



Quarterly Human Rights Report

April–June 2026

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Foreword

This is Odhikar's Human Rights Monitoring Report for the period of April–June 2026. Through its monitoring and documentation, Odhikar seeks to draw attention to alleged human rights violations and to encourage the State to fulfil its obligations to respect, protect, and ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Following its victory in 209 out of 300 parliamentary seats in the 13th National Parliamentary Election held on 12 February, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) formed the government on 17 February 2026. As of 30 June, the government had been in office for four and a half months.

This report has been prepared on the basis of information and documentation received from Odhikar's network of human rights defenders, together with information published in various national news media. The report presents an overview of the human rights situation in Bangladesh during the reporting period, based on the information available to Odhikar at the time of publication.

Executive Summary

1. After securing a two-thirds majority in Parliament, the BNP, despite having the necessary votes, did not pass 20 important Ordinances promulgated by the Interim Government. As a result, the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, the Anti-Corruption Commission Ordinance, the Supreme Court Secretariat and Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, and the Police Reform Commission Ordinance lapsed. As of the publication of this report, the government had not undertaken any realistic initiatives aimed at institutional reform.
2. Although 69% of voters supported constitutional reform through a referendum, the BNP government rejected the outcome. Furthermore, constitutional reform came to a halt after members declined to take the oath as members of the Constitutional Reform Council. Consequently, the aspirations and expectations of the people remain unfulfilled.
3. Since assuming power, allegations of criminalisation and violence involving leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations have increased. During the period from April to June 2026, numerous casualties occurred as a result of internal conflicts among BNP leaders and activists. In addition, members of the Awami League¹ were also allegedly involved in violent incidents. Odhikar has long observed with concern that political violence continues to claim many lives and cause injuries every year. Political violence is extremely harmful to individuals, society, the country, and democracy. Therefore, all political parties must conduct their activities without resorting to violence.
4. During this reporting period, there were reports of killings by shooting carried out by members of law enforcement agencies, deaths due to torture in custody, and incidents of enforced disappearance.
5. Freedom of expression deteriorated between April and June. During this period, opposition political activists and ordinary citizens were arrested for criticizing the Prime Minister, other ministers, and leaders of the ruling party. Journalists also faced persecution. There were allegations that journalists were harassed and attacked by criminals and ruling party leaders and activists while carrying out their professional duties and for publishing news reports.
6. During this quarter, workers in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector staged protests over unpaid wages, demands to reopen factories, layoffs, and factory closures.
7. During this period, there were allegations of human rights violations against members of religious minority and dissenting communities, as well as attacks on shrines.
8. Corruption and irregularities continued to persist in prisons. Prisoners were forced to live in inhumane conditions, brought on by overcrowding. In addition, the absence of permanent medical doctors deprived inmates of adequate healthcare services.

¹ The activities of the Awami League and all its affiliates were banned in 2025 for all the human rights violations, including crimes against humanity, perpetrated by the party when it was in power from January 2009 to 05 August 2024.

9. During these three months, courts continued to impose death sentences on convicted persons. Due to the slow pace of appeal proceedings and lack of proper legal representation, prisoners sentenced to death continued to spend years awaiting execution in condemned cells.
10. Owing to the public's continued lack of confidence in law enforcement agencies and the justice system, incidents of mob violence persisted during this period.
11. Throughout this reporting period, women across the country were subjected to rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, and acid attacks. Rape was particularly widespread, with a significant number of child rape cases reported.
12. Between April and June 2026, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot and killed Bangladeshi citizens along the border. India also continued to push people into Bangladesh through various border points.

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Statistics on Human Rights Violations

Statistics on Human Rights Violations									
January - June 2026*									
Type of Human Rights Violation		Interim Government		BNP Government					Total
		January	February (1-17)	February (18-28)	March	April	May	June	
Extrajudicial killing	Tortured to death	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Beaten to death	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Shot to Death	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Total	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
Enforced Disappearance		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Death in Jail		7	3	4	7	2	7	7	37
Death Penalty		26	9	3	9	35	19	16	117
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	1	0	0	0	2	4	1	8
	Bangladeshis Injured	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	5
	Push in	17	0	0	0	0	10	0	27
	Total	19	0	0	1	3	14	3	40
Attack on Journalists	Injured	3	2	7	18	6	2	9	47
	Assaulted	0	1	0	3	5	0	0	9
	Threatened	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	9
	Sued	0	0	0	9	1	0	6	16
	Abducted	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
	Attacked	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
	Total	4	25	7	30	14	6	20	106
Political Violence	Killed	10	1	7	20	15	10	16	79
	Injured	261	12	71	381	429	226	315	1695
	Total	271	13	78	401	444	236	331	1774
Electoral Violence	Killed	3	6	0	4				13
	Injured	375	823	81	89				1368
	Total	378	829	81	93	0	0	0	1381
Dowry related violence	Killed	1	0	0	3	4	5	1	14
	Physically Abused	2	1	3	7	3	5	2	23
	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
	Total	3	1	3	10	7	11	5	40
Rape	Girl under the age of 18	23	10	5	24	40	58	63	223
	Women	16	5	8	22	48	27	18	144
	Total	39	15	13	46	88	85	81	367
Stalking/Sexual harassment		4	1	1	2	0	5	12	25
Public Lynching		6	2	3	8	8	13	12	52
* Odhikar documentation									

PART – A:

State Institutions

The Judiciary

1. During Sheikh Hasina's 15-and-a-half-year rule, Awami League loyalists were appointed to the Judiciary, and the judicial system was used to persecute opposition leaders and activists as well as dissenting voices. Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government through the 2024 mass uprising, the Interim Government promulgated the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025 to ensure independence of the Judiciary in the appointment of Supreme Court judges. It also issued the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025 and the Supreme Court Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 to establish an independent Secretariat for the Supreme Court. Accordingly, the Supreme Court Secretariat was established. However, after the BNP government assumed office, it did not present these Ordinances before Parliament in the form of Bills, resulting in both Ordinances automatically lapsing. On 19 May 2026, the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, issued a gazette notification, pursuant to an order of the President, abolishing the Supreme Court Secretariat.²
2. The repeal of these two important Ordinances has effectively returned the Judiciary to the same subservient institutional structure that existed under the authoritarian Awami League government. It must be noted here that Articles 22, 94(4) of the Constitution mandate judicial independence.

The National Human Rights Commission

3. During the long period of the Awami League's authoritarian rule, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) functioned as a institution serving the government interests. Although opposition leaders and activists, dissenting voices, and ordinary citizens were subjected to judicial harassment, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, mass arrests, and other forms of repression, the NHRC remained silent. To ensure that the Commission would not become a partisan institution and could function as a strong and independent human rights body, the Interim Government promulgated the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025. However, because the BNP government did not place the Ordinance before Parliament as a Bill, it lapsed. On 17 May 2026, the BNP government held consultations with various human rights organisations, human rights defenders, and representatives of civil society regarding a draft National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026. If enacted, the proposed draft law could transform the Commission back into a government-controlled body rather than an independent institution.

² Samakal, 20 May 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/353027/>

4. The new draft introduces several fundamental changes that raise serious concerns regarding the Commission's independence, impartiality, and effectiveness. The 2025 Ordinance explicitly stated that the Commission would be an independent institution and would not operate under any ministry or division of the government. This important provision has been omitted from the proposed draft law. As a result, the executive branch would be able to exercise greater direct influence over the Commission, undermining its ability to function independently.
5. The structure of the selection committee proposed under the draft law would also allow the ruling party to dominate the appointment process and ensure that government decisions prevail. Under Section 7 of the draft law, the selection committee would consist of the Speaker of Parliament, two Ministers, one Member of Parliament from the ruling party, and the Cabinet Secretary.
6. According to the Paris Principles, a national human rights institution must have the authority to investigate allegations of human rights violations and must be able to hear any person and obtain any information necessary for carrying out its mandate. However, Section 20 of the proposed 2026 Bill establishes a separate procedure for complaints against the security forces, which undermines both of these fundamental requirements at every stage of the process.
7. Odhikar believes that, compared with the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025, the proposed draft law contains changes that are contrary to the long-standing public aspiration for the establishment of an independent and effective NHRC and are inconsistent with the internationally recognised standards set out in the Paris Principles.

