

The Penal Code, 1860

Section 2: Punishment of offences committed within Bangladesh

Every person shall be liable to punishment under this Code and not otherwise for every act or omission contrary to the provisions thereof, of which he shall be guilty within Bangladesh. This means that any person who, within the geographical boundaries of Bangladesh, commits any act or fails to act in a way that is contrary to the provisions of this Code, shall be held responsible and subject to punishment as prescribed. The liability to punishment arises solely from the provisions within this Code and does not extend beyond it for acts done within Bangladesh.

Section 3: Punishment of offences committed beyond, but which by law may be tried within Bangladesh

Any person liable, by any Bangladesh Law, to be tried for an offence committed beyond the limits of Bangladesh shall be dealt with according to the provisions of this Code for any such act committed outside the country in the same manner as if such act had been committed within Bangladesh. This section allows the Code to apply to acts committed beyond the borders of Bangladesh, provided that under the law such acts can legally be tried within the country. The provision is particularly important in dealing with crimes having extraterritorial elements, ensuring that justice can still be served even if the offence occurred abroad.

Section 4: Extension of Code to extra-territorial offences

The provisions of this Code apply also to any offence committed by any citizen of Bangladesh in any place beyond Bangladesh. Additionally, it applies to any person on any ship or aircraft registered in Bangladesh, regardless of where that ship or aircraft may be. The definition of an offence in this context includes every act committed outside Bangladesh which, if committed within the country, would be punishable under this Code. This section ensures that citizens of Bangladesh and individuals aboard Bangladeshi-registered vessels or aircraft remain under the jurisdiction of Bangladeshi criminal law even when outside its territory. Several illustrations follow this section in the original text to clarify and exemplify its application.

Section 5: Certain laws not to be affected by this Act

Nothing in this Act is intended to repeal, vary, suspend, or affect any of the provisions of any Act that provides for the punishment of mutiny and desertion among officers, soldiers, sailors, or airmen in the service of the Republic. Furthermore, it shall not affect any special or local law in force. This section preserves the validity and operation of specific other legal instruments, including military and regional laws, ensuring that the Penal Code does not override or interfere with these specialized legal regimes.

Section 6: Definitions in the Code to be understood subject to exceptions

Throughout this Code, every definition of an offence, every penal provision, and every illustration of such definitions or penal provisions shall be understood to be subject to the

exceptions contained in the chapter entitled "General Exceptions," even though those exceptions are not specifically repeated in the definition, penal provision, or illustration itself. For example, the Code defines the offence of murder. However, this definition is subject to the general exception that nothing is an offence which is done by a child under seven years of age. Therefore, even if a child under seven performs all the acts that constitute murder, the act is not considered an offence under the Code.

Section 7: Sense of expression once explained

Every expression which is explained in any part of this Code is to be used consistently throughout the entire Code in accordance with that explanation. This ensures a uniform and coherent interpretation of legal terms and expressions across all provisions of the Code, thereby preventing ambiguity or inconsistency in legal interpretation.

Section 8: Gender

The pronoun "he" and all of its derivatives used in this Code are to be interpreted as referring to any person, whether male or female. This section clarifies that the use of masculine pronouns within the Code is intended to be gender-neutral and inclusive of all individuals regardless of sex.

Section 9: Number

Unless the context of a specific provision suggests otherwise, words importing the singular number shall include the plural, and words importing the plural number shall include the singular. This provides necessary flexibility in legal interpretation and application, allowing the law to cover both individual and collective scenarios without the need for separate provisions.

Section 10: “Man” and “Woman”

The word “man” denotes a male human being of any age, while the word “woman” denotes a female human being of any age. This clear definition establishes that gender-based terms in the Code encompass individuals from infancy to old age.

Section 11: “Person”

The word “person” includes any Company, Association, or body of persons, whether incorporated or not. This expansive definition ensures that legal responsibility and criminal liability can be assigned not only to individuals but also to organizations, corporate entities, and unincorporated groups.

Section 12: “Public”

The word “public” includes any class of the public or any community. This definition allows the term to be interpreted broadly, encompassing groups, segments, or classes within the general population, which is significant in applying laws concerning public peace, safety, and order.

Section 13: [Omitted]

This section was omitted by Article 2 and Schedule of the Central Laws (Adaptation) Order, 1961. The omission means the provision previously contained in this section is no longer part of the Code and has no legal effect.

Section 14: “Servant of the State”

The words "Servant of the Republic" denote all officers or servants who are continued, appointed, or employed in Bangladesh by or under the authority of the Government. This definition captures a wide range of individuals functioning under governmental authority, including public officials and government employees.

Section 15–18: [Repealed]

Sections 15, 16, and 18 were repealed by various adaptation orders and are no longer in force. The repeal of these sections means that their legal effect has been entirely removed and they are not to be referenced or applied in current legal matters.

Section 17: “Government”

The word “Government” denotes the person or persons who are authorized by law to administer the executive Government in Bangladesh, or in any part of Bangladesh. This definition establishes the legal authority of the Government and identifies who is empowered to act in its name under the law.

Section 19: “Judge”

The word “Judge” denotes not only every person who is officially designated as a Judge but also includes every person who is empowered by law to give, in any legal proceeding—whether civil or criminal—a definitive judgment. It also includes a person whose judgment, if not appealed against, would become final, or whose judgment, if confirmed by a higher authority, would be definitive. Furthermore, the term includes any person who is part of a body of individuals empowered by law to act collectively in this capacity.

Section 20: “Court of Justice”

The words "Court of Justice" denote a Judge who is empowered by law to act judicially when acting alone, or a body of Judges who are empowered by law to act judicially as a group. This term applies only when such Judge or body of Judges is actually performing judicial functions, thereby distinguishing judicial acts from administrative or other duties.

Section 21: “Public Servant”

The words "public servant" denote a person falling under specific categories such as commissioned officers in the armed forces, judges, court officers, government officers, local authority officers, and others who perform duties in the public interest. This section includes

extensive examples and twelve enumerated classes. The section also provides explanations confirming that a person acting in a public servant's role is considered as such, even if there is a legal defect in the appointment. For instance, a judge, a magistrate, or any individual legally or even erroneously appointed to a public position that involves responsibility toward the public or the state may be deemed a public servant. This is to ensure that official duties carried out in the name of the Republic are covered under the same standards of accountability, regardless of technicalities in appointment procedures.

Section 22: "Moveable property"

The words "moveable property" are intended to include corporeal property of every description, except land and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything which is attached to the earth. This definition covers items such as furniture, vehicles, or money—anything tangible and portable that can be subject to ownership and transfer, but it explicitly excludes immovable property like houses or trees rooted in the ground. This distinction is essential in determining the nature of property-related offences and their classification under criminal law.

Section 23: "Wrongful gain"

"Wrongful gain" is gain by unlawful means of property to which the person gaining is not legally entitled. "Wrongful loss" is the loss by unlawful means of property to which the person losing it is legally entitled. A person is said to gain wrongfully when such person retains wrongfully, as well as when such person acquires wrongfully. A person is said to lose wrongfully when such person is wrongfully kept out of any property, as well as when such person is wrongfully deprived of property. This section draws attention to both the acquisition and retention of property by illegal means, emphasizing not just the action of taking property but also preventing lawful possession by the rightful owner.

Section 24: "Dishonestly"

Whoever does anything with the intention of causing wrongful gain to one person or wrongful loss to another person, is said to do that thing "dishonestly". The presence of intent is key in this definition, distinguishing dishonest acts from merely negligent or accidental conduct. The dishonest intention must involve a deliberate effort to cause an unfair benefit to someone or to deprive another unjustly, which makes the act punishable under various sections of the Code depending on the offence involved.

Section 25: "Fraudulently"

A person is said to do a thing fraudulently if he does that thing with intent to defraud but not otherwise. The essence of fraud lies in the intention to deceive another party to cause harm or unfair benefit. If the act is carried out without such an intention, it cannot be termed fraudulent, even if loss or damage is suffered. Thus, criminal liability under fraud-based offences requires proof of malicious intent.

Section 26: "Reason to believe"

A person is said to have "reason to believe" a thing if he has sufficient cause to believe that thing but not otherwise. The standard is not merely subjective belief but an objective basis for the belief. This phrase often appears in sections involving knowledge or mental state and plays a

critical role in determining culpability, especially in financial and property-related offences where circumstantial evidence may imply knowledge or awareness of wrongdoing.

Section 27: Property in possession of wife, clerk or servant

When property is in the possession of a person's wife, clerk or servant, on account of that person, it is in that person's possession within the meaning of this Code. A person employed temporarily or on a particular occasion in the capacity of a clerk or servant, is also considered a clerk or servant within the meaning of this section. This rule is crucial in matters involving theft, criminal breach of trust, or misappropriation, where possession and ownership must be clearly understood. Even if the physical custody lies with a subordinate, the law treats the principal as the possessor for liability and protection purposes.

Section 28: "Counterfeit"

A person is said to "counterfeit" who causes one thing to resemble another thing, intending by means of that resemblance to practice deception, or knowing it to be likely that deception will thereby be practiced. It is not essential to counterfeiting that the imitation should be exact. When a person causes one thing to resemble another thing, and the resemblance is such that a person might be deceived thereby, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that the person so causing the resemblance intended to practice deception or knew it to be likely that deception would be practiced. This section plays a fundamental role in offences related to forgery, currency imitation, or trademark violations, where deception is the core element.

Section 29: "Document"

The word "document" denotes any matter expressed or described upon any substance by means of letters, figures, marks, or by more than one of those means, intended to be used, or which may be used, as evidence of that matter. It is immaterial by what means or upon what substance the letters, figures or marks are formed, or whether the evidence is intended for, or may be used in a Court of Justice, or not. A writing expressing the terms of a contract, a cheque, a Power-of-Attorney, a map, plan or written instruction is a document. A signature on the back of a bill of exchange (endorsement), which by mercantile usage means "pay to the holder", is also considered a document. The breadth of this definition ensures that various forms of communication or records—written or printed—are recognized under legal proceedings, including modern forms that may arise due to technological advancements.

Section 30: "Valuable security"

The words "valuable security" denote a document which is, or purports to be, a document whereby any legal right is created, extended, transferred, restricted, extinguished or released, or whereby any person acknowledges that he lies under legal liability, or has not a certain legal right. For example, endorsement on a bill of exchange is a "valuable security". This definition is especially relevant in offences such as forgery, criminal breach of trust, or cheating, where misuse of documents that carry legal value leads to serious consequences.

Section 31: "A will"

The words "a will" denote any testamentary document. This includes legal declarations made by a person regarding the distribution of their property after death. A will can take several forms but must express the intentions of the testator regarding posthumous property handling, and its

falsification, destruction, or manipulation is a criminal offence under relevant sections of the Penal Code.

Section 32: Words referring to acts include illegal omissions

In every part of this Code, except where a contrary intention appears from the context, words which refer to acts done extend also to illegal omissions. This ensures that both actions and failures to act, when they amount to criminal neglect or breach of legal duty, fall under the purview of punishable conduct.

Section 33: “Act” and “Omission”

The word "act" denotes as well a series of acts as a single act: the word "omission" denotes as well a series of omissions as a single omission. These definitions support the interpretation of criminal liability where continuity or recurrence of conduct is relevant, such as in cases of habitual crimes or sustained neglect.

Section 34: Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention

When a criminal act is done by several persons, in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone. This section establishes joint liability, so when two or more individuals plan and execute a criminal act together, each is treated as fully responsible regardless of the role played.

Section 35: When such an act is criminal by reason of its being done with a criminal knowledge or intention

Whenever an act, which is criminal only by reason of its being done with a criminal knowledge or intention, is done by several persons, each of such persons who joins in the act with such knowledge or intention is liable for the act in the same manner as if the act were done by him alone with that knowledge or intention. This reinforces the concept that shared criminal knowledge or intent among co-actors leads to shared liability, even if the offence depends on mental state rather than the act alone.

Section 36: Effect caused partly by act and partly by omission

Wherever the causing of a certain effect, or an attempt to cause that effect, by an act or by an omission, is an offence, it is to be understood that the causing of that effect partly by an act and partly by an omission is the same offence. For example, if A intentionally causes Z's death partly by illegally omitting to give Z food, and partly by beating Z, then A has committed murder. This section clarifies that the mode of causing the effect—whether through action, omission, or a combination of both—does not change the criminal liability for the offence.

Section 37: Co-operation by doing one of several Acts constituting an offence

When an offence is committed by means of several acts, whoever intentionally co-operates in the commission of that offence by doing any one of those acts, either singly or jointly with any other person, commits that offence. For instance, if A and B agree to murder Z by giving him poison in small doses at different times, and if they both administer the poison according to plan and Z dies, then both A and B are guilty of murder, even though their acts were committed separately. Likewise, if jailors A and B alternate shifts and jointly cause Z's death by withholding food, they are both guilty of murder. If A began the starvation and was dismissed before it caused death,

and B continued it alone and caused death, then A would be guilty of attempt to murder, and B of murder. This section illustrates that participation in even part of a sequence of acts making up an offence amounts to liability for the whole offence if done with intent.

Section 38: Persons concerned in criminal act may be guilty of different offences

Where several persons are engaged or concerned in the commission of a criminal act, they may be guilty of different offences by means of that act. For example, if A attacks Z under circumstances of grave provocation so that A's act would amount only to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, but B, who harbours ill-will and was not provoked, joins in and helps A in killing Z, then B is guilty of murder and A is guilty only of culpable homicide. This section highlights that the individual intentions and circumstances of each participant in a joint act determine the specific offence each one is guilty of.

Section 39: "Voluntarily"

A person is said to cause an effect "voluntarily" when he causes it by means whereby he intended to cause it, or by means which, at the time of employing those means, he knew or had reason to believe were likely to cause it. For example, if A sets fire to a house at night to facilitate robbery, and a person dies in the fire, then even though A may not have intended the death, if he knew the act was likely to cause death, he has caused death voluntarily. This section establishes that foreseeability of consequences is sufficient to constitute voluntary causation.

Section 40: "Offence"

Except in certain specified chapters and sections, the word "offence" denotes a thing made punishable by this Code. In Chapters IV, VA, and certain listed sections such as 64, 65, 67, 109, 110, 112, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, and 120, it also includes a thing punishable under any special or local law. In other listed sections like 141, 176, 196, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 211, 213, 214, 221, 222, 223, and 224, the word "offence" has the same meaning when the punishment is imprisonment for six months or more, with or without fine. This section defines the scope of the term "offence" and indicates the inclusion of punishable acts under special and local laws in certain parts of the Code.

Section 41: "Special law"

A "special law" is a law applicable to a particular subject. This section differentiates general laws from laws that apply to specific domains, such as taxation, customs, or military service.

Section 42: "Local law"

A "local law" is a law applicable only to a particular part of the territories comprised in Bangladesh. This distinguishes geographical limitation in the applicability of certain legal provisions.

Section 43: "Illegal" and "Legally bound to do"

The word "illegal" is applicable to everything which is an offence or which is prohibited by law, or which furnishes ground for a civil action. A person is said to be "legally bound to do" whatever it is illegal in him to omit. This section elaborates both what constitutes illegality and legal obligation through omission.

Section 44: “Injury”

The word "injury" denotes any harm whatever illegally caused to any person in body, mind, reputation, or property. This comprehensive definition ensures that physical, psychological, reputational, and financial harms fall under the protection of the law.

Section 45: “Life”

The word "life" denotes the life of a human being, unless the contrary appears from the context. This section limits the legal understanding of life to human life unless otherwise specified.

Section 46: “Death”

The word "death" denotes the death of a human being, unless the contrary appears from the context. The section aligns the definition of death with that of human life, ensuring consistency.

Section 47: “Animal”

The word "animal" denotes any living creature, other than a human being. This definition excludes humans from the legal category of animals while encompassing all non-human living beings.

Section 48: “Vessel”

The word “vessel” denotes anything made for the conveyance by water of human beings or of property. This section gives a functional definition based on the purpose of waterborne transport.

Section 49: “Year” and “Month”

Wherever the word "year" or the word "month" is used, it is to be understood that the year or the month is to be reckoned according to the British calendar. This establishes a standard for time measurement across the Code.

Section 50: “Section”

The word "section" denotes one of those portions of a chapter of this Code which are distinguished by prefixed numeral figures. This clarifies the internal organization of the Code.

Section 51: “Oath”

The word "oath" includes a solemn affirmation substituted by law for an oath, and any declaration required or authorized by law to be made before a public servant or to be used for the purpose of proof, whether in a Court of Justice or not. This section ensures that legal affirmations and declarations, whether religious or secular, are equally valid.

Section 52: “Good faith”

Nothing is said to be done or believed in "good faith" which is done or believed without due care and attention. This section places a duty of diligence and attentiveness on anyone claiming to act in good faith.

Section 52A: “Harbour”

Except in section 157, and in section 130 in the case where the harbour is given by the wife or husband of the person harboured, the word "harbour" includes supplying a person with shelter, food, drink, money, clothes, arms, ammunition, or means of conveyance, or assisting a person by

any means to evade apprehension. This means that if someone, other than a spouse under the exceptions mentioned, provides aid or refuge to another individual in an attempt to shield them from being caught or arrested by law enforcement, such assistance is regarded as harbouring under the law. The law casts a wide net on what counts as harbouring, encompassing not only physical shelter but also material assistance, moral support, and logistical aid that may help the person escape detection or capture.

Section 53: Punishments

The punishments to which offenders are liable under the provisions of this Code are death; imprisonment for life; [Omitted by the Criminal Law (Extinction of Discriminatory Privileges) Act 1949 (Act No. II of 1950)]; imprisonment, which is of two descriptions, namely rigorous—that is, with hard labour—and simple; forfeiture of property; and fine. The Explanation clarifies that in the punishment of imprisonment for life, the imprisonment shall be rigorous. This means that life imprisonment under this Code is to be served with hard labour unless otherwise stated.

Section 53A: Construction of reference to transportation

Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), any reference to "transportation for life" in any other law for the time being in force shall be construed as a reference to "imprisonment for life". Any reference to transportation for a term or for a shorter term shall be deemed to have been omitted. Furthermore, any reference to "transportation" in other laws shall, if referring to transportation for life, be read as imprisonment for life, and if referring to a shorter term, be omitted altogether. This section updates old references to "transportation" (a form of colonial punishment) and replaces them with modern imprisonment terms.

Section 54: Commutation of sentence of death

In every case in which sentence of death shall have been passed, the Government may, without the consent of the offender, commute the punishment for any other punishment provided by this Code. This means the government has the authority to reduce a death sentence to life imprisonment or another legal punishment as per the provisions of the Code.

Section 55: Commutation of sentence of imprisonment for life

In every case in which sentence of imprisonment for life shall have been passed, the Government may, without the consent of the offender, commute the punishment for imprisonment of either description, rigorous or simple, for a term not exceeding twenty years. This provision offers an opportunity for review and reduction of lifelong sentences into a fixed-term imprisonment, whether rigorous or simple.

Section 55A: Saving for President's prerogative

Nothing in sections 54 or 55 shall derogate from the right of the President to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment. This means that the constitutional powers vested in the President to provide clemency or reduce punishments remain unaffected by the provisions contained in this Code.

Section 56: [Repealed]

This section was repealed by the Criminal Law (Extinction of Discriminatory Privileges) Act, 1949 (Act No. II of 1950), thereby removing its provisions from the Code.

Section 57: Fractions of terms of punishment

In calculating fractions of terms of punishment, imprisonment for life shall be reckoned as equivalent to rigorous imprisonment for thirty years. This clarification is necessary for determining eligibility for remission, parole, or commutation based on time served when the sentence involves life imprisonment.

Sections 58 and 59: [Omitted]

These sections were omitted by the Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No. XLI of 1985), and therefore are no longer part of the current Code.

Section 60: Sentence may be (in certain cases of imprisonment) wholly or partly rigorous or simple

In every case in which an offender is punishable with imprisonment which may be of either description, it shall be competent to the Court which sentences such offender to direct in the sentence that such imprisonment shall be wholly rigorous, wholly simple, or partly rigorous and partly simple. This provision gives courts discretion to determine the nature of the imprisonment depending on the circumstances of the offence and the offender.

Sections 61 and 62: [Repealed]

These sections were repealed by section 4 of the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 1921 (Act No. XVI of 1921), and are no longer applicable.

Section 63: Amount of fine

Where no sum is expressed to which a fine may extend, the amount of fine to which the offender is liable is unlimited, but it shall not be excessive. This provision allows the courts discretion to impose fines as they deem fit, while also ensuring that such fines are not unjustly heavy or disproportionate to the offence.

Section 64: Sentence of imprisonment for non-payment of fine

In every case where a fine is imposed, whether with or without imprisonment, and in cases where the offence is punishable with imprisonment or fine, or with fine only, the court may direct that in default of payment of the fine, the offender shall suffer imprisonment. This imprisonment shall be in addition to any other sentence which the offender may have been awarded.

Section 65: Limit to imprisonment for non-payment of fine, when imprisonment and fine awardable

The term for which the Court directs the offender to be imprisoned in default of payment of a fine shall not exceed one-fourth of the term of imprisonment which is the maximum fixed for the offence, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment as well as fine. This provision places a statutory limit on the duration of imprisonment for default in paying fines to prevent excessive imprisonment.

Section 66: Description of imprisonment for non-payment of fine

The imprisonment imposed in default of payment of a fine may be of any description, either simple or rigorous, to which the offender might have been sentenced for the offence. This means the nature of imprisonment for default can mirror the type applicable to the original offence.

Section 67: Imprisonment for non-payment of fine, when offence punishable with fine only

If the offence is punishable with fine only, the imprisonment imposed in default of payment shall be simple imprisonment. The term of such imprisonment shall not exceed two months if the fine is fifty taka or less, four months if the fine exceeds fifty taka but does not exceed one hundred taka, and six months in any other case. These limits ensure proportionality between the fine amount and the period of imprisonment in default.

Section 68: Imprisonment to terminate on payment of fine

Imprisonment imposed in default of payment of a fine shall terminate whenever the fine is paid or levied by lawful process. This means that if the offender pays the fine at any time during the imprisonment term, the imprisonment must immediately cease.

Section 69: Termination of imprisonment on payment of proportional part of fine

If, before the expiration of the term of imprisonment fixed for default of payment, a portion of the fine is paid or levied such that the time already served is proportional to the unpaid balance, the imprisonment shall terminate. For illustration, if a person, A, is sentenced to pay a fine of 100 taka and in default to serve four months' imprisonment, and if 75 taka is paid after one month, A is to be released at the end of that month. Similarly, if 50 taka is paid after two months, A is to be released at that time. This provision allows partial payment of fines to shorten the imprisonment period accordingly.

Section 70: Fine leviable within six years, or during imprisonment. Death not to discharge property from liability

A fine, or any part thereof which remains unpaid, may be levied within six years after the sentence, or during the offender's imprisonment if longer than six years. This provision ensures that the monetary penalty remains enforceable even years after conviction and continues to be collectible for the duration of the sentence if it exceeds six years. The death of the offender does not discharge any property liable for the debt. This means that the fine remains recoverable from the deceased offender's estate or property, and the legal responsibility for payment survives the offender's death.

