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Human Rights Situation Report of Bangladesh (July 2026)

In the month of July 2026, the human rights situation in Bangladesh was significantly discussed due to various political, social, and law-and-order-related incidents. Throughout the month, political violence, intra-party conflicts, clashes over establishing dominance, obstruction of meetings and rallies, interference with freedom of expression, torture and harassment of journalists, mob violence, casualties at the border, deaths in custody and prisons, torture of workers, violence against women and children, and various criminal activities had multidimensional impacts on the human rights situation. At the same time, special operations by joint forces and law enforcement agencies to control the law-and-order situation, a large number of arrests, and the filing of cases in various incidents created renewed discussion and concern in the public sphere regarding civil liberties, the rule of law, and accountability.

During the period under review, incidents of conflict and violence surrounding political activities continued. Incidents resulting from internal disputes within various political parties, inter-party clashes, establishing dominance, and extortion led to deaths and injuries. At the same time, allegations of obstruction of peaceful meetings and rallies in various places, disruption of programmes, or intervention by law enforcement agencies created concern about the environment for exercising democratic rights.

A concerning picture was also observed regarding freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Allegations of cases, detention, harassment, and pressure related to expressing opinions on social media, criticism concerning matters related to the state and public interest, or publication of investigative reports came to the fore. At the same time, incidents of attacks, humiliation, threats, detention of journalists, and legal action taken over the publication of news made the question of ensuring media freedom and a safe working environment for journalists even more important.

In terms of the law-and-order situation, killings, mob violence, mob beatings, extortion, abduction, recovery of unidentified bodies, and other violent crimes became causes of concern for public safety. At the same time, incidents of deaths in custody, deaths of prisoners in jails, and deaths during operations by law enforcement agencies brought the necessity of independent and impartial investigations and effective accountability to the forefront. Incidents of shootings, torture, landmine explosions, and casualties in border areas also made the question of the security and protection of the human rights of border communities more important.

The human rights situation of women and children was also a matter of deep concern this month. Incidents of rape, gang rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dowry-related abuse, killing of women, and child abuse continued in various parts of the country. At the same time, insecurity in workplaces, incidents of worker deaths, and allegations of torture of domestic workers clearly highlighted the existing limitations in ensuring labour rights and a safe working environment.

Based on news published in 16 national media outlets of Bangladesh and information collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following information has emerged in the human rights monitoring report for July 2026:

Political Violence

In July, at least 6 people were killed and at least 164 people were injured in at least 45 incidents of “political violence.” Most of the violent incidents occurred over establishing dominance, political disputes and attacks, intra-party conflicts, and extortion. The number of casualties from political violence decreased in July compared to June. In June, 9 people were killed and 346 people were injured in 58 incidents of “political violence.”



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Among at least 45 incidents of violence in July, at least 48 people were injured and 3 were killed in 14 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP. In 6 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 44 people were injured, while 13 people were injured in 3 clashes between BNP and Awami League. In 5 clashes between BNP and NCP, 38 people were injured, while 16 people were injured in 14 clashes between BNP and other parties. In 3 incidents involving different parties, 3 people were killed and 5 were injured. Of the 6 people killed, 3 were from the BNP, and 3 were from JSS and UPDF.

No.	Political Parties	Incidents	Injured	Killed
1	BNP–BNP	14	48	03
2	BNP–Jamaat	06	44	—
3	BNP–Awami League	03	13	—
4	BNP–NCP	05	38	—
5	BNP–Other Parties	14	16	—
6	Among Other Parties	03	05	03
Total		45	164	06

In addition, in at least 7 incidents of attacks on leaders and activists of political parties by miscreants, 2 people were injured and 5 were killed. Among the deceased, 1 was from the Awami League and 4 were from the BNP. At least 15 political leaders and activists were shot. In addition, across the country, in 9 incidents centered on establishing dominance, occupation, political violence, and extortion, at least 40 houses, business establishments, and party offices were subjected to clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism, and arson.

Obstruction of Meetings and Rallies

This month, multiple incidents of intervention by law enforcement agencies were observed in the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly. According to the information received, during the period, law enforcement agencies and activists of the ruling party directly or indirectly obstructed the organization of at least 9 meetings and rallies, as a result of which the organizers were forced to suspend, disperse, or cancel the scheduled programmes. Such interventions resulted in clashes and disorderly situations, and at least 20 people were injured, including political activists, students, workers, and ordinary passersby.

