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Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (January–September, 2026)
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In the nine months from January to September 2026, the human rights situation in Bangladesh reflected, alongside expectations, various concerns and multidimensional challenges in the areas of political transition, reconstruction of democratic institutions, establishment of the rule of law, and protection of civil rights. After the end of a long-standing authoritarian rule through the 2024 student-people's mass uprising, the expectation had arisen that the state's commitment to democracy, justice, accountability and human rights would be implemented; the course of events during the period under review has made clear the existing limitations in fulfilling that expectation. Although the 13th National Parliament election and referendum held on 12 February under the interim government, and the swearing-in of the new government on 17 February, were an important milestone in re-establishing the country's constitutional and political continuity, incidents of clashes, killings, injuries, vandalism, arson, looting and retaliatory attacks have occurred in various places, centred on political violence, vindictiveness, expansion of dominance, intra-party feuds and competition for power, in the pre-election, post-election and subsequent months. Alongside loss of life and damage to property in these incidents, the security of ordinary people's lives and property, the rule of law, and confidence in the justice system have been damaged.

A worrying situation was also observed in the area of civil and political rights during the period under review. Allegations of interference in various ways with freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and the right to peaceful assembly and gatherings have come to the fore. Allegations of cases, arrests, detentions, harassment and intimidation on account of expressing opinions on social media, practising dissent, commenting on political and religious matters, criticising the government, and investigative journalism have created apprehension that the space for civil liberties is shrinking. Incidents of attacks, threats, humiliation, detention of journalists, obstruction in the performance of their professional duties, and harassment of media workers have also increased concern over independent journalism and the right to access information. At the same time, allegations of misuse of Section 54 of the Penal Code and the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025 have raised fresh questions about freedom of expression. Allegations of administrative interference and use of force in political programmes, meetings and gatherings, and labour movements in various places have damaged the environment for democratic participation. It is essential to enforce the law while maintaining a clear distinction between criminal activities and peaceful expression, to ensure the safety of journalists, and to create an unobstructed environment for them to carry out their professional duties.

The human rights situation of women, children, minorities and other vulnerable groups was also particularly worrying during this period. Alongside election violence, allegations have been received of continued physical and mental torture, online harassment, rape, gang rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dowry-related torture and femicide against women candidates, political activists and ordinary women. Incidents of child killing, torture and sexual violence have also highlighted the existing challenges in ensuring the lives, physical integrity, dignity and safety of children. In these cases, it is essential to ensure the safety of victims and

their families, necessary medical treatment and mental health care, legal assistance, arrangements for lodging complaints safely, and speedy and impartial justice. At the same time, it is necessary to undertake coordinated initiatives for crime prevention, increasing social awareness, and curbing the tendency to blame victims and to stigmatise them socially. In the area of protecting the health and lives of children, too, the deaths of hundreds of children in the widespread outbreak of measles have clearly brought to the fore the limitations of the public health system, vaccination programmes and healthcare services. This situation has highlighted the need to ensure preventive healthcare, timely vaccination, disease detection, and effective medical care for children**.** During the same period, attacks on members of minority communities, vandalism of places of worship and residences, attacks on religious institutions, and various incidents that destroy social and religious harmony have increased concern about the safety and religious freedom of minority communities.

The situation from January to September was also fragile with regard to law and order and the establishment of justice. Public Lynching, mob violence, activities of teenage gangs, abductions, attacks, recovery of bodies of unidentified persons, extortion, organised crime, and the tendency to take the law into one's own hands have raised serious questions about public safety and the rule of law. Punishing anyone extra-legally on allegations of crime, or attempting to establish justice through mob beating, is contrary to the fundamental principles of justice. In the first week of August, clashes centred on political disputes, expansion of party dominance and organisational feuds at several educational institutions, including Begum Rokeya University, Jagannath University, Dhaka College, Government Madrasa-e-Alia, Barisal University and Government Toolaram College, raised concern about students' safety and the normal educational environment. In addition, in September, the attack, looting and vandalism at the Radda MCH-FP health centre, the attack on and looting of Salman Muqtadir's studio, and the clash centred on control of a madrasa trust and occupation of a market in Sripur, Ashulia, increased concern about the safety of individuals, institutions and property. It is urgent to ensure impartial investigation of these incidents, the safety of affected persons and institutions, and the accountability of the attackers, instigators and accomplices.

Ensuring proper application of the law, necessity, proportionality and accountability in the operations, arrests and detention-related activities of law enforcement agencies has also become important. It is imperative to protect the dignity and safety of detained persons, ensure the opportunity to obtain the assistance of a lawyer, and ensure prompt and effective judicial oversight. At the same time, allegations of extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody and in prison, and limitations in the safety and medical care of prisoners have created concern about the human rights situation. It is the state's responsibility to bring every incident of death in custody and in prison under a transparent, impartial and independent investigation, to provide necessary medical care to prisoners, and to ensure a safe and humane prison environment. Delays in investigation and trial processes and the lack of effective accountability in incidents of human rights violations have further strengthened the culture of impunity. At the same time, the non-approval by Parliament of several important ordinances among the 133 ordinances promulgated by the interim government, and the decisions to suspend or cancel the Referendum Order, the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, the Independent Secretariat Ordinance, and initiatives relating to the National Human Rights Commission and the

prevention of enforced disappearances, have given rise to questions about the independence of the judiciary, the protection of human rights, and the commitment to institutional reform.

The situation was also challenging in the social and economic context. The rise in prices of essential commodities during the month of Ramadan, instability in the fuel oil market, shortfalls in the supply system, and weak market monitoring created intense pressure on the livelihoods of low- and middle-income people. Hundreds of deaths in road and waterway accidents centred on the holy Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha have clearly highlighted the limitations of the country's transport management, road safety and public safety systems. In the implementation of labour rights, too, clashes, arrests, harassment and workplace deaths centred on demands for fair wages, a safe working environment and workers' right to organise were worrying. From July to September as well, allegations of workers' deaths, torture, insecurity in the workplace, and violence against domestic workers have come to the fore. It is necessary to ensure the rights of workers and domestic workers to a safe working environment, fair treatment, dignity, freedom of association, and effective remedy. Investigating the causes of workplace accidents, deaths and allegations of torture, holding the responsible persons or institutions accountable, and ensuring appropriate remedies for affected persons and families are important responsibilities of the state.

The international and border situation has also had a significant impact on Bangladesh's human rights context during this period. As a result of the Iran–United States–Israel conflict, the loss of lives of expatriate Bangladeshis and uncertainty over fuel supply have created anxiety among the public. On the other hand, incidents of shooting, killings, torture, push-ins, and casualties caused by landmines and explosives in border areas have further clarified the existing risks to the lives, safety and freedom of movement of border communities. In cases of allegations of loss of life and serious human rights violations at the border, it is necessary to ensure impartial investigation, accountability of the authorities concerned, and effective assistance for affected persons and families. It is urgent to give the highest priority to protecting the lives and dignity of civilians in border management. During this period, the fire in Saudi Arabia, the hotel fire in Kolkata, and the deaths of Bangladeshi migration-aspirants in the Mediterranean Sea have also brought to the fore the issue of safe migration and the protection of Bangladeshi citizens abroad. These incidents highlight the existing challenges in dealing with risky migration routes, human trafficking, fraud, and the protection of citizens in distress abroad. An active role of the authorities concerned is required to raise awareness among migration-aspirants, prevent fraud and trafficking, ensure effective coordination with the countries concerned, rescue citizens in distress promptly, and provide necessary assistance to their families.