Section 71: Limit of punishment of offence made up of several offences

Where a single act or series of acts constitutes multiple offences, the offender shall not be punished for more than one of such offences, unless expressly provided. This protects against multiple punishments for what is essentially a single act, unless the law explicitly allows otherwise. If several acts together constitute a different offence, the offender shall not be punished with a more severe punishment than the Court could award for any one of those offences. This ensures proportionality in sentencing. For instance, a person cannot receive compounded punishment that exceeds the legal limit set for the most serious of the related offences.

Illustration: A gives Z fifty strokes. He may be liable for the offence of voluntarily causing hurt once, but not separately for each blow. The law treats the entire act as a single offence, despite it involving multiple actions, because they collectively fall under one criminal provision.

Section 72: Punishment of person guilty of one of several offences, the judgment stating that it is doubtful of which

If a judgment declares that a person is guilty of one of several offences but it is doubtful which one, the offender shall be punished with the punishment for the offence with the lowest prescribed penalty. This provision safeguards the rights of the accused in cases where there is ambiguity about the specific offence committed. The law directs the court to impose only the lightest penalty among the possible offences, ensuring that uncertainty does not lead to unjust or excessive punishment. This principle upholds the maxim of criminal law that ambiguity should operate in favour of the accused.

Section 73: Solitary confinement

When a person is convicted of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment, the Court may order that the offender be kept in solitary confinement for any portion or portions of the imprisonment, not exceeding three months in total. The duration of solitary confinement depends on the total term of imprisonment. It shall not exceed one month if the term of imprisonment does not exceed six months. It shall not exceed two months if the term of imprisonment is between six months and one year. It shall not exceed three months if the term of imprisonment exceeds one year.

Section 74: Limit of solitary confinement

Solitary confinement shall not exceed fourteen days at a time and must have breaks between periods of equal or longer duration. If imprisonment exceeds three months, then solitary confinement shall not exceed seven days in any one month of the whole imprisonment period, with equal or greater breaks between such periods. This limitation ensures that solitary confinement is used sparingly and in a controlled manner, considering the physical and psychological impact it may have on the offender.

Section 75: Enhanced punishment for certain offences under Chapter XII or Chapter XVII after previous conviction

Whoever, having been convicted by a Court in Bangladesh of an offence punishable under Chapter XII or Chapter XVII of this Code with imprisonment of three years or more, is again guilty of an offence under those chapters with similar punishment, shall be subject to imprisonment for life or imprisonment up to ten years. This provision enhances the punishment for repeat offenders who commit serious crimes such as theft, robbery, or breach of trust under the specified chapters, after having been previously convicted.

Section 76: Act done by a person bound, or by mistake of fact believing himself bound, by law

Nothing is an offence which is done by a person who is, or who by reason of a mistake of fact and not by reason of a mistake of law, in good faith believes himself to be, bound by law to do it. For example, a soldier who fires on a mob by order of his superior officer, in conformity with the commands of the law, has committed no offence. Similarly, an officer of a Court of Justice, being ordered by that Court to arrest Y, and, after due enquiry, believing Z to be Y, arrests Z, has committed no offence. These illustrations clarify that lawful authority or good faith mistaken belief based on fact can exempt a person from criminal liability.

Section 77: Act of Judge when acting judicially

Nothing is an offence which is done by a Judge when acting judicially in the exercise of any

power which is, or which in good faith he believes to be, given to him by law. This section provides protection to judges for acts done in the course of their judicial duties, so long as they are acting in good faith.

Section 78: Act done pursuant to the judgment or order of Court

Nothing which is done in pursuance of, or which is warranted by the judgment or order of a Court of Justice, if done whilst such judgment or order remains in force, is an offence, notwithstanding the Court may have had no jurisdiction to pass such judgment or order, provided the person doing the act in good faith believes that the Court had such jurisdiction. This provision safeguards individuals who act on court orders in good faith, even if it turns out that the court lacked proper authority.

Section 79: Act done by a person justified, or by mistake of fact believing himself justified, by law

Nothing is an offence which is done by any person who is justified by law, or who by reason of a mistake of fact and not by reason of a mistake of law, in good faith believes himself to be justified by law, in doing it. For instance, if A sees Z commit what appears to A to be a murder, and A, in good faith, seizes Z in the exercise of his legal powers to apprehend murderers, then A has committed no offence, even if Z was acting in self-defence. The protection is based on A's good faith and factual belief at the time of the act.

Section 80: Accident in doing a lawful act

Nothing is an offence which is done by accident or misfortune, and without any criminal intention or knowledge, in the doing of a lawful act in a lawful manner by lawful means and with proper care and caution. An illustration of this principle is a case where A is working with a hatchet, and the head flies off and kills a man nearby. If A acted with due caution, he has committed no offence. The accidental nature of the event, combined with lawful conduct and absence of intent, exempts A from criminal liability.

Section 81: Act likely to cause harm, but done without criminal intent, and to prevent other harm

Nothing is an offence merely because it is done with knowledge that it is likely to cause harm, if it is done without any criminal intention to cause harm, and in good faith for the purpose of preventing or avoiding other harm to person or property. The Explanation states that it is a question of fact whether the harm to be prevented was so imminent and serious as to justify or excuse the risk. One illustration is a case where a ship captain changes course to avoid hitting a boat with many people but risks hitting a smaller boat with fewer people. If the action is done in good faith, it is not an offence. Another illustration involves a person who demolishes a house to stop a fire from spreading, intending to save human life or property. If the act is justified by the imminent harm, it is no offence. These examples highlight the balance between unavoidable harm and the necessity of action in emergencies.

Section 82: Act of a child under nine years of age

Nothing is an offence which is done by a child under nine years of age. This section provides absolute immunity to children under the age of nine, recognizing their incapacity to understand the nature or consequences of their acts.

Section 83: Act of a child above nine and under twelve of immature understanding

Nothing is an offence which is done by a child above nine years of age and under twelve, who has not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion. This section allows the court to consider the mental maturity and understanding of the child on a case-by-case basis before determining criminal liability.

Section 84: Act of a person of unsound mind

Nothing is an offence which is done by a person who, at the time of doing it, by reason of unsoundness of mind, is incapable of knowing the nature of the act, or that he is doing what is either wrong or contrary to law. This section grants exemption from criminal liability to individuals whose mental state at the time of the act renders them incapable of understanding their actions or distinguishing right from wrong.

Section 85: Act of a person incapable of judgment by reason of intoxication caused against his will

Nothing is an offence which is done by a person who, at the time of doing it, is, by reason of intoxication, incapable of knowing the nature of the act, or that he is doing what is wrong or contrary to law, provided that the intoxicant was administered without his knowledge or against his will. This provision offers protection only when the intoxication is involuntary and deprives the person of understanding their actions.

Section 86: Offence requiring a particular intent or knowledge committed by one who is intoxicated

In cases where an act is not an offence unless done with a particular knowledge or intent, a person intoxicated shall be deemed to have that knowledge or intent unless the intoxicant was administered to him without his knowledge or against his will. This means voluntary intoxication does not excuse a person from liability where specific intent or knowledge is legally required.

Section 87: Act not intended and not known to be likely to cause death or grievous hurt, done by consent

Nothing which is not intended to cause death or grievous hurt, and is not known to be likely to cause such, is an offence because of any harm caused to a person above eighteen years of age who consents to suffer that harm. For example, if A and Z agree to fence for amusement, and A strikes Z during fair play, causing harm, A commits no offence. The consent of an adult to a lawful activity done in good faith excludes criminality if no grievous outcome is intended or expected.

Section 88: Act not intended to cause death, done by consent in good faith for person's benefit

Nothing which is not intended to cause death is an offence by reason of any harm it may cause, if done in good faith for the person's benefit, and with his consent. For instance, if a surgeon performs a risky operation on Z, with Z's consent, intending Z's benefit, then A, the surgeon, has committed no offence. The intention and good faith of the actor, along with the informed consent of the person harmed, are critical in such cases.

Section 89: Act done in good faith for benefit of child or insane person, by or by consent of guardian

Nothing is an offence if done in good faith for the benefit of a person under twelve or of unsound mind, by or with the consent of their guardian. However, this exemption has important conditions. It does not extend to intentional causing of death or attempt to cause death. It does not cover acts likely to cause death unless done to prevent greater harm or cure a serious disease. It does not extend to grievous hurt except to prevent death or grievous disease. It also does not extend to abetment of offences. An illustration of this is when A has his child operated on by a surgeon knowing it may cause death, but intending only the child's cure. In that case, A is not guilty. This section balances the autonomy of guardians with the safety and rights of vulnerable individuals.

Section 90: Consent known to be given under fear or misconception

Consent is not valid if given under fear of injury, or under a misconception of fact, if the person giving consent was deceived and the actor knows or has reason to believe it. Consent is also not valid if given by someone of unsound mind or intoxicated, or a child under twelve, unless context indicates otherwise. This section protects individuals from being manipulated or coerced into consent and sets boundaries on who can legally consent.

Section 91: Exclusion of acts which are offences independently of harm caused

The exceptions in Sections 87, 88, and 89 do not apply to acts which are offences regardless of the harm they cause. For example, causing miscarriage, unless done to save the woman's life, is an offence regardless of her consent. This section clarifies that certain actions remain criminal irrespective of consent or intention if the law deems them so inherently.

Section 92: Act done in good faith for benefit of a person without consent

Nothing is an offence if done in good faith for a person's benefit without their consent, where consent cannot be obtained in time, or the person is incapable of giving consent and has no guardian. This applies in emergencies or situations where delay would cause harm. However, it does not apply to intentional causing of death or attempts thereof. It does not apply to acts likely to cause death, unless done to prevent death or cure grievous hurt. It does not apply to voluntary hurt unless done to prevent death or grievous hurt. It does not apply to abetment of such offences. For instance, if a surgeon operates on an unconscious person in good faith, it is no offence. If A fires at a tiger attacking a man and accidentally kills the man, it is no offence. If A operates on a child immediately to save its life, despite the child's protests, it is no offence. If A throws a child from a burning building onto a blanket, risking injury but intending to save the child, it is no offence. The Explanation makes it clear that mere pecuniary benefit is not considered "benefit" under Sections 88, 89, or 92. The focus is on protection from physical harm or loss of life.

Section 93: Communication made in good faith

No communication made in good faith for a person's benefit is an offence, even if it causes harm. An example of this is when a doctor informs a patient of a terminal illness and the patient dies from shock. The doctor has committed no offence. The intention to inform and act in the person's best interest protects the communicator from legal consequences.

Section 94: Act to which a person is compelled by threats

Except for murder and offences against the State punishable with death, nothing is an offence if done under a threat of instant death, provided the person did not place himself voluntarily in such a situation. Explanation 1 provides that a person who joins dacoits knowing their character is not protected under this section. Explanation 2 clarifies that a person forced by dacoits to break into a house is protected. This section establishes a narrow scope of exemption for acts committed under duress, especially where the person is left with no real choice except to act out of fear of immediate death.

Section 95: Act causing slight harm

Nothing is an offence by reason that it causes, or is intended or known to be likely to cause, harm, if the harm is so slight that no person of ordinary sense and temper would complain of such harm. This provision acknowledges that some minor harms are too trivial to justify criminal prosecution and thus are excluded from liability under the law.

Section 96: Things done in private defence

Nothing is an offence which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence. This section gives legal recognition to the concept that a person may protect himself or others from harm, and such actions are not considered criminal, provided they are within the bounds laid out in the subsequent sections. It upholds the principle that self-defence, when lawfully exercised, is a legitimate justification for otherwise offensive acts.

Section 97: Right of private defence of the body and of property

Every person has a right, subject to the restrictions contained in section 99, to defend his own body and the body of any other person against any offence affecting the human body. This right also extends to the defence of property, whether moveable or immoveable, of himself or of any other person, against any act which is an offence falling under the definition of theft, robbery, mischief, or criminal trespass, or which is an attempt to commit such offences. The provision empowers individuals to protect their bodily integrity and property when threatened by unlawful acts.

Section 98: Right of private defence against the act of a person of unsound mind, etc.

When an act, which would otherwise be a certain offence, is not that offence by reason of the youth, want of maturity of understanding, unsoundness of mind, intoxication of the person doing that act, or by reason of any misconception on their part, every person has the same right of private defence against that act as if it were an offence. For example, if Z, under the influence of madness, attempts to kill A, then although Z commits no offence due to his madness, A has the same right of private defence against Z as if Z were sane. Another example is when A legally enters a house at night, but Z, mistaking A for a house-breaker, attacks him. Although Z commits no offence due to the mistaken belief, A may defend himself as if Z were not under misconception. This section ensures that the right of self-defence exists even when the aggressor is not criminally liable due to incapacity or mistake.

Section 99: Acts against which there is no right of private defence

There is no right of private defence against an act which does not reasonably cause the apprehension of death or grievous hurt if done or attempted to be done by a public servant acting

in good faith under the color of his office, even if not strictly justifiable by law. The same applies to an act done by a person acting by the direction of such public servant in good faith. Furthermore, there is no right of private defence when there is time to seek protection from public authorities. The right also does not extend to inflicting more harm than necessary for the purpose of defence. Explanation 1 states that one is not deprived of this right unless he knows or has reason to believe the actor is a public servant. Explanation 2 provides that the right remains unless the person knew or was informed that the actor acted under lawful authority. This section emphasizes proportionality in exercising the right and limits it when alternative legal remedies are available or when the threat arises from lawful authority.

Section 100: When the right of private defence of the body extends to causing death

The right of private defence of the body extends, under the restrictions of Section 99, to the voluntary causing of death or of any other harm to the assailant, if the offence which occasions the exercise of the right falls under any of the following descriptions. It includes an assault that may reasonably cause the apprehension that death will otherwise be the consequence. It also includes an assault that may reasonably cause apprehension of grievous hurt. Additionally, it includes an assault with the intention of committing rape, an assault with the intention of gratifying unnatural lust, an assault with the intention of kidnapping or abducting, and an assault with the intention of wrongfully confining a person under circumstances that may reasonably cause him to fear he will not be able to contact authorities. In such extreme threats, the law permits the use of deadly force in defence.

Section 101: When such right extends to causing any harm other than death

If the offence prompting the right of private defence is not one of those listed in Section 100, the right does not extend to causing death. However, it does extend to causing any harm other than death, under the same restrictions in Section 99. This section maintains the principle of proportionality, ensuring the response does not exceed the threat when the offence is of lesser gravity.

Section 102: Commencement and continuance of the right of private defence of the body

The right of private defence of the body begins as soon as there is a reasonable apprehension of danger to the body from an attempt or threat to commit an offence, even if the offence has not actually been committed. It continues as long as the apprehension of danger continues. This provision ensures the right arises not only during actual attacks but also at the moment a reasonable threat becomes imminent and remains until the threat ceases.

Section 103: When the right of private defence of property extends to causing death

The right of private defence of property extends, under the restrictions in Section 99, to the voluntary causing of death or any other harm to the wrongdoer if the offence prompting the right is robbery. It also applies when the offence is house-breaking by night. Furthermore, it applies when the offence is mischief by fire committed on a building, tent, or vessel used as a human dwelling or for custody of property. Lastly, it includes theft, mischief, or house-trespass committed under such circumstances as may reasonably cause apprehension that death or grievous hurt will result if the right of private defence is not exercised. This section permits lethal force in defence of property only in very serious situations where the threat also endangers human life or safety.

Section 104: When such right extends to causing any harm other than death

If the offence prompting the exercise of the right of private defence of property is theft, mischief, or criminal trespass not covered under Section 103, the right does not extend to causing death. It does, however, extend to causing any harm other than death, subject to the restrictions in Section 99. This means that while lethal force is not permitted for these lesser offences, the defender is still entitled to use necessary force short of causing death in order to protect the property.

Section 105: Commencement and continuance of the right of private defence of property

The right of private defence of property begins when a reasonable apprehension of danger to the property arises. The right against theft continues until the offender has effected his retreat with the property, or until public help is obtained, or the property has been recovered. The right against robbery continues as long as the offender causes or attempts to cause death, hurt, or wrongful restraint, or there remains a fear of such consequences. The right against criminal trespass or mischief continues as long as the offender continues in the act, meaning that the moment the trespasser or wrongdoer ceases their unlawful behavior, the right no longer exists. The right against house-breaking by night continues as long as the house-trespass resulting from such house-breaking continues, which allows the property owner to resist intrusions during the night when the threat is considered especially grave.

Section 106: Right of private defence against deadly assault when there is risk of harm to innocent person

If, in the exercise of the right of private defence against an assault reasonably causing apprehension of death, the defender is so situated that he cannot exercise that right without risking harm to an innocent person, his right of private defence still extends to running that risk. This section acknowledges the unfortunate situations where an innocent person may be harmed unintentionally during a lawful act of self-defence, and provides legal protection to the defender in such rare circumstances. For example, A is attacked by a murderous mob. The only way to defend himself is by firing a gun, but children are mixed in with the mob. A fires and harms a child. A has not committed an offence because his action was a lawful exercise of the right of private defence under imminent threat.

Section 107: Abetment of a thing

A person abets the doing of a thing who instigates any person to do that thing, or engages with one or more persons in any conspiracy for the doing of that thing, if an act or illegal omission takes place in pursuance of that conspiracy and in order to the doing of that thing, or intentionally aids, by any act or illegal omission, the doing of that thing. Explanation 1 clarifies that a person who, by wilful misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact which he is bound to disclose, voluntarily causes or procures, or attempts to cause or procure, a thing to be done, is said to instigate the doing of that thing. For instance, A, a public officer, is authorized by a warrant to apprehend Z. B, knowing this, voluntarily misleads A into believing that Z has gone in another direction. A follows B's suggestion and fails to find Z. B has abetted Z's escape. Explanation 2 states that whoever, either prior to or at the time of the commission of an act, does anything in order to facilitate its commission, is said to aid in the doing of that act. This broadens the scope of abetment to include all forms of assistance, encouragement, and planning, even if the principal act has not yet been carried out.

Section 108: Abettor

A person abets an offence who abets either the commission of an offence, or the commission of an act which would be an offence if committed by a person capable by law of committing an offence with the same intention or knowledge as that of the abettor. Explanation 1 states that the abetment of the illegal omission of an act may amount to an offence though the abettor may not himself be bound to do that act. Explanation 2 further clarifies that to constitute the offence of abetment it is not necessary that the person abetted should be capable by law of committing an offence, or that he should have the same guilty intention or knowledge as that of the abettor, or any guilty intention or knowledge at all. Explanation 3 states that it is not necessary that the act abetted should be committed, or that it should be committed in consequence of the abetment, or with the abettor's aid. For example, A instigates B to murder C. B refuses. A is guilty of abetting murder. A instigates a child under seven years of age to commit theft. The child does so. A is guilty of abetting theft, even though the child is not legally punishable. A falsely tells B that Z committed adultery with B's wife, intending to provoke B to assault Z. B assaults Z. A is guilty of abetting the assault. These examples illustrate that the abettor's culpability exists independent of the capacity or intent of the person abetted.

Section 108A: Abetment in Bangladesh of offences outside it

A person in Bangladesh abets the commission of an act outside Bangladesh which would be an offence if committed in Bangladesh, and which is an offence under the law of the place where it is committed, shall be deemed to have committed the offence of abetment. For example, A, in Bangladesh, instigates B, a citizen of Bangladesh, to commit murder in England. A is guilty of abetting murder. This provision extends the jurisdiction of Bangladesh's penal law to cases where the abetment originates within the country, regardless of where the criminal act takes place.

Section 109: Punishment of abetment if the act abetted is committed in consequence and where no express provision is made for its punishment

Whoever abets any offence shall, if the act abetted is committed in consequence of the abetment, and no express provision is made in this Code for the punishment of such abetment, be punished with the punishment provided for the offence. This section covers general liability for abettors when no separate penalty is described elsewhere, meaning that if a person causes or encourages a criminal act and that act is committed as a result, they will be punished as though they committed the act themselves, unless a different punishment is expressly defined for abetment.

Section 110: Punishment of abetment if person abetted does act with different intention

When an act is abetted, and a different intention or knowledge is present in the person committing the act than what was in the abettor's mind, the abettor is still liable as if the offence had been committed with the intention or knowledge which he had. This emphasizes that the abettor's responsibility does not depend on the actual mental state of the principal offender, but rather on the abettor's own intention and knowledge when encouraging or aiding the act.

Section 111: Liability of abettor when one act abetted and a different act done

When an act is abetted and a different act is done, the abettor is liable for the act done if it was a probable consequence of the abetment. For example, if A instigates B to burn Z's house, and B sets fire to Z's house and also to a nearby house which is destroyed, A is liable for both. This

means that the abettor's responsibility extends beyond the specific act originally intended if the subsequent act committed was reasonably foreseeable as a consequence of the abetment.

Section 112: Abettor when liable to cumulative punishment for act abetted and for act done

If the act abetted is committed in consequence of the abetment, and constitutes a different offence than what was intended by the abettor, then the abettor is liable to be punished for both the offence he intended and the offence that was actually committed. Thus, the abettor faces cumulative punishments because the law treats the original abetment and the actual offence as separate grounds for liability, holding the abettor accountable for both.

Section 113: Liability of abettor for an effect caused by the act abetted different from that intended by the abettor

When the abetment leads to a result different from what the abettor intended, but it is still a probable consequence of the abetment, the abettor is held liable as if he intended that result. For instance, if A instigates B to burn a shed and B instead burns a dwelling house, then A is liable for the abetment of house-burning. This provision ensures that an abettor cannot escape liability by claiming a narrower intention when the actual harm caused was foreseeable as a probable effect of the abetment.

Section 114: Abettor present when offence is committed

When the abettor is present at the time of the commission of the offence and abets it, he is liable as a principal offender. For example, if A instigates B to murder C and is present when B does so, then A is guilty of murder. The law considers presence during the offence combined with abetment as elevating the abettor's role to that of direct perpetrator, reflecting their active participation.

Section 115: Abetment of offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life—if offence not committed

Whoever abets the commission of an offence punishable with death or life imprisonment, if the offence is not committed in consequence of the abetment, shall be punished with imprisonment up to seven years and also liable to fine. However, if any act is done in consequence of the abetment which causes hurt to any person, the abettor shall be punished with imprisonment up to fourteen years and shall also be liable to fine. For example, if A instigates B to murder D, but B does not do so, A is still punishable for the abetment. If A instigates B to murder D and B wounds D instead, then A is punishable with imprisonment up to fourteen years and a fine. This section thus covers attempts to cause serious offences and punishes preparatory acts proportionately.

Section 116: Abetment of offence punishable with imprisonment—if offence not committed

Whoever abets an offence punishable with imprisonment, if the offence is not committed, shall be punished with imprisonment up to one-fourth of the maximum term provided for that offence, or with such fine as is provided for the offence, or with both. However, if the abettor or the person abetted is a public servant whose duty it is to prevent such offence, he shall be punished with imprisonment up to one-half of the maximum term and also be liable to fine. This highlights stricter liability for public servants who betray their official duties by abetting offences.

Section 117: Abetting commission of offence by the public or more than ten persons

Whoever abets the commission of an offence by the public generally or by any number or class of persons exceeding ten in number shall be punished with imprisonment up to three years or with fine, or with both. This provision is intended to prevent and punish instigation of large-scale disturbances or collective offences by holding the abettor responsible for inciting a mass group.

