

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

In November 2017, BPO recorded 22 incidents of political violence. Among these incidents, 15 were induced by intra-party conflict and 5 by inter-party conflict. On 4 November, despite winning four months ago, supporters of Union Council chairman attacked their electoral opponents from the same political party. More than 50 houses of two villages in Roypura, Narshingdi were burned down by arson attack. Later on, police brought the situation under control. Similarly on 9 November, police again had to intervene when two factions of the ruling party engaged in a gunfight on the streets of Banskhali upazila of Chittagong. This clash led to vandalization of several vehicles and 18 people from both sides sustained bullet-shots. Again, on 11 November, two factions of the Jubo League clashed in Hatia upazila of Noakhali during a rally of its 45th founding anniversary. As police intervened, 100 rounds of rubber bullets and 10 tear shells were fired to halt the fight. The clash ended with 35 people injured from both sides, including three policemen.

In December 2017, BPO recorded 24 incidents of political violence. Among these incidents, 9 were triggered by intra-party conflict while only 2 inter-party violent incidents were recorded. The highest number of injury resulted from a clash between the rival factions of the ruling party. The conflict was related to rival groups trying to take control of a stone quarry at Jaintiapur, Sylhet. On 3 December, 30 people were injured by throwing stones to each other until police brought the situation under control. Similarly, other political parties also had fractional clash this month. On 9 December, two local groups of BNP clashed over trivial issues in Jhalokanthi and left at least 10 people injured. Again, on 23 December, two factions of the ruling party clashed in Saltha upazila of Faridpur. By using sharp weapons, 17 members of both sides were injured. Pre-election contestations resulted in 4 electoral violence, 3 of which were located in the Rangpur division. However, in a two-day clash between the supporters of the Union Council candidate, 30 people were injured in Charfashion upazila of Bhola on 14 December. The much awaited Rangpur City Corporation elections also took a toll on violence where on 22 December, a clash between police and supporters of a defeated Ward Councillor candidate left at least 25 people injured. A day before, around 15 people, was injured while supporters of the two councillor candidates clashed at Ban-Chandipur village of Rangpur. In Dinajpur, on 26 December, during Biral upazila's municipality election, at least 10 people were injured when supporters of rival mayoral candidates clashed. A team from Biral Police Station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Apart from that, nine other political issues included attack on local political leaders by unknown miscreants and clash between different groups.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

