

Political Crimes in Bangladesh: A Study Based on Newspaper Information

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Abstract

Political crime has been most crucial issue of attention to social scientists in Bangladesh because of its severe consequences at social and national level. Everyday newspapers report many incidents of crimes where politically motivated, supported or connected violations of public peace are commonly to be found. If there is no universal definition of political crimes but the violations of laws, order and public peace for political reasons rather individual or public can be defined as political crime. As well as the definition there is rarely found any theoretical basis of political crime but Ross developed a theory after analyzing and combining several theories where political crimes is the result of complex interplay among individuals, situations or opportunities, organizations and resources adequacy. He calls it ISOR relationship. Political crimes related data of 2010 published at a daily Bengali national news paper namely the Prothom Alo has been collected to conduct this research work. These data states that, there are different types and patterns of political crimes in Bangladesh which include political violence in educational institutions, intra-party and inter political party deadly conflicts, attack on law enforcing agencies by political parties, widespread destruction of public properties during the periods of Hartal including vandalism of vehicles, subversive corruption by using political identity, political crimes on tender and development projects, state sponsored violence, environmental hazards for political purpose, attack on opposition by ruling parties and so on. There are several factors behind these types of crimes including economic, social and political. These types of political crimes have severe consequences at social and

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national perspective of Bangladesh. Finally, immediate initiatives should be taken by government and law enforcing agencies to prevent these subversive crimes. The culture of impunity at the justice system of Bangladesh should be abolished as well as cooperative initiatives of civil society and masses and mass media can contribute to develop a comfortable political crimes free society.

Key Words: Political Crime, Political Violence, State Sponsored Violence, Intra Party Conflict, Inter-Party Conflict.

Introduction

In Bangladesh political crime has achieved a great attention of sociologists and criminologists. Political crimes are marked by the intra and inter political parties' violent conflicts, brutal clashes in educational institutions between and among student political organizations over establishing supremacy and capturing seats and hostels, sporadic violence over holding political rally, conflict between political groups in terms of elections, using state instrument to suppress the opposition political parties, political involvement and interferences in recruitment of government jobs, attacks and killing of opposition groups activists, corruption and illegal demanding of fees from government development projects, demanding illegal political quotas by ruling student political organization in educational institutions, tender related political crime, attack on law enforcing agencies by political parties, destruction of public properties during the periods of Hartal by oppositions political parties, indiscriminate torture by ruling parties on opposition political parties activists, grabbing of land of poor people's by ruling party activists, destruction of environments through indiscriminate cutting of trees by political activists and so on. There are many factors behind these types of political crimes including economic, social and political dimensions. Except these types of political crimes there are different dimensions of political crimes but in this study the published politically connected crimes at newspapers are only mater of discussions. So, this study is firmly concerned only with newspaper generated political crimes in Bangladesh.

Conceptual Framework

Defining Political Crime

There is no universal definition of political crime. Ross states that, 'political crime is rarely examined when studying the dynamics of crime,

justice and law.’ He also mentioned that there are various criminal acts which are considered as political. The Sedition and Treason are considered by state as political crime because of threat to the order (public, social, or otherwise) or national security. Sometimes, when incumbent governments occasionally engage in repressive action against its law abiding citizens and harassed are considered as political crime. According to him, oppositional and state-initiated harmful acts increasingly understood by many scholars as political crime.¹ There are many obstacles of understanding the political crime. Ross identifies the lack of consensus with respect to a definition, availability of reliable information, rigorous analysis, and or interest in political crimes.² According to Merriam- Webster, ‘political crime is the violation of law or of the public peace for political rather than public reasons.’³ Furthermore, political crime also indicates to the serious violation of the law that threatens the security or survival of a government.⁴

Indeed, we can generally understand political crime as politically organized, motivated, linked or supported anti-moral, anti-social and anti-legal activities committed by political activists by using his political identity and power.

Theoretical Aspect

There is no widely accepted theoretical explanation of political crime. But few scholars discussed some relevant theories which can be applicable in political crime. These are discussed as follows:

Merton cited in Ross in earliest provided a theoretical framework which partially touches the political crime. According to him ‘anomic theory of deviance (that is, strain theory), individuals live in societies that have a considerable amount of “structural dysfunctionism.” This in turn leads people to experience to an ends/means discrepancy. These process combined together create stress. In order to minimize discomfort,

¹ Jeffrey Lan Ross (2012: 24) *An Introduction to Political Crime*, The Policy Press, University of Bristole, UK. p. 1.

² Ibid, p. 2.