The International Crimes Tribunal

8. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is currently recording witness in eight cases involving crimes against humanity arising from enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, and the mass killing allegedly committed by the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government across the country during the July 2024 uprising, as well as other violations committed during the Awami League's 15-and-a-half-year rule. The proceedings involve 55 key accused persons.³
9. On 9 April 2026, International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Amir Hossain and Constable Sujon Chandra Roy to death in the case relating to the [killing of Abu Sayeed](#), a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, during the July 2024 Mass Uprising.⁴ Of the 28 accused, three were sentenced to life imprisonment, five to 10 years' imprisonment, eight to five years' imprisonment, and eleven to three years' imprisonment. Among them, six have been arrested, while 24 remain fugitives.⁵

³ Amar Desh, 27 April 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/court-law/amdkxvcrynpqi>

⁴ The Daily Star, 9 April 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/crime-justice/news/two-ex-cops-sentenced-death-abu-sayed-killing-case-4147461>

⁵ Jugantor, 10 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1087157>

10. On 28 June 2026, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced three individuals, including the then Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Habibur Rahman, to death on charges relating to crimes against humanity, for shooting a young man who was hanging from an under-construction building in Rampura during the July 2024 Mass Uprising and for the killing of two other individuals.⁶
11. M. H. Babu Patowari, a leader of the Jubo League⁷, spread misinformation that approximately BDT 120 billion had been exchanged for securing the death sentence against Sheikh Hasina for the July massacre. On 12 April 2026, a three-member bench of International Crimes Tribunal-1, led by Chairman Justice Golam Mortuza Majumder, sentenced him to three months' imprisonment for contempt of court. However, after the Chief Prosecutor, Aminul Islam, repeatedly appealed to the Tribunal to reduce the sentence, the Tribunal reduced his imprisonment by one month.⁸ It is noteworthy that leaders and activists of the Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League, and Swechchhasebak League reportedly operated a secret group known as the "Cyber Squad", of which Babu Patowari was a prominent member. The primary activity of this group is allegedly to disseminate baseless, fabricated, and politically motivated propaganda through social media.⁹
12. Odhikar believes that it is unprecedented for the Chief Prosecutor, while serving as counsel for the State, to request a reduction in the sentence of a convicted person. Such conduct is likely to create public doubt regarding the ongoing trials before the ICT concerning allegations of enforced disappearances, genocide, and other crimes allegedly committed during the rule of the ousted Awami League government.

Human Rights Abuses by Security Forces

Extrajudicial Killings

13. Extrajudicial killings continued in Bangladesh during the reporting period. Allegations were made against members of law enforcement agencies for carrying out extrajudicial killings through shootings and torture.
14. On the night of 12 April 2026, an 11-member team led by Sub-Inspector Sahara Yasmin of the Department of Narcotics Control, conducted a raid at the house of an alleged drug dealer, Akubbar Hossain, in Charpara Village under Mohammadpur Upazila of Magura District. During the operation, Akubbar Hossain was arrested, handcuffed, and beaten. Hearing his screams, local residents gathered and surrounded the raiding team. Police later

⁶ Naya Diganta, 29 June 2026; <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/mPXw8s51Sc2S>

⁷ Youth wing of Awami League

⁸ Amar Desh, 13 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/1088365>

⁹ Amar Desh, 13 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/1088365>

arrived at the scene and rescued the injured Akubbar. However, he died on the way to Magura Sadar Hospital.¹⁰

15. On 18 May 2026, four fishermen travelled by boat to the Patkostar Jheel area of the Khulna Range to catch crabs, after obtaining a permit from the Forest Department. While they were catching crabs, members of a Forest Department patrol team called out to them. When the fishermen did not respond, the patrol team allegedly opened fire from behind, killing a fisherman named Aminur. Following the news of Aminur's death, forest-dependent communities attacked the Forest Department's Satkhira Range Office, causing extensive damage.¹¹
16. On 21 June 2026, Mirza Ishtiaq Ahmed Pranto, a Chhatra League¹² activist, died while in the custody of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Madhukhali Upazila of Faridpur District. According to Pranto's maternal uncle, Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain, a team of DB police detained Pranto from in front of his house on the afternoon of 20 June, assaulted him, and forced him into a vehicle. Throughout the night, Pranto's family members searched for him by contacting Madhukhali Police Station, the DB Office, and other authorities but were unable to obtain any information about his whereabouts. The following morning, they learned that Pranto had died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Pranto's mother, Khadija Begum, alleged that her son had been tortured to death while in DB custody. On the other hand, members of the Detective Branch claimed that narcotics had been recovered from Pranto's possession and that he had fallen ill and died.¹³



Mirza Ishtiaq Ahmed Pranto. Photo: Prothom Alo, 21 June 2026

17. **It is alleged that three people were victims of extrajudicial killings between April and June 2026. Of them, one was allegedly killed by the Detective Branch of Police, one by the members of Narcotics Department, and one by the members of Forest Department. Among the victims, one died as a result of torture, one was shot to death, and one was beaten to death.**

¹⁰ The Daily Star, 12 April 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/man-dies-after-magura-dnc-raid-family-alleges-beating-agency-denies-it-4149981>

¹¹ Prothom Alo, 19 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ry3exiymyb>

¹² Student wing of Awami League

¹³ Prothom Alo, 21 June 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/fwxrjgk6nv>

Torture, Deaths, Degrading Treatment, and Lack of Accountability by Members of Law Enforcement Agencies

18. The political use of law enforcement agencies has enabled their members implicated in human rights violations to enjoy impunity and engage in various forms of misconduct. Although the authoritarian Awami League government fell following the July–August 2024 Mass Uprising, incidents of torture and deaths in custody have continued. Even leaders and activists of the ruling party have reportedly been subjected to torture while in custody.¹⁴ During this reporting period, members of law enforcement agencies have been accused of assisting in the [abduction of a businessman](#), kicking a pregnant woman in the abdomen after she [refused to pay a bribe](#), abducting a businessman and planting yaba tablets on him to [extort money](#), [accepting bribes](#), and committing various other abuses.
19. The continued occurrence of torture and inhuman treatment in the custody of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, is largely attributable to the long-standing culture of impunity enjoyed by security forces and the failure to effectively implement the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.
20. On 11 April 2026, police arrested Salahuddin, President of the Union Awami League in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. He reportedly escaped while handcuffed. Following his escape, police arrested four members of his family—including his 75-year-old father, two housewives, and a child—and sent them to jail through a court order. They were later granted bail by the court.¹⁵
21. On 13 April 2026, Yunus Fakir, a temporary caretaker of the Pirojpur Police Officers' Mess, was allegedly tortured and subjected to electric shocks by Officer-in-Charge Ariful Islam and several members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police of Pirojpur, over a false allegation of theft. Although he sustained serious injuries, the police reportedly failed to arrange medical treatment for him. Following the incident, Ariful Islam and two other officers were withdrawn from duty.¹⁶ When Yunus Fakir's family attempted to file a case with Pirojpur Sadar Police Station, the police refused to register it.¹⁷
22. On 12 June 2026, national cricket team player Naeem Hasan was travelling from Dhaka to his home in Chattogram when officers identifying themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police stopped the scooter he was riding in at the Lalkhan Bazar area. Under the pretext of conducting a search, they allegedly assaulted him. Although Naeem identified himself, the officers reportedly dragged him into a vehicle, took him to Khulshi Police Station, and subjected him to torture in the Officer-in-Charge's room.¹⁸
23. During Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian rule, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) faced widespread allegations of involvement in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, and other forms of serious human rights violations. According to the Commission

