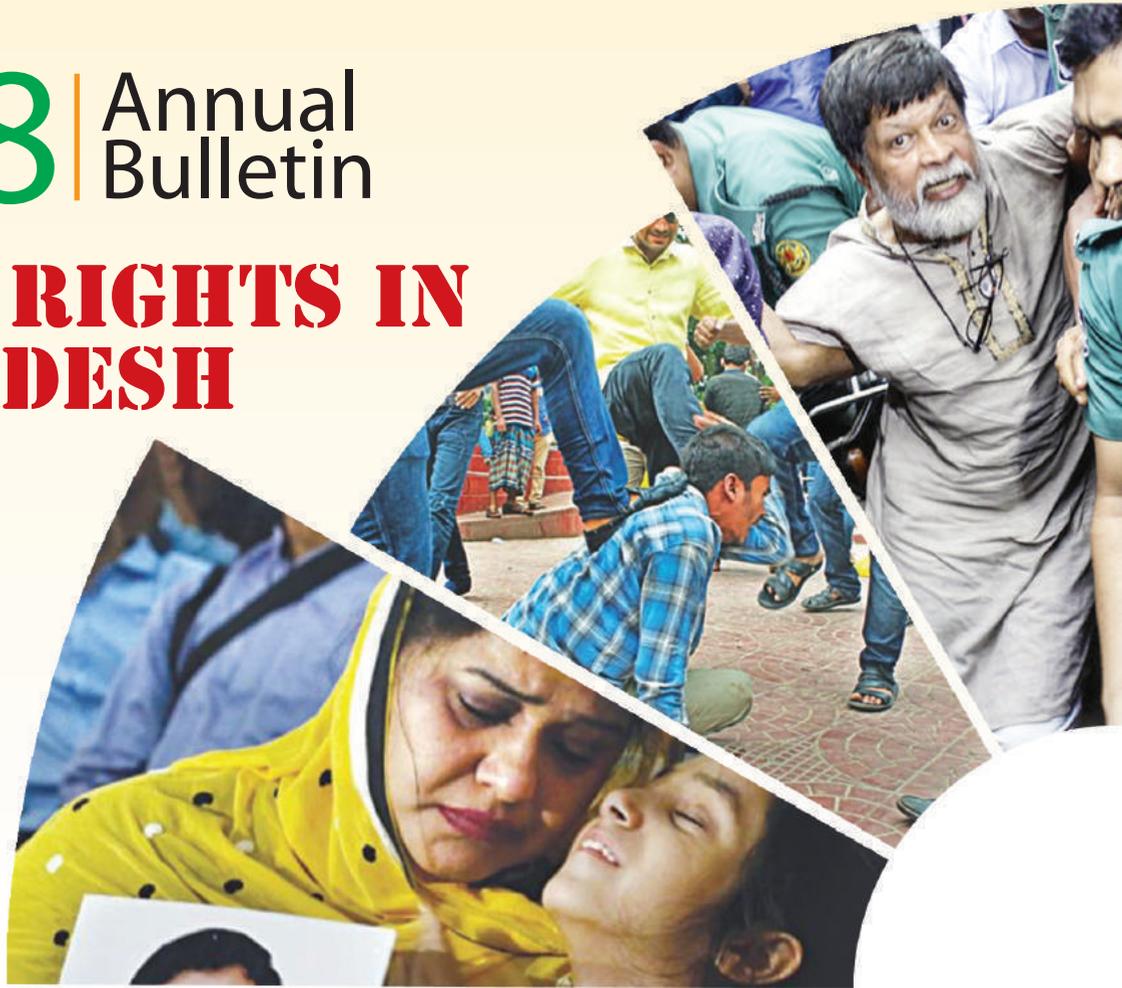


# 2018 | Annual Bulletin

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH



**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)**

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# Human Rights in Bangladesh

Annual Bulletin 2018

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HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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## Annual Human Rights Bulletin Bangladesh Situation 2018

HRSS

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# Acknowledgments

**W**e are glad to announce that HRSS is going to publish “Annual Human Rights Bulletin 2018”, focusing on significant human rights violations of Bangladesh. We hope that the contents of this report will help the people understand the overall human rights situation in the country. We further expect that both government and non-government stakeholders working for human rights would be acquainted with the updated human rights conditions and take necessary steps to stop repeated offences. On the other hand, in 2018, the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of assembly and association witnessed a sharp decline by making digital security act-2018. Further, the overall human rights situation significantly deteriorated. Restrictions on the activities of political parties and civil societies, impunity to the excesses of the security forces, extrajudicial killing in the name of anti-drug campaign, enforced disappearance, violence against women, arbitrary arrests and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, intimidation and extortion are considered to be the main reasons for such a catastrophic state of affairs. Finally, we would like to express thanks to all our colleagues for their contribution to the publication of this report and to the news reporters whose courageous reporting has provided the basis for this report. I specifically express my gratitude to the members of the executive committee who, for this publication, undertook all pains. I strongly believe that your considered feedback would help us ensure a quality publication and encourage us to continue the relentless effort in this regard.

**Ijajul Islam**  
Executive Director

# Executive Summary

The shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both home and abroad. It is expected that this bulletin will help the people, the civil society as well as the international community by providing them with a concrete account of the deplorable human rights situation of Bangladesh

**A**nnual Human rights analysis report published by Human Rights Support Society based on the incidents of human rights violation and atrocities based on information received through our district representatives and twelve prominent national dailies has published this report. From January to December '18, this report illustrates that freedom of expression was denied and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of assembly and association witnessed a sharp decline. Restrictions on the political parties and civil societies, impunity to the abusive security forces, extrajudicial killing in the name of anti-drug war, enforced disappearance, abduction, violence against women, arbitrary arrest and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, coercion and extortion are exposed a very glooming scenario of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh. The situation reached such an awful state that even the common people feel insecure everywhere.

This year, according to the annual statistics of HRSS, at least 474 persons were victims of extra-judicial killing in 2018. Out of them, 429 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/gunfights', 07 were tortured to death, 05 were shot to death and 33 died in the custody. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during the operations conducted by the law-enforcement

agencies (LEAs). As usual, the government regretfully described these deaths as "crossfire/ gunfights/ encounter killings". Enforced disappearances also continued during the year 2018. Unfortunately, most of the enforced disappearances are alleged to have been done by security forces such as RAB, DB, and Police. According to HRSS monitoring, a total 92 persons have been disappeared by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents in 2018.

Moreover, the HRSS bulletin found that a total of 693 females have been raped in 2018. Of them, 279 were identified as adults and alarmingly 414 were children under the age of 16. A total of 235 women were killed in the course of family feuds while 44 females were killed due to dowry-related violence. It has also been reported that a total of 291 were abducted by a non-state actor in different areas of the country, of whom approximately 188 were male, 34 females and 69 were children. Among them 144 were killed after the abduction. At least 83 people were killed in political violence and around 44 people were killed by lynching. HRSS noticed that through 2018, about 95 incidents of violence were committed against children and as a result 43 lost their lives and 76 were critically injured. As a result of violent attacks, a total of 228 unarmed civilians were victimized, of whom 124 were killed, 88 seriously injured and 16 were hit by bullet.

HRSS also estimated a total of 38 incidents of attacks on minority communities throughout the country. On the other hand, during the pre-election campaign and Election Day in Bangladesh on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018, at least 50 people were killed in election-related violence, while many others were injured. There are widespread allegations of voter intimidation during and preceding the election. Due to Government's submissive foreign policy with India and Myanmar, the number of killings increased in the border area significantly. Bangladeshi citizens have been the victims of killings, subjected to torture, and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatments. A total of nearly 34 incidents have been reported resulting in loss of lives of as many as 15 Bangladeshi citizens by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

The shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both home and abroad. It is expected that this bulletin will help the people, the civil society as well as the international community by providing them with a concrete account of the deplorable human rights situation of Bangladesh. ■



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# Acronyms

BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
BAL	: Bangladesh Awami League
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BJC	: Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal
BJI	: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami
BICS	: Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir
CAT	: Convention against Torture & other cruel, inhuman or degradation treatment....
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CSW	: Committee on the Status of Women
CHR	: Committee on Human Rights
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	: Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW	: Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFNHRI	: Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DB	: Detective Branch
DMC	: Dhaka Medical College
DU	: Dhaka University
GA	: General Assembly
GOB	: Government of Bangladesh
HRSS	: Human Rights Support Society
HRC	: Human Rights committee
HRC	: Human Rights Council
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	: International Court Of Justice
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SR	: Special Rapporteur
SP	: Special Procedures
RMG	: Ready Made Garments
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
UN	: United Nations
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCHR	: United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPR	: Universal Periodic Review
UNO	: Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
TNO	: Thana Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parishad
VAW	: Violence against Women
VAC	: Violence against Children

# Extra Judicial Killing



The year 2018 was marked by many incidents of state sponsored extra judicial killings including custodial deaths, ‘cross fires/encounters’ and shooting or torturing culminating in deaths. According to HRSS sources, at least 474 persons were killed extra-judicially from January to December 2018. The deaths occurred during ‘operations’ and ‘raids’ conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). The government description of these cases follows roughly the same pattern: “after the arrest of infamous terrorist ‘X’ leads were found to an illegal arms location. And during a crack-down at the said location, other terrorists attacked the police and in that crossfire terrorist ‘X’ was killed.” Such ‘crackdowns’ are alleged to take place in the early morning and invariably, residents of the relevant locality are found unable to confirm having heard any gunshots. There is grave concern that such incidents of “crossfire” are in fact deliberate killings. It should be noted that the State is bound to ensure enforcement of fundamental rights to life and liberty of its citizens under Articles 31 and 32 of the Constitution, which is also an international treaty obligation.<sup>1</sup> Such actions of the law enforcement agencies deprives the citizens of their fundamental right to life and right to free, fair and impartial trial. We studied the cases of extra-judicial killings by the LEA in detail. This bulletin seeks to precisely understand the nature and extent of human rights violations caused by extra-judicial killings from January to December 2018. Relevant cases of extra-judicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

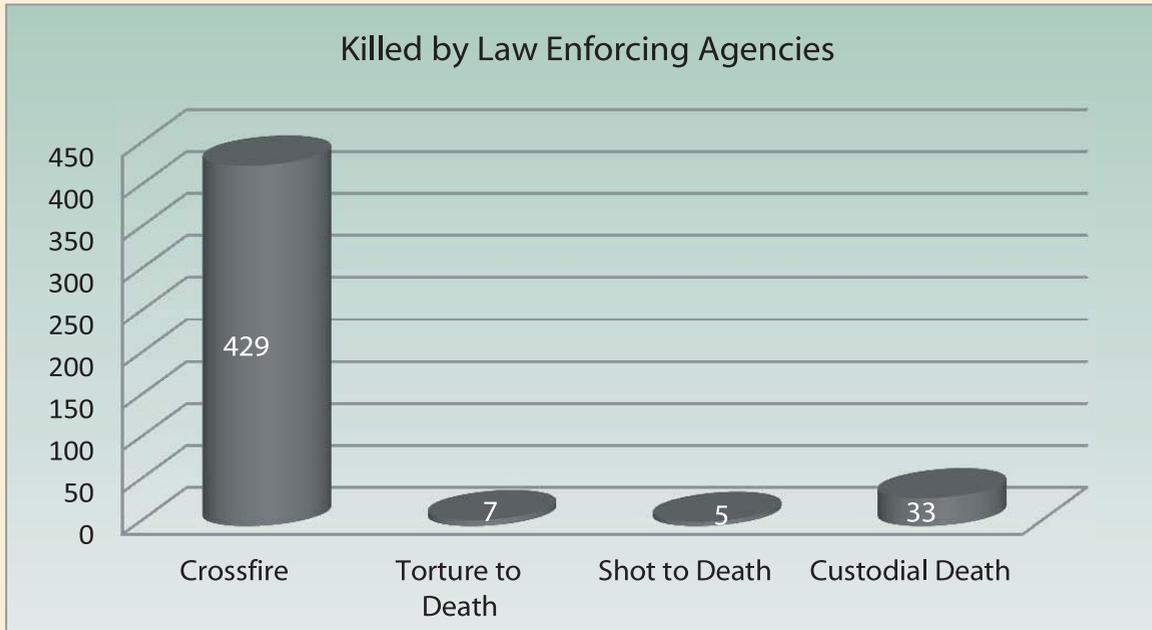


Figure 01 : Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing in 2018<sup>2</sup>

The chart depicts information about the number of extra-judicial executions by law enforcement agencies over a period of twelve months between January and December 2018. According to the given data compiled by Human Rights Support Society's research desk, in 2018 almost 474 extra-judicial killings took place, compared to 212<sup>3</sup> in 2017. In 2018 a total of 474 persons were reportedly subjected to extra-judicially killings. Of them, 429 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights', 07 were tortured to death, 05 were shot to death, and 33 died in the custody.

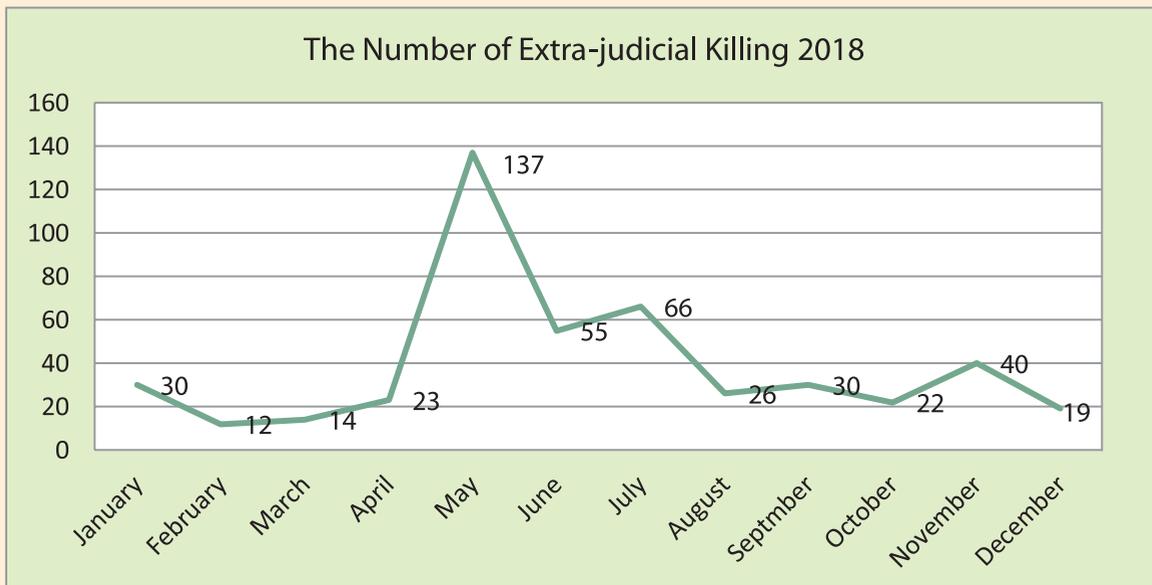


Figure 02 : Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killing

The above line graph shows information about the extra-judicial killing in the year of 2018. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 474 persons were allegedly subjected to extra-judicial killings. On an average, almost 40 people were killed each month. 12 were killed extra-judicially in February while this number increased significantly in April. In May, the numbers of encounters were surprisingly higher, reaching up to 137.

Table: January to December 2018		Victims of Extrajudicial Killing Under the State Authority by Region	
Region	Extrajudicial Killing	Number of Incidents	
Dhaka	107	87	
Chittagong	116	97	
Rajshahi	43	36	
Sylhet	6	6	
Khulna	117	96	
Rangpur	28	25	
Mymensingh	39	32	
Barisal	17	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>393</b>	

**Figure 03 : Victims of Extra-Judicial killing based on Region**

The law enforcement agency was charged for their participation and involvement in the various human rights violations committed against the civilian people including political killing. Charges of murder, frustrated and attempted murder, torture, and physical injuries, illegal arrest and detention and other civil and political rights violations were filed by the HRSS, including families of those who were extra-judicially killed during the incidents, as well as the victims who were illegally arrested and detained by the police. The table exhibits statistics regarding extra-judicial killings in different districts of Bangladesh over a period of 12 months from January to December 2018. A total of 474 people had been allegedly killed by LEAs in different cities, of which about 90% were in the four main cities such as Dhaka (107), Chittagong (116), Rajshahi (43), and Khulna (117). About 10% of the victims were allegedly killed by security forces in other districts, for instance, Rangpur (28), Sylhet (06) Mymensingh (39) and Barisal (17).



Kinds	Police	Rab	Police & Rab	DB Police	Join Force	Coast Gurd	BGB	Army
Crossfire	251	132		44			2	0
Shot To Death	5	0						
Torture To Death	6			1				
Custodial Death	33							
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

Figure 04 : Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing in 2018

The above table provides information about the incidences of extra-judicial killings conducted by the members of the LEA in 2018. The Statistics denotes that most of the citizens were extra-judicially killed by the Police although they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the Police is alarmingly high. The Police are duty bound to hand over the alleged criminal to the concerned Police Station in order to facilitate the process for charging and trying him for offences committed by him. Some of the cases of Extra-judicial death by law enforcement agencies are given below:

On June 05, 2018, Police claimed to have found the bullet-riddled body of a suspected drug dealer in Alalpur area of Faridpur, two days after he was allegedly picked up by several plainclothes detectives. Sahera Begum, the sister of the victim Mr. Azad Kha (45) said, "Several plainclothes men, identifying themselves as detectives, picked my brother up from his friend's house in Gazaria area around 2:00 am on 2 June. My brother was missing since then."<sup>4</sup>

On January 01, 2018 a drug trader was killed in a so-called gunfight with RAB in Feni Sadar. The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain Raju, 25, son of Jahangir Alam, a resident of Dharmapur in Feni Sadar. Father of the deceased said his son got a release on bail from jail 10 days back. RAB personnel picked Raju up from the house around 4:00 am, he claimed.<sup>5</sup>

On March 12, 2018, the BNP alleged that Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Dhaka north city unit Vice President Zakir Hossain Milon died in custody due to 'brutal torture' while in police remand. In a statement, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Milon was subjected to the government's political vengeance as it is out to protect its despotic rule by eliminating the existence of the opposition parties. He said police arrested Milon, also the acting president of Tejgaon Thana unit JCD, on 6 March.<sup>6</sup>

*The Case of Rakib Halwader:* On April 06, 2018 a teenage boy was killed in a so-called “gunfight” with police in the capital's Wari. The deceased was identified as Rakib Halwader, son of Mohsin Halwader, a resident of Wari's Kaptan Bazar. He was only 15, according to his birth certificate. The family alleged that Rakib was picked up by Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra of Wari Police Station around 10:30 pm on 04 April as he went out to buy daily essentials for his mother Rita Akter. “The next day, I went to the police station around 11:00 am to meet my son. I saw him in the OC's room,” Rita Akter told. Rakib's body was kept at the college morgue. She said she waited at the police station for hours but was barred from meeting him. “I heard a shout 'Ma...Ma...’ she said, adding that she then saw his son in handcuffs being taken to the OC's room. Rita said she bought a packet of biriyani from a shop for her son, but it was not allowed. She waited till 4:30 pm but could not talk to her son. Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.<sup>7</sup>

*The Case of Anisur Rahman:* On June 08, 2018, Nazma Khatun, wife of Anisur Rahman who was killed recently in Satkhira, held a press conference at Satkhira Press Club and alleged that police killed him and cooked up the story of a “gunfight” to cover up the murder. She alleged that police picked up her husband from their house and killed him in a planned way. Police on May 29 claimed to have recovered the body of Anisur from Kolaroa upazila and said he was a drug dealer, who was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of “peddlers”. “Around 9:30 am on May 28, assistant sub-inspectors Ezaz Mahmud and Toriqul Islam of Khurdo Police Outpost and two others in plainclothes came to our house and detained my husband. They handcuffed and blindfolded him before taking him away,” Nazma said. She also alleged that they went to the police outpost and Kolaroa Police Station, but police denied detaining her husband. Biplob Kumar Nath, officer-in-charge of Kolaroa Police Station, refused to record a general diary in this connection on that day and asked the family to wait for a couple of days. The next morning, they came to know that Anisur was killed, Nazma alleged. She further said ASI Ezaz visited their house in search of her husband several times before he was picked up. Nazma demanded a fair probe into the incident and urged the prime minister and the home minister to direct the law enforcers to take steps in this regard. “If my husband committed any crime, he could be punished through the legal process. It is not acceptable that police killed him, violating his basic human rights.” Contacted, both Ezaz and Toriqul denied the allegation of detaining Anisur. OC Biblob said Anisur's family did not appear before him with the allegation. The police official added that Anisur was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of “drug dealers” and they were investigating who was involved in the incident.<sup>8</sup>

6.5 *The case of Belal Hossain:* On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 Belal Hossain, was killed in a so-called “gunfight” with Rab in the city's Koromja area, said his wife. Belal's wife Amena Begum said her husband was a day labourer for over a decade. Amena said two plainclothes members of a law enforcement agency went to their house in Poba upazila around 1:30 pm on 27 May 2018 and asked her husband if he was involved in drug peddling. Within around half an hour after leaving the house, one of the two law enforcers phoned Belal and asked him to go to Nawhata area. Although Amena asked her husband not to go there, Belal did not comply. He was confident that he would face no problem as he was no more involved in drug trade. Belal went to Nawhata around 3:00 pm. After some time, he phoned his son. Toriqul said he heard on the other side that someone slapped his father and the call ended. Belal had been missing since then and his phone was found switched off. Amena alleged that law enforcers used to take bribes from her husband to allow him to run the drug trade.<sup>9</sup>

*The case of Habibur Rahman:* On May 19, 2018, the family of Habibur Rahman, who was killed in an alleged shootout with RAB in Chittagong, claimed that he had been taken and killed. RAB said Habibur Rahman and Mosharaf Hossain were killed in a shootout at the Barisal Colony in Ice Factory Road adjacent to Chittagong Railway Station, a notorious site of drug trafficking on 17 May 2018. However, Habib's family claims that he was detained by plainclothes security force personnel from Jhautola mosque when he went there to pray. "Locals told me that my father was picked up from Baitul Falah Mosque following his afternoon prayers by a group of people who claimed to have ties to the local administration. They drove away in a CNG autorickshaw," Habib's son Abdul Ali Rabbi said. "My mother, other family members and I went to different police stations and contacted the narcotics office and the Detective Branch seeking his whereabouts, but they would not give us any information." "We looked for him in many places. Finally, we saw a man in white lying on the ground on television who looked like Habib. We later identified the body at Chittagong Medical College Hospital," said Habib's father-in-law Nazrul Islam. He said Habib had worked in Oman for some time and began working as a vegetable trader when he got home. His family now lives on money sent by his expatriate sister and her husband, he added. Habib's son Rabbi said that his father had been released last on 17 May 2018 after spending a month in jail.<sup>10</sup>

The case of Ekramul; On June 2, 18 Ekramul, an upazila-level leader of the ruling Awami League, was killed by law enforcement agencies. Six days thereafter his wife, Ayesha Begum, held a press conference in Cox's Bazar, where she claimed that her husband was killed in cold blood, not in a gunfight as the security forces claimed. "On the night of May 26, an official of a security force took him by force from our home. My daughter and I talked to him over the phone after he left us. When we talked to him last, he was panicking. The phone call continued and gunshots and shouts were heard. It was then I realized that my husband was killed in cold blood," she said. "We don't have much wealth, but our family was filled with



happiness and joy. But today, we lost everything. My daughters have no one to call “father”. Their future is bleak.” She wanted a fair investigation into the killing of her husband and intervention of the prime minister in the matter so on one has to lose her or his dear ones in such “unjust actions.” Ayesha also gave reporters a total of four audio clips that recorded terrifying conversations between Ekram and his wife and one of the daughters before he died in a hail of bullets. The audio recorded on a mobile phone also captured sounds of gunfire and groans of a dying man. As the groaning continued for a while, Ekramul’s wife and two daughters on the other side of the phone screamed and begged for his life, saying he was innocent, according to one of the clips. Ayesha claimed that the conversations were recorded when Ekramul was brutally shot dead (<https://youtu.be/4iGB6iL49KM>).<sup>11</sup>

On June 27, 2018, two alleged drug peddlers were killed in what police claimed was a gunfight in Bagmara area in the city, hours after their arrest amid the ongoing anti-narcotics drive. The deceased were identified as Manik Sheikh, 32, son of Sultan Sheikh of Mistiripara Khalpara area, and Raju, 27, son of Mohammad Babul of Bagmara in the city. Raju's family, however, claimed the police demanded Tk 10 lakh for his release and killed him as they failed to pay the sum. Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar police, said a team of law enforcers from Khulna arrested Raju and Manik in Dhaka and brought them to the city as they were listed drug peddlers and killed in a gunfight. Titli Begum, Raju's wife, told that police picked up her husband from New Market area in Khulna on 26 June. “I met the police and requested them to free him, but they demanded Tk 10 lakh for that. We wanted to arrange a press conference at Khulna Press Club, but civil police did not allow us,”<sup>12</sup>

On July 01, 2018, A Jubo League leader was killed in a so called “gunfight” with police at Kaemkola Bagmara Beel in Jhikorgachha upazila of Jashore. The deceased, Zahid Hasan Tokon, 32, son of Ali Aslam of Krishnanagar village under the upazila, was joint convener of Jhikorgachha upazila Jubo League. Victim's father has alleged that police picked up his son Tokon from their rented house at Chachra area in Jashore town at around 9.30 pm on 29 June.<sup>13</sup>





On July 09, 2018 the body of a 25-year-old was found with bullet wounds in Shariatpur Sadar upazila, two days after plainclothes men identifying as detectives allegedly picked him up from his house. The victim was identified as Kalu Sikder, 25, son of Siraj Sikder of Khalshi area. Kalu's brother-in-law Suruj Sikder said several plainclothes men, identifying themselves as detectives, handcuffed him and took him away in a white microbus on 06 July evening. "We went to Sadar Police Station to file a general diary but the police refused to register it. Later, after receiving information from locals, we identified his body at the hospital," he said.<sup>14</sup>

On September 28, 2018, a teenage boy was allegedly tortured to death by police in Ananda Bazar area of Zanjira upazila of Shariatpur. The deceased was identified as Pavel Sheikh, son of Abdur Rouf Sheikh of village Krishnanagar Purbakajikandi in Bibeknagar union. Pavel had sat for his Higher Secondary Certificate examination in 2018 from Bibeknagar Bangabandhu College. Victim's family members alleged that when Pavel and his cousin Shanta Sheikh were standing by a road in the marketplace area, a police team approached them. A policeman got down from the police vehicle and started checking the pockets of Pavel's trousers. At one stage, the policeman began beating Pavel until he collapsed onto the ground. The police team then took the college boy to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.<sup>15</sup>

On August 13, 2018, a man was killed by DB police in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong, a day after he had allegedly been picked up. The deceased was identified as Altaf, 40, and found in a bush beside a road, said his brother Sumayun Kabir Suman, a Jubo League leader. Suman's brother, Altaf Hossen, President of Mariam Nagar Union unit of Jubo League, claimed his brother was Vice president of the local unit of Awami League. Altaf was killed by law enforcers, he claimed.<sup>16</sup>



On 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 a suspected drug peddlers were killed in a so-called gunfight between law enforcers and their “associates” in Shariatpur. The victim was one Suman Pahar, 25, from Uttar Baluchar village in Shariatpur municipality. His family claimed that some plainclothes men had picked up Suman in front of a shop of their village on 28 October 2018.<sup>17</sup>

On October 14, 2018, a suspected drug dealer was killed in a so-called “shootout” with law enforcers in Mymensingh town. His family members claimed that he was picked up by some plainclothes men on 12 October. They also said that they lodged a missing complaint with a police station the next day and that he was never involved in drug business. The deceased, Sharif Ahmed, 32, was a resident of Krishtapur. According to his family's statement, Sharif's mother Shirin Akhter said Sharif went out with some friends after Juma prayers on 12 October. “We had lunch together, I didn't know it would be for the last time,” she wailed. The 55-year-old mother regained her composure and added, “My son was never involved in drug business.” “In the evening, locals informed that some people in plainclothes picked him up in a black microbus in front of Palika Shopping Centre in Station Road area,” she said. Sharmin Akhter, his elder sister, said they went to Kotwali Police Station and DB office right away to find his whereabouts.<sup>18</sup>

On October 13, 2018, an alleged drug peddler was killed in a “gunfight” with Rab in Chattogram city's Muradpur area. The deceased was identified Asim Roy Babu, 40, of Banshkhali upazila, Chittagong district. Family members and police sources said Asim was involved in politics of Jubo League. A cousin of the deceased said Asim owned a clothing shop in the city's Riajuddin Bazar. He was on his way home in Murdarpur's Sunnia Madrasa area from the shop when the incident took place. “We don't know what exactly happened to my cousin, but he told his wife over the phone that some plainclothes law enforcers intercepted his car.”<sup>19</sup>

On November 27, 2018, a suspected robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with the Detective Branch of police at Dogachhia under Kotwali police station in Jashore, hours after he was arrested by the DB police on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The deceased was identified as Md Selim, 41, of Chansra area of Jashore district town. He lived at a rented house in village: Gobindapur of Jashore Sadar Upazila, said Jashore DB police inspector (investigation) Shaumen Das.<sup>20</sup>

On December 12, 2018, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi claimed that a city BNP leader had died during a raid by plainclothes men in the capital's Vatara area. He made the claim at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan office. The BNP leader alleged that plainclothes men raided the house of BNP's senior vice president Kafil Uddin in Solmaid area at Vatara Thana ward-40. "In fear, Kafil took shelter on the building's rooftop. At that time, the plainclothes men also tortured his son. Later, they caught Kafil and pushed him off from the rooftop." Kafil was taken to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.<sup>21</sup>

- 1 In 1998, Bangladesh ratified the convention against inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CAT) and in 2000, international covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR).
- 2 HRSS Research Desk
- 3 Annual human rights bulletin 2016, HRSS
- 4 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bullet-riddled-body-drug-peddler-found-1586437>
- 5 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/31583/drug-trader-killed-in-feni-gunfight> 12:00 AM, January 02, 2018 / LAST
- 6 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=108737>
- 7 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/picked-boy-killed-shootout-1559248>
- 8 Hrss investigation desk
- 9 Hrss investigation desk and the daily start
- 10 Hrss's investigation desk and <http://observerbd.com/details.php?id=138675>
- 11 Hrss's investigation desk and <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2018/06/02/ekram-killing-audio-clip-raises-questions-about-anti-drug-crackdown>
- 12 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/anti-narcotics-drive-2-killed-shootout-khulna-1596460>
- 13 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/jubo-league-leader-killed-gunfight-1597903>
- 14 [https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/68205/... ..](https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/68205/...)
- 15 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/51844/teen-tortured-to-death-by-police-in-shariatpur>
- 16 Hrss research unit
- 17 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1556121/...>
- 18 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/drug-peddler-killed-mymensingh-gunfight-bangladesh-1646797>
- 19 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1561014/.....>
- 20 [http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/367960/.](http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/367960/)
- 21 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/bnp-leader-killed-raid-1673017>

# Enforced Disappearance



According to HRSS report, many political activists have been forcefully disappeared from January to December 2018 by the law enforcement agencies and their bullet-riddled corpses were later found in different places. Many witnesses have testified to the law enforcement agencies' involvement in these cases, and the pattern of abductions and the profiles of victims suggest that disappearances are used as an instrument by the government to keep the political opponents silent, according to experts. The government of Bangladesh has ratified the Convention against Torture but is yet to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearance. In Bangladesh today, human rights violation arising out of enforced disappearances has become a common phenomenon. In fact, when a person is picked up or arrested by people claiming to be from a law enforcement agency, the common fear is that he would be subjected to torture or disappeared.

