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SAPRAN'S NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST - OCTOBER 2025



Human Rights  
Tracker

Monthly  
Activities

Publications

Opinion  
Pieces

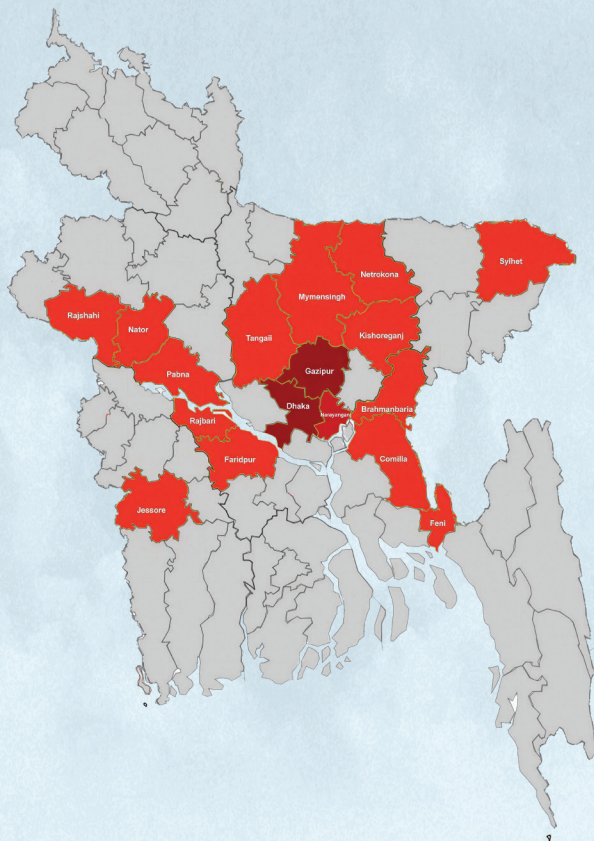


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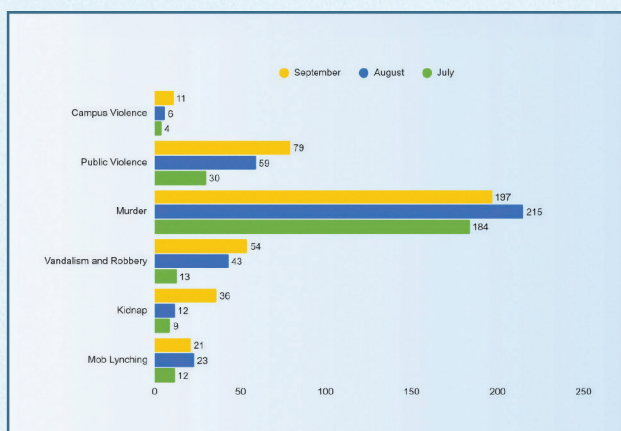
## District-wise Trends of Mob Lynching (September 2025)

### Division Wise Count:

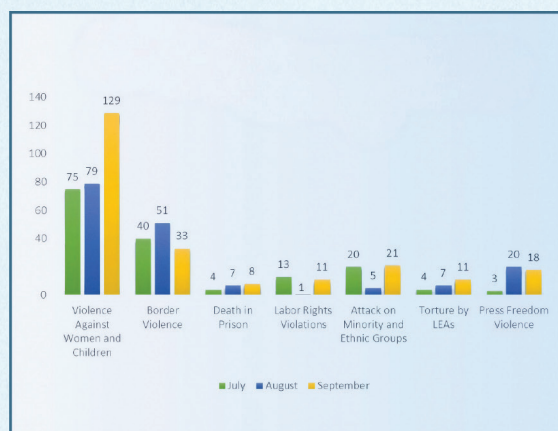
- Dhaka: 10
- Chattogram: 4
- Rajshahi: 3
- Mymensingh: 2
- Sylhet: 1
- Khulna: 1
- Barisal: 0
- Rangpur: 0