Torture and Harassment of Journalists

It is concerning that, this month, at least 55 journalists became victims of torture and harassment in at least 36 incidents. In these incidents, at least 21 journalists were injured, 9 were subjected to humiliation, and 8 journalists faced threats. Three journalists were detained. In addition, 14 journalists were accused in 8 cases on defamation issues arising from the publication of news, of which 2 cases were filed under the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025. On July 16, Habibur Rahman Noman, Bahubal upazila correspondent of Dainik Inqilab and NPB News, and journalist Golam Mostofa Saibal were attacked at the office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Bahubal, Habiganj, following the publication of news about illegal silica sand extraction and drug trafficking. It has been alleged that several people, including Abdur Rakib, vice-president of Bahubal Upazila BNP, attacked these journalists. On July 28, in Debiganj, Panchagarh, Upazila Chhatra Dal convener Asaduzzaman Sumon severely beat Lalon Sarkar, a journalist of Ajker Bashundhara, over a Facebook post. The victim and his family have alleged that after the beating, the journalist was handed over to the police station, arrested in an extortion case, and sent to jail.



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Freedom of Expression

This month, incidents of interference with freedom of expression occurred at a significant rate. During the month, 8 people were detained and 8 cases were filed in at least 8 incidents. At least 25 people were accused in these cases. Among them, 1 person was detained for criticizing the Speaker, 1 for making derogatory remarks about the wife of the Prime Minister's Defence Adviser, 3 for allegations of hurting religious sentiments and making derogatory remarks, and 3 for other issues. On the other hand, 17 people were accused in 3 separate cases under various sections of the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025. Three people were also detained in these incidents.

Mob Violence and Mass Beating

This month, at least 17 people were killed and 51 were injured in at least 49 incidents of mass beating and mob violence. On July 5, a young man named Jisan (25) was beaten to death after being tied to an electric pole in West Masdair of Narayanganj city, accusing him of being a mugger. Another young man named Anik was seriously injured in the incident and is undergoing treatment at a hospital. A video of the incident spread on social media. According to the information in the video, several local people were indiscriminately beating two young men who were tied to an electric pole with ropes, using steel pipes and sticks. In addition, on July 21 in Fatullah, Narayanganj, a young man named Nayan Hawladar (42) died while undergoing treatment after being detained for two days and tortured in a medieval manner over an allegation of theft. According to the deceased's wife, Nayan was detained for two days over an allegation of stealing Tk 50,000, during which electric wires were used to give shocks to his body, and his left wrist and fingers were twisted and broken.

Unidentified Bodies

In July, 146 bodies were recovered from 137 incidents of planned or unplanned killings by miscreants across the country in rivers, canals, forests, and abandoned places. Among them, 6 bodies were recovered in sacks, 26 in hanging conditions, and 9 bodies with multiple injuries on their bodies. In addition, 4 bodies were found with their throats slit and 2 bodies with their hands and feet tied. Apart from these, another 99 bodies were found under various circumstances.

Killing and Torture at the Border

On July 10, a Bangladeshi young man named Minhaj Uddin (25) was killed by gunfire from local Indian Khasia residents at the Gowainghat border in Sylhet. According to local sources, at around 3:00 a.m. on the night of the incident, Minhaj Uddin crossed the Sonarhat-Lakhat border of the upazila and entered an area adjacent to Lakhat Station in India, where the Khasias opened fire at him. As a result, he sustained gunshot injuries.

In addition, on July 28, a Bangladeshi young man named Abdul Karim (25) was seriously injured in a landmine explosion planted by the Arakan Army inside Myanmar, across the border from Jaruliachhari border area of Naikhongchhari upazila in Bandarban. His left leg below the knee was severed in the explosion.

Extrajudicial Killing (Death in Custody/Torture/Shooting/Gunfight)

According to news published in various national media outlets, information collected from the families of victims, and information collected by HRSS, 3 people died in the custody of law enforcement agencies in July. On July 9, the hanging body of an accused named Rubel Mia (21) was recovered from the lock-up of Nikli Police Station in Kishoreganj. On July 20, an accused named Asaduzzaman Asad (25), who was in the custody of the Bogura District Detective Branch (DB) Police, died. It is known that on June 29, Asad was arrested by the District DB Police as the main accused in the murder case of CNG-powered autorickshaw driver Abdul Mannan



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Molla (45) in Sariakandi. However, after his arrest, his body was found in the washroom of the Detective Branch (DB) lock-up. On July 30, a man named Mizanur Rahman (55), who had been arrested in a case involving an attempt to rape a seven-year-old child, died in police custody in the afternoon in Faridganj.