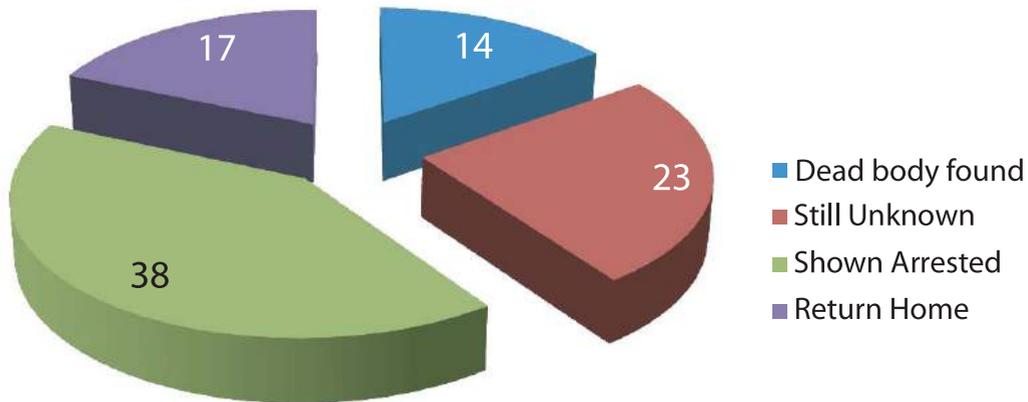


Figure 05 : Statistics of Enforced disappearance by LEA

*'Human Rights Support Society' (HRSS) found that from January to December 2018, a total of 92 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 14 were found dead, 17 returned home, 38 were brought before the court and nobody knows what happened to the remaining 23 persons.*

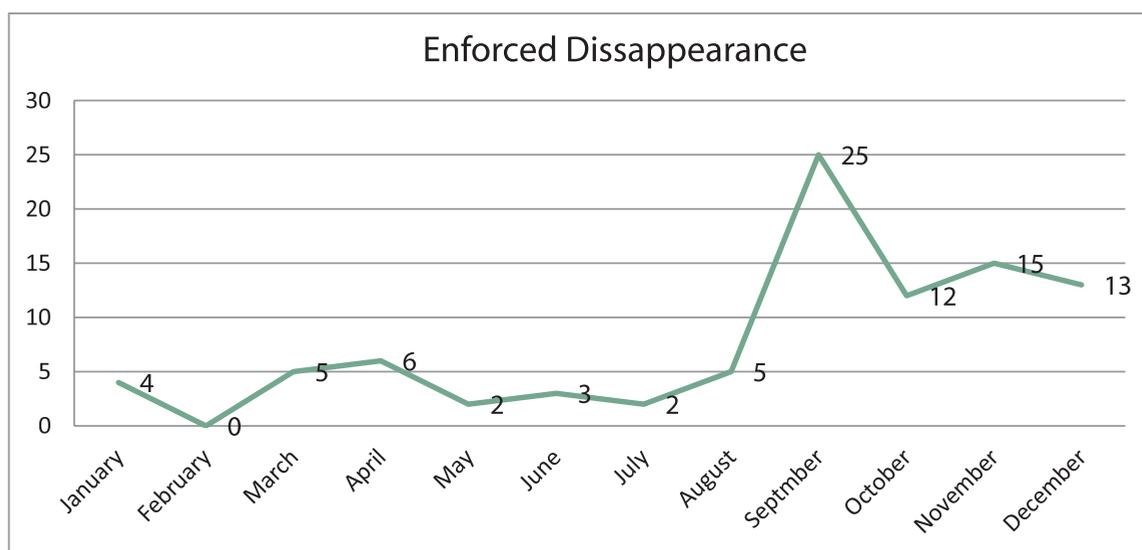


Figure 06 : Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance 18

**Selected cases of enforced disappearances are described below:**

On June 02, 2018, Kamrul Khan Kamu, 40, an alleged drug dealer was killed in a “shootout” with detectives in Gazipur. He was picked up a day before from his home by plainclothes policemen, his wife claimed. “Five to six plainclothes policemen came to our house around 5:00 am on 31 May and took Kamrul with them,” said Kamrul’s wife Asma Begum. “During the time, the policemen in name of searching the house took away some valuables, including a TV set, mobile phone, some cash, ornaments and documents,” she claimed. Asma said she got married eight years ago and during these years, she never heard of any case filed against Kamrul. She said her husband used to work at a garments factory. “I have requested police to hand Kamrul over to the court if he had committed any crime but I found his body a day after he was picked up from home,” she said.<sup>22</sup>

On June 04, 2018, criminals posing as the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) kidnapped a youth from the capital’s Hatirjheel and later demanded Tk 10 lakh from his family, threatening to kill him in “crossfire” in the event of a failure to pay the sum. The victim, 22-year old Nafis-ur-Rahman, had returned home from Japan after completing his studies only two weeks ago. He was going to his Rampura residence via Hatirjheel around 8:00 pm when he was barred by 10-12 youths, according to a case filed by his mother Rehana Akter with Ramna Police Station. They picked him up brandishing firearms, and took him to a secret place, said the case statement. Later, the criminals called Rehana around 10:00 pm over the phone and identified themselves as Rab-1 members. They said that they detained Nafis with 100 yaba pills. The gang members also directed her to send Tk 10 lakh through a bKash account, Rehana said in the case statement. Later, they set Nafis free after taking Tk 1 lakh from the family, said the family members. A family member last night told that Nafis was undergoing treatment as the criminals had beaten him up and injured his eyes. Contacted, Deputy Commissioner (Ramna division) Maruf Hossain Sorder of Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed the incident. The DC said police arrested six persons and that they were interrogating the suspects in connection with the incident. A Dhaka court ordered to place the arrestees on a three-day remand each in connection with the incident said sources in the court.<sup>23</sup>

On January 30, 2018, BNP leader Anisur Rahman Talukder Khokon was shown as arrested by RAB over allegations of plotting subversive activities around 20 hours after he went missing in the capital's Gulistan area. On January 29, 2018, BNP leader Anisur Rahman Talukder Khokon went missing from the city's Ramna area, his wife claimed. Shah Israt Azmery alleged that a vehicle with a Rab sticker picked up her husband from in front of Ramna Hotel. Khokon, mass education affairs assistant secretary of BNP's executive committee, remained missing for around three months after he had allegedly been picked up by the same force in 2015. Earlier on June 15, 2015, Khokon, a former organizing secretary of Chhatra Dal's central unit, was found in Faridpur about three months after he had gone missing from the capital. At that time, the RAB claimed that it had arrested Khokon along with two others in front of a restaurant on the Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur Sadar upazila. Khokon's family, however, alleged that RAB members had picked him up from his home on March 5 that year, an allegation rejected by the force.<sup>24</sup>

On January 21, 2018, detectives claimed that three people (Nasiruddin, Motaleb Hossain and Khaled Hassan Matin) who had allegedly been picked up by plainclothes men four days ago, had in fact been arrested by them. "A DB team arrested the three raiding the capital's Gulshan and Basila areas," Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said. He said the team arrested Nasiruddin in Gulshan around 8:30 pm with Tk 1.3 lakh in his possession. They arrested Motaleb Hossain at Basila following information gleaned from Nasiruddin, he said. In another drive, the DB men arrested Khaled



Hassan Matin, owner of Lakehead Grammar School in the capital, at Gulshan, Masudur said. He, however, refused to divulge details, like why they were arrested and what the charges were. Motaleb, personal officer of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, had been missing on 20 January 2018 after a group of people picked him up from the capital's Basila area. The incident happened just two days after Nasiruddin, another employee of the ministry, went traceless. On 18 January 2018, Nasiruddin, an Upper Division Assistant (UDA) of the education ministry, went missing. He was on his way to the ministry from his Khilkhet home. On the other hand, Lakehead Grammar School owner Khaled was missing after he was allegedly picked up by unidentified plainclothes men from in front of the school's Gulshan branch on 20 January 2018. Edris Ali, an employee of the school, filed a GD with Gulshan Police Station the same day. Khaled, the managing director of RM Group Ltd, a company that supplies construction equipment and materials, purchased the school in March last year.<sup>25</sup>

On April 16, 2018, several leaders from the central committee of a Dhaka University based student platform were going to restaurants in Chankharpool for lunch. But before that, they wanted to visit their colleagues who were injured in demonstrations and were being treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. "As soon as we reached near the emergency gate of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, three to four motorbikes intercepted the rickshaw carrying the three students," said Bin Yamin, a student who was in another rickshaw nearby. "Two white minibuses with tinted glasses came and the three were dragged into one of the minibuses," he said, adding that he along with others present at the scene spread the news. At the briefing, Nurul, a DU student said, "We saw hundreds of people in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. We screamed for help but none came to our rescue." Nurul claimed that as the blindfolds was removed and he opened his eyes, he found himself and the other two in a room. Later, they found that they were at the DB office. The leaders, Nurul Haq Nur, Muhammad Rashed Khan, and Faruk Hasan are joint conveners of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, a platform of students who had been demonstrating for reforms in the country's quota system in civil service. Nurul is a master's student of Dhaka University English department while Rashed and Faruk are former students of the University's "Banking & Insurance department" and "Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies". All the fellow protesters were in the dark about their whereabouts until detectives admitted detaining and taking the three to the DB office on Minto Road for "questioning". They were released around 2:30 pm. When the three were being picked up in Dhaka, police in Jhenidah interrogated Rashed's father Nabai Biswas, a mason, to know whether the family had any political affiliation, claimed Nabai. He said he was not linked with any political party or its affiliated bodies. Talking to reports in front of DU Central Library, the trio narrated how they were picked up.<sup>26</sup>

On the May 24th, 2018, BNP's student affiliate Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal leader, Faisal Ahmed Sajal who was reported missing for a couple of days was found left blindfolded near the Rampura Bridge in the capital at about 8 pm. Earlier the BNP in the afternoon accused the law enforcing agencies of taking away Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal's Central Vice President, Faisal Ahmed Sajal who has been missing for the last two days. "The whereabouts of Sajal is not available for two days. His colleagues apprehend that he has been picked up by the members of law enforcing agencies," alleged BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. "He (Sajal) informed about his position to his elder brother Habibur Rahman and sister in law from a mobile phone of a pedestrian," Sajal's wife said. She also said Sajal cannot say anything more than that since he is now ill. JCD office secretary Abdus Sattar Patuary said Sajal has been admitted to a private hospital for treatment. Earlier on 22 May, 2018, Sajal went missing on his way to Banosrhi residence after Tarabi prayer, according to his family sources.

On September 11, 2018, twelve youths, who had been picked up by police six days ago, were remanded after the law enforcement officials produced them before a Dhaka court. They were shown arrested in various cases, a day after their families alleged that members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police had picked the 12 youth up during raids in the capital's Tejgaon and Mohakhali areas on September 5. Apart from Dhaka Polytechnic student Aziz, the 11 others were identified as Md Tarek, Jahangir Alam, Md Mujahidul Islam, Md Al Amin, Johirul Islam Hasib, Gazi Md Borhan Uddin, Iftekhar Alam, Md Mehedi Hasan Rajib, Md Mahfuz, Md Saifullah Bin Monsur and Md Raihanul Abedin. According to their families, Amin and Johirul are HSC graduates; Mujahidul is a second-year student at Bangladesh Textile University; Jahangir is fourth-year student at Government Titumir College; Saifullah has graduated from Government Sadat College; Borhan goes to SAIC Institute; Tarek, Mahfuz, Raihanul, Iftekhar and Mehedi are Dhaka Polytechnic students.<sup>27</sup>

On August 28, 2018, identifying themselves as law enforcers, a group of plainclothes men abducted a trader from near his home in the capital's Mirpur-2 on June 10. Over the last two and a half months, the family members of the man, Mohan Miah, 38, tried everything possible to find him. They went to police, Rab and even paid an alleged source of the law enforcers Tk 2 lakh, all in vain. The family members made the allegations at a press conference at the city's Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (Crab) on 28 Aug. Reading out a written statement, Mohan's father Jamsher Ali demanded the immediate release of son, father of two. He said he watched helplessly as seven to eight people picked up Mohan, 38. Asked, the men introduced themselves as members of Detective Branch (DB) of police and said Mohan was an accused in a case. Jamsher immediately went to Mirpur Police Station and then to the DB office on Minto Road, but the law enforcers said Mohan was not with them. Later, Mohan's family members went to the office of Rab-4 in Mirpur. The Rab unit also denied picking him up.<sup>28</sup>

On September 15, 2018 the families demanded the whereabouts and the release of the five boys who were picked up allegedly by detectives. Ramisa Khanam, bent with age and illness, held her son Shafiul Alam in her arms, to try and save him from being taken away from in front of her eyes. Her helpless screams brought a huge crowd together before the Dhaka airport, from where her sons Shafiul and Monirul Alam and Monirul's friend Abul Hayat were picked up by plainclothes men on September 12, 2018. The three young men had gone to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to receive Ramisa and her husband, who just returned from Hajj at around 8:00 pm. The plainclothes men, who took Shafiul, 30, Monirul, 28, and Abul, 28, away showed identity cards and claimed to be detectives. "My tears have dried, as I have no trace of my sons, who were abducted in front of my eyes four days ago," said Ramisa, 62, while describing the incident at a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association. The "detectives" took the three from the airport to Shafiul's mess in Jatrabari. From there, they picked up two more people Shafiullah, 22, a Dhaka College student, and Mosharraf Hossain Mayaz, 15, a ninth grader of a local





**Razeda Begum breaks down in tears in Pabna's Dharmagram village after hearing that one of the four men, whose bullet-hit bodies were found in Narayanganj on 21, was her son Faruk Hossain, 35.**

madrassa. The five have remained missing since then. Police have denied picking them up. At the press conference, family members of all the five demanded that the authorities either release them or, if they have committed any crime, produce them before a court. "Do not cook up any story or stage a drama involving our sons. Return them to us," lamented Ramisa who cannot walk properly because of her knee problem. "I don't understand how three people were picked up from in front of a secure airport and how they remain missing for days," said a relative of another boy preferring anonymity. Sources in Shafiul's family mentioned that he was a city leader of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir. Contacted, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, claimed they did not arrest the boys.<sup>29</sup>

On September 14, 2018, the bullet-ridden bodies of three traders were found in Rupganj, a day after they were allegedly picked up by men claiming to be detectives. The dead bodies were recovered around 8:00am from a culvert in Purbachal area. Nur Hossain Babu, 30, his brother-in-law Shimul Azad, 25, and their associate Sohag Bhuiyan, 35, traded garment factories' excess fabrics in Mugda area of the capital. Family members said the three men were coming to their homes in Dhaka from Jhenidah by a bus of Purbasha Paribahan on 13 September when they last contacted them. Staffers of the bus told the family members that around 15 to 20 men in vests with the letters DB picked them up from the bus which was near Paturia Ferry Ghat of Manikganj at the time. The men left in two minibuses, brothers of the three dead men said, quoting the staffers of the bus.<sup>30</sup>

On 21 October, 2018 four youths were found shot dead in Narayanganj after being picked up by detectives from Gausia on 19 October 2018, according to family sources. Taslima Begum, wife of Faruk Hossain said, some plainclothes men had picked up Faruk and his friends Jahirul, Sabuj and Liton on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> October from their Purinda home in Pabna's Araihasar. Jahirul, Sabuj and Liton were cousins who had come to visit Faruk from their home in Dharmagram in Pabna Sadar Upazila on October 15. Taslima alleged that the

plainclothes man entered their two-room residence just before Magrib prayers on 21 October and handcuffed her husband, Faruk adding they assaulted her and threatened to shoot her as she pleaded for his release. They later blindfolded the four and dragged them out. Taslima Begum, also, claimed that her husband Faruk Hossain was in the district's Bhulta Police Camp where she had even given him juice, water and a piece of cake on 20 October. The next morning, four bodies, including Faruk's, were found.

Nazrul Islam, father-in-law of Jahirul, said Jahirul went to Faruk's Gausia house about 10 days back from where he was picked up. Through Facebook, they came to know about the recovery of four bodies. Suborna Begum, wife of Jahurul, said the last time she talked to her husband was on 19 October when he asked her to send some money through bKash. She could not reach him over phone after that.

Lutfor's wife Reshma Akter, who identified his body at Narayanganj General Hospital on 21 October, said her husband had been missing since 1:00am on 14 October and she filed a general dairy with Rampura Police Station later on the day. Lutfor's body, along with those of his friends, Sabuj and Jahirul were found in Panchrukhi Paschim Para of Araihaazar upazila on 21 October. They all bore bullet wounds in the back of their heads from a shotgun fired at close range, according to autopsy reports. Ambia Khatun, mother of Sabuj, said Liton, Jahirul and her son werre cousins and they went to visit Faruk a week ago. The three were staff of Azad Bakery in Pabna, she added.

Meanwhile, the highway police found the body of an unknown youth from near the Asian Highway Bypass Road in Rupganj and buried it after an autopsy on 21 October as nobody claimed it. Liton's mother Shefali Begum still does not know the fate of her son. But relatives suspect that the unknown youth could be Liton as the body was found almost the same time of recovery of the four others. Kayum Ali, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station, said the marks on the body suggested the youth was killed in a road accident. They buried him as nobody came to claim the body.<sup>32</sup>

On 20 October 2018, the corpse of a person was recovered from Tengrartek area on a bypass road in Dhaka after he was picked up by detectives from the Narayanganj district's Gausia on 18 October. The deceased was identified as Abul Hossain, a resident of Sonargaon Upazila under Narayanganj District. He was picked up by the police from Purinda area under Araihaazar Upazila in Narayanganj on 18 October. The police also took his brother Abdul Kalam. On 23 October, Kalam was released from Rupganj Police Station. On the other hand, Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station, said Abul was shot during a "gunfight between two groups of robbers" at night following a feud over shares of the loot.<sup>33</sup>

*A shell-shocked Suborna still cannot believe her husband Jahirul Islam is dead. He was one of the four men who were found shot dead in Narayanganj 21 October. A bakery worker by profession, Jahirul was the only breadwinner in his family.<sup>31</sup>*

*Families claim plainclothes men picked up the 4 victims from home*



On October 20, 2018 in Jashore, Abu Bakka, 35, was shot dead during an exchange of fire between two groups of drug dealers in Choto Achra area of Benapole, police claimed. But his wife Safia Khatun said that Bakka was picked up from Jashore town on 17 October by a group of men in plainclothes claiming to be police. Grieving family members in most of the cases said the victims were picked up by plainclothes men hours or days before they were shot dead. About the killing of Bakka in Benapole, Masud Karim, officer-in-charge of Benapole Port Police Station, said Bakka was killed in a gunfight between two groups of drug traders over establishing supremacy and sharing money.<sup>34</sup>

On October 26, 2018 three ruling party men, allegedly picked up by plainclothes men from Narayanganj's Rupganj, returned home. The three were Shafiqur Rahman Badal, 45, president of Kayetpara union Jubo League, its activist Shakil Mia, and Shakil Ahmed, a Chhatra League activist. The incident happened when the trio was heading for Paragao from Boralubazar area on a motorcycle around 4:00 pm on 24 October. At one point, unidentified men in a microbus intercepted them and took the three away in the vehicle, said Badal's cousin Shamsul Alam Molla. Mia and Ahmed were in good shape at home, Rafiqul said, adding Badal was undergoing treatment at a clinic in Dhaka. Badal's cousin Omar Faruq said Badal returned home alone around 8:30 am. "He could hardly walk at that time. Later, he was taken to a private clinic in Dhaka for treatment," Faruq added. He claimed that Badal was tortured and could not speak properly. The captors also took away his cell phone. Faruq also alleged that the abductors identified themselves as members of a law enforcement agency.<sup>35</sup>

*The Case of Abul Hossain and Abul Kalam:* On 18 October 2018 Abul Kalam and Abul Hossain, were picked up by detectives from the Narayanganj district's Gausia. After two days, on 20 October, Abul Hossain was found dead in Tengrartek area on a bypass road in Dhaka. Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station, said Abul was shot during a "gunfight between two groups of robbers" at night following a feud over shares of the loot. He was also a member of robber group. His brother, Abul Kalam has not yet returned home. According to the Rupganj Police Station's OC Moniruzzaman, Abul Hossain had not been arrested. He was picked up by the police from Purinda area under Araihasar Upazila in Narayanganj on 18 October. He was killed in cross-fire while Abul Kalam still remains arrested. Abul's elder brother, Abu Sayeed said that Abul Hossain was an auto-rickshaw driver. Abul Kalam was also a CNG driver. On the day of the incident, at dawn, Abul Hossain went out with his CNG and was arrested by police and thereafter taken to police custody. Subsequently, it transpired that Abul Hossain was killed in crossfire.<sup>36</sup>

On 21 November 2018, a Ph.D. Researcher, Enamul Haque Mani was abducted from in front of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on his way to Korea. He left for airport from his residence at Ashkona House at 10.00 pm in the evening, and then went missing. Later that night, the 'abductor' called Mani's family members and demanded a ransom of Tk. 1.50 lac to be paid the next morning. Accordingly, the family handed over Tk. 1 lac to so-called 'abductor' through bKash no (01637694568, 01748365208) but they didn't return Enamul. In this matter, a GD has been filed with Dakkhinkhan Police Station but police couldn't trace him yet. Missing Enamul was a student of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh and after completion of the study was doing Ph.D. Research in South Korea's Kingpur University. Enamul's wife, Nazmin Sultana, said that Enamul had come to Dhaka to attend an interview for appointment as a lecturer of a public university on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. On 21 November, he was supposed to return to Korea on a flight of Cathay Pacific.<sup>37</sup>

On November 2, 2018 a college student named Shariful Islam Biplob went missing from Rajshahi. In the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 6/7 miscreants introducing themselves as DB

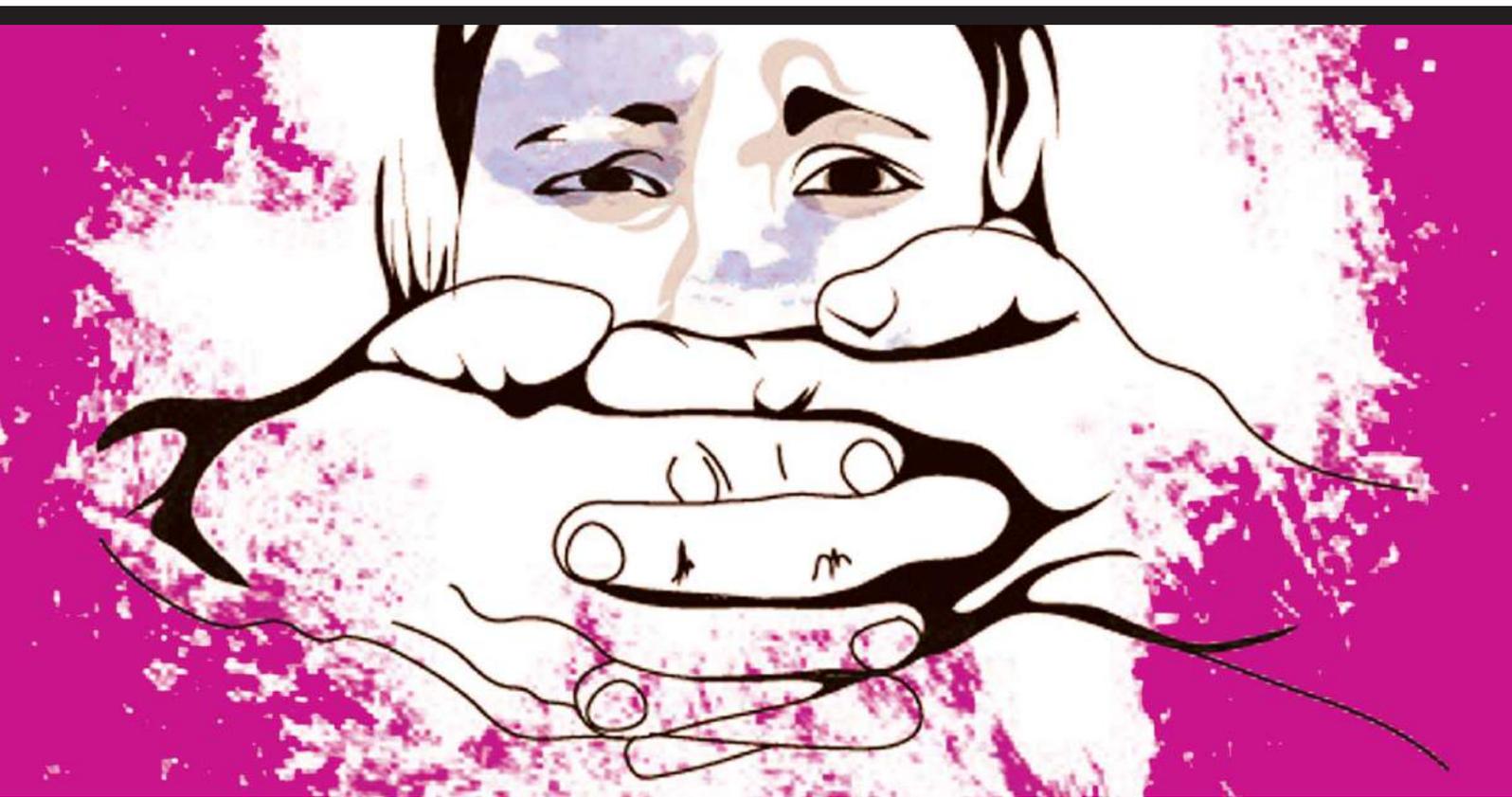
On November 22, 2018, an opposition Bangladesh National Party leader from Jashore was found dead in the River Buriganga in the capital. The 57-year-old victim, Abu Bakar Abu, went missing from Naya Paltan in Dhaka on November 18 after he had come to attend his interview for nomination in the upcoming polls scheduled for December 30. He was the current chairman of Majidpur Union Parishad in Keshobpur and vice-president of BNP's Jashore district unit, according to family sources. In a press conference later in the night, BNP's senior joint secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that whereabouts of Abu Bakar was unknown after he was picked up by law enforcement agencies on November 18. The victim's nephew, Humayun Kabir Sumon, also a leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal central unit, said they identified the body at Mitford Hospital morgue in the evening after receiving information from one of his fellows in Jashore. He said his uncle checked in Metropolitan Hotel in the capital's Naya Paltan and went out of the hotel at about 8:30 pm for dinner. 'He called me several times afterwards and I was on the motorbike at that time. When I called back, he could not give us details about him. His phone was found off within an hour. Later, some of the people demanded money for his release. We gave Tk 2 lakh for his release too,' he added.<sup>39</sup>



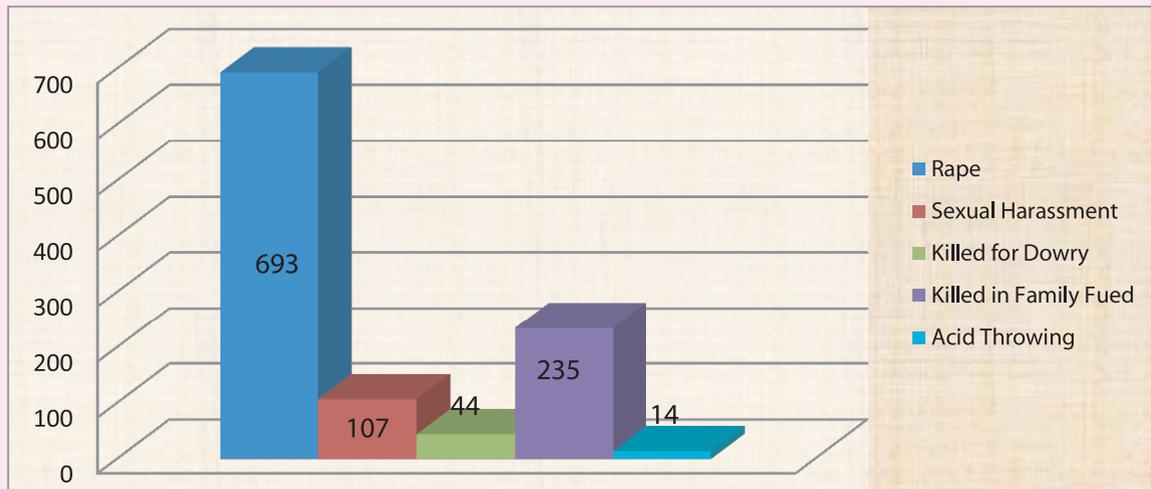
officers from the city's Hossainiganj area took him away in a microbus. Since then, his family alleged that Biplob was missing. On November 4, a general diary (GD) was filed at Boalia Police Station. The disappeared Shariful Islam was a first year student of Rajshahi Law College. Shapla, sister of Shariful Islam Biplob, told reporters that her brother was sitting on the roadside just outside his hostel when 6/7 miscreants whisked him away in a white microbus. Since then, no trace has been found of Shariful Islam. A GD has been filed with the local police station.<sup>38</sup>

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- 23 Hrss investigation desk and <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/rab-impersonators-abduct-youth-ransom-1586572F>
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- 27 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2018/09/11/missing-for-six-days-12-youths-finally-shown-arrested-remanded>
- 28 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/abducted-men-posing-detectives-1626040>
- 29 HRSS's research desk and <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/5-boys-picked-up-db-detectives-branch-in-dhaka-airport-area-1634191>
- 30 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/4-bullet-hit-bodies-recovered-narayanganj-magura-1633825>
- 31 Photo from Daily star
- 32 Hrss investigation desk and <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/they-were-picked-day-1650685>
- 33 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1562868/??-????>
- 34 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/drug-peddler-killed-pabna-gunfight-anti-narcotics-drive-bangladesh-1649500>
- 35 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/picked-pro-al-men-return-1652059>
- 36 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1562868/??-????>
- 37 [www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1566453](http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1566453)
- 38 <https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/683947.details>
- 39 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/56823/bnp-ticket-seeker-found-dead-in-buriganga>

# Violence against Women



In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.<sup>40</sup> The natures of violence commonly committed are physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide and murder, acid throwing and family feud related violence. Husbands, in-laws and other family members are the main actors responsible for the victimization of women. Violence against women is one of the most severe, widespread and devastating human rights violations in Bangladesh but most of the cases remain unreported due to impunity, stigma, shame and political shelter surrounding it. HRSS closely screened the condition of women and girls in Bangladesh and documented issues relating to the violation of women’s rights, as follows:



**Figure 07 : Violence against Women in 2018**

The graph provides information about incidents of violence against women from January to December 2018. Increasing incidents of sexual violence, including various other forms of violence against women and children had taken place in 2018. In most cases, women and children became victims of rape after abduction, eve-teasing, torture for dowry, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing and physical and mental abuse. According to the graph, a total of 693 females have been raped. Of them, 279 were identified as adults, and an alarmingly 414 were children under the age of 16, About 581 were victims of single rape and nearly 112 were subjected to gang rape. Approximately 34 were killed after being raped and around 86 incidents have been reported of attempt to rape. Almost 301 incidents of family feud related violence were reported between January and December 2018 and out of them, around 235 women were killed in family feud and almost 66 females have been injured. Approximately 88 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported. Out of them, about 44 females were killed due to dowry-related violence and 45 injured. Around 14 incidents of acid violence were reported, among them of 14 females was injured. On the other hand, a total of 107 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in 2018. Among them, 72 were assaulted and 35 were stalked.

## Rape

In Bangladesh rape has increased steeply from January to December 2018. It is one of the severest forms of violence against women. The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon and it depicts the vulnerable condition of women in the society. It is a heinous offense. Section 376 of the Penal Code, 1860 states: “Whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for life”. It may be mentioned that sometimes rape is followed by murder, particularly when gang rape takes place.

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the graph provides information about ‘Rape’ from January to December 2018; a total number of 693 females were allegedly raped. Of them, about 581 were victims of single rape and nearly 112 were subjected to gang rape, around 414 were children below the age of 16 (including single and gang rape), Approximately 34 were killed after being raped. On the other hand, around 86 incidents have been reported of attempted rape.