¹⁴ Amar Desh, 5 June 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/rangpur/amddtnoghbnl2>

¹⁵ Jugantor, 14 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1088823>

¹⁶ Jugantor, 19 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1090738>

¹⁷ Samakal, 22 April 2026; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2026-04-22/13/4889>

¹⁸ Amar Desh, 14 June 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xv4b45eq3h>

of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, approximately 25 percent of all documented cases of enforced disappearance involved RAB, making it the single agency most frequently implicated. The Commission also identified 40 secret detention facilities, half of which were allegedly operated by RAB.¹⁹ Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government during the July 2024 Mass Uprising, RAB's record of grave human rights abuses came under renewed public scrutiny. Odhikar, along with many national and international organisations, recommended that RAB be disbanded. During the Hasina administration, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had also pledged to abolish RAB if it came to power, as a large number of its leaders and activists had allegedly been subjected to torture and enforced disappearance by the force. However, after assuming office, BNP withdrew from its decision to abolish RAB and has instead moved to reorganise the force under a new name. Recently, the RAB authorities finalised a draft law proposing to rename the force as the People's Protection Forces (PPF) and to establish an independent complaints management body aimed at strengthening accountability, in response to longstanding allegations of human rights violations. The proposed law is currently undergoing approval by the Ministry of Home Affairs.²⁰

Enforced Disappearance

24. The Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance 2025, promulgated by the Interim Government, lapsed because the BNP government failed to enact it into law within 30 days of the first session of Parliament. Although no incidents of enforced disappearance were reported during the tenure of the Interim Government, the first reported case of enforced disappearance under the BNP government occurred 52 days after it assumed office on 17 February 2026, which is deeply concerning.
25. At approximately 7:00 pm on 10 April 2026, Miraj Sheikh (30), a fisherman, was allegedly taken away by two men in plain clothes from in front of Al-Amin's tea stall in the Joymoni area of Chila Union, adjacent to the Sundarbans, under Mongla Upazila of Bagerhat District. Upon receiving the news, Miraj's wife, Mukta Khatun, rushed to the scene and reportedly saw Miraj being taken toward Mongla on a Coast Guard speedboat. When Miraj did not return, his family contacted the Coast Guard, local police station, and other relevant authorities in an attempt to locate him. At the time Miraj was taken away, two Coast Guard members reportedly left his motorcycle in the custody of the tea stall owner, Al-Amin. On 21 April, a man identifying himself as Robin, claiming to be a Coast Guard member, collected Miraj's motorcycle from Al-Amin. However, the following day, the motorcycle was returned. Tea stall owner Al-Amin told Odhikar that two men had taken Miraj away from in front of his shop and left Miraj's motorcycle behind the shop. A woman who witnessed the incident, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that when Miraj got off

¹⁹ Prothom Alo, 19 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/4vni0yzkh8>

²⁰ The Daily Star, 15 June 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/draft-law-rename-rab-peoples-protection-forces-4199016>

his motorcycle, two men grabbed him and pushed him toward the jetty. There, they put him on a boat and beat him before transferring him to another boat and taking him away.

26. On 23 April, Mukta Khatun filed a General Diary (GD) at Mongla Police Station regarding the incident. On 8 May, Miraj's family held a press conference at the Mongla Press Club demanding information about his whereabouts. On 14 May, Mukta Khatun sent written applications to the Minister of Home Affairs, Director General of the Coast Guard, Inspector General of Police, Secretary of the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, and other relevant authorities. In her written application, she alleged that on 10 April her husband, Miraj Sheikh, had been taken away by two Coast Guard members in plain clothes to the Harbaria Coast Guard Station. The application further stated that Miraj Sheikh and another fisherman, Bacchu, used to fish together. Bacchu was arrested from his home by a joint force, including the Coast Guard, on 22 April and was produced before a court the following day. However, no information has yet been obtained regarding the whereabouts of Miraj Sheikh.
27. On 9 June 2026, the family members of Miraj Sheikh, accompanied by local residents, organised a human chain and protest demonstration in front of the local Coast Guard office. On 10 June, Coast Guard officer Saiful Islam Pramanik filed two cases with Mongla Police Station against Miraj's wife, sister, and mother, as well as local residents who had participated in the protest. The cases included allegations of obstructing public officials in the discharge of their duties, offences under the Anti-Terrorism Act, the Speedy Trial Act, and other legal provisions (Case Nos. GR-97/26 and GR-98/26). Police subsequently arrested Mukta Khatun, Liza Islam, and Taslima Begum. On 12 June, they were sent to jail by order of the court. As of the publication of this report, the whereabouts of Miraj Sheikh remain unknown.²¹ Miraj's wife, sister, and mother were released on bail on 11 July 2026.

Death Penalty and Human Rights

28. During this three-month reporting period, the lower courts and the International Crimes Tribunals sentenced accused persons to death. In 2025, 223 accused persons were sentenced to death while 117 individuals were given death penalty between January and June 2026.
29. At present, there are 93 women on death row in prisons across the country. Of them, 50 are being held in the condemned cell of Kashimpur Women's Central Jail. Women are even accompanied by their children in the condemned cells. However, since Bangladesh's independence, no death sentence imposed on a woman has been carried out. Consequently, no woman has had to seek presidential clemency to avoid execution.²²

²¹ Fact-finding carried out by Odhikar.

²² Amar Desh, 10 June 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/national/amd96wsrmf3ep>

30. **During the three-month period from April to June of the current year, the lower courts sentenced 70 persons to death.**

Prisons and Prisoners' Rights

31. There have been widespread allegations of irregularities and corruption in Bangladesh's prisons. Reports have also alleged the existence of illegal drug trafficking within prisons and the provision of substandard food to inmates.²³ During the reporting period, prisons across the country continued to hold inmates far beyond their official capacity. The arrest of leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, as well as many individuals accused in various cases, has significantly increased the prison population beyond the facilities' capacity. The combined capacity of the country's 75 prisons is 43,157 inmates. As of 17 May 2026, more than 85,000 prisoners were being held.²⁴ During this period, the country's 15 central jails, with a combined capacity of 22,280 inmates, were housing 39,865 prisoners.²⁵ Although the official capacity of Kashimpur Women's Central Jail is 200 inmates, it is currently housing 665 prisoners, including children living with their mothers. Under these conditions, prison authorities have struggled to meet prisoners' basic needs, including sleeping arrangements, food, and access to toilet facilities. In many prisons, inmates have reportedly had to sleep in shifts due to overcrowding.²⁶
32. Severe overcrowding has also resulted in inadequate nutrition for inmates. Poor prisoners, who cannot afford to purchase eggs and milk from the prison canteen (PC), have been suffering from various illnesses due to nutritional deficiencies.²⁷ Furthermore, the shortage of doctors in prisons has deprived inmates of adequate medical care.
33. On 14 April 2026, Ziaul Haque Zia (67), a detained leader of the Awami League, died while being taken from Jamalpur District Jail to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. His family alleged that although he had fallen ill two days earlier, he did not receive timely medical treatment, which led to his death.²⁸
34. **During the three-month period from April to June 2026, it was reported that 16 prisoners died in jail. All of them died due to illness.**

Freedom of Expression and Repressive Laws

35. During this quarter, freedom of expression was undermined. There were incidents of arrests for posting satirical images on Facebook criticizing the government and mocking ministers and the PM's advisers. The Cyber Security Act, 2026 was used against political activists