³ Merriam Webster, Political Crime, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/political%20crime>, Access date: 23/10/13.

⁴ ASK, what is political crime? <http://www.ask.com/question/what-is-a-political-crime>, Access date : 23/10/13

individuals have five options. One of which is rebellion (nominally types of political crime). The limitation of Merton's theory is, it's too limited for a more encompassing understanding of political crime.⁵

Moran cited in Ross describes, 'sequential stages which in successive combination might account for development of political crime'. The first step involves what Moran calls "predisposing conditions or background factors, the conjunctions of which forms a pool of potential political criminals. The conditions exist prior to an individual's decision to commit a political crime and by themselves do not account for his behavior". The aforementioned perspective includes the concept of strain and 'a political problem solving perspective'. The later consists of 'situational contingencies which leads to the commission of political crimes by predisposed individuals." Moran advocates a five-stage "developmental model" consisting of the following steps: (a) strain; (b) political problem solving perspective; (c) a turning point event; (d) commitment to act; and (e) engaging in the political crime.⁶

Turk has offered an alternative perspective. His structural conflict theory posits that although power and inequality are important factors in explaining political crime, the cultural gap between offenders and authorities is the primary factor that leads to the commission of political crime.⁷

The conflict theory states that, the political organization formed because of conflicts between individuals, families, tribes or groups to attain a good means to live. Material gain, opportunities, resources and power are the main sources for which people become united and select the course of action in the political organization. According Austin T. Turk, 'the Political organization of social life results from and is characterized by conflicts (often more implicit than explicit) among different individuals and groups of people trying to improve and ensure their life chances-that is, the likelihood that they, at least will have the means of opportunities to realize their respective vision of the good life.' Conflicts between individuals often play important role in aggravating wider conflicts. His analysis also shows that the political crime occurred in organized form.⁸

⁵ Merton (1938, 1964, 1964), Kelly (1972), Alexander (1992a, 1992b) cited in Jeffrey Lan Ross (2012) *An Introduction to Political Crime*, The Policy Press, University of Bristole, UK, p. 18.

⁶ Moran (1974) cited in Ross (2012), op. cit. p. 19.

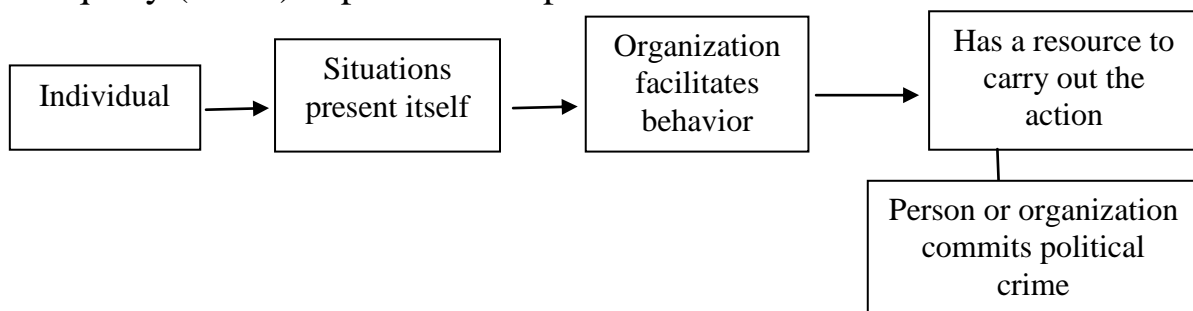
⁷ Turk (1982 a) cited in Ross (2012) op cit. p. 19.

⁸ Austin T. Turk, *Political Criminality*, Edited by Frank P. Williams, III, Marilyn D. McShane, *Criminology and Theory: Selected Classic Readings*, p. 244.

The Radical conflict theory originated from Marx and Engels, where Marx suggested that conflict in society is the result of the scarcity of resources (property, wealth, power, jobs). This creates inequalities among individual and constituencies, which in turn lead to a struggle who possesses these resources and who not. During the 1960s a number of theorists applied these theories to crime. For example, Quinney, a neo Marxist suggested that class struggle affects crimes at least in three ways. Quinney, a leading radical conflict theorist, argued that all crime in capitalist societies (which stresses individualism and competitiveness) should be considered a manifestation of class struggle, whereby people strive for wealth, power, money, status and property. In country dominated by capitalist mod of production, a culture of competition arises. This is seen as normal and desirable, and takes many forms, including criminality.⁹

After analyzing many theories Ross developed a new theoretical framework of political crime. He states that, ‘political crimes is the result of complex interplay among individuals (I) situations/opportunities(S), organizations (O), resources adequacy (R). He calls it ISOR relationship (Figure 1.1).¹⁰

Figure 1.1: The Individual-situation-organizational facilitation-resource adequacy (ISOR) explanation of political crime:



Source: Jeffry Lan Ross (2012: 24) *An Introduction to Political Crime*, The Policy Press, University of Bristol, UK.

