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Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (January–June 2026)
HRSS Half-Yearly Human Rights Monitoring Report

Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) has released its Half-Yearly Human Rights Monitoring Report on the human rights situation in Bangladesh covering the period January–June 2026. The report is based on an analysis of news published by 16 national media outlets, HRSS's own data collection, field-level observations, and documented incidents. It assesses the major trends, challenges, and areas of concern regarding the country's human rights situation.

The review period represents a significant phase in Bangladesh's political and constitutional process. While the constitutional transition resumed through the 13th National Parliamentary Election, the referendum, and the subsequent assumption of office by the newly elected government under the interim administration, the period also witnessed incidents of political violence, retaliatory attacks, intra-party clashes, and power-related violence. These incidents resulted in loss of life, injuries, property damage, and threats to public safety, while also raising concerns about the rule of law and the effectiveness of accountability and legal remedies.

The report identifies several concerning trends relating to civil and political rights. Allegations of restrictions on freedom of expression, press freedom, and the right to peaceful assembly were documented. Cases of lawsuits, arrests, harassment, and intimidation were observed in connection with opinions expressed on social media, investigative journalism, and commentary on political and religious issues. The report also highlights concerns over attacks on journalists, obstruction of their professional activities, and the application of Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025. In addition, administrative intervention and the use of force during political demonstrations and labour protests in several locations affected the space for democratic participation.

Significant concerns were also observed regarding law enforcement and the administration of justice. Allegations of mob violence, lynching, extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody and prisons, the recovery of unidentified bodies, organized crime, extortion, and the persistence of impunity have raised questions about the effectiveness of law enforcement and accountability mechanisms. The report further notes existing limitations in ensuring impartial investigations, effective prosecutions, and adequate remedies for victims of alleged human rights violations.

The report also reviews developments in institutional reform, highlighting both progress and continuing challenges. Among the 133 ordinances issued by the interim government, several key ordinances were not approved by Parliament. Decisions to suspend or repeal initiatives relating to the Referendum Ordinance, the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, the Independent Secretariat Ordinance, the National Human Rights Commission, and measures aimed at preventing enforced disappearances have generated public concern regarding the future effectiveness of judicial independence, institutional accountability, and the country's human rights protection framework.

The human rights situation of women, children, religious and ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable groups receives particular attention in the report. Incidents of murder, rape, gang rape, sexual violence, domestic abuse, dowry-related violence, and online harassment against women and children continued throughout the review period. At the same time, violence against children and deaths resulting from measles outbreaks point to concerns regarding the capacity of the public health system and preventive healthcare services. Incidents of attacks on and vandalism of members of religious and

ethnic minority communities, their places of worship, and homes highlight the continuing challenges to ensuring freedom of religion and equal rights.

The report also documents a range of challenges relating to economic and social rights. Rising prices of essential commodities, instability in the energy market, and limitations in supply chain management imposed additional economic pressure on low- and middle-income populations. The significant loss of life in road and waterway accidents during the Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha holidays has raised public concerns regarding road safety, transport management, and the effectiveness of public safety measures. The report further documents conflicts, arrests, harassment, and workplace fatalities associated with demands for fair wages, safe working conditions, and the right to freedom of association. Abuse of domestic workers and the insecurity faced by workers in the informal sector are also identified as matters of concern.

The impact of international developments and the border situation is also reflected in the human rights context. The Iran–United States–Israel conflict resulted in the deaths of Bangladeshi migrant workers and created economic and humanitarian concerns due to uncertainty surrounding energy supplies. At the same time, incidents involving border shootings, killings, torture, push-ins, and casualties caused by landmines have once again highlighted the persistent risks to the lives, security, and human rights of border communities.

The overall assessment of the report indicates that, in the aftermath of the political transition, strengthening democratic institutions, consolidating the rule of law, reducing impunity, ensuring freedom of expression and media freedom, and effectively protecting the rights of women, children, minorities, and workers remain critical policy priorities. The review further underscores the need for impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations, greater accountability, a stronger and independent judiciary, and the implementation of institutional reforms to establish an inclusive, rights-based system of governance consistent with international human rights standards.

HRSS hopes that the observations, statistics, and recommendations presented in this report will serve as a valuable evidence-based reference for policymakers, relevant state institutions, national human rights bodies, civil society organizations, the media, development partners, and the international community in advancing human rights protection and institutional reform.

The following sections present statistics, trends, and thematic analyses of the human rights situation in Bangladesh during the period from January to June 2026.

Political Violence

During the past six months, at least 56 people were killed and no fewer than 5,246 injured in at least 830 incidents of political violence. The majority of these incidents were linked to struggles for political dominance, political rivalries, violence surrounding the 13th National Parliamentary Election, clashes related to political rallies, conflicts between supporters of rival candidates, attacks, vandalism of homes, vehicles, business establishments and political party offices, arson, looting, and extortion.

