Quarterly Human Rights Report on Bangladesh

Quarter-3

July – September 2026

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Foreword

On 10 October, Odhikar marked its 32nd founding anniversary. On this day in 1994, Odhikar, an organisation of human rights defenders, was established through the efforts of several individuals who had participated in the struggle against the rule of military dictator Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

On the occasion of its 32nd anniversary, Odhikar solemnly remembers the victims of human rights violations across the world and expresses its solidarity with people in different countries who are struggling against authoritarian regimes and fighting for the recognition of their right to self-determination. Over the past 32 years, Odhikar has remained deeply grateful to all human rights defenders, international organisations, local networks, supporters and well-wishers who have stood by its side.

Since its establishment, Odhikar activities are geared towards the aspirations of a democratic state, founded on equality, human dignity and social justice. It monitors the human rights situation in Bangladesh with the aim of promoting and protecting the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people. Since the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) assumed power on 12 February 2026, many of the government's actions have been inconsistent with the spirit of the 2024 July Mass Uprising. Consequently, human rights violations have continued to occur.

This is Odhikar's quarterly report covering July–September 2026. The primary objective of Odhikar is to highlight human rights violations. This report has been prepared on the basis of reports submitted by human rights defenders associated with Odhikar from different districts, and information published in various media outlets. It presents a snapshot of the human rights situation in Bangladesh during the reporting period, based on the information collected by Odhikar till the time of releasing the report.

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Odhikar's Statistics on Human Rights Violations

January - September 2026

Type of Human Rights Violation		Interim Government		BNP Government								
		January	**February (1-17)**	**February (18-28)**	**March**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**August**	**September**	**Total**
Extrajudicial killing	Tortured to death	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	**6**
	Beaten to death	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Shot to Death	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	**2**
	Total	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**10**
Enforced Disappearance		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	**2**
Death in Jail		7	3	4	7	2	7	7	5	3	22	**67**
Death Penalty		24	9	3	9	35	19	16	29	31	25	**200**
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	1	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	2	1	**11**
	Bangladeshis Injured	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	4	**11**
	Push in	17	0	0	0	0	10	0	17	12	0	**56**
	Total	**19**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**14**	**2**	**18**	**16**	**5**	**78**
Attack on Journalists	Injured	3	2	7	18	3	0	10	10	6	6	**65**
	Assaulted	0	1	0	3	5	0	0	2	5	6	**22**
	Threatened	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	4	10	2	**25**
	Sued	0	0	0	9	11	0	6	2	0	0	**28**
	Abducted	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**21**
	Attacked	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	**5**
	Arrested	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
	Tortured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
	Total	**4**	**25**	**7**	**30**	**21**	**4**	**22**	**19**	**22**	**15**	**169**
Political Violence	Killed	10	1	7	20	15	10	19	10	9	8	**109**
	Injured	261	12	71	381	429	226	322	203	472	415	**2792**
	Total	**271**	**13**	**78**	**401**	**444**	**236**	**341**	**213**	**481**	**423**	**2901**
Electoral Violence	Killed	3	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	**13**
	Injured	375	823	81	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1368**
	Total	**378**	**829**	**81**	**93**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1381**
Dowry related Violence against Women	Killed	1	0	0	3	4	5	1	3	3	2	**22**
	Physically Abused	2	1	3	7	3	5	2	7	2	5	**37**
	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	**7**
	Total	**3**	**1**	**3**	**10**	**7**	**11**	**5**	**12**	**6**	**8**	**66**
Rape	Girl under the age of 18	23	10	6	24	42	60	73	55	41	54	**388**
	Women	20	5	8	22	49	27	23	34	23	16	**227**
	Unidentified age	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Total	**43**	**15**	**14**	**47**	**91**	**88**	**96**	**89**	**64**	**70**	**617**
Sexual Harassment /Stalking of Females		4	1	1	2	0	5	14	2	4	4	**37**
Public Lynching		6	2	3	8	8	13	12	9	9	4	**74**

Summary of the Report

1. This report highlights the human rights situation during July–September 2026. It covers issues including the erosion of democracy and freedom of expression, and deprivations of both political rights and right to life.
2. Despite a walkout by the opposition, the BNP government passed the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026 in Parliament. The Act does not assign investigations into allegations against law enforcement agencies or their members, to an independent investigative body. Under Section 14(3) of the Act, investigations into allegations against a law enforcement agency may be assigned to another agency, other than the one accused, or to a joint inter-agency investigation team. In practice, however, this arrangement will not ensure fair and impartial investigations, given the historical record of the government's political use of law enforcement and security forces in Bangladesh and the frequent perception that their investigations are biased. Furthermore, under Section 21 of the Act, if a court finds a complaint to be false on the basis of the investigation, the complainant may face up to five years of rigorous imprisonment. Consequently, victims of enforced disappearance and their families may be discouraged from seeking legal remedies, potentially leading to a resurgence of enforced disappearances. It is already concerning that Coast Guard and Detective Branch (DB) personnel are once again showing a tendency to engage in enforced disappearances.[1]
3. Despite a walkout by the opposition, the BNP government passed into an Act, the National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026, in the Parliament. However, this National Human Rights Commission Act does not comply with the Paris Principles. As a result, there is a risk that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) could be turned into a government-controlled institution, as it was during the ousted Awami League government. Under the Paris Principles, the NHRC must have the authority to investigate allegations of human rights violations and be able to hear any statements and obtain any information. However, Section 19 of the new law stipulates that the Commission cannot investigate, on its own initiative, allegations of human rights violations committed by discipline forces or any of their members. Although the Paris Principles provide clear guidelines regarding the appointment of members of NHRC, these guidelines have also not been followed.
4. The government has drafted the Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026. The Information and Communication Technology Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology has already published the draft amendments. Certain provisions of the proposed law could pose significant risks to citizens' fundamental rights, freedom of speech and expression.[2] Several sections of the

[1] Asia Post, 5 September 2026; https://www.asia-post.com/ap-special/ap7b5mhpsgkm
[2] Samakal, 14 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/372681

draft law lack clear definitions and explanations, leaving room for arbitrary interpretation and selective application by those in power. This could create opportunities for abuse and place dissenting opinions and freedom of speech under serious threat.

5. During Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian and violent rule, the BNP leadership pledged to dissolve the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) if it came to power. However, after assuming power, under the pretext of dissolution of RAB, the BNP passed a Bill in the Parliament to establish a unit called 'Special Response Battalion' (SRB). The newly established SRB has effectively emerged as a force similar to RAB, retaining almost all of RAB's institutional continuity and characteristics.[3]
6. Bangladesh's weak criminal justice system can expose any person to the risk of being sentenced to death. As a result, a person sentenced to death may spend years in a condemned cell awaiting execution. Despite the availability of alternative sentencing provisions, lower courts have handed down a large number of death sentences.
    - During this period, what began as a case of identity fraud, nearly sent the wrong man to the gallows and highlighted the serious flaws in the investigation processes. A man named Sona Mia was sentenced to death after his acquaintance, Ramzan, was apprehended with Yaba and gave police Sona Mia's name and address as his own. After spending nearly two months in jail, the real Sona Mia was released on bail on 14 August 2026.[4]
7. During this period, prisons across the country were overcrowded, with the number of inmates reaching its highest level in the past five years.[5] Following the arrests of leaders and activists of the banned Awami League and its affiliated organisations, as well as numerous individuals accused in various cases, the prison population exceeded more than two and a half times the total capacity. The 75 prisons across the country have a combined capacity of 43,157 inmates. However, as of 13 September 2026, the total number of prisoners stood at 105,102.[6] In addition, there have been widespread allegations of irregularities and corruption in Bangladesh's prisons.[7] Allegations have

[3] Prothom Alo, 4 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/68iolyunwm

[4] Amar Desh, 14 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdchy0zqkr8m and The Daily Star, 15 August 2026, https://www.thedailystar.net/news/crime-justice/news/sentenced-die-another-mans-crime-4247906

[5] Amar Desh, 16 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdamq44frp2s

[6] Amar Desh, 16 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdamq44frp2s

[7] Naya Diganta, 19 July 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/WBv7WOl3e9rD

also emerged that prisoners were tortured to death in custody.[8] Deaths among prisoners have increased significantly, reaching an alarming level.[9]

8. During the rule of Sheikh Hasina, law enforcement agencies and prison authorities used to restrain dissenters with handcuffs and fetters inside prisons as a means of punishment. In addition, prisoners receiving medical treatment and even those in critical condition, were kept in handcuffs and fetters even after being admitted to hospitals. After such incidents came to light, in 2018 the High Court Division of the Supreme Court ruled that sick prisoners must not be restrained with handcuffs and fetters while receiving treatment in hospital. The Court also stated that their human rights must be protected even if they are accused of criminal offences.[10] Nevertheless, the continued use of handcuffs and fetters on prisoners receiving medical treatment suggests ongoing non-compliance with the High Court's ruling.
9. Freedom of expression was curtailed during these three months. Individuals were arrested and charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 for criticism and use of 'obscene' language against the government or the head of government, on Facebook.
10. During this reporting period, meetings and rallies organised by opposition political parties were obstructed. Incidents of attacks on rallies by leaders and activists of BNP were reported. Journalists were also subjected to attacks while gathering information and reporting on these incidents.[11]
11. Between July and September 2026, there were allegations of various forms of persecution against journalists, including the filing of cases, physical attacks, torture and threats, in connection with the gathering and publication of news. Those accused of such acts included government officials[12], BNP leaders and activists[13], and police personnel.[14] During this period, journalists were attacked while covering clashes in different parts of the country between JCD and Chhatra Shibir[15], as well as between leaders and activists of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.[16] In protest against the attacks on journalists, members of the journalist community organised human chains during this period.[17]