Overall, the human rights situation in Bangladesh from January to September 2026 indicates that, despite initiatives for political transition and re-establishment of constitutional continuity, strengthening democratic institutions, establishing the rule of law, ending impunity, ensuring the independence of the judiciary, safeguarding freedom of expression and of the media, creating an environment for peaceful political activity, and effectively protecting the rights of women, children, minorities, workers and other vulnerable groups remain among the country's principal challenges. At the same time, it is urgent to enhance effective policies and

institutional capacity in establishing public safety, public health, safe migration, border security, labour rights, and social and economic justice. Alongside ensuring impartial investigation of every incident of human rights violation, accountability of those responsible, and effective remedy for victims, it is necessary to implement the state's commitment to civil rights by establishing good governance, transparency, accountability, an independent judicial system and effective human rights institutions. Through these steps alone can the path be smoothed toward realising the aspiration of building an inclusive, justice-based and human-rights-compliant democratic state.

Presented below are the statistics, trends and thematic analysis of various human rights situations that occurred during the period January–September 2026. On the basis of news published in 16 national media outlets of the country and information collected by Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

Political Violence

In the past nine months, in at least 1013 incidents of "political violence", at least 73 people were killed and at least 6473 were injured. Most of the violence occurred centred on expansion of dominance, political disputes, the 13th National Parliament election, potential candidacy and expansion of dominance in the upcoming local government elections, violence centred on rallies of various parties, clashes among candidates' supporters, attacks, vandalism of houses, vehicles, business establishments and offices of political parties, arson, looting and extortion.

> According to the data for 2026 (January–September), 1013 incidents of political violence occurred, compared with 692 in the same period of 2025. That is, the number of violent incidents has increased in one year (an increase of about 46%). However, the number of deaths fell from 107 to 73 (a decrease of about 32%), while the number of injured rose from 5579 to 6473 (an increase of about 16%). This indicates that the number and scale of clashes have increased, but loss of life has comparatively decreased.

Of the 1013 incidents of violence in the past nine months, in 342 incidents of intra-party feuds within the BNP, at least 2632 people were injured and 40 killed. In 321 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 2190 were injured and 11 killed; in 93 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 545 were injured and 09 were killed. In 47 clashes between BNP and NCP, 320 were injured; in 5 clashes between Awami League and NCP, 58 were injured; in 2 clashes between Awami League and Jamaat, 3 were injured and 1 killed; in 1 incident of intra-party feud within the Awami League, 1 person was killed; and in 128 clashes between BNP and other parties, 320 were injured. In addition, in 74 incidents among other small and large parties, 405 were injured and 11 were killed.

Political Violence (First Nine Months: 2026)

Serial	Political Parties	Incidents of Clashes	Injured	Killed
1	BNP–BNP	342	2632	40
2	BNP–Jamaat	321	2190	11
3	BNP–Awami League	93	545	09
4	BNP–NCP	47	320	-
5	Awami League–NCP	05	58	-
6	Awami League–Jamaat	02	03	01
7	Awami League–Awami League	01	-	01
8	BNP–Other Parties	128	320	-
9	Among Other Parties	74	405	11
Total		**1013**	**6473**	**73**

Of the 1013 incidents of violence, 931 (91%) occurred in intra-party feuds within the BNP and between the BNP and other political parties. Of the 73 people killed, 46 (63%) were from the BNP, 8 (11%) from Jamaat and 6 (08%) from the Awami League, 1 was an extremist, and 12 were from other parties or of unknown political identity, including 1 ordinary woman.

In addition, at least 88 incidents of attacks on leaders and activists of political parties by miscreants occurred. In these attacks, at least 100 people were injured and a total of 52 were killed, including 30 from the BNP, 11 from the Awami League, 05 from Jamaat and 6 from other parties. During this period, more than 150 political persons were shot in political violence. In addition, across the country, thousands of incidents of clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism and arson occurred at houses, businesses and party offices, centred on expansion of dominance, occupation, election violence, political violence and extortion.

Election Violence

During the period up to September 2026, incidents of violence, clashes and human rights violations centred on the 13th National Parliament election and the upcoming local government elections reached a worrying level in various regions of the country, which subsequently took the form of political violence. In the pre-election and post-election periods, a continuity of clashes, attacks, vandalism and arson was observed among the nominated candidates of political parties, rebel (deprived) candidates, and their activists and supporters.

Particularly in the post-election period, incidents of attacks, looting and arson on the houses, vehicles and business establishments of the activists and supporters of defeated candidates by the activists and supporters of winning candidates occurred extensively. This retaliatory violence has created an environment of insecurity and fear at the local level, which is considered a deep threat to the rule of law and the democratic process. In addition, incidents of clashes in intra-party feuds or between parties, centred on potential candidacy in the upcoming

local government elections, obtaining party nominations in the elections, and expansion of dominance, are creating concern.

In the mentioned nine months, in at least 402 election-centred incidents of violence, at least 2623 people were injured and at least 13 were killed. In addition, in the pre-election and post-election periods, incidents of attacks, vandalism, looting and arson occurred at more than six hundred business establishments, houses and election offices.

Analysis of the nature of the violence shows that internal conflicts within political parties and mutual clashes have made this situation even more complex. In intra-party feuds of the BNP, at least 941 were injured and 8 killed in 123 incidents; in BNP–Jamaat clashes, at least 1,438 were injured and 4 killed in 234 incidents; in BNP–Awami League clashes, 3 were injured and 1 killed in 3 incidents; in BNP–NCP clashes, 141 were injured in 16 incidents; and in clashes between the BNP and other parties, 63 were injured in 17 incidents. In addition, in 10 incidents among other parties, 38 were injured.

Analysis of the political identity of those killed shows that, of the total of 13 killed, 9 were from the BNP, 2 from Jamaat, 1 from the Awami League, and 1 of unknown political identity.

Among the separate incidents of violence, a few are particularly noteworthy. On 16 January 2026, at the inauguration ceremony of the election office of independent candidate Salman Omar Rubel at Ershad Bazar in Dhobaura Upazila of Mymensingh, Nazrul was killed by a stabbing by miscreants. On 28 January 2026, Maulana Rezaul Karim, who was injured in a clash between BNP and Jamaat activists centred on an election manifesto reading event in Jhenaigati, Sherpur, later died while undergoing treatment. In February, the level of violence increased further. On 13 February, BNP supporter Jasim Uddin (30) was killed in the char area of Munshiganj Sadar Upazila. On 14 February, Emon (12), the son of a BNP activist, was killed in Haluaghat, Mymensingh, which highlights the risk of violence against children. On the same day, BNP supporter Osman Sardar (29) was killed in Kachua, Bagerhat. On 15 February, Awami League supporter Abdur Rahim (45) was hacked to death in post-election violence in Charfasson, Bhola. In addition, violence continued in March as well. On 5 March 2026, Md. Rubel Mia and Md. Sohel Mia were killed in a clash between two factions of the BNP in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria. Also, on 18 March 2026, an allegation arose that a small trader named Md. Idris (45) was beaten to death in Nilganj Union, Kalapara, Patuakhali. On 26 July, a clash between two BNP groups took place in Hizla Upazila of Barishal following a dispute centred on the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) election. The clash occurred between the followers of Farid Uddin Bepari, convener of the Union BNP and prospective chairman candidate of Gourabdi Union in the upcoming UP election, and of Altaf Hossain Khokon, joint convener of the Upazila BNP, and the supporters of Ismail Molla, a former member of the District Chhatra Dal. At least 10 leaders and activists, including Farid Uddin Bepari, were injured in this. On 5 August, an armed attack took place on Nafiz Ahmed Khan Raju, a mayor candidate centred on the Khoksa Municipality election in Kushtia and former senior joint convener of the Khoksa Upazila BNP. He was seriously injured in this attack, which took place in front of the gate of his own house in the Khoksa Thanapara area. During the attack, extensive firing and cocktail explosions spread panic in the area. In addition, on 11 August, an allegation of an armed attack was received against Ebadul Islam, a candidate for the post of chairman of Nagarghata Union in Tala Upazila of Satkhira. At least eight activists and supporters, including

candidate Ebadul Islam, were injured in the attack. According to allegations by the victims and locals, Mohabbat Hossain, president of the Nagarghata Union BNP and former UP chairman, and organising secretary Akhtar led the attack, in which Chhatra Dal leaders Lucky, Raihan, Sakib and activists of Jubo Dal were involved.