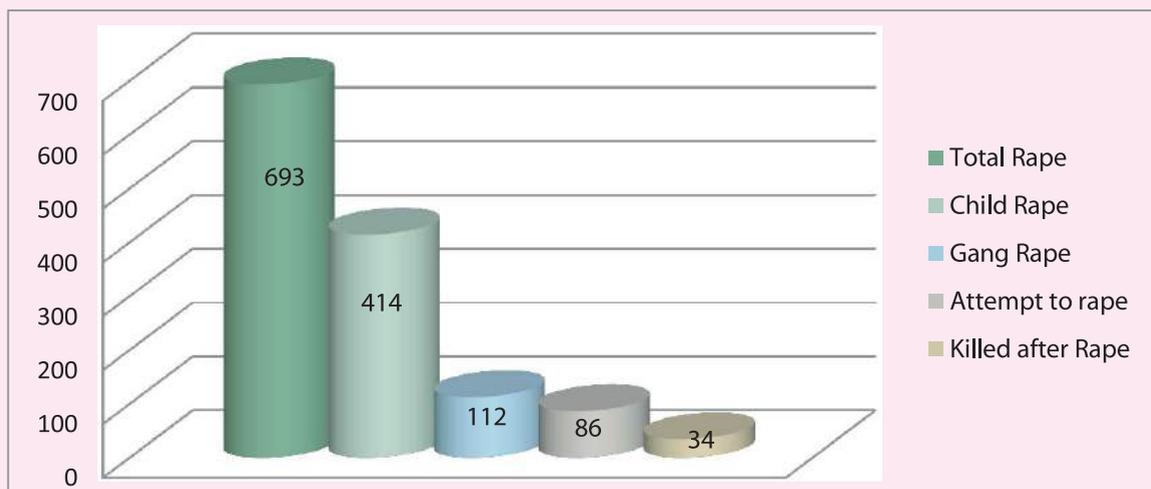


Figure 08 : Statics of Female Victims of Rape

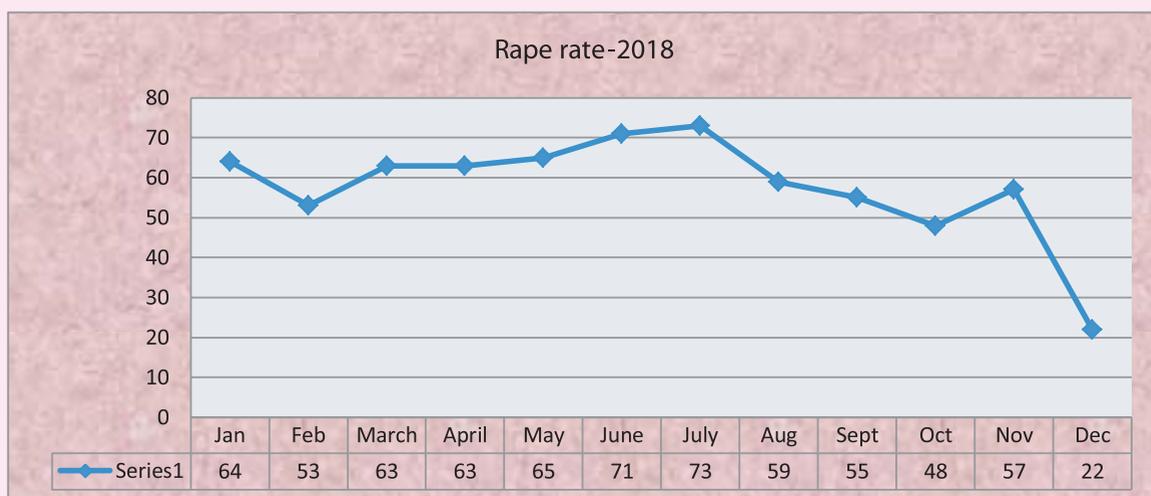


Figure 09 : Monthly Comparison of rape from Jan to Dec '18

**Reported cases of rape in 2018 are stated below:**

On February 24, 2018, a teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped and her mother was “tied up” for trying to save her in Chunarughat of Habiganj. The alleged victim and her mother were treated in Habiganj Sadar Hospital. The victim's mother said that Mizan Mia and Fazul Haque, residents of Manikvandar village of the same upazila, had been stalking her daughter for a long time. “They entered my house while my husband was away and raped my daughter,” she said.<sup>41</sup>

On May 02, 2018 two minor girls were raped in Pabna and Lalmonirhat districts In Pabna, a Class-III student was violated allegedly by her uncle in Teghari area of Bera upazila. Police arrested the alleged rapist, Aminul Islam, 32. Locals said Aminul used to stay at his father-in-law's house since his marriage. On the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Aminul called the girl to his room and violated her there. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, in Lalmanirhat, a first grader was raped by a

## HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

neighbor named Mohananda, 40. The man took the minor to a maize field and violated her there. Hearing the screams of the victim, locals rushed to the scene of occurrence and took the girl to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. However, the alleged rapist managed to flee the scene.<sup>42</sup>

On June 22, 2018, five indigenous organizations protested the recent gang-rape of a teenage Tripura girl in Khagrachhari and demanded an end to the culture of impunity by ensuring punishment for the culprits. On 21 June, the Tripura girl, also a tenth grader, went to the Zilla Parishad Park with three of her friends. There, a group of Bengali youths attacked them and gang-raped the Tripura girl. She was rescued later by police.<sup>43</sup>

On June 28th, 2018, criminal demanded a sum of Tk 2 lakh from the family members of a victim of rape after recording the incident of rape. Later, two perpetrators were arrested over gang-raping a fourth-grader in Pathalia village of Gopalpur in Tangail. The arrested are Majnu and Josna Begum, both hailing from Pathalia village. According to case statements, the fourth-grader lived with her grandmother after her parents' separation. On April 16, she went to neighbor Fazlu Mia's house on an errand. At that time, with the help of Fazlu's wife Josna Begum, Majnu and Shohag confined the girl to a room and took turns in raping her. They also recorded it on a mobile phone. On June 9, the rapists again came to the minor's grandmother's house and threatened to leak the video if they were not paid a sum of Tk 2 lakh.<sup>44</sup>

On August 01, 2018 an 11-year-old girl was raped in Senbagh upazila noakhali. The victim was a student of Class IV. Superintendent of Police Md Iliyas Sharif said local teashop owner Kamal Hossain, 30, entered the house of the victim and raped her when her parents were not there. Hearing the screams of the child, neighbours rushed to the house and rescued her.<sup>45</sup>

On August 24, 2018, two Tripura girls, aged 12 and 17, were allegedly raped by two members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Lama Upazila of Bandarban district. In a case filed with Lama Police Station, the girls said a third BGB man stood guard as they were raped in a bush not far from their village. BGB jawans Sumon and Maruf of Tirer Deva Camp were



accused of raping and Nayek Rabiul of assisting, Investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Abdullah said.<sup>46</sup>

On September 03, 2018, a schoolgirl was raped allegedly by two youths at Rouha Kalapara village in Sadar upazila, Sherpur district. The girl, 14, daughter of a poor rickshaw puller at the village, was a student of Class VII at a local high school. Local youths Shakil, 20, Masud, 18, and Shipon, 20, used to harass her on the way to and from her school; police quoted the victim as saying.<sup>47</sup>

On 01 October 18, in Magura's Sreepur Upazilla's Barishat Village Mosque, a teacher serving on the Children and Mass-Education Project raped a 4 year old child. The child's maternal grand-mother lodged a criminal case over the incident with Sreepur Police Station.<sup>48</sup>

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, a woman of Fulbaria's Roghunathpur Village was raped. Medical examination which was later conducted at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital confirmed the allegations of rape. The woman was kidnapped on 28<sup>th</sup> September by Shaheed, Sharif, Zakir Hossain and Bazlu, all hailing from the same village. They took the woman to Raghunathpur's pond side in an abandoned house and raped her. The victim filed a criminal case with Fulbaria Thana against Zakir Hossain, Bazlu and another accomplice for committing the offences of abduction and rape.<sup>49</sup>

On October 11, 2018, a Baul singer alleged that she was raped by two men in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka. Police arrested Badshah Bhuiyan, 40, from Gazirchat in the suburban area after the 30-year-old victim filed a case with Ashulia Police Station. Police said they were looking for the main accused Sujon Bhuiyan, 35, who is a cousin of Badshah.<sup>50</sup>

On October 10, 2018, a 15-year-old garment worker was allegedly gang-raped in Bin Para area of Sadar upazila and was rescued by locals as she tried to commit suicide. The incident took place when the victim was returning home on the bank of the Old Brahmaputra River.<sup>51</sup>

On October 17, 201, a 17-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped at Dhaniakata of Cox's Bazar's Pekua Upazila, Cox's Bazar. Police detained three suspects Ali Hossain, Md Tareq and Abu Siddique in this connection.<sup>52</sup>

On November 08, 2018, a housewife filed a case accusing that three youths raped her at Gulishakhali village in Morrelganj upazila of the Bagerhat district. The victim, 28, filed the case with Morrelganj Police Station, accusing Nayeem Hawlader, 25, and Taizul Islam, 20, of Dighirpar village, and Forkan Sardar, 32, of Moulvibazar village in Morrelganj.<sup>53</sup>

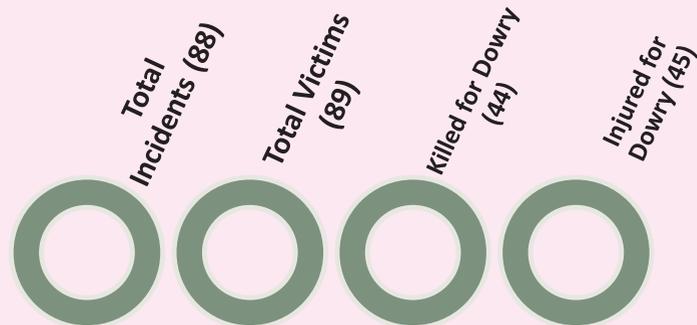
On November 09, 2018, a 13-year-old girl of Tripura community was allegedly raped in Uzaliapara near Khaiachhara Hill in Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram. Police arrested a Tripura community man Shimul Tripura, 40, from a hilly area in this connection after the victim's father filed a case with Mirsarai police station on Friday morning. Victim's father, in the case statement, said that Shimul and Mannan violated her daughter taking her to a local hill around 1:00pm.<sup>54</sup>

On November 11, 2018, a Garo woman was allegedly raped by two men in the district's Sreebardi upazila, Sherpur. Police arrested one of the accused, Arfan Ali, who hails from Balijuri village in the same upazila. Victim's family members said Arfan, 35, and his accomplice entered the woman's house in Kharamora village introducing themselves as law enforcers and violated her.<sup>55</sup>

On December 06, 2018, an indigenous woman was raped allegedly by a local drug addict in a jungle at Telkhola village of Ukhia upazila, Cox's Bazar. The 19-year-old victim was the wife of a day labourer of the area. She gave birth to a baby girl two months back. When she went to the nearby jungle to collect firewood, Shamsul Alam, 25, son of Md Usman, raped her.<sup>56</sup>

## Dowry-Related Violence

According to Section 2(j) of Anti-Women and Children Oppression Act (Amendment 2013), dowry means any money or material or any other property demanded from the party of the bride by the bridegroom or his parents or any person on his behalf directly connected with the marriage or during the continuance thereof consideration for marriage or as a condition of continuing the marital relation or any money or article or any other property given or agreed to given by the party of the bride to the bridegroom, his parents or any person on his behalf directly connected with the marriage before or during the continuing the marital relation.<sup>57</sup> Women often become victims of violence at the hands of their husbands or in-laws for various reasons, including dowry, both in the rural and the urban areas of Bangladesh. Absence of moral and ethical education is at the root of dowry related incidents of violence. The incidents of dowry-related violence have increased steeply in 2018.



**Figure 10 : Statistics of Dowry Related Violence**

*The graph shows that a total 88 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported from January to December 2018. Among them, 44 were killed, and 45 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.*

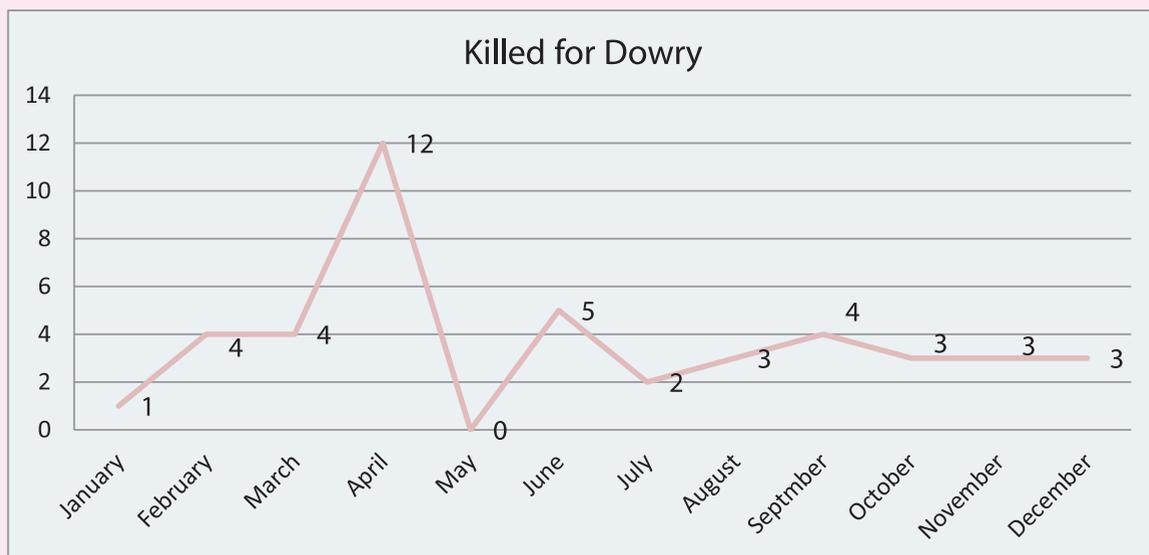


Figure 11 : Monthly Comparison of deaths for dowry in 2018

**Some important incidents are described below:**

On February 07, 2018, a man allegedly beat his son-in-law to death for demanding dowry and torturing his daughter in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur. The victim was identified as Mozaharul Islam, 27, son of Younus Ali of village Feskipara in Badarganj. The incident happened on 07 February at 11:30 pm in Khalpara village of the upazila.<sup>58</sup>

On April 17, 2018, a housewife was allegedly murdered by her husband at Kachua village in Jashore Sadar. The deceased, Rahela Begum, 25, was married to fish trader Hero Hossain of Kachua village 14 years ago, family sources said. After the marriage, Hero and his family members often tortured Rahela for dowry. Rahela recently went to her father's home and started a small business. On 16 April, 2018, Hero brought Rahela to his house and strangled her following an altercation over the issue.<sup>59</sup>

On April 02, 2018, a woman was allegedly murdered by her husband in Jashore Sadar upazila. The deceased was Rabeya Khatun, 22, daughter of Delwar Hossain of Jhumjhumpur Uttarpara in the upazila. Family sources said Rabeya married easy-bike driver, Iqbal Hossain of Satiantola Ghop village, five years ago. After the marriage, Iqbal and his family members often tortured Rabeya demanding Tk One lakh as dowry. On 2 April, 2018, Iqbal strangled Rabeya following an altercation over the issue and fled the scene, said the victim's brother Habibur Rahman.<sup>60</sup>

On June 02, 2018, a woman was allegedly murdered by her husband for dowry at Moheshpur Kuniapara village in Ishwarganj upazila Mymensingh. The deceased was Murshida Begum, 25, wife of Johirul Islam of the village, also the mother of a three-year-old boy. Johirul often tortured Murshida for dowry after their marriage, said the Officer in Charge of the local police station. Johirul strangled Murshida following an altercation over the issue, and fled the scene, he said.<sup>61</sup>

On August 24, 2018, a woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over dowry in Siddhirganj upazila of Narayanganj. Police recovered the body of Alo Begum, 22, from her

Shantinagar house in upazila. They detained the victim's husband Jony Mia, 28, for interrogation, said Sub-inspector Mohammad Joshim of Siddhirganj Police Station.<sup>62</sup>

On October 09, 2018, a woman was allegedly murdered by her husband for dowry at Jhapa Village in Jashore's Monirampur upazila, Benapole. The deceased was Monju Khatun, 30, daughter of Jomshed Morol of Baga Dengi village in the upazila. Quoting family members, police said Babul Hossain, 45, son of Raj Ali of Jhapa village, often tortured Monju for dowry.<sup>63</sup>

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2018, Zakia Sultana, a housewife was murdered by her spouse and in-laws by being electrocuted to death in Pabna's Iswardi for her failure to pay dowry. The murdered house-wife was Rezaul Karim Rintu's Spouse and Abed Ali Pramanik, daughter of Shimul village. As per the victim's family, she had married, Azmal Hossain's son, Rezaul Karim Rintu of Iswardi, Guriadapur 4 years ago. Her family members repeatedly tortured her for dowry.<sup>64</sup>

On 03 December 2018, a house-wife was choked to death in Gopalganj's Moksudpur on account of non-payment of dowry. The murdered housewife, Mitali was a first year student of Jolir Par Degree College. Family sources alleged that Mitali married Taposh Baroi eight months ago and that following the marriage, her spouse and in-laws had been repeatedly pressuring her for payment of dowry. Consequently, the husband and wife were constantly quarelling.<sup>65</sup>

## Acid Violence

Acid Violence is considered to be one of the most extreme forms of oppression and violation of women's right. It is a severe crime which has been occurring throughout Bangladesh, being committed mostly against women and girls. Section 4 of the Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 prescribes death penalty or rigorous imprisonment for life including a fine of not more than Taka One lakh if anybody causes death or makes an attempt to cause death to any child or woman by using any burning substance. Despite such stringent legal provisions, women are recurrently facing acid violence. The law has made it a punishable offence to use, buy, produce, sell, import or transport acid without a license; however, a majority of the acid attacks on women occur due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex scandals or over land disputes.

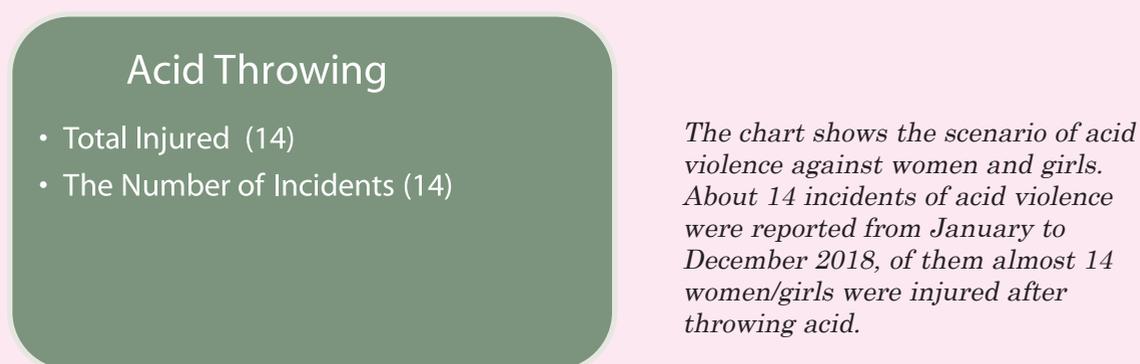


Figure 12 : Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls

**Some important cases are described below:**

On February 04, 2018, criminals threw acid on a newlywed woman in Baliadangi upazila of the thakurgaon. Victim Jharna Rani, 18, told reporters at Baliadangi Health Complex that she and her husband were going to Baliadangi Pilot Model High School on a motorbike to meet a relative who was appearing in the SSC examinations. When they reached near the school, four youths, including Sujan Chandra Paul, 19, son of Kheldar Chandra Paul, and Arjun Chandra Paul, 21, son of Rajen Chandra Paul, came to the place by two motorbikes and threw acid at them, she said.<sup>66</sup>

On 2 April 2018 a housewife sustained serious burn injuries as a miscreant hurled acid on her at Jhauchar in Hazaribagh in the city. The victim was identified as Aklima Khatun, 25, wife of Zobayer Hossain. Zobayer said when Aklima along with her daughter was going to a local school in the morning a young man hurled acid on her.<sup>67</sup>

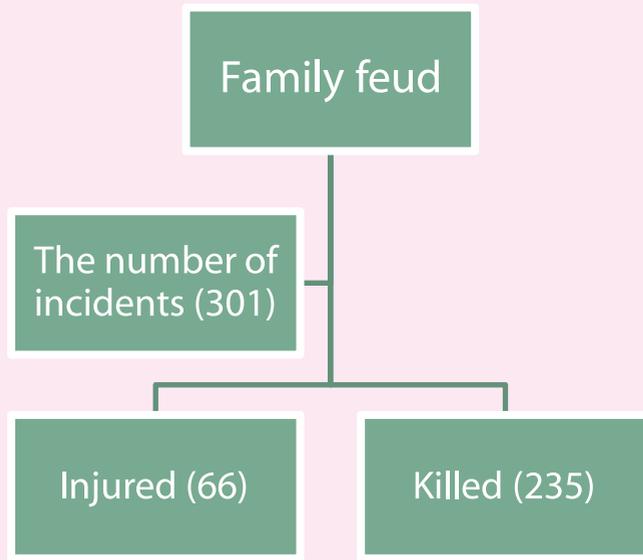
On 9 July, 2018 a teenage girl, who sustained serious burn injuries along with her sister after criminals attacked them with acid in Sadar Upazila on May 14, died at CRP Hospital in Mirpur. Deceased Tanjim Akhter Mala, 16, daughter of Mohammad Helal of Uttar Digholdi in Sadar Upazila and her sister Marzia, 8, sustained serious burn injuries when unidentified miscreants poured acid on them while they were sleeping on May 14. Mala passed this year's SSC examination with good results from Abdul Mannan Secondary School and Marzia is a student of class two of another local school. Stalker Rajib used to disturb Mala over mobile phone for long, although she rejected his proposal of love.<sup>68</sup>



## Family Feud Related Violence (Domestic Violence)

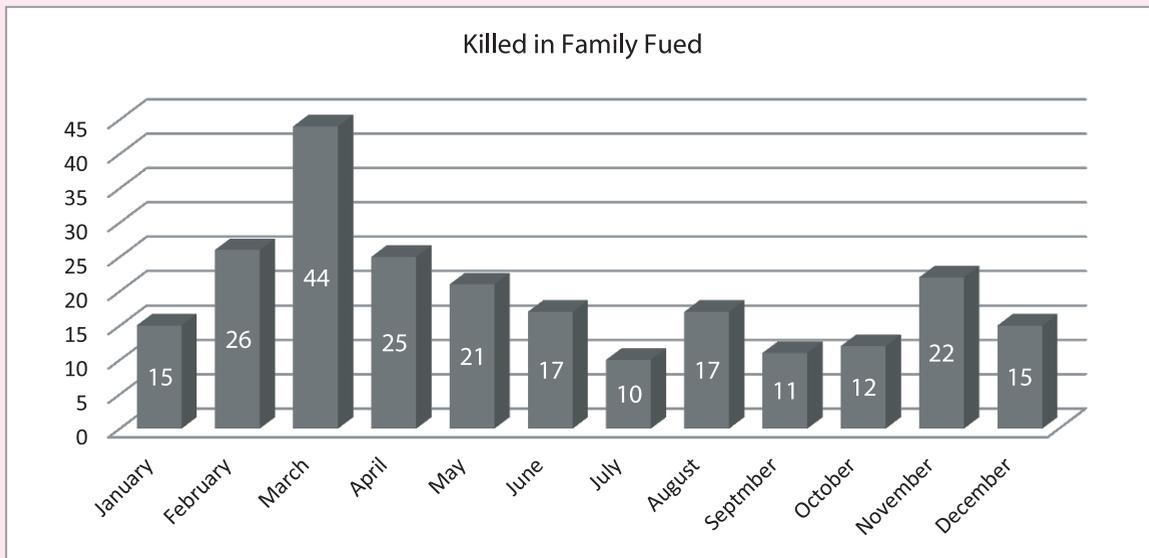


Family feud related violence is the most pervasive form of human rights abuse in Bangladesh. It occurs both in rural and urban areas. Family feud includes incidents of willful intimidation, physical assault, murder, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of family feud is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other. Some data on family feud related violence are given below from January to December 2018:



**Figure 13 : Statistics of family feud**

*The chart provides information collected by Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) which shows that 235 women were killed in family feud, 66 females have been injured in 301 reported incidents of family feud from January to December 2018.*



**Figure 14 : Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec'18**

**Some important incidents are described below:**

On November 19, 2018, a housewife was strangled to death allegedly by her husband at their rented residence in Boubazar area under Rampura Police Station in Dhaka. The deceased was identified as Nupur Begum, 22, wife of Md Dulal, of Shreebardi of Sherpur. They used to live in a rented room of a tin-shed building at Boubazar. Nupur used to work as a domestic help while Dulal was a rickshaw peddler.<sup>69</sup>

On November 04, 2018, a pregnant housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband's younger brother at Muriaruk village under Lakhai upazila of Habiganj. The victim was Mansura Akhter Sumi, 20, daughter of Shofil Mia of Dewan Bari of the same village.<sup>70</sup>

On November 02, 2018, a woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at their house in Chattogram city. The deceased was identified as Ruksana Akther, 25, said police. She and her husband Mohammad Joynal had an altercation over a debt that he owed to many for gambling, said Nobel Chakma, an assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. Such an altercation led to the murder, he said, adding that Joynal went into hiding after the incident.<sup>71</sup>

On July 06, 2018, a woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Mirzapur upazila in Tangail. The deceased was Jhalmal Rani, 32, wife of Pran Krishna. SM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said the couple used to live on the second-floor of a six-storied building in Sohagpara. They used to quarrel frequently, said the OC quoting neighbours. He might have hacked her to death following an argument and fled the scene, he added.<sup>72</sup>

On 17 May 2018, a woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over family feud at Balidah village in Sharsha upazila of Benapole. The deceased was Sumona Begum, a young lady in her twenties, wife of Ujjal. Local people said Ujjal, son of Mobarak Hossain, used to torture his wife Sumona since their marriage eight years back. On 16 May, 2018 the couple locked into an altercation. At one stage, Ujjal beat up Sumona mercilessly, leaving her dead.<sup>73</sup>

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexually determined behavior, attempts to establish physical relation, demand or request for sexual favors, sexually coloured verbal representation, sexually coloured remark or gesture, teasing through abusive language, stalking, joking having sexual implication, insult through letters, telephone calls, cell phone calls, SMS, e-mails and social media and can occur in many different social settings such as

the workplace, the home, school, churches, etc. Unfortunately, sexual harassment is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. Sexual harassment is also considered as gender discrimination and human rights violation against women. According to the Human Rights Support Society report, in Bangladesh, 107 women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December 2018.

*According to information gathered by HRSS, a total of 107 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December 2018. Of them, 72 were assaulted and 35 were stalked.*

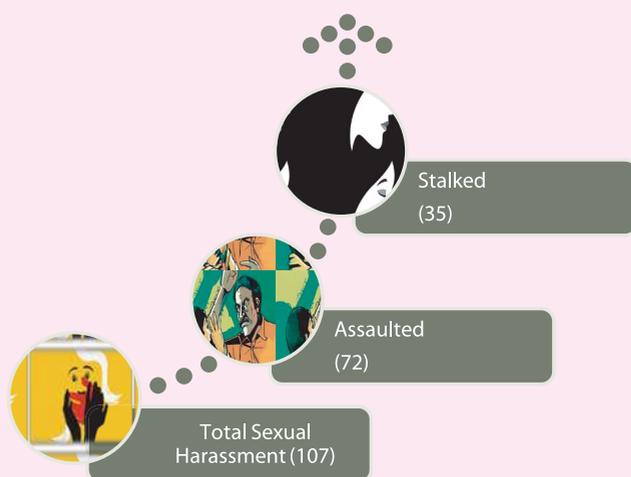


Figure 15 : Statistics of Sexual Harassment



Figure 16 : Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment from Jan to Dec '18

**A number of vital cases are stated below:**

On 03 December 2018, a female student was sexually harassed by Head-Master in a primary school in Mothbaria. On behalf of the students, a parent lodged a criminal case against the Head-Master Emadul Haq. It was alleged that on the evening of 25 November, the Head Master called a female student alone in a library and tried to molest her.<sup>74</sup>

On December 01, 2018, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist of Jahangirnagar University allegedly beat up a female tea stall owner on the campus over payment of dues. The incident took place in front of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall. The accused activist, Syed Layeb Ali, is a master's student of philosophy and resident of the hall. He is loyal to JU BCL general secretary SM Abu Sufian Chanchal. Tea stall owner Ayesha Khatun Rubi, 35, said, "I just asked him to pay his dues. But he hurled abuse at me and beat me up with a bamboo stick."<sup>75</sup>

On January 08, 2018, Deputy Inspector general of Police, Mizanur Rahman was suspended after a woman accused him of marrying her at gunpoint and torturing her. Additional Inspector General (Media) Seheli Ferdaus said Mizanur has been withdrawn from Dhaka Metropolitan Police and attached to the police headquarters. A woman alleged that DIG Mizan, also an additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, forcibly picked her up from her Panthapath residence adjacent to Square Hospital. Later he kept her confined to his bailey road residence for three days and married her by force in presence of her mother. The incident took place on July 17, 2017.<sup>76</sup>

On July 5th, 2018, a female quota reform activist, who was reportedly molested by Chhatra League activists, accused the police of harassing her during a 27-hour-long detention. Twenty-seven hours after her detention, Shahbagh police released her. However, at a press briefing on 5 July 2018, Moriom Mannan Farah, said she did not know the youths who had molested her near Central Shaheed Minar on 2 July 2018 when she was trying to save Faruk Hasan, a joint convener of Bangladesh General Students' Rights Protection Council, from being inhumanely beaten. But she claimed that she was mentally tortured and harassed by both male and female officials at the Shahbagh police station all night until her release the next afternoon. "The police officials, who are supposed to uphold the law, tried to charge me with solicitation, and under the Narcotics Act, calling me a yaba-addict," she said at the briefing organized by the female quota reform activists in front of Ruqayyah Hall of Dhaka University. "They called me



**Moriom Mannan Farah being molested by men identified as Chhatra League activists near Central Shaheed Minar on Dhaka University campus on July 2, 2018**

a whore, and tried to force me to confess that I was part of something bigger than just the quota reform movement. But I refused.” Moriom, a first year student of political science at Tejgaon College, claimed that police did not release her when her family members came to the police station. “Even the policewomen at the station were calling me names, mentally torturing me, and they did not let me sleep all night inside the dirty room where I was kept.”

Moriom, who lives with her family in the city’s Bashundhara Residential Area, was reportedly picked up by Chhatra League activists during the attack on quota reform activists on DU campus, and was then taken to Shahbagh police station. A photo of her, showing her trying to protect Faruk from the brutal Chhatra League attack, went viral on social media soon after the incident. The attackers were identified by the media as Chhatra League leaders from different units of the Awami League student wing based in DU.<sup>77</sup>

On 28 January 2018, teachers and students of Geography and Environment Department (G&E) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) postponed all academic activities till February 1 as two female teachers of the department were reportedly abused by two students verbally. The decision came following an urgent academic meeting held at the G&E department council room at 11:00 am.<sup>78</sup>

On October 23, 2018 a six-minute video went viral on social media, showing a young woman being harassed at a police check-post in Rampura at 2:00 am. The incident was recorded and uploaded by police apparently to defame the woman. The uploader’s Facebook profile name was Rakib Raj with a profile picture wearing Dhaka metropolitan police uniform. The name ‘Mizanur’ was seen to be inscribed on his badge. He introduced himself as a junior officer of the Bangladesh police in his profile. Rakib Raj aka Mizanur, in his Facebook post, wrote, “The woman misbehaved with the police when she was being searched at police check-post at 2:00 am night. Please share this video.” A large number of Facebook users started flooding the post condemning the role of police at the time. The video showing on-duty policemen harassing a young woman at a checkpoint in the capital triggered outrage on social media. As the cops started using offensive language, an altercation broke out between the woman and the policemen. The law enforcers were heard hinting that she was a prostitute (you just came out of a hotel) as she was travelling late at night.<sup>79</sup>

On 07 November 2018, a written complaint was filed against Nachole upazila Bangladesh Chhatra League president over stalking, harassing and torturing two college girls. Motiur Rahman Khokon, former general secretary of upazila unit BCL, also uncle of one victim, filed the complaint against the BCL leader Abdullah Al Mahmud Shovon on Wednesday noon, said Chowdhury Jubayer Ahmmed, officer-in-charge of Nachole Police Station.<sup>80</sup>

On August 03, 2018, amid an ongoing protest against rape and murder of primary schoolgirl Punati from Dighinala upazila, another indigenous schoolgirl from the same upazila was allegedly sexually assaulted. The victim's maternal uncle said they took her to the hospital as she became traumatized after a resident of the same village, Mitan Chakma alias Barpeda, 23, attempted to rape her. She was alone at her home when the incident took place around 3:30 pm.<sup>81</sup>

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- 42 <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/174987/2-minor-girls-raped-in-2-districts>
- 43 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=122450&cat=9/???>
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- 45 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/fourth-grader-raped-noakhali-1614568>
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- 47 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/1809862/????>
- 48 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18096584/????????>
- 49 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/181027/????>
- 50 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1561002/????>
- 51 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/15-year-old-readymade-garment-worker-gang-raped-1646611>
- 52 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18103661/????>
- 53 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/housewife-gang-raped-1657963>
- 54 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/186209/Indigenous-minor-girl-%E2%80%98raped%E2%80%99-in-Chattogram>
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- 58 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/man-beaten-death-demanding-dowry-1531513>
- 59 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-kills-wife-dowry-jashore-1563865>
- 60 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-husband-dowry-1557589>
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# Attack on Journalists

**F**reedom of expression is a precondition for a working democracy, nurturing peace and fostering public participation in decision-making. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) contains, in Article 19, the first and most widely recognized statement of the right to freedom of expression: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”.<sup>82</sup> In recent years, journalists have been subjected to an “unprecedented” wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Regrettably, individuals are not able to criticize the government publicly without the fear of reprisal and the government often attempts to impede criticism by shutting down a number of electronic and print media in view of their critical reports against the government. The number of attacks on journalists, according to Human Rights Support Society report is increasing day by day. The chart below provides information about the total number of attack on journalists.



