



Bangladesh: Country Focus

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Disclaimer

This report was written according to the [EUAA COI Report Methodology \(2023\)](#). The report is based on carefully selected sources of information. All sources used are referenced.

The information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care within a limited timeframe. However, this document does not claim to be exhaustive. If a particular event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist.

Furthermore, this report is not conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular application for international protection. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

‘Refugee’, ‘risk’ and similar terminology are used as generic terminology and not in the legal sense as applied in the EU Asylum Acquis, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

Neither EUAA nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained in this report.

On 19 January 2022, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) became the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). All references to EASO, EASO products and bodies should be understood as references to the EUAA.

The reference period of this report ends on 30 June 2025. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this report. More information on the reference period for this report can be found in the [Introduction](#).





Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
<i>Adivasi</i>	Local term for ‘indigenous’
<i>Aynaghar</i>	Local term for ‘secret prison’
Awami League	The former ruling party, in power 2009–2024
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
BNP	Bangladesh Nationalist Party
Chhatra League	The student wing of the Awami League
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
DB	Detective Branch, specialised unit of the police
DGFI	Directorate-General of Armed Forces Intelligence
DMCH	Dhaka Medical College Hospital
<i>Hundi</i>	An informal way of transferring money between different locations
ICT-BD	International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh
IGP	Inspector-General of Police
KNA/KNF	Kuki-Chin National Army/Kuki-Chin National Front
RAB	Rapid Action Battalion
<i>Razakar</i>	A ‘highly offensive term’ in Bangladesh, referring to collaborators of Pakistani occupying forces during the 1971 independence war





Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information in view of the assessment of international protection, including refugee status and subsidiary protection. This report intends to capture a selection of the main issues relevant to international protection in the assessment of claims from Bangladeshi nationals. This report provides an update on events taking place amid Bangladesh's recent powershift, and should be read together with the [EUAA COI report Bangladesh: Country Focus](#), published in July 2024.

The reference period of this report is 16 May 2024–30 June 2025. Events taking place after the reference period have not been included.

Methodology

This report was drafted by the EUAA and reviewed by the EUAA and national COI departments in EU+ countries,¹ as mentioned in the Acknowledgements section.

This report is produced in line with the EUAA COI Report Methodology (2023)² and the EUAA COI Writing and Referencing Style Guide (2023).³

Defining the terms of reference

The terms of reference (ToR) of this report were defined by the EUAA, based on identified information needs, and external consultations with the EUAA COI Strategic Network. The ToR are available in [Annex 3: Terms of Reference](#).

Collecting information

The information gathered is a result of research using public, specialised paper-based and electronic sources until 4 July 2025. Some limited additional information was added during the finalisation of this report in response to feedback received during the quality control process, until 18 July 2025.

Quality control

To ensure that the authors respected the EUAA COI Report Methodology and that the ToR were comprehensively addressed, a review was carried out by COI specialists from the countries listed as reviewers in the Acknowledgements section. All comments made by the reviewers were taken into consideration and most of them were implemented in the final draft

¹ EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland

² EUAA, EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Report Methodology, February 2023, [url](#)

³ EUAA, EUAA Writing and Referencing Guide for EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports, February 2023, [url](#)



of this report, which was finalised on 18 July 2024. EUAA also performed the final quality review and editing of the text.

Sources

In accordance with EUAA COI Report Methodology, a range of different published documentary sources have been consulted on relevant topics for this report. These include: information from civil society, advocacy groups, humanitarian organisations, and NGOs; international and NGO human rights reports; reports produced by bodies of the United Nations (UN); local and international media; academic publications and think tank reports and specialised sources covering Bangladesh. All sources are outlined in [Annex 2: Bibliography](#).

Structure and use of the report

The first chapter of this report offers an overview of the student protests that caused a powershift in Bangladesh. This section should be read in conjunction with [Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024](#) that provides a timeline of the protests, including information on violent acts and involved actors. Chapters 2–4 provide information on the interim government, including its composition, decisions and reform agenda, and the impact of the powershift on law enforcement and the justice system. Chapters 5–7 provide information on human rights in the administration of justice, as well as the security situation and socio-economic situation. It is followed by chapter 8 outlining state and societal treatment of select profiles and groups of the population.

Terminology

In this report, participants protesting under the banner ‘Anti-Discrimination Student Movement’ that took place in July–August 2024 are referred to as ‘student protesters’, ‘protesters’ or simply ‘students’. It is essential to note that members and supporters of the Chhatra League, which engaged in attacks against these protests and launched counter-demonstrations, were also students. However, the term ‘students’ in this report refers exclusively to students who participated in the anti-quota protests and related demonstrations. Moreover, as the protests generalised, the more general term ‘protesters’ is being used in some parts of the report.

The ‘Anti-Discrimination Student Movement’ is known by various names in different sources. For the purpose of this report, the movement is referred to as the ‘student movement’ or the ‘student protest movement’.

In 2018, Bangladesh updated the English spelling of several locations to reflect their Bengali pronunciations, including Chattogram (formerly Chittagong), Cumilla (Comilla), Barishal (Barisal), Jashore (Jessore) and Bogura (Bogra).⁴ Although some sources may still use the old

⁴ Scroll.in, Chittagong is now Chattogram as Bangladesh revises English spellings of five districts, 2 April 2018, [url](#)



spellings, this report uses the new names. The Chittagong Hill Tracts retains its original name, as the new spelling 'Chattogram' is not commonly used to refer to this region.



Map



Map 1. Bangladesh⁵

⁵ UN Geospatial, Bangladesh - Map No. 3835 Rev. 6, 20 May 2020, [url](#)



1. The student protests

1.1. Background of the protests

Bangladesh introduced a quota system for public service jobs in 1972,⁶ soon after winning the war of independence from Pakistan.⁷ Some positions were earmarked, inter alia for ‘freedom fighters’ of the war for whom 30 % of positions were reserved. Quotas were also introduced for ‘marginalised communities’,⁸ including women, ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and people from underrepresented districts.⁹ As the number of people claiming positions for ‘freedom fighters’ started to dwindle with time,¹⁰ this quota was extended to include their children in 1997, and their grandchildren in 2010.¹¹ In summer 2018, students took the streets to protest against the quota system,¹² which grew into nationwide protests.¹³ As a result, the government cancelled the quota for first- and second class posts.¹⁴ Almost six years later, on 5 June 2024, the High Court overturned the decision,¹⁵ meaning that the quotas were to be re-established.¹⁶ This provoked new student protests in July 2024,¹⁷ calling for a merit-based recruitment system.¹⁸

Critics have been describing the quota system as discriminatory,¹⁹ in practice benefitting individuals loyal to Hasina’s government, and even functioning as a form of political patronage to consolidate power.²⁰ Frustration over the increasingly autocratic rule under Hasina also underpinned the protests.²¹ By summer 2024, Hasina and her party, the Awami League, had been in consecutive power for 15 years,²² and had won a new five-year term in January 2024

⁶ FP, What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Student Protests?, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

⁷ AP, Born in war, Bangladesh marks 50 years of independence, 24 March 2021, [url](#)

⁸ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

⁹ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); FP, What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Student Protests?, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota vs merit in govt jobs: Who passed the exams?, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹¹ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); New York Times (The), Bangladesh Scales Back Policy on Public-Sector Hiring That Sparked Unrest, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹² HRW, “Creating Panic”, December 2018, [url](#), p. 6

¹³ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); AI, What is happening at the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh?, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform leaders voice support for pro-quota protests, 7 October 2018, [url](#)

¹⁵ Daily Star (The), Cancellation of 30pc quota for freedom fighters’ children in civil service illegal: HC, 5 June 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, What’s behind Bangladesh’s violent quota protests?, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷ Daily Star (The), History of the quota system in Bangladesh, 10 July 2024, [url](#); AI, What is happening at the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh?, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸ FP, What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Student Protests?, 18 July 2024, [url](#); New York Times (The), Bangladesh Scales Back Policy on Public-Sector Hiring That Sparked Unrest, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹ FP, What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Student Protests?, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

²⁰ FP, What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Student Protests?, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#); Guardian (The), Bangladesh student protests turn into ‘mass movement against a dictator’, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

²¹ Guardian (The), Bangladesh student protests turn into ‘mass movement against a dictator’, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

²² Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#); BBC News, Sheikh Hasina: The pro-democracy icon who became an autocrat, 6 August 2024, [url](#)



– in elections that were boycotted by the main opposition, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).²³

The protests were also underpinned by an economic frustration,²⁴ as there have been limited economic opportunities, in particular for youth to secure adequate jobs.²⁵ Chaumtoli Huq, Professor of Law at the CUNY School of Law in New York, who specialise in human rights and labour rights and has carried out research in Bangladesh, likened the reintroduction of the quota system with a ‘match that lit’ the frustration over longstanding political repression, economy, corruption, and non-independence of the judiciary.²⁶

1.2. Overview of events in July–August 2024

On 1 July 2024, students started to protest the reinstatement of a quota system for civil service jobs²⁷ under the banner ‘Anti-Discrimination Student Movement’.²⁸ The protests grew day by day,²⁹ and intensified after the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina referred to the students as *razakars*³⁰ (a ‘highly offensive term’³¹ referring to collaborators of Pakistani occupying forces during the 1971 war of independence³²). The authorities’ tolerance for the mobilisation decreased,³³ and the situation ‘descended into violence’.³⁴ The protesters shifted from only addressing the need of a quota reform to also calling for democracy and to protesting against what they perceived as an autocratic rule under Hasina.³⁵ By mid-July 2024,³⁶ state authorities attempted to quell protests by force,³⁷ resulting in what some sources

²³ BBC News, Bangladesh election: PM Sheik Hasina wins fourth term in controversial vote, 8 January 2024, [url](#)

²⁴ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#); AFP, Explainer: What’s Behind Bangladesh’s Deadly Protests?, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Benar News, Top Bangladesh court rolls back quotas that sparked deadly civil unrest, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

²⁵ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#); Benar News, Top Bangladesh court rolls back quotas that sparked deadly civil unrest, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

²⁶ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)

²⁷ Al Jazeera, What’s behind Bangladesh’s violent quota protests?, 16 July 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Bangladesh on Edge after Crushing Quota Protests, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

²⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh university students launch protests against quotas in jobs again after High Court verdict, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

²⁹ International Crisis Group, Bangladesh on Edge after Crushing Quota Protests, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

³⁰ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Bangladesh on Edge after Crushing Quota Protests, 25 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), The ‘Razakar’ back and forth: Who said what?, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

³¹ Al Jazeera, Sheikh Hasina: A critical misstep and the end of 15 years ruling Bangladesh, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

³² Al Jazeera, Sheikh Hasina: A critical misstep and the end of 15 years ruling Bangladesh, 5 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Who said what?, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

³³ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)

³⁴ ACLED, Bangladesh’s July demonstrations are much larger and more violent than in 2018, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

³⁵ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)

³⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 36

³⁷ EAF, What will come after the July massacre in Bangladesh?, 22 August 2024, [url](#); Diplomat (The), A Majority of Bangladeshi Netizens Show Red Card to Government’s Mourning Decision, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Firstpost, Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for Sheikh Hasina over mass killings of students protests, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

describe as ‘mass killings’³⁸ or the ‘July massacre’.³⁹ Security forces targeted peaceful protests,⁴⁰ made use of teargas, rubber bullets,⁴¹ and lethal weapons.⁴² Ruling party supporters also carried out attacks, sometimes side-by-side with the police.⁴³ Protesters were shot dead or injured,⁴⁴ which in turn ignited violence from the protesters’ side.⁴⁵ The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) estimated that about 1 400 people may have been killed during the protests – the vast majority by military rifles and ammunition commonly used by security forces.⁴⁶ Thousands more were wounded, incapacitated, or disabled, including hundreds who lost their sight on one or both eyes⁴⁷ after being shot in the face.⁴⁸ Women protesters also faced physical violence, threats of rape, and sexual assaults by ruling party supporters.⁴⁹

To curb protests, the government closed schools and universities,⁵⁰ introduced internet bans⁵¹ as well as curfews⁵² with ‘shoot-on-sight’ orders authorising security forces to shoot anyone breaching the curfews,⁵³ and arrested over 10 000 people.⁵⁴ In early August 2024, the protest movement became non-cooperative,⁵⁵ rejected Hasina’s requests for dialogue,⁵⁶ and demanded her resignation.⁵⁷ Hasina lost the military’s support, as it refused orders to open fire

³⁸ EAF, What will come after the July massacre in Bangladesh?, 22 August 2024, [url](#); Diplomat (The), A majority of Bangladeshi Netizens Show Red Card to Government’s Mourning Decision, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Firstpost, Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for Sheikh Hasina over mass killings of students protests, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

³⁹ New Age, Justice, legal accountability needed for July massacre, 6 August 2024, [url](#); Business Post (The), Teachers for terming killings ‘July Massacre’, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, 66 children, teenagers among killed, 17 August 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 36, 42, 66; BBC News, Drenched in blood – how Bangladesh protests turned deadly, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹ Al Jazeera, Police fire tear gas as Bangladesh protests against job quotas rage, 17 July 2024, [url](#); BBC News, Videos reveal brutality that left scores dead in Bangladesh protests, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

⁴² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 43, 66; Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

⁴³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras 69, 83–85; Guardian (The), Bangladesh students protests turn into ‘mass movement against a dictator’, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras 43, 66

⁴⁵ AP, Protests and violence break out again in Bangladesh amid calls for the government’s resignation, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. iii–iv

⁴⁷ HRSS, Annual Human Rights Situation In Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Shot during protest: Many barely hanging on to life, 5 September 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁸ New York Times (The), An Unbending Leader’s Crackdown Rains Carnage on Bangladesh, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. iv

⁵⁰ AP, Protests and violence break out again in Bangladesh amid calls for the government’s resignation, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bangladesh shuts schools and universities after six killed in protests, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

⁵¹ Huq, C. in: LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵² BBC News, Bangladesh imposes curfew as protests continue, 19 July 2024, [url](#); Huq, C. in LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵³ AP, Bangladesh imposes strict curfew with a ‘shoot-on-sight-order’ following deadly protests, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Al, Bangladesh: End punitive mass arrests and arbitrary detention of student leaders and protesters, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Guardian (The), Bangladesh arrests more than 10,000 in crackdown on protests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Protesters declare ‘Total non-cooperation movement’ from Sunday, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶ EFE, Protesting students reject Bangladesh PM’s dialogue offer, demand her resignation, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Huq, C. in LPE Project, The Bangladesh Student Movement that Transformed a Nation, 10 September 2024, [url](#)



against civilians.⁵⁸ As crowds approached her official residence in Dhaka on 5 August 2024, Hasina boarded a military helicopter and escaped to India. Within a few hours the army chief announced that an interim government would lead Bangladesh.⁵⁹

In response to the students' request, and after consultations with 'military chiefs, political parties, business leaders, and civil society members', the president appointed Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohammad Yunus as interim prime minister.⁶⁰ The interim government took office on 8 August 2024 and soon announced several commissions,⁶¹ tasked with bringing forward reform proposals⁶² to restore democratic institutions.⁶³ The caretaker government is to lead the country until the next election,⁶⁴ which is foreseen to take place in April 2026.⁶⁵ For a timeline of the protests in July–August 2024, see [Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024](#).

⁵⁸ Reuters, Exclusive: Bangladesh army refused to suppress protest, sealing Hasina's fate, 7 August 2024, [url](#); BBC News, Sheikh Hasina's final hours as a hated autocrat, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh army announces interim government after PM Sheikh Hasina flees, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰ Independent (The), Who is Muhammad Yunus, rural microlending pioneer chosen to lead Bangladesh?, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶² ConstitutionNet, Interim government of Bangladesh extends deadline for constitution reform commission, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶³ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh plans to hold elections in late 2025 or early 2026, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁴ DW, Bangladesh: Is the interim government delaying elections?, 27 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁵ AFP, Bangladesh's Yunus announces elections in April 2026, 6 June 2025, [url](#)





2. The interim government

2.1. Composition and mandate

The interim government is led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, who was installed as Chief Adviser of Bangladesh (head of the interim government⁶⁶) on 8 August 2024.⁶⁷ Yunus was the choice of the student protest movement⁶⁸ and was appointed by the President of Bangladesh, following a meeting with key coordinators of the student protest movement, senior military leaders, civil society members, and some business leaders.⁶⁹ Moreover, 22 individuals were appointed as advisers to the interim government, comprised of 18 men and 4 women,⁷⁰ with the responsibility to supervise allocated ministries.⁷¹ The appointed advisers include civil society representatives, environmentalists, former senior bureaucrats, academics, as well as two key coordinators of the student movement.⁷² Political parties, however, have no representation in the interim government.⁷³ Although the army is described as a 'pillar of power' in the government,⁷⁴ it has promised to support Yunus,⁷⁵ and army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman has pledged not to interfere with politics.⁷⁶

Bangladesh used to have a system with an independent caretaker government leading the country during election periods. However, the former government abolished this system in 2011.⁷⁷ In August 2024, there were therefore no constitutional provisions that allowed the formation of an interim government⁷⁸ nor any provisions that outlined its mandate and authority,⁷⁹ and as a result the interim government lacks constitutional basis.⁸⁰ The President sought an advisory opinion on the matter from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court,

⁶⁶ Reuters, Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁷ Al Jazeera, Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters want Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to lead government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹ Al Jazeera, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to lead Bangladesh interim government, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰ Bangladesh, Cabinet Division, Hon'ble Chief Adviser, Advisers and Special Assistant, 11 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹ Business Standard (The), Dr Yunus-led interim govt legal: SC, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷² Print (The), 4 BNP affiliates, 3 Jamaat-leaning & others seen as 'apolitical' — Bangladesh interim govt a mixed bag, 9 August 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Dr Yunus-led interim govt legal: SC, 9 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Advisers to the interim government, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷³ National Herald, Bangladesh: Students, lawyers, banker and activists but no politician in interim govt, 9 August 2024, [url](#); Sweden, Migrationsverket, Bangladesh — Protester och regeringsfall, 20 August 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁷⁴ TIB, 'New Bangladesh' Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁷⁵ Reuters, Exclusive: Bangladesh army chief strongly backs interim government, eyes elections within 18 months, 24 September 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁶ TIB, 'New Bangladesh' Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁷⁷ International Crisis Group, Beyond the Election: Overcoming Bangladesh's Political Deadlock, 4 January 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁸ Business Standard (The), Dr Yunus-led interim govt legal: SC, 9 August 2024, [url](#); Law Library of Congress, Interim Government and the Constitution of Bangladesh, 29 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁹ Business Standard (The), Bangladesh's post-revolution government is sailing through uncharted legal waters, 23 August 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Law Library of Congress, Interim Government and the Constitution of Bangladesh, 29 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁰ Daily Star (The), Bangladesh's Interim Government: What should be its tenure?, 16 August 2024, [url](#)



under article 106 of the Constitution.⁸¹ The Court held a virtual court hearing on 8 August 2024⁸² during which it ruled that forming an interim government was legal due to the ‘urgent need to run state affairs’ and to ‘fill the constitutional vacuum’.⁸³ The interim government and Yunus enjoy strong public support.⁸⁴ There is, however, a reported uncertainty as regards the authority of the interim government to enact, amend or repeal laws, and the risk of future governments to declare its actions as invalid given its lack of constitutional basis.⁸⁵ Legislative changes have been adopted by Presidential ordinances, that are equivalent to laws, which will be retroactively placed in Parliament to be ratified.⁸⁶ As described by International Crisis Group, the interim government has been able to rely on this method by ‘banking on a combination of a pliant Supreme Court, political consensus, military backing and popular legitimacy’.⁸⁷