Election violence was not limited to loss of life and destruction of property alone; incidents of violence against women have also come to the fore in a worrying manner. On 13 February, in Chanandi Union of Hatia Upazila, Noakhali, an allegation has been received that a mother of three children was raped and physically tortured in her own home centred on voting for the 'Shapla Koli' symbol.

Although the number of women candidates in this election was comparatively low, women's participation in campaigning increased significantly. However, alongside this, incidents of violence against women, harassment and humiliation have also increased. In at least 12 incidents centred on the election in January–March, at least 18 women were victims of harassment and 6 women were injured. Among the victims of harassment were 17 Jamaat supporters and 1 woman supporter of Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

Obstruction of Meetings and Gatherings

In the past nine months, several incidents of interference by law enforcement agencies in the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have been noticed. According to the information received, during that period, law enforcement agencies directly or indirectly obstructed the organising of at least 58 meetings and gatherings, as a result of which the organisers were compelled to postpone, disperse or cancel the scheduled programmes. As a result of such interference, clashes and disorderly situations were created, at least 439 persons were injured, and at least 46 persons were detained from the venues of the gatherings, most of whom were political activists, students, workers and ordinary passers-by.

Torture and Harassment of Journalists

It is worrying that during this period, in at least 288 incidents, at least 518 journalists were victims of torture and harassment. In all these incidents, at least 297 journalists were injured, 87 were humiliated, and 77 faced threats. 20 journalists were detained. In addition, 19 cases were filed under the Cyber Security Act 2026, accusing 51 journalists.

> *In the nine months of 2026 (January–September), 288 incidents of torture and harassment of journalists occurred, compared with 236 in the same period of 2025. That is, incidents of attacks increased by about 22%. During the same period, the number of journalists who were victims of torture and harassment increased from 340 to 518 (an increase of about 52%). The number of injured journalists rose from 209 to 297, which indicates an increase in the intensity of violence. Overall, these statistics highlight the trend of increase in incidents of torture and harassment of journalists and in the number of journalists who were victims and injured.*

On 11 January, in Rupganj, Narayanganj, an allegation arose that Rashedul Islam, staff reporter of the daily Manabkantha, and Nazmul Hasan, a journalist of Asian Television, were beaten and injured with an iron pipe over publishing news about various irregularities concerning local

crime and land-grabbers. On 23 April, while collecting information on tension created between DUCSU leaders/Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Dal leaders and activists centred on photo cards and wall writings spread on social media, and while performing their professional duties, at least 10 journalists, including the president and general secretary of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association, were injured after being harassed and beaten. On 21 May, in Bakalia, Chattogram, two journalists were injured by gunfire shot to control a blockade by locals centred on an incident of attempted rape of a child. On 15 June, Tanvir Alam, treasurer of Bogura Press Club, filed a case against 4 persons, including the editor of 'Agrajatra Protidin', on the allegation of spreading false, misleading and defamatory information against Mir Shahe Alam, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. On 16 July, at the office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Bahubal, Habiganj, an attack was carried out on Habibur Rahman Noman, Bahubal Upazila representative of the daily Inqilab and NPB News, and journalist Golam Mostafa Saibal, over publishing news on illegal silica sand extraction and drug trade. It is alleged that several persons, including Abdur Rakib, vice-president of the Bahubal Upazila BNP, attacked these journalists. On 28 July, in Debiganj, Panchagarh, centred on a Facebook post, Asaduzzaman Sumon, convener of the Upazila Chhatra Dal, mercilessly beat Lalan Sarker, a journalist of Ajker Bashundhara. The victim and his family allege that even after the beating, the victim journalist was handed over to the police station, arrested in an extortion case, and sent to prison.

On the morning of 25 August, in the campus of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shariatpur, Zahid Hasan, a journalist of The Daily Star, Bidhan Majumder, representative of News24 Television and Jago News, and Barkat Molla, district representative of Manabkantha, were beaten. Even when contacted by mobile phone to learn about the beating, he threatened another journalist and said, 'You will write, we will beat.' On 25 August, five local journalists were victims of a terrorist attack while collecting information during an ad hoc committee meeting at Navaron Buruj Bagan Girls' High School in Sharsha Upazila, Jashore. The five journalists attacked were: Anisur Rahman, Alamgir Hossain, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Atiquzzaman Rimu and Rahat Hossain. On 20 September, an allegation arose of attacking Keshabpur Press Club in Jashore, creating a 'mob', and attempting to seize the club. During this, several journalists were injured, including Joydeb Chakraborty, former general secretary of the press club and Keshabpur representative of the daily Lok Samaj; Abdullah Al Fuad, current general secretary and Keshabpur representative of the daily Kalyan; and Mehedi Hasan Zahid, executive member and Keshabpur representative of the daily Samayer Khabar.

Freedom of Expression

During the period January–September, 113 persons were accused in 40 separate cases under various sections of the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025 and the Cyber Security Act 2026, and 55 persons were arrested. 12 persons were detained for posting objectionable posts about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Over criticism concerning other political persons, ongoing political issues, the July issue, drugs, power outages, creation of defamatory content and derogatory remarks, 4 were killed, 4 were victims of torture, 21 were detained, 20 cases were filed, and 12 were dismissed from jobs or given similar punishment. In addition, 24 persons were detained on allegations of hurting religious sentiments and desecrating the Quran; in these incidents, 24 cases were filed and 2 were beaten. In addition, 29 more persons were detained over cyberbullying, criticism on Facebook and derogatory remarks, and other issues.

On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, 5 cases were filed against journalists under the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025. In addition, in a total of 18 cases, 25 persons were accused and 13 were arrested. Compared with 2025, the application of cyber law increased significantly in 2026. The number of cases, and the rates of accusation and arrest, have increased, and the application of the law has extended, alongside journalists, to political expression, use of social media and religious issues. As a result, the scope and impact of the application of cyber law have become even broader than in the previous year.

On 21 January, police arrested a man named Golam Mostafa (34), son of Abdul Malek of Mollapara village, Hariharpur Union, Parbatipur Upazila, Dinajpur, on the allegation of making derogatory remarks on the social media platform Facebook about BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman. He was later shown arrested under the Cyber Security Act and sent to prison through the court. On 4 February, police detained Sarwar Alam, an assistant programmer at Bangabhaban, on the allegation of 'hacking' the X account of Jamaat Ameer Dr. Shafiqur Rahman. At that time, a case was filed at Hatirjheel Police Station under the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025. On 3 March, in Kalapara, Patuakhali, a person named Md. Idris (45) was beaten to death for posting a critical post on Facebook against BNP leader Zahirul Islam. On 11 June, in Sundarganj Upazila of Gaibandha, police detained a youth named Mizanur Rahman (24) on the allegation of making an objectionable post on the social media platform Facebook about Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed. On 15 July, a Jubo League leader named Sumon was arrested in Nandail, Mymensingh, on the allegation of sharing a social media post, from a Facebook account named 'Abdul Quddus Makhon', making derogatory remarks about the Speaker of the National Parliament, Major (retd.) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikrom. On 3 September, police arrested a youth named Sifat Abdullah from the Gacha area of Gazipur Metropolitan City on the allegation of vulgar statements and writings on social media about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. It is learned that he made vulgar remarks in a video message on social media about the electricity bill. Although he was shown detained in this incident, in the face of criticism, no new case was filed, but he was shown detained in a case filed earlier under an anti-terrorism law.

