

The Great Sabotage:

How Muhammad Yunus's 18 Months Left Bangladesh in Ruins



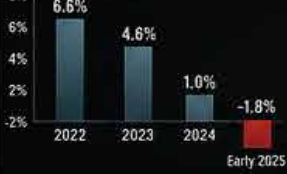
BANGLADESH UNDER YUNUS:

A NATION IN CRISIS (AUGUST 2024 – MAY 2026)

1. ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

GDP GROWTH

(Annual %)



INFLATION RATE

(April 2025)



FOREIGN INVESTMENT NET OUTFLOW

(Jul 2024 – Apr 2025)

-\$2.17 BILLION



2. INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT CRISIS

FACTORY CLOSURES



WORKERS LEAVING FACTORIES



MARKETPLACE SLOWDOWN



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(April 2025)

9.3%

UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

1 6 2 0 0 0 0

AND COUNTING...

3. LAW & ORDER BREAKDOWN

MOB VIOLENCE



BURNING STREETS



POLICE BARRICADES



POLITICAL VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

(AUG 2024 – APR 2025)

1 5 2 6

PEOPLE KILLED IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE

4. MINORITY ATTACKS

BURNED HOMES & TEMPLES



ATTACK HOTSPOTS

(AUG 2024 – APR 2025)



FAITH UNDER ATTACK



CANDLELIGHT MEMORIALS



5. ATTACKS ON MEDIA & CULTURE

BURNING NEWSPAPERS



BROKEN CAMERA & MICROPHONE



CULTURAL STAGE UNDER ATTACK



SILENCING TRUTH DOCUMENTARY STYLE



TRUTH. SUPPRESSED. VOICES. SILENCED.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS & IMPUNITY

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

(AUG 2024 – APR 2025)

6 3 4

DOCUMENTED CASES

IMPUNITY PREVAILS



JUSTICE BLINDED. ACCOUNTABILITY DENIED.

7. CORRUPTION & CRONYISM

MONEY FLOWING TO THE ELITE



CORRUPTION NETWORK



GOVERNMENT – NGO – CORPORATE LINKS



CRONYISM CYCLE



PUBLIC WEALTH. PRIVATE GAIN. SYSTEM CAPTURED.

8. FAILED REFORMS

BROKEN REFORM CHECKLIST

REFORMS	Status
Judicial Reform	✗
Election Reform	✗
Police Reform	✗
Anti-Corruption	✗
Local Government	✗
Constitutional Reform	✗

ELECTIONS DELAYED AGAIN



EMPTY PARLIAMENT



PUBLIC PROTESTS



9. INTERNATIONAL IMAGE vs REALITY

GLOBAL PRESTIGE



DOMESTIC REALITY



INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES



TIMELINE: THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL



“ PRESTIGE ALONE CANNOT GOVERN A NATION. LEADERSHIP DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY, STABILITY, AND VISION. ”

From Nobel laurels to a legacy of institutional collapse, the interim experiment in Dhaka has proven to be the most expensive failure in the nation's 54-year history.

In the turbulent history of Bangladesh, few figures have ascended to power with as much international acclaim as Muhammad Yunus. A Nobel Peace Prize laureate celebrated for microfinance, he was thrust into leadership of the interim government in August 2024 following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. Expectations were sky-high: a neutral technocrat who would stabilize the nation, restore order, deliver reforms, and steer the economy toward recovery.



*The Collapse of Democracy
and Institutions Under
Yunus in Bangladesh*



*How Bangladesh
Spiraled in Just 18
Months Under Dr. Yunus*

Eighteen months later, as Yunus stepped down in early 2026, the verdict from critics, data, and many Bangladeshis is damning. Far from a savior, Yunus presided over one of the most unqualified and ineffective administrations in the country's history. Economic indicators plummeted, law and order fractured, corruption allegations swirled around his inner circle, and the promise of a "new Bangladesh" dissolved into anarchy, stagnation, and dashed hopes. Bangladesh was left in ruins, poorer, more divided, and more insecure.

