

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	573
Land:	Bangladesh
Kilde:	Odhikar
Titel:	Quarterly Human Rights Report, Jan-March 2026
Udgivet:	20. maj 2026
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	16. juni 2026



Quarterly Human Rights Report on Bangladesh

Quarter-1

January – March 2026

Prepared by Odhikar
Published on 20 May 2026

Foreword

Since its establishment in 1994, Odhikar, as a human rights organisation, has consistently documented and highlighted incidents of human rights violations committed by the state. In continuation of this effort, Odhikar has published this quarterly report covering the period from January to March 2026. Following the 13th National Parliamentary Elections held on 12 February 2026, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) formed the government. Accordingly, this report has been divided into five sections.

Section A covers the period of the Interim Government from 1 January to 17 February. Section B addresses the period from 18 February, after the BNP government assumed office, to 31 March, reflecting the tenure of the BNP government. Section C discusses the fate of 20 significant Ordinances passed by the Interim Government, and the Section D highlights other incidents of human rights violations. Finally, Section E contains suggested recommendations.

This report has been prepared based on information and data collected from reports submitted by human rights defenders associated with Odhikar, as well as from various media sources.

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Statistics on Human Rights Violations

January - March 2026*						
Type of Human Rights Violation		Interim Government		BNP Government		
		January	February (1-17)	February (18-28)	March	Total
Extrajudicial killing	Tortured to death	2	1	0	0	3
	Beaten to death	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	3	1	0	0	4
Death in Jail		7	3	4	7	21
Death Penalty		24	9	3	9	45
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	1	0	0	0	1
	Bangladeshis Injured	1	0	0	1	2
	Push in	17	0	0	0	17
	Total	19	0	0	1	20
Attack on Journalists	Injured	3	2	7	18	30
	Assaulted	0	1	0	3	4
	Threatened	1	1	0	0	2
	Sued	0	0	0	7	7
	Abducted	0	21	0	0	21
	Total	4	25	7	28	64
Political Violence	Killed	10	1	7	18	36
	Injured	261	11	72	368	712
	Total	271	12	79	386	748
Electoral Violence	Killed	3	6	0	4	13
	Injured	375	823	81	89	1368
	Total	378	829	81	93	1381
Dowry related Violence against Women	Killed	1	0	0	3	4
	Physically Abused	2	1	3	7	13
	Total	3	1	3	10	17
Rape	Girl under the age of 18	23	10	5	21	59
	Women	16	5	8	21	50
	Total	39	15	13	42	109
Sexual Harassment /Stalking of Females		4	1	1	2	8
Public Lynching		6	2	3	8	19
* Odhikar documentation						

Executive Summary

1. Under the interim government, voting in the much-anticipated 13th National Parliamentary Election was conducted in a generally free and peaceful manner. However, several allegations were raised regarding the vote-counting process. Human rights defenders affiliated with Odhikar monitored pre-election, election-day, and post-election violence in 50 constituencies across 22 districts. Prior to the election, casualties occurred due to clashes among leaders and activists of rival political parties. Although, no killings were reported on election day, post-election violence continued, resulting in further casualties.
2. During the interim government, incidents of political violence were widespread. Allegations of criminal activities and violence, were made against leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations. There were also instances where members of the BNP became victims of internal conflicts. Additionally, leaders and activists of the Awami League were accused of involvement in violent incidents. Violence increased significantly in the lead-up to the elections.
3. During this reporting period, the Interim Government withdrew Bangladesh's declaration on Article 14(1) of the United Nations Convention Against Torture. As a result, an obligation has been established to ensure the right of victims of torture to compensation and rehabilitation.
4. After securing an absolute majority in the election, the BNP assumed power. It is noteworthy that during its tenure, the Interim Government issued 133 Ordinances. Of these, 98 were passed in Parliament without any changes, and 15 were passed with amendments. Twenty other Ordinances were annulled as they were not placed before Parliament in the form of Bills within the stipulated 30 days of the parliamentary session. Notable among the ones that were annulled were the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025 and the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025.
5. During both the Interim Government and the BNP government periods, there were no incidents of extrajudicial killings in the name of "crossfire" or enforced disappearances committed by members of law enforcement agencies. However, incidents of torture in law enforcement custody did occur.
6. The BNP government had only been in power for several weeks, during this reporting period, yet freedom of expression was soon being curtailed. There were incidents of opposition political activists being arrested under the Cyber Security Act, 2026. Allegations were also reported of harassment and abuse of journalists by criminals and ruling party leaders and activists, both while carrying out their professional duties and as a consequence of publishing news reports.
7. During the first three months of 2026, incidents of unrest occurred among workers in the ready-made garment industry over various demands,

including payment of outstanding wages, reopening of factories, and in protest against layoffs.

8. In these three months, the human rights of members of the religious and ethnic minority communities, and individuals holding dissenting views, were violated in different parts of the country.
9. Prisoners faced various problems in prisons due to corruption and mismanagement during this reporting period. The absence of permanent physicians in prisons deprived inmates of medical care. Additionally, incidents of suicide among prisoners occurred inside prisons, and allegations of killings were also reported.
10. From January to March 2026, lower courts handed down death sentences to a large number of accused individuals. Due to the slow pace of appeal hearings, death row prisoners have been waiting for unnecessary lengths of time in condemned cells.
11. Owing to a crisis of public confidence in law enforcement agencies and the justice system, incidents of mob lynching continued over the past three months.
12. Due to the lack of social security and an ineffective justice system, perpetrators of violence against women often go unpunished. As a result, women across the country have been subjected to rape, sexual harassment and dowry-related violence. A significant number of rape incidents occurred during this reporting period.
13. Between January and March 2026, the Indian ruling establishment carried out various hostile activities against Bangladesh. Since August 2024, after the fall of the autocratic, Sheikh Hasina – led Awami League government, the Indian media outlets and several social media platforms, operated from India, have spread rumors and misinformation about Bangladesh.¹ On the basis of false and fabricated allegations of persecution of Hindu communities in Bangladesh, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) expelled Bangladesh's only IPL cricketer, Mustafizur Rahman, from the tournament. Meanwhile, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continued to kill and torture Bangladeshi citizens living in areas along the Bangladesh-India border.
14. Due to the prolonged conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State between the military junta and armed rebel groups, Bangladeshi citizens living along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border have been experiencing insecurity. Furthermore, Bangladeshi fishermen often face abuse at the hands of armed groups from Myanmar while fishing at sea.

¹ Naya Dignata, 28 January 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/national/iQm0FpVEfJLx>

Section A: Period of the Interim Government (01 January to 17 February 2026)

13th National Parliamentary Election

1. The authoritarian Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina remained in power for 15-and-a-half years, by disabling the electoral system. Following the students-led mass uprising in July–August 2024, Sheikh Hasina fled to India on 05 August, and an interim government was formed on 08 August. In addition to ensuring justice for crimes and carrying out reforms, one of the key responsibilities of this government was to hold a free and fair national parliamentary election. On 11 December 2025, the Election Commission announced the schedule for a referendum and the 13th National Parliamentary Elections, set for 12 February 2026. Even before the announcement of the schedule, election-related violence commenced, which intensified further after the schedule was declared. Many of these incidents, up to 31 December 2025 have been documented in Odhikar’s annual human rights report 2025.² This quarterly report covers election-related violence from 01 January to 31 March 2026.

Pre-Election Violence

2. There were widespread allegations of violations of the (electoral) Code of Conduct by candidates of various parties both before and after the announcement of the election schedule.³ During the pre-election period, numerous incidents occurred, including arson attacks on election camps⁴ of different parties and supporters’ homes⁵; attacks on business establishments⁶; clashes over the hanging of banners and festoons⁷; and assaults on vehicles carrying candidates.⁸ During this reporting period, while campaigning for a “Yes” vote in the referendum⁹, supporters and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were attacked by BNP activists, and female activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were also attacked during election campaigning.¹⁰

² Odhikar Annual Human Rights Report, 2025; https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AHRR_English_2025.pdf

³ Samakal, 28 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/335709/>

⁴ Kaler Kantha, 30 January 2026; <https://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/first-page/2026/01/30/1640329>

⁵ Jugantor, 28 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1058640>

⁶ Desh TV, 14 February 2026; <https://www.desh.tv/country-news/80215>

⁷ Jugantor, 28 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1058498>

⁸ Prothom Alo, 15 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/6aeyjbvq0m>

⁹ Samakal, 19 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/334410/>

¹⁰ Jugantor, 28 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1058624>



Attack on the homes and business establishments of Jamaat activists and supporters in Kathalia Upazila. Photo: Desh TV, 14 February 2026

3. On 9 January 2026, in Lalmohan of Bhola, 15 leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Development Party (BDP), backed by Jamaat-e-Islami, were injured when local BNP leaders and activists attacked them while they were campaigning in support of BDP candidate Nizamul Haque Nayeem.¹¹
4. On 16 January 2026, Nazrul Islam, a supporter of independent candidate Salman Omar Rubel, was allegedly stabbed to death by Azharul Haque, a supporter of the BNP-nominated candidate at Ershad Bazar in Dhobaura under Mymensingh District.¹²
5. On 24 January 2026, there were allegations that leaders and activists of Jubo Dal¹³ obstructed the election campaign of AB Party candidate Asaduzzaman Bhuiyan Fuad and assaulted his supporters in the Barishal-3 constituency.¹⁴
6. On 25 January, in Bhaluka, Mymensingh, clashes erupted between supporters of a rebel BNP candidate (contesting as independent candidate) and those of the BNP-nominated candidate, after the latter obstructed the campaign of the independent candidate and humiliated him. As a result, the BNP office and main election camp were vandalized and set on fire.¹⁵

¹¹ Jugantor, 11 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1051201>

¹² Jugantor, 17 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1053789>

¹³ Youth wing of BNP

¹⁴ Prothom Alo, 24 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/f4lq7vdxjh>

¹⁵ Samakal, 25 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/335369>



Vandalism and arson were carried out at the Upazila BNP office. Photo: Samakal, 25 January 2026

