



মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার, সুরক্ষিত হবে মানবাধিকার
ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**National Human Rights Commission
Bangladesh**



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh



National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh
BTMC Building (Level-8)
7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Website: www.nhrc.org.bd, E-mail: info@nhrc.org.bd
PABX: 55013726-28
Helpline: 16108



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

This publication is an annual report of the Commission on its activities from January 1st to December 31st of 2019. The Commission submits this report to the Honorable President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh in compliance with Article 22 (01) of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009.



National Human Rights Commission



National Human Rights Commission

Annual Report 2019

Editorial Board

Nasima Begum, ndc, Chairman, NHRC
Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed- Full-Time
Towfika Karim- Member, NHRC
Ching Kew Roaza- Member, NHRC
Mizanur Rahman Khan- Member, NHRC
Jesmin Ara Begum- Member, NHRC
Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc- Member, NHRC

Chairman, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board
Member, Editorial Board

Associate Editor

Farhana Syead- Public Relations Officer

Copyright

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh

Published by

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh

BTMC Building (Level-8)

7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Website: www.nhrc.org.bd; Email: info@nhrc.org.bd

PABX: 02-55013726-28, Helpline: 16108

Printed by

Digital Design Plus

294, Gawsul Azam Supper Market, Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205, Cell: 01711107874



National Human Rights Commission

Table of Contents

Foreword from the Chairman	7-9
Message from Full-Time Member	10
Editorial	11
 CHAPTER 01: NHRCB: Background and Functions	 12-15
1.1 Mandate	13
1.2 Different Roles of NHRCB	13
1.3 Agenda	14
1.4 Thematic Committee	14
1.5 Human Rights Protection Club	15
1.6 Functions and strategies	15
 CHAPTER 02: Human Rights Outlook in 2019	 16-19
 CHAPTER 03: Protecting Rights by Dealing with Complaints	 20-25
3.1 Total Complaints received in 2019	20
3.2 Number of Suo Moto Complaints	22
3.3 Highlighting Important Interventions	24
3.4 Suo Moto cognizance	25
 CHAPTER 04: Highlights of activities of NHRCB in 2019	 26-37
4.1 New Commission made courtesy call on Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	26
4.2 Hon'ble Prime Minister Attends Human Rights Day Observance Program	27
4.3 NHRC Launches e-Filing	29
4.4 Seminar/ Workshop	30
4.5 NHRC & ICT	35
4.6 Publications	35
4.7 Key Decisions of Commission Meeting	36
4.8 NHRC in Media	36
 CHAPTER 05. Challenges & Way Forward	 37-38
Annexure:	39-47
01.Financial Statement	39
02.List of Members	41
03.List of Officers	48



National Human Rights Commission



Foreword From the Chairman

Human Rights is eternal and universal which is not confined by any border of any country. To live with dignity by birth is the main theme of UDHR 1948. A human being has equal rights regardless of religion, caste, gender, age, ethnicity, disability and place of birth.

On one hand human rights are the right to life, speech and movement. On the other hand, right to food, clothing, shelter, education, health are also human rights. The constitution which was gifted by Bangabandhu within 10 months of our liberation reflects 30 articles of UDHR. Besides, the preamble of our constitution mentions “it shall be a fundamental aim of the State to realise through the democratic process a socialist society, free from exploitation – a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens.” Rights and responsibility are complementary to each other. Right giver and right enjoyer both have responsibilities to implement human rights.

After appointed by hon’ble President the fifth Commission took charge on 23 September 2019. Immediately after taking charge the new commission tried to know the experience and challenges of former commissions by conducting meeting with former chairman and members. Former Commission applauded the initiative and shared their activities as well as their pending tasks. New commission agreed to continue best practices of former commission and also to generate new ideas to develop the standard of the functions of NHRC. Besides, new commission set their priorities through consultation with CSOs, human rights defenders and media. Commission notices that awareness on human rights from root to center is yet to be built. As a result, one of the most important activity of this present commission will be to raise mass awareness on human rights. I believe, the members of new commission will be able to contribute towards promotion and protection of human rights through their past experience.

We know, there is no alternative to digital management to cope up with the world. In this context, NHRC has taken decision to conduct day to day office task through online. To this end, we have already introduced e-Filing. Besides, Online Complaint Management and an Integrated Office Management System will be operationalized shortly. Present commission is very active for the best use of ICT.

In October 2019, Abrar Fahad, a student of BUET was beaten to death by his university mates. NHRC believes that it is gross violation of human rights. The Commission took the matter seriously and discussed the matter in its first commission meeting as the first agenda. Commission decided to condemn the killing and send recommendations to the concerned ministries to ensure justice immediately and

ensure exemplary punishment to the murderers. We wrote to concerned ministries after gas cylinder blast in Mirpur. In addition, we requested to Executive Director of CPD to arrange for artificial limb for a wounded woman who lost her hand in this blast. CPD responded us very cordially.

In recent times, violence against women, rape and attack have been terrific. I believe, social intolerance, degrading humane values are the main reasons behind these increased incidences. Bangladesh is the role model of women empowerment in world. In our country, various initiatives are taken for women empowerment. In spite of that, women are facing misconducts including sexual harassment in transports and workplaces. It affects women empowerment and state's achievements get blurred as a result of this. It is important to arrest the perpetrators, submit them before court, complete the investigation properly and ensure exemplary punishment by speedy trial immediately. NHRC called on to strengthen LEAs surveillance. The commission also called on the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges to install CCTV camera in public transport and take effective measures in this regard.

NHRC has taken a number of initiatives to celebrate 100th birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 17 March 2020- 17 March 2021. Bangabandhu dedicated his life for establishing human rights. Bearing this into mind, NHRC sets theme "Commitment of Mujib Year, Human Rights will be protected". NHRC is going to organize essay competition titled "Bangabandhu & Human Rights" to introduce youths with humane Bangabandhu and human rights. Students of Class 09-10 and 11-12 will participate at the competition. I think, as a result, human rights awareness will be raised among students, parents and teachers. In next year, to celebrate Mujib year a grand rally and an international seminar titled "Bangabandhu's religious belief and human rights" will be organized. Besides, after consulting with Thematic Committee on Persons with Disabilities and related ministries and organization, NHRC will take initiative to make roads, transports and footpaths accessible for Persons with Disabilities with the aim of ensuring accessible Dhaka.

From the beginning in 2009, NHRC is taking various initiatives for the protection and promotion of human rights. In spite of that Global Alliance For National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) has accredited B status to NHRC, Bangladesh. According to GANHRI, the Commission could not be accredited A status for not complying with the important provisions of Paris Principles. Actually, the NHRC Act 2009 through which the Commission was established has the loopholes. The Commission cannot be liable for this. Besides, on one hand, amendment of the Act takes time, on the other hand, the amendment doesn't depend on only NHRC's will. It is very regretful that only for not amending some provisions of the Act, NHRC has not got the highest status despite being member state of UN Human Rights Council for three times. Despite similar provisions in the Acts of NHRC, India and NHRC, Bangladesh; India has got A status whereas Bangladesh got B status. We think, it shows discriminatory approach towards Bangladesh. Often we notice, the act contains lots of good provisions but lacks effective implementation. What the Commission is doing in accordance with its mandate should be considered when it comes to the selection of status. For example, present Commission has taken and is going to take various activities to elevate human rights from root to the center and to awake humane values. We think, status selection based on this would be prudent.

Despite progress in many ways, the Commission still has some limitations. For instance, the Commission doesn't have any permanent building. For making the ongoing activities more swift it is very important to have permanent building. To this end, Commission members negotiated with government and got positive response. At present, Commission has only 48 manpower. Besides, we are taking initiatives of amending organisational structure and increasing manpower for making the ongoing activities faster.

Lastly, at present human rights violations are occurring due to impatient and immoral practices resulting from the demise of ethical values in family and society.

In 2019, Human Rights Day theme was “Youth Standing for Human Rights”. Since the establishment of NHRC, this year for the very first time Hon’ble Prime Minister had attended the human rights day program as the Chief Guest. She called on everyone including youths to work together for the protection and promotion of human rights uttering strongly “We Protect Human Rights”. Commission is working to fulfill this goal. NHRC will create human rights protection club in all upazilla level which will incorporate students of class 09 & 10 selected for student cabinet. These students will be trained on human rights and will be the ambassador for raising awareness on human rights.

I believe, we will be able to introduce Bangladesh as humane country along with developed one by working together for raising awareness on human rights protection and creating ethical values from root to the center and by spontaneous participation of youths in human rights protection as well. Along with the youth we commit-

Youth are standing up for human rights
No one would be left behind: spirit of mind is on the rise
Let's march on together towards the ways of rights
Human rights is universal- we all need to know
From the very birth- with dignity , we want to grow.
Hey Brother! we all have the right to freedom of expression
But none of us own the right to hurt difference of opinion
Human rights is equal for all-let's pronounce it in union
Society is at stake when ethical values are on the wane
In the family, the foundation of the ways of life is laid down
We need to say 'No' to drug, terrorism and corruption
Let's uphold the values of family life, o my brethren
Human rights is equal for all- let's pronounce it in union.
(Poem Translated by: Hiranmaya Barai, Former Secretary, NHRC)

Nasima Begum, ndc



Message From Full-Time Member

We are very pleased to present Annual Report 2019 of the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh as per Section 22 (1) of the NHRC Act 2009.

This year, the Commission witnessed transition. The new Commission comprises of members with wide range of experience in human rights protection. We believe, with our experience we can better serve our nation for promotion and protection of human right.

Bangladesh has ratified eight out of nine conventions on human rights indicating our respect to human rights. The Father of our nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fought for human rights throughout his life. The preamble of our constitution states that the fundamental aim of the State is to realise through the democratic process a socialist society, free from exploitation- a society in which rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens. The National Human Rights Commission was established in 2009 to fulfill this aim by the present government.

Throughout the year 2019, NHRC initiated lots of activities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. As the new members, we decided to sit with the previous members to know the challenges they faced during their tenure and to know what their priorities were and what are the pending works we need to complete.

Like previous years, this year too NHRC maintained its advisory role by recommending government on several human rights issues. Mention may be made to BUET student Abrar murder; gas cylinder blast in Mirpur. The trend of violence against women specially rape was a matter of concern around the world. Thus, NHRC raised concern and wrote to concerned authorities to take necessary action against this heinous crime.

In this year, we launched e-File system for smooth operation of regular office works. We also decided to launch Integrated Office Management System and Online Complaint Management System. We believe, in this era of digitalization NHRC needs to adopt itself with modern technologies and make better use of it for smooth functioning.

At this point, I would like to thank all the stakeholders of NHRC including state and non-state actors for their continuous support.

Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed



Editorial

I am pleased to edit Annual Report 2019 of the National Human Rights Commission. The report elaborates the activities of the National Human Rights Commission in 2019. I have been able to edit this year's report by gaining knowledge through practical experience from being involved in the preparation of the annual report of the last three years. The valuable guidance of the Honorable Chairman and Honorable Full Time Member has enabled me to prepare this report.

The overall structure of the report follows the structure of previous years. Not much has been changed in the composition of the first (Introduction to the commission) and fifth (Challenges & Way Forward) chapters as the background and functions of the commission are unchanged and many obstacles remain. However, the information in the second, third and fourth chapters is completely new and those chapters reflect the significant functions of the Commission in 2019. Many, especially human rights activists and journalists, are interested in the Commission's views on the human rights situation in Bangladesh; the second chapter presents an analysis of the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2019. The third chapter contains a detailed reflection of the Commission's complaint management and the fourth chapter details the important actions. In 2019, Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh appointed a new Chairman, Full-Time Member and Honorary Members of the Commission. As a result, in 2019 the former chairman and members run the commission for six months of the year, the Commission remained vacant for about two months and the newly formed Commission conducted its activities for three months.

The report depicts the significant activities undertaken during the tenure of the two Commissions. The capacity development activities of the commission continued in 2019. Despite the shortage of manpower, the Commission was vocal as usual in protecting human rights across the country. However, less number of complaints have been settled as the commission has been vacant for two months, which has gained momentum since the new commission joined. I would like to express my gratitude to the Honorable Chairman, Full-Time Member and Honorary Members for providing valuable guidance in preparing the report. I am also grateful to all my colleagues for their assistance in getting the information. I would also like to express my gratitude to the former Secretary of the Commission Mr. Hiranmaya Barai whose guidance in preparing reports of last three years helped me to gain courage to edit this year's report.

I hope the report will be helpful for all concerned to obtain the expected information and that readers will evaluate our dedicated efforts in preparing this report, taking into account all the limitations, errors and deviations.

Farhana Syead

CHAPTER : 01

NHRCB: Background and Functions

Our beloved country People's Republic of Bangladesh was established as a result of struggle for human rights. It was possible due to our Father of the nation the Greatest Bengali of all time Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Proclamation of our Liberation War clearly mentions about ensuring equity, human dignity and social justice. Collectively they are called human rights. 30 articles of UDHR are fully reflected in the constitution that was gifted by Bangabandhu within 10 months of our independence. Besides, The proclamation of our constitution writes "it shall be a fundamental aim of the State to realise through the democratic process a socialist society, free from exploitation a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens."

Though the concept and ideals of human rights were well incorporated into the Constitution of Bangladesh in 1972 it took quite a long time to come up with the first initiative to form a national Commission for promoting and protecting human rights in the country. It was by the present government that they first felt the necessity of creating an aura of human rights and establishing rule of law in the country, removing the culture of impunity, upheld by the previous rulers after their epoch-making political rise in 1996. Achieving a hard-earned and glorious victory in the national election the new government was burdened with numerous initiatives regarding restoration of democracy, bringing war-criminals under trial, reforming systems and machineries and reconstructing many projects and programs for leading the country towards development. Moreover, the government became mindful to create a paradigm towards establishing a broad-based human rights culture in the society. And with the help of UNDP a draft-legislation was made in 1998 with a view to forming a Commission. But the legacy of procrastination of the previous regime was still prevailing; and, therefore, the issue remained pending and under consideration for a long time. At last a Commission came into being on 1st September 2008 with the promulgation of National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2007. A three-member Commission started working on 1st December, 2008. But as a matter of fact the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh assumed a full-fledged shape and came into people's sight after the enactment of the National Human rights Commission Act-2009. The legislation enabled NHRCB to start functioning with full capacity in June 2010. The second Commission under the spell of the NHRC Act 2009 worked for two terms until June 2016. The fourth Commission worked till June 2019. The present one is literally the fifth Commission that commences its journey on 23 September 2019. It is composed of a Chairman, a Full-time Member and five other honorary Members.

**Keeping Constant
Watch on
HR Violation**

**Dealing with
Complaint on HR
Violation**

**Providing Counseling &
Legal Aid to Victims &
Vulnerable Groups**

**Awareness Building
&
Advocacy on HR**

**Research &
Publication on
HR Issues**

**Issuing Guidelines &
Recommendations on
HR Issues**

**Legal Reform on
HR issues**

**International
Coordination
Participation and
Reporting**

1.1 Mandates

The National Human Rights Commission is legally mandated to work extensively with the prime objective of establishing human rights in the country. The Commission needs to intervene into quite a lot of aspects including examining human rights situation of the country, legal system, national and international policies and conventions on human rights etc. And that is why the Commission's mandates are extensive. The principal mandates of the Commission may be categorized as below:

1.2 Different Roles of NHRCB

Watchdog role: NHRCB predominantly plays an observing and monitoring role on human rights violation; NHRCB watches, studies and analyzes the prevailing human rights situation of the country.

Advocacy role: NHRCB holds advocacy with government and non-government organizations, NGOs, INGOs, donors and development partners etc. on many fronts. NHRCB makes awareness building programs, sends recommendations and guidelines to the government and duty-bearers to establish human rights. NHRCB launches call for action to international community to come forward in helping special crises such as the Rohingya crisis ongoing presently.

Catalytic role: NHRCB plays as a catalyst role and operates as a push factor towards achieving targeted goals and objectives on human rights issues in different times.

Pioneering role: NHRCB pioneers awareness raising campaigns; works as a forerunner of ideas and highlights and addresses particular situation on human rights; NHRCB has the aptitude to initiate a debate or a dialogue and it holds interactive sessions with counterparts to discuss aspects on human rights. Working on thematic areas NHRCB paves the way for launching new initiatives like the "Brave men campaign" to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes mindset and raise awareness about VAW with campaign like "Girls not Bride".

Bridging role: NHRCB is the common platform for many stakeholders; NHRCB brings many persons and organizations together in a forum to discuss on human rights and bridges NGOs, CSOs with the government towards achieving targeted objectives collectively.

Harmonizing role: NHRCB initiates reviewing or drafting new legislation or policy harmonizing public demands and national and international instruments. NHRCB proactively drives and leads legal reforms in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; NHRCB worked on Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Prevention) Act 2013, Children Act 2013, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, and Draft-Anti-Discrimination Law. NHRCB interprets situational development on ICCPR, ICESCR, VAW, CEDAW etc. for local advocacy perspectives.

Supervising role: NHRCB initiates field visits and constitutes Fact Finding Missions to find out the root causes behind sensational incidences of violation.

Mouthpiece role: NHRCB raises voice against violation or breach of human rights distinctly and loudly. NHRCB encourages other human rights defenders to be united to consolidate a movement on certain demands on human rights. NHRCB seizes an opportunity to promote a situation on human rights in collaboration with stakeholders, media and government as well as per the demand of the time.

Collaborating role: NHRCB works in partnership and collaboration with relevant CSOs, CBOs, NGOs and sponsors joint programs to reach certain targeted goals. In this regard NHRCB comes under MOUs with different organizations.

Last resort's role: NHRCB may be considered as the last resort for seeking justice by the less fortunate and vulnerable people. NHRCB tries to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of people. Jahalam case may be identified as the apt exponent of NHRCB's intervention to establish justice as the last resort.

1.3 Agenda

The visionary goal of the National Human Rights Commission is to establish a broad-based human rights culture in the country; and to reach that goal NHRCB's agenda necessarily become many. Main agenda are described below:

- Advocacy on establishing the rights of poor, weak, marginalized and vulnerable people
- Advocacy on establishing rights of women (ensuring empowerment, removing abuse, torture, discrimination, sexual harassment, gender based violence, trafficking etc.)
- Advocacy on establishing child rights (combating early and forced marriage, eve-teasing, rape, sexual harassment, dropouts from school, child labor, trafficking etc.)
- Advocacy on establishing rights of persons with disabilities
- Advocacy on establishing rights of the Third Gender and excluded minorities
- Advocacy on establishing rights of the ethnic & religious minorities (focusing on Land Rights, Discrimination etc.)
- Advocacy on establishing rights of ethnic minorities of CHTs and plain land areas (focusing on Land Rights, Discrimination etc.)
- Advocacy on Rohingya Issue
- Advocacy on addressing Terrorism and Extremism
- Advocacy on addressing Drug Addiction, Drug Trade/ Trafficking etc.
- Advocacy on addressing Migrant Workers' Rights
- Advocacy on addressing violence by LEAs (Torture, Custodial Torture etc.)
- Advocacy on addressing Climate Change, man-made and natural disasters affecting human rights
- Advocacy on addressing Business and Human Rights (occupational safety, workers' rights, Trade Union Rights etc.)
- Advocacy on establishing rights of the Elderly People
- Advocacy on establishing Rights of Freedom of Expression
- Forming Human Rights Protection Club which will include student cabinet of secondary and higher secondary level in all upazilla and representatives of Anti-Corruption Commission's "Satata Sangha" with the aim of raising humane values from root to center. Members of this club will work as human rights ambassadors.

1.4 Thematic Committee

The visionary goal of the National Human Rights Commission is to establish a broad-based human rights culture in the country; and to reach that goal NHRCB's agenda necessarily become many. NHRC has formed 12 thematic committees accordingly:

- Committee to advise government on acts, treaties and conventions on human rights
- Committee on Dalit, Hijra, Religious, Ethnic, Non-citizen and other excluded minorities' rights
- Committee on Persons with Disability and Autism
- Committee on Child Rights and Child Labor
- Committee on Business & Human Rights and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management
- Committee on Migrant Worker's Rights and Anti Trafficking
- Committee on Respecting others opinion with a view to create moral values and awareness on human rights
- Committee on CHT Affairs
- Committee on Elderly People's Rights
- Committee on Violence against Women
- Committee on Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights

1.5 Human Rights Protection Club

NHRC has Taken initiative to form Human Rights Protection Club which will include student cabinet of secondary and higher secondary level in all upazilla and representatives of Anti-Corruption Commission's "Satata Sangha" with the aim of raising humane vales from root to center. Members of this club will work as human rights ambassadors. Signing MoU with Ministry of Education and Anti-Corruption Commission in this regurd is under prosses.