YUNUS ILLEGITIMACY BANGLADESH UNDER SIEGE



Economic Debacle: From Steady Growth to Stagnation

Pre-uprising Bangladesh had built a reputation as an economic success story in South Asia, averaging around 6%+ GDP growth over the previous decade. This progress lifted millions out of poverty through garment exports, remittances, and incremental resilience. Under Muhammad Yunus's interim government, that trajectory collapsed. In just 18 months, policy missteps, political uncertainty, and administrative paralysis turned steady gains into sharp reversals.

The man once called the "poverty magician" for his microfinance work left behind more poor people than he inherited. World Bank and IMF estimates indicate 1.2 to 3 million additional Bangladeshis fell below the poverty line.



Economic Debacle In Bangladesh During Yunus's Regime



IMF Says Bangladesh's Economic Growth Slowed to 3.7% in FY2025



Money Printing and Bank Borrowing Push Bangladesh Toward a Deeper Economic Crisis



Bangladesh GDP hits 20-year low as Yunus fails to control economic crisis



High inflation, low investments, rise in poverty and more: How Bangladesh is suffering from a never before seen economic crisis under Muhammad Yunus



Bangladesh's economy: Surviving the aftershock

Collapse of Law and Order: The Rise of Mob Rule and Insecurity

Restoring security was the interim government's most urgent task. It failed. With police forces slow to recover, a dangerous vacuum emerged, rapidly filled by mob violence, lynchings, and targeted attacks.

The scale of violence reached alarming levels:

Mob Lynchings



At least 637 people, including 41 police officers, were killed in mob incidents between August 2024 and July 2025, more than 12 times the 51 deaths recorded in 2023. Rights group ASK documented at least 293–308 mob violence deaths over the 18-month period, with roughly 10 incidents daily on average.



Bangladesh records over 637 mob lynching deaths in one year



Bangladesh's Law and Order Collapse Is Not Accidental, It Is Engineered

Political Violence



At least 328 people were killed, and thousands were injured in political violence incidents from August 2024 to December 2025.



328 killed in political violence during interim govt

Attacks on Minorities



Over 2,000–2,500 incidents of violence against religious minorities (especially Hindus) were reported, including killings, rapes, temple desecrations, and arson on homes and businesses. In the chaotic first weeks alone, over 1,000 Hindu homes and businesses faced attacks.



Bangladesh downplays attacks on minorities



Widespread targeting of institutions and communities:



Awami League affiliates, perceived pro-Hasina individuals, journalists, educators, judges, business owners, and ordinary citizens lived in fear. Mobs attacked government offices, courts, industrial plants, educational institutions, religious centers, media offices, and shops.



Prominent media outlets suffered direct assaults: Coordinated mobs set fire to the offices of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo in late 2025, trapping journalists inside, while also targeting cultural centers like Chhayanaut.



Universities and courts saw pressure through street mobilizations, including forcing resignations of senior judges via mob presence, which critics argued severely undermined judicial independence.

Human rights organizations documented widespread impunity, with over 270,000 people implicated in often politically motivated cases. The government faced accusations of selective justice, dropping charges against allies while pursuing opponents aggressively. Extrajudicial killings continued, with groups like vOdhikar recording at least 40 such deaths in the first 14 months.



Human Rights Violations in Bangladesh 2024-2026: Mob Lynchings, Minority Persecution & Impunity Crisis



How Yunus Embraced Islamist Extremists In Bangladesh

Critics argue that the situation worsened because the Yunus administration actively embraced Islamist extremists, giving them political space and influence in exchange for support. This perceived alignment emboldened radical elements and contributed to the surge in targeted violence against minorities and secular voices.



Corruption Allegations and Cronyism

Following the August 2024 political shift, the administration led by Muhammad Yunus faced intense scrutiny regarding institutional integrity and the "NGO-ization" of state functions. Critics argued that the Nobel laureate's administration blurred the lines between public office and private empire, particularly with Grameen-affiliated organizations.



