

Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2020



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

www.hrssbd.org

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Acknowledgement

Bangladesh became independent from Pakistan in 1971 after a nine-month bloody war involving the martyrdom of millions and the unspeakable torture of thousands of women and girls. This was the price paid by our predecessors to ensure democracy, freedom of expression, the security of life, and enforcement of human rights of all citizens. However, rulers failed to establish democracy and right based society as well as to ensure constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights due to despotic regime till 1990. Although 20 years after independence a democratically elected government was ushered into power, a rights-based society remains a far cry. Bangladeshi people have been combating with covid-19 pandemic situation since March 2020. According to DGHS, more than 25 thousand people already has died with covid-19 but we have also evidence that a lot of people is dying everyday with covid-19 symptoms. People thought that human rights violations would reduce in this pandemic situation. But according to HRSS's report of 2020, we have noticed that violence against women specially child & gang rape, dowry & family feud related violence, enforced disappearance, attack on journalist, arrest of Digital Security Act and border killings have seriously increased. These conditions inspire HRSS to work hard to raise consciousness both home and abroad. We do believe that the contents of this report will help mass people; civil society organizations and international communities to understand the overall human rights situation in the country.

Finally, I would like to thank all my associates for their contribution in publishing this yearly report. I specifically express my gratitude to the members of the executive committee who undertook much difficulty in publishing this report. I hope that your consultation and support will help us to improve the quality of this report and encourage us to keep a vibrant role in the human rights sector.

- Editor



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Notwithstanding an entrenched constitutional commitment and our obligations under international laws and treaties, human rights continue to be drastically violated in Bangladesh. During the Corona pandemic in 2020, Bangladesh's overall human rights situation was frightening. Reviewing the annual human rights situation of Bangladesh in 2020, this year also saw extrajudicial killings, torture in custody, unlawful activities by the members of law enforcement agencies, enforced disappearances and murders in the course of mass beatings. Political violence, arrests and attacks on journalists, killing and torture of innocent Bangladeshis by BSF at the border areas and violence against women, especially rape and domestic violence have increased alarmingly amid the pandemic. The report shows that in 2020, the overall human rights condition of Bangladesh deteriorated significantly with increasing restrictions on freedom of expression, the arrest and harassment of journalists, human rights activists and dissidents through misuse of the Digital Security Act, 2018 and clamp downs on political and civil rights. Regarding the nature of the report, mixed methodologies have been applied and both primary and secondary sources used to derive data.

According to HRSS investigation team and collected information from leading newspapers such as the Daily Star, the Prothom Alo, the Bangladesh Protidin, the Somokal, the Kaler kantha, the Jugantar, the Nayadiganta, the New Age etc in 2020, a total of 244 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, about 169 were killed in the name of so called 'crossfire/ gunfights/infights', 19 tortured to death, 12 shot to death and 44 died in the custody in a total of 201 incidents. On the other hand, a total of 32 persons have been 'disappeared' by the law enforcement agencies (i.e., **remained missing for at least 72 hours**) in different incidents. Among them, death bodies of 02 persons were found, 12 shown arrested and 12 persons continue to remain missing.

In 2020, a total of 1637 females were raped. Among them, nearly 787 victims were adults whereas alarmingly 850 were children (i.e., under the age of 18). It is a grave concern that 213 have been victims of gang-rape while as many 34 were brutally killed after being raped. Meanwhile, 177 women were killed in family feud related violence, 44 females injured and 34 females committed suicides in 255 incidents of family feuds. Approximately, 122 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, where 57 were killed and 65 women physically abused over dowry demands. A total of 140 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment. In 2020, 21 incidents of acid throwing have occurred and 24 females were injured. It is also alarming that in a total of 136 violent incidents against children have been reported from January to December 2020, 56 lost their lives and 90 were critically injured.

According to HRSS's report at least 02 journalists were killed, 83 injured, 20 threatened, 17 arrested and 20 assaulted in a total of 125 incidents during 2020. Meanwhile, 110 people have been arrested and 141 cases filed under the Digital security Act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities in 2020, where at least 09 temples and 14 houses were partially or fully destroyed. Moreover, a minority member was killed and 12 injured in a total of 19 incidents.

On the other hand, according to HRSS, at least 51 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed by BSF (Indian Border Security Force); 15 were injured, 12 bullet hit and 32 persons were arrested by BSF & BGP (Border Guard Police of Myanmar) in a total of 69 incidents. It has also been reported that in a total of 54 incidents of torture by law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), 560 people were injured and one hit by bullet. Moreover, at least 42 people were killed, 1648 people injured and 26 people bullet hit in political violence, whereas around 40 people were killed and 30 persons injured in public lynching.

HRSS is deeply concerned about the degradation of human rights condition in the country. It urges all human rights organizations as well as common citizens to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

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Acronyms



AL	: Awami League
ASI	: Assistant Sub- Inspector
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BFUJ	: Bangladesh Federal Unit of Journalist
BGB	: Border Guard Bangladesh
BGP	: Myanmar Border Guard Police
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BSF	: Indian Border Security Force
BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CHR	: Committee on Human Rights
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	: Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	: Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DACSU	: Dhaka University Central Student's Union
DB	: Detective Branch
DMCH	: Dhaka Medical College Hospital
DSA	: Digital Security Act
DU	: Dhaka University
DUJ	: Dhaka Unit of Journalist
GA	: General Assembly
GD	: General Diary
HRSS	: Human Rights Support Society
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
JSD	: Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal
JCD	: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OC	: Officer- In- Charge
PBI	: Police Bureau of Investigation
PTI	: Primary Teachers Training Institution
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
RU	: Rajshahi University
SI	: Sub- Inspector
SR	: Special rapporteur
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	: United Nations
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNO	: Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parishad
UPDF	: United People's Democratic Front
VAW	: Violence against Women

Extra Judicial Killing



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The term “Extra Judicial Killing” means execution without justice. This is an arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and simply a murder. An extrajudicial killing is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.¹ In Bangladesh, Extra Judicial Killings by law enforcement agencies are now very common. It continues due to the absence of rule of law in the country. So the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite being guaranteed by the Article 32 of Bangladesh’s constitution and Article 3 of UDHR. On the other hand, different terminologies have been used by the law enforcement agencies to avoid the liability for such extra-judicial killing - such as deaths during ‘cross-fire’, ‘encounter’, ‘gunfight’ and infights. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

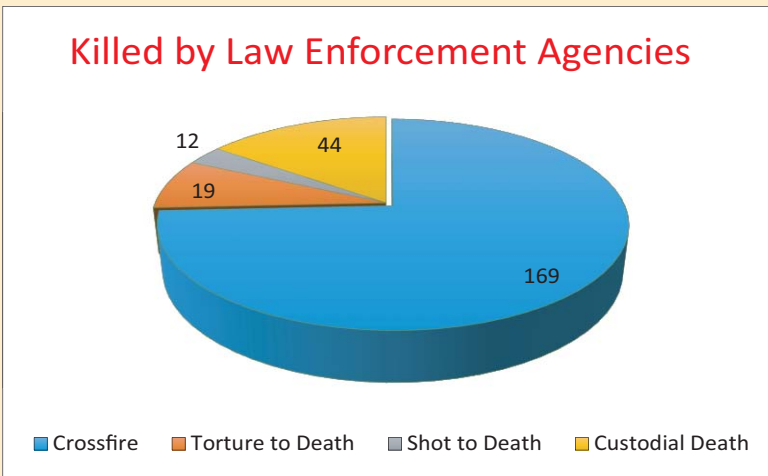


Figure-1 : Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing

The pie chart shows information about the extra-judicial killing from January to December 2020: a total of 244 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. Among them, 169 were killed in the name of so called ‘crossfire/ gunfights/infights’, 19 tortured to death, 12 shot to death, and 44 were died in the custody and prison.



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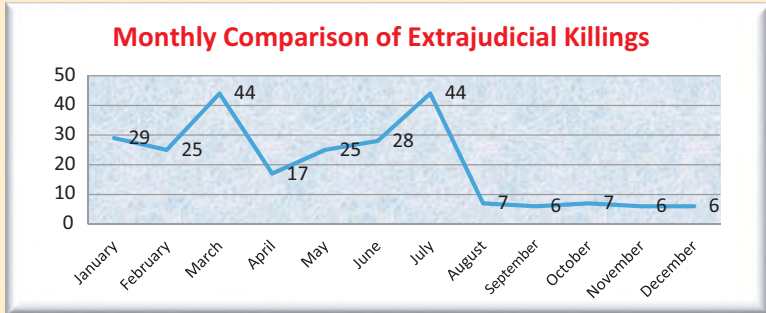


Figure-2 : Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killings

The line chart illustrates the scenario of extra-judicial killing in 2020. According to HRSS report, a total of 244 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, more than 20 people were killed each month. The number of people killed extra-judicially in January and February were almost same but the number increased sharply in March and July reaching up to pick of 44. On the other hand, the numbers of encounters were dramatically fall in August then the number have remained almost same in the following months.

Types	Police	Rab	Police And Rab	Db Police	Join Force	Coast Gurd	BGB	Army	Total
Crossfire	96	52		6	0	0	11	4	169
Shot To Death	5	3		0			4	0	12
Torture To Death	18	0		1	0		0		19
Custodial Death	44								44
Total	163	55	0	7	0	0	15	4	244

Figure-3 : Actors of Extra-Judicial Killings

The graph provides updated information about the incidences of extra-judicial killings in 2020 by the members of the LEAs. Statistics shows that 163 people were extra judicially killed by the



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Police and 55 killed by RAB although they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the Border Guard Police BGB is alarmingly high. Legally the members of BGB are duty bound to protect the safety and security of people in border area.

Some of the cases of extra-judicial killings are detailed:

On January 15, 2020, two Rohingya refugees were killed in so called gunfight with Rab in Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive road. The deceased were identified as Abu Hasim, 30, son of Hossain Sharif and Mohammad Aiyub, 40, son of Shamsul Alambboth residents of Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhiya.²

On January 19, 2020, a man was found dead in police custody, hours after Tejgaon Industrial Police arrested him under the Digital Security Act. The deceased is Abu Bakar Siddique Babu (45), floor-in-charge of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC). Babu's wife Aleya Ferdousi suspected that Babu was "tortured and killed" at the police station. GM Saif, Babu's colleague at BFDC, he suspected that Babu was tortured in custody.³

On March 3, 2020, an activist of a religious organization was killed in a so called "gunfight" with police in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila. The dead was identified as Nazrul Islam, 26, son of Abdul Hakim a resident of Abhirampur village in the upazila. Nazrul's brother Omar Faruk said two people picked up his brother from the house around on March 2. Police killed him that night and branded it as a crossfire incident," he said. "My brother is the victim of political vengeance."⁴

On March 14, 2020, a former Chhatra League leader was died in police custody several hours after police picked him up from Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district. The deceased Zahid Hasan, 45, son of late Lal Mohammad, a resident of Joyrampur



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village in the upazila, was the former vice-president of Chuadanga district Chhatra League. He was also the general secretary of the local Border Youth Development Association and the president of Jayrampur Secondary School. Jahidul's wife, Litty Khatun, claimed that her husband had been beaten to death by police. Rezaul Karim, former district president of BCL, made the same allegation. He said that police had beaten and killed Jahidul Islam in a planned way.⁵

On April 27, 2020, a suspected criminal was killed in a so called "gunfight" with members of the Rapid Action Battalion in Gazipur city. The dead was identified as Rabiul Islam Rabi, 32, from Tongi.⁶

On May 6, 2020, three suspected robbers, including two siblings, were killed in a so called "gunfight" with police in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar. The dead are Nurul Alam, 40, his younger brother Syed Alam, 35, and Abdul Monaf, 20, of Rongikhali area in Hnila union of the upazila.⁷

On June 27, 2020, the prime accused in the murder case of a Jubo League leader was killed in a reported gunfight with police in Satkani upazila of Chittagong. The deceased was identified as Abdul Hannan Alias Sohel, 32, a resident of Bardona Adorsho para area in the upazila and also the prime accused in Jubo League leader Mosaddekur Rahman murder case. Mosaddek was stabbed to death during an altercation with Sohel as he protested Sohel's criminal activities on June 22, said Md Nezam Uddin, chairman of Satkania Sadar Union.⁸

On July 8, 2020, a Jubo league activist was killed in what the law enforcers called gunfight with them in Battala area of Shibrampur Embankment in Pabna. The deceased Tanjib Hossain, 30, was son of Babu Sheikh from Ramchandrapur area of the town. The deceased's father said in a press conference, if Tanjib was detained by the police then how he got into a gunfight. Police killed him in a cold blood and then staged a gunfight drama. They demanded a judicial inquiry into Tanjib's murder.⁹



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On July 31, 2020, a former UP chairman was killed by RAB in a so called gunfight with them at the entrance of thermal power plant of Rampal zero point in Khulna district. The deceased Mostofa Kamal Munshi alias Mina Kamal, the Juba League leader and former chairman of Naihati Union Parishad, was the son of Minhaj Uddin in the upazila.¹⁰

On July 31, 2020, a retired military officer was shot to death by some Bangladeshi police at Shamlapur police check post on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive. The deceased Ex-Major Shinha Mohammad Rashed Khan, 36, son of late Ershad Khan (former Deputy Secretary at the finance ministry), was a member of the Special Security Force tasked with guarding the prime minister. A total of four suits were lodged over the killing of Sinha. The fourth suit was lodged by Sinha's sister Sharmin Sharia Ferdous on 5 August against nine people including Officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, Inspector Liaqat Ali, and sub-inspector Nandadulal Rakhshit, Litan Miah and Tutul, and



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Ex-Major
Sinha
Mohammad
Rashed Khan was
killed by member
of Bangladesh
police

Photo: Collected

constables Mostofa, Safanur Rahman, Kamal and Abdullah Al Mamun. RAB was given charge of investigating all the four cases. After investigation, RAB submitted the charge-sheet to a Cox's Bazar court accusing 15 people. In a media briefing in Dhaka, RAB Director (Legal and Media Wing) Lieutenant Colonel Ashique Billah said Sinha collected sensitive information over former police Officer-in-Charge (OC) Pradeep's empire of illegal activities including yaba smuggling which, if revealed, could endanger the OC's life and job. Therefore, he planned the murder at the police



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station and confirmed Sinha's death after police firing. The accused staged a "robbery drama" to cover up the killing, and subsequently filed three fake cases, he added.¹¹

On July 31, 2020, the eldest son of a Bangladeshi expatriate in Oman was killed in a so called gunfight with police in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar. The deceased was identified as Md Jafor 37, son of Abdul Aziz in Chattogram's Patiya. The deceased's father Abdul Aziz said two men in police uniform along with several others in plainclothes appeared at their home around on July 29, two days before the alleged shootout. As Jafar opened the door, they introduced themselves as members of Patiya police station, said the father. "They put my son in handcuffs. At one point, they ransacked his room and took away valuables from his almirah," Aziz said, adding that the policemen then pick Jafar up in their van and headed towards Cox's Bazar. Aziz alleged police later called them multiple times over the phone and demanded Tk 50 lakh for his son's release. They also threatened to kill him in "crossfire" if they failed to pay the money. Later, the law enforcers "murdered him in cold blood, failing to extort Tk 50 lakh" from them. Locals insist he was innocent but according to the police version, he was a Yaba peddler.¹²



Bangladeshi
expatriate in
Oman Md Jafor
was killed by
member of
police



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On August 26, 2020, the family of a 33-year-old man accused RAB members of torturing him to death in custody in Chattogram city. The arrestee, Md Akram, 33, son of Saleh Ahmed, from Chattogram's Banshkhali upazila, used to live alone in the port city's Bayezid Bostami area. RAB claimed that the man was a mugger and he had been beaten up by a mob during a mugging attempt before RAB members arrested him. But witnesses said he was not beaten up by a mob. Akram's maternal uncle Nasir Uddin Chowdhury said, "When we examined his body before burial in Banshkhali, we saw marks of brutal torture on the body. We found bruises on his bottom, arms and legs." Akram was tortured to death. He is neither a mugger nor a drug abuser. We want justice. We demand a fair probe to find out the truth," Nasir said.¹³

On October 11, 2020, a young man died in police custody in Sylhet city. The deceased was identified as Raihan Ahmed 33, son of late Rofikul Islam, from Akhalia Neharipara area of the city. The police claimed that the young man died in the mass beating during the snatching. But the deceased's wife alleged that her husband was tortured to death by police. Similarly, 14 no. ward's counsilar of Sylhet city corporation, Md. Nazrul Islam Munim also denied the incident of public lynching seeing the CCTV footage of the area.



**Raihan
Uddin Ahmed
Killed in police
custody of
Sylhet's Sadar
Upazila.
Photo Ntv**



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Following the incident, four police members, including the officer-in-charge of the Bandarbaraz police outpost under the Kotwali police station of the Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP), were suspended on and three more policemen from the outpost have been withdrawn. The sacked members are SI Akber Ali Bhuya, constables Harunur Rashid, Touhid Mia and Titu Chandra Das. The withdrawn police personnel are Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Ashek Elahi, ASI Qutub Ali, and Constable Sajib Hossain.¹⁴

On 3 December 2020, a man was killed in an alleged gunfight with the law enforcement agency in Naniyarchar upazila of Rangamati. The deceased was identified as Nayan Chakma alias Sajek Chakma, 35, son of Kandara Chakma of Bajeshra village in Sabekshyang union of Naniyarchar upazila. Niron Chakma, the head of the UPDF's publicity and publications department, said in a statement that Nayan had been shot dead.¹⁵

- 1 <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.
- 2 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/472584/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D>
- 3 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/man-dies-police-custody-1856500>
- 4 Hrss Investigation desk & <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/two-killed-gunfights-1875973>
- 5 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/289051/%E0%A6%86>
- 6 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/criminal-killed-gunfight-gazipur-1897486>
- 7 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/3-robbers-killed-gunfight-1900192>
- 8 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1665393/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE>
- 9 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/510103/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE>
- 10 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=237353&cat=9/%E0%A6%96%E0%A7%8>
- 11 HRSS research and investigation desk, <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/ex-major-sinha-murder-case-7-policemen-sent-jail-1941041>, and <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/major-sinha-killing-oc-pradeep-14-others-charge-sheeted>
- 12 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/chakoria-crossfire-victims-expatriate-killed-money-1946785>
- 13 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/man-tortured-death-rab-custody-1950997>
- 14 Hrss research desk & <https://www.ntvbd.com/bangladesh>
- 15 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/12/04/updf-man-killed-in-gunfight-with-army-in-rangamati>





Enforced Disappearance

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Bangladeshi authorities have a history of being involved in arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances. The incidents of enforced disappearance were prevailed in the country since it's independence in 1971, but it have augmented after the present government came into power in 2009, according to rights groups.¹⁶ In Bangladesh, "Enforced Disappearance" is frequently used as a strategy to spread the feeling of insecurity and fear not only among the close relatives of the disappeared person but also amidst the community and society as a whole. Enforced disappearance refers to the act of making someone disappear against his or her will, often suddenly, with the intention of refusing to acknowledge the fate of that person. So it is considered as a crime against humanity and a violation of international law. *According to Article 01 of ICPED, "No one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance".* In most of the cases the victims are members of opposite political groups, human rights defenders, Journalists and dissidents. The absence of a strong political will and a credible criminal justice system to hold personnel of law enforcement agencies to account for enforced disappearances has allowed this State policy to continue. "Enforce Disappearance" have adversely affected our national life by polluting the political and administrative culture of Bangladesh.

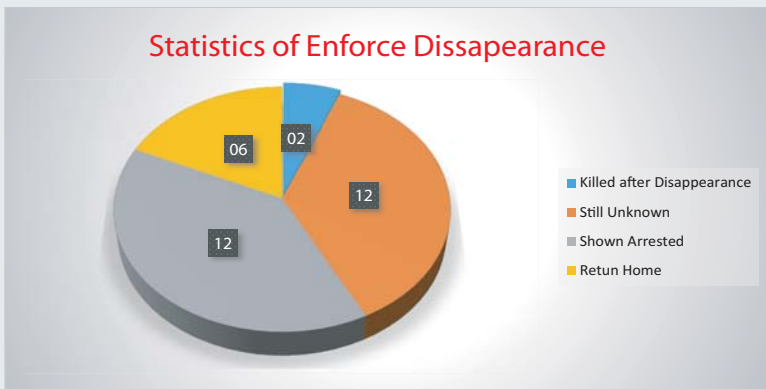


Figure-4 : Statistics of Enforced Disappearance



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According to HRSS, from January to December 2020: a total of 32 people have been disappeared by the law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 02 were killed, 06 returned to home, 12 brought before the court and it couldn't addressed what happened to another 12 persons.