According to Ross, although many political crimes are committed by groups that are formally or loosely structured, whether oppositional or state organizations, these activities are in the final analysis committed by individuals. These people are working within the structural confines of informal or complex organizations, political systems, political economies

⁹ Marx & Engels (1848/1948), Quinney, (1977), Bohn (1982) cited in Ross 2012 op cit. p. 24.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 24-25.

and different cultures. They make decisions and act, while often denying that they are not engaged in any kind of wrongdoing.¹¹

Methodology

This study on political crime in Bangladesh is conducted on the basis of newspaper generated secondary data on crimes which have political affinity. To complete this study, political crimes related reports of 2010 has been collected from Prothom Alo, a daily Bengali newspaper. In terms of collecting data, I searched every days papers of 12 months of 2010 very carefully and cautiously. So, this article is prepared purely on the basis of secondary data of 2010 published by the Prothom Alo. Collection of data from only one newspaper is a big limitation of this study. It is impossible for a newspaper to publish all political crimes related news at a time.

Political Crime in Bangladesh

There are many types of political crimes in Bangladesh which occurred by political parties, groups and individuals. Political leaders and activists are performing several types of crimes by using their political affinity, identity and power. They don't care about laws and regulation of the country. 'Might is rights' policy is most applicable to them. 'Culture of impunity' in the justice system of Bangladesh for political consideration is making the situation more degrading day by day. Political crimes is not only limited within political boundary but affecting civilian lives and property. Widespread political crimes like subversive corruption by political leaders, state sponsored violence against opposition political leaders and activists including disappearance and crossfire, oppositional initiated political violence like random destruction of public properties in terms of Hartal or political rally, arbitrary arrest of opposition political leaders and activists by law enforcing agencies, bloodshed conflict between student organizations at educational institutions, deadly clash over establishing supremacy, etc are well known in Bangladesh. There are various factors behind these crimes including economic, political, and social and so on. Intra political groups violent clashes and inter groups political conflict results many deaths and thousands of injured and casualties in every year. In the following section various types of political crime with different dimensions on the basis of news published by the Prothom Alo, a Bengali daily newspaper in 2010 discussed as follows:

¹¹ Jeffry Lan Ross (2012) op cit. p.26.

Political Crime in Educational Institutions by Students Wings

Political crimes in educational institutions especially in higher educational institutions (colleges and universities) occur at a frequent basis. There are different categories of politically motivated and connected crimes in educational institutions. In most cases the student organizations or wings of major political parties are involved in these criminal acts. These includes intra-political parties student wing deadly clashes, attack on rival groups, inter-political student wings bloodshed conflict, attack on ruling student wing by opposition student organization, attack on opposition political parties student wings activists by ruling, assault on teachers by political leaders, illegal demanding of quotas in terms of admission tests and so on. In many cases admission process of different higher educational institutions are being halted for certain periods because of ruling wing' student organizations pressure on administration. According to the published reports of newspaper in 2010 presents different types of political crimes in educational institutions. The following tables categorically describes various criminal activities performed by major political parties student organizations:

Table 1: shows that in 2010, total number of intra-political student organization clash were 23, inter-political parties student wing clash were 8, attack by oppositional student political organizations on ruling party student wing was 1, attack by ruling student organizations on oppositions were 10, respectively. Illegal quota was demanded by ruling party student wing (Chatra League) in 4 educational institutions. In addition, total numbers of assault or attack on teachers by political student organization were 4. In all these cases approximately 575 persons including students and teachers have been injured and 8 students were brutally killed respectively.

The most pervasive factors behind these crimes occur over establishing supremacy at campuses, declaring new committees, capturing halls, hostels and seats, tender, trifling matters, economic factors, ideological differences and so on. In most cases of conflicts Universities authority did little except declaring indefinite period of vacation. Law enforcing agencies become silent or inactive when deadly conflict took place at campuses. Few cases of students killing at educational institutions have seen proper investigation and punishment of perpetrators. Incumbent ruling party always shows their silence when any student out of their wing being brutally killed.