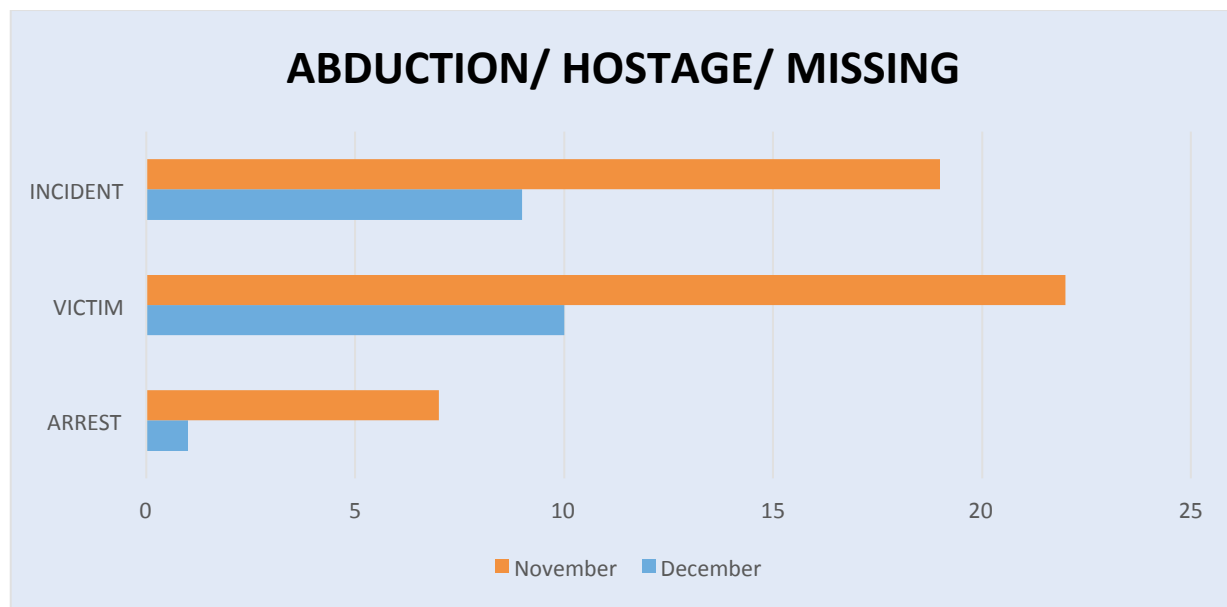
November

23 Incidents
2 Death, 155 Injury
15 Intra-party, 5 Inter-party & 2 Others

December

24 Incidents
8 Death, 154 Injury
9 Intra-party, 2 Inter-party, 4 Electoral & 9 Others

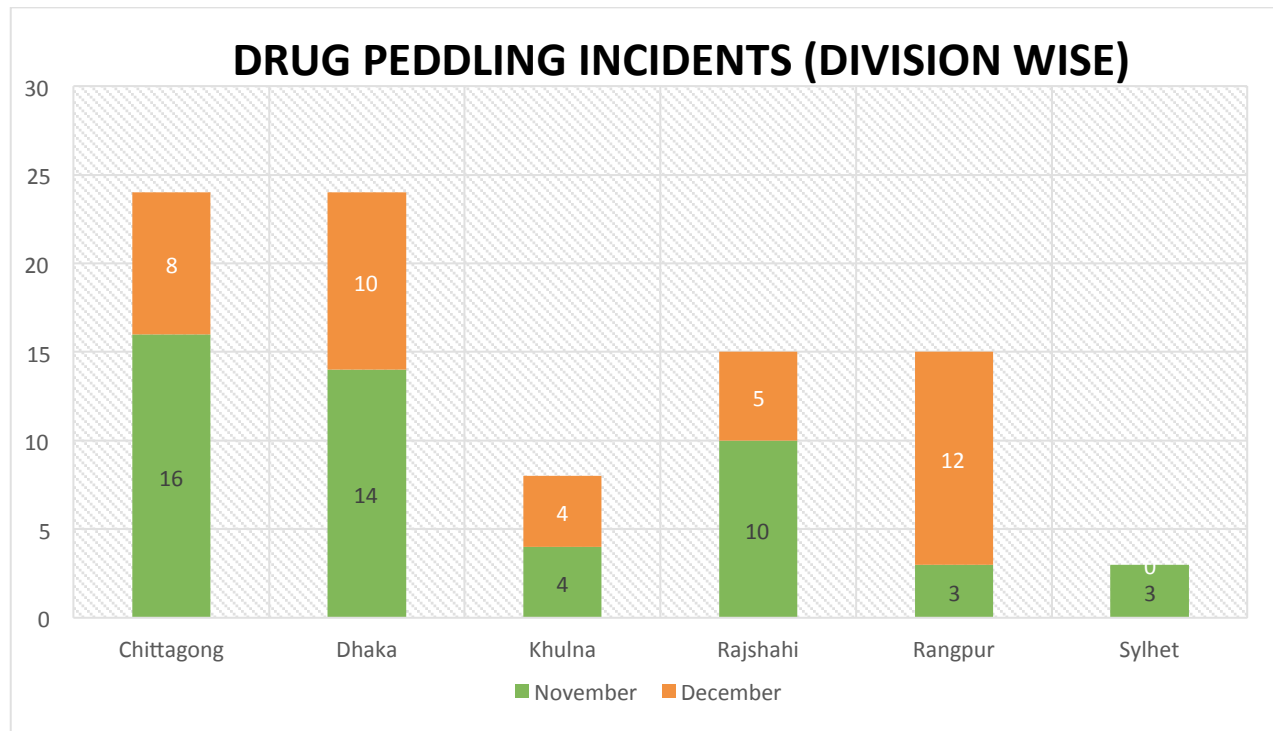
In November 2017, the BPO recorded a total of 19 such incidents all over the country with 22 people abducted or “missing”, seven recovered and police arrested seven abductors in different cases. Among these incidents, a high profile case created a huge sensation. On 8 November 2017, Mubashar Hasan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, went 'missing' from Agargaon area of Dhaka. He eventually returned home on 22 December 2017. His family confirmed to the media that he was dropped on the Airport Road by unknown people. He then returned home by autorickshaw at 1 A.M. the same day. Just three days prior to his return, on 19 December 2017, “missing” journalist, Utpal Das was found in Narayanganj. December also saw different kinds of abduction. On 1 December, an abducted Christian priest from Natore named Father Walter William was rescued in Sylhet. In December 2017, BPO recorded nine incidents where 10 people were picked up or went “missing” and one arrested in a related incident. Two were, however, later found, which included a banker who went hiding deliberately and another, a sports officer, who was picked up by the CID for his alleged involvement in the question leak scandal in Dhaka University. Most alarming case in December was the disappearance of Maroof Zaman, a retired Bangladeshi diplomat. On 4 December 2017, Mr. Zaman left his residence in Dhanmondi to go to Dhaka Airport to pick up his daughter, but he never reached the airport. Later, police recovered his car from an area very close to the airport.



