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Press Release **Human Rights Situation Report of Bangladesh (February–2026)**

The month of February 2026 has been marked as a very important chapter in the history of Bangladesh. Following the end of the long-standing authoritarian rule through the student–people’s mass uprising of 2024, the democratic transition process that began created expectations for a new political chapter with the 13th National Parliamentary Election held on 12 February under the interim government. However, the incidents of political violence, electoral conflict, and multidimensional human rights violations that occurred across the country before and after the election have raised questions about that expectation.

Throughout February, the political arena remained heated and unstable. Political polarization surrounding the election, competition for power, expansion of dominance, and tendencies of retaliation gave rise to violence in different places. Attacks during campaigning, killing and injuring of rivals, vandalism and arson at electoral offices and property, and retaliatory attacks after the election weakened ordinary citizens’ security and their confidence in the rule of law. At the same time, interference was also observed in the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. During this period, incidents of physical, psychological, and digital harassment against women candidates, voters, and ordinary women increased, creating a concerning barrier to women’s participation in the political process. In addition, incidents of mob beating, obstruction in realizing legitimate demands, the role of law enforcement agencies, and the prolonged continuation of impunity have increased public concern.

After the end of the long authoritarian rule, hopes and aspirations had emerged among people—establishment of freedom, justice, equality, and human rights. The course of events in February presents a kind of conflicting reality with those aspirations. The overall situation indicates that the country’s democratic transition process still remains in a challenging and fragile state.

Based on news published in 16 national media outlets of Bangladesh and data collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following information has emerged in the human rights monitoring report for February 2026.

Political Violence

In February, at least 10 people were killed and at least 1,933 people were injured in at least 346 incidents of “political violence.” Most of these violent incidents occurred centering on dominance expansion, political disputes, violence surrounding the 13th National Parliamentary Election, violence related to rallies of different parties, clashes among supporters of candidates, attacks, vandalism, arson, looting, and extortion at houses, vehicles, business establishments, and political party offices. The number of incidents of political violence and deaths in February increased compared to January. In January, 8 people were killed and 1,233 were injured in 151 incidents of “political violence.”

Among the 346 incidents of violence in February, 95 incidents occurred within internal conflicts of BNP, where at least 599 people were injured and 8 were killed. In 191 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 998 people were injured and 1 person was killed. In 9 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 27 people were injured and 1 person was killed. In 14 clashes between BNP and NCP, 138 people were injured. In 3 clashes between Awami League and NCP, 51 people were injured. In 28 clashes between BNP and other parties, 81 people were injured. Additionally, 42 people were injured in 11 incidents among different parties. Among the 10 people killed, 8 were from BNP, 1 from Jamaat, and 1 from Awami League.



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The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus banned all political activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organizations in May 2025. As a result, the party could not participate in the 13th National Parliamentary Election. However, after the election ended, news reports stated that party leaders and activists attempted to enter their offices or took positions in at least 30 districts and upazilas including Dhaka. In several places, counter-occupation, attacks, and vandalism occurred after reopening offices.

Electoral Violence

Clashes, attacks, vandalism, and arson occurred among workers and supporters of different parties, nominated candidates, and deprived candidates surrounding the 13th National Parliamentary Election, and these attacks and vandalism continued even after the election. In particular, incidents of arson and looting of houses, vehicles, and business establishments of supporters of defeated candidates by supporters of victorious candidates are continuing, which is very concerning. In February, at least 1,555 people were injured and 5 people were killed in at least 285 incidents of election-related violence. Before and after the election, more than 450 incidents of attacks, vandalism, looting, and arson occurred at business establishments, houses, and election offices.

Among the 285 incidents of electoral violence in February, 73 incidents occurred within internal conflicts of BNP where at least 465 people were injured and 3 were killed. In 182 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, at least 902 people were injured and 1 person was killed. In 3 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 3 people were injured and 1 person was killed. In 11 clashes between BNP and NCP, 111 people were injured. In 11 clashes between BNP and other parties, 42 people were injured. In addition, 33 people were injured in 6 incidents among different parties. Among the 5 people killed, 3 were from BNP, 1 from Awami League, and 1 from Jamaat.