Mob Violence and Public Lynching

In the past nine months, across the country, in at least 398 incidents of public lynching and mob violence on various allegations including theft, robbery, snatching, altercation, expansion of dominance, religious defamation, rape and attempted rape, at least 187 people were killed and at least 401 were injured.

On 7 January, a person named Md. Akidul (40) was killed by public beating by local people on suspicion of being a cattle thief at Ichakhada Bazar in Magura Sadar Upazila. On 20 February, in Mojahipur village of Idilpur Union, Sadullahpur, Gaibandha, Lebu Mia alias Bhandol (24) and Moinul Islam (50) were killed by public beating by locals on suspicion of being snatchers. On 4 March, two youths named Md. Sagar (32) and Sanarul (34) of Louhajang Upazila, Munshiganj, while fleeing after stealing electric wire from Satgharia Community Clinic, were tied to a tree on allegations of theft and, tied to the tree from night until morning, were beaten repeatedly and killed. On 6 April, in Mollahat, Bagerhat, a youth named Shukur (42) was heavily beaten by an agitated crowd for stealing fish from a fish enclosure. At one point during the beating, Shukur's hands and legs were broken, and some of the miscreants

among them gouged out Shukur's eyes. On 9 May, in the Bagchala area of Kaliakair Upazila, Gazipur, local public-beat three members on an allegation of cattle theft; as a result, all three died at the scene. In addition, on 17 May, in Asannagar village of Alamdanga Upazila, Chuadanga district, a youth named Dudu (22) was brutally tortured and killed by beating on an allegation of van theft; it is even alleged that, before the killing, hot water was poured on the accused's body to torture him. On 21 June, in the area adjacent to the Polo Ground field in Chattogram Metropolitan City, an unidentified youth was beaten on an allegation of theft and then killed by electric shock. Even when police went to recover the body, the local agitated crowd blockaded the police vehicle. On 30 June, in Toakul Union of Goainghat Upazila, Sylhet, a youth named Khaled Ahmed (20) was confined in a secluded house and tortured on an allegation of stealing a small boat. At one point during the torture, they even gouged out both his eyes. On 21 July, in Fatullah, Narayanganj, a youth named Nayan Howlader (42) died while undergoing treatment after being confined for two days and tortured on an allegation of theft. The deceased's wife alleges that, on an allegation of stealing 50 thousand taka, they confined him for two days, brought electric wire and gave electric shocks to Nayan's body, and twisted and broke the wrist and fingers of his left hand. On 18 August, in the area adjacent to Bayra Rayer Mahal Boro Mosque in Khulna Metropolitan City, a youth named Raju Biswas died from public beating by local people on suspicion of being a 'child-snatcher'. On 19 August, in Sreepur, Gazipur, local residents detained four persons, including a woman, on the allegation of luring people into a love trap, recording objectionable videos and extorting money, beat them, and handed them over to the police. On 5 July, in Paschim Masdair of Narayanganj town, a young man named Jishan (25) was beaten to death after being labelled a snatcher and tied to an electric pole. A video of the incident spread on social media. According to the video, several local people are beating two young men tied to an electric pole with rope indiscriminately with steel pipes and sticks. In addition, on 10 September, in Dowarabazar, Sunamganj, three persons were tortured on an allegation of cattle theft. The young men who were tortured are: Abu Bakkar (35), son of Hasan Ali of Boroiuri village in Banglabazar Union of the upazila; Nizam Uddin (30), son of the late Mofiz Ali of East Gilatoli village; and Sonai Mia (25), son of the late Shergul Mia of Jorapani village in Noarai Union of neighbouring Chhatak Upazila. Along with torturing them, with their bodies exposed, lime was smeared on their noses, mouths and eyes, and one person's leg was bloodied. On 17 September, in the East Fakiraghona area of Boro Maheshkhali Union, Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, a youth named Md. Faisal (26) was tied to an electric pole and beaten to death on suspicion of being a thief. Several videos of the incident also spread on social media. In the videos, the young man's two hands are seen tied to an electric pole beside the road. Six or seven bricks had been placed on his back. He is leaning over under the weight of the bricks. Meanwhile, the beating continues. Someone is pulling his hair, someone is punching his face. Even when foam came to his mouth from the torture, the beating did not stop. At one point he died. And 15 to 20 people were standing and watching this scene. On 24 September, in the capital, miscreants formed a mob and attacked, looted, vandalised and destroyed the structures of the Radda MCH-FP health centre.

Persecution of Religious Minorities

It is worrying that during this period, in at least 56 incidents of attacks on minority communities, 62 people were injured, and incidents of attack and vandalism occurred on 21 temples, 20 idols and 47 residences. 4 incidents of land grabbing have been recorded. In addition, a woman of a small ethnic group was a victim of gang rape.

On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, 5 people were injured in 22 attacks on minority communities. At that time, incidents of attack and vandalism occurred on 5 temples, 37 idols and 38 residences. In addition, 3 incidents of land grabbing had been recorded. Compared with 2025, in 2026 the number of attacks on minority communities, the number of injured, and incidents of attacks on religious and residential structures have increased significantly.

On the night following 24 February, an attack took place on the Shri Shri Rakshakali Temple located in the Saoghat Paschim Manipara area of Golakandail Union, Rupganj, Narayanganj. At that time, 8–10 miscreants entered the temple with indigenous weapons including iron pipes and sticks, vandalised various items including the Saraswati idol, chairs, cooking pots, electric wires and lights, and set fire to the temple by pouring flammable substances such as kerosene or mobil oil. On 8 March, during Shani Puja, 4 people, including priest Keshab Chakraborty, were injured in a cocktail explosion in the area around the Kali Gachtala Shiva Temple in the Dakshin Thakurpara (Baganbari) area of Cumilla city. On 4 May, in Ratia Rajapur village in Sarankhola, Bagerhat district, following a land dispute, an attack on a minority (Hindu) family named Robin Dhali, vandalism of the dwelling and furniture, and looting took place. At that time, 5 female members who were in the house were beaten by the miscreants. On 13 June, in the Kanchhagachhi area of Mokamtala Upazila, Bogura, the idols of the Shiva Temple of the Mahashmashan, the Kanchhagari Shitala Temple and the Kali Temple were vandalised. In addition, over a span of three days from 16 to 18 June, incidents of attack and idol vandalism occurred at two temples in Madhukhali Upazila, Faridpur. On 18 June, in Guimara, Khagrachhari, a widow of the Marma community was lured with a job offer, taken from the village to Hathazari, Chattogram, and gang-raped. On 20 September, in Balaganj, Sylhet, a person entered the Paschim Bazar Nabinnagar Sarbojanin Puja Mandap of Durga Puja and hacked various parts of the idols of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Kartik with a boti (kitchen blade). In this incident, police arrested a youth named Saiduzzaman Shimul (29).

Killings and Torture at the Border

In the past nine months, in 43 incidents of attack on the India–Bangladesh border, 13 were killed and 39 injured in attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), of whom 22 were injured by gunshots. 44 people were detained from various borders. At least 173 people were pushed in through border areas. In addition, attempts were made to push in at least seven hundred people through various borders. In addition, 1 person was killed by gunfire from the Khasia community on the Sylhet border, and the bodies of two people were found at the border.