### Month-wise Comparison of Human Rights Violations



### Month-wise Breakdown of Criminal Offences



# Delegation Submits Research Reports to ICT Chief Prosecutor



On Sunday, August 24, 2025, a delegation from Sapran met with Mohammad Tajul Islam, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), to present crucial findings on recent state violence in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, Sapran submitted two comprehensive research reports. The first report documented the horrors of indiscriminate use of shotgun pellets by law enforcement against unarmed civilians during the July uprising, detailing the scale of injuries, permanent disabilities, and human rights violations. The second report focused on the systematic use of targeted headshots carried out against protesters and ordinary citizens, highlighting the lethal nature of this tactic and its role in suppressing dissent.

Representing Sapran at the meeting were Md. Zarif Rahman, Research Director of Sapran and Student Representative of the Police Reform Commission, and Zeba Sajida Saraf, Researcher at Sapran. The delegation emphasised the urgent need for accountability and the pursuit of justice for the victims of these violent crackdowns.

The Chief Prosecutor acknowledged the submissions, noting their potential significance for ongoing legal and human rights efforts.

## Supports Community Health Workers in Global Advocacy



Sapran played a pivotal role in enabling three Community Health Worker (CHW) representatives from Bangladesh, two Family Welfare Assistants (FWA) and one Family Planning Inspector (FPI), to participate in two major international events in Kathmandu, Nepal. These were the CHW South Asia Sub-Regional Networking Meeting (26–28 August 2025) and the first UNI Apro Care Sector Founding Conference (28–29 August 2025). Together, these forums brought more than 120 participants from 20 countries under the shared vision of advancing care workers’ rights, recognition, and collective power.

A key element of Sapran’s contribution was serving as the bridge between UNI Global Union and the two national associations – the Family Planning Inspectors Association (FPIA) and the Family Welfare Assistants Association (FWAA). By facilitating this link, Sapran ensured that Bangladesh’s CHWs were represented at the global level and that their long-standing struggles were placed firmly on the international agenda.

In the lead-up to the conferences, Sapran organized preparatory and brainstorming sessions with FPIA and FWAA, helping frontline workers articulate their challenges, priorities, and advocacy strategies. Sapran provided technical guidance, documentation support, and communication assistance.

At the CHW South Asia Sub-Regional Networking Meeting, themed “Unifying Voices, Strengthening Action: Advancing CHW Rights and Recognition in South Asia,” the Bangladeshi delegates exchanged experiences with colleagues from across the region. They reflected on common challenges such as overwhelming workloads, inadequate recognition, and the absence of labor protections, while also exploring strategies for stronger collective organizing.



Sapran held a follow-up meeting with the representatives from FWAA and FPIA

Immediately after, at the UNI Apro Care Sector Founding Conference, themed “Asia and Pacific Care Workers Uniting and Rising Together,” the Bangladesh representatives contributed grassroots perspectives from maternal and child healthcare to a historic, first-of-its-kind platform of care workers across the Asia-Pacific region. Their voices, backed by Sapran’s technical and advocacy support, added vital weight to global discussions on care work and workers’ rights.

Following their return from Nepal, Sapran convened a follow-up consultation with FPIA and FWAA to reflect on key learnings and jointly design a forward-looking work plan. Looking ahead, Sapran, in collaboration with UNI Global Union, will support these associations through training, mentoring, and other capacity-building initiatives. These efforts will increase their capacity and overall effectiveness, enabling them to serve their communities better and enhance the impact of their work at the grassroots level.



Sapran held a follow-up meeting with the representatives from FWAA and FPIA

Community Health Workers remain the backbone of Bangladesh’s healthcare system, yet their contributions are chronically under-recognized and undervalued. Through its role as connector, capacity builder, and advocate, Sapran continues to work towards ensuring that CHWs’ struggles are transformed into collective action and meaningful change locally, nationally, and globally.