Is Yunus Abusing Power To Expand Business Empire?

1. Conflict of Interest & Favoritism

Concerns were raised regarding rapid regulatory approvals for Grameen-linked entities, including clearance for Grameen University, digital wallet licensing for Grameen Telecom, and a manpower export license for Grameen Employment. Furthermore, the government reportedly reduced its stake in Grameen Bank from 25% to 10%, diminishing state oversight.



Full details on Yunus's corruption and tax evasion over the years.



One Man, Two Faces, How Yunus Hijacked the State to Enrich Grameen

2. Fiscal Concessions and Tax Evasion

Reports and High Court petitions allege significant financial anomalies, including tax waivers totaling over 666 crore taka for a Grameen-linked company. Critics also identified approximately 111 crore taka in alleged tax evasion regarding cases that were withdrawn. Reinstated tax exemptions directly benefited entities closely associated with Dr. Yunus.



High Court withdraws Grameen Kalyan's 666C tax payment ruling

3. Judicial Impact and Withdrawal of Cases

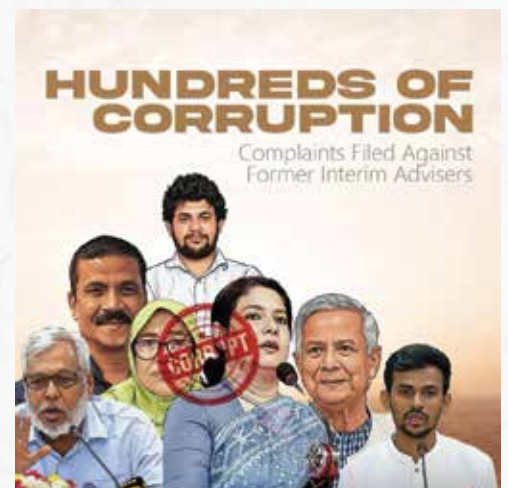
The independence of the judiciary was called into question as several legal cases against Dr. Yunus, including labor law violations and money laundering charges, were reportedly dismissed or withdrawn after he assumed office. In April 2026, a writ petition was filed in the High Court seeking an investigation into alleged financial mismanagement and these dismissals.

4. Governance and Appointments

Staffing strategies were met with accusations of cronyism. The administration faced backlash for hiring associates from specific NGO networks into senior roles and appointing inexperienced activists to technical ministries. Reports indicate that hundreds of corruption complaints have been filed against interim advisers regarding their conduct during this tenure.



Hundreds of Corruption Complaints Filed Against Former Interim Advisers



Reforms Promised, Delivery Lacking

Reform commissions were announced with fanfare, covering elections, corruption, and governance. Implementation lagged. Delayed elections prolonged uncertainty, deterring investment. Constitutional and administrative changes faced resistance and strikes. The gap between rhetoric and results widened public disillusionment.



*Bangladesh's Interim Government:
Reform Promised, Allegations Remain*

An Urgent Lesson for Bangladesh and the World

Muhammad Yunus's tenure stands as a cautionary tale: international prestige and Nobel credentials do not confer governing competence. In 18 months, an unqualified leader, surrounded by inexperienced advisers and distracted by global acclaim, left Bangladesh economically scarred, socially fractured, and institutionally weaker. The "new Bangladesh" became a mirage of intolerance, stagnation, and insecurity.

For international observers, this episode demands reflection. Celebrated outsiders parachuted into power carry risks when detached from local realities and accountability. Bangladesh's resilient people deserve better: competent leadership grounded in pragmatism, not hype. As the country navigates its post-interim path, the ruins of Yunus's experiment underscore an urgent truth: Nations cannot be run on borrowed prestige. They require vision, execution, and humility. Anything less invites ruin.



BANGLADESH
PERSPECTIVES