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SAPRAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH - APRIL 2026



Human Rights
Tracker

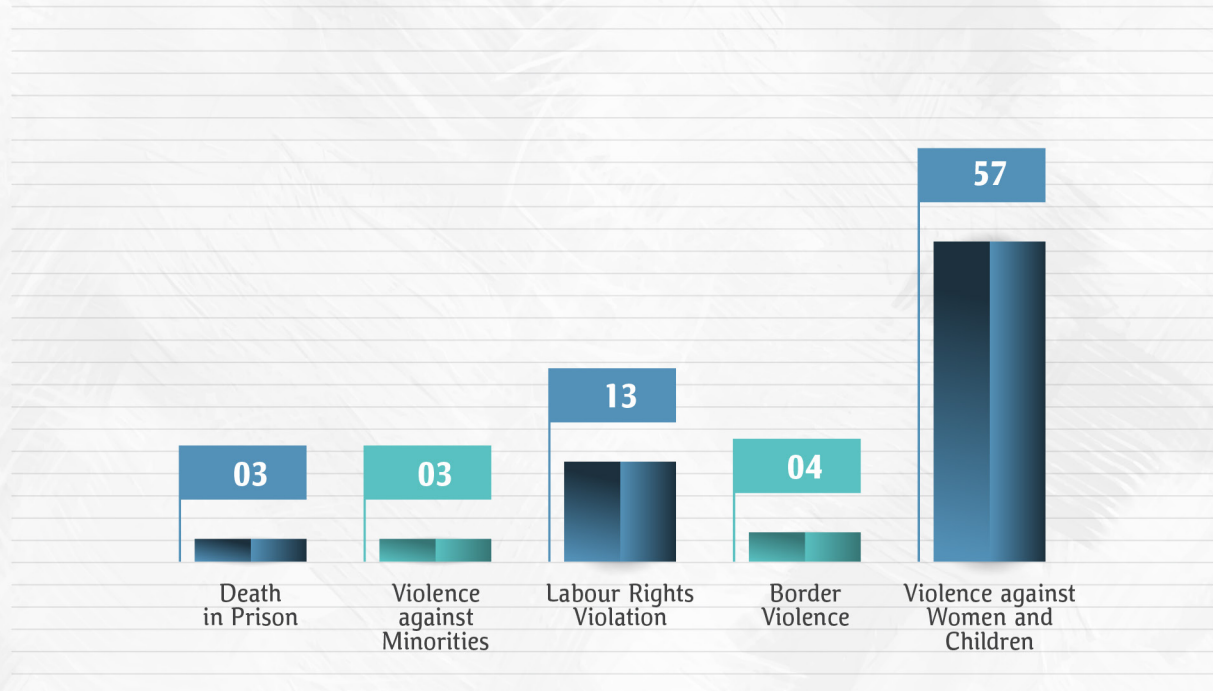
Monthly
Activities

Publications

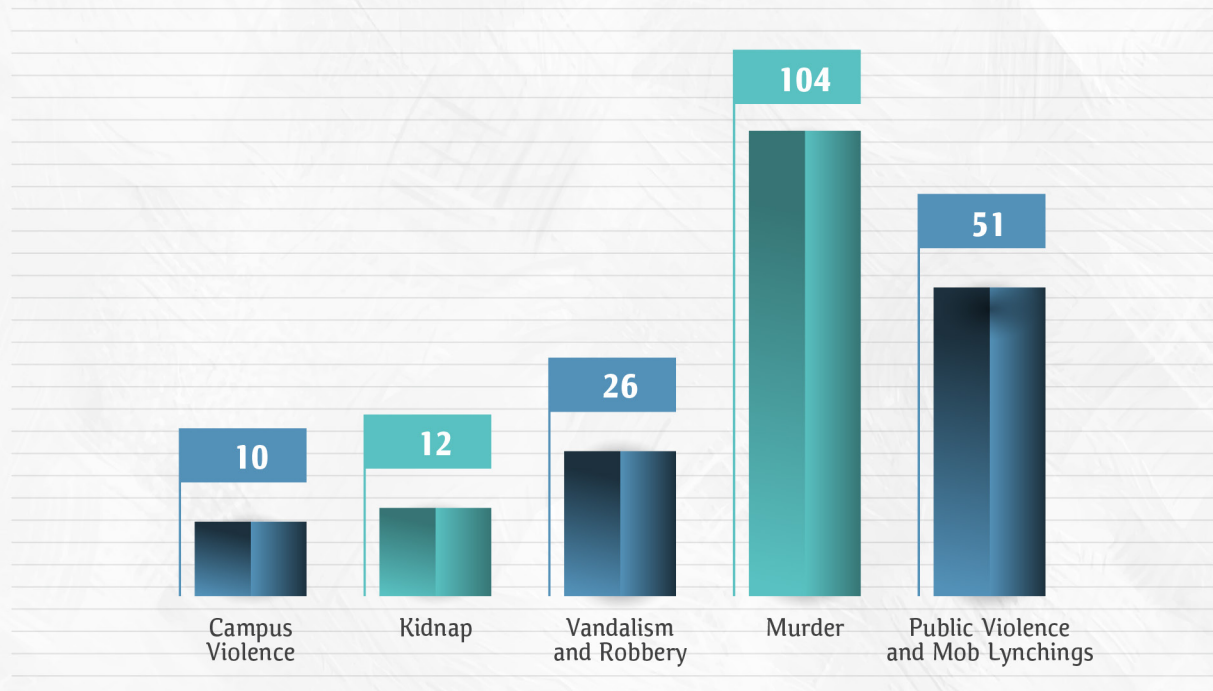
Opinion
Pieces

সকল প্রাণের নিরাপত্তা

Human Rights Violations (April 2026)



Criminal Offences and Others (April 2026)



Knowledge Sharing Session at the Swedish Embassy



On March 1, 2026, SAPRAN held a highly productive meeting with representatives from the Embassy of Sweden, using the dedicated knowledge-sharing session to present its comprehensive report on electoral violence, outline key project updates, and share its upcoming strategic roadmap for civic engagement and peacebuilding. The visit served as a valuable platform to exchange data-driven recommendations for implementing peaceful democratic processes, while highlighting the

ground-level impact of SAPRAN's current community interventions. Both SAPRAN and the Swedish Embassy engaged in fruitful discussions regarding potential future collaborations, aligning their mutual goals to promote democratic resilience and human rights. Moving forward, the SAPRAN team looks forward to leveraging this momentum and building upon international partnerships to expand the reach and depth of their impactful work.

Participation in National Human Rights Commission Dialogue with Citizens and Civil Society

On 9 March 2026, SAPRAN's Research Director Md. Zarif Rahman delivered remarks at a dialogue with citizens and civil society organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh,





where he emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach to addressing human rights violations and ensuring accountability of state institutions. He stated that relying solely on existing legal frameworks often leaves victims' lived experiences unaddressed and noted that state institutions have at times exploited legal loopholes to commit violations through practices such as indiscriminate pellet shootings and kneecapping. He also highlighted how unresolved historical, social, and political wounds in Bangladesh continue to create new spaces for discrimination and human rights abuses through stigmatization and “tagging,” and urged the Commission to