[8] Report sent by a human rights defender from Cox's Bazar associated with Odhikar.
[9] Amar Desh, 16 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdamq44frp2s
[10] Samakal, 9 August 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/366819/
[11] Amar Desh, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd2te0xo8cip
[12] Jugantor, 9 July 2026; https://www.ntvbd.com/bangladesh/news-1767841
[13] Naya Diganta, 5 July 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/jEAYAvitbROm and Jugantor, 18 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1128511
[14] Amar Desh, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/capital/amdbj6wodmhb3
[15] Amar Desh, 4 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/education/campus/amdaqecc8j2yh
[16] Amar Desh, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd2te0xo8cip
[17] Amar Desh, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/rangpur/amdeky1huzn3u

12. During these three months, widespread allegations of criminal activities[18] and violence were reported against leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its affiliated organisations. Internal factional conflicts within the BNP, driven by various vested interests, also resulted in significant casualties.[19] During this reporting period, a BNP leader was accused of hiring contract killers to murder a fellow party member.[20]
13. Although activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations remained prohibited, Awami League leaders and activists engaged in various acts of disorder across the country, including setting off crude bomb explosions.[21] During this period, one person was killed in an internal conflict within the Awami League in Cumilla.[22] In addition, various allegations of criminal activities and violence were reported against Awami League leaders and activists, including rape[23], forcible release of a Jubo League[24] leader from police custody[25], abduction and assault of a teacher[26], forcing the family of a July 2024 fighter (who was killed during the July uprising), to leave their locality[27], and land grabbing.[28]
14. During these three months, clashes occurred between leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations, on the one hand, and those of Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir[29], and the National Citizen Party (NCP), on the other. Clashes also occurred due to internal factional conflicts within other political parties. During this period, widespread clashes took place across the country between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal[30] (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir[31] at educational institutions, over the assertion of dominance.[32]
15. Due to weaknesses in the criminal justice system and a lack of public confidence in the justice system, incidents of mob violence resulting in deaths, occurred during this reporting period as people took the law into their own hands. In most cases, people were

[18] The Daily star, 5 July 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3939896
[19] Jugantor, 3 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1121592
[20] Jugantor, 26 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1131924
[21] Prothom Alo, 11 September 2026; https://en-prothomalo-com.translate.goog/bangladesh/3vwz80rmk6?_x_tr_sl=en&_x_tr_tl=bn&_x_tr_hl=bn&_x_tr_pto=sge
[22] The Daily Star, 13 September 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3961186
[23] Jugantor, 2 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1120616
[24] Youth wing of Awami League
[25] Samakal, 8 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/366763
[26] Prothom Alo, 2 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xhwj1l9ub2
[27] Amar Desh, 8 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/july-revolution/amdmjltg6gxxk
[28] Jugantor, 3 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1135687
[29] Jugantor, 4 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1135873
[30] Student wing of BNP
[31] Student wing Jamaat-e-Islami
[32] Samakal, 6 August 2026; https://samakal.com/politics/article/366336

beaten to death by mobs on suspicion of theft.[33] In some instances, public lynching also occurred due to personal enmity. In addition, people were beaten to death by mobs on suspicion of robbery[34], snatching[35], and child abduction.[36]

16. Between July and September 2026, allegations of various forms of corruption[37] and irregularities[38], as well as human rights violations, were reported against members of law enforcement agencies. In most cases, the accused law enforcement personnel enjoyed impunity. Allegations were also received concerning acts of torture and inhuman treatment in the custody of various law enforcement and intelligence agencies during this period.
    - During this reporting period, there was an incident of blatant curtailing of freedom of movement. Immigration authorities prevented three adult women from travelling to Nepal despite their possession of valid passports, required documents, airline tickets, and hotel bookings. This violates Article 36 of the Constitution of Bangladesh[39], which guarantees freedom of movement.[40]
17. During the last three months, various forms of violence against women and children, including rape, sexual harassment, and dowry-related violence, remained widespread. Rape was the most prevalent form of violence among these incidents, and police found political party leaders and activists to be involved in most of the reported cases.[41] During this period, boys were also victims of rape.
18. During the period from July to September, workers in both the formal and informal sectors experienced widespread human rights violations. Failure to comply with relevant laws and policies resulted in workers being killed or injured.
    - A fire broke out at a garment factory owned by Pretty Group in Jamgar, Ashulia, Dhaka, killing seven people, including one woman, and injuring 15 others.[42] In Sitakunda, Chattogram, nine workers died and 30 others were injured due to what was reported as exposure to "toxic gas" while cutting a scrapped vessel at a shipbreaking facility named Ferdous Steel Shipbreaking Yard and Recycling.[43]

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[33] Naya Diganta, 3 August 2026; https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/z12GEbldQNU4

[34] Jugantor, 1 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1134529

[35] Prothom Alo, 24 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/dj56oa7zpt

[36] Samakal, 18 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/368447#google_vignette

[37] Prothom Alo, 4 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/syt6kwt4gj

[38] Jugantor, 24 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1130875

[39] Article 36, Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: Subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest, every citizen shall have the right to move freely throughout Bangladesh, to reside and settle in any place therein, and to leave and re-enter Bangladesh.

[40] Prothom Alo, 1 October 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/column/6c3oa0rcl5

[41] Amar Desh, 29 September 2026; https://bdtoday.net/national/142820

[42] Amar Desh, 21 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd250ee94zgq

[43] Prothom Alo, 15 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/tp7swez638

19. The Indian ruling establishment continued various activities aimed at exerting political and economic aggression against Bangladesh. During these three months, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continued to kill and torture Bangladeshi citizens along the border. In addition, in violation of bilateral repatriation procedures, international law, and human rights, the Indian ruling establishment provocatively attempted to push Bengali-speaking people from India into Bangladesh[44], as well as to construct barbed-wire fencing[45] and install concrete poles[46] along the border.[47]

Section A: State Institutions, New Laws and Human Rights

Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026

1. During the 15-and-a-half years in power, the diabolical Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina, used enforced disappearance as an instrument of state repression. During that period, opposition political leaders and activists, dissenters, and ordinary citizens were subjected to widespread human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial killings. Those who opposed the system and those who were vocal and outspoken against India's hegemony were primarily targeted, forcibly disappeared, and tortured in secret detention facilities.
2. On 5 August 2024, the Awami League government fell, following the mass uprising led by students and the public. After the interim government assumed power on 8 August 2024, Bangladesh ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 29 August. Ratification of the Convention created an obligation for Bangladesh to enact domestic legislation to criminalise enforced disappearance, prompting the interim government to promulgate the *Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025*. However, after the BNP came to power through the 13th parliamentary elections in February 2026, the Ordinance lapsed because it was not passed by Parliament.
3. On 6 September 2026, a new bill entitled the *Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026* was passed unilaterally in Parliament despite protests and a walkout by opposition members. Section 14(3) of the Act stipulates that in an investigation into allegations against a law enforcement or disciplinary force, or any of its members, the government may assign the investigation to another force, excluding the force accused, or to an inter-agency investigation team. However, this provision is not practically enforceable. Investigations into enforced disappearances conducted by any law enforcement agency,

[44] Samakal, 27 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/364644/ and Naya Diganta, 20 August 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/PzL4e6Kl4uHw
[45] Ittefaq, 21 July 2026; https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/799731/
[46] Dhaka Post, 21 July 2026; https://www.dhakapost.com/country/468936
[47] JagoNews24, 19 September 2026; https://www.jagonews24.com/international/news/1158633

including the police, are likely to be biased. The law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh have a history of being used by the government for political purposes, and their investigations have frequently been perceived as biased. According to information documented by Odhikar and the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, one force would abduct individuals while impersonating another force. In such circumstances, it is not possible to determine which force actually carried out the disappearance before conducting impartial investigation. It is worth noting that, under the *Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025*, promulgated by the interim government, the responsibility for investigating such cases had been entrusted to the National Human Rights Commission.

4. On the other hand, Section 21 of the Act stipulates that if, following an investigation, a complaint is found by a court to be false, the complainant may face up to five years of rigorous imprisonment. Odhikar believes that this provision will further widen the scope for impunity and deter victims and their families from filing complaints of enforced disappearance out of concern for their own safety.

Enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026

5. Following a walkout by the Opposition members, the ruling party BNP unilaterally passed the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026 in Parliament. This law, enacted by the government, creates the risk of turning the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into an institution subservient to the government, as was the case during the rule of Sheikh Hasina. The Act does not comply with the Paris Principles. Under the Paris Principles, the NHRC must have the authority to investigate allegations of human rights violations by security forces and be able to hear any testimony and obtain any information it requires. Section 19 of the Act stipulates that the Commission cannot investigate, on its own initiative, allegations of human rights violations committed by a law enforcement agency or any of its members. Odhikar believes that, as in the past, investigations conducted by the relevant law enforcement agencies will consequently fail to be impartial and fair, allowing members of the accused forces to enjoy impunity.
6. The Paris Principles provide clear guidelines regarding the appointment of members of the NHRC. However, under Section 7 of the Act, the nine-member Selection Committee includes the Speaker of Parliament, two government ministers, a Member of Parliament from the ruling party, and the Cabinet Secretary. Of the four other members provided for under the Act, the government effectively controls the nomination of three. The Act stipulates that two of these members will be nominated by the President and one by the University Grants Commission, which is also a government entity. Furthermore, the Selection Committee has no specific provision for women's representation, which is discriminatory and contrary to the Paris Principles.