## Partners at Bengal Delta Conference 2025



Sapran team with the दौरا team at the Bengal Delta Conference 2025 after the end of the event

Sapran was privileged to serve as a partner in the Bengal Delta Conference 2025, organised by Daira and held on 29–30 August at InterContinental Dhaka. The two-day international conference brought together leading academics, policymakers, journalists, development practitioners, and human rights advocates to engage in meaningful dialogue on governance, democracy, and social justice in South Asia.

As a partner organization, Sapran's delegation played an important role in ensuring the success of the event. Md. Zarif Rahman and Zeba Sajida Saraf served as supervisors of the Public Relations Team, where they oversaw media coordination, participant engagement, and communications with stakeholders. Their efforts ensured the smooth coordination of the conference and enhanced its overall visibility and outreach.

Meanwhile, Sanjid Tahsin Rakin led the volunteer team, supervising logistics, facilitating panel sessions, and ensuring smooth management of discussions, Q&A rounds, and networking opportunities. His leadership was instrumental in maintaining a professional and seamless flow of the program.

By partnering with Daira in this significant initiative, Sapran not only contributed to the successful organization of the conference, but also strengthened its own advocacy platform. The active involvement of its members reflects Sapran's commitment to fostering collaborative spaces for dialogue, promoting evidence-based advocacy, and amplifying voices for justice and democratic accountability in Bangladesh and beyond.

## Panel Discussion at Bengal Delta Conference 2025



Panelists discussing the challenges and prospects of Human Rights, Justice, and Accountability in a Changing Bangladesh

On 30 August 2025, a panel discussion titled “Authoritarianism, Atrocity and Accountability: Human Rights Abuses and Transitional Justice in Bangladesh” was held at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka. Jointly organized by Daira, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Sapran, this session was one of the most significant events of the Bengal Delta Conference 2025.

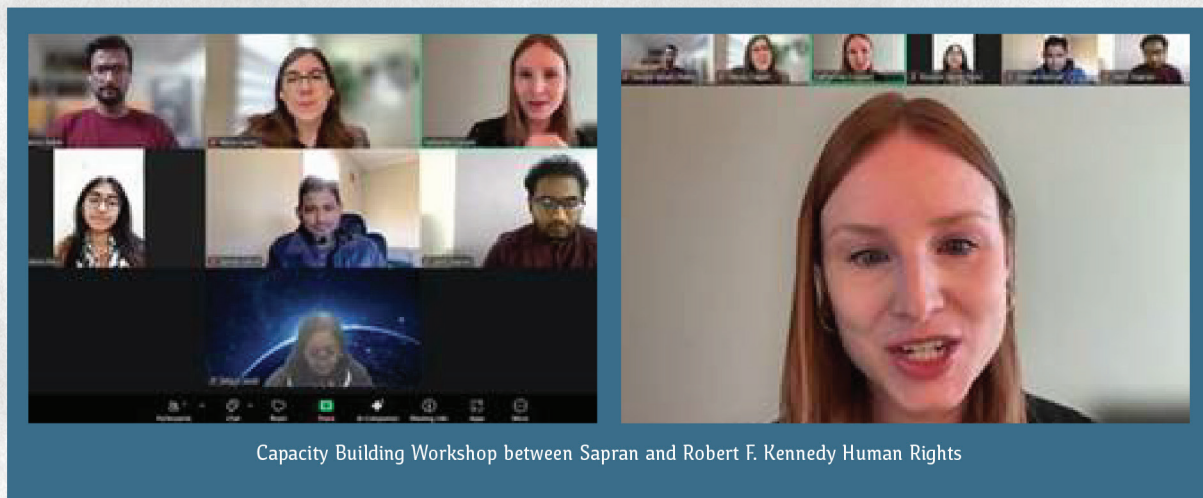
In the discussion, UN Special Rapporteur Irene Khan assessed the role of the media in the July Uprising and provided guidance on strengthening the media as the fourth pillar of democracy. Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal Mohammad Tajul Islam shared his experiences regarding the prospects and challenges of ensuring justice. Supreme Court senior lawyer and human rights activist Barrister Sara Hossain elaborated on the limitations and possibilities of existing judicial structures in determining accountability and ensuring justice. In addition, Senior Fellow of the Tech Global Institute, Taqbir Huda, reflected on the multidimensional aspects of accountability in the transitional period following the uprising.