Among the 5 people killed in internal conflicts among BNP and its affiliated organizations during election and post-election violence were BNP supporter Jasim Uddin (30) from the char area of Munshiganj Sadar Upazila on 13 February; Iman (12), the son of a BNP activist from Haluaghat, Mymensingh, on 14 February; and Osman Sardar (29), a BNP supporter from Kachua, Bagerhat. In addition, in a BNP–Awami League clash, Awami League supporter Abdur Rahim (45) was hacked to death by local BNP leaders and activists during post-election violence in Charfassion, Bhola on 15 February. On 28 February, in post-election violence at Hasadah Bazar in Jibannagar Upazila of Chuadanga, Hafizur Rahman (25), the younger brother of the Jamaat Ameer of Banka Union, was killed by sharp weapon injuries in a clash with local BNP activists.

Meanwhile, on 13 February in Chandandi Union of Hatiya Upazila in Noakhali, a mother of three (32) was allegedly raped and physically assaulted inside her house over voting for the “Shapla Koli” symbol. The victim is a resident of a shelter project in the Nolerchar area. According to the allegation, the attackers vandalized the house, dragged her out, beat her, and made derogatory remarks about her voting choice. Due to the beating, she was seriously injured and is unable to walk normally. According to her statement, although the accused were previously associated with the Awami League, after the change of government they are now exerting influence in the area using the identity of BNP.

Obstruction to Meetings and Assemblies

This month, several incidents of interference by law enforcement agencies were observed in the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. According to available information, during this period law enforcement agencies directly or indirectly obstructed at least 6 meetings and assemblies, forcing organizers to postpone, disperse, or cancel the scheduled programs.



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As a result of such interference, clashes and chaotic situations were created and at least 92 people were injured, including political activists, students, workers, and ordinary pedestrians.

Harassment and Abuse of Journalists

It is concerning that at least 63 journalists were subjected to harassment and abuse in at least 28 incidents of attacks this month. Among them, at least 55 were injured, 1 was assaulted, and 4 journalists received threats. In addition, 1 journalist was detained. On 12 February, while collecting news during the 13th National Parliamentary Election, BTV journalist Miraj Uddin was hacked with sharp weapons by terrorists at a polling center in Hatiya, Noakhali over influence at the voting center. His motorcycle driver Sakib was also injured. Both are currently undergoing treatment.

Additionally, on 19 February, four journalists of Ekattor TV were issued show-cause notices and forced to take seven days of leave for expressing personal opinions on social media.

Mob Violence and Lynching

This month, at least 19 people were killed and 30 people were injured in at least 42 incidents of mob beating and mob violence. On 20 February in Mojahipur village of Idilpur Union in Sadullapur, Gaibandha, two individuals—Lebu Mia alias Bhondol (24) and Moinul Islam (50)—were beaten to death by locals on suspicion of robbery.

Persecution of Religious Minorities

It is concerning that in at least 14 incidents of attacks on minority communities this month, 15 people were injured, and there were attacks and vandalism on 3 temples, 1 idol, and 11 houses. Additionally, 1 incident related to land grabbing occurred.

On the night of 24 February, an attack took place at the Sri Sri Rakshakali Temple located in Saoghat West Monipara area of Golakandail Union in Rupganj, Narayanganj. At that time, 8–10 miscreants entered the temple with iron pipes, sticks, and local weapons and vandalized the Saraswati idol, chairs, cooking pots, electrical wires, lights, and other items. They even poured kerosene or similar flammable substances and set fire to the temple.

Killings and Abuse at the Border

In February, 6 people were injured in 3 incidents of attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the India–Bangladesh border, and 9 people were detained. On the other hand, 5 people were detained in 2 violent incidents along the Bangladesh–Myanmar border.

On 8 February, Huzaifa Afnan (9), a child who had been seriously injured by gunfire fired by the Arakan Army from the Myanmar side along the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, died after 27 days while undergoing treatment. Earlier, on 11 January, she had been shot in the head by gunfire coming from across the border in the Techchibridge area of Hwaikyong Union in Teknaf Upazila.