²³ Jugantor, 22 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1116949>

²⁴ Jugantor, 22 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1116949>

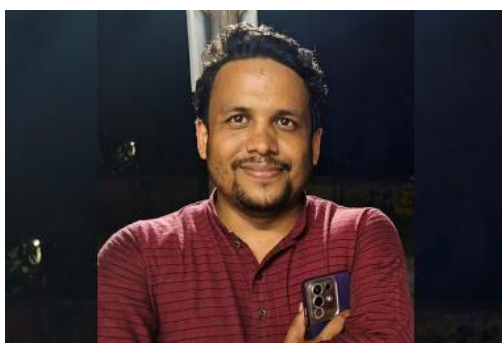
²⁵ Jugantor, 22 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1116949>

²⁶ Jugantor, 22 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1105005>

²⁷ Jugantor, 22 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1105005>

²⁸ Jugantor, 15 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/awami-league/1089267>

- and individuals expressing dissenting opinions. In addition, the residence of a political leader was attacked after he criticized the Prime Minister during a television talk show.
36. On 5 April 2026, police arrested Bibi Sauda, a female activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, from her residence in Bhola for allegedly posting anti-government content on social media. Following her arrest, police produced her before the court under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and the court ordered that she be sent to jail.²⁹
 37. On 17 April 2026, a team from the Detective Branch (DB) of Police detained social media content creator AM Hasan Nasim from his residence in the Agargaon area of Dhaka. According to the DB Police, Hasan Nasim was involved in spreading “propaganda and rumours” against the Chief Whip of the National Parliament through social media. On 18 April, a case was filed against him with Gulshan Police Station under Sections 25 and 27 of the Cyber Security Act, 2026.³⁰
 38. Rashid Pradhan, spokesperson of the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA), was accused of making derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman during a television talk show. Following the incident, on 17 April 2026, a group of ‘agitated’ people gathered in front of Rashid Pradhan’s residence in Mohammadpur, Dhaka and threw shoes at the house. The protesters also chanted slogans against him. During the incident, JAGPA supporter Jony allegedly attempted to assault one of the protesters, after which police arrested him.³¹
 39. Anwar Hossain, Central Organiser of Sramik Shakti³², was accused of posting ‘offensive’ content on Facebook about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, and Water Resources Minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie, in Raipur under Lakshmipur District. Jubo Dal leader Ruhul Amin filed a case at Raipur Police Station under the Cyber Security Act, 2026 against Anwar Hossain, his two brothers, and another individual. On 31 May 2026, police arrested Anwar Hossain and sent him to jail through the court.³³



Sramik Shakti’s Central Organiser Anwar Hossain. Photo: 31 May 2026

²⁹ Prothom Alo, 7 April 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/7ua86kvh1c>

³⁰ The Daily Star, 18 April, 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/news/man-shown-arrested-cyber-case-after-db-detention-4154461>

³¹ Samakal, 18 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/347725/>

³² Labour wing of the National Citizen Party (NCP)

³³ Prothom Alo, 31 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/qb730xn2v2>

40. On 11 June 2026, local BNP leaders and activists apprehended a young man named Mizanur Rahman for allegedly posting ‘offensive’ content about Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Facebook and handed him over to the police in Sundarganj under Gaibandha District. Police showed him arrested under Section 151³⁴ of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and produced him before the court.³⁵



Mizanur Rahman. Photo: Prothom Alo, 13 June 2026

PART – B:

Human Rights and Related Matters

Political Violence and Criminalization

41. During the last three months, numerous allegations of criminal activities and violence have been made against leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Reported incidents include: [detaining a man at a party office](#) and subjecting him to violence over extortion demands; [beating an agricultural worker to death](#); [tying a woman to a tree](#) and assaulting her for protesting land grabbing; involvement in [drug trafficking](#); [filing cases to harass individuals](#) in order to seize ponds and fish farms; [threatening the acting Chairperson](#) of a Union Parishad for a share of government project funds; [threatening government officials](#); [attacking the Upazila Nirbahi Officer \(UNO\) office](#); [forcibly release a party leader](#) from police custody; [vandalizing and locking shops](#); [assaulting a mosque imam](#); beating an elderly man to death over [extortion demands](#); [killing a businessman](#) for refusing to pay extortion; tying a young man to an electric pole and [beating him on suspicion of theft](#); assaulting a [female college teacher](#); [attacking a college principal](#); [vandalizing government offices](#); [attacking and looting](#) the business establishment of an ordinary trader; [extortion](#); [abduction](#); [rape](#); [land grabbing](#); attacking and [looting a factory](#) after failing to obtain extortion money; [snatching a tender box](#); and [abusing a student with disabilities](#) at the University of Dhaka. During this period, an audio recording of a BNP

³⁴ Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is a preventive police provision. It empowers a police officer to arrest any person, without a warrant or a Magistrate's order, if the officer has knowledge of the person's design to commit a cognizable offense and believes the offense cannot be otherwise prevented.

³⁵ Prothom Alo, 13 June 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/5u3lv9hgec>

leader threatening a victim over the telephone while demanding extortion money, was leaked. In the recording, the leader is heard saying that even Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would not be able to protect the victim.³⁶ In Rajshahi, police attempting to arrest a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal³⁷, who was accused in murder and explosives cases, were reportedly forced to retreat after being obstructed by party leaders and activists.³⁸



A BNP leader entered a Daudkandi Government College in Rajshahi and beat a female teacher and principal with a shoe and the college office was vandalized. Photo: Amar Desh & Prothom Alo, 24 April 2026.

42. On 3 April 2026, local BNP leaders and activists were accused of attacking and looting the residence of Advocate Kazi Nure Alam Siddiqui, President of the Langalkot Upazila unit of the Ganatantrik Muktiyote³⁹, in Cumilla.⁴⁰
43. On 24 April 2026, Jamaat-e-Islami Member of Parliament for Netrokona-5, Masum Mostafa, was confined and his vehicle vandalized allegedly by local BNP leaders and activists, while he was refueling the vehicle at a petrol station in Netrokina.⁴¹
44. On 11 June 2026, Jewel Rana (35), a supporter of the Awami League, was hacked to death allegedly by a group of BNP supporters, including Yusuf, Kashem, and Babu, over a political dispute in Chowgacha, Jashore. The attackers tied his wife to a pole before killing him.⁴²

Internal Conflict within the BNP

45. During this reporting period, violent clashes broke out in different parts of the country due to internal rivalries among leaders and activists of the BNP, over establishing territorial dominance. They were reportedly seen using firearms and other lethal weapons during these confrontations.⁴³ However, members of the law enforcement agencies did not recover

³⁶ Jugantor, 16 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1114424>

³⁷ Volunteer Wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

³⁸ Jugantor, 29 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1119776>

³⁹ Ganatantrik Muktiyote is a political party.

⁴⁰ Samakal, 4 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/345708/>

⁴¹ Prothom Alo, 24 April 2026, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/2482sovvek>

⁴² Jugantor, 12 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1112489>

⁴³ Naya Diganta, 13 May 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/XyAqL4emT2Re>

these firearms or arrest those allegedly responsible.⁴⁴ Amid fears of violence during rival BNP programmes, the authorities [imposed Section 144](#) in several areas, and the police were compelled to fire rubber bullets to bring the clashes under control.⁴⁵



The five individuals who participated in the killing of Jubo Dal leader Masud in Raozan are: (1) Didarul Alam of Kadalpur, (2) Mohammad Jahed, (3) Mohammad Ilias, also known as Dama Ilias, (4) Mohammad Yusuf, and (5) Mohammad Abchar. Photo: Samakal, 15 June 2026.