The interim government’s primary task is to organise new elections.⁸⁸ According to the Constitution, elections should be held within 90 days following the dissolution of Parliament.⁸⁹ The interim government, however, formed several reform commissions following its installation,⁹⁰ and Yunus has stressed the need to await necessary reform work before the next election.⁹¹ The next parliamentary election is envisaged to take place sometime between December 2025 and June 2026,⁹² depending on the reform work.⁹³ The Election Commission is reportedly planning to announce an action plan for the coming election in July 2025.⁹⁴ Meanwhile, the political party BNP has been putting pressure on the interim government to hold elections as soon as possible,⁹⁵ while discussions with political parties on what reforms to implement before the election have been ongoing.⁹⁶

⁸¹ Business Standard (The), Dr Yunus-led interim govt legal: SC, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸² Bdnews24.com, Interim government headed by Yunus is legal, says Supreme Court, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸³ Business Standard (The), Dr Yunus-led interim govt legal: SC, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, The Take: Can a Nobel laureate lead Bangladesh into a new era? [Podcast], 15 August 2024, [url](#), 06:00–06:15

⁸⁵ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸ Reuters, Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰ Daily Star (The), A new chapter for the nation begins, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹¹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s Yunus seeks time, says election roadmap after reforms, 17 November 2024, [url](#); AFP, Bangladesh to hold elections in late 2025 or early 2026: Yunus, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹² Business Standard (The), BNP seeks meeting with CA Yunus to discuss election timeline, 9 April 2024, [url](#)

⁹³ EIU, Democracy Index 2024, February 2025, [url](#), p. 27; AFP, Bangladesh to hold elections in late 2025 or early 2026: Yunus, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴ Prothom Alo, EC plans to announce election action plan by July, 8 April 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), ‘July Charter to guide next national polls’, 9 April 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁵ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’ Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁹⁶ Daily Star (The), How to avoid a summer of political discontent, 8 April 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Reforms and election: Roadmap must be announced soon, 8 April 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Consensus Commission revises NCC proposal, but BNP stands firm against it, 25 June 2025, [url](#)



2.2. Legislative changes and other decisions

Soon after the fall of the former government, the interim government ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED),⁹⁷ and also issued an ‘immunity order’ for protesters, who ‘will not face prosecution, arrest, or harassment for their acts’ in the period 15 July–8 August 2024.⁹⁸ It furthermore lifted a recent ban on the political party Jamaat-e-Islami,⁹⁹ while banning the Chhatra League.¹⁰⁰

Later the interim government also temporarily banned all activities of the Awami League under the Anti-Terrorism Act.¹⁰¹ The Election Commission consequently barred the Awami League from running in elections.¹⁰² This prohibition is reportedly ‘temporary’, and the interim government also amended the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act of 1973, ‘which gives the Tribunal broad powers to prosecute and dismantle political organizations’.¹⁰³ Meanwhile, the Supreme Court lifted its election ban on Jamaat-e-Islami.¹⁰⁴

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act has also been amended, inter alia to speed up trials on rape cases.¹⁰⁵

2.3. Reform agenda

The interim government announced six reform commissions on 11 September 2024,¹⁰⁶ tasked with bringing forward proposals on reforming the constitution, police, judiciary, the election commission, public administration and to combat corruption.¹⁰⁷ Later in October 2024,¹⁰⁸ another four reform commissions were announced, tasked with bringing forward reform proposals on health, media, labour rights and women affairs.¹⁰⁹ Yunus has stated that the reports of these commissions would form a charter for a ‘new Bangladesh’ built on consensus, and it will form the basis for the upcoming election.¹¹⁰

⁹⁷ UN OHCHR, UN Treaty Body Database Ratification Status for Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁸ AFP, Bangladesh immunity order sparks fears of justice denied, 28 October 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s interim government lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami party, 28 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Govt issues gazette lifting ban on Jamaat, Shibir, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ Al Jazeera, After the bloodshed: Can Bangladesh’s Awami League resurrect itself?, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹ DW, Bangladesh: What does the ban of Sheikh Hasina’s party mean?, 12 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰² Reuters, Ousted Bangladesh PM Hasina’s party barred from election as party registration suspended, 13 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰³ HRW, Bangladesh: Review Laws and Protect Human Rights Standards, 21 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh Supreme Court lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami party, 1 June 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵ Business Standard (The), Draft ordinance approved: Max punishment for sex with false promise of marriage to be 7yrs, 20 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶ Daily Star (The), Govt finalises 5 of 6 reform commissions, 4 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷ ConstitutionNet, Interim government of Bangladesh extends deadline for constitution reform commission, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸ Business Standard (The), 4 new commissions to be formed on health, media, labour rights, women affairs, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 4 new commissions to be formed on health, media, labour rights, women affairs, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁰ Daily Star (The), A new chapter for the nation begins, 16 January 2025, [url](#)



All of the ‘main’¹¹¹ six reform commissions (on the constitution, police, judiciary, elections, public administration and anti-corruption) submitted their reports with recommendations to Yunus in January–February 2025.¹¹² Thereafter, Yunus formed another commission, the National Consensus Commission, that consists of the heads of the first six commissions, and is chaired by Yunus himself.¹¹³ The purpose of this commission is to find national consensus around reform initiatives and their implementation.¹¹⁴ The commission started working on 15 February 2025¹¹⁵ and has a deadline of six months to reach consensus.¹¹⁶ The remaining commissions submitted their reports in March–May 2025.¹¹⁷

The reform commissions have proposed extensive changes to key institutions.¹¹⁸ Some of the commissions’ many proposals include:

- Constitutional amendments, inter alia to establish an improved balance of powers among top government positions, as well as a bicameral parliament.¹¹⁹
- Decentralising the judiciary.¹²⁰
- Reducing bureaucracy by restructuring administrative divisions and provinces, and reducing the number of ministries and directorates to 25 (from 40).¹²¹
- Reforming the police.¹²²
- Introducing new anti-corruption laws (including introducing public asset declarations, and criminalising private sector bribery).¹²³
- Reforming labour laws (inter alia by harmonising national laws with international standards on occupational safety, compensation, and maternity protection).¹²⁴
- Establishing an independent regulatory body to oversee the media sector.¹²⁵

At the time of writing, the National Consensus Commission had not forged consensus around a reform plan.¹²⁶

¹¹¹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹² Bdnews24.com, 4 commission reports recommend key changes to set path for state, governance reforms, 16 January 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Judicial Reform Commission proposes permanent, merit-based attorney service, 5 February 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public Admin Reform Commission recommends cutting down ministries, reorganization of divisions, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹³ Dhaka Tribune, Yunus-led National Consensus Commission to start work on Saturday, 13 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵ BSS, Consensus commission holds first meeting with parties today, 15 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁶ BSS, Consensus commission holds first meeting with parties today, 15 February 2025, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Yunus-led Consensus Commission formed for six months, 14 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁷ Business Standard (The), Nat'l media commission, new laws recommended to protect journo rights, 22 March 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Women's Affairs Reform Commission submits report to Dr Yunus, 19 April 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Labour Reform Commission urges legal overhaul for inclusive worker rights, 21 April 2025, [url](#); BSS, Reform commission recommends forming permanent 'Bangladesh Health Commission', 5 May 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁸ Daily Star (The), A new chapter for the nation, 17 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹ Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission, Summary of recommendations, 22 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 5–6, 8

¹²⁰ Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission, Summary of recommendations, 22 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 1, 8

¹²¹ Dhaka Tribune, Public Admin Reform Commission recommends cutting down ministries, reorganization of divisions, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

¹²² Bdnews24.com, 4 commission reports recommend key changes to set path for state, governance reforms, 16 January 2025, [url](#); BSS, PRC suggests amendment, replacement of 22 laws for police reforms, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

¹²³ Bangladesh, ACC, ACC Reform Report, 14 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 1–3

¹²⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Labour Reform Commission urges legal overhaul for inclusive worker rights, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Media Reform Commission proposes structural changes to Bangladesh's media landscape, 22 March 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁶ AFP, Bangladesh consensus commission fails to find agreement, 26 May 2025, [url](#)



The interim government has reshuffled hundreds of public officials to depoliticise government institutions.¹²⁷ Officials in ‘constitutional and statutory institutions, public administration, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and service sectors’¹²⁸ have been re-assigned, transferred, forced into retirement or dismissed.¹²⁹ International Crisis Group reported that 850 leaders in local governance bodies had been replaced as of mid-August 2024.¹³⁰ In November 2024, TIB reported on a persisting ‘culture of partisan control of political and governance space, extortion and dominance’ leading to internal conflicts, that sometimes included violence.¹³¹ International Crisis Group also reported on the bureaucracy remaining politicised and ‘highly inefficient’, which may pose a challenge to enforce reforms.¹³²

2.4. Accountability efforts and arrests

The interim government has taken steps to investigate alleged human rights abuses committed by the former administration,¹³³ including:

- Inviting UN OHCHR to investigate human rights violations in connection to the student protests. UN OHCHR published its fact-finding report on 12 February 2025.¹³⁴
- Forming an inquiry commission to investigate enforced disappearance committed by state authorities under the former government (1 January 2010–5 August 2024).¹³⁵ By 31 October 2024, the commission had received more than 1 678 complaints.¹³⁶ More information is available in [3.1. Law enforcement under the previous government](#).
- Forming a commission to investigate the army’s crackdown on thousands of soldiers involved in a mutiny in 2009. This operation left 74 dead, including 57 army officials, and the court-martial for hundreds of soldiers, with some being punished by death.¹³⁷

The interim government has moreover brought criminal cases before the domestic war crimes tribunal, International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh (ICT-BD),¹³⁸ and has amended the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973, which the court’s jurisdiction is based on.¹³⁹ The

¹²⁷ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Bangladesh recalls five envoys in major diplomatic reshuffle, 3 October 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), pp. 4–5

¹²⁹ Reuters, Bangladesh recalls five envoys in major diplomatic reshuffle, 3 October 2024, [url](#); TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), pp. 4–5

¹³⁰ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 19

¹³² International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

¹³³ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 14

¹³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#)

¹³⁵ Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearance: Govt sets up inquiry commission, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶ Business Standard (The), Disbanding RAB: Can a ‘death squad’ be transformed by changing its uniform?, 21 February 2025, [url](#)

¹³⁷ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh to investigate 2009 paramilitary mutiny massacre, 26 December 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 252

¹³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 253



ICT-BD was established in 2009 to prosecute international crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence.¹⁴⁰ It has previously been criticised for violating fair trial standards.¹⁴¹ The amendments of the ICT Act have inter alia brought the definitions of ‘crimes against humanity’, ‘genocide’ and ‘command responsibility’ in line with international law. They also allow foreign counsel and international observers attending its trials,¹⁴² and require the tribunal to ensure the safety, security and well-being of witnesses. The death penalty was, however, retained.¹⁴³ The interim government has also reconstituted prosecutors and judges at the tribunal,¹⁴⁴ and appointed Muhammad Tajul Islam as chief prosecutor.¹⁴⁵ Islam served as defence lawyer for Jamaat-e-Islami during previous trials at the tribunal, which has caused concerns about his objectivity.¹⁴⁶ There were also some reported concerns of the judges’ political affiliations.¹⁴⁷

The ICT-BD Prosecutor’s Office has reportedly received 278 complaints, and filed 18 criminal cases accusing 199 people in total for crimes committed under the former government.¹⁴⁸ Most of the accused are presumed to have fled the country, but 39 have been detained, including the former minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs,¹⁴⁹ the former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre,¹⁵⁰ and the former head of the National Security Intelligence Agency.¹⁵¹ The ICT-BD has issued arrest warrants for 46 former ministers and senior Awami league officials, including Hasina and members of her family, senior Awami League leaders and members, and former ministers and advisers,¹⁵² as well as 17 law enforcement officials.¹⁵³ The defendants are accused of alleged ‘crimes against humanity’¹⁵⁴ for their involvement in enforced disappearances under the former government¹⁵⁵ and also ‘genocide’ during the protests in July–August 2024.¹⁵⁶ Before the amendments of the ICT Act

¹⁴⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 252

¹⁴¹ HRW, Bangladesh: Arrest Warrant for Sheikh Hasina, 22 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴² Prothom Alo, New ordinance brings ICT closer to int'l standards, more changes required, 7 December 2024, [url](#); HRW, Letter to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Regarding Reforming the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 21 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³ Prothom Alo, New ordinance brings ICT closer to int'l standards, more changes required, 7 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴ AP, Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over deaths of protesters, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵ AP, Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over deaths of protesters, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶ Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷ Prothom Alo, Why the Bangladesh govt needs to appoint international judges to the ICT, 19 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Ex-NSI director Monirul on 3-day remand, 10 October 2024, [url](#); Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Salman F Rahman, Anisul Huq arrested in Dhaka, 13 August 2024, [url](#); Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰ Daily Star (The), Sacked army officer Ziaul arrested, 17 August 2024, [url](#); Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵¹ Dhaka Tribune, Ex-NSI director Monirul on 3-day remand, 10 October 2024, [url](#); Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵² Business Standard (The), Names of all 46 on arrest warrant not disclosed for investigation’s sake: ICT chief prosecutor, 17 October 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Crimes against humanity, genocide: Arrest warrants for Hasina, 45 others, 18 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 253

¹⁵⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 253

¹⁵⁵ Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶ Reuters, UN reports grave rights violations in Bangladesh protest response, 12 February 2025, [url](#); NDTV, Bangladesh Tribunal Begins ‘Genocide’ Probe Against Sheikh Hasina, 9 Others, 15 August 2024, [url](#)



on 24 November 2024, the tribunal's definitions of 'crimes against humanity' and 'genocide' differed from international law, e.g. 'genocide' could also be applied to acts with the intent to destroy political groups.¹⁵⁷ The ICT-BD has moreover requested India to extradite Hasina.¹⁵⁸

Trials against former officials involved in the crackdown on protesters, are ongoing,¹⁵⁹ including former ministers, bureaucrats, a judge,¹⁶⁰ and senior security officials.¹⁶¹ A former RAB commander, accused of enforced disappearance, rape and torture, was also brought before the tribunal.¹⁶² The chief prosecutor communicated to media that multiple cases of key figures of the former government would be concluded by December 2025¹⁶³ According to UN OHCHR, ICT-BD prosecutors faced 'pressure to move complex cases forward quickly to respond to public demands for justice, while lacking the capacity and resources to investigate, gather evidence, protect witnesses and conduct fair prosecutions through to judgment.'¹⁶⁴

The police have received mass criminal complaints after the fall of the former government.¹⁶⁵ Most cases have been filed as murder cases relating to the student protests. According to police data, 1 474 cases were filed in the period 6 August–25 September 2024, naming 92 486 defendants. Out of these, 1 174 cases were filed against 390 former ministers, members of parliament, and other Awami League officials.¹⁶⁶ According to UN OHCHR, reporting in February 2024, 1 181 investigations had been initiated with 98 137 accused, including 25 033 naming political party leaders.¹⁶⁷ Bangladeshi authorities have not published any numbers on arrests in relation to criminal complaints connected to the student protests, but hundreds have reportedly been arrested without any prior investigations of their cases. The Police Headquarters issued instructions in September 2024 for the police to 'withdraw' names of accused persons if preliminary investigations indicated that they were not involved.¹⁶⁸

Hundreds of people connected to the former government have been arrested in criminal cases,¹⁶⁹ including at least 74 top Awami League leaders.¹⁷⁰ There were reports of security

¹⁵⁷ Hosain, M. M., The International Crimes Tribunals of Bangladesh: Past, Present and Future, Policy Brief Series No. 160, TOAEP, 2024, [url](#), pp. 2–3

¹⁵⁸ HRW, Bangladesh: Arrest Warrant for Sheikh Hasina, 22 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh ex-ministers face 'massacre' charges, Hasina probe deadline set, 18 November 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, ICT Chief Prosecutor: Verdicts will halt Awami League leaders' outbursts, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰ Daily Star (The), 16 high-profile individuals produced before ICT, 18 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶¹ Business Standard (The), Proof found of ex-ASP Alep raping enforced disappearance victim's wife during Ramadan: ICT prosecutor, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶² Business Standard (The), Disbanding RAB: Can a 'death squad' be transformed by changing its uniform?, 21 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶³ Dhaka Tribune, ICT Chief Prosecutor: Verdicts will halt Awami League leaders' outbursts, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 254

¹⁶⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 257

¹⁶⁶ Daily Star (The), Fall of Hasina regime: Over 92,000 accused, 1,474 cases, 51 days, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 257

¹⁶⁸ Bergman, D., The Second Life of Bangladesh's International Crimes, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 7; Daily Star (The), The indiscriminate arrests and murder charges, 11 October 2024, [url](#)



forces arbitrarily arresting Awami League affiliates,¹⁷¹ including journalists.¹⁷² Some misused the situation to file baseless cases¹⁷³ against political opponents,¹⁷⁴ and against perceived supporters of the former government.¹⁷⁵ As a result, some have been arrested without a relevant connection to the crime.¹⁷⁶ Some cases have listed hundreds of defendants, including ‘unnamed’ defendants.¹⁷⁷ Since the police may arrest people without a warrant for serious offences,¹⁷⁸ the practice of unnamed defendants opens up for them to arrest ‘almost anyone’ and repeatedly re-arrest them, which is ‘a common abusive practice’, as reported by Human Rights Watch.¹⁷⁹ In some cases the plaintiffs were unaware of who they named as defendants, and only ‘signed the papers’ on recommendations of the police or local politicians.¹⁸⁰ In a case recorded by Human Rights Watch, a woman signed a prewritten report with 50 accused, whom she did not know, including ministers, lawmakers, Awami League student activists, a teacher and two doctors, and 200–300 unnamed persons.¹⁸¹ In November 2024, a legal expert told International Crisis Group about a general fear of being arrested at ‘any minute’.¹⁸²

Senior officials have been brought before courts for alleged murder amid the protests.¹⁸³ There were, however, concerns of the accountability of police staff,¹⁸⁴ given the lack of an independent mechanism investigating criminal complaints against security personnel,¹⁸⁵ and as investigators may have been involved in the protest crackdowns, or may refrain from duly investigating colleagues.¹⁸⁶ Local human rights organisation Odhikar reported on a case in which investigators had removed their former superior’s name from the list of accused.¹⁸⁷

For a timeline of the protests in July–August 2024, and information on violence of actors of the former government, see [Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024](#).