According to data for January–June 2026, a total of 830 incidents of political violence were recorded, compared with 529 incidents during the same period in 2025—an increase of approximately 57 percent over the year. However, the number of fatalities declined from 79 to 56 (a decrease of approximately 29 percent), while the number of injured persons increased from 4,124 to 5,246 (an increase of approximately 27 percent). These figures indicate that although the frequency and scale of political clashes increased, the number of deaths was comparatively lower.

Of the 830 incidents of political violence recorded during the past six months, 273 incidents stemmed from internal conflicts within the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), resulting in at least 2,092 injuries and 31 deaths. A further 290 clashes between the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami left 1,852 people injured and 10 dead. Seventy-seven clashes between the BNP and the Awami League resulted in 464 injuries and seven deaths, while 33 clashes between the BNP and the National Citizen Party (NCP) injured 250 people. Three clashes between the Awami League and the NCP resulted in 51 injuries. In addition, 97 clashes between the BNP and other political parties left 251 people injured. Furthermore, 57 incidents involving various political parties resulted in 286 injuries and six deaths.

Among the 56 people killed in political violence, 37 (66%) were members or supporters of the BNP, six (11%) were affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami, three were affiliated with the Awami League, eight belonged to other political groups, one was identified as an extremist, and one was a civilian woman.

Political Violence (First Half of 2026)

SL	Political Parties	Incident of Clash	Injured	Killed
1	BNP - BNP	273	2092	31
2	BNP-Jammat	290	1852	10
3	BNP-Awamiligue	77	464	07
4	BNP-NCP	33	250	-
5	Awamiligue - NCP	03	51	-
6	BNP -Others Party	97	251	-
7	Others party conflict	57	286	8
Total		830	5246	56

In addition, at least 64 attacks by criminal groups targeting leaders and activists of political parties were documented during the reporting period. These attacks resulted in at least 90 injuries and claimed the lives of 38 individuals, including 20 affiliated with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), nine with the Awami League, four with Jamaat-e-Islami, and five from other political parties. During the same period, more than one hundred political figures sustained gunshot injuries in incidents of political violence. Furthermore, more than 900 incidents involving clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism, and arson targeting homes, business establishments, and political party offices were recorded nationwide, primarily in connection with political dominance, territorial control, election-related violence, political conflicts, and extortion.

Against this broader backdrop of violence, the country's political environment became increasingly volatile. In May 2025, the Interim Government led by Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus banned all political activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organizations, preventing the party from participating in the 13th National Parliamentary Election. Following the election, however, leaders

and activists of the party reportedly attempted to re-enter or reoccupy party offices in Dhaka and at least 30 other districts and upazilas. These developments triggered counter-occupations, attacks, vandalism, and heightened tensions over the control of party offices in several locations, further complicating and destabilizing the country's overall law and order situation.

Election-Related Violence

During the period up to June 2026, violence, clashes, and human rights violations surrounding the 13th National Parliamentary Election reached an alarming level across different parts of Bangladesh, subsequently evolving into broader political violence. Both before and after the election, recurring incidents of clashes, attacks, vandalism, and arson were reported among candidates nominated by political parties, independent (deprived/rebel) candidates, and their supporters.

Particularly in the post-election period, supporters of victorious candidates were reportedly involved in widespread attacks, looting, and arson targeting the homes, vehicles, and business establishments of supporters of defeated candidates. This retaliatory violence created an atmosphere of insecurity and fear at the local level, posing a serious challenge to the rule of law and the democratic process.

During the six-month reporting period, at least 396 incidents of election-related violence were recorded, resulting in at least 2,578 injuries and 13 deaths. In addition, more than 600 attacks involving vandalism, looting, and arson targeted business establishments, homes, and election offices during both the pre-election and post-election periods.

Analysis of the incidents indicates that internal divisions and confrontations among political parties further intensified the situation. Internal conflicts within the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) accounted for 119 incidents, leaving at least 905 people injured and eight killed. Clashes between the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami resulted in 232 incidents, with at least 1,429 injuries and four deaths. Three clashes between the BNP and the Awami League resulted in three injuries and one death. Sixteen clashes between the BNP and the National Citizen Party (NCP) left 141 people injured, while 17 incidents involving the BNP and other political parties resulted in 63 injuries. A further 10 incidents involving other political parties left 38 people injured.

Analysis of the political affiliation of those killed shows that, among the 13 fatalities, nine were affiliated with the BNP, one with the Awami League, two with Jamaat-e-Islami, and one individual's political affiliation could not be determined.