Figure-5 : Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance from January to December '20

Selected cases are stated below:

On March 10, 2020, a Journalist, an accused in a case alongside 31 others under Digital Security Act went missing around 6.45 pm from capital's Hatirpul area. The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam Kajol, an editor of Pokkhokal magazine and also a photo Journalist. The victim's son Monorom Polok said, "We could not establish any contact with him, as his phone was found switched off till now," he also appealed for safe return of his father. The victim family filed a general diary with Chawkbazar Police Station in this regard.¹⁷

On March 17, 2020, a teacher of Government College was picked up by some plaincloths men who identified themselves as members of law enforcement agencies from Jamalpur union's Chupair village under Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur. The victim



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Journalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol is jailed after mysterious 53-day disappearance. Photo: The Guardian

Motaher Hossen, 35, son of Hafiz uddin was a 33th BCS cadre and lecturer of Islamic Studies at Narsingdi govt. female college.¹⁸

On May 6, 2020, a man was picked up by plainclothes people who identified themselves as members of RAB, from his



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Didarul Bhuiyan was picked up by RAB.

residence in Uttar Badda of Dhaka. The victim was identified as Didarul Bhuiyan an organizer of Rashtrochinta. The victim's wife Dilshan Ara said, "My husband was not a criminal. Why was he picked up all of a sudden before his iftar"? Dilshan said at a press conference held at Rashtrochinta office in the Capital. She said a number of people came in two black minibuses and introduced themselves as RAB members. They seized laptops and other things and said Didarul would be released after interrogation, she added. Didarul might have picked up for his writing on Facebook about irregularities of relief distribution at Kurigram and Dinajpur, said Rakhil Raha, a member of Rashtrochinta.¹⁹

On June 18, 2020, identifying themselves as members of law enforcer, a group of plaincloths men picked up a Chhatra Dal leader from Dewara union of Jashore Sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Ibrahim Hossain, general secretary of Dewara union's Chhatra Dal and son of Mahbub Mollah in the upazila. The victim's mother Nurjahan Begum, said a group of plaincloths law enforcer, identifying themselves as members of RAB, forcefully took away her son near their house Lawsan Bazar on June 13.²⁰



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Redwan Farhad, a DU student was picked up by DB police. Photo collected

On July 26, 2020, a master's student of Dhaka University remained missing since Friday after a group of people identifying themselves as police's 'Detective Branch' had taken him away from his house in Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar. The missing student, Redwan Farhad, is a student of the Arabic department at Dhaka university. The victim's mother Momtaz Begum said, a team of eight people with plainclothes and a small weapon raided their house and took away her son at about on 23 July.²¹

On August 16, 2020, member of law enforcement agencies abducted two rickshaw pullers from Dhaka's Sabujbagh area. The victim were identified as Chaleur Rahman, 30, resident of Kotapara village under Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon district and Delwar Hossain, 35, resident of Prannagar village under Birganj upazila of Dinajpur. Family member of two victims claimed in a press conference at Thakurgaon Press Club that member of law enforcement agencies abducted them from Dhaka's Sabujbagh area on January 5 and they are still missing since then.²²



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On September 21, 2020, a college student had been missing for two months after being abducted by members of law enforcement agencies from Mohammadpur Katasur area of Dhaka city. The victim was identified as Abdullah bin Yunus, a student of Mohammadpur Central College, lived with his elder brother in Mohammadpur. The victim's elder brother Abdur Rahman said that three men in plainclothes identified themselves as a member of law enforcement agencies came to their house on the night of July 22 and picked up his brother.²³

On October 22, 2020, two leaders of the Bangladesh Jubo Unnoyon Parishad and Student Unnoyon Parishad were allegedly picked up by DB police from Raisaheb Bazar area and Agargaon area of Dhaka city respectively. The victim was identified as Tareq Rahman, joint convener of the Bangladesh Jubo Unnoyon Parishad and Sajal, a Dhaka Metropolitan's activist of Student Unnoyon Parishad. Rashed Khan, joint convener of the Student Rights Council, confirmed the matter.²⁴



**Bangladesh Jubo and student Unnoyon Parishad leader
Tareq Rahman and Sajal**



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



Mostafizur Rahman
central vice president
of JCD.

On November 15, 2020, it was accused by BNP that two leaders of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal were picked up by the members of law enforcement agencies from capital's Paltan and Farmgate's Khamarbari area. The victim Mostafizur Rahman was central vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Mizanur Rahman Mizan, senior joint general secretary of Habiganj district chhatra Dal.²⁵

- 16 <https://defenddefenders.org/>
- 17 <https://www.dw.com/en/press-freedom-what-happened-to-missing-bangladeshi-journalist-shafiqul-kajol/a-53199732>
HRSS research desk & <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/journalist-missing-three-days-1880083>
- 18 [https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1645412/
%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80](https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1645412/%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80)
- 19 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/my-husband-is-not-criminal-says-didaruls-wife>
- 20 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/509148/%E0%A6%AF>
- 21 HRSS investigation desk & <https://www.newagebd.net/article/112149/du-student-picked-up-by-db-police>
- 22 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1675223/%E2%80%98%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0>
- 23 [https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/
%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6](https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6)
- 24 <https://bangladeshtimes.com/politics/news/19642>
- 25 <https://www.somoynews.tv/pages/details/247112>



Violence against Women



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The term “Violence against Women” refers to “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”.²⁸ Violence against women is a one of the main social problems in contemporary Bangladesh. Most gender based violence remain unreported due to the culture of impunity, stigma, shame and political shelter surrounding it. The nature 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. HRSS data shows a dreadful scenerio of violence against women in our country with the situation worsening day by day. Rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, family feud violence and acid violence are rising because of ‘political shelter’ and inordinate delays in the criminal justice system.

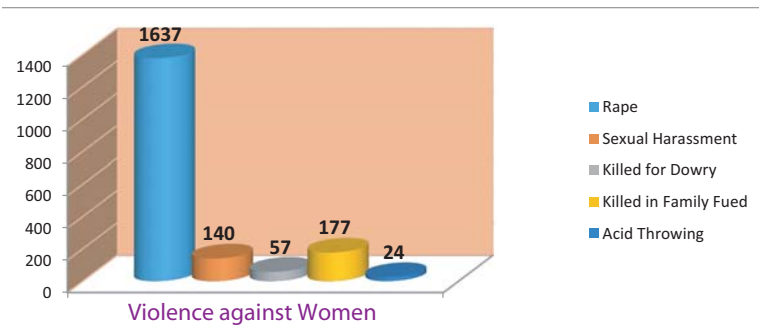


Figure-6 : Violence against Women

The major atrocities against women are rape, torture for dowry, killings, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing, physical and mental abuse, and killed in family feud the most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh between January and December'20 are detailed below





Rape

The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon in Bangladesh and it portaits 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.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

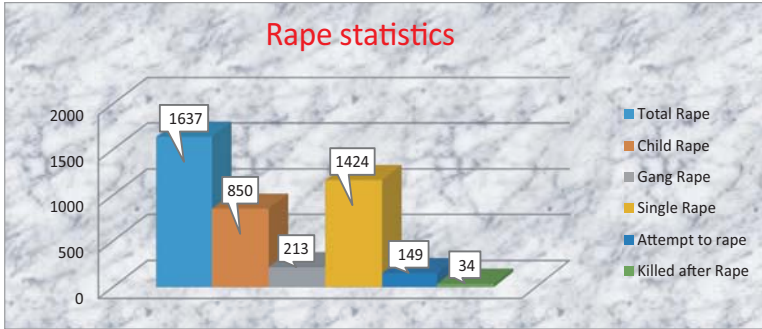


Figure-7 : Statistics of Female Victims of Rape

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the column graph provides information about 'Rape' from January to December '20; a total number of 1637 females were allegedly raped. Out of them, about 1424 were victims of single rape and nearly 213 subjected to gang rape, whereas alarmingly 850 were children below the age of 18 (including single and gang rape). Approximately 34 were brutally killed after being raped.

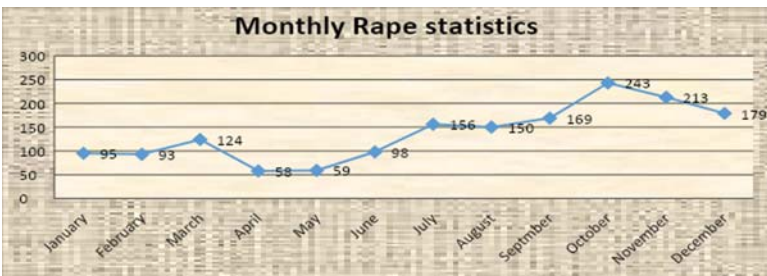


Figure-8 : Monthly Comparison of rape from January to December '20

The above line graph shows data of rape incidents during the year of 2020. In 2020, about 137 female were victim of rape each month. In January the number of rape was 95 than the number slightly increased in March. Thereafter the number of rape reduces rapidly in the next two months then it gradually increased in following four months finally, the number was highest and reaches to 243 in October.



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Reported Rape Cases are stated below

On January 5, 2020, police arrested three people for alleged abduction and gang-rape of a teenage girl in Jashore. The arrestees were identified as Al Afsan alias Pushpa, son of Abdul Quddus of Shankarpur, Raihan Hossain, son of Abdur Rashid, and Shakil, son of Sohrab Hossian of Kharki Hamzapara in the district town. A group of miscreants abducted the girl from Bakchar area when she was going to the district town by a rickshaw on 1 November. They took her to a garden at Doctorbari and forced her to take drugs. Later, five miscreants raped the girl in turns, after that, she was taken to the house of one of the rapists where four more people raped her. Finally the girl was dropped at General Hospital as she felt sick.²⁹

Student of Du form human chain against rape, demanding exemplary punishment of rapist: photo: Manob Zamin



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On January 5, 2020, a second-year student of Dhaka University was allegedly raped and tortured in the capital's Kurmitola area. Quoting the victim, Some of her friends who rescued her told that she was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house in a nearby area around 7:30 pm. Soon after getting down from the university bus, someone grabbed her from behind, gagged her and took her to an isolated place nearby. She was raped and tortured there. she fainted at the time and regained consciousness after 10:00 pm.³⁰

On February 10, 2020, Rajshahi court remanded a student of Rajshahi University (RU) for two days on charges of raping and blackmailing a female student of the university after taking vedio clips in a Hostel of Kazla Shakopara area. The main accused, Mahfuzur Rahman Sharod (22), is a second-year student of economics. Four of Sharod's associates Rafsan 22, Plabon 21, Jibon 25 and Joy 22, were arrested by Rajshahi police. According to the case statement, on January 24, Mahfuzur Rahman took the girl to a hostel and raped her while his associates filmed it. They then tried to use the video clip to blackmail Tk 50,000 from her.³¹

On March 23, 2020, a housewife was gang-raped allegedly by Chhatra League activists in Char Sujanagar Bhabanipur area in Sujangar upazila of Pabna. The main accused was identified as Sumon Khan, 20, joint secretary of Sujanagar municipality unit BCL. The victim woman, 30, of Santhia upazila, said she was going to her sister's house with her brother-in-law on March, 22, in Kuladi village of Pabna Sadar upazila. When she reached Sujanagar Bazarsome BCL menhalted them and beat up her brother-in-law, after that they took her to a wheat field and raped her there. The victim filed a case against five BCL men, including joint secretary of Sujanagar municipality unit BCL.³²

On April 18, 2020, a man allegedly raped a schoolgirl in the toilet of Dharbila community health centre in Pabna. Police arrested accused Abdur Rahman, 40, from Dharbila village. The police



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source said the girl was playing near her house, at that time the accused took the seven-year-old girl to the toilet by tempting her with toys and raped her.³³

On May 1, 2020, an 8-year-old girl was tied to a tree and her mother was allegedly gang raped being threatened to death at Shovosondha sea beach in Taltoli upazila of Borfuna. The accused are Motorcycle driver Jahirul Akon, 28, son of Alamgir Akon, in the upazila and his associates Emdadul, Nazrul, Shohag and Saidul. The victim filed a complaint with Taltoli Thana in this regard.³⁴

On June 10, 2020, an unfortunate father of rape victim demands justice on the street with a banner of his daughter's picture, because police couldn't arrest the culprits after two months of the incident in Potia upazila of Rajshahi. The victim was identified as Eva Khatun daughter of rickshaw puller Salim Hossain in the upazila. Eva committed suicide by hanging herself because of stigma on April 9.³⁶



An unfortunate father demanding justice of his daughter,s suicide due to rape. Photo: Ittefaq



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On July 17, 2020, a 28-year-old female model was allegedly gang-raped in Boda upazila of Panchagarh district. The woman filed a case with Boda Police Station against three named and 12/14 unnamed accused. The police arrested two of the accused including a female Jubo League leader in connection with the case. According to the case statement, the accused Sazzad first took her to a house in Thanapara of Boda municipality and gang-raped her along with four to five others there. The house is owned by Abida Sultana Lucky, general secretary of Jubo League in the upazila.³⁷

On September 25, 2020, a newly-wed woman was gang-raped allegedly by Chhatra League men at a hostel of the Murari Chand (MC) College in Sylhet. A group of culprits dragged the woman into the dormitory and raped her after beating and tying up her husband when the couple went to visit the college at Tilagarh



The photo on its top row shows (from left) Saifur Rahman, Tariqul Islam alias Tarek, Shah Md Mahbubur Rahman alias Rony, and Md Ainuddin alias Ainul. The photo on its bottom row shows (from left) Arjun Laskar, Rabiul Islam, Mahfuzur Rahman alias Masum, and Misbaul Islam alias Rajon | Photo: Dhaka Tribune



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area in the evening. The victim's husband filed a case on 26 September, at the Shah Paran Police station accusing nine people, including six Chhatra League men. The rape accused are Saifur Rahman, 28, Shah Mahbubur Rahman Rony, 25, Tarekul Islam, 28, Arjun Laskar, 26, Mohammad Ainuddin alias Ainul, 26, and Misbaul Islam Rajon, 27. Other accused are Rabiul Hasan alias Islam, 25 and Mahfuzur Rahman Masum, 25. They all are member of one fraction of BCL that follows Advocate Ranjit Sarker, former youth and sports affairs secretary of Sylhet district Awami League.³⁸

On October 04, 2020, a naked video footage of a house wife went viral, who was gang raped by some Jubo league men in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali district. The perpetrators shared the video of the crime on the social media being failed to get ransom from the victim's family. The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) filed a charge sheet against 14 people on December 15'20, for the torture and rape of the woman in Noakhali. The accused are drag dealer and local Juba league activist Delwar Hossain Delu, and his associates Jamal Uddin, Nur Hossain Badal, Abdur Rahim, Mohammad Ali, Samsuddin



Delwar Hossain
Photo : UNB, Noakhali



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With many slogans including capital punishment people outraged across the country due to the rape incident in Noakhali. Photo: Daily Star

Sumon, Irfil Hossain Mia, Main Uddin Saju, Nur Hossain Russell, Anwar Hossain Sohag, Abdur Rob Chowdhury, Mostafizur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Moazzem Hossain Sohag. Dalwar and his associate Mohammad Ali alias Abul Kalam also charged in another case of raping the same woman about a year ago.³⁹

On October 9, 2020, police arrested an Awami League leader in connection with the rape of a schoolgirl of class seven in Sonagazi of Feni district. The accused was identified as Tamiz Uddin Nayan (50), a furniture trader by profession and president of Awami League in Ward 7 of Matiganj Union. The father of the raped child, employee of a shop, claimed that Tamiz Uddin threatened to kill him and the child if he told anyone about the incident.⁴⁰

On November 6, 2020, a housewife (35) was gang-raped while searching for her husband in the Muslim Nagar Orphanage area of Narayanganj. Police arrested 3 people in this incident. The arrestee Nurul Islam (65), a local security guard, was the son of late Ahmed Ali of Shasangaon under Fatulla police station and Ainul Mia (22), the son of Lal Mia, was a shopkeeper behind Narsinghpur School and Akshay of Muslim Nagar Kawapara.⁴²



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On December 01, 2020, police arrested the president of a school committee for alleging rape of a class five student in Agailjhara of Barisal district. The accused of rape was identified as Masud Mollah(40), the son of late Moslem Ali Mollah of East Sujankathi village in Gaila Union of the upazila and the president of Sujankathi Majidbari Government Primary School. The mother of the student filed a case against Masud Mollah at Agailjhara police station. He raped the student of the school and took her to his own bedroom at his house, telling her to get a government ration card in her mother's name.⁴³

- 28 General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993
- 29 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207480/Three-held-over-%E2%80%98gang-rape%E2%80%99-of-teen>
- 30 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/dhaka-university-student-raped-tortured-capital-1850191>
- 31 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212575&cat=9>
- 32 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=218846&cat=1/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%83>
- 33 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/schoolgirl-raped-pabna-1894144>
- 34 HRSS investigation desk & <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/303391/%E0%A6%AC>
- 36 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/157238/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87>
- 37 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/girl-gang-raped-panchagarh-1931553>
- 38 HRSS investigation and research desk, <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/rape-mc-college-hostel-charges-pressed-against-eight-2005389> and <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/woman-raped-sylhets-mc-college-dormitory-137746>
- 39 HRSS investigation desk and <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2020/12/15/14-charged-in-noakhali-for-torturing-raping-housewife>
- 40 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/353103/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8B>
- 42 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=249907&cat=9>
- 43 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/203041/%E0%A7%AB%E0%A6%AE->





Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is illegal and unwelcome sexual behaviour that is offensive, humiliating or intimidating and it can be written, verbal and physical. Sexual harassment can occur in many different social settings for instant the workplace, the home, school, college, street or even in social media etc. It includes: touching, grabbing or making other physical contact without consent, making comments that have a sexual meaning, asking for sex or sexual favours, making sexual gestures or suggestive body movements and insulting with sexual comments. Most Bangladeshi social institutions permit, even encourage, the demonstration of unequal power relations between the sexes. In other words, harassment of women in Bangladesh is culturally accepted, tolerated and in certain prescribed forms and given contexts, legitimized. According to the Human Rights Support Society report, in Bangladesh, 140 females were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December'20.



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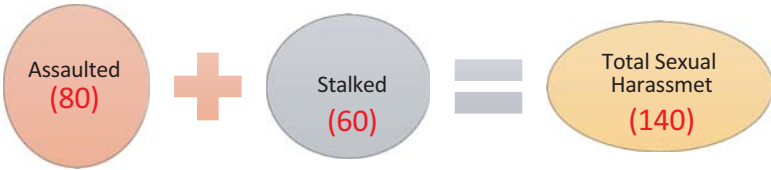


Figure-9 : Statistics of Sexual Harassment

According to information gathered by HRSS, a total of 140 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December '20. Of them, 80 were assaulted and 60 stalked.



Figure-10 : Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment from January to December '20

Some important incidents are described below

On January 17, 2020, a female student of evening programme at Cumilla University filed a written complaint against a teacher for harassing her sexually as well as for destroying all the evidences she had on her mobile phone set in favour of her allegation. The teacher is Ali Rezwan Talukder, head of the university's English department. The student also wrote in her allegation that she and Ali Rezwan Talukder were connected on social media. Ali used to call her to go to his room and proposed her for an illicit relation in exchange of giving her good grades in the exams.⁴⁴



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The trainee teachers are showing demonstration against four trainers for sexual harassment at Potia's Primary Teachers Training Institution (PTI) of Chattogram. Photo: Prothom Alo

On March 9, 2020, it was accused that at least 50 trainees have been sexually harassed by four trainers of Primary Teachers Training Institution (PTI) in Potia of Chattogram. One of the trainers brought this allegation against four of his colleagues. The accused trainers are physical training instructor Farooq Hossain, Sabuj Kanti Acharya of arts and crafts, Jasim Uddin of general department and IT's Rabiul Islam.⁴⁵

On May 22, 2020, mob beat up a doctor for sexually harassing and molestating an eight- year old girl at health complex of



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Basail upazila in Tangail. The accused doctor was identified as Subodh Kumar Das, deputy assistant community medical officer of Basail upazila health complex.⁴⁶

On June 11, 2020, police arrested a BCL leader for sexually assaulting and attacking a college student and her elder sister in Gowronodi upazila of Barisal. The accused was identified as Arif Mia, 24, former sport secretary of Govt. Gowronodi college Chhatra Sangsad and member of BCL college unit. The victim's elder sister filed a case with Gowronodi police station against Arif in this connection.⁴⁷

On June 16, 2020, Police detained a hospital staff who was accused of sexually harassing a Covid-19 patient from Khulna city's Hafiz Nagar area. The accused Nazrul Islam, a ward boy of Khulna Diabetic Hospital, reportedly sexually harassed a 25-year-old woman who was being treated there. The victim lodged a complaint, and a case was filed under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in this regard.⁴⁸

On July 1, 2020, locals handed over a young man to the police while he was trying to seduce a class three student in Goalanda of Rajbari district. The accused youth Aslam Sheikh (20) was the son of Shukur Ali Sheikh of Char Daulatdia Parashullah Matubbar Para at Daulatdia Union of the upazila. The student's mother filed a case of attempted rape at Goalanda Ghat police station.⁴⁹

On October 9, 2020, a mobile court sentenced a young man to six months in prison for sexually harassing a school teacher in Shibganj of Bogra district. The convicted was identified as Tariqul Islam Khokon (38), the son of late Mojibur Rahman of Sachiani village of the upazila. The school teacher alleged that Khokon used to sexually harass her in various ways besides making obscene remarks when she left the house.⁵⁰

On December 29, 2020, a project implementation officer (PIO) at



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the local administration was closed on charges of sexually harassing a female colleague in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore district. The accused PIO Sharif Mohammad Rubel was closed following an order from the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. Investigating allegations was against Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nazmul Hussain Khan on the same charges as well.⁵²

- 44 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/208069/Sexual-harassment-allegation-brought-against>
- 45 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1643826/%E0%A6%AA>
- 46 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=227854&cat=9/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE>
- 47 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1662029/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%B0>
- 48 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/sexual-harassment-patient-hospital-staffer-held-case-filed-khulna-1915669>
- 49 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200728890/%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BE>
- 50 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=245962&cat=9/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC>
- 52 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/12/29/jessore-pio-closed-over-sexual-harassment-charges>





53

Dowry-Related Violence

Sections 11(a), (b) and (c) of the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act 2000 (Amended in 2003) provides various punishments against perpetrators for committing dowry-related crimes. Although, taking or giving dowry is illegal, punishable with imprisonment and /or fine according to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980. It is noticed that dowry-related violence against women is increasing in an alarming rate both in rural and urban area of Bangladesh. In Bangladeshi law, dowry has been given an extended meaning, whatever is presented whether before or after marriage under demand, compulsion or pressure as consideration for the marriage can be said to be dowry.⁵⁴ In spite of the existing laws, dowry-related violence has increased remarkably from January to December'20.



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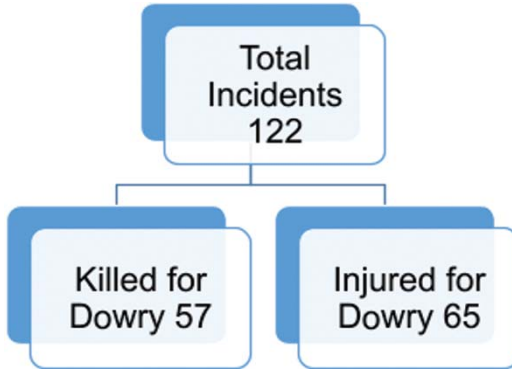


Figure-11 : Statistics of Dowry Related Violence

The graph shows that a total of 122 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported from January to December '20. Out of them, about 57 were killed and 65 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.

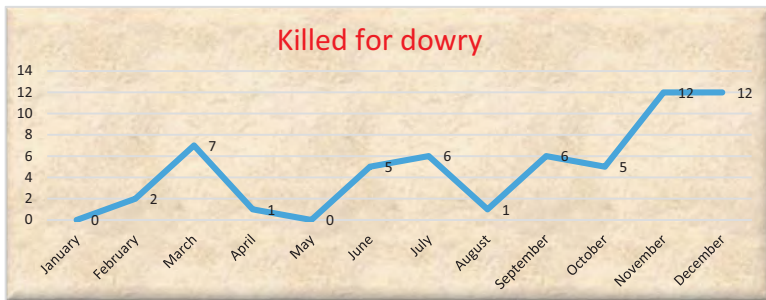


Figure-12: Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry from January to December '20

The above line graph shows information about dowry related killings between January and December, 2020. From the beginning of 2020, the number of killings have increased gradually and reached to 07 in April then it fall dramatically in the following months and became zero in may. However, the number of killings for dowry fluctuates in the following months and reached to the pick of 12 in November and December respectively.