¹⁷¹ HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), *Over 12,700 arrested in eight days*, 27 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷² HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#); RSF, *Bangladesh: RSF condemns the outrageous charges of crimes against humanity brought against at least 25 journalists*, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, *Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime*, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 7; Daily Star (The), *The indiscriminate arrests and murder charges*, 11 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, *Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime*, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 7; Prothom Alo, *Indiscriminate accusations make cases questionable*, 3 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), *The indiscriminate arrests and murder charges*, 11 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵ Bergman, D., *Justice vs Justice*, Justice Info, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶ UN OHCHR, *Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh*, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 257; HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷ International Crisis Group, *A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform*, 14 November 2024, [url](#); HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸ Bangladesh, *The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898*, Part I, Chapter I, 22 March 1898, [url](#), para. 4 (f)

¹⁷⁹ HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰ HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), *A curious tale of two cases*, 7 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹ HRW, *After the Monsoon Revolution*, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸² International Crisis Group, *A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform*, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³ Daily Star (The), *A day in court: Of handcuffs and helmets*, 27 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴ Bergman, D., *The Second Life of Bangladesh’s International Crimes*, Justice Info, 20 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵ UN OHCHR, *Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh*, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 258

¹⁸⁶ UN OHCHR, *Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh*, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 258; Odhikar, *Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025*, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 36

¹⁸⁷ Odhikar, *Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025*, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 36



3. Impact on law enforcement

3.1. Law enforcement under the previous government

3.1.1. Capacity and integrity

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), the Bangladeshi police force is led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP)¹⁸⁸ and is organised into various units based on district, metropolitan area, and specialisation.¹⁸⁹ As of early 2024, there were over 200 00 police officers¹⁹⁰ but both women¹⁹¹ and minorities were underrepresented.¹⁹²

The police faced integrity issues and political influence in selection procedures, favouring candidates aligned with the ruling party for recruitment,¹⁹³ postings and promotions.¹⁹⁴ Influential individuals have also been able to impact crime investigations and their outcome.¹⁹⁵ Sources reported on the police lacking equipment and training,¹⁹⁶ but there were also integrity issues hampering the implementation of those skills that were available within logistics, human resources, and technology.¹⁹⁷ Police officers reportedly demanded bribes to file a report,¹⁹⁸ and there were cases of police staff being involved in crimes such as robbery,¹⁹⁹ drug trade,²⁰⁰ and rape.²⁰¹ Disciplinary action was rarely taken,²⁰² and irregularities negatively impacted

¹⁸⁸ Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Police, 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹ Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Police, 2024, [url](#); Fidh, Out of Control, Human rights and rule of law crises in Bangladesh, [url](#), p. 8

¹⁹⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Home Minister urges city mayors to ensure traffic police rest, 1 February 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), When cops turn part-time robbers, 24 January 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹ BPWN, Journey of BPWN, 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, IGP: Women make up over 8% of police force, 30 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹² Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024

¹⁹³ Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024; Jackman, D. and Maitrot, M., The Patry-Police Nexus in Bangladesh, the Journal of Development Studies, 5 April 2022, [url](#), pp. 1524–1525;

¹⁹⁴ Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024; Jabber, M. A. et al., Exploring the roles and challenges of the servant leadership: A critical examination of the Bangladesh police, 2 January 2023, Heliyon, [url](#), p. 7

¹⁹⁵ Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024; Daily Star (The), Errant cops: Leniency lends them impunity, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹⁶ Jabber, M. A. et al., Exploring the roles and challenges of the servant leadership: A critical examination of the Bangladesh police, 2 January 2023, Heliyon, [url](#), p. 7; Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024

¹⁹⁷ Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024

¹⁹⁸ Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Atrocity Crimes Risk Assessment Series, Bangladesh, The University of Queensland, April 2023, [url](#), p. 10; Daily Star (The), Errant cops: Leniency lends them impunity, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹⁹ Business Standard (The), 5, including 2 suspended policemen, arrested over robbing man at IFIC Bank, 21 September 2023, [url](#); Daily Star (The), When cops turn part-time robbers, 24 January 2024, [url](#)

²⁰⁰ Prothom Alo, Names of police members in DMP's list of drug dealers, 19 July 2023, [url](#); Daily Star (The), When cops turn part-time robbers, 24 January 2024, [url](#)

²⁰¹ Daily Star (The), When cops turn part-time robbers, 24 January 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Khagrachhari police officer sent to jail in rape case, 12 October 2023, [url](#)

²⁰² Daily Star (The), Errant cops: Leniency lends them impunity, 4 October 2022, [url](#)



public trust,²⁰³ and deterred many from approaching the police.²⁰⁴ Some surveys suggested that the police was perceived as the least trusted²⁰⁵ and most corrupt public institution.²⁰⁶

In the absence of a general victim or witness protection mechanism,²⁰⁷ (except for some provisions for victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings²⁰⁸) victims, witnesses and their family members have faced threats, harassment and assault by offenders for filing complaints,²⁰⁹ and have refrained from testifying in court fearing for their or their family members' safety.²¹⁰ In 2023, Arafat Reza Jaan, research associate at the Centre for Peace and Justice at BRAC University, stated that those living in rural areas were particularly discouraged to seek justice due to fear of reprisals from influential community members.²¹¹

3.1.2. Involvement in human rights abuse

Sources reported that the former government allegedly used law enforcement as a tool for its own agenda,²¹² to undermine the political opposition,²¹³ suppress dissent, and spread fear.²¹⁴ Human Rights Watch described enforced disappearances as a 'hallmark' of Hasina's rule.²¹⁵ Among those forcibly disappeared were leaders and supporters of opposition parties,²¹⁶ alleged Islamist militants,²¹⁷ and seemingly ordinary people.²¹⁸ Victims were sometimes abducted by men in plainclothes claiming to represent law enforcement agencies²¹⁹ and were commonly deprived of liberty repeated times, sometimes directly after being released from

²⁰³ Dhaka Tribune, Article 19: Culture of impunity declines confidence in rule of law, 25 August 2022, [url](#)

²⁰⁴ Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Atrocity Crimes Risk Assessment Series, Bangladesh, The University of Queensland, April 2023, [url](#), p. 10; Dhaka Tribune, President tells police: Do not harass people on streets, 28 February 2024, [url](#)

²⁰⁵ Asia Foundation (The), The State of Bangladesh's Political Governance, Development and Society: According to Its Citizens, 2023, [url](#), p. 51

²⁰⁶ TIB, Law enforcement, passport services among the most corrupt sectors in Bangladesh, 7 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁰⁷ Daily Star (The), Commission for law to protect victim, witness, 13 February 2025, [url](#)

²⁰⁸ Bangladesh, Government of Bangladesh and UNODC, First National Study on Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), p. 59

²⁰⁹ Business Standard (The), Why victim and witness protection mechanism is imperative, 11 February 2024, [url](#)

²¹⁰ Daily Star (The), The state of witness protection in Bangladesh, 7 April 2023, [url](#)

²¹¹ Jaan, A. R., What makes access to Justice elusive in Bangladesh?, South Asia @ LSE, 1 May 2023, [url](#)

²¹² RFK Human Rights, Bangladesh: Government Must Stop Human Rights Violations and End Impunity, 9 December 2022, [url](#); AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

²¹³ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 50; AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#); RFK Human Rights, Bangladesh: Government Must Stop Human Rights Violations and End Impunity, 9 December 2022, [url](#)

²¹⁴ ADPAN et al., Bangladesh, Government must cease enforced disappearances, stop harassment of the victims' families and hold perpetrators accountable, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#)

²¹⁵ HRW, Decade of Disappearances, n.d., [url](#)

²¹⁶ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 46; AP, Thousands of opposition activists languish in prison as Bangladesh gears up for national election, 6 January 2024, [url](#)

²¹⁷ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 43; Fidh, Bangladesh: Government must cease enforced disappearances, stop harassment of the victims' families and hold perpetrators accountable, 30 August 2023, [url](#)

²¹⁸ Netra News, Secret prisoners of Dhaka, 14 August 2022, [url](#)

²¹⁹ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 46; Riaz, A., Where are they?, Enforced Disappearances in Bangladesh, CGS, March 2022, [url](#), p. 10



jail,²²⁰ finding themselves in a continuous cycle of arrests.²²¹ State authorities put victims' family members under surveillance,²²² and threatened and harassed those seeking justice.²²³

Law enforcement engaged in enforced disappearances²²⁴ and extrajudicial killings.²²⁵ Multiple agencies were involved, including the ordinary police,²²⁶ but sources indicated that the RAB, DB, and intelligence agencies were leading actors.²²⁷ The inquiry commission on enforced disappearance, set up by the interim government, reported on a 'systematic practice' or enforced disappearance under the previous government. Security agencies used a 'coordinated strategy' to avoid detection, by attributing activities to each other and dividing responsibilities,²²⁸ while one agency would abduct a victim, another agency would detain them, and a third one would either release or kill them.²²⁹ According to the commission, this division led to situations where those involved 'often lacked knowledge of who they were eliminating or the broader context of the operation'.²³⁰ The commission further stated that enforced disappearance was a practice taking place under a central command structure.²³¹ Other sources have also reported on enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings committed by the RAB, as deliberate, planned²³² and covered up.²³³ Whistle-blowers told Deutsche Welle (DW) and Netra News that operations with a political target were explicitly sanctioned from above, 'at least from the Ministry of Home Affairs'.²³⁴ Officers involved in enforced disappearance have also told Human Rights Watch that senior members of the former government, including the prime minister, knew about incommunicado detentions, and

²²⁰ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 43

²²¹ Guardian (The), Full prisons and false charges: Bangladesh opposition faces pre-election crackdown, 10 November 2023, [url](#); Himal, The uses and abuses of Bangladesh's law-enforcement and prison systems, 29 January 2024, [url](#)

²²² AHRC, Bangladesh: Government Must Bear Responsibilities if Victims of Enforced Disappearances are Harmed, 8 September 2022, [url](#); Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 44

²²³ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 44; HRW, Bangladesh: Open Forced Disappearances Inquiry, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Riaz, A., Where are they?, Enforced Disappearances in Bangladesh, CGS, March 2022, [url](#), p. 10

²²⁴ AI, Human Rights Charter – Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#), p. 3; Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 44

²²⁵ Riaz, A., Executions at Will?, March 2022, CGS, [url](#), pp. 5, 15; Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), pp. 28–29

²²⁶ Prothom Alo, RAB's 'secret prison' more terrifying than DGFI: Commission, 5 November 2024, [url](#)

²²⁷ Fidh, Enforced disappearances in Bangladesh: Government must hold perpetrators accountable, ensure justice and reparation for victims, survivors, and their families, 29 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Interim report of inquiry on enforced disappearance reveals alarming patterns, 15 December 2024, [url](#); Benar News, 'Lips sewn without anesthetic,' other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

²²⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Interim report of inquiry on enforced disappearance reveals alarming patterns, 15 December 2024, [url](#); Benar News, 'Lips sewn without anesthetic,' other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

²²⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Interim report of inquiry on enforced disappearance reveals alarming patterns, 15 December 2024, [url](#); Benar News, 'Lips sewn without anesthetic,' other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

²³⁰ Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearances: State-backed system behind it all, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

²³¹ Daily Star (The), Hasina's regime and the systematic use of enforced disappearance, 10 March 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Interim report of inquiry on enforced disappearance reveals alarming patterns, 15 December 2024, [url](#)

²³² DW, 'Death squad': Inside Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, 4 March 2023, [url](#); Riaz, A., Executions at Will? Extrajudicial Killings by State Actors in Bangladesh, CGS, March 2022, [url](#), p. 7

²³³ DW, 'Death squad': Inside Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, 4 March 2023, [url](#); Radio Sweden, Exclusive: Officer Exposes Brutal Killings by Bangladeshi Elite Police Unit RAB, 4 April 2017, [url](#)

²³⁴ DW, 'Death squad': Inside Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, 4 March 2023, [url](#)



that some enforced disappearances and killings were carried out on the direct order of Hasina.²³⁵

In some cases, victims were forcibly disappeared before being extrajudicially killed.²³⁶ Their bodies were commonly dumped in rivers.²³⁷ People have also been killed in what the authorities falsely described as ‘crossfire’ or ‘gunfights’.²³⁸ According to local human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 1 926 persons were killed extrajudicially in such ‘crossfire’ and ‘gunfight’ incidents under the former government’s 15 years in power.²³⁹ As reported by Human Rights Watch, this practice became so institutionalised that members of parliament called for more ‘crossfire killings’.²⁴⁰ The commission of enquiry estimated that more than 3 500 individuals were subjected to enforced disappearance under the former government,²⁴¹ while local and regional human rights organisations have recorded about 2 600 extrajudicial killings.²⁴²

In the aftermath of the former government’s fall, some victims of enforced disappearance resurfaced, disclosing that they had been kept in secret prisons (*aynaghar*) for years.²⁴³ The inquiry commission has identified 16 secret detention facilities,²⁴⁴ holding victims across the country,²⁴⁵ including the ‘notorious’ Joint Interrogation Cell and Taskforce for Interrogation in Uttara.²⁴⁶ However, 40–200 secret detention sites are believed to exist.²⁴⁷ Security forces have reportedly attempted to destroy evidence at the sites.²⁴⁸ According to the commission, security staff engaged in ‘torture rituals’, that were methodological and ‘profoundly brutal’.²⁴⁹ Other sources have also reported on torture at these sites.²⁵⁰

²³⁵ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²³⁶ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²³⁷ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearances: State-backed system behind it all, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

²³⁸ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Al, Bangladesh: Alleged extrajudicial killings in the guise of a ‘war on drugs’, 4 November 2019, [url](#); Prothom Alo, At least 1,926 killed extrajudicially in 15 years of AL govt, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

²³⁹ Prothom Alo, At least 1,926 killed extrajudicially in 15 years of AL govt, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁴⁰ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁴¹ Benar News, ‘Lips sewn without anesthetic,’ other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#); AA, Early evidence suggests Bangladeshi ex-premier involved in forced disappearances, finds commission, 14 December 2024, [url](#)

²⁴² France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République populaire du Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 27; VOA, No Extrajudicial Killings, Enforced Disappearances in Bangladesh, Bachelet Is Told, 17 August 2022, [url](#)

²⁴³ New York Times (The), Alone in the Dark: The Nightmare of Bangladesh’s Secret Underground Prison, 17 October 2024, [url](#); HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁴⁴ Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearances: Commission finds 16 secret detention centres, 5 June 2025, [url](#)

²⁴⁵ Daily Star (The), Hasina’s regime and the systematic use of enforced disappearance, 10 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁴⁶ Netra News, No access: Survivors and journalists barred from visiting Aynaghar and TFI, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

²⁴⁷ Le Monde, Inside the secret prisons of former Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina, 30 December 2024, [url](#)

²⁴⁸ Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearances: Inquiry commission finds 8 detention centres, 6 November 2024, [url](#); BBC News, His memories uncovered a secret jail - right next to an international airport, 15 April 2025, [url](#); TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 9

²⁴⁹ Benar News, ‘Lips sewn without anesthetic,’ other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

²⁵⁰ BBC News, His memories uncovered a secret jail - right next to an international airport, 15 April 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Secret prisoners of Dhaka, 14 August 2022, [url](#)



Torture and other forms of abuse were reportedly widespread practice within law enforcement in general; inter alia as a means to extract forced confessions,²⁵¹ but also to humiliate victims, and instil fear.²⁵² Victims of detention and subsequent torture included opposition members²⁵³ and other critics,²⁵⁴ alleged ‘militants’,²⁵⁵ and ordinary citizens.²⁵⁶ Law enforcement agencies reportedly enjoyed extensive impunity²⁵⁷ and harassed both victims and their relatives filing cases against law enforcement officers.²⁵⁸ As reported by Human Rights Watch in 2023, only one case of torture had led to a conviction under Bangladesh’s Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act since its adoption in 2013.²⁵⁹

For a timeline of the protests in July–August 2024, and information on violence of law enforcement, see [Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024](#).

3.2. Operational status following the power shift

After the fall of the former government many police officers abandoned their posts²⁶⁰ and went into hiding.²⁶¹ They left behind a vacuum in law enforcement which opened up for a spike in crime.²⁶² In the immediate aftermath, young citizens could be seen redirecting traffic in Dhaka, in the absence of traffic police.²⁶³ Netra News described the situation as a ‘near collapse’ of law enforcement.²⁶⁴ The military was granted magistracy powers to maintain law and order,²⁶⁵ which allows military officers holding the rank of captain or higher to, inter alia, arrest people.²⁶⁶

Many police officers were attacked in the aftermath of the former government’s fall, as the institution was perceived as having aided the former government in enforcing a repressive

²⁵¹ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 50; AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

²⁵² AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

²⁵³ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), p. 4, para. 54; VOA, Six Bangladesh Opposition Activists Die in Custody, 19 December 2023, [url](#)

²⁵⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review – Bangladesh, Compilation of UN information, 30 August 2023, [url](#), para. 30

²⁵⁵ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 50; USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 1. c

²⁵⁶ AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Ordinary citizens’ vulnerability to custodial torture, 23 January 2023, [url](#)

²⁵⁷ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 50; AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

²⁵⁸ AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#); New Age, Justice must be ensured for custodial torture victims, 10 February 2023, [url](#)

²⁵⁹ HRW, Allegations of Bangladesh Police Torture, Illegal Detentions, 3 February 2023, [url](#)

²⁶⁰ VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh’s security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#)

²⁶¹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁶² HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh’s security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus’s way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁶³ Al Jazeera, Young Bangladesh citizens direct traffic in Dhaka, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

²⁶⁴ Netra News, Court filing alleges deadly custodial abuse by Bangladesh Army personnel, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

²⁶⁵ Business Standard (The), Armed forces’ magistracy powers extended for third time by 60 more days, 13 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁶⁶ Daily Star (The), Armed forces: Magistracy power extended again, 14 March 2025, [url](#)



agenda²⁶⁷ and making use of excessive force during protests.²⁶⁸ Police stations were set on fire and police officers were beaten to death by mobs.²⁶⁹ According to TIB, 44 police were killed in various incidents during protests and in the early days after the former government's fall.²⁷⁰ After the former government fell, 30 % of police positions became vacant, and 450 out of 639 police stations were nonfunctional following attacks.²⁷¹

The police have gradually returned to duty, and the immediate public unrest that followed the fall of the former government has stabilised.²⁷² However, public trust in the police deteriorated further during the protests,²⁷³ and Dr. Tawohidul Haque, associate professor and crime analyst at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka, described an existing sentiment of perceiving the police as 'enemies of the people' due to their violent repression during protests, which has made 'officers hesitant to perform their duties'.²⁷⁴ Local media also reported on police officers being hesitant in interfering in incidents involving political or religious groups, or student bodies, 'fearing repercussions if the political winds shift after a change in government'.²⁷⁵ Local media also reported on continuing attacks against the police,²⁷⁶ including beatings of police officers apprehended alone.²⁷⁷ According to the Daily Star, 225 officers were assaulted in the period September 2024–February 2025.²⁷⁸

The interim government dismissed the national police chief,²⁷⁹ and there were also reshuffles and dismissals of other senior law enforcement staff.²⁸⁰ According to the Diplomat, many officers who had been sidelined for years under the former government were transferred to key positions. These officers have, however, been facing resistance from lower-ranking officers loyal to the former government.²⁸¹ Police morale was reportedly poor,²⁸² including due to a perceived inaction of the interim government to address police killings.²⁸³ As described by

²⁶⁷ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁶⁸ DW, Can Bangladesh police rebuild trust after violent protests?, 21 September 2024, [url](#)

²⁶⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 214–216; HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Netra News, An eye-witness account from inside Jatrabari Police Station of the last bloodbath, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁰ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

²⁷¹ Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷² International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Our law enforcement is getting better, but it must do more, 23 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷³ Daily Star (The), A clarion call for police reform, 13 January 2025, [url](#); DW, Can Bangladesh police rebuild trust after violent protests?, 21 September 2024, [url](#)

²⁷⁴ Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁵ Bdnews24.com, Reforms a 'disappointment' for police as 'fear' looms over taking effective action, 30 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁶ Bdnews24.com, Crime spirals out of control: murders, muggings, extortion surge in Bangladesh, 11 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁷ Bdnews24.com, Reforms a 'disappointment' for police as 'fear' looms over taking effective action, 30 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁸ Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁷⁹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh chief justice agrees to resign amid new student protests, 10 August 2024, [url](#)