7. Furthermore, certain provisions of this Act run counter to the long-standing public demand for an independent and effective NHRC and the spirit of the July Mass Uprising. They are also inconsistent with the standards established by the internationally recognised Paris Principles.

Special Response Battalion (SRB) established to replace RAB

8. The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), established by the BNP during its time in power in 2004, has been accused of widespread human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings. These violations reached alarming proportions during the Awami League government, prompting the United States to impose sanctions on RAB. Against this backdrop, and amid criticism from civil society and human rights defenders, the BNP government abolished RAB but subsequently established the Special Response Battalion (SRB) along similar lines by passing the Special Response Battalion (SRB) Act, 2026, in Parliament on 15 September.
9. Under the SRB Act, the SRB will function as a specialised unit under the police force. The government will establish the unit by assigning or deputing a specified number of officers, armed personnel, or employees from the police and other law enforcement agencies, as required. The Act stipulates that the existing personnel, powers, authority, privileges, funds, property, accounts, records, and other assets of the dissolved RAB will be transferred to the SRB. RAB officers and employees will also be considered members of the new unit. RAB's legal immunities, contracts, and ongoing lawsuits, whether instituted by or against it, will likewise continue under the name of the SRB.[48]
10. This is just RAB under a different name. Past experience shows that the establishment of specialised forces outside the conventional law enforcement framework can lead to widespread persecution of opposition leaders and activists, as well as individuals holding dissenting voice and human rights defenders. Both the Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini and the Rapid Action Battalion have become examples associated with crimes against humanity.

Section B: Human Rights Violations by Security Forces

Enforced disappearances

11. Following the July Mass Uprising and the assumption of power by the BNP government after the February 2026 elections, an incident of enforced disappearance occurred in April, raising serious concerns among survivors of enforced disappearance, the families of the disappeared, and human rights defenders.
    - Miraj Sheikh of Bagerhat became the first victim of enforced disappearance following the BNP's assumption of power. He was allegedly taken away by men in plain clothes who said they were members of the Coast Guard, on the night of 10 April 2026. However, at a

[48] Prothom Alo, 3 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/68iolyunwm

discussion meeting marking the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, in the presence of Miraj Sheikh's family members, stated that Miraj Sheikh had not been subjected to enforced disappearance. He also labelled Miraj Sheikh and his family as "pirates". To date, no information has been found regarding Miraj Sheikh's whereabouts.

- At approximately 8:30 pm on 26 August, several individuals in plain clothes identifying themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police reportedly detained former Dhaka Metropolitan (North) Juba Dal member and businessman Shamim Khan from in front of a UCB Bank ATM booth in the South Bishil area of Mirpur-1, Dhaka. According to his wife, Arabi Sultana, family members searched for him at various police stations and DB offices following the incident, but authorities denied having him in custody. When Arabi attempted to file a General Diary (GD) at Darus Salam Police Station on 27 August regarding his whereabouts, police refused to accept the complaint. On the afternoon of 28 August, she learned that Shamim was being held in DB custody. On 29 August, police filed an arms case against Shamim, formally showed him arrested in that case, and produced him before a court, which subsequently ordered that he be sent to jail custody. When Shamim was brought before the court on 3 September, police sought an 11-day remand for interrogation. The court instead authorized questioning at the jail gate. According to available information, DB police later submitted their report without conducting any interrogation. On 26 September, Shamim Khan was released from prison on bail.[49]

12. On 29 August 2026, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman handed over appointment letters for jobs to 74 individuals from families of victims of enforced disappearance, and families of those killed during the July Uprising, on behalf of the BNP government. The event was conducted by Atikur Rahman Rumon, Convener of '*Amra BNP Paribar*'[50] and Additional Press Secretary to the Prime Minister.[51] Other victim families expressed disappointment, alleging that family members affiliated with the BNP had been given priority in the selection process for these appointments.

Torture and custodial deaths, degrading treatment, and lack of accountability by law enforcement agencies

13. The interim government issued the Police Commission Ordinance, 2025 to prevent law enforcement agencies from being used for political purposes.[52] However, the Ordinance lapsed after the BNP failed to pass it in Parliament. As a result, law enforcement personnel

[49] Information collected by Odhikar.
[50] Translation: 'We are BNP family'.
[51] Jago News 24, 29 August 2026: https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/1151839?shem=aimgspe
[52] Prothom Alo, 7 April 2026; https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/aglqsksunp

continue to be involved in human rights violations and enjoy impunity, as in the past. During Sheikh Hasina's Awami League rule, individuals were often arrested by men in plainclothes and disappeared. This practice of arrests made by individuals in plainclothes, is now reportedly re-emerging. Furthermore, allegations have emerged that large amounts of money are being transacted through syndicates in exchange for recruitment, promotions, and postings in the police force. The police have also demonstrated a deplorable lack of capacity to address the law and order situation effectively.[53]

14. During this period, various allegations were reported against law enforcement personnel, including for excluding the principal accused from a charge sheet[54], being arrested with Yaba tablets[55], implicating a BNP activist in a case by falsely identifying him as an Awami League leader[56], pressuring a complainant to remove an accused person's name from a First Information Report (FIR)[57], and releasing a detained Swechchhasebak League[58] leader from a police station through bribery, in collusion with a JCD leader.[59] Some other reported incidents are as follows:

- On 3 August 2026, a 14-year-old school student named Mohammad Rimon from Ramgati, Lakshmipur, was accused in a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 for joining a march organised by banned Chhatra League (student wing of AL). His age was recorded as 19 in the FIR, and he was subsequently produced before a court and sent to jail.[60] The court later granted him bail subject to certain conditions.
- On 19 September 2026, police arrested Kolim Uddin, the 65-year-old father of Jubo League activist Rifat, after failing to apprehend Rifat himself in Dhamrai, Dhaka.[61]



Arrested Kolim Uddin, father of Jubo League activist Rifat. Photo: The Daily Star, 20 September 2026.

[53] Manabzamin, 5 September 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/article/38961
[54] Jugantor, 24 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1130875
[55] Samakal, 25 August 2026; https://samakal.com/capital/article/369455/
[56] Jugantor, 4 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1136101
[57] Naya Diganta, 2 August 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/1dgfdec81E69
[58] Voluntary wing of Awami League
[59] Jugantor, 25 September 2026; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2026-09-25/11/link_img_second_ed_1790299028_4.jpg
[60] Jugantor, 5 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1136246
[61] The Daily Star, 20 September 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3963041

15. In some cases, while conducting parallel investigations of a single incident, law enforcement agencies arrest other individuals and subsequently claim that those arrested were also involved in the said incident. This practice creates the risk of innocent people becoming victims of wrongful arrest and prosecution.[62]
16. The continued occurrence of torture and inhuman treatment in the custody of law enforcement and intelligence agencies is attributable to the failure to implement the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.
    - On 8 September 2026, police arrested a woman named Nadia Begum (38) during an anti-drug operation in Bakerganj, Barishal. On the following day, 9 September, while she was being sent to prison through a court, after being shown as arrested in a drug-related case, Nadia Begum died. Her husband, Enamul Haque Montu Gazi, alleged that after her arrest, police took his wife to the police station and subjected her to physical and psychological torture. He claimed that the torture had caused her death. The police, however, stated that Nadia Begum had died after falling ill.[63]
    - On 20 September 2026, a man called Arman was allegedly beaten by police and suffered a broken leg when he went to the police station in Araihazar under Narayanganj District. Arman had gone to visit his father, Anwar Hossain, who was being held on remand. Arman alleged that his father had been arrested in a murder case and taken into remand by the Araihazar police. After learning of his father's detention, Arman went to the police station, where Sub-Inspector Ruhul Amin told him that Tk 2,000 had been spent on bringing his father from court to the police station and covering his food expenses. When Ruhul Amin demanded this money from Arman and he refused to pay, the police beat him and broke his leg.[64]



Police broke Arman Hossain's leg by beating him at the police station gate for refusing to pay a bribe. Photo: Jugantor, 22 September 2026

[62] Prothom Alo, 17 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/2nhedteo9q
[63] Jugantor, 11 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1152834
[64] Jugantor, 22 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1158117

Deaths in police custody

17. During these three months, incidents occurred in which accused persons died while in police custody. In two cases, the police claimed that the individuals had died by committing suicide while in custody.
    - On 9 July 2026, police at Nikli Police Station in Kishoreganj District claimed that Rubel Mia, an accused arrested in a drug-related case, had committed suicide inside the police lock-up, using the shirt he was wearing.[65]
    - On 19 July 2026, the Detective Branch (DB) police claimed that Asaduzzaman, a suspect in a murder case who was in their custody, had committed suicide by tying his lungi[66] around the ventilation of the lock-up's toilet in Bogura.[67]

Section C: State Repression and Repressive Laws

Violation of the right to freedom of expression

18. Freedom of expression was curtailed during the three months of this reporting period. Cases were filed and accused arrested and sent to prison under the Cyber Security Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 over "indecent" remarks about the Prime Minister on Facebook. During this reporting period, allegations were also received that police and prison authorities had tortured accused individuals while they were in custody. In Dhaka, a man was beaten to death over a Facebook post.[68]
    - On 3 September 2026, police from Gachha Police Station in Gazipur arrested Sifat Abdullah (20), an activist of Inqilab Mancha, over Facebook posts concerning exorbitant electricity bills, in which he made derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and individuals associated with the government. Although Sifat was detained over the remarks, he was shown as arrested in an earlier case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009, and subsequently sent to prison through a court order.[69] The court rejected Sifat's bail applications on two occasions.[70]

[65] Samakal, 11 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/361837/

[66] A traditional garment worn mainly by men in Bangladesh and other parts of South Asia, consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth wrapped around the waist and extending to the ankles.