On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, in 61 incidents at the border, 23 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF gunfire, 34 were injured and 56 were arrested. In addition, 1 person was killed and 2 injured by gunfire from Indian Khasias on the Sylhet border, and an incident also occurred in which a Bangladeshi youth was hacked to death on the Kulaura border of Moulvibazar. Compared with 2025, in 2026 the number of attacks at the border (from 61 to 43), the number of killed (from 23 to 13), and the number of detentions at the border (from 56 to 44) decreased, but the number of injured (from 34 to 39) increased. In addition, in 2026, incidents of push-in and attempted push-in have come to the fore as a fresh major concern, which indicates additional challenges in border management and bilateral relations.

On 4 January, at the Chapainawabganj border, in the area of international border pillar 19/7 S, members of BSF's Patla Tola sub-camp detained a youth named Robiul Islam (35) when he went to bring cattle. He was later tortured and killed. On 7 April, Bangladeshi citizen Ali Hossain (49) was killed by BSF gunfire at the Dhabalguri border in Patgram, Lalmonirhat. On 09 May, two Bangladeshis named Md. Mursalin (20) and Nabin Hossain (55) were killed by gunfire shot by the BSF at the Indian border in Kasba, Brahmanbaria. In addition, on 14 May, a Bangladeshi youth named Khadimul Islam (25) was killed by gunfire of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the Amjhol border in Hatibandha Upazila, Lalmonirhat. On 12 June, a Bangladeshi young man named Mujib Ali (20) was killed by gunfire of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the Kulaura border of Moulvibazar. On 10 July, a Bangladeshi youth named Minhaj Uddin (25) was killed by gunfire of the Khasias, Indian local residents, at the Goainghat border in Sylhet. According to local sources, at around 3 a.m. on the night following the day of the incident, when Minhaj Uddin crossed the Sonarhat–Lakhat border of the upazila and entered the area adjacent to Lakhat Station in India, the Khasias fired at him. He was shot in this. On 13 September, a Bangladeshi youth named Asadul Haque or Asaduzzaman (33), injured by gunfire of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) across the border in Pirganj Upazila, Thakurgaon, died while undergoing treatment. At around 1:30 a.m. on the night following the day of the incident, when he entered about one and a half kilometres inside India from the Pirganj border, members of BSF's Chakshibananda camp opened fire. Asadul Haque was injured in this. In addition, in the same incident, another Bangladeshi youth named Mostakim (38), shot and injured, died. Another Bangladeshi youth named Sri Uda Chandra Roy (35), shot in the same incident, was detained by the BSF. On 9 August, Tara Mia (20) was killed by BSF gunfire in the Maguruli area of India across the Kulaura border of Moulvibazar, and on 30 August, in another separate incident, a Bangladeshi youth named Sohag Mia was killed at the Chimtibil border in Chunarughat Upazila, Habiganj.

On the other hand, on the Bangladesh–Myanmar border, in 24 incidents of violence, 1 was killed, 6 injured, 6 shot, and 83 detained. In addition, in landmine explosions with mines planted by the Arakan Army in border areas, 8 were killed and 5 injured.

> *During this time in 2025, 2 Bangladeshis were injured by Arakan Army gunfire, and 98 persons, along with 13 trawlers, were taken away from the waters. In addition, 12 people were injured in landmine explosions with mines planted by the Arakan Army in border areas.*

On 8 February, at the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, child Huzaifa Afnan (9), seriously injured by gunfire shot by the Arakan Army from the Myanmar side, died after 27 days while undergoing treatment. On 06 March, a person named Abdul Jabbar (53) was seriously injured in a landmine explosion planted at the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in Naikhongchhari Upazila, bordering Bandarban. One of his legs was blown off in the explosion. On 10 April, at the zero line at Balukhali border in Palongkhali Union of Ukhiya, the left ankle of Md. Sadek (25) was blown off. On 24 May, three locals named Leyara (41), Angkeman (50) and Chingka Aung (40) were killed in a landmine explosion with mines planted by the Arakan Army in the Ghumdhum area of Naikhongchhari on the Bangladesh–Myanmar border. On 02 June, a 12-year-old boy named Satnaing Tanchangya died in an abandoned mortar shell explosion at the Ghumdhum border in Naikhongchhari Upazila, Bandarban, and on 24 June, a young man named Md. Shafi Alam (30) died in a mine explosion in the Bhalukia area on the same border. On 9 June, a young man named Abdul Khalek (30) died in a landmine explosion

on the same border. In addition, on 6 June, a Rohingya youth named Md. Ayub (28) was injured by Arakan Army gunfire when he went fishing in the Bogardia area inside Myanmar. On 28 July, a Bangladeshi youth named Abdul Karim (25) was seriously injured in a landmine explosion with a mine planted by the Arakan Army inside Myanmar across the Jarulia Chhari border in Naikhongchhari Upazila, Bandarban. In the explosion, the part of his left leg below the knee was severed. On 24 August, a Bangladeshi named Md. Saiful (25) was killed in a landmine explosion on the Myanmar side of the Naikhongchhari border in Bandarban. After he went inside Myanmar to cut bamboo, when his foot fell on a planted landmine, both his legs were severed in the explosion. He later died while undergoing treatment in hospital. On 14 September, a fisherman named Md. Idris (55) was injured by Arakan Army gunfire while fishing in the Myanmar part of the Naf River in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. Locals said that while fishing in the Naf River, members of the Arakan Army chased the fishermen. When the fishermen tried to return, shots were fired at them. Idris was hit in the leg in this.

Extrajudicial Killings (Deaths in Custody/Under Torture/by Gunfire/in 'Gunfights')

According to news published in various media outlets of the country, victims' families, and information collected by HRSS, in the period from January to September 2026, at least 17 people died in incidents of custody, torture, shooting and alleged 'gunfights' involving law enforcement agencies. Of these, 12 were killed as victims of custody and torture, 2 by gunshots, and 3 in gunfights. In addition, at least 10 people died from various causes, including falling from a multi-storey building while fleeing to avoid arrest after being chased by law enforcement agencies, and drowning. In addition, an auto-rickshaw driver died after becoming mentally ill because police seized his auto-rickshaw.

> *On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, at least 28 people were killed in incidents of clashes with, custody of, and torture by law enforcement agencies. Of these, 10 were killed in the custody of law enforcement agencies, 4 under torture, 6 by gunshots, and 8 in alleged gunfights. In addition, information on 7 deaths while fleeing out of fear of law enforcement agencies had been recorded.*

Among the notable incidents, on 12 January 2026, in Jibannagar Upazila, Chuadanga, Shamsuzzaman Dablu (45), general secretary of the Municipal BNP, was killed as a victim of torture in the custody of the Bangladesh Army. On 10 February 2026, in Kalkini Upazila, Madaripur, a youth named Rasel Kazi (35) died in army custody. The deceased's family alleges that he was killed through physical torture. In addition, on 24 February 2026, in the Murung Bazar area of Boangchhari Upazila, Bandarban, a member of the hill-based armed organisation JSS was killed in an exchange of gunfire between the organisation and security forces, which has been described as a 'gunfight'. On 5 March 2026, during a police operation in Mohadevpur Upazila, Naogaon, an allegation arose of the death of a person named Abdul Hamid Dhala (66). The family claims that he was seriously injured by a police kick and later died. On 18 May, in the Shatmukhi canal area of the Khulna Range of the Sundarbans, a fisherman named Aminur Rahman Gazi (45) was killed after being shot by Forest Department staff while collecting crabs. On 21 June, in Madhukhali Upazila, Faridpur, a member of the banned organization Chhatra League activist named Mirza Istiaq Ahmed Pranto (26) died in the custody of DB (detective) police. The family claims that he died due to police torture. On 24 June, in Ramgarh, Khagrachhari, Bobin Tripura (32), a member of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF-