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Table 1: Different types of crime by Political Student Organizations in Educational Institution in 2010¹²:

Name of Month	Number of Clash and Attack In Educational Institutions		Number of Attack By Opposition student organization on ruling party's student wing	Number of Attack on Opposition Student Groups by Ruling Party student Wing	Number of Illegal Demanding of Quota in Admission Test by Ruling Student Wing	Number of Assault on Teacher by Student Organization	Number of Injured Persons or victims	Number of Murder	Total Number of Crimes
	Intra-Group	Inter-Group							
Janua	1	4	0	1	0	1	118	1	7
Febru	2	1	1	2	2	0	90	3	8
Marc	2	0	0	1	0	0	10	1	3
April	2	0	0	0	1	2	32	1	5
May	4	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	4
June	2	1	0	3	1	1	64	0	8
July	3	0	0	1	0	0	81	1	4
Augu	4	1	0	0	0	0	20	1	5
Seper	2	1	0	1	0	0	70	0	4
Octob	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Nove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dece	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	1
Total	23	8	1	10	4	4	575	8	50

¹² This table is prepared by the reports of following date of The Daily Prothom Alo. 03/01/2010, p.1; 06/01/2010, p.4; 08/01/2010,p.1; 16/01/2010, p.1; 19/01/2010, p.1; 31/01/2010, p.4; 01/02/2010, p.1; 03/02/2010, p.1; 04/02/2010,P.1; 10/02/2010,P.1; 12/02/2010, P.1 &24; 16/02/2010, P.4; 19/02/2010, P.1; 06/03/2010, P.7; 17/03/2010, P.1; 16/04/2010, P.16; 22/04/2010, P.4; 01/05/2010, P.11; 05/05/2010, P.1; 24/05/2010, P.5; 02/06/2010, P.4; 07/06/2010, P.4.; 09/06/2010, P.4; 14/06/2010, P.4; 22/06/2010, P.24; 27/06/2010, P.21; 06/07/2010, P.6; 09/07/2010, P.1; 11/07/2010, P.7; 13/07/2010, P.1; 05/08/2010, P.5; 15/08/2010, P.7; 16/08/2010, P. 1; 24/08/2010, P.24; 24/09/2010, P.24; 28/09/2010, P.28, 30/09/2010, P.24; 27/10/2010, P.3; 22/12/2010, 1; 08/08/2010, p.1.

Intra-Political Parties Conflict in Bangladesh

Beyond educational institutions political party's activists engage in intra-party conflict. This type of conflict does not occur only among the ruling party's activists but also among the opposition as well. These types of political conflict actually occur among the leaders and activists of mother political organizations on several issues including tender, illegal business, holding new committee, establishing supremacy in certain area, establishing supremacy during elections, previous enmity, over holding rally at same places, property dispute and so on. Intra-political parties' conflicts in 2010 are shown in table, 2 as follows.

Table 2: Shows that in 2010, total number of intra political party conflict were 29 and 7 among ruling party, Awami League and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) respectively. Total numbers of attack on rival groups of ruling party were 11 and 1 in opposition. In addition, 549 people were injured and 12 persons were brutally murdered due to intra party violent clash. Finally, 48 intra party conflicts were held according to the Prothom-Alo report. But, really this number may be more.

Inter-political Parties Conflict

Inter-political party's conflicts beyond educational institutions between the activists of major political parties of Bangladesh occur at a frequent basis. Deadly conflicts occur on several periods and issues depending on the context including in the period of oppositional imposed country wide day-night shutdown, over establishing supremacy, holding rallies and processions at the same places, before and after national and local elections, political disputes, previous memory of repression, ideological differences and so on. In following table 3 shows that in 2010, at least 9 violent inter-political parties' conflict occurred in several parts of Bangladesh. In these cases hundreds of people injured and many died.

Clash between Law enforcing Agencies and Political Parties

Bloodshed clashes between law enforcing agencies especially police and political parties especially with oppositional political parties have become the political norms of Bangladesh. But, this type of clash with police indicates to abhor the law and order systems of state. Due to that reason, politically motivated clash with polices or with law enforcing agencies could be termed as one kind of political crime.