46. The underlying causes of these violent confrontations included [disputes over extortion](#), [control of the garment factory scrap business](#), disagreements regarding the observance of the [death anniversary](#) of former President Ziaur Rahman, [collection of extortion payments](#), [nomination](#) for the position of Union Parishad chairman in local elections, disputes over the [sale of excavated soil](#), attempts to seize [control of motor workers' union offices](#), and conflicts surrounding party conferences. These incidents of violence resulted in casualties among BNP leaders and activists, [children](#), and members of the [general public](#). During this period, a clash between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal⁴⁶ led to the closure of Mymensingh Medical College.⁴⁷ Members of law enforcement agencies, BNP leaders and activists, and ordinary people were among those who were killed or injured in these incidents.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Smakal, 15 June 2026; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/357079/>

⁴⁵ Amar Desh, 5 June 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amdlisc5dagi5>

⁴⁶ Student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

⁴⁷ Amar Desh, 19 April 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amdyt1ueyg64o>

⁴⁸ Manabzamin, 2 April 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/8325>



Sramik Dal (Labour wing of BNP) displayed firearms and detonated crude bombs (cocktails) during a show of force in Shiroil Bus Terminal area of Rajshahi. Photo: Prothom Alo, 23 April 2026.

47. On 25 April 2026, a clash between two BNP factions, over longstanding enmity and local dominance, resulted in the death of a farmer named Nur Alam and injuries to six other people in Terokhada Upazila under Khulna District.⁴⁹
48. On 20 May 2026, BNP leader Osman Gani was hacked to death by supporters of Swechchhasebak Dal⁵⁰ leader Ramzan Ali following a dispute over the excavation and sale of soil from a plot of land in Araihasar Upazila under Narayanganj District.⁵¹

Violence and criminal activities by the Awami League

49. Although the activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations have been officially banned, allegations of violence and criminal activities involving their leaders and activists have continued to emerge. During the reporting period, allegations against Awami League leaders and activists included attacks and [vandalism targeting BNP offices and shops](#) in Faridpur; [shooting of a BNP leader](#) in Gangni, Meherpur; [extortion](#); [rape](#); [land grabbing](#); and various other criminal offenses.



In Faridpur, leaders and activists of the Awami League attacked and vandalized the BNP's temporary office following a dispute over land ownership. Photo: Amar Desh, 19 April 2026.

⁴⁹ Jugantor, 25 April 2026; ; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1093746>

⁵⁰ Voluntary wing of BNP

⁵¹ Prothom Alo, 21 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/thsfqz2ae>



Victim's family members and local residents formed a human chain in front of the Pirganj Press Club, accusing a Jubo League leader of land grabbing. Photo: Samakal, 8 April 2026.

50. On 24 April 2026, supporters of Mohammad Firoz Molla, General Secretary of the local Krishak League⁵² in Boalmari Upazila, Faridpur, attacked Abdur Rahman, a BNP leader, and Suman Sheikh, a Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal⁵³ leader, leaving them seriously injured.⁵⁴
51. On 30 May 2026, it was reported that an Upazila unit of Awmai Legaue leader, Habibullah, along with his associates, attacked the house of his rivals with locally made weapons over a land dispute and assaulted a 95-year-old woman named Samla Khatun in Sreepur, Gazipur.⁵⁵

Violence by BNP and other political parties

52. During the three-month reporting period, allegations of violence and criminal activities were also made against Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party (NCP), and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. During this period, clashes occurred between leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations and those of the [Anti-Discrimination Student Movement](#), [NCP](#), [Islami Chhatra Shibir](#), [Jamaat-e-Islami](#), and [Awami League](#). In particular, violent clashes between activists of the Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir⁵⁶ took place across the country.⁵⁷ It was reported that in Gaibandha, Jubo Dal leaders and activists killed Chhatra Shibir leader Saifullah Bari by slitting his throat in broad daylight following a dispute over the management committee of a primary school.⁵⁸ In protest against the killing, leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Chhatra Shibir organised protest marches and attacked and set fire to the houses of the accused.⁵⁹

⁵² Farmer wing of Awami League

⁵³ Voluntary wing of BNP

⁵⁴ Amar Desh, 25 April 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amdmsf4ick2gn>

⁵⁵ Amar Desh, 31 May 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amdiykqpybd0l>

⁵⁶ Student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami

⁵⁷ Amar Desh, 25 April 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/politics/amd7ofi7hrhea>

⁵⁸ Naya Diganta, 22 June 2026; <https://api.dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/wfxUPOwtZ2o1/>

⁵⁹ Jugantor, 23 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1117340>

53. On 21 April 2026, a violent clash broke out between Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir at Chattogram Government City College over the erasure and rewriting of wall murals (graffiti) related to the July 2024 mass uprising. At least 20 people from both sides were injured in the incident.⁶⁰



Mirza Faruk, Member Secretary of the Omar Gani M.E.S. College unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was seen holding a machete, while Mohammad Sadek Hossain, Publicity Secretary of the Tamakum-i Lane Traders' Association and a Jamaat supporter, was seen holding a stick. Photo: Prothom Alo, 22 April 2026.

54. On 22 May 2026, Nasiruddin Patwari, Chief Coordinator of the National Citizen Party (NCP), was attacked by leaders and activists of the Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal in Jhenaidah. Following the attack, Nasiruddin Patwari went to the Sadar Police Station to file a case. In protest against the filing of the case, Chhatra Dal activists brought out a procession to the police station and demanded that Nasiruddin Patwari, who was inside the station, be ousted from the premises. Unable to enter the police station, Chhatra Dal activists hurled bricks and stones at the station.⁶¹
55. **Between April and June 2026, at least 41 people were killed and 970 others were injured in incidents of political violence. During these three months, 57 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP and two incidents of internal conflict within the NCP were recorded. It was reported that four people were killed and 400 were injured in internal conflicts within the BNP, while 16 were injured in internal conflicts within the NCP.**

Freedom of Assembly

56. During the past three months (April–June), meetings and public gatherings organised by political parties and various groups campaigning on different demands, were obstructed. There were incidents in which rallies were attacked by leaders and activists of the BNP. During this period, university teachers were also assaulted.
57. On 11 May 2026, a group of assailants led by Salahuddin Ripon Sharif, suspended leader of the Patuakhali's Dumki Upazila Jubo Dal, attacked a sit-in programme organised to

⁶⁰ 22 April 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/5c5tgc1rcw>

⁶¹ Prothomalo, 23 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/u9mqppxp2a>

demand the removal of the Vice-Chancellor of Patuakhali Science and Technology University. At least 20 people, including university teachers, were injured in the attack.⁶²



*Under the leadership of Ripon Sharif, teachers and administrative officials at Patuakhali University were attacked.
Photo: Jugantor, 12 May 2026.*

58. The Chattogram City Corporation invited advertisements to be placed over graffiti commemorating the July Mass Uprising on the pillars of the Shaheed Wasim Flyover in Chattogram. The issue created tensions between BNP and NCP⁶³ in Chattogram, prompting the administration to impose Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the city. However, on 18 May 2026, when students attempted to paint graffiti at Tiger Pass in violation of Section 144, the effort was thwarted by police intervention.⁶⁴
59. On 5 and 6 June 2026, leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal attacked a fruit festival organised by the NCP at Kuliyadi Government Primary School grounds in Rupganj, Narayanganj. They vandalized chairs and tables and dismantled the event pavilion.⁶⁵

Freedom of the Media

60. During this reporting period, journalists were subjected to various forms of harassment and abuse. Allegations were received that journalists were attacked and harassed by leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations, criminals, hospital broker syndicates, and associates of pump owners in retaliation for news gathering and reporting.⁶⁶ Allegations were also received regarding the arrest of a journalist on the basis of a fake warrant, as well as threats of death and other forms of harassment.

⁶² Jugantor, 12 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1100510>

⁶³ NCP is the National Citizen Party, created by those who actually participated in and led the July 2024 uprising.