Section 118: Concealing design to commit offence punishable with death or life imprisonment

Whoever, intending to facilitate the commission of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, voluntarily conceals by any act or omission the existence of a design to commit such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment up to seven years and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is actually committed, the punishment may extend to imprisonment for life. This provision addresses those who, through silence or concealment, assist the commission of serious offences by preventing timely intervention.

Section 119: Public servant concealing design to commit offence which it is his duty to prevent

A public servant who intends to facilitate the commission of an offence which it is his duty to prevent, and who voluntarily conceals the existence of a design to commit such offence, shall—if the offence is committed—be punished with the same punishment as if he had abetted the offence. If the offence is not committed, he shall be punished with imprisonment up to half of the maximum term prescribed for the offence, or with fine, or with both. This section emphasizes the aggravated culpability of public servants who neglect or betray their duty by concealing designs of crime.

Section 120: Concealing design to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Whoever, intending to facilitate the commission of an offence punishable with imprisonment, voluntarily conceals by any act or omission the existence of such a design shall, if the offence is committed, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to one-fourth of the maximum term provided for that offence, or with fine, or with both. If the offence is not committed, the person shall still be liable to punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to one-eighth of the maximum term prescribed for that offence, or with fine, or with both. This provision ensures that concealment of criminal intentions facilitating offences is punishable regardless of whether the offence is eventually committed, thus discouraging complicity in the preparatory stages.

Section 120A: Definition of criminal conspiracy

When two or more persons agree to do, or cause to be done, an illegal act, or agree to do or cause to be done an act which is not illegal by illegal means, such an agreement is designated as a criminal conspiracy. The law further provides that no such agreement, except an agreement to commit an offence, shall be considered a criminal conspiracy unless some act besides the agreement itself is done by one or more of the parties to such agreement in pursuance thereof. The explanation clarifies that it is immaterial whether the illegal act is the ultimate object of such agreement or is merely incidental to that object. This section introduces the concept of criminal conspiracy as an offence distinct from the offence of abetment. It emphasizes the unlawful

agreement between parties, either to perform an illegal act or to perform a legal act through illegal means. Even if the act agreed upon is not ultimately carried out, the agreement itself can be punishable, provided that any step is taken in furtherance of it.

Section 120B: Punishment of criminal conspiracy

Whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy to commit an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life, or rigorous imprisonment for a term of two years or more, shall, in cases where no express provision is made in this Code for the punishment of such a conspiracy, be punished in the same manner as if he had abetted such offence. In contrast, whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy other than one intended to commit an offence punishable as mentioned above, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months, or with fine, or with both. This section lays down the punishment framework for the offence of criminal conspiracy. In cases involving grave offences such as murder or other serious crimes, conspirators may receive the same punishment as if they had directly abetted the offence. However, in cases involving less serious or minor offences, the law provides for a lighter punishment which may include a short-term imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Section 121 – Waging or attempting to wage war or abetting waging of war against Bangladesh

Whoever wages war against Bangladesh, or attempts to wage such war, or abets the waging of such war, shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to a fine. This section covers any direct or indirect participation in hostile actions against the state, emphasizing the severe consequences for those involved in threatening national security through acts of war or encouragement thereof.

Section 121A – Conspiracy to commit offences punishable by Section 121

Whoever, whether within or outside Bangladesh, conspires to commit any of the offences punishable under Section 121, or conspires to intimidate or overawe, by means of criminal force or the show of criminal force, the Government of Bangladesh or any local authority, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine. It is not necessary for any act or illegal omission to actually take place in pursuance of the conspiracy; the mere agreement or plan to commit such offences is punishable, reflecting the law's intent to deter and penalize preparatory acts that threaten state authority or security.

Section 122 – Collecting arms, etc., with intention of waging war against Bangladesh

Whoever collects men, arms, ammunition, or otherwise prepares to wage war with the intention of either waging or being prepared to wage war against Bangladesh shall be punished with imprisonment for life or imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine. This section targets the preparatory stages of rebellion or armed conflict against the state, criminalizing the act of gathering resources or manpower with the intent to challenge the sovereignty of Bangladesh.

Section 123 – Concealing with intent to facilitate design to wage war

Whoever, by any act or by any illegal omission, conceals the existence of a design to wage war

against Bangladesh, intending by such concealment to facilitate, or knowing it to be likely that such concealment will facilitate, the waging of such war, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine. This section penalizes those who, through silence or secretive behavior, assist in enabling plans of war against the state by hiding or failing to disclose critical information that could prevent or hinder such hostile actions.

Section 123A – Condemnation of the creation of the State and advocacy of abolition of its sovereignty

Whoever, whether within or outside Bangladesh, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, visible representation, or otherwise, condemns the creation of the State of Bangladesh and advocates the abolition of its sovereignty shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to a fine. This section prohibits acts or expressions that reject the legitimacy of Bangladesh as a sovereign nation and criminalizes any advocacy aimed at dismantling or negating the country's independence and authority.

Section 124 – Assaulting President, etc., with intent to compel or restrain the exercise of any lawful power

Whoever, with the intention of inducing or compelling the President of Bangladesh, or the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, or any Governor of any Province, or the President or any member of any legislative body of Bangladesh, to exercise or refrain from exercising in any manner any of the lawful powers of such person, assaults or wrongfully restrains, or attempts wrongfully to restrain, or overawes by means of criminal force or the show of criminal force, or attempts so to overawe, such person shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to a fine.

Section 124A – Sedition

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in Bangladesh, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine. The expression “disaffection” includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments expressing disapproval of the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

Section 125 – Waging war against any Asiatic Power in alliance with Bangladesh

Whoever wages war against the Government of any Asiatic Power in alliance or at peace with the Government of Bangladesh, or attempts to wage such war, or abets the waging of such war, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding seven years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Section 126 – Committing depredation on territories of Power at peace with Bangladesh

Whoever commits depredation or makes preparations to commit depredation on the territories of

any Power in alliance or at peace with the Government of Bangladesh, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine and to forfeiture of any property used or intended to be used in connection with such depredation or acquired by such depredation.

Section 127 – Receiving property taken by war or depredation mentioned in Sections 125 and 126

Whoever receives any property knowing that it has been taken in the commission of any of the offences mentioned in Sections 125 and 126 shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years. Additionally, such person shall be liable to a fine and to forfeiture of the property so received. This section aims to penalize those who knowingly benefit from stolen or unlawfully obtained property connected to acts of war or depredation, thereby discouraging the circulation or concealment of unlawfully acquired assets.

Section 128 – Public servant voluntarily allowing prisoner of State or war to escape

Whoever, being a public servant and having the custody of any State prisoner or prisoner of war, voluntarily allows such prisoner to escape from any place in which the prisoner is confined, shall be punished with imprisonment for life or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine. This section holds public servants strictly accountable for the secure detention of prisoners related to State or war matters, emphasizing the severity of intentionally permitting their escape.

Section 129 – Public servant negligently suffering such prisoner to escape

Whoever, being a public servant and having the custody of any State prisoner or prisoner of war, negligently allows or suffers such prisoner to escape from any place in which such prisoner is confined shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine. This provision addresses cases where escape results from carelessness or failure to perform duty properly, distinguishing it from voluntary acts and imposing a lesser but still significant punishment.

Section 130 – Aiding escape of, rescuing or harbouring such prisoner

Whoever knowingly aids or assists any State prisoner or prisoner of war in escaping from lawful custody, or rescues or attempts to rescue any such prisoner, or harbours or conceals any such prisoner who has escaped from lawful custody, shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine. If the offender is a public servant whose duty it is to prevent such escape, rescue, or harbouring, he shall be punished with imprisonment for life or imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding ten years and shall also be liable to a fine. This section imposes stringent penalties to deter any assistance provided to prisoners to evade lawful detention, particularly emphasizing the responsibility of public servants to uphold their duties.

Section 131: Abetting mutiny, or attempting to seduce a soldier, sailor or airman from his duty

Whoever abets the committing of mutiny by an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, or attempts to seduce any such officer, soldier, sailor or airman from his allegiance or his duty, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with

imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation: To constitute an offence under this section, it is not necessary that the mutiny be committed.

Section 132: Abetment of mutiny, if mutiny is committed in consequence thereof

Whoever abets the committing of mutiny by an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, shall, if mutiny be committed in consequence of that abetment, be punished with death or with imprisonment for life, or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 133: Abetment of assault by soldier, sailor or airman on his superior officer, when in execution of his office

Whoever abets an assault by an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, on his superior officer, while such officer is acting in the execution of his office, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 134: Abetment of such assault, if the assault is committed

Whoever abets an assault by an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, on his superior officer, while such officer is acting in the execution of his office, shall, if such assault be committed in consequence of that abetment, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 135: Abetment of desertion of soldier, sailor or airman

Whoever abets the desertion of any officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 136: Harboursing deserter

Whoever, except as hereinafter excepted, knowing or having reason to believe that an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, has deserted, harbours such deserter, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation: This provision does not extend to the case in which the harbour is given by a wife to her husband.

This section punishes those who knowingly shelter or hide deserters from the armed forces.

Section 137: Deserter concealed on board merchant vessel through negligence of master

The master or person in charge of a merchant vessel, on board of which any deserter from the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh is concealed, shall, though ignorant of such concealment, be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred Taka, unless it appears that he had exercised due diligence to prevent such desertion or concealment.

Section 138: Abetment of act of insubordination by soldier, sailor or airman

Whoever abets what he knows to be an act of insubordination by an officer, soldier, sailor or airman, in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, shall, if such act of insubordination be committed in consequence of that abetment, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 139: Persons subject to certain Acts

No one shall be deemed to be an officer, soldier, sailor or airman in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh unless he is subject to the Army Act, the Naval Discipline Ordinance or the Air Force Act.

Section 140: Wearing garb or carrying token used by soldier, sailor or airman

Whoever, not being a soldier, sailor or airman in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh, wears any garb or carries any token resembling any garb or token used by such a member with the intention that it may be believed that he is such a member, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred Taka, or with both.

Section 141 – Unlawful assembly

An assembly of five or more persons is designated an unlawful assembly if the common object of the persons composing that assembly is to overawe by criminal force, or show of criminal force, the Government or any public servant in the exercise of the lawful power of such public servant; or to resist the execution of any law or of any legal process; or to commit any mischief or criminal trespass, or other offence; or by means of criminal force or show of criminal force to any person, to take or obtain possession of any property or to deprive any person of the enjoyment of a right of way, or of the use of water or other incorporeal right of which he is in possession or enjoyment, or to enforce any right or supposed right; or to compel any person to do what he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do what he is legally entitled to do. An assembly which was not unlawful when it assembled may subsequently become an unlawful assembly.

Section 142 – Being member of unlawful assembly

Whoever, being aware of facts which render any assembly an unlawful assembly, intentionally joins that assembly or continues in it, is said to be a member of an unlawful assembly and shall be punishable as such. This section establishes liability based on knowledge and voluntary participation, emphasizing that mere presence in an unlawful assembly, with awareness of its nature, constitutes a punishable offense.

Section 143 – Punishment

Whoever is a member of an unlawful assembly shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both. This provision outlines the penalties applicable to members of unlawful assemblies, allowing the court discretion to impose imprisonment, fine, or a combination of both depending on the circumstances.

Section 144 – Joining unlawful assembly armed with deadly weapon

Whoever is armed with any deadly weapon, or with anything which, used as a weapon of

offence, is likely to cause death, and is a member of an unlawful assembly, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section imposes harsher penalties for members of unlawful assemblies who carry deadly weapons, recognizing the increased threat posed by armed participants.

Section 145 – Joining or continuing in unlawful assembly, knowing it has been commanded to disperse

Whoever joins or continues in an unlawful assembly, knowing that such unlawful assembly has been commanded in the manner prescribed by law to disperse, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section emphasizes the legal obligation to obey lawful commands for dispersal, penalizing those who defy official orders to disband.

Section 146 – Rioting

Whenever force or violence is used by an unlawful assembly, or by any member thereof, in prosecution of the common object of such assembly, every member of such assembly is guilty of the offence of rioting. This provision holds all members of an unlawful assembly accountable for acts of violence carried out by any member in pursuit of their shared purpose, underlining collective responsibility.

Section 147 – Punishment for rioting

Whoever is guilty of rioting shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section prescribes penalties for the offence of rioting, allowing courts to impose imprisonment, fine, or both, based on the severity of the incident.

Section 148 – Rioting, armed with deadly weapon

Whoever is guilty of rioting, being armed with a deadly weapon or with anything which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section enhances punishment for rioting involving deadly weapons, reflecting the greater danger such situations pose to public safety.

Section 149 – Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object

If an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or such offence as the members of that assembly knew to be likely to be committed in prosecution of that object, every person who, at the time of committing that offence, is a member of the same assembly, is guilty of that offence. This section imposes collective liability, making all members responsible for offences committed by any member in furtherance of their shared purpose or those offences that could reasonably be anticipated as a consequence.

Section 150 – Hiring, or conniving at hiring, of persons to join unlawful assembly

Whoever hires, engages, employs, promotes, or connives at the hiring, engagement, or employment of any person to join or become a member of any unlawful assembly shall be

punished as a member of such unlawful assembly. Additionally, such person shall be held responsible for any offence committed by any such hired person as a member of that unlawful assembly in pursuance of the common object of that assembly. This section targets those who actively recruit or facilitate others to join unlawful assemblies, holding them accountable not only as members but also for the acts committed by those they employ.

Section 151 – Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse

Whoever knowingly joins or continues in any assembly of five or more persons likely to cause a disturbance of the public peace, after such assembly has been lawfully commanded to disperse, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 152 – Assaulting or obstructing public servant when suppressing riot, etc.

Whoever assaults or threatens to assault, or obstructs or attempts to obstruct, a public servant in the discharge of his duty as such public servant, in endeavouring to disperse an unlawful assembly, or to suppress a riot or affray, or in the execution of any other duty imposed upon him by law, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 153 – Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot

Whoever malignantly, or wantonly, by doing anything which is illegal, gives provocation to any person intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause the offence of rioting to be committed, shall, if the offence of rioting is committed in consequence of such provocation, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. If the offence of rioting is not committed, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 153A – Promoting enmity between classes

Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of citizens of Bangladesh, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. Whoever commits an offence under this section in any place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 153B – Inducing students, etc., to take part in political activity

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise, induces or attempts to induce any student or a group of students to take part in political activity or any movement or campaign launched for political purposes or to join any political party, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 154 – Owner or occupier of land on which unlawful assembly is held

Whenever any unlawful assembly or riot takes place, the owner or occupier of the land or the person having or claiming an interest in the land, or the agent of such owner, occupier, or person, in or upon which such unlawful assembly or riot takes place, shall be punishable with fine if he or his agent, knowing that such offence is being or has been committed in or upon his land, fails to give the earliest possible notice thereof to the nearest Magistrate or police officer, and does not take all lawful means in his power to prevent the same and to aid in the discovery and arrest of the offenders.

Section 155 – Liability of person for whose benefit riot is committed

Whenever a riot is committed for the benefit or on behalf of any person who is the owner or occupier of any land, or has or claims any interest in such land, or the agent of such owner, occupier, or person, such owner, occupier, person, or agent shall be punishable with fine if he or his agent, knowing that such riot is being or has been committed for his benefit or on his behalf, fails to give the earliest possible notice thereof to the nearest Magistrate or police officer, and does not take all lawful means in his power to prevent the riot and to aid in the apprehension of and punishment of the offenders.

Section 156 – Liability of agent of owner or occupier for whose benefit riot is committed

Whenever a riot is committed for the benefit or on behalf of any person who is the owner or occupier of any land, or has or claims an interest in such land, and such riot is committed with the consent or connivance of, or is aided by, the agent of such owner, occupier, or person, such agent shall be punishable with fine.

Section 157 – Harboursing persons hired for an unlawful assembly

Whoever harbours, receives, or assembles any persons hired, engaged, or employed, or being hired, engaged, or employed, to join or become members of an unlawful assembly, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 158 – Being hired to take part in an unlawful assembly or riot

Whoever is engaged or hired, or offers or attempts to be hired or engaged, to do or assist in doing any of the acts specified in Section 141, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both. Whoever, having been engaged or hired, proceeds to do, or joins or becomes a member of any assembly, knowing that such assembly is unlawful, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 159 – Affray

When two or more persons, by fighting in a public place, disturb the public peace, they are said to commit an affray. This offence involves actual physical violence or a mutual fight between parties that causes a breach of peace or public disturbance. The key element is that the fighting takes place openly in a public location, thereby creating disorder or fear among the people present.

Section 160 – Punishment for committing affray

Whoever commits an affray shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one hundred taka, or with both. This provision allows for judicial discretion to impose a penalty depending on the circumstances of the affray, recognizing it as a minor but punishable disturbance of public order.

Section 161 – Public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act

Whoever, being or expecting to be a public servant, accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person for himself or for any other person, any gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration, as a motive or reward for doing or forbearing to do any official act or for showing or forbearing to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favour or disfavour to any person, or for rendering or attempting to render any service or disservice to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. The expression “legal remuneration” is not restricted to remuneration which a public servant can lawfully demand, but includes all remuneration which he is permitted by the Government or by the organization employing him to receive. This section aims to curb corruption by prohibiting acceptance of any unauthorized rewards linked to official duties.

Section 162 – Taking gratification in order, by corrupt or illegal means, to influence public servant

Whoever accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person, any gratification whatever, as a motive or reward for inducing, by corrupt or illegal means, any public servant to do or to forbear to do any official act or to show or to forbear to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favour or disfavour to any person, or to render or attempt to render any service or disservice to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section covers attempts to corruptly influence public servants through illegal inducements or coercion, emphasizing the illegality of any form of bribery or coercion that affects official conduct.

Section 163 – Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant

Whoever accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person, any gratification whatever, as a motive or reward for inducing, by the exercise of personal influence, any public servant to do or to forbear to do any official act or to show or to forbear to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favour or disfavour to any person, or to render or attempt to render any service or disservice to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section targets gratification received for exerting personal influence over public servants, which may include leveraging connections or relationships rather than direct bribery, and imposes lighter punishment compared to direct corrupt inducement.

Section 164 – Punishment for abetment by public servant of offences defined in Sections 162 or 163

Whoever, being a public servant, in respect of whom either of the offences defined in Sections 162 and 163 is committed, abets the offence, shall be punished with the punishment provided for

the offence. This means that a public servant who encourages or facilitates such corrupt offences, even if not directly involved, is held equally liable and subject to the same penalties as the principal offender.

Section 165 – Public servant obtaining valuable thing, without consideration, from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant

Whoever, being a public servant, accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain for himself or for any other person, any valuable thing without consideration or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate, from any person whom he knows to have been or to be or to be likely to be concerned in any proceeding or business transacted or about to be transacted by such public servant, or from any person whom he knows to be interested in or related to the person so concerned, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses situations where public servants improperly accept gifts, benefits, or valuables that could influence or appear to influence their official decisions, especially where no fair value has been paid, thereby protecting the integrity of public administration.

Section 165A – Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Sections 161 and 165

Whoever abets any offence punishable under Section 161 or Section 165, whether or not the offence is committed in consequence of that abetment, shall be punished with the punishment provided for the offence. This means that a person who encourages, instigates, or aids the commission of offences related to public servants taking illegal gratification or obtaining valuable things improperly is held equally liable and subject to the same penalties, regardless of whether the offence actually occurs.

Section 166 – Public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person

Whoever, being a public servant, knowingly disobeys any direction of the law as to the way in which he is to conduct himself as such public servant, intending to cause or knowing it to be likely that he will, by such disobedience, cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This provision addresses willful neglect or violation of legal duties by public servants that results or is likely to result in harm or injury to others, emphasizing accountability for deliberate misconduct.

Section 167 – Public servant framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury

Whoever, being a public servant and being charged with the preparation of any record or other writing, frames that record or writing in a manner which he knows to be incorrect, with intent to cause or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section targets falsification or corruption of official records by public servants, recognizing the serious consequences of tampering with official documents to harm others.

Section 168 – Public servant unlawfully engaging in trade

Whoever, being a public servant, and being legally bound as such public servant not to engage in trade, engages in trade, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This provision prevents public servants from engaging in

commercial activities that may conflict with their official duties or undermine the integrity of their public office.

Section 169 – Public servant unlawfully buying or bidding for property

Whoever, being a public servant, and being legally bound, as such public servant, not to purchase or bid for certain property, purchases or bids for that property, either in his own name or in the name of another, or jointly, or in shares with others, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. The property referred to in this section is any property which such public servant is prohibited from purchasing or bidding for by any law or regulation of the Government or of the organization for which he works. This rule is intended to prevent conflicts of interest, abuse of insider knowledge, or misuse of official position for private gain by restricting public servants' dealings in certain properties.

Section 170 – Personating a public servant

Whoever pretends to hold any particular office as a public servant, knowing that he does not hold such office or falsely personates any other person holding such office, and in such assumed character does or attempts to do any act under colour of such office, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision criminalizes impersonation of public officials, which may be intended to deceive or unlawfully influence others by abusing the authority or trust associated with a public office.

Section 171 – Wearing garb or carrying token used by public servant with fraudulent intent

Whoever, not belonging to a certain class of public servants, wears any garb or carries any token resembling any garb or token used by that class of public servants, with the intention that it may be believed, or with the knowledge that it is likely to be believed, that he belongs to that class of public servants, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred taka, or with both. This section addresses the fraudulent use of uniforms, badges, or other identifying marks that may mislead the public into believing the person is a public servant, thereby protecting the credibility and authority of official positions.

Section 171A – “Candidate”, “Electoral right” defined

The term “candidate” means a person who has been nominated as a candidate at any election.

The term “electoral right” means the right of a person to stand, or not to stand as, or to withdraw from being, a candidate or to vote or refrain from voting at an election.

Section 171B – Bribery

Whoever gives a gratification to any person with the object of inducing him or any other person to exercise any electoral right or as a reward for having exercised any such right commits the offence of bribery. Whoever accepts either for himself or for any other person any gratification as a reward for exercising any such right commits the offence of bribery. A declaration of public policy or a promise of public action shall not be an offence under this section. Bribery is

punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Section 171C – Undue influence at elections

Whoever voluntarily interferes or attempts to interfere with the free exercise of any electoral right commits the offence of undue influence at an election. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), whoever threatens any candidate or voter, or any person in whom a candidate or voter is interested, with injury of any kind or induces or attempts to induce a candidate or voter to believe that he or any person in whom he is interested will become or will be rendered an object of Divine displeasure or spiritual censure shall be deemed to interfere with the free exercise of the electoral right of such candidate or voter, within the meaning of sub-section (1). A person shall not be deemed to interfere within the meaning of this section with the free exercise of a candidate's or voter's electoral right by reason only of his having in the due course of a religious service or otherwise and not with the intent of influencing an electoral right, expressed his view on any matter of public policy or action of a Government. Undue influence at an election is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Section 171D – Personation at elections

Whoever at an election applies for a voting paper or votes in the name of any other person, whether living or dead, or in a fictitious name, or who having voted once at such election applies at the same election for a voting paper in his own name shall be deemed to have committed the offence of personation. A person shall not be deemed to have committed such offence by reason only of his having voted or applied for a voting paper in the name of another person if he shows that he was authorised by that other person to vote on his behalf and was lawfully entitled so to do. Personation is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Section 171E – Punishment for bribery

Whoever commits the offence of bribery shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both. Provided that bribery by treating shall be punished with fine only. "Treating" means that form of bribery where gratification consists in food, drink, entertainment or provision.