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Table, 2: Intra-political Parties conflicts and attack on rival groups in 2010.¹³

Name of Month	Number of intra-political parties clash beyond educational institutions by		Number of Attack on rival groups or individuals by		Number of Injured Persons	Number of Murder	Number of Total Crime
	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition			
January	2	0	0	0	37	0	2
February	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
March	4	1	2	0	80	1	7
April	2	2	2	0	62	1	6
May	10	1	3	0	182	1	14
June	5	0	1	0	62	2	6
July	2	0	0	0	13	0	2
August	1	1	1	0	42	2	3
September	1	0	1	0	15	1	2
October		2		1	55	0	3
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	1	0	0	0	0	3	1
Total	29	7	11	1	549	12	48

¹³ This Table is prepared from the Published news in The Prothom Alo on the following date: 03/01/2010, p.4; 07/01/2010, p.4; 20/01/2010, p.4; 16/02/2010, p.4; 23/02/2010, p.4; 14/03/2010, p.1, 7; 14/03/2010, p.1; 15/03/2010, p.17; 27/03/2010, p.4; 28/03/2010, p.4; 09/04/2010, p.1; 14/04/2010, p.6; 17/04/2010, p.1; 19/04/2010, p.4; 22/05/2010, p.5; 27/04/2010, p.24; 04/05/2010, p.1, 4; 05/05/2010, p.4; 07/05/2010, p.1 & 4; 11/05/2010, p.4; 18/05/2010, p.4; 19/05/2010, p.4; 20/05/2010, p.4; 26/05/2010, p.4 & 5; 27/05/2010, p.1; 11/06/2010, p.4; 11/06/2010, p.4; 21/06/2010, 22/06/2010, p.4; 27/06/2012, p.21; 18/07/2010, p.4; 22/07/2010, p.1; 05/08/2010, p.4; 11/08/2010, p.4; 15/08/2010, p.1; 29/09/2010, p.4; 11/10/2010, p.1; 17/10/2010, p.4; 31/10/2010, p.4; 31/12/2010, p.1.

In most cases of clashes between police and the activists of opposition political parties occur on the occasion of holding rally or procession declared by opposition political parties. Engagement in conflict with police is one kind of crime but preventing of oppositional parties' peaceful procession and rallies and indiscriminate attack by law enforcing agencies is another type of state initiated crime as well. Because, according to the constitution of Bangladesh, every citizen has the right to hold peaceful political protest and rally. Table 3 shows that in 2010, total number of clashes between oppositional political parties and police were 6 and between the activists of ruling parties and police were 2. In these clashes many people including police injured.

Hartal and Political Crime

Hartal or shutdown is a political and democratic right according to the constitution of Bangladesh. But, this instrument frequently used by political parties especially by oppositions to force government to do anything or to protest against government on any specific issue. There may have a certain issue of Hartal including political demand and protest against repression of government. Table (3) demonstrates that in 2010, 3 hartal observed by opposition political parties in Bangladesh. In terms of hartal widespread destruction of public property including vandalism of cars, firing on buses, bursting bombs and sporadic violence marked the whole country. In 2010, 171 different types of vehicles were vandalized by opposition political parties' activists and about 26 by ruling party activists on different events, respectively. In most cases, huge numbers of vandalism of cars took on occasions of Hartal.

Attack on Opposition Political Parties by Ruling Parties

Repression, indiscriminate torture by ruling party on opposition leaders and activists are well known in Bangladesh. These attacks don't waged only the opposition party activists but on their homes, business institutions and offices. According to the table 3, in 2010, total numbers of attack on opposition political parties' activists and in their political offices were 20 across the country. In these attacks many persons injured and many killed. Culture of impunity by the justice system of Bangladesh to the killer of opposition leaders blatantly have been observed by the people of Bangladesh.

Attack by Opposition Political Parties on Ruling Parties

Ruling political parties' men also are being attacked by the opposition political parties' activists at different places of country. But, all issues generally have political affiliation. According to table 3, in 2010, 3 incidents of attack on ruling party activists by opposition have occurred.

Attack on Law Enforcing Agencies by Opposition Political Parties

Police or law enforcing agencies are being targeted by opposition political parties when they think that polices are obstacle to hold their rallies or processions. Sometimes they may have different intentions including breaking the strong mind of police or law enforcing agencies. According to the table-3, in 2010, numbers of attack on police or law enforcing agencies were 4 by the opposition political parties.

Political Vandalism of Vehicles

Vandalism of vehicles including bus, private cars, and trucks has been political culture in terms of political protest, hartal and etc. Table 3 states that in 2010, total number of vandalism of vehicle by the opposition political parties were 171 and by the ruling party activists' were 26. Dire consequences due to the indiscriminate destruction of public property may affect transpiration, economy and the glory of Bangladesh.

State Sponsored Violence

By using state instrument as a means of violence and repression, often incumbent government wants to suppress opposition political parties' demonstrations. To do so there may have many processes including mass arbitrary arrest, imprisonment of opposition leaders, disappearance etc. According to the reported data of 2010, about 1284 opposition parties activists were detained by law enforcing agencies (table 3).