1.6 Functions and strategies

The National Human Rights Commission follows its second Five-Year Strategic Plan (2016-2020) to operationalize its functions. An annual action plan now called the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) is made beforehand to be performed within a financial year (July to June). Activities are included in the APA as per the priority of the Strategic Plan and considering the contemporary human rights outlook and incidental demands of the time. NHRCB's functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Identifying and prioritizing the issues on human rights; (through media report, Global comparative study, reports of different internationally reputed organizations and citizens' feedback etc.)
- Studying, analyzing, and monitoring on human rights situation;
- Collecting and preserving data on different human rights issues;
- Raising protest against human rights violations including disappearance, harassment, unlawful arrest by police, torture in custodies etc.
- Conducting enquiries and investigations as part of its legal mandate;
- Taking cognizance suo moto on sensational violations of human rights;
- Acting as party to certain cases in favor of the victims in the court;
- Adopting mediation and reconciliation to deliver human rights services through mutually acceptable solutions;
- Providing counseling and legal aid to the victims and vulnerable groups;
- Initiating field visits and Fact-Finding Missions to the affected and, or vulnerable places including places of occurrences of violation of rights;
- Sending recommendations and guidelines to the Government and to other authorities to improve human rights situation;
- Working on awareness building and advocacy by arranging workshop, seminar, roundtable conferences etc.
- Collaborating with NGOs, CSOs, donors, development partners, human rights defenders and other organizations for establishing human rights;
- Organizing training programs for officers, members of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), lawyers and human rights defenders including journalists for promoting and protecting human rights;
- Participating in the international and regional programs organized by GANHRI, APF, UNHRC etc. and working together with them on a greater human rights platform; also participating in international cooperation and reporting to the Treaty Bodies and the UPR regularly; sending recommendations to the government on UPR and highlighting the recommendations made by international community for implementation so that national human rights situation can be harmonized with international standards.
- Signing MoU with Ministry of Education and Anti-Corruption Commission for forming Human Rights Protection Club which will include student cabinet of secondary and higher secondary level in all upazilla and representatives of Anti-Corruption Commission's "Satata Sangha" with the aim of raising humane vales from root to center.

CHAPTER : 02

Human Rights Outlook in 2019

This year Bangladesh ranks 50th among 149 countries in World Gender Gap Report¹. Bangladesh continues to consolidate its position as the region's top performer in closing gender inequality. For the fifth time Bangladesh ranks top country in the region. The country reduces gender discrimination in 72.6% sectors. Among four sub index Bangladesh has strengthened its position in women's political empowerment. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding power for long term. As a result, the country has become world famous in this index. Unicef awarded "Champion for Skill Development for Youth Award" to the hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh has been nominated as Member of UN Human Rights Council for three times including this year.

These are Bangladesh's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. It also indicates that sustained positive progress has been made in economic, social and cultural rights of citizens. However, progress in civil and political rights has been limited. This chapter highlights human rights outlook of 2019.

2.1 Rohingya Crisis

NHRCB welcomes Gambia's application against Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the alleged violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention). It has been two years since Rohingyas, the persecuted people of Myanmar fled to Bangladesh after 2017 crisis. Since then more than one million Rohingyas have taken shelter in temporary camps in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh government has responded generously as usual. Rohingyas are given fundamental rights there by providing them with food, shelter and other necessary things.

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded two international awards -- the IPS International Achievement Award and the 2018 Special Distinction Award for Leadership -- for her humanitarian and responsible policy in hosting the Rohingyas and for her far-sighted leadership over the Rohingya issue. Speaking as the Chief Guest, hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of human rights day 2019 in the program of NHRC said that Bangladesh has been negotiating with Myanmar in a peaceful way to solve the crisis and repatriate the Rohingyas. She also urged the international community for their active role in solving the crisis.

The local people of Cox's Bazar are affected by the stay of more than one million Rohingyas. Their daily lives are hampered and their basic necessities require government attention. NHRC raises concern over this issue. As a result of their stay, relation between host community and Rohingya are becoming worse day by day. In 2018, crimes by Rohingyas increased so rapidly that threat to security in that region became a matter of concern for all. The situation has yet to be improved. Thus, NHRC urges government to continue strong diplomatic steps and expedite the process of solving Rohingya crisis.

2.2 Disappearance:

According to media reports, some disappearance incidences happened in 2019. In many cases victims returned home, but the whereabouts of some others were unknown.

1. Global Gender Gap Report 2019

- Sourav, a media and communication student at Independent University Bangladesh, went missing on June 9, 2019. The victim is the son of Syeda Yasmin Arjuman, who is the niece of Bangladesh's first prime minister, Tajuddin Ahmed. Sourav's family alleged that he was picked up by the members of LEAs. After few days, he was reappeared.²
- Former Ambassador M Maroof Zaman reportedly returned home on 16 March 2019 after 467 days of disappearance.³
- Michael Chakma's missing incidence raised concern among many this year. According to media reports, he was a youth leader of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Media stated that he was forcibly disappeared in broad daylight from the outskirts of Dhaka on April 9 this year.

NHRCB expects that such disappearance cases would come to a zero level immediately.

2.3 Extrajudicial Killing

According to media reports, a number of incidences of extrajudicial killings happened this year. Mention may be made to-

- Killings of two men with alleged ties to a series of crimes in shootout with LEAs in Satkhira in November 2019.⁴
- A man accused in at least 16 drug-related cases has been killed in an alleged 'shootout' with LEAs during a raid in Dhaka's Uttarkhan in July 2019.⁵

NHRCB strongly believes that extrajudicial killing is a worst form of human rights violation and it is not accepted at all. Despite many major achievements of government in promotion and protection of human rights, extrajudicial killings allegedly committed by some members of LEAs is creating image-crisis for the government. In 2018, after government started anti-drug drive, NHRC sent a guideline to Ministry of Home Affairs and urged to follow the guideline during any anti-drug operation. The new Commission which started functioning since September 2019 also resent the guideline in 06 November 2019. Commission believes that, situation will be improved if the guideline is followed.

2.4 Freedom of Expression

Freedom of thought and expression has been constitutionally guaranteed in Bangladesh. Paying respect to every article of the constitution is obligatory. In 2019, the murder of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) student Abrar Fahad by his university mates and members of Bangladesh Chatra League was a blow to the freedom of expression in the country. Abrar Fahad was killed after posting his opinion on Facebook. The whole country protested against this murder. NHRC appreciates Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take lead on this case and instruct LEAs to arrest all the perpetrators and quick disposal of the case. She said that not only as of the head of the government she would judge the brutal murder as a mother also.⁶ Thus, most of the perpetrators are arrested now and trial is under process. NHRCB believes that, everyone should be careful of not harming others in the name of FoE.

²Sohel Taj's nephew rescued, Prothom Alo, 20 June 19, <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/197612/Sohel-Taj%E2%80%99s-nephew-rescued>

³Ex-ambassador Maroof Zaman returns after 467-day disappearance, New Age, 17 March 2019, <http://www.newagebd.net/article/67556/ex-ambassador-marooof-zaman-returns-after-467-day-disappearance>

⁴Two armed robbery suspects killed in Satkhira 'shootout', bdnews24.com, 30 November 2019, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2019/11/30/two-armed-robbery-suspects-killed-in-satkhira-shootout>

⁵Drug suspect killed in anti-narcotics drive in Dhaka, bdnews24.com, 09 July 2019, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2019/07/09/drug-suspect-killed-in-anti-narcotics-drive-in-dhaka>

⁶PM to judge Abrar's murder as a mother, Daily Sun, 09 October 2019, <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/429932/PM-to-judge-Abrars-murder-as-a-mother>

In October 2019, based on facebook post on hurting religious sentiment, violence took four lives in Bhola.⁷ It is not accepted at all. NHRC believes that all people have freedom of expression and responsibility not to hurt anyone by misusing the freedom. One should respect opinion of others and not misuse the freedom of expression.

2.5 Rights of Women & Girls

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in terms of women empowerment. The country has been a role model for women empowerment. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred with Global Women's Leadership Award for her outstanding contribution to their cause. However, violence against women and children continued in 2019. The number of rape incidents is on the rise in our country. The news, from various newspapers and TV channels, have been drawing attention to it for years, and the trend in yearly statistics of rape incidents continues to be alarming. This year witnessed the sexual harassment and brutal killing of a brave girl Nusrat, a Madrasa student of Feni. Whole country including NHRC raised voice against this heinous crime.

On April 6, 2019, 18-year-old Nusrat Jahan Rafi, an Alim examinee of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa, was set on fire in daylight on the roof of the madrasa by people loyal to principal Siraj Uddaula, when she refused to withdraw a sexual harassment case her family filed against him on May 27. NHRC acknowledged the fact that all 16 accused including sacked madrasa principal Siraj Uddaula and Awami League leader Ruhul Amin were awarded death penalty for killing Nusrat.⁸ NHRC believes that this verdict is a milestone against VAW. NHRC believes that all the perpetrators of VAW needs to be given exemplary punishment immediately to stop all kinds of VAW.

Commission believes that, rape was a reality in past and it still prevails in the present. At present news on rape incidences publishes due to awareness of people. Today, father stands up for his rape victim daughter. Husband lodge case for her rape victim wife. We have been able to create awareness. But we cannot sit idle after achieving this. The way news of rape has been published; it becomes terrific. We need to find out solution immediately. Commission expects- women will be safe from perpetrators of sexual harassment both in home and outside.

2.6 Rights of Children

Children are the future of any nation. NHRCB acknowledges government's several actions to promote the rights of children. However, NHRCB noticed with concern that torture, rape and murder of children were evident in 2019 like the previous years. On 14 October 2019, A five-year-old boy was brutally killed in Sunamganj's Deraiupazila. The murderers had left the child's body hanging from a tree near the family's house, after stabbing him, slitting his throat, and cutting off his ears and genitals. The killers also left two knives they had used to kill him, jammed in his abdomen. NHRCB believes that lack of social values is one of the main reasons behind these crimes. Government needs to take necessary strong action against all perpetrators who violates child rights.

⁷ Facebook account at the heart of violence in Bhola was hacked, say police, 20 October 2019, <https://bd-news24.com/bangladesh/2019/10/20/facebook-account-at-the-heart-of-violence-in-bhola-was-hacked-say-police>

⁸ Nusrat murder: Ex-madrasa principal, 15 others get death, The Daily Star, 24 October 2019, <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/nusrat-rafi-murder-ex-madrasa-principal-15-others-get-death-1818127>

2.7 Rights of Marginalized Communities

NHRCB appreciates government initiatives to mainstream the marginalized communities including persons with disabilities, hijra, dalit and others communities to the society. Government's aim to widen the social safety net further to include more of the marginalised and vulnerable population under protection is welcomed.⁹ However, attitude of many people of our country to the marginalized community is yet to be changed. Marginalised people are more vulnerable to violence. Mention may be made to post election violence against religious minority people in Faridpur on 01 January 2019. NHRC formed fact finding committee on this and sent report to concerned authority for necessary action. NHRC believes that it is high time to make people aware of the rights of marginalized people and prevent violence against them.