The session was moderated by Huma Khan, Senior Human Rights Adviser at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. The overarching message of the discussion emphasized: For Bangladesh’s democratic future, accountability, judicial reform, and media freedom are indispensable.



Panelists discussing the challenges and prospects of Human Rights, Justice, and Accountability in a Changing Bangladesh

## Capacity Building Workshop with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights



The first session explored the ethics of fact-finding, where Catherine Cooper highlighted key principles from the Murad Code, emphasizing Do No Harm, informed consent, and survivor autonomy. Participants discussed common ethical challenges when working with survivors of violence and reflected on the importance of compassion, transparency, and ethical risk assessment in documentation work.

The second segment examined the importance of defining the purpose of data collection. Md. Zarif Rahman shared insights from Sapran's work, noting the need to balance methodological rigor with empathy when handling sensitive data. Nusrat Jahan Nisu outlined Sapran's documentation and verification processes, stressing the centrality of survivor collaboration and informed participation.

A session on transitional justice connected ethical documentation to broader justice mechanisms such as accountability, truth-seeking, and reparations. Participants noted that responsible documentation preserves survivor dignity and contributes to long-term justice efforts.

Discussions on data dissemination and confidentiality were led by Opshora Islam Tondra, who described Sapran's multi-layered approach to data security and survivor safety. Zaman Ashraf and Zeba Sajida Saraf shared experiences on managing identity disclosure, highlighting that consent is an ongoing process shaped by survivor comfort and choice.

The workshop concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to ethical, survivor-centred documentation. Participants emphasized that credibility in human rights work relies on clarity of purpose, compassion, and the highest ethical standards.

The workshop was attended by Catherine Cooper, Alexis Capati, Zaman Ashraf, Md. Zarif Rahman, Zeba Sajida Saraf, Nusrat Jahan Nisu, Sanjid Tahsin Rakin, and Opshora Islam Tondra.

## Field Visits to the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital

On 23 September and 15 October 2025, the Sapran team conducted field visits to the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Dhaka to collect information, document medical testimonies, and gather official medical records related to head-targeted shootings during the July Uprising. The objective was to gain deeper insights into the nature, scale, and long-term



From the left Dr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Nusrat Jahan Nisu, Zeba Sajida Saraf, and MD. Zarif Rahman



From the left Dr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Zeba Sajida Saraf, and Sanjid Tahsin Rakin with the medical documents

impact of state violence on civilian victims, while preserving critical evidence for research, justice, and accountability. During the visits, the team interviewed an injured survivor who continues to suffer from severe physical and psychological trauma, reflecting the enduring human cost of the violence. According to Dr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, a neurosurgery specialist at the institute, 575 gunshot victims were brought to the hospital in July, including 167 with head injuries, of whom 4 arrived dead and 29 later succumbed to their wounds. The visits also underscored the resilience of medical professionals working under immense pressure and the grave humanitarian and ethical dimensions of the crisis.