Several individual incidents were particularly significant. On 16 January 2026, Nazrul was fatally stabbed during the inauguration of the election office of independent candidate Salman Omar Rubel at Ershad Bazar in Dhobaura Upazila, Mymensingh. On 28 January 2026, Maulana Rezaul Karim, who had been injured in clashes between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami supporters during an election manifesto reading event in Jhenaigati, Sherpur, later died while receiving treatment. Violence escalated further in February. On 13 February, Jasim Uddin (30), a BNP supporter, was killed in the Char area of Sadar Upazila, Munshiganj. On 14 February, Imon (12), the son of a BNP activist, was killed in Haluaghat, Mymensingh, highlighting the vulnerability of children during election-related violence. On the same day, Osman Sardar (29), a BNP supporter, was killed in Kachua, Bagerhat. On 15 February, Abdur Rahim (45), an Awami League supporter, was hacked to death in Char Fasson, Bhola, in an incident of post-election violence. Violence continued into March. On 5 March 2026, Md. Rubel Mia and Md. Sohel Mia were killed during clashes between two rival BNP factions in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria. On 18 March 2026, Md. Idris (45), a small trader, was allegedly beaten to death in Nilganj Union of Kalapara Upazila, Patuakhali.

Election-related violence was not limited to loss of life and destruction of property; incidents of violence against women also emerged as a serious concern. On 13 February, in Chanandi Union of Hatiya Upazila, Noakhali, a mother of three was allegedly raped and physically assaulted in her home for voting in favour of the "Shapla Koli" election symbol.

Although the number of female candidates in this election was comparatively low, women's participation in election campaigning increased significantly. However, incidents of violence, harassment, and abuse targeting women also increased. Between January and March 2026, at least 18 women were subjected to harassment in 12 election-related incidents, while six women were injured. Among those harassed, 17 were supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami and one was a supporter of Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

Obstruction of Public Meetings and Assemblies

During the past six months, several incidents were documented in which law enforcement agencies intervened in the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. According to available information, law enforcement authorities directly or indirectly obstructed at least 40 public meetings and assemblies during the reporting period, forcing organizers to postpone, disperse, or cancel their planned programmes. These interventions resulted in clashes and disorder, leaving at least 311 people injured. In addition, 38 individuals—including political activists, students, workers, and bystanders—were detained at or near the assembly venues.

Attacks and Harassment of Journalists

It is a matter of serious concern that, during the reporting period, at least 383 journalists were subjected to attacks and harassment in 200 separate incidents. Among them, at least 234 journalists were physically injured, 60 were assaulted or otherwise harassed, and 49 received threats. Eleven journalists were detained. In addition, 15 cases were filed under the Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025, naming a total of 33 journalists as accused.

During the first six months of 2026 (January–June), 200 incidents involving attacks and harassment of journalists were documented, compared with 152 incidents during the same period in 2025, representing an increase of approximately 32 percent. Over the same period, the number of journalists affected rose from 257 to 383, an increase of approximately 49 percent. The number of injured journalists increased from 111 to 234, indicating a significant escalation in the severity of violence against media professionals.

On 11 January, in Rupganj, Narayanganj, Daily Manabkantha Staff Reporter Rashedul Islam and Asian Television journalist Nazmul Hasan were allegedly beaten with iron pipes after publishing reports on local crime and land grabbing. On 23 April, at least 10 journalists, including the President and General Secretary of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association, were assaulted and injured while gathering information and performing their professional duties during tensions between DUCSU leaders/Islami Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists over photocards and wall writings circulated on social media. On 21 May, two journalists were injured in Bakalia, Chattogram, after being struck by gunfire fired to disperse a public blockade following an alleged attempted rape of a child. On 15 June, Tanvir Alam, Treasurer of the Bogura Press Club, filed a case against four individuals, including the editor of Agrojatra Protidin, alleging the dissemination of false, misleading, and defamatory information concerning State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam.

Freedom of Expression

During the period from January to March 2026, a total of 81 individuals were accused in 30 separate cases filed under various provisions of the Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025. Of them, 44 were arrested. Four individuals were detained for allegedly posting offensive content about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on social media. In incidents related to criticism of other political figures, one person was killed, two were injured, 18 were detained, and 17 cases were filed. In addition, 17 individuals were detained on allegations of hurting religious sentiments and desecrating the Qur'an. These incidents resulted in 17 criminal cases, while two people were injured. A further 14 individuals were detained in connection with other issues.

During the same period in 2025, five cases were filed against journalists under the Cyber Security Act, 2023. In total, 23 individuals were accused in 16 separate cases, and 12 were arrested.

Compared with 2025, the application of cyber legislation expanded significantly in 2026. The number of cases, accused persons, and arrests all increased, while enforcement extended beyond journalists to include political expression, the use of social media, and matters relating to religion. As a result, both the scope and impact of cyber law enforcement became considerably broader than in the previous year.