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Some important incidents are given below

On January 12, 2020, a housewife was stabbed and tortured allegedly by her dowry greedy husband in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila. The victim, was identified as Farzana Akther Happy, 28, daughter of Yakub Ali of Debpur village in the upazila. The victim's brother filed a case with Madhabpur Police Station accusing his sister's husband Shafiqul Islam Babu, 33.⁵⁵

On February 4, 2020, a housewife was tortured and burnt with petrol's fire by her husband and in-laws being failed to provide dowry in Amin Bazar Begun Bari area of Savar. The victim was identified as Rekha Akter, 22, wife of Badsah Mia in the area. The victim's brother-in-law filed a case in this regard.⁵⁶

On March 2, 2020, a housewife was brutally tortured and her head shaved off allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband and in-laws in Dinajpur town. The victim was identified as Sohagi, 19, daughter of Abu Sayem of Songloni village in Nilphamari Sadar

**The husband cut the hair of his wife's head after the torture.
Photo: Ittefaq**



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upazila. Police arrested four people including Sohagi's husband Jony Islam Sumon, 23, of Daptaripara area under Dinajpur municipality, Sumon's father Hafiqul Islam, mother Jabina Begum and sister Sumi Begumin in this connection.⁵⁷

On June 5, 2020, the wife of a Rapid Action Battalion officer filed a case against him on charge of torture on her for dowry and abortion. The victim was identified as Israt Rahman, wife of assistant superintendent of police Nazmus Shakib now posted at the RAB headquarters. Israt's lawyer said that Nazmus Shakib had been torturing Israt for dowry since their marriage three years ago and was now forcing her to have an abortion. The victim's family said they have already paid a good amount in the past three years and now the officer is demanding more.⁵⁹

On June 7, 2020, an assistant teacher of primary school beat up wife, including his father-in-law over dowry demand in Gowripur Upazila of Mymensingh. The victim was identified as Afhroja Akter Rekha daughter of Abdul Kuddus from Ramkrisnapur village in the upazila. On the other hand, the accused husband Mahbub Alam was son of Abdur Rahim of Pajuhati village in the same upazila. The victim lodged a complaint with Gowripur police station in this regard.⁶⁰



Sumaiya Hassan was tortured over dowry and torture marks of the victim's body. Photo: Dhaka Tribune



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On June 27, 2020, a housewife shared her story along with six photos showing several wounds on her body on social media from Dhaka. The victim Sumaiya Hassan, wife of Jahid Hassan Ontor, said that her husband, father-in-law, and mother-in-law were continuously torturing her while demanding dowry. Her in-laws encouraged her husband, to beat her by saying that she would give them money if he did so, she added.⁶¹

On July 17, 2020, a housewife was evicted from her home after torture for dowry demand in Nagarpur upazila of Tangail district. The victim was identified as Taslima Akhter, the daughter of Tajuddin of Jalai village in Daptiyar Union. She was married with Shahidul Islam, the son of Sirajul Mollah of the neighboring village of Panchara upazila. Although she got married six months ago, the housewife could not go to her husband's house only for dowry. The housewife lodged a complaint at the police station in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila.⁶²

On October 6, 2020, a husband was accused of torturing his wife without getting dowry money at Patpara village of Dharabarisha union under Gurudaspur upazila in Natore district. The accused husband Mithun is the son of Abdul Alim of the village. The abused housewife Rozina is the daughter of Rabiul Islam of the same village. Rozina said that about 6 months after their marriage, her husband started torturing her for dowry in various ways.⁶³

On December 20, 2020, a housewife was killed allegedly by her dowry greedy husband in Mithapukur upazila under Rangpur district. The deceased was identified as Nasrin Begum (30), wife of Raju Mia of Boiragi village in the upazila. Victim's family members accused that Raju often used to torture Nasrin for dowry since their marriage. At one stage of altercation at night, Raju beat his wife to death and later hanged the body with the ceiling of her room before fleeing the house.⁶⁴



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- 53 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-29/jewellery/8745778?nw=0>
- 54 The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000
- 55 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/housewife-stabbed-dowry-1853209>
- 56 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/128066/%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81>
- 57 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/womans-head-shaved-dowry-1875139>
- 59 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/107701/rab-officer-sued-for-torturing-wife-for-dowry>
- 60 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/313454/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8C>
- 61 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2020/06/27/woman-tortured-by-husband-in-laws-takes-to-social-media-for-justice>
- 62 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/167103/%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%8C>
- 63 <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/bangla-face/352285/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%81>
- 64 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/woman-killed-dowry-2013973>





Acid Violence

Acid violence is considered one of the barbaric forms of violence against women in Bangladesh. It is also called acid throwing or vitriolage. Acid violence defined as the act of throwing of strong corrosives on face and body of a person with the intention of causing permanent disfigurement, intense pain, scarring and sometimes blindness.⁶⁵ Section 4 of the Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 prescribes death penalty or rigorous imprisonment for life including a fine of taka not more than one lakh if anybody causes death or makes an attempt to cause death to any child or woman by using any burning substance. Despite having stringent legal provisions, women are repeatedly facing acid violence. The perpetrators are mostly men and adolescent boys and the majority of the victims are women and many of them are girls and young females. The law made it punishable offense to use, buy, produce, sell, import or transport acid without a license. However, a majority of the acid attacks on women occurs due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex scandals or over land disputes.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

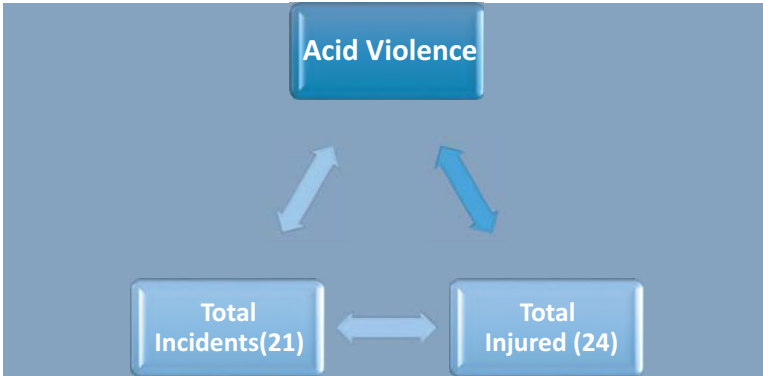


Figure-13 : Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls

The chart shows the scenario of using acid on women and girls. About 21 incidents of acid violence were reported from January to December'20, of them almost 24 women/girls were injured after throwing acid.

Some important cases are cited below

On March 27, 2020, a husband threw acid on his sleeping wife and burnt her face in Sirajganj's Raiganj Upazila. The victim was identified as Shanu Khatun, 21, daughter of Ashraf Ali Paramanik of Amsara village in the upazila. The accused husband Motaleb Hossain, threw acid on his wife's face because of quarrel between them.⁶⁶



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On May 25, 2020, mask wearing miscreants burnt a mother and her two daughters with acid while they were sleeping in Keroya village of Lakshmipur's Raipur upazila. The victim were identified as Anowara Begum and her two daughters Sumaiya Akter, 26, and Sumi Akter, 17, in the upazila.⁶⁷

On June 23, 2020, miscreants burnt the faces and bodies of four members of the same family, including a two-month-old baby, with acid thrown in Bagmara Upazila of Rajshahi. The injured were identified as Afzal Hossain, 38, his wife Jasmine Akhter, 32, daughter Molly Khatun, 8, and two-month-old daughter Afsana Khatun of Shuvodanga union's Bigacha village in the Upazila.⁶⁸

On July 12, 2020, a woman was sustained critical burns with acid throwing by her husband when she was sleeping with her daughter in Laujani area of Jhikargacha upazila in Jessore. The victim Rina Begum, 40, left her husband's home 15 days ago and has been living with her daughter separately in Laujani. According to Rina, the accused was a drug addict and often assaulted her when they used to stay together.⁶⁹

On October 03, 2020, a teenage girl sustained acid attack allegedly by her husband for refusing to stay with him in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district. The victim was identified as Mahbuba Begum of Raninagar village under the upazila. A year ago, the accused Murad Ali (30), got married to her. Staying with her parents for the last four months and not to return to her husband, Murad intruded Mahbuba's parents' house and threw acid on her.⁷⁰

On November 10, 2020, a man allegedly threw acid on his ex-wife in Mirpur of Dhaka. The victim Rahima Begum (45), a medical assistant at BIRDEM hospital of Mirpur branch, was a resident of Biral upazila of Dinajpur district. According to the victim's family members, Rahima's ex-husband Abdul Alithrew



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acid on her and fled the scene when she had left the hospital around 6:30 am after night duty.⁷¹

On December 3, 2020, the life of a housewife was extinguished with the fire thrown by her alleged husband. The deceased was identified as Hira Begum, daughter of Mohammad Khokon Sardar of Mathpara area of Abhaynagar police station in Jessore. The accused husband Billal Sheikh is the son of Akkas Sheikh of Shihari area in Abhaynagar. Hira's family said, Billal Sheikh, a heretic, poured kerosene and set fire to his body as he did not agree to the offer to sell it to a brothel in India.⁷²

65 <https://www.banglajol.info/index.php/IMCJ/article/view/17744>

66 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=219347&cat=1/%E0%A6%98%E0%A7%81>

67 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/310021/%E0%A6%88>

68 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1664606/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81>

69 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/07/12/acid-thrown-at-woman-by-estranged-husband-in-jessore>,

70 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/girl-suffers-burns-acid-attack-husband-1971465>

71 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/ex-husband-throws-acid-woman-1992361>

72 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=253015&cat=9>





Critically injured Shamima

Family Feud Related Violence

Family feud related violence in Bangladesh has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic, like many other countries of the world. Family feud is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, murder, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one against another partner. 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. However, some data on family feud related violence are given below from January to December'20:



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

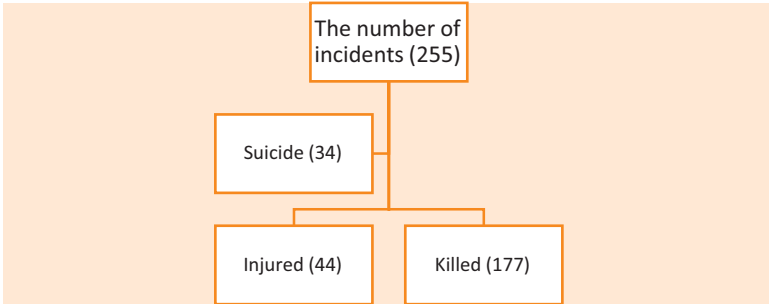


Figure-14 : Statistics of family feud

The above chart demonstrates the worse situation of women in Bangladesh. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) about 177 women were killed in the family feud, 44 females have been injured and 34 females committed suicide in a total of 255 incidents of the family feud from January to December'20.

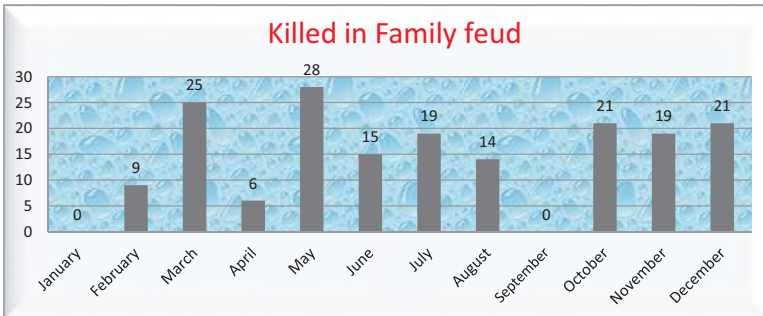


Figure-15 : Monthly Comparison of killing from January to December '20

Some important incidents are stated below

On January 23, 2020, a cruel husband burnt his wife's body with hot curry in Kashinathpur union's Kolagachi village of Pabna's Shathia upazila. The victim was identified as Masura Khatun



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daughter of Sonai Mulla of Shibrambari Kollanpur village and the accused husband was Roton Ali, resident of Kolagachi village in the upazila.⁷³

On February 23, 2020, a cruel husband burnt and killed his pregnant wife after puring Keroshing in old Hatkhola area of Jhenaidah city. The deceased was identified as Munni Akter alias Pinki, 25, daughter of late Munna Mia, of old Hatkhola area of Jhenaidah city. The accused husband is Sohrab Hossain alias Showrob, son of Abdus Sattar of the same area.⁷⁴

On March 7, 2020, a housewife was strangled to death by her husband for asking to remarry her along with Cabin and Denmahor in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila. The dead was identified as Shurovi Aktar, 19, daughter of Delower Hossain, in Charmunduria area of Madaripur Sadar upazila. The accused husband Jashim Uddin son of Jalil Uddin, was a resident of Padda Kormajtola in Pathorghata Thana of Barguna.⁷⁵

On May 20, 2020, a Jubo league lesder allegedly beat up his wife to death in Gupalpur union's Betuabag village under Begumganj upazila of Noyakhali district. The dead was identified as Nazma Akter daughter of Eshak Mia in the upazila. The dead's father said after marriage, they knew Momin was drug addicted and he used to beat and torture his daughter almost every night being drug addicted.⁷⁷

On June 13, 2020, police detained a man for allegedly killing his wife in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh. The detained Delwar Hossain, 35, is a resident of Domni Sorkarpara area in the upazila. Police sources said Delwar often beat up his wife Josna Begum over trifling matter. As a sequel, Delwar hit on Josna's head following an altercation, and later, she died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.⁷⁸



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Victim Parvin Akhter, severely beaten by her husband, taking treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Photo: Daily Star

On October 10, 2020, a police constable was arrested for killing his pregnant wife at a rented house near Tafalbari police outpost in Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district. The accused was identified as Constable Saddam Hussein (30), the resident of Baradhhal village under Asashuni upazila of Satkhira district. The deceased was identified as Josna, daughter of late Abu Bakar Sheikh of Chanpur (Narkeli) village in Rupsha upazila of Khulna.⁷⁹

On October 12, 2020, a woman was killed by her husband allegedly over a family feud in Dhunat upazila of Bogura district. The deceased, Shefali Begum (45), was the wife of Ershad Akanda, 55, of Panchthubi village in the upazila. The victim's family accused that the killer Ershad quarreled over the issue of loan from a local NGO and at one stage, he killed his wife by slitting her throat with a sharp weapon.⁸⁰



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On December 5, 2020, police arrested the husband on charges of torturing and killing his wife in Srimangal of Moulvibazar district. The arrestee Anuj Kanti Das (40), Srimangal correspondent of Daily Ittefaq, was the son of Naresh Chandra Das of Purbasha residential area of Srimangal town. Dilip Das, the father of the deceased Anita Rani, alleged that she was tortured to death.⁸¹

- 73 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/474384/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81>
- 74 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/482550/%E0%A6%9D%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>
- 75 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=216213&cat=9>
- 77 <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/308857/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87>
- 78 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=260463>
- 79 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=246090&cat=9/--->
- 80 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/man-kills-wife-over-family-feud-1976273>
- 81 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/371318/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80>



Attack on Journalists



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Bangladesh has a track record of media suppression. In the 2020 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters without Borders (RSF), Bangladesh ranked 151 out of 180 countries.⁸² Bangladeshi editor and photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol's disappearance is symbolic of Bangladesh's ongoing crackdown on free speech during the Covid-19 pandemic under the draconian Digital Security Act, 2018. Many journalists including editors have been charged with various offenses under the Act. On the other hand, UDHR states in Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.⁸³ Yet threats, physical attacks, and various other forms of harassment are very common for journalists in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, individuals are not always able to disparage the government publicly without the fear of reprisal. Moreover, the government often attempted to impede criticism by prohibiting or dispersing as well as shutting down many electronic and print media due to publication of reports critical of 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.

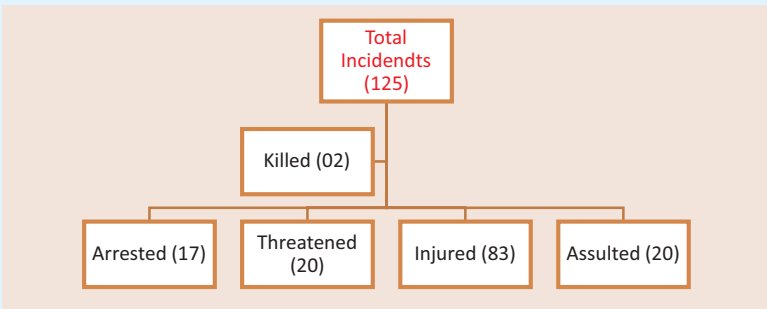


Figure-16 : Attack on Journalists

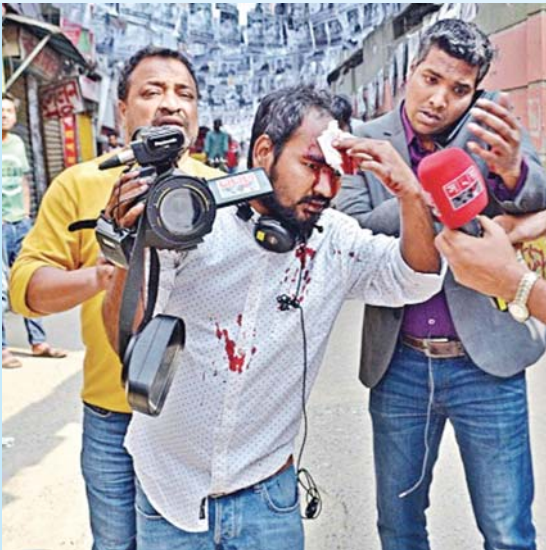


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The graph illustrates frightful situation of journalists in Bangladesh. According to HRSS's documented statistics, 02 Journalists were killed, 83 injured, nearly 20 threatened, whereas 17 arrested and 20 assaulted in nearly 125 incidents in 2020.

Selected cases are as described below

On January 22, 2020, the authority of Comilla University temporarily expelled two students including a Chhatra League leader for assaulting a journalist on the Campus. The victim was identified as Tibro Banik Sajib, the university correspondent of Daily Business Bangladesh and a member of the university journalist council. The accused students are Chhatra League's university unit deputy social service secretary Muntasir Hridoy, expelled for three months and Raju Ahmed expelled for two months. Both of the expelled students are third-year students of the accounting and information system department of the university.⁸⁴



Somoy TV's camera person on duty was caught up in the violence between the supporters of two mayor candidate for the Dhaka South City Corporation elections and injured. Photo: Daily Star



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Injured
Mustafizur
Rahman Sumon
of online news
portal Agami
News.
Photo: Daily
Star⁸⁵

On February 01, 2020, journalists were attacked, confined and intimidated at some centres while many of them were obstructed from discharging their professional duties during covering the Dhaka city election at various polling centres. Among the injured Mostafizur Rahman Sumon, a crime reporter at online news portal Agami News was attacked while taking photos of a gathering of Awami League activists in Rayerbazar area in the morning. Sheikh Hasan, Chief Photographer of Bangla daily Kaler Kantha were attacked by the followers of AL-backed councillor candidate of ward no. 4 Md Jahangir Hossain at Madartek School. Meanwhile, AL supporters snatched the mobile phone of Faisal Ahmed, a reporter at The Daily Star, as he was taking a video when AL supporters were forcing voters to vote for boat at Ideal School and College in Rampura. Meanwhile, two journalists were assaulted at Faridabad madrasa polling centre in old Dhaka allegedly by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League. The journalists are Mahabub Momtaji, staff reporter at Bangladesh Pratidin and Nurul Amin, staff reporter at The Business Standard.⁸⁶



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On February 09, 2020, a journalist was critically injured by a notorious terrorist and drug lord Masum's supporter Parvez Ahmed Foyez gang in Nabigang Upazila of Sylhet. The victim was identified as Kibria Chowdhury, correspondent of Noyadigonto and joint secretary of Nabigang press club. A case has been filed in this regard.⁸⁷

On March 14, 2020, a journalist was sentenced to one-year imprisonment by a mobile court under a taskforce of Kurigram district administration after he was arrested from his home on charges of possessing narcotics. The victim was identified as Ariful Islam, 36, Kurigram correspondent of Bangla Tribune. Ariful's wife Mansarina Mitu, however, said her husband was innocent and that he became "a victim of vindictiveness by the district's deputy commissioner for writing against irregularities and corruption". Meanwhile, the victim's colleagues said online newspaper Bangla Tribune ran a news report in May last year, written by Ariful, saying that the DC re-excavated and renovated a pond in Kurigram, using money from government funds and donations from individuals. Later, the DC named the pond



The victim
Journalist Ariful
Islam, Kurigram
correspondent
of Bangla
Tribune.
Photo: Daily
Star



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

"Sultana Sorobor" after herself. The report made the DC angry, said Ariful's colleagues, adding that Ariful also wrote several other reports on alleged irregularities by the district administration.⁸⁸

On March 31, 2020, a son of Upazila Awami League leader carried out medieval atrocities on a journalist and lived this incident on facebook in Borhanuddin Upazila of Bhola. The injured journalist was identified as Sagor Chowdhury. The accused Nabil was a son of Upazila Awami League president and UP Chairman Jasim Uddin Haider. The injured journalist said Burhan Uddin police station didn't file case in this incident.⁸⁹

On April 1, 2020, a UP chairman and his supporter beat up three journalists for spreading news against irregularities and corruption, in the distribution of government relief among the low income people in Auskandi union of Nabigang Upazila. The victim were identified as Shah Sultan Ahmed, correspondent of Dainik Protidin and ex-president of Nabigang Journalist Forum, Muzibur Rahman, correspondent of Dainik Amar Sangbad and Bulbul Ahmed, correspondent of Channel S. The main accused Muhibur Rahman Harun is Auskandi UP chairman. According to

Injured journalist Shah Sultan



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locals, UP Chairman Muhibur Rahman Harun has recently distributed government relief. But even though he was supposed to give 10 kg of rice, he gave 5 kg.⁹⁰