7. On 26 January 2026, a clash occurred between leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP during an election procession in Dumuricha Village under Bahuli Union in Sirajganj District. Both parties blamed each other for the incident. Six people were injured.¹⁶
8. On 5 February 2026, miscreants opened fire during the election campaign of BNP-nominated parliamentary candidate Shahjahan Chowdhury, leaving five people, including three children, shot in Teknaf under Cox's Bazar District.¹⁷ On the day before the election, miscreants detonated homemade bombs at six polling centers in Gopalganj¹⁸ and at various government establishments.¹⁹
9. **As per Odhikar's documentation, due to pre-election violence from 1 January to 11 February 2026, three people were killed and 809 injured.**

Election Day

9. In the 13th Parliamentary Elections, a total of 1,981 candidates contested in 298 constituencies. Among them, 1,732 candidates were from 51 registered political parties, excluding the Awami League²⁰. There were also 249 independent candidates.²¹ For the first time, the Election Commission introduced a postal voting system, under which 481,185 postal votes were received from expatriate voters.²²
10. On election day, voters turned out spontaneously at most polling stations across the country.²³ Although the election was largely peaceful in most areas, several irregularities were reported in some places, including ballot snatching²⁴, obstructing of voters from reaching polling stations²⁵, clashes at

¹⁶ Report sent by Odhikar's monitor

¹⁷ Prothomalo, 6 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/2usrn79g00>

¹⁸ Desh Rupantor, 11 February 2026 <https://www.deshrupantor.com/663867/>

¹⁹ Prothom Alo, 11 February 2026 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/piu8gwi7jw>

²⁰ All political activities of the Awami League have banned by the Interim Government in 2025.

²¹ Prothom Alo, 24 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/hyxzqu3q72>

²² Samakal, 11 February 2026 <https://samakal.com/parliament/article/337775/>

²³ Report sent by Odhikar's monitor

²⁴ Ittefaq, 12 February 2026; <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/774509/>

polling centers, and removal of polling agents from centers.²⁶ At that time, members of law enforcement agencies and civil administration took action against those involved in misconduct and irregular activities.²⁷



In Hossainpur Upazila of Kishoreganj District, a mobile court sentenced a young man named Imran Mia to two years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 10,000 on charges of casting fake votes in the 13th National Parliamentary Election and referendum. Photo: Jugantor, 12 February 2026

11. On election day, a BNP leader named Habibur Rahman Ripon was detained by the army at Betgari High School polling center in the Rangpur-1 constituency, on allegations of distributing money to voters outside the polling center.²⁸ At 9:00 a.m. during voting in Sherpur-1 constituency, law enforcement personnel recovered 53 ballot papers, pre-stamped in favor of the election symbol “Dhaner Shish” (sheaf of paddy, denoting the BNP) along with three ballot books from the Nalbaid South Government Primary School polling center.²⁹ In Bhaluka, Mymensingh, five young men entered the Lohaboi Boradi Government Primary School polling center and stamped ballots inside a booth. After reviewing CCTV footage, police and a magistrate visited the center and released the presiding officer from his duty.³⁰ A clash occurred between supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolan over influence and control of the polling center at Maya Government Primary School in Char Faison of Bhola.³¹

²⁵ Amar Desh, 12 February 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdpi6dl7poof>

²⁶ Kaler Kantha, 12 February 2026; <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2026/02/12/1646413>

²⁷ Jugantor, 12 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1064738>

²⁸ Kalbela, 12 February 2026; <https://www.kalbela.com/country-news/265808>

²⁹ Amar Desh, 12 February 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amdehnyftegen>

³⁰ Prothom Alo, 12 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/byaalte-sil-mere-baakse-bhrchilen-5-trunn>

³¹ Report sent by Odhikar's monitor



BNP leader detained over allegations of distributing money outside a polling center. Photo: Kaler Bela, 12 February 2026



During voting, law enforcement agencies recovered three ballot books, including 53 ballot papers already stamped in favor of the Sheaf of Paddy symbol, from the Nalbaid South Government Primary School polling center in Sherpur-1 Constituency (Sadar). One person was arrested and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Photo: Amar Desh, 12 February 2026



Several young men entered a polling center and stamped ballot papers in Bhaluka Upazila, Mymensingh District. Photo: Prothom Alo, 12 February 2026

12. Allegations of election rigging, result engineering, and the publication of unsigned results were raised. As a result, on 16 March 2026, Writ Petitions challenging the results of 36 constituencies were filed at the Election Tribunal at the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.³²

³² Amar Desh, 18 March 2026; https://images.dailymardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl12_row11_date_18-03-2026_edition_2_page1_91295_667890_updated_watermarked_46948bb9-a839-49a9-aeed-94c09330236e.jpg

Post-election Violence

13. Following the election, widespread violence occurred across the country, resulting in numerous casualties. During this period, allegations were made that supporters of BNP-nominated candidates attacked the homes, business establishments, and party offices of supporters of candidates who were BNP rebels, and supporters of National Citizen Party (NCP), and Jamaat-e-Islami nominated candidates; as well as engaging in looting and arson. Women were also reportedly attacked by BNP activists.³³



In the Moendia Bazar area of Faridpur District, incidents of attacks and vandalism occurred. Later, the army and police brought the situation under control. Photo: Samakal, 15 February 2026

14. On 13 February 2026, supporters of BNP-nominated candidate Kamruzzaman Ratan allegedly attacked the house of Mohammad Jasim Nayeb, a supporter of BNP rebel (and independent) candidate Mohammad Mohiuddin, in Char Abdullah Village under Adhara Union of Munshiganj Sadar Upazila. Jasim Nayeb was also physically attacked and later died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.³⁴
15. On 16 February 2026, it was reported that BNP supporters set fire to the house of Humayun Molla, a supporter of an independent candidate in Narail Sadar Upazila.³⁵

³³ Samakal, 15 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/338626/>

³⁴ Report sent by Odhikar's monitor

³⁵ Samakal, 18 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/339107/>



Clashes between supporters of the BNP and an independent candidate in Narail District left six people injured, including one person who was seriously wounded in a machete attack. Photo: Samakal, 18 February 2026

16. On 20 February 2026, at least 16 people were injured in a clash between Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP activists over the election in Karnaphuli, Chattogram.³⁶
17. On 28 February 2026, Hafizur Rahman (45), a Jamaat-e-Islami activist, was killed in a clash between Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP activists, related to the parliamentary elections in Jiban Nagar, Chuadanga.³⁷
18. On 24 March 2026, two people – Habibur Rahman, an imam of a mosque, and Akhtar Hossain – were killed in a clash between a BNP-nominated candidate and a BNP rebel candidate over electoral disputes in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria.³⁸
19. According to Odhikar's monitoring, from 13 February to 31 March 2026 at least 10 people were killed and 497 were injured in post-election violence.

Criminal Activities and Violence by Political Parties

20. Even during the tenure of the interim government, allegations were received regarding criminal activities and violence perpetrated by or involving leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations. During that period, various incidents of violence were reported, including killings of civilians³⁹, rape⁴⁰, illegal occupation of water bodies (*jalmahals*) and looting of fisheries resources, extortion⁴¹, abduction, and ransom collection⁴².

³⁶ Jugantor, 22 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1068698>

³⁷ Prothom Alo, 1 March 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/nu3rumwqsa>

³⁸ Amar Desh, 25 March 2026 https://images.dailymardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl14_row13_date_25-03-2026_edition_2_page16_599004_85394_updated_watermarked_7fd8e994-d484-45fe-b85e-3e3302a37e65.jpg

³⁹ Samakal, 19 January 2026; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2026-01-19/16/2609>

⁴⁰ Amar Desh, 2 February 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/sylhet/amdlhzmtd9tyt>

⁴¹ Amar Desh, 13 January 2026 <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/mymensingh/amdmctowtr1jy>

⁴² Prothom Alo, 14 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/70gbpeior7>

21. Allegations had also been made against a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, for cutting down trees on a government road and, in retaliation against the ensuing protests, assaulting an individual and implicating him in a false case.⁴³ In addition, in Habiganj, the army detained three individuals, including a former leader of the anti-discrimination student movement, on charges of extortion.⁴⁴ During the interim period, clashes also occurred between BNP leaders and activists and those of the NCP, Jamaat-e-Islami⁴⁵, and the Awami League. Women were also injured in these clashes.⁴⁶
22. On 9 January 2026, a clash broke out between BNP and NCP leaders and activists over a Facebook video post, leaving 15 people injured from both sides, in Hatia of Noakhali.⁴⁷

Internal Conflicts within the BNP

23. Between January and March 2026, BNP leaders and activists engaged in internal clashes over establishing dominance. During this reporting period, various lethal weapons, including firearms, were reportedly used. In these incidents, members of law enforcement agencies, ordinary citizens, as well as BNP leaders and activists, became victims of casualties.⁴⁸ The causes of these conflicts over dominance included control of transport businesses⁴⁹, disputes over extortion demands⁵⁰, land-related conflicts⁵¹, distribution of government blankets⁵², formation of committees⁵³, control of water bodies⁵⁴, and for sheltering members of the Awami League⁵⁵.
24. On 7 January 2026, it was alleged that Akhtaruzzaman Titas, the Chairman of a Union Parishad supported by the Awami League, joined the BNP and subsequently attacked and robbed 10–12 BNP leaders and activists in Faridpur.⁵⁶
25. On 28 January 2026, a clash between two BNP factions over a long-standing dispute, resulted in the death of a BNP activist named Rabiul and injuries to four others in Barura Upazila of Comilla District.⁵⁷

⁴³ Jugantor, 18 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1054269>

⁴⁴ Prothomalo, 14 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/x7ryiq7jf1>

⁴⁵ Jugantor, 20 January 2026 https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2026-01-20/12/link_img_second_ed_1768872907_1.jpg

⁴⁶ Jugantor; 20 January 2026; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2026-01-20/12/link_img_second_ed_1768872907_1.jpg

⁴⁷ Manabzamin, 11 January 2026; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=198142#gsc.tab=0>