Prasit), was shot and killed during an exchange of gunfire with members of the Bangladesh Army. On 25 June, in the area adjacent to the Sundarbans in Koyra Upazila, Khulna, a person named Sakat Sardar (60) was shot and killed in a gunfight between the Coast Guard and members of the alleged bandit 'Dulabhai Bahini'. On 9 July, the hanging body of an accused named Rubel Mia (21) was recovered from the lockup of Nikli Police Station in Shorganj (sic). On 20 July, an accused named Asaduzzaman Asad (25), who was in the custody of Bogura District Detective Police (DB), died. It is learned that on 29 June, the district DB police arrested Asad as the main accused in the murder case of CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Abdul Mannan Molla (45) in Sariakandi. But after detention, his body was found in the washroom of the Detective Police (DB) lockup. On 30 July, a person named Mizanur Rahman (55), arrested in a case of attempted rape of a seven-year-old child in Faridganj, Dapur (sic), died in police custody. On 08 September, an allegation arose of beating to death an unidentified youth (age approximately 25) detained on suspicion of being a thief at the BTCL wire storehouse building adjacent to the Land Survey Office in Tejgaon in the capital. According to BTCL office staff and locals, on the morning of the incident, after the youth entered by climbing over the wall, Ansar members detained him, tied him to a pillar with rope and beat him. When he became unconscious in this, he was taken to hospital. Later, doctors at the hospital declared him dead. On 10 September, a woman named Nadira Begum (40) died in police custody in Bakerganj Upazila, Barishal. Local and police sources said that Nadira Begum was arrested in the early hours of the day of the incident 'during an anti-drug operation'. At that time Yaba was found on her, and she swallowed it. Later, when she was taken to court, she fell ill and was taken to hospital. There the doctor declared her dead. However, Nadira's husband Enamul Haque Gazi claims that his wife was beaten to death. In addition, on 26 September, in separate incidents at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital, Ansar members detained five persons on allegations of theft and harassment and handed them over to the hospital authorities. But after the handover, while confined in a room, a young man named Johnny Hossain (30) fell ill and died.

Allegations of Enforced Disappearance / Forced Disappearance

According to news published in various media outlets of the country, victims' families, and information collected by HRSS, an allegation has been received that a youth named Miraj Sheikh (32) was picked up in Mongla, Bagerhat, by persons identifying themselves as the Coast Guard. At a press conference, members of his family claimed that on the evening of 10 April, two Coast Guard members in civilian clothes detained Miraj Sheikh from a tea shop at Joymoni Thotar and took him to Harbaria Station. There, after Miraj was beaten, seven or eight uniformed members on a speedboat marked 'Bangladesh Coast Guard', which had come from the direction of Mongla, took his photographs and video. The incident took place in front of local villagers and Miraj's wife. The family further alleged that the motorcycle used by Miraj, which had at first been left in the custody of a local shopkeeper Al Amin, was taken away by two Coast Guard members late at night 8–10 days later. Lieutenant Commander Mahbub Hossain of the Coast Guard's Mongla West Zone said, 'We have no information about Miraj. However, the local people's claim is different: the Coast Guard has picked Miraj up.' Although a General Diary (GD), a press conference and a written application to the offices concerned were made regarding this incident, no trace of him has yet been found.

In addition, on 26 August, an allegation arose that DB police in plain clothes, on a motorcycle, picked up local businessman Shamim Khan at 8:23 p.m. from in front of UCB Bank in Mirpur-

1 in the capital. Two days after the detention, on 28 August, he was shown detained under the anti-terrorism law with arms. The victim's wife, Arabi Sultana, said that he left the house at around 3:00 on the day of the incident. Later at night, learning of the pick-up, she inquired at Darus Salam Police Station, Mirpur Police Station, Shah Ali Police Station and the DB office. But from every place she was told that no one named Shamim Khan was in their custody. However, the victim Shamim Khan is currently on bail. According to the victim's statement, he was picked up from Mirpur-1 in the capital on 26 August. There he was threatened and intimidated on various matters, and after the detention he was held at the DB office on Minto Road. He was later shown detained under the anti-terrorism law.

Unidentified Bodies

In the nine months from January to September, across the country, 491 bodies were recovered in 465 incidents of murder by miscreants in rivers, canals, jungles and abandoned places. Of these, 46 bodies were recovered in sacks, 87 in hanging condition, and 74 with multiple injuries on the body. 35 were killed by having their throats cut, and 31 bodies were found with hands and feet tied. Apart from these, 218 more bodies were found in various kinds of circumstances.

Deaths in Prison Custody

In the first nine months of the current year, at least 95 accused persons died in prisons across the country. Of the 95, 40 were convicts and 55 were undertrial detainees. The political identity of the dead is: 20 from the banned organization Awami League and its affiliated organisations, 1 from the BNP, and 74 ordinary prisoners.

> *In the first nine months of 2026 (January–September), at least 95 accused persons died in various prisons of the country, compared with 61 in the same period of 2025. That is, in one year the number of deaths in prison custody increased by 34 (about 56%). This situation demands the need for a deeper review of healthcare, security and prisoner management in prisons.*

On 12 January, Prolay Chaki (60), Pabna district cultural affairs secretary of the Awami League, whose activities are banned, and a singer, died in prison custody while undergoing treatment. The family claims that he was suffering from heart disease and diabetes. His death occurred due to the lack of proper treatment in prison. On the morning of 7 February, former Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, who fell ill while in prison, was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where the doctors on duty declared him dead. Since his detention on 16 August 2024, he had been held in Dinajpur District Jail in 3 cases. On the morning of 15 March, Shahnur Alam (60), vice-president of the Hatsherpur Union Awami League in Sariakandi Upazila, Bogura, who fell ill while in prison, died while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the capital. On 19 May, in Chattogram Central Jail, Debashish Chowdhury, an accused in the July–August murder case and a prisoner, died after suffering a heart attack. However, the dead man's family alleges that Debashish Chowdhury died from torture inside the prison. On 18 June, a Jubo Dal activist named Shahidullah Rasel (41) died in Cumilla Central Jail. He was imprisoned in a drug-related case. Over a span of 10 days from 15 July to 25 July, three prisoners died in Sirajganj District Jail. Among them, on 15 July, Aminul Islam Liton (47), a Shahjadpur Union leader of the Jubo League, whose activities are banned, died while undergoing treatment in

hospital after falling ill; on 23 July, Babul Mondal (52), environment affairs secretary of the Ratankandi Union Awami League in Sirajganj Sadar Upazila; and on 25 July, a prisoner named Kawsar Hossain (22) died while undergoing treatment at the Prison Hospital in Dhaka. On 6 September, 4 prisoners died after falling ill at Keraniganj Dhaka Central Jail. Among them, between 7:24 a.m. and 9:05 a.m., 3 prisoners died while undergoing treatment. They were undertrial detainee Abul Bashar (54), convict Abdul Kaiyum (62) and convict Shahadat Hossain Liton (48). In addition, at around a quarter past 9 at night, when Azharul Islam Milon (51) was brought unconscious from Dhaka Central Jail to DMCH, the doctor declared him dead. On 27 September, a leader of the Awami Swechchhasebak League, whose activities are banned, named Khairul Amin Ruhul Sarkar (50), died while undergoing treatment in hospital after falling ill in Kishoreganj District Jail. He was a former joint convener of the Kotiadi Upazila Swechchhasebak League. In addition, on 5 August, at around 3:30 p.m., Md. Mizanur Rahman Khan Monir Khan (48), a member of the Patuakhali District Awami League and former vice-chairman of the Sadar Upazila Parishad, died in the ICU of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Torture of Workers

In the past nine months, in 582 incidents of torture of workers, 145 were killed and at least 1263 were injured. At least 390 workers died at their workplaces in accidents due to unhealthy environments and a lack of protective equipment for workers. 26 people were detained during movements demanding wages and allowances. In addition, 3 domestic workers were killed and 7 were victims of torture. Five domestic workers died mysteriously. Among them, except for six, all were children and adolescent girls.