MONTH	INCIDENT	VICTIM	ARREST
November	19	22	7
December	9	10	1

DRUG PEDDLING

In November 2017, a total of 50 incidents took place in different parts of Bangladesh. Highest number of incidents of drug peddling were recorded in the Chittagong division (16), followed by Dhaka (14), and Rajshahi (10). Two incidents of assault was recorded among these. In one incident a woman was pushed under train in Rajshahi and in another incident a local political leader was stabbed in the capital by drug peddlers. In 48 other incidents, law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh was able to arrest 176 people involved in drug peddling. In December 2017, BPO recorded 39 incidents which is lesser than November but the number of people arrested was high - 269. In combing operations, law enforcement agencies were able to arrest these people and also confiscated a huge number of drugs. Rangpur division had the highest number of recorded incidents – 12, while Dhaka had ten incidents and Chittagong had eight. Some drug related incidents also saw loss of life. On 24 December, alleged drug peddlers broke into a house in Lalmonirhat Sadar and stabbed two brothers for their earlier protest against drug peddling. In another shocking incident, on 18 December 2017, a drug addict snatched a bag from a women in a moving rickshaw in Doyaganj area of Dhaka. The woman lost her balance and fell from the rickshaw along with her infant. The baby died instantly. Police was able to arrest the lone accused from a nearby slum and found that he is a drug dealer. Family members of the baby demanded capital punishment for the accused.



**ECONOMIC COMPETITION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RELATED VIOLENCE: ACCESS OR CONTROL OF LAND**

This type of violence is triggered by contestation over economic opportunities and natural resources. A significant amount of violence is related to land issues. In such cases, people resort to violence with or without political motivations. They often engage in violence with rivals. Sadly, there are incidents where family members or neighbors get involved in crimes related to land disputes. In November 2017, BPO recorded 14 land related incidents in which nine people died and 42 were injured. Among these, eight incident of assault, four clash and two incidents of property destruction were recorded. In four cases, perpetrators were family members. Again, in December 2017, a total of 23 incidents of land related violence was recorded with 14 casualties and 220 injuries. At the same time, 11 assaults, 10 clashes and two property destructions were recorded. In five cases, violence was perpetrated by the neighbors. On 2 December, in a single incident of boundary building dispute between neighbors, more than 50 people were injured on both sides. This incident took place at Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur where one group attacked and vandalized houses of another group, including looting their valuables. In another incident in the same upazila on 14 December, clash broke out between two groups over land demarcation resulting in more than 50 injuries on both sides. Although both groups belonged to the same ruling party, still more than 200 supporters from one village ravaged houses of another village. Later on, deploying additional police force helped to stabilize the situation. Such clash have also resulted in casualties in the month of December. On 22 December, two brothers were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between neighbors over harvesting paddy from a disputed land in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat. Police arrested seven people in this connection.