⁴⁸ Manabzamin, 29 January 2026; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=200877#gsc.tab=0>

⁴⁹ Manabzamin, 16 January 2026; <https://www.deshrupantor.com/655910/>

⁵⁰ Jugantor, 8 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1050142>

⁵¹ Amar Desh, 28 January 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdgnhnyeabkv>

⁵² Jugantor, 2 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1047831>

⁵³ Samakal, 1 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/336236/>

⁵⁴ Jugantor, 8 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1050153>

⁵⁵ Amar Desh, 13 January 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/rajshahi/amdzycb8i5udq>

⁵⁶ Jugantor, 7 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1049652>

⁵⁷ Manabzamin, 29 January 2026; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=200877#gsc.tab=0>

Internal Violence within the Awami League

27. Following the mass uprising of July 2024, that led to the ousting of the authoritarian AL administration on 5 August 2024, the interim government, in response to demands from students and the public, declared a ban on the activities of the Awami League. However, despite this ban, leaders and activists of the Awami League continued committing violence and criminal activities.
28. On 18 January 2026, Jubo League⁵⁸ leader Zahir Alam Kalu and members of his family attacked the family members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal⁵⁹ leader Yasin Arafat Choton, over a land dispute, using locally made weapons in Ramu Upazila of Cox's Bazar District. During the attack, Yasin Arafat's mother, Rehana Akter, was killed.⁶⁰
29. On 25 January 2026, police from Gobindaganj Police Station in Gaibandha District went to arrest Upazila unit Awami League leader Zobayer Hasan Shafique Mahmud Golap. At that time, the Awami League leader and his associates attacked the police, injuring three police officers.⁶¹
30. On 14 February 2026, an explosion occurred while bombs were being made at the house of Awami League activist Dulal. Two youth named Amin and Jihad were killed in the blast in Uparibhumi Hayatpur Village under Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila.⁶²
31. **From 1 January to 17 February 2026, at least 11 people were killed and 272 were injured in incidents of political violence. During this period, 18 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP were recorded. It is reported that two people were killed and 183 were injured in these internal conflicts within the BNP.**

The International Crimes Tribunal

Judicial Proceedings

32. During the July 2024 movement, approximately 1,400 students and civilians were killed by members of law enforcement agencies loyal to the authoritarian AL government, and several thousand people were seriously injured.⁶³ In addition, widespread incidents of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings occurred during Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule. Judicial proceedings for these crimes against humanity are currently being conducted at the International Crimes Tribunal, which was established in 2010 under the Sheikh Hasina administration, to prosecute crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

⁵⁸ Youth wing of Awami League

⁵⁹ Student wing of BNP

⁶⁰ Jugantor, 18 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1054555>

⁶¹ Jugantor, 27 January 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1058061>

⁶² Samakal, 15 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/338683/>

⁶³ Bangladesh: UN report finds brutal, systematic repression of protests, calls for justice for serious rights violations | United Nations in Bangladesh <https://share.google/s6Tfr9cFzzDhwW3nF>

33. On 26 January 2026, the three-member International Crimes Tribunal-1, led by Justice Mohammad Golam Mortuza Majumder, sentenced former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman, former DMP Joint Commissioner Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, and former Additional Deputy Commissioner of Ramna Division Shah Alam Mohammad Akhterul Islam, to death for crimes against humanity committed in the Chankharpul area during the July mass uprising. Five other accused persons were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.⁶⁴

State Repression

Extrajudicial Killings

34. In an effort to control the country's law and order situation, the Interim Government formed a "joint forces" unit in 2025, with the name 'Operation Devil Hunt'.⁶⁵ However, during this period, allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings were raised against members of law enforcement agencies. A few examples are given below:
35. On 12 January 2026 at approximately 10:30 pm, a team of army personnel detained Shamsuzzaman Dablu (52), General Secretary of the Jibannagar Municipality BNP in Chuadanga District, from his business establishment, "Hafiza Pharmacy," located in front of the Upazila Health Complex. At around 12:30 am, the army personnel took him to the Jibannagar Upazila Health Complex, where the emergency duty doctor declared him dead. The victim's wife, Jesmin Akter, alleged that her husband was deliberately killed.⁶⁶
36. On 7 February 2026, a youth named Rasel Kazi from Kalkini Upazila in Madaripur was detained from his home by the joint forces and taken to the Muladi camp in Barishal. Rasel's elder brother, Kashem Kazi, alleged that army personnel detained Rasel, tied him to a tree and beat him. On 8 February, the family learned that Rasel had died. His family claims that he died as a result of torture. Questions have arisen as to why members of the Muladi camp in Barishal conducted the operation, despite the presence of an army camp in Kalkini Upazila of Madaripur.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ Prothom Alo, 27 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/oft5zunpfu>

⁶⁵ Samakal, 2 January 2025; <https://samakal.com/chittagong/article/273269/>

⁶⁶ Ittefaq, 14 February 2026; <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/770217/>

⁶⁷ Prothom Alo, 9 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/npldubtwii>, Jugantor, 9 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/index.php/tp-news/1063197>



The family members of Rasel Kazi held a press conference alleging that the young man died after being detained by the joint forces in Kalkini, Madaripur. Photo: Prothom Alo, 8 February 2026

37. On 14 January 2026, a team from the Lakshmipur District Detective Branch (DB) and Chandraganj Police Station, detained Abul Bashar (45), a BNP activist and businessman from Begumganj Upazila in Noakhali District, from his residence. During the arrest, they also took gold ornaments and 20,000 taka in cash. Bashar's brother, Monir Hossain, alleged that Bashar was detained at the police station for two days and subjected to torture. He was later shown as arrested in a robbery case and sent to jail through the court. On 21 January, Bashar fell ill in jail and was taken to Lakshmipur Sadar Hospital, where he died. The Senior Jail Superintendent of Lakshmipur District Jail, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, stated that Bashar had been brought to jail in connection with a robbery case. According to Bashar's two co-accused, DB police had tortured him after his arrest.⁶⁸
38. On 29 January 2026, three friends were riding a motorcycle, without helmets, towards Kakbasia Bazar in Ashashuni, Satkhira. At that time, an army patrol team stopped the motorcycle and beat the rider, Ismail Hossain, who died on the spot.⁶⁹



A young man dies allegedly after being beaten by a member of an army patrol team in Ashashuni, Satkhira. Photo: Jugantor, 30 January 2026

⁶⁸ Jugantor, 9 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1055876>

⁶⁹ Jugantor, 30 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1059465>

39. According to Odhikar documentation, from 1 January to 17 February 2026, a total of four people were victims of extrajudicial killings. Among them, one was killed allegedly by DB police, one by Army, and two by joint forces. Of these victims, three died due to torture and one was beaten to death.

Torture, Degrading Treatment, Deaths in Custody, and Lack of Accountability by Law Enforcement Agencies

40. During the period of the Interim Government, incidents of torture and degrading treatment by members of law enforcement agencies were reported. Similar to the tenure of previous governments, the practice of picking up individuals without showing arrest warrants had also been observed among the police during the Interim Government.
41. On 12 January 2026, Saiful Islam Saif, former Joint Assistant Secretary of the Chattogram Metropolitan unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal⁷⁰ (JCD), came to his brother's house in the Gulshan area of Dhaka for medical treatment in the City. According to his family, some individuals identifying themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of the Police picked him up. Saiful's brother, Mohammad Shahin, alleged that after his brother was taken, he contacted various officials of the Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP), but none acknowledged the detention of his brother. Later, the CMP admitted to Saiful's arrest. It is to be noted that in June 2021, the then Officer-in-Charge of Bayezid Bostami Police Station, Kamruzzaman, had picked up Saiful, staged a "gunfight" incident, and shot him in the leg. Subsequently, Saiful's left leg had to be amputated.⁷¹
42. During this period, various allegations have been raised against members of law enforcement agencies, including misappropriation of seized Yaba⁷² (street name for a highly addictive synthetic drug that combines methamphetamine and caffeine), arresting an elderly father in place of a Jubo League⁷³ activist⁷⁴, submitting false investigation reports when bribes were not paid⁷⁵, excluding accused persons from charge sheets in rape cases⁷⁶, and involvement in drug trafficking⁷⁷, among others.
43. On 6 January 2026, Joyonto Barman, the husband of Naogaon District's Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shyamoli Rani Barman, boarded a bus from Sapahar in Naogaon with the intention of traveling to Dhansura. An argument broke out between Joyonto Barman and the bus driver, Badal, over the seating arrangement. Following this incident, ASP Shyamoli Rani Barman summoned the driver Badal to her office and subjected him to torture.

⁷⁰ Student wing of BNP

⁷¹ Manabzamin, 13 January 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/old-archive?news=198416>

⁷² Jugantor, 6 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1049027>

⁷³ Youth wing of Awami League

⁷⁴ Samakal, 10 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/333124/>

⁷⁵ Jugantor, 10 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1050872>

⁷⁶ Jugantor, 29 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1058995>

⁷⁷ Prothom Alo, 31 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/njin7udk4h>

Seriously injured, Badal later received treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.⁷⁸

44. Bangladesh has withdrawn its declaration imposed on Article 14(1) of the United Nations Convention Against Torture. As a result, the State is now obligated to ensure the right to compensation and rehabilitation for victims of torture. This declaration was withdrawn on 29 January 2026 during a meeting of the Advisory Council of the interim government. Article 14(1) of the Convention states that each State shall ensure that victims of torture obtain fair and adequate compensation and, where possible, rehabilitation. In cases where the victim dies as a result of torture, their dependents are entitled to compensation.⁷⁹ It must be noted here that the Torture and Custodial Deaths (Prevention) Act 2013 provides for compensation to victims/victim families – however, the law has fixed a minimum and maximum amount of compensation, instead of assessing the various needs and requirements of the victim/victim family⁸⁰.