⁶⁴ Amar Desh, 19 May 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdkdkvrg0iav>

⁶⁵ Jugantor, 7 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/politics/1110164>

⁶⁶ Manabzamin, 4 April 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/8650>

61. On 21 May 2026, during the live coverage of the election of the Chattogram District Bar Association, two journalists from Channel One were attacked allegedly by BNP-aligned lawyers while votes were being cast.⁶⁷
62. Abu Sayeed, a Jubo League leader and alleged drug trader, became enraged over the publication of reports exposing various unlawful activities of Awami League leaders in Bogura. He attacked *Daily Amar Desh's* Shibganj correspondent, Shafayat Sajal, while the latter was carrying out his professional duties, leaving him injured.⁶⁸
63. On 1 April 2026, BNP leaders and activists assaulted Shahinur Rahman Sujan, Charghat correspondent of the *Dainik Dinkal*, for publishing a report on the illegal excavation of ponds and looting of soil at a government madrasa in Charghat, Rajshahi. The attackers were all followers of Zakirul Islam Bikul, President of the Charghat Upazila unit BNP and former mayor of the municipality. Sujan was admitted to a private hospital for treatment.⁶⁹



Journalist Shahinur Rahman Sujan was assaulted and injured by BNP leaders and activists in Rajshahi. Photo: Jugantor, 2 April 2026.

64. On 15 April 2026, during clashes between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Kabi Nazrul Government College in Dhaka, *The Daily Campus* correspondent Biplob Sheikh and *Sonali News* correspondent Obaidul Haque were attacked by JCD leaders and activists while carrying out their professional duties. The two injured journalists were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.⁷⁰
65. On 9 June 2026, following the publication of a report on the illegal extraction of sand from the Shrimai Canal in Patiya under Chattogram District, *Jugantor* correspondent Abeduzzaman Amiri was dragged out of the Patiya Press Club, beaten, and threatened with death by a group of 20-30 assailants led by Jubo Dal leader S.M. Reza.⁷¹
66. On 23 June 2026, following a programme organised by Jamaat-e-Islami in front of the residence of former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka, a

⁶⁷ Amar Desh, 21 May 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdjwoblmsbwz>

⁶⁸ Amar Desh, 23 May 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/rajshahi/amdrkijatmsbp1>

⁶⁹ Jugantor, 2 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1084053>

⁷⁰ Amar Desh, 16 April 2026; <https://www.banglatribune.com/my-campus/942101/>

⁷¹ Jugantor, 10 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1111641>

journalist asked a question during a press briefing. Several Jamaat activists labelled the journalist an “associate of the Awami League.” When other journalists present protested the remark, an argument ensued and eventually escalated into a confrontation. During the incident, Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists attacked journalists who were performing their professional duties, leaving four journalists injured.⁷²

67. **According to information collected by Odhikar, between April and June 2026, 17 journalists were injured, five were assaulted. four were attacked, and seven journalists received threats while carrying out their professional duties.**

Public Lynching

68. Due to the ineffective criminal justice system in Bangladesh, there is a persistent tendency for people to take the law into their own hands, and incidents of people being killed due to public lynching continue. In most cases, victims were beaten to death on suspicion of theft or robbery.⁷³ There were also incidents of people being killed in public beatings during *shalish* (informal village arbitration) and following allegations of defaming religion. Among the victims there was a person with mental disabilities.⁷⁴
69. On 4 April 2026, local residents in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, convened a *shalish* after accusing Mohammad Absar of theft. However, during the proceedings of the *shalish*, Absar was beaten to death by public.⁷⁵
70. On 12 April 2026, a man with a mental disability, Iqbal Hossain (42), was beaten to death by public in Nalchhity under Jhalakathi District.⁷⁶
71. On 27 June 2026, local residents in Adabar, Dhaka, beat Mohammad Jahid (38) to death following allegations of extortion and looting.⁷⁷
72. **Between April and June 2026, a total of 33 people were killed in incidents of public lynching.**

Violence Against Women

73. Violence against women remains widespread in Bangladesh. Due to the lack of an effective social protection system, deficiencies in the justice system, and prolonged delays in judicial proceedings, perpetrators of violence against women often enjoy impunity. This impunity emboldens offenders to commit further acts of violence. As a result, violence against women continues to increase, while victims are deprived of justice.

⁷² Samakal, 24 June 2026; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/358896>

⁷³ Samakal, 25 June 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/358956/>

⁷⁴ Jugantor, 8 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1110779>

⁷⁵ Samakal, 5 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/chittagong/article/345876/>

⁷⁶ Jugantor, 13 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1088723>

⁷⁷ Naya Diganta, 29 June 2026; <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/bdoC44fcu69Y>

Rape

74. During the April–June period, numerous incidents of rape were reported, with cases involving the rape of children seeing an increase from the first quarter of 2026. In several cases, children were murdered after being raped.⁷⁸ During this period, a child rape victim was rescued from a school classroom with her hands, feet, and mouth tied.⁷⁹ Allegations were also made against a Police Inspector in Hatiya for the rape of a child.⁸⁰ In another incident, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chakaria Police Station in Cox’s Bazar published the photograph of a teenage rape survivor on the police station’s official Facebook page.⁸¹
75. Medical examination reports are crucial forensic evidence in rape cases. However, due to the shortage of DNA laboratories, delays in obtaining medical reports, the absence of witnesses, lack of victims and witnesses’ protection laws and the backlog of cases in the courts, the trials of rape cases often remain pending for years.
76. On 17 April 2026, a Jubo Dal leader, Babul, allegedly raped his domestic worker in Bandar, Narayanganj District. When the victim informed Babul’s wife, Rozina, about the incident, she was threatened and warned not to disclose it to anyone. Subsequently, Babul and Rozina allegedly assaulted the domestic worker and cut off her hair. Police arrested Babul in connection with the incident.⁸²
77. Although a bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court directed the authorities to take necessary measures to prevent the settlement of rape cases through informal arbitration (*shalish*), rape cases continue to be resolved through such informal mechanisms. Influential local figures and political leaders reportedly earn substantial sums of money by arranging these settlements.⁸³
- 78. During the last three months, 255 women and children were victims of rape. Among them, 93 were women, 161 were girls, and the age of one victim could not be determined. Of the 93 women, 32 were victims of gang rape and three were murdered after being raped. Of the 161 girl victims, 29 were subjected to gang rape and 11 were murdered after being raped and one committed suicide.**

Stalking

79. Incidents of stalking against women continued during the reporting period. Women were subjected to sexual harassment by men from various social and professional backgrounds. A grandfather was [killed for protesting the stalking](#) of his granddaughter, and an elder brother was [stabbed for protesting the harassment](#) of his younger sister. During this period, allegations were made against an NCP leader in Debidwar, Comilla, for sexually harassing

⁷⁸ Jugantor, 15 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1101894>

⁷⁹ Samakal, 11 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/346664/>

⁸⁰ Jugantor, 15 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1113717>

⁸¹ Jugantor, 3 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1108859>

⁸² Jugantor, 25 April 2026; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2026-04-25/11/link_img_second_ed_1777084589_12.jpg

⁸³ Jugantor, 16 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/1102506>

a housewife⁸⁴, and against a BNP leader in Feni for molesting a housewife after luring her with the promise of a Family Card.⁸⁵

80. In Sadar Upazila of Gaibandha, a fourth-grade primary school student had reportedly been harassed for a long time by a man named Ibrahim Hasan Limon. Limon allegedly took the child to his house and attempted to rape her. When she resisted, he killed her and staged the incident as a suicide by hanging her body from the ceiling with a scarf. On 13 May 2026, Limon was arrested.⁸⁶
81. **From April to June 2026, a total of 17 women and girl children were victims of stalking. In addition, two men were killed and five men were injured while protesting incidents of stalking against women and children.**