²⁸⁰ Business Standard (The), Govt transfers 11 senior police officials, including DIG, in major reshuffle, 7 May 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Major reshuffle in police: 53 transferred, 104 promoted to additional SPs, 27 February 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Reshuffle in police top order, 5 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁸¹ Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁸² Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁸³ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)



the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) in November 2024, police were often ‘trapped in a cycle of violence and mistrust, operating in a high-pressure environment with insufficient resources, inadequate training, and excessive work hours – factors that have a detrimental impact on the overall effectiveness and morale of the force’.²⁸⁴ The capacity of the police has reportedly also been hampered by the loss of informants.²⁸⁵ According to Najmus Sakib, criminology assistant professor at Dhaka University, cited by Al Jazeera, new officers were not familiar with assigned areas and lacked a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy.²⁸⁶

3.3. Impact on actors and their conduct

Law enforcement in Bangladesh is based on laws drafted during the colonial period, when law enforcement was used as a tool for state control rather than serving the public.²⁸⁷ The legal framework grants security forces wide powers and opens up for widespread impunity.²⁸⁸ As reported by Human Rights Watch, security forces have been operating in a ‘deeply ingrained culture of impunity’.²⁸⁹ No reforms were initiated in the security structures within the reference period of this report,²⁹⁰ including in abusive security and intelligence entities,²⁹¹ although the UN OHCHR²⁹² and Human Rights Watch²⁹³ as well as the national enquiry commission for enforced disappearances, have specifically called for disbanding the RAB.²⁹⁴ RAB is reportedly planning to change its name, logo and uniform, and a new law is being drafted to regulate its operation.²⁹⁵

Some security agencies are under military command and include army officers, which might make their reform difficult according to International Crisis Group, given the interim government’s dependence on the military for support. RAB, for example, includes military, paramilitary staff force, in addition to police personnel. Other paramilitary forces involved in alleged abuse include the BGB, Ansar, as well as the military intelligence (DGFI).²⁹⁶

²⁸⁴ UNDP, Why police transformation is critical for Bangladesh, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁸⁵ Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, ‘Gotham but no Batman’: Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁸⁶ Al Jazeera, ‘Gotham but no Batman’: Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁸⁷ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); UNDP, Why police transformation is critical for Bangladesh, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁸⁸ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 310, 320

²⁸⁹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁰ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 9; International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); DW, Is Bangladesh ready for a ‘credible’ election?, 17 June 2025, [url](#)

²⁹¹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 9

²⁹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 356

²⁹³ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁴ Benar News, ‘Lips sewn without anesthetic,’ other shockers from Bangladesh report on Hasina-linked disappearances, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

²⁹⁵ Daily Star (The), Rab wants to shed its dark past, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

²⁹⁶ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)



There has been some reshuffling within the security structures.²⁹⁷ The head of the police has been replaced,²⁹⁸ as well as heads of specialised units including RAB, DGFI,²⁹⁹ DB,³⁰⁰ National Security Intelligence,³⁰¹ National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre,³⁰² and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime.³⁰³ Senior law enforcement staff have been forced into retirement,³⁰⁴ or transferred to new positions.³⁰⁵ Some have also been arrested.³⁰⁶ According to police sources, as reported by Bdnews24.com in April 2024, a total of 119 law enforcement officers had been reassigned to new positions, 82 had become ‘officers on special duty’ (i.e. being stripped off relevant official duties, or transferred to remote or insignificant posts³⁰⁷), and 30 had been forced into retirement. Meanwhile, 57 were absent from their posts.³⁰⁸ TIB reported on 369 sub-inspectors undergoing training at the Police Academy in Sarda being ‘controversially discharged on allegations of indiscipline’, and further reported on an ongoing process of ‘verifying the political affiliation of police officers appointed during the Awami League era’.³⁰⁹ Nevertheless, there were still staff members loyal to the former regime within the security structures.³¹⁰

There were also reshuffles and dismissals at the highest level of the army,³¹¹ and the heads of 50 police stations were dismissed, according to Al Jazeera, allegedly for being politically affiliated with the Awami League.³¹²

Sources reported on security forces replicating patterns of abuses that took place under the former government, for example repeated arrest and remand, and arrests of political figures (now targeting the Awami League) and journalists perceived as affiliated with the party.³¹³ There were continuing reports of extrajudicial killings occurring during operations of various

²⁹⁷ Daily Star (The), Reshuffle in police top order, 5 March 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁸ Daily Star (The), Baharul Alam made IGP, 21 November 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Former IGP Mainul Islam appointed as ambassador to Poland, 10 April 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁹ Dhaka Tribune, New RAB, DMP chiefs appointed, 7 April 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Maj Gen Faizur Rahman made DG of DGFI, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

³⁰⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Rezaul Karim Mallik becomes new DB chief, 1 September 2024, [url](#)

³⁰¹ Business Standard (The), Maj Gen Abu Mohammad Sarwar Farid new NSI DG: ISPR, 13 August 2024, [url](#)

³⁰² Dhaka Tribune, Major reshuffle in Army top brass, 14 October 2024, [url](#)

³⁰³ Prothom Alo, Three senior police officers sent into forced retirement, 21 August 2024, [url](#)

³⁰⁴ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#);

Business Standard (The), Major reshuffle in police: 53 transferred, 104 promoted to additional SPs, 27 February 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, 4 DIGs sent on forced retirement, 23 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁵ Business Standard (The), Major reshuffle in police: 53 transferred, 104 promoted to additional SPs, 27 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁶ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#);

Business Standard (The), Salman, ex-IGP Mamun sent to jail after remand, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁷ Iftekhar Zaman, Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024

³⁰⁸ Bdnews24.com, Reforms a ‘disappointment’ for police as ‘fear’ looms over taking effective action, 30 April 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁹ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 5

³¹⁰ Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Print (The), Bangladesh can’t afford another coup. Yunus govt must not trust all army officers with power, 1 October 2024, [url](#)

³¹¹ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 14

³¹² Al Jazeera, ‘Gotham but no Batman’: Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

³¹³ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), pp. 6–7



forces,³¹⁴ as well as instances of custodial deaths³¹⁵ and torture.³¹⁶ Netra News suggested that the army's magistracy powers have emboldened soldiers to resort to abusive methods, reminiscent of practices under the former government.³¹⁷ For example, in January 2025, soldiers detained the local leader of Jubo Dal, BNP's youth party in Cumilla and tortured him to death.³¹⁸ On 7 January 2025, the first formal complaint against security officials for incidents taking place after the fall of the former government was publicly confirmed, involving 33 defendants, including a ranking officer and eight army personnel accused of custodial torture causing two deaths.³¹⁹

³¹⁴ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 9; Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), p. 34

³¹⁵ Netra News, Court filing alleges deadly custodial abuse by Bangladesh Army personnel, 1 February 2025, [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, January–March 2025, [2025], [url](#)

³¹⁶ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), p. 34; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, January–March 2025, [2025], [url](#)

³¹⁷ Netra News, In Cumilla, a murder exposes army's contempt for rules, 10 March 2025, [url](#)

³¹⁸ Netra News, In Cumilla, a murder exposes army's contempt for rules, 10 March 2025, [url](#); Benar News, Bangladesh govt orders probe into BNP youth activist's in-custody death, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

³¹⁹ Netra News, Court filing alleges deadly custodial abuse by Bangladesh Army personnel, 1 February 2025, [url](#)



4. Impact on the justice sector

4.1. The justice system under the previous government

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), Bangladesh has a common law system.³²⁰ The judiciary has been facing capacity issues, including significant backlogs, delays in case disposal,³²¹ and an insufficient number of judges in relation to caseload³²² and population size.³²³ The average time for a judgement from districts courts was six years according to a research study from 2023,³²⁴ while some cases could take decades to resolve.³²⁵ Integrity issues included a lack of judicial independence stemming from the then government's influence appointments,³²⁶ that also judicially harassed the opposition and other dissenting voices.³²⁷ There were moreover high rates of corruption within the justice sector, including bribery,³²⁸ and a selective justice administration.³²⁹ Some sources indicated that it is possible to 'purchase' outcomes of court verdicts.³³⁰

4.2. Operational status following the power shift

Following the fall of the former government, on 10 August 2024, pressure from leaders of student protests forced the Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court and five other supreme court judges to resign over corruption perceptions; the protesters called for a judiciary free from political influence.³³¹ New appointments to key positions within the judiciary and prosecution were made,³³² and the new Chief Justice issued a 12-point instruction to improve service to justice seekers and transparency and accountability among Supreme Court staff.³³³ A Supreme Judicial Council was moreover reinstated to handle the removal of

³²⁰ Mattsson, M. and Mobarak, A. M., Formalizing Dispute Resolution: Effects of Village Courts in Bangladesh, EliScholar, Yale University, 2023, [url](#), p. 6

³²¹ Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning, Financial Sector, Investment Climate, ICT and Governance, December 2021, [url](#), pp. 210–211; CGS, Challenges with Access to Justice in Bangladesh, 13 January 2021, [url](#)

³²² Bdnews24.com, Chief Justice Siddique sets sight on combating court case backlog crisis, 2 January 2022, [url](#)

³²³ Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh has one judge for 95,000 people, 30 August 2023, [url](#)

³²⁴ Mattsson, M. and Mobarak, A. M., Formalizing Dispute Resolution: Effects of Village Courts in Bangladesh, Eli Scholar, Yale University, 2023, [url](#), p. 2

³²⁵ Jaan, A. R., What makes access to Justice elusive in Bangladesh?, South Asia @ LSE, 1 May 2023, [url](#); France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République populaire du Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 41

³²⁶ USA, USDOS, 2023 Investment Climate Statements: Bangladesh, 27 July 2023, [url](#)

³²⁷ UN OHCHR, UN experts urge Bangladesh to end judicial harassment of journalists, 22 February 2023, [url](#)

³²⁸ Solaiman, S. M., Prevention of Judicial Corruption in Bangladesh: Cutting the Gordian Knot by Ensuring Accountability, Penn Carey Law: Legal Scholarship Repository, 2023, [url](#), p. 39; Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024

³²⁹ Local analyst, email communication, 16 April 2024

³³⁰ Solaiman, S. M., Prevention of Judicial Corruption in Bangladesh: Cutting the Gordian Knot by Ensuring Accountability, Penn Carey Law: Legal Scholarship Repository, 2023, [url](#), p. 39; Business Standard (The), It is time to revamp the judiciary: HC, 5 October 2020, [url](#)

³³¹ Daily Star (The), CJ, 5 other SC judges resign, 11 August 2025, [url](#); AP, Bangladesh's chief justice resigns under pressure as Yunus-led interim government starts working, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

³³² TIB, 'New Bangladesh' Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 9

³³³ Financial Express (The), Chief Justice issues 12-point directive for Supreme court Staff, 18 September 2024, [url](#)



Supreme Court Judges.³³⁴ At least 12 High Court judges had reportedly been dismissed as of May 2025.³³⁵

In December 2024, the backlog of cases in Bangladesh's courts had reached an all-time high, with nearly 4.8 million cases pending. An advocate of the Supreme Court described the situation as 'dire', also because justice-seekers were suffering financially. As reported by the Daily Sun, five judges of the Appellate Division managed a caseload of over 27 000 pending cases (approximately 5 500 cases per judge). The delayed judicial process impacted litigants and defenders, 'with some victims of serious crimes waiting up to 20 years for justice' according to the same source.³³⁶ By March 2025, the backlog of cases continued to increase reaching over 4.5 million pending cases as reported by the Daily Star. The same source cited lengthy legal procedures, a shortage of judges, and overburdened courts as reasons for the backlog. A Supreme Court lawyer and head of law firm Law Lab, Mohammad Shishir Manir, expressed concern of the 'growing backlog [of cases] is eroding public trust in the judiciary.'³³⁷ In April 2025, the law adviser and chairman of the National Governing Board of the National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO), Asif Nazrul, stated that around 500 000 new cases are filed each year, many of which concern family matters or minor offences that could be resolved by other state functions than the courts.³³⁸

4.3. Announced reforms and their implementation

On 12 September 2024, Yunus announced the formation of six commissions, including a commission to reform the judiciary and a constitutional reform commission.³³⁹ The Constitution Reform Commission and the Judicial Reform Commission have submitted their reports with recommendations to the interim government.³⁴⁰ The proposed reforms included a decentralisation of the judicial system,³⁴¹ the establishment of an independent Judicial Appointments Commission to appoint Supreme Court judges, establishment of permanent seats of the High Court in all divisions of the country, and honesty and integrity to be part of the eligibility criteria for Supreme Court judges³⁴² as well as establishing an independent criminal investigation service, and curbing the presidential power to pardon convicts.³⁴³ As reported by Dhaka Tribune, the Judicial Commission also proposed a permanent and merit-based attorney service.³⁴⁴ The interim government has reportedly begun the process of

³³⁴ BSS, JRC seeks Supreme Judicial Council's independent authority to investigate judges, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

³³⁵ Daily Star (The), Diliruzzaman removed as HC judge, 23 May 2025, [url](#)

³³⁶ Daily Sun, Judges overwhelmed as case backlog soars to historic high, 26 January 2025, [url](#)

³³⁷ Daily Star (The), Case filings increase, so does backlog, 30 March 2025, [url](#)

³³⁸ Prothom Alo, Many harassing, malicious lawsuits being lodged: Law Adviser, 28 April 2025, [url](#)

³³⁹ Daily Star (The), Yunus charts a path to reforms, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

³⁴⁰ Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission, Summary of recommendations of the Constitution Reform Commission, January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Reforms to be recommended in 28 areas, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁴¹ Daily Star (The), Reforms to be recommended in 28 areas, 5 February 2025, [url](#); Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission, Summary of recommendations of the Constitution Reform Commission, January 2025, [url](#)

³⁴² Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission, Summary of recommendations of the Constitution Reform Commission, January 2025, [url](#)

³⁴³ Daily Star (The), Reform recommendations: Decentralised judiciary at the core, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁴⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Judicial Reform Commission proposes permanent, merit-based attorney service, 5 February 2025, [url](#)



drafting a law to establish a permanent Attorney Service.³⁴⁵ Moreover, the Judicial Commission proposed a number of initiatives to address the backlog of cases, including ‘appointing retired judges on a contractual basis’, ‘introducing online systems for accepting case mentions and establishing a more efficient framework for handling witness testimony.’ It further recommended a set of anti-corruption measures, including creating an online grievance box to report corruption within the Supreme Court, and similar systems for lower courts and legal officers. The Commission also recommended to expand authority of mobile courts to enforce judicial decisions and establish ‘minimum judicial standards for village courts to ensure equitable access to justice in rural areas.’³⁴⁶

On 21 January 2025, the interim government approved the draft Supreme Judicial Appointment Ordinance.³⁴⁷ According to the Ordinance, Supreme Court judges will be appointed through an independent council comprised of seven members: led by the chief justice, two judges of the Appellate Division, two senior judges of the High Court Division, the Attorney General, and a professor of law or legal expert nominated by the chief justice.³⁴⁸

On 19 March 2025, the Judiciary Reform Commission issued a recommendation to enact a practical law to prevent the filing of false or vexatious cases as the number of filed false cases ‘increases with political changes’.³⁴⁹

In March 2025, the interim government announced the establishment of a separate Children’s Court.³⁵⁰ According to UNICEF, Separate Children’s Courts will provide specialised legal and social services, with a focus on rehabilitation, while ensuring that proceedings are conducted in ‘child-sensitive environment with trained judges and legal professionals.’³⁵¹ Information on when the court will become operational could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this report.

³⁴⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Supreme Court judges to be appointed through independent council, 21 January 2025, [url](#)

³⁴⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Judicial Reform Commission proposes permanent, merit-based attorney service, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁴⁷ Financial Express (The), Govt approves ordinance for transparent HC judge appointments, 21 January 2025, [url](#)

³⁴⁸ Daily Star (The), A judicial council to pick SC judges, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

³⁴⁹ Daily Star (The), Enact practical law to curb false, frivolous cases, 19 March 2025, [url](#)

³⁵⁰ UNICEF, UNICEF welcomes the Interim Government’s decision to establish separate Children’s Courts in Bangladesh, 24 March 2025, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Establishing a dedicated children court, 19 May 2025, [url](#)

³⁵¹ UNICEF, UNICEF welcomes the Interim Government’s decision to establish separate Children’s Courts in Bangladesh, 24 March 2025, [url](#)



5. Human rights in the administration of justice

5.1. Corporal punishment and the death penalty

Corporal punishment of children is permitted with the Penal Code stating that it is lawful in the home, alternative care and day care settings, and in penal institutions. Corporal punishment in schools is however not permitted following a Supreme Court ruling³⁵² of 13 January 2011, in which the court stated that it ‘violated the Constitutional prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment.’³⁵³ It also declared that all laws authorising whipping or caning of children should be repealed, but this ruling has not been confirmed by legislation, for example corporal punishment was not prohibited by the 2013 Children Act.³⁵⁴ According to UNICEF, ‘9 out of 10 children aged 1-14 years face violent discipline each month by caregivers.’³⁵⁵ There were moreover reports of corporal punishment being handed down as a punishment against women by informal justice mechanism.³⁵⁶

Bangladesh retains the death penalty in national law³⁵⁷ and continued to sentence individuals to death in 2024³⁵⁸ for ‘ordinary crimes’.³⁵⁹ Capital punishment applies to 33 offences,³⁶⁰ including several non-lethal crimes such as rape and certain drug-related offences.³⁶¹ In October 2024, the Business Standard reported that 30 executions had been enforced in 2013–2023, mostly for murder, terrorism, and war crimes related the 1971 war of independence.³⁶² In 2024, no executions were recorded for the first year since 2018. According to Amnesty International, ‘at least 165’ death sentences were however issued, including for three drug-related offences, twelve rape cases and the remainder for intentional killings.³⁶³ This constituted a decrease from 2023 when 248 death sentences were issued, and 5 executions were enforced.³⁶⁴ Odhikar recorded 307 death sentences in lower courts in 2024.³⁶⁵ In March 2025, the High Court upheld a death sentence for 20 Chhatra League

³⁵² End Corporal Punishment, Corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh, August 2024, [url](#), p. 1

³⁵³ End Corporal Punishment, Bangladesh 2011 Supreme Court judgment, 2018, [url](#)

³⁵⁴ End Corporal Punishment, Corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh, August 2024, [url](#), pp. 2-3

³⁵⁵ UNICEF, 9 out of 10 children in Bangladesh experience violent discipline at home every month, 13 June 2024, [url](#)

³⁵⁶ End Corporal Punishment, Corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh, August 2024, [url](#), p. 4; Al Jazeera, Bangladesh arrests four for caning, stoning woman over affair, 11 April 2023, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 6

³⁵⁷ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, [url](#), art. 53

³⁵⁸ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), p. 42; Al, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 43

³⁵⁹ Al, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 43

³⁶⁰ Odhikar, Bangladesh: Imposition of the death penalty and its impact, 27 April 2022, [url](#), p. 1

³⁶¹ EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, 2023 Country Updates, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 176

³⁶² Business Standard (The), World Day Against the Death Penalty: How long till Bangladesh too drops the capital punishment?, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

³⁶³ Al, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 23

³⁶⁴ Al, Death penalty, Bangladesh 2023, 2024, [url](#)

³⁶⁵ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), p. 42



members who had lynched a fellow student over his alleged political affiliation in 2019.³⁶⁶ As reported by Amnesty International, in 2024, more than 2 400 people were known to be on death row,³⁶⁷ and according to data from the Department of Prisons, as reported by Benar News, 2 554 inmates were on death row as of May 2024, with the great majority (2 468) being men.³⁶⁸ On 13 May 2024, the High Court of Dhaka ruled it unconstitutional to keep inmates in solitary confinement on death row before they had exhausted their appeals.³⁶⁹ According to Amnesty International, in 2024, death sentences were imposed in proceedings not meeting international fair trial standards and in absentia.³⁷⁰

5.2. Enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), Bangladesh has ‘a long, dark history of enforced disappearance’, and before the power-shift it had not ratified the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED).³⁷¹ Sources accused the previous government of using enforced disappearance as a method to suppress dissent and spread fear³⁷² and undermining the political opposition.³⁷³ There were reports of law enforcement carrying out extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances on the order, or with tacit approval,³⁷⁴ of the highest offices of the state.³⁷⁵ Victims of enforced disappearance included opposition party leaders and supporters, alleged militants, and seemingly ordinary people. They were abducted by men in plainclothes claiming to represent law enforcement agencies.³⁷⁶ Meanwhile, family members of victims were put under surveillance,³⁷⁷ or were threatened and harassed for seeking justice.³⁷⁸ More information on enforced disappearances under the former government, and involved actors, is available in sections [1. The student protests](#), [3. Impact on law enforcement](#) and in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus](#).