On May 06, 2020, five photo journalists were assaulted by traders in Saheb Bazar area of Rajshahi city. The injured journalists are Shahidul Islam Dukhu of the daily Prothom Alo, Ajam Khan of daily Jugantor, Mukul Hossain of daily Rajshahi Sangabad, Milon Sheikh of daily Barta and Mostafiz Roky of Banglar Janapad. Witnesses said Rose Cosmetics Center shop owner Nuruzzaman and his employees physically assaulted a photo journalist when he was taking pictures of the shops opened at 12 noon violating the ongoing government ban.⁹¹

On June 26, 2020, an editor of a national daily and a reporter were sued under Digital Security Act for publishing a conspiracy and false news against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's political adviser HT Imam, Awami League and National parliament in capital city. The accused were identified as AMM Bahauddin, editor of daily Inqilab and Stalin Sarker reporter of daily Inqilab. The case was filed with Gulshan police station by lawyer Soumitra Sarkar.⁹²

On June 28, 2020, a journalist and human rights activist was victim of terrorist attack at Nagerchala Bazar in Sakhipur Upazila of Tangail district. The victim was identified as Abul Hasham Durjoy, Tangail district correspondent of Palli TV and vice chairman of a Human Rights organization's central committee named unity for human rights of Bangladesh foundation. The victim claims that he has recently lodged a written complaint with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Liberation War Affairs about the non-freedom fighter Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) constituency MP Adv. Jubayerul Islam VP Jubayer and Upazila Awami League president, Kutub Uddin. For these reasons, he was attacked by terrorists.⁹³



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On 5 July 2020, a journalist and his elderly parents were hacked allegedly by followers of a local union parishad chairman at Kaziatal village of Darora union under Muradnagar upazila of Comilla district. The injured Shariful Alam Chowdhury, the son of freedom fighter Abdul Matin Chowdhury, was the general secretary of Muradnagar Press Club and upazila representative of Daily Samakal. The victim's wounded father filed a case at Muradnagar police station and complained that his son Shariful published news against the corruption, irregularities and nepotism of UP Chairman Shahjahan Mia at different times. The chairman was arrested after the incident.⁹⁴

On August 9, 2020, a correspondent of a newspaper and his father were seriously injured with machetes in an attack by Rangpur City Corporation's ward councilor and his followers for demanding money owed to a business in the Peerjabad check post area of the city. The injured Rafat Hossain Bandhan was the correspondent of Bangla TV's Rangpur. The journalist Bandhan said that a counselor and his followers attacked him and his father for demanding money; it seemed that the attack was to kill them.⁹⁵

On September 3, 2020, a journalist of private television channel was stabbed to death in broad daylight in Dhamrai of Dhaka. The deceased Julhas Uddin, a correspondent of 'Bijay TV' and twice elected vice-president of Dhamrai Press, son of late Rais Uddin of Dakshin Hatkora village under Gangutia union of Dhamrai upazila. Locals detained Shahin, 35, ex-husband of journalist Julhas's, second wife Soma Akter, and his accomplice Moazzem, 32, in this regard and handed over the police.⁹⁶

On September 28, 2020, a Journalist was hacked to death with a sharp weapon by miscreants at Navaran Satkhira route of Sharsha in Jashore. The deceased Nazrul Islam had been working in The Deskal and Barta Kantha magazines. Police arrested the accused Iqbal from Navaran Bazar.⁹⁷



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On October 12, 2020, a journalist was hacked to death by miscreants at the port of Adampur area in Narayanganj. The deceased Ilias Hossain (45), the son of Mojibar Miah of Jiodhara crossroads area of Bandar upazila, worked as the correspondent of the daily Bijay. Sabbir Ahmed, editor of the daily Bijay, said the miscreants, led by local Tushar, hacked him to death with a sharp weapon.⁹⁸

On November 17, 2020, the police attacked a news reporter while collecting news of the eviction campaign of Rangpur City Corporation. The injured Limon Rahman was identified as Independent Television cameraman. According to Witnesses the journalists started arguing with the police during the eviction drive. At one stage, the members of the metro police became enraged and attacked the cameraman of the Independent Television. Metro police had withdrawn ASI Sayem for his involvement in the attack.⁹⁹

On December 6, 2020, the assailants entered the mosque and beat and injured the vice-president of Gazaria Upazila Press Club in Gazaria of Munshiganj district. The injured Amirul Islam Nayan (38) was identified as the district representative of Bijay TV. According to eye witnesses, Shahiduzzaman Jewel and his followers entered the mosque and attacked the journalist's eyes after a recent newspaper report against the followers of Baluyakandi Union Parishad chairman Shahiduzzaman Jewel.¹⁰⁰

82 <https://www.dw.com/en/press-freedom-what-happened-to-missing-bangladeshi-journalist-shafiqul-kajol/a-53199732>

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

84 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200110423/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82>

85 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/al-bnp-men-clash-during-campaign-1859554>



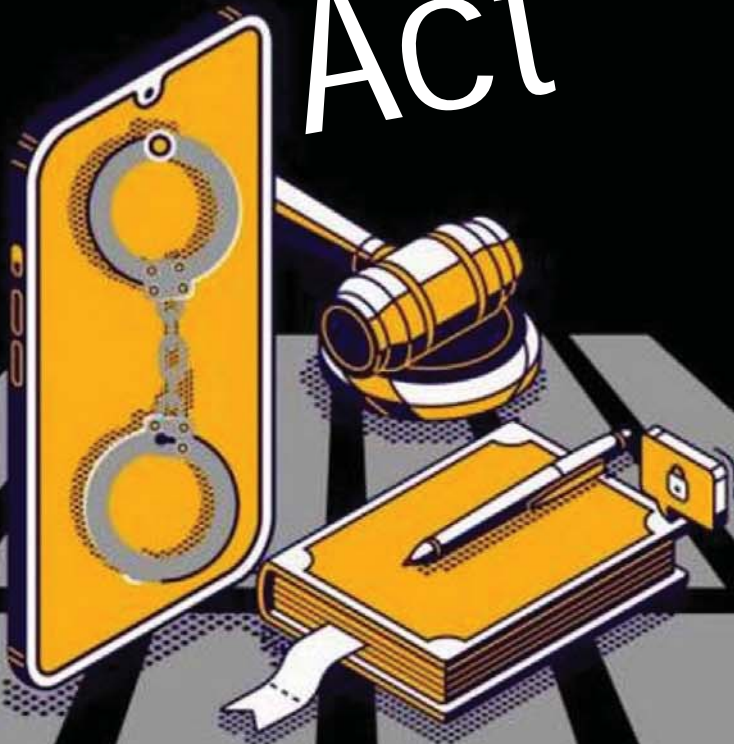
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

- 86 HRSS research desk &<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/dhaka-city-elections-2020-journos-beaten-1862263>
- 87 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212211&cat=9>
- 88 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/journo-taken-home-dead-night-jailed-1880836>
- 89 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=219924&cat=9/%E0%A6%AD%E0%A7%8B>
- 90 <https://shubhoprotidin24.com/?p=9443>
- 91 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=255897>
- 92 <https://www.samakal.com/bangladesh/article/200628419/%E0%A6%B8>
- 93 <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/303359/%E0%A6%B8>
- 94 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=234028&cat=9>
- 95 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/rangpur/520347/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%82>
- 96 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/341083/%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BE>
- 97 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/531537/%E0%A6%AF>
- 98 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/https://epaper.prothomalo.com/?mod=1&pgnum=6&edcode=71&pagedate=2020-10-12>
- 99 <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/201143723/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%82>
- 100 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/204392/%E0%A6%AE>





Digital Security Act



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Freedom of expression has been limited in Bangladesh, as the government passed the “**Digital Security Act**”, designed to monitor all electronic and social media communications. This new law was supposed to address abusive provisions in the Information and Communication Technology Act. However hundreds are facing trumped up charges for their social media commentary. Human rights groups remain under pressure due to continued restrictions on accessing foreign funding. Journalists report threats and intimidation to prevent any criticism of the government. 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. These issues are the major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

According to the Human Rights Support Society’s information, a total of 141 cases were filed and 110 arrested under “Digital Security Act 2018” from different areas of the country in a total of 100 incidents in 2020.

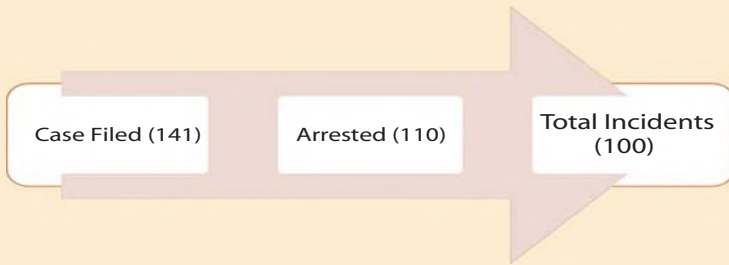


Figure-17 : Statistics of Arrest in Digital Security Act

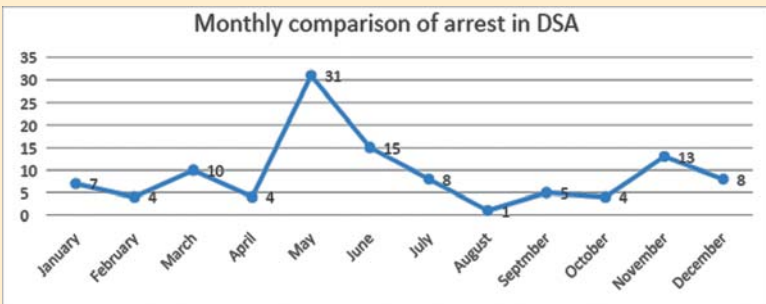


Figure 17.2: Monthly comparison of arrest in DSA in 2020



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Some important cases are stated below

On January 10, 2020, police arrested a Baul singer on charge of hurting Muslim sentiment in a case filed under Digital Security Act, from Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh. The accused was identified as Baul singer Shariat Sarker, 40; a resident of Jamurki area in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. Mohammad Faridul Islam filed the case with Mirzapur Police Station on January 9, accusing Shariat of making comments during a performance that hurt his “religious sentiment”.¹⁰²

On February 4, 2020, two cases were filed against a Baul singer for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through making derogatory comments on Allah in a music programme at Dholartengor village in Kalihati of Tangail. The accused was identified as Baul singer Rita Dewan. Md Imrul Hasan, a member of Dhaka Lawyers’ Association, filed a case with the cyber tribunal while another case was filed with Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court by actor and director Russel.¹⁰³

On February 12, 2020, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested a publisher in a case filed under Digital Security Act in November,



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2018, from his publication office in capital's Fokirapul area. The arrestee was identified as Nur Mohammad owner of Gaurdian publication. Mahmudul Hasan, deputy managing director of Guardian Publications, said a team of RAB along with two white cloth men detained Nur Mohammad and ask us why he didn't take bail? We say, he (Nur Mohammad) didn't know about the case.¹⁰⁴

On March 10, 2020, Manabzamin Editor-in-Chief and 31 others had been sued under the Digital Security Act on charge of "publishing false news and circulating it on social media". Saifuzzaman Shikhor, a ruling party lawmaker from Magura-1, filed the case with Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station. Among the accused are Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Al Amin, a staff reporter of the daily who wrote the story, and some who shared the news on social media.¹⁰⁵

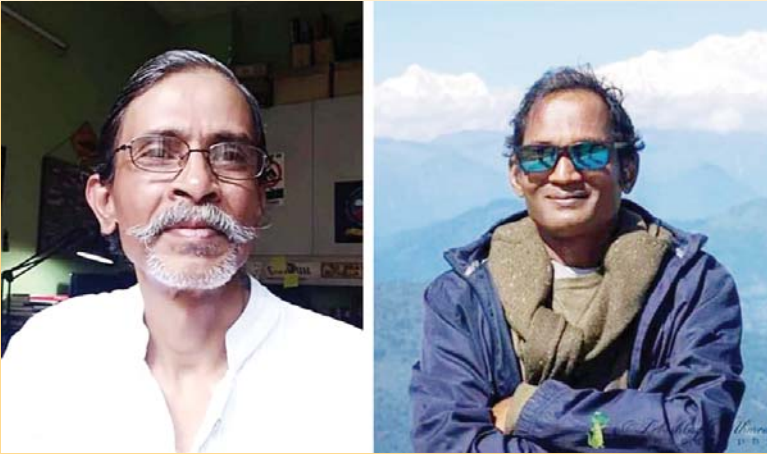
On March 22, 2020, Police arrested a physician, for allegedly spreading rumour about coronavirus through an audio clip circulated via Facebook messenger in Chattogram. The arrested doctor Iftekhar Mohammed Adnan, was a health secretary of Chattogram metropolitan Jubo Dal and a resident of Pachlaish thana's Mayor Goli.¹⁰⁶

On April 20, 2020, two editors were sued under Digital Security Act for curculating news against embezzlement and irregularities of government relief for the unemployed and miserable people in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon district. The accused were identified as Towfiq Imroz Khalidi, chief editor of BD News 24.Com and Mohiuddin, acting editor of Jago News24.Com. A Swechchhasebak League leader filed a complaint under Digital Security Act with Baliadanga police station. The Bangladesh federal unit of journalist (BFUJ) and Dhaka unit of journalist (DUJ) leaders expressed deep concern and resentment in this regard.¹⁰⁷



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On May 2, 2020, three journalists were sent to jail by a Narsingdi court in a case filed under the Digital Security Act over quoting a police official without contacting him. The journalists are Ramjan Ali Pramanik, 45, news editor of local daily Dainik Grameen Darpon, Shanto Banik, 35, a reporter of the newspaper, and Khandaker Shahin, 32, publisher and editor of web portal "Narsingdi Pratidin". Inspector Johirul Alam, in-charge of Ghorashal Police Outpost, filed the case with Palash Police Station.¹⁰⁸



Mushtaq Ahmed (left) and Ahmed Kabir Kishore.
Photo: Daily Star

On May 6, 2020, eleven people, including a cartoonist, journalists and writer, were sued under the Digital Security Act, on charge of "spreading rumours, unrest and chaos among the people" at Ramna Police Station. The accused were identified as Cartoonist **Ahmed Kabir Kishore**, writer **Mushtaq Ahmed**, Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil, blogger Asif Mohiuddin, Didarul Islam, a member of politico-civic organisation called Rashtrachinta, Minhaj Mannan Emon, managing director of BLE securities and shareholder-director of



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Dhaka Stock Exchange, Shahed Alom, Sayem Julkernain, AsikImran, Phil Sumakher and Shopon Owahid. Abu Bakar Siddique, Rab-3 Assistant Director filed a case with the Ramna Police Station.¹⁰⁹



BRUR teacher Sirajam Munira. Photo: Dhaka Tribune

On June 15, 2020, police arrested a lecturer of Begum Rokeya University for her derogatory comment on Facebook over the death of Awami league leader and former health and home minister Mohammad Nasim from her house at Sardarpara in Rangpur. The accused was identified as Sirajam Murina, Bangla department teacher of Begum Rokeya University. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, registrar of the university filed a case against her under the Digital Security Act. Abu Monnaf Al Kibria Tusher, president of the university unit Chhatra League, also submitted a written complaint to police with similar allegations, shortly before the arrest. Tajhat Police Station inspector (investigation) Rabiul Islam said that Sirajam Munira wrote that the country had



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become free of Mohammad Nasim following his death, but she deleted the post soon and begged apology. Meanwhile, many of her followers took screenshot of the post. However, many other teachers and academicians criticised over the government action against the teacher.¹¹⁰

On June 18, 2020, police arrested a teacher of Rajshahi University on allegation of criticising former health minister and ruling Awami League presidium member Mohammed Nasim on Facebook from campus quarters. The arrestee was identified as Kazi Zahidur Rahman, an associate professor of computer science and engineer department of Rajshahi University and assistant provost of Mother Box Hall. He was also information and research secretary of Narail district Awami League. Tapos Kumar Saha, a lawyer, filed the case with Motihar Police Station under Sections 25, 29 and 31 of the DSA.¹¹¹



RU teacher
Kazi Zahidur Rahman.

On July 3, 2020, a young man was arrested under the Digital Security Act for defamatory posts against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on social media at Burhanuddin in Bhola. The arrestee Chhotan Biswas (45) is a son of late Amulya Biswas of Padmamansa village of the Upazila.¹¹²



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On August 2, 2020, an online portal journalist was arrested under the Digital Security Act at Shibganj in Bogra. The accused Kanak was the Son of the late Kanti Dev Master at Mokamatla Port. The arrested Kanak had been mentioning the name of the journalist of Mokamatla Press Club for some time and had been posting his status on Facebook in filthy languages.¹¹³

On September 28, 2020, police arrested a Juba Dal leader under the Digital Security Act in Dhamairhat, Naogaon. The arrestee Tahidul Islam (26), the convener of Dhamairhat Thana Juba Dal, is the son of late Namir Uddin of Raspur village of Khelna Union. According to police sources, Tahidul Islam was spreading rumors by using his Facebook ID to publish misleading news and pictures.¹¹⁴

On 14 October 2020, a student of Dhaka University filed a case against former VP of DUCSU Nurul Haque under the Digital Security Act for making defamatory remarks about the plaintiff in a rape case on Facebook Live. Hasan Al Mamun, a student of Dhaka University, was accused of raping and later refusing to marry her. In the case, the student has complained to the court that Nurul Haque called her a bitch on social media Facebook Live on October 11, which was false, defamatory and insulting. The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has been directed to submit an investigation report into the case.¹¹⁵

On October, 26, a professor of Dhaka University was sued under the Digital Security Act for making "derogatory" comments on religion during a talk show on a private television channel. The accused was identified as Md Ziaur Rahman, professor of Criminology Department at Dhaka University. According to case statement, he made anti-Islamic remarks during a talk show of private TV channel DBC News, hurting people's religious sentiment. Md Imrul Hasan, a lawyer; and Muhammad Mahbub Alam, editor of monthly magazine Al Bayyinat and daily Al-Ihsan, lodged the lawsuits separately.¹¹⁶



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Professor Md Ziaur Rahman, DU, sued under DSA.

On November 24, 2020, a UP member was arrested under the Information Technology and Digital Security Act for allegedly 'abusing' Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the government on social media Live in Habiganj's Madhabpur Upazila. The arrested Swarbindu Sarkar, a UP member, is the son of Srikant Sarkar of Tapan Durgapur village and a UP member of Ward 3 of Andiura Union.¹¹⁷

On December 5, 2020, a case was filed under the Digital Security Act against 18 people, including the editor, publisher and reporter of a local newspaper, for publishing news in Sylhet and sharing it on social media. A report was published in the newspaper 'Ekattarer Kotha' on November 26 under the headline 'Fearful silent suburb'. This was creating instability and extreme chaos in the area. The accused was identified as, Chowdhury Mumtaz Ahmed, the editor of the local daily Ekattar in Sylhet, the publisher. Nazrul Islam, reporter Saeed Chowdhury, Zikrul Islam, Ahmad Maruf and others.¹¹⁸



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- 102 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-arrested-baul-be-produced-court-today-1853758>
- 103 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/98582/another-baul-singer-sued>
- 104 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/miscellaneous/479903/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BF>
- 105 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/manabzamin-editor-sued-under-digital-security-act-with-31-others-1878913>
- 106 <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/291663/%E0%A6%9A>
- 107 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/496816/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81>
- 108 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-3-journos-sent-jail-1898920>
- 109 HRSS investigation desk and <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1654926/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81?>
- 110 HRSS investigation and research desk and <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108391/rokeya-university-teacher-held-over-fb-post>
- 111 <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangla/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%80>
- 112 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/163528/>
- 113 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/rajshahi/519126/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF>
- 114 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/349442/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF>
- 115 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81>
- 116 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-du-teacher-sued-over-comments-religion-1984333>
- 117 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/367858/%E0%A6%AB%E0%A7%87>
- 118 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87>



Attack on Minorities



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

Ethnic and religious minorities are the most persecuted and oppressed groups in Bangladesh. The seeds of violence against minority communities are inherent within the structures of the modern system which has turned human beings into ‘**vote banks**’ and ‘**vote constituencies**’. Lack of accountability and transparency of the state machinery only makes the situation worse. Article 27 of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “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”. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights mentions explicitly in article 2 (2) 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 other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

119



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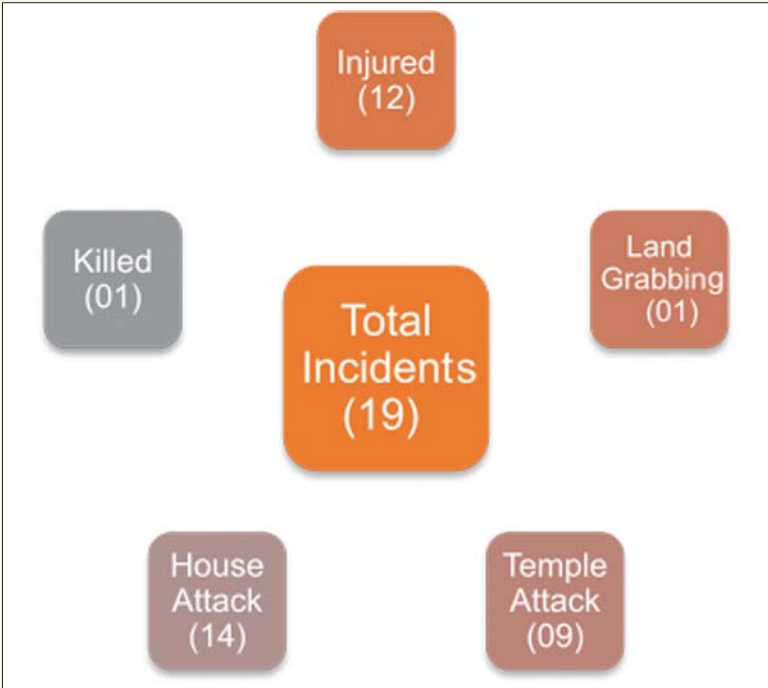


Figure-18 : Statistics of Attacks on Minority

The above graph provides information about the incidences of attacks on minorities. It shows that at least 09 temples and 14 houses were partially or fully destroyed, a incident of land grabbing, 11 injured and 01 minority member was killed in 19 incidents.