Table 3: Inter-Political Parties and Groups Conflicts beyond Educational Institutions, Clash between Opposition and Police, Attack on Police, Number of Hartal, Vandalism of Cars, Mass Arrest by Police, Attack on Police in 2010.¹⁴

¹⁴ This table prepared by published news of the Prothom Alo. Dates are: 29/01/2010, p.4; 11/02/2010, p.4; 12/02/2010, p.4; 13/02/2010, p.1; 14/02/2010, p.1; 21/02/2010, p.1; 30/03/2010, p.4; 09/04/2010, p.4; 13/04/2010, p.1; 14/04/2010, p.24; 16/04/2010, p.1; 17/04/2010, p.1; 19/04/2010, p.4; 21/04/2010, p.1; 23/04/2010, p.1; 25/04/2010, p.1; 26/04/2010, p.1; 30/04/2010, p.24; 04/05/2010, p.1, 4; 06/05/2010, p.1, 4; 14/05/2010; 29/05/2010, p.4; 18/06/2010, p.1; 28/06/2010,p.1,2; 02/07/2010, p.4; 05/07/2010, p.4; 05/07/2010, p.1; 15/09/2010, p.4; 09/10/2010, p.1; 14/11/2010, p.1; 15/11/2010, p.1; 29/11/2010, p.1; 30/11/2010, p.1; 01/12/2010, p.1; 05/12/2010, p.4.

Name of Month	Number of Inter-political Parties Conflict	Clash with Police		Number of Hartal	Number of Opposition Political Parties and their Offices by Ruling	Number of Attack on Law Enforcing Agencies By opposition	Number of Vandalism of Cars By	Number of Arrest of Opposition Activists by Police		Injured	Number of Murder	Total Number Of Crimes
		Opposition	Ruling					Opposition	Ruling			
January	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	1
February	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	155	117	1	7
March	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	1
April	4	1	0	0	7	2	5	20	103	191	1	39
May	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	6	0	63	1	11
June	1	1	0	1	0	0	11	0	167	70	0	14
July	0	0	0	0	0	1	70	0	41	20	0	71
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
September	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1
October	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 (train)	0	0	44	1	2
November	0	1	0	2	4	0	83	0	786	402	0	90
December	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		32	38	0	2
Total	9	4	2	3	20	4	171	26	1284	1005	4	239

Tender Related Political Crime

In Bangladesh tender is an important issue and source of political crime. In most cases of tender the local ruling political leaders become involved. Ruling political leaders approach illegally to get the tender. According to the data of 2010, 8 political crimes over tender occurred (Table, 4) in different places on different development projects. This type of crime includes creating hindrance in terms of calling and selecting the individual or company. Political influence and power become the main elements of getting the tender work. Political leaders try to get the tender by hook or by crook. Sometimes violent dispute between two political groups over tender have taken place.

Government Jobs Recruitment

The government job recruitment sector of Bangladesh is a better field for criminals. This type of crime includes taking bribe for recruitment into jobs, recommendation by political leaders (Member of Parliament, Ministers, Local leaders etc) and so forth. The ruling party plays key role for criminalization of job sector in Bangladesh. In all kinds of government jobs (from fourth class to first class government jobs) subversive corruption and illegal recommendations for recruitments by political leaders occur. According to the table 4, in 2010, 7 big incidents of political interference in recruitment of government jobs at different hospitals, educational institutions, administrations performed by ruling political leaders published by Prothom Alo.

Environmental Hazards

Trees are the main sources of environmental security. River flow is important to get ride from over inundation in terms of floods. In many places of Bangladesh illegal cutting of huge numbers of trees and stopping the river flow by creating artificial dam for catching fishes by local political leaders published by daily newspapers. These indiscriminate cutting of trees are threat to environment. For that reason I call it crimes against environment. For example, a report states that 21 trees on street have been cut by Awami League leaders.¹⁵ Another report states that, a ruling local leader is involved in catching fish by creating artificial dam violating law into the Padma River at Faridpur with the cooperation of an opposition local party leader. This type of artificial dam

¹⁵ The Daily Prothom Alo, Date: 03/01/2010. Page. 4

stops the river flow and create new shoal on the river basin¹⁶ Furthermore, a report states that, a hundred years old trees of a school has been sold by a BNP leader to an Awami League Leader without permission of the authority.¹⁷ In addition, in recent days thousands of trees have been cut during Hartal periods. Table, 4 states that in 2010 five reports of crime on environment by political leaders were published.