[67] Prothom Alo, 19 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/dr0uhd6gea

[68] Samakal, 26 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/374715/

[69] Prothom Alo, 4 September 2026. https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/zed1cpbsgt

[70] The Daily Star, 22 September 2026. https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news-3963806



NCP leaders and activists staged a sit-in at the police station demanding the release of Sifat Abdullah arrested in Gazipur over allegations of making derogatory remarks. Photo: Prothom Alo, 4 September 2026

- On 18 September 2026, police arrested two individuals—Sanjay Kumar Das in Meherpur and Mehedi Ahmed in Sylhet—for allegedly making derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Facebook. Cases were filed against both individuals under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.[71]
- On 19 September 2026, police arrested Humayun Kabir Duke (21) in Sundarganj, Gaibandha, under the Cyber Security Act, for posting 'objectionable' comments about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Facebook.[72]
- On 27 September 2026, police arrested Ashraful Islam Sajal, a member of the National Citizen Party (NCP) in Gazipur, for posting 'anti-government' content on Facebook concerning excessive electricity bills. Although the arrest was reportedly linked to allegations of derogatory remarks, he was sent to prison through a court order in connection with a previously filed case under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.[73]

Situation of freedom of the media

19. During these three months, allegations of various forms of harassment and repression against journalists have been reported in connection with news gathering and publication. These include the filing of cases, assaults, arrests[74], attempted murder[75], torture and threats allegedly perpetrated by government officials[76], police[77], and BNP leaders and activists.[78]

[71] Samakal, 20 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/373721/
[72] BanglaNews24.com, 20 September 2026. https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/1681683.details
[73] Samakal, 29 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/375318/
[74] *Jugantor*, 23 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1130609
[75] *Amar Desh*, 16 July 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amdz293q5e76e
[76] Jugantor, 9 July 2026; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2026-07-09/10/link_img_second_ed_1783557710_2.jpg and *NTV*, 8 July 2026; https://www.ntvbd.com/bangladesh/news-1767841?amp
[77] *Amar Desh*, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/capital/amdbj6wodmhb3

During this period, journalists covering clashes between JCD and Chhatra Shibir[79] and between leaders and activists of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami[80] in different parts of the country were also subjected to attacks.[81]



Two journalists were injured during a clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir. Photo: Amar Desh, 4 August 2026.



Bijoy TV's Jazira correspondent, Jewel Mia, was assaulted for filming an attack by leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations, on a Jamaat-e-Islami programme organised in Jazira to mark the July Mass Uprising Day. Photo: Amar Desh, 6 August 2026.

- On 17 July 2026, Shahriar Alam Sohag, Kaliganj correspondent for *Jugantor*, and Mishon Ali, Jhenaidah district correspondent for Nagorik TV, were attacked by Jalal Uddin, Joint Convenor of the Upazila Krishak Dal[82], in the presence of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kaliganj Police Station in Jhenaidah, while they were gathering news at

[78] *Naya Diganta*, 5 July 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/dNW2yH7RCyir and *Jugantor*, 18 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1128511
[79] *Amar Desh*, 4 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/education/campus/amdaqecc8j2yh
[80] *Amar Desh*, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd2te0xo8cip
[81] *Amar Desh*, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/rangpur/amdeky1huzn3u
[82] Farmer wing of BNP

the police station. Both injured journalists were admitted to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex.[83]



Krishak Dal Leader attacked two journalists in front of Officer-in-Charge (OC). Photo: Jugantor, 18 July 2026.

- On 25 August 2026, Arifuzzaman Mollah, former president of the district Jubo Dal[84], along with several other party activists, allegedly attacked and beat three journalists while they were performing their professional duties in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shariatpur. The journalists were Bidhan Majumder Oni, district correspondent for News24; Zahid Hasan Rony, Shariatpur and Madaripur correspondent for *The Daily Star*; and Barkatullah, district correspondent for the daily *Edin*. After assaulting them, the Jubo Dal leader reportedly remarked, "You write about us, and we will beat you up."[85]



Jubo Dal leader Arifuzzaman Mollah. Photo: Samakal, 25 August 2026.

- Rafiur Rahman, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Roumari Upazila in Kurigram District, had been asked various questions, including about land mutation, by Rafiqul

[83] *Jugantor*, 18 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1128511
[84] Youth wing of Awami League
[85] *Samakal*, 25 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/369602/

Islam Saju, Roumari Upazila correspondent for *Manabzamin*, for the purpose of preparing a news report. In response, on 3 September, Rafiur Rahman, accompanied by police and Ansar personnel, conducted a search of Rafiqul Islam Saju's house under the pretext of recovering drugs. However, no drugs were found.[86]

- On 21 September 2026, Nasir Uddin, Kachua correspondent for the daily *Pratidiner Bangladesh*, and his young daughter, who was accompanying him, were allegedly attacked by Suman Patowary, an individual accused of rape, and his associates in Kachua, Chandpur, following the publication of a report on the rape. Nasir Uddin, who sustained serious injuries, was admitted to Cumilla Medical College Hospital.[87]



Injured journalist Nasir Uddin. Photo: Jugantor, 22 September 2026.

20. **According to information collected by Odhikar, from July to September 2026, one journalist was tortured, 22 were injured, 13 were assaulted and 16 were subjected to threats while performing their professional duties.**

Violation of right to freedom of assembly

21. During the period from July to September, opposition political parties faced obstructions to their meetings and rallies. In most cases, incidents of barriers, attacks and threats against political gatherings, were reportedly carried out by leaders and activists of the ruling party BNP and its affiliated organisations.[88] During this period, BNP leaders and activists also attacked opposition parties' programmes organised to mark the July Mass Uprising Day.[89]

[86] *Manabzamin*, 4 September 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/article/38465
[87] *Jugantor*, 22 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1158406
[88] Samakal, 23 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/374235/
[89] Samakal, 6 August 2026; https://samakal.com/politics/article/366336/

Journalists covering these events were also subjected to attacks.[90] On 4 July, while Jamaat-e-Islami was preparing to hold a protest procession in Gulistan, Dhaka, against extortion and land grabbing by the BNP, BNP associates launched an attack on them, injuring 15–20 people.[91] some more incidents are as follows:



The National Citizen Party (NCP) held a protest procession in Chattogram to protest the increase in fuel prices. Photo: Samakal, 23 September 2026.

- On 28 July 2026, local BNP leaders and activists attacked a procession organised by the NCP in Habiganj, injuring at least 10 people, including two senior NCP leaders, Sarjis Alam and Nasiruddin Patwary.[92]



NCP leaders, including Sarjis Alam, were injured in an attack by BNP. Photo: Ittefaq, 28 July 2026

[90] Amar Desh, 6 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd2te0xo8cip
[91] Amar Desh, 5 July 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/politics/amdz6qnxqjgxs
[92] The Daily Star, 28 July 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news-3947106

- On 30 July 2026, after attending an exchange of views meeting between NCP leaders and family members of those killed during the July Mass Uprising, at the Golapganj Municipality Auditorium in Sylhet, NCP Chief Organiser (Northern Region) Sarjis Alam was returning from the event when JCD leaders and activists attacked the vehicle carrying him.[93]
- On 5 August 2026, during an event organised at Government Titumir College in Dhaka, to mark the July Mass Uprising Day, JCD leaders and activists attacked and assaulted members of Chhatra Shakti, the student organisation affiliated with the NCP.[94]
- On 17 August 2026, members of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement organised a rally in Habiganj town along with the general public, to protest against load-shedding, gas crisis and rising commodity prices. The police detained three people, including Mahdi Hasan, Member Secretary of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, on the grounds that permission for the rally had not been obtained from the administration. As a result, the protest rally was disrupted.[95]



Anti-Discrimination Student Movement' Member-Secretary Mahdi Hasan arrested by police during a rally in Habiganj. Photo: Samakal, 17 August 2026.

Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026

22. The government has recently drafted the Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026. The Information and Communication Technology Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology has already published the draft

[93] Prothom Alo, 31 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/rl01svjg2d
[94] Prothom Alo, 5 Augus 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/tcv4rru5ew
[95] Samakal, 17 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/368255/

amendments. The proposed Cyber Security (Amendment) Act 2026 contains several provisions that pose serious threats to citizens' fundamental rights, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression.