Section 171F – Punishment for undue influence or personation at an election

Whoever commits the offence of undue influence or personation at an election shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Section 171G – False statement in connection with an election

Whoever with intent to affect the result of an election makes or publishes any statement purporting to be a statement of fact which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true in relation to the personal character or conduct of any candidate shall be punished with fine.

Section 171H – Illegal payments in connection with an election

Whoever without the general or special authority in writing of a candidate incurs or authorizes expenses on account of the holding of any public meeting or upon any advertisement, circular or publication or in any other way whatsoever for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of such candidate shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred taka. A person shall not be deemed to have committed such offence by reason only of the publication in good faith of any advertisement regarding the candidate if such advertisement is published in the ordinary course of business.

Section 171I – Failure to keep election accounts

Whoever being required by any law for the time being in force or any rule having the force of law to keep accounts of expenses incurred at or in connection with an election fails to keep such accounts shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred taka.

Section 172 – Absconding to avoid service of summons or other proceeding

Whoever absconds in order to avoid being served with any summons, notice or order, proceeding from any public servant legally competent, as such public servant, to issue such summons, notice or order, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. If the summons or notice or order is to attend in person or by agent, or to produce a document or an electronic record in a Court of Justice, the punishment may be simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 173 – Preventing service of summons or other proceeding, or preventing publication thereof

Whoever in any manner intentionally prevents the serving on himself, or on any other person, of any summons, notice or order proceeding from any public servant legally competent as such public servant to issue such summons, notice or order, or intentionally prevents the lawful affixing to any place of any such summons, notice or order, or intentionally removes any such summons, notice or order from any place to which it is lawfully affixed, or prevents the lawful making of any proclamation, under the authority of any public servant legally competent, as such public servant, to direct such proclamation to be made, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. If the summons, notice, order or proclamation is to attend in person or by agent or to produce a document or an electronic record in a Court of Justice, the punishment may be simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 174 – Non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant

Whoever, being legally bound to attend in person or by an agent at a certain place and time in obedience to a summons, notice, order or proclamation proceeding from any public servant legally competent as such public servant to issue the same, intentionally omits to attend at that place or time, or departs from the place without the permission of the public servant, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. If the summons, notice, order or proclamation is to attend in person or by agent in a Court of Justice, the punishment may be

simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 175: Omission to produce document to public servant by person legally bound to produce it

Whoever, being legally bound to produce or deliver up any document or electronic record to any public servant, as such, intentionally omits so to produce or deliver up the same, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both;

and if the document or electronic record is to be produced or delivered up to a Court of Justice, the offender shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 176: Omission to give notice or information to public servant by person legally bound to give it

Whoever, being legally bound to give any notice or to furnish information on any subject to any public servant, as such, intentionally omits to give such notice or to furnish such information, in the manner and at the time required by law, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both;

and if the notice or information required to be given respects the commission of an offence, or is required for the purpose of preventing the commission of an offence, or in order to the apprehension of an offender, the offender shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 177: Furnishing false information

Whoever, being legally bound to furnish information on any subject to any public servant, as such, furnishes, as true, information on the subject which he knows or has reason to believe to be false, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both;

and if the information which he is legally bound to give respects the commission of an offence, or is required for the purpose of preventing the commission of an offence, or in order to the apprehension of an offender, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 178: Refusing oath or affirmation when duly required by public servant to make it

Whoever refuses to bind himself by an oath or affirmation to state the truth, when required so to do by a public servant legally competent to require that he shall so bind himself, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 179: Refusing to answer public servant authorized to question

Whoever, being legally bound to state the truth on any subject to any public servant, refuses to answer any question demanded of him touching that subject by such public servant in the exercise of the legal powers of such public servant, shall be punished with simple imprisonment

for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 180: Refusing to sign statement

Whoever refuses to sign any statement made by him, when required to do so by a public servant legally competent to require that he shall sign that statement, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. This provision ensures that individuals comply with lawful demands to authenticate their statements, which is essential for maintaining the integrity of official records and investigations.

Section 181: False statement on oath or affirmation to public servant or person authorized to administer an oath or affirmation

Whoever, being legally bound by an oath or affirmation to state the truth on any subject to any public servant or other person authorized by law to administer such oath or affirmation, makes any statement which is false, and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section addresses the serious offence of deliberately providing false information under oath, which undermines the administration of justice and official processes.

Section 182: False information, with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person

Whoever gives to any public servant any information which he knows or believes to be false, intending thereby to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, such public servant: (a) to do or omit anything which such public servant ought not to do or omit if the true state of facts respecting which such information is given were known by him, or (b) to use the lawful power of such public servant to the injury or annoyance of any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. This provision protects against malicious misuse of official power by preventing false information from improperly influencing the actions of public servants to the detriment of others.

Section 183: Resistance to the taking of property by the lawful authority of a public servant

Whoever offers any resistance to the taking of any property by the lawful authority of any public servant, knowing or having reason to believe that he is such public servant, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. This section safeguards the execution of lawful orders regarding property by penalizing obstruction or resistance against authorized public servants.

Section 184: Obstructing sale of property offered for sale by authority of public servant

Whoever intentionally obstructs any sale of property offered for sale by the lawful authority of any public servant, as such, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term

which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. This provision is aimed at maintaining the orderly conduct of sales of property by government authorities and punishing interference that disrupts lawful sales.

Section 185: Illegal purchase or bid for property offered for sale by authority of public servant

Whoever, at any sale of property held by the lawful authority of a public servant, offers higher bids for the property for the purpose of preventing it from being sold to a genuine bidder, and thus to keep the property unsold or to purchase it at a lower price, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred taka, or with both. This section seeks to prevent manipulative bidding practices designed to unfairly influence the outcome of sales conducted under public authority, thereby protecting the interests of genuine buyers and the public.

Section 186: Obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions

Whoever voluntarily obstructs any public servant in the discharge of his public functions, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 187: Omission to assist public servant when bound by law to give assistance

Whoever, being bound by law to render or furnish assistance to any public servant in the execution of his public duty, intentionally omits to give such assistance, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred taka, or with both;

and if such assistance be demanded for the purpose of executing a process lawfully issued by a Court of Justice, or of preventing the commission of an offence, or of suppressing a riot, or affray, or of apprehending a person charged with or guilty of an offence, or of having escaped from lawful custody, the punishment may extend to simple imprisonment for a term of six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 188: Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant

Whoever, knowing that, by an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred taka, or with both;

and if such disobedience causes or tends to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or causes or tends to cause a riot or affray, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Explanation: It is not necessary that the offender should intend to produce harm or contemplate his disobedience as likely to produce harm. It is sufficient that he knows of the order which he disobeys, and that his disobedience produces, or is likely to produce, harm.

Section 189: Threat of injury to public servant

Whoever holds out any threat of injury to any public servant, or to any person in whom he believes that public servant to be interested, for the purpose of inducing that public servant to do or forbear from doing any act connected with the exercise of his public functions, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section protects public servants from intimidation or coercion aimed at influencing their official duties by threatening harm either directly to them or to those they care about, thereby safeguarding the impartial execution of public functions.

Section 190: Threat of injury to induce person to refrain from applying for protection to public servant

Whoever holds out any threat of injury to any person to induce that person to refrain from making a legal application for protection against any injury to any public servant legally empowered to give such protection, or to prevent that person from making such application, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This provision is designed to prevent obstruction or intimidation that seeks to block individuals from seeking lawful protection for public servants who face threats or harm, thereby ensuring the proper enforcement of protective measures.

Section 191: Giving false evidence

Whoever, being legally bound by an oath or by an express provision of law to state the truth, or being bound by law to make a declaration upon any subject, makes any statement which is false, and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is said to give false evidence. Explanation 1 clarifies that a statement covered by this section includes any form of communication, whether verbal or written, thus encompassing all means by which falsehoods may be conveyed under oath. Explanation 2 establishes that even a false statement about the person's own belief qualifies as false evidence, meaning that declaring belief in something one does not genuinely believe is also punishable. For example, in the illustration, A, during a judicial proceeding, swears that he saw B hit C, knowing that this is false; A is therefore guilty of giving false evidence. This section underscores the seriousness of truthful testimony in legal proceedings.

Section 192: Fabricating false evidence

Whoever causes any circumstance to exist or makes any false entry in any book or record, or electronic record, or makes any document containing a false statement, intending that such circumstance, false entry, or false statement may appear in evidence in a judicial proceeding, or in a proceeding taken by law before a public servant as such, or may be used in such proceeding, to form the basis of an opinion upon the existence of a material fact, commits the offence of fabricating false evidence. This section targets the creation or manipulation of evidence with the purpose of deceiving courts or officials and thereby influencing the outcome of legal or official proceedings. For instance, the illustration describes A putting jewels into a box belonging to Z, intending it to appear in court that Z had stolen the jewels; in doing so, A has fabricated false evidence. The law treats such acts as serious offences because they undermine the integrity of the judicial process.

Section 193: Punishment for false evidence

Whoever intentionally gives false evidence in any stage of a judicial proceeding, or fabricates false evidence for the purpose of being used in any stage of a judicial proceeding, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine; and whoever intentionally gives or fabricates false evidence in any other case, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section establishes the penalties for false evidence, imposing harsher punishments when the false evidence is involved in judicial proceedings, reflecting the greater gravity and potential harm to justice, while also punishing false evidence in other contexts but with relatively lesser severity.

Section 194: Giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence

Whoever gives or fabricates false evidence, intending thereby to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, any person to be convicted of an offence which is capital by the law for the time being in force, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if an innocent person be convicted and executed in consequence of such false evidence, the person who gave such false evidence shall be punished either with death or with imprisonment for life.

Section 195: Giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of offence punishable with imprisonment for life or for seven years or upwards

Whoever gives or fabricates false evidence intending thereby to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, any person to be convicted of an offence which is not capital, but punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of seven years or more, shall be punished as if he had abetted that offence. This means that the act of intentionally creating or presenting false evidence to wrongfully convict someone of a serious crime, punishable by long-term imprisonment, is itself treated as a serious offence equivalent to aiding that crime.

Section 196: Using evidence known to be false

Whoever corruptly uses or attempts to use as true or genuine evidence any evidence which he knows to be false or fabricated, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave or fabricated false evidence. This provision criminalizes the deliberate use or attempt to use false evidence to mislead judicial or official proceedings, holding the user liable as if they were the originator of the falsehood.

Section 197: Issuing or signing false certificate

Whoever issues or signs any certificate required by law to be given or signed, or relating to any fact of which such certificate is by law admissible in evidence, knowing or believing that such certificate is false in any material point, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave false evidence. This section addresses falsification or fraudulent certification of official documents that are legally recognized as evidence, underscoring the responsibility of the certifier to ensure the truthfulness of the certificate.

Section 198: Using as true a certificate known to be false

Whoever corruptly uses or attempts to use any certificate referred to in Section 197, knowing that such certificate is false in any material point, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave false evidence. This provision extends liability to those who knowingly present or rely on fraudulent certificates, treating their conduct with the same severity as the forgery itself.

Section 199: False statement made in declaration which is by law receivable as evidence

Whoever, in any declaration made or subscribed by him, which declaration any Court of Justice, or any public servant or other person is bound or authorized by law to receive as evidence of any fact, makes any statement which is false, and which he either knows or believes to be false, or does not believe to be true, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave false evidence. This section punishes the making of false statements in formal declarations used as evidence in legal or administrative proceedings, thereby protecting the reliability of such declarations.

Section 200: Using as true such declaration knowing it to be false

Whoever corruptly uses or attempts to use as true any such declaration, knowing the same to be false in any material point, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave false evidence. This section criminalizes the use or attempted use of declarations known to be false, ensuring that falsehoods are not used to deceive courts or officials.

Section 201: Causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender

Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that an offence has been committed, causes any evidence of the commission of that offence to disappear, with the intention of screening the offender from legal punishment, or with that intention gives any information respecting the offence which he knows or believes to be false, shall— (a) if the offence is punishable with death, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine; (b) if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine; (c) if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for any term not extending to ten years, shall be punished with imprisonment of the description provided for the offence for a term which may extend to one-fourth part of the longest term of the imprisonment provided for the offence, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses the obstruction of justice by eliminating or falsifying evidence to protect offenders, with punishments scaled according to the severity of the original offence.

Section 202: Intentional omission to give information of offence by person bound to inform

Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that an offence has been committed, intentionally omits to give any information respecting that offence which he is legally bound to give, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both. This provision imposes a duty on persons legally obligated to report crimes and penalizes the deliberate failure to provide such information, thereby supporting law enforcement and the administration of justice.

Section 203: Giving false information respecting an offence committed

Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that an offence has been committed, gives any information respecting that offence which he knows or believes to be false, intending thereby to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, any public servant to use his lawful power to the injury or annoyance of any person, or to do or omit anything which such public servant ought not to do or omit if the true state of facts were known to him, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 204: Destruction of document or electronic record to prevent its production as evidence

Whoever secretes or destroys any document or electronic record which he may be lawfully compelled to produce as evidence in a Court of Justice, or in any proceeding lawfully held before a public servant, as such, or obliterates or renders illegible the whole or any part of such document or electronic record, with the intention of preventing the same from being produced or used as evidence before such Court or public servant, as aforesaid, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 205: False personation for purpose of act or proceeding in suit or prosecution

Whoever falsely personates another, and in such assumed character does any act in any suit or criminal prosecution, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses the crime of impersonation in judicial or legal proceedings, where a person assumes the identity of another to perform acts or take part in a suit or prosecution, thereby deceiving the court or the parties involved and potentially prejudicing the administration of justice.

Section 206: Fraudulent removal or concealment of property to prevent its seizure as forfeited or in execution

Whoever fraudulently removes, conceals, transfers or delivers to any person any property, or any interest therein, intending thereby to prevent that property or interest from being taken as a forfeiture or in satisfaction of a fine under a sentence which has been pronounced, or is about to be pronounced, by a Court of Justice, or in execution of a decree or order which has been made, or is about to be made, in a civil suit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision protects the enforcement of judicial orders by penalizing actions that seek to unlawfully shield property from lawful seizure or satisfaction of legal obligations.

Section 207: Fraudulent claim to property to prevent its seizure as forfeited or in execution

Whoever fraudulently accepts, receives or claims any property or interest therein, knowing that he has no right or lawful claim thereto, with the intention of preventing that property or interest from being taken as a forfeiture or in satisfaction of a fine under a sentence which has been pronounced, or is about to be pronounced, by a Court of Justice, or in execution of a decree or order which has been made, or is about to be made, in a civil suit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses situations where a person, aware of having no legal

entitlement, falsely claims or receives property to obstruct the lawful execution of judicial orders, thereby frustrating justice.

Section 208: Fraudulently suffering decree for sum not due

Whoever fraudulently causes or suffers a decree to be passed against himself for a sum not due, or for a larger sum than is due, or for property to which he has no title, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision targets collusive or deceitful conduct where a person intentionally allows a false or inflated decree to be entered against themselves, often to defeat the rights of third parties or manipulate legal outcomes.

Section 209: Dishonestly making false claim in Court

Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly, or with intent to injure or annoy any person, makes in a Court of Justice any claim which he knows to be false, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section is designed to deter and punish fraudulent claims in judicial proceedings that are intended to harm or vex others, thus protecting the integrity of the court process and the rights of parties.

Section 210: Fraudulently obtaining decree for sum not due

A person who fraudulently obtains a decree for a sum not due or for property to which he has no right, by presenting to the Court a false claim or by means of false evidence, knowing it to be false, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision punishes those who wrongfully procure legal judgments or orders through deceit, undermining the fairness of judicial decisions.

Section 211: False charge of offence made with intent to injure

Whoever, with intent to cause injury to any person, institutes or causes to be instituted any criminal proceeding against that person, or falsely charges any person with having committed an offence, knowing that there is no just or lawful ground for such proceeding or charge against that person, shall be punished as follows: if such criminal proceeding or false charge is for an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for seven years or more, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine; if the proceeding or charge is for any other offence, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section protects individuals from malicious prosecution or false accusations intended to harm their reputation, liberty, or interests by ensuring severe penalties for baseless charges, especially when serious offences are involved.

Section 212: Harbouring offender

Whenever an offence has been committed, whoever harbours or conceals a person whom he knows, or has reason to believe, to be the offender, with the intention of screening him from legal punishment, shall be punished depending on the severity of the original offence. If the offence is punishable with death, the person harbouring the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years, the harbourer shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which

may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for one year and not more than ten years, the person harbouring the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of the description provided for the offence for a term which may extend to one-fourth part of the longest term of imprisonment provided for the offence, or with fine, or with both. It is important to note that this provision does not apply to the case in which the harbour or concealment is by the spouse of the offender, recognizing the special relationship between spouses.

Section 213: Taking gift, etc., to screen an offender from punishment

Whoever accepts or attempts to obtain, or agrees to accept, any gratification for concealing an offence or screening any person from legal punishment for any offence, or for not proceeding against any person for the same, shall be subject to punishment according to the gravity of the offence. If the offence is punishable with death, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years, the person accepting the gratification shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section criminalizes corrupt acceptance of gifts or benefits aimed at obstructing justice.

Section 214: Offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender

Whoever gives or causes, or offers or agrees to give or cause, any gratification to any person for concealing an offence or screening any person from legal punishment, or for not proceeding against any person for the same, shall be punished in a manner consistent with the seriousness of the offence. If the offence is punishable with death, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years, the person offering the gratification shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence is punishable with imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. There is an important exception to this section: the provisions do not extend to any case in which the offence may lawfully be compounded, and the gratification is accepted or agreed to be given or received for the compounding of such offence. This recognizes lawful settlement of certain offences by mutual agreement.

Section 215: Taking gift to help to recover stolen property, etc.

Whoever takes or agrees to take any gratification under pretence or on account of helping any person to recover any movable property of which he shall have been deprived by any offence, without having used all means in his power to cause the offender to be apprehended and convicted, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. If he has done so without informing the police or proper authority, the punishment may extend to three years. This section targets those who

exploit the victim's distress by charging for assistance without sincerely trying to bring the offender to justice or failing to notify proper authorities.

Section 216: Harboursing offender who has escaped from custody or whose apprehension has been ordered

Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that any person is an offender who has escaped from custody, or whose apprehension has been ordered, harbours or conceals that person with the intention of preventing him from being apprehended, shall be punished according to the gravity of the original offence. If the offence for which the person is in custody or is ordered to be apprehended is punishable with death, the harbourer shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. If punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine. If punishable with imprisonment for one year and not more than ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section excludes cases where the harbour or concealment is by the spouse of the offender, maintaining a consistent exception for spouses.

Section 216A: Penalty for harboursing robbers or dacoits

Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that any persons are about to commit or have recently committed robbery or dacoity, harbours them or any of them with the intention of facilitating the commission of such robbery or dacoity, or of screening them or any of them from punishment, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section is specifically targeted at those who assist or protect robbers or dacoits, whether by aiding in the commission of the crime or by helping them avoid legal consequences. The explanation clarifies that for the purposes of this section, it is immaterial whether the robbery or dacoity is intended to be committed, or has been committed, within or outside Bangladesh, thus extending the law's reach to cross-border or extraterritorial offences.

Section 217: Public servant disobeying direction of law with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture

Whoever, being a public servant, knowingly disobeys any direction of the law as to the way in which he is to conduct himself in such capacity, intending thereby to save, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby save, any person from legal punishment, or subject him to a less punishment than he is liable to, or with intent to save any property from forfeiture or other legal consequence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 218: Public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture

Whoever, being a public servant, and being as such public servant charged with the preparation of any record or other writing, frames that record or writing in a manner which he knows to be incorrect, with intent to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, loss or injury to the public or to any person, or with intent to save, or knowing that he is likely thereby to save, any person from legal punishment, or with intent to save, or knowing that he is likely thereby to

save, any property from forfeiture or other legal consequence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 219: Public servant in judicial proceeding corruptly making report, etc., contrary to law

Whoever, being a public servant, corruptly or maliciously makes or pronounces in any stage of a judicial proceeding any report, order, verdict, or decision which he knows to be contrary to law, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 220: Commitment for trial or confinement by person having authority who knows that he is acting contrary to law

Whoever, being in any office which gives him legal authority to commit persons for trial or to confinement, or to keep persons in confinement, corruptly or maliciously commits any person for trial or to confinement, or keeps any person in confinement, in the exercise of that authority, knowing that in so doing he is acting contrary to law, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 221: Intentional omission to apprehend on the part of public servant bound to apprehend

Whoever, being a public servant and legally bound in that capacity to apprehend or to keep in confinement any person who is charged with or liable to be apprehended for an offence, intentionally omits to apprehend such person, or intentionally allows such person to escape, or intentionally aids such person in escaping or attempting to escape from such confinement, shall be subject to punishment. If the person in question is charged with or liable to be apprehended for an offence that is punishable with death, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and the offender shall also be liable to a fine. If the person is charged with or liable to be apprehended for an offence that is punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and the offender shall also be liable to a fine. If the person is charged with or liable to be apprehended for an offence that is punishable with imprisonment for less than ten years, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 222: Intentional omission to apprehend on the part of public servant bound to apprehend person under sentence or lawfully committed

Whoever, being a public servant and legally bound in that capacity to apprehend or to keep in confinement any person who is under sentence of a Court of Justice for any offence or who is lawfully committed to custody, intentionally omits to apprehend such person, or intentionally allows such person to escape or aids in such escape, shall be subject to punishment. If the person who is allowed to escape is under sentence of death, the punishment shall be imprisonment for life or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to fourteen years, and the offender shall also be liable to a fine. If the person is under sentence of imprisonment for life or imprisonment for ten years or more, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and the offender shall also be liable to a fine. If the

person is under sentence of imprisonment for less than ten years or is lawfully committed to custody, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 223: Escape from confinement or custody negligently suffered by public servant

Whoever, being a public servant and legally bound in that capacity to keep in confinement any person who is charged with or convicted of any offence, or who is lawfully committed to custody, negligently allows such person to escape from such confinement, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 224: Resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension

Whoever intentionally resists or illegally obstructs the lawful apprehension of himself for any offence with which he is charged or of which he has been convicted, or escapes or attempts to escape from any custody in which he is lawfully detained for any such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. If the person is charged with or is liable to be apprehended for an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, the punishment may extend to seven years.

Section 225: Resistance or obstruction to lawful apprehension of another person

Whoever intentionally resists or illegally obstructs the lawful apprehension of another person for any offence, or rescues or attempts to rescue any other person from any custody in which that person is lawfully detained, shall be punished in the same manner as provided under Section 224. If the person whose apprehension is resisted or obstructed is charged with or is liable to be apprehended for an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, the punishment may extend to seven years.