> *On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, in 176 incidents of torture of workers, 74 were killed and 828 injured. 104 workers died in workplace accidents due to unhealthy environments and a lack of safety arrangements. In addition, 4 domestic workers were killed and 2 seriously injured by torture by employers. Incidents also occurred in which many workers were injured in police–worker clashes centred on workers' movements demanding wages, allowances and Eid bonuses.*

On 16 February, in the Goalanda Mor area of Rajbari district sadar, at Karim Filling Station, a pump worker named Ripon Saha was killed when run over by the vehicle of contractor Abul Hashem Sujon, following an altercation over taking fuel without paying. On 17 June, in a hotel in the Khamarpara Mor area of College Road, Rangpur Metropolitan City, the shop owner beat to death an employee named Md. Shawon (25) following an exchange of words over cleaning up dirt. On 20 June, in the Kochukhet area of Bhashantek in the capital, a chase and counter-chase occurred between police and workers who were agitating for reopening a garment factory that had been closed and for unpaid wages and allowances. At this time, an allegation was also raised that several workers were beaten. In addition, police arrested 26 workers from the scene. On the other hand, on 30 April, in the Uttar Mouraïl area of Brahmanbaria district, an allegation arose that a doctor couple, K. M. Abdullah Al Noman and Kimiya Sadat Tofa, brutally tortured a domestic worker named Ayesha Akter (10). On 17 June, in the Sonadanga Residential Area of Khulna city, a parentless adolescent girl, in the area of Milon Das (22) (as written), was tortured by Sonadanga Model Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sanjay Mitra and his wife Poppy Mitra. The victim had lived with the police couple at their home as a domestic

worker since childhood. On 31 July, a worker named Saddam Sardar (35) died in the Silo Gate area of Siddhirganj, Narayanganj; his right hand had skin peeled off, there were blackish injury marks on his abdomen, and marks of severe beating and burn wounds on both legs. On 12 August, in the Rajbari Mitali Residential Area of Raynagar, Sylhet city, the householder Abdus Sattar Mia (82), his wife Suraiya Begum (72) and domestic worker Tahmina (15) were killed in the same house by having their throats cut. On 15 August, at Ferdous Steel Ship Recycling Industries in Sitakunda, Chattogram, 10 workers died inside a ship under the influence of excessive toxic hydrogen sulphide gas. On 16 September, at Green Road, Kalabagan in the capital, police arrested the housewife Morshada Akter and her husband Md. Saifuddin Russell on the allegation of torturing a domestic worker named Tania (11) by branding her with a hot spatula. The victim alleges that, for regular mistakes of various kinds, the housewife Morshada used to burn various parts of her body with a hot spatula. She was even beaten severely. Sometimes, as punishment, she was locked in the toilet. In addition, on 27 September, in Sreepur, Gazipur, workers of Ocean Spinning Limited blockaded the Dhaka–Mymensingh highway and demonstrated demanding two months of unpaid wages. At this time, when police and law enforcement members baton-charged to remove the workers, at least four workers were injured. Even at this time, police hurled several sound grenades to disperse the workers.

Violence against Women and Children

In the past nine months, at least 2404 women and girl children were victims of violence. Of these, at least 657 were victims of rape, among whom 392 (60%) were children and adolescent girls under 18 years of age. It is a matter of great concern that 130 (20%) women and girl children were victims of gang rape, and 29 were killed after rape. 2 committed suicide after being raped. 696 women and girl children were victims of sexual harassment, of whom 276 (40%) were children. In addition, in incidents of torture for dowry, 32 were killed, 35 women were injured, and 5 women committed suicide. 457 were killed, 279 injured and 219 women committed suicide as victims of domestic violence. In addition, 5 women were injured in acid violence.

> *In the first nine months of 2026, at least 2404 women and girl children were victims of violence, compared with 1511 in the same period of 2025. That is, incidents of violence increased by about 59%. In 2025, 663 were victims of rape, of whom 393 were children, 152 were victims of gang rape, 19 were killed after rape and 9 committed suicide. In addition, 326 women and girl children were victims of sexual violence, of whom 193 were children. 24 women were killed, 21 injured and 4 committed suicide due to dowry. In 2025, in domestic violence, 274 were killed, 63 injured and 132 committed suicide. In addition, in acid violence, 2 were killed and 2 women were injured.*

On the other hand, in 2026, at least 1810 children were victims of violence, of whom at least 494 lost their lives and 1316 were victims of physical and mental torture.

> *In 2025, 1065 children were victims of violence, of whom 209 lost their lives and 856 were victims of physical and mental torture.*

Compared with 2025, in 2026 an increase was seen in almost all indicators of violence against women and children. In particular, the numbers of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual harassment and deaths have increased significantly. This information highlights the need to

further strengthen the safety, protection systems and preventive activities for women and children.

On 8 January, a housewife was a victim of gang rape in Mesta Union of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila. When her husband came forward to protect his wife's honour, he was tied up in a maize field on an intensely cold night. Then the accused raped the wife in front of the husband and expressed jubilation. On 28 February, in Ishwardi, Pabna, an incident occurred in which, entering a house at midnight, they killed the grandmother Sufia Begum, and gang-raped and killed the adolescent granddaughter Jamila Akter (15). Police suspect that, because of resistance to the abduction of the adolescent girl, the grandmother was killed first and the granddaughter after being raped. On 2 March, in Sitakunda, Chattogram, from a secluded area of the Eco Park, a child named Jannatul Nisha Era (7) was raped and an attempt was made to kill her by slitting her throat. The day after the incident, the child died in hospital while undergoing treatment. On 14 March, in Damurhuda, Chuadanga, a widow named Jobeda Khatun (45) of Daliapur was gang-raped and then hacked to death. On 30 March, in Phulpur, Mymensingh, after an allegation of rape was raised, a girl (13) committed suicide by poison. On 10 April, in Muradnagar, Cumilla, a child aged 8 was a victim of rape. When the maternal uncle of the rape victim went to protest, his leg tendon was cut. On 19 May, in the Pallabi area of Mirpur in the capital, a 7-year-old child, Ramisa Akter, was raped and then killed by slitting her throat by Sohel Rana (30), a tenant of the neighbouring flat. On 03 May, in Faridpur, an incident occurred of killing a child named Irin Akter Kobita (7) by suffocation after failing to rape her. On 15 June, in Dhobaura, Mymensingh, after being lured with the offer of kadam flowers, a child named Nishamoni (5), who was killed by gang rape some hours after going missing, had her body recovered from the Kangsa River. On 23 June, in Taraganj Upazila, Rangpur, a kindergarten class two child named Sanjida Khatun (9) was killed after being raped by showing her obscene videos. On 15 January, in Khulna Metropolitan City, an allegation arose of torturing a housewife, a mother of two children, for refusing to give five lakh taka as dowry. At one point during the torture, the hair of the victim housewife's head was even cut off. On 22 March, in Sonargaon, Narayanganj, housewife Anika Khatun alias Farhana (24) was brutally murdered by her husband Md. Sagar for not receiving dowry. On 22 May, in Naogaon district, a housewife named Rehana (20) was beaten to death by her husband and mother-in-law for not receiving dowry money. On 25 June, in Lakshmipasha village of Kabai Union in Bakerganj Upazila, Barishal, an incident occurred in which Rima Akter Mahfuza (30), a mother of two children, was killed after torture for dowry. On 13 April, in Tangail, an incident occurred in which wife Nazma Harijan was killed by being set on fire with kerosene oil during a quarrel at one point, when she refused to give her husband money for drugs. On 2 April, in Abhaynagar, Jashore, in anger at Masura Begum (19) refusing to divorce her husband, she was made to drink a soft drink mixed with sleeping medicine and, while she was unconscious, acid was thrown on her legs and genitals. On 30 May, in Islampur, Jamalpur, late at night, an incident occurred in which a woman named Akhiya Akter (28) was injured by throwing acid. On 4 June, in domestic violence in Jibannagar Upazila, Chuadanga, an incident occurred in which the husband kicked the stomach of Shikha Khatun (19), a housewife seven months pregnant, and killed the child in the womb. On 9 June, at around 8 a.m., in Titas Upazila, Cumilla, an incident occurred in which acid was thrown on schoolgirl Hiramoni (14) by hooligans who had been harassing her for a long time, after entering the premises of Begum Fazilatunnesa High School.

