

Human Rights Crisis

in Bangladesh: March 2026 Exposes
the BNP Government's

Catastrophic Failure to Govern



14 killed, **390** injured

in **56** incidents

48 rape cases reported

19 killed in mob justice across 36 incidents

10+ attacks on religious minorities



**14 KILLED AND
390 INJURED IN
56 INCIDENTS**



**48 RAPE
CASES
REPORTED**



**MOB JUSTICE CLAIMED
19 LIVES ACROSS
36 INCIDENTS**



**AT LEAST 10
DOCUMENTED
ATTACKS ON
RELIGIOUS
MINORITIES**

One month into the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's rule, the country is bleeding. March 2026 was not a period of democratic consolidation after February's election. It was a carnival of murder, rape, mob savagery, and minority persecution that has laid bare the BNP's complete inability to maintain the most basic function of any government: protecting its citizens' lives and dignity.

The data from independent monitors are damning. The streets, temples, and homes of Bangladesh have become killing fields under a party that promised renewal but delivered only chaos.



*March marked by rise in
accidents and violence*

AT A GLANCE

- 116 killed, 460 injured in Eid travel accidents
- 14 killed, 390 injured in political violence
- 48 rape cases reported
- 19 killed, 31 injured in mob violence
- 2 deaths in custody, 11 in prisons
- 10 incidents of attacks on religious minorities

A SURGE IN BLOODSHED: MURDERS, MOB LYNCHINGS AND POLITICAL CARNAGE

Human rights monitors recorded 14 deaths and 390 injuries in 56 separate incidents of political violence in March alone. Most of it was BNP cadres turning on one another in turf wars and internal power struggles. This is not opposition sabotage; it is the governing party eating itself alive while the public pays the price.



*Political violence kills 14
in March as post-poll
clashes surge: MSF*

Mob justice, that hallmark of state failure, claimed another 19 lives across 36 incidents. Victims were beaten, hacked, or burned to death over petty theft allegations, personal grudges, or nothing at all. Trust in police and courts has evaporated so completely that citizens have taken to lynching one another in broad daylight. Two more died in law-enforcement custody and 11 in prison, raising fresh questions about torture and extrajudicial killing that the BNP once condemned in opposition.

Specific horrors make the statistics grotesque. On 7 March, 35-year-old Hindu businessman Ganesh Pal, father of three young children, was hacked to death in broad daylight in Cox's Bazar by a local assailant identified as Jishan. On 8 March, a bomb exploded inside the Kaligachh Tala Kali Hindu Temple during evening worship, injuring the priest. On 18 March, the body of Hindu youth Dipan Malakar was fished from a pond in Sylhet's Ekasantosh village; police suspect murder. These are not isolated crimes. They are symptoms of a state that has lost control.



THE RAPE EPIDEMIC: WOMEN AND GIRLS PAY THE PRICE OF BNP INCOMPETENCE

Rape cases jumped to 48 in March, up from 33 the previous month. Attempted rape doubled to 24. Fifteen of the rapes were gang rapes. Three women and girls were murdered after being sexually assaulted. Another 289 incidents of violence against women and children were logged, including sexual harassment, murders, and suicides. Four victims were girls or women with disabilities.



Violence against women rises in March



Rape, political violence rise in March

This is not a “cultural” problem suddenly exploded. It is the direct result of a security apparatus that has gone slack. Under the previous Awami League government of Sheikh Hasina, for all its well-documented authoritarianism and suppression of dissent, Bangladesh maintained a level of day-to-day law and order that kept violent crime from spiralling into a national crisis.

Economic growth, infrastructure projects, and a visible police presence created at least the illusion of stability. Women could, by and large, walk the streets without fearing that every shadow concealed a predator enabled by state paralysis. That fragile order has now collapsed. The BNP’s first month in power has been a licence for predators.



MINORITIES UNDER SIEGE: TEMPLES BOMBED, LIVES DESTROYED

Ten documented incidents targeted religious minorities in March alone, including idol vandalism, temple desecration, arson, and property grabs. The bombing of a Kali temple and the targeted murders of Hindu citizens are not random. They signal that the forces of intolerance, long kept in check by a strong central authority, now operate with impunity. The BNP, which courted minority votes and secular rhetoric during the campaign, has shown itself either unwilling or unable to protect the very communities it once courted.



*Conversion Pressure
Allegations Emerge Involving
Hindu Family in Sunamganj*



*Hindu minority in
Bangladesh faces
surge in attacks*

JOURNALISTS SILENCED, CYBER LAWS WEAPONISED

At least 30 journalists faced attacks, threats, or legal harassment. Three fresh cases were filed under the revamped Cyber Security Ordinance. The BNP once decried such laws when used against its own leaders. Now it presides over their continued abuse while the press that should hold power to account is cowed into silence.



*Bangladesh's Press
Under Pressure*

A GOVERNMENT UNFIT TO RULE

The BNP came to power promising democracy, accountability, and a break from the past. One month later, Bangladesh has more murders, more rapes, more mob killings, and more minority persecution than at any comparable period in recent memory. Internal party feuds consume the ruling coalition while citizens are left to fend for themselves. This is not teething trouble. This is systemic collapse.

A government that cannot stop its own cadres from slaughtering one another in the streets, cannot protect women from gang rape, cannot safeguard temples from bombs, and cannot prevent mobs from burning suspected thieves alive has forfeited the right to govern. The international community, which applauded the February election as a democratic triumph, must now confront the truth: Bangladesh under the BNP is sliding into lawlessness. The victims of March, Ganesh Pal, Dipan Malakar, the unnamed rape survivors, the lynched, and the terrorised, deserve more than platitudes. They deserve a state that works. They do not have one.

The BNP's experiment in governance has failed its first and most basic test. Unless it reverses course immediately, reforms the police, crushes mob culture, protects minorities, and restores the rule of law, it will prove what many already fear: that it was never fit to run the country at all. Bangladesh's people risked everything in 2024 to end one authoritarian nightmare. They did not do so to inherit another dressed in democratic clothing. The blood on the streets of March 2026 is the first verdict on the BNP government. It is a failing grade written in red.



BANGLADESH
PERSPECTIVES

POLICE