Commission lauds that government has given recognition to the hijras' as "hijra gender" category on Bangladesh's national voters list. Previously, the hijra community could only sign up to vote as men or women. Now, individuals can register to vote using their own identity as a hijra.¹⁰ Sadia Akter Pinky, a transgender was elected as vice chair of the Kotchandpur Upazila Parishad in Jhenaidah.¹¹

2.8 Rights of Persons with Disabilities

NHRC believes that no development will be sustained without ensuring rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). NHRC acknowledges Hon'ble Prime Minister's declaration on the occasion of World Autism Day 2019 to give disability allowance to every PWDs in 2019. This year, we also witnessed Social Welfare Ministry's circular on PWDs for getting job with ID card given by the ministry.¹² The PWDs are still facing lots of challenges despite government's good will and initiatives to ensure rights of PWDs. The roads, public transports, infrastructures are not accessible for them. Besides people's mind-set are yet to be changed. NHRC has decided to advocate for accessible Dhaka for PWDs in Mujib Year 2020. With this aim, NHRC signed MoU with BRAC in 2019 to work collaboratively for making public transport and footpath accessible for PWDs.

For ensuring the rights of Persons with Disability, the National Policy on Disability, 2019 has also been enacted as per recommendations of The National Human Rights Commission. However, accessibility in public transport, roads, public places and websites is yet to be ensured for persons with disabilities.

⁹Govt plans to widen social safety net, 13 June 2019, <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh-national-budget-2019-20/news/govt-plans-widen-social-safety-net-1756513>

¹⁰Transgender community in Bangladesh finally granted full voting rights, The Telegraph, 29 April 2019, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/transgender-community-bangladesh-finally-granted-full-voting/>

¹¹Transgender woman becomes vice-chairman in Jhenaidah, bdnews24.com, 15 October 2019, <https://bdnews24.com/people/2019/10/15/transgender-woman-becomes-vice-chairman-in-jhenaidah>

¹²<https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/518581>

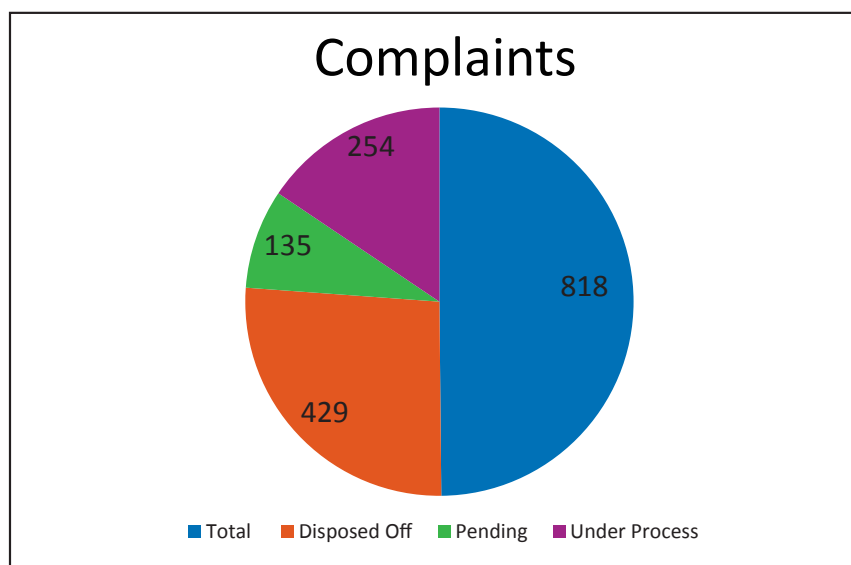
CHAPTER : 03

Protecting Rights by Dealing with Complaints

3.1 Total Complaints received in 2019

SL	Types of Complaints	Disposed off	Pending	Under Process	Total
1.	Disappearance/ Abduction	03	13	02	18
2.	Extrajudicial Killings	01	09	01	11
3.	Death in Custody	01	07		08
4.	Torture in Custody		08		08
5.	Detention without trial		01		01
6.	Allegation against LEAs	12	07	12	31
7.	Allegation of Fake Case	31		19	50
8.	Kidnapping	03	02		05
9.	Murder	15	04	06	25
10.	Rape	06	05	02	13
11.	Torture for Dowry	02	01	03	06
12.	Sexual Harassment	06	04		10
13.	Domestic Violence	07	01		08
14.	Violence against Women	01	03	02	06
15.	Conjugal Problems (Divorce, Maintenance etc.)	47		31	78
16.	Child Murder	02	02		04
17.	Child Rape	01	03		04
18.	Child Torture	02	01		03
19.	Child Marriage	02	01	02	05
20.	Torture against Domestic help	02			02
21.	Corporal Punishment	02	21	06	29
22.	Torture against Minority	03	02		05
23.	Rights of Ethnic Minorities	02	01	02	05
24.	Violation of Freedom of Expression/Movement	05		03	08
25.	Threat to security	15	02	11	28
26.	Job/ Salary - Allowance/Union/Working Environment related Complaints	35	04	28	67

27.	Land related Complaints	38	06	30	74
28.	Hospital/ Medical Treatment related Complaints	04	01	05	10
29.	Allowances	02		02	04
30.	Suicide		02		02
31.	Violence against Elderly People		02		02
32.	Migrant Workers	05	05	03	13
33.	Human Trafficking	02		01	03
34.	Legal Aid	12	01	06	19
35.	Personal Conflicts	16	01	05	22
36.	Right to Persons with Disabilities	02	03		05
37.	Property related Complaints	05	02	07	14
38.	Environment related	03	01	02	06
39.	Corruption	31	01	10	42
40.	Discrimination	01		01	02
41.	Financial Matters	14		08	22
42.	Others	89	07	44	140
	Total	429	135	254	818



3.2 Number of Suo Moto Complaints

SL	Types of Complaints	Disposed of	Pending	Total
1.	Disappearance/ Abduction	01	01	02
2.	Extrajudicial Killings	01	03	04
3.	Death in Custody		02	02
4.	Torture in Custody		01	01
5.	Detention without trial		01	01
6.	Allegation against LEAs		02	02
7.	Allegation of Fake Case			
8.	Kidnapping			
9.	Murder	01	04	05
10.	Rape	02	06	08
11.	Torture for Dowry			
12.	Sexual Harassment	02		02
13.	Domestic Violence		01	01
14.	Violence against Women		03	03
15.	Conjugal Problems (Divorce, Maintenance etc.)			
16.	Child Murder	01	02	03
17.	Child Rape		01	01
18.	Child Torture	02		02

19.	Child Marriage			
20.	Torture against Domestic help			
21.	Corporal Punishment		06	06
22.	Torture against Minority	02		02
23.	Rights of Ethnic Minorities			
24.	Violation of Freedom of Expression/Movement			
25.	Threat to security			
26.	Job/ Salary - Allowance/Union/Working Environment related Complaints		01	01
27.	Land related Complaints			
28.	Hospital/ Medical Treatment related Complaints		01	01
29.	Allowances			
30.	Suicide		02	02
31.	Violence against Elderly People		01	01
32.	Migrant Workers		02	02
33.	Human Trafficking			
34.	Legal Aid			
35.	Personal Conflicts		01	01
36.	Right to Persons with Disabilities			
37.	Property related Complaints			
38.	Environment related			
39.	Corruption			
40.	Discrimination			
41.	Financial Matters			
42.	Others	01	05	06
	Total=	13	46	59

3.3 Highlighting Important Interventions

NHRC stands up for Jahalam

Jahalam, a 32 year old man was wrongfully imprisoned for three years despite being innocent. Jahalam had been languishing in jail since February 2016 in corruption cases instead of real accused. He was released from Kashimpur central jail-2 in Gazipur following a High Court order. He was arrested in cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission for misappropriating huge amount of money from Sonali Bank, while Abu Salek is the actual accused.



The matter was made public by a television channel (Channel 24). The Reporter Arif (Journalist who disclosed this matter) and Jahalam's brother Shahnur came to NHRC and lodged complaint. NHRC Chairman immediately visited Kashimpur Jail where Jahalam was imprisoned and NHRC team investigated the case. NHRC found that the allegation of wrong imprisonment was true and sent report to Anti-corruption Commission. NHRC chairman also talked to the chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission in this regard. NHRC gave free legal aid to Jahalam. Due to media reports and NHRC's initiatives finally hon'ble High Court ordered for Jahalam's liberty. He was acquitted from all the allegations.

After freeing from Jail, Jahalam came to NHRC and expressed his gratitude for all the supports. NHRC chairman KaziReazul Hoque told that NHRC will assist Jahalam in getting compensation from state and will pursue for his employment.

NHRC raised voice against BUET student Abrar Murder

The brutal killing of BUET student Abrar by his university mates who are involved in student politics created mass protest in & outside the country this year. This brutal crime occurred immediately after the new commission was appointed. In the beginning of the first Commission meeting of the 5th and new commission, all members kept silence for one minute to mourn Abrar's death and discussed the matter with high priority. NHRC raised voice against this murder and sent recommendations to concerned authorities to ensure exemplary punishments to all the perpetrators as soon as possible. The Commission also appreciated the bold comments and steps taken by hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina against this incidence.

Probe Committee on Suicide of Liza in front of Police Station in Rajshahi

In September 2019, media reported that Liza Rahman, an 18-year-old HSC student of Rajshahi Women's Government College set herself on fire after stepping out of Shah Makhdum police station in Rajshahi. The incident occurred an hour after she went to the police station, seeking legal assistance to protect her marriage. NHRC formed four-member committee to probe into the matter. The Committee was headed by Al Mahmud FaizulKabir, Director (Complaint & Inquiry) and included a member from local administration and an official from Directorate of Women Affairs. NHRC sent recommendations to concerned authority based on the report submitted by the Committee.

NHRC strongly condemns the death of women migrant worker

Media reported that a migrant worker Abiron Begum (40) of Khulna's Paikgachha beaten to death in Saudi Arab by her employer in October this year. Her sister alleged that when she spoke with her sister Abiron used to describe abuse that she faced at the hands of her employers. Abiron said to her sister,

“They beat me up mercilessly, and shove my head against [hot iron] grill. Please, save me,” The NHRC strongly condemned the killing of Abiron Begum and formed a committee led by Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, Honorary Member of NHRC to probe into the matter. The Committee submitted report and NHRC sent recommendation to the relevant ministry based on the report .

Fact Finding Committee on Post-Election Violence in Subarnachar

NHRC formed a three- member committee suo-moto to probe the allegation of gang-rape of a housewife during national election. The Committee was headed by Al-Mahmud Faizul Kabir, Director (Complaint & Inquiry). Committee recommended bringing all the perpetrators to justice and ensuring exemplary punishment. NHRC sent the recommendations to Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs to take necessary actions.

3.4 Suo Moto Cognizance

Mother raped at the char of Monpura, child crying at the speedboat (Suo Moto -52/19)

Media reported that a mother along with her two-and-a-half-year-old child was going to Monpura from Char fasson, Bhola by speedboat. Stopping the sailing boat forcibly at middle of the way, four passengers raped the woman after snatching her at the char. At that time the child was crying at the speedboat. Having the information of rape, the president of Sakuchia union Chhatra league and owner of speedboat went to the place of occurrence. Further he also raped the victim. The NHRC took the complaint Suo moto and sent a letter to the Secretary of Public Security Division of Ministry of Home Affairs to take necessary legal actions. The NHRC also asked for a report on the measures taken by Deputy Commissioner of Bhola regarding the complaint.