Deaths in Custody of Law Enforcement Agencies and Security Forces

45. From 1 January to 16 February 2026, one accused person died in the custody of law enforcement agencies.
46. On 22 January 2026, a team of police officers led by ASI Monirul Islam of Kotwali Police Station in Rangpur arrested Mukul Mia (40), a truck driver who was an accused and under an arrest warrant. According to Mukul Mia's wife, Lovely Begum, an acquaintance working at Rangpur Medical College Hospital informed her by phone that after the arrest, the police left Mukul Mia's body in the hospital's emergency department. Upon receiving this news, Mukul's relatives and local residents blocked the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway.⁸¹

Freedom of the Media

47. Reports of repression against journalists were received during the tenure of the interim government from 1 January to 17 February 2026. During this period, journalists were attacked in retaliation for publishing news reports.
48. On the night of 10 January 2026, three youths arrived on motorcycles and hurled petrol bombs at the house of Shariful Islam Inna, the Sirajganj district correspondent of Amar Desh.⁸²
49. On 11 January 2026, Afzal Hossain and his associates, allegedly linked to the Awami League, attacked Rashedul Islam, Staff Reporter of the Daily Manabkantha, and Nazmul Hasan, journalist of Asian Television, in retaliation for publishing news reports, in Rupganj, Narayanganj. They were severely injured after being beaten with iron pipes.⁸³

⁷⁸ Prothom Alo, 7 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/8vy6rt6tbq>

⁷⁹ Samakal, 31 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/336108/>

⁸⁰ Section 15 (ii) of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013.

⁸¹ Bd-Pratidin, 24 January 2026; <https://www.bd-pratidin.com/last-page/2026/01/24/1208484>

⁸² Amar Desh, 11 January 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/amddfbjkb3ab6>

⁸³ Samakal, 12 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/333430/t>

50. On the night of 7 February 2026, members of the army picked up 21 media workers from the office of the online news portal Bangladesh Times, located in the Nikunja area of Dhaka, and took them to the Uttara Army Camp. The incident occurred after the outlet published, in the form of videos, footage containing a woman's remarks about the Army Chief during a protest organised by Inqilab Mancha. Sabbir Ahmed, Editor-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Times, stated that army personnel lined up the journalists and questioned them regarding the reels before finally releasing them.⁸⁴
51. On 12 February 2026, the day of the 13th National Parliamentary Elections, BNP leaders and activists attacked and injured Jobaer, the district correspondent of *Dainik Sangram*, at the Natore Government Girls' High School polling centre in Natore-2 constituency, for recording a disorder at the centre.⁸⁵ On the same day, in Hatiya of Noakhali district, while collecting election-related information, Bangladesh Television reporter Mirajuddin was attacked and seriously injured by associates of Abdul Halim Azad, an Awami League leader and former Union Parishad Chairman who supported the BNP-nominated candidate.⁸⁶



During the collection of election related information in the Gamchakhali area of Char Ishwar Union under Hatiya Upazila in Noakhali, BTV journalist Miraj Uddin was injured in an attack by criminals while performing his professional duties. Photo: Amar Desh, 13 February 2026

52. According to information collected by Odhikar, from 1 January to 17 February 2026, while carrying out their professional duties, five journalists were injured, one journalist was assaulted, two journalists received threats, and 21 journalists were abducted.

⁸⁴ Prothom Alo, 9 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/73s6ailr9a>

⁸⁵ Manabzamin, 13 February 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/878/নাটোরে-সাংবাদিককে-মারপিট>

⁸⁶ Amar Desh, 13 February 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/national/amdv2tgyj4ht6>

Section B: Period of the BNP Government (18 February to 31 March 2026)

Political Criminalization and Violence

53. At the 13th Parliamentary Elections, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won more than a two-thirds majority of seats and formed the government. After assuming power, allegations of criminalization, violence, and extortion emerged against BNP leaders and activists, including beating a person with disabilities to death⁸⁷; operating torture cells to suppress ordinary citizens⁸⁸; illegally cutting hills and causing environmental destruction⁸⁹; looting sand in collusion with Jubo League⁹⁰; sharing control over leases of markets and bazaars⁹¹; extortion⁹²; attacking university teachers⁹³; assaults for refusing to pay extortion demands⁹⁴; irregularities in the distribution of VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) cards⁹⁵; grabbing government-owned⁹⁶ *Jaalmohal* (water bodies)⁹⁷; hoarding petrol⁹⁸; forcibly harvesting crops from farmers⁹⁹; and forcibly submitting tender schedules¹⁰⁰.
54. To curb the activities of extortionists and bring them under the law, the police prepared an initial list covering all 64 districts of the country, and the capital, Dhaka. A total of 3,849 extortionists were included on this list, of whom 1,254 were from the Dhaka Metropolitan area alone. It has been alleged that approximately 90 percent of those listed by the police were affiliated in one way or another with political parties. It needs to be noted here that with each change of government, such individuals reportedly alter their previous identities and begin engaging in extortion under the patronage (and benefit) of the new ruling party.¹⁰¹
55. In Rupganj of Narayanganj, some activists affiliated with Mahfuzur Rahman Humayun, President of the Rupganj Upazila unit BNP, demanded an extortion payment of BDT one million as a lump sum and BDT 100,000 per month from Monowar Hossain, the owner of a GI wire factory named BLO Wire Nail Industries. When he refused to pay, BNP activists attacked the factory on 17 February 2026, assaulting workers and vandalizing the premises. When the

⁸⁷ Jugantor, 27 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1081485>

⁸⁸ Amar Desh, 23 February 2026; https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl3_row2_date_23-02-2026_edition_2_page3_303279_773524_updated_watermarked_be9208da-0c6f-47ce-af42-3c4fdd3c8e16.jpg

⁸⁹ Samakal, 9 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/342005>

⁹⁰ Samakal, 23 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/339839/>

⁹¹ Samakal, 26 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/340348/>

⁹² Manabzamin, 19 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1078463>

⁹³ Amar Desh, 26 February 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/education/campus/amddwqgm2obho>

⁹⁴ Amar Desh, 15 March 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/barisal/amdfrxql6n4ck>

⁹⁵ Jugantor, 13 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1077168>

⁹⁶ Samakal, 29 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/344658/>

⁹⁷ Manabzamin, 29 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/344658/>

⁹⁸ Ittefaq, 28 February 2026; <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/781471/>

⁹⁹ Jugantor, 22 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1069045>

¹⁰⁰ Manabzamin, 14 March 2026; https://www.mzamin.com/uploads/print-edition/2026-03-14/69b436bc6c9dd_1773418172.webp

¹⁰¹ Amar Desh, 28 March 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amdscvlh8wblk>

factory authorities called 999 for assistance, the police arrived at the scene two hours later. When the factory owner attempted to file a case at Rupganj Police Station, the Officer-in-Charge (OC), Sabjel Hossain, refused to accept the complaint unless the name of BNP leader Mahfuzur Rahman Humayun was omitted. On 18 February, Monowar Hossain was compelled to file the case without mentioning Humayun's name. Although police arrested the main accused, Belayet Akon, he was released shortly afterwards.¹⁰²

56. On 11 March 2026, during a drug raid, RAB arrested local Jubo Dal¹⁰³ leader Faridul Alam Farid from Teknaf under Cox's Bazar District. Following his arrest, Farid's supporters attacked RAB personnel and set fire to a RAB vehicle. Farid has been accused of involvement in drug trafficking. Eight RAB members were injured in the attack.¹⁰⁴
57. On 30 March 2026, filmmakers who had produced a film on the July 2024 mass uprising during the tenure of the interim government, went to the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) to collect their payment cheques. Inside the office of the Director General, DFP cameraman Mohammad Mashiur Rahman demanded 40% of the budget from the filmmakers as a "percentage". When the filmmakers protested, Mashiur Rahman called activists of the Chhatra Dal¹⁰⁵ from Habibullah Bahar College via mobile phone. Subsequently, Chhatra Dal activists attacked the filmmakers in the presence of the Director General inside his office, leaving seven filmmakers injured.¹⁰⁶
58. During this period, clashes occurred over dominance between leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations and those of Jamaat-e-Islami, NCP, and the Awami League (whose activities have been declared banned).
59. On 21 February, a clash between two groups of the NCP, over extortion, left four people injured in Fatullah of Narayanganj District.¹⁰⁷
60. On 1 March 2026, Ariful Islam, a Chhatra Dal leader, was beaten to death by Jamaat-e-Islami activists in Sharankhola of Bagerhat.¹⁰⁸
61. On 2 March 2026, a clash between BNP leaders and activists and Awami League leaders and activists, over fishing in a government pond, resulted in the deaths of two elderly men, Ismail Hossain (70) and Abdus Salam (60) in Raiganj of Sirajganj.¹⁰⁹
62. On 13 March 2026, a dispute over a meeting and iftar gathering, organised by female activists of Jamaat-e-Islami, led to a clash between BNP and Jamaat leaders and activists in Madhabpur Village of Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila. Local

¹⁰² Prothom Alo, 25 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/e5tapuif0o>

¹⁰³ Youth wing of BNP

¹⁰⁴ Ittefaq, 12 March 2026; <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/779073/>

¹⁰⁵ Student wing of BNP

¹⁰⁶ Prothom Alo, 31 March 2026, <https://www.prothomalo.com/entertainment/dhallywood/0er8e9h51s>

¹⁰⁷ Jugantor, 22 February 2026, <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1068872>

¹⁰⁸ Jugantor, 3 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1072663>

¹⁰⁹ Amar Desh, 3 March 2026; <https://www.dhakapost.com/country/434829>

Krishak Dal¹¹⁰ leader Tabu Munshi was killed, and 12 people from both sides were injured.¹¹¹