³⁶⁶ TRT Global, Bangladesh court upholds death penalty for student killers, 16 March 2025, [url](#); Hindu (The), Bangladesh HC upholds 20 students' death penalty for lynching university mate, 16 March 2025, [url](#)

³⁶⁷ AI, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 21

³⁶⁸ Benar News, Bangladesh court: No solitary confinement for death row inmates until appeals end, 13 May 2024, [url](#)

³⁶⁹ Benar News, Bangladesh court: No solitary confinement for death row inmates until appeals end, 13 May 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Solitary confinement ‘cruel, degrading’, 14 May 2024, [url](#)

³⁷⁰ AI, Death Sentences and Executions 2024, 8 April 2025, [url](#), p. 13

³⁷¹ AI, Human Rights Charter – Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#), p. 3

³⁷² ADPAN et al., Bangladesh, Government must cease enforced disappearances, stop harassment of the victims’ families and hold perpetrators accountable, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#)

³⁷³ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2023, [url](#), para. 50; AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#); Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Bangladesh: Government Must Stop Human Rights Violations and End Impunity, 9 December 2022, [url](#)

³⁷⁴ DW, ‘Death squad’: Inside Bangladesh’s Rapid Action Battalion, 4 March 2023, [url](#)

³⁷⁵ France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République populaire du Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 27

³⁷⁶ Riaz, A., Where are They?, Enforced Disappearances in Bangladesh, CGS, March 2022, [url](#), p. 10

³⁷⁷ AHRC, Bangladesh: Government Must Bear Responsibilities if Victims of Enforced Disappearances are Harmed, 8 September 2022, [url](#); Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 44

³⁷⁸ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 44; HRW, Bangladesh: Open Forced Disappearances Inquiry, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Riaz, A., Where are they?, CGS, March 2022, [url](#), p. 10



Soon after its installation, the interim government ‘made commitments to pursue accountability for torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, and ensure human rights protections’, as reported by Human Rights Watch.³⁷⁹ On 27 August 2024, the interim government set up an inquiry commission on enforced disappearance ‘to identify and find the people who were forcibly disappeared by various intelligence and law enforcement agencies’ under the former government.³⁸⁰ More information is available [2.4. Accountability efforts and arrests](#) and [3.1. Law enforcement under the previous government](#).

On 30 August 2024 Bangladesh ratified the CED.³⁸¹ However, enforced disappearance is not a recognised crime in domestic law.³⁸² Local human rights organisations Odhikar and ASK did not record cases of enforced disappearance under the interim government.³⁸³ In the period 9 August 2024–March 2025, however, Odhikar recorded 20 cases of extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies. These cases include nine people being tortured to death, seven shot to death, three beaten to death.³⁸⁴ In the period September 2024–May 2025, ASK recorded 25 extrajudicial killings, also including several cases of death by physical torture.³⁸⁵ Both organisation attributed most killings to the joint forces and the police, but also recorded cases involving the DB, the RAB, the navy, the Department of Narcotics Control, the coast guard, and the air force.³⁸⁶

5.3. Treatment of detained individuals

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), Bangladesh had not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) under the former government.³⁸⁷ Torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment were however prohibited by the constitution and other laws.³⁸⁸ Sources however described torture and other forms of abuse as widespread practice within law enforcement, including to extract forced confessions³⁸⁹ and to humiliate victims and instill fear.³⁹⁰ The interim government had not ratified the OPCAT as of June 2025.³⁹¹

³⁷⁹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

³⁸⁰ Daily Star (The), Enforced disappearance: Govt sets up inquiry commission, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

³⁸¹ UN OHCHR, UN Treaty Body Database, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

³⁸² AI, Human Rights Charter – Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#), p. 3

³⁸³ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, [url](#), para. 53; Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 35, 44; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

³⁸⁴ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, [url](#), para. 53; Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 35, 44

³⁸⁵ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

³⁸⁶ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

³⁸⁷ United Nations Treaty Collection, 9. b Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, status as at 8 April 2025, 8 April 2025, [url](#)

³⁸⁸ USA, USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 1.c

³⁸⁹ Odhikar, Bangladesh, Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 53; AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

³⁹⁰ AHRC and OMCT, Bangladesh: End torture and impunity, 24 June 2023, [url](#)

³⁹¹ United Nations Treaty Collection, 9. b Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, status as at 30 June 2025, 30 June 2025, [url](#)



According to Dhaka Tribune, reporting on 7 April 2025, detainees face ‘extreme malnutrition’, and ‘insufficient medical treatment’. With reference to accounts of ‘current detainees’ the same source reported on electricity torture being applied ‘along with brutal physical abuse and coerced admission of guilt’.³⁹² In the period September 2024–May 2025, ASK recorded 50 custodial deaths, including 34 of prisoners under trial and 16 of convicted prisoners.³⁹³ In contrast, in January–August 2024, the same source reported on 52 custodial deaths, 30 of prisoners under trial and 22 of convicted prisoners.³⁹⁴ According to Odhikar, 83 individuals died in prison in 2024, of which 20 deaths occurred under the interim government.³⁹⁵

To improve detention conditions and treatment of detainees, the Prisons Directorate of Bangladesh and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held several workshops for superintendents, jailers and deputy jailers from across Bangladesh in January 2025.³⁹⁶ Moreover, in February 2025, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised a specialised training for 30 participants including judges, prison officials, police officers, and legal professionals to address prison overcrowding and promoting non-custodial measures to incarceration.³⁹⁷

Overcrowding is prevalent in prisons across the country, ‘leading to deplorable living conditions and security risks’ as reported by the Daily Star.³⁹⁸ As of October 2024, official data, as presented by World Prison Brief, indicated that the prison population stood at 53 831 inmates, while the prison capacity was at 42 877, corresponding to a 125.5 % occupancy level (based on official capacity).³⁹⁹ According to Dhaka Tribune this constituted a 30 % drop in the prison population compared to 2023.⁴⁰⁰ In March 2025, other sources reported that the number of inmates stood at 70 065.⁴⁰¹ Pre-trial detainees accounted for 75.6 % of prison population in 2022 according to official data presented by World Prison Brief.⁴⁰² As reported by Dhaka Tribune, ‘the normal length of cases ranges from 5 to 10 years while undertrial prisoners generally remain incarcerated longer than their later awarded sentences.’ The same source claimed that there were 4.2 million pending cases in 2023.⁴⁰³ Further updated information on pre-trial detainees and pending cases could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this report.

In December 2024, prison authorities reported that at least 2 200 inmates had fled after breaking out of jails before and after the fall of the former government on 5 August 2024. As

³⁹² Dhaka Tribune, The harsh reality of the Bangladesh court and trial system, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

³⁹³ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

³⁹⁴ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

³⁹⁵ Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), p. 9

³⁹⁶ ICRC, Bangladesh: Inspector General of Prisons optimistic about transforming prison system into a modern correctional model with ICRC’s support, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁷ UNODC, Bangladesh: Expanding non-custodial alternatives to reduce prison overcrowding, 28 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁸ Daily Star (The), Ensure rights of women prisoners, 9 February 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁹ WPB, Bangladesh, 15 October 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁰⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Crammed Jails – Not anymore, 8 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰¹ Daily Star (The), 823 prison officials penalised in 7 months, 11 March 2025, [url](#); JMBF, Prison Management in Bangladesh: Irregularities, Corruption, Insecurity, and Human Rights Violations!, 11 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰² WPB, Bangladesh, Pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners (percentage of prison population), 25 November 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁰³ Dhaka Tribune, The harsh reality of the Bangladesh court and trial system, 7 April 2025, [url](#)



of 10 March 2025, 700 escaped prisoners were reportedly still in hiding while 1 500 already surrendered or were arrested by the law enforcement agencies.⁴⁰⁴

The government offers legal aid services and helpline for poor and underprivileged litigants⁴⁰⁵ and between 2009 and February 2025, the National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) provided legal aid funded by the government to 124 808 prisoners.⁴⁰⁶ Dhaka Tribune reported that, according to Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), an organisation based in Bangladesh and providing free legal services, '[...] 68% of families who support an arrestee need to spend more than Tk100,000 [about EUR 700] on legal costs thus driving them into severe financial problems.'⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰⁴ New Age, One jailbreaker held in 3 months, 10 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁵ Bangladesh, National Legal Aid Services Organization, Services of Government Legal Aid, 17 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁶ BSS, Legal Aid provides legal assistance to 124,808 prisoners, 23 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁷ Dhaka Tribune, The harsh reality of the Bangladesh court and trial system, 7 April 2025, [url](#)



6. Security situation

6.1. Public order, crime and mob violence

The fall of the former government in August 2024 was followed by nationwide lawlessness⁴⁰⁸ and ‘a wave of violent mob attacks’.⁴⁰⁹ Mobs sought revenge and targeted perceived Awami League supporters, as well as their businesses and homes. Members of the Hindu minority also experienced some of these attacks, as well as police staff, being perceived as having aided the former government in enforcing its repressive agenda.⁴¹⁰ Mobs set police stations on fire and beat police officers to death.⁴¹¹ According to TIB, 44 police were killed in ‘various violent incidents’.⁴¹² Fearing reprisals, police officers abandoned their posts,⁴¹³ and went into hiding.⁴¹⁴ They left behind a vacuum in law enforcement which opened up for a spike in crime,⁴¹⁵ for example 21 people were reportedly lynched in 11 August–19 September 2024.⁴¹⁶ In order to maintain law and order, the military was granted magistracy powers,⁴¹⁷ which was extended throughout the reference period.⁴¹⁸ This means that military officers holding the rank of captain or higher may, inter alia, conduct arrests and place individuals in custody.⁴¹⁹

Police officers gradually returned to work, and the public unrest following the fall of the previous government had stabilised by November 2024.⁴²⁰ Sources, however, reported on a remaining disruption in law enforcement in 2025,⁴²¹ and some elements of society taking advantage of this gap.⁴²² This has led to a general deterioration of law and order in the country compared to previous years.⁴²³ There was a spike in violent crime and rape in the

⁴⁰⁸ VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh's security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁹ Daily Star (The), Insecurity grips city as many police stations deserted, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹⁰ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 214–216; HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Netra News, An eye-witness account from inside Jatrabari Police Station of the last bloodbath, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹² TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁴¹³ VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh's security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹⁴ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹⁵ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh's security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹⁶ Daily Star (The), Lynch mobs acting with impunity, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹⁷ Business Standard (The), Armed forces' magistracy powers extended for third time by 60 more days, 13 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹⁸ Bdnews24.com, Executive magistracy powers for army officers extended for fourth time, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹⁹ Daily Star (The), Armed forces: Magistracy power extended again, 14 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁰ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁴²¹ Dhaka Tribune, Our law enforcement is getting better, but it must do more, 23 April 2025, [url](#); Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, ‘Gotham but no Batman’: Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴²² Al Jazeera, ‘Gotham but no Batman’: Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴²³ Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)



months following the power shift,⁴²⁴ with the highest rates of mugging and robbery in six years according to police data, as reported by media sources, as well as a sharp increase in abductions. For example, in January 2025, the police received reports of 294 murders (in contrast to 231 during the same month in 2024), 171 robberies (in contrast to 114 in January 2024) and the number of abductions had reportedly more than doubled⁴²⁵ from 51 in January 2024 to 104 in January 2025.⁴²⁶ TIB reported in November 2024 that 600 people had been killed and 10 000 injured since the fall of the previous government, that incidents of theft, robbery, snatching had increased, and noted that vandalism of houses, vehicles, and businesses, including arson and looting, still occurred. TIB further reported on violent unrest in nine prisons across the country, including escapes, protests, casualties, and violence, as well as agitations at some industries leading to the death and disappearance of workers.⁴²⁷

According to the publication *The Diplomat*, reporting in March 2025, '[m]ajor cities and towns have become hotspots for crime, with incidents escalating daily'. The *Diplomat* also quoted the Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier explaining that the rise in crime *inter alia* was an effect of the release of 2 200 prisoners during protests in July–August 2024 uprising, with 700 remaining at large as of March 2025, including 70 'high-risk criminals'. He further stated that 174 prisoners had been released on bail and were 'operating without any restrictions' due to the lack of surveillance and legal oversight, 'making their presence felt again'.⁴²⁸ Other sources also reported on infamous criminals being released and resuming criminal activities⁴²⁹ and on criminals obtaining weapons through looting during the protests, which has fuelled violent crime.⁴³⁰ The crime rates have reportedly instilled fear among parts of the public,⁴³¹ and many were reportedly afraid of going outdoors.⁴³²

To tackle the crime wave, the interim government launched the joint military and police operation 'Operation Devil Hunt' on 8 February 2025.⁴³³ Thousands were arrested,⁴³⁴ but crime has reportedly continued 'unabated'.⁴³⁵ Following a wave of muggings in Dhaka causing

⁴²⁴ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); *Diplomat* (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁵ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁶ Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁷ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁴²⁸ *Diplomat* (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁹ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8; Prothom Alo, Top terrors Subrata Bain, Picchi Helal, Killer Abbas, others, active after release, 11 October 2024, [url](#)

⁴³⁰ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴³¹ Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#); *Diplomat* (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴³² Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); *Diplomat* (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴³³ Dhaka Tribune, What is Operation Devil Hunt?, 9 February 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁴ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New Age, Extortion unabated before Eid, 27 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁵ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New Age, Extortion unabated before Eid, 27 March 2025, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Expats returning home targeted in rising night robberies on Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, 7 March 2025, [url](#)



'panic',⁴³⁶ and student protests calling for his resignation,⁴³⁷ the Home Affairs Adviser held an emergency conference on 24 February 2025. He addressed the deteriorating law-and-order situation, blamed Awami League supporters for trying to destabilise the country, and pledged to increase police presence.⁴³⁸

Women have been attacked by groups of men in public spaces, and violence against women and girls in general is reportedly on the rise,⁴³⁹ including gang rape.⁴⁴⁰ Cases drawing national attention⁴⁴¹ included the robbery and sexual harassment of women on a moving bus on 24 February 2025.⁴⁴² A witness told local media that a Hindu woman was raped in front of her family, and many other female passengers were bitten in 'their sensitive areas'.⁴⁴³ In another case, which sparked nationwide protests,⁴⁴⁴ an eight-year-old girl was raped by her sister's in-laws in Magura in early March 2025 and later died in hospital.⁴⁴⁵ The houses of the accused were set on fire by a mob.⁴⁴⁶ The police violently dispersed one of the subsequent protests against rape in Dhaka.⁴⁴⁷ On 16 March 2025, Save the Children and four other NGOs held a joint press conference to address the increased violence against girls and the 'recent wave of sexual violence, abuse, rape, murder, and attempted murder in the country'.⁴⁴⁸

Mob violence has continued to break out,⁴⁴⁹ often targeting individuals suspected of crime.⁴⁵⁰ People have, however, been targeted by mobs also for various other reasons, such as political retribution, land disputes, and personal conflicts,⁴⁵¹ and in some instances for seemingly minor acts, for example a woman was beaten to death for 'behaving unusually',⁴⁵² a taxi driver involved in a traffic incident was beaten to death, as well as a man asking two youths to stop

⁴³⁶ Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Growing unease in the city amid crime spree, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁷ Business Standard (The), Home adviser calls emergency briefing on law-and-order situation at 2:30am, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁸ Prothom Alo, Awami League's backers trying to destabilise the country, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁹ Diplomat (The), Bangladesh Women Rise up Against Increasing Incidents of Rape, 25 March 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Moral policing, vigilante justice, and the persistence of patriarchy, 30 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Harassment of women in public spaces on rise, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁰ Prothom Alo, Dhaka records 17 gang rape, 216 rape cases in just 7 months, 8 April 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Number of rapes in March over double that in February, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴¹ Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴² Dhaka Tribune, Case filed over bus robbery on Dhaka-Tangail highway, 21 February 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Police scramble after victim recounts robbery, 'rape' on bus in Tangail, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴³ Business Standard (The), Police scramble after victim recounts robbery, 'rape' on bus in Tangail, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁴ Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁵ Bonik Barta, Court begins proceedings, testimonies on Apr 27, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁶ Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁷ Prothom Alo, Police charge batons on protesters during anti-rape march, 11 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁸ Save the Children, NGOs demand justice over incidents of child rape, abuse, and murder, 16 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁹ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Why can't mob violence be contained, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁰ Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob justice is not justice, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵¹ Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵² Daily Star (The), Mob justice is not justice, 9 March 2025, [url](#)



smoking in public.⁴⁵³ In April 2025, a human rights activist explained that the perpetrators of mob beatings are not possible to identify, and are not being caught.⁴⁵⁴

Local human rights organisations, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF),⁴⁵⁵ ASK and Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) recorded increased levels of mob beatings. Both ASK and HRSS documented the highest rates of deaths due to mob beatings in a decade.⁴⁵⁶ Both MSF and ASK provided monthly data indicating a sharp increase in mob-related deaths in August 2024, and remaining on higher levels throughout the rest of the year (an average of 19 deaths per month). In contrast, during the first seven months of 2024, MSF and ASK recorded an average of 6 and 5 deaths per month, respectively.⁴⁵⁷ The higher levels of recorded deaths continued in the first months of 2025, with cases peaking anew in March 2025.⁴⁵⁸ MSF recorded 56 deaths this month and referred to it as an 'alarming increase' in mob beatings,⁴⁵⁹ while ASK recorded 20 deaths.⁴⁶⁰ The data on the 2024 annual total also differ as HRSS recorded 173 deaths,⁴⁶¹ MSF 146,⁴⁶² and ASK 128.⁴⁶³

Some protests also turned violent in 2025.⁴⁶⁴ On the night of 5 February 2025, a mob demolished the house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman⁴⁶⁵ (independent Bangladesh's first president and Hasina's late father).⁴⁶⁶ As Rahman has been viewed as an 'independence icon',⁴⁶⁷ his house was reportedly an important place for Awami League supporters.⁴⁶⁸ The event was triggered by an online speech delivered by Hasina on the same day, from exile in India, in which she discredited the protest movement that caused her downfall and called upon her supporters to stand up against the interim government.⁴⁶⁹ Agitated protesters stormed Rahman's house, armed with sticks, hammers and other tools, looted the property, set it on

⁴⁵³ Daily Star (The), Why can't mob violence be contained, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁴ Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁵ MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#), p. 9