Important cases are stated below

On January 30, 2020, miscreants damaged idols of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom, at Chatalpar Degree College in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district. “Some Hindu students of the college returned home after completing the decoration of the Saraswati idol around 11:00 pm. Next morning, I and my colleague Narendra Sutradhar saw the idol



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broken as we were preparing to perform the puja,” said Suranjit Das, a teacher of Chatalpar Degree College.¹²⁰

On February 13, 2020, a minority family accused of encroaching their land and beating up critically by Upazila Chhatra League president and his men in Koira upazila of Khulna. The accused was identified as Shafikul Islam Tinku, son of Haider Ali and president of Koira upazila Chhatra League. The victim was identified as Brozen Roptan, 45, wife Moina Roptan, daughter Shumi and brother Chapol Roptan in the upazila.¹²¹

On May 20, 2020, unidentified miscreants burnt down allegedly themusic room of a Baul in Derai upazila of Sunamgang. The victim was identified as Baul Ranesh Thakur a notable disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim. "Hearing people shouting, I woke up and saw that the room was burning. I believe someone torched it as I used to sing in the room. But I have no idea who would do this," Ranesh said.¹²²



On June 27, 2020, police arrested a UP chairman for allegedly breaking down a temple's wall under construction in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur district. The accused was identified as Aftabuzzaman Aftab, chairman of Alombiditor union. Kanak Chandra, general secretary of the temple



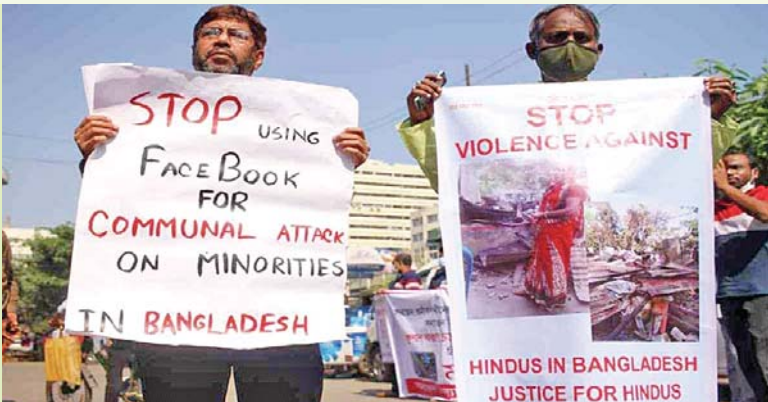
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

management committee, filed a case against the chairman in this incident.¹²³

On August 29, 2020, a burglary took place at Char Fashion Haribari temple in Bhola. The gold ornaments along with the idol of the temple, goods worth around two lakh TK were lost. Samir Chandra Majumder, general secretary of the temple committee, filed a case with the Char Fashion Police Station accusing nameless persons.¹²⁴

On September 11, 2020, four idols of Hindu gods and goddesses were vandalized by miscreants at Kali Mandir in Dakkhin Salna area of Gazipur City. Alamgir Hossain Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of sadar police station, said that the miscreants entered the temple in Miabari area at night and vandalized the idols. The incident came to light on next morning when worshipers found the idols lying on the floor.¹²⁵

On October 22, 2020, miscreants smashed the Durga idol of Kamarbari Public Temple in Kundu Ramdia village of Satair union in Boalmari Upazila of Faridpur. Police arrested Nayan and Raju



The protesters demanded an end to attacks on minority communities. Dhaka Tribune



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Mridha on suspicion. Raju is the son of Chiru Mridha of that village. Mrinal Karmakar, general secretary of the temple committee, filed a case against Nayan Sheikh, son of Gauj Sheikh of the village, and 4-5 other unidentified persons.¹²⁶

On November 6, 2020, a house of a Hindu family was vandalized and looted following a Facebook post that allegedly defamed Islam at Daspara village under Darikandi union in Bancharampur Upazila of Brahmanbaria. The victim was identified as Balai Das and his family members. Police arrested Pulok, 18, Rashedul Haque alias Fahim, 18, Siam, 18, and a 17-year-old boy from the Darikandi Moddhopara village of the Upazila in this regard.¹²⁷

On December 16, 2020, a former BCL leader along with his cadres attacked the minority community being obstructed to control over a disputed land at Kanchrahati village in Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira. The accused was identified as Al Amin Hossain, former BCL leader of the central committee. The injured Utpal Mandal became the plaintiff in the incident, mentioning the names of 12 people including Al Amin Hossain and his nephew Akhter and lodged a written complaint with Shyamnagar Police Station accusing some unidentified persons.¹²⁸

119 Photo: Prothom Alo

120 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/two-saraswati-idols-defaced-bbaria-dinajpur-1861612>

121 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212830&cat=9/%E0%A6%95>

122 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/baul-raneshs-music-room-torched-1904254>

123 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/320626/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%82>

124 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/178655/%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B0>

125 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/115954/four-hindu-idols-vandalised-in-gazipur>

126 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/201040904/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8B>

127 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/11/06/hindu-house-vandalized-looted>

128 <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/201246998/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE>





Violence
against
Children

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

Bangladesh is a developing and densely populated country in southern Asia with about half of the populations under the age of 18, who are considered as children and more than 20 million under the age of 5.¹²⁹ Children have basic rights to education, balanced diet, health and nutrition, recreation, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Unfortunately, violation of these basic child rights is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The rights of children are violated in Bangladesh, due to poverty, ignorance, lack of social consciousness, and discrimination.

Article 2(1) of The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that: “States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.”

Bangladesh has ratified many international conventions in order to protect children from all kinds of violence and torture and to ensure their rights. But, the laws and policies regarding child rights such as child labor, physical punishment, violence against girls, sexual exploitation, imprisonment of children with adults, trafficking, child marriage, and other aspects of child protection are routinely violated in Bangladesh. In most cases, people are not aware of the laws and take this violence as a common matter.



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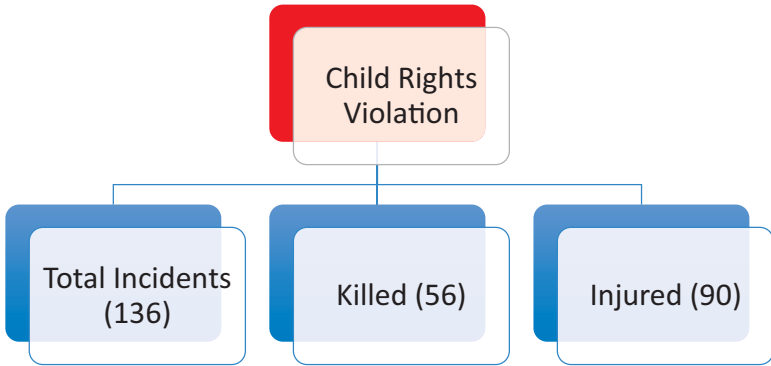


Figure-19 : Statistics of Violence against Children

According to human rights support society's report, the graph presented above regarding violence against children from January to December '20 shows that 56 children were killed and 90 children's have been critically injured in a total of 136 incidents.

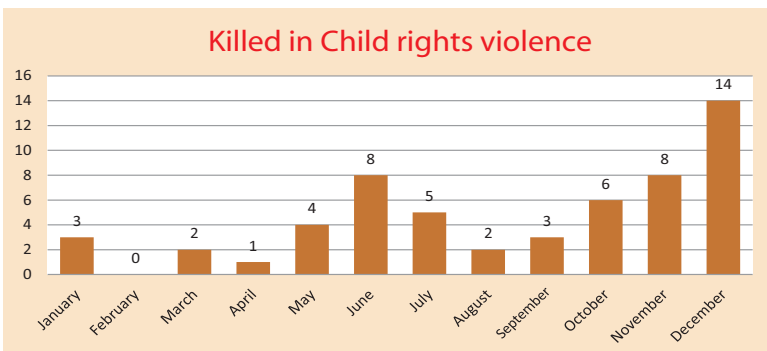


Figure-20 : Monthly Comparison of Child killings from January to December '20

The column graph illustrates the real scenario of child killing in Bangladesh during the year of 2020. The number of killing was fluctuated during the first six months and reach to 08 in June, and then it dropped to the following months. Finally, the number of child killings climbing rapidly to a peak of 14 in December.



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Some important cases are stated below

On January 21, 2020, a teenager boy was tortured by tying to an electricity pole after wearing shoelaces and brooms around his neck on charge of theft in Laxmipur sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Nirob Hossen son of late Kiron Hossen in the upazila. Shopkeeper Rashad, Kamal butcher and others including Ismail Hossen butcher tortured the teenager with the accusation of theft. The victim's grandmother filed a case against 12 persons in this regard.¹³⁰

On February 5, 2020, it was accused of torturing two teenage boys by tying them to chain against the officers and staffs of Sheikh Rasel child training and rehabilitation center in Rupatoli area of Barishal city. The victim were identified as Zisan and Hazrat of the rehabilitation center. One of the victims Hazrat said, "Zisan had fled for fear of being beaten by an older brother of center named Mehedi. And this older brother tied them to a chain at the direction of Sir. Basudeb Debnath, project deputy director of the child training and rehabilitation center, said if any of the staffs misbehave with the children, the higher authorities will be informed.¹³¹



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A student was tortured and naked. Photo: Nayadiganta

On March 22, 2020, a schoolboy was allegedly beaten and stripped naked by tying to a tree in Aralia village of Baluakandi union in Munshiganj's Gazaria upazila. The victim was identified as a seven grade student at a local Mohammadia pre-cadet and lower-secondary school and son of Ahsan Ullah. The accused shahparan, Shahajul, Sabbir, Ibrahim are the children of influential families in the area.¹³²

On April 17, 2020, a homemaker was kicked out of the house after being tortured and injured by a feminist leader on charge of stains in the fridge in capital's Uttara area. The accused Saida Sultana Ani was a student of BUET and also a former leader of Chhatra Union. She also speaks about women's rights and violence against women in different television talk show. The tortured girl Papia akter Mim described the inhumane incident on social media and filed a complaint with Uttara west Thana.¹³³



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The perpetrator Sadia Sultana Ani, a feminist leader.
Photo: Jagonews 24.com

On May 01, 2020, a video of teenager, tortured being tied to a tree, has gone viral on social media at Kerani para in Birgang upazila of Dinajpur. The victim was identified as Md. Mihaz, 15, son of Saidul Islam and a student of Faridpur, Gorosthan madrasah of Dinazpur Sadara. The victim's father lodged a case against Abu Bakar Siddiq, 45, his wife Mrs. Romena Begum, 40 and brother in law Md. Asraful Islam, 25, with Birgang police station.¹³⁴

On June 8, 2020, a madrasah boy was beaten to death for picking mangoes from tree in Katalipara upazila of Gopalganj district. The deceased was identified as Amanullah Sheikh, 18, an eighth grader at Kushla Alia madrasah and son of Zakir Hossain Sheikh, a resident of Chourkhuli village in the upazila. Amanullah was allegedly beaten by his cousins Babu Sheikh and Delwar Sheikh for the allegation of picking mangoes from tree.¹³⁵



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On July 10, 2020, two children were tied to a tree and tortured allegedly for stealing a mobile phone at Kurma Tea Garden in Islampur Union of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj Upazila. The accused Munna Pashi, 12, and Jagat Nunia, 13, were released on a bond from their parents. The victim's mother alleged that Mamunur Rashid, the compounder of the Tea Garden Hospital, picked up the children from their homes, accusing them of stealing mobile phones.¹³⁶

On July 18, 2020, police arrested a couple for torturing a child domestic worker from Rupnagar, Mirpur of Dhaka city. The victim was identified as Asiya Begum (10) from Hatia, Noyakhali. The tortured child claimed that if the housewife was in a bad mood, he would often throw hot water on her. The householder did not say anything and even try to save her. On the other hand, the accused was identified as Sajjadul Bashar, a Clinic worker and his housewife Shahnaz Begum.¹³⁷



Eight -year-old child
Maisha.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

On August 27, 2020, a stepmother was accused of torturing brutally an eight-year-old child with a blade and hammer. The victim Maysha is the daughter of rickshaw puller Nazim Uddin, a resident of Rashidabad village under Patia upazila of Chattogram. The victim's father Nazim Uddin filed a complaint against the stepmother at Patia Police Station.¹³⁸

On September 1, 2020, a child worker of a bakery was allegedly tortured with heated iron by the bakery food maker due to eating biscuits at Islamia Bakery in Akhaura, Brahmanbaria. The child was identified as Junaid (12) from cumilla town. The victim accused that he had been tortured for the past three months and sometimes threatened to burn in the oven.¹³⁹



The tortured child worker Junaid. Photo: Ittefaq

On October 16, 2020, a teacher was arrested by the police for allegedly assaulting a student of a madrasah in Tahirpur, Sunamganj. The accused Monir Hossain is a teacher of Ratanshree Hafizia Madrasha. The student's father Khairul Islam



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informed the OC of the Tahirpur police station and demanded justice.¹⁴⁰



**The body of the student Monir Hossain injured in the beating of the teacher.
Photo: Samakal**

On November 14, 2020, a child was allegedly tortured in accused of stealing a mobile phone by the neighbors of her grandparents in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal. The seriously injured child Jasmin Akter is the daughter of Bashir Hawladar, a day laborer of Nalchiti upazila in Jhalokati. The victim's father filed a case against five persons named Omar Al Sayed, his uncle Helal Chowkidar, Altaf Chowkidar, Zakir Mir and Shahabuddin.¹⁴¹

On December 26, 2020, a schoolboy was beaten and seriously injured for stealing papaya at Sadar upazila in Chuadanga. The injured Imamul Hosen Emon, an eighth-grade student of Gokulkhali Secondary School, was a son of Azad Malitha at Alukdia village in the upazila. Neighbor Sanwar Hossain and his son Sajan beat him up allegedly by detaining at a warehouse in Alukdia Bazar of the city.¹⁴²



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- 129 Mohajan, H. (2014). Child rights in Bangladesh, available at http://jswhr.com/journals/jswhr/Vol_2_No_1_March_2014/12.pdf
- 130 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=209230&cat=9>
- 131 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/128240/%E0%A6%AC>
- 132 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/490088/%E0%A6%97>
- 133 <https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/574683>
- 134 <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/200521382/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%81>
- 135 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1661522/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8B>
- 136 <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/306634/%E0%A6%95>
- 137 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/capital/167760/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF>
- 138 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/519705/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87>
- 139 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/179219/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF>
- 140 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/201040355/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF>
- 141 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95>
- 142 <https://www.jugantor.com/todaypaper/news/378257/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87>



Border Killing



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

As Bangladeshi people are killed in border area by BSF & BGP, border dispute is considered a prime issue of conflict among Bangladesh, 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 its neighbours. Nevertheless, human rights violations are regularly taking place in the border area of Bangladesh at the instance of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). We have repeatedly noticed that India has been violating treaties, and committing murders, torture, abductions, etc. near the border area, which is a clear violation of international law and human rights.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding and the treaties signed between India and Bangladesh, if citizens of the two countries illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law, those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority.¹⁴³ Human rights defenders blamed impunity, lack of accountability, and soft approach from the Bangladesh side as the main reasons for the continuation of border killings.

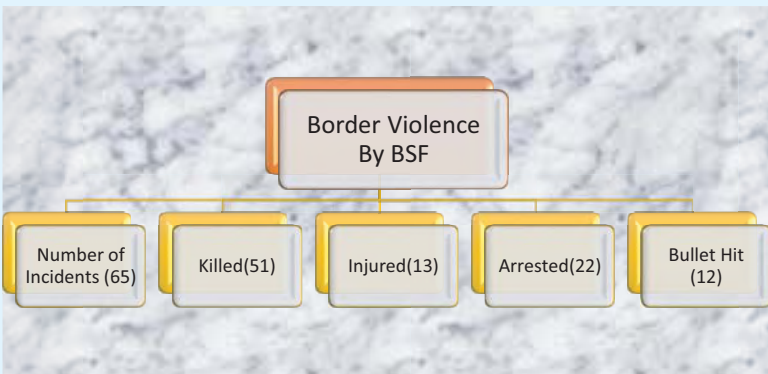


Figure-21 : Violence in Border by BSF between January and December '20

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

The given chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between January and December '20, roughly 51 Bangladeshis citizen were killed, 13 injured, bullet hit 12 and 22 persons were arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 65 incidents.

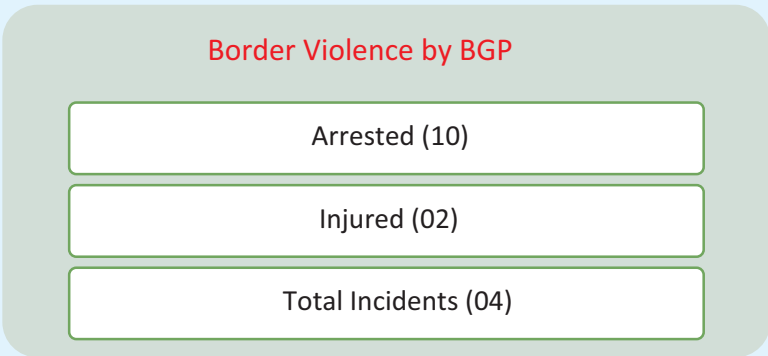


Figure-22 : Violence in Border by BGP from January to December '20

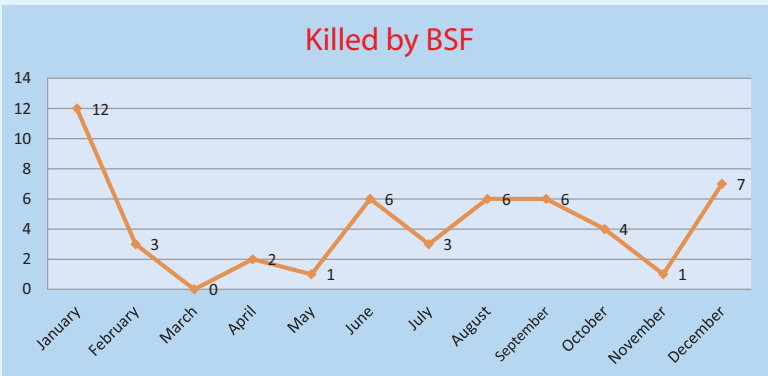


Figure-23 : Monthly comparison of killing in border area from January to December '20



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Some important cases are mentioned below

On January 11, 2020, a Bangladeshi youth was beaten to death allegedly by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Burimari border in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat. The deceased, Abu Sayeed, 26, is son of Benzir Rahman of Bamondol area in the upazila. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), locals and victim's family members said BSF beat Sayeed suspecting him as a smuggler while he was working on a tobacco field near the border and left his body near an electric pole.¹⁴⁴

On January 23, 2020, Indian's Border Security Force (BSF) reportedly killed three Bangladeshi nationals, said to be cattle traders along the Porsha border in Naogaon district. The dead were identified as Md Mofizul, 35, of Chak Bishnupur village; Ronjit Kumar, 32, of Bijli village; and Kamal Hossain, 34, of Patapukur in Porsha upazila. Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Porsha Police Station, told that the three cattle traders were gunned down when they, along with some others, were bringing in cattle from India.¹⁴⁵



Bangladeshi killed in BSF firing.



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On February 7, 2020, a Bangladeshi man died at a hospital in Cooch Behar in India who was tortured by members of Border Security Force (BSF) of India along Durgapur border of Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district. The deceased was identified as Delwar Hossain, 28, son of Khaybar Ali of the area. “BSF detained Delwar from Durgapur on 20 January and beat him mercilessly,” said Lt Col SM Towhidul Alam, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion-15.¹⁴⁶

On April 24, 2020, five Bangladeshi nationals, including a member of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), were injured in a shotgun firing of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Patgram upazila’s Burimari land port of Lalmonirhat. The injured were identified as BGB member Khokon Mia of Burimari BGB camp, Md. Rashidul Islam, 35, Md. Araf Hosan, 18, Azizul Islam, 60, Firoza Begum, 65 of Burimari area.¹⁴⁷

On May 23, 2020, an unarmed Bangladesh national was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force along Jafalong border at Gowainghat upazila in Sylhet district. The deceased was identified as Kala Mia, 37, a stone quarry worker and a resident of Nayabosti area of the upazila.¹⁴⁸

On June 10, 2020, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot to dead a Bangladeshi and dumped in the Ichhamati River along Agradhulot border in Sharsha upazila of Jashore. The deceased was identified as Shariful Islam, 25, son of late Ishak Ali, a resident of Ramgang village in the upazila. The victim’s wife Modina Khatun and uncle Unus Ali said, Shariful was shot dead by BSF of Jawdanga camp as he went the frontier to bring cattle.¹⁴⁹

On July 4, 2020, a Bangladeshi national was allegedly shot dead by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Telkupi border in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district. The deceased was identified as Jahangir Alam, 50, son of Aynal



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BSF members are patrolling India Bangladesh border area.
Photo: Daily Star

Haque, a resident of Telkupi Lombapara area of the upazila. Mofazzal Hossain, a local UP member, said that BSF members picked up Jahangir and shot him after critically torture.¹⁵⁰

On August 21, 2020, a Bangladeshi citizen was shot and wounded by the Indian Border Security Force along Angarpota border area of Dahagram union under Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat. The critically injured Umar Faruq was a cattle trader by profession. The incident happened within a day after foreign secretary Masud Bin Momen following a meeting with his Indian counterpart Harsh Vardhan Shringla in Dhaka had told journalists that they would focus on reducing the number of border killings.¹⁵¹

On October 19, 2020, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi youth at Thakurpur border in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga. The deceased Omedul Islam, the son of Shahidul Islam of Thakurpur, was a Cattle trader. He was shot dead by BSF members of the Rangerpota camp in Nadia district of India while fetching cows near Zero Point on the Thakurpur border in Damurhuda upazila.¹⁵²



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A member of the BSF is pointing a gun at the Bangladesh border. Photo: Prothom Alo

On October 22, 2020, members of Indian Border Security Force allegedly tortured four Bangladeshi fishermen at Kharchoka bordering area in Rajshahi. The tortured fishermen are Md Alam, his son Anwar, Sifat, son of Saidur Rahman of Gahamabona village under Paba upazila, and Sonarul of Kosba village. According to Paba Haripur union parishad chairman Fazle Rezbil Al Hasan Monju, BSF personnel detained the four fishermen along with three boats from the Padma river while they were fishing.¹⁵³

On November 09, 2020, a man died hours after he was shot allegedly by Myanmar Border Guard Police at the Naf River under Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar. The deceased Mohammad Islam, 35, a resident of the area, was shot while he was fishing. Witnesses said Islam and another fisherman went into the Naf River on a small boat for fishing. Myanmar's BGP personnel, who were patrolling on a speedboat in their territory, opened fire, leaving one of the fishermen injured.¹⁵⁴



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On November 21, 2020, a Bangladeshi young man was gunned down allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force along Khatiamari border area of Roumari upazila in Kurigram. The deceased was identified as Hasinur Rahman alias Fakir Chand, 28, son of Abul Hossain of the upazila. Commanding officer of BGB-35 Battalion in Jamalpur said that BSF members from Kushnimara camp opened fire on him while he along with some other people went to the main pillar along the border, leaving him dead on the spot.¹⁵⁵

On December 24, 2020, a Bangladeshi national was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the GobraKura border in Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh. The deceased was identified as Khairul Islam (48) who was a cattle trader. The victim's family claimed that the BSF shot at him while he was trying to fetch his cows from the border. Locals claim that the deceased Khairul was involved in cattle smuggling from India.¹⁵⁶

143 <http://odhikar.org/violations-in-the-border-area> .