63. On 20 March 2026, a group of miscreants led by Awami League leader Monohar Ali allegedly attacked the house of a man named Hafez Majumdar, vandalized and looted the property and harassed women, in Chaudhagram of Cumilla.¹¹²
64. On 25 March 2026, supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly beat to death a Krishak Dal leader Abul Kashem in Harinakundu Upazila of Jhenaidah. Following the incident, BNP leaders and activists attacked and vandalized the homes of Jamaat supporters.¹¹³
65. In Brahmanpara of Cumilla, Aminul Islam Sujon – organising secretary of the Upazila Awami League and a suspended (due to fake certificates) headmaster of Barakhola Abdul Matin Khasru Girls' High School – was released on bail from jail in a case filed over allegations of attacking students and civilians during the July mass uprising. On 29 March 2026, he, along with over fifty leaders and activists from the BNP and Awami League, went to Barakhola Abdul Matin Khasru Girls' High School and attacked the acting head teacher Hasina Islam. Seriously injured, Hasina Islam was admitted to the Upazila Health Complex.¹¹⁴

Internal Conflict within BNP

66. After the BNP assumed power, the tendency for internal clashes among leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations increased significantly, driven by attempts to establish local dominance and over past rivalries.¹¹⁵ Party leaders and activists were killed and injured in these clashes.¹¹⁶ During this period, conflicts arose over various petty interests, including paying tribute to the martyrs of Language Movement Day¹¹⁷, disputes over being made the chief guest at events¹¹⁸, distribution of VGF rice¹¹⁹, control over the scrap business¹²⁰, and distribution of government-allocated rice¹²¹ during Eid.
67. On 10 March 2026, a 25-year-old youth named Sajib Chowdhury Akash was killed in a clash between two BNP factions over the distribution of VGF rice, cutting soil from paddy fields, and the upcoming Union Parishad elections in Sitakunda, Chattogram.¹²²

¹¹⁰ Farmer wing of BNP

¹¹¹ Amar Desh, 14 March 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amd3v12hojyte>

¹¹² Manabzamin, 25 March 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/printed-edition/DKQz9tMoXV18>

¹¹³ Amar Desh, 27 March 2026 ; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amdkpdpzlpikf>

¹¹⁴ Amar Desh, 31 March 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdxgqmy5vqay>

¹¹⁵ Prothom Alo, 27 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/nn0igibpa0>

¹¹⁶ Samakal, 28 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/340657>

¹¹⁷ Amar Desh, 22 February 2026; https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl9_row8_date_22-02-2026_edition_1_page6_422018_568643_watermarked_9aac5937-1b09-49b1-b06f-d19bb453a56d.jpg

¹¹⁸ Samakal, 28 February 2026 ; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/340657>

¹¹⁹ Manabzamin, 11 March 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/5112/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87>

¹²⁰ Manabzamin, 20 February 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/1879/%E0%A6%9D%E0%A7%81>

¹²¹ Bangla tribune, 25 February 2026; <https://www.banglatribune.com/country/khulna/935443/>

¹²² Manabzamin 12 March 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/5252/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%80>

68. On 15 March 2026, Jubo Dal activist Hona Mia was killed in a clash between two BNP factions over taking away soil from agricultural land in Feni.¹²³
69. **Between 18 February and 31 March 2026, at least 25 people were killed and 440 injured in political violence. During this period, 30 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP were recorded. It is reported that seven people were killed and 215 injured in these internal BNP conflicts. During this period, one incident of internal conflict within the NCP was recorded, where five people were injured.**

The International Crimes Tribunal

Judicial Proceedings

70. Proceedings have been underway since 2025 at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) to prosecute various crimes against humanity—including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings—committed during the July movement and throughout Sheikh Hasina’s 15-and-a-half-year rule. After the BNP came to power, the government removed Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam and appointed Aminul Islam as the new Chief Prosecutor of the ICT.¹²⁴
71. In a case concerning crimes against humanity, related to the killings during the July mass uprising in 2024, Adham Bin Amin—a school student who was shot during the protests—testified as the third witness on 3 March 2026 against Salman F. Rahman, the industry and investment adviser to the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; and the then Law Minister Anisul Huq. While giving his testimony before the International Crimes Tribunal-1, Adham stated that on 26 February 2026, local Awami League members attacked him with the intent to kill because he had become a witness in the case.¹²⁵
72. According to latest information, a total of 24 formal charge sheets have been submitted to the two tribunals so far. Among these, verdicts have already been delivered in three cases; one case is awaiting judgment; another has concluded witness hearings and is scheduled for the submission of certain documents; and 19 cases are currently ongoing.¹²⁶

State Repression

73. During the authoritarian rule of the Sheikh Hasina – led AL government, the surveillance agency National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) collected information on victims and shared it with law enforcement and intelligence agencies, thereby facilitating human rights violations against them. During that period, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, and other forms of human rights abuses were carried out with the support of the NTMC. For this reason, the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced

¹²³ Daily Star, 15 March 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/man-killed-clash-over-soil-extraction-feni-cropland-4129196>

¹²⁴ Jugantor, 25 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1080458>

¹²⁵ Amar Desh, 3 March 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/court-law/amdz5krlrxfbw>

¹²⁶ Jugantor, 25 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1080458>

Disappearances recommended the dissolution of the NTMC. However, after coming to power, the BNP government extended the tenure of the NTMC, despite the fact that its members had been widely victimized by this agency during the authoritarian period.¹²⁷

Torture, degrading treatment, custodial death, and lack of accountability by members of law enforcement agencies

74. From 17 February 2026, after the BNP assumed power, until 31 March (the end of this reporting period), incidents of torture and degrading treatment of citizens by members of law enforcement agencies have been reported in the country. In addition, allegations have been made of police officials being transferred in exchange for bribes.¹²⁸
75. During this reporting period, allegations, including of assaulting students and journalists during anti-drug operations¹²⁹, and collecting extortion money from auto-rickshaws on highways¹³⁰, have been made against members of law enforcement agencies.
76. In Bhangura Upazila of Pabna District, a group of police led by Sub-Inspector Anis of Bhangura Police Station beat the wife and sister-in-law of an accused person after failing to find him during an arrest operation.¹³¹
77. At Pekua Police Station in Cox's Bazar District, Sub-Inspector Pallab allegedly took a bribe of 20,000 taka from Rehana Mostafa Ranu and her daughter, college student Zubaida Begum, in connection with a case. However, despite taking the money, SI Pallab submitted an adverse report. On 4 March 2026, when Rehana Mostafa Ranu and Zubaida Begum went to the police station to demand the return of the money, they were detained and beaten. Later, to cover up the incident, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer was brought in and a mobile court was quickly convened, sentencing both mother and daughter to one month's imprisonment each. A source in the district jail reported that upon arrival, marks of injury were visible on their bodies. Initially, the jail authorities refused to accept them and sent them for medical treatment. Later, based on the magistrate's testimony and medical documents from a government hospital, they were taken to the jail.¹³²
78. On 4 March 2026, SI Asaduzzaman and ASI Asir Uddin of Mahadebpur Police Station in Naogaon District went with a police force to arrest accused Emran Hossain, who was wanted under an arrest warrant, at his home. Sensing the presence of police, Emran fled. Accusing him of helping his son escape, the police detained Emran's father, Abdul Hamid (66). While being taken away,

¹²⁷ Amar Desh, 16 March 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/amar-desh-special/special-report/amd95mcfm8inx>

¹²⁸ Amar Desh, 31 March 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amd6l6ljkpi9ag>

¹²⁹ Samakal, 25 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/capital/article/340182>

¹³⁰ Jugantor, 27 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1070898>

¹³¹ Amar Desh, 27 February 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/rajshahi/amdemomugt7>

¹³² Amar Desh, 6 March 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amdum7nsxsnt>

the police personnel kicked him, causing him to fall to the ground, where he died.¹³³

Freedom of Expression

79. During this section of the reporting period, there were allegations of killings of dissenters and arrests of opposition political activists.
80. In Kalapara of Patuakhali District, during the parliamentary elections, vegetable trader Idris Khan posted on Facebook, a post accusing Zahirul Islam, General Secretary of Nilganj Union unit Jubo Dal, of various misconducts. On 26 February 2026, when Idris Khan went to Pakhimara Bazar, Zahirul Islam and his associates, in retaliation, grabbed him and took him to the Union Jubo Dal office where he was beaten. Idris Khan was admitted to hospital and died on 2 March while undergoing treatment.¹³⁴
81. On 27 March 2026, police arrested Azizul Haque, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader from Muktagacha in Mymensingh District, on allegations of sharing a Facebook post containing “derogatory remarks” about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. He was produced before the court under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure¹³⁵, and the court ordered that he be sent to jail. The Officer-in-Charge of Muktagacha Police Station, Lutfur Rahman, stated that Azizul was initially shown as arrested under Section 54 prior to filing the case. A case was later filed against him under the Cyber Security Act, 2026.¹³⁶

Freedom of the Media

82. After the BNP government came to power in February 2026, allegations were made that journalists had been attacked and harassed by miscreants and ruling party leaders and activists while they were performing their professional duties and as a result of publishing news reports.
83. On 22 February 2026, Chakaria correspondents of *Daily Azadi Chhoton Kanti Nath*, *Daily Sangbad* and *Daily Suprobhat Bangladesh* M. Ziaul Haque, and *Daily Amar Desh* and *Daily Purbodesh* AKM Iqbal Faruk, were attacked by local miscreant Nazim Uddin and his associates, when they went to document illegal sand extraction in canals and agricultural land in the Harbang Ichhachhari area in Chakaria Upazila of Cox’s Bazar District. The three journalists were seriously injured in this incident.¹³⁷

¹³³ Jugantor, 6 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1074061>

¹³⁴ Samakal, 4 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/341265>

¹³⁵ Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure allows the police to arrest anyone without arrant of arrest in several circumstances. It is a section of the law that is misused for political purposes.