Grabbing the Land of Landless People by Political Leader

News on grabbing of land by political leaders in rustic areas often publishes by daily news papers. This type of crime is being committed by the powerful rural political elites. Political identity of grabber especially the ruling political party leader enjoy the immunity of being punished by law enforcing agencies in many cases and ‘might is right’ policy can describe the situation better. The report of 2010 indicates different incident of grabbing land of poor people by local ruling political leaders. For example, a report states that, a pond of landless people has been illegally captured by a ruling party man in Jenaidah district, which is being used by 80 landless poor families.¹⁸ According to the table 4, in 2010, 7 incidents of illegally grabbing of lands of poor people by political leaders occurred.

Illegal Sand Business by Political Leader

Political leaders do many types of crime by using political power. Illegal sand business is also another type of crime committed by the political leaders. Table 4 denotes that in 2010, 3 incidents of sand business by local political leaders occurred. This illegal sand business often becomes harmful for local people and environment. Violent conflict between local people and ruling leaders on illegal sand business also occurred in 2010.

Corruption in Development Project by Politian’s

Government development project is one the most important sector of corruption by political leaders. According to table 4, in 2010, five incidents of corruption and demanding illegal fees by ruling political leaders on different development projects were reported by the Prothom Alo.

¹⁶ The Prothom Alo, Date: 11/01/2010. p.1.

¹⁷ The Prothom Alp, Date: 12/01/2013. p.4.

¹⁸ The Daily Prothom Alo, Date: 03/01/2010. Page. 5

Assault on Administration's Personnel by Ruling Leaders

In Bangladesh, some time the incident of assault on administration personnel occurred by the ruling party leaders in different places. The incident of assault occurred especially when the administrative man avoid illegal demand by politicians. Sometimes political leaders physically harassed and mentally tortured administrative officials and threat to sent in remote area if don't follow his order. Table 4 shows that in 2010, 5 incident of assault by ruling political party men on administrative officials occurred

Violence against Women and Political Connection

Violence against women is a crucial crime. Sometimes politically connected personnel assault on women because of his political power and get immunity from law enforcing agencies by using the political power. According to the table 4, in 2010, three incident of assault on women by political leaders and activists occurred. But, in these three cases no persons have been arrested by law enforcing agencies because of their stronghold with ruling party.

Other Types of Political Crime

Except above political crimes, there are many types of politically motivated and connected crimes. These include attack on journalists, civilian people and on market places by political activists. Journalists often become target of violence by political leaders and parties. Furthermore, political activists may attack on market place or in public place for a trifling matter. In 2010, eleven incident of different types of crimes except above described types occurred in different place of Bangladesh. (Table, 4)

Table 4: Illegally Grabbing of Land, Illegally Cutting of Trees and Hills, Illegal Sand Business, Assault on Women, Government Employment, and Tender Related Political Crime in 2010.¹⁹

¹⁹ This table has been prepared from the following date's reports published by the Prothom Alo. Date: 04/01/2010, p.1; 15/01/2010; 16/02/2010, p.2; 22/01/2010, p.4; 27/01/2010, p.1; 30/01/2010, p.5; 02/02/2010, p.2; 08/02/2010, p.1; 09/02/2010, p.3; 12/02/2010, p.1; 13/02/2010, p.4; 11/03/2010, p.4; 13/03/2010, p.21; 14/03/2010, p.7; 16/03/2010, p.1; 21/03/2010, p.2; 22/03/2010, p.4; 25/03/2010, p.4; 09/04/2010, p.9; 10/04/2010, p.4, 24; 18/04/2010, p.4; 28/04/2010, p.3, 21; 01/05/2010, p.4; 07/05/2010, p.1; 09/05/2010, p.1; 18/05/2010, p.1; 23/05/2010, p.4; 19/06/2010, p.4; 20/06/2010, p.4; 06/07/2010, p.6; 14/07/2010, p.4; 15/07/2010, p.5; 17/07/2010, p.4; 19/07/2010, p.4; 24/07/2010, p.5; 29/07/2010, p.5; 04/08/2010, p.4; 05/08/2010, p.4; 14/08/2010, p.5; 19/08/2010, p.5; 29/08/2010, p.4; 14/09/2010, p.4; 18/09/2010, p.1; 07/10/2010, p.5; 28/10/2010, p.1; 24/12/2010, p.1.