Dowry-related Violence

82. Violence against women over dowry demands persisted throughout the three-month period from April to June. During this period, housewives were beaten to death⁸⁷ and strangled⁸⁸ for failing to meet dowry demands. Among the women who were killed or subjected to violence, was a pregnant woman⁸⁹.
83. On 4 April 2026, a housewife named Maria was brutally beaten and left seriously injured by her husband, Robiul Mridha, for failing to provide the demanded dowry of BDT 15,000 in Dhaka. Despite her critical condition, Robiul did not take Maria to a doctor for treatment. Later, when Maria was unable to cook due to her injuries, Robiul beat her again. After being informed of the incident, Maria's mother brought her from Dhaka to Banaripara in Barishal. As her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to Banaripara Upazila Health Complex, where she died.⁹⁰
84. On 9 April 2026, a housewife named Shimu Akter was beaten by her husband, Raihan, for failing to provide dowry, leaving her critically injured in Saidpur, Nilphamari. To conceal the incident, Shimu was forcibly made to ingest poison so that it could be portrayed as a suicide. She was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition and died while undergoing treatment on 10 April.⁹¹
85. **From April to June 2026, a total of 23 women were victims of dowry-related violence. Of them, 10 women were killed over dowry demands, while 10 women were subjected to various forms of abuse and three women committed suicide.**

⁸⁴ Amar Desh, 05 April 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amde0tbjuiz4b>

⁸⁵ Naya Diganta, 30 April 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/U8c0zZgD40h4>

⁸⁶ Jugantor, 14 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1101767>

⁸⁷ Samakal, 9 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/346433/>

⁸⁸ Jugantor, 21 May 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1104649>

⁸⁹ Samakal, 17 May 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/352575/>

⁹⁰ Samakal, 8 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/346358>

⁹¹ Jugantor, 21 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1091505>

Workers' Rights

Situation of Women Migrant Workers

86. Bangladeshi women migrant workers continue to face various forms of hardship and abuse abroad. There are reports of women migrant workers being subjected to rape, as well as physical, psychological, and sexual violence. On 9 June 2026, opposition reserved-seat Member of Parliament, Mardia Mumtaz, called on the government to take effective measures to ensure the safety and protect the rights of migrant women workers.⁹² She stated that more than 300,000 Bangladeshi women workers migrated overseas between 2022 and 2026. Many of them have experienced insecurity, wage deprivation, and breaches of their employment contracts. She further noted that approximately 94 percent of migrant women workers are subjected to sexual harassment or abuse.⁹³ Furthermore, Opposition lawmakers questioned the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment about measures to curb recruitment fraud and protect Bangladeshi women migrant workers. Noakhali-6 lawmaker Abdul Hannan Masud, backed by NCP, stated that recruitment irregularities had left many migrant workers defrauded, undocumented, and living in dire conditions abroad.⁹⁴

Factory Fire

87. On 4 April 2026, a fire at a gas lighter manufacturing factory in the Ambagan area of Kadamtali, South Keraniganj, Dhaka, killed six workers, including one child and two women, while several others sustained burn injuries. Survivors reported that the factory's main gate was locked when the fire broke out, preventing workers from escaping quickly. The factory stored flammable gas and chemical substances, as well as large quantities of gas lighters, gas cylinders, and plastic pellets used for lighter production, which caused the fire to spread rapidly. The factory also lacked any fire safety or firefighting equipment.⁹⁵ Police arrested Iman Ullah Mastan, a local BNP leader and an associate of the factory owner, Akram Ullah, in connection with the incident.⁹⁶

⁹² Naya Diganta, 9 June 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/FakLNq7IM7vq>

⁹³ Naya Diganta, 9 June 2026;

⁹⁴ New Age, 8 June 2026; <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/302014/opposition-mps-question-action-against-recruiters-safety-of-women-migrant-workers>

⁹⁵ Samakal, 5 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/345798/>

⁹⁶ Samakal, 6 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/345944/>



The aftermath of a fire at a gas lighter manufacturing factory in the Ambagan area of Kadamtali, South Keraniganj, Dhaka; Photo: Samakal, 5 April 2026

Ready-Made Garment Industry

88. During this reporting period, workers in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector staged demonstrations, rallies, and road blockades to demand higher wages and allowances, payment of outstanding wages, reopening of factories, and to protest worker layoffs.⁹⁷ In Ashulia, Savar, some factories had wage arrears of up to eight months, leaving workers and their families in severe financial hardship and forcing them to live in inhumane conditions.⁹⁸
89. In Sreepur, Gazipur, workers of KSS Knit Composite Limited had been protesting for several days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, demanding payment of wages and allowances, leave benefits, and other entitlements. On 20 May 2026, after receiving assurances from the management, workers returned to work only to find that the authorities had posted a notice announcing the indefinite closure of the factory. The workers then attempted to enter the factory premises. As tensions escalated and some workers allegedly attempted to vandalize the factory, the Industrial Police charged on them with batons and fired tear gas and sound grenades to disperse the crowd.⁹⁹

Human Rights of Minority Communities and Freedom of Religion

90. During the three-month reporting period, allegations were received from different parts of the country regarding obstruction of the activities of religious minorities, as well as attacks on and vandalism of their institutions. During this period, an extremist group also vandalized a shrine (*mazar*).

⁹⁷ Amar Desh, 7 June 2026; <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news-3931156>

⁹⁸ Manabzamin, 21 May 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/17878/>

⁹⁹ Prothom Alo, 21 May 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/kvls3r64w9>

91. On 11 April 2026, a group of miscreants allegedly incited violence over allegations of blasphemy in Daulatpur, Kushtia. They entered the meeting place of Pir¹⁰⁰ Abdur Rahman, vandalized the premises, and set it on fire. Abdur Rahman was subsequently killed. A case has been filed in connection with the incident, naming Khaja Muhammad Khaja Ahmed, a leader of the Daulatpur Upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami, as an accused for allegedly ordering the attack.¹⁰¹
92. On 14 May 2026, during the annual *urs*¹⁰² at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Ali Baghdadi (R.A.) in Mirpur, Dhaka, a group of criminals attacked the shrine, vandalized the premises, and assaulted visitors who had come to pay their respects. According to the victims, local leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were among the attackers.¹⁰³
93. On 22 June 2026, allegations emerged that a young man named Dipto Roy had posted offensive comments about Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from his Facebook account, “Prince Roy Dipto” in Tahirpur Upazila of Sunamganj. After the post spread on social media, it reportedly sparked anger among local Muslims. Local residents organised protest marches demanding Dipto Roy’s arrest, and police subsequently arrested him. However, on 23 June, an agitated mob vandalized Dipto Roy’s house, his shop, and a local Hindu temple in the Garkati area of Sunamganj.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ A ‘Pir’ is a spiritual guide.

¹⁰¹ Prothom Alo, 16 April 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/a06486ricu>

¹⁰² Urs is a festival marking the death anniversary of a saint.

¹⁰³ Samakal, 16 May 2026; <https://samakal.com/capital/article/352309/>

¹⁰⁴ Samakal, 24 June 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/358744/>

PART – C:

Bangladesh–India Relations

94. During the authoritarian rule of Sheikh Hasina, the political and economic dominance exercised by India's ruling establishment over Bangladesh, expanded significantly. According to former Director General of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Lieutenant General (Retd.) Sheikh Mamun Khaled, who made the statement while being questioned in police remand (after his arrest in a murder case related to the July 2024 mass uprising), BNP leader and former Member of Parliament Ilias Ali was subjected to enforced disappearance by RAB members in 2012 on the instructions of the India-backed deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, because he (Ilias Ali) had led protests against the Tipaimukh Dam and the Bangladesh–India transit and transshipment agreements. He further stated that Ilias Ali was subsequently killed.¹⁰⁵ Ilias Ali was not the only victim. Many others who protested or wrote against what they viewed as the aggressive conduct of India's ruling establishment, were also subjected to enforced disappearance. Among those who were fortunate enough to return alive, many were falsely labeled as 'militants', prosecuted under the Anti-Terrorism Act, and detained in prison for prolonged periods.¹⁰⁶
95. Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, India's ruling establishment adopted an increasingly hostile attitude toward Bangladesh, beginning with the tenure of the Interim Government. However, the July Mass Uprising demonstrated that the people of Bangladesh do not wish to see a return to India-dependent policies.