¹³⁶ Manabzamin, 29 March 2026;

<https://www.mzamin.com/article/7508/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0>

¹³⁷ Amar Desh, 26 February 2026; <https://www.dailyamardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amd6teepphfv1>



Two of the journalists injured in attack by local miscreants in Chakaria. Photo: Amar Desh, 26 February 2026

84. On 2 March 2026, in Shyamnagar of Satkhira, following the publication of a news report, Shyamnagar Press Club President and *Samakal* upazila correspondent Samiul Monir was dragged out from the press club and severely beaten by a group of miscreants led by Union Jubo Dal member secretary Angur. The attackers also vandalized press club property and took away important documents. Seriously injured, Samiul Monir was admitted to the Upazila Health Complex.¹³⁸



Shyamnagar Press Club President and Samakal Upazila Correspondent Samiul Monir injured in attack by Jubo Dal member secretary Angur. Photo: Samakal, 3 March 2026

85. On 5 March 2026, allegations were made that members of the Islami Chhatra Shibir¹³⁹ had attacked journalists at the office of the Journalists Association of Jagannath University in Dhaka. In this attack, 12 journalists were injured. It has also been alleged that journalists have been attacked at various times for publishing news against representatives of the Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JOKSU).¹⁴⁰
86. According to information collected by Odhikar, during the period from 18 February to 31 March 2026, while performing professional duties, 25 journalists were injured, three were assaulted and seven journalists were sued.

¹³⁸ Samakal, 3 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/341150>

¹³⁹ Student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami

¹⁴⁰ Prothom Alo, 6 March 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/video/bangladesh/ba38dji121>, Samakal, 5 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/341515>

Section C: State Institutions, Institutional and Legal Reforms and Human Rights

87. During the previous authoritarian government led by Sheikh Hasina, several key state institutions became dysfunctional. Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, the interim government promulgated 133 Ordinances, many aimed at ensuring that state institutions could function effectively and independently.
88. To prevent politically motivated appointments to the higher judiciary in the future and to ensure that courts no longer operate under Executive directives (as in the past), the interim government issued the *Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025*. To further support judicial independence, it also promulgated the *Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025* and the *Supreme Court Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026* to establish an independent secretariat for the Judiciary.
89. To establish a democratic state, reflecting the spirit of the July 2024 mass uprising, the interim government formulated the “July Charter” based on consensus among political parties. To assess public confidence in this Charter, the interim government organised a referendum alongside the national parliamentary elections. In the referendum, 68.26% of the voters voted in favour of the Charter and for change.
90. During the prolonged rule of the authoritarian AL regime, opposition leaders and activists, dissenting individuals, and ordinary citizens were subjected to various forms of repression, including judicial harassment, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, mass arrests, and torture. However, the then National Human Rights Commission remained silent on these issues. To ensure that successive Commissions do not become politically compliant bodies and to establish a strong and independent human rights institution, the interim government promulgated the *National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025*.
91. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) became an ineffective institution during the tenure of the Sheikh Hasina government. Despite widespread incidents of corruption during that period, the ACC failed to take any effective action. Moreover, it was used to suppress the opposition and target individuals and institutions holding dissenting views. Therefore, the interim government issued the *Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025* to take stricter measures against corruption.
92. A Special Committee of the National Parliament recommended repealing four Ordinances: the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025; the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025; the Supreme Court Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026; and the National Parliament Secretariat (Interim Special Provisions) Ordinance. Additionally, the ruling party members of the Parliamentary Special Committee ignored the notes of dissent submitted by opposition MPs and recommended repealing 16 significant

ordinances promulgated during the interim government period—including the *July National Charter Implementation Order, 2025*; the *Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*; the *Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025*; and the *National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025*—without presenting them as Bills in Parliament.

93. Although many human rights activists and organisations, including Odhikar, urged the government to convert these Ordinances into Acts, the government did not present them in Parliament as Bills. As a result, the Ordinances automatically lapsed. By repealing these important Ordinances, state institutions responsible for human rights and justice, have effectively been reverted to the subservient structures that existed under the authoritarian Awami League government.

Section D: Other Violations of Rights (01 January – 31 March 2026)

Situation of Workers in the Ready-Made Garment Sector

94. During this reporting period, workers staged protests, rallies, and road blockades to demand payment of outstanding wages, reopening of factories, and to protest layoffs. These actions led to clashes between the workers and members of law enforcement agencies. Additionally, police arrested workers in connection with a case.
95. On 24 January 2026, a group of workers led by Shariful Islam and Ruma Akter staged a protest at Global Fashion Ltd. and Global Outerwear Ltd., demanding payment of overdue wages. During the protest, a section of the workers vandalized various valuable assets of the factory, causing extensive damage. In this incident, factory official Sohel Rana filed a case with Savar Police Station, naming 87 individuals and accusing an additional 200–250 unidentified workers. On 29 January, police arrested 23 workers, and the factory authorities dismissed 69 workers from their jobs.¹⁴¹
96. The wages of approximately 80 workers for the month of January 2026 were withheld at B Brothers Garments in Rupganj, Narayanganj, and there were plans to terminate their employment after the payment of dues. In response, a section of the workers became agitated and began a work stoppage and protest inside the factory on 28 February. To resolve the situation, police held a meeting with the owners and workers, during which it was announced that the outstanding wages would be paid on 3 March 2026. However, the workers rejected the proposal from the factory authorities and blocked the Dhaka–Sylhet highway. When police attempted to remove them from the highway, clashes broke out. During the confrontation, police used batons and fired tear gas at the workers, leaving 10 workers injured.¹⁴²

¹⁴¹ Naya Diganta, 29 January 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/g4dg7qSOOi6q>

¹⁴² Prothom Alo, 28 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ugzh6fhs3f>

Rights of Religious and Ethnic Communities

97. During this quarter of 2026, the human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities, and individuals holding dissenting religious views were violated in different parts of the country. Miscreants set fire to the homes and temples of the Hindu community and vandalized idols and looted gold ornaments and cash. There were also allegations that religious extremists and influential individuals carried out attacks and vandalism at venues hosting Baul¹⁴³ music performances.
98. On 17 January 2026, a man named Zafar Alam was detained by members of the Mro community while allegedly stealing bananas from a plantation in the Janalipara area of Alikadam Upazila in Bandarban. Following this, Zafar's associates attacked members of the Mro community with locally made weapons and freed him. Subsequently, when members of the Mro community filed a written complaint to the police station, they were allegedly attacked by a group of miscreants led by Zafar Alam. As a result, 18 members of the Mro community were injured. According to the community, the police did not take any action despite the complaint.¹⁴⁴
99. On the night of 22 February 2026, approximately ten miscreants armed with locally made weapons, entered the Shri Shri Rakshakali Temple, vandalized the idols kept in the temple, looted items and set fire to the premises, in Rupganj of Narayanganj District.¹⁴⁵
100. On 22 March 2026, in Bishwanath, Sylhet, locals attacked and vandalized the stage at a shrine (mazar) of Ibrahim Mastan, also known as Iboi Shah, during an *Urs*¹⁴⁶ and a Baul music event, forcing the programme to shut down. In protest of this incident, on 23 March, devotees of the shrine allegedly chased and confined the Imam of a local mosque and broke the mosque's windows.¹⁴⁷

Prisons and Human Rights

101. During the three-month period from January to March 2026, there was no improvement to the prison systems.¹⁴⁸ During this reporting period, three murder suspects were released from Mymensingh District Jail without bail orders.¹⁴⁹ Additionally, when a woman involved in the July 2024 movement, was detained, prison authorities placed her in a cell where most inmates were

¹⁴³ Bauls are a group of mystic minstrels from Bengal (Bangladesh and India) who practice a syncretic, unconventional, and deeply spiritual way of life, often seen as a blend of Sufi Islam and Vaishnava Hinduism. Recognized by UNESCO for their musical tradition, they sing, dance, and perform with instruments like the *ektara* and *dotara* to express devotion and seek spiritual liberation, emphasizing that God resides within the human body.

¹⁴⁴ Jugantor, 18 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1054508>

¹⁴⁵ Samakal, 24 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/340023>

¹⁴⁶ Urs is the death anniversary celebration of a Sufi saint, commonly observed in South Asia, marking the union of the saint's soul with the Divine. Events include Qawwali (devotional music), Mehfil-e-Naat (poetry in praise of the Prophet), and special prayers.

¹⁴⁷ Samakal, 25 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/344059>

¹⁴⁸ Samakal, 29 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/khulna/article/335901>

¹⁴⁹ Naya Diganta, 29 January 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/uoAmQfg941mC>

affiliated with Awami League politics. As a result, she was subjected to abuse by these inmates.¹⁵⁰ Many prisoners suffer from various illnesses, yet prisons lack permanent doctors. Against a requirement of 148 doctors for 75 prison hospitals, only two permanent doctors are currently in place. Due to the absence of permanent medical staff, doctors are temporarily assigned from the Civil Surgeon's office. These temporary doctors attend in the morning and leave by noon, making it impossible to provide immediate treatment if a prisoner falls ill at night. Furthermore, ambulances are necessary to quickly transfer seriously ill prisoners to hospitals; however, there are only 27 ambulances for the 75 prison hospitals.¹⁵¹ In addition, although there are about 600 mentally ill prisoners nationwide, there are no psychiatrists in the prison system, despite regulations requiring at least one for each prison. There are also no gynecologists for female prisoners. During this period, incidents of suicide among prisoners occurred, and allegations of killings were also reported inside prisons.¹⁵²

102. On 11 January 2026, Proloy Chaki (60), cultural secretary of the Pabna District Awami League and a musician, died while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while in prison custody. His family alleged that he died due to a lack of proper medical treatment in prison.¹⁵³
103. On 7 February 2026, a detainee named Bidyut Ali at Kushtia District Jail reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself with a cloth tied to a window bar, inside the prison hospital toilet, according to prison authorities.¹⁵⁴
104. On 11 March 2026, a detainee named Rasel Mia (27) died in Habiganj District Jail. Prison authorities stated that he died of 'illness'. However, his father, Atik Mia, alleged that Rasel was killed inside the prison.¹⁵⁵
105. **From January to March 2026, according to Odhikar's documentation, 21 persons died in prison. According to the information, two of them died allegedly due to suicide and 19 due to unspecified illnesses.**

The Death Penalty and Human Rights

107. Despite the existence of provisions for alternative sentencing, imposing the death penalty remains the common practice in the criminal justice system, and the tendency of lower courts to award capital punishment as the highest penalty continues as before. From 01 January to 31 March 2026, lower courts sentenced several accused persons to death. Due to the slow pace of appeal hearings, death row inmates continue to wait for years in condemned cells. Keeping death-sentenced prisoners in condemned cells until the final disposal of their cases is unreasonable and constitutes a violation of human rights.