Attack On Journalist	Total Incidents (113)
	Killed (02)
	Threatened ( 27)
	Injured (136)
	Assaulted(22)
	Arrested(09)

**Figure 17 : Attacks on Journalist**

*Freedom of expression is under threat in Bangladesh. The right to freedom of expression is being constantly violated while human rights activists and journalists are facing systematic oppression by the state agencies. The enactment of draconian laws designed to claim down on free speech have only made the situation of journalist, human rights defenders, online activists, and bloggers more precarious. Suppression of the dissenting voice has become a common phenomenon, which unfortunately has become normalized in Bangladesh, largely due to a culture of impunity, lack of accountability and an ineffective justice delivery mechanism. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh. The graph illustrates attacks on journalists in 2018. According to HRSS's documented statistics, 02 journalists were killed, about 136 were injured, nearly 27 were threatened, 09 arrested and 22 were assaulted covering 113 incidents in 2018.*

**Selected cases are as described below:**

On January 22, 2018, a journalist was assaulted by some miscreants in Kaliganj upazila of the lalmonirhat district. They also took away the newsman's camera and laptop, said Kaliganj police. A complaint was filed with the local police station, accusing seven people, including the son of a union parishad (UP) member, in connection with the incident. The victim is Niaz Ahmed Shipon, 28, Kaliganj upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Khola Kagoj, and son of Hazrat Ali of Tushbhandar village.<sup>83</sup>

On January 24, 2018, two newsmen were injured in an attack by miscreants at Benapole Land Port. The injured were Jashore reporter Ziaul Haque and video journalist Sharif Khan of Independent Television. They were admitted to Jashore General Hospital. When a group of port workers brought out a procession, a bomb blasted in the area, said police. On information, the two journalists went to cover the news when a gang attacked them and destroyed their camera, said the victims.<sup>84</sup>

On February 02, 2018, the mayor of Thakurgaon municipality allegedly threatened to hack a local journalist over the phone for reporting on irregularities in an ongoing road construction project. However, denying the allegation, Mayor Alamgir Sarkar, also President of Jubo League's Ranishankoil upazila unit said he only hurled abuses at the reporter for publishing a “fabricated report”. Khurshid Alam Shawon, 24, the upazila correspondent of the Bangla daily Protidiner Sangbad, filed a general diary with Ranishankoil Police Station the same night, accusing the mayor of threatening to hack him.<sup>85</sup>

On April 18, 2018, a police official allegedly assaulted a senior journalist, forced him into the police van and kept him in custody at Rajpara Police Station while he was on duty. Saidur Rahman, the local correspondent of Bhorer Kagoj and general secretary of Rajshahi Press Club, was however released later in the afternoon after the intervention of local journalists and public representatives.<sup>86</sup>

On April 24, 2018, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Government Tolaram College unit in Narayanganj allegedly assaulted a journalist for his involvement in the Dhaka University student led quota-reform demonstrations. The victim Sourav Hossain Siam, 20, a second-year student of zoology department of the College and literature editor of Prothom-Alo Bondhushava in the district, was beaten on the college campus. Sourav, also a staff reporter of Local online newspaper “Press Narayanganj”, said, BCL men called him over a cell phone and asked him to meet them. When he went in front of Tolaram College Arts Building, five to six BCL men swooped on him and shouted, “You do news against us. You are involved with quota-reform movement”, he alleged. Sourav alleged that he was beaten inside the students' union office in presence of Habibur Rahman Riad, President of the college BCL unit.<sup>87</sup>

On June 08, 2018 two police officials have been closed for their alleged involvement in the torture of a journalist in Habiganj. They are sub-inspectors Rakibul Islam and Abdul Mukid Chowdhury of Habiganj Model Police Station. Bidhan Tripura, superintendent of police (SP) in Habiganj, confirmed it to this correspondent. On May 31, 2018 some policemen forcibly picked up Shirajul Islam Jibon, a reporter of UK-based television Channel S. He was tortured the entire night and framed in a drug case, according to the journalists.<sup>88</sup>

On May 27, 2018, a senior journalist was beaten up allegedly by some ruling party men in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur district. The victim, Jahurul Islam Thandu, 50, of Satpua village, was Sarishabari upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Jugantor since 1999. Injured Thandu said a group of local Jubo League men led by its upazila unit president Ashrafal Islam attacked him when the viva exams for recruitment of MLSS-cum-night guard posts at 20 government primary schools was about to start at the office of the Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) around 10:30 am.<sup>89</sup>

On July 22, 2018 Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman suffered injuries in an attack allegedly by BCL men on the court premises in Kushtia after he was granted bail in a defamation case. The case was filed on December 10, 2017 for making “derogatory” remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a seminar in Dhaka earlier that month. Several other cases were also filed in different districts over the same allegation.

He appeared before a Kushtia court, seeking permanent bail in the case, filed by Kushtia BCL President Yasir Arafat Tushar. During the bail hearing, one of his counsels questioned the legality of the defamation case, saying the complainant was not the aggrieved person. Outside the courtroom, witnesses said, around 100 activists of the pro-government student body led



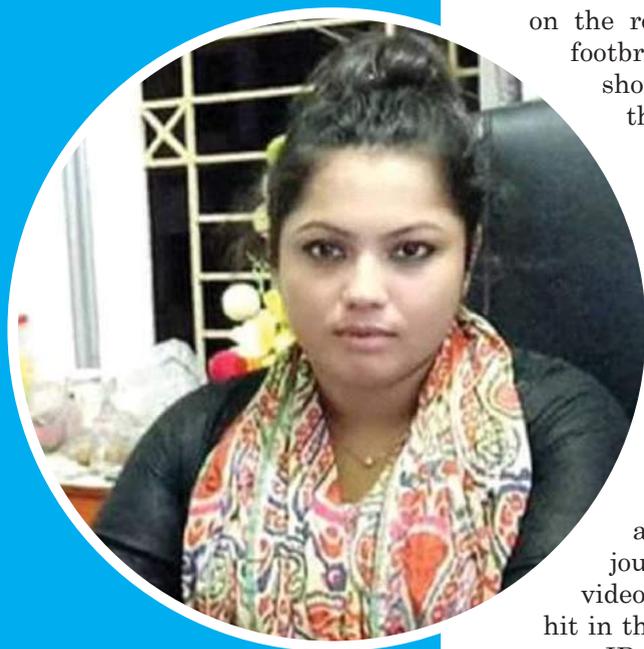
**Amar Desh acting editor, Mahmudur Rahman attacked 'by BCL' in Kushtia.**

by Tushar had taken position. "We are waiting for him," the BCL leader told. "When he will come out of the courtroom, we will seek to know how he dared to make derogatory comments about Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina." The BCL men confined Mahmudur to the courtroom till 4:30 pm since Senior Judicial Magistrate MM Morshed granted him bail around noon. Mahmudur shouted for police help, but the officials were inactive. After 4:30 pm, he along with his lawyers burst out of the courtroom and tried to get into his car. The BCL men with brick chips and sticks smashed the windscreen and some other parts of his car, witnesses said. Police remained silent spectators. Mahmudur took shelter in the room of advocate Shams Tanim Mukti, also general secretary of Mohila Awami League's Kushtia unit. BCL men allegedly stormed into the room and beat him up, leaving him with bloodied face and head. Mukti tried to save him but only in vain. He was rescued by police at one stage.<sup>90</sup>

On August 04, 2018, Police and alleged BCL men beat up three journalists of The Daily Star and molested another in the capital's Jhigatola afternoon. One of them, Shaer Reaz, was taking pictures of a clash near Dhanmondi 3/A around 6:00 pm when a man, who did not appear to be a law enforcer, started beating him up with a stick, kicked him and punched him and handed him to police. His phone was snatched away and smashed. Shaer said the man along with a police official beat him up and then took him to Dhanmondi Police Station. He was later beaten up on the police station premises. He had been locked up at the station for about four hours until reporters of this newspaper went there and requested police to release him.

Another journalist Selim Sadman Somoy, a contributor to The Daily Star, was also detained at the police station and beaten up. He was held while taking pictures of clash at Jhigatola. Policemen, requesting anonymity, told that Shaer was handed to them by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

Sushmita S Preetha, editor of The Daily Star's Star Weekend magazine, said that she was molested allegedly by some ruling party men on Mirpur Road at Science Lab intersection around 5:30 pm. They were in a procession, chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan and carrying sticks



on the road. As she was filming the procession from the footbridge, they climbed up stairs of the footbridge, shouting, “Catch her”. Preetha tried to get down from the bridge but two BCL men got hold of her and began dragging her to the other side of the road. She requested them to leave her alone, saying “If you people have objections to video footage, I will delete it.” Preetha eventually deleted the video but the BCL men were not yet ready to set her free. Amid the chaos, they touched and groped her and were hurling abuse at her, she said. They let her go only after being convinced that she had deleted the video of the procession.

Another journalist, Rafiul Islam came under attack by a BCL man while covering the clashes between students and ruling party men at Jhigatola around 2:00 pm. Rafiul Islam said two to three more journalists had come under attack for trying to get video clips of the events and 10 others harassed. He was hit in the head with a piece of wood even after showing his press ID. Other BCL men then stopped the attacker from hitting him further, he said. In the same area close to a ruling party office, journalist Faisal Hossain from Channel 24 along with camera person Krishna Sarker was beaten up around 7:00 pm while doing live broadcast of the situation.<sup>91</sup>

On September 11, 2018, a campus-based journalist of Chittagong University was beaten up by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men as he protested an incident of ragging. Victim Minhaj Tuhin, the CU correspondent of Alokito Bangladesh, also a third-year student of Arabic, took primary treatment at the university medical Centre. Minhaj said five to six BCL activists, led by Mahamudul Hasan Rupak, were bullying a student over in the shuttle train around 1:25 pm. “At one point, they were about torture him physically.”<sup>92</sup>

On August 28, 2018, unidentified criminals hacked a female journalist to death near her house in Pabna town. Suborna Nodi, 32, daughter of Ayub Ali of Radhanagar village, was the Pabna correspondent of Ananda TV. Victim's elder sister Chompa Khatun said some four to five criminals attacked and hacked Nodi when she was entering home from her office around 10:00 pm, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital where she died around 10:30 pm, Chompa added.<sup>93</sup>

On August 05, 2018, about a dozen photojournalists and reporters came under attack at different places of the capital at the hands of ruling party activists. Witnesses said after dispersing student protesters in Jhigatola area around 1:15 pm, a group of policemen came near City College. At that time,



around 150 BCL activists, a few with machetes, started shouting at some protesters near Science Lab police box. Many of the "ruling party men" were wearing helmets and carrying sticks and iron rods. As some photojournalists present there tried to take photographs, some of the "BCL" men got furious and warned the newsmen not to do so. At one point, some of them threw brickbats at freelance photographer Rahat Karim who was standing on a nearby footbridge, witnesses said. Later, the attackers held him by his T-shirt, dragged him down and beat him indiscriminately with rods, sticks and a machete, leaving him wounded.

Around the same time, AP photographer AM Ahad was beaten mercilessly in the area, said some of the journalists present there, adding that the attackers also broke his cell phone and camera. Witnesses said during the attacks, some policemen were standing nearby, but they did nothing to stop the attackers. Palash of Daily Bonik Barta, Ibnul Asad Zawad of The Daily Janakantha, Rimon of US-based Zuma Press and Enamul Hasan, a photography student of Pathsala South Asian Media Institute, were also injured in similar attacks. Ahmed Deepto, a staff reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, also came under attack near Science Lab area. He sustained injuries to his back and left hand.



Those who were assaulted included Nagorik TV reporter Abdullah Shafi, online news portal Sara Bangla reporter Golam Samdani, Prothom Alo photojournalist Shajid Hossain, Nagorik TV's Kamrul Hassan, news portal bdmorning's Abu Shufian Jewel, Naya Diganta's Sharif Hossain, freelance photographers Marjuk Hasan, Hasan Jubayer and N Kayer Hasim. They were attacked in different parts of the city. A car of private television channel Nagorik TV was vandalised near Science Lab area. Many other journalists, including female reporters, were threatened as well, witnesses said, adding the attackers also looked for The Daily Star and Prothom Alo reporters there.<sup>94</sup>

On October 01, 2018, a local journalist was seriously injured when a gang of criminals assaulted him in Kalarong area in Taltali Upazila of Patuakhali District. The victim, Khairul Islam Akash, is Taltali correspondent for the daily Manob Zamin. The criminals, allegedly led by HM Kawsar, assistant science and technology affairs secretary of Baguna district unit of Jatiytabadi Chhatra Dal, attacked Akash as he published news of their criminal activities, said Taltali Press Club President Md Motaleb Hossain.<sup>95</sup>

On October 13, 2018, unknown criminals attacked a senior journalist in Pabna town, leaving him injured. Habibur Rahman Swapan, 60, is a president of Pabna Reporters Unity. His left hand was badly fractured. He also suffered injuries in the head, said Amit Kumer Sarker, emergency medical officer

at the hospital, pabna. The incident happened around 10:30 pm when Habibur, a staff reporter of Bangla daily Sangbad and also the district correspondent of Boishakhi TV, was on his way to home in the town's Kafiluddinpara from the press club.<sup>96</sup>

On November 02, 2018, a group of people led by a Jubo League leader attacked a journalist in Sadar upazila, Thakurgaon when he tried to stop them from grabbing his land. Victim Md Asaduzzaman Asad was the district correspondent of The Daily Independent.<sup>97</sup>

On November 16, 2018 a journalist was beaten up allegedly by several Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR). The victim was Rabbi Hasan Sabuj, 23, a second year journalism student of the university who was also the university correspondent of the daily Jugantor.<sup>98</sup>

On November 18, 2018 detectives arrested a journalist at his house at Chawkbazar in Chattogram city. The arrested was identified as Afsar Uddin, nayebe-ameer of Chattogram city unit of Jamaat and editor of Dainik Karnaphuli. A team of plain-clothes police raided his house at about 7:00pm and arrested him.<sup>99</sup>

On December 02, 2018 Bangladesh Chhatra League men allegedly beat up seven students and a journalist centring a scuffle over screening of a commercial film on Rajshahi University campus. According to campus sources, Progressive Students' Alliance, a platform of four left-leaning RU student bodies, and Kendrio Sangskritik Jote, a platform of ten RU cultural organisations, activists jointly demonstrated in front of Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium demanding cancellation of the six-day commercial screening of Jaaz Multimedia's film 'Dohon.' They also proposed for a two or three-day non-commercial show open for all. Among the beaten up students, Ali Younus Hridoy, final year student of mass communication and journalism department (also RU correspondent of daily Kholakagoj), and Mithun Chandra Mohonto, publicity and publication affairs secretary of Chhatra Union, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical Collage Hospital.<sup>100</sup>

On December 10, 2018, a Dhaka court placed Sheikh Riad Mohammad Nur, 39, Acting Editor of online news portal "Dainik71.com," on a three-day remand in connection with a case filed



under the draconian Digital Security Act, 2018. Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiduzzaman Sharif passed the order after Sub-inspector Shawkat Ali of Ramna Police Station produced him before the court with a prayer for remand of seven days.<sup>101</sup>

On December 10, 2018 the government blocked access to 54 websites, including several online news portals, few hours after unblocking them. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission asked all the international internet gateway operators to block access to the websites, Commission officials said. Earlier on 09 December, the Commission blocked 58 news portals. The websites were reopened on 10 December. The Commission then again decided to block 54 of the 58 websites on 10 December. 'The move was taken with a view to maintain state security and prevent spreading of rumours through these sites,' claimed an official. The international internet gateway operators implemented the Commission order accordingly by blocking the portals. The government's earlier move had drawn huge criticism that pushed the government to ask the gateway operators on Monday to unblock the access to the 58 online portals. After the announcement of national election schedule on November 8, the government on November 19 blocked access to video conferencing application Skype and its site for almost a day.<sup>102</sup>

On December 15, 2018 two local journalists were injured in an attack carried out on an online news portal office in the Jhenaidah town. The injured were Abdur Rahman Milton, district correspondent of DBC television, and Jahir Hossain, district correspondent of local newspaper Desherbani.<sup>103</sup>

On 30 December 2018, at least three journalists, including a photojournalist were assaulted during parliamentary polls in Dhaka and Chattogram, while a number of journalists covering polls for this paper faced obstructions from activists of political parties and law enforcers in the capital. Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo of The Daily Star and Al Amin, a staff reporter of Chattogram-based online news portal Cvoice24.com, came under attack by alleged ruling party men while covering election proceedings. Meanwhile, senior reporter of Bangla daily Manab Zamin Kafi Kamal was assaulted while returning from a polling centre after casting vote in Moghbazar. Kafi Kamal said he, along with his wife, was returning



from Eskaton Garden School on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 9am. Seeing some people beating up a few youths in front of Moghbazar BTCL School centre, he came down from the auto-rickshaw and tried to take photos and videos of the incident from a safe distance, Kafi said. Suddenly, some youths wearing badges of “boat” symbol of the ruling party surrounded him, snatched away his cell phone and started kicking and punching him.<sup>104</sup>

Besides, a number of journalists of the Manaba Zamin, who were carrying identity cards issued by the Election Commission, were also obstructed in different ways, including denial of entry to polling centres by on-duty law enforcement agency members and alleged ruling party men across Dhaka city. AKM Zamir Uddin was not allowed to enter AKM Rahmatullah Degree College in Uttar Badda area around 9am. Upon learning that he is a journalist, a man wearing badge of “boat” symbol told him not to enter the polling centre, and “offered a cup of tea”. Rafiul Islam was repeatedly obstructed by on-duty police and Ansar men from entering nine out of the ten polling centres under Dhaka-4 constituency, keeping him waiting outside the main gate in most cases while the law enforcers got “permission” from inside the centres. Zahidul Islam was also prevented by activists wearing badges of “boat” from entering a polling centre in Modhubagh, under Dhaka-12 constituency. Photojournalist Palash Khan was prevented by activists of Awami League from entering Manipur High School polling centre in Mirpur under Dhaka-15.<sup>105</sup>

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83 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/journo-assaulted-1523572>

84 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/two-journos-hurt-attack-1524685>

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94 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/5-photojournalists-hurt-in-bcl-men-attack-science-lab-dhaka-student-protest-for-safe-roads-1616251>

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96 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/10/14/174598.html>

97 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/assault-journo-1655734>

98 <https://www.jugantor.com/campus/112474/??>

99 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/56516/karnaphuli-editor-held>

100 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=147685&cat=9>

101 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/acting-editor-news-portal-remanded-1671949>

102 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/58690/54-website-blocked-again>

103 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/59050/two-journalists-hurt-in-jhenaidah-attack>

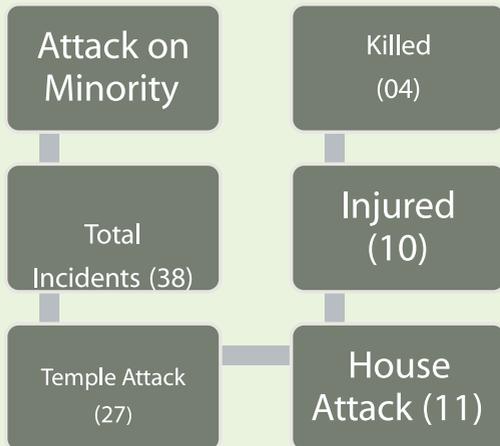
104 <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh-national-election-2018/daily-star-photojournalist-kazi-tahsin-agaz-apurbo-assaulted-at-dhaka-17-1680775>

105 <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh-national-election-2018/daily-star-photojournalist-kazi-tahsin-agaz-apurbo-assaulted-at-dhaka-17-1680775>

# Attack on Minorities



According to 'The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' declaration, "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language".<sup>106</sup> Attacks against religious and ethnic minority minorities, by individual and transnational extremist groups, has increased in 2018 in comparison to previous years. The ruling party was allegedly involved in most of the cases, according to news reports published in several national dailies. It also states that "the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status."<sup>107</sup>



*The above graph provides information about the incidents of attacks on the minority. It shows that at least 04 men were killed, 11 houses and 27 temples were partially or fully destroyed and 10 minority members were injured in a total of 38 incidents.*

**Figure 18 : Statistics of Attacks on Minority**

**Some significant cases are described below:**

On February 01, 2018, failing to purchase a plot of land, a local influential person erected a tin-shed structure grabbing seven decimals of land belonging to a minority Hindu family at Fakirertokeya Balapara village in Sadar upazila of the Lalmonirhat district. The alleged grabber Majnu Miah and his men also threatened land owner, Khagendranath Barmon, 42, son of Dinanath Barmon of the village, with dire consequences if he dared to go there further. “I purchased the land a few years ago to build a new house there for my family,” said land owner Khagendranath. Ever since the land was purchased, Majnu, 40, son of late Jabbar Ali of the village, had been putting pressure on him to sell the land, which he refused, Khagendranath said. “As I didn't agree to sell my land, Majnu and his men forcibly grabbed the land built a tin-shed structure there,” he said, added, “I could not do anything to resist the grabbers as they all were equipped with sharp weapons and sticks.”<sup>108</sup>

On March 06, 2018, a Hindu priest was strangled inside his room and his nephew's house was looted at Jaleshwar village in Chatmohar upazila of the pabna district. Police and locals believe it was a planned murder. The victim, Haradhan Bhattacharya alias Haru Sannasi, 70, was a herbal medicine practitioner and a philanthropist.<sup>109</sup>

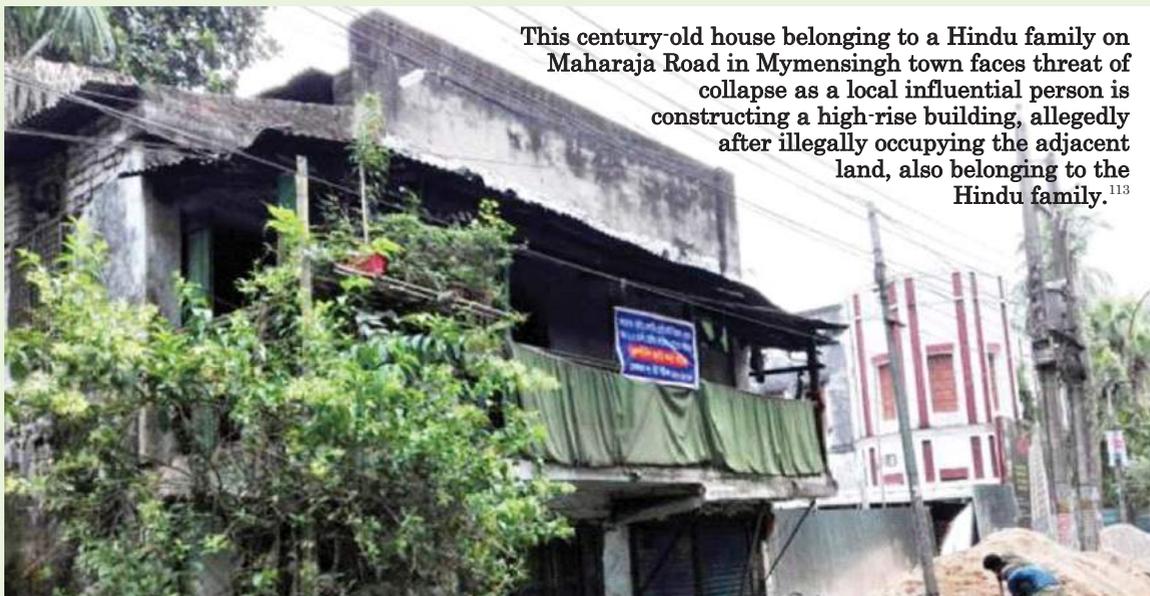


**U Hla Aung and his family members are worried about their existence there as an influential person has grabbed parts of their jhum land.<sup>110</sup>**

On September 09, 2018, upon losing 3.60 acres of Jhum land to influential members of the locality, seventy-year-old Sing Yu Marma and his only son kept vigil round the clock on their remaining 40 decimals of Jhum land in Bangamura Marma Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila. "The land grabber named Mohiuddin gave death threat to me and four other families of Bangamura Marma Para to leave our land," said the indigenous man, worried about impending poverty amid mental agony with his physically challenged wife. "We used to get good amounts of paddy and other crops from our four acres of land but now we are facing food crisis along with uncertainty to survive on our ancestral land as most of our jhum land has been grabbed," he lamented. The affected five families are now living in fear of ouster from their ancestral homes as three male members of the families had to go to jail in a 'false' case filed by the alleged land grabber in July. "I had never gone to any police station in my life but police arrested me on July 24 and again on July 30. The land grabber has snatched away peace from our life," said Ba Chaw Mong, karbari (local chief) of Bangamura Marma Para. "The land grabber is very influential man, he managed the local administration and police," said U Hla Aung, another victim of the land grabbing. Mohiuddin grabbed around 1.26 acres of jhum land of the four families including the karbari, said U Hla.<sup>111</sup>

On September 23, 2018, Police arrested a Union Parishad (UP) member in Gopalpur upazila on charge of vandalising idols of a Hindu temple. "The arrestee, Babul Hossain, a member of Mirzapur UP, vandalised idols, made for Durga Puja, at a temple in Nayapara area. Locals caught him red-handed and informed the police who brought him here," said Hasan Al Mamun, OC of Gopalpur Police Station. "Sujon Chandra Das, president of the temple committee, lodged two cases, one for vandalising the idols and another for hurting religious sentiment, against Babul the same night," he added.<sup>112</sup>

On September 07, 2018, a century-old home on Maharaja Road in Mymensingh town was struck by the threat of collapse as the foundation for a 15-storey building was being laid on the ground under the same boundary. Within their boundary, a Hindu family lives in fear. 9 decimals of their ancestral property of 12.32 decimals have already been grabbed by a local influential person. The house was built by Rai Bahadur Jogodish Cahndra Guha, who served as chairman of Mymensingh municipality in 1921-26, and passed it on to his son late Shishir Kumar Guha.<sup>114</sup>



**This century-old house belonging to a Hindu family on Maharaja Road in Mymensingh town faces threat of collapse as a local influential person is constructing a high-rise building, allegedly after illegally occupying the adjacent land, also belonging to the Hindu family.<sup>113</sup>**



Hindu houses burned down by unidentified people at Singia Shahapara of Thakurgaon on dec 21. Photo<sup>117</sup>

On October 08, 2018, Sonarbottola Kali Temple's Seven Statues in Gazipur's Sreepur's Kawrai which were almost 60 years old, were broken by miscreants. Kali Temple's and Radha Gobinda Temple's Statues are also broken, the temple priest, Prodip Chakraborty alleged recently. Abul Hossain's sons Sujon Fakir and Samrat Fakir also forcefully seized some places of the Temple and prevented its Hindu owners from planting saplings on the said land and even went to the extent of physically assaulting them.<sup>115</sup>

On October 14, 2018, miscreants smashed the statue of Durga in Kalukhali's Saurail. Rajbari District's Council's Reserved Seat Member, Dolly Rani Debdash said that, miscreants, broke the statues of Durga, Saraswati, Laxmi, Ganesh, Kartik, Asur, and other statues of Lion and Peacock and expressed her deepest regrets. Kalukhali Police Station's OC, Forhad Hossain said that, police are working tirelessly to catch the fugitives.<sup>116</sup>

On December 21, 2018, unknown criminals set eight houses of a Hindu family on fire in Thakurgaon. The incident happened between 4:30 am and 5:00 am while residents of the houses were asleep, said Krishna Ghosh, one of the victims. Although the family members escaped unhurt, the fire killed seven goats, destroyed sixty maunds of paddy and all the furniture of the houses, Krishna added. The attackers first set a house on fire. Soon, it engulfed adjacent seven houses, the victim said. Meanwhile, local Awami League and BNP leaders brought allegations against each other over the incident. They alleged that the attack was carried out for creating panic among the local Hindu community ahead of December 30 polls.<sup>118</sup>

106 <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh-national-election-2018/daily-star-photojournalist-kazi-tahsin-agaz-ipurbo-assaulted-at-dhaka-17-1680775>

107 Ibid

108 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/hindu-land-grabbed-1528114>

109 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/hindu-priest-killed-1544500>

110 Photo DailyStar

111 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/5-marma-families-under-grabbers-threat-1631662>

112 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/member-arrested-vandalising-hindu-idols-1637164>

113 Ibid45

114 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/grabbers-eye-century-old-home-1630255>

115 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18101819/??>

116 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18103258/??>

117 The star

118 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/houses-hindu-family-torched-thakurgaon-1677199>

# Political Violence



**B**angladesh is a democratic country with numerous political parties. Sadly, political violence is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. Democratic politics is increasingly being questioned due to widespread clashes between political parties. Opposition political parties face considerable difficulties in attempting to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to hold assemblies and meetings and to carry out regular political activities. This is a sign of immature political culture.<sup>119</sup> Following the controversial general elections in December 2018, political violence has continued throughout the year. Since there is a little political space for the opposition, most of the recent reported incidents of political violence includes intra-party clashes over political dominance, collecting subscription, land grabbing etc. Leaders and activist of Opposition political parties have been killed and tortured by activists of the ruling party from January to December 2018.

Political Violence			
Number of Incidents (713)	Injured (5837)	Bullet hit (126)	Killed (83)

Figure 19 : Statistics of Political Violence

The Figures are presented above to explain the situation of political violence from January to December 2018. According to HRSS, a total of 83 people were killed, 126 were bullet hit, and almost 5837 people were injured due to clash over political interests. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.