On 21 January, police arrested Golam Mostafa (34), son of Abdul Malek from Mollapara Village in Harirampur Union of Parbatipur Upazila, Dinajpur, for allegedly posting derogatory comments about BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman on Facebook. He was subsequently shown arrested under the Cyber Security Act and sent to prison by court order. On 4 February, police detained Sarwar Alam, an Assistant Programmer at Bangabhaban, following allegations that he had hacked the X account of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr. Shafiqur Rahman. A case was subsequently filed at Hatirjheel Police Station under the Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025. On 3 March, Md. Idris (45) was allegedly beaten to death in Kalapara, Patuakhali, after posting criticism of BNP leader Zahirul Islam on Facebook. On 11 June, police detained Mizanur Rahman (24) in Sundarganj Upazila of Gaibandha for allegedly publishing an offensive Facebook post about Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed.

Mob Violence and Lynching

During the past six months, at least 133 people were killed and 256 injured in at least 261 incidents of mob violence and lynching.

During the same period in 2025, at least 67 people were killed and 119 injured in 141 such incidents. Compared with 2025, mob violence and lynching increased at an alarming rate in 2026. The number of incidents, fatalities, and injuries all rose substantially, indicating a deterioration in the law and order situation and an increasing tendency toward extrajudicial, crowd-driven violence.

On 7 January, Md. Akidul (40) was beaten to death by a mob at Ishakhada Bazar in Magura Sadar Upazila after being suspected of cattle theft. On 20 February, Lebu Mia alias Bhondol (24) and Moinul Islam (50) were killed by local residents in Mojahipur Village of Idilpur Union, Sadullapur Upazila, Gaibandha, after being accused of robbery. On 4 March, Md. Sagar (32) and Sanarul (34) were accused of stealing electrical wires from the Satgharia Community Clinic in Louhajang Upazila, Munshiganj. They were tied to a tree overnight and repeatedly beaten from night until morning, resulting in their deaths.

On 6 April, Shukur (42) was brutally assaulted by an angry mob in Mollahat, Bagerhat, after being accused of stealing fish from a fish enclosure. During the assault, both of his arms and legs were broken, and some of the perpetrators allegedly gouged out his eyes. On 9 May, three individuals accused of cattle theft were beaten to death by local residents in the Bagchala area of Kaliakair

Upazila, Gazipur. On 17 May, Dudu (22) was tortured and beaten to death in Asannagar Village of Alamdanga Upazila, Chuadanga, after being accused of stealing a van. It was further alleged that hot water was poured over his body before he was killed. On 21 June, an unidentified young man accused of theft was beaten and then electrocuted to death near the Polo Ground area of Chattogram Metropolitan City. When police attempted to recover the body, an agitated crowd reportedly blocked the police vehicle. On 30 June, Khaled Ahmed (20) was allegedly detained in an isolated house in Towakul Union of Gowainghat Upazila, Sylhet, after being accused of stealing a small boat. During the torture, both of his eyes were reportedly gouged out.

Religious Minority Persecution

It is concerning that, during this period, at least 56 people were injured in 50 attacks against religious minority communities, while 19 temples, 15 idols, and 43 houses were attacked and vandalized. There were also 4 incidents of land grabbing. In addition, a woman from an indigenous community was subjected to gang rape.

On the other hand, during the same period in 2025, 4 people were injured in 10 attacks on the minority community. During that period, 1 temple, 11 idols, and 18 houses were attacked and vandalized. Additionally, 2 incidents of land grabbing were documented. Compared to 2025, the number of attacks on minority communities, the number of injured persons, and attacks on religious and residential properties increased significantly in 2026.

On the night of 24 February, an attack took place at the Shree Shree Rakshakali Temple located in the Saoghat West Monipara area of Golakandail Union in Rupganj, Narayanganj. During the attack, 8–10 miscreants entered the temple carrying iron pipes, sticks, and locally made weapons. They vandalized the Saraswati idol, chairs, cooking pots, electrical wires, lights, and other items, and set fire to the temple by pouring kerosene or a similar flammable substance. On 8 March, during Shani Puja, a cocktail bomb exploded in the area surrounding the Kali Gachtala Shiva Temple in South Thakurpara (Baganbari) of Cumilla city, injuring 4 people, including priest Keshab Chakraborty.

On 4 May, in Ratia Rajapur village of Sarankhola Upazila in Bagerhat district, a minority (Hindu) family led by Robin Dhali was attacked following a dispute over land. Their house and household furniture were vandalized and looted. During the attack, five female members of the family were physically assaulted by the attackers. On 13 June, idols at the Shiva Temple of the Mahashmashan, Kanchgachhi Shitala Temple, and Kali Temple in the Kanchgachhi area of Mokamtala Upazila in Bogura were vandalized. In addition, within a span of three days from 16–18 June, two temples in Madhukhali Upazila of Faridpur were attacked and idols were vandalized. On 18 June, in Guimara, Khagrachhari, a widowed woman from the Marma community was lured with the promise of a job, taken from her village to Hathazari in Chattogram, and subjected to gang rape.