Allegation of disturbing communal harmony from a misleading post in Facebook. (Suo Moto -45/19)

Media reported that due to a misleading post in Facebook, a collision occurred in Bhola between protesters and police where the protesters were demonstrating a movement with a banner named ‘Touhidi Janata’ demanding the trial of a youth of minor community at the arena of Borhanuddin Higher Secondary School of Borhanuddin Upazilla. Later, four persons including a youth were killed. The commission expressed deep concern on the unintentional incident. The NHRC took the complaint suo moto and sent letter to Senior Secretary of Public Security Division to take necessary legal actions and to intimate the commission about measures taken thereof.

Allegation of gang rape of women in Khulna Railway Thana by Police (Suo Moto-36/19)

Media reported that five police including OC raped a detained woman all night at the Khulna Railway Thana on 6 August 2019. The NHRC took the complaint Suo moto and asked for investigation report from the Secretary of Public Security Division of Ministry of Home Affairs. The ministry informed NHRC that case has been filed against the accused members of LEAs and it is under trial. Commission is following up the case.

Rifat Sharif Murder in Barguna (Suo Moto - 27/19)

According to media reports, Rifat Sharif (22) was hacked to death by criminals in front of his wife Minni in broad daylight in Barguna on June 26, 2019. The Commission took the complaint suo moto. To ensure speedy trial and arrest of culprits of the barbaric and overt killing, NHRC sent letter to the Secretary of Public Security Division of ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry informed Commission that charge sheet has been submitted to the court and the case is under trial. Commission is following up the case.

CHAPTER : 04

Highlights of activities of NHRCB in 2019

4.1 New Commission made courtesy call on Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The new Commission headed by Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc made a courtesy call on Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh M. Abdul Hamid on 29 October 2019. Hon'ble President asked the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take more instant and effective measures against any human rights violation act anywhere in the country.

The head of the state also advised the commission to strengthen overall activities of NHRC at grassroots level so that people can be aware of their rights and get necessary help from the commission as and when necessary.

“Let the people at grassroots' level know the function of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) . . . Highlight the overall activities of the commission in front of mass people,” he suggested.

Noting that human rights is people's fundamental rights, hon'ble President said the constitution of the republic of Bangladesh has given utmost priority to protect human rights. Hon'ble President hoped that this newly formed commission would play a very effective role to protect people's right.

NHRC Chairman & Mambers apprised the President of future plans and different activities of the commission. Besides, she informed him about its ongoing campaign to establish human rights throughout the country. NHRC delegation also sought President Hamid's cooperation in this connection.

4.2 Honorable Prime Minister Attends Human Rights Day Observance Program



NHRC observed the Human Rights Day 2019 in a befitting manner throughout the country. This year Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP graced the program for the first time as the Chief Guest. Her presence created new momentum in the history of NHRC. In her speech, she recalled her election manifesto in which there is AL's commitment to strengthen the commission. She also assured that the process of strengthening the Commission will continue. She stated it is natural that human rights will be violated repeatedly if the government tolerates any injustice and crime. Government would establish human rights in the country through ensuring the trial of all the incidents of human rights violations.

She further added, "All we need most is to ensure the rule of law for establishing human rights. Criminals have to face punishment, no matter who they are, this is our decision, and we are working as per the decision." Drive against drugs, terrorism, militancy and corruption was going on as these destroy a society. So, the resistance should come first from the society against these menaces... this is urgently needed to create awareness among the people. Government has enacted various human rights-related laws and amended many others while strengthening the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)." Anisul Huq, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Nasima Begum, ndc, Chairman, NHRC, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo and NHRC Full Time Member Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke at the meeting. Hon'ble Prime Minister and all the guests unitedly voiced the commitment 'We Protect Human Rights' at the event.

This year, the day was observed in all the divisions, districts and upazillas. NHRC organized awareness rally around the country on the day to reach out to the mass people. In Dhaka, the inaugural program was organised in collaboration with HRP-UNDP in Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The theme of the day was 'Youth Standing for Human Rights'. A theme song written by Chairman of NHRC Nasima Begum, ndc and a documentary was aired in Electronic media on the day. The objective of the event was to spread the human rights awareness among people and to recall the spirit of the UDHR. It brought together around 700 participants from Government agencies, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, development partners, human rights activist, national experts, academicians, researchers and media personnel.

Roundtable on “Social Values & Human Rights: Role of Youths”

On the occasion of human rights day 2019, NHRC organized a roundtable on “Social Values & Human Rights: Role of Youths” in collaboration with HRP-UNDP. The program was held in Pan Pacific Sonargaon. Nasima Begum, ndc, Chairman of NHRC presided over the discussion. Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Full Time Member of NHRC moderated the discussion. Professor Anwar Hossain presented the Key Note Paper. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Former Chairman of NHRC, Professor A. A. M.S Arefin Siddiq, Md. Mustafa Kamal Uddin, Secretary, Public Security Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, Professor Mr. Abul Maksud; Ms.Aroma Dutta, MP were the key discussants.

The initiative of the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh is to listen to the youth leaders from different ethnic groups has been welcomed by all and it has been said that it would bring some existing challenges in light and those should be picked up and addressed by the Commission.



Youths from ethnic and religious minorities identified the existing challenges in their societies and made recommendations to the NHRC for steps. The highlights of the key issues and recommendations made by youth leaders are as follows:

· Youth leader from Rakhine community in Patuakhali mentioned that population has declined from 50,000 to 4000 in the group. There is land grabbing problem faced by the Rakhine community and lack of respect from mainstream people.



- It has been recommended to solve the land grabbing issue and retain the population as well as to organize regular consultation in the region

- In Sirajgong district (sadar, roygong&tarash area) the prejudices, misinterpretation of religious norms, social barriers and drug addictions is predominant. Lack of awareness about the child marriage issue and lack of work-oriented & technical education of the youths are the causes. Therefore, it is needed to organize anti-terrorism and anti-drug campaign in the area. It is also needed to take steps to stop the child marriage and introduce work-oriented education system.
- In Mymensingh, Hajong community face a major challenge of extinction of their culture and language. They have problem with education and employment opportunity. They have serious issue relating to land grabbing. So, it has been recommended to address the issue relating to preserving the culture and language of this ethnic group, to allocate quota for the education and employment of Hajong community youths, and to establish a separate Land Commission for the plain land ethnic community.
- The youth leader of Rabidas community from Gaibandha, stated that their community also faces problem relating to land grabbing and losing their ancestor land. It has also been recommended to establish a separate Land Commission for the plain land ethnic groups.
- The Hijra/third gender people are deprived from education due to the lack of awareness in the family and the community. There is no protection for the sex-workers and their children. It has been recommended that there should be awareness programme and to ensure education for the children of the sex workers. A monitoring mechanism is needed in the educational institutions for the protection of the sexual minorities.
- It is seen as an emerging challenge as the elderly people have special needs and require different care-giving services. In Bangladesh there is no social welfare system for the elderly people, however, few private initiatives have been taken. It has been recommended to adopt some mechanism and effectively implement for the protection of the elderly people.

4.3 NHRC Launches e-Filing System

This Year, NHRC launches e-Filing for the smooth and time-lymanagement of official tasks. After taking the responsibility of the Commission, the new Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc took the initiative of introducing e-filing to all the officials and staff of the Commission.

In this age of digitalization, e-filing system is used for the timely management of works and by introducing this system the Commission will be faster and more effective in maintaining office work.



4.4 Seminar/Workshop

Round table with Ethnic Minorities & Religious Leaders on Religious Harmony

04 February 2019 Round table with Ethnic Minorities & Religious Leaders on Religious Harmony was held in Conference Room of DC Office, Cox's Bazar. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB attended the program as the Chief Guest. Abul Kalam, RRRC & A.B.M Masud Hossain, SP, Cox's Bazar were Special Guest. Md. Kamal Hossain, DC, Cox's Bazar presided over the discussion.

Seminar on Combating Sexual Harassment & Way Forward

06 February 2019 in CIRDAP Auditorium. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB chaired the seminar. Md. Sohrab Hossain, Senior Secretary, Primary & High Education Department, Ministry of Education; Afrosa Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Welfare; Ms. Kamrun Nahar, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs attended the program as Guest of Honour.

Consultation on Preventing Human Trafficking

On 27 February 2019, Consultation on Preventing Human Trafficking was held at BRAC Center Inn. The program was jointly organized by NHRC & BRAC. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC was present at the program as the Chief Guest. The program was chaired by Md. Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member of NHRC. Mr. Abu Bakar Siddique, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Asif Saleh, Senior Director, BRAC were Special Guest. Mr. Shariful Islam, Program Head of BRAC Migration Program presented the key Note Paper.

National Dialogue on the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights



NHRC organized the National Dialogue on the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights at Hotel Lake Shore, Dhaka on 20 February 2019. The program was organized in collaboration with HRP-UNDP. Mr. M. A. Mannan, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning attended the program as the Chief Guest. Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Standard Bank Ltd. And Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director of UNDP attended the program as Special Guests. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC chaired the program.

Seminar on Child Rights: Child Ombudsman

On 24 March 2019 at 11 am at BRAC seminar on Child Rights: Child Ombudsman was held. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC presided over the seminar. Ms. Zuena Aziz, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare was Special Guest. Nurun Naher Osmani, Member of NHRC, K. M. Morshed, Director of BRAC Advocacy, Technology and Partnership Program, Shafiqul Islam, Director of BRAC Education Program spoke at the seminar.

Discussion on Bangabandhu & National Children Day

On the occasion on celebrating Bangabandhu's birthday, on 25 March 2019 at NHRC Conference room, NHRC organized discussion on Bangabandhu & National Children Day. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC presided over the discussion. Selina Hossain, Chairperson of Bangladesh Shishu Academy attended the program as guest of honor. Md. Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member, AbdusShahid, Director Shishu Odhikar Forum, Abdullah Al Mamun, Director of Save the Children spoke at the discussion.

Regional Conference on Combating Human Trafficking: Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking

On 20 April 2019 NHRC in collaboration with HRP-UND Porganized Regional Conference on Combating Human Trafficking: Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs attended the conference as the Chief Guest. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC presided over the conference.



Roundtable on SDGs: Inclusive Society

On 26 May 2019 NHRC organized Roundtable on SDGs: Inclusive Society at NHRC Conference room. The aim was to discuss the challenges of people who are left behind and finding out the way forward. Mr. Nuruzzaman Ahmed, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Social Welfare attended the program as the Chief Guest. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of NHRC presided over the program. Selima Ahmed, MP and Helal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, Bangladesh Election Commission attended the program as the Special Guest.

