

**Shaheed****Martyr Arafat Hussain**

Date of birth: 4 January, 2012
Date of martyrdom: 22 December, 2024
Division: Dhaka City
District: Dhaka

Short Biography

Student, Uttara Jamia Rawdatul Ulum Madrasa, Class Five

Martyrdom Details and History

In a narrow alley of Pakuria area in Azampur, Uttara, Dhaka, inside a small tin-roofed house, a sweet, cheerful boy named Arafat Hussain was born.

His father, Shahidul Islam, was a rickshaw puller. Every morning, he went out under the blazing sun or pouring rain, with just one dream — to educate his little boy.

His mother, Saleha Akhter, despite the hardships of life, found peace whenever she saw her children smile.

The family's only support was his elder brother, Hasan Ali. He carried the weight of the family on his shoulders but never let Arafat lose hope. He often told him, "If you study hard, one day you'll become a great man."

Poverty was a permanent guest in their home, yet love never ran out there.

Arafat studied in class five at Uttara Jamia Rawdatul Ulum Madrasa. He was quiet, disciplined, and dearly loved by his teachers. They often said, "There's a strange glow in this boy's eyes — as if he came into this world with a purpose."

From early childhood, Arafat enjoyed helping other children. Despite limited means, he was a content and pure-hearted soul.

The Call for an Anti-Discrimination Movement

In July–August 2024, when the student movement against discrimination ignited across Bangladesh, the entire nation echoed with the voice of youth:

"We reject injustice, we reject inequality."

Every school, college, and madrasa joined in the cry for equality and justice.

The most intense day of that movement was August 5, 2024 — the day when the tyrannical regime of Killer Hasina collapsed under public outrage and fled the country.

Across the nation, joyful processions broke out. One such rally took place in Azampur, Uttara, where hundreds of young students participated.

Little Arafat stood by his house, watching the joyous procession with curious eyes. A few moments later, he joined in with innocent excitement. But that joy turned into horror within seconds.

Suddenly, in front of the Azampur Police Station, brutal police officers opened fire on the crowd. Panic, smoke, screams — chaos everywhere. In that chaos, a bullet pierced Arafat's small body — entering through his ribs and exiting through his back. He fell to the ground instantly. Blood, dust, and cries filled the air.

His elder brother Hasan rushed to him, lifting him in his arms. Barely conscious, Arafat whispered, "Bhaiya... please save me."

139 Days of Struggle for Life

He was first taken to Uttara Modern Hospital, but as his condition worsened, he was transferred to Kurmitola Hospital, and later to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) for advanced treatment.

Doctor Humayun Kabir Himu said,

"The bullet severely damaged both his lungs and spine. For a child to survive this long was nothing short of a miracle."

Days turned into months within the white walls of the hospital. His tiny body endured countless surgeries, tubes, medicines, and machine sounds. He suffered three cardiac arrests, but each time, miraculously returned to life — perhaps by the power of his mother's tears and his brother's prayers.

At first, there was slight improvement, and doctors saw a ray of hope. But by late November, his condition began to deteriorate rapidly. With help from doctors, family, and activists, arrangements were made to send him abroad for better treatment. On December 24, 2024, an air ambulance was being prepared.

But the will of Almighty Allah was different. The night before, on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at 10:30 PM, little Arafat's heart stopped forever.

Inside the hospital echoed a mother's broken cry:

"My boy only went out to see the procession — and Hasina's bullets killed him. I demand justice for my son's murder!"

Testimony of His Brother

Arafat's elder brother Hasan Ali said:

"On August 5, 2024, he joined the victory procession near Azampur Police Station. A bullet hit him under the ribs and exited through the back, piercing his lungs and damaging his spine and stomach. He was first admitted to Modern Hospital, then transferred to Kurmitola and finally to CMH, where he

remained under treatment for 139 days before embracing martyrdom.
I want justice for my brother's killing."

Farewell, Little Martyr

After 139 days of painful struggle, he passed away —
but his death was not just the death of a child; it was the death of a nation's conscience.

On Monday, December 23, 2024, at 3:00 PM, his funeral prayer was held at the Central Shaheed Minar,
where thousands gathered in tears.

Students, teachers, activists, and ordinary citizens shouted in one voice:

"We will not let the blood of Shaheed Arafat go in vain!"

He was buried at Uttara Sector 14 Graveyard.

The son of a rickshaw puller — who might have become a scholar one day — is now immortalized as a
Martyr of the Nation.

Public Reaction and National Grief

After his passing, the official page of the Anti-Discrimination Movement posted:

"Another brother has joined the procession of martyrs.
A twelve-year-old child has become a symbol of resistance against injustice."

Tareq Reza, Member Secretary of the Health Subcommittee, said:

"His body was small, but his courage was enormous. We all lost a bright possibility."

The entire country mourned on social media.

Newspapers such as Samakal, Ittefaq, Independent, and BSS published headlines like:

"After 139 Days of Battle, Little Arafat Succumbs."

From a Rickshaw Puller's Son to a Martyr of the Nation

The pages of books once bought with a rickshaw puller's sweat are now pages of history.
Beyond the boundaries of poverty, Arafat's short life became a symbol of an era.

His life, struggle, and martyrdom remind us that freedom is not only the story of past wars — it is the
struggle of every day.

Arafat's death reminds us that the fight for justice knows no age.

Even a child born in a poor man's house can become the inspiration of a nation.

Media Links Related to Shaheed Arafat Hussain

Ittefaq News

Samakal Report

YouTube Video 1

YouTube Video 2

Summary

Shaheed Arafat Hussain (2012–2024)

Father: Shahidul Islam (Rickshaw Puller)

Mother: Saleha Akhter

Brother: Hasan Ali

Occupation: Student

Institution: Uttara Jamia Rawdatul Ulum Madrasa

Class: Five

Incident Date: August 5, 2024

Location: Near Azampur Police Station, Uttara

Assailant: Brutal police officers of Azampur Police Station

Treatment:

Uttara Modern Hospital

Kurmitola Hospital

Combined Military Hospital (CMH)

Date of Martyrdom: December 22, 2024

Time: 10:30 PM

Place of Death: CMH, Dhaka

Duration of Treatment: 139 Days

Burial: Uttara Sector 14 Graveyard

Rehabilitation Proposals

Provide an electric rickshaw or small business capital to Arafat's father.

Arrange monthly or one-time financial support for the martyr's family.

Ensure employment opportunities for Arafat's elder brother

Quranic Verse

Indeed, Allah has purchased from the believers their lives and properties in exchange for Paradise. (At-Tawbah 9:111)

Hadith

The souls of the martyrs are in the bodies of green birds. (Sahih Muslim 1887)

Prayers offered: 34

Memorial Photo Gallery





Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35H2vXPEVpc>