Border Killings and Abuse

During the last six months, 9 people were killed and 35 were injured, including 14 who sustained gunshot wounds, in 32 incidents of attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Bangladesh–India border. A total of 38 people were detained from different border areas. At least 173 people were pushed into Bangladesh through border areas. In addition, attempts were made to push in at least 416 people through different border points, which were prevented by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local residents. On the other hand, 1 person was killed by gunfire from members of the Khasi community along the Sylhet border, and the body of another person was recovered from the border area.

On the other hand, during the same period in 2025, 14 Bangladeshi nationals were killed, 20 were injured, and 27 were arrested in 40 incidents of BSF firing along the border. In addition, 1 person was killed and 2 were injured in gunfire by Indian Khasis along the Sylhet border, and a Bangladeshi youth was hacked to death at the Kulaura border in Moulvibazar.

Compared to 2025, the number of border attacks decreased in 2026 (from 40 to 32), as did the number of deaths (from 14 to 9). However, the number of injured persons increased (from 20 to 35), as did the number of detentions (from 27 to 38). Moreover, incidents of push-ins and attempted push-ins emerged as a major new concern in 2026, indicating additional challenges for border management and bilateral relations.

On 4 January, at the international border pillar 19/7S area in Chapainawabganj, a young man named Robiul Islam (35) was detained by members of the BSF Patla Tola Sub-Camp while attempting to bring cattle across the border. He was later tortured to death. On 7 April, Bangladeshi citizen Ali Hossain (49) was killed by BSF gunfire at the Dhabalguri border in Patgram, Lalmonirhat. On 9 May, two Bangladeshis, Md. Mursalin (20) and Nabin Hossain (55), were killed by BSF gunfire at the Indian border in Kasba, Brahmanbaria. In addition, on 14 May, Khadimul Islam (25), a Bangladeshi youth, was killed by BSF gunfire at the Amjhol border in Hatibandha Upazila of Lalmonirhat. On 12 June, Mujib Ali (20), a Bangladeshi youth, was killed by BSF gunfire at the Kulaura border in Moulvibazar.

On the other hand, along the Bangladesh–Myanmar border, 1 person was killed, 5 were injured, 5 sustained gunshot wounds, and 80 people were detained in 20 incidents of violence. In addition, 6 people were killed and 3 were injured in landmine explosions caused by mines planted by the Arakan Army in border areas.

On 8 February, Huzaifa Afnan (9), a child who was seriously injured by gunfire fired from the Myanmar side by the Arakan Army at the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, died after 27 days while undergoing treatment. On 6 March, Abdul Jabbar (53) was seriously injured in a landmine explosion at the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in Naikhongchhari Upazila of Bandarban. One of his legs was blown off in the explosion. On 10 April, Md. Sadek (25) lost the heel of his left foot in a landmine explosion at the zero line in the Balukhali border area of Palongkhali Union, Ukhiya. On 24 May, three local residents—Leyara (41), Ongkemon (50), and Chingka Ong (40)—were killed in a landmine explosion caused by mines planted by the Arakan Army in the Ghumdhum area of Naikhongchhari along the Bangladesh–Myanmar border. On 2 June, a 12-year-old boy named Satnaing Tanchangya died in an explosion of an abandoned mortar shell at the Ghumdhum border in Naikhongchhari Upazila of Bandarban, and on 24 June, Md. Shafi Alam (30) died in a landmine explosion in the nearby border area of Bhalukia. On 9 June, Abdul Khalek (30) also died in a landmine explosion along the same border. In addition, on 6 June, a Rohingya youth named Md. Ayub (28) was injured by gunfire from the Arakan Army while fishing in the Bogardia area inside Myanmar.

Extrajudicial Killings (Deaths in Custody/Torture/Shooting/Reported Crossfire)

According to reports published in various national media, information collected from victims' families, and data gathered by HRSS, at least 11 people were killed between January and June 2026 in incidents involving custody, torture, shootings, and alleged "crossfire" by law enforcement agencies. Among them, 6 died in custody or as a result of torture, 2 were killed by gunfire, and 3 were killed in alleged crossfire. In addition, 5 people died while attempting to flee to avoid arrest during law enforcement pursuits.

On the other hand, during the same period in 2025, at least 14 people were killed in incidents involving clashes with law enforcement agencies, custody, and torture. Among them, 5 died in police custody, 4 died as a result of torture, 2 were killed by gunfire, and 3 were killed in alleged crossfire. In addition, 3 people died while attempting to flee out of fear of the police.