Discussion between New Commission and Previous Commission

On 26th September 2019 the present Commission held a discussion with Chairman and members of previous commission. The discussion was presided over by the present Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc. The aim was to exchange views on the experience of



previous commission and discuss the challenges faced by them. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Former Chairman, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Full Time Member, Md. Nazrul Islam, Former Full Time Member and all the Members of present as well as last commission were present at the discussion.

Seminar in Munshiganj & Gopalganj

The new Commission led by Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc exchanged their views with human rights defenders in Gopalganj and Munshiganj in the discussions arranged by NHRC in collaboration with local administrations. The aim of the discussions to know the expectations of people from the new commission and to know the human rights situation in those districts.



Hon'ble Law Minister assured NHRC to continue extending full Support to the New Commission



Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Anisul Huq, MP assured to continue extending full cooperation to the newly appointed commission. He came up with this assurance as a six-member delegation of NHRC led by Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc paid a courtesy call on him on 16 October 2019. He said that the NHRC Act 2009 was enacted during the tenure of present government and the Commission is an independent body. From the establishment of NHRC, government has gradually strengthening the Commission. Government has never interfered with the activities of the Commission. Hon'ble Chairman sought cooperation from the ministry in increasing NHRC's budget and logistics. Hon'ble Minister assured to continue full support in this regard.

Hon'ble Minister of Ministry Social Welfare assured NHRC to work for Children without parental identity and Hijra Community

NHRC Chairman and Full Time Member met hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare Ministry on 12 November 2019. They discussed the challenges faced by children without parental identity. They cannot have their NID and they face lots of challenges in their legal documents and certificates. They also discussed about the issue of changing names of transgender people. Hon'ble Minister assured the Commission that he will take steps to address these issues.



Hon'ble Minister assured the Commission that he will take steps to address these issues.

ACC & NHRC will work together for preventing corruption & human rights violation



With the aim of preventing corruption & human rights violation NHRC and Anti-Corruption Commission will work together. ACC Chairman Mr. Iqbal Mahmud and NHRC Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc agreed to signing MoU on this in a meeting on 04 November 2019. Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, FTM, NHRC; Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc and Mizanur Rahman Khan, Members of NHRC also attended the meeting.

2nd Istanbul International Ombudsman Conference

A two member delegation headed by Hon'ble Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc joined 2nd Istanbul International Ombudsman Conference from 19-20 November 2019. Hon'ble Chief ombudsman of Turkey Mr. Seref Malkoc sent personal invitation to Hon'ble Chairman of NHRCB to join this international conference.

On behalf of Bangladesh Hon'ble Chairman expressed her heartiest welcome to the distinguished participants and organizers of the conference specifically chief ombudsman of Turkey Mr. Seref Malkoc. She also expressed her gratitude to our father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



for his visionary leadership and contribution to the independence and formulation of our constitution. She proudly mentioned that formulation of our constitution is based on human rights.

Hon'ble Chairman also mentioned states as well as our present government's role in ensuring good governance such as establishment of Anti-corruption Commission, Information Commission and National Human Rights Commission. She added government's initiative for good administration, which is of zero tolerance against drug, terrorism and Corruption.

Hon'ble Chairman proposed to formulate a universal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for complaints management system of the National Human Rights Institutions/ Ombudsman. She suggested that best practices of different countries may be incorporated to formulate the universal SOP.

Bilateral Meeting between Ombudsman Institute of Turkey & NHRC

On 17 November 2019, bilateral meeting between Ombudsman Institute of Turkey & NHRC was held in Istanbul, Turkey. NHRC Chairman Nasima Begum, ndc and Mr. Seref Malkoc, Chief Ombudsman of Turkey led the meeting. They discussed various issues including complaints management procedures, future collaboration etc. Chief Ombudsman of Turkey appreciated the good relations between two countries and promised to keep good relations between two organisations.



UN Forum on Business & Human Rights

Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Full Time Member of NHRC spoke at the Regional Dialogue; Governments as Catalysts for Business Respect for Human Rights in Asia on 27 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The program was organized by UNDP Business & Human Rights Programme.



Regional Workshop on Human Rights Monitoring for the UPR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

NHRC Member Jesmin Ara Begum attended Regional Workshop on Human Rights Monitoring for the UPR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 30-31 October 2019. The workshop was organized by UPR Info.



International Conference on Protection of Rights of the Migrant Workers

NHRC Member Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc attended the International Conference on Protection of Rights of the Migrant Workers on 12-14 November 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference was organized by NHRC, Nepal. Dr. Nomita spoke as a panelist in session 'Inter-NHRIs Cooperation in Protection and Promotion of Rights of the Migrant Workers.'



Discussion with Chief Justice of Dubai International Financial Court



Project Coornitaor of HRP-UNDP attended the discussion. The duscussion focused on how NHRC can make its complaint handling mechanism easier.

Amnesty International delegation meets NHRC Chairman



On 06 November 2019 discussionwith Chief Justice of Dubai International Financial Court Mr. Tun Zaki was held at NHRC. Chairman Nasima, Begum, ndc; Full Time Member Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed; Member Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc; Secretary Hiranmaya Barai; Director (Complaint & Inquiry) Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir Director (Admin & Finance) Kazi Arfan Ashik; Farhana Syead, PRO; Ms. Sharmeela Ras-sool, CTA, HRP-UNDP; Ms. Taslima Islam,

On 16 October 2019 two member delegation from Amnesty International made courtesy visit to meet hon'ble Chairman of NHRC. They congratulated her on becoming the first woman Chairman of NHRC and appraised her past role in promotion of human rights in the country. They expressed their willingness to support NHRC in promoting human rights education among children. Hon'ble Chair-man assured them of working together.

4.5 NHRC & ICT

- e-File system has been introduced and implemented in NHRC. (30 Officers & Staffs got trained in E-file system)
- Electronic Government Procurement (E-GP) system implementation has been done.
- Call Center services and support has been functioning.
- Social Mediahas been used for the dissemination of information.
- Decision has been taken to introduce Digital Complaint Management System and Mobile Applications shortly.
- Decision has been taken to introduce Integrated Digital Office Management System

4.6 Publications

This year NHRC published leaflet mention- ing 30 articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This leaflet portrays the articles in easy Bangla language so that mass people including students can easily understand the UDHR and their human rights. NHRC plans to disseminate this in each upazilla, districts and schools.

On the occasion of human rights day 2019, NHRC also published a special publication “Soronika”. In June, 2019, a special bulletin was published mentioning some key activities of the Commission. Besides, another special bulletin on highlights of NHRC’s activities on Rohingya crisis was republished in this year.



4.7 Key Decisions of Commission Meeting

- Introducing e-File System
- Prioritize Human Rights Awareness raising programs around the country
- Amending NHRC Act 2009
- Honorary Members Jesmin Ara Begum, Towfika Karim and Mizanur Rahman Khan are given responsibility to follow up the complaints lodged in NHRC
- Recruiting manpower
- Amending Recruitment rules
- Advocacy to increase budget and manpower
- Transport allowance will be given to Honorary Members for attending Commission meetings
- Organizing Human Rights Day 2019 in a befitting manner around the country
- Organizing discussion with media, CSOs and other key stake holders
- Rearranging thematic committees and making them more effective
- Taking action to make complaint handling mechanism more effective

4.8 NHRC in Media

Like all other years NHRC was visible through media. A glimpse of this can be found in the following table:

Topic of Press Release	Date
Fact Finding Committee formed to probe into post-election violence	01.01.19
NHRC has no connection with Mamun who identified himself as Vice-Chairman of NHRC	11.03.19
NHRC urges government to establish tribunal for preventing human trafficking	19.03.19
NHRC urges government to ban PSC examination & Coaching Business	24.03.19
NHRC Chairman urged to follow Bangabandhu's ideology to prevent torture against children	25.03.19
Appointment of new commission	23.09.19
Discussion between new and previous commission	26.09.19
NHRC's statement on Lisa's suicide	30.09.19
NHRC's concern & steps against Murder of BUET student Abrar Fahad	10.10.19
NHRC's concern on Bhola crisis	21.10.19
NHRC's action and concern against death of Abiron due to torture in Saudi Arab & death of Popy Tripura by road accident	27.10.19
NHRC's statement on Cylinder Blast incidence in Mirpur	31.10.19
NHRC's condemn on brutal murder of child Jisan & death of Madrasa student due to torture by teacher	07.11.19
NHRC's statement on Train accident in Bramhanbaria	12.11.19
NHRC's concern Fire incidence in Chattagram	18.11.19
NHRC's concern & steps against rape of housewife & murder of her husband in Jamalpur	20.11.19
NHRC's Concern against price hike of salt	20.11.19

CHAPTER-5

Challenges & Way Forward

The National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh is now a decade-old institution but it is still a new Commission compared with many other NHRIs of the Asia Pacific region. Much of its institutional development is done but much remain undone. Until now, institutional strengthening and enhancing manpower and capacity building of officers and staff is very important for the Commission; especially, developing training and a learning culture, grappling with obstacles to develop offices in the region and sub-region and building own infrastructures fall in this line. Strengthening NHRCB also means streamlining the ways and means for achieving “A” status. Institutional strengthening also entails making NHRCB-job lucrative enough so that employees will not be quitting jobs and skilled manpower remain in place. Commission’s ability to working independently without financial constrains need to be maintained intact and whether there is any vulnerability and changes in the donor landscape is also to be calculated on time.

Of course, Government is expressing willingness to strengthening the Commission and the Commission is faring well in embodying itself as the prime institution for promoting and protecting human rights in the country. Legitimate optimism has been generated in the minds of people that NHRCB can deliver more for safeguarding human rights with better manifestations. Until then some conspicuous hurdles and barriers need to be overcome by the Commission.

The first and foremost challenge of the Commission still remains to be the manpower enhancement. On the way to augmenting manpower there are some definite problems. The major one is the turnover of employees. Very often employees are coming in and leaving the organisation because NHRCB-job has still not assumed a lucrative feature.

NHRCB is now lacking a permanent office-building. A permanent office is believed to be instrumental for providing a better working environment and creating a sense of ownership among the officers and staff and that consequently can help enhance the Commission’s image and prestige to a new height. To have a piece of land acquired and to have a building erected is an emerging challenge for the Commission. The Commission is advocating and lobbying with the Government to this end expecting an impending solution.

Upgrading NHRCB to “A” Status is a vital point. The Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of ICC (GANHRI) still maintains its censorious observation and reservation that NHRCB falls short of meeting the criteria of the Paris Principles. There may be variation of perception or interpretation of the situation, but as a matter of fact, NHRCB is yet to answer the questions of SCA that do not depend on the individual performances of NHRCB. Government needs to come forward to streamline the selection procedure of the Chairman and Members of the Commission empowering it with enough power as to investigate the human rights violations committed by the law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

The Commission wants to listen to the grievances and complaints of people with full potential. Maximum attention is employed to the disposal of complaints but, as a matter of fact, due to shortage of

man-power all the complaints cannot be handled in a given time. Moreover, despite considerable IT-related improvement the Complaint Management System of the Commission still requires to be made fully automated and digitally activated.