⁴⁵⁶ Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2023), 8 January 2024, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2022), 3 January 2023, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2021), 13 January 2022, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2020), 31 December 2020, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2019), 6 January 2020, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2018, 14 January 2019, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2017, 17 January 2018, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2016, 8 January 2017, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2015, 7 January 2016, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁷ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); MSF, Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁴⁵⁸ MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report January 2025, 31 January 2025, [url](#), p. 1; MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#) p. 2; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁹ MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 9

⁴⁶⁰ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁶¹ HRSS, Annual Human Rights Situation In Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁶² MSF, Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁴⁶³ ASK, Mob Beating Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁴ Bdnews24.com, Gaza protests: Demonstrators attack Bata, KFC outlets in 6 districts in Bangladesh, 7 April 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁵ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁶ Benar News, Bangladesh rewrites history, leaves millions of schoolchildren without textbooks, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), New textbooks will say Ziaur Rahman declared independence, 1 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁷ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁸ Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁹ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)



fire, and demolished it with a crane and an excavator.⁴⁷⁰ The house was almost levelled to the ground.⁴⁷¹ Netra News reported on the interim government not making any statement or attempt to calm the situation and described the police presence as ‘minimal’ and ‘largely disengaged’.⁴⁷² The interim government later referred to the event as ‘undesirable’, but also emphasised that it was triggered by Hasina’s speech.⁴⁷³ Hasina’s former residence Sudha Sadan was also set on fire and vandalised on the same night,⁴⁷⁴ as well as homes of other exiled party leaders.⁴⁷⁵ Over the following two days, similar attacks continued in various locations.⁴⁷⁶ According to Prothom Alo, at least 33 properties of Awami League leaders were attacked, as well as eight party offices and 50 murals of the Sheikh family,⁴⁷⁷ in 19 cities.⁴⁷⁸

On 7 April 2025, widespread protests against Israel’s military campaign in Gaza turned violent in Cox’s Bazar, Chattogram, Sylhet, Gazipur, Bogura and Cumilla,⁴⁷⁹ where mobs vandalised brands perceived as associated with Israel, such as Bata, KFC and Pizza Hut.⁴⁸⁰

6.2. Islamist extremism

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), the former government initiated an intense crackdown on Islamist militancy after 2016.⁴⁸¹ During the late 2010s, perceived Islamist militants were tortured and disappeared.⁴⁸² Islamist militancy subsequently entered a ‘dormant phase’ in 2018 according to Shafi Mostofa, associate professor at World Religions and Culture in the Faculty of Arts at Dhaka University,⁴⁸³ although several violent Islamist groups have reportedly remained active in Bangladesh, including regional groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and the Islamic State as well as domestic groups including Ansar al-Islam, also known as Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HuJI),⁴⁸⁴ and Neo-JMB.⁴⁸⁵ State authorities made use of a ‘terrorism narrative’ to target individuals and groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) inter alia to

⁴⁷⁰ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷¹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷² Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷³ Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Will firmly resist arson, vandalism attempts: govt, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁴ Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Dhanmondi 32: People taking away books, iron rods, anything available, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁵ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁶ Prothom Alo, BNP tells government to get control of the situation, 7 February 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Sheikh Mujib’s mural demolished in Sylhet, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protesters demolish Mujib’s murals, AL offices in different districts, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁷ Prothom Alo, BNP tells government to get control of the situation, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁸ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁹ Bdnews24.com, Gaza protests: Demonstrators attack Bata, KFC outlets in 6 districts, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁰ Firstpost, Why are Bangladeshis attacking Bata, Pizza Hut, KFC outlets?, 9 April 2025, [url](#); NDTV [YouTube], Bangladesh Protest News, 8 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸¹ Hasan, M. and Macdonald, G., The Persistent Challenge of Extremism in Bangladesh, USIP, [url](#), pp. 4–5, 9

⁴⁸² Odhikar, Bangladesh: Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), paras. 43, 53

⁴⁸³ Shafi, M. M., Understanding Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh, May 2021, Journal of Asian and African Studies, May 2021, [url](#), p. 5

⁴⁸⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2024 Country Report, Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#), p. 35

⁴⁸⁵ Daily Star (The), 8yrs of Holey Artisan attack: Militants turning to apps to draw new recruits, 1 July 2024, [url](#)



motivate the continued presence of state security forces in the area.⁴⁸⁶ The Diplomat reported on ‘anti-terrorist’ raids also being staged elsewhere under the former government. Interviewed victims said that they had been arrested months before being public revealed as ‘militants’.⁴⁸⁷

According to Kanchan Lakshman, an Indian security analyst specialising on terrorism and radicalisation, radical groups have increased their organisational activities in Bangladesh since August 2024, including JMB, that allegedly seeks to align with the largest Islamic advocacy organisation in Bangladesh, Hefazat-e-Islami.⁴⁸⁸ Corroborating information could not be found within the time constraints of this report. According to the Inspector General of Prisons, 174 prisoners linked to militant outfits (such as JMB) were released on bail in the period 5 August–5 December 2024,⁴⁸⁹ including key figures of banned terrorist groups,⁴⁹⁰ such as the leader of Ansar al-Islam.⁴⁹¹

Islamic political parties were heavily suppressed under the former government,⁴⁹² but following the powershift Islamist elements have resurged.⁴⁹³ The interim government lifted the ban on the country’s largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami,⁴⁹⁴ which had been banned during the student protests in 2024.⁴⁹⁵ The Supreme Court also lifted its 2013 ban on the party to run in elections.⁴⁹⁶ In April 2025, the New York Times reported that ‘smaller extremist outfits that want to upend the system entirely, and more mainstream Islamist parties that want to work within the democratic system, appear to be converging on a shared goal of a more conservative Bangladesh.’ Representatives of several Islamist parties and organisations stated that they were ‘working to push Bangladesh in a more fundamentalist direction.’⁴⁹⁷

In 2025, there have been protests calling for people disrespecting Islam to be punished with the death penalty⁴⁹⁸ and violent protests involving ‘Islamists’ lead to the cancellation women’s

⁴⁸⁶ Daily Star (The), Paradoxes of terrorism in Bangladesh, 23 February 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁷ Diplomat (The), Terrorism in Bangladesh: Political Manipulation, Ideological Roots, and Western Influence, 15 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁸ Lakshman, K., The upsurge of radical and fundamentalist Islamic elements in Bangladesh, 24 March 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁹ Daily Star (The), Over 700 escaped prisoners still at large, 5 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁰ BBC News, Facing Islamist threats, Bangladesh girls forced to cancel football matches, 18 February 2025, [url](#); Firstpost, Bangladesh: Muhammad Yunus’ Govt Releases Al-Qaeda Linked Terror Group Chief Jashimuddin Rahmani, 28 August 2024, [url](#); BD Digest, Extremist Leader Mohibullah Released Amid Anti-Discrimination Movement Pressure, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹¹ BBC News, Facing Islamist threats, Bangladesh girls forced to cancel football matches, 18 February 2025, [url](#); Firstpost, Bangladesh: Muhammad Yunus’ Govt Releases Al-Qaeda Linked Terror Group Chief Jashimuddin Rahmani, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹² New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#); Federal (The), Bangladesh: Islamist parties bond to form grand alliance, creating new concerns for India, 8 September 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹³ New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#); Hindu (The), Hefazat-e-Islam, Return of the hardliners, 15 September 2024, [url](#); Erasing 76 Crimes, Commentary: With priority given to political reorganization, social protections falter, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁴ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s interim government lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami party, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁵ DW, Bangladesh: Are Islamist parties growing in influence?, 25 October 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁶ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh Supreme Court lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami party, 1 June 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁷ New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁸ New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#); Netra News, What NYT got right — and missed — in Bangladesh Islamist story, 3 April 2025, [url](#)



football games in Dinajpur,⁴⁹⁹ Joypurhat (January 2025)⁵⁰⁰ and Taraganj (February 2025).⁵⁰¹ Moreover, on 7 March 2025, Hizb ut-Tahrir held its first public demonstration since being banned in 2009.⁵⁰² Protesters called for Bangladesh to become an Islamic caliphate.⁵⁰³ Police dispersed the protest as it broke away from police barricades,⁵⁰⁴ and several Hizb ut-Tahrir members were arrested the following day.⁵⁰⁵ As reported by the New York Times in early April 2025, 'Islamists' forced the police to release a man who had harassed a woman not covering her hair in public and celebrated him with flower garlands.⁵⁰⁶

Hefazat-e-Islam has reportedly demanded 300 criminal cases against the group's leaders and activists to be withdrawn.⁵⁰⁷ The group has further called for the Women's Affairs Reform Commission to be abolished, in particular due to the commission's references to Islamic inheritance and family law as discriminatory against women.⁵⁰⁸

There has reportedly been a rise in violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ persons,⁵⁰⁹ including by Islamist extremist elements who have gained ground under the interim government.⁵¹⁰ Islamic fundamentalists have also attacked numerous Sufi shrines.⁵¹¹ More information is available in sections [8.2 Ethnic and religious minorities](#) and [8.5 LGBTIQ persons](#).

6.3. Chittagong Hill Tracts

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) refers to the three districts of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati,⁵¹² located in Chattogram Division.⁵¹³ According to the most recent census (2022), the majority of ethnic minorities in Bangladesh (60 %) resided in Chattogram. Within the division, most minorities (920 248 individuals) resided in the CHT, most being Buddhists, Hindus or Christians. Bengalis, however, still made up about 67 % of the total population in the CHT (1 847 827 individuals). The census did not provide figures on ethnic groups on district level, but in Chattogram Division as a whole, the largest ethnic minority communities were: Chakmas (475 548 individuals), Marma (220 067), Tripura (151 656), Mro (52 022), and

⁴⁹⁹ Times of India (The), 'Girls football is un-Islamic': Bangladesh cancels football match after hundreds of protesters march field, 30 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁰ Al Jazeera, Women's football match cancelled in Bangladesh after religious protests, 29 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰¹ BBC News, Facing Islamist threats, Bangladesh girls forced to cancel football matches, 18 February 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰² Indian Express (The), Banned Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir holds first public rally in Bangladesh since 2009, 7 March 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰³ Reuters, Bangladesh police use tear gas to disperse Islamist march in Dhaka, 7 March 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁴ AP, Police in Bangladesh use batons and tear gas to disperse rally by banned Islamist group, 7 March 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁵ Somoy TV, 36 members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir arrested, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁶ New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁷ DW, Bangladesh: Are Islamist parties growing in influence?, 25 October 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁸ Prothom Alo, Hefazat-e-Islam seeks cancellation of Women's Affairs Reform Commission, 20 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁹ JMBF, State of LGBTIQ+ Rights in Bangladesh 2024, 17 May 2025, [url](#), p. 17

⁵¹⁰ Erasing 76 Crimes, Commentary: With priority given to political reorganization, social protections falter, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

⁵¹¹ BBC News, Facing Islamist threats, Bangladesh girls forced to cancel football matches, 18 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Silence of the shrines, 23 February 2025, [url](#)

⁵¹² Benar News, Untangling the Chittagong Hill Tracts, 28 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹³ Dhaka Tribune, Mixed reactions as govt changes English spellings of 5 district names, 2 April 2018, [url](#)



Tonchonga (46 636). 44 smaller ethnic communities were also identified, including Bawm (12 529), Khyang (4 709), Khumi (3 360), Chak (2 968), and Pankho (1 547).⁵¹⁴

The CHT has been affected by protracted political instability and tensions for a long period of time, which have included skirmishes between Bangladeshi security forces and militant rebel groups, and violence between the local indigenous population and Bengalis.⁵¹⁵ This situation stems from a previous conflict, which took place between 1973 and 1997 between the government and the local Indigenous population, during which Bengali settlers were relocated to the area in order to change its demographic balance.⁵¹⁶ The CHT Peace Accord was signed in 1997 by the Government of Bangladesh and the indigenous party Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS),⁵¹⁷ but it remains largely unimplemented.⁵¹⁸ In a media interview, Yunus acknowledged that the accord is not being implemented, but stated that the interim government will let a future elected government handle the issue.⁵¹⁹

The military enjoys central authority in the CHT to maintain peace and law and order.⁵²⁰ Meanwhile, there is reportedly a media blackout in the region as it is under military control,⁵²¹ and human rights monitors cannot work freely or conduct visits.⁵²² Local activists have been put under ‘heavy government surveillance’,⁵²³ and, as mentioned, a ‘terrorism narrative’ has reportedly been used against individuals and groups in the CHT.⁵²⁴ Local Indigenous people reportedly commonly perceive the army as an oppressive rather than protective force.⁵²⁵ The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) has criticised Bangladeshi media for relying on official communication of the military in their reporting on events in the CHT,⁵²⁶ and Thain Shewe Kyaw, a policy associate at the think-tank Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), accused media of refraining from publishing ‘uncomfortable’ reports about the CHT, also after the fall of the former government.⁵²⁷

⁵¹⁴ Bangladesh, BBS, Population and Housing Census 2022, November 2023, [url](#), pp. xlii, 195–197, 363, 367, 373

⁵¹⁵ Rashiduzzaman, M., Bangladesh-Chittagong Hill Tracts?: Bonfire of triangular accord?, South Asia Journal, 13 February 2023, [url](#)

⁵¹⁶ USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 2. f

⁵¹⁷ PCJSS, CHT Accord of 1997, 2020, [url](#)

⁵¹⁸ Daily Star (The), CHT unrest: Communal violence and the politics of misrepresentation, 6 October 2024, [url](#)

⁵¹⁹ Daily Star (The), ‘Interim govt to decide its term’, 2 October 2024, [url](#)

⁵²⁰ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 14; IWGIA, Briefing to the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh from the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC), 15 August 2024, [url](#)

⁵²¹ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵²² Daily Star (The), When will the revolution reach Bangladesh’s hills?, 23 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵²³ Daily Star (The), When will the revolution reach Bangladesh’s hills?, 23 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵²⁴ Daily Star (The), Paradoxes of terrorism in Bangladesh, 23 February 2023, [url](#)

⁵²⁵ Diplomat (The), Clashes Erupt in Bangladesh’s Chittagong Hill Tracts, 23 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵²⁶ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵²⁷ Kyaw, T. S., Media Silence Persists on Uncomfortable Truths in the CHT, CGS, 6 September 2024, [url](#)



6.3.1. Violence of Kuki-Chin National Army and the military

Reports of a militant group called the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA), an armed wing of the separatist group Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF)⁵²⁸ emerged in mid-2022.⁵²⁹ According to the Business Standard, the KNF claims to have an army of over 3 000 people, while other estimates indicate a strength of 50–60 individuals.⁵³⁰ KNF has been carrying out attacks in the district of Bandarban since 2022, in which it has targeted Bangladeshi security forces, killed military personnel and abducted civilians.⁵³¹ Bangladeshi authorities have launched counter-operations against the group since October 2022,⁵³² and skirmishes and crackdowns on civilians by the Bangladeshi security forces have been reported in Bandarban.⁵³³ According to Dhaka Tribune, in the period October 2022–April 2024, 6 army personnel were killed, as well as 17 KNF members, and more than 50 individuals were injured, and 30 kidnapped.⁵³⁴ Corroborating information could not be found within the time constraints of this report.

The clashes have displaced civilians into India⁵³⁵ and Myanmar.⁵³⁶ Moreover, IWGIA criticised Bangladeshi media for relying on the Bangladeshi military's press service in their reporting, and labelling arrested and killed individuals as KNF members, who, according to IWGIA, were civilians of the Bawm community.⁵³⁷ Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) also reported on civilians killed or arrested by the security forces, while the military press service claimed that they were KNF members.⁵³⁸

Following a series of bank robberies carried out by the KNA/KNF on 2–3 April 2024,⁵³⁹ the military launched operations targeting the KNF/KNA in three subdistricts of Bandarban: Ruma, Thanchi, and Rowangchhari.⁵⁴⁰ By 12 June 2024 over 96 people had reportedly been arrested in various locations within the district, and 12 Bawm men had been killed in gunfights with Bangladeshi forces.⁵⁴¹ Bangladeshi media reported on instances of gunfights taking place in

⁵²⁸ Dhaka Tribune, KNF: Where does it get its funding and what is its endgame?, 22 February 2023, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Who are the Kuki-Chin National Army?, 17 May 2023, [url](#)

⁵²⁹ BBC Monitoring, Bangladesh media highlights 30 Jun 22, 30 June 2022, [url](#); International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Bangladesh, July 2023, [url](#)

⁵³⁰ Business Standard (The), Why Kuki-Chin National Front raising tensions in Chittagong Hill Tracts?, 26 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵³¹ See: EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 30

⁵³² Diplomat (The), Kuki-Chin Refugees From Bangladesh Take Shelter in Mizoram, 22 November 2022, [url](#)

⁵³³ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#); IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵³⁴ Dhaka Tribune, KNF armed wing member killed in raid in Bandarban, 22 April 2024, [url](#)

⁵³⁵ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Kuki-Chin Refugees From Bangladesh Take Shelter in Mizoram, 22 November 2022, [url](#)

⁵³⁶ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵³⁷ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵³⁸ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 26–28

⁵³⁹ Bdnews24.com, Bandarban hotels hit hard by booking cancellations after KNF attacks on Banks, 12 April 2024, [url](#); IWGIA, CHTC urges urgent action to address escalating tensions in Bandarban, emphasizes the need for a peaceful resolution, protection of civilians, and calls for action against alleged sponsored proxy conflicts, 16 April 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁴⁰ BSS, Four put on two-day remand over Bandarban bank robberies, 13 May 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁴¹ Dhaka Tribune, KNF member found dead in Bandarban, 12 June 2024, [url](#)



May–July 2024, during which alleged KNA/KNF militants were killed and arrested.⁵⁴² Media outlet Hill Voice reported on one army personnel being killed in a gunfight on 11 July 2024.⁵⁴³ Thereafter, media, relying on information from the military, continued to report on military operations targeting the group, including a raid against an ‘insurgent camp’ in Bandarban on 19 September 2024,⁵⁴⁴ and exchange of fire leading to the death of three ‘KNA militants’ on 24 November 2024,⁵⁴⁵ injuries to one Bangladeshi army member in Ruma on 30 December 2024,⁵⁴⁶ and the death of two ‘KNA militants’ in Ruma on 27 January 2025.⁵⁴⁷ Hill Voice reported on KNF members extorting villagers for money and rice in a village in Ruma on 11 December 2024,⁵⁴⁸ and further reported on two military operations in Rangamati involving hundreds of army personnel in February 2025 and April 2025.⁵⁴⁹

The CHT is a popular tourist destination,⁵⁵⁰ but since 18 October 2022, travel restrictions have been imposed intermittently due to security concerns.⁵⁵¹ In particular, Bandarban’s subdistricts of Thanchi, Rowangchhari and Ruma have faced travel restrictions, including after the series of bank robberies in April 2024. Restrictions on Thanchi were lifted on 23 June 2024,⁵⁵² but following communal violence (see section 6.3.2. Communal violence), travel restrictions were imposed in the whole CHT in the period 8–31 October 2024.⁵⁵³ Bandarban continued to face travel restrictions until 7 November 2024, when the ban was lifted for most districts, except Thanchi, Rowangchhari, and Ruma.⁵⁵⁴ Thanchi and Ruma were still under restrictions on 2 April 2025, while other sub-districts reportedly were ‘bustling with tourists’ during Eid al-Fitr.⁵⁵⁵ The travel ban in Thanchi and Ruma was lifted on 6 June 2025, but tourists were only permitted to visit designated zones.⁵⁵⁶

Military operations targeting KNF has reportedly impacted the Bawm community,⁵⁵⁷ which is a Christian group of the Kuku-Chine Mizo ethnic group.⁵⁵⁸ The community was involved in the formation of the separatist organisation KNF, and the KNF is therefore perceived as the ‘Bawm

⁵⁴² Dhaka Tribune, 3 KNF members killed in army operation in Bandarban, 19 May 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 2 KNF members killed in Bandarban, 23 May 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, KNF member found dead in Bandarban, 12 June 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 2 KNF members killed in joint forces’ drive in Bandarban, 24 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, KNF member killed in Bandarban army operation, 12 June 2024, [url](#); Hill Voice, Gunfight between Army and KNF in Thanchi, 1 soldier killed, 11 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, ‘KNF member’ killed in Bandarban joint operation, 26 June 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, Suspected KNF man killed in gunfight with cops in Bandarban, 14 June 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, Three more KNF members sent to jail, 22 June 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴³ Hill Voice, Gunfight between Army and KNF in Thanchi, 1 soldier killed, 11 July 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁴ UNB, BGB busts insurgent den, recovers huge arms, and ammos in Bandarban, 20 September 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁵ Prothom Alo, 3 KNF militants killed in Bandarban army operation, 24 November 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁶ Daily Observer, Army man ‘shot by KNF’ in Bandarban, 3 December 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Two KNF members detained in military operation in Bandarban, 27 January 2025, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁸ Hill Voice, KNF demands extortion and threatens in a village of Ruma, 11 December 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁴⁹ Hill Voice, Army operation in Reingkhong again, 3 arrested in Thanchi, 21 April 2025, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Bandarban tourism restrictions likely to be lifted, says DC, 30 October 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁵¹ See: EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 30–31.