prioritize research in order to establish human rights as a universal value beyond the “elite bubble” while deepening understanding of the contexts in which violations occur.

SAPRAN Provides Technical Support at Strategic Discussion and “Iftar Mahfil” for Community Health Workers



On 10 March 2026 in Dhaka, the Family Welfare Assistants' Association (FWAA) and the Family Planning Inspectors' Association (FPIA) organized a Strategic Discussion and Iftar Mahfil with support from UNI Apro Care and technical support from SAPRAN. The event created an important platform to reflect on the past four

months of capacity-building initiatives, discuss the challenges faced by community health workers, and identify strategic priorities for future engagement. Through its technical support, SAPRAN contributed to fostering dialogue and strengthening collaboration between two key voices in Bangladesh's community health sector,

helping build common ground for more coordinated advocacy. The program concluded with a shared iftar in a spirit of solidarity and collective commitment, marking another positive step toward strengthening the collective voice of community health workers in Bangladesh.

SAPRAN Researchers Participate in Website Maintenance and Digital Content Management Training

On 11 March 2026, SAPRAN researchers participated in an offline session titled “How to Maintain a Website, Upload Content, and Manage Different Types of Graphs, Figures, PDFs, Documents, Pictures, Videos, and Other Links” at the SAPRAN Office. The session created a practical and user-friendly learning environment for researchers to strengthen their understanding of website maintenance, digital documentation, content formatting, and data management techniques. Through the training, participants



gained valuable skills in organizing, uploading, and maintaining different types of digital materials in a structured and professional manner, contributing to SAPRAN's ongoing efforts to strengthen research communication and knowledge management practices.