On 6 July, in Karimpur village of Munshibazar Union of Rajnagar Upazila, Moulvibazar, the half-decomposed body of his own wife Zaheda Begum was recovered from digging up the courtyard of the house of a local resident named Alamgir Hossain. On 24 July, in the Barabag area of Mirpur in the capital, for not bringing dowry money, the husband Sohel poured kerosene and set fire to the body of housewife Shifa Akter (19). Later, on 5 July (as written), while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Shifa died. Shifa's father Jahangir Alam alleges that at the time of the marriage six bhori of gold and two lakh taka in cash were to be given. But although five bhori of gold and some money were given, because the remaining demanded gold and money could not be given, Sohel set fire to his daughter. On 2 August, the body of a 9-year-old child was recovered in the Tarakandi area of Nagarkanda Upazila, Faridpur. The family claims that the child was killed after being raped. On 2 August, in Niamatpur Upazila, Naogaon, a speech- and hearing-impaired young woman was raped and was later married off through a village arbitration. But 15 days after the marriage, her father-in-law, mother-in-law and others forcibly made her take medicine and destroyed the child in her womb, and she was left at her father's house. On 6 August, a 10-year-old child named Raju Ahmed, because he had seen an incident of auto-rickshaw snatching, was killed by miscreants and buried in a waterlogged paddy field. After searching, the child's half-decomposed body was recovered. On 2 September, in Titarkandi village of Matlab North, Chandpur, an allegation arose of the rape of a 16-year-old disabled girl. After being raped through intimidation, she was given 100 taka to keep the matter secret. There is also an allegation of an attempt to settle the matter through local arbitration and of giving 40 thousand taka to the victim's family. On 10 September, in the Rajmahal–Purbabagan area of Hafizabad Union, Panchagarh, an allegation arose of raping a schoolgirl by taking advantage of a love relationship against mason worker Sohel and his associates. According to the allegation, Sohel took the student to a house and raped her with the help of his associates. Later, the schoolgirl committed suicide by drinking poison. On 14 September, in Madarganj, Jamalpur, an allegation arose of calling a seven-year-old schoolgirl out of school, raping her and then killing her. A person named Jaminur tricked the child into taking her to his house and raped her. It is alleged that he later strangled her with an orna (scarf) and buried the body in a hole dug in the floor of the room. On 19 September, in Daulatkhan Upazila, Bhola, an allegation of torturing with acid the body of a housewife named Akhi Akter (19) for not receiving dowry has been raised against her husband Hasnain Ahmed Musa (25). The victim alleges that from five months after the marriage, the husband and his in-laws had been torturing her demanding dowry. On the night of the incident, the husband even brought acid from the market and applied it on her body, and later kept her locked in the room.

Cases and Arrests

During this period, at least 270 cases were filed against leaders and activists of Sheikh Hasina, the banned party Awami League, the BNP and Jamaat, and under various sections of anti-terrorism laws. In these cases, 5809 persons were named and 32433 were made unnamed accused. In these cases, at least 5644 Awami League, BNP and Jamaat leaders and activists were arrested, of whom at least 4827 were Awami League leaders and activists, 609 BNP leaders and activists, 145 Jamaat, 43 NCP and 37 extremists. In addition, during this period, special joint-force operations were conducted across the country to keep the law and order situation under control. In these operations, about 63 thousand-plus persons were arrested. In September, in various areas of the country, more than 3145 teenagers were detained and taken

into custody for questioning on account of involvement with, or as suspects of, teenage gangs, of whom more than eight hundred teenagers were handed over to guardians after taking undertakings (muchalka).

> *On the other hand, in the same period of 2025, at least 166 cases were filed against political leaders and activists. In these cases, 10385 persons were named and 34137 were made unnamed accused. During the same period, 44962 people were arrested in various cases, most of whom were leaders and activists of the banned party Awami League and its affiliated organisations.*

On the basis of the information and observations presented in the report, Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

- To prevent political violence, strict implementation of a code of conduct for all political parties, establishment of internal democracy, impartial investigation of political conflicts, and speedy bringing of the guilty to trial must be ensured.
- To make the upcoming local government elections free, fair and participatory, the independence and capacity of the Election Commission must be increased, election violence must be prevented, and the safety of candidates and voters must be ensured.
- Independent, impartial and transparent investigation of every incident of extrajudicial killing, death in custody, enforced disappearance, torture and excessive use of force, on allegations of human rights violations, must be ensured and those responsible brought under accountability.
- To stop mob violence and public lynching, public awareness against taking the law into one's own hands must be increased and speedy trial ensured.
- Freedom of expression, the media and peaceful assembly must be ensured in accordance with the Constitution and international human rights standards, and effective measures must be taken to protect the safety and professional independence of journalists.
- To ensure that the application of cyber laws and related provisions does not unduly restrict freedom of expression, legal reform consistent with international human rights standards must be undertaken.
- To prevent violence against women and children, speedy trial of rape, sexual violence, domestic violence and dowry-related crimes, protection and rehabilitation of victims, and child protection systems must be strengthened.
- To ensure the safety of religious and ethnic minorities, protection of places of worship, residences and property must be increased, attacks must be impartially investigated, and arrangements for compensation and rehabilitation of those affected must be made.

- To ensure labour rights, a safe working environment, fair wages, payment of salaries and allowances on time, freedom of workers' organisations, and workplace safety standards must be strictly implemented.
- To protect human rights in prisons and custody, adequate medical care for prisoners, a humane environment, regular independent inspections, and judicial inquiry into every incident of death in custody must be ensured.
- To stop killings, torture and push-ins at the border, effective diplomatic initiatives with the neighbouring state must be taken, border management strengthened, and full respect for international human rights and humanitarian law ensured.
- Necessary legal and institutional reforms must be implemented to strengthen the independence, capacity and effectiveness of independent constitutional and accountable institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission.
- Through the formulation and implementation of an effective National Human Rights Action Plan, in coordination with the government, the National Human Rights Commission, civil society and development partners, initiatives must be taken to establish an inclusive, accountable and rights-based state system in accordance with international human rights standards.