Extrajudicial Killings (Deaths in Custody/Torture/Shooting/“Crossfire”)

According to reports published in various national media, information from victims' families, and data collected by HRSS, 1 person was killed due to torture by law enforcement agencies and 1 person was killed in a gunfight this month. On 10 February in Kalkini Upazila of Madaripur, a young man



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named Russel Kazi (35) died in army custody. The victim's family and relatives claim that he was killed through physical torture.

On 24 February, one member of the armed hill group JSS was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in the Murung Bazar area of Boangchhari Upazila in Bandarban.

Additionally, on 6 February, a teenager named Maha Alam (16) died after jumping into Gulshan Lake in panic during a patrol by a police team in Banani, Dhaka. On 12 February, during the 13th National Parliamentary Election, a man named Razzak Mia died after being chased by law enforcement members near the Aganagar Southpara Government Primary School polling center in Bhairab Upazila of Kishoreganj.

Deaths in Custody (Prison)

This month, at least 12 prisoners died in prisons across the country, including 10 convicts and 2 detainees awaiting trial. Among them, 4 were members of Awami League and its affiliated organizations, and 8 were ordinary prisoners.

On 7 February, former Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen fell ill while in custody and was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. He had been detained in Dinajpur District Jail since 16 August 2024 in three cases. Ramesh Chandra Sen was a presidium member of the Awami League and had been elected five times as a Member of Parliament from the Thakurgaon-1 constituency.

Abuse of Workers

In February, 5 workers were killed and at least 123 were injured in 33 incidents of worker abuse. Additionally, 20 workers died in workplace accidents due to unhealthy environments and lack of protective equipment. One domestic worker was killed and another injured.

On 22 February, the hanging body of an 11-year-old child domestic worker named Bibi Halima was recovered by police from a residence in the Officers' Quarters of the BGB headquarters in the New Market area of the capital.

Violence Against Women and Children

In February, at least 236 women and girls were victims of violence. Among them, at least 45 were victims of rape, of which 24 (52%) were under the age of 18. It is extremely concerning that 10 women and girls were victims of gang rape, and 3 were murdered after rape.

A total of 90 women and girls were victims of sexual harassment, including 11 children. Additionally, 1 woman was killed and 2 were injured in incidents related to dowry violence. Due to domestic violence, 41 women were killed, 26 were injured, and 30 women committed suicide. One woman was also killed in an acid attack.

On the other hand, it is concerning that 95 children were victims of abuse, among whom 44 lost their lives and 51 children were subjected to physical and mental abuse.

On 25 February, a teenage girl named Amena Akter (15) was gang raped and murdered in Madhabdi, Narsingdi. According to reports, 5–6 locals forcibly took her from her father and later her body was found in a mustard field in the Daudkandi area of Mahishashura Union.



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On 28 February in Ishwardi, Pabna, a tragic incident occurred in which grandmother Sufia Begum was murdered and her teenage granddaughter Jamila Akter (15) was gang raped and killed after attackers entered the house at midnight. Police suspect that the grandmother was killed first for resisting the abduction of the girl, and the girl was killed after being raped.

Cases and Arrests

This month, at least 30 cases were filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, leaders and activists of Awami League and BNP–Jamaat, and under various anti-terrorism laws. In these cases, 497 individuals were named and 14,787 were listed as unidentified accused.

At least 338 Awami League and BNP–Jamaat leaders and activists were arrested in political cases this month, including at least 98 from Awami League, 181 from BNP, and 50 from Jamaat.

During this period, special operations by joint forces were conducted across the country to maintain law and order. In these operations, nearly 3,000 individuals were arrested, most of whom were leaders and activists of Awami League, Jubo League, Swachhasebak League, and the banned Chhatra League.

Conclusion

To establish the rule of law in the country, strengthen the democratic process, and protect human rights, coordinated initiatives are necessary at all levels of the state and society. It is essential to create an inclusive environment through constructive dialogue with political parties, civil society, journalists, human rights organizations, and conscious citizens so that the law and order situation becomes stronger and people's fundamental and constitutional rights can be effectively ensured.

If issues such as electoral violence, mob violence, deaths in custody, political tensions, and interference in freedom of expression are not addressed, the human rights situation may deteriorate further. Therefore, HRSS calls upon the government to take more accountable and responsible steps to protect human rights and simultaneously urges all citizens, media professionals, civil society, and human rights organizations to play a more vocal and active role.