SAPRAN Supports National Strategic Coordination and Organizing Initiative for Community Health Workers in Bangladesh

On 27–28 March 2026 in Dhaka, SAPRAN played a key facilitation and coordination role in the “Democracy at Work: Strengthening CHW in Bangladesh” National Strategic Planning and Coordination Meeting on the Community Health Workers’ (FWAA/FPIA) Organizing and Formalization Campaign.

Activities

SAPRAN's Research Director Md. Zarif Rahman facilitated multiple strategic sessions focused on organizational strengthening, membership expansion, leadership development, campaign planning, and policy advocacy for community health workers. Through presentations, group discussions, and action-planning sessions, SAPRAN contributed to developing strategies for

district-level organizing, policy advocacy, campaign coordination, and implementation monitoring. The meeting also created an important platform for strengthening coordination between FWAA and FPIA leadership and advancing a collective roadmap toward the formalization, recognition, and rights of community health workers in Bangladesh.

Participation in Care4Caregivers+ (C4C+) Workshop for Mental Health Professionals and Human Rights Defenders



From 31 March to 2 April 2026, SAPRAN researchers Zeba Saraf Sajida, Opshora Islam Tondra, and Md. Abu Saleh Shamim participated in the 3-day Care4Caregivers+ (C4C+) Workshop for Mental Health Professionals and Human Rights Defenders held in Dhaka.

The workshop was organized in collaboration with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal, bringing together human rights defenders and mental health professionals to strengthen psychosocial care, self-awareness, stress management, and collective well-being practices.

Through interactive sessions on self-assessment, body mapping, relaxation, grounding, problem management, and self-care, participants explored

practical approaches to sustaining mental health while working in challenging human rights contexts. SAPRAN researchers actively engaged in the workshop and gained valuable insights on caregiver support and psychosocial resilience, which SAPRAN aims to integrate into its future work by sharing these impactful learnings with researchers, activists, and human rights defenders through future training and capacity-building initiatives.

Participation in ODHIKAR's Protest Assembly on the Enforced Disappearance Prevention Ordinance and Human Rights Issues



On 8 April 2026, SAPRAN researcher (Md. Abu Saleh Shamim) participated in a protest assembly organized by ODHIKAR in front of the National Press Club to protest the recommendation against placing 16 ordinances issued during the interim government period before the National Parliament as bills, including the Enforced Disappearance Prevention Ordinance and the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance. The assembly brought together former members

of the Commission on Enforced Disappearances, members of civil society, victims, and family members of victims.

Through their participation, SAPRAN expressed solidarity with ongoing efforts to ensure accountability, protect human rights, and uphold justice for victims of enforced disappearance and other human rights violations in Bangladesh.

SAPRAN Researchers Conduct Field Visit in Chattogram for Study on Kneecapping Victims



From 15 to 19 April 2026, SAPRAN researchers Zeba Sajida Saraf and Md. Abu Saleh Shamim conducted a field visit in Chattogram to collect data from victims who had experienced kneecapping and headshot-related violence in previous years. As part of the research titled “Living Through the Wound: ‘Kneecapping’ – A Systematic Erasure of Political Dissent in Bangladesh,” the researchers visited victims’

homes and conducted detailed interviews regarding their experiences during the incidents, the nature of the violence they faced, and their current socio-economic conditions. The fieldwork aimed to document the long-term physical, psychological, and socio-economic impacts of politically motivated violence and contribute to a deeper understanding of the lived realities of survivors in Bangladesh.

SAPRAN Participates in National Consultation on Torture Prevention and Implementation of UNCAT and OPCAT

SAPRAN participated in the National Consultation on Torture Prevention and the Implementation of UNCAT and OPCAT, organized by ODHIKAR and World Organization Against Torture.





