu Hossain (23)		Nayek Subedar A Mannan	48 Goyerghat	833, 7/5/2013
15	Nazimul Haw (28)		Enamul Haq	West Madarbari, 2 No. Street, Chittagong 01823234955	834, 7/5/2013
16	Shumon (20)		Faruk	Donondo, Araihajar, Narayanganj 01764596595	835, 7/5/2013

Odhikar's comments

Odhikar is deeply concerned by the violence and indiscriminate killings and appeals to all concerned to initiate a process of unfolding the truth. Odhikar is also concerned by the silence of the segments of so called 'educated' segments of the society despite the publicised high toll on lives.

The government, by switching off the electricity supply in the entire area adjacent to Motijheel prior to the crackdown, turning off two pro-opposition TV channels during the crackdown on the demonstrators, and denying the other media to publish the facts about the incidents, has very clearly proved that they intended to hide the brutality of the violent measures taken and the number of deaths and injured. We can hardly expect any transparency from the government in this regard.

Despite this reality, it is still necessary to immediately have an independent investigation and establish the real facts avoiding prejudice, bias and political manipulation. A credible investigation committee headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court should be formed immediately and the trauma the society had undergone should be addressed by finding out:

1. The number of casualties and wounded people and their whereabouts, identifying the responsibility of the government towards them.
2. To identify where the dead bodies have been buried since the relatives have the right to know. The dead deserve proper religious ritual and funerals.
3. The reason for government to undertake such brutal and violent action against unarmed people. It is hard to establish that all possible non-violent options of sending

the demonstrators out of the city of Dhaka had been completely exhausted prior to the crackdown.

4. Despite the fact that the government knew that children were present in the assembly what is the justification for the authorities to attack the masses with heavy arms? Why the spree of indiscriminate shooting? It is very disturbing that the authorities showed utter lack of sensitivity towards the children or juveniles. It is imperative that a search is undertaken for the disappeared and the missing adolescent and children.
5. Odhikar strongly stands on the principle of the right of the people to assemble peacefully and the right to express their grievances to the government, regardless of whether it agrees to their demands or not.

End of Report