Section 225A: Omission to apprehend, or sufferance of escape, on part of public servant, in cases not otherwise provided for

Whoever, being a public servant legally bound as such public servant to apprehend, or to keep in confinement any person in any case not provided for in Sections 221, 222, or 223, or in any other law for the time being in force, omits to apprehend that person, or suffers him to escape from confinement, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 225B: Resistance or obstruction to lawful apprehension, or rescue, in cases not otherwise provided for

Whoever, in any case not provided for in Section 224 or Section 225, or in any other law for the time being in force, intentionally offers any resistance or illegal obstruction to the lawful apprehension of himself or of any other person, or escapes or attempts to escape from any custody in which he is lawfully detained, or rescues or attempts to rescue any other person from any custody in which that person is lawfully detained, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 226: [Repealed]

This section was repealed and is no longer in force.

Section 227: Violation of condition of remission of punishment

Whoever, having accepted any conditional remission of punishment, knowingly violates any condition on which such remission was granted, shall be punished with the punishment to which he was originally sentenced, if he has already suffered no part of that punishment, and if he has suffered any part of that punishment, then with so much of that punishment as he has not already suffered.

Section 228: Intentional insult or interruption to public servant sitting in judicial proceeding

Whoever intentionally offers any insult, or causes any interruption to any public servant, while such public servant is sitting in any stage of a judicial proceeding, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 229: Personation of a juror or assessor

Whoever, not being a juror or assessor, intentionally causes, or knowingly suffers himself to be returned, empanelled, or sworn as a juror or assessor, in any case in which he is not entitled by law to serve as such juror or assessor, or knowing that he has been so returned, empanelled, or sworn, intentionally acts as such, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 229A: Failure by person released on bail or bond to appear in Court

Whoever, having been charged with an offence and released on bail or on bond without sureties, fails without sufficient cause to appear in Court in accordance with the terms of the bail or bond, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation: The punishment under this section is in addition to the punishment to which the offender may be liable for the offence with which he was charged, and also in addition to any action which may be taken for cancellation of bail or bond.

Section 230: "Coin" defined

Coin is metal used for the time being as money, and stamped and issued by the authority of some State or Sovereign Power in order to be so used.

Bangladesh coin is coin which is issued by the Government of Bangladesh in accordance with the provisions of law.

Section 231: Counterfeiting coin

Whoever counterfeits or knowingly performs any part of the process of counterfeiting any coin, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 232: Counterfeiting Bangladesh coin

Whoever counterfeits or knowingly performs any part of the process of counterfeiting any Bangladesh coin, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 233: Making or selling instrument for counterfeiting coin

Whoever makes or mends, or performs any part of the process of making or mending, or buys, sells or disposes of any die or instrument for the purpose of being used, or knowing or having reason to believe that it is intended to be used, for the purpose of counterfeiting coin, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 234: Making or selling instrument for counterfeiting Bangladesh coin

Whoever makes or mends, or performs any part of the process of making or mending, or buys, sells or disposes of any die or instrument for the purpose of being used, or knowing or having reason to believe that it is intended to be used, for the purpose of counterfeiting Bangladesh coin, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 235: Possession of instrument, or material for the purpose of using the same for counterfeiting coin

Whoever, knowingly or having reason to believe that any die or instrument, or any material, is intended to be used for the purpose of counterfeiting coin, has in his possession any such die, instrument, or material, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 236: Abetting in Bangladesh the counterfeiting out of Bangladesh of coin

Whoever abets the counterfeiting of coin out of Bangladesh, shall be punished in the same manner as if he abetted the counterfeiting of such coin in Bangladesh.

Section 237: Import or export of counterfeit coin

Whoever imports into Bangladesh, or exports therefrom, any counterfeit coin, knowing or having reason to believe that the same is counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 238: Import or export of counterfeit Bangladesh coin

Whoever imports into Bangladesh, or exports therefrom, any counterfeit Bangladesh coin, knowing or having reason to believe that the same is counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 239: Delivery of coin, possessed with knowledge that it is counterfeit

Whoever, having any counterfeit coin in his possession, and knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit, delivers the same to any other person, or attempts to induce any other person to receive it, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 240: Delivery of Bangladesh coin, possessed with knowledge that it is counterfeit

Whoever, having any counterfeit Bangladesh coin in his possession, and knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit, delivers the same to any other person, or attempts to

induce any other person to receive it, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 241: Delivery of coin as genuine which, when first possessed, the deliverer did not know to be counterfeit

Whoever, having delivered or attempted to deliver to any other person any coin as genuine, which, when he first possessed it, he did not know to be counterfeit, but afterwards discovered to be so, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 242: Possession of counterfeit coin by person who knew it to be counterfeit when he became possessed thereof

Whoever, fraudulently or with intent that fraud may be committed, is in possession of counterfeit coin, knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit and knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit when he became possessed thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 243: Possession of Bangladesh coin by person who knew it to be counterfeit when he became possessed thereof

Whoever is in possession of counterfeit Bangladesh coin, knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit and knowing or having reason to believe the same to be counterfeit when he became possessed thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 244: Person employed in mint causing coin to be of different weight or composition from that fixed by law

Whoever, being employed in any mint lawfully established in Bangladesh, does any act, or omits what he is legally bound to do, with the intention of causing any coin issued from that mint to be of a different weight or composition from that fixed by law, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 245: Unlawfully taking coining instrument from mint

Whoever, without lawful authority, takes out of any mint, lawfully established in Bangladesh, any coining tool or instrument, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 246: Fraudulently or dishonestly diminishing weight or altering composition of coin

Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly performs any operation on any coin in order to diminish its weight or alter its composition, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 247: Fraudulently or dishonestly diminishing weight or altering composition of Bangladesh coin

Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly performs on any Bangladesh coin any operation which diminishes the weight or alters the composition of that coin, shall be punished with

imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 248: Altering appearance of coin with intent that it shall pass as coin of different description

Whoever performs on any coin any operation which alters the appearance of that coin with the intention that the said coin shall pass as a coin of a different description, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 249: Altering appearance of Bangladesh coin with intent that it shall pass as coin of different description

Whoever performs on any Bangladesh coin any operation which alters the appearance of that coin with the intention that it shall pass as a coin of a different description, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 250: Delivery of coin possessed with knowledge that it is altered

Whoever, having coin in his possession with respect to which he knows or has reason to believe that any operation has been performed which has altered the weight or composition of that coin, fraudulently or dishonestly delivers or attempts to deliver such coin to any other person, or attempts to induce any other person to receive it, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 251: Delivery of Bangladesh coin possessed with knowledge that it is altered

Whoever, having in his possession any Bangladesh coin with respect to which he knows or has reason to believe that any operation has been performed which has altered its weight or composition, fraudulently or dishonestly delivers or attempts to deliver such coin to any other person, or attempts to induce any other person to receive it, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 252: Possession of coin by person who knew it to be altered when he became possessed thereof

Whoever fraudulently or with intent that fraud may be committed, is in possession of coin regarding which he knows or has reason to believe that any operation has been performed which has altered its weight or composition and that such operation has been performed before or at the time he became possessed of such coin, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 253: Possession of Bangladesh coin by person who knew it to be altered when he became possessed thereof

Whoever fraudulently or with intent that fraud may be committed, is in possession of Bangladesh coin regarding which he knows or has reason to believe that any operation has been performed which has altered its weight or composition, and that such operation has been performed before or at the time he became possessed of such coin, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 254: Delivery of coin as genuine, which, when first possessed, the deliverer did not know to be altered

Whoever delivers to any person any coin as genuine, which when he first possessed it he did not know to have been altered, but which he afterwards discovered to have been altered in weight or composition, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 255: Counterfeiting Government stamp

Whoever counterfeits, or knowingly performs any part of the process of counterfeiting, any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 256: Having possession of instrument or material for counterfeiting Government stamp

Whoever has in his possession any instrument or material for the purpose of being used, or knowing or having reason to believe that it is intended to be used, for the purpose of counterfeiting any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 257: Making or selling instrument for counterfeiting Government stamp

Whoever makes or mends, or performs any part of the process of making or mending, or buys, sells, or disposes of, any die or instrument for the purpose of being used, or knowing or having reason to believe that it is intended to be used, for the purpose of counterfeiting any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 258: Sale of counterfeit Government stamp

Whoever sells, or offers for sale, any stamp which he knows or has reason to believe to be a counterfeit of any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 259: Having possession of counterfeit Government stamp

Whoever has in his possession any stamp which he knows or has reason to believe to be a counterfeit of any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, intending to use or dispose of the same as genuine, or to cause it to be used as genuine, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 260: Using as genuine a Government stamp known to be counterfeit

Whoever uses as genuine any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, which he knows or has reason to believe to be a counterfeit of such a stamp, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 261: Effacing writing from substance bearing Government stamp, or removing from document a stamp used for it, with intent to cause loss to Government

Whoever, fraudulently or with intent to cause loss to the Government, removes or effaces from any substance bearing a Government stamp any writing or document for which such stamp has been used, or removes from any writing or document a stamp which has been used for the same, or affixes to any other writing or document a stamp which has already been used for some writing or document, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 262: Using Government stamp known to have been before used

Whoever uses any stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, which he knows to have been previously used, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 263: Erasure of mark denoting that stamp has been used

Whoever, fraudulently or with intent to cause loss to the Government, erases or removes from a stamp issued by the Government for the purpose of revenue, any mark put or impressed upon such stamp for the purpose of denoting that the same has been used, or knowingly has in his possession or sells or disposes of any such stamp from which such mark has been erased or removed, or alters in any way the appearance of any such mark intending that the same may be used again, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 263A: Prohibition of fictitious stamps

Whoever makes, knowingly utters, deals in, or sells any fictitious stamp; or uses for any postal purpose any fictitious stamp; or has in his possession, without lawful excuse, any fictitious stamp; or makes, or without lawful excuse, has in his possession any die, plate, instrument, or materials for making any fictitious stamp, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred taka. Any such stamp, die, plate, instrument, or materials that are in the possession of any person for the purpose of making fictitious stamps may be seized by the authorities, and if seized, such items shall be forfeited. In this section, the expression “fictitious stamp” means any stamp falsely purporting to be issued by the Government for the purpose of denoting a rate of postage, or any facsimile, imitation, or representation—whether on paper or in any other form—of any stamp issued by the Government for that same purpose.

Section 264: Fraudulent use of false instrument for weighing

Whoever fraudulently uses any instrument for weighing, knowing that the instrument is false, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. The offence here emphasizes the intentional use of an inaccurate device for deceitful weighing.

Section 265: Fraudulent use of false weight or measure

Whoever fraudulently uses any false weight or false measure of length or capacity, or fraudulently uses any weight or any measure of length or capacity by representing it to be a different weight or measure from what it truly is, shall be punished with imprisonment of either

description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section covers all acts of deceit involving weights and measurements used in trade or exchange.

Section 266: Being in possession of false weight or measure

Whoever is in possession of any instrument for weighing, or any weight or any measure of length or capacity, which he knows to be false and intends to use as true, or knows that it is likely to be used as true, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This provision penalizes the mere possession, with criminal knowledge and intention, of deceptive weights or measures.

Section 267: Making or selling false weight or measure

Whoever makes, sells, or disposes of any instrument for weighing, or any weight or any measure of length or capacity, knowing that it is false, in order that it may be used as true, or knowing that it is likely to be used as true, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section deals with both the manufacture and distribution of deceptive tools meant to cheat in measuring goods or quantities.

Section 268: Public nuisance

A person is guilty of a public nuisance when he does any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger, or annoyance to the public, or to the people in general who dwell in or occupy property in the nearby area. It also applies to acts or omissions that necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger, or annoyance to individuals who may have occasion to exercise any public right. A public or common nuisance is not excused on the ground that it also results in some convenience or advantage to others. This section is designed to safeguard the public's collective comfort, health, and safety from acts that disturb or endanger general welfare.

Section 269: Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life

Whoever unlawfully or negligently commits any act which is, and which he knows or has reason to believe to be, likely to spread the infection of any disease that is dangerous to human life, shall be subject to punishment with imprisonment of either description—meaning either rigorous or simple imprisonment—for a term which may extend up to six months. In addition to or instead of imprisonment, the offender may also be punished with a fine. In certain cases, both imprisonment and fine may be imposed simultaneously. This provision seeks to penalize negligent behavior that contributes to the risk of spreading contagious, life-threatening diseases.

Section 270: Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life

Whoever with malicious intent performs any act which is, and which he knows or has reason to believe to be, likely to cause the spread of infection of any disease that is dangerous to life, shall be liable to punishment with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years. Additionally, the offender may be fined, or both imprisonment and fine may be imposed. This section differs from the previous one in that the act is committed not negligently but malignantly—that is, with deliberate ill-will or harmful intent—thereby increasing the severity of the punishment.

Section 271: Disobedience to quarantine rule

Whoever, with knowledge, disobeys any rule that has been made and publicly announced by the Government for the purpose of placing any vessel into a state of quarantine, or for the regulation of communication between vessels in quarantine and the shore, or with other vessels, or for regulating contact between places where an infectious disease is present and other places, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months. Such a person may also be fined, or may face both imprisonment and fine. This section is intended to enforce public health safety through compliance with quarantine regulations.

Section 272: Adulteration of food or drink intended for sale

Whoever adulterates any article of food or drink in such a manner that the article becomes harmful or noxious when consumed as food or drink, and does so with the intention of selling it as such, or knowing that it is likely to be sold as food or drink, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months. The offender may also be punished with a fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or may face both imprisonment and fine. This section is meant to ensure the safety and purity of food and beverages available in the market.

Section 273: Sale of noxious food or drink

Whoever sells, or offers or exposes for sale, any article as food or drink which he knows or has reason to believe is noxious or harmful if consumed, and who does so intending that it be sold or knowing that it is likely to be sold as food or drink, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months. The offender may also be fined up to one thousand taka, or may face both imprisonment and fine. This section is particularly concerned with the act of trafficking in harmful food products regardless of whether the seller himself adulterated them.

Section 274: Adulteration of drugs

Whoever adulterates any drug or medical preparation in such a manner that its efficacy is reduced, or its operation is altered, or it becomes noxious or harmful, with the intention that such drug or preparation be sold or used as a drug or medical preparation, or knowing that it is likely to be sold or used as such, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months. The punishment may also include a fine up to one thousand taka, or both imprisonment and fine. This section aims to prevent the compromise of pharmaceutical safety and therapeutic value through adulteration.

Section 275: Sale of adulterated drugs

Whoever, knowing that a drug or medical preparation has been adulterated in a way that lessens its efficacy or changes its intended effect, or renders it noxious, sells such a drug, or offers or exposes it for sale, or distributes it from any dispensary for medical purposes as though it were unadulterated, or causes such a drug to be used for medical purposes by any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months. The offender may also be fined up to one thousand taka, or may receive both punishments. This section enforces accountability in the medical field to protect individuals from harmful or ineffective drugs.

Section 276: Sale of drug as a different drug or preparation

Whoever knowingly sells or offers or exposes for sale, or issues from a dispensary for medical purposes, any drug or medical preparation, falsely representing the same to be a different drug or medical preparation, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 277: Fouling water of public spring or reservoir

Whoever voluntarily corrupts or fouls the water of any public spring or reservoir, so as to render it less fit for the purpose for which it is ordinarily used, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 278: Making atmosphere noxious to health

Whoever voluntarily vitiates the atmosphere in any place so as to make it noxious to the health of persons in general dwelling or carrying on business in the neighborhood or passing along a public way, shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred taka.

Section 279: Rash driving or riding on a public way

Whoever drives any vehicle, or rides on any public way in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 280: Rash navigation of vessel

Whoever navigates any vessel in such a rash or negligent manner as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 281: Exhibition of false light, mark or buoy

Whoever exhibits any false light, mark or buoy, intending or knowing it to be likely that such exhibition will mislead any navigator, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 282: Conveying person by water for hire in unsafe or overloaded vessel

Whoever knowingly or negligently conveys, or causes to be conveyed, for hire, any person by water in any vessel which, by reason of the overloading or improper condition of such vessel, is likely to endanger the life of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 283: Danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation

Whoever, by doing any act, or by omitting to take order with any property in his possession or under his charge, causes danger, obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred taka.

Section 284: Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance

Whoever does, with any poisonous substance, any act in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 285: Negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter

Whoever does, with fire or any combustible matter, any act in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 286: Negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance

Whoever does, with any explosive substance, any act in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 287: Negligent conduct with respect to machinery

Whoever does, with any machinery, any act in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 288 – Negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings

Whoever, in pulling down or repairing any building, knowingly or negligently omits to take such measures with that building as are necessary to guard against any probable danger to human life from the fall of that building or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 289 – Negligent conduct with respect to animal

Whoever, knowingly or negligently omits to take such order with any animal in his possession as is sufficient to guard against any probable danger to human life, or of grievous hurt from such animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 290 – Punishment for public nuisance in cases not otherwise provided for

Whoever commits a public nuisance in any case not otherwise punishable by this Code, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred taka.

Section 291 – Continuance of nuisance after injunction to discontinue

Whoever repeats or continues a public nuisance, having been enjoined by any public servant lawfully empowered to issue such injunction, to desist from carrying on or repeating the same, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 292 – Sale, etc., of obscene books, etc.

Whoever sells, lets to hire, distributes, publicly exhibits or in any manner puts into circulation, or for purposes of sale, hire, distribution, public exhibition or circulation makes, produces or has in his possession any obscene book, pamphlet, paper, drawing, painting, representation or figure or any other obscene object whatsoever, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both, and, in the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. The section defines as obscene any material that is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or tends to deprave and corrupt persons likely to read, see or hear the matter contained in it.

Section 293 – Sale, etc., of obscene objects to young person

Whoever sells, lets to hire, distributes, exhibits or circulates to any person under the age of twenty years any such obscene object as is referred to in the last preceding section, or offers or attempts so to do, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 294 – Obscene acts and songs

Whoever, to the annoyance of others, does any obscene act in any public place, or sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words, in or near any public place, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both.

Section 294A – Keeping lottery office

Whoever keeps any office or place for the purpose of drawing any lottery not being a State lottery or a lottery authorised by the Government shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both. Whoever draws any such lottery, or takes any part in the management of any such lottery, or does any act which tends to assist in the drawing of any such lottery, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Whoever sells, distributes or offers for sale or distribution, or has in his possession for the purpose of sale or distribution, any ticket or other document for securing a chance or share in any such lottery shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand taka.

Section 295 – Injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class

Whoever destroys, damages or defiles any place of worship, or any object held sacred by any class of persons, with the intention of thereby insulting the religion of any class of persons or with the knowledge that any class of persons is likely to consider such destruction, damage or defilement as an insult to their religion, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 295A – Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs

Whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens of Bangladesh, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations

insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 296 – Disturbing religious assembly

Whoever voluntarily causes disturbance to any assembly lawfully engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Section 297 – Trespassing on burial places, etc.

Whoever, with the intention of wounding the feelings of any person or of insulting the religion of any person or with the knowledge that the feelings of any person are likely to be wounded or that the religion of any person is likely to be insulted thereby, commits any trespass in any place of worship or on any place of sepulture, or any place set apart for the performance of funeral rites or as a depository for the remains of the dead, or offers any indignity to any human corpse or causes disturbance to any persons assembled for the performance of funeral ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Section 298 – Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings

Whoever, with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that person or places any object in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Section 299 – Culpable homicide

Whoever causes death by doing an act with the intention of causing death, or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, or with the knowledge that he is likely by such act to cause death, commits the offence of culpable homicide.

Section 300 – Murder

Except in the cases hereinafter excepted, culpable homicide is murder if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing death, or if it is done with the intention of causing such bodily injury as the offender knows to be likely to cause the death of the person to whom the harm is caused, or if it is done with the intention of causing bodily injury to any person and the bodily injury intended to be inflicted is sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death, or if the person committing the act knows that it is so imminently dangerous that it must, in all probability, cause death or such bodily injury as is likely to cause death and commits such act without any excuse for incurring the risk of causing death or such injury as aforesaid. Culpable homicide is not murder if the offender, whilst deprived of the power of self-control by grave and sudden provocation, causes the death of the person who gave the provocation or causes the death of any other person by mistake or accident. It is also not murder if the person causing death, in the exercise in good faith of the right of private defence of person or property, exceeds the power given to him by law and causes the death of the person against whom he is exercising such right, without premeditation and without any intention of doing more harm than is necessary for the purpose of such defence. Additionally, it is not murder when the

death is caused by a public servant acting for the advancement of public justice who exceeds the powers given to him by law, acting in good faith and believes himself to be lawfully authorized, without ill-will. It is also not murder when the person whose death is caused being above the age of eighteen years, suffers death or takes the risk of death with his own consent.

Section 301 – Culpable homicide by causing death of person other than person whose death was intended

If a person does any act with the intention or knowledge that it is likely to cause death, and as a result, commits culpable homicide by causing the death of a person other than the one whose death he intended or knew himself to be likely to cause, the law treats the culpable homicide as if he had actually caused the death of the person he intended or knew likely to die. In other words, even though the death of a different person occurs, the offence is considered in the same light as if the intended victim had died. The nature of the culpable homicide will be judged in accordance with the original intent or knowledge of the offender, and not by the accidental outcome that occurred.

Section 302 – Punishment for murder

Whoever commits the offence of murder shall face punishment which may be either the death penalty or imprisonment for life. In addition to these primary punishments, the offender shall also be liable to pay a fine. This section addresses the gravest form of unlawful killing and prescribes the highest penalties in the legal system to deter such acts and ensure justice.

Section 303 – Punishment for murder by life-convict

If a person who is already under a sentence of imprisonment for life commits the offence of murder during the period of that sentence, such a person shall be punished with death. This provision reflects the seriousness with which the law views repeat or continuing criminal behavior by those already convicted and serving a life sentence, especially in the case of murder.

Section 304 – Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder

If a person commits an act that causes death but the act does not meet the full definition of murder, the offence is considered culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The punishment for such an offence depends on the intention or knowledge behind the act. If the act by which death is caused was done with the intention of causing death, or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description (rigorous or simple) for a term which may extend up to ten years. The offender shall also be liable to fine. On the other hand, if the act is done with the knowledge that it is likely to cause death but without any intention to cause death or bodily injury likely to cause death, the punishment shall be imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or with fine, or with both. This section distinguishes between degrees of culpability in homicide cases that do not amount to murder.

Section 305 – Punishment for abetment of suicide of child or insane person

If any person under the age of eighteen years, or any person who is insane, delirious, an idiot, or in a state of intoxication, commits suicide, and another person is found to have abetted the commission of that suicide, the abettor shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life. Alternatively, the punishment may be imprisonment of either description for a term not

exceeding ten years. In any case, the abettor shall also be liable to pay a fine. This section recognizes the vulnerable condition of certain individuals and imposes a stricter penalty on those who exploit such vulnerability to encourage or facilitate suicide.

Section 306 – Abetment of suicide

If any person commits suicide, and another person is proven to have abetted the commission of that suicide, the abettor shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years. The person shall also be liable to pay a fine. This section criminalizes the act of encouraging, aiding, or facilitating another person's suicide, regardless of the mental or physical state of the person who takes their own life.