¹⁵⁰ Jugantor, 7 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1049609>

¹⁵¹ Samakal, 16 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/334041>

¹⁵² Samakal, 16 January 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/334041>

¹⁵³ Prothom Alo, 12 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ipu5ypn4i1>

¹⁵⁴ Prothom Alo, 7 February 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/6vcaln2xor>

¹⁵⁵ Prothom Alo, 11 March 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/0dx6wi74qr>

108. As per Odhikar's documentation, from January to March 2026, the lower courts sentenced 45 persons to death.

Mob Violence

109. Incidents of mob violence continued during the first three months of 2026. There remains a widespread lack of public confidence in law enforcement agencies and the justice system. Most incidents of mob beatings occurred on suspicion of theft.¹⁵⁶ Additionally, opportunistic criminals have also used mob violence to kill innocent people for personal gain. During this period, there were also allegations of a lawyer being killed by mob beating.¹⁵⁷
110. On 7 January 2026, a young man named Akidul Islam (42) was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of cattle theft in Magura Sadar Upazila. The victim's family alleged that some local youth killed him after failing to extort money from him.¹⁵⁸
111. On 20 January 2026, a shopkeeper named Rafiqul Islam (42) was hacked to death by a man named Palash (40) over a land dispute in Jessore. Later, a mob of local people beat Palash to death.¹⁵⁹
112. On 20 February 2026, local villagers beat two individuals—Moinul Islam (55) and Lebu Mia (24)—to death on suspicion of robbery in Sadullapur, Gaibandha.¹⁶⁰
113. On 4 March 2026, local people beat two young men—Mohammad Sagar (32) and Sanarul (34)—to death following allegations of theft in Louhajang Upazila of Munshiganj.¹⁶¹
114. In Bauphal Upazila of Patuakhali, a farmer named Shahjahan Khan (60) was beaten by a mob on suspicion of stealing watermelons and died on 25 March while undergoing treatment at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.¹⁶²
- 115. From January to March 2026, according to Odhikar's documentation, 19 persons were killed in mob beatings.**

¹⁵⁶ Manabzamin, 8 January 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/old-archive?news=197718#gsc.tab=0>

¹⁵⁷ The Business Standard, 2 January 2026; <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/case-filed-over-lawyer-beaten-death-bashundhara-1324441>

¹⁵⁸ Daily Star, 8 January 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/mob-beats-man-death-theft-suspicion-magura-4075966>

¹⁵⁹ Naya Diganta, 20 January 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/UoDLY45up4Xd>

¹⁶⁰ New Age, 20 February 2026; <https://www.newagebd.net/post/Country/291818/>

¹⁶¹ Daily Star, 4 March 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/two-killed-mob-attack-over-theft-4120856>

¹⁶² Samakal, 26 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/344213>

Violence against Women

116. In the first three months of 2026, women across the country were subjected to rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, and acid attacks.¹⁶³ Due to the lack of social protection mechanisms and an ineffective justice system, perpetrators of violence against women escape accountability. Victims are being denied justice.

Rape

117. From January to March 2026, many of the reported victims of rape were children.¹⁶⁴ Some children who were raped were later killed.¹⁶⁵ In Patuakhali, a father¹⁶⁶, and in Narsingdi a stepfather¹⁶⁷ allegedly raped and then deliberately killed their child victims. In Pabna, after killing a grandmother, her minor granddaughter was raped¹⁶⁸, and a schoolteacher was also raped and killed¹⁶⁹.

118. In cases where complaints were filed regarding child rape and the accused were arrested by police, members of the perpetrators' families attacked the victims' homes.¹⁷⁰

119. During this period, a college student was gang-raped on a moving bus¹⁷¹ and one on a launch¹⁷². In addition, a pregnant woman¹⁷³ and a woman with disabilities¹⁷⁴ were also raped. There were also incidents where a wife was raped while her husband was detained.¹⁷⁵ A female client was raped by her lawyer¹⁷⁶, and a teenage rape survivor committed suicide¹⁷⁷ due to distress. During this period, allegations of rape were also made against BNP¹⁷⁸ and Chhatra Dal leaders¹⁷⁹, Jubo League activists¹⁸⁰, and leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Movement¹⁸¹.

¹⁶³ New Age, 16 February 2026; <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/291428/woman-sustains-burns-in-natore-acid-attack>

¹⁶⁴ Samakal, 19 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/343562>

¹⁶⁵ Manabzamin, 6 January 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/old-archive?news=197470#gsc.tab=0> Samakal, 8 March 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/341870>

¹⁶⁶ Prothom Alo, 6 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/kpl1og3lti>

¹⁶⁷ Prothom Alo, 7 March 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/mlipzzs24q>

¹⁶⁸ Prothom Alo, 1 March 2026; <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/optn02usrj>

¹⁶⁹ Jugantor, 1 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1071797>

¹⁷⁰ Jugantor, 2 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1060560>

¹⁷¹ Daily Star, 16 January 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/gang-rape-moving-bus-2-arrestees-confess-crime-4082631>

¹⁷² The Financial Express, 10 March 2026; <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/crime/two-arrested-over-rape-of-college-student-on-launch>. A launch is a large, multi-story passenger ferry used to navigate the country's extensive network of rivers and waterways.

¹⁷³ Jugantor, 13 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1076954>

¹⁷⁴ Jugantor, 16 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1053519>

¹⁷⁵ Jugantor, 25 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1080577>

¹⁷⁶ Amar Desh, 2 February 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/sylhet/amdlhzm9tyt>

¹⁷⁷ Prothom Alo, 1 April 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/x209bzkkbo>

¹⁷⁸ Jugantor, 18 March 2026; <https://epaper.jugantor.com/social-data/2026-03-18/4/imgmap202631882213/290,790,381,1092/3>

¹⁷⁹ Amar Desh, 1 February 2026; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/chattogram/amd3he9jny1ec>

¹⁸⁰ Jugantor, 18 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1054516>

¹⁸¹ Prothom Alo, 8 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/tavb3k471d>

120. On 11 January 2026, a couple visited Manikganj General Hospital late at night, seeking a safe shelter due to travel difficulties. At that time, Ansar members Shahadat Hossain and Abu Sayeed threatened the husband and raped the wife. Police arrested the two Ansar members.¹⁸²
121. On 28 February 2026 around midnight, some unidentified criminals entered the house of an elderly woman named Sufia Begum (66), killed her, and abducted her granddaughter, Jamila Akter in Ishwardi, Pabna. The perpetrators then raped and killed Jamila Akter and dumped her body in a nearby mustard field.¹⁸³
122. Although a bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court has directed authorities to take necessary measures to prevent informal settlements in rape cases, influential local individuals are still resolving many rape cases through informal mediation and earning large sums of money in this process.¹⁸⁴
123. **Odhikar has documented that, from 01 January to 31 March 2026, 109 women and children were victims of rape. Among them, 50 were women and 59 were girl children. Among those 50 women 27 were gang-raped and three were killed after rape. Among the 59 girl children, 13 were gang-raped, eight were killed after rape, and one committed suicide.**

Stalking and Sexual Harassment

124. In the three-month period of January–March 2026, women from various ages, social and professional backgrounds, were subjected to stalking and sexual harassment by men.¹⁸⁵ Individuals ranging from school teachers to university teachers¹⁸⁶ have been accused of sexual harassment. Female athletes in sports institutions¹⁸⁷, as well as approximately 15 percent of journalists¹⁸⁸ in the country, are facing sexual harassment in their workplaces. During this period, the father of a victim was killed¹⁸⁹ for protesting against harassment by miscreants.
125. In Bhuapur, Tangail, a garment worker named Rubel Hossain posted indecent photos of a woman on his Facebook account. Following a complaint filed by the victim at Bhuapur Police Station, police detained the accused Rubel Hossain on 14 February. However, the police deleted the indecent photos from Rubel's cell phone. When the victim's family protested the incident, Sub-Inspector Rubel Mia, Assistant Sub-Inspector Ananta Das, and Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Sabbir Rahman of the police station misbehaved with the victim's sister, verbally

¹⁸² Dhaka tribune, 12 January 2026; <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/400871/2-ansar-members-arrested-for-alleged-assault-on>

¹⁸³ Jugantor, 28 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1071541>

¹⁸⁴ Jugantor, 17 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1078699>

¹⁸⁵ Manabzamin, 6 March 2026; <https://www.mzamin.com/article/4178/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE>

¹⁸⁶ Amar Desh, 8 February 2026; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/337122>

¹⁸⁷ Daily Star, 3 January 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/sports/more-sports/news/nsc-relives-shooting-federation-joint-secretary-haider-his-duties-4072371>

¹⁸⁸ Daily Star, 25 March 2026; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/15-journalists-report-workplace-sexual-harassment-women-face-higher-rates-survey-4135096>

¹⁸⁹ Jugantor, 9 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1075236>

abused her, and forced her out of the police station stating that no case would be filed.¹⁹⁰

126. On 26 March 2026, before the start of an Independence Day concert organised by Bhawal Badre Alam Government College in Gazipur, a leader of the banned Chhatra League¹⁹¹, named Abir made offensive remarks towards several female students. When a student named Khayrul Alam Pavel protested against it, Abir along with some miscreants, attacked Pavel in the student union hall, stabbing him and severely injuring him by cutting the tendons of his hand.¹⁹²
127. **As per Odhikar documentation, from January to March 2026, a total of eight women and female children were subjected to sexual harassment. Among them one was killed, five were assaulted, and two were abducted. In addition, while protesting incidents of sexual harassment against women and children, two men were killed and one man was injured. Moreover, two women were killed due to protest of stalking/sexual harassment.**

Dowry-related Violence

128. Violence against women over dowry demands remained prevalent during this three-month period. During this period, reports included cases where a pregnant housewife suffered a miscarriage after being beaten for failing to provide dowry¹⁹³, a woman being chained and beaten throughout the night¹⁹⁴, a woman was a victim of attempted murder and forced to have her head shaved¹⁹⁵, a woman was stabbed in the neck¹⁹⁶, and allegations of murder and severe injuries by hacking over dowry demands.¹⁹⁷
129. On 22 March 2026, Anika Khatun Farhana, a mother of two, was killed by her husband Sagar for failing to provide a dowry of BDT 200,000 in Sonargaon Upazila of Narayanganj District.
130. **In the first three months of 2026, Odhikar found that a total of 17 women were victims of dowry-related violence. Among them, four women were killed due to dowry demands, and 13 women were subjected to various forms of abuse.**

Neighbouring Countries: India and Myanmar

India's aggressive policy and human rights violations at the Bangladesh-India border

131. During this reporting period, some Indian media outlets had broadcast false and fabricated reports, including claims of attacks on the Hindu citizens in

¹⁹⁰ Jugantor, 16 February 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1066341>

¹⁹¹ The student wing of the Awami League, notorious for criminal activities and corruption and whose activities were banned soon after the fall of the repressive AL regime in August 2024.