As per the second Five Year Strategic Plan (2016-2020) NHRCB has been working relentlessly to reduce discriminations from the society. To eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination NHRCB is conducting country-wide awareness raising campaigns. Moreover, NHRCB drives and leads necessary policy and legal reforms and wants to expedite those initiatives. The Draft Anti Discrimination Law is submitted for enactment with a view to curbing discrimination against women and others but discriminatory stereotypes and harmful practices such as child marriage, forced marriage, polygamy etc remains in the society compromising the equal rights of women. To create a momentum in the minds of stakeholders and duty-bearers with regards to understanding the immediacy of an Anti-Discrimination Law and implementing all other relevant legislations is a great challenge. Challenge part in the thematic area includes studies on situations of the minorities along with their right to land, protection of rights of the ethnic minorities, implementation of the Peace Accord in CHT, rights of women, children and persons with disabilities vis-à-vis implementation of policies and legislations, labor rights including ILO convention, CBA rights, EPZ law, ensuring universal education and of course the Rohingya issue giving rise to many humanitarian crises. Collection of authentic data on different thematic issues is also to be considered as a great challenge.

Under the charismatic leadership of Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh the country is progressing on many fronts including astounding economic advancement. Government is committed to establishing Rule of law curbing loop holes of systems, corruption and malpractices and augmenting transparency and accountability of the duty-bearers.

Implementation of SDGs is important; achieving SDGs is incorporated with Government's all short and long-term plans, policies and visions like the Vision 2021, Vision 2041 and the Vision 2100 or the Delta Plan which sufficiently highlight on Government's conviction and determination of achieving the sustainable goals. If SDGs are implemented properly poverty and hunger will be alleviated, food security and nutrition will be ensured, good health and wellbeing of people will be maintained, quality education will be delivered, woman's empowerment and gender parity will be achieved, decent employment will be generated and sustainable economic growth will be attained. And not only these, implementation of all goals and targets of the 2030 agenda has the potential of dispelling all kinds of discriminations from the society incorporating principle of equity and access to opportunity for all. It is also presumable that successful implementation of SDGs will enable us to combat climate change and its impact; pollution and degradation of environment will disappear. SDG-16 promises a lot more-the establishment of human rights by means of ensuring access to justice, rule of law, peace and harmony for all; that means implementation of SDGs will help building an inclusive society where all citizens including the marginalized ones, the persons with disabilities, the third gender or Hijra, the religious and ethnic minorities, Dalits, Horijons, Bede, Muchietc all will be mainstreamed and none will be left behind. In this way the objectives of the cherished dreams of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be reached and the visionary Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal) will be transformed into reality paving the way for fulfilling of human rights in a sustainable manner.

Annex 01: Financial Statement

Code No.	Account Details	Budget	Revised Budget	Real Expense (30/06/18)	Unexpended Money
		2018-19	2018-19	2018-19	2018-19
3111101	Salary of Officers	1,04,00,000	88,00,000	86,05,818	1,94,182
3111201	Salary of the Staff	18,50,000	12,00,000	11,46,840	53,160
Total		1,22,50,000	1,00,00,000	97,52,658	2,47,342
3111302	Transport Allowance	47,000	26,000	25,200	800
3111306	Education Allowance	25,000	40,000	29,500	10,500
3111310	House Rent Allowance	59,50,000	46,00,000	44,81,551	1,18,449
3111311	Medical Allowance	5,60,000	4,00,000	3,98,419	1,581
3111312	Mobile Allowance	17,000	36,000	28,000	8,000
3111313	Residential Telephone Cash Allowance	0	2,00,000	1,28,424	71,576
3111314	Tiffin Allowance	32,000	18,000	16,800	1,200
3111325	Festival Allowance	20,40,000	17,00,000	16,43,920	56,080
3111328	Recreational Leave/Entertainment Allowance	3,00,000	3,30,000	3,20,350	9,650
3111331	Entertainment Allowance	1,67,000	1,70,000	1,66,800	3,200
3111335	Bangla New Year Allowance	2,04,000	1,70,000	1,61,444	8,556
3111338	Other Allowance	15,13,000	14,60,000	14,59,109	891
Total		1,08,55,000	91,50,000	88,59,517	2,90,483
3111327	Overtime Allowance	50,000	5,000	0	5,000
3111332	Honorary Allowance	20,00,000	20,10,000	20,08,600	1,400
3211106	Entertainment Costs	3,00,000	3,00,000	2,92,111	7,889
3211109	Labor Costs	11,00,000	19,85,000	19,83,954	1,046
3211110	Law related Expenses	3,00,000	1,30,000	1,25,000	5,000
3211111	Seminar, Conference	5,00,000	10,30,000	10,29,235	765
3211113	Electricity	3,00,000	3,00,000	2,84,957	15,043
3211114	Utility Services	10,000	5,000	0	5,000
3211115	Water	2,00,000	2,00,000	1,68,002	31,998
3211117	Fax/Internet	2,00,000	1,70,000	1,66,206	3,794
3211119	Postal	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
3211120	Telephone/Telegram/Teleprint	4,00,000	4,00,000	3,65,750	34,250
3211121	Machinery and Others Equipment	15,000	5,000	0	5,000

3211125	Promotion and Advertisement	10,00,000	15,40,000	15,32,938	7,062
3211127	Books and Magazines	1,50,000	1,60,000	1,54,842	5,158
3211129	Office Rent	1,70,00,000	1,70,50,000	1,70,46,480	3,520
3211131	Outsourcing	42,00,000	48,20,000	48,18,898	1,102
3221106	Cost of Freight & Transportation of Goods	5,00,000	1,50,000	1,45,172	4,828
3221108	Bank Charge	1,00,000	5,000	0	5,000
3231301	Training	6,00,000	1,60,000	1,59,460	540
3243101	Petrol/Lubricant	11,00,000	13,50,000	13,47,832	2,168
3244101	Travel Expense	17,00,000	35,65,000	35,61,303	3,697
3255101	Computer Accessories	2,00,000	3,40,000	3,37,025	2,975
3255102	Printing and Binding	2,00,000	8,10,000	8,08,906	1,094
3255105	Other Stationery	3,00,000	4,00,000	3,95,373	4,627
3256103	Usable Goods	4,00,000	7,40,000	7,35,119	4,881
3257103	Research	10,00,000	3,50,000	3,45,000	5,000
3257302	Medical Expense	12,00,000	7,55,000	7,51,301	3,699
3258101	Vehicle	3,00,000	6,50,000	6,47,411	2,589
3258102	Furniture	10,000	5,000	0	5,000
3258103	Computer	1,00,000	20,000	18,725	1,275
3258126	Telecommunication Accessories	1,00,000	5,000	0	5,000
3258140	Maintenance of Vehicles	6,00,000	6,00,000	6,00,000	0
Total		3,61,85,000	4,00,65,000	3,98,79,600	1,85,400
4112202	Computer and other accessories	3,00,000	3,20,000	3,15,517	4,483
4112305	Fire Extinguishing Equipment	10,000	5,000	0	5,000
4112310	Office equipment	0	7,80,000	7,77,809	2,191
4112314	Furniture	1,00,000	5,000	0	5,000
Total:		4,10,000	11,10,000	10,93,326	16,674
3821116	Insurance	1,00,000	1,85,000	1,81,378	3,622
4112201	ICT Equipment	2,00,000	2,50,000	2,45,858	4,142
Total:		3,00,000	4,35,000	4,27,236	7,764
Total-National Human Rights Commission:		6,00,00,000	6,07,60,000	6,00,12,337	7,47,663

Annex 02: NHRC Members

Nasima Begum, ndc

Chairman



Nasima Begum ndc has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission by the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with the rank and status of a Judge of Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court on 22 September 2019.

She was born on 10 January 1960 in Munshiganj, Bangladesh. She did her Masters' Degree with Honors' from the University of Dhaka in Islamic History and Culture and later an M.Phil. degree on Strategy and Development from National Defense College under Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP). She started her career by joining Administration Cadre of Bangladesh Civil Service. By her excellent working skills she proved her capacity playing different roles in field administration throughout 19 years. She played key role in important ministries and government agencies. After completing National Defence Course (NDC) with profound success in 2011, she served as Director General of Social Welfare Directorate and promoted as the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare. Later, she played important roles as Secretary and Senior Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with integrity and professional skills. She promoted initiatives to mainstream the distressed and marginalized women through the implementation of different comprehensive programmes by the ministry. After the completion of successful service tenure, she got PRL on 9 January 2019.

As a member of Bangladesh delegation she presented report to the UN Committee on Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention for Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as her capacity in respective areas. She has written a number of research articles on rights of Persons with Disabilities and Women Empowerment. She has research works on integrated education of Special schools, education system of Children with autism and impact of autism in society. She is a poet and writes poem and songs. Her poems and songs raises hope in many disabled children and marginalized people. She has written many slogans as part of campaign on social awareness and development program. She feels happy in writing song and poem related to liberation war and women empowerment.

She played key role in formulating various acts, rules, and action plans under different ministries of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Those include: Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013; Neurodevelopmental Disabled Persons Protection Trust Act 2013; Children's Act 2013; Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, Dowry Prohibition Act 2018; Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018; Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Rules 2018; National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2018-2030), and National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030).

She is married to Md. Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, a Senior Secretary (PRL) to the Government of Bangladesh. They are blessed with two sons Sayeed Ahmed Chowdhury Nasif and Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury Nayeem.

Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed

Full Time Member



Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed is the Full-Time Member of National Human Rights Commission, appointed by the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with the pay and privilege of a Judge of High court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court on 22 September 2019.

Dr. Kamal completed both SSC and HSC from Faujderhat Cadet College, Chittagong. He did LLB from University of Dhaka and MBA from Institute of Business Administration, IBA, University of Dhaka. He did degrees of Master of Science (M.Sc) from the UK and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) from New Zealand.

He was Secretary to the Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and was the Member, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division in Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He was a Professor of School of Business and Economics, North South University. Dr. Ahmed held the highly esteemed international position of a Board Member of Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board, South Korea (HQ), for the first time from Bangladesh and successfully represented 45 LDC countries in regard to their climate vulnerabilities and GCF support.

He was the Chairman of Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) and had tough negotiations with Indian counterpart. That ultimately led to the formulation of a Protocol on historical LBA (Mujib-Indira Chukti) and execution of an epoch-making pacific settlement of land boundary disputes between Bangladesh and India. He discharged mentionable contributions in the attainment of Human Rights through maintenance of law and order; formulation of international documents; execution of successful negotiations, especially in the field of human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorist financing etc.