Section 307 – Attempt to murder

Whoever does any act with such intention or knowledge and under such circumstances that, if he by that act caused death, he would be guilty of murder, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. If hurt is caused to any person by such act, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. When any person offending under this section is under sentence of imprisonment for life, he may, if hurt is caused, be punished with death.

Section 308 – Attempt to commit culpable homicide

Whoever does any act with such intention or knowledge and under such circumstances that, if he by that act caused death, he would be guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. If hurt is caused to any person by such act, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 309 – Attempt to commit suicide

Whoever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such offence, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section penalizes not just the attempt but also any preparatory act that constitutes a step toward the commission of suicide. The punishment is intended to deter individuals from attempting to take their own life and also reflects the seriousness with which the law regards such acts.

Section 310 – Thug

Whoever, being or assuming to be a thug, commits or attempts to commit murder, shall be punished with imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine. The term "thug" refers to a person who is habitually associated with others for the purpose of committing robbery or child-stealing, particularly when such acts are accompanied by murder. This section deals with the organized and habitual nature of violent crimes committed by such gangs and prescribes a severe penalty due to the heinousness of their conduct.

Section 311 – Punishment

Whoever, being a thug, is concerned in the commission or abetment of murder, shall be punished

with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. The provision recognizes the lethal consequences of the organized actions of thugs and imposes capital punishment or life imprisonment for those who are involved directly or indirectly in murder, thus reflecting the gravest level of criminal liability.

Section 312 – Causing miscarriage

Whoever voluntarily causes a woman with child to miscarry, shall, if such miscarriage is not caused in good faith for the purpose of saving the life of the woman, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. If the woman is quick with child, meaning the fetus has begun to move in the womb and is thus more developed, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes unauthorized abortion, especially where the fetus is more developed, while allowing exception in cases where the miscarriage is conducted in good faith to save the mother's life.

Section 313 – Causing miscarriage without woman's consent

Whoever commits the offence defined in the last preceding section without the consent of the woman, whether the woman is quick with child or not, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. The law treats non-consensual acts with greater severity, recognizing the serious violation of bodily autonomy and reproductive rights, regardless of the stage of pregnancy.

Section 314 – Death caused by act done with intent to cause miscarriage

Whoever, with intent to cause the miscarriage of a woman with child, does any act which causes the death of such woman, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the act is done without the woman's consent, the offender shall be punished either with imprisonment for life or with the punishment above mentioned. It is not essential to this offence that the offender should know that the act is likely to cause death. This provision imposes severe penalties for abortions that result in the death of the woman, especially when done without her consent, and emphasizes the culpability of reckless or malicious behavior even if the offender lacked knowledge of the lethal risk.

Section 315 – Act done with intent to prevent child being born alive or to cause it to die after birth

Whoever, before the birth of any child, does any act with the intention of thereby preventing that child from being born alive or causing it to die after its birth, and by such act prevents it from being born alive or causes it to die after its birth, shall, if such act is not caused in good faith for the purpose of saving the life of the mother, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or with fine, or with both. This section criminalizes intentional acts against unborn or newborn children when such acts are not done to preserve the life of the mother, thereby offering protection to fetal and infant life.

Section 316 – Causing death of quick unborn child by act amounting to culpable homicide

Whoever does any act under such circumstances that if he thereby caused death he would be guilty of culpable homicide, and does by such act cause the death of a quick unborn child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section treats the death of a sufficiently developed fetus, caused in circumstances equivalent to culpable homicide, as a serious offence and prescribes proportionate punishment.

Section 317 – Exposure and abandonment of child under twelve years, by parent or person having care of it

Whoever, being the father or mother of a child under the age of twelve years, or having the care of such child, exposes or leaves such child in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning such child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. The law imposes a duty of care on parents and guardians and criminalizes the act of abandonment of children, recognizing the vulnerability and dependency of young children.

Section 318 – Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body

Whoever, by secretly burying or otherwise disposing of the dead body of a child, whether such child died before, at, or after its birth, intentionally conceals or endeavours to conceal the birth of such child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses acts meant to hide the occurrence of a birth by unlawful disposal of a child's body, regardless of whether the child was born alive or not, and aims to prevent secret and potentially criminal acts surrounding childbirth.

Section 319 – Hurt

Whoever causes bodily pain, disease or infirmity to any person is said to cause hurt. This section defines hurt as any act which inflicts physical suffering, the onset of disease, or a weakening of physical condition on another individual.

Section 320 – Grievous hurt

The following kinds of hurt only are designated as “grievous”: emasculation; permanent privation of the sight of either eye; permanent privation of the hearing of either ear; privation of any member or joint; destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any member or joint; permanent disfigurement of the head or face; fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth; and any hurt which endangers life or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain, or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits. This section outlines the specific types of injuries that qualify as grievous, emphasizing lasting damage, disfigurement, or prolonged incapacity.

Section 321 – Voluntarily causing hurt

Whoever does any act with the intention of thereby causing hurt to any person, or with the knowledge that he is likely thereby to cause hurt to any person, and does thereby cause hurt to any person, is said “voluntarily to cause hurt.” This section clarifies that the deliberate infliction of pain or injury with intent or knowledge qualifies as voluntarily causing hurt.

Section 322 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt

Whoever voluntarily causes hurt, if the hurt which he intends to cause or knows himself to be likely to cause is grievous hurt, and if the hurt which he causes is grievous hurt, is said “voluntarily to cause grievous hurt.” The section makes it clear that when a person intends to or knowingly inflicts serious injuries that fall under the definition of grievous hurt, and such injuries actually occur, the act is classified as voluntarily causing grievous hurt.

Section 323 – Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt

Whoever, except in the case provided for by section 334, voluntarily causes hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. This section specifies the punishment for voluntarily causing hurt, indicating a relatively lighter sentence unless aggravated by exceptional circumstances.

Section 324 – Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means

Whoever, except in the case provided for by Section 334, voluntarily causes hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body to inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section enhances the punishment when hurt is caused using dangerous weapons or hazardous means, recognizing the increased risk posed to human life or health.

Section 325 – Punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt

Whoever, except in the case provided for by Section 335, voluntarily causes grievous hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. The section prescribes a more severe punishment for acts that result in grievous hurt, reflecting the serious nature of such offenses.

Section 326 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means

Whoever, except in the case provided for by Section 335, voluntarily causes grievous hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body to inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 327 – Voluntarily causing hurt to extort property, or to constrain to an illegal act

Whoever voluntarily causes hurt for the purpose of extorting from the sufferer, or from any person interested in the sufferer, any property or valuable security or of constraining the sufferer or any person interested in such sufferer to do anything which is illegal or which may facilitate

the commission of an offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 328 – Causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence

Whoever administers to or causes to be taken by any person any poison or any stupefying, intoxicating or unwholesome drug or other thing with intent to cause hurt to such person, or with intent to commit or to facilitate the commission of an offence, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 329 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort property, or to constrain to an illegal act

Whoever voluntarily causes grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting from the sufferer or from any person interested in the sufferer any property or valuable security or of constraining the sufferer or any person interested in such sufferer to do anything which is illegal or which may facilitate the commission of an offence, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 330 – Voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession, or to compel restoration of property

Whoever voluntarily causes hurt to any person for the purpose of extorting from that person or from any person interested in that person any confession or any information which may lead to the detection of an offence or misconduct, or for the purpose of constraining that person or any person interested in that person to restore or to cause the restoration of any property or valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 331 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort confession, or to compel restoration of property

Whoever voluntarily causes grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting from the sufferer or any person interested in the sufferer any confession or any information which may lead to the detection of an offence or misconduct, or for the purpose of constraining the sufferer or any person interested in the sufferer to restore or to cause the restoration of any property or valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 332 – Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty

Whoever voluntarily causes hurt to any person being a public servant in the discharge of his duty as such public servant, or with intent to prevent or deter that person or any other public servant from discharging his duty as such, or in consequence of anything done or attempted to be done by that person in the lawful discharge of his duty as such public servant, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 333 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty

Whoever voluntarily causes grievous hurt to any person being a public servant in the discharge of his duty as such public servant, or with intent to prevent or deter that person or any other public servant from discharging his duty as such, or in consequence of anything done or attempted to be done by that person in the lawful discharge of his duty as such public servant, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 334 – Voluntarily causing hurt on provocation

Whoever voluntarily causes hurt on grave and sudden provocation, if he neither intends nor knows himself to be likely to cause hurt to any person other than the person who gave the provocation, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 335 – Voluntarily causing grievous hurt on provocation

Whoever voluntarily causes grievous hurt on grave and sudden provocation, if he neither intends nor knows himself to be likely to cause grievous hurt to any person other than the person who gave the provocation, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to four years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand taka, or with both.

Section 336 – Act endangering life or personal safety of others

Whoever does any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 337 – Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others

Whoever causes hurt to any person by doing any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 338 – Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others

Whoever causes grievous hurt to any person by doing any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand taka, or with both.

Section 339 – Wrongful restraint

Whoever voluntarily obstructs any person so as to prevent that person from proceeding in any direction in which that person has a right to proceed is said wrongfully to restrain that person. This section defines wrongful restraint as an unlawful obstruction that hinders an individual from moving freely in a direction in which they are legally entitled to go. It includes physical prevention or blocking of movement that interferes with a person's liberty of locomotion.

Section 340 – Wrongful confinement

Whoever wrongfully restrains any person in such a manner as to prevent that person from

proceeding beyond certain circumscribing limits is said “wrongfully to confine” that person. This section explains that wrongful confinement is a more serious form of wrongful restraint, involving the restriction of someone's movement within a defined boundary, thereby limiting their overall freedom rather than just a particular direction.

Section 341 – Punishment for wrongful restraint

Whoever wrongfully restrains any person shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. The punishment is relatively light, indicating that wrongful restraint, although an offense, is less serious than confinement, and may result in either a short imprisonment, a small fine, or both.

Section 342 – Punishment for wrongful confinement

Whoever wrongfully confines any person shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. This section imposes a higher penalty than wrongful restraint, reflecting the more serious nature of confining a person entirely and restricting all freedom of movement.

Section 343 – Wrongful confinement for three or more days

Whoever wrongfully confines any person for three or more days shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. When the duration of wrongful confinement extends beyond three days, the law recognizes the increased severity of the offense and prescribes a longer term of punishment accordingly.

Section 344 – Wrongful confinement for ten or more days

Whoever wrongfully confines any person for ten or more days shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section further escalates the punishment in proportion to the duration of the confinement, highlighting that prolonged deprivation of liberty attracts harsher consequences.

Section 345 – Wrongful confinement of person for whose liberation writ has been issued

Whoever wrongfully confines any person in such manner that the confinement amounts to an offence under section 342, section 343, or section 344, after an order has been made by a Court of Justice for the production of such person in the court, or after such person has been lawfully directed to be set at liberty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years in addition to any term of imprisonment to which he may be liable under the aforementioned sections. This section emphasizes that if a person continues to confine another after a lawful order for their release or production in court has been issued, it constitutes a grave disregard of judicial authority and attracts additional punishment beyond the penalties prescribed in earlier sections.

Section 346 – Wrongful confinement in secret

Whoever wrongfully confines any person in such a manner as to indicate an intention that the confinement of such person may not be known to any person interested in the person confined,

or to any public servant or judicial officer, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years in addition to any other punishment to which he may be liable for such wrongful confinement. This section addresses secretive confinement, where the offender seeks to conceal the victim's detention from family, the public, or legal authorities, and prescribes additional punishment for such concealment, as it increases the danger and potential abuse of the detained person.

Section 347 – Wrongful confinement to extort property, or constrain to illegal act

Whoever wrongfully confines any person for the purpose of extorting from the person confined, or from any person interested in the person confined, any property or valuable security, or of constraining the person confined or any person interested in such person to do anything illegal or to facilitate the commission of an offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section covers cases where confinement is used as a coercive tool to obtain money, property, or to force a person to commit an unlawful act, thereby recognizing such motives as aggravating factors that attract stricter penalties.

Section 348 – Wrongful confinement to extort confession or compel restoration of property

Whoever wrongfully confines any person for the purpose of extorting from the person confined or from any person interested in such person any confession or any information which may lead to the detection of an offence or misconduct, or for the purpose of constraining the person confined or any person interested in such person to restore or to cause the restoration of any property or valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes the use of confinement as a means to extract confessions or force the return of property, recognizing such acts as coercive and unlawful, and imposes punishments accordingly.

Section 349 – Force

A person is said to use force to another if he causes motion, change of motion, or cessation of motion to that other person, or if he causes any substance to come into contact with any part of that other's body or with anything which that other is wearing or carrying, or with anything so situated that such contact affects that other's sense of feeling. This provision further clarifies that such force must be exerted either by the person's own bodily power or by disposing any substance in such a manner that the motion or change or cessation of motion takes place without any further act on his part, or on the part of any other person.

Section 350 – Criminal force

Whoever intentionally uses force to any person, without that person's consent, in order to the committing of any offence, or intending by the use of such force to cause, or knowing it to be likely that by the use of such force he will cause injury, fear or annoyance to the person to whom the force is used, is said to use criminal force to that other. The key factor here is the absence of consent and the intention or knowledge of likely injury, fear, or annoyance, which transforms the act into criminal force.

Section 351 – Assault

Whoever makes any gesture, or any preparation intending or knowing it to be likely that such

gesture or preparation will cause any person present to apprehend that he who makes that gesture or preparation is about to use criminal force to that person, is said to commit an assault. An explanation is provided which makes it clear that mere words do not amount to an assault. However, the words which a person uses may give to his gestures or preparation such a meaning as may make those gestures or preparations amount to an assault, if they contribute to the apprehension of imminent use of criminal force.

Section 352 – Punishment for assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation given by that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both. This punishment is applicable when the act is not provoked in a grave and sudden manner by the person assaulted.

Section 353 – Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person being a public servant in the execution of his duty as such public servant, or with intent to prevent or deter that person from discharging his duty as such public servant, or in consequence of anything done or attempted to be done by such person in the lawful discharge of his duty as such public servant, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision ensures protection for public servants while performing their lawful duties.

Section 354 – Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section is specifically aimed at protecting the modesty of women from acts of assault or criminal force.

Section 355 – Assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour person, otherwise than on grave provocation

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person, intending thereby to dishonour that person, otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation given by that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. The provision seeks to penalize actions intended to publicly or personally disgrace a person, unless there was a grave and sudden provocation from the victim.

Section 356 – Assault or criminal force in attempt to commit theft of property carried by a person

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person, in attempting to commit theft of any property which that person is then wearing or carrying, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This provision applies specifically to situations where force is used during an attempt to steal from a person directly.

Section 357 – Assault or criminal force in attempt wrongfully to confine a person

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person, in attempting wrongfully to confine that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both. This section is directed against those who use force to restrict another's freedom of movement in an unlawful manner.

Section 358 – Assault or criminal force on grave provocation

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person on grave and sudden provocation given by that person shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred taka, or with both. The law takes into account human reaction under sudden provocation, thereby prescribing a lesser punishment in such circumstances.

Section 359 – Kidnapping

Kidnapping is of two kinds: kidnapping from Bangladesh, and kidnapping from lawful guardianship. This means that the law recognizes two distinct forms of kidnapping based on the circumstances of the victim's removal — either the person is taken out of the country unlawfully, or taken away from the legal custody or guardianship they are under.

Section 360 – Kidnapping from Bangladesh

Whoever conveys any person beyond the limits of Bangladesh without the consent of that person, or of some person legally authorised to consent on behalf of that person, is said to kidnap that person from Bangladesh. In this context, the act of forcibly or unlawfully taking a person across national borders without proper consent constitutes kidnapping from Bangladesh, and it is treated as a serious offense under the law.

Section 361 – Kidnapping from lawful guardianship

Whoever takes or entices any minor under fourteen years of age if a male, or under sixteen years of age if a female, or any person of unsound mind, out of the keeping of the lawful guardian of such minor or person of unsound mind, without the consent of such guardian, is said to kidnap such minor or person from lawful guardianship. Explanation: It is not kidnapping to take a child by a person who in good faith believes himself to be the father of an illegitimate child or entitled to lawful custody of such child, unless such act is committed for an immoral or unlawful purpose. This section protects minors and persons of unsound mind from being taken away without proper legal authority or guardian consent, but also allows for exceptions where a person believes legitimately that they have custody rights.

Section 362 – Abduction

Whoever by force compels or by any deceitful means induces any person to go from any place, is said to abduct that person. The law defines abduction as the act of forcing or tricking someone to leave a place against their will or without lawful justification, highlighting the use of coercion or deception.

Section 363 – Punishment for kidnapping

Whoever kidnaps any person from Bangladesh or from lawful guardianship shall be punished

with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This means the person committing kidnapping may face imprisonment either under simple or rigorous conditions, depending on judicial discretion, and will be subject to monetary penalties as well.

Section 364 – Kidnapping or abducting in order to murder

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any person in order that such person may be murdered or may be so disposed of as to be put in danger of being murdered, shall be punished with imprisonment for life or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This provision imposes severe punishment on those whose kidnapping or abduction is linked to the intent or risk of murder, recognizing the grave danger posed to the victim.

Section 364A – Kidnapping for ransom, etc.

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any person or keeps a person in detention after such kidnapping or abduction and threatens to cause death or hurt to such person or by his conduct gives rise to a reasonable apprehension that such person may be put to death or hurt, or causes hurt or death to such person in order to compel the Government or any foreign State or international inter-governmental organisation or any other person to do or abstain from doing any act or to pay a ransom, shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. This section deals with the most serious form of kidnapping, where the victim's life or safety is threatened to coerce a third party, including government or foreign entities, to act or refrain from acting, or to extort ransom, warranting the highest level of penalty.

Section 365 – Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any person with intent to cause that person to be secretly and wrongfully confined shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This law targets those who abduct someone specifically to confine them secretly and unlawfully, emphasizing the unlawful deprivation of freedom.

Section 366 – Kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc.

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any woman with intent that she may be compelled, or knowing it to be likely that she will be compelled, to marry any person against her will, or in order that she may be forced or seduced to illicit intercourse, or knowing it to be likely that she will be forced or seduced to illicit intercourse, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section aims to protect women from being forcibly taken for the purposes of forced marriage or unlawful sexual acts.

Section 366A – Procurement of minor girl

Whoever, by any means whatsoever, induces any girl under the age of eighteen years to go from any place or to do any act with intent that such girl may be, or knowing that it is likely that she will be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This provision criminalizes the act of persuading or enticing minor girls with the intent or knowledge that they will be exploited sexually.

Section 366B – Importation of girl from foreign country

Whoever imports into Bangladesh from any country outside Bangladesh or from the State of Jammu and Kashmir any girl under the age of twenty-one years with intent that she may be, or knowing it to be likely that she will be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine. This section addresses the trafficking of young girls across borders for sexual exploitation.

Section 367 – Kidnapping or abducting in order to subject person to grievous hurt, slavery, etc.

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any person in order that such person may be subjected, or may be so disposed of as to be put in danger of being subjected to grievous hurt, or slavery, or to the unnatural lust of any person, or knowing it to be likely that such person will be so subjected or disposed of, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes kidnapping or abduction intended to cause serious physical harm, forced slavery, or sexual abuse, reflecting the severity of such offenses and the protection afforded to victims.

Section 368 – Wrongfully concealing or keeping in confinement, kidnapped or abducted person

Whoever, knowing that any person has been kidnapped or has been abducted, wrongfully conceals or confines such person, shall be punished in the same manner as if he had kidnapped or abducted such person with the same intention or knowledge, or for the same purpose as that with or for which he conceals or detains such person in confinement. This section treats as equally culpable any individual who, knowing a person to be kidnapped or abducted, wrongfully keeps them hidden or imprisoned. The punishment is equivalent to that of the actual kidnapper or abductor, provided the intention, knowledge, or purpose aligns with that of the original offender.

Section 369 – Kidnapping or abducting child under ten years with intent to steal from its person

Whoever kidnaps or abducts any child under the age of ten years with the intention of taking dishonestly any movable property from the person of such child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This law recognizes the vulnerability of young children and criminalizes not only their abduction but also the specific intent to steal items such as jewelry or personal belongings directly from them.

Section 370 – Trafficking of person

Whoever, for the purpose of exploitation, recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives a person by using threats, or using force or any other form of coercion, or by abduction, or by practising fraud or deception, or by abuse of power, or by inducement, including the giving or receiving of payments or benefits in order to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, commits the offence of trafficking.

Explanation 1: "Exploitation" includes the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Explanation 2: The consent of the victim is immaterial in a prosecution for trafficking. Whoever commits the offence of trafficking shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but may extend to twelve years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offence involves more than one person, or a child, or a person with physical or mental disability, or if the trafficker is a public servant or police officer or was in a position of trust or authority over the victim, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but may extend to fifteen years, and also be liable to fine. If the offence involves a child and any of the aggravated circumstances mentioned, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years and may extend to life, and also be liable to fine. This section comprehensively criminalizes all aspects of human trafficking and lays down enhanced punishment based on the identity of the victim and the position or role of the offender.

Section 370A – Exploitation of a trafficked person

Whoever, knowingly or having reason to believe that a person has been trafficked, engages such person for sexual exploitation, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. Whoever, knowingly or having reason to believe that a child has been trafficked, engages such child for sexual exploitation, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section focuses on penalizing individuals who take advantage of trafficked persons, particularly for sexual exploitation, and imposes higher minimum penalties in cases involving children.

Section 371 – Habitual dealing in slaves

Whoever habitually imports, exports, removes, buys, sells, traffics or deals in slaves shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes repeated engagement in the practice of slavery or trading of human beings and imposes severe punishment reflecting the gravity of the offence. The law recognizes habitual trafficking in slaves as an especially serious crime, whether the dealing is local or across borders.

Section 372: Selling minor for purposes of prostitution, etc.

Whoever sells, lets to hire, or otherwise disposes of any person under the age of eighteen years with the intent that such person shall at any age be employed or used for the purpose of prostitution or illicit intercourse with any person or for any unlawful and immoral purpose, or knowing it to be likely that such person will at any age be so employed or used, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation I: When a female under the age of eighteen years is sold, let for hire, or otherwise disposed of to a prostitute or to any person who keeps or manages a brothel, the person disposing of her shall be presumed to have disposed of her with the intent that she shall be used for the purpose of prostitution.

Explanation II: For the purposes of this section "illicit intercourse" means sexual intercourse between persons not united by marriage or by any union or tie which, though not amounting to a marriage, is recognized by personal law or custom.

Section 373 – Buying minor for purposes of prostitution, etc.

Whoever buys, hires or otherwise obtains possession of any person under the age of eighteen years with the intent that such person shall at any age be employed or used for the purpose of prostitution or illicit intercourse with any person or for any unlawful and immoral purpose, or knowing it to be likely that such person will at any age be so employed or used, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes any transaction or acquisition of a minor when the purpose is prostitution, sexual exploitation, or any illegal and immoral use, regardless of when the exploitation is intended to occur, recognizing both current and future harm.

Explanation I: Any person who buys, hires or otherwise obtains possession of a female under the age of eighteen years from a prostitute or a person managing a brothel shall be presumed to have obtained possession of such female with the intent that she shall be used for the purpose of prostitution. This explanation establishes a legal presumption of criminal intent in cases where minors are acquired from known exploitative environments.