¹⁹² Jugantor, 29 March 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1081332>

¹⁹³ Jugantor, 12 February 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1064461>

¹⁹⁴ Jugantor, 30 January 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1059453>

¹⁹⁵ Jugantor, 5 March 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1073618>

¹⁹⁶ Manabzamin 7 March 2026 <https://www.mzamin.com/article/4333/%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%8C>

¹⁹⁷ Jugantor, 10 March 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1075740>

Bangladesh.¹⁹⁸ However, these claims were proven false through fact-checking.¹⁹⁹ According to the fact-checking organisation Rumor Scanner, in 2025 alone, at least 126 incidents of fake information about Bangladesh were spread by Indians via social media platform X (formerly Twitter). In addition, since 2024, there has been an increase in the spread of rumours and disinformation about Bangladesh—circulated through Indian media, India-based social media accounts, as well as Facebook within the country—targeting the then interim government and the political parties and organisations involved in the 2024 mass uprising.²⁰⁰

132. On 3 January 2026, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) expelled Bangladesh's only cricketer included in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Mustafizur Rahman, based on false and fabricated allegations of attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh. Following instructions from the BCCI, the Kolkata Knight Riders club removed Mustafizur Rahman from their team.²⁰¹

133. In addition to the spread of false and misleading news, on 12 March 2026, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, stated, in the Indian Parliament, that incidents of attacks on minority communities' homes, businesses, and places of worship had occurred across Bangladesh. She further claimed that from August 2024 to February 2026, approximately 3,100 incidents of violence against Hindus and other minority communities took place in Bangladesh.²⁰²

134. Human rights violations by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) against Bangladeshi citizens at the Bangladesh-India border continue. During this reporting period, on 4 January 2026, members of the BSF Patla Tola sub-camp detained a Bangladeshi youth named Rabiul Islam (35) and tortured him to death at the Chapainawabganj border.²⁰³

Illegal Push-in by BSF

135. The Indian ruling establishment, in order to pressure the Government of Bangladesh, has been carrying out provocative "push-in" operations of Rohingya people²⁰⁴ residing in India and Indian Muslim citizens, into Bangladesh since 7 May 2025, violating international law²⁰⁵ and human rights, by labeling them as "Bangladeshi". The majority of those being pushed in have reportedly been subjected to inhumane conditions in India.²⁰⁶ The Chief Minister

¹⁹⁸ Naya Diganta, 16 September 2024; <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/864407/>

¹⁹⁹ BBC, 18 August 2024; <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/articles/c5y8qdex205o>

²⁰⁰ Naya Diganta, 28 January 2026; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/national/iQm0FpVEfJLx>

²⁰¹ Times of India, 3 January 2026; <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/kkr-drops-mustafizur-rahman-politics-erupts-over-bangladesh-player-in-ipl-opposition-targets-bcci/articleshow/126323364.cms>

²⁰² The Financial Express, 14 March 2026; <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/3100-attacks-on-bangladeshi-minorities-in-18-months-claims-indian-govt>

²⁰³ New Age, 6 January 2026; <https://www.newagebd.net/post/foreign-affairs/287298/bangladeshi-youth-dies-in-bsf-custody>

²⁰⁴ Samakal, 24 June 2025; ; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/301873/>

²⁰⁵ Expulsions of aliens in international human rights law, OHCHR Discussion paper, Geneva, September 2006; <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/4bf6813a9.pdf>

²⁰⁶ Jugantor, 3 January 2026; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/1048076>

of India's northeastern state of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sharma, stated that nearly two thousand people have been "pushed back" to Bangladesh in recent months using the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950.²⁰⁷

136. On 14 January 2026, the Border Security Force (BSF) pushed into Bangladesh, 17 people at the Charaldanga border in Gomostapur Upazila of Chapainawabganj. Among the 17 individuals, there were 8 men, 5 women, and 4 children.²⁰⁸
137. **According to Odhikar documentation, from January to March 2026, one Bangladeshi was tortured to death by BSF. Furthermore, BSF injured two people by bullet shot. 17 people were forcibly pushed into Bangladesh by BSF.**

Bangladesh-Myanmar Border

138. Due to the prolonged war between the Myanmar military junta and armed insurgent groups in Rakhine State, Bangladeshi citizens living along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border have been facing insecurity. At times, shells have been fired during internal conflicts in Myanmar, that land inside Bangladesh, causing deaths and injuries, including loss of limbs among Bangladeshi civilians. In addition, Bangladeshi fishermen are frequently harassed and subjected to abuse by the Arakan Army, an armed group in Myanmar, while fishing at sea. In some cases, fishermen are abducted. Between September 2025 and January 2026, at least 420 fishermen from Teknaf and Saint Martin's were abducted by members of the Arakan Army.²⁰⁹
139. On 11 January 2026, a ten-year-old child named Huzaifa Sultana Afnan went with her grandfather to a nearby shop to buy snacks in Whykong Union under Teknaf Upazila in Cox's Bazar. At that time, a fragment of a shell fired from Myanmar's Rakhine State struck Huzaifa on the head. After 27 days of medical treatment, Huzaifa died at a hospital in Dhaka on 7 February.²¹⁰
140. On 19 January 2026, while working near the Naikhongchhari border in Bandarban, two Bangladeshi youths, Sharif Uddin and Saimon, were abducted by members of the Arakan Army and subjected to torture. After local residents contacted senior Bangladeshi authorities, the Arakan Army released them on 31 January, and they later returned to Bangladesh.²¹¹
141. On 28 March 2026, while Bangladeshi fishermen were returning after catching fish at sea, members of the Arakan Army opened fire at the mouth of the Naf River in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar district. One fisherman was injured by gunfire, and the Arakan Army abducted 14 fishermen.²¹²

²⁰⁷ Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950;

<https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1674/1/aA1950-10.pdf>

²⁰⁸ New Age, 14 January 2026; <https://www.newagebd.net/post/foreign%20affairs/288141/17-more-people-pushed-into-bangladesh>

²⁰⁹ Prothom Alo, 29 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/h96wl0471h>

²¹⁰ Manabzamin, 8 February 2026 <https://www.mzamin.com/old-archive?news=202323#gsc.tab=0>

²¹¹ Jugantor, 1 February 2026 <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1060063>

²¹² Samakal, 29 March 2026; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2026-03-29/16/677>

Section E: Recommendations

It is truly unfortunate that Bangladesh is observing a regression of sorts. The July 2024 Uprising – with its casualties and loss of lives – was focused on bringing change and the creation of a better Bangladesh. However, in the first three months of 2026, we have seen the continuation of human rights violations perpetrated by law enforcement, attacks of freedom of expression and other rights and a disregard for all those who voted for the Referendum (and won). Below are some of the recommendations that Odhikar will continue to push for.

1. Political party leaders and activists must stop political violence and criminal activities. To this end, the ruling party must take initiatives to stop such behaviour and treat perpetrators as per the law.
2. Members of law enforcement agencies involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, and inhumane treatment must be brought to justice. To ensure proper implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, an independent and impartial investigation body must be established immediately, and the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) should be disbanded.
3. All Ordinances promulgated by the interim government that have been lapsed should be reviewed as soon as possible and placed in Parliament as Bills and enacted into law. The government must swiftly establish the National Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Supreme Court Secretariat through necessary legal and structural reforms.
4. A National Preventive Mechanism for torture prevention must be established immediately as per the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture, acceded to by Bangladesh in July 2025.
5. The BDR mutiny, the Shapla Chattar massacre, and all recorded incidents of enforced disappearances must be transparently investigated and tried through the International Crimes Tribunal, while ensuring justice and commensurate reparations for victims, and affected families.
6. Allegations of irregularities, negligence, and corruption by prison officials must be investigated and legal action taken. All forms of human rights violations, including torture and abuse of prisoners, must be stopped, and proper medical treatment for sick prisoners must be ensured.
7. Freedom of expression and media at all levels must be guaranteed. Attacks on journalists must be properly investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.
8. A Victim and Witness Protection Act must be enacted, as must a law criminalizing Enforced Disappearances (as the government allowed the Ordinance to lapse). The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013 must be amended to ensure compensation following Article 14 of the UNCAT.
9. Violence against women and children must be effectively controlled through arrest and prosecution of perpetrators, along with increased social awareness measures. Arbitration or informal settlements in cases of rape and violence against women must be prohibited and those who organize the same, punished

for doing so. To ensure justice for women, police must properly investigate cases, arrest accused persons, and bring them under judicial process. The archaic definition of “rape” in the Penal Code must be revised.

10. All forms of human rights violations against Bangladeshi citizens at the border, by India’s Border Security Force (BSF), including killings and torture, must be stopped. Illegal push-ins by the Indian government must be stopped. India’s hegemonic and aggressive behavior towards Bangladesh must end.

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Notes:

1. Odhikar seeks to uphold the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.
2. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders and monitors media reports.
3. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations into some of the most significant violations, with assistance from trained local human rights defenders.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.