**Additional explanation on 5.1**

*5.1 How do they approach fact checks that are politically sensitive, what strategy do they employ to maintain integrity and provide unbiased information. FactWatch should explicitly clarify this in the methodology section.*

FactWatch selects claims to check based on merit, i.e. public interest in the claim, its potential impact on people, visible confusion/ambiguity or lack of reliable information regarding the claim, and provocative or sensitive issues that may cause real life harm is left unchecked.

FactWatch does not cover political statements by Bangladeshi politicians unless they involve policy-level decisions and/or information with practical public impact. If a politician makes any claims as part of a campaign or political speech, we do not cover them. However, statements made by the same politician as a representative of their constituency or a public office may be fact-checked.

These inclusion and exclusion criteria are clearly stated in our updated [Methodology](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF/). It must be noted that fact-checkers in Bangladesh operate in an environment governed by the Digital Security Act (DSA), one of the most restrictive laws regulating media anywhere in the world that can be and has been used to sue and arrest journalists without a warrant for defamation.

We handle all content through the same consistent methodology regardless of its political sensitivity. To avoid personal biases or preferences from influencing our reports, we take an analytical approach where every fact check is a team effort. Fact finding, research, assessment, or reporting is never done single-handedly by any team member.

Our neutrality is evident from the fact that we have covered politically sensitive issues that involved political figures from across the board, as listed below.

We just fact-checked a misattributed image that claimed BNP leader Rumeen Farhana taking the coronavirus vaccine in an alleged attempt of queue jumping:

[https://www.fact-watch.org/web/**ফেইসবুকের-বিভিন্ন-একাউন্**/](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%AB%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D/)

In another report, we fact-checked whether the Health Minister Zahid Maleque ,a Bangladesh Awami League politician said that members of rival political parties BNP and Jamayate Islami Bangladesh would be barred from receiving the coronavirus vaccine.

[https://www.fact-watch.org/web/**স্বাস্থ্য-মন্ত্রী-কি-বলে**/](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87/)

We also fact-checked a story where the vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), Nurul Haque’s image was used in place of an eponymous criminal. Haque has been previously been targeted by the student wing of the ruling party Awami League.

[https://www.fact-watch.org/web/**জেল-থেকে-বেরিয়েই-৪-জনকে-কু**/](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%A5%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87-%E0%A7%AA-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%81/)

We covered the rumor that ex-Mayor of South Dhaka Sayeed Khokon could be expelled from the party following an altercation between him and current Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

[**https://www.fact-watch.org/web/সাবেক-মেয়র-খোকন-কি-দল-থেকে/**](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%96%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%A5%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87/)

We also fact-checked whether a Chinese expert criticized the Bangladeshi Government’s COVID response that was claimed to be “fake news” by the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh.

[https://www.fact-watch.org/web/**অন্ধকারে-ঢিল**/](https://www.fact-watch.org/web/%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2/)