Among the notable incidents, on 12 January 2026, Shamsuzzaman Dablu (45), General Secretary of the Municipal BNP in Jibannagar Upazila of Chuadanga, died after allegedly being tortured while in the custody of the Bangladesh Army. On 10 February 2026, a young man named Russell Kazi (35) died while in the custody of the Bangladesh Army in Kalkini Upazila of Madaripur. According to the victim's family, he was killed through physical torture. In addition, on 24 February 2026, a member of the hill-based armed group JSS was killed during an exchange of gunfire between security forces and the organization in the Murung Bazar area of Rowangchhari Upazila in Bandarban, which was described as a "crossfire." On 5 March 2026, allegations were raised regarding the death of Abdul Hamid Dhola (66) during a police operation in Mahadebpur Upazila of Naogaon. His family claimed that he was seriously injured after being kicked by police officers and later died.

On 18 May, Aminur Rahman Gazi (45), a fisherman, was shot and killed by personnel of the Forest Department while collecting crabs in the Shatmukhi Canal area of the Khulna Range of the Sundarbans. On 21 June, Mirza Istiaq Ahmed Pranto (26), a Chhatra League activist, died while in the custody of Detective Branch (DB) police in Madhukhali Upazila of Faridpur. His family alleged that he died due to police torture. On 24 June, Bobin Tripura (32), a member of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF–Prosit), was killed after being shot during an exchange of gunfire with members of the Bangladesh Army in Ramgarh, Khagrachhari. On 25 June, Sakat Sardar (60) was shot and killed during an alleged gunfight between the Coast Guard and members of the alleged robber group "Dulabhai Bahini" in the Sundarbans-adjacent area of Koyra Upazila in Khulna.

Enforced Disappearance

According to reports published in various national media, information collected from the victim's family, and data gathered by HRSS, allegations have been made that a young man named Miraj Sheikh (32) was taken away by individuals identifying themselves as members of the Coast Guard in Mongla, Bagerhat. At a press conference, his family claimed that on the evening of 10 April, two Coast Guard members in plain clothes detained Miraj Sheikh from a tea stall owned by Joymoni Thonta and took him to the Harbaria Station. There, Miraj was allegedly beaten, after which seven to eight uniformed personnel on a speedboat marked "Bangladesh Coast Guard," arriving from the Mongla direction, took photographs and videos of him. The incident reportedly took place in front of local residents and Miraj's wife.

The family further alleged that although Miraj's motorcycle was initially left in the custody of a local shopkeeper named Al Amin, two Coast Guard members took it away late at night 8–10 days later. Lieutenant Commander Mahbub Hossain of the Mongla West Zone of the Coast Guard stated, "We have no information regarding Miraj." However, local residents claimed otherwise, alleging that the Coast Guard had taken Miraj away. Although a General Diary (GD), a press conference, and written applications were submitted to the relevant authorities regarding the incident, his whereabouts remain unknown.

Deaths in Prison Custody

During the first six months of the current year, at least 58 inmates died in prisons across the country. Among the 58 deceased, 26 were convicted prisoners and 32 were undertrial detainees. Of them, 15 were members of the Awami League and its affiliated organizations, 1 was a BNP member, and 42 were general inmates.

During the first six months of 2026 (January–June), at least 58 inmates died in different prisons across the country, compared to 40 during the same period in 2025. This represents an increase of 18 deaths (approximately 45%) in prison custody within one year. This situation calls for a more in-depth review of prison healthcare, security, and prisoner management.

On 12 January, Proloy Chaki (60), the Cultural Affairs Secretary of the banned Awami League's Pabna District unit and a musician, died while receiving treatment in prison custody. His family claimed that he had been suffering from heart disease and diabetes and that he died due to the lack of proper medical treatment in prison. On the morning of 7 February, former Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen fell ill while in prison custody and was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. He had been detained in Dinajpur District Jail in connection with three cases since his arrest on 16 August 2024. On the morning of 15 March, Shahnoor Alam (60), Vice-President of the Hat Sherpur Union Awami League in Sariakandi Upazila of Bogura, died while undergoing treatment at the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Institute in Dhaka after falling ill in prison custody.

On 19 May, Debashish Chowdhury, an accused in a July–August murder case and an inmate of Chattogram Central Jail, died after suffering a heart attack. However, his family alleged that he died due to torture inside the prison. On 18 June, Shahidullah Russell (41), a Jubo Dal activist, died in Cumilla Central Jail. He had been imprisoned in connection with a drug-related case.

Abuse of Workers

During the last six months, 74 workers were killed and at least 1,003 were injured in 331 incidents of abuse against workers. Due to unhealthy working conditions and the lack of protective equipment, 216 workers died in workplace accidents. During protests demanding wages and benefits, 26 workers were arrested. In addition, 2 domestic workers were killed and 4 were injured. Furthermore, two domestic workers died under mysterious circumstances.