⁵⁵² Dhaka Tribune, Travel ban relaxed for tourists in Thanchi, 22 June 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Travel ban lifted in Bandarban’s Thanchi after more than 2 months, 22 June 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁵³ Daily Star (The), 23-day travel ban issued for hill districts, 6 October 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Bandarban travel restrictions lifted, 3 upazilas still off-limits, 6 November 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Bandarban bustling with tourists during extended Eid holiday, 2 April 2025, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁶ Bdnews24.com, Travel ban lifted in Ruma, Thanchi after two and a half years, 6 June 2025, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁷ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), pp. 1–2; IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#).

⁵⁵⁸ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 4.



party'.⁵⁵⁹ Following the bank robberies on 2–3 April 2024, the Bangladeshi military has reportedly been targeting the whole Bawm community in operations against KNF/KNA. Bawm people have been subjected to random mass arrests, including pregnant women and young children.⁵⁶⁰ Amnesty International reported on Bawm people being arbitrarily arrested, as 'the authorities assume that the entire community [...] are part of, or supporters of, the KNF'.⁵⁶¹ According to RRAG, 13 Bawm persons have been extrajudicially executed and 144 arbitrarily arrested in connection to the bank robberies.⁵⁶² According to IWGIA, those arrested were students, schoolteachers, pastors, government employees, businessmen and farmers, as well as children as young as two months, elderly people, and pregnant women. The same source reported on at least 10 extrajudicial killings of civilians committed by the military in the period 7 April 2024–9 September 2024, including of a 13-year-old child and five students having no affiliation with the KNF.⁵⁶³ Many of those arrested in April–May 2024 remained in custody by the end of 2024, according to Amnesty International.⁵⁶⁴

Many of the Bawm community have moreover been displaced.⁵⁶⁵ IWGIA reported on 4 000 community members being displaced due to military operations in the period October 2022–September 2024.⁵⁶⁶ This can be contrasted with the fact that the Bawm community is one of the smaller indigenous groups in the CHT,⁵⁶⁷ with 12 529 individuals according to the 2022 national census.⁵⁶⁸ Some have fled into neighbouring countries while others have been hiding in jungle areas close to their villages,⁵⁶⁹ leaving their land vulnerable to illegal settlement.⁵⁷⁰

According to IWGIA, Bawm civilians have been enduring 'severe hardship' under the military operations, including collective punishment, harm and arbitrary arrests. Most Bawm villages in the administrative unions of Remakreprangsa (Ruma subdistrict, Bandarban⁵⁷¹) and Swalok (Sadar subdistrict, Bandarban⁵⁷²) have reportedly been deserted or lack male residents.⁵⁷³ Amnesty International reported on five villages facing military crackdown: Bethel, Pankhyang,

⁵⁵⁹ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁰ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 1; IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶¹ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 1

⁵⁶² RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 26–28

⁵⁶³ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁴ AI, Bangladesh, 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁵ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); Times of India (The), 28 more Bangla refugees enter Mizoram's Lawngtlai, 9 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁶ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁷ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁸ Bangladesh, BBS, Population and Housing Census 2022, November 2023, [url](#), p. 367

⁵⁶⁹ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), pp. 1–2; Dhaka Tribune, Two KNF members detained in military operation in Bandarban, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁰ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁵⁷¹ Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Portal, Union List [Chattogram/Bandarban/Ruma], 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁷² Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Portal, Union List [Chattogram/Bandarban/Sadar], 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁷³ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)



Suanlu, Faruk, Eden, and Darjeeling (in the subdistricts of Rowangchari and Ruma),⁵⁷⁴ while RRAG reported on arrests and other incidents taking place also in other villages in the same subdistricts, including: Basatlong, Bethani, Moonlai, as well as Bandarban Sadar.⁵⁷⁵ Reported incidents include:

- **8 April 2024:** security forces targeted Bethel village,⁵⁷⁶ which is located close to one of the banks that were robbed in early April 2024.⁵⁷⁷ Amnesty International reported that the military gathered its residents at the school grounds, separated men and women, and carried out random arrests.⁵⁷⁸ According to RRAG, 49 individuals of the Bawm community were arrested in total.⁵⁷⁹
- **11 April 2024:** IWGIA reported on the military forcing an entire village of the Bawm community in Eden Para (Ruma subdistrict, Bandarban) to stand under scorching sun for a full day without food or water, including children, women, and elderly people.⁵⁸⁰
- **2 May 2024:** the military targeted the Bawm village Painkhyang Para (Rowangchhari subdistrict, Bandarban).⁵⁸¹ According to IWGIA, all villagers were gathered inside the village church, where they were kept for the full day without food or water. Military officials beat and harassed villagers inside the church and brought men outside one by one, and subsequently fired gunshots outside. Villagers inside the church assumed that the men were killed. The military brought 21 Bawm men outside in total, and two bodies were later found in the jungle, while 19 men remained missing.⁵⁸² RRAG reported on five individuals being shot dead after the incident and 16 still being missing as of October 2024.⁵⁸³ According to IWGIA, the military attacked the village in retaliation after the KNF had attacked a military patrol tram at Kaplong Para, Rowangchhari, injuring several military personnel.⁵⁸⁴
- **2 May 2024:** according to IWGIA, 48 Bawm men were arrested by the military in another village in Rowangchhari subdistrict of Bandarban. They were forced to work as porters for the military in a raid against the KNF. According to a victim, the military beat up the village head, using sticks and dragging him and slamming him on the ground, while he had his hands tied on his back. Thereafter, four soldiers were instructed to beat him further and repeatedly kicked the man. The Bawm men were forced to work

⁵⁷⁴ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁷⁵ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 29–30

⁵⁷⁶ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2; RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 27

⁵⁷⁷ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2; IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁸ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁷⁹ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 27

⁵⁸⁰ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); See also: AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁸¹ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 29–30

⁵⁸² IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁸³ RRAG, Conflicts in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 29–30

⁵⁸⁴ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)



all day with only small amounts of food provided. Six of them were released the same evening, and upon their return to their village more than 30 villagers decided to flee the same evening, fearing for their lives.⁵⁸⁵

The military has furthermore imposed restrictions on the amount of rice that individuals may buy and carry in some subdistricts of Bandarban. In April 2024, restrictions were imposed on people not to buy or carry more than five kg of rice,⁵⁸⁶ and in some instances the restriction was limited to 1 kg⁵⁸⁷ – which is not enough to feed a family as noted by Amnesty International.⁵⁸⁸ According to CGS, Bawm people in Ruma and Thanchi still faced restrictions on rice as of 6 September 2024.⁵⁸⁹ In 2024, there were reports of Bawm people's movement being restricted by the military carrying out random and extensive searches, and arrests of Bawm people trying to pass through checkpoints.⁵⁹⁰ According to IWGIA, reporting in September 2024, all vehicles have been stopped at checkpoints in Bandarban. 'Indigenous-looking' individuals have been required to show their national identity cards, and those identified as Bawm have been detained. IWGIA noted that the searches have been preventing Bawm people from carrying significant quantities of food, groceries, and medicine, and that it had become nearly impossible for Bawm people, who live in remote areas, to go to the market for daily necessities and to access basic needs like food, healthcare and education.⁵⁹¹ Many Bawm students studying outside Bandarban returned to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in early April 2024, but some of them were arrested at checkpoints on their way back to their educational institutions, and many found themselves stuck in the area due to the security forces crackdown.⁵⁹² According to IWGIA, some students were killed or displaced by security forces.⁵⁹³ It has not been possible to corroborate this information with other sources.

In September 2024, IWGIA further reported that security forces conducted raids and arrested Bawm individuals in Bandarban town, searching homes, workplaces, and government offices, and that many were 'brutally tortured' during detention.⁵⁹⁴ It has not been possible to

⁵⁸⁵ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁶ New Age, Ruma people not allowed to buy more than 5kg rice at a time, 16 April 2024, [url](#); IWGIA, CHTC urges urgent action to address escalating tensions in Bandarban, emphasizes the need for a peaceful resolution, protection of civilians, and calls for action against alleged sponsored proxy conflicts, 16 April 2024, [url](#); Kyaw, T. S., Media Silence Persists on Uncomfortable Truths in the CHT, CGS, 6 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁷ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁸⁸ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁸⁹ Kyaw, T. S., Media Silence Persists on Uncomfortable Truths in the CHT, CGS, 6 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁰ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2; IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹¹ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹² IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁹³ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁴ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)



corroborate this information with other sources within the time constraints of drafting this report.

6.3.2. Communal violence

As noted by The Diplomat there has been a ‘long-standing pattern of violence and discrimination against indigenous communities’ in the CHT (see section 6.3.), and there is deep mistrust between indigenous people and Bengalis in the area.⁵⁹⁵ On 18 September 2024, a young Bengali man, accused of stealing a motorcycle, was beaten to death by a mob in Khagrachhari Sadar, which sparked intercommunal violence between indigenous people and Bengalis in the districts of Rangamati and Khagrachari.⁵⁹⁶ Over the two following days⁵⁹⁷ at least four indigenous people were reportedly killed, 75 injured, and 142 properties looted, destroyed and torched, including Buddhist temples⁵⁹⁸ and homes and business properties of indigenous people.⁵⁹⁹ According to Minority Rights Group (MRG), indigenous families fled and took shelter in the forest.⁶⁰⁰ On 19 September 2024, police reportedly opened fire against a group of indigenous students blocking the road Khagrachari–Panchari, protesting against the violence of the previous day. Police fire killed two students and injured nine.⁶⁰¹ On 20 September 2024, indigenous people held a protest march in Rangamati Sadar,⁶⁰² and they were attacked by Bengalis.⁶⁰³ One indigenous person was killed, and properties of indigenous people were set of fire, including a Buddhist temple,⁶⁰⁴ the CHT Regional Council’s office,⁶⁰⁵ and at least 50 shops.⁶⁰⁶ IWGIA accused the military of launching organised attacks with Bengalis on 19–20 September 2024, targeting indigenous people. The organisation further accused the police of not intervening to protect indigenous people or their properties during communal violence,⁶⁰⁷ and that Bengali settlers use incidents such as the mob beating on 18 September 2024, as ‘a pretext to unleash violence against the indigenous population’, often ‘with the express or tacit support of the nearly 100% Bengali security personnel.’ IWGIA also reported on the military searching the phones of indigenous people in Rangamati, deleting footage of the attacks, and beating those having such records.⁶⁰⁸ This information could not be corroborated within the time constraints of drafting this report. In September 2024, the

⁵⁹⁵ Diplomat (The), Clashes Erupt in Bangladesh’s Chittagong Hill Tracts, 23 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁶ Business Standard (The), Uneasy calm in CHT, advisers visit hills, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁷ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Bangladesh, September 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁸ IWGIA, Bangladesh: Perpetuating Impunity and Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples, 24 February 2025, [url](#); RRAG, 100 Days of Dr Yunus: Mobocracy Imperils Bangladesh’s Reforms, 18 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁹ Kapaeeng Foundation, Attack on Indigenous Peoples in CHT: 4 killed, several injured, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁰ MRG, Bangladesh: MRG condemns renewed violence and hate speech against indigenous peoples, 24 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰¹ Kapaeeng Foundation, Attack on Indigenous Peoples in CHT: 4 killed, several injured, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰² Kapaeeng Foundation, Attack on Indigenous Peoples in CHT: 4 killed, several injured, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰³ Dhaka Tribune, Ethnic minority students hold protest in Bandarban over Khagrachhari violence, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁴ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Bangladesh, September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁵ MRG, Bangladesh: MRG condemns renewed violence and hate speech against indigenous peoples, 24 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Ethnic minority students hold protest in Bandarban over Khagrachhari violence, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁷ IWGIA, Bangladesh: Perpetuating Impunity and Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁸ IWGIA, Joint Statement: Call for Urgent Action on Repeated Violence in CHT, 8 October 2024, [url](#)



CHT Commission also documented a gang rape of an indigenous woman, and two attempted rapes of an indigenous woman and an eight-year old indigenous girl, by Bengalis.⁶⁰⁹

‘Heavy law enforcement’ was reportedly deployed in the CHT following these events,⁶¹⁰ and the local administration imposed Section 144⁶¹¹ in Rangamati and Khagrachari⁶¹² – restricting unlawful assemblies of four or more persons.⁶¹³ The Business Standard reported on ‘a 72-hour blockade of roads and waterways’ in all districts of the CHT, and disruptions of the mobile network and fixed broadband internet.⁶¹⁴ On 1 October 2024, intercommunal violence broke out again after a mob killed a teacher accused of raping an indigenous girl.⁶¹⁵ Indigenous properties were torched and vandalised.⁶¹⁶ According to the Daily Star, Section 144 was withdrawn on 2 October 2024 ‘as tension eased’. Although things seemed to be ‘back to normalcy’ at a local bazaar in Khagrachhari, only Bengali traders were present on 3 October 2024.⁶¹⁷ Moreover, on 6 October 2024, the Buddhist community cancelled a significant annual ceremony, Kathin Chibor Dan, due to security concerns. Several Buddhist temples and statues had been vandalised, and donation boxes looted during the violence.⁶¹⁸

On Christmas eve, 24 December 2024, 17 houses of the Christian Tripura community in Bandarban were set on fire.⁶¹⁹ The interim government condemned the attack, and the local police stated that they had arrested four suspects on 26 December 2024.⁶²⁰ A land dispute was reportedly the motive behind the attack,⁶²¹ although the International CHT Commission stated that the perpetrators, allegedly connected to a former IGP, had made repeated attempts to evict Tripura families by threats, coercion and violence. It further highlighted the continuing influence of former government affiliates,⁶²² which TIB has also reported on.⁶²³

6.3.3. Other incidents

In 2025, there were reports of abductions of civilians, including two incidents in Lama Upazila (Bandarban) in February 2025 where seven tobacco farmers, and 26 rubber workers were abducted. The rubber workers were held hostage by unknown perpetrators and were released

⁶⁰⁹ IWGIA, Joint Statement: Call for Urgent Action on Repeated Violence in CHT, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁰ Business Standard (The), Uneasy calm in CHT, advisers visit hills, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹¹ Business Standard (The), Uneasy calm in CHT, advisers visit hills, 22 September 2024, [url](#); Kapaeeng Foundation, Attack on Indigenous Peoples in CHT: 4 killed, several injured, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹² Kapaeeng Foundation, Attack on Indigenous Peoples in CHT: 4 killed, several injured, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹³ IWGIA, Joint Statement: Call for Urgent Action on Repeated Violence in CHT, 8 October 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Khagrachhari Girl: Medical test finds evidence of rape, 4 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁴ Business Standard (The), Uneasy calm in CHT, advisers visit hills, 22 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁵ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Bangladesh, October 2024, [url](#); IWGIA, Joint Statement: Call for Urgent Action on Repeated Violence in CHT, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁶ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Bangladesh, October 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Khagrachhari Girl: Medical test finds evidence of rape, 4 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁷ Daily Star (The), Khagrachhari Girl: Medical test finds evidence of rape, 4 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁸ Dhaka Tribune, ‘Kathin Chibor Dan’ called off in Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban over security fears, 6 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶¹⁹ DW, Bangladesh: Are human rights eroding under Muhammad Yunus?, 30 December 2024, [url](#)

⁶²⁰ Dhaka Tribune, 4 arrested for setting Tripura community houses on fire in Bandarban, 26 December 2024, [url](#)

⁶²¹ Dhaka Tribune, Miscreants torch 17 Tripura homes in Bandarban over land dispute, 25 December 2024, [url](#)

⁶²² IWGIA, CHT Commission Condemns Arson Attack on Tripura Community in Notun Tongjhiri Para, Calls for Justice and Urgent Action Against Systemic Violence and Land Grabbing in the CHT, 7 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶²³ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), pp. 6–7



for a 'hefty ransom'.⁶²⁴ There were also reports of five students being abducted in Baghaichari, Rangamati, on 16 April 2025.⁶²⁵ They were released after one week.⁶²⁶ Some kidnappings of civilians were attributed to the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF),⁶²⁷ which the party denied.⁶²⁸ There is a history of inter-party violence and killings between the PCJSS and the UPDF in the CHT,⁶²⁹ and three UPDF members were reportedly shot dead in Khagrachhari, by a group of 'miscreants' on 30 October 2024,⁶³⁰ and another UPDF member was shot in Manikchhari, Rangamati, on 16 March 2025, allegedly by the PCJSS.⁶³¹

⁶²⁴ Dhaka Tribune, 26 workers still held hostage in Bandarban after two days, 17 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁵ Hill Voice, 5 CU students kidnapped by UPDF (Prasit) armed group, PCP condemns and demands release of abductees, 16 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Five CU students freed a week after abduction in CHT, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

⁶²⁷ Hill Voice, Two villagers abducted by UPDF released for ransom, 28 January 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), UPDF member shot dead in alleged PCJSS attack in Rangamati, 16 March 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Five CU students freed a week after abduction in CHT, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁹ Patwary, O. H., The Dynamics of Conflict in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in the Post Peace Accord Period, Social Alternatives, 2023, [url](#), pp. 41–42

⁶³⁰ Prothom Alo, 3 UPDF members shot dead in Khagrachhari, 30 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶³¹ Business Standard (The), UPDF member shot dead in alleged PCJSS attack in Rangamati, 16 March 2025, [url](#)



7. Socio-economic situation

7.1. National economic and financial situation

Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has undergone ‘robust economic growth and poverty reduction.’⁶³² Ranked as the second poorest country in the world in 1971,⁶³³ it has been one of Asia's strongest-growing economies, becoming a lower middle-class country in 2015.⁶³⁴ However, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted economic growth,⁶³⁵ and the country has experienced high inflation, a balance of payments deficit and declining foreign exchange reserves.⁶³⁶ According to the International Crisis Group, the economic difficulties were the result of ‘economic mismanagement, corruption and cronyism’.⁶³⁷