## Roundtable Discussion on Human Rights in Transition



Glimpses from the roundtable discussion

On 8 October 2025, Shokol Praner Nirapotta (Sapran) organized a roundtable discussion titled “Human Rights in Transition: Accountability, Institutions, and Fragility in Post-Uprising

On 8 October 2025, Shokol Praner Nirapotta (Sapran) organized a roundtable discussion titled “Human Rights in Transition: Accountability, Institutions, and Fragility in Post-Uprising Bangladesh” at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Dhaka. The event brought together academics, human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society representatives to reflect on the human rights situation in Bangladesh following the 2024 Mass Uprising. The session opened with a presentation by Opshora Islam Tondra, who shared key findings from Sapran’s research report “After the Monsoon Uprising: Reviewing Bangladesh’s Human Rights Landscape in the Transitional Period (Aug 2024) - July 2025)” The discussion examined patterns of rights violations between 2024 and 2025, noting both progress and persisting challenges under the interim government. Participants explored issues such as state accountability, institutional fragility, minority protection, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and freedom of expression. Speakers emphasized the need for institutional reform, inclusive governance, and stronger documentation mechanisms to ensure truth, justice, and reconciliation in the transitional context. The roundtable underscored that rebuilding Bangladesh’s fragile human rights landscape requires collective effort, transparency, and sustained civic engagement.

## Participates in Stakeholder Consultation on NHRC Draft Ordinance



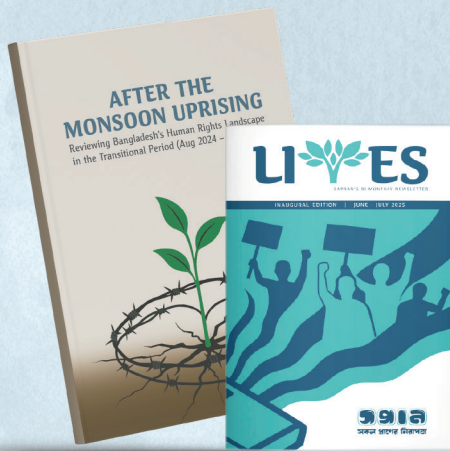
Glimpses from the discussion, with Nusrat Jahan Nisu addressing the stakeholders

On October 23 2025, Sapran joined a stakeholder consultation hosted by the UN OHCHR with representatives from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, focusing on the proposed National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Draft Ordinance. During the session, Md. Zarif Rahman, Research Director of Sapran, emphasized that political actors in Bangladesh often lack incentives to strengthen accountability institutions, noting that the real challenge will be whether the next elected government ensures genuine reform. He called for a multidisciplinary, research-driven, and victim-centred Commission capable of addressing both state and non-state violations. Nusrat Jahan Nisu, Research Assistant at Sapran, stressed the importance of inclusive representation, particularly of women, minorities, and indigenous communities, and urged for proactive institutional responses to both action and inaction that perpetuate violence. Sapran reiterated that the NHRC must evolve into a truly empowered accountability institution, bridging the gap between state and society.

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## Sapran's Recent Publications

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- **After the Monsoon Uprising**

Reviewing Bangladesh's Human Rights Landscape in the Transitional Period

(August 2024 - July 2025)

- **Lives**

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

(June - July 2025)

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## Sapran's Current Projects

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### Post-July Uprising

- **Deadly in Disguise**  
The Use of Pellet Guns against Civilians during the July- August 2024 Mass Uprising in Bangladesh
- **Anatomy of Headshot**  
State-sponsored Violence and the Lethal Suppression of Protesters during the July Uprising

### State Violence

- **Kneecapping in Bangladesh**  
State Violence, Social Death, and Necro-politics
- **Border Violence**
- **Bare Lives Across the Border**  
Collective Suffering and Culture of Impunity in the Bangladesh-India Frontier

### International Collaboration

- **UNI Global Union**  
Building Capacity and Empowering Community Health Workers in Bangladesh

## Opinion Pieces from *Sapran*



### The Daily Star

#### Continuing Brutality at the Bangladesh-India Border

Publication Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Author: Nusrat Jahan Nisu

### NEWAGE

#### Family Welfare Assistants Hold Key to Health Future

Publication Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Author: Sanjid Tahsin Rakin

### COUNTERPOINT

#### Understanding Bangladesh's Post-Uprising Reality

Publication Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Author: MD. Zarif Rahman, Opshora Islam Tondra



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