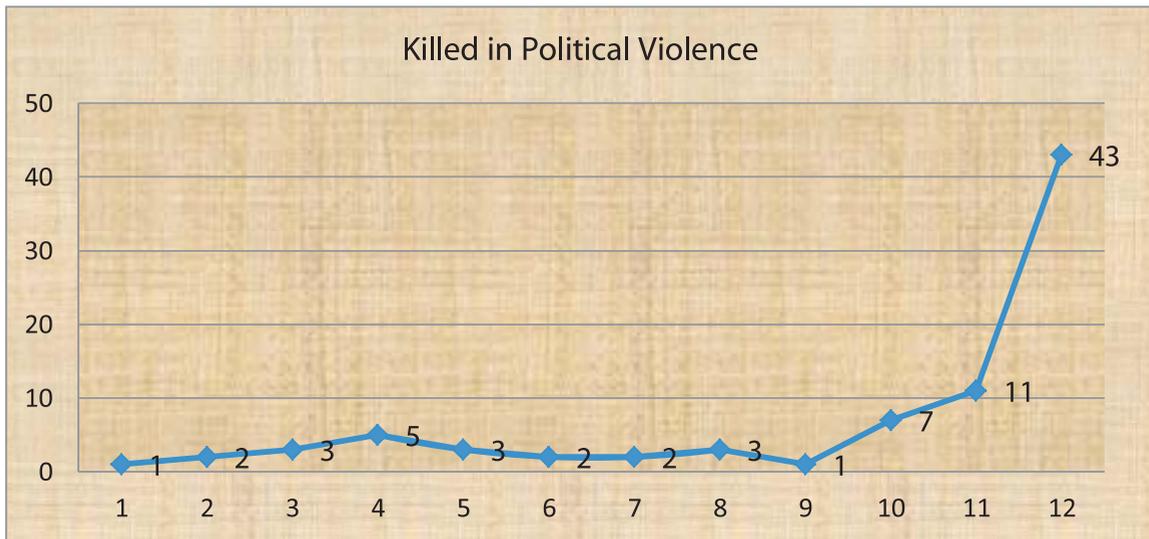


Figure 20 : Monthly Comparison of Killing from Jan to Dec 2018

**Selected cases are described below as follows:**

On February 07, 2018, an activist of the ruling Awami League was shot to death and at least five other activists received injuries in a clash between its two factions in Kanchan Bridge area of Rupganj in Narayanganj. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sujon, son of Monu Miah, a resident of Rupshi Gobindapur village of the Kayetpara union.<sup>120</sup>

On March 07, 2018, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists allegedly beat up a student at Rajshahi University. Victim Moynul Islam, a student of mass communication and journalism department, was also an activist of Anushilon Natya Dal, a university-based drama club.<sup>121</sup>

On January 05, 2018, authorities closed Comilla Medical College until January 11 after two groups of Chhatra League clashed over establishing dominance on the campus. The incident left 10 BCL men injured. Two of them Taufik Ahmed and Irfanul Haque, both final-year students, were referred to Dhaka for better treatment, while three others were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.<sup>122</sup>

On March 26, 2018, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist was stabbed allegedly by men of his rival group in the town. The incident took place near the PDB residential area. Locals took him to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Later, he was referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He died on the way to the hospital the same day. The victim was Md Russell, 18, a BCL activist of Khagrachari municipality ward No 6.<sup>123</sup>

On February 07, 2018, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of Dhaka University (DU) beat up Ehsan Rafiq, a second-year student of disaster management and science department, leaving him seriously injured. “Omar Faruk of marketing department borrowed my calculator around three months back. On 7 February, when I asked him to return my calculator, he refused to do so and threatened me with dire consequences,” alleged Ehsan. “Later, the hall unit Vice President Tanim, Joint General Secretary Anim Irtija Shovon and Abu Taher asked me to show up at the dormitory's TV room. Then they snatched my mobile phone terming me a 'Shibir' activist.” As the BCL men did not find his involvement with "Shibir" after browsing through his Facebook account, they forced him to admit that he was a "Shibir" activist and beat him mercilessly, said Ehsan. Afterward, BCL hall unit President Tahsan Ahmed Rasel asked his followers to take Ehsan to the hall playground in name of solving the issue, said Ehsan. Upon reaching the ground, the BCL activists including BCL hall unit Assistant Secretary Omar Faruk (who borrowed the calculator), Ruhul Amin, Samiul Islam Sami, Ahsan Ullah, Deputy Secretary Mehedi Hasan Himel again beat him up with iron rods and sticks, leaving him severely injured, alleged Ehsan.<sup>124</sup>

On January 23, 2018, Bangladesh Chhatra League men attacked dozens of Dhaka University students who were demonstrating in front of the vice-chancellor's office to press home a four-point demand, including expulsion of some BCL leaders for “harassing” female students a few days ago. At least 50 students and two campus-based journalists were injured in the second such attack by the pro-Awami League student body. Of the injured, 24 took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. One sustained brain injuries while three to four might have had to be admitted there, said Sanaul Hoque Sarker, a doctor at the DMCH.<sup>125</sup>

On April 01, 2018, two Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders beat up a student in his room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Jahangirnagar University. With leg and head injuries, Salauddin Khairullah Tuhin, a master's student of economics, was undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, said his friends. Tuhin alleged that Anik Kumar Nath and Abdullah Al Mamun Razu, vice presidents of the JU unit of BCL, stormed into his room at that night and at one stage, they beat him up with iron rods and pipes.<sup>126</sup>

On April 02, 2018, a Chhatra League leader was shot and hacked to death by his rivals at Pakshey in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, Pabna. The victim, Sadrul Alam Pintu, 28, of Char Rooppur village, is the President of Pakshey union unit BCL, pro-ruling Awami League student body. Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said around 8:00 pm, some criminals first shot Pintu and then hacked him in front of a pharmacy at Rooppur crossing.<sup>127</sup>

On April 15, 2018, a man was killed in a clash between two factions of local Awami League in Krishnapur bazar of Sadarpur in Faridpur centering the lease of the local market. The deceased was identified as Mannan Sikder, son of Mohammad Ali, a resident of village Radhanagar of Krishnapur union. Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadarpur police station, said there was a dispute between union parishad chairman Billal Fakir and Akhteruzzaman Titash, a supporter of local MP, over establishing supremacy in the area.<sup>128</sup>

On April 05, 2018 the principal of Chattogram Biggan College filed a case against Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chattogram City Unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for allegedly assaulting the principal on March 31. BCL leader Rony allegedly tortured Jahed on the college campus on March 31. The incident, which was captured on CCTV footage, went viral on social media after a couple of days.<sup>129</sup>

On May 18, 2018, a man was killed and 20 others were injured as two rival group of Awami League (AL) clashed over establishing supremacy at Char Ghoshpur area in the Pabna district headquarter before iftar. The deceased was identified as Md. Rafik Mondol, 40, the son of Afzal Mondol from Char Ghoshpur village under Pabna Sadar upazila. He was a fellow activist of AL leader Tarek Mondol, police said.<sup>130</sup>

On July 03, 2018, leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League, beat up a student at Rajshahi University for making 'defamatory' remarks about prime minister Sheikh Hasina on social media. However, the injured student, Sheikh Jasim Uddin Bijoy, claimed that BCL men beat him as he was involved in the quota reform movement.<sup>131</sup>

On July 21, 2018 some activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up an organizer of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation on the Jagannath University campus over his involvement with the progressive movements. Witnesses said that JnU anthropology department student Rakibul Rakib was allegedly injured by some activists of BCL JnU unit in front of the university academic building at around 1:00 pm. Rakib was, an organiser of JnU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation.<sup>132</sup>



**Limon Hossain, who was maimed in Rab shooting and now a student there, hurt; valuables 'looted'**

On August 11, 2018, a Chhatra Dal leader died of his wounds at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, around an hour after he came under attack allegedly from some rival men near Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury's home in the city's Kumarpara area. The attack took place when a group of JCD men were leaving the area after celebrating Ariful's win, said witnesses. The dead, Foyzul Haque Raju, 27, was a former assistant publication secretary of Sylhet city JCD.<sup>133</sup>

On August 17, 2018, a member of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) stabbed a fellow activist at Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall of Jahangirnagar University. Mokarram Hossain Shibli was a third-year student of philosophy and activist of the hall unit.<sup>134</sup>

On October 26, 2018 vandals broke the windows, doors and looted office equipment of a building of Gano Shastha Kendro in Savar founded by Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury. They also beat up students and broke the right arm of Limon Hossain, a law student of Gono University, who has physical disabilities. Gonoshasthaya employees said the vandals started attacking them in the morning and continued throughout the day. "About 100 people, led by those who recently filed the cases against Zafrullah Chowdhury, entered our PHA Bhaban and started breaking the windows, and taking away the computers, TVs, and CCTV cameras. They hurled abuse at our women colleagues and tried to break into a female students' dormitory," Sheikh Alamgir, administration officer of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said in the evening. LLM student Limon said that he was attacked when he tried to save female students from being harassed. He is undergoing treatment at the surgery ward of Gonoshasthaya Hospital, which is on the premises of Gonoshasthaya Kendra. Doctors said his right arm was fractured. Limon came under the national spotlight in 2011, after a Rab team shot him, "having mistaken" him for a criminal. His injured leg had to be amputated.<sup>135</sup>

On October 05, 2018, a man was shot dead and 10 others, three of them bullet-hit, were injured as two groups of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy in Faridpur's Boalmari upazila, Faridpur. Some houses were damaged and looted during the clash in Joypasha village, locals said. The deceased, Nadim Uddin Ali, 20, was son of Idris Ali of the village.<sup>136</sup>

On 8 November, 2018 some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit allegedly beat up a student of the university over a trivial matter. The victim was identified as Rupak Chandra Das, a third year student of Public Administration department and also a residential student of Bishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore Hall.<sup>137</sup>



Sujon



Arif

On November 16, 2018, at least four people were killed and 30 injured as local groups of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy at villages Banshhgari and Birgaon under Raipura in Narsingdi. The dead were identified as Tofayel Hossain, 16, a Secondary School Certificate examinee, and Md Kawsar, 24, of Banshgari and Shwapon, 27, and Shoraf Ali, 25, of Birgaon. Witnesses and sources in Police and Narsingdi Sadar Hospital said that there was a longstanding dispute between supporters of former Banshgari UP chairman the late Sirajul Haque and the late Shahed Sarker, both local AL leaders.<sup>139</sup>



The mother of Sujon, one of the two boys killed by a pickup fleeing an attack in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday, breaks down in tears at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The boys were “supporters” of an Awami League nomination seeker. The pickup was attacked by a rival group.<sup>138</sup>

On November 28, 2018, a Juba League leader was killed in a clash between two factions of local Awami League at Gopalpur Colony in Lalpur of Natore. The deceased was identified as Jaharul Islam, 30, organizing secretary of Lalpur unit Juba League and a resident of the area. Additional superintendent of Baraigram circle police Md Harun-ur-Rashid said some supports Lalpur AL leader Firoz obstructed some followers of Jaharul when they reached near North Bengal Sugar Mills, leading to a clash between the two groups.<sup>140</sup>

119 Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2015

120 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/34368/one-killed-in-narayanganj-al-infighting-over-thwarting-bnp>

121 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-ru-student-1545037>

122 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1401756/??>

123 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bcl-activist-murdered-1553929>

124 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/dont-lend-calculator-bcl-man-1531573>

125 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/attack-sit-bcl-men-swoop-protesters-1524280>

126 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-mens-attack-sends-ju-student-hospital-1556806>

127 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111634&cat=9/???>

128 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/39121/man-killed-in-al-factional-clash>

129 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-leader-sued-over-assaulting-college-principal-1558885>

130 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/one-killed-20-injured-al-rivals-clash-1578511>

131 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45161/chhatra-league-assaults-student-at-ru>

132 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46631/bcl-beats-up-chhatra-federation-activist-at-jnu>

133 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/08/12/166808.html>

134 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/city/bcl-activist-stabbed-fellow-1622419>

135 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/gonoshasthaya-kendra-attacked-1652458>

136 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/376186/????>

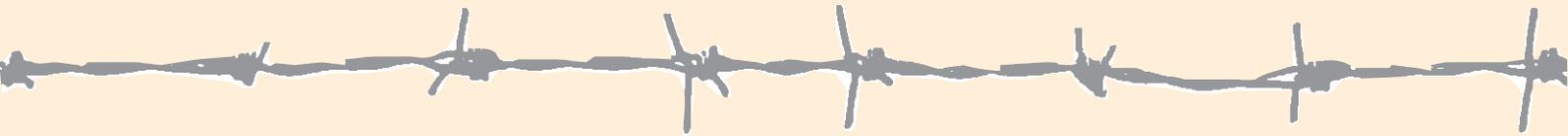
137 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=167394>

138 Photo: Palash Khan/Star

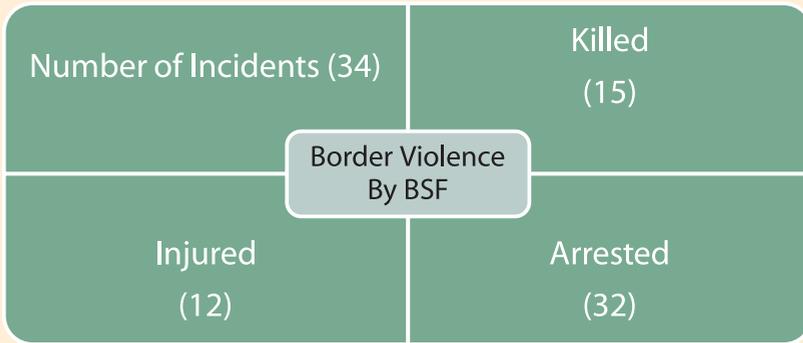
139 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/56268/four-killed-in-narsingdi-clashes>

140 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/57330/juba-league-leader-killed-in-natore-al-infighting>

# Border Killings



**B**angladesh is surrounded by India and Myanmar. Bangladesh has a 4156 kilometer common border with India and a 271 kilometer border with Myanmar. Bangladesh always tries to maintain good relationship with them. However, human rights violations are regularly taking place in the border area of Bangladesh at the instance of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). The killing of Bangladeshi citizens by BSF at the Bangladesh-India frontier has increased at an alarming rate over the last few years. Reports show that BSF members are involved in frequent killings, torture and abduction of Bangladeshi nationals for trivial reasons. Members of the BSF also illegally enter Bangladesh territory and attack people residing along the border, shoot and kidnap Bangladeshis. Such activities undermine friendly relations between Bangladesh and India.



The chart provides data on border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between Jan and Dec 2018, 15 Bangladeshi citizen were killed, 12 injured, 03 were shot and 32 arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) covering 34 incidents.

Figure 21 : Violence in Border by BSF between Jan and Dec '18

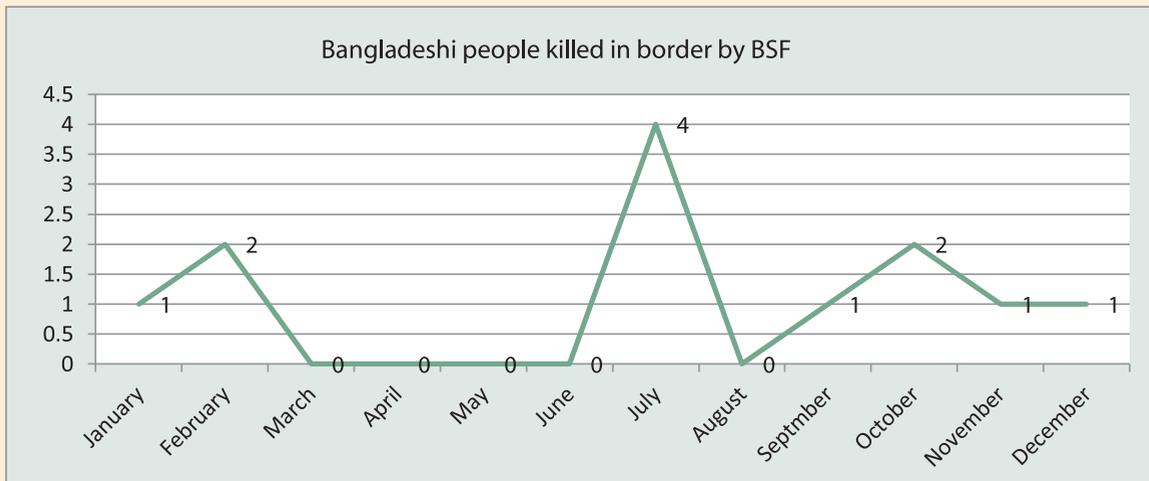


Figure 22 : Monthly comparison of total killings in border By BSF in 2018



The bar chart gives data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS, roughly 04 Bangladeshi citizen were arrested and 03 shot by Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) in a total 02 incidents.

Figure 23 : Violence in Border by BGP in 2018

**Some important cases are described below:**

On January 15, 2018, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from Burimari border in Patgram upazila of the Lalmonirhat district. The detainee, Mofazzal Hossain, 24, was the son of Abu Hanifar of bordering Mughlibari village in the upazila.<sup>141</sup>

*Photo showing Indian Border Security Force (BSF) patrolling India-Bangladesh border*



On January 17, 2018, a Bangladeshi cattle trader was injured in BSF firing at Chouka border in Shibganj upazila. The injured was Bikon Ali, 26, son of Abul Hossain of Raghob Bati-Par Chouka in the upazila.<sup>142</sup>

On January 28, 2018, a Bangladeshi cattle trader was tortured to death by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Burimari border in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat, locals have alleged. The deceased was identified as Manjurul Islam, 20, son of Asadul Islam at Fakirerdanga village in the upazila.<sup>143</sup>

On January 31, 2018, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Ratnai border in Baliadangi Upazila in the thakurgaon district. The arrested was Abdur Barek, 25, son of Abdul Majid, of Ratnai Moradhar Village, a cattle trader.<sup>144</sup>

On February 01, 2018, two Bangladesh nationals were injured as a crude bomb thrown by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) blasted on the border in Sapahar upazila of Naogaon. The injured were Golam Hossain, 22, son of Alfaz Hossain, and Md Babu, 25, son of Nazrul Mondal of Boldiaghat village in Sapahar. The incident took place near Pillar No 238 of India-Bangladesh border at Kalmudanga under Sapahar upazila at around 5:00 am.<sup>145</sup>

On May 13, 2018, Indian Border Security Force picked up three Bangladeshi cattle traders at Paria border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila. They were Shah Alam, 35, of Taranbari village, Abu Sayeed, 23, of Nayabasti village, and Parul hossen, 24, of Taranjubari village, of the same upazila. Lt Col Mohammad Hossain, Commanding officer of 50 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion in Thakurgaon, said a patrol team of BSF Satvita camp picked up the three near Pillar 386 along the border around 5:00 am as they entered India by cutting barbed wire fence along the border.<sup>146</sup>

On June 26, 2018, a farmer was injured after he was shot by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in bordering Bandarkata village in Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh. The victim Mozammel Hossain, 26, son of Altaf Ali from the village later received treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.<sup>147</sup>

On July 21, 2018, a Bangladeshi teenage boy wounded by BSF firing on Kathaldangi border in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon died on his way to hospital. The deceased was identified as Hossain Ali, 18, son of Mostaq Ali of Kathaldangi village in Haripur. Police recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.<sup>148</sup>

On September 22, 2018, six Bangladeshis were wounded when Indian Border Security Force (BSF) fired rubber bullets at them at Madla frontier in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria district. BSF personnel also picked up a Bangladeshi man, Khaleq Mia, 70, from the area. Four of the six injured were identified as residents of Madla village. They were Shahjahan Mia, 55, his son Tushar, 16, Faruk Mia, 25, Nannu Mia, 57, and his son Rasel Mia, 20.<sup>149</sup>

On October 22, 2018, a Bangladeshi man was killed in what appeared to be a BSF firing near the border in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila. Quoting locals, Shahadat Hossain, chairman of the upazila's Monakasha union, said Mohammad Jem, 30, a man from Parchouka village, along with others was in his crop field near Shingnagar border. All of a sudden, BSF opened fire on them, leaving Jem seriously wounded, he said. Jem died later around 5:00 am, he said.<sup>150</sup>

On October 20, 2018, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national inside Indian Territory near Kantivita border under Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon. The victim was identified as Rabbani, 28, son of Posiruddin of Taranjubari village under the same upazila.<sup>151</sup>

On November 04, 2018, a Rohingya refugee boy was shot and injured on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border as multiple rounds were fired from a Myanmar border security post, an official said. Nurul Islam, 15, was grazing cows when 17 rounds were fired from Myanmar's Rymongkhali security post, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) spokesman Major Iqbal Ahmed said.<sup>152</sup>

On November 04, 2018, a Bangladeshi cattle trader was reportedly beaten to death in Jahurput Tek border of Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as Dalim Majhi, 23, son of Monglu Majhi of Nisipara village in Panka union of Shibganj upazila.<sup>153</sup>

On November 08, 2018, a Bangladeshi who was shot allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Jahurpur Tek border in Sadar upazila, Chapainawabganj and died at a Rajshahi hospital on 09 November. The deceased was identified as Fatik, 30, son of Abdul Latif of Sundarpur Bogdanga village in the upazila.<sup>154</sup>

On December 18, 2018, a Bangladeshi national was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Kironganj border in Shibganj upazila, Chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as Abdur Rahim, 22, son of Morshed Ali of Kironganj village.<sup>155</sup>

On 8 December, 2018, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) arrested a Bangladeshi cattle trader from India at the border in the upazila, Naogaon. The detainee was Hudecun Kabir, 35, son of Sabet Ali of Jalsuka Village in the upazila.<sup>156</sup>

141 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-picks-bangladeshi-cattle-trader-1520305>

142 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/cattle-trader-shot-bsf-1521325>

143 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1419246/??>

144 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=119941>

145 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-throws-bomb-bangladeshis-1528648>

146 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/48385/????>

147 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/06/25/161496.html>

148 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=126895&cat=9/????>

149 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/6-bangladeshis-hurt-bsf-fires-rubber-bullets-1637296>

150 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bangladeshi-man-killed-indian-bsf-firing-1650625>

151 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/10/20/693742>

152 <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/rohingya-teen-injured-in-firing-at-bangladesh-myanmar-border-10896566>

153 <http://www.unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladeshi-beaten-dead-along-cnawabganj-border/5715>

154 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/186180/Bangladeshi-shot-by-%E2%80%98BSF%E2%80%99-dies>

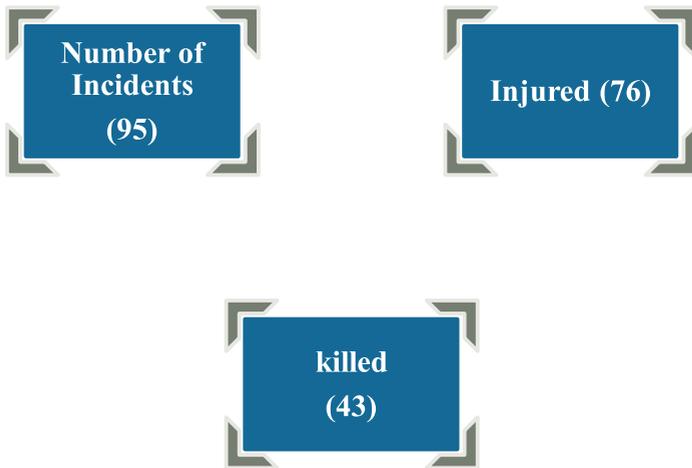
155 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=150210&cat=9/???>

156 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=172096>

# Violence against Children



**T**he violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. Children have basic rights to education, a healthy and nutrient diet, safe water and recreation. Every child has a right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development<sup>157</sup>. Unfortunately, most children in Bangladesh are deprived of these basic rights. As a signatory to U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1990, Bangladesh has an obligation to protect child rights.<sup>158</sup> Despite the existence of such a comprehensive legal framework for protection of children, violation of child rights has become a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, at our homes and our schools where children may even face sexual abuse and harassment. In particular, girls in villages are faced with the threat of child marriage. In schools, children might be beaten if they fail to perform or face humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, and rape, have increased across the country in recent times.



According to human rights support society's report, the graph presented below regarding violence against children from January to December 2018, shows that around 43 children were killed and 76 children have been critically injured in a total 95 incidents.

Figure 24 : Statistics of Violence against Children



Figure 25 : Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec '18

**Some important cases are described below:**

On January 21, 2018, the father, grandparents and an aunt of a one-and-half-month old baby were arrested for “murdering” the baby born prematurely in Aronkola village under Ishwardi upazila of Pabna. Police recovered the body from a cabinet in the house. Atika Khatun was born prematurely with disabilities to one Ashraful Islam on December 5, police said. “Ashraful's family wanted a son. He already has two girls and when the third child turned out to be disabled, they were very unhappy. Atika was born prematurely at seven months and had severe disabilities. The family conspired to kill the baby to be freed from the burden of a sick female child. They also planned to implicate their neighbor, with whom they had some enmity,” Md Johurul Haque, assistant superintendent of Ishwardi police circle, said. Atika went missing around noon after her mother was called away by her mother-in-law to the next room in the house. “When I returned, the baby was missing and after not being able to locate

her, we informed the police. Police recovered the body from a cabinet in the house,” said Nishi Khatun, Atika's mother. Nishi said she was tortured by her in-laws since Atika was born for failing to deliver a son. The family could not accept Atika's disabilities, she said. Nishi demanded punishment of the people who killed her child.<sup>159</sup>

On February 14, 2018, a class X student was beaten to death, while his classmate was left injured in Bokchora Bypass area of Satkhira around 10:00 pm. The deceased Sakib Hossain, 16, the only son of Police-constable Nazrul Islam of Palashpol Boubazar area, was a student of Police Line Secondary School. The injured, Rashedul Islam was the son of retired policeman Abdul Aziz of Rasulpur area in the town.<sup>160</sup>

On March 28, 2018, a five-year-old girl was beaten dead in front of her father during a clash in Ghughudah Beel area of Santhia upazila of the pabna district. The deceased was Sadhona Khatun, daughter of Ratan Fakir of the village. Victim's father filed a case with Santhia Police Station, accusing Iman and his sons. The accused went into hiding after the incident.<sup>161</sup>

On June 27, 2018, a 12-year-old girl was killed by burglars at her house on Sayed Shah Lane in Chittagong city. The throat slit body of Ilham Bint Nasir was found by her mother, who had left home for about an hour to drop her other daughter off at school. The grieving mother Nasrin Akhter told police that ‘gold ornaments of about ‘five tolas’ were missing from the flat. The victim was a student of class VI at Mern Sun School and College. Her father Nasir of Satkania upazila was an expatriate in Saudi Arabia.<sup>162</sup>

On August 18, 2018, a college boy, who was beaten allegedly by a group of schoolboys over a trivial matter, died at Haluaghat Upazila Health Complex. The victim, Nafi Al Nazran, 17, son of Nazmul Huda, was a second year student at Gouripur Government Technical School and College.<sup>163</sup>

On September 04, 2018, a child worker was mercilessly beaten by his former employer in Mission Intersection area of the town, Lalmonirhat. The victim was Harez Ali, 13, son of Faridul Islam and Hasina Begum of Khochabari in the district town.<sup>164</sup>

On 02, October 2018, in the Capital City of Jatrabari, a case was filed against a Madrassa Teacher Marful Billah (22), for raping a 12 year old boy, who had been studying in the Madrassa for the last four years. The boy's mother said that, in the early hours of morning, the boy's teacher, Maruf Billah told him to massage his hands and legs. Later, the boy was raped by him.<sup>165</sup>

On 12 October 2018, a five year old girl, Ikra Moni was beaten to death and the dead-body was placed inside a sack and later thrown into a pond. The child's father Makhluk Ahmed used to work in Daniel Tang Garments. The dead body was brought to Enam Medical College Hospital and the doctor has pronounced her dead.<sup>166</sup>

On 09 November, 2018, a 5 year old boy who had gone to a tea shop was tortured by some youths in Sherpur's Nalitabari Upazilla's Vogaipar Rubber Dam Bazar. While torturing the child, one of the perpetrators pushed an iron steel bar into the child's rectum.<sup>167</sup>

On 17 November, 2018, Mahbub, a 7 year old boy was tortured to death in Palertek Village, Patuli Union, Belabo Upazilla, Norshindi. In this incident, in Belabo Police Station, the boy's mother, Shahana Begum, filed a case against 9 people as a plaintiff. Police later arrested Ilate Abu Taher's Son, Usman, widely known to be a drug dealer and sent him to Court.<sup>168</sup>

On November 21, 2018, a college boy was killed allegedly by some of his classmates over a love affair in Nalchity upazila of the Jhalakathi district. The deceased was Rakib Hossain, 18, a student of Nalchity Government College and son of Masum Hossain of Nandikathi in Nalchity municipality area. Rakib had a conflict with his classmates Naiful, Rahat and Shihab centring a love affair with a girl of the college, said Md Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Nalchity Police Station.<sup>169</sup>

On December 18, 2018, a madrasa boy was beaten to death allegedly by his teachers at Matarbari Mokdel village in Maheshkhali upazila, Cox's Bazar, The deceased was identified as Md Emran, a fourth grader of Fayzul Ulum Madrasa in the area and son of Mohammad Hossain of the village.<sup>170</sup>

On December 01, 2018, an 11-month-old baby girl died, hours after she was slapped allegedly by a neighbour in the district's Sadar upazila, Sirajganj. The victim's mother Rokeya Khatun said she got into an altercation with neighbour Jahangir Hossain over damaging of plants by a goat. At one stage, Jahangir slapped Amina's back, leaving her ill. The baby girl died, Rokeya said.<sup>171</sup>

157 Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27

158 Abdul Halim, Constitution, Constitutional Law & Politics Bangladesh Perspective, 3rd ed p. 53

159 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/infant-killed-family-members-1523185>

160 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1431126/??-???->

161 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/five-year-old-girl-beaten-dead-front-her-father-1554751>

162 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/2-kids-murdered-their-homes-1596481>

163 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/college-boy-beaten-dead-schoolboys-1622875>

164 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/brutality-child-leaving-job-1628626>

165 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1559866/????>

166 <http://web.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/377537/%E0>

167 <http://www.dailyayadiganta.com/mymensingh/363568/?-?>

168 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18113874/????>

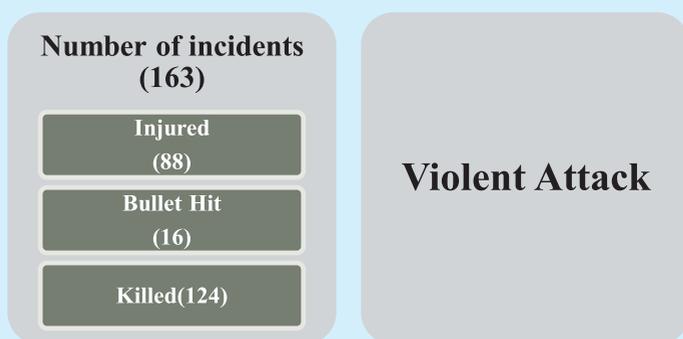
169 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/classmates-kill-college-boy-1663894>

170 <http://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/madrasa-boy-tortured-to-death-in-coxs-bazar-2-held/8741>

171 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/baby-slapped-by-neighbour-dead-in-sirajganj-2-held-1667776>

# Violent Attacks

Attacks against civilians are considered to be a serious violation of international humanitarian law. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security. The state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds of criminal attacks. 'The obligation of protection' requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that State has to exercise due diligence to prevent, punish, investigate or redress the harm caused by acts of private persons or entities. Recent wave of attacks against the civilian population of Bangladesh is a matter of serious concern. There have been violent attacks against civilians, politicians, atheists, secular bloggers, academics, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities throughout the year. In spite of growing concerns regarding such criminal attacks, the number of incidents is increasing day by day. Between January and December 2018, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists, which has been documented by HRSS.



The chart provides information about the violent attacks on unarmed civilians. Statistics show a total of 163 incidents of violent attacks happened and 124 were killed in those attacks while 88 were seriously injured and around 16 were hit by bullets.

Figure 26 : Statistics of Violent Attacks

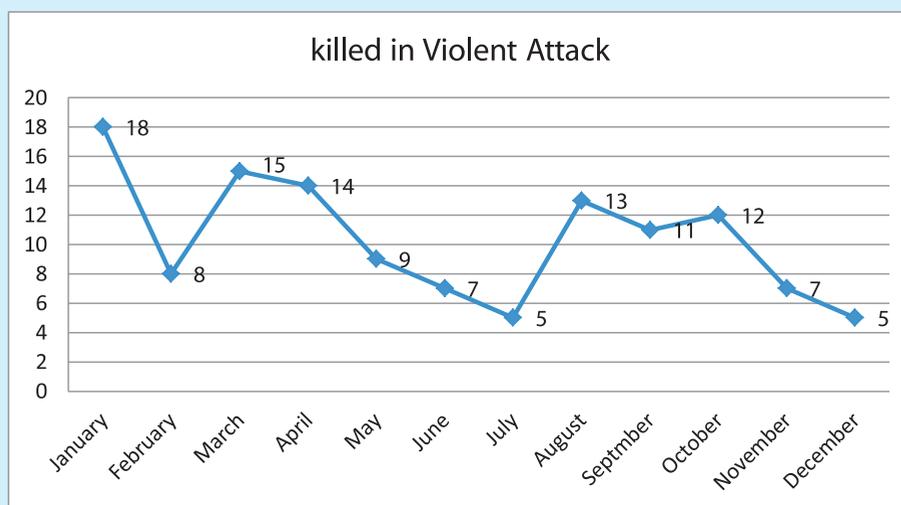


Figure 27 : killed in Violent Attack from Jan to Dec '18

**Some of the incidences have been described below:**

On January 1, 2018, a teenage boy was stabbed to death at Janerchala Royal Green area in Kaliakoir Upazila of the Gazipur district. The identity of the deceased could not be known. Sub-Inspector of Kaliakoir Police Station Abdul Hakim said some miscreants stabbed the boy and slit his throat in the area around 5.00 am.<sup>172</sup>

On January 07, 2018, a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in Tilagarh Point area of Sylhet city. The deceased, Tanim Khan, 21, son of Ismail Khan of Burunga village in Osmaninagar upazila, was a BA (pass) final year student of Sylhet Government College, and a member of the district Awami League faction led by the youth and sports secretary Ranjit Sarkar, said his classmates.<sup>173</sup>

On January 25, 2018, unidentified miscreants attacked Professor M Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University in Kushtia. The incident took place on Jhenidah-Kushtia Highway adjacent to Boroda area under Shoilokupa upazila in Jhenidah around 3:00 am, IU police officer-in-charge Raton Shiekh, said. A group of unidentified miscreants attacked the vice-chancellor while he was returning to the campus from Dhaka.<sup>174</sup>

On January 25, 2018, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of Awami League was stabbed to death in Feni. The deceased was Mostafa Ahmmad Shakil, 20, son of Humayun Kabir at village Gunabati of Chouddagram in Comilla.<sup>175</sup>

On February 01, 2018, a local Jubo League activist was allegedly hacked to death by unidentified assailants at Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj. The deceased was identified as Zakir Hossain, 36, of Murtozabad area in Bhulta union, locals said. Md Shahidul Alam, officer-in-charge of Bhulta police outpost said, Zakir was left injured after being hacked in Tat bazaar of Bhulta area.<sup>176</sup>

On February 23, 2018, unknown assailants shot a retired army person to death at village Dhanuakhola in Comilla Sadar. The victim was identified as Mobarak Hossain, 70, a resident of the village. Kotwali police inspector (investigation) Salahuddin Ahmed said miscreants stormed into the house of the former army member around 3:30 am and fired several bullets at him, leaving Mobarak injured critically.<sup>177</sup>

On March 19, 2018, a local Jubo League leader was stabbed to death in the town. Imran Ali, 26, son of Khorshed Ali of Kanaikhali area, was youth and sports secretary of district Jubo League's ward No 4 of Natore municipality.<sup>178</sup>

On 26 March 2018, unidentified miscreants stabbed a man to death and injured another on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway near Purba Mallikpur Dakhil Madrasa in Kaharol Upazila here. The deceased was identified as Uday Chandra Roy, son of Lalon Chandra Roy, of Sundarpur Village in the Upazila while the injured was van passenger Afijul Islam.<sup>179</sup>

On April 01, 2018, a union level leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, ruling Awami League-backed student organization, died after he was shot and hacked at Ishwardi in Pabna on the 31 March. The deceased was identified as Sadrul Alam alias Pintu, 28, president of BCL Pakshey union unit and son of Abdul Azad, of village Char Rupur of Ishwardi. The family said that some miscreants shot at Sadrul Alam Pintu and hacked him indiscriminately at Pakshi Ruppur crossing of the upazila.<sup>180</sup>

On April 03, 2018 a youth was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants in Miakhannagar area of Chattogram. The deceased was Saidul Islam Rakib, 23, of Kumilla. He was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. There was an altercation between Saidul and some others while working at a community center. Saidul might have been stabbed following that, said Kabir Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Bakalia Police Station.<sup>181</sup>