Dr. Ahmed renders his service on request as a resource person in various educational and training institutions of national acclaim; just to name few of such as, North South University, BRAC University, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), National Defence College (NDC) etc.

He is a committed researcher and author, has to his credit publication of well revered books, and articles in internationally reputed journals.

He is married to Mrs. Parveen Akhter an Economics graduate (MSS) from Dhaka University and a Development Administration (MDA) scholar from Australian National University; presently, Director General (Grade-1), Directorate of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women Affairs. They are blessed with a daughter, now a student of Journalism in Massey University, New Zealand.

Towfika Karim, Advocate

Honorary Member



Towfika Karim, Advocate is a law professional. She is contributing to judiciary system by working in this profession with honesty and integrity for 26 years. At present she is working as a senior partner of Shirajul Haq Associates. She served as Public Prosecutor in four national leaders murder case and Bangabandhu Murder case. Apart from that she solved many important cases successfully.

Towfika Karim passed SSC from Foyzunnesa School, Cumilla and HSC from Women's College. Then completed Honors in Political Science from Chittagong University and Masters in Political Science from Dhaka University. She achieved LLB degree from Dhaka University. She also completed Diploma on 'The Executive Program on corporate Management' from Japan.

To assist helpless prisoners with free legal aid she launched a non-profit and non-political Organisation named " Legal Assistance to Helpless Prisoners and Persons" (LAHP). As the Chairperson of LAHP Ms. Towfika Karim received the "Best National Non-government Organization" award on the occasion of observance of National Legal Aid Day on 28th April 2019 from Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Towfika Karim is married to Chartered Accountant Mr. Aftab-Ul Islam. He is Founder Chairman of International Office Equipment (IOE) Bangladesh Ltd. and Chairman of Asia Pacific General Insurance Company Ltd.

Mr. Ching Kew Roaza

Honorary Member



In a respectable family, Mr. Ching Kew Roaza was born in 1957 at Kawkhali, Rangamati Hill District. He completed his graduation B.A.(Hons) and Post graduation M.A. from the University of Jahangirnagar, Savar, Dhaka. After the successful completion of his education, he devoted himself for the protection of rights of people and right-related affairs. He conducted various development activities by establishing a large number of educational, social, cultural institutions and also others infra-structural development in different sectors during his tenure as an exquisite Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council. He proved himself how to reach at the apex of success through working for the welfare of the people. He has versatile knowledge on human rights. He has contributed a lot towards establishing 'Peace Accord' which was signed on 2nd December 1997 under the strong leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area. In September 2019, he was appointed as a Member of National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, for three years.

As a human rights activist, he participated in 'UN Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues' held in Newyork, U.S.A. Apart from that, as an entourage of the hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the people's republic of Bangladesh, he also took part in various state programs in Myanmar and international Summit, entitled, 'Enhancing Democratic Participation in a changing World: Responding to Democratic Voices', held in Bali, Indonesia. Recently, Mr. Roaza took part in an 'International Conference on Protection of Rights of the Migrant Workers', held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

He has also donated a good amount of land to different institutions and organizations for public interest. He also attended and spoke in a number of workshops, seminar and symposium. In addition, he also organised various training programs for the 'Traditional leaders (i.e Circle Chief, Headman, Karbary) in a joint collaboration with UNDP, DANIDA EUROPEAN UNION & others Agencies as well. Popularly known to be a pleasant personality and development friendly, his father Mr. Chai Thowai Roaza was a traditional leader and he got elected to Parliament 1973.

Mr. Roaza is still contributing to the community. Officially he has travelled a number of countries such as India, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and United States of America (U.S.A).

Mizanur Rahman Khan

Honorary Member



Mizanur Rahman Khan was born in Gopalganj in 1960. He completed his Honour's and Master's degree from University of Dhaka. Then he took part in 7th BCS in 1985 and with a successful result he joined Bangladesh Judicial Service in 1988. He was posted as Assistant Judge, Senior Assistant Judge, Joint District and Sessions Judge, Additional District and Sessions Judge, District and Sessions Judge in many districts and he performed his responsibility with honesty, integrity and sincerity.

He worked as a Deputy secretary (admin) in law and justice division in the Ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs efficiently for a long time. After that, he was promoted to District and Sessions Judge and worked in Bagerhat and Manikganj and then he got promoted to Senior district and sessions judge. At last, he went on PRL on 1st January, 2019 while working as Divisional special judge, Dhaka. In his professional life, he got training on Human Trafficking in Japan. Besides, he took part in various trainings, seminars and workshops in South Korea, Maldives, Nepal, Indonesia, East Timur, New Delhi, Hong Kong.

After taking PRL, the Bangladesh Government appointed him as an Honorary Member for three years in National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRCB).

Jesmin Ara Begum

Honorary Member



Jesmin Ara Begum was appointed as Honourary Member of the National Human Rights Commission by the Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 22nd September 2019.

She was born on the 29th of July 1960 in Sunamganj District under Sylhet Division. Her father, Sanwar Ali, was a lawyer and an Intellectual Martyr who passed away in the 1971 Liberation War. His memory was commemorated in the national postage stamp post-Independence.

Jesmin obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sunamganj Government College under the University of Chittagong. Later, she completed Master of Social Science degree in Political Science from the University of Dhaka in 1983, while simultaneously preparing for L.L.B degree in 1984 under the same institute. In 1986, Jesmin started her career as the first female lawyer in Sunamganj Bar. She attended the 7th B.C.S General Exam and was selected for judicial service in 1988. In her service life, she studied Comparative International Law (MSc.) at Stockholm University of Sweden in 2000-2002.

In over three decades of service, Jesmin has worked as a Judge in several positions and several categories of courts—Judge Court, Civil Court, Session Court, Family Court, Appellate Tribunal, Exclusive Artha Rin Adalat, Insolvency Court (Bankruptcy), Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain Tribunal, Special Court Election Tribunal and Election Appellate Tribunal—over seven locations—Dhaka, Cumilla, Daudkandi, Harirampur, Manikganj, Sylhet and Sherpur. For two terms, she served as the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Sherpur and Munshiganj Districts. In 1997, she worked as Registrar at Administrative Appellate Tribunal and in 2006, she was appointed as Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Health. Jesmin was posted as Senior District and Session Judge of Cumilla District in 2017, and in her final post, she was sworn in as the Solicitor of Bangladesh, Ministry of Law and Justice. Jesmin is the first woman to be appointed to this role in the history of the country. After completing 31 years of successful judicial service life, she was granted PRL on 28th July 2019.

During her judicial assignments as a judge and an administrator, she felt an obligation to give voice to the plight of litigant people, especially women and children, and utilized forums to address these concerns. Jesmin has worked with various NGOs and legal platforms. To groom the next generation of judicial thinkers, Jesmin takes classes and workshops in different organization.

She is an active member of Bangladesh Women Judges Association as well as International Women Judges Association. She worked on the USAID's Justice for All development programme and participated in the Biennial Conference of International Women Judges in Washington DC. She visited several US courts under the umbrella of US National Centre for State Courts (NCSC) to develop her judicial mind and observe their judicial system. She actively participated in the seminar on 'Human Trafficking' (Regional Symposium) in Jakarta, Indonesia, Counter Terrorism Study Tour in North Carolina and Washington D.C., United States, and Prosecution Service Seminar in Delhi, India.

Jesmin is married to Dr Muhammed Sadique, Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC). They are blessed with one son and one daughter. Their son Muhammed Kazim Ibn Sadique works as Portfolio Manager, New Zealand to BAT Hong Kong and daughter Mastura Tasnim is completing her Master in Public Policy degree from Victoria University of Wellington under the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship.

Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc

Honorary Member



Dr Nomita Halder ndc is a permanent resident of Bagerhat district. She joined the National Human Rights Commission on 22nd September 2019 just after retiring from Bangladesh Civil Service. She belongs to the BCS Administration Cadre (7th batch) and served the government for about 31 years. Starting her career as an Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate she worked both at the local and central government indifferent capacities. Along with land administration she conducted criminal courts for a long time. As Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), serving the rural disadvantaged people was her priority. She was a successful Project Director of Empowerment and Protection of Children (EPC) project. Awareness building against child marriage, dowry, children and women trafficking, all kinds of abuse and violence were significant tasks of that project. She had special attention to work with vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized poor women and children.

In 2014, Nomita Halder was appointed as the Private Secretary of Sheikh Hasina, the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Working with the Chief Executive and top most Political Master of Bangladesh was her life time opportunity. She was acquainted with the political culture, systems and parliamentary affairs during that period. Arranging private visits of the Prime Minister with veteran political activists and other visitors was one of her daily schedules. She attended many bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister during her foreign tours and thus she acquired rare experience on political orientations.

Dr Halder was promoted as Secretary in July 2017 and appointed to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment. She was highly engaged in improving migration governance that includes prevention of human trafficking. She worked hard to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on regular, orderly and safe migration.

Dr Nomita Halder ndc was graduated in Agriculture from Bangladesh Agricultural University. Later she did an MA on Development Administration from the Australian National University. Finally, she did her PhD on 'Effective Representation of Women Legislators in Parliaments' from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. From an agro-based academic background she worked in executive branch and lately she has taken the position of a Faculty Member in Political Science and Sociology Department of North South University, Dhaka. She is strongly committed to promote human rights issues. Her husband Dr. Md. Azizul Haque is an Agricultural Scientist.

Annex 03: List of Officers

Name	Designation	E-mail
Al-Mahamud Faizul Kabir	Secretary (Acting) Director (Complaint & Inquiry)	secretary@nhrc.org.bd director.complaint@nhrc.org.bd
Kazi Arfan Ashik	Director (Admin & Finance) (Acting) Deputy Director (Admin & Finance)	director.admin@nhrc.org.bd
Mohammad Gaji Salahuddin	Deputy Director	gaji.complaint@nhrc.org.bd
M. Rabiul Islam	Deputy Director	rabiul.complaint@nhrc.org.bd
Susmita Paik	Deputy Director	susmita.complaint@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Jamal Uddin	Assistant Director (Finance)	ad.finance@nhrc.org.bd
Farjana Najneen Tultul	Assistant Director (Social Service & Counseling)	ad.counseling@nhrc.org.bd
Farhana Syead	Public Relations Officer & PS to Chairman (Additional Charge)	pro@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Azahar Hossain	Assistant Director (Training)	ad.training@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Touhid Khan	Assistant Director (IT)	ad.it@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Shah Poran	Assistant Director (Law)	ad.law@nhrc.org.bd
Jesmin Sultana	Assistant Director (Complaint, Mediation & Conciliation)	ad.mediation@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Rabiul Islam	PS to Chairman	ps.chairman@nhrc.org.bd
Md. Jumman Hossain	Super (Accounts)	super@nhrc.org.bd