Killings and torture by the BSF

96. The Bangladesh–India border remains one of the world's deadliest borders, where the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continues to kill, torture, and abuse unarmed Bangladeshi civilians. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries, individuals who cross the border illegally are to be handed over to civilian law enforcement authorities. However, in violation of international law and the bilateral agreement, the BSF has continued to kill Bangladeshi nationals along the border. BSF personnel have also entered Bangladeshi territory to assault Bangladeshi citizens and have carried out provocative firing across the border.¹⁰⁷
97. On 1 April, at Companiganj in Sylhet, BSF personnel opened fire on three individuals, including Saddam Hossain (32) and Abu Bakkar, while they were allegedly crossing the border illegally. Abu Bakkar was injured, and Saddam Hossain was shot dead.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Jugantor, 1 April 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/1083539>

¹⁰⁶ Amar Desh, 19 April 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/court-law/amdI86zs71qhu>

¹⁰⁷ Naya Diganta, 20 May 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/IO2sylERaW1O>

¹⁰⁸ Prothom Alo, 5 April 2026; <https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=5495020368&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=05/04/2026&sedId=1>

98. On 6 April 2026, while Bangladesh's Foreign Minister was visiting India for bilateral discussions, a BSF member shot and seriously injured Bangladeshi farmer Mizanur Rahman Mizan at Patgram border in Lalmonirhat District while he was tending his corn field on his own land. The BSF described the incident as "unfortunate" and expressed regret to the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).¹⁰⁹ However, the very next day, on 7 April, the BSF shot and killed another Bangladeshi national [Ali Hossain](#) (49) at the Dhabalguri border in Patgram under Lalmonirhat District. Furthermore, on 16 April, Bangladeshi nationals [Rati Joydhar](#) at Polianpur border in Jhenaidah; on 8 May, [Morshalin and Nobir Hossain](#) at Kasba border in Brahmanbaria; on 14 May, [Khademul Islam](#) in Hatibandha of Lalmonirhat; and on 13 June, [Mujibur Rahman Mujib](#) at Kulaura border in Moulvibazar District, where all shot dead.
99. Bangladesh has formally protested to India over alleged violations of bilateral border procedures, accusing the Indian authorities of carrying out various activities within 150 yards of the border (no-man's land) without Bangladesh's consent. These activities include attempts to construct barbed-wire fencing, build or repair roads, construct border outposts and other installations, and build bridges, culverts, embankments, and similar defensive infrastructure. Bangladesh has informed India that irregularities have been identified in 68 sections of existing border fencing. Until these irregularities are addressed, construction of new barbed-wire fencing at 86 additional locations should not proceed.¹¹⁰
100. **Between April and June 2026, seven Bangladeshi nationals were killed and three were injured by BSF gunfire. Of the seven deaths, six individuals were allegedly shot dead and one was allegedly tortured to death. All three injured victims sustained gunshot wounds.**

Illegal Push-ins

101. During the past three months, the Indian authorities attempted to forcibly push Bangla-speaking Muslims from India into Bangladesh, violating bilateral agreements, international human rights law¹¹¹, and human rights standards.¹¹² However, the BGB, with the support of local residents, prevented these attempts, forcing the BSF to stop the push-ins. Many of those brought to the border for forced push-ins were children and elderly people.¹¹³ There have also been allegations that the BSF subjected them to inhuman treatment.

¹⁰⁹ Samakal, 7 April 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/346059/>

¹¹⁰ Prothom Alo, 11 June 2026;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=11696579e1c&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=11/06/2026&sedId=1>

¹¹¹ Expulsions of aliens in international human rights law, OHCHR Discussion paper, Geneva, September 2006;

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/4bf6813a9.pdf>

¹¹² Human Rights watch Report link; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/06/16/india-ethnic-bengalis-unlawfully-expelled>

¹¹³ Amar Desh, 8 June 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/world/india/amd8lrh4jezx>



BSF attempted to push detainees back into Bangladesh after taking them out of jail. Photo: Amar Desh, 8 June 2026.

102. On the night of 31 May 2026, the BSF opened a gate in the barbed-wire fence at Benapole border in Jessore and attempted to push 8–10 Indian Muslims, including women and children, into Bangladesh. The BGB thwarted the attempt, leaving the individuals stranded in the border's zero line, where they were forced to remain in inhumane conditions under the open sky.¹¹⁴ On 4 June 2026, the BSF again attempted to push 129 people into Bangladesh simultaneously through 11 different points along the border.¹¹⁵
103. In June 2025, six Indian Muslim citizens, including a child, were subjected to push-ins by the BSF. Following media reports on the incident, the Supreme Court of India directed the authorities to take them back. Subsequently, two of them were repatriated to India, while four Indian citizens, including the child, remain detained in Bangladesh.¹¹⁶



Despite a court order, India refused to accept four individuals. Photo: Jugantor, 19 June 2026.

¹¹⁴ Amar Desh, 6 June 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amdn1x50tizsy>

¹¹⁵ Samakal, 5 June 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/355233/>

¹¹⁶ Jugantor, 19 June 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1115651>

PART – D:

Recommendations

1. The mandate of the July Uprising, secured through the sacrifice and bloodshed of students and the masses, as reflected in the referendum verdict and the July National Charter, must be implemented without delay.
2. Leaders and activists of all political parties must refrain from political violence and criminalization and work to advance the country through democratic means.
3. The proceedings of the International Crimes Tribunal must be made more effective and transparent. Justice and adequate reparations must be ensured for victims, affected persons, and the families of those who lost their loved ones, while restoring and upholding their dignity.
4. Independent investigations must be conducted into allegations against members of law enforcement agencies involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, and other inhuman acts, and those found responsible must be brought to justice.
5. The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013 must be amended. The government must also implement other obligations under the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), including the immediate establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).
6. The Government must enact laws based on the 20 significant Ordinances issued by the Interim Government, that were subsequently repealed by the current Government. It must also immediately adopt the necessary legislation and institutional reforms to establish the Supreme Court Secretariat, the Police Commission, and an independent National Human Rights Commission.
7. A specific law criminalizing enforced disappearance, in accordance with the international Convention, must be enacted. Victims' families must be provided with adequate compensation and appropriate rehabilitation.
8. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media must be guaranteed at all levels. All harassing cases filed against journalists must be withdrawn, and attacks on journalists must be impartially investigated so that those responsible are brought to justice.
9. Allegations of misconduct, negligence, and corruption by prison officials must be investigated, and appropriate legal action must be taken. Torture, ill-treatment, and all other forms of human rights violations against prisoners must cease, and adequate medical treatment must be ensured for sick inmates.
10. Perpetrators of violence against women and children must be prosecuted and punished. Informal arbitration (*salish*) of cases involving rape and other forms of violence against women must be prohibited. To ensure access to justice for women, the police must conduct proper investigations, arrest those accused, and bring them before the courts. The directives issued by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court to prevent sexual

harassment of women and children in all public and private institutions across the country, including educational institutions, must be implemented.

11. Outstanding wages owed to workers in the ready-made garment sector must be paid immediately. Factory owners must refrain from unlawfully dismissing workers, and workers' rights must be guaranteed in accordance with labour law and ILO Conventions. In addition, protection measures for migrant women workers—including a 24-hour hotline, shelters homes, insurance coverage, and verification of employers—must be established.
12. All forms of human rights violations against Bangladeshi citizens at the border, including killings and torture by the Indian Border Security Force, must cease. The Government of India must stop the practice of unlawful push-ins. India must also end its hegemonic and aggressive conduct toward Bangladesh.

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Notes:

1. Odhikar seeks to uphold the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.
2. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders and monitors media reports.
3. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations into some of the most significant violations, with assistance from trained local human rights defenders.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.