On April 16, 2018, a 10-year-old madrasa student was killed in a gun attack by unidentified miscreants at Khabir Miar Bazar in Hatiya upazila of Noakhali. The victim, Miskatur Rahman Nirob, was a student of class-VI at Rahmania Madrasa in the area. His father Miraj Uddin sustained gun injuries in the incident. Both are residents of Bejugalia in the municipal area. Nirob's mother Shefali Begum, 28, and two other men Rashedul Haque Nantu and Shahadat Hossain were also injured in the attack.<sup>182</sup>

On May 02, 2018 the chairman of Naniarchar upazila parishad, Shaktiman Chakma, was shot to death by some unidentified miscreants in front of Naniarchar police station in Rangamati. Rangamati Superintendent of Police, Md Alamgir Kabir confirmed the incident. The deceased, Shaktiman Chakma, 51, was vice-president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (MN Larma). The incident took place at around 10:30 am. Md Abdul Latif, Officer-in-Charge of Naniarchar Police Station said, a group of miscreants swooped on Shaktiman and opened fire on him while he was going to the office, leaving him critically injured. Later, he was rushed to Rangamati General Hospital where the duty doctor declared him dead. The victim's driver Rupak Chakma was also injured during the incident, police said.<sup>183</sup>

On August 11, 2018m, unidentified assailants shot and injured three Jubo League men in the capital's Wari area. Mohammad Jewel, 32, Robin, 30, and Kajol Islam, 37, were all activists of Ward-41 unit of the youth wing of the ruling Awami League, said the victims. With leg injuries, they were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sub-Inspector Bachchu Mia of DMCH police camp.<sup>184</sup>

On August 18, 2018, seven people, including three leaders of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), were killed and six injured in two gun attacks in Khagrachhari town. Around 8:30 am, two groups of gunmen went to UPDF-dominated Swanirvar Market area of Khagrachhari town on three-wheelers and opened fire. They killed six, including three bystanders, just 50 yards from Swanirvar police outpost. When supporters of UPDF brought out a protest procession at around 12:30 pm in Perachhari area about 2 kilometers away, they were attacked a second time, leaving yet another dead.<sup>185</sup>

On August 28, 2018, criminals killed a BNP activist in Jashore town. The deceased was Moshiar Rahman, 45, son of Takabbar Sheikh of Shankarpur in the town. The victim's nephew M Ripon said Dablu and Sumon stabbed and shot Moshiar near Golpata Mosque at Shankarpur around 8:00 pm. The victim died soon after he was taken to Jashore General Hospital, said Medical Officer Dr Abdur Rashid.<sup>186</sup>

On September 08, 2018, unidentified criminals shot a union parishad chairman dead in Satkhira. Mosharaf Hossain, 48, Chairman of Krishnanagar Union Parishad in Kaliganj upazila, also the Assistant Organising Secretary of District unit of Jatiya Party, was chatting with some people in front of Krishnanagar Union Jubo League office at around 11:00 pm.<sup>187</sup>

On September 14, 2018, an Awami League leader was stabbed by miscreants in the port city, police said. The victim was SM Alamgir Chowdhury, 45, an AL leader from Anwara upazila

and a member of Ward No. 12 of Chittagong Zila Parishad. A group of miscreants equipped with sharp weapons attacked Alamgir from behind in Mirzarphul area in the city around 10:15 pm when he was returning home, his son Shafi Alamgir Chowdhury said.<sup>188</sup>

On October 03, 2018, a local leader of Juba League, youth wing of ruling Awami League was stabbed to death by assailants at Ranigram in Sirajganj municipality. The deceased was identified as Golam Mostafa alias Boma Mostafa, 45, president of ward no 7 unit of Juba League and son of Hatem Ali of Ranigram Maddhyapara Mahalla of the municipality.<sup>189</sup>

On October 21, 2018, a Jubo League leader was shot by a gang of criminals in Joypurhat Sadar upazila, Dinajpur. The victim was identified as Sabu Hossain, 32, son of Nurul Haque Mondal, of Dhutiapara in Sadar upazila of Joypurhat and a member of Jamalpur union Jubo League unit.<sup>190</sup>

On November 01, 2018, a plywood trader was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in the capital's Kachukhet. The deceased was Rubel Hossain, a man in his forties, of Gedu Matbar Road in Kafrul.<sup>191</sup>

On December 01, 2018, Sonaimuri Upazila Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Shahidullah Liton was shot in his leg. Liton, son of Md Hanif of Gobindapur village in Sonaimuri upazila, was forcibly taken into a micro-bus at Rampur on Noakhali-Cumilla around 9:00 pm. Victim's father Hanif said the criminals forced his son Liton to get into the microbus after he got down from an auto-rickshaw.<sup>192</sup>

On December 06, 2018, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was stabbed to death by miscreants over previous enmity in the city's Kakrail area. The deceased was identified as Rakib Hossain, 25, President of Ward no. 19 of BCL unit.<sup>193</sup>

172 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=114480>

173 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/sylhet-bcl-man-stabbed-death-1516657>

174 <http://samakal.com/whole-country/article/18011317/?????>

175 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/33446/bcl-activist-stabbed-to-death-in-feni>

176 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=102999&cat=9/???>

177 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/02/24/606172>

178 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/natore-jubo-league-leader-stabbed-dead-1550617>

179 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=129332>

180 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/38136/bcl-leader-killed-in-ishwardi>

181 <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2018/04/03/tailor-stabbed-to-death-in-chittagong>

182 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/10-year-old-killed-gun-attack-1563508>

183 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/40333/rangamati-upazila-chairman-shot-dead>

184 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1552036/>

185 Hrss investigation desk and the star

186 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/bnp-activist-shot-dead-jashore-1625323>

187 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1556779/????>

188 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/al-leader-stabbed-ctg-1634437>

189 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/96984/????>

190 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/jubo-league-leader-shot-1650526>

191 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/54725/trader-killed-in-city>

192 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/sonaimuri-jcd-man-shot-1668214>

193 <https://unb.com.bd/category/bangladesh/bcl-leader-killed-in-city/7948>

# Abduction

Abduction is a serious violation of human rights. According to section 362 of the Penal Code, 1860 a person is said to commit the offence of abduction when he by force compels or by any deceitful means induces any other person to go from one place to another. In Bangladesh, abductions and kidnappings have become a common phenomenon in the present time. The numbers of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. Between January and December 2018, the occurrences of abduction increased alarmingly all over the country. Most of the incidents remain unsolved and very few people have been rescued successfully by the law enforcing forces. In many cases, family members, relatives and friends of the victims have made accusations of abduction of the victims by law enforcement agencies such as Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Police, or Detective Branch (DB). The graph below provides information about the total number of abductions in 2018.

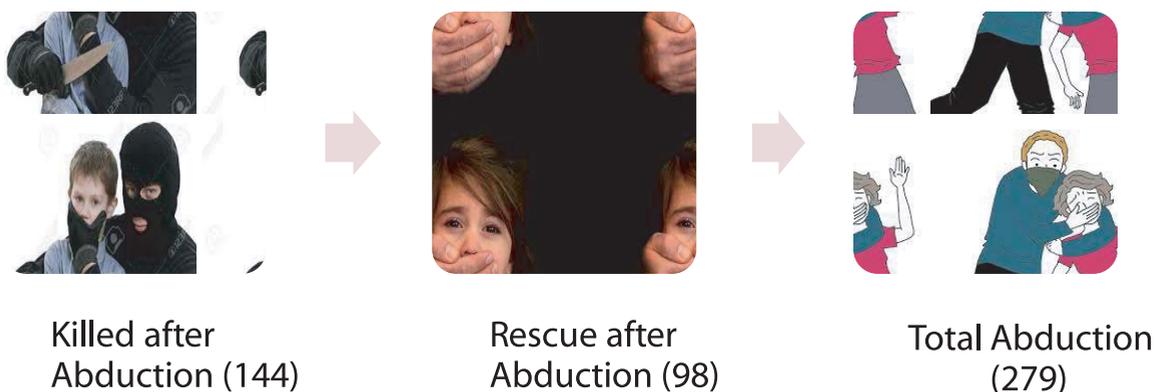


Figure 28 : Statistics of Abduction in 2018

The above chart describes information about abduction cases between January and December 2018 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total 279 abduction incidents occurred and 144 people were killed after the abduction, and nearly 98 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

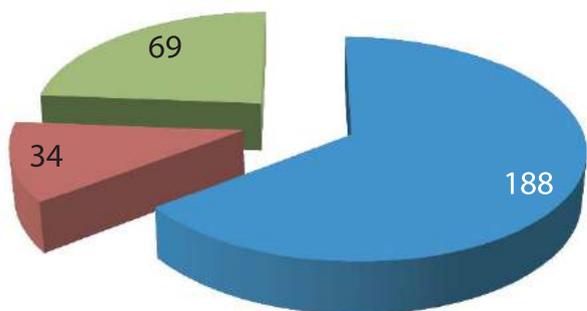


Figure 29 : Categorization of Abductees in 2018

The above pie chart illustrates information about the abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from January to December 2018, a total of 291 people were abducted from different areas of the country, among them approximately 188 were male, 34 were female and 69 were children.

**Selected cases are described s follows:**

On April 03, 2018, the body of Rangpur special public prosecutor Rathish Chandra Bhowmik was found from the Rangpur district town following the statement of his wife Dipa Bhowmik who was picked up by the law enforcers. According to Rapid Action Battalion, they said, the body of Rathish Chandra, 55, has been recovered from Tajhat Mollapara in the town around 2:30 am, five days after went missing, A lawyer by profession, Rathish was also involved in other activities. He was the general secretary of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote of Rangpur district unit, vice president of Rangpur District Lawyers' Association, law affairs secretary of district Awami League (AL), and a trustee of Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Oikya Parishad in the district.<sup>194</sup>

On October 14, 2018, a three-year-old child, Reaz Babu, son of trader Azizul Islam was abducted from his locality of Baroi para area in Nilphamari municipality. Later, Azizul in a choked voice said his son went to his maternal grandfather's house beside their residence on October 14 and had breakfast there with family members. “We apprehend that Babu was abducted but none has contacted me for ransom till now,” he added.<sup>195</sup>

On January 04, 2018, a “missing” woman and her nine-year-old grandson were found dead inside a locked room of a rented house in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj where she lived with her son-in-law and grandchildren. The woman, Parvin Akhtar, 50, wife of late Abdur Rahim from Comilla, used to look after her grand daughter and grandson, Mehedi Hasan, as her daughter Shilpi Akhtar is an expatriate worker in the UAE.<sup>196</sup>

On February 07, 2018, a little girl's courage and quick thinking saved four girls including herself from kidnappers. Fourth-grader Lima Akter and three other girls of her school were being taken away by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, when the girl jumped off the speeding vehicle, prompting bystanders to intercept the kidnappers.<sup>197</sup>

On February 14, 2018, a 10-year-old schoolboy was found dead in Phulbaria upazila of the Mymensingh, four days after he went missing. The deceased, Muklesur Rahman, son of Ashraf Ali of Koyarchala village, was a Class III student at a local primary school in the upazila, police said.<sup>198</sup>

On April 01, 2018, detectives rescued a seventh grader from a bus in Chittagong city's Maijjartek, six days after he went missing. Shreekanto Nath, 13, son of Torun Kanti Nath, was traveling alone in the Dhaka-bound bus of Green Line that started from Cox's Bazar, said Assistant Commissioner Moinul Islam of the Detective Branch of police, West Zone. Shreekantho went missing from Haliashahar while he was going to take tuition on March 25, said police. Later, the father, a teacher at Haliashahar Housing Estate Primary School, got a phone call asking for Tk 2 lakh as ransom. The boy was handed over to his family.<sup>199</sup>

On May 24, 2018, over two months into his abduction, a teenage boy was found murdered at Keshoreganj Bazar in Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh district. Victim Mehedi Hasan Babu, 15, son of Shahjahan Ali of Shibpur village, got GPA-5 in the SSC examinations. He went out of his house on March 6 and remained missing since then. The following day, Minara Khatun received a message from her son's mobile phone demanding Tk 6 lakh for his safe return and not to disclose the matter to others, the mother said, adding that since then Babu's phone was found switched-off.<sup>200</sup>

On July 02, 2018 Police recovered the decapitated and decomposing body of a youth in

Chittagong city's Panchlaish area, nine days after he had gone missing. Alauddin, 30, from Fatickchhari and an employee of a community centre, did not return home after he had left for his workplace on June 24, said police.<sup>201</sup>

On July 12, 2018, Architect Md BMA Mahfuz Nabin, who went 'missing' after leaving his residence at Bhasantek in the capital's Mirpur, was found in Khalishpur area in Khulna city. 38-year-old Nabin, an employee of Sheltech Ltd at capital's Kalabagan, was left blindfolded at Khalishpur around 2:30am, the victim's brother-in-law Md Imran Hossain said.<sup>202</sup>

On August 12, 2018, a Union Parishad member was kidnapped by some armed men from his house in Chittagong's Lohagara upazila. The victim is Mozaffar Ahmed, 60, member of Potibil ward under Potibil Union Parishad, said Saiful Islam, Officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station. Quoting family members and witnesses, Mohammed Yunus, Chairman of Potibil union, said that around 12:15 am, some 30 to 40 armed men cordoned off Mozaffar's house in Gowher Chanda village and took him away.<sup>203</sup>

On July 31, 2018 the body of a fourth year political science student of Jagannath University, who had gone missing in South Keraniganj on Monday, was found in the River Buriganga. The deceased was Ariful Islam, son of Moin Uddin, resident of village Ma rufdaha under Jibonnagar police station in Chuadanga. Ariful used to reside in Keraniganj.<sup>204</sup>

On September 16, 2018, the bullet-hit bodies of two brothers were found in Sharsha and Keshabpur upazilas, a day after they were allegedly abducted by unidentified men. The deceased are Azizul Haque, 45, and Faruq Hossain, 50, sons of Zeher Ali of Jamtola Samta village in Sharsha. Their brother Saidul Islam identified the bodies at Jashore General Hospital morgue in the afternoon.<sup>205</sup>

On October 08, 2018, the body of a boy, who was missing since Sunday evening, was found at Horipur-Dewanpara area in the municipality. The deceased was identified as Redwan Ahsan Hridoy, 8, son of Abdur Rahim of Horipur-Dewanara in the municipality area. He was a second grade student of Mecca Model Madrasa. Sadar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ziaur Rahman said his father lodged a general diary with the police station at around 11:00 pm.<sup>206</sup>

On October 12, 2018, Police recovered the body of a former BNP leader from Ramu upazila on Cox's Bazar, a day after he went missing from Sadar upazila on 11 Oct. The deceased, Sadek Reza, 42, son of late Badiul Alam of Uttar Khan Ghona village in Sadar upazila, was former president of Islampur union unit of BNP. Being informed by the villagers, law enforcers recovered Sadek's body from near the boundary wall of the government food godown in Ramu around 7:00 pm and sent it to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.<sup>207</sup>

On October 15, 2018 members of elite force Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from Barishal rescued an abducted madrasa boy from Khulna. The boy was abducted from his village in Bhandaria upazila of the Pirojpur on October 9. The victim, Md Asadullah Al Galib, 14, son of Anwar Hossain Howlader of Dhawa Phultala village in Bhandaria upazila, was a student of Class VIII of Dakkhin Shialkathi Alim Madrasa.<sup>208</sup>

On November 07, 2018, the decomposed body of a missing woman was recovered from a char of the Chhoto Jamuna river at Chakla Kohurhat village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila, Thakurgaon district. The deceased was Shahnaj Khatun, 20, daughter of Abdur Razzak of Chaklahat Tahashilpara village in the same upazila. Victim's elder brother

Hossain Ali said that Shahnaj used to live in her paternal house after her divorce a year ago. She went out of the house on October 31 and did not return home since then, he said.<sup>209</sup>

On November 14, 2018, Police recovered the body of a college girl from a ditch in Maijdee area in the district town, three days after she had gone missing on 11 November. The deceased, Tabassun Tania Chamak, daughter of businessman Shahajad Enamul Haque Himel, was an honours third-year student of accounting department at Sonapur College.<sup>210</sup>

On November 22, a minor girl was found dead from Jamgora area of Ashulia in Dhaka, six days after she went missing from the district. Police arrested her stepmother Sajeda Bagum, 30, in this connection.<sup>211</sup>

On December 01, 2018 a schoolboy was found dead in a garden in front of Dublia police camp at village Dublia in Pabna sadar upazila, who had been missing for four days. The deceased was identified as Ashique Mahmud Oni, 14, son of Rabiul Paramanik, of the same village. He appeared in the Junior School Certificate examination from Dublia High School. Victim's cousin Shawon Reza Khan said Ashique went to his father's shop at the village around 7:00pm on November 26 and after that he did not return home.<sup>212</sup>

On December 13, 2018 the body of an expatriate man was found buried in the ground in Saidampur village under Basail upazila, Tangail district, seven days after he went missing. The deceased was Kesto Mondol, 38, son of late Bumchan Mondol of the village. Kesto came to Bangladesh from Singapore about six months ago and went missing from the market of his village in the evening of December 6, said Basail Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) SM Tuhin Ali, quoting Kesto's family members.<sup>213</sup>

On December 14, 2018 an abducted boy Sabbir, 8, son of Gazi Miah of Chattogram, was rescued after eight months from Ulipur Upazila of the district, Kurigram. Sabbir went missing from Baizid Bostami Mazar premises of Chattogram City eight months back.<sup>214</sup>

194 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/body-missing-rangpur-pp-rathish-chandra-bhowmik-found-1557898>

195 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/kidnapped-or-missing-1513255>

196 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/missing-woman-grandson-found-dead-home-1515130>

197 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/kidnap-bbaria-girls-presence-mind-saves-her-3-others-1531489>

198 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/missing-schoolboy-found-dead-mymensingh-1534864>

199 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111302&cat=9/????>

200 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/abducted-teen-found-murdered-1581373>

201 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/missing-youth-found-dead-ctg-1599616>

202 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45886/missing-architect-found-in-khulna-after-four-days>

203 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/armed-men-abduct-member-1619890>

204 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/47336/missing-jagannath-university-students-body-found-in-buriganga>

205 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/2-brothers-found-dead-day-after-abduction-1634818>

206 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/missing-boy-found-dead-cnawabganj-1644346>

207 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/356834/>

208 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18103356/????????>

209 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/missing-woman-found-dead-1657510>

210 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/missing-college-girl-found-dead-1661098>

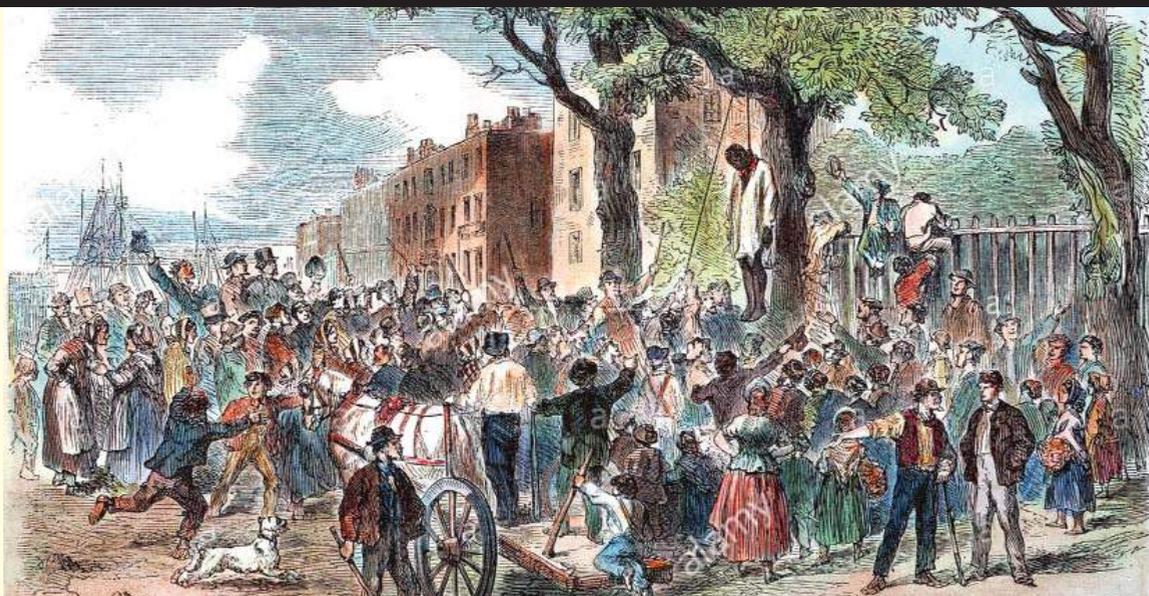
211 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=170040>

212 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/57594/missing-school-student-found-dead-in-pabna>

213 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/expatriates-body-found-7-days-after-his-missing-1673317>

214 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=173203>

# Public Lynching



Lynching is the practice of murder by a group of people by extrajudicial action. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob, often by hanging, in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a minority group. In Bangladesh, due to lack of respect for law, distrust of the police force and instability in the country, ordinarily people often resort to taking the law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice in any other way. As a result, incidents of public lynching have grown at an alarming rate. HRSS believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

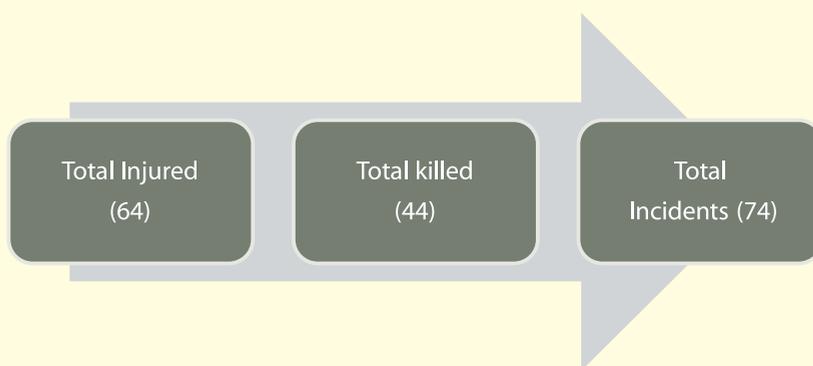


Figure 30 : Statistics of Public Lynching 2018

*The chart contains information about the public lynching cases in Bangladesh from January to December 2018. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 64 people were injured and nearly 44 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 74 incidents.*

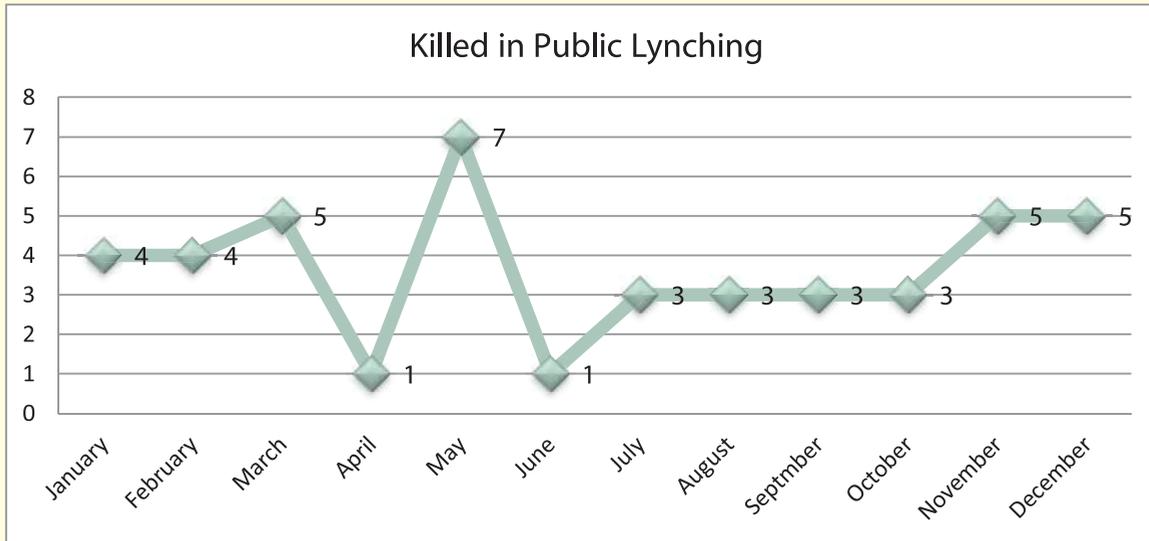


Figure 31 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching

**Some important cases are given below:**

On February 08, 2018, villagers beat two unidentified men to death suspecting them of robbers in Savar and Brahmanbaria. An alleged robber aged about 30 was beaten to death by a mob in Nolam area of Savar on the outskirts of the capital. Meanwhile, another suspected robber was killed after a beating by the villagers in Mulgram union under Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria on 08 Feb.<sup>216</sup>

On February 12, 2018, a mob beat an alleged robber to death at Belua village in Tongibari upazila of munshiganj district. The dead were identified as Babul Hossain Babu, 47, son of Shahjahan of Postagola. Babul's body was sent to Munshiganj General Hospital for an autopsy.<sup>217</sup>

On February 17, 2018, a suspected robber, beaten by an angry mob at Charsandi village under Sadar upazila, died at Shariatpur General Hospital. The victim was Kabir Khan, 45, son of Ansar Uddin Khan of Lakkhipur village under Nagerpara union of Gosairhat upazila in the shariatpur district.<sup>218</sup>

On March 09, 2018 an alleged robber was killed and another injured in a mob beating in Nawdapara area of Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila of the chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Raihan, 28, son of Bakkar Ali of Birampara village in the same upazila. The injured, was Sabdul, 23, son of Mohiuddin of Jambaria village in Bholahat upazila in the district.<sup>219</sup>

On March 13, 2018, a mob beat dead an alleged robber in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna. Md Bellal Hossen, 45, son of Amir Hossen of Dakkhin Kupdhon village under Pathorghata upazila died around 8:00 pm at Pathorghata upazila health complex, said Mollah Md Khabir Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pathorghat Police Station.<sup>220</sup>

On May 09, 2018, a youth died in the capital, hours after a mob suspecting him to be a mugger beat him in the capital's Ramna area. The deceased was Md Mongol, 25. Ihsanul Ferdaus,

Assistant Commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police rescued him around 9:00 am from Chairmangoli area after people beat him on allegations of mugging. Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, after which he was taken to Ramna Police Station around 2:00 pm. As his condition deteriorated, police rushed him to DMCH again where he was declared dead around 5:50 pm.<sup>221</sup>

On July 05, 2018, a suspected robber was killed in a lynch-mob attack at Tatarkandi village of Shibpur in Narsingdi. The deceased was identified as Nurul Amin alias Nura 'Dacoit', 29, son of Mia Chan of Gubindi village. Local people caught one of the 'robbers' and gave him a good thrashing, leaving him dead on the spot.<sup>222</sup>

On September 11, 2018, a suspected thief was beaten to death by villagers at Harashpur village in Bijoynagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district. The deceased was Shahidul Islam, 45, son of late Tajul Islam of Bhubhan village in Nasirnagar upazila.<sup>223</sup>

On October 23, 2018, an alleged thief was beaten to death at Sonapata Baniapara village in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh. The deceased was Manjurul Islam, 28, son of Azizul Islam of Goadighi village in Khansama upazila of Dinajpur.<sup>224</sup>

On November 14, 2018 a youth died following a mob beating in Chashara area of Narayanganj town. The deceased Al-Amin, 25, was accused in several cases, said OC Kamrul Islam of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, adding that he was caught while mugging. He died at a local hospital, the OC added.<sup>225</sup>

215 [www.alamy.com/stock](http://www.alamy.com/stock)

216 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=104112&cat=9/???>

217 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/mob-beats-robber-death-1533778>

218 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robber-beaten-dead-1536376>

219 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1446736/????>

220 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/333967/??????>

221 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-killed-mob-beating-capital-1574131>

222 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/07/06/654831>

223 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/thief-suspect-killed-mob-beating-1632535>

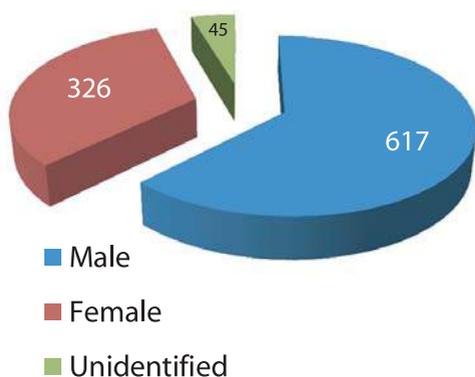
224 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/10/23/175658.html>

225 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/364856/-??>

# Recovery of Dead Bodies

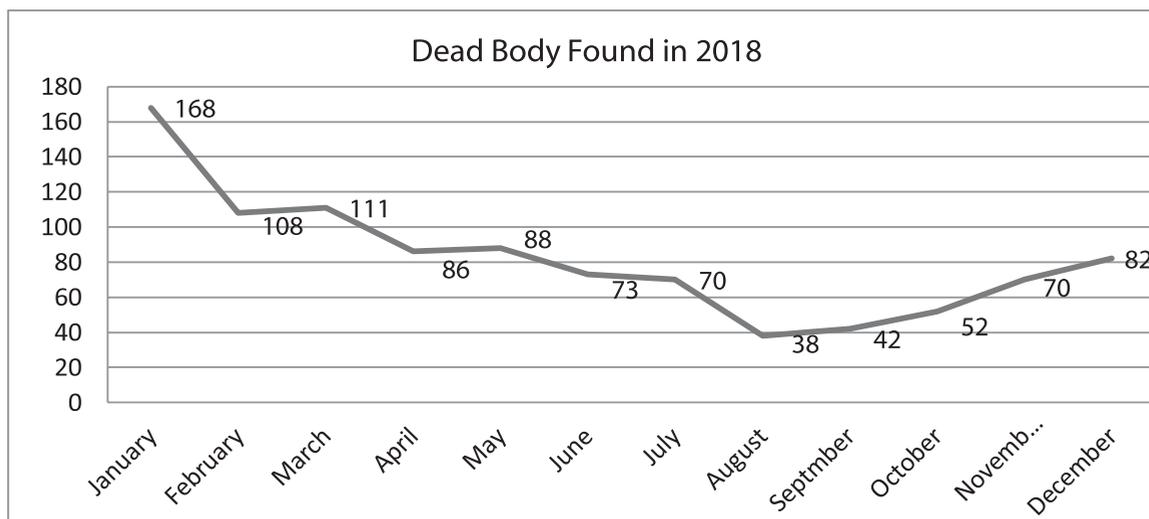


Security of life is the prime and foremost right of all others human rights. Article 3 of the Universal declaration of human Rights declares that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”.<sup>226</sup> In Bangladesh, due to worsening law and order situation recovery of the dead body from the different place of the country has become very common. Most of the perpetrators of such killings remain unidentified. On the other hand, sometimes the identity of the dead body remains unknown.