On the other hand, during the same period in 2025, 59 workers were killed and 720 were injured in 112 incidents of abuse against workers. Due to unhealthy working conditions and deficiencies in workplace safety measures, 43 workers died in workplace accidents. In addition, 3 domestic workers were killed and 2 were seriously injured due to abuse by employers. There were also incidents in which many workers were injured during clashes between police and workers centering on protests demanding wages, benefits, and Eid bonuses.

On 16 February, Ripon Saha, a pump worker, was killed after being run over by a vehicle driven by contractor Abul Hashem Sujon following an argument over payment for fuel at Karim Filling Station in the Goaland Mor area of Rajbari district headquarters. On 17 June, Md. Shawon (25), an employee of a hotel in the Khamarpara Mor area on College Road in Rangpur Metropolitan City, was beaten to death by the shop owner following an argument over cleaning waste. On 20 June, clashes and counter-chases took place between police and workers protesting in the Kachukhet area of Bhashantek in the capital, demanding the reopening of a closed garment factory and the payment of outstanding

wages and benefits. During the incident, allegations were made that several workers were beaten, and police arrested 26 workers from the scene.

On the other hand, on 30 April, allegations were made that a domestic worker named Ayesha Akter (10) was brutally tortured by physician couple K. M. Abdullah Al Noman and Kimia Sadat Tofa in the Uttar Mourail area of Brahmanbaria district. On 17 June, an orphaned teenage domestic worker named Milon Das (22) was allegedly abused by Sub-Assistant Inspector (ASI) Sanjoy Mitra of Sonadanga Model Police Station and his wife Popy Mitra in the Sonadanga residential area of Khulna city. The victim had been living in the police couple's house as a domestic worker since childhood.

Violence Against Women and Children

During the last six months, at least 1,621 women and girl children were subjected to violence. Among them, at least 404 were victims of rape, of whom 238 (59%) were children and adolescents under the age of 18. It is extremely concerning that 88 (22%) women and girl children were victims of gang rape, while 17 were murdered after being raped. One rape victim died by suicide. A total of 476 women and girl children were subjected to sexual harassment, including 173 (36%) children. In addition, 19 women were killed, 18 were injured, and 3 died by suicide in incidents related to dowry-related abuse. As a result of domestic violence, 320 women were killed, 211 were injured, and 147 died by suicide. Furthermore, 4 women were injured in acid violence.

During the first six months of 2026 (January–June), at least 1,621 women and girl children were subjected to violence, compared to 1,042 during the same period in 2025. This represents an increase of approximately 56% in incidents of violence. In 2025, 476 women and girls were victims of rape, including 292 (60%) children; 110 were victims of gang rape, 14 were killed after rape, and 7 died by suicide.

An increase in domestic and dowry-related violence was also observed in 2026. Due to dowry-related violence, 19 women were killed, 18 were injured, and 3 died by suicide. As a result of domestic violence, 320 women were killed, 211 were injured, and 147 died by suicide. In 2025, domestic violence resulted in the deaths of 166 women, injuries to 27 women, and the suicides of 72 women. Due to dowry-related violence, 19 women were killed, 14 were injured, and 3 died by suicide.

The situation of violence against children also deteriorated. In 2026, 1,077 children were subjected to violence, among whom 305 lost their lives and 772 suffered physical and psychological abuse. In 2025, the total number was 673 children, including 132 deaths and 541 victims of abuse.

Compared to 2025, nearly all indicators of violence against women and children increased in 2026. In particular, incidents of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and deaths increased significantly. These findings highlight the need to further strengthen the safety, protection mechanisms, and preventive measures for women and children.

On 8 January, a housewife was gang raped in Meshta Union of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila. When her husband attempted to protect her dignity, he was tied up in a maize field on a cold winter night. The accused then raped his wife in front of him and celebrated the assault. On 28 February, in Ishwardi, Pabna, teenage girl Jamila Akter (15) was gang raped and murdered after intruders entered her home at midnight and killed her grandmother, Sufia Begum. Police believe the grandmother was killed for resisting the abduction of the girl, who was later raped and murdered. On 2 March, seven-year-old Jannatul Nisha Ira was raped and had her throat slit in a secluded area of Eco Park in Sitakunda, Chattogram. She died in hospital the following day while undergoing treatment. On 14 March, a widowed woman named Jobeda Khatun (45) was gang raped and hacked to death in Daliapur, Damurhuda Upazila of Chuadanga. On 30 March, a 13-year-old girl died by suicide after consuming poison following allegations of rape in Phulpur, Mymensingh. On 10 April, an eight-year-old child

was raped in Muradnagar, Cumilla. When the victim's uncle protested, the tendons of his leg were severed. On 19 May, in the Pallabi area of Mirpur, Dhaka, a seven-year-old child named Ramisa Akter was raped and had her throat slit by Sohail Rana (30), a tenant living in the neighboring flat. On 3 May, in Faridpur, seven-year-old Irene Akter Kobita was strangled to death after an attempted rape. On 15 June, the body of five-year-old Nishamoni, who had been lured away with the promise of Kadam flowers and later gang raped and murdered, was recovered from the Kangs River in Dhobaura, Mymensingh, several hours after she went missing. On 23 June, in Taraganj Upazila of Rangpur, Sanjida Khatun (9), a second-grade kindergarten student, was raped after being shown obscene videos and then murdered.