Explanation II: The phrase "illicit intercourse" bears the same meaning as in section 372. This ensures uniform interpretation of the term throughout the Penal Code, particularly concerning sexual exploitation outside of legal marriage.

Section 374 – Unlawful compulsory labour

Whoever unlawfully compels any person to labour against the will of that person shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses forced labour and protects the individual's right to choose whether or not to work. It penalizes any act of coercion where a person is made to work unwillingly, reinforcing the importance of personal liberty and consent in employment or physical service.

Section 375 – Rape

A man is said to commit rape who has sexual intercourse with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the six following descriptions. First, when it is against her will. Secondly, when it is without her consent. Thirdly, when it is with her consent, but her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested in fear of death or of hurt. Fourthly, when it is with her consent, but the man knows that he is not her husband and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married. Fifthly, when it is with her consent, but at the time of giving such consent, by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome substance, she is unable to understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent. Sixthly, when it is with or without her consent, and she is under fourteen years of age.

Explanation: Penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape. This clarifies that complete intercourse is not required; mere penetration is enough to meet the legal definition of rape.

Exception: Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under thirteen years of age, is not rape. This exception outlines the legal boundary where marital intercourse is excluded from the definition of rape, provided the wife meets the minimum age requirement.

Section 376 – Punishment for rape

Whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to life or to a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. The law mandates a minimum punishment and permits even greater penalties depending on the severity of the circumstances.

If the rape is committed by a police officer, or by a public servant on a woman in his custody, or by a person on the management or staff of a jail, remand home or women's or children's institution, or by a relative, guardian or teacher of the victim, or by someone in a position of trust or authority, or during communal or sectarian violence, the punishment shall not be less than ten years and may extend to imprisonment for life, and also shall be liable to fine. This enhanced punishment reflects the gravity of the offense when committed by those in positions of power, trust, or responsibility, especially where the victim is particularly vulnerable.

Section 377 – Unnatural offences

Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes sexual acts deemed contrary to natural order as defined by law, including acts with animals or same-sex intercourse, and imposes serious penalties.

Explanation: Penetration is sufficient to constitute the carnal intercourse necessary to the offence described in this section. As in the case of rape, the law recognizes penetration alone as sufficient to fulfill the legal criteria for this offence.

Section 378 – Theft

Whoever, intending to take dishonestly any movable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent, moves that property in order to such taking, is said to commit theft. Theft is constituted by three key elements: a dishonest intention, the taking of movable property, and doing so without the owner's consent. The act of moving the property is sufficient to complete the offence if it is done to dishonestly take it.

Explanation 1: A thing so long as it is attached to the earth, not being movable property, is not the subject of theft; but it becomes capable of being the subject of theft as soon as it is severed from the earth. This means that items like crops, trees, or anything else attached to land do not qualify as movable property while still attached, but they can be stolen once detached.

Explanation 2: A moving of the property is the essential ingredient. This highlights that even the slightest movement with the intention of dishonest taking is sufficient to constitute the offence.

Illustration: A cuts down a tree on Z's ground, with intent to dishonestly take it away without Z's consent. A has committed theft. This example demonstrates that the act of severing and intending to take constitutes the offence.

Section 379 – Punishment for theft

Whoever commits theft shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section provides the general penalty for the offence defined in Section 378. The law offers discretion to the court to impose simple or rigorous imprisonment depending on the nature and severity of the theft. It may also impose a fine in addition to or instead of imprisonment. This reflects the law's attempt to balance punishment with the circumstances of the offence.

Section 380 – Theft in dwelling house, etc.

Whoever commits theft in any building, tent or vessel which is used as a human dwelling, or used for the custody of property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section imposes a more severe punishment than general theft due to the serious breach of personal space, privacy, or secure locations like homes, shops, warehouses, or tents. The law recognizes the heightened sense of violation and potential risk to safety in such cases.

Section 381 – Theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master

Whoever, being a clerk or servant, or employed in the capacity of a clerk or servant, commits theft in respect of any property in the possession of his master or employer, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This provision addresses theft committed in situations of employment, particularly where the offender has access to the property due to a relationship of trust. The betrayal of such trust is considered an aggravating factor justifying harsher punishment.

Section 382 – Theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to commit the theft

Whoever commits theft, having made preparation for causing death, or hurt, or restraint, or fear of death, or of hurt, or of restraint, to any person, in order to the committing of such theft, or in order to the effecting of his escape after such theft, or in order to the retaining of property taken by such theft, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section addresses aggravated thefts where violence, coercion, or physical threats are prepared in advance as part of the commission of the offence, the escape afterward, or the retention of stolen property. The use or preparation for violence in connection with theft significantly increases the gravity of the crime and the severity of the punishment.

Section 383 – Extortion

Whoever intentionally puts any person in fear of any injury to that person or to any other, and thereby dishonestly induces the person so put in fear to deliver to any person any property or valuable security, or anything signed or sealed which may be converted into a valuable security, commits “extortion.” This section defines extortion as a combination of intentional intimidation and dishonest inducement that results in the victim surrendering property, security, or rights under duress. The wrongful gain must be achieved through fear, and the surrender must be caused directly by the threat.

Explanation: The essence of extortion is the inducement caused by fear, resulting in the victim surrendering property or rights under duress. It is the psychological pressure that makes the act wrongful, and the law does not require actual injury to be inflicted—mere fear is sufficient.

Illustration: A threatens to harm B’s child unless B gives him money. B delivers the money in fear. A has committed extortion. This illustration makes clear that extortion is complete even if the fear concerns a third party (B’s child), as long as the property is surrendered due to that fear.

Section 384 – Punishment for extortion

Whoever commits extortion shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section provides the general

punishment applicable to the offence of extortion as defined under Section 383. The punishment allows judicial discretion based on the severity of the act and the circumstances surrounding it. This general punishment applies unless the extortion involves aggravating circumstances covered by subsequent sections.

Section 385 – Putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion

Whoever, in order to the committing of extortion, puts any person in fear of injury shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section penalizes the preparatory act of intimidation intended to extort property. Even if the extortion itself is not completed, the attempt or act of creating fear for the purpose of extortion is made punishable.

Section 386 – Extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt

Whoever commits extortion by putting any person in fear of death or of grievous hurt to that person or any other, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section applies where the extortion involves threats of extreme physical violence, whether to the person being extorted or to another person. The gravity of the threat leads to enhanced punishment, recognizing the greater psychological and physical harm involved.

Section 387 – Putting person in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion

Whoever, in order to the committing of extortion, puts or attempts to put any person in fear of death or grievous hurt to that person or to any other, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section punishes the threat itself, even if the extortion is not completed. It criminalizes the act of attempting to create fear of death or grievous harm for the purpose of extracting property or security, showing that even unsuccessful attempts are considered serious offences.

Section 388 – Extortion by threat of accusation of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, etc.

Whoever commits extortion by putting any person in fear of an accusation against that person or any other, of having committed or attempted to commit an offence punishable with death or with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section covers blackmail involving false threats of criminal accusations. The law recognizes the severe consequences that can result from such threats and penalizes them accordingly, even if the accusation is never made, so long as the threat was used to obtain property or advantage.

Section 389 – Putting person in fear of accusation of offence to commit extortion

Whoever, in order to the committing of extortion, puts or attempts to put any person in fear of an accusation, whether true or false, of having committed or attempted to commit any offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This provision penalizes the act of threatening to accuse someone of an offence, whether they committed it or not, as a means of extortion. The law does not

distinguish between true and false accusations in this context, as the wrongful use of fear for gain remains the central element of the offence.

Section 390 – Robbery

In all robbery there is either theft or extortion. Robbery is not a standalone offence but is an aggravated form of either theft or extortion, characterized by the use or threat of immediate violence. When theft is robbery—Theft is robbery if, in order to the committing of the theft, or in committing the theft, or in carrying away or attempting to carry away property obtained by the theft, the offender, for that end, voluntarily causes or attempts to cause to any person death or hurt or wrongful restraint, or fear of instant death or of instant hurt or of instant wrongful restraint. This means that when a person committing theft also uses or threatens to use immediate force, that theft becomes robbery. The emphasis is on the presence of actual or threatened harm to the victim in the immediate context of the offence. When extortion is robbery—Extortion is robbery if the offender, at the time of committing the extortion, is in the presence of the person put in fear, and commits the extortion by putting that person in fear of instant death, or of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint to that person or to some other person, and, by so putting in fear, induces the person so put in fear then and there to deliver up the thing extorted. This condition transforms extortion into robbery when it involves a direct and immediate threat in the presence of the victim, compelling the victim to deliver property on the spot.

Explanation: The offender is said to be present if he is sufficiently near to put the other person in fear of instant death, hurt, or restraint. Physical proximity that allows the threat to be perceived as immediate and real is sufficient to satisfy the condition of presence.

Illustration (a): A meets Z on a highway, shows a pistol, and demands Z's purse. Z gives it from fear. A has committed robbery. This example clarifies that when a theft is accompanied by a threat of instant harm, it constitutes robbery.

Illustration (b): A obtains property by threatening to accuse Z of theft unless he gives up money. A has committed extortion, but not robbery, since the fear is not of instant harm. This shows that extortion becomes robbery only when the threat is of immediate physical harm and is made in the offender's presence.

Section 391 – Dacoity

When five or more persons conjointly commit or attempt to commit a robbery, or when the whole number of persons conjointly committing or attempting to commit a robbery, and persons present and aiding such commission or attempt, amount to five or more, every person so committing, attempting, or aiding, is said to commit "dacoity." This section defines dacoity as an aggravated form of robbery involving group participation. If five or more persons are involved in the act, whether committing or assisting in committing or attempting the robbery, each person is guilty of dacoity regardless of their specific role. The collective nature of the crime increases its danger and justifies its classification as a more serious offence.

Section 392 – Punishment for robbery

Whoever commits robbery shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the robbery is committed on the highway between sunset and sunrise, the punishment may be extended to fourteen years. This section provides the standard punishment for robbery, which includes severe imprisonment and fine. The provision for increased punishment in cases where robbery is committed on public highways

during nighttime reflects the heightened risk and vulnerability of victims in such scenarios. It is considered more dangerous due to the setting and time, and hence attracts a more stringent penalty.

Section 393 – Attempt to commit robbery

Whoever attempts to commit robbery shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. The law under this section acknowledges the seriousness of the attempt itself, even if the robbery is not completed. It aims to deter preparatory actions and ensures that those who initiate or try to carry out robbery face significant legal consequences.

Section 394 – Voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery

If any person, in committing or attempting to commit robbery, voluntarily causes hurt, that person and any others jointly committing the robbery shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section enhances the penalty when bodily harm is inflicted during the commission or attempted commission of robbery. Even if only one member of a group causes hurt, all who are jointly participating in the robbery are held equally liable under this provision, reflecting the doctrine of joint responsibility.

Section 395 – Punishment for dacoity

Whoever commits dacoity shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. Dacoity, being a form of group robbery committed by five or more individuals, is considered extremely serious due to the potential for violence and chaos. The punishment is among the most severe under robbery-related offences because of the organized, collective, and often violent nature of such acts.

Section 396 – Dacoity with murder

If any one of five or more persons, who are conjointly committing dacoity, commits murder in so committing dacoity, every one of those persons shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section imposes collective responsibility for murder committed during the course of dacoity. It means that even if only one of the participants actually commits the murder, all others involved in the dacoity are equally liable and face the same level of punishment. This provision reflects the law's strict stance on violent group crimes and the shared culpability of all participants.

Section 397: Robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt

If, at the time of committing robbery or dacoity, the offender uses any deadly weapon, or causes grievous hurt, or attempts to cause death or grievous hurt, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment for not less than seven years. This mandatory minimum reflects the seriousness of using weapons or violence during such offences. The law intends to deter not only the act of robbery or dacoity itself but also the added danger and fear caused by the use of deadly weapons or attempts to inflict serious bodily injury on the victims.

Section 398: Attempt to commit robbery or dacoity when armed with deadly weapon

If, at the time of attempting to commit robbery or dacoity, the offender is armed with any deadly weapon, he shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for not less than seven years. This focuses on the dangerous intent and preparation involved in such attempts, regardless of whether the robbery or dacoity is actually completed. The mere fact of being armed while attempting these crimes is sufficient to trigger this serious punishment.

Section 399: Making preparation to commit dacoity

Whoever makes any preparation for committing dacoity shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. Even planning or readiness to commit dacoity is criminalized due to the grave threat it poses to public safety. The law recognizes that the act of preparation itself, when coupled with criminal intent, is dangerous enough to warrant severe punishment.

Section 400: Punishment for belonging to gang of dacoits

Whoever, at any time after the passing of this Act, belongs to a gang of persons associated for the purpose of habitually committing dacoity, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section criminalizes gang membership if the purpose is habitual involvement in dacoity. It targets the organized and persistent nature of such criminal groups, aiming to dismantle them before they can commit actual crimes.

Section 401: Punishment for belonging to gang of thieves

Whoever, at any time after the passing of this Act, belongs to any wandering or other gang of persons associated for the purpose of habitually committing theft or robbery not amounting to dacoity, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This applies to gangs involved in theft, even if not qualifying as dacoity due to the number of persons involved being fewer than five. The provision aims to curb habitual property crimes conducted by groups.

Section 402: Assembling for purpose of committing dacoity

Whoever is found in any public or private place, armed or unarmed, for the purpose of committing dacoity, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section penalizes gathering or presence in anticipation of committing dacoity. The law seeks to intercept such unlawful assemblies before the crime is executed, thereby maintaining public safety and order.

Section 403: Dishonest misappropriation of property

Whoever dishonestly misappropriates or converts to his own use any movable property shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. Explanation 1: A dishonest misappropriation may take place even when the property comes into the possession of the offender innocently. For example, A finds a purse with money and, instead of attempting to find the owner, appropriates it for himself. A is guilty of misappropriation. Explanation 2: A person who finds property not in possession of any other and takes it for the purpose of protecting it or returning it to its owner is not guilty, but if he takes

it with dishonest intent, he is. This section distinguishes between honest finders of lost property and those who appropriate it for their own benefit without lawful claim.

Section 404: Dishonest misappropriation of property possessed by deceased person at the time of his death

Whoever dishonestly misappropriates or converts to his own use property which, at the time of a person's death, was in his possession, and which belonged to him, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the offender was employed by the deceased or is a clerk or servant of such a person, the punishment may extend to seven years, and fine. For instance, A, a servant of B, takes property belonging to B after his death, instead of delivering it to B's heirs. A is guilty under this section. The law imposes stricter punishment on employees or servants due to the trust reposed in them and their access to the deceased's property.

Section 405: Criminal breach of trust

Whoever, being in any manner entrusted with property or with any dominion over property, dishonestly misappropriates or converts it to his own use, or dishonestly uses or disposes of it in violation of any legal direction or of any contract, or willfully allows another person to do so, commits "criminal breach of trust."

Illustration: A, a warehouse keeper, is entrusted with goods by Z. A dishonestly sells them. He has committed criminal breach of trust.

Section 406: Punishment for criminal breach of trust

Whoever commits criminal breach of trust shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 407: Criminal breach of trust by carrier, wharfinger, etc.

Whoever, being entrusted in capacity of carrier, wharfinger, or warehouse-keeper with property, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of such property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 408: Criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant

Whoever, being a clerk or servant or employed in that capacity, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of the property of his master or employer, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent

Whoever, being in any manner entrusted with property, or with dominion over property in the capacity of a public servant or banker, merchant, factor, broker, attorney or agent, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of that property, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section imposes the most severe penalties for breach of trust where positions of high responsibility or fiduciary obligation are involved.

Section 410: Stolen property

Property, the possession whereof has been transferred by theft, or by extortion, or by robbery, and property which has been criminally misappropriated or in respect of which criminal breach of trust has been committed, is designated as “stolen property,” whether the transfer has been made or the misappropriation or breach of trust has been committed within or without Bangladesh.

But, if such property subsequently comes into the possession of a person legally entitled to it, the property ceases to be stolen property.

This section defines the scope of stolen property to include all movable property that is wrongfully taken or retained under various offences, but not when lawfully recovered.

Section 411: Dishonestly receiving stolen property

Whoever dishonestly receives or retains any stolen property, knowing or having reason to believe the same to be stolen property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

This section criminalizes the act of knowingly receiving or retaining stolen property, even if the person was not involved in the original theft or misappropriation.

Section 412: Dishonestly receiving property stolen in the commission of a dacoity

Whoever dishonestly receives or retains any stolen property, the possession of which he knows or has reason to believe to have been transferred by the commission of dacoity, or which was stolen in the commission of dacoity, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. If the property was obtained by murder or grievous hurt in committing the dacoity, the punishment is the same as for murder or grievous hurt.

This section treats such offences with gravity due to the violent and organized nature of dacoity.

Section 413: Habitually dealing in stolen property

Whoever habitually receives or deals in property which he knows or has reason to believe to be stolen property, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section targets professional receivers or traffickers of stolen goods, holding them severely accountable.

Section 414: Assisting in concealment of stolen property

Whoever voluntarily assists in concealing or disposing of, or making away with property which he knows or has reason to believe to be stolen property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

This provision covers individuals who help hide or get rid of stolen property even if they do not receive it for personal benefit.

Section 415: Cheating

Whoever, by deceiving any person, fraudulently or dishonestly induces that person to deliver any property to any person, or to consent that any person shall retain any property, or intentionally induces the person so deceived to do or omit to do anything which he would not do or omit if he were not so deceived, and which act or omission causes or is likely to cause damage or harm to

that person in body, mind, reputation or property, is said to “cheat.” A dishonest concealment of facts is a deception within the meaning of this section. For example, A, by falsely pretending to be in the service of the government, obtains money from Z as a fee to secure him a job. A cheats. Another illustration would be where A persuades B to lend him money by falsely representing he owns a factory. This is cheating. The core element of this offence is the presence of deceit and the resulting wrongful gain to the offender or loss to the victim.

Section 416: Cheating by personation

A person is said to “cheat by personation” if he cheats by pretending to be some other person, or by knowingly substituting one person for another, or representing that he or any other person is someone else. The offence is committed whether the individual personated is a real or imaginary person. For instance, A cheats by pretending to be B at an examination or interview. A is guilty of cheating by personation. This section emphasizes the criminality of using a false identity or impersonating another person to achieve deceitful gains.

Section 417: Punishment for cheating

Whoever cheats shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section provides a general punishment for the offence of cheating, covering those instances which do not involve any special circumstances or enhanced criminal conduct. It allows the courts to impose a light or moderate sentence depending on the gravity of the case.

Section 418: Cheating with knowledge that wrongful loss may ensue to person whose interest offender is bound to protect

Whoever cheats with the knowledge that he is likely to cause wrongful loss to a person whose interest in the transaction he was legally bound to protect shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This section punishes cheating committed in breach of trust or fiduciary duty, such as by agents, guardians, or partners. The offender not only deceives, but does so while knowing he has a legal or moral duty to safeguard the interests of another.

Section 419: Punishment for cheating by personation

Whoever cheats by personation shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This is an enhanced penalty compared to Section 417 due to the added deception and impersonation involved in the offence. The law treats personation as an aggravating factor deserving of stricter punishment.

Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property

Whoever cheats and thereby dishonestly induces the person deceived to deliver any property to any person, or to make, alter or destroy the whole or any part of a valuable security, or anything signed or sealed which may be converted into a valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This is one of the most serious forms of cheating, involving both dishonesty and substantial financial or legal loss, and is often applied in cases of fraud involving documents or contracts.

Section 421: Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property to prevent distribution among creditors

Whoever dishonestly or fraudulently removes, conceals, transfers or delivers to any person any property or any part thereof, or causes any such act to be done, intending thereby to prevent, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby prevent, the distribution of that property according to law among his creditors or the creditors of any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section is aimed at punishing attempts to defeat creditors by unlawfully concealing or disposing of property that should be available for lawful claims. It ensures that debtors cannot fraudulently escape liability.

Section 422: Dishonestly or fraudulently preventing debt being available for creditors

Whoever dishonestly or fraudulently prevents any debt or demand due to himself or any other person from being made available for his creditors, or for the creditors of such other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section applies when a person hinders the payment or recovery of debts that should be accessible to creditors, either by deceit or fraudulent conduct. The law protects creditors' rights by penalizing intentional obstruction of their lawful claims.

Section 423: Dishonest or fraudulent execution of deed of transfer containing false statement of consideration

Whoever dishonestly or fraudulently executes or signs any deed of transfer of property, or any interest therein, which contains a false statement of the consideration for such transfer, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. This covers false declarations in deeds regarding the value or consideration of a transfer, often done to defraud creditors or government revenue. It emphasizes the importance of truthful representation in legal property transfers.

Section 424: Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property

Whoever dishonestly or fraudulently removes or conceals any property or any part of it, intending thereby to prevent, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby prevent the lawful seizure of that property, or the due execution of any decree or order made by a competent public servant or court, or the satisfaction of any debt lawfully due, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section addresses obstruction of justice or lawful recovery through deceptive handling of property. It safeguards the enforcement of court orders and debt satisfaction by penalizing acts that aim to frustrate such legal outcomes.

Section 425: Mischief

Whoever, with intent to cause, or knowing that he is likely to cause, wrongful loss or damage to the public or to any person, causes the destruction of any property or any change in any property or in the situation thereof, which destroys or diminishes its value or utility, or affects it injuriously, commits "mischief." Explanation 1 clarifies that it is not essential that the offender intends to cause loss to the owner of the property, meaning that even if the loss is not directed at the property owner, the offence is complete if damage is knowingly caused. Explanation 2 further states that mischief may be committed by an act affecting the property of the offender

himself, if it is intended to cause wrongful loss to another, thereby extending the scope to include self-inflicted property damage when aimed at harming others. For example, A cuts down a tree on his land intending to cause damage to B's crops. A has committed mischief because the act was done with intent to cause harm.

Section 426: Punishment for mischief

Whoever commits mischief shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. This section provides the general punishment for minor mischiefs that do not involve serious consequences, major property damage, or public danger. The penalty is limited but ensures legal accountability even for small acts of deliberate damage.

Section 427: Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty taka

Whoever commits mischief and thereby causes loss or damage to the amount of fifty Taka or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. This section introduces a stricter punishment in cases where the value of the damage reaches or exceeds fifty Taka, reflecting that even non-violent acts can result in serious economic harm.

Section 428: Mischief by killing or maiming animal of the value of ten taka

Whoever commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless any animal or animals of the value of ten Taka or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. The law recognizes the importance of animals not just emotionally but economically, especially in rural or agrarian contexts where livestock or working animals are critical to livelihood.

Section 429: Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty taka

Whoever commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless any elephant, camel, horse, mule, buffalo or ox, whatever may be its value, or any other animal of the value of fifty Taka or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. If the act is committed with the intention of causing wrongful loss to the owner, the punishment may extend to the full term stated. The section provides higher penalties for damage to more valuable or important animals, especially cattle and working animals, underscoring their role in society and economy.

Section 430: Mischief by injury to works of irrigation or by wrongfully diverting water

Whoever commits mischief by doing any act which causes a diminution of the supply of water for agricultural purposes, for food, for manufacture, or for cleanliness, to any person or for any public purpose, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. This section highlights the seriousness of tampering with irrigation or water supply systems, as water is a critical resource for both public and private utility.