Name of Months of 2010	Number of Political Crime Over Tender	Number of Incident of Recommendation and Political intervention in the recruitment of government Jobs	Number of trees Cutting Illegally by Ruling leaders	Incident of Cutting Hills	Illegally Grabbing of Land or house by Ruling Leaders Or supported	Illegal Sand Business	Government Project and Corruption by Politician, Demanding or taking illegal fees by politicians	Assault on administration personnel by ruling people	Number of Assault on women by politically connected personnel	Number of Others Crime (victims of civilian, journalist) by political activists, attack on market	Total Number Of Crime
January	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	7
February	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
March	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	6
April	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	6
May	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	7
June	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
July	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	7
August	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	5
September	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
November	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	8	7	5	1	7	3	5	5	3	11	55

A Holistic View of Political Crime in Bangladesh

The above description contains different categorical tables and figures about different types of political crime in Bangladesh. The daily Prothom Alo published approximately 402 reports on political crimes in 2010. According to its published reports approximately 2129 persons severely injured due to the political violence and 24 persons have been brutally killed. Table 5 and, Figure 6 present a comprehensive picture of political crime in 2010 including the number of political crimes and victims, respectively.

Table 5: Total Number of Political Crimes, Number of Injured and Killed Persons in 2010.²⁰

Name of Months, 2010.	Numbers of Political Crimes in 2010	Number of victims and Injured Persons by Political Crime	Number of Murder or Killing by Political Crimes
January	17	175	1
February	28	208	5
March	17	120	3
April	56	285	3
May	36	284	1
June	30	196	2
July	84	114	1
August	13	62	3
September	10	95	1
October	16	100	1
November	90	402	0
December	5	88	3
Total Number of Political Crimes	402	2129	24

Table 5: shows that in 2010, total number of political crime was 402. In addition, total number of injured people were 2129 and 24 murdered, respectively.

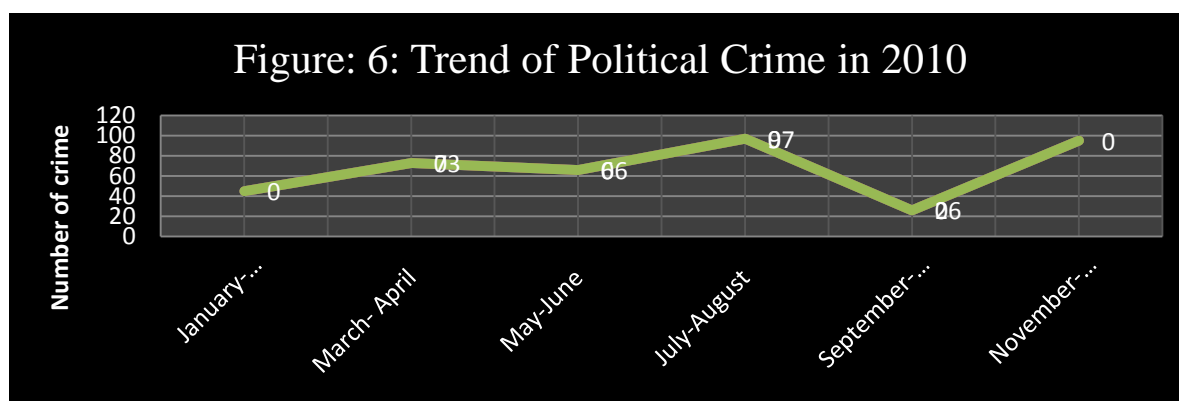


Figure 6: represents the bimonthly political crimes trend in 2010.²¹

²⁰ Sources: This table is prepared taken data from Table 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Political Crimes have dire consequences on physical, mental, social, economic, educational and environmental aspect as well. There are several types of political crimes. The pattern of political crime may change over time. In recent days these includes violent political deadlock and conflict between and within political organizations, bloodshed clashes at educational institutions, demanding illegal quota and interfering into admission process, state sponsored violence against oppositions including disappearance and arbitrary arrest, culture of impunity for political consideration, corruption by political leaders, interference and recommendation for government jobs recruitments, indiscriminate torture by police and ruling on opposition leaders and activists, sporadic violence by opposition in terms of Hartal and demonstration and destruction of public properties, tendering, crime against environment (trees, rivers and hills), conflict over establishing supremacy and holding rally, violence against minority before and after national elections, and so on. In most cases of political crimes ruling party activists are vigorously involved.

To prevent these subversive political crimes incumbent government should take stringent action against the perpetrators who are engaged in criminal activities by using political power and identity. Law enforcing agencies should act neutrally and strictly to detain perpetrators. The culture of impunity should be abolished from the justice system of Bangladesh. More frequent news should be published by mass media on criminal activities performed by using political power. Finally, political will of government and cooperative initiatives by masses, civil society, mass media, NGOs and government to eradicate political crimes from society could be more effective.

²¹ It is prepared from the data of Table 5.