On 15 January, in Khulna Metropolitan City, a housewife and mother of two was allegedly tortured after refusing to pay BDT 500,000 in dowry. During the abuse, the perpetrators cut off her hair. On 22 March, in Sonargaon, Narayanganj, housewife Anika Khatun alias Farhana (24) was brutally murdered by her husband, Md. Sagar, over dowry demands. On 22 May, in Naogaon district, a housewife named Rehana (20) was beaten to death by her husband and mother-in-law for failing to provide dowry money. On 25 June, in Lakshmipasha village of Kabai Union, Bakerganj Upazila of Barishal, Rima Akter Mahfuza (30), a mother of two, was tortured and killed over dowry demands.

On 13 April, in Tangail, Nazma Harijan was burned to death by her husband after she refused to give him money to buy drugs. On 2 April, in Abhaynagar, Jashore, Masura Begum (19) refused to divorce her husband, after which he mixed sleeping pills into a soft drink, rendered her unconscious, and threw acid on her legs and genital area. On 30 May, in Islampur, Jamalpur, a woman named Akhia Akter (28) was injured in an acid attack carried out late at night. On 4 June, in Jibannagar Upazila of Chuadanga, a seven-month-pregnant housewife named Shikha Khatun (19) lost her unborn child after her husband allegedly kicked her in the abdomen during an incident of domestic violence. On 9 June, at around 8:00 a.m., in the premises of Begum Fazilatunnesa High School in Titas Upazila of Cumilla, a schoolgirl named Hiramoni (14), who had long been subjected to harassment by local miscreants, was attacked with acid.

Cases and Arrests

During this period, at least 144 cases were filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as well as leaders and activists of the Awami League and the BNP–Jamaat, under various anti-terrorism laws. In these cases, 3,268 individuals were named as accused, while 24,518 others were listed as unidentified accused persons. During this period, at least 3,067 Awami League and BNP–Jamaat leaders and activists were arrested in political cases, including at least 2,415 Awami League leaders and activists, 497 BNP leaders and activists, 109 Jamaat leaders and activists, and 26 NCP leaders and activists. In addition, joint forces conducted special operations across the country to maintain law and order. During these operations, more than 26 thousand individuals were arrested.

On the other hand, during the same period in 2025, 116 cases were filed. In those cases, 8,566 individuals were named as accused and 15,930 others were listed as unidentified accused persons. During the same period, 23,121 people were arrested in various cases, of whom 22,995 were leaders and activists of the Awami League.

Based on the information and observations presented in this report, the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations

- Strictly enforce a code of conduct for all political parties to prevent political violence, establish internal party democracy, ensure impartial investigations into political conflicts, and bring those responsible to justice without delay.

- Ensure independent, impartial, and transparent investigations into every allegation of extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances, torture, and excessive use of force, and hold those responsible accountable.

- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy against taking the law into one's own hands, increase public awareness, and ensure prompt justice to prevent mob violence and lynching.

- Guarantee freedom of expression, media freedom, and the right to peaceful assembly in accordance with the Constitution and international human rights standards, and take effective measures to ensure the safety and professional independence of journalists.

- Reform cyber laws and related legal provisions to ensure that their enforcement does not unduly restrict freedom of expression and is consistent with international human rights standards.

- Ensure the prompt prosecution of rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, and dowry-related crimes; strengthen protection, rehabilitation, and support services for victims; and reinforce child protection mechanisms to prevent violence against women and children.

- Ensure the security of religious and ethnic minorities by strengthening the protection of places of worship, homes, and property, conducting impartial investigations into attacks, and providing compensation and rehabilitation to affected victims.

- Ensure labour rights by providing safe working conditions, fair wages, timely payment of salaries and benefits, freedom of workers' organizations, and strict enforcement of occupational safety standards.

- Protect human rights in prisons and other places of detention by ensuring adequate medical care, humane conditions, regular independent inspections, and judicial investigations into every death in custody.

- Take effective diplomatic initiatives with neighboring countries to prevent border killings, abuse, and push-ins, strengthen border management, and ensure full respect for international human rights and humanitarian law.

- Strengthen the independence, capacity, and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission and other independent constitutional and accountability institutions through necessary legal and institutional reforms.

- Develop and implement an effective National Human Rights Action Plan through coordinated efforts involving the Government, the National Human Rights Commission, civil society, and development partners to establish an inclusive, accountable, and rights-based state in accordance with international human rights standards.