23. The draft proposes a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment or a fine of BDT 4 million for offences including defamation, disparagement, bullying, spreading rumours, and disseminating misinformation. The vague and overly broad definitions of these terms create opportunities for the misuse of the law and the suppression of dissent. At the same time, the incomplete definitions of sexual harassment and sextortion put the protection of victims' rights at risk.
24. The draft law proposes classifying vaguely defined offences relating to national security and friendly relations with foreign states, as non-bailable offences. It also proposes establishing a 28-member Cyber Security Council, which will include the Prime Minister, and only two experts from the non-governmental sector specialising in information technology or human rights. This would limit the representation of independent experts and strengthen government control over the Council, raising concerns about its independence and accountability.[96]
25. At a consultation meeting held at the Secretariat on 28 September 2026, journalists and representatives of the media expressed concerns about the potential misuse of the law.[97]

- On 31 July 2026, following an attack on an NCP public meeting in Sylhet, Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir, Joint Member Secretary of the NCP, published an offensive post on Facebook about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. He subsequently deleted the post and apologized for his act. The NCP then relieved him of his party responsibilities.[98] Despite this, on 5 August, the Bogura District Detective Branch of Police arrested Tanvir in Dhaka. Maftun Ahmed, President of the Bogura Sadar Upazila BNP, filed a case against him with Bogura Police Station under the Cyber Security Act.[99] After being released on bail on 15 September, Tanvir stated that he had been tortured in prison and during remand following his arrest. He alleged that he had been held in an extremely unhygienic cell in Bogura District Jail without adequate light or ventilation. He further alleged that he had been deprived of sleep while in custody and that he had been subjected to at least 70–80 injections.[100] According to his account, he was not informed of the type of medication being administered or the purpose of the injections.

[96] Samakal, 14 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/372681/
[97] Samakal, 29 September 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/375263/
[98] The Daily Observer, 25 September 2026; https://bn.observerbd.com/news/145144
[99] Samakal, 5 August 2026; https://samakal.com/rajshahi/article/366246/
[100] Prothom Alo, 25 September 2026: https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/reljk8dxoc

Section D: Other Violations of Rights

Provisions of the death penalty

26. The death penalty remains in force under various criminal laws in Bangladesh. Despite the availability of alternative sentences under the law, lower courts continue to impose death sentences. During police remand, accused persons are subjected to torture and coerced into making confessional statements, and courts often impose the maximum penalty on the basis of these confessions. Due to weaknesses in Bangladesh's criminal justice system, there is a risk that even innocent individuals may be sentenced to death.
    - On 2 March 2020, Detective Branch (DB) Police in Cox's Bazar arrested five individuals with 190,000 yaba tablets. According to the First Information Report (FIR), the second accused was Romzan, also known as Sona Mia, son of Nazir Ahmed of Cox's Bazar Municipality. However, following his arrest, Romzan alias Sona Mia provided police with the name and address of another individual known as Sona Mia instead of his own identity. On 13 June 2022, Romzan alias Sona Mia was released on bail by the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge Court and subsequently went into hiding. In November 2025, the court delivered its verdict in the case, sentencing two of the five accused, including Sona Mia, to death[101]. Following the verdict, on 23 June 2026, RAB-15 arrested the other Sona Mia and sent him to Cox's Bazar Prison through the court. Upon his arrival, prison authorities placed him in a condemned cell. However, Sona Mia submitted a written complaint to the Jail Superintendent stating that he was not the person accused in the case. A subsequent police investigation found that the Sona Mia arrested with yaba tablets in 2020 and the Sona Mia arrested in 2026 as a death-row convict were not the same person. Nevertheless, the innocent Sona Mia remained confined in a condemned cell for two months.[102]

27. **During the three-month period from July to September 2026, the lower courts sentenced 85 individuals to death.**

Prisons condition and human rights of prisoners

28. Prisons across the country remain overcrowded, with the number of inmates exceeding their designated capacity.[103] The 75 prisons across the country have a total capacity of 45,186 inmates. However, as of 18 September, the total prison population stood at 104,617.[104]

[101] https://www.thedailystar.net/news/crime-justice/news/sentenced-die-another-mans-crime-4247906
[102] Amar Desh, 13 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdchy0zqkr8m
[103] Samakal, 19 September 2026; https://samakal.com/index.php/law-justice/article/373563/
[104] Amar Desh, 16 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdamq44frp2s

29. Despite longstanding allegations of widespread irregularities and corruption in Bangladesh's prisons, no effective remedial measures have been taken. Various allegations of corruption have been reported, including inmates staying comfortably in hospital facilities in exchange for bribes, despite not being ill, and being accommodated in cells of their choice. Prison authorities have also been accused of forcing detainees to perform various tasks if they fail to pay bribes. However, there are no provisions requiring inmates, other than convicted prisoners, to perform work.[105] During this reporting period, allegations were also raised that a prisoner had been tortured to death in custody.
    - On 23 August 2026, a dispute broke out over water between inmate Sohag and other detainees at Cox's Bazar District Jail. Taking this as a pretext, prison guards Sharif, Yusuf and Kaiyum, along with Subedar Saiful, allegedly seized Sohag, took him to the case table and beat him. Sohag lost consciousness at the scene. He was subsequently taken to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital, where the hospital authorities declared him dead. Upon seeing marks of physical assault on Sohag's body, his family members alleged that he had been tortured to death. However, the prison authorities stated that Sohag had died of a heart attack. Three days after the incident, Mizanur Rahman, an accused person from Rajakhali area of Pekua Upazila, who had been released on bail, stated that Sohag had been beaten to death.[106]
30. Reportedly, the number of deaths among inmates in prisons increased during July–September. According to prison authorities, inmates are dying because of a shortage of doctors. Across all prisons, there are only two permanent doctors to serve the large number of prisoners. In addition, due to inadequate medical supplies, the absence of specialised hospitals within prisons, staff shortages at existing prison hospitals, and other constraints, seriously ill inmates have to be transferred outside prison facilities for treatment.[107] Many inmates might have survived if immediate medical treatment had been available in prison hospitals. Prisoners may also die while being transported from prisons to hospitals.[108]
31. Due to traffic congestions and long distances, prisoners being transported between prisons and courts have to remain inside prison vans for hours at a time, sometimes for as long as seven to eight hours. As the vans have no toilet facilities, prisoners suffer from considerable discomfort and health problems. The situation is particularly distressing for women inmates. The absence of toilets in prison vans also creates security risks.
    - On 27 September, a prisoner escaped with the assistance of the police when a prison van was stopped on the road to allow the prisoner to get out to urinate.[109]

[105] Bangladesh Pratidin, 16 August 2026; https://www.bd-pratidin.com/first-page/2026/08/16/1288468
[106] Report submitted by a human rights defender from Cox's Bazar associated with Odhikar.
[107] Amar Desh, 16 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdamq44frp2s
[108] Prothom Alo, 30 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/8kf7pilk7n
[109] Naya Diganta, 30 September 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/post/other/1057410

32. **During the three-month period from July to September 2026, a total of 30 individuals reportedly died in prisons. Of these, one died allegedly due to torture and 29 died due to 'illness'.**

Use of handcuffs and fetters on prisoners

33. During the Sheikh Hasina regime, law enforcement agencies and prison authorities subjected opposition leaders and activists to various forms of torture and ill-treatment. These included keeping dissenters in shackles inside prisons as a means of punishment and subjugation, as well as keeping hospitalised prisoners receiving medical treatment, and critically ill detainees in shackles. When such incidents were brought to its attention, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court issued an order stating that ill prisoners must not be handcuffed or placed in bar fetters while receiving treatment in hospital. Their human rights must be protected even if they are accused of an offence.[110]
    - On 5 August 2026, Mizanur Rahman Monir Khan, a member of the Awami League from Patuakhali District, died in hospital while in police custody and receiving medical treatment. At the time of his death, a handcuff and rope were visible on his right hand.[111]

Section E: Political Violence, Etc.

Political violence and criminal activities

34. During these three months, widespread allegations of criminal activities and violence have been reported against BNP and its affiliated organisations. The country's law and order situation deteriorated severely during this period. In Dhaka, various incidents reportedly took place under the protection of the ruling party, including the vandalism of a studio by armed individuals openly carrying firearms and locally made weapons[112], forcible occupation of a house[113], the demolition of the Radda MCH-FP Centre, a healthcare facility[114], and extortion.[115] Several other incidents were also reported.[116] Allegations of police inaction during the attack on the Radda MCH-FP Centre were raised.[117]
    - Following her alleged involvement in the attack on the Radda MCH-FP Centre, Ferdousi Ahmed Misty, a BNP Member of Parliament representing a reserved seat for women,

[110] https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/fetters-only-militants-top-criminals-hc-3532436
[111] Samakal, 9 August 2026; https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/366819/
[112] Prothom Alo, 27 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/4vvfrnd75m
[113] Prothom Alo, 27 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/oj4tfulqlr
[114] Samakal, 26 September 2026; https://samakal.com/capital/article/374724/
[115] Amar Desh, 28 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/national/amdrktjejzqmo
[116] Amar Desh, 27 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/national/amdbmt4zmozpf
[117] Jugantor, 27 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/national/1160767

resigned at the direction of the Prime Minister.[118] 19 individuals linked to BNP have been arrested in connection with the incident.[119] Furthermore, allegations have emerged that juvenile gangs, operating under the protection of the BNP and its affiliated organisations, have become extensively involved in various criminal activities, including mugging[120] and drug trafficking.[121]