*The pie chart contains information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from January to December 2018 according to which, a total of 988 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 617 bodies were male and 326 bodies were female and 45 bodies were unidentified.*

Figure 32 : Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body



**Figure 33 : Monthly Statistics of the Number of Dead Bodies Found in 2018**

**Selected cases are described as follows:**

On June 09, 2018, a member of a Union Parishad in Kushtia was found dead in a canal at Machpara union of Pangsa in Rajbari. The deceased was identified as Abdul Mazed Mandal, 50, a member of Ward no. 5 of Jayanti Hazra Union in Khoksa upazila of Kushtia.<sup>227</sup>

On January 13, 2018, the body of a madrasa student was found in Naogaon. The deceased was Md Shakib Hossain, 18, son of Azahar Ali of Chawk-Proshad Khanpara village under Naogaon municipality area. He was an Alim student at Chawk-Proshad Alim Madrasa in the area.<sup>228</sup>

On February 27, 2018, a music teacher was found dead in the town. The slain was identified as Nahidul Islam Nahid, 33, son of Abdul Mabud Sarkar of Dinajpur Municipality. He was a music teacher at Dinajpur Collectorate School and College. Nahid's family members said he went to Yammi Chinese restaurant in the town from where he came out after receiving a phone call. Later, passers by found him lying unconscious in front of the restaurant.<sup>229</sup>

On March 15, 2018, the police recovered two unidentified bullet-hit bodies from the hilly area on Eidgor-Eidgaon Road in Cox's Bazar Sadar. Locals saw the bodies early in the morning and informed the police, said Minhaj Mahmud Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Eidgaon Investigation Centre under Cox's Bazar Sadar Thana.<sup>230</sup>

On April 05, 2018 the body of a schoolboy was found at Ayubnagar in Patarihat union of Kamalnagar upazila under Laxmipur, five days after he went missing. The deceased, Sharif Hossain, 12, son of Faruk Pahloan of Char Falkon area, was a student of Class V. "Locals found the boy's body at a soybean field near the fish farm, and informed the police."<sup>231</sup>

On May 02, 2018 a bullet-hit body of an alleged robber was found under a bridge at Luterchar of Meghna upazila of Cumilla. The deceased was Jahangir, 35, son of Abul Hashem of Boro Baipara village of the upazila. Locals said they called the police after they found a body lying in muddy water under the Luterchar Bridge.<sup>232</sup>

On June 18, 2018, an indigenous college girl was found dead in Bandarban while an elderly man was beaten to death in Barguna. Police recovered the body of an indigenous girl from her house in Yangcha area under Bandarban's Lama Upazila. The victim was identified as Mya Hla U Marma, 18, daughter of Cra Hla Aung Marma who sat for her HSC examinations in 2018.<sup>233</sup>

On 29 June 2018, a female garment worker was found dead at her working place at South Jarun area of the district town. The deceased was identified as Mitu Akhter, 25, of Barishal District and a worker of Delta Apparels Ltd.<sup>234</sup>

On July 18, 2018, the body of college a girl was recovered in Habiganj, four days after she went missing. Police said they arrested the victim's boyfriend, who confessed to have killed the girl as she was pressing him for marrying her after she became pregnant. The deceased was identified as Monila Maroti Moni, 18, a class twelve student of Madhabpur Degree College and daughter of Suresh Sawtal of Mahjhil Division at Surma Tea Garden under Madhabpur upazila in the district.<sup>235</sup>

On August 01, 2018, a woman was found murdered at her residence in Chittagong city's Farider Para area. The deceased was identified as Rahima Bibi, 25, wife of Ehteshamul Haque Jewel, a lawyer at Chittagong Court, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abul Bashar of Chandgaon Police Station. Quoting the husband, the OC said Rahima was five months' pregnant. The couple also has a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter.<sup>236</sup>

On September 28, 2018, Police recovered the beheaded body of a man from a canal at Guktomari village in Jalma union of Bhatiaghata in Khulna. Mahbubur Rahman. Officer-in-charge of Bhatiaghata Police Station said locals found the body of the man, aged about 50, in a sack around 8:30 am and informed police. Later, police recovered the body.<sup>237</sup>

On October 07, 2018, the body of a man was recovered from a paddy field at Kathaldangi village in Haripur upazila, Thakurgaon. The deceased was identified as Shariful Islam, 40, son of late Based Ali of Dilgaon village under the upazila. Haripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC), Amiruzzaman said local people found a body in a sack in a paddy field and informed police.<sup>238</sup>

On November 17, 2018, Police recovered the throat-slit body of a local leader of the Awami League from a paddy field at village Kanchanpur in Adamdighi upazila of Bogura. The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam, 55, publicity secretary of Chapapur union unit of the Awami League and son of Sakhin Ali of village Mandirpur in the upazila. Quoting family members, police said Nazrul disappeared after he went to Chapapur Market in the area on 16 November.<sup>239</sup>

On November 18, 2018, a workshop trader was found dead in his own shop at Shafipur area under Kaliakoir Upazila of the Gazipur district. The deceased was identified as Md Sadek Ali, 38, son of Quddus Sheikh of Godhua area under Lalpur Upazila of Nator district.<sup>240</sup>

On December 01, 2018, a local leader of Tanti League, a pro-Awami League body, was found dead hours after he went out of his house in Morrelganj upazila, Bagerhat. The victim, Khalilur Rahman Sheikh, 50, former general secretary of Tanti League, Morrelganj municipality unit, was son of late Shamsu Sheikh of Harindhara village in the upazila. Deceased's son Rubel Sheikh, 22, said his father went out of the house after talking with an unknown caller at around 7:00 pm. After finding Khalil's mobile phone switched off, family

members started searching for him and finally found his body lying on a road, about a kilometre from his house, Rubel said, adding that criminals might have killed his father over political enmity as the body was found in wet clothes.<sup>241</sup>

On December 15, 2018, the brother-in-law of Awami League MP MA Latif was found dead at his residence at Bark Mia School intersection in Fakirhat area of the port city. The deceased was identified as Tofael Ahmed Rafiq, 57. Additional deputy commissioner (port) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Arefin Jewel said Rafiq's sons spotted him lying blood stained in his room in the evening and rushed him to nearby Mother and Child Care Hospital where doctors declared him dead.<sup>242</sup>



*Mainuddin with his two minor children.*<sup>243</sup>

On December 17, 2018, Police recovered the bodies of a couple and their two minor children from their residence at Debpur village of Chandpur Sadar upazila Chandpur. The deceased were identified as Mainuddin, 35, his wife Fatema Begum, 24, their five-year-old daughter Mithila and one-year-old son Siam, of the village.

Locals spotted the bodies in the morning and informed police, said Zihad Kabir, superintendent of Chandpur police, while visiting the spot.<sup>244</sup>

On December 30, 2018, Police recovered the body of a local BNP leader from a roadside cropland in Gopalpur upazila of the district Tangail. The deceased, Haji Abdul Aziz, 65, a resident of Nogda Shimla village, was vice-president of BNP's ward No 4 unit, said Tangail district BNP President Shamsul Alam Tofa. The BNP leader was murdered, he alleged.<sup>245</sup>

On December 31, 2018, a local Juba League leader was hacked to death and two others were injured in an attack allegedly by rivals in Sitakunda of Chattogram. The deceased was identified as Syed Mohammad Daud Samrat, 35, a member of Juba League upazila unit. The injured Amal and Sajjad were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.<sup>246</sup>

226 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

227 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/58540/????????->

228 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/320893/>

229 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/music-teacher-found-dead-1541050>

230 [www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=109350&cat=9/????????](http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=109350&cat=9/????????)

231 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolboys-body-found-1558636>

232 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/bullet-hit-body-recovered-1570675>

233 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/college-girl-found-dead-bandarban-1591912>

234 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=145173>

235 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46365/college-girl-found-dead-at-habiganj-tea-garden>

236 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/woman-found-dead-home-1614709>

237 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/09/29/685487>

238 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/mans-body-found-paddy-field-1646773>

239 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2018/11/17/al-leader-s-body-found-in-bogra-throat-slit>

240 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/56707/workshop-trader-found-dead-in-gazipur>

241 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/tanti-league-leader-found-dead-1667851>

242 <https://www.clickitfaq.com/al-mps-brother-in-law-found-dead-at-ctg-home/>

243 UNB

244 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2018/12/17/couple-2-kids-found-dead-in-chandpur>

245 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/bnp-man-found-dead-1680853>

246 <https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/jubo-league-leader-hacked-dead-in-chattogram/9607>

# Quota Reform and Safe Roads Movement



*According to Human Rights Support Society's observation, monitoring and fact-finding, between July and September 2018 around 356 individuals who were protesting for quota reforms and safe roads suffered injuries at the hands of LEA and BCL activists. 84 were arrested and around 120 students were victims of torture and intimidation. Some cases are described as follows:*

On July 02, 2018, at about 10.45 am, about 15 quota reformists gathered at the Shaheed Minar in the Dhaka University Area to form a human chain. Within moments, Chhatra League men pounced on them. First, they snatched the banner and tore it down. Then they grabbed some of the protestors by their collars and started slapping and punching them before driving them out of the area. They did not even spare female protestors. While one woman was pushed and shoved, another woman said she was kicked by the attackers. Quota reformists blamed Chhatra League men for the attack and alleged police and the university authorities were playing a dubious role. BCL men also allegedly picked up two quota

reformists at Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University. At the Shaheed Minar, police were seen leaving the spot just before the attack.

The protestors were led by Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, and its Joint Convener Faruk Hassan who had gone to the Shaheed Minar to form a prescheduled human chain. At least six protestors, including two women, were injured in the attack.

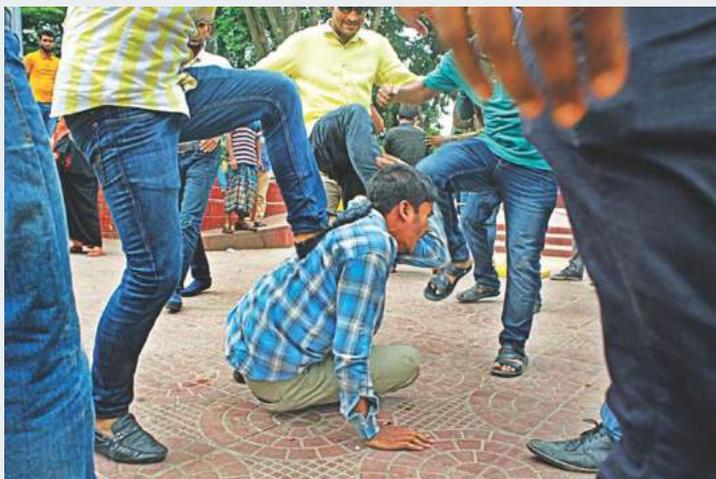


**BCL men attacking other protestors and snatching their banner.**

Although some of the protestors managed to run away, two female protestors were seen crying helplessly after suffering injuries. “I was trying to run. Then I stopped. I didn't think they would assault any woman. But I was wrong. One of them kicked on my stomach,” said a DU student. Witnesses said BI Badhon, president of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Hall unit of BCL, and Al Amin, general secretary of the unit, picked up Faruk from the spot. General Secretary of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall BCL unit Mehedi Hasan Sunny, central BCL Secretary of School and Students' Affair Joynal Abedin, Human Resource Affairs Secretary Jahir Ahmed Khan, Publicity Secretary of central BCL Saif Babu, Al Amin and BI Badhon were among the attackers, witnesses said.

Luthfunnahar Luma of Eden College said they were being threatened via Facebook messenger for quite a while. “But now we are being threatened in public.” She alleged that the attackers threatened that the male protestors will be abducted and the females will be raped.



**The attackers snatch away a banner of the platform on the Shaheed Minar premises and assault another Protester nearby on 02 July**

In Rajshahi University at least seven students were injured when 40-50 BCL men with bamboo sticks, iron rods and machetes attacked them near the main gate of the university afternoon. Tarikul Islam Tarek, a RU student and a leader of the quota reform movement, had to be admitted to Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital with serious injuries. His cousin Jewel Mamun, himself a student of the university, quoting doctors, said that his right leg was fractured. The attack and the inaction of police and the university administrations sparked heavy criticism. Masud Monnaf, convener of the platform leading the quota reform movement at RU, said the attack was led, among others, by Faisal Ahmed Runu, general secretary of RU BCL. He added that the quota reform activists had just started a procession near the main gate of the campus around 4:00 pm when BCL men swooped on Tarek, also a Masters student of the University.

In Jahangirnagar University BCL men snatched the national flag from quota reform activists and drove them away from the central library premises where the activists attempted to demonstrate in the morning, witnesses said. BCL activists attacked the organisers and also picked up Shakil Uzzaman, convener of the quota reformist platform in JU, from the central library and released him later.<sup>247</sup>

On July 17, 2018, an assistant professor of Chittagong University informed that he had left the campus after receiving continuous threats from Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over his Facebook remarks on quota reform. Assistant Prof Maidul Islam of Sociology Department said that he along with his wife went to a safer place as he felt insecure on the campus. The teacher added that he had protested the attacks on quota reformists. "Considering the inhumane attacks on quota reformists, I wrote some lines on Facebook. It is my decision what I will write on Facebook and BCL men have no right to obstruct me," he added.<sup>248</sup>

On July 25, 2018, Bangladesh Chhatra League activists attacked a procession of quota reform movement at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, leaving five students injured. The injured were given first aid at different clinics and hospitals of the city. Two of the injured were identified as Alamgir Kabir and Rashedul Islam.<sup>249</sup>



**University teachers and other citizens take part in a protest against BCL attacks on students demanding quota reformation in government jobs; police manhandle a person with a child there and policemen drag a demonstrator in front of National Press Club.**

On July 03, 2018, quota reform protesters were attacked by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at universities in Dhaka and elsewhere. In Dhaka, police created an atmosphere of panic, manhandling students' guardians and citizens who came to stage their pre-scheduled protest at 4:00 pm in front of National Press Club. They gathered there under the banner of 'Udbigno Abhibhabak O Nagarik Samaj' to protest at BCL attacks and intimidation on different campuses and arrest of quota reform demonstrators. Police also picked up two writers and columnist, Rahnuma Ahmed and a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Baki Billah from the spot and released them after about 40 minutes, police and organisers of the citizens' demonstration said.<sup>250</sup>



On July 01, 2018, Muhammad Rashed Khan, joint convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, was detained from the area around 12:30 pm, Devdas Bhattacharya, Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said. Rashed was shown arrested in a case filed under the Information Communication Technology (ICT) act, said police. Bangladesh Chhatra League law affairs secretary Al-Nahian Khan Joy filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station. The case was filed as Rashed went on Facebook Live on June 27 and made "derogatory remarks" about the prime minister, according to the case records.<sup>251</sup>

On July 01, 2018, at least seven members of the platform demanding civil service quota reforms, including its two leaders, were beaten allegedly by a group of BCL activists in front of Dhaka University Library. The incident happened right before the protestors were about to hold a press

briefing demanding immediate publication of the gazette on abolishing the quota system. Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform spearheading the quota reform movement, called for the press briefing to announce their next course of action as three months have gone by since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared the quota system would be removed. Before they could start, a

group of 200-250 BCL men swooped on the quota reform leaders around 10:45 am, injuring seven members of movement, including its convener Hasan Al Mamun and Nurul Haque Nur, a joint convener.

Meanwhile, at different spots on the campus, other members of the quota reform movement came under attack. Two of the platform leaders were beaten up in front of the Public Library at Shahbagh around 2:45 pm, a witness said. BCL men mercilessly punched and kicked Nurul after surrounding him while Hasan managed to escape. Nurul was then confined to the DU library by BCL men for 30 minutes, before he was handed over to the proctorial body. The attackers also drove the quota reform demonstrators away from the area and took position at the library premises.



**Ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists roughed up anti-quota protesters at Dhaka University on 30 June.**

In April, 2018, students of public and private universities across the country took to the streets demanding reforms in the quota system. In the wake of the protests, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during a parliamentary session on April 11, declared the

abolition of quotas. After the government's failure to issue a gazette notification on the PM's announcement, the quota reform platform started an indefinite boycott of classes and examinations at all universities and colleges on May 14. They gave an ultimatum for the publication of the notification by May 13.

On May 21, quota reform demonstrators postponed their decision of boycotting examinations considering the month of Ramadan and also the prospect of “session jams” that may be caused by the strike.<sup>252</sup>

247 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/bcl-men-action-again-1599037>

248 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/fb-post-quota-reform-cu-teacher-leaves-campus-upon-bcl-mens-threat-1606591>

249 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46942/5-injured-as-bcl-attacks-quota-activists-at-begum-rokeya-univ>

250 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45083/protests-flare-amid-police-action>

251 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1522441/????-?>

252 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/quota-movement-bcl-swoops-reformists-1597912>

# Inhuman Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies

According to Article 5 of the UDHR, no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 14 (2) of the ICCPR provides that everyone charged with a criminal offense shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law. International Convention against Torture (CAT) has also declared torture as a punishable offense. As a signatory to this Convention, Bangladesh is required to comply with its provisions. Bangladesh constitution prohibits torture, be it in custody or interrogation cell. Local and international human rights organizations and the media always report that security forces, especially RAB and police, inflict severe torture, physical and psychological abuses after arrests and during interrogations. Violating all rules and regulations, security forces use cruel methods such as indiscriminate beatings, pouring boiling water, removing fingernails and administering electric shocks etc. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh over the period of 2018 is detailed below:

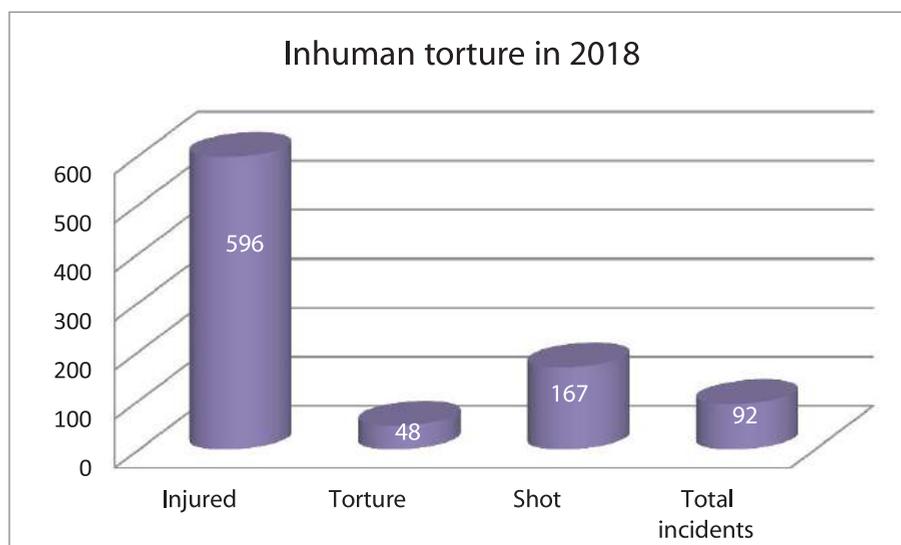


Figure 34 : Inhuman Torture by LEA in 2018

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society, in the year 2018, a total of 596 people were reportedly injured, among whom 167 were shot and 48 were tortured by the law enforcement agency. Some cases are as follows:



**More than 100 protesters injured by LEA in quota reform clashes in DU on April 08'18**

Job-seekers and students demanding reform of the existing quota system in public service clashed with police in Shahbagh and Dhaka University areas throughout the night on April 08, leaving at least 80 people injured. Police dispersed the agitating job-seekers and students from Shahbagh intersection around 8:00 pm on April 8, charging baton, and lobbing teargas shells and rubber bullets after they blocked the intersection as part of the programme announced earlier by Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad (Bangladesh general students' right protection council). Amid the police

action, the demonstrators retreated towards the DU campus.

However, they took a position on different roads and continued their protest. Female students of the university also came out of their dormitories and joined the protesters.

On the other hand, Police and Bangladesh Chhatra League men rushed to the place where the protesters were demonstrating and chased them. Later, they went back to the Raju Sculpture. Around 2:00 am, the Police surrounded them and lobbed teargas shells to disperse them. Being chased, the female students took shelter in the Teacher-Student Centre. Police detained at least 25 students from the protest. The injured students were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Dhaka University Medical Centre.

On 17 February, students and job-seekers started the movement to press home their five-point demand that included the introduction of unified age limit in government jobs, review of quota system in government recruitment process, filling vacant posts from merit list if the candidates from quota are not found and fixation of 10 percent quota instead of existing 56 percent.<sup>253</sup>

At least 60 students were injured as the police baton charged the quota reform protesters to disperse them on Dhaka-Aricha highway near the Jahangirnagar University campus, On April 11, 2018, witnesses said some 2,000 students under the banner of Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, (Bangladesh General Students' Right Protection Council), brought out a procession around 9 am from the central library of the university. At one stage, police fired teargas shells and rubber bullets to disperse them that triggered a chase and counter-chase. Sixty students were injured during the police action and they were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital.<sup>254</sup>



On June 11, 2018, at least 5 readymade garments (RMG) factory workers were injured when police tried to disperse them from Zirabo-Bishmail road in Kathgora area of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital. Around 10:00 am, hundreds of RMG workers of Positive Fashionwear Ltd started demonstrating on the busy road leading to Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Tangail



highways demanding arrear salaries and Eid bonus, said locals.<sup>255</sup>

On October 01, 2018, a suspected drug peddler sustained bullet injuries in a reported gunfight with law enforcers at village Shiala of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi. The injured 'drug peddler' was identified as Rabiul Islam alias

Titu, 45, son of Koyesh Uddin, of village Premtoli Kathalbaria of Godagari. He was wanted in four drug cases, the police said. Rajshahi senior assistant police superintendent Nur-e-Alam said that acting on a tip-off, a team of Godagari Police conducted a raid at village Premtoli Kathalbaria around 2:45 pm. Titu received bullet injuries in the knee of his left leg, the police official said, adding that he was admitted to Rajshahi Medical Collage and Hospital.<sup>256</sup>

On October 15, 2018, at least 18 persons, including a police sub-inspector, were injured when agitated workers of a garment factory in Gazipur clashed with police. The workers were staging a demonstration, demanding payment of their arrear salary and allowances. The workers and police clashed after several rounds of chase and counter-chase. The protesting workers damaged doors and windows of the factory. They also damaged several vehicles. At one stage the workers came out of the factory and tried to take position on Dhaka-Gazipur highway. Police intercepted them and a chase-counter chase ensued. Gazipur Sadar Thana SI Bashir Ahmed and at least 17 others, including quality controller of the factory Abdul Alim, were injured in the clash. The injured received treatment at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.<sup>257</sup>

On 26 October, 2018, a man was killed and several others injured in a triangular clash among police, transport workers and toll collectors at Buriganga Bridge in Postogola area. The deceased was identified as Md. Sohel, a driver of a three-wheel passenger vehicle. The clash ensued between a group of transport workers and toll collectors over resettlement of toll rate for the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge around 7 am, said Assistant Commissioner Faysal Mahmud of Shyampur zone. On information, police rushed to the scene and lobbed tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets, triggering a clash leaving 11 people with bullet injuries, witnesses said. The injured were taken to several hospitals in the area with bullet injuries. Later, Md Sohel succumbed to his injuries at Ikuria General Hospital with bullet injures around 10 am. Creating huge suffering to the commuters, traffic movement remained suspended for several hours on the bridge due to the skirmishes. Meanwhile, the transport workers withdrew their protest programme around 1:30 pm after getting assurance from the local Awami League Leaders of solving the issue immediately.<sup>258</sup>

On November 03, 2018 Law enforcers foiled a protest rally and also detained at least eight demonstrators from the capital's public library area as they were demanding to raise the age limit to 35 years for recruitment in public service. Under the banner of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad, students from different universities and colleges and job seekers gathered on the public library premises at Shahbagh around 12:00 pm to hold a rally at Shahbagh intersection to press home their demands. The protesters tried to bring out a rally from the public library and take position in Shahbagh intersection but the Police barred them by locking the main gate of the library. The platform convener Sanjoy Das claimed that they



sought permission from police to hold their pre-scheduled rally at TSC in Dhaka University instead of Shahbagh but police did not allow them.<sup>259</sup>

On October 22, 2018, at least 35 people, including 10 policemen, were injured as police and workers of a closed readymade garment factory clashed at Adamjee EPZ in Narayanganj city. Several hundred former workers of Swad Garments factory blocked Narayanganj-Adamjee-Shimrail Road in front of the EPZ main gate for over five hours from 7:00 am, demanding their arrears. Police said the clash ensued when the demonstrators were asked to withdraw their blockade. To bring the situation under control, police fired rubber bullets and lobbed teargas canisters and charged truncheons on the agitators. The workers said the export-oriented Swad Garments factory, where around 3,500 people worked, had been sold and it was closed on September 21. The workers started demonstration the following day, demanding their arrears. They stopped their agitation after the factory authorities assured them of paying their dues.<sup>260</sup>

On November 03, 2018, Police foiled a group of jobseekers' attempt to hold a rally in front of National Museum in the capital, to press home their demand of raising age limit to 35 years [from 30] for entering government jobs. The law enforcers barred the agitators from holding a rally and detained at least seven of them around noon. Some 120-130 students from different colleges and universities, under the platform's banner, started gathering on the premises of Public Library around that time, said one of the demonstrators. When they tried to bring out a procession, a team of police deployed in front of the library gate, obstructed them. The protesters locked into an altercation with the police and asked to be let out, assuring that they would not block any road.<sup>261</sup>

On December 06, 2018, some 20 people were injured in clashes between garment factory workers and law enforcers in Fatullah BSCIC Industrial city. Police and workers said about 4,500 workers had been agitated since 4 December 2018 demanding a raise. Workers found a notice at the factory gate, saying helpers will get Tk 8,300 per month and operators Tk 9,500, and only those willing to work at this pay would be allowed to enter factory premises. Some



workers entered the factory and started ransacking it around 10.00 am, while others protested in front of the gate. Factory worker Bubli Begum died from a cardiac arrest during the commotion, presumably caused by fear and shock, according to Dr Tahmina of Narayanganj 300 Bed Hospital.<sup>262</sup>

On December 12, 2018, at least 25 people, including policemen, were injured in clashes between the police and readymade garment workers at different points in Gazipur. Workers said that they were staging demonstrations in the area demanding implementation of the new wage structure when the police opened fire on them, hurled teargas shells at them to disperse their gathering. Owners of at least 20 garment factories in the area shut their day's operation fearing that the unrest might spread further.<sup>263</sup>

253 <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173887/At-least-80-protesters-injured-in-quota-reform>

254 <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173914/At-least-60-hurt-at-JU-as-quota-protesters-clash>

255 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/5-rmg-workers-injured-clash-police-1589902>

256 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/52040/drug-peddler-injured-in-gunfight>

257 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/18-injured-rmg-workers-clash-police-gazipur-1647481>

258 <http://www.ennayadiganta.com/detail/news/33914>

259 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/55014/police-foil-govt-job-seekers-rally-8-held>

260 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/bangladesh-readymade-garment-rmg-workers-burn-van-in-naryanganj-1650358>

261 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/students-demonstration-for-raising-age-limit-35-dhaka-police-foil-government-job-seekers-rally-1655617>

262 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/rmg-workers-clash-leaves-20-injured-1670302>

263 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/58783/25-people-injured-in-police-rmg-workers-clashes-in-gazipur>

# Checks on Freedom of Expression



**F**reedom of expression in Bangladesh is a constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right but it has been constantly violated with human rights activists and journalists, opposition party members facing systematic oppression from the state agencies. The enactment of draconian laws designed to clamp down on free speech has resulted in the silencing of journalists, human rights defenders, online activists, and bloggers. Suppression of the dissenting voice is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The ordinary people have lost all hope and are reluctant to speak their minds due to the culture of impunity, lack of accountability and an ineffective justice delivery mechanism. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

*According to the Human Rights Support Society's information in 2018, a total of 55 have been arrested under "Digital Security Act 2018" from different areas of the country in a total of 31 incidents.*

## Case study 01

On January 29, 2018, the cabinet of Bangladesh approved the "Digital Security Act 2018" for enactment by Parliament. The nature of crime and the provision of punishment for "digital spying" stated in section-32 of the law will not only undermine freedom of speech and the fundamental spirit of democracy, but will also create an environment that may stifle press freedom. Under the new law, if anyone collects and keeps secret information of any government office in his or her computer or digital and electronic devices, it would be tantamount to digital

or computer spying, and the offender will have to face a harsh punishment of a maximum of 14 years in jail or a fine of up to 2.5 million Taka or both. In case of repeat offenders, they may face life imprisonment or a maximum fine of 10 million Taka or both. The law also stipulates that anyone spreading negative propaganda against the Liberation War or the Father of the Nation may be sentenced up to 14-years jail term or a fine up to 5 million Taka or both. In this context, the right to freedom of expression is particularly under threat. Due to this draconian law, writers, bloggers, journalist, newspapers, TV channels, social media users have adopted a policy of self censorship. Legal experts of the country have already remarked that this Act is a draconian law, and that there is no need for formulation of a new law in the name of Digital Security Act, as the existing laws are sufficient to ensure the state security. They also opined that this law will severely limit the freedom of expression of citizens, which is contrary to the Constitution.<sup>264</sup>

On January 01, 2018 two journalists were sued under Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act in Narayanganj. They were Shahjahan Shamim, editor-in-chief of www.newsnyayanganj24.net, and Tanvir Hossain, executive editor of the news portal. Sayem Ahmed, a local businessman, filed the case with Narayanganj Model Police Station, alleging that the news portal tarnished his image by publishing a fake news item. Police, however, say Sayem is accused in a number of cases, including abduction, attempted murder, and extortion, filed with different police stations in the district.<sup>265</sup>

On January 14, 2018, Narayanganj police arrested a youth allegedly over a Facebook post demeaning Islam. Hasan-ul Islam, 29, was arrested in Meghna Ghat area of Sonargaon. Md Shahjalal, the inspector of Fatullah Model Police Station, said some photos “demeaning Islam” was posted on Hasan's Facebook account. Police also detained Hasan's elder brother on that day for interrogation, he said.<sup>266</sup>

On January 02, 2018 two journalists were sued under Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act in Narayanganj. They were Shahjahan Shamim, editor-in-chief of www.newsnyayanganj24.net, and Tanvir Hossain, executive editor of the news portal.<sup>267</sup>

On 03 February 2018, the Police arrested Shihab Gazi, a Juba Dal leader, for posting a satirical image of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook. Shihab Gazi, the Juba Dal leader, was arrested from his house at Chakhar in Banaripara upazila of Barisal. Officer in charge of the police station, Mujjad Hossain said that they are processing the filing of a case against Shihab Gazi under the Information and Communication Technology Act. He also said, Shihab is the General Secretary of Ward No. 7 of Chakha Union Jubal Dal.<sup>268</sup>

The singer Asif Akbar was arrested under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) act. The case was filed by the composer, musician and singer Shafiq Tuhin on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018. A team of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested him on June 5<sup>th</sup>, late in the evening. In the same case, more than 4/5 unidentified people have been accused. Asif Akbar is the main accused in this case. He was arrested from his own studio in the FDC area at around 1:30 am.<sup>269</sup>

## Case study 02

On February 24, 2018, Police charged truncheons and used water cannons on BNP men to foil their black flag programme in the capital's Nayapaltan. More than a dozen party leaders and activists, including Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, were detained in the process. The BNP had announced the protest programme after the authorities denied it permission to hold a rally in Dhaka on 24 February. On February 22, the BNP announced the

black flag programme protesting the denial of permission for its rally on 24 February demanding the release of Khaleda. Party leaders and activists started gathering in front of their central office since morning. The programme was scheduled for 11:00 am. Around 10:30 am, several hundred party activists with black flags sat down on the street in front of the office and started chanting slogans. Police began charging truncheons as soon as the BNP activists sat there. They also used coloured water from the cannons. BNP chairperson's adviser Aaur Rahman Dhali, organizing Secretary Fazlul Haq Milon and central leader Nilufer Chowdhury Moni were injured in police action and were taken to the hospital. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at an emergency press briefing blamed the government for “provoking the party to create a violent situation”. “The ministers of this illegal government are continuously making provocative statements to create a volatile situation in the country but we are very carefully avoiding it,” he said. The BNP leader said they would carry on with peaceful programmes in the coming days despite the “provocations”. He said, “Why should the party have to take permission for every program. Why did police launch an attack on BNP's peaceful movement? “It is our fundamental right,” Fakhrul said. Meanwhile, he claimed that at least 320 leaders and activists, including several women activists, were injured on the police action on 22 February and that over 150 were arrested.<sup>270</sup>



**Digital Security Bill passed in parliament session Jatiya Sangsad on 18 September. Concerns of journo, rights activists ignored; fear widespread over free speech, independent journalism.<sup>271</sup>**

On September 18, 2018, the much-debated Digital Security Bill 2018 was passed in Parliament with a harsh provision allow police officials to search or arrest anyone without any warrant. The bill got through by voice vote amid opposition from a number of Jatiya Party lawmakers, ignoring concern of journalists, owners of media houses and rights activists over some of its sections. Journalists and rights activists have expressed concerns over the new law, saying it was passed without addressing their concerns. Section 43 of the new law provides that if a police official believes that an offence under the law has been or is being committed at a certain place, or there is a possibility of committing crimes or destroying evidence, the official can search the place or any person there. Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a platform of the editors of the country's dailies, expressed its concern, disappointment and shock at the committee's final report culminating in the enactment of the Digital Security Act, 2018. In a statement, the Parishad said they were “forced to reject the report” as it suggested no fundamental changes to sections 8, 21, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 43 of the draft Act that poses serious threats to freedom of expression and media operation.