144 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207805/Bangladeshi-beaten-dead-by-India%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98BSF%E2%80%99>

145 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/bsf-kills-4-bangladeshis-noagaon-jashore-1858090>

146 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/209089/Tortured-by-BSF-Lalmonirhat-youth-dies-in-Indian>

147 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1652684/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE>

148 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=257597>

149 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=230589&cat=9>

150 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/bsf-kills-bangladeshi-along-chapai-border-1925109>

151 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/114147/bangladeshi-shot-by-bsf>

152 <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/356315/%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%BE>

153 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/119675/bsf-tortures-4-bangladeshi-fishermen-in-rajshahi>

154 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/bangladeshi-shot-dead-myanmar-border-troops-1991661>

155 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/122199/bangladeshi-young-man-shot-to-death-by-bsf-in-kurigram>

156 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=255736&cat=9>



Violent Attack



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The term “Violent Attack” refers to an unlawful physical attack upon another, an attempt or offer to perpetrate violence on another, with or without battery in a threatening manner.¹⁵⁷ Violent attacks against civilians are a rising concern in Bangladesh. Recently, Bangladesh has experienced a wave of violent attack against civilians, politicians, atheists, secular bloggers, academics, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities. Article 3 of UDHR states that “everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. The state is obliged to protect its citizens from all kinds of criminal attack. ‘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. HRSS tried to document all kinds of violent attack took place from January to December’20.

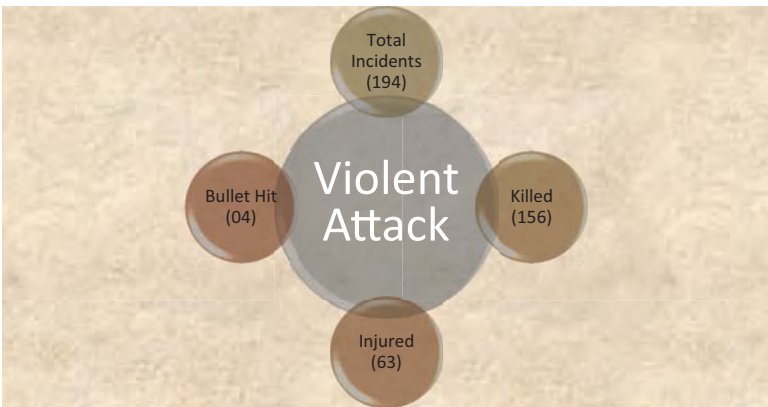


Figure-24 : Statistics of Violent Attacks

The above chart shows information about the violent attacks on unarm civilians during year of 2020. Statistics shows, a total of 194 incidences of violent attack happened where 156 were killed,



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Figure-25 : killed in Violent Attack from January to December '20

63 seriously injured and around 04 were hit by bullet.

Some of the incidences have been stated below

On January 10, 2020, a Union Parishad (UP) member was stabbed to death by some miscreants at Mandarbaria in Jhenaidah's Maheshpur upazila. The deceased Swapan Hossain, 30, was a member of No 7 ward and son of Amzad Ali of the upazila. A group of miscreants stabbed Swapan indiscriminately over previous enmity when he was standing in front of his house, leaving him dead on the spot, said the police source. Milton Mia, brother of Swapan, was slightly injured while he was trying to save his brother.¹⁵⁸

On February 15, 2020, Miscreants stabbed allegedly a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader to death at Shubdebpur village in Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur. The deceased, Majnur Rahman, 32, son Obaidur Rahman of Dhontola village, was general secretary of Bochaganj upazila unit JCD. Shafiqul Islam, general secretary of Bochaganj upazila unit BNP, said unidentified criminals waylaid Majnur while he was crossing Shubdebpur village and stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured, he added.¹⁵⁹



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**Killed JCD leader
Majnur Rahman.**

On March 13, 2020, some miscreants shot dead a school teacher in Kosba Majail union of Pansa upazila in Rajbari district. The deceased was identified as Asadul Bari Khan, 42, assistant teacher of Shengram High School of Kustia's Khoksha upazila and son of late Khorshed Khan, in the upazila. Family member claimed that support of Jaz Ali Biswash killed Asadul because of previous enmity.¹⁶⁰

On April 28, 2020, two activists of United People's Democratic Front were shot dead by miscreants at Madhyabanchara in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari. The deceased were identified as Sudibya Chakma, 35, son of Birendra Mohon Chakma and Angel Chakma alias Babu, 37, son of Sushil Chakma of the Upazila. A group of armed miscreants attacked the house of Dilip Chakma where Sudibya and Angel were playing chess, said the police source.¹⁶¹

On May 19, 2020, some unidentified miscreants stabbed to death with knife an Awami League leader in Sahnahmudpur union of Chadpur sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Azizur Rahman Bhutro Khan, former assistant president of Sahnahmudpur union's Awami League.¹⁶²



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**Killed AL leader Azizur
Rahman Bhutro Khan.**

On June 14, 2020, miscreants hacked to death a Jubo League leader in a broad daylight in Akashtara area of Bogura. The deceased was identified as Abu Taleb 32, general secretary of Jubo League Subgram Bandor committee and son of Abdus Samad, in the area. Police and relatives couldn't say the cause of the murder.¹⁶³

On July 12, 2020, a former leader of Chhatra Dal was killed in an attack by miscreants at Ramgarh in Khagrachhari. The incident took place around 11:15 pm on Saturday while returning home in Kaladeba area of Ramgarh upazila. The deceased Mohammad Faruq is the son of Ali Newaz who was a farmer in the area. Faruq was the former joint convener of Ramgarh College Chhatra Dal.¹⁶⁴

On August 08, 2020, Miscreants stabbed a journalist in front of local press club in Mohonpur upazila of Rajshahi district. The victim was identified as Shahin Sagar (26), the Mohonpur upazila correspondent of daily Rajshahi Sangbad. Shahin accused in a case filed with Mohonpur Police Station. The OC said that Police arrested Kawsar Ali (25), one of the six persons, seized a knife used for stabbing Shahin from arrestee's possession.¹⁶⁵



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দুর্ভাগ্যের হামলায় গুরুতর আহত দিনাজপুরের ঘোড়াঘাট উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা (ইউএনও) ওয়াহিদা খানম। রংপুরে আর্থিক চিকিৎসা দেওয়ার পর উন্নত চিকিৎসার জন্য ঢাকার আগারগাঁওয়ে ন্যাশনাল ইন্সটিটিউট অব নিউরোসায়েন্সে অ্যাড হাসপিটালে নিয়ে আসা হয় তাঁকে। গতকাল বেলা তিনটার দিকে হাসপাতালে প্রবেশের মুহূর্তে। ছবি: সাজিদ হোসেন

সরকারি বাসায় রক্তাক্ত ইউএনও

দিনাজপুরের ঘোড়াঘাট

গভীর রাতে ভেটিস্টের নিয়ে ঘরে ঢুকে ইউএনও এবং তাঁর বাবার ওপর হামলা। ইউএনওর অবস্থা সংকটাপন্ন।

নজম প্রতিনবদক, ঢাকা ও রংপুর, প্রতিনিধি, দিনাজপুর

গড়ে মাঝামাঝি শাশুর, বিছানা। মেঝেতে কাঁদতে হয়ে ওঠা জমাট রক্ত। দুর্ভাগ্যের হামলার শিকার দিনাজপুরের ঘোড়াঘাটের উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ইউএনও ওয়াহিদা খানমের সরকারি বাসভবনের

এই ছবিগুলো ঘুরছে সমাজিক যোগাযোগমাধ্যমগুলোতে। ক্ষুণ্ণ প্রতিজিয়া জানিয়েছেন বহু মামুদা। দেশব্যাপী ছড়িয়ে থাকে। গ্রন্থাসন ক্যাডবরের কর্মকর্তাদের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চয় উৎসাহ জানিয়েছেন অজ্ঞান।

ওয়াহিদা খানম গত বুধবার সন্ধ্যা পর্যন্ত ঘোড়াঘাটে নিজের কার্যালয়ে কাজ করেছেন। রাতে সরকারি বাসভবনে অন্য দিনের মতোই শিশুপুত্রকে নিয়ে নিজের ঘরে ঘুমিয়ে পড়েন। পাশের ঘরেই ছিলেন ওয়াহিদার বাবা মুক্তসোজা ওমর আলী (৬০)। পাত্তির রাতে আজ্ঞানামা দুর্ভাগ্য। এই সরকারি বাসায় (শাপলা ভবন) ঢুকে ইউএনও ওয়াহিদা ও তাঁর



ওয়াহিদা খানম

বাবাকে হাতুড়ি দিয়ে পিচিয়ে গুরুতর আহত করে। হামলার কারণ এখনো স্পষ্ট নয়। আহত বাবা-মেয়েকে গতকাল পৃথকভাবে পৃথকভাবে সকালে প্রথমে রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে নেওয়া হয়। পরে ওয়াহিদাকে বিমানবাহিনীর বৈকিগীর ডাকায় এনে ন্যাশনাল ইন্সটিটিউট অব নিউরোসায়েন্সে অ্যাড হাসপিটালে ভর্তি করা হয়। চিকিৎসকেরা বলেন, ওয়াহিদার অবস্থা দুইই সংকটাপন্ন। ভারী বস্তুর আঘাতে মাগুর খুবির হাত ভেঙে ভেঙে তুকে গেছে। এটি মস্তিষ্কের ওপর প্রচণ্ডভাবে চাপ সৃষ্টি করেছে। ভেতরে রক্তক্ষরণ হয়েছে। তাঁর বাবার অবস্থা স্থিতিশীল। ৩১তম বিসিএসের কর্মকর্তা ওয়াহিদার স্বামী এরপন পৃষ্ঠা ৪ কলাম ৩

Injured UNO Wahida Khanam.Photo: Prothom Alo

On September 3, 2020, an Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) was hacked and seriously injured in Ghoraghat Upazila of Dinajpur district. The injured was identified as Wahida Khanam, the daughter of Omar Ali in Natore district and his father-in-law's house in Naogaon district. Miscreants entered her official residence at night and hacked and injured her along with her father Omar Ali.¹⁶⁶

October 21, 2020, a member of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) was shot dead by unknown miscreant in Babupara area under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. The deceased Ratan



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Chakma alias Ratna (22), the son of Andha Lal Chakma of Hirechar village, was the organizing secretary of PCP's Kachalong Govt College unit. Police said that Ratna was having tea at a stall in Babupara area when criminals on a motorcycle arrived at the scene and fired shots at him.¹⁶⁷

On November 27, 2020, a ward-level leader of Swechhasebak League was beaten and hacked to death in Barura upazila of Cumilla district. The victim Jahirul Islam, 36, son of Abdul Malek of Jinsar village, was the general secretary of ward-5 Swechhasebak League under Barura municipality. He took part in arbitration between two groups of people in Jibonpur Hashem market area.¹⁶⁸

- 157 <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/assault#:~:text=noun,onslaught%3A%20an%20assault%20on%20tradition.&text=an%20unlawful%20physical%20attack%20upon,club%20in%20a%20threatening%20manner.>
- 158 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207740/UP-member-stabbed-dead-in-Jhenaidah>
- 159 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/278609/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>
- 160 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=217303&cat=9/-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE>
- 161 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/105308/two-updf-men-shot-dead-in-khagrachhari>
- 162 <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/200523577/%E0%A6%86>
- 163 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/315880/%E0%A6%AC>
- 164 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200730158/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81>
- 165 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/journo-stabbed-rajshahi-1941513>
- 166 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/%E0%A6%98%E0%A7%8B>
- 167 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/pcp-man-shot-dead-rangamati-1981513>
- 168 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/swechhasebak-league-leader-beaten-death-2001741>



Political Violence



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Political violence has become a permanent feature in the political landscape since the revival of the parliamentary system in 1991. At present, all major political parties have their own-armed cadres whose prime responsibility is to strengthen their 'political base' and to counter the cadres of rival group. As a result, politics has become increasingly dependent on muscle power.

A new breed of 'politicians' with money and armed support is increasingly replacing old-fashioned politicians. Political violence emerges from a deep-rooted political culture of intolerance, antagonism, revenge and arrogance.¹⁶⁹ The main causes of political violence are underlying differences and rifts along the lines of ideological, political, religious and institutional dimensions. Political violence results in distrust, institutionalisation of violence as a legitimate means of political expression and socialisation of violence-politics for the new generation of party loyalists. Due to limited space for opposition parties, now political violence are mostly intra-factional clashes of ruling party over the issues of supremacy, tender and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land etc.

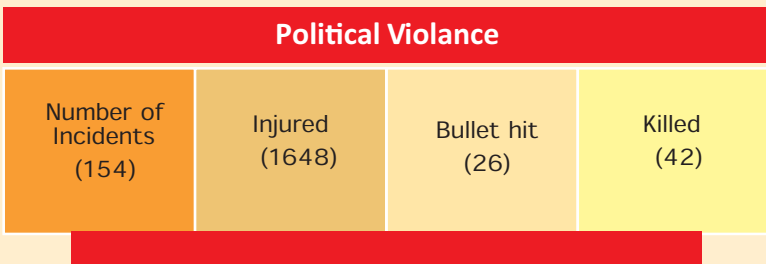


Figure-26 : Statistics of Political Violence

Figure presented above explains the situation of political violence in Bangladesh from January to December'20. According to HRSS, a total of 42 people were killed, 26 bullet hit, and almost 1648 people were injured due to clash over political interests in a total of 154 incidents. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.



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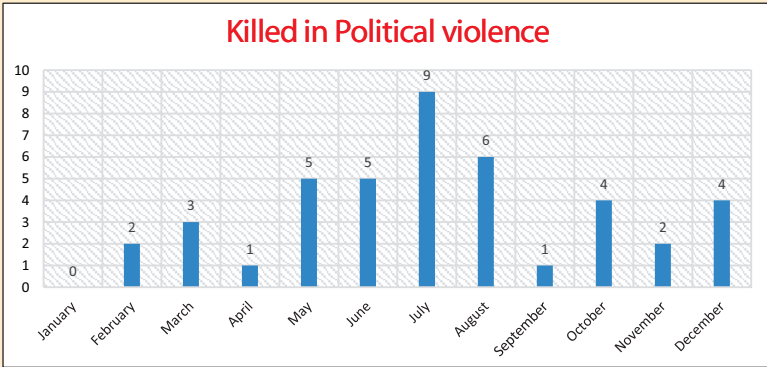


Figure-27 : Monthly Comparison of Killing from January to December'20

Selected cases are as follows

On January 22, 2020, BCL handed over four students to the police through the hall administration after beating them with stamps and rods on suspicion of being involved in the politics of Chhatra Shibir from Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall of Dhaka University. The victims were identified as Sanwar Hossain, a third-year student of the political science department, Md Mukim Chowdhury, a second-year student of the tourism and hospitality management department, Minhaj Uddin, a student of the Islamic History and Culture Department of the same year and Afsar Uddin, a student of Arabic Department of the university. The 12 student organizations alliance led by Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) vice-president (VP) Nurul Haque has called for a demonstration on campus to protest the incident.¹⁷⁰

On January 26, 2020, at least 15 people, including two journalists were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP mayor candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation and those of an Awami League-backed councillor candidate during campaigning in the capital's Wari. Among the injured at least 10 people took



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first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. BNP's DSCC mayor candidate Ishraque Hossain blamed the ruling party activists for the incident and said that the attack was made to ruin the election atmosphere. But AL supporters alleged that their rivals were chanting provocative slogans against them, leading to the clash.¹⁷¹

On January 30, 2020, at least 8 supporters, including a central leader of BNP were injured by opponent attack during election campaigning in the capital's Tezgaon bus stand area. Among the injured, BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, were admitted to Islami Bank central hospital. Besides, Golam Sarwar, Saiful Islam Firoz, Morshed Alam of Swechhasebak Dal, Raju Ahmed of Chhatra Dal and several others were slightly injured.¹⁷²



Injured BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

On March 5, 2020, at least 20 people were injured when two groups of Chittagong University's Bangladesh Chhatra League unit clashed over establishing supremacy at AF Rahman Hall. The fight had begun between Md Abdullah, member of "Bijoy



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group” a BCL faction comprised allegedly of followers of Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, and Arman member of “Concord group” a faction comprised allegedly of followers of Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, at the Alaol Hall over sharing room no. 238. Police and witnesses said the dormitory and its adjacent area had turned into “a battleground” during the clash and many rooms were vandalised and valuables looted.¹⁷³

On May 11, 2020, two Awami League activists were killed and three others injured in an attack by members of a rival group of the ruling party in Jhenaidah’s Shailakupa upazila. The dead were identified as Obhi Hossain, 25, and his cousin Laltu Hossain, 45, from Dhuliapara village in the same upazila. Locals said there was a long-standing rivalry between two groups of local AL men, led by Mokbul Muhuri and Abdur Rashid Khan, in Dhuliapara village over establishing supremacy.¹⁷⁴

On June 15, 2020, a former Bangladesh Chhatra League leader was stabbed to death by the rival group of BCL over long-standing enmity at Handial area of Chatmohar upazila in Pabna. The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman Habib, 21, son



Killed Habibur Rahman Habib.



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of Abdur Razzak, of village Handial Nikeripara of Chatmohar upazila, and also the former Organizing secretary of Handial union unit of BCL, Chairman of Handial union Parishad Md Jakir Hossain said that Habib had long-standing enmity with Russel Ahmed, secretary of the union unit of BCL, over establishing supremacy in the area that might be the reason behind the murder.¹⁷⁵

On July 08, 2020, Clashes broke out between government party leaders BCL and Juba League activists on SS Road in Sirajganj district town. At least 20 people, including Ekramul Haque Ekram, general secretary of the district Juba League, were injured in the clash. Due to internal quarrels within the party, Enamul Haque Bijay, president of Kamarkhand Haji Korap Ali Government Degree College BCL and general secretary of district BCL, was beaten to death in a hospital in Dhaka on Sunday, 9 days after he was attacked. The city of Sirajganj has suddenly become heated due to the death of Haque Bijay.¹⁷⁶



Killed two Juba & Swechhasebak legue leaders Rakib Uddin Rumon and Riyad Hossain Isbat. Photo: Ittefaq



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On August 3, 2020, two Juba League leaders were killed in a clash between two factions of Keshabpur Union Awami League at Baufal upazila in Patuakhali. The incident took place at Keshabpur Bazar in Keshabpur Union of the upazila in the evening. The deceased are Rakib Uddin Rumon, 33, vice-president of Keshabpur Union unit Juba League, and Riyad Hossain Ishat, 24, an activist of the union unit Swechchhasebak League.¹⁷⁷

On October 13, 2020, a man and a woman were killed by a spear in Shailkupa during a week-long domination of two groups of the Awami League. The deceased Sufia Khatun (55) was the wife of Jalal Uddin of Bhatbaria village. On the other hand, Mokhlesur Rahman alias Pilot (50) was the son of the late Ansar Khandaker of Vrittipara village. The clash took place between Awami League-backed chairman Mahamudul Hasan Mamun and Awami League leader Zulfiqar Kaiser Tipu's group.¹⁷⁸



Injured Juba league Activist Abu Kalam. Photo: Janakantha

On 12 November 2020, at the 48th founding anniversary conference of the Bangladesh Awami Juba League in Mirsarai, Chittagong, a clash took place between two groups of the local Juba League over the slogans of the two parties. The injured - Upazila Chhatra League former convener Mainur Islam rana, Juba League activists Shakil, Miya Khan, Nuruschapa, Hridoy, Emon, Noman, Amjad and Abul Kalam.¹⁷⁹



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On December 16, 2020 at least 10 leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal were injured as Awami League's student organisation. Bangladesh Chhatra League allegedly attacked them in Feni. The attack took place over placing wreaths at the monument, in memory of the Liberation War martyrs, in front of Phulgazi Upazila Complex marking the 50th Victory Day.¹⁸⁰

- 169 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/097152310801600106>
- 170 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1635676/%E0%A6%A2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF>
- 171 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/al-bnp-men-clash-during-campaign-1859554>
- 172 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/476629/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D>
- 173 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/20-injured-cu-bcl-factions-clash-1876834>
- 174 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/two-al-men-killed-infighting-1901776>
- 175 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108464/bcl-leader-stabbed-dead-by-rivals-in-pabna>
- 176 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200729635/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE>
- 177 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/171901/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE>
- 178 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=246500&cat=9>
- 179 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/536018/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82>
- 180 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/124477/10-chhatra-juba-dal-activists-injured-in-phulgazi-bcl-attack>



Abduction



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According to section 362 of the Penal Code, 1860, a person is said to commit the offense of abduction when he by force compels or by any deceitful means induces any other person to go from one place to another. Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.¹⁸¹ Nowadays, abduction, kidnapping, and killing after abduction are common occurrences in Bangladesh. Moreover, the number of abduction has increased in our country but no strong policies have ever been formulated to address this inhumane practice.¹⁸² Nobody can confidently predict his safe return after leaving his residence. HRSS report demonstrates that occurrences of abductions have increased all over the country during the year of 2020. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

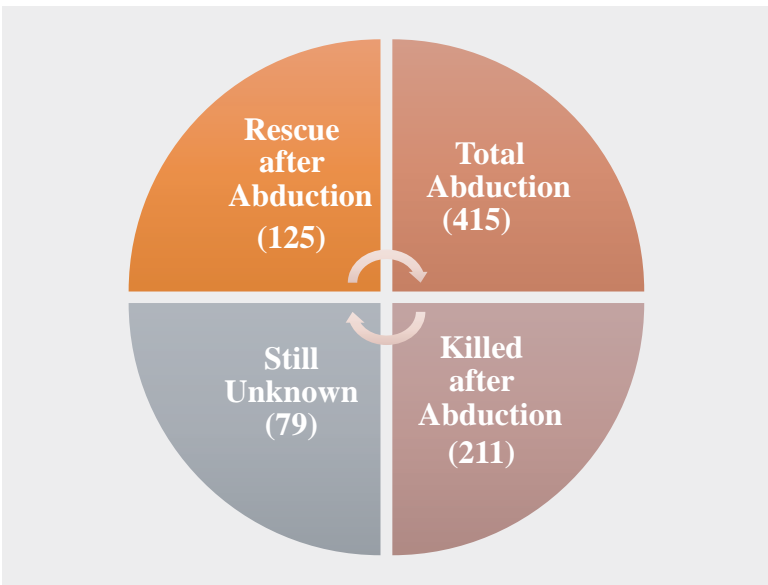


Figure-28 : Statistics of Abduction between January and December '20



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

The above chart describes information about abduction cases between January and December'20 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total of 415 people were abducted and among them 211 killed after the abduction, 79 still unknown and nearly 125 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

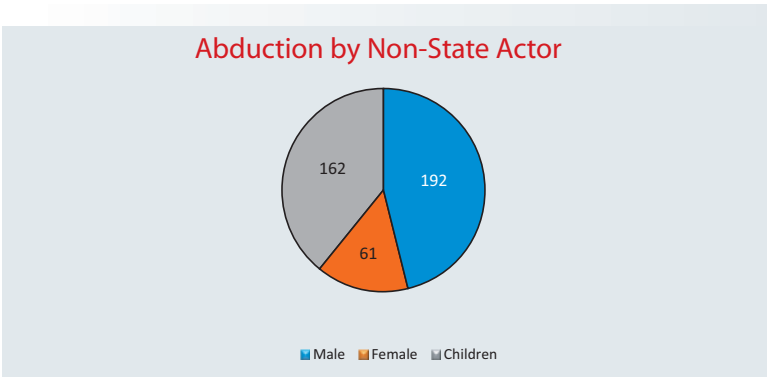


Figure-29 : Categories of abduction

The above pie chart illustrates information about abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from January to December'20, a total of 415 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 192 male, roughly 61 female and almost 162 were children.