35. During this period, various allegations were reported against BNP leaders and activists, including assaults on complainants for refusing to withdraw cases[122], hacking and injuring of a NCP leader[123], killing of a young man after he was intercepted by a group that had erected a road blockade[124], vandalism of a courtroom and a judge's private chambers[125], vandalism of a police station[126], attack on a police officer inside a police station[127], coercion of a businessman into signing cheques and stamp papers[128], attacks on and looting of a madrasa[129], occupation of government land for shop construction[130], attacks on and vandalism of the home of an Awami League leader, followed by arson[131], land grabbing, demands for extortion money and death threats[132], attacks on a health complex[133], hacking of a leaseholder with sharp weapons after extortion demands were not met[134], extortion from street vendors on footpaths[135], drug trafficking[136], attacks on protesting workers[137], abduction and assault of a teacher[138], beating of a journalist for refusing to pay extortion money[139], and

[118] BBC Bangla, 1 October 2026; https://www.bbc.com/bengali/articles/ckeq8qygdg74o
[119] https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/699cng5qc3
[120] Amar Desh, 30 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdf29ic9j2a7
[121] Jugantor, 24 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1159095 and Jugantor, 26 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1159870
[122] Jugantor, 3 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1121592
[123] Manabzamin, 7 September 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/article/39190
[124] Khaborer Kagoj, 4 September 2026; https://www.khaborerkagoj.com/country/935563
[125] Samakal, 9 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/366966/
[126] Jugantor, 22 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1157883
[127] Naya Diganta, 10 August 2026; https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/FBDFxW7hUvsy
[128] Amar Desh, 6 July 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/barisal/amdtrbz7ajs87
[129] The Daily Star, 28 September 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3965531
[130] Jugantor, 30 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1161929
[131] Samakal, 27 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/374878/ and Jugantor, 30 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1161956
[132] Naya Diganta, 4 August 2026; https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/e5YgOhBWzj4O
[133] Jugantor, 6 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1123065
[134] Jugantor, 21 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1143301
[135] Prothom Alo, 12 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/4oelbmctpb
[136] Jugantor, 24 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1144795
[137] Amar Desh, 25 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/barisal/amdx1qu0xzrn0
[138] Amar Desh, 15 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/rajshahi/amd70nm8sx5bp

the forcible removal of July Uprising participants from an event commemorating the July Mass Uprising after they were assaulted by BNP leaders and activists.[140]

Internal factional clashes within the BNP

36. During this reporting period, clashes broke out among leaders and activists of BNP in various parts of the country amid disputes over establishing supremacy and control. Violent altercations were also reported in different parts of the country while BNP members were observing the party's founding anniversary on 1 September.[141] During this period, clashes occurred between supporters of two BNP Members of Parliament in Panchagarh. Firearms[142] and various other lethal weapons, including crude bombs, were reportedly used during these clashes. The disputes over establishing dominance reportedly stemmed from control over drug trafficking[143], extortion[144], dredging business, extortion involving land and vehicles[145], formation of new Jubo Dal committees[146], formation of school committees[147], control over markets, bus terminals and tenders, dominance in the sand trade[148], and the occupation of water bodies.[149] These clashes resulted in casualties among BNP leaders and activists[150] as well as members of the general public.[151] Journalists were also attacked and injured while gathering information about the clashes.[152]
    - On 10 August, a 75-year-old BNP activist named Mannan Sardar was killed when a crude bomb exploded during clashes between two BNP factions in Jazira under Shariatpur District. The clashes reportedly centered on political influence and the establishment of supremacy in the locality. Ten people from both factions were injured in the incident, including one person whose right wrist was severed.[153]

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[139] Prothom Alo, 13 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/z5rq070ssg
[140] Prothom Alo, 5 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/1ik5sv68tl
[141] Ittefaq, 2 September 2026; https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/807617/
[142] Amar Desh, 10 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amdrl7kg869gk
[143] Jugantor, 29 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1161303
[144] Amar Desh, 12 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/politics/bnp/amdcsri72caaq
[145] Samakal, 4 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/371087/
[146] Jugantor, 29 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1146495
[147] Jugantor, 2 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1148736
[148] Amar Desh, 30 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amdw5e79z3ijv
[149] Jugantor, 26 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1160054
[150] Jugantor, 16 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/capital/1141006
[151] Amar Desh, 18 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/amd08sveikb27
[152] Samakal, 2 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/370872/
[153] BanglaNews24, 10 August 2026; https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/1673084.details

Violence and criminal activities by the Awami League

37. Following the ousting of the Sheikh Hasina government during the 2024 July Mass Uprising, the interim government banned all activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, until the International Crimes Tribunal completed the trials of its leaders and activists for committing crimes against humanity and other acts of violence. Following the national parliamentary elections held in February 2026, BNP came to power and passed the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, maintaining the ban on the Awami League's activities. The Awami League has shown no remorse or offered any apology for the enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, and the massacres committed during the July 2024 Mass Uprising. Instead, it has continued to issue threatening statements through various social media platforms. Furthermore, Awami League leaders and activists who benefited from the party's rule and are now residing abroad, have reportedly been inciting ordinary party members still in the country to engage in various acts of violence.[154] As a result, Awami League leaders and activists have reportedly been creating unrest in different parts of the country, exploding bombs in various locations, and setting buses and trains on fire.[155]
    - On the night of 18 September 2026, several crude bombs exploded in front of the Jatrabari Police Station in Dhaka. In connection with the incident, police arrested four individuals linked to the Awami League. The arrested individuals reportedly stated that they had conducted crude bomb explosions on the instructions of senior Awami League leaders.[156] On 25 September, in connection with the cocktail bomb explosions in front of the Jatrabari Police Station in Dhaka, police arrested a Jubo League leader named Zahid Hasan Imon. A large quantity of materials for making crude bombs, explosive equipment, and 9,000 paper masks were reportedly recovered in the operation.[157]
    - Actress Azmeri Haque Badhon was attacked in Italy by Awami League leaders and activists living there, because of her participation in the July Mass Uprising.[158]

Clashes, violence and criminal activities involving other political parties, and intra-party conflicts

38. During these three months, allegations of extortion were reported against leaders of political parties including Jamaat-e-Islami[159] and the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad (Students' Rights

[154] Amar Desh, 18 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/amd3n6ndzdgw5
[155] Prothom Alo, 11 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/incm0w8i9s
[156] Amar Desh, 21 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/politics/amdou79u0gy5h
[157] Naya Diganta, 26 September 2026; https://dailynayadiganta.com/post/other/1056360
[158] Jugantor, 8 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/national/1151776
[159] Jugantor, 10 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1138724

Council).[160] A court sent Nazrul Islam, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader in Satkhira, to prison over allegations of extortion. During this reporting period, clashes occurred between leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations and those of Jamaat-e-Islami[161], Chhatra Shibir[162], and NCP. Clashes were also reported between activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and the Gono Odhikar Parishad.[163] Furthermore, internal factional disputes led to clashes between two groups within the NCP[164] and two factions of the Gono Odhikar Parishad.[165]

39. Across the country, clashes occurred between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Shibir at educational institutions with residential facilities, as both groups sought to establish dominance and control over campus premises.[166] In one incident, JCD activists attacked leaders of Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Shakti while they were receiving treatment in a hospital.[167] Other incidents are as follows:
    - On 6 July 2026, three people were killed in a clash between activists of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), two regional organisations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The clash occurred in Panchhari, Khagrachhari District, over the establishment of territorial dominance.[168]
    - On 4 August 2026, clashes broke out between leaders and activists of JCD and Chhatra Shibir at Jagannath University, Dhaka College, and Alia Madrasa in Dhaka over attempts to establish dominance on the respective campuses.[169]
40. **From July to September 2026, at least 27 people were killed and 1090 injured in political violence. During these three months, 45 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP, one incident within NCP and another incident within Gono Odhikar Parishad were recorded. Reports indicate that internal conflicts within the BNP resulted in 04 deaths and 480 injuries, while internal conflicts within the NCP and Gono Odhikar Parishad resulted in 07 injuries and 06 injuries respectively.**

Public lynching

41. Incidents of public lynching resulting in deaths, continued during the reporting period. In most cases, people were beaten to death by mobs on suspicion of theft.[170] Other victims were

[160] Jugantor, 25 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1144921
[161] Jugantor, 2 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1134809
[162] Samakal, 4 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/366004 and Jugantor, 4 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/campuses/1135873
[163] New Age, 16 August 2026; https://www.newagebd.net/post/politics/309999/jamaat-gono-odhikar-clash-in-kushtia-injures-15
[164] Prothom Alo, 28 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ybwc9vyvhm
[165] Samakal, 4 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/366131/
[166] Samakal, 6 August 2026; https://samakal.com/politics/article/366336/
[167] Amar Desh, 4 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/education/campus/amdwx74z0if8s
[168] Prothom Alo, 6 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/9dhw5rge3q
[169] Prothom Alo, 5 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/iqo5834t3m

killed by mobs on suspicion of robbery[171], mugging[172], and child abduction.[173] Those killed by public lynching included a mentally ill individual. One of the most alarming aspects of public lynching is the creation of circumstances resembling a mob attack in order to kill individuals over personal enmity. During this period, a housewife was tied to a tree and beaten after being accused of theft.[174] Mobs often become extremely violent during such incidents. Some other examples are as follows:

- On 10 September 2026, in Dowarabazar, Sunamganj, a mob subjected three individuals to brutal violence over allegations of cattle theft, broke their legs and poured lime into their eyes, causing permanent eye damage.[175]
- On 4 July 2026, two young men were labelled as muggers, tied to an electricity pole, and beaten in the Masdair area of Narayanganj city. One of them subsequently died after being taken to hospital.[176]
- On 20 July 2026, Abul Khayer Patwari, a man with a mental health condition, was beaten to death by a mob, on suspicion of stealing an auto-rickshaw in Savar, Dhaka.[177]
- On 31 August 2026, in Bogura, a young man named Shamim Hossain was beaten to death by a mob on suspicions of theft. Shamim's family members alleged that a local Union Parishad member was involved in the killing. Local residents staged a protest in front of the local Union Parishad office in protest against the murder.[178]
- On 14 September 2026, Mohammad Faisal (26), a day labourer, was tied to an electricity pole and beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft in Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar. A video of the incident circulated on social media. The video showed the young man's hands tied to an electricity pole beside the road, with seven bricks placed on his back.[179]

42. **Between July and September 2026, a total of 22 people were killed in incidents of public lynching.**

[170] Naya Diganta, 3 August 2026; https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/802035/
[171] Jugantor, 1 August 2026
[172] Jugantor, 25 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1145041
[173] Samakal, 18 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/368447/
[174] Samakal, 21 August 2026; https://samakal.com/chittagong/article/368853/
[175] Jugantor, 10 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1152796
[176] Prothom Alo, 5 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/6iwhyu84y8
[177] Bangladesh Protidin, 22 July 2026; https://www.bd-pratidin.com/city-news/2026/07/22/1278177
[178] Dhaka Tribune, 1 September 2026; https://bangla.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/108681/
[179] Jugantor, 16 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1155445

Section F: Women's Rights

Restrictions on women travelling abroad

43. Article 36 of the Constitution of Bangladesh[180] guarantees citizens, regardless of gender, the right to freedom of movement. However, recently, three adult women who sought to travel to Nepal together on valid passports, all the necessary documents, air tickets, and hotel reservations, were stopped by immigration authorities. The authorities questioned why the women, being unmarried, were travelling abroad without any guardian. Subsequently, the three women submitted a written complaint to the Additional Inspector General of Police (Additional IGP) responsible for immigration. However, the Additional IGP did not respond to their complaint. Left with no alternative, the three women filed a Writ Petition with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. On 29 September, the High Court Division sought to know why the actions of the immigration authorities should not be declared to be unlawful act.[181]

Violence against women and children

44. During this reporting period, violence against women and children remained widespread. Due to shortcomings and delays in the justice system, perpetrators of violence against women and children often escape punishment, emboldening them to commit further acts of violence. Consequently, violence against women and children continues to increase, while victims are deprived of justice.

Rape

45. A total of 4,654 rape cases were recorded during the first eight months of 2026, the highest number in several years. However, it is safe to suggest that due to under-reporting, the actual number of rape incidents is higher than the number of cases filed. Police investigations have found the involvement of political party leaders and activists in some of these incidents.[182]
46. During this reporting period, a woman with a disability[183] was raped, and a child was murdered after being raped.[184] A woman was raped and subsequently murdered along with her one-year-old child, and their bodies were thrown into a river in Shibchar, Madaripur.[185] A

[180] Article 36 of the Constitution of Bangladesh: Subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest, every citizen shall have the right to move freely throughout Bangladesh, to reside and settle in any place therein and to leave and re-enter Bangladesh.
[181] Prothom Alo, 30 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/lifestyle/travel/20f0958fnf
[182] Amar Desh, 29 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/court-law/amdcofqm0md0h
[183] Jugantor, 22 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1143603
[184] Jugantor, 26 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1159972
[185] Jugantor, 22 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1143608

schoolgirl was raped and murdered by her classmate's father[186], while two housewives were reportedly raped after their children were taken hostage.[187] Schoolgirls were abducted and raped in Thakurgaon[188] and Faridpur.[189] A father committed suicide after failing to obtain justice for the rape of his daughter in Thakurgaon.[190] During this period, a young woman with a disability[191] and two dance artists[192] were also raped. Police arrested a NCP leader[193] and a JCD leader[194] on rape allegations. In Sonargaon, Narayanganj, allegations emerged that the wife of an expatriate was raped, filmed, and subsequently blackmailed and threatened with death.[195]

47. Although the High Court Division of the Supreme Court has directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures to prevent the settlement of rape cases through informal arbitration (*shalish*), influential local individuals and political leaders continue to settle rape cases through such arrangements and reportedly earn substantial amounts of money in the process.[196] In Netrokona Sadar Upazila, a 14-year-old schoolgirl was raped by content creator Ripon Mia. Instead of filing a formal case, the incident was settled through *shalish* at a local BNP office.[197] It is the state's responsibility to ensure justice for victims of rape and their families in such cases.
48. **During these three months, a total of 223 women and children were subjected to rape. Of these, 150 were girls and 73 were women. Among the 73 women, 23 were victims of gang rape, and 05 women were murdered after being raped. Among the 150 girls, 21 were victims of gang rape, and 05 were murdered after being raped.**

Sexual harassment/Stalking

49. During this reporting period, women were subjected to sexual harassment by men from various social and professional backgrounds. In Feni, a man was killed for protesting the stalking of his wife[198], while in Dhunat, Bogura, a father was beaten for protesting the stalking of his daughter.[199] In Rajshahi, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader was accused of sexually

[186] Prothom Alo, 14 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/3qfqsp2yi3
[187] The Daily Star, 22 September 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3963916 and Samakal, 24 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/374501/
[188] Jugantor, 7 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1123368
[189] Jugantor, 1 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1134342
[190] Jugantor, 7 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1123368
[191] Dhaka Mail, 4 September 2026; https://dhakamail.com/country/327622
[192] Prothom Alo, 12 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/mefsuo9ccv
[193] Samakal, 23 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/364082/
[194] Jugantor, 1 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1134743
[195] Sangbad 71 Bangladesh, 31 August 2026; https://sangbad71bangladesh.com/
[196] Prothom Alo, 1 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/n5v0ncowbj
[197] Prothom Alo, 4 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/yu0e8ut3po
[198] Jugantor, 27 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1132462
[199] Amar Desh, 5 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/rajshahi/amdrh7152dgpc

harassing a nine-year-old girl[200], while in Patuakhali, a BNP leader was accused of harassing a young woman.[201]

- On 19 August 2026, some outsiders made offensive and obscene remarks to three female students of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Dhaka while they were on campus. When members of Bangladesh Chhatra Union[202] protested the incident, the outsiders attacked them, injuring three people. The outsiders had come to the campus to participate in a procession organised by JCD.[203]

50. **Between July and September 2026, a total of 10 women and girls were subjected to sexual harassment. In addition, while protesting sexual harassment against women and children, one individual was killed.**

Dowry-Related Violence

51. During this reporting period, violence against women over dowry demands continued. The father of a married woman reportedly committed suicide after being threatened over a demand for Tk 2 million in dowry.[204] During this period, a woman was beaten to death with a hammer[205] and strangled to death for failing to meet dowry demands. A pregnant woman[206] was also among the victims of dowry-related killings and violence.[207]

- On 15 August 2026, in Kalai, Joypurhat, a married woman named Masuda Begum was subjected to severe violence by her husband, Mehedi Hasan, over dowry demands. On 21 August, Masuda Begum succumbed to her injuries while receiving treatment at a hospital.[208]

52. **From July to September 2026, a total of 26 women were victims of dowry-related violence. Of them, eight women were killed over dowry demands, four of them committed suicide, while 14 others were subjected to various forms of abuse.**

[200] Prothom Alo, 1 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ywz1mqbe0d
[201] Prothom Alo, 15 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/vydo1fnz5t
[202] Student wing of the Communist Party of Bangladesh
[203] Prothom Alo, 20 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/w3a6pah402
[204] Samakal, 5 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/360788/
[205] Jugantor, 2 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1135183
[206] Samakal, 6 July 2026; https://samakal.com/capital/article/360816/
[207] Bdnews24.comn, 14 September 2026; https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/74ea149943fa
[208] Prothom Alo, 22 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/8g4j5cren8

Section G: Workers' Rights

Situation of workers employed in the formal sector

53. From July to September 2026, a severe energy crisis affected the ready-made garment (RMG) industry, forcing many factories to shut down.[209] In addition, some factories have kept workers' wages unpaid for several months.[210] As a result, workers who have lost their jobs or have not received their wages, are being forced to live in inhumane conditions. During this period, a worker was killed in a fire at a garment factory in Ashulia, Dhaka. Furthermore, the management of Alliance Knit Composite, a garment factory in Savar, laid off 565 workers during a holiday period.[211] Some other examples are as follows:
    - On 12 August 2026, workers of BLP Warm Fashion Limited in Karnaphuli, Chattogram, staged a protest demanding payment of their outstanding wages.[212]
    - On 20 September 2026, a fire broke out at a garment factory belonging to the Pretty Group in Jamgora, Ashulia, Dhaka, killing seven people, including one woman, and injuring 15 others. The incident occurred when a gas cylinder exploded while cylinders were being unloaded from a covered van at the factory.[213]