**DIGITAL SECURITY ACT 2018**

The new Digital Security Act 2018 will be used to deal with defamation, hurting religious sentiments, causing deterioration of law and order, and instigation against any person or organization through publishing or transmitting any material on a website or in electronic form

It stipulates up to 14 years of jail or a fine up to Tk1 cr or both for spreading negative propaganda against the Liberation War or the Father of the Nation by means of digital devices

If a person enters any website illegally, he/she will face 7 years of imprisonment or Tk25 lakh fine or both. Any harm to someone will send the offender to jail for 14 years or fined Tk1 cr or both

Illegally accessing any device will lead to 1 year in prison or Tk3 lakh fine or both. Aiding someone illegally access will lead to 3 years in prison or Tk3 lakh fine or both

**Repealing the ICT Act**  
Sections 34, 53, 56, 57 and 66 of the ICT Act have been repealed entirely

**Bailable offenses**  
Crimes under sections 29, 25, 29 and 48 are bailable

**Non-bailable offenses**  
Crimes under sections 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32 and 34 are non-bailable

**Section 17**  
If someone uses digital media to intimidate people or cause damage to the state, he/she will face imprisonment for 14 years or jail or Tk1 cr fine or both

**Section 25**  
If someone uses website or digital media to intimidate someone, he/she may face 3 years in jail or Tk3 lakh fine or both

**Section 28**  
If anyone hurt someone's religious sentiments (as defined by the penal code), he/she will be charged with 10 years in jail or Tk20 lakh or both

**Section 29**  
If a person publishes information with intent to defame someone, he/she will be charged with 3 years in jail or Tk5 lakh or both

**Section 30**  
Using electronic devices for unauthorized transactions for bank and insurance will lead to 5 years in jail or Tk5 lakh fine or both

**Section 31**  
For creating anarchy using digital media, the law stipulates 7 years of imprisonment or Tk5 lakh fine or both

Section 32: If a person enters any government, semi-government or autonomous bodies office illegally, and secretly records any information or document with electronic instruments, it will be considered an act of espionage and he/she will face 14 years of imprisonment or Tk20 lakh fine or both

Source: Nazim Khan/RT International

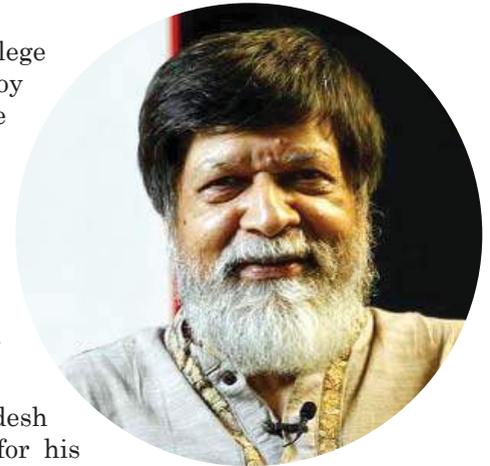
**What's in ICT Act, photo Dhaka Tribune**

Penal Code through a website or in electronic form. Section 31 of the Act says that a person may face up to seven years in prison or Tk 5 lakh in fine or both if he or she is found to have deliberately published or broadcast something on a website or in electronic form which can spread hatred and create enmity among different groups and communities, and can cause deterioration in law and order. The Act was enacted without addressing journalists' concern over sections 8, 28, 29 and 31 that deal with hurting religious values, disrupting public order, publishing defamatory information and causing deterioration in law and order by publishing anything on a website or in electronic form.<sup>272</sup>

On August 06, 2018, noted photographer Shahidul Alam seemed to be walking with difficulty as policemen held his arms and helped him enter and leave a Dhaka court. He told his lawyers and family members at the court that he had been tortured in custody. Shahidul was taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Old Dhaka from the office of Detective Branch of police on Minto Road around 5:00pm in a police vehicle. He was barefoot. The court placed him on a seven-day remand in a case filed under the controversial section 57 of ICT Act on charges of spreading propaganda and false information against the government. Shahidul, 63, was picked up by plainclothes men on 05 August 2018 from his Dhanmondi flat. Police produced him before the court about 21 hours after he was picked up. They sought 10 days' remand. Saydia Gulrukh, director of Drik Gallery, who was present in the courtroom, said Shahidul told his family and lawyers that he heard the doorbell ring around 10:00pm on 05 August. He looked through the peephole and saw a young woman standing outside, Saydia told. After the girl claimed she was a student of his, Shahidul opened the door and some 10-12 men entered the flat and dragged him to the elevator and went downstairs. As he screamed, the men in plainclothes gagged him, she said. On the ground floor, he saw several other men and a HiAce car waiting for them. As they forced him into the vehicle he tried to scream and keep the door of the vehicle open. His leg was still outside when the men asked the driver to start driving. "They then blindfolded him, beat him up and put handcuffs on him," Saydia said. He was then taken to a place where he was told to sit on a wooden chair. They placed something heavy on his head, Shahidul told his family members and lawyers. He was punched in the face and his bloodied clothes were washed clean before he was brought to the court, he told the court.

Shahidul, is a founder of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, came under attack allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League men while videoing an attack on students campaigning for road safety near City College in the capital's Dhanmondi on 04 Aug afternoon. Soon after the incident, he took shelter at a nearby guesthouse from where he went live on his Facebook page

to share the incident. “I was attacked a little while ago near City College because I was taking a video of Chhatra League students shouting 'Joy Bangla' and slightly before that attacking students,” he said in the video clip which went viral. Later, Shahidul uploaded a photo of his vandalized camera on Facebook, saying “Remains of my OSMO,” hash-tagging “we want justice”. Since that incident, he went live on his Facebook page, which has around 5,000 followers, at least seven times till 10:00pm. Shahidul, an internationally renowned photographer and a social activist, gave an interview to Al Jazeera English where he criticised the government's role in the student movement.<sup>273</sup>



On July 29, 2018, a Chittagong court sent an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to jail in a case filed under the ICT Act for his “derogatory” remarks about a minister of the government. The accused, Mohaiminul Islam, 26, was a student and activist of BCL at Chittagong Government City College, said Chandgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abul Bashar.<sup>274</sup>

On August 07, 2018, Police sued four youths, including two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, under section 57 of the ICT Act for their activities on the social media. The four were Maruf Hossain, 23, joint secretary and Aziur Rahman, 20, political study affairs secretary of Chhatra Federation's city unit, Imdadul Haque Anik, 24, final year student of applied physics at Chittagong University, and Abdullah Al Shahed, 20. Earlier, the police foiled a protest rally in front of Chittagong Press Club that was organised by a group of youths through social media demanding safe roads and protesting attacks on students. The nine youths including the two Chhatra Federation leaders were detained on the spot.<sup>275</sup>



On August 14, 2018 Actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed served a six-day remand. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) had detained Nawshaba from the capital's Uttara on August 4, for spreading rumours on Facebook. Actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed on 13 August was denied bail again by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court in a case filed under the ICT Act. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) had detained Nawshaba from the capital's Uttara on August 4, for spreading rumours on Facebook during clashes between students and police and reportedly activists of ruling party affiliate organizations at Jigatola. She had claimed that the two students were killed and the eyes of another were gouged out during the clashes.<sup>276</sup>

On November 20, 2018, a Jatiya Party (JP)-backed student leader filed a case against a JP leader under the Digital Security Act, 2018 allegedly for spreading false and objectionable information through Facebook about the party's secretary general. Fazlul Haque, president of Sonargaon upazila unit of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the associated student body of JP, filed the case against Onanna Hossain Mousumi, general secretary of the central committee of Jatiya Mohila Party, the women's wing of JP.<sup>277</sup>

On 16 November, 2018, Rajshahi District's Bagha Area's Juba Dal activist was arrested by police for defaming prime minister in a facebook post. It was alleged that the arrested individual had made derogatory remarks about the current Government, the Prime minister, Sheikh Hasina and political party.<sup>278</sup>



Four people are detained on October 28, 2018 from Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka, where job seekers were holding a demonstration demanding extension of age limit to 35 from 30 for entering government jobs.<sup>281</sup>

On October 25, 2018, a Chattogram court placed BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury on a one-day remand in a case filed under the ICT Act. Shafi Uddin, Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate, passed the order after police produced Khasru in the court seeking a two-day remand, Additional Deputy Commissioner (prosecution) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborty said. Chattogram City Chhatra League Acting General Secretary Zakaria Dostagir filed the case under sections 57 (2) of ICT Act and 15 (3) of the Special Powers Act on August 4 with the Kotwali Police Station over an audio of an alleged conversation between the BNP leader and a young man about bringing BNP agitators to Dhaka during the student protests for safe roads.<sup>279</sup>

On October 28, 2018, Police foiled the Shahbagh blockade programme of a group of jobseekers, demanding extension of age limit to 35 from 30 for entering government jobs. Around 11:00am, law enforcers ejected the agitators from Shahbagh intersection and detained four of them from the spot. Vehicular movement became normal after law enforcers cleared the intersection. Earlier, protesters continued their agitation for the second day but police intercepted them and asked them to leave the intersection. As protesters did not comply with their request, law enforcers forcefully evicted them from the place.<sup>280</sup>

On 30 October, 2018, Barrister Mainul Hosein was shown arrested under the Digital Security Act for using abusive language against journalist Masuda Bhatti. Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Noor issued the order and ordered him to go to jail, following a petition. An Awami League leader filed the case against Mainul with the Cyber Crime Tribunal in Dhaka on October 25. Earlier in the day, police produced Mainul in the court during the hearing. Mainul is facing scores of cases across the country for his comments against Masuda Bhatti. During a television talk show last month the former caretaker government adviser called Masuda Bhatti “characterless.”<sup>282</sup>

On December 10, 2018, a Dhaka court placed Sheikh Riad Mohammad Nur, 39, Acting Editor of online news portal “Dainik71.com,” on a three-day remand in connection with a case filed under the Digital Security Act. Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiduzzaman Sharif passed the order after Sub-inspector Shawkat Ali of Ramna Police Station produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.<sup>283</sup>

On 14 December, 2018 two people were arrested in Chattogram for posting defamatory remarks

on Facebook about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Sayed Ikram Shafi, 48, and Azad Kamal Nishan, 20, were picked up by Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) members from Sitakunda's Kumira area in the morning. "Shafi and Nishan have long been posting offensive comments about the prime minister and her family from a computer shop - Ahmadia Enterprise – at Kumira's Dalchal Mia Mazar Gate," the PBI official said.<sup>284</sup>

On December 20, 2018, members of Rapid Action Battalion arrested three people from the city's Shyamoli area for their alleged involvement in spreading rumours through posting false, fabricated and provocative remarks against the government on social networking site facebook. The arrestees were Wahedun Nabi, 47, son of Kazi Nurunnabi of Noakhali, Arafat Hakim alias Apu, 38, son of Azizul Haq of Chuadanga and Mohammad Zabid, 45, son of Rustom Ali of Mirpur in Dhaka.<sup>285</sup>

On December 21, 2018, the BNP candidate for Patuakhali-3 Golam Maula Rony and five others were sued under the Digital Security Act. Mehedi Masud, joint secretary of Awami League's local election coordination body, filed the case with Galachipa Police Station. The other accused were Shahjahan Khan, vice president of Patuakhali district BNP, Rony's brother Sarwar Hossain, his brother-in-law Makbul Hossain; Shiplu Khan, former chairman of Chiknikandi Union Parishad; and Shah Alam Sanu, president of Dashmina upazila Jubo Dal unit.<sup>286</sup>

On December 28, 2018, members of Rapid Action Battalion arrested eight people from Maghbazar and Mouchak areas in Dhaka allegedly for spreading rumour on social media over the last general elections. The arrestees were Mahmudul Hasan, 27, Abdullah Al Noman, 26, Abdul Kader, 28, Morshul Islam, 22, Saiful Islam Mithu, 29, Didarul Islam, 35, Arifur Rahman, 34 and Motahar Hossain, 21. A team of RAB-2 conducted a drive in the areas and arrested them, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of legal and media wing of RAB at a press briefing adding that the arrestees had involvement in making provocative video.<sup>287</sup>

264 Hrss research desk

265 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/2-journalists-sued-under-ict-act-1513816>

266 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-held-over-facebook-post-nganj-1519486>

267 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=98781&cat=9/>

268 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/02/03/145780.html>

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270 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/cops-swoop-bnp-activists-foil-protest-1539673>

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272 <https://www.thedailystar.net/politics/bangladesh-jatiya-sangsad-passes-digital-security-bill-2018-amid-concerns-journalists-1636114>

273 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/339429/?>

274 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-man-held-derogatory-remarks-facebook-expatriate-welfare-overseas-employment-minister-nurul-islam-1612861>

275 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/instigating-students-4-sued-under-section-57-1617514>

276 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/feature/2018/08/14/actor-nawshaba-denied-bail>

277 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/jp-leader-sued-under-digital-security-act-1663441>

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280 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/government-job-entry-age-limit-raising-demonstration-police-disperse-dhaka-shahbagh-1652866>

281 Photo: Prothom Alo

282 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2018/11/01/barrister-mainul-shown-arrested-under-digital-security-act>

283 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/acting-editor-news-portal-remanded-1671949>

284 <http://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/2-held-for-defamatory-facebook-posts-about-pm-hasina/8448>

285 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/59459/three-held-in-city-for-spreading-rumours-on-facebook>

286 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bnp-candidate-golam-maula-rony-five-others-sued-under-digital-security-act-1677175>

287 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/60186/eight-held-in-city-for-spreading-rumours-ahead-of-polls>

# Election Violence and Vote Rigging

In a democratic process, elections are the most acceptable way of transferring of power from one party to another. In Bangladesh, the 11<sup>th</sup> national election was held on 30 December 2018. The controversial election results granted an all out victory to the ruling Awami League party led by Sheikh Hasina. The party's coalition secured 288 out of a possible 300 seats in Parliament, apparently winning more than 90 percent of the popular vote. The coalition of the main opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its associate bodies, won only 08 seats. The results confirmed a third term in office for the Awami League. But regrettably, the members of the civil society of Bangladesh, as well as, the non-state actors, termed these elections as 'incredible'. It has been reported that this election was greatly influenced by the activists, leaders, and workers as well as the representatives of the ruling party. The partisan government was alleged to have made a mockery of the electoral process, and turning the country into an authoritarian state. The build-up to the polls was marred by violence and accusations of a crackdown against the opposition. Some 600,000 security personnel were deployed to prevent clashes. The authorities ordered high-speed internet to be shut down until after the vote to prevent the spread of "rumors" that might spark unrest. More than 100 million people were eligible to vote but reports suggest turnout has been low. During the pre-election campaign and Election Day in Bangladesh, at least 50 people were killed in election-related violence, many others were injured, and there were widespread allegations of voter intimidation.

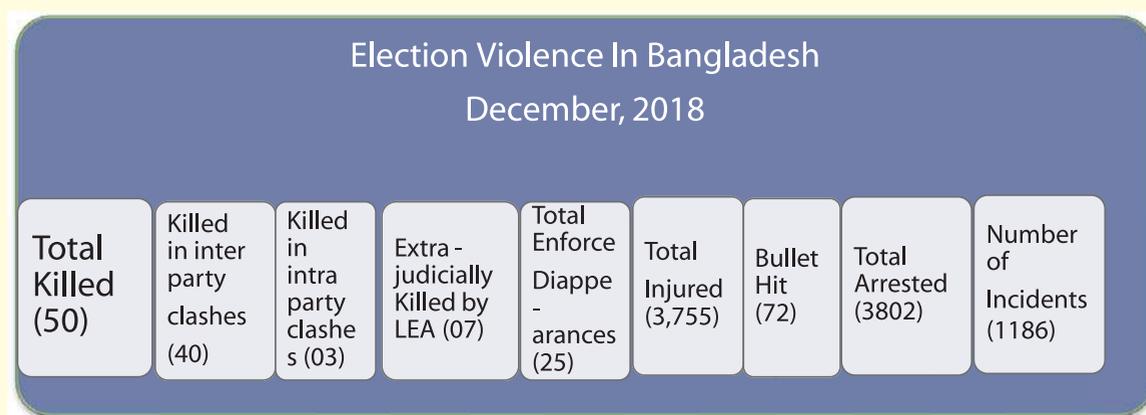


Figure 35 : Statistics of Violence Election 2018<sup>288</sup>

The chart provides information about the figure of incidents of violence during the 11<sup>th</sup> National Election in Bangladesh in December 2018. A total of 50 people were killed in electoral violence from 01 December'18 - 10 January'19, according to a fact-finding report by Human Rights Support Society (HRSS). Of the 22 AL men who were victims, 03 were killed in intra-party clashes; while the other 18 were killed in clashes with opponents and one was shot to death by LEA. Besides, 06 activists of BNP-led alliance were victims of extra-judicial killings by government agencies (Torture to Death, Crossfire, and Shot to death). Moreover, 17 BNP men and 08 Jamaat activists became victims of enforced disappearances. It also found that 1186 incidents of pre-election and Election Day's violence during this period, in which 2,745 activists of opposition alliances, 579 of the AL-led alliance, 86 of the Jatiya Party and 245 common people and supporters of independent candidates were injured across the country, bringing the total to 3,755. Apart from them, 28 police personnel and 35 journalists sustained injuries in electoral violence. Meanwhile, 2,724 BNP activists, 559 Jamaat activists and 24 AL activists 495 others were arrested during this time. Opposition candidates were attacked and their houses, party office, and cars vandalized in different districts.

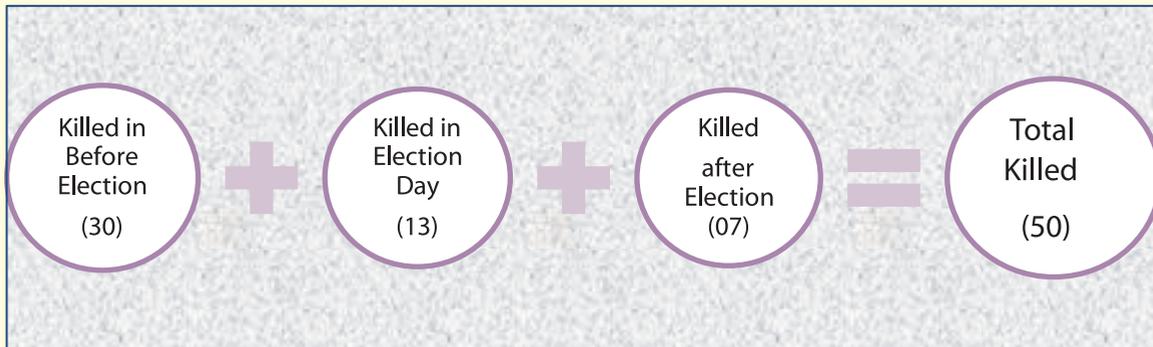


Figure 36 : Total Death in 11th National Election 2018

Some important cases are given below:<sup>289</sup>

In Cumilla, BNP activist Bacchu Mia, 45, was killed in a clash between BNP and AL men at Muragaon Govt Primary School center in Nangolkot. Muzibur Rahman, 35, an activist of the Liberal Democratic Party was also killed after police opened fire following a clash between rival groups at Paschim Bellashor Govt Primary School center in Chandina.

In Chattogram, Jatiya Party supporter Ahmed Kabir, 35, was shot dead during a triangular clash between police, local AL men and BNP-JP activists when ruling party supporters tried to capture Boraitoli Govt Primary School center in the dead of the night.

In Rajshahi, at least two people were killed in election violence. The victims Meraj Uddin, 22, of Mohonpur upazila and Md Modasser, 45, of Tanoreupazila were Awami League activists. They were beaten to death by BNP activists during a clash with AL men, said Abdur Razzak Khan, additional superintendent of Police of Rajshahi.

In Brahmanbaria, a mason was killed allegedly in police firing during a clash between AL and BNP supporters at Rajghar Govt Primary School center under Sadar upazila. Victim Israil Mia, 20, of Rajghar village in the upazilla, died on the spot.

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In Cox's Bazar, a Chhatra League activist died in a clash with BNP men at Rajakhali Matobbor Para Govt Primary School in Pekua upazila. The deceased was identified as Md Abdullah, 23.

In Rangamati, Jubo League Ghagra unit General Secretary Basir Uddin was killed in an attack by BNP activists at Rangepara around 8:00 am on his way to vote, locals said. Shah Alam, president of Rangamati BNP, denied the allegation.

In Bogura, Jubo League activist Azizul Haque died during a clash with BNP men in front of Bogail Govt Primary School around 11:30 am. Kahalu police OC Shawkat Kabir said the clash ensued as AL men obstructed a procession of BNP men near the center. The BNP men hit Azizul on his head with a sharp weapon leaving him injured. The 28-year-old died of his injuries while being taken to the hospital.

In Sylhet, a local Chhatra Dal leader died after being shot allegedly by police at Azizpur Govt Primary School center in Balaganj upazila around 3:45 pm. Victim Sayem Ahmed Sohel, 24, was general secretary of upazila Chhatra Dal.

In Noakhali, an Ansar man was killed allegedly by BNP-Jamaat activists in Tulatuli Govt Primary School center in Begumganj. Victim Nur Nabi got shot as they opened fire, the UNO said.

In Lalmonirhat, a ward-level BNP leader of Kholaihat village died in a stampede as a chase and counter-chase between the supporters of AL and BNP took place in front of Paglahat Govt Primary School around 10:00 am. Tozammel Haque, 63, was declared dead at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, police said.

In Gazipur's Harinal, 44-year-old Liakat Hossain, former vice-president of Kazi Azimuddin College unit of Chhatra League, died while two others suffered injuries in polls violence.

In Jashore, a BNP polling agent died hours after he was beaten allegedly by AL activists at Pathalia Primary School in Abhaynagar upazila around 8:30 am. Shamsur Rahman Mollah, 63, was a resident of Barni village in the upazila.

In Dhaka, BNP candidate for Dhaka-4 Salahuddin Ahmed came under attack when he went to visit a center at Shyampur Model School and College around 9:15 am, according to witnesses and police. Clashes were also reported from Sherpur, Satkhira, Faridpur, Chandpur, Mymensingh, Feni, Laxmipur and Habiganj during Election Day.

288 HRSS's Research and Investigation Desk

289 HRSS Investigation Desk and national daily

# Annual Human Rights Bulletin At a Glance-2018

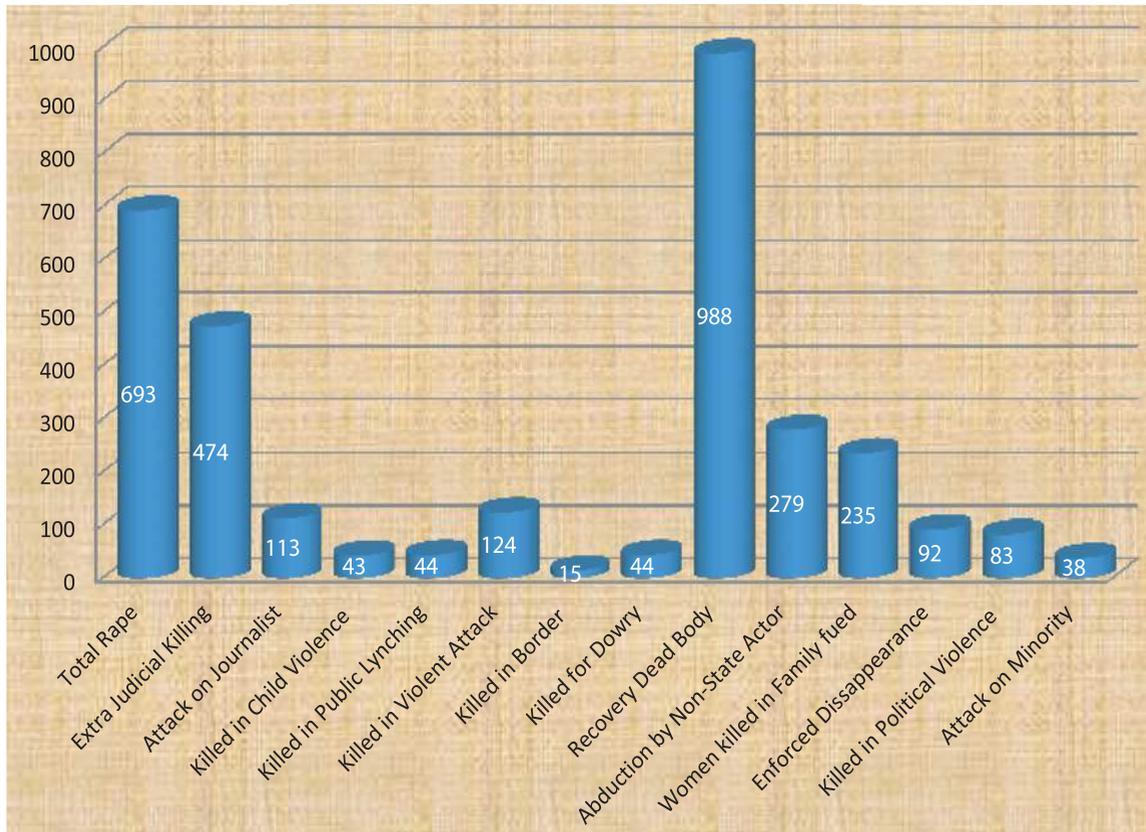


Figure 37 : Human Right Situation of Bangladesh in 2018

# Human Rights Bulletin yearly comparison

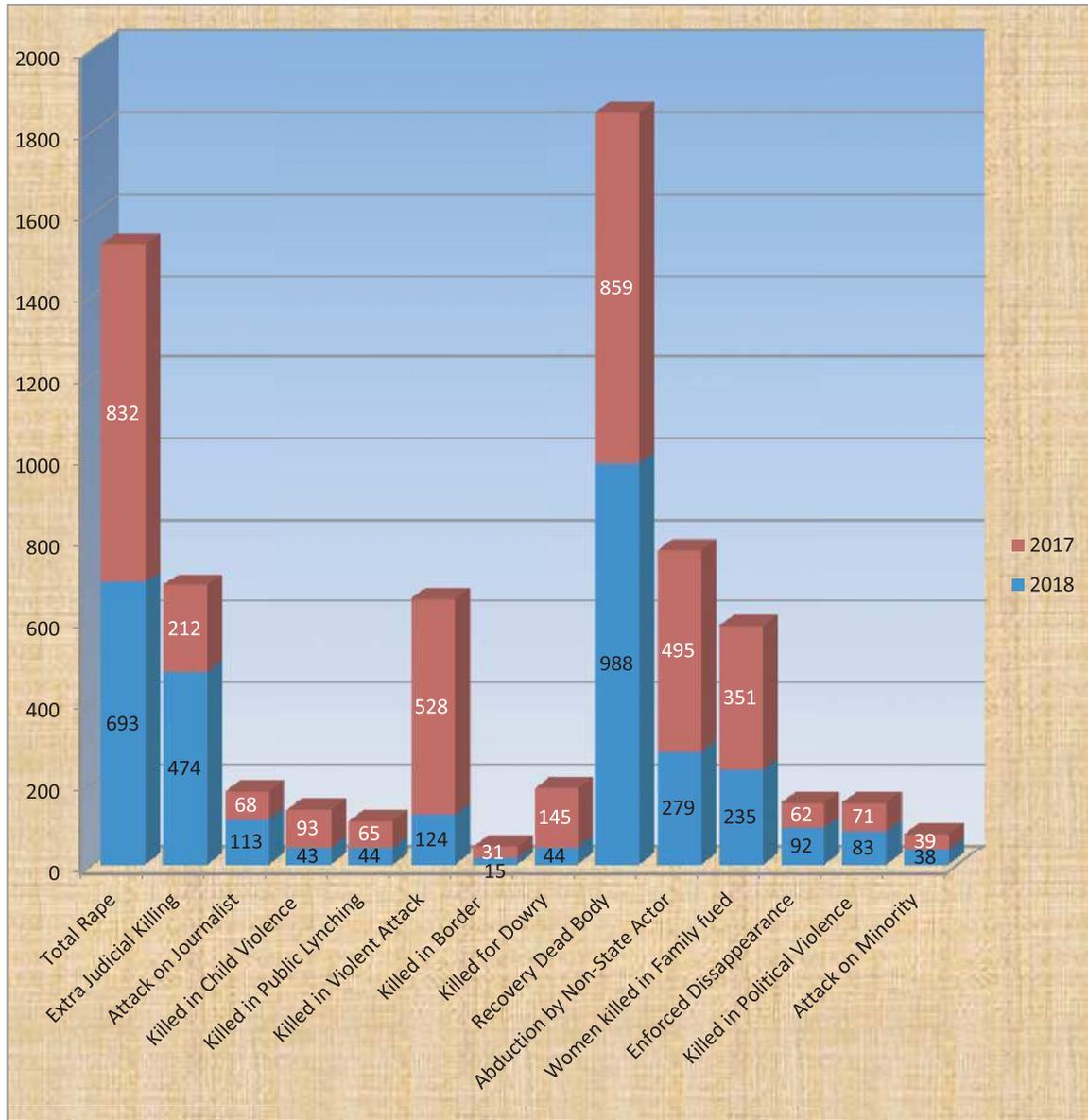


Figure 38 : Comparison between Annual Bulletin of 2018 and 2017

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# Conclusion

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There is a saying that it's easy to win a country but difficult to rule it with peace and prosperity. The year 2018 saw a considerable aggravating of the human rights situation in Bangladesh. Political turmoil threatened the enforcement of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights, in particular, the fundamental right to form assemblies and association. Right of freedom of expression was rendered practically nugatory by the application of section 32 of the "Digital Security Act 2018".

Moreover, huge numbers of human rights violations are taking place every day, such as election related violences, vote riggings, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests. Domestic violence, rape, and child abuse have been frequent in 2018. While international human rights instruments require all signatory states to protect basic human rights and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guarantees the fundamental rights of the citizens, it is a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by incumbent governments. The need of the hour for Bangladesh is to enhance democratic practice. The Constitution contains ample provision for resolution of differences through discussions and debates. It is necessary to begin a dialogue to resolve the disputes between all parties. There is no alternative to dialogue.

HRSS considers that the state authority should be more vigilant in protecting the life and property of the citizen and thereby fulfill their constitutional obligations. It further appeals to every conscious citizen to raise their voice against flagrant human rights violations. In order to fight against all sorts of repressive measures, HRSS is committed to gather all relevant information and publish reports in various forms (i.e. monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, and annually). HRSS further expresses its commitment to bring back democracy, right to vote, freedom of assembly, establishing rule of law, ensuring transparency and accountability in all spheres of life. HRSS emphasizes the importance of the state authority and civil society working together to ensure dignity and equality among the people of different classes in order to establish peace and security in the country. ■

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# Recommendations

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- The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies, and also constitute judicial inquiry committee to investigate each incident of extra-judicial killing.
- The Judiciary and the administrative authorities must ensure justice to all minority communities, including reconstruction of all damaged temples and places of worship that were subjected to attack and putting an end to all potential attacks on places of worships.
- Actions should be taken to end structural and cultural violence against women from all spheres of life and furthermore, in order to ensure safety and security of women, children, and members of minority communities, immediate appropriate measures should be taken by the concerned authorities.
- The government should be respectful of the freedom of expression of all citizens, and the print, electronic, and online media should be allowed to work freely.
- Arbitrary arrests of citizens including opposition leaders and activists must be immediately stopped. The government must comply with the directives given by the Supreme Court of the land regarding the arrest of citizens. It should immediately repeal the Special Powers Act, 1974 and the draconian provisions of the Digital Security Act, 2018.
- The government should establish a judicial inquiry commission to examine all violations of international human rights law by the BSF, and take initiatives to investigate and compensate the victims' family.
- Freedom of assembly and association should be respected. The government must allow opposition parties, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to express their opinions by way of public gatherings, processions, seminars, and symposiums.
- The international community and Bangladesh government should put pressure on the Myanmar government to restore citizenship rights of Rohingya and ensure their security of life.
- The state should take necessary steps to identify the victims of enforced disappearances and hand them over to their families and to ratify international convention for the protection of all persons from enforce disappearances. ■

# Annexure: 01 Annual Statistics-2018

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	8	16	7	15	10	8	9	5	3	12	8	6	107
	Rape	64	53	63	63	65	71	73	59	55	48	57	22	693
	Killed for Dowry	1	4	4	12	0	5	2	3	4	3	3	3	44
	Killed in Family Feud	15	26	44	25	21	17	10	17	11	12	22	15	235
	Acid Violence	1	2	1	1	2	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	14
Killed in Child Rights Violence		4	3	3	3	3	5	2	3	1	3	10	3	43
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	25	10	12	16	135	49	64	25	28	20	37	8	429
	Shot to death	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	5
	Torture to death	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
	Custodial death	3	2	2	7	2	6	2	0	1	2	3	3	33
	Total	30	12	14	23	137	55	66	26	30	22	40	19	474
Abduction		85	19	46	12	30	5	7	6	6	16	24	23	279
Enforces Disappearance		4	0	5	6	2	3	2	5	25	12	17	11	92
Attack on Minority		3	4	3	2	2	6	1	1	4	9	0	3	38
Border Disputes	Killed	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	2	2	1	15
	Injured	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	12
	Arrested	2	2	0	4	14	0	3	0	0	0	1	6	32
Attack on Journalists	Injured	8	11	2	5	3	3	12	46	4	1	4	37	136
	Threatened	4	4	3	2	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	5	27
	Assaulted	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	11	0	1	1	1	22
	Arrested	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	9
Political Violence	Killed	1	2	3	5	3	2	2	3	1	7	11	43	83
	Injured	512	185	116	182	124	105	83	98	143	161	373	3755	5837
Violent Attack	Killed	18	8	15	14	9	7	5	13	11	12	7	5	124
	Injured	33	4	10	1	4	1	7	4	3	11	0	10	88
Killed in Public Lynching		4	4	5	1	7	1	3	3	3	3	5	5	44
Recovery Dead Body		168	108	111	86	88	73	70	38	42	52	70	82	988

# >> Annexure: 02 Photo Gallery



Certificate giving session at 4th Human Rights Conference



Nur Khan, advisor of HRSS speaking to the audience in 4th Human Rights Conference-2018



Iftar Banquet and exchange of Views with HR defenders program at HRSS office



Unwrapping session of Annual Bulletin 2017



Certificate giving session at quarterly Workshop



10th December International Human Rights day celebration



Monthly session on Rohingya Crisis and the concerns for host community



Workshop for young volunteers. orgnises by HRSS quarterly