Section 431: Mischief by injury to public road, bridge, river or channel

Whoever commits mischief by doing any act which renders or which he knows to be likely to

render any public road, bridge, navigable river or navigable channel impassable or less safe for travelling or conveying property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. This law aims to protect public infrastructure from intentional harm or disruption that could endanger safety and hamper movement or trade.

Section 432: Mischief by causing inundation or obstruction to public drainage attended with damage

Whoever commits mischief by causing an inundation or by obstructing any public drainage attended with damage, or knowing it to be likely that such damage will thereby be caused, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. This section criminalizes conduct that leads to flooding or disruption in drainage that results in harm to public or private property, holding individuals accountable for such reckless or malicious acts.

Section 433: Mischief by destroying, moving or rendering less useful a lighthouse or sea mark

Whoever commits mischief by destroying or moving any lighthouse or other light or sea mark used for the guidance of navigators, or by rendering the same less useful, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This provision is designed to protect crucial maritime infrastructure that ensures the safety of navigation and the lives of sailors and passengers.

Section 434: Mischief by destroying or moving or rendering less useful a landmark fixed by public authority

Whoever commits mischief by destroying or moving any landmark fixed by the authority of a public servant, or by any law for the time being in force, or by rendering the same less useful, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This section is vital for maintaining the integrity of property demarcations, administrative divisions, and land records which are often dependent on such official landmarks.

Section 435: Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage

Whoever commits mischief by fire or any explosive substance, intending to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause damage to any property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine. This section is critical for controlling acts of arson or property destruction by explosive means, particularly when intended to destroy buildings, crops, or other property, even if there is no intent to harm persons directly.

Section 436 – Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house, etc.

Whoever commits mischief by fire or any explosive substance, intending to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, the destruction of any building which is ordinarily used as a place of worship or as a human dwelling or as a place for the custody of property, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 437 – Mischief with intent to destroy or make unsafe a decked vessel or one of twenty tons burden

Whoever commits mischief to any decked vessel or to any vessel of a burden of twenty tons or upwards, intending to destroy or render unsafe that vessel, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 438 – Punishment for the mischief described in section 437 when committed by fire or explosive substance

Whoever commits, or attempts to commit, mischief by fire or any explosive substance, intending to destroy any decked vessel or any vessel of a burden of twenty tons or upwards, or to render such vessel unsafe, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 439 – Punishment for intentionally running vessel aground or ashore with intent to commit theft, etc.

Whoever intentionally runs any vessel aground or ashore, intending to commit theft of any property contained therein or to dishonestly misappropriate such property, or with intent that such theft or misappropriation of property may be committed, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 440 – Mischief committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt

Whoever commits mischief having made preparation for causing to any person death, or hurt, or wrongful restraint, or fear of death, or of hurt, or of wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 441 – Criminal trespass

Whoever enters into or upon property in the possession of another with intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy any person in possession of such property, or having lawfully entered into or upon such property, unlawfully remains there with intent thereby to intimidate, insult or annoy any such person or with intent to commit an offence, is said to commit “criminal trespass”.

Section 442 – House-trespass

Whoever commits criminal trespass by entering into or remaining in any building, tent or vessel used as a human dwelling or any building used as a place for worship or as a place for the custody of property, is said to commit “house-trespass”.

Section 443 – Lurking house-trespass

Whoever commits house-trespass having taken precautions to conceal such house-trespass from some person who has a right to exclude or eject the trespasser from the building, tent or vessel which is the subject of the trespass, is said to commit “lurking house-trespass”.

Section 444 – Lurking house-trespass by night

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass after sunset and before sunrise, is said to commit “lurking house-trespass by night”.

Section 445 – House-breaking

A person is said to commit “house-breaking” who commits house-trespass if he effects his entrance into the house or any part of it in any of the following six ways, or if, being in the house or any part of it for the purpose of committing an offence, or having committed an offence therein, he quits the house or any part of it in any of such six ways, that is to say: (1) if he enters or quits through a passage made by himself, or by any abettor of the house-trespass, in order to the committing of the house-trespass; (2) if he enters or quits through any passage not intended by any person other than himself or any abettor of the offence for human entrance, or through any passage to which he has obtained access by scaling or climbing over any wall or building; (3) if he enters or quits through any passage which he or any abettor of the offence has opened, in order to the committing of the house-trespass, by any means by which that passage was not intended by the occupier of the house to be opened; (4) if he enters or quits by opening any lock in order to the committing of the house-trespass, or in order to the quitting of the house after a house-trespass; (5) if he effects his entrance or departure by using criminal force or committing an assault or by threatening any person with assault; (6) if he enters or quits by any passage which he knows to have been fastened against such entrance or departure and to have been unfastened by himself or by an abettor of the house-trespass.

Section 446 – House-breaking by night

Whoever commits house-breaking after sunset and before sunrise is said to commit “house-breaking by night”.

Section 447 – Punishment for criminal trespass

Whoever commits criminal trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

Section 448 – Punishment for house-trespass

Whoever commits house-trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both.

Section 449 – House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with death

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with death shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 450 – House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment for life

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment for life shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 451 – House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of imprisonment may extend to seven years.

Section 452 – House-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint

Whoever commits house-trespass having made preparation for causing hurt to any person or for assaulting any person or for wrongfully restraining any person or for putting any person in fear of hurt, assault or wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 453 – Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 454 – Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of the imprisonment may extend to ten years.

Section 455 – Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking after preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, having made preparation for causing hurt to any person or for assaulting any person or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 456 – Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night, or house-breaking by night, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 457 – Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night or house-breaking by night in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of the imprisonment may extend to fourteen years.

Section 458 – Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night after preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night or house-breaking by night, having made preparation for causing hurt to any person or for assaulting any person or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to fourteen years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 459 – Having made preparation to cause death or hurt, etc., in committing lurking house-trespass or house-breaking

Whoever, having made preparation for causing death or hurt, or for assaulting or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of death, hurt, or wrongful restraint, commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 460 – All persons jointly concerned in lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night punishable where death or grievous hurt is caused

If at the time of the committing of lurking house-trespass by night or house-breaking by night, any person guilty of such offence shall voluntarily cause or attempt to cause death or grievous hurt to any person, every person jointly concerned in committing such lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 461 – Dishonestly breaking open receptacle containing property

Whoever dishonestly or with intent to commit mischief breaks open or unfastens any closed receptacle which contains or is supposed to contain any property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 462 – Punishment for same offence when committed by person entrusted with custody

Whoever, being entrusted with any closed receptacle which contains or is supposed to contain any property, without having authority to open the same, dishonestly or with intent to commit mischief, breaks open or unfastens that receptacle, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 463 – Forgery

Whoever makes any false document or part of a document with intent to cause damage or injury to the public or to any person, or to support any claim or title, or to cause any person to part with property, or to enter into any express or implied contract, or with intent to commit fraud or that fraud may be committed, commits forgery.

Section 464 – Making a false document

A person is said to make a false document or false electronic record—First: Who dishonestly or fraudulently makes, signs, seals, or executes a document or part of a document, or makes or

transmits any electronic record or part of any electronic record, or affixes any electronic signature on any electronic record, or makes any mark denoting the execution of a document or the authenticity of the electronic signature, with the intention of causing it to be believed that such document or part of a document, electronic record or signature was made, signed, sealed, executed, transmitted, or affixed by or by the authority of a person by whom or by whose authority he knows that it was not made, signed, sealed, executed, or affixed; or Secondly: Who, without lawful authority, dishonestly or fraudulently, by cancellation or otherwise, alters a document or an electronic record in any material part thereof, after it has been made, executed, or affixed with electronic signature either by himself or by any other person, whether such person be living or dead at the time of such alteration; or Thirdly: Who dishonestly or fraudulently causes any person to sign, seal, execute, or alter a document or an electronic record or to affix his electronic signature on any electronic record knowing that such person by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication cannot, or that by reason of deception practised upon him, he does not know the contents of the document or electronic record or the nature of the alteration.

Section 465 – Punishment for forgery

Whoever commits forgery shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 466 – Forgery of record of court or of public register, etc.

Whoever forges a document purporting to be a record or proceeding of or in a Court of Justice, or a register of birth, baptism, marriage or burial, or a register kept by a public servant as such, or a certificate or document purporting to be made by a public servant in his official capacity, or an authority to institute or defend a suit, or to take any proceedings therein, or to confess judgment, or a power-of-attorney, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 467 – Forgery of valuable security, will, etc.

Whoever forges a document which purports to be a valuable security, or a will, or an authority to adopt a son, or which purports to give authority to any person to make or transfer any valuable security, or to receive the principal, interest or dividends thereon, or to receive or deliver any money, movable property, or valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 468 – Forgery for purpose of cheating

Whoever commits forgery, intending that the document forged shall be used for the purpose of cheating, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 469 – Forgery for purpose of harming reputation

Whoever commits forgery, intending that the document forged shall harm the reputation of any party, or knowing that it is likely to be used for that purpose, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 470 – Forged document

A false document or electronic record made wholly or in part by forgery is designated "a forged document or electronic record".

Section 471 – Using as genuine a forged document

Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly uses as genuine any document or electronic record which he knows or has reason to believe to be a forged document or electronic record, shall be punished in the same manner as if he had forged such document or electronic record.

Section 472 – Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc., with intent to commit forgery punishable under section 467

Whoever makes or counterfeits any seal, plate or other instrument for making an impression, intending that the same shall be used for the purpose of committing any forgery which would be punishable under section 467, or, with such intent, has in his possession any such seal, plate or other instrument, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 473 – Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc., with intent to commit forgery punishable otherwise

Whoever makes or counterfeits any seal, plate or other instrument for making an impression, intending that the same shall be used for the purpose of committing any forgery which would be punishable under any section of this Chapter other than section 467, or, with such intent, has in his possession any such seal, plate or other instrument, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 474 – Having possession of document described in section 466 or 467, knowing it to be forged and intending to use it as genuine

Whoever has in his possession any document or electronic record, knowing the same to be forged and intending that the same shall fraudulently or dishonestly be used as genuine, shall, if the document or electronic record is one of the description mentioned in section 466 of this Code, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the document is one of the description mentioned in section 467, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 475 – Counterfeiting device or mark used for authenticating documents described in section 467, or possessing counterfeit marked material

Whoever counterfeits upon, or in the substance of, any material, any device or mark used for the purpose of authenticating any document described in section 467 of this Code, or possesses any material upon which any such device or mark has been counterfeited, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 476 – Counterfeiting device or mark used for authenticating documents other than those described in section 467, or possessing counterfeit marked material

Whoever counterfeits upon, or in the substance of, any material, any device or mark used for the purpose of authenticating any document or electronic record other than the documents described in section 467 of this Code, or possesses any material upon which any such device or mark has been counterfeited, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 477 – Fraudulent cancellation, destruction, etc., of will, authority to adopt, or valuable security

Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly, or with intent to cause damage or injury, cancels, destroys, or defaces, or attempts to cancel, destroy, or deface, or secretes any document which is or purports to be a will, or an authority to adopt a son, or any valuable security, or commits mischief in respect of such document, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 477A – Falsification of accounts

Whoever, being a clerk, officer or servant, or employed or acting in the capacity of a clerk, officer or servant, wilfully and with intent to defraud, destroys, alters, mutilates or falsifies any book, electronic record, paper, writing, valuable security or account which belongs to or is in the possession of his employer, or has been received by him for or on behalf of his employer, or wilfully and with intent to defraud, makes or abets the making of any false entry in, or omits or alters or abets the omission or alteration of any material particular from or in any such book, electronic record, paper, writing, valuable security or account, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both. Explanation: It shall be sufficient in any charge under this section to allege a general intent to defraud without naming any particular person intended to be defrauded or specifying any particular sum of money intended to be the subject of the fraud, or any particular day on which the offence was committed.

Section 479: Property mark

A “property mark” is a mark used for denoting that movable property belongs to a particular person.

This definition clarifies that property marks serve the purpose of identifying ownership of movable items and distinguishing them from others.

Section 480: Using a false trade mark

[Repealed]

This section formerly dealt with the use of false trade marks, but has since been repealed.

Section 481: Using a false property mark

Whoever marks any movable property or goods, or any case, package or receptacle containing movable property or goods, or uses a mark, indicating that such property or goods belong to a person to whom they do not belong, intending to cause injury, or knowing it to be likely that he will cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a

term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation: It is not essential that the accused intended to defraud or deceive; the offence is committed if there is wrongful marking that may cause injury.

Section 482: Punishment for using a false property mark

Whoever uses any false property mark shall, unless he proves that he acted without intent to defraud, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Section 483: Counterfeiting a property mark used by another

Whoever counterfeits any property mark used by any other person shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 484: Counterfeiting a property mark used by a public servant

Whoever counterfeits any property mark used by a public servant, or any mark used by a public servant to denote that any property has been manufactured by a particular person or at a particular time or place, or to denote the quality or standard of any property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section protects the authenticity of marks used officially by government officers or departments for identification and quality control.

Section 485: Making or possession of any instrument for counterfeiting a property mark

Whoever makes or has in his possession any die, plate or other instrument for the purpose of counterfeiting a property mark, or for the purpose of committing any offence punishable under Sections 482, 483, or 484 of this Code, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

This section criminalizes even preparatory acts to prevent offences related to property mark forgery.

Section 486: Selling goods marked with a counterfeit property mark

Whoever sells or exposes for sale any goods or things with a counterfeit property mark affixed to them, or with a property mark affixed thereto without the owner's consent, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Unless he proves he acted innocently or had no knowledge of the counterfeit mark, the offence stands.

Section 487: Making a false mark upon any receptacle containing goods

Whoever makes any false mark upon any case, package or receptacle containing goods, in a manner reasonably calculated to cause any public servant or any other person to believe that such receptacle contains goods which it does not contain, or that it does not contain goods which it does contain, or that the goods therein are of a nature or quality different from their actual nature or quality, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 488: Punishment for making use of any such false mark

Whoever makes use of any false mark in any manner prohibited by Section 487, shall be punished in the same manner as if he had committed the offence described in that section.

Section 489: Tampering with property mark with intent to cause injury

Whoever removes, destroys, defaces, or adds to any property mark, intending or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Section 493: Cohabitation caused by a man deceitfully inducing a belief of lawful marriage

Every man who by deceit causes any woman who is not lawfully married to him to believe that she is lawfully married to him and to cohabit or have sexual intercourse with him in that belief, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section targets fraudulent marriages, where a woman is deceived into a sexual relationship under the false belief of legal matrimony.

Section 494: Marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife

Whoever, having a husband or wife living, marries in any case in which such marriage is void by reason of its taking place during the life of such husband or wife, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Exception: This section does not extend to any person whose marriage with such husband or wife has been declared void by a competent court, or who has been absent and not heard from for seven years and the person contracting the second marriage has informed the second spouse of the facts.

This provision addresses the offence of bigamy.

Section 495: Same offence with concealment of former marriage from person with whom subsequent marriage is contracted

Whoever commits the offence defined in the last preceding section, having concealed from the person with whom the subsequent marriage is contracted the fact of the former marriage, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section treats the offence more seriously when there is intentional concealment of the previous marriage.

Section 496: Marriage ceremony fraudulently gone through without lawful marriage

Whoever dishonestly or with a fraudulent intention goes through the ceremony of being married, knowing that he is not thereby lawfully married, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

This section applies to cases where individuals knowingly participate in sham marriage ceremonies to deceive others.

Section 497: [Repealed]

This section, which earlier criminalized adultery, has been repealed and is no longer in force.

Section 498: Enticing or taking away or detaining with criminal intent a married woman

Whoever takes or entices away any woman who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of any other man, from that man or from any person having the care of her on behalf of that man, with intent that she may have illicit intercourse with any person, or conceals or detains such woman with that intent, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

This section penalizes interference with the marital relationship where the intention is to have illicit sexual relations.

Section 499: Defamation

Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said—except in the cases hereinafter excepted—to defame that person. This definition covers any means of communication, whether oral, written, symbolic, or visual, used with the intent or foreseeable consequence of damaging another person's reputation.

It may amount to defamation to impute anything to a deceased person if the imputation would harm the reputation of that person if living, and is intended to be hurtful to the feelings of his family or other near relatives. Even after a person's death, their dignity and social image remain protected under the law, particularly when the imputation affects their surviving family.

It may amount to defamation to make an imputation concerning a company or an association or collection of persons as such. Defamation is not limited to individuals; any statement or representation made against a group or organisation that damages its collective reputation can also fall under this offence.

An imputation in the form of an alternative or expressed ironically may amount to defamation. The law acknowledges that sarcasm, insinuation, or indirect references can be just as harmful to a person's reputation as direct accusations.

No imputation is said to harm a person's reputation unless that imputation directly or indirectly, in the estimation of others, lowers the moral or intellectual character of that person, or his credit, or causes him to be shunned or avoided. The test of harm lies in how the imputation affects the subject's standing in society, especially in terms of character, integrity, trustworthiness, or social acceptance.

It is not defamation to impute anything which is true concerning any person if it is for the public good that the imputation should be made or published. This exception balances the protection of individual reputation with the public's right to know the truth, especially in matters of public concern or accountability.

It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion respecting the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of his public functions. Citizens are allowed to offer honest opinions about public servants' official actions, as this is fundamental to a democratic society and accountability.

It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion respecting the conduct of any person touching any public question. Anyone may comment sincerely on a person's involvement in public affairs or debate if the remarks are genuine and not driven by malice.

It is not defamation to publish a substantially true report of the proceedings of a court of justice. The law protects accurate and fair reporting of judicial proceedings, ensuring transparency in the justice system.

It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion about the merits of a decided case or the conduct of any party, witness, or agent in such case. Commentary on court decisions and the roles of those involved is allowed when made honestly, as part of public legal discourse.

It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion about the merits of any public performance submitted by its author to the judgment of the public. Reviews and critiques of books, films, art, or speeches are protected when given sincerely and without intent to defame.

It is not defamation in a person having lawful authority over another to pass in good faith any censure on the conduct of that other. A teacher, employer, or superior can reprimand or critique someone under their authority without being accused of defamation, provided it is done honestly and in the scope of their duty.

It is not defamation to prefer in good faith an accusation against any person to a lawful authority. A person who reports a complaint or accuses another of wrongdoing to police or other officials, without malice and with a sense of duty, is protected under this exception.

It is not defamation to make an imputation on the character of another provided it is made in good faith for the protection of one's own or another's interest. Statements made honestly to safeguard one's interests or the interests of others, even if they involve negative judgments, are permitted if they are well-intentioned.

It is not defamation to convey a caution in good faith to one person against another. If someone gives a warning or advises another person about someone's character or conduct to protect them from harm or risk, and does so sincerely, such caution does not amount to defamation.

Section 500: Punishment for defamation

Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

This section enforces civil respect for reputation and punishes false or harmful allegations made without justification.

Section 501: Printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory

Whoever prints or engraves any matter knowing or having good reason to believe that such matter is defamatory of any person, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

This section targets the publisher or printer of defamatory content, making them equally responsible.

Section 502: Sale of printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter

Whoever sells or offers for sale any printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter, knowing that it contains such matter, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

This ensures liability not only for creation but also for the distribution of defamatory material.

Section 503: Criminal intimidation

Whoever threatens another with any injury to his person, reputation or property, or to the person or reputation of anyone in whom that person is interested, with intent to cause alarm to that person, or to cause that person to do any act which he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do any act which he is legally entitled to do, as the means of avoiding the execution of such threat, commits criminal intimidation.

Explanation: A threat to injure the reputation of any deceased person in whom the person threatened is interested, is within this section.

Section 504: Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace

Whoever intentionally insults, and thereby gives provocation to any person, intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause him to break the public peace, or to commit any other offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

This section punishes acts of deliberate provocation through insult that may lead to public disorder or violence.

Section 505: Statements conducing to public mischief

Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, any officer, soldier, sailor or airman in the Army, Navy or Air Force of Bangladesh to mutiny or otherwise disregard or fail in his duty as such, shall be considered as committing an offence under this section. This includes any action that undermines the discipline or loyalty of armed forces personnel by attempting to influence them to rebel or neglect their official responsibilities.

Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public, whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against public tranquillity, shall also be liable under this section. This part of the law addresses the spread of information that creates panic or unrest among people, possibly provoking them to act unlawfully or violently in ways that disrupt national peace or stability.

Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report with intent to incite, or which is likely to incite, any class or community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community, commits an offence under this provision. This targets speech or information intended to provoke hatred, discrimination, or violent acts between different social, religious, ethnic, or cultural groups, which can lead to communal conflict or public disorder. Any person who commits an offence under this section shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both. The law considers these acts seriously because they can cause large-scale harm to public peace, national security, and social harmony.

Explanation: It does not amount to an offence under this section to express disapprobation of measures of the government with a view to lawful change by lawful means, or to point out errors or defects in the government, laws, or administration, without exciting hatred or disaffection. This clause ensures that citizens retain their right to criticize the government constructively, provided their intent is to promote reform through legal and peaceful channels and not to incite hatred or violence.

Section 506: Punishment for criminal intimidation

Whoever commits criminal intimidation shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

If the threat be to cause death or grievous hurt, or to cause the destruction of any property by fire, or to cause an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a

term which may extend to seven years, or to impute unchastity to a woman, the punishment may extend to seven years, or fine, or both.

Section 507: Criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication

Whoever commits the offence of criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication, or having taken precautions to conceal the name or abode of the person from whom the threat comes, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, in addition to the punishment provided for the offence by the last preceding section. This section punishes anonymous or disguised threats more severely.

Section 508: Act caused by inducing a person to believe that he will be rendered an object of Divine displeasure

Whoever voluntarily causes or attempts to cause any person to do anything which that person is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do anything which he is legally entitled to do, by inducing or attempting to induce that person to believe that he or someone he is interested in will become an object of the Divine displeasure if he does not act as desired, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

This section criminalizes manipulation or coercion through religious fear.

Section 509: Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman

Whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any woman, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

This section protects women from verbal, visual, and privacy-related offenses intended to harass or humiliate them.

Section 510: Misconduct in public by a drunken person

Whoever, in a state of intoxication, appears in any public place, or in any place which it is a trespass in him to enter, and there conducts himself in such a manner as to cause annoyance to any person, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to twenty-four hours, or with fine which may extend to ten Taka, or with both.

This section aims to maintain public order and decency by penalizing intoxicated misconduct.

Section 511: Punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or other imprisonment

Whoever attempts to commit an offence punishable by this Code with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment, or causes such an offence to be committed, and in such attempt does any act towards the commission of the offence, shall, where no express provision is made by this Code for the punishment of such attempt, be punished with imprisonment of any description provided for the offence, for a term which may extend to one-half of the longest term of imprisonment provided for that offence, or with such fine as is provided for the offence, or with both.

This section establishes a general principle for punishing criminal attempts. Even if the offence itself is not completed, the law punishes the attempt—when accompanied by an overt act

intended to commit the offence.

Illustration: A attempts to pick the lock of a house to commit theft but is caught before entering. Though theft is not completed, A has committed an offence under Section 511 and can be punished with up to half the punishment of actual theft.