Selected cases are as follows

On January 15, 2020, a lawyer of Suprem Court had gone missing from Capital's Rampura area. The victim was identified as Shahidul Haque, Lawyer of Suprem court. The victim's wife Fatema Begum, filed General Diary (GD) with Khilgaon Police station and told that her husband left the house at around 1.15 pm on 14 January. Later he withdrew money from Rampura Banasree Pubali Bank and proceeded to the Judge's Court. After that, he did not return home.¹⁸³



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On February 19, 2020, an armed gang abducted a union parishad (UP) member from his house in Rangamati's Kaptai upazila. The victim is Mong Ching Marma, 45, a member of ward no 5 under Raikhali union and also a former activist of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS). Mong's wife Sama U Marma said a group of 10 to 12 armed men entered their house by breaking open the door and picked up her husband.¹⁸⁴

On February 26, 2020, a teenager girl remained missing for 6 days in Shyllet district. The victim was identified as Akhi Akter; daughter of Sumi Akter, in Jhalopara school road of south Surma. The missing girl's mother filed General Diary (GD) with South Surma police station in this regard. She also said, I received a call from a unknown number. After that, I contacted the number again and again but it was switch off.¹⁸⁵



The missing girl
Akhi Akter

On March 13, 2020, a couple was wandering in search of their missing boy in the streets of Sylhet city. The victim was identified as Saiful Islam Musa, 12, son of Anser Ali and Shipa Begum in Gobindra Nagor village of Chatok Upazila. The boy went missing on March 6, 2020, on the way to Islami Institute of Chatok Upazila's Tazpur village. The victim father filed a General Dairy in this regard.¹⁸⁶



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The missing DU student
Saiful Islam.
Photo: Jugantor

On March 30, 2020, a student of Dhaka University had gone missing after coming home on Corona pandemic's holiday from his village in Manikgang. The victim was identified as Saiful Isalm, 26, son of Tahazuddin and student of Social Science dept: of DU. The victim causin Ahidul Isalm said, "Saiful found missing from his house suddenly on 27th March around 10.00 pm after that his phone found switch off".¹⁸⁷

On May 9, 2020, a child was killed after being abducted, due to refusal of paying TK 3 lakh ransom in sadar Upazila of Gazipur



Sarmin Sultana was
killed for TK 3 lakh
ransom.



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district. The deceased child was identified as Sarmin Sultana, 6, daughter of Jahangir Alom, a resident of Nalgaw area of Kapasia Upazila. Police arrested two youths named Mahbub and Rabbi in this incident.¹⁸⁸

On June 4, 2020, police recovered dead body of a HSC examinee, who was killed for demanding TK 50 lakh ransom, from a Purakhali canal of Ovainagor Upazila in Jashore. The deceased was identified as Nuruzzaman babu, 20, son of Imran Gazi, a resident of Purakhali village and HSC student of Dhopadi SS College in the Upazila. The deceased father lodged a GD with Ovainagor police station in this regard.¹⁸⁹

On 21 July, 2020, Police recovered the body of an Expatriate four days after he went missing from Ichhamati River in Chowkibari area of Atgharia upazila in Pabna. The deceased was identified as Abdul Khaleq (47), son of Shamsuddin Khan of Balrampur village under Pabna Sadar upazila. The dead's family complained that Khaleq's first divorced wife Umme kulsum Beena and her current husband Md. Shahidul Islam Asif killed or disappeared by calling Khaleq as planned.¹⁹⁰

On 16 August 16, 2020, police recovered the body of a businessman with packed four days after missing from the Mulgram canal adjacent to the Kaliganga River in Pirojpur. The deceased was identified as Mozaffar Sheikh, son of late Mohammad Lal Mia Sheikh of Purba Yugia village under Malikhali union of Nazirpur upazila. The daughter of deceased Mozaffar Sheikh alleged that her father had a dispute with two people over land. His father was abducted and dumped his body in the river.¹⁹¹

On September 10, 2020, police rescued a nine years old girl ten days after her abduction from Narayanganj. The missing girl was identified as Zinia, who used to sell flowers and lives with her mother and two siblings in Dhaka University's TSC area, was



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abducted on September 1. The police arrested a woman named Nur Nazma Akhter Alias Lupa Talukder (42) on charges of abducting Zinia. Her Facebook profile mentions that she is the managing director of Agnee TV, the general secretary of Bangladesh Awami Peshajibi League, and former student affairs secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League. According to the police, Lupa has links to child traffickers.¹⁹²



Killed Helal Uddin.

On November 19, 2020, the skeleton of a youth was recovered by digging soil in Nurpur village of Bagan union in Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong. The dead Helal Uddin (45), father of Mujibur Rahman Talukder, Gao Union of Matlab upazila in Chadpur, went missing a year ago on November 23, 2019. Kaniz Fatema Pinki, the second wife of the victim, filed a kidnapping case. Police arrested Belal and Raja, on connection of the case. Their home is in Lalmai village of that union.¹⁹³



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On December 11, 2020, police recovered the decomposed body of a seven-year-old boy from a kitchen of his neighbor nine days after he went missing in Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila. The deceased identified as Zisan Sheikh (7) lived at Jampur Moshirtek area of the upazila with his family. Zisan's father Iliash Sheikh filed a case accusing neighbor Rasheda Begum, (35) her daughter Swapna, (18) and 15-year-old son.¹⁹⁴

- 181 <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction>
- 182 https://www.academia.edu/32028842/Abduction_in_Bangladesh_.docx
- 183 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1634560/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81>
- 184 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/rangamati-member-abducted-1870369>
- 183 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1634560/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81>
- 184 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/rangamati-member-abducted-1870369>
- 185 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=214688&cat=9>
- 186 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/288719/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>
- 187 <https://www.jugantor.com/covid-19/294114/%E0%A6%95>
- 188 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/305647/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81>
- 189 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/502559/%E0%A6%AF>
- 190 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/328125/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>
- 191 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1674869/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF>
- 192 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/zinia-abduction-du-lupa-woman-many-avatars-1958649>
- 193 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/537678/%E0%A6%AB>
- 194 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/12/11/child-found-dead-9-days-after-missing-in-narayanganj>





Public Lynching

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Lynching and mob violence have continued in different parts of the country causing serious concerns over the violation of rights and posing a threat to the overall law and order situation.¹⁹⁵ Public lynchings have become a national epidemic in Bangladesh due to the habitually impatient and over enthusiastic character of its citizens. The term is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a group. In Bangladesh; a lot of people are being killed in different places in public lynching due to lack of respect for law and mistrust of the security forces. People are taking law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. Consequently, incidents of public lynching have increased at an alarming rate in Bangladesh. HRSS believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

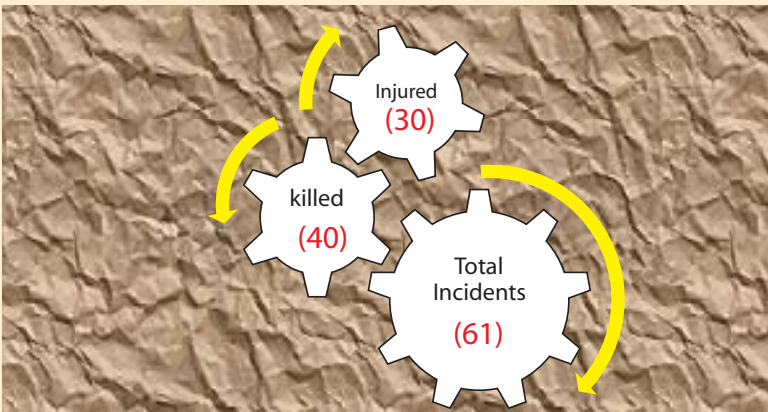


Figure-30 : Statistics of Public Lynching from January to December '20

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from January to December 2020. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 30 people were injured and nearly 40 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 61 incidents.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

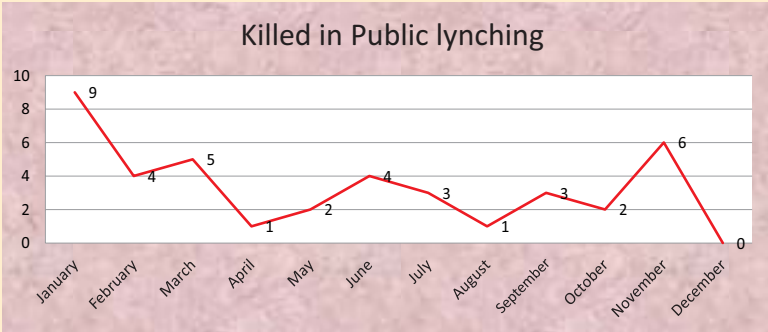


Figure-31 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching

Some important cases are given below

On January 12, 2020, three men were beaten to death by a mob over a suspicion of trying to steal cattle in Prembagh village in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore. Police, unable to identify the victims immediately, said the three were aged between 35 to 45 years. Police and locals, said some people attempted to steal three cows from the house of one Khorshed Ali in Gaidgachhi village of the upazila around 4:00 am when the owner came to see them. After announcing from the mosque the mob chased them and managed to seize them near Mazumdarpara Rail Crossing. Two men were beaten to death on the spot and the other one died on the way to a hospital.¹⁹⁶

On February 12, 2020, two robbers were killed and the other one injured by mob beating on Charge of killing an expatriate youth in Sapergara area of Pakua upazila under Cox's Bazar district. The deceased were identified as Jamal Uddin, 30, son of Alamgir Prokas Nagu Mia, Kawser, 28, son of Najim Uddin Prokas Ledu Mia, both of the residents of Shapergara area in the upazila and the injured Nasir Uddin, 25, son of Nurul Islam, of Barbakia union's Paharia area.¹⁹⁷

On March 3, 2020, locals handed over a Mawlana (religious scholar) to police after giving him good beating on charge of



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breaking down two arms of his wife for dowry at Modhochar Baruitari village in Bhurungomary upazila of Kurigram. The accused was identified as Mawlana A H M Sowaib Hossain Siddique, son of Abdul Hai Mia, of Modhochar Baruitari village in the upazila.¹⁹⁸

On May 7, 2020, a local Awami League leader was beaten to death by some youths following an altercation reportedly over irregularities in relief distribution at Garduara in Hathazari Upazila of Chattogram. The deceased was identified as Bakhtiar Shikder, 48, general secretary of Garduara union unit Awami League and son of Manir Ahmed of the upazila.²⁰⁰

On June 8, 2020, a college student was lynched by a mob shortly after he stabbed a youth to death at village Bajua of Dacope in Khulna. The dead are Nilotpall Raptan, 28, son of Sukumar Raptan and the lynched one is Emran Hossain Emon, 19, son of Badol Sheikh. Both are residents of the village. The police source said Nilotpall and Emran locked in an altercation over grazing a cow and, as a sequel, Emon stormed into Nilotpall's home and stabbed Nilotpall in his belly repeatedly, leaving him to spot dead. Locals caught Emran while he had been fleeing the scene and began beating him later he succumbed at Dacope Upazila Health Complex.²⁰¹



**A UP member
was lynched by
local people.
Photo: Manob
Zamin**



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

On July 2, 2020, locals handed over a UP member to the police for allegedly engaging in anti-social activities with an expatriate wife at Shalia village of Sadar upazila in Jhenaidah. The accused Kabir Hossain was a UP member of the village. The expatriate's wife Rexona claimed that the UP member was taken outside and brought into her house and the evil of anti-social work was spread.²⁰²

On August 16, 2020, Locals handed over a headmaster to the police for allegedly harassing two schoolgirls at Suapur Mylesium Kindergarten High School in Dhamrai, Dhaka. The detained was identified as Shariful Islam of Boalmari upazila under Faridpur district. According to the locals, the two students were offered various anti-social offers and were harassed for passing the exam.²⁰³

On September 15, 2020, a police constable was arrested and beaten by the locals while raping a schoolgirl in Dighinala, Khagrachhari district. The arrestee was identified as Nazmul Hasan in Gopalnagar village under Debidwar upazila in Comilla. He was working at Bhairfa Ataltila police camp in Dighinala upazila. The victim is a student of class six at local school.²⁰⁴



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On October 29, 2020, an unidentified man was burnt alive allegedly for dishonoring the Quran near Burimari union parishad under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district. The victim was unidentified man, 42, who was caught and kept in the Burimari union parishad building for his alleged derogatory comments on Islam. The mob then set the man afire and leading to his death.²⁰⁵

On November 26, 2020, an angry mob beat two escaping robbers to death in Shibpur upazila under Narsingdi district. The dead were identified as Sohel Mia (30), a resident of Kamalpur village at Kuliarchar upazila in Kishoreganj. The identity of the other deceased couldn't be confirmed. The villagers beat up the three, leaving two of the dead on the spot and the other badly injured.²⁰⁶



Ishak Ali and JasimUddin were lynched in suspect of thief.
Photo: Ittefaq



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

On December 16, 2020, two youths were allegedly tortured overnight in a medieval manner on suspicion of being thieves in Tanore, Rajshahi. The victims are Firoz Kabir, 24, son of Ishak Ali of Mohar village in the upazila and the other Jasim Uddin, 28, son of Amjad Ali of the same village. The victim's father, Ishak Ali, alleged that 11 people, including Mamunur Rashid Mamun, a member of the 7th ward of the local Taland Union Parishad, and Abdur Rahim, son of the late Belal Hossain of Debipur village, were tied up and tortured overnight.²⁰⁷

- 195 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/121110/lynching-mob-violence-continues-in-bangladesh>
- 196 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207883/Three-lynched-on-suspicion-of-stealing-cattle>
- 197 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/277620/%E0%A6%95>
- 198 <https://www.jugantor.com/countrynews/284852/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%B0>
- 199 <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/second-edition/292079/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8B>
- 200 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=255921>
- 201 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108028/youth-lynched-after-killing-another-in-khulna>
- 202 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=233663&cat=9>
- 203 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200833834/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%81>
- 204 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/345054/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE>
- 205 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/120308/man-burnt-alive-for-dishonouring-quran>
- 206 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/mob-beats-2-robbers-dead-narsingdi-2001049>
- 207 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/206988/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87>



Recovery of Dead Body



Article 3 of the Universal declaration of human Rights declares that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”.²⁰⁸ Nevertheless, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, unidentified dead bodies are found at different places of the country. Sadly, most of the perpetrators of these incidents are not identified. On the other hand, sometimes the identification of dead bodies is not found.

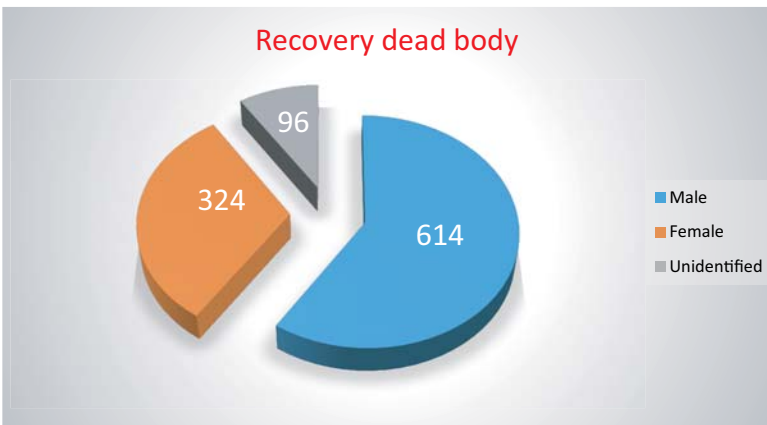


Figure-32 : Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body

The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from January to December’20, a total of 1034 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 614 bodies were male and 324 bodies were female and 96 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows

On January 06, 2020, police recovered dead body of a university student from bamboo bush of Halsha union’s Nabinkrisnapur village in Natore sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Kamrul Islam, 23, son of Afaz Uddin, in the upazila. He was also



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

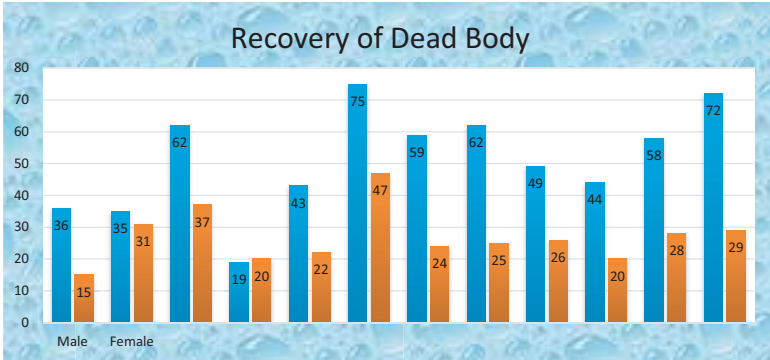


Figure-33 : Monthly Statistics of the Number of Dead Bodies Found from January to December '20

student of a private university of Natore name Rajshahi Science and Technology. Kamrul's father Afaz Uddin, said his son Kamrul had a love affair with a neighboring college student. He may have been killed because of this relationship.²⁰⁹

On February 07, 2020, police recovered the hanging body of a policewoman from a rented house in Uttara Police Lines area of Mymensingh. The deceased is constable Sweety Akher, 22 wife of Constable Hafizur Rahman and a resident of Mohonganj upazila of Netrakana. She was attached to Mymensingh police lines. The police source said she may be suicide because of family feud.²¹⁰

On March 3, 2020, police recovered the body of a young woman from Hotel Holiday Inn of Kuakata in Patuakhali. The deceased was identified as Eshita Begum, 18, wife of Razzak, of Keshabpur in Jashore. Quoting sources at Hotel Holiday Inn, police said that Eshita came to Kuakata with her husband on February 29. On Monday afternoon, Razzak went out of the hotel locking the room. The hotel workers knocked at the door but did not get any response and informed the police.²¹¹



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

On April 23, 2020, police recovered throat-slit bodies of four members of a family from their home in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. The victims are Fatema Begum, 40; her daughters Noora, 16, and Irin, 11; and son Fasil, 7; of Abdar area. Fatema's husband Kajal Miah is an expatriate in Malaysia. She used to live at the house for around 20 years, said Arif, Fatema's brother-in-law.²¹²

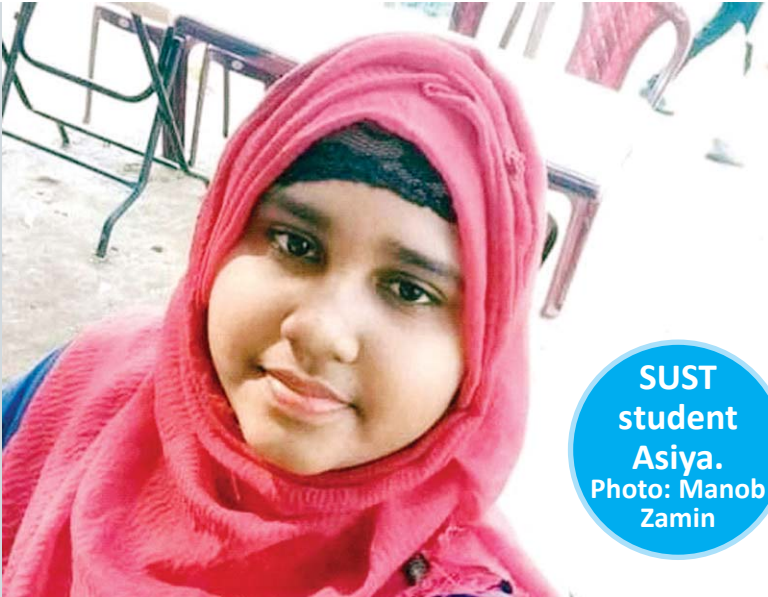
On May 16, 2020, police recovered the bodies of a couple and their one and a half year old daughter from their house in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur. The deceased are Hafizul Islam (30), his wife Fatema Begum (25) and their daughter Humaira of Balapara village. Afzalul Haque Raju, chairman of Borobil Union Parishad, said Fatema and her daughter were found with wounds on their throats on a bed, while Hafizul's body was found hanging from the ceiling inside their house.²¹³

On August 6, 2020, Police recovered the body of a doctor from his rented house in South Dariyarpur mahalla of Savar municipal area. The deceased was identified as Samuel Folia (30), the son of Badal Folia of Missionpara village in Chandpur district. Folia was a doctor of cancer and worked as an assistant registrar in the oncology department of Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar. Initially it was thought that he might have committed suicide due to a family quarrel.²¹⁴

On October 1, 2020, the body of a university student was found strangled in Bogra district. The deceased Asiya, a first-year student of Bangla Department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), was the daughter of Jalal Uddin of Mathura village of Sadar Police Station. According to her family, Asiya Akhter committed suicide by posting on Facebook on Wednesday night.²¹⁵



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



SUST
student
Asiya.
Photo: Manob
Zamin

On November 4, 2020, the police recovered the body of a policeman from the side of his house in North Jamsing Mahalla of Savar Municipal Area. The deceased was identified as Barkat Ullah (33), a constable of Khagrachhari police line. Neighbors found the body of policeman Barkat Ullah hanging from a mango tree by his house.²¹⁶

On December 06, 2020, the body of a madrasha student was recovered from an abandoned place next to the Alhaj Rahmatia Smriti Shishu Sanad Hafezi and Qawmi in Morelganj of Bagerhat district. The deceased was identified as Hasibul Sheikh, 10, son of Abdus Sobahan alias Kala Sheikh, a resident of Barikhali in Ward 2 of the municipality. The dead was a Student of Najera department of Shishu Sadan the madrasha. According to the police, the baby was thought to have been killed deliberately.²¹⁷



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



Late
Hasibul
Sheikh's
relatives are
mourning.
Photo: Ittefaq

- 208 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
209 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1632914/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81>
210 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1638646/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>
211 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/1012152-young-women-found-dead>
212 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/4-family-found-dead-home-1896235>
213 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/3-family-found-dead-rangpur-1903126>
214 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=237933&cat=9/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE>
215 <https://www.samakal.com/bangladesh/article/201038745/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%83>
216 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=249404&cat=9>
217 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/204451/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6>





Inhuman
Torture by Law
enforcement
Agencies

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

Torture and criminal misconduct of members of the law enforcement agencies have taken an endemic turn and it has become institutionalised in Bangladesh.²¹⁸ The law enforcing agencies are mainly responsible for maintaining the law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens and prevention and detection of crime to establish rule of law in a state. However, HRSS report shows inhuman torture by the law enforcing agencies in Bangladesh has been increasing severely for the last few years. Despite it having ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture in 1998, Bangladesh has a dismal record, with torture a common practice that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable members of society.²¹⁹ Violating all rules and regulations, security forces use torture to spread fear and silence dissent, to coerce confessions and extract bribes, while sparing none. Indiscriminate beatings, pouring boiling hot water, removing nails of the victims, subjecting them to electric shocks and crippling them forever through shooting are some of the commonest forms of torture by law enforcement agencies.