Deaths in Prison

This month, at least 10 accused persons died in prisons across the country. Among them, 2 were convicted prisoners and 8 were under-trial prisoners. Of the 10 deceased, 2 were members of the Awami League and its affiliated organizations, while the remaining 8 were ordinary prisoners. Within a period of 10 days, from July 15 to July 25 of the current month, three prisoners died at Sirajganj District Jail. Among them, on July 15, after falling ill, Aminul Islam Liton (47), the Shahjadpur Union leader of the activities-banned Jubo League, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital; on July 23, Bablu Mondal (52), Environment Affairs Secretary of Ratankandi Union Awami League of Sirajganj Sadar Upazila, died; and on July 25, a prisoner named Kawsar Hossain (22) died while undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Prison Hospital.

Torture of Workers

In July, 23 people were killed and at least 72 people were injured in at least 79 incidents of torture of workers. Due to accidents caused by unhealthy environments and the lack of protective equipment for workers, at least 55 workers died at their workplaces. In addition, 2 domestic workers died in two separate incidents. On July 31, a worker named Saddam Sardar (35) died in the Silo Gate area of Siddhirganj, Narayanganj. His right hand had peeling skin, blackish injury marks on his abdomen, and marks of severe beating and burn injuries on both legs. On July 24, police recovered the hanging body of a domestic worker named Farhana Akter Priya (16) from a flat in a residential building at Kader Tower, adjacent to the upazila gate in Parshuram, Feni.

Violence Against Women and Children

In July, at least 258 women and girl children became victims of violence. Among them, at least 95 were victims of rape, of whom 61 (64%) were children and adolescent girls under the age of 18. It is highly concerning that 11 women and girl children were victims of gang rape. On the other hand, 78 women and girl children were victims of sexual harassment, among whom 40 were children. In incidents of torture over dowry, 1 woman was killed and 6 women were injured. As victims of domestic violence, 45 people were killed, 10 were injured, and 23 women committed suicide.

On July 6, the decomposed body of Zahida Begum, the wife of a local resident named Alamgir Hossain, was recovered after digging the courtyard of Alamgir Hossain's house in Karimpur village of Munshibazar Union, Rajnagar Upazila, Moulvibazar. Police arrested Alamgir Hossain on allegations of killing his wife and burying her body. On July 5, a housewife named Shifa Akter (19) died while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital after her husband Sohel poured kerosene on her and set her on fire on June 24 in the Borobagh area of Mirpur, the capital, allegedly because she had failed to bring the demanded dowry money. Shifa's father Jahangir Alam alleged that six bhoiri of gold and Tk 200,000 in cash were supposed to be given at the time of the marriage. However, although five bhoiri of gold and some money were given, Sohel set his daughter on fire because the remaining demanded gold and money could not be provided.

On the other hand, it is concerning that 180 children became victims of abuse, among whom 34 lost their lives and 146 children were subjected to physical and mental abuse.

Cases and Arrests

According to the information received, at least 41 cases were filed in July in connection with various incidents of violence and political events that occurred during this period. In these cases, 887 people were named and approximately 5,019 others were made accused as unidentified persons. In addition, during the same month,



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at least 9,157 people were arrested in a total of 193 political and other incidents combined. Among those arrested were at least 318 leaders and activists of the Awami League, 28 of the BNP, 1 member of Jamaat-e-Islami, and 7 members of the NCP. To maintain the law-and-order situation and prevent possible sabotage, special operations by the joint forces were conducted in various areas of the country throughout July. More than 8,795 people were arrested in these operations. A significant portion of those arrested were leaders and activists of the Awami League, Jubo League, Swachhchasebak League, and the banned Chhatra League, accused drug dealers, terrorists, and members of various extremist organizations. At the same time, regular operations also continued with the aim of arresting terrorists, saboteurs, and accused persons with arrest warrants and maintaining the law-and-order situation. Meanwhile, a significant number of people were arrested during special anti-drug operations conducted during the same period.

Concerted initiatives at all levels of the state and society are necessary to establish the rule of law in the country, strengthen the democratic process, and protect human rights. It is essential to create an inclusive environment through constructive dialogue with political parties, civil society, journalists, human rights organizations, and conscious citizens, so that the law-and-order situation is strengthened and the fundamental and constitutional rights of people can be effectively ensured. If issues such as recent mass beatings and mob violence, political tensions, and interference with freedom of expression are not addressed, the human rights situation may deteriorate further. Therefore, “HRSS” is calling upon the government to take more accountable and responsible measures to protect human rights and, at the same time, requesting all citizens, media professionals, civil society, and human rights organizations to play a more vocal and active role.