Bangladesh has applied for and benefitted from loans and funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. As of December 2024, IMF's total financial assistance amounted to approximately USD 5.5 billion.⁶³⁸ In April 2025, Bangladesh and the World Bank signed two financing agreements at the total amount of USD 850 million to develop the Bay Terminal deep sea port and to ‘provide cash transfers and livelihood services for 4.5 million people, focusing on youth, persons with disabilities, women, and workers in climate-vulnerable regions’.⁶³⁹ The unstable situation in the country during the uprising in July–August 2024 negatively impacted the country's economy, with customers in the textile industry cancelling their orders,⁶⁴⁰ disruption of supply chains, and protests and the restrictions on movement and internet shutdowns heavily impacting business operations.⁶⁴¹

Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth fell to 3.3 % in the first half of 2025, down from 5.1 % in the same period of 2024. The decrease was reportedly the result of economic disruptions caused by the protests in 2024, tighter policy, and increased uncertainty of investments.⁶⁴² According to a provisional estimate by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Bangladesh's economy grew 3.97 % in the fiscal year 2024–2025, which would be the

⁶³² World Bank (The), Bangladesh: Overview, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶³³ World Bank (The), Country on a Mission: The Remarkable Story of Bangladesh's Development Journey, 2025, [url](#)

⁶³⁴ World Bank (The), Bangladesh: Overview, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶³⁵ World Bank (The), Bangladesh: Overview, 17 October 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Bangladesh: The Long Road Ahead, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶³⁶ IMF, IMF Reaches Staff-Level Agreement on the Third Review of Bangladesh's Extended Credit Facility, Extended Fund Facility, and Resilience and Sustainability Facility Arrangements, 18 December 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Bangladesh: The Long Road Ahead, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶³⁷ International Crisis Group, Bangladesh on Edge after Crushing Quota Protests, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

⁶³⁸ IMF, IMF Executive Board Concludes Bangladesh Combined Third and Fourth Reviews under the Extended Credit Facility, Extended Fund Facility, and Resilience and Sustainability Facility, 23 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶³⁹ World Bank (The), World Bank, Bangladesh Sign \$850 million Financing Package to Create Jobs, Boost Trade, Modernize Social Protection System, 23 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁰ International Crisis Group, Bangladesh: The Long Road Ahead, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁴¹ UN OHCHR, Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh, 16 August 2024, [url](#), p. 9

⁶⁴² IMF, IMF Staff Concludes Visit to Bangladesh, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

lowest GDP growth in the past five years.⁶⁴³ Meanwhile, the inflation decreased from 9.89 % to 9.05 % in May 2024–May 2025.⁶⁴⁴

In September 2024, the interim government formed a six-member taskforce to reform the banking sector.⁶⁴⁵ In January 2025, the taskforce published a report recommending to, inter alia, ‘improve transparency in public procurement, streamline regulatory frameworks to encourage entrepreneurship and foreign investment and address the immediate food and energy security crises through targeted policy interventions’.⁶⁴⁶

According to a BBS survey from 2022, the upper poverty lines were estimated at 18.7 % at national level, 20.5 % in rural areas, and 14.7 % in urban areas. This constituted a general decrease in poverty compared to rates from 2016. Extreme poverty in Bangladesh (less than USD 2.15 per day) represented around 5.6 % of the population in 2022 while in 2016 the rate was at 12.9 %.⁶⁴⁷ However, according to the World Bank figures, as reported by Prothom Alo, the poverty levels increased again in 2024 with a national poverty rate of 20.5 %, and an extreme poverty rate of 7.7 %. The World Bank reportedly expected both figures to increase further with more than two percentage points in 2025,⁶⁴⁸ and estimated that extreme poverty rose to 9.3 % in April 2025.⁶⁴⁹

7.2. Basic subsistence and employment

According to BBS data, as reported by the Business Standard, Bangladesh’s unemployment rate stood at 4.6 % in December 2024. This constituted an increase compared to the same time of the previous year when 3.2 % of the workforce were unemployed.⁶⁵⁰ Meanwhile, the per capita income reached USD 2 820 which was ‘an all-time high’, according to the same source. This increase was ‘mainly due to changes in the dollar exchange rate’.⁶⁵¹ According to ILO, the informal labour market encompasses a majority of the total working population; based on a 2022 survey 85 % of the working population were informally employed.⁶⁵²

In 2023, the unemployment rate of young women aged 15–24 in South Asia was four times higher than for young men (42.4 % respectively 11.5 %), according to ILO data.⁶⁵³ This constitutes the biggest gender gap in youth unemployment globally.⁶⁵⁴ Unemployment among

⁶⁴³ Daily Star (The), Economy grows 3.97% in FY25, slowest since pandemic year, 27 May 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Bangladesh's GDP grows 3.97% in FY25, provisional BBS data shows, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁴ Bangladesh, Central Bank of Bangladesh, Current Inflation, May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁵ Business Standard (The), 6-member taskforce formed to reform banking sector, 11 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁶ Bangladesh, Task Force Committee, Re-strategising the Economy and Mobilizing Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development, January 2025, [url](#), p. 516

⁶⁴⁷ Bangladesh, BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022, 12 April 2023, [url](#), pp. 21–22

⁶⁴⁸ Prothom Alo, 3m more to fall into extreme poverty in Bangladesh: World Bank, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁹ World Bank (The), Bangladesh Poverty and Equity Brief: April 2025 (English), 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁰ Business Standard (The), Unemployment rate hits historic high, rises to 4.63% as 27.4 lakh now jobless, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵¹ Prothom Alo, Bangladesh’s per capita income hits a record high \$2,820 in 2024–25, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵² ILO, Formalization key to shared prosperity with workers in Bangladesh’s informal sector, 27 June 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), For shared prosperity, formalisation of work is vital, 27 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵³ ILO, Global employment Trends for Youth 2024, 2024, [url](#), pp. 12, 90–91

⁶⁵⁴ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

youth with higher education as well as among women in urban areas remained a ‘structural issue’ in Bangladesh in 2025, according to the World Bank.⁶⁵⁵

Remittance earnings have been climbing steadily since August 2024.⁶⁵⁶ In February 2025, Bangladesh received USD 2.53 billion in remittances.⁶⁵⁷ That amount was surpassed in March 2025 and reached USD 3.29 billion, marking it as the highest monthly figure recorded.⁶⁵⁸ As reported by the Daily Star, increase in remittances was the result of, inter alia, a decreasing gap between official and informal exchange rates, crackdown on money laundering, and ‘a renewed sense of patriotism among Bangladeshis living abroad’ after the political transition. Moreover, many previously using informal channels such as *hundi* to send money, had started using the banking system.⁶⁵⁹ *Hundi* is an informal way of transferring money from one country to another outside the conventional banking system and is outlawed in Bangladesh.⁶⁶⁰ It has reportedly been used as a means for money laundering, and fail to contribute to foreign reserves.⁶⁶¹ A Bank of Bangladesh official told local media that the use of *hundi* likely declined due to the political transition in August 2024.⁶⁶²

7.3. Food security

In 2022, Bangladeshi households spent an average of 46 % of their income on food according to a BBS survey⁶⁶³. In 2024, the cost of living, including food, reached its highest point in a decade,⁶⁶⁴ and some parts of the population were experiencing food insecurity. In February–March 2024, around 14.6 million, 20 % of the analysed population, experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, being level three (crisis) or above on the International Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) five-tier scale. This included about 328 000 persons experiencing food insecurity at level four (emergency).⁶⁶⁵ Meanwhile, WFP reported on more than 23.6 million people, more than 26 % of the population, facing food insecurity as of March 2025.⁶⁶⁶ A study of BIDS and WFP, as reported by local media, further found that food insecurity was increasing in 2022–2024, amid rising poverty levels.⁶⁶⁷

⁶⁵⁵ World Bank, Bangladesh Poverty and Equity Brief : April 2025 (English), 30 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁶ Daily Star (The), Remittances ride formal channels to hit record \$3.29b in March, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh receives historically high remittance in February, 2 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Record February: remittances climb 25% to \$2.52b, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁸ Daily Star (The), Remittances ride formal channels to hit record \$3.29b in March, 7 April 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Remittance hits second-highest monthly record of \$2.97b in May ahead of Eid, 1 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁹ Daily Star (The), Remittance up by \$6.4b in FY25, 2 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁰ Daily Star (The), Do we really know how hundi works?, 2 March 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁶¹ Anima, M. T. et al., Sushmita Das Dalia, Impact of informal remittance channels in Bangladesh: Understanding the role of hundi in financial crime beyond economic aspects, Journal of Economic Criminology, 18 September 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁶² Daily Star (The), Remittance up by \$6.4b in FY25, 2 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶³ Bangladesh, BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022, 12 April 2023, [url](#), p.iii

⁶⁶⁴ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 2025, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁵ IPC, Bangladesh: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for February - March 2024 and Projection for April - October 2024, 2 April 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁶ WFP, WFP Country Brief: Bangladesh, March 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁷ Daily Star (The), Poverty rose sharply in multiple districts in Bangladesh: BIDS study, 24 March 2025, [url](#)



7.4. Housing

Most of the population have access to electricity, clean water and housing.⁶⁶⁸ However, according to the most recent national census, over 1.7 million people lived in urban slums under ‘unhygienic and unplanned conditions with very poor-quality housing structures’.⁶⁶⁹ While this figure could not be corroborated, and other sources suggested larger numbers including UNDP stating in 2020 that about 60 million people lived in urban slums,⁶⁷⁰ and Iqbal Habib, architect and board of trustee’s member of Bangladesh University, stating that 4.4 million people lived in slums in Dhaka alone in 2022.⁶⁷¹ Bangladesh is experiencing rapid urbanisation, with the urban population more than doubling from 30 to 70 million in the period 2000–2023. This has created a significant demand for affordable housing, with a current deficit of about 6 million units. Only 31 500 units are built annually, which correspond to 1 % of the demand. As a result, slums have been growing, including the Dhaka slum population which increased by 20 % in 2010–2020.⁶⁷² According to the Daily Star, around 100 000 new apartments need to be built every year, while the real estate market can only supply 8 % of required units. Meanwhile, most cannot afford homeownership due to high interest rates.⁶⁷³

7.5. Healthcare

As reported by local media in 2025, the health sector faces a number of challenges, including inadequate funding, a shortage of health workers, high out-of-pocket expenses, unequal access to services, weak governance⁶⁷⁴ and a shortage of trained medical professionals.⁶⁷⁵ According to World Bank data, as reported by experts cited by local media, only 61 % of the population had access to basic healthcare services in 2022. The same source reported on the doctor density being 0.8 doctors per 1 000 people (in contrast to WHO’s recommendation of 4.45 doctors), and 80 % of healthcare being provided by the private sector.⁶⁷⁶ Hundreds of thousands reportedly travel abroad each year to seek medical care. According to a 2023 study on medical tourism, many sought healthcare abroad since they did not trust the national healthcare system, ‘inadequate or outdated medical resources, logistical inefficiencies, and long waiting times’, and perceived cost-effectiveness and better care abroad.⁶⁷⁷ Based on the research conducted by Sohini Bose, Associate Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, the main challenges facing the medical sector included insufficient medical personnel, poor quality of healthcare infrastructure, corruption, and lack of healthcare in rural areas. Medical

⁶⁶⁸ World Bank (The), Bangladesh Development Update, October 2023, [url](#), pp. 7, 11, 25–26, 28

⁶⁶⁹ Bangladesh, BBS, Population and Housing Census 2022, November 2023, [url](#), pp. Xliii, 17, 28

⁶⁷⁰ UNDP, Beyond Recovery: Towards 2030, [2020], [url](#)

⁶⁷¹ Dhaka Tribune, Speaker: Over 4.4m Dhaka residents living in slums, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷² UN Bangladesh, Why Housing Matters: Insights from the Affordable Housing Program Field Visit to Chandpur, Bangladesh, 25 November 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁷³ Daily Star (The), Bangladesh needs one lakh flats annually, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁴ Daily Star (The), Make primary healthcare free for everyone, 6 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁵ Business standard (The), The government alone cannot fix Bangladesh’s healthcare system, 2 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁶ Business Standard (The), Ensuring equitable access, quality healthcare still a challenge in Bangladesh: Experts, 2 May 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁷ Daily Star (The), Making Bangladesh a world-class health hub, 26 February 2025, [url](#)



tourism from Bangladesh to India had however declined since August 2024 due to political reasons.⁶⁷⁸

In November 2024, the interim government formed a 12-member Health Sector Reform Commission,⁶⁷⁹ tasked with providing recommendations on how to make health services ‘more people-oriented, accessible, and universal’. On 6 May 2025, the commission submitted its report, inter alia recommending making primary healthcare a constitutional obligation, free healthcare, and forming an independent and permanent Health Commission to formulate essential policies and strategies and to oversee the health sector.⁶⁸⁰

More information on healthcare in Bangladesh is available in the [2023 EUAA MedCOI report: Healthcare Provision in Bangladesh](#) and [several topical MedCOI reports](#).

7.6. Climate-induced displacement

Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change, and disasters including seasonal flooding, landslides, and cyclones.⁶⁸¹ Some estimates suggest that disasters triggered the internal displacement of 3.4 million people between 2021 and 2023.⁶⁸² Many displaced persons end up in informal settlements with precarious living conditions.⁶⁸³ Climate change also plays a role in emigration from Bangladesh, according to Maria Camila Duque, assistant professor in law at O.P. Jindal Global University in India, including disasters destroying people’s homes and assets.⁶⁸⁴ Some estimates suggest that Bangladesh could lose 11 % of its land by 2050, due to a projected 50-centimetre sea level rise, which would affect approximately 15 million people living in the low-lying coastal regions,⁶⁸⁵ and displace over 22 million people.⁶⁸⁶

Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to tidal flooding caused by rising sea levels, as two-thirds of the country is less than five metres above sea level, and 28 % of the population lives along the coast.⁶⁸⁷ In August 2024, flash floods and heavy monsoon rains created the worst climate disaster in recent times, according to state authorities. Moreover, climate-induced flooding affected almost 6 million people.⁶⁸⁸ The National Disaster Response Coordination Center

⁶⁷⁸ Bose, S., Medical Tourism as a Pillar of India-Bangladesh Relations: Will It Hold?, Observer Research Foundation, 10 April 2025, [url](#), pp. 11–13, 18

⁶⁷⁹ BSS, Reform commission recommends establishment of institute to oversee women, children health, 14 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁰ Daily Star (The), Make primary healthcare free for everyone, 6 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸¹ EC, ECHO, Bangladesh, 15 October 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸² IDMC, Data Portal: Bangladesh 2021-2023, 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸³ GIZ, Integrating persons displaced internally due to climate change in Bangladesh (INTEGRATE), February 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh’s climate refugees: A crisis rooted in colonial and policy failures, 20 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁴ Duque, M., C., Climate Change in Bangladesh Shapes Internal Migration and Movement to India, Migration Policy Institute, 4 September 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁵ IFRC, IFRC Country Plan: Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁸⁶ O'Neill O. et al., Frontiers in Climate, Projecting climate migration in Bangladesh using agent based modeling and climate data, 9 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁷ IFRC, IFRC Country Plan: Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁸⁸ AI, The State of the World’s Human Rights, 28 April 2025, [url](#), p. 91



(NDRCC) reported that more than one million people were cut off by the flooding with displaced 500 000 persons staying in 3 403 evacuation shelters.⁶⁸⁹

According to UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), children in Bangladesh are the most exposed in the world to climate and environmental hazards,⁶⁹⁰ with Bangladesh ranked on the 15th place among 167 countries.⁶⁹¹ Moreover, in 2024, the education of 35 million Bangladeshi children was affected by the severe weather events, including heatwaves causing the largest school disruptions.⁶⁹²

⁶⁸⁹ UN Bangladesh, Bangladesh: Eastern Flash Floods 2024 Situation Report No. 02, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁰ UNICEF, Two million children at risk as worst floods in three decades lash through eastern Bangladesh, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹¹ UNICEF, The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁶⁹² UNICEF, Learning Interrupted: Global snapshot of climate-related school disruptions in 2024, [url](#), p. 10



8. Treatment of specific profiles

8.1. Political party activists

8.1.1. Awami League officials and supporters

Hasina and her party, the Awami League, were in power for 15 years, from 2009 to 2024.⁶⁹³ The party relied on a historical association with Bangladesh's independence movement during the 1971 independence war,⁶⁹⁴ but its government administration became increasingly authoritarian,⁶⁹⁵ with policies favouring its allies.⁶⁹⁶ The violent governmental crackdown on the student protests in July–August 2024, which caused many deaths and injuries to protesters, 'shattered' the party's public image,⁶⁹⁷ and party affiliates have been reportedly facing 'widespread hostility',⁶⁹⁸ including retaliatory violence.⁶⁹⁹

On 23 October 2024, the interim government banned the Awami League's student wing Chhatra League under the Anti-Terrorism Act⁷⁰⁰ and later on 12 May 2025 it also banned all activities of the Awami League.⁷⁰¹ The interim government has furthermore taken steps to remove references to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family by altering school textbooks,⁷⁰² renaming several institutions⁷⁰³ (including public hospitals,⁷⁰⁴ universities,⁷⁰⁵ and military institutions⁷⁰⁶), changing banknotes with Rahman's portrait⁷⁰⁷ and abolishing eight national holidays,⁷⁰⁸ including 15 August (national mourning day for the assassination of Rahman and most of his family).⁷⁰⁹

⁶⁹³ Al Jazeera, Timeline: The rise and fall of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁴ Diplomat (The), The Bangladesh Awami League: From Dominance to a Legitimacy Crisis, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁵ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh, 16 January 2025, [url](#); East Asia Forum, Bangladesh's authoritarian shift, 18 January 2020, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁶ Daily Star (The), Crony capitalism stifled investment and growth in Bangladesh, 6 November 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁷ Diplomat (The), The Bangladesh Awami League: From Dominance to a Legitimacy Crisis, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁸ Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

⁷⁰⁰ Reuters, Bangladesh bans student wing of ousted Sheikh Hasina's party, 24 October 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰¹ DW, Bangladesh: What does the ban of Sheikh Hasina's party mean?, 12 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰² Benar News, Bangladesh rewrites history, leaves millions of schoolchildren without textbooks, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), New textbooks will say Ziaur Rahman declared independence, 1 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰³ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), pp. 4 – 5

⁷⁰⁴ Business Standard (The), 14 govt hospitals renamed by removing names of Sheikh Mujib, Hasina, family, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁵ Business Standard (The), Govt renames 13 universities, removes Sheikh family honorifics, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁶ Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh changes eight military facility names, 16 more under review, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁷ Business Standard (The), BB to issue banknotes with new designs in April-May, 22 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁸ Prothom Alo, 8 national days including 7 March, 15 August to be cancelled, 16 October 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁹ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters, vowing to 'guard revolution', beat Hasina supporters, 15 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The) 8 nat'l days including March 7 cancelled, 17 October 2024, [url](#)



Many Awami League top officials face criminal charges at the ICT-BD and ordinary criminal courts,⁷¹⁰ and there have been reports of Awami League affiliates being arbitrarily arrested.⁷¹¹ More information on criminal charges brought against Awami League officials and supporters is available in section [2.4 Accountability efforts and arrests](#). Awami League members have been blamed for the increase in violent crime since the fall of the former government,⁷¹² including by the interim government.⁷¹³ ‘Operation Devil Hunt’, launched in February 2025 to curb violent crime, has led to over 12 000 arrests,⁷¹⁴ and some sources stated that many of those arrested were Awami League members.⁷¹⁵ In April–May 2025, over 48 000 people were arrested in one month according to police data, and meanwhile the Daily Star reported on an increase in arrests of Awami League members as the interim government officially banned all activities of the organisation in May 2025. Among those arrested were activists as well as party leaders and former ministers of parliament.⁷¹