However, to restore the faith of public in the law enforcement agencies, strict steps must be taken to ensure that members of the law enforcement agencies do not go unpunished for commission of such ghastly crimes. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh, documented by HRSS, over the period of 2020 is detailed below:

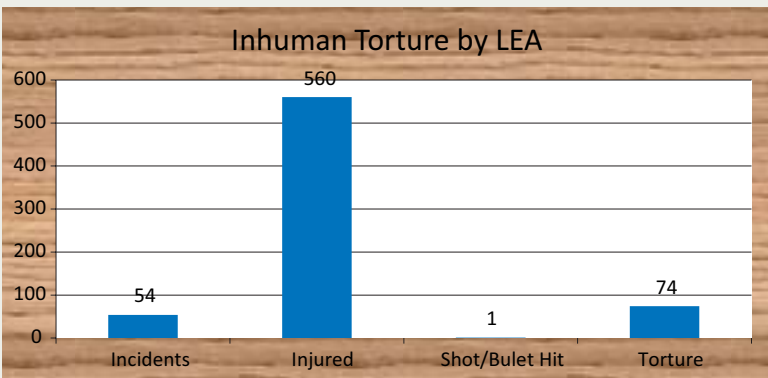


Figure-34 : Statistic of Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

The above column graph shows the frightful scenerio of people facing due to impunity of Law Enforcement Agencies. According to HRSS, 560 were injured, 01 bullet hit and 74 tortured in a total of 54 incidents in 2020.

Selected cases are stated below

On January 26, 2020, a stone worker was killed and another 20 people including 8 police members injured in a clash between law enforcement agencies and stone workers over stone extraction at Bhozonpur area in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh. The deceased was identified as Zumer Uddin, 60, in the upazila.²²⁰



ASP Jotirmoy Shaha Apu and injured businessman.
Photo: Jugantor

On March 14, 2020, it was accused of picking up a businessman from his business establishment and beaten him up allegedly by a member of police, being failed to buy a land of his choice in Polash upazila of Narsingdi district. The victim was identified as Morshad Ahmed, 40, cloth businessman in the upazila and the accused Jotirmoy Shaha Apu, was a aditional police super of Mohammadpur Zone.²²¹



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



Injured Manik.

On March 28, 2020, it was accused of beating up reportedly a union Chhatra league leader not covering his face with mask, against a In-charge, assistant In-charge and some Constable of Sheikhhati police outpost in Norail. The victim was identified as Manik, former president of Sheikhhati union's Chhatra league. The accused are In-charge, SI Anamul, assistant In-charge, ASI Alamgir and some Constables of Sheikhhati police outpost. Monirul Islam Sardar, president of the Sheikhhati Market Committee, said six to seven policemen beat Manik for about an hour for not wearing a mask. We, the people of the market committee, requested the police but they did not listen to us.²²²

On May 7, 2020, at least 12 people were injured in clashes between police and readymade garment workers who demonstrated for reopening of their factory, arrears, and full wages instead of 65 percent of the basic, blocking the busy Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Tangail highways for hours in Gazipur. Police said that the workers of Bando Fashions Ltd and Green Sweater Ltd in Signboard area and ABA Fashions Ltd in Gachha area, Mohammadia Fashion and Style Craft of Lokhipura, among others, took to the streets. The clash ensued when police tried to disperse them. Witnesses said that the



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

police fired teargas shells, rubber bullets and charged baton while workers also pelted stones at the police turning the area into a battlefield.²²³



Policemen charge truncheons on women garment workers who blockaded the Dhaka-Mawa highway demanding arrears on May 21, 2020. Photo: Daily Star

On June 16, 2020, three police officers and a constable had been withdrawn and attached to Jashore police line because of torturing a college student in Jashore sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Imran Hossain, 23, son of Nesar Ali, of Shahbazpur village in the upazila. The withdrawn are SI Anichur Rahman, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sajdar Rahman and Sumresh Kumar Saha, and Constable Md. Faruk Hossain.²²⁴

On July 3, 2020, a clash between suspected Covid-19 patients and the Ansar broke out on Friday morning over the serial sequence of sample collection at Mugda General Hospital in Dhaka. The victim Rubel Rashid, a photo journalist, said that the accused Ansar members attacked a and broke his camera as he was trying to take pictures of the incident. Another photo



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

journalist Jayita Roy from Bangladesh Protidin also went to take pictures of the incident but she had to run away from the place when Ansar members tried to slap her on the face.²²⁵

On July 26, 2020, workers in two separate garment factories blocked highways and vandalized vehicles, demanding payment of advance salaries and Eid bonuses and an increase in Eid holidays in Gazipur. At least six industrial policemen, including an ASP inspector, were injured in clashes with agitated workers. Besides in Tongi; garment workers blocked the procession and road demanding the same. At that time, the area became a battle field due to clashes with the police. Eight policemen, including an ASP, and more than 50 workers were injured.²²⁶

On August 27, 2020, a female college student lodged a case against four cops, including Ukhiya Police Station OC Morzina Akhtar, on charges of torturing her inside the police station over her relationship with a police constable. According to the case statement, the 22-year-old student from Maheshkhali upazila



Police protested Black Flag procession and injured some student Union activists.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



was in a relationship with constable Sumon who denied her to marry. The other accused in the case are Inspector ABM Nurul Islam, Assistant Sub-inspector Md Shamim and constable Sumon, all from Ukhiya Police Station. According to the plaintiff, she had taken the legal steps as she was tortured by the police personnel. Then she wanted justice.²²⁷

On October 8, 2020, police blocked a black flag procession in front of the Prime Minister's Office demanding a trial for rape. Activists of various progressive organizations also joined the program. In the meantime, police batons protesters. Several leaders and activists of the student union were injured in the police beating.²²⁸

On November 28, 2020, Police charged baton on mosque-goers and madrasah students near Shantinagarin capital to disperse them as they joined a rally after a procession from Baitul Mukarram National Mosque protesting against erecting sculptures. The police detained 20 protesters from the spot. Mamunul, a joint-secretary general of Hefazat, has been opposing the plan to erect sculptures of the country's founding



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020



**Police charge baton on protesters against sculpture.
Photo: Daily Star**

president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which sparked widespread criticism. The ruling party leaders and activists of different progressive organizations condemned the remarks.²²⁹

On December 4, 2020, the police charged baton on protesters who brought out a procession protesting at erection of sculptures, and ‘harassment’ of Hefazat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque and Islami Andolan Bangladesh leader Syed Faizul Karim.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

They also picked up at least two protesters from the spot while one sustained injury while fleeing from the procession. The protesters brought out a procession from the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after the Juma prayers. Police personnel with riot gears were also deployed at Paltan intersection, Nightingale Crossing and Dainik Bangla crossing.²³⁰

- 218 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18627/torture-by-law-enforcement-agencies-must-be-incriminated>
- 219 <https://www.omct.org/press-releases/urgent-interventions/bangladesh/2019/07/d25476/>
- 220 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1636457/%E0%A6%AA>
- 221 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/289056/%E0%A6%9C>
- 222 https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/569194?fbclid=IwAR3J3o6au_4Q_kdydTm2CokjAcODv1ankWDFY9y5oR6RbKTutuCBPbgTOUI
- 223 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/105862/12-injured-as-police-clash-with-rmg-workers>
- 224 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1663040/%E0%A6%AF>
- 225 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/07/03/the-ansar-beat-up-journalist-in-clash-over-covid-19-testing-at-mugda-hospital>
- 226 <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/517811/-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF>
- 227 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/torture-girl-ukhiya-oc-three-other-cops-sued-1951473>
- 228 <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=245643&cat=1/%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE>
- 229 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/122816/police-charge-baton-to-disperse-protesters-against-sculpture>
- 230 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/123392/police-charge-baton-on-protesters-against-sculpture>



Annual Human Rights Report 2020

At a Glance

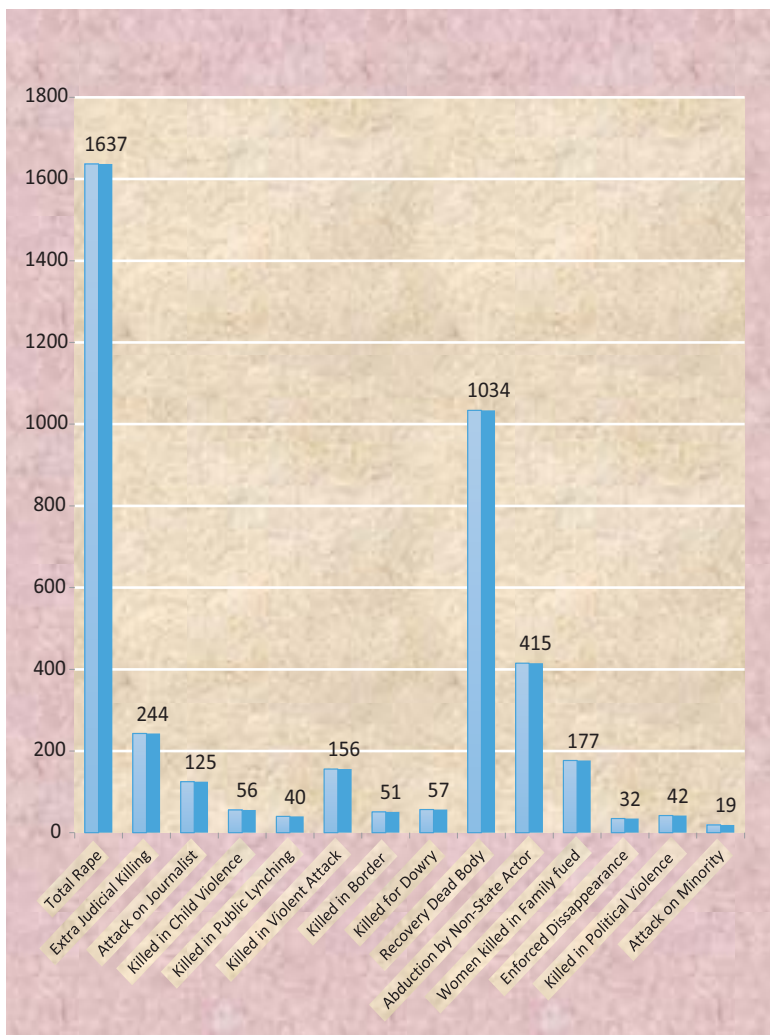


Figure-35 : Human Rights Situation of Bangladesh from January to December, 2020



Human Rights Report

Yearly Comparison

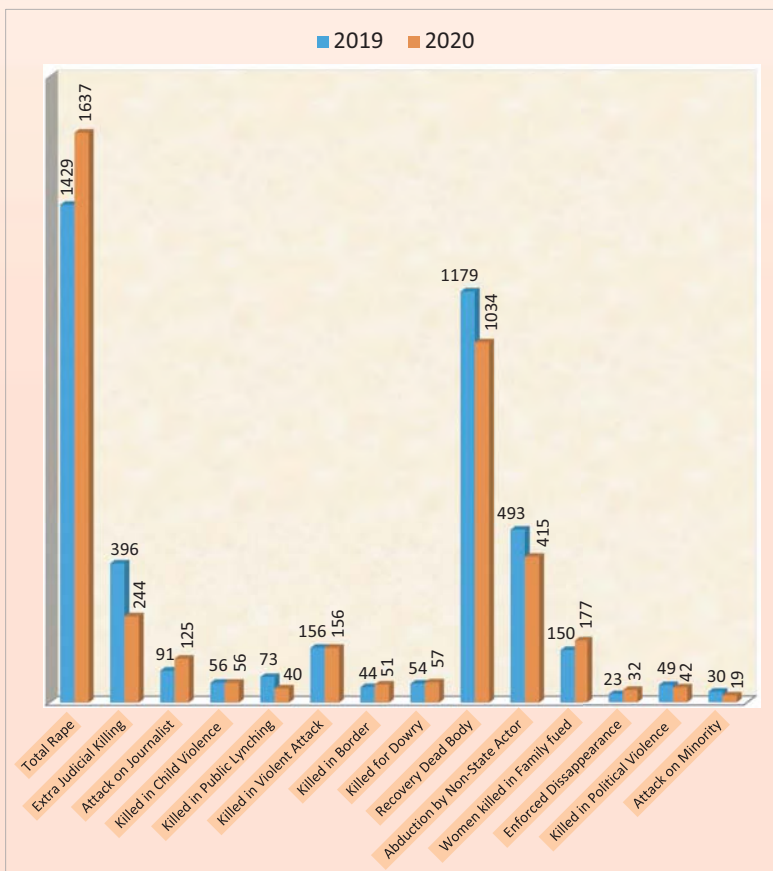


Figure 36 : Comparison between Annual Report of 2020 and 2019



CONCLUSION

Human rights are moral principles or norms that demand certain standards of human behavior which are required to be enforced through a regime of legal rights in national and international law. It also commonly understood as universal and inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being, and which are inherent in all human beings irrespective of their nation, location, language, race, sex, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. But infringement of human rights is a major concern in Bangladesh. Human rights violation has become endemic throughout the country and remedies for breaches are almost non-existent. This is because of the failure of the government authorities to show respect to the life and property of the citizens. As a result, all kinds of human rights violations and unlawful activities such as: extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, restriction on freedom of expression, assembly and association, domestic violence, rape and child abuse, border killing, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests are regularly taking place in Bangladesh.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

The existing government assumed power through uncontested and controversial general elections in 2018 which led to serious political violence. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the opposition. The rule of law has been severely compromised. Meanwhile, the government has initiated drastic and draconian measures against the leaders and activists of opposition political parties.

Consequently, a political vacuum has developed.

Meanwhile, the government has initiated drastic and draconian measures against the leaders and activists of opposition political parties. Consequently, a political vacuum has developed.

In these circumstances Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) urges upon the incumbent government to take all necessary measures to improve the current human rights situation and to ensure enforcement of the fundamental rights and basic human rights of all citizens. At the same time, we appeal to every conscious citizen, journalist, civil society,

political leaders, national and international organizations and UN agencies to play effective role to prevent human rights violation and improve the appalling situation currently prevailing in Bangladesh. Certainly, this mission is challenging but achievable. We believe relentless effort would ensure improvement of the overall human rights condition in Bangladesh. ■





Recommendations

Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data for 2020 illustrates that human rights situation is hardly at a satisfactory level in Bangladesh. Therefore, the government along with the relevant authorities should appreciate the situation and adopt appropriate measures to establish an equitable and just society. To improve the situation HRSS recommend the following highly effective procedures.

With a view to ensuring accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies, a national committee with representation from civil society, registered rights groups, professionals and journalists need to be constituted to monitor the activities of LEAs. Sub-committees at district and Upazilla level also need to be formed.

Actions should be taken to end structural and cultural violence against women from all spheres of life. Moreover, in order to ensure safety and security of women, children and members of minority communities, appropriate measures should be taken immediately by the concerned authorities. Proper environment should be ensured so that the victims can come up with appropriate complaints against the perpetrators.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2020

The Government must stop perpetration of ‘enforced disappearances’ by law enforcement agencies and bring the rogue elements within the law enforcement agencies to justice. At the same time, the state must take necessary steps to identify the victims of forced disappearance and hand them over to their families. HRSS urges the government to comply with the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by the United Nations.

All types of oppressive and abusive laws, including the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (amendment 2009 and 2013), and the Digital Security Act, 2018 must be repealed. Cases filed under these oppressive laws against everyone must be withdrawn; and all wrongfully arrested persons under these Acts must be released. The government should be respectful to the freedom of expression of all citizens. Print, Electronic and online media should be allowed to work freely even though it goes against the government.

The Judiciary and the Administrative Authorities must ensure justice to all minorities’ communities. Immediate measures should be taken to rebuild all damaged temples and places for worship that were subjected to attack and attempts should be taken to end all potential attacks on places of worships irrespective of race, sex, color, and religion.

The Bangladesh government should establish a judicial inquiry commission to look into all violations of international human rights law by the Border Security Force. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to come up with complaints and credible evidences to the lawfully constituted inquiry commission. The inquiry should be transparent and time bound. Specifically, the committee should have statutory power to ensure privacy and protection of the witnesses. ■



Annual Human Rights Statistics '20

Annexure 01

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	12	9	66	2	2	2	0	7	8	15	7	10	140
	Rape	95	93	124	58	59	98	156	150	169	243	213	179	1637
	Killed for Dowry	0	2	7	1	0	5	6	1	6	5	12	12	57
	Killed for Family Feud	0	9	25	6	28	15	19	14	0	21	19	21	177
	Acid Violence	0	0	2	0	2	3	1	4	3	3	4	2	24
Killed in Child Rights Violence		3	0	2	1	4	8	5	2	3	6	8	14	56
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	20	19	26	14	20	25	34	6	0	2	1	2	169
	Shoot to death	1	0	5	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Torture to death	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	19
	Custodial death	6	4	10	1	2	2	2	1	4	4	4	4	44
	Total	29	25	44	17	25	28	44	7	6	7	6	6	244
Abduction		33	22	60	7	21	32	34	45	41	20	45	55	415
Enforced Disappearance		5	1	3	1	1	1	5	1	2	2	10	0	32
Attack on Minority		2	1	1	0	2	1	0	3	1	3	3	2	19
Border Dispute	Killed	12	3	0	2	1	6	3	6	6	4	1	7	51
	Injured	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	4	0	2	15
	Arrested	2	5	4	0	0	1	2	0	1	4	13	0	32
Attack on Journalists	Injured	13	10	6	17	2	3	2	4	7	1	8	10	83
	Threatened	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	8	1	20
	Assaulted	1	2	0	2	6	0	1	0	2	2	3	1	20
	Arrested	0	0	1	0	8	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	17
Political Violence	Killed	0	2	3	1	5	5	9	6	1	4	2	4	42
	Injured	257	160	137	28	157	64	160	176	170	122	60	157	1648
Violent Attack	Killed	15	17	13	14	13	20	18	6	9	3	12	16	156
	Injured	2	12	1	2	1	7	1	5	5	15	6	6	63
Killed in Public Lynching		9	4	5	1	2	4	3	1	3	2	6	0	40
Recovery Dead Body		54	76	113	40	71	131	99	94	87	65	93	111	1034
Digital Security Act	Case filed	9	4	44	6	26	14	5	1	6	6	10	10	141
	Arrest	7	4	10	4	31	15	8	1	5	4	13	8	110
Torture by LEAS	Injured	50	115	4	5	124	20	67	10	0	35	50	80	560
	Torture	2	0	37	0	0	2	1	3	0	7	21	1	74



Annexure: 2 Photo Gallery



Certificate giving session at workshop on Human Rights



Participants at workshop on Human Rights, February 2020



Dr. Saber Ahmed Chowdhury giving certificate to the participants



Nur Khan, Advisor of HRSS deliberate his speech at 6th Human Rights Conference, 2020



Annexure: 2 Photo Gallery



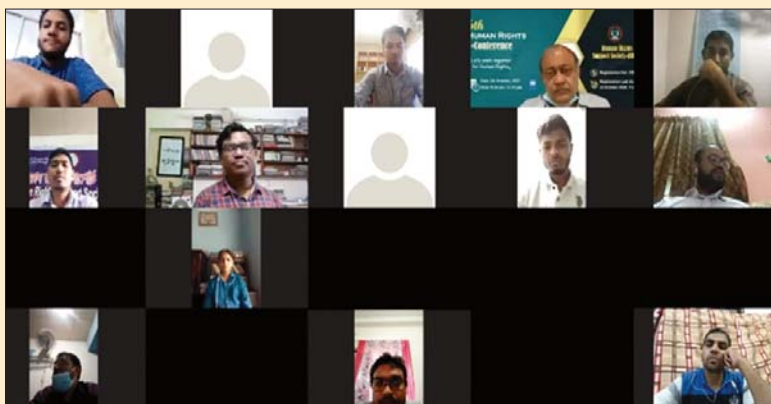
Ex: Ambassador, Humayun Kabir deliberates speech at 6th Human Rights Conference, 2020



Ijjajul Islam, Executive Director of HRSS speaks at 6th Human Rights Conference, 2020



HRSS family congratulating Md Saifuddin Ahmed, newly appointed Chairman, Dept: of Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Dhaka



Virtual picture of 6th Human Rights Conference, 2020