Conditions of workers employed in the informal sector

54. During July–September 2026, workers employed in various other sectors also lost their lives while performing their jobs. They included construction workers[214], electricity workers[215], septic tank cleaners, etc. In addition, workers were dismissed from their jobs without prior notice.[216] Some examples are as follows:
    - On 16 July 2026, a fire broke out at the Confidence Salt Factory in Boalkhali, Chattogram, leaving 11 workers with burn injuries. Two of the injured workers subsequently died while receiving treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.[217]
    - On 18 July 2026, two workers died while cleaning a deep tank at the effluent treatment plant (ETP) of a factory named Excellent Ceramics in Bhaluka, Mymensingh.[218]
    - On 14 August 2026, nine workers were killed and 30 others injured due to a toxic gas leak, while cutting up a scrapped vessel at Ferdous Steel Shipbreaking Yard and

[209] Manabzamin, 7 July 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/article/26819
[210] Jugantor, 3 September 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1149163
[211] Manabzamin, 9 August 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/article/33063
[212] Amar Desh, 12 August 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amd8vo2p1yqdb
[213] Amar Desh, 21 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/dhaka/amd250ee94zgq
[214] Jugantor, 1 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1134663
[215] Jugantor, 5 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1122723
[216] Samakal, 18 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/363272/
[217] Jugantor, 17 July 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1128063
[218] Prothom Alo, 18 July 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/qhfrngd8xk

Recycling, a shipbreaking facility in Sitakunda, Chattogram. The accident occurred because the factory authorities proceeded with the cutting work without first purging the tank of gas.[219] Following the incident, the government formed separate inquiry committees comprising representatives of the Ministry of Industries and experts from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). According to BUET's inquiry report, the Department of Explosives had issued a certificate for the ship's tank in Bhatiari of Sitakunda, Chattogram, without inspecting the tank.[220] The Ministry of Industries' inquiry committee identified negligence on the part of the shipyard owner but it did not mention any negligence in the oversight and supervision exercised by government agencies.[221]

55. Child labour remains a practice. In Bhaluka, Mymensingh, children aged 11–14 were found engaged in difficult and hazardous work at engineering workshops.[222]
    - On 5 August 2026, a 14-year-old child worker named Mohammad Nazrul Islam was killed in an explosion while opening a chemical drum at a factory in Madaripur.[223]

Section H: Bangladesh–India Relations

56. Since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in the July Mass Uprising of 2024, the Indian ruling establishment has continued various activities aimed at undermining stability in Bangladesh, and has sought to maintain tensions along the Bangladesh-India border to exert political and economic pressure on the country. In this context, the Indian government has reportedly provided accommodation in a secured military residential area, to three former Bangladesh Army officers—dismissed Lieutenant General Md. Mujibur Rahman, Lieutenant General (Retd.) Akbar Hossain, and Major General Kabir Ahmad—who have been implicated in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and crimes against humanity in Bangladesh.[224] In addition, fugitive Awami League leaders accused of criminal offences, including former PM Sheikh Hasina, have continued to make inflammatory statements against Bangladesh while staying in India. On 5 August 2026, the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising, the Indian government allowed ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been sentenced to death for crimes against humanity (by the ICT in Bangladesh), to address a press conference in Delhi.

[219] Prothom Alo, 15 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/tp7swez638
[220] Samakal, 5 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/371318/
[221] Prothom Alo, 3 September 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/n0pv0obyig
[222] Amar Desh, 4 July 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amd63jpxlq5ia
[223] Samakal, 6 August 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/366379/
[224] Amar Desh, 6 July 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdthtadjavjz

Killings and torture by the Border Security Force (BSF)

57. During these three months, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continued to kill and torture Bangladeshi citizens along the border.
    - On 7 August 2026, BSF personnel shot and killed a Bangladeshi citizen named Tara Mia (30) along the Kulaura border in Moulvibazar District.[225]
    - On 30 August 2026, a Bangladeshi youth named Sohag Mia (20) was shot dead by BSF members in the Chimtibil border area of Ahmadabad Union under Chunarughat Upazila in Habiganj District.[226]
    - On 12 September 2026, BSF personnel shot and killed Bangladeshi citizen Asaduzzaman Ripon (33) and injured two other Bangladeshi citizens along the Pirganj border in Thakurgaon District.[227]
    - On 4 September 2026, a Bangladeshi farmer named Mosharraf Hossain was seriously injured by BSF gunfire while working on his own land near the zero line (no-man's land) along the Feni border.[228]
58. In addition, the BSF reportedly attempted to construct barbed-wire fencing[229] and cement poles[230] along the border. There were also allegations that BSF personnel crossed into Bangladeshi territory, opened fire, and took away four boats used by Bangladeshi citizens for extracting sand and stone.[231]

Illegal Push-ins by BSF

59. The push in of Indian citizens to Bangladesh continues. During this reporting period, the Indian authorities have reportedly carried out provocative push-ins of Bangla-speaking people from India into Bangladesh.[232] Many of those who are brought to the border by the BSF for push ins to Bangladesh are women, children and the elderly.
    - In one instance, an Indian national named Lipika Pal had travelled to Bangladesh on a valid visa. Suspecting her to be a Bangladeshi citizen, Indian immigration authorities attempted to keep her in Bangladesh while she was returning to India. However, when the

[225] Prothom Alo, 10 August 2026; https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/2bdrkcvawa
[226] Jugantor, 30 August 2026; https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1147304
[227] Samakal, 13 September 2026; https://samakal.com/rangpur/article/372590/
[228] Amar Desh, 5 September 2026; https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/amdvnfj8six34
[229] Ittefaq, 21 July 2026; https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/799731/
[230] Samakal, 21 July 2026; https://samakal.com/rangpur/article/363813
[231] Samakal, 11 September 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/372224/
[232] Samakal, 27 July 2026; https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/364644/ and The Daily Star, 19 August 2026; https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-3953816

Benapole Immigration authorities and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) refused to accept her, Indian immigration police at Petrapole took her back into their custody.[233]

- Delhi Police detained a family of Indian national Danesh Sheikh and demanded a bribe of Rs. 300,000 from them. As they were unable to pay the amount, on 26 June 2026, the family was among the 70 people, who were taken to Kurigram, near the Bangladesh border, close to Dhubri in Assam. Late at night, BSF personnel threatened to shoot them, and ordered them to cross the border into Bangladesh. Terrified, hungry, and thirsty, the people, including women and children, walked for two days and reached a village in Kurigram, Bangladesh. Subsequently, after receiving information about their presence, BGB pushed them back to India, where BSF personnel detained and tortured them. Danesh's pregnant wife and son were also subjected to torture. They were pushed into Bangladesh again at gunpoint, and Danesh's family eventually managed to reach Dhaka from the border after enduring considerable hardship. They were subsequently arrested by the Bangladesh police and sent to prison. After spending three months and ten days in jail, Danesh's wife and child were released on bail.[234]

60. **Between July and September, four Bangladeshi nationals were killed and six others were injured by BSF gunfire. During the same period, the BSF pushed 29 Bengali-speaking people into Bangladesh.**

[233] Kalbela, 14 July 2026; https://www.kalbela.com/country-news/308896
[234] Amar Desh, 10 July 2026; www.dailyamardesh.com/world/india/amdxbmgwe6mvh

Section I: Recommendations

1. The law must be amended to transfer the authority to investigate allegations of enforced disappearance from law enforcement agencies to an independent National Human Rights Commission. Arrangements must be made to enable the wives and children of persons who remain missing after enforced disappearance to operate the missing persons' bank accounts and use and transfer their movable and immovable property. All ongoing fabricated cases filed against survivors of enforced disappearance must be withdrawn immediately.
2. The government must acknowledge that human rights must be guaranteed to all. The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026 must be amended in accordance with the Paris Principles and allowed to function as an absolutely independent body.
3. The individuals responsible for the two cases of enforced disappearance that occurred during the tenure of the current government must be held accountable, and the government must reveal the fate and whereabouts of Miraj Sheikh, a victim of enforced disappearance.
4. Members of law enforcement agencies involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, and other forms of inhuman treatment and crimes against humanity, must be brought to justice.
5. Torture is not a form of investigation. The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, must be effectively implemented. A National Preventive Mechanism must also be established, as per the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT).
6. Political parties must work to end political violence and criminal activities and make rigorous efforts to advance the country along a democratic path.
7. Allegations of irregularities, negligence, and corruption by prison officials must be investigated and appropriate legal action taken. Sufficient hospital wards, beds, doctors and proper medical treatment must be ensured for ill prisoners. Fetters and handcuffs must not be put on critically ill prisoners.
8. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media must be guaranteed. All cases filed against journalists, proved to be based on harassment and enmity, must be dismissed, and those responsible for attacks on journalists must be brought to justice following impartial investigations. No cases should be filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.
9. Restrictions and attacks on freedom of assembly must be stopped.
10. All repressive laws, including the Special Powers Act, 1974, and the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009, must be repealed. Repressive provisions in the proposed Cyber Security (Amendment) Act must also be abolished.

11. Informal arbitration and settlement of cases involving criminal acts, rape and all other forms of violence against women and children must be prohibited. Perpetrators must be brought to justice by the courts of law, through proper investigations.
12. The government must take prompt and robust measures to stop the killing and torture of Bangladeshi citizens along the India–Bangladesh border and prevent the push-in of Indian nationals into 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.