SAPRAN’s Research Director Md. Zarif Rahman spoke as a panelist in the session titled “The Importance and Impact of Documentation of Incidents of Torture and Advocacy,” where he presented “Beyond Documentation: From Incidents to Systems, Narratives, and Memory.” In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of moving beyond isolated incident-based documentation toward deeper structural analysis,

narrative framing, and collective memory-building to ensure meaningful accountability and justice. He also contributed to the panel discussion on “The Use of Force During Arrest and Crowd Control,” highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive police reform, the establishment of clear operational standards, and stronger accountability mechanisms regarding the use of force by law enforcement agencies.



Knowledge Exchange on Torture Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Accountability

On 28 April, Sapran participated in a Knowledge Exchange Meeting organized under the framework of the United Against Torture Consortium, hosted by the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh. The meeting brought together representatives from the United Nations, Switzerland, World Organisation Against Torture

(OMCT), Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Odhikar, DIGNITY, alongside other international partners, civil society organizations, and activists.

Activities

The exchange focused on ongoing efforts related to torture survivors, rehabilitation and treatment support, legal assistance, research initiatives, advocacy strategies, and policy recommendations. Representing SAPRAN, Md. Zarif Rahman shared updates on the organization's ongoing work on police use of force, police reform, advocacy for

banning pellet guns, and research on practices such as kneecapping and their broader human rights implications.

The meeting was attended by Alice Edwards, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and hosted by Jules Seitz from the EU Delegation to Bangladesh.

Participation in National Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Care for Torture Survivors: Health, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation



On 28 April 2026, SAPRAN's Research Director Md. Zarif Rahman participated as a panelist, while Durdana Chowdhury and Md. Abu Saleh Shamim joined as participants in the "National Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Care for Torture Survivors: Health, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation." During the discussion, Md. Zarif Rahman highlighted incidents of torture and repression surrounding the July movement, focusing particularly on the role of the police and the urgent need for institutional reform. He discussed how law enforcement agencies were systematically used to target and torture members of opposition political groups, sharing

examples and experiences of kneecapping victims from Satkania, Chattogram, and explaining the patterns and processes through which such violence was carried out. He also criticized partisan behavior within the police force and reflected on the negative implications of keeping the police under the direct control of the Ministry of Home Affairs, alongside concerns regarding the existing police recruitment process. Concluding his remarks, he called upon the police force to work not for any political party, but for the country and its people, emphasizing the importance of accountability, professionalism, and people-centered policing.

Sapran's **Current Projects**

- **Collective Memory of the July Revolution Through Doctors' Testimonies and Medical Narratives of Victims and Survivors**
- **Building Campus-Based Youth Research Networks on Human Rights, Accountability and Environmental Justice in Bangladesh**
- **Human Rights Tracker: Regular Monitoring & Documentation of Human Rights Violations**
- **Building Awareness of Police Reform' supported by Omega Research Foundation**
- **Building a Roadmap for Transitional Justice**
- **Living Through the Wound: "Kneecapping" A Systematic Erasure of Political Dissent in Bangladesh" supported by Omega Research Foundation**
- **Understanding Social Violence in Bangladesh**
- **Behind the Public Verdict: Investigating the Structural Roots of Pro-Death Penalty Sentiment in Bangladesh**
- **Pellet Guns – Deadly in Disguise: The Hidden Torture of "Non-Lethal" Weapons**
- **The Anatomy of Headshots: State-Sponsored Violence and the Lethal Suppression of Protesters during the 2024 Uprising**
- **Kneecapping Democracy: Silencing Dissent by Crippling Bodies in Bangladesh**
- **Human Rights Landscape after the Uprising: Justice, Accountability, and Democratic Challenges in Bangladesh**
- **Border Violence in Bangladesh: Rights, Accountability, and Community Impacts**

Sapran's Recent Publications

Bangladesh Heatwave Risk Mapping Using Temperature And Mortality Data (April-June, 2023-2025)

Published: April 2026

Mapping Protest Dispersal And Use Of Tools In Bangladesh

Published: April 2026

Election-time Violence Against Minority Communities (2001-2024)

Published: March 2026

নির্বাচন-পরবর্তী সহিংসতায় এক সপ্তাহে
নিহত ৫, বেশি প্রভাব ৮ জেলায়

Published: March 2026 at Prothom Alo

Opinion Pieces

COUNTERPOINT

How an Unhealed Society Keeps Reproducing Discrimination

Publication Date: 6 March 2026

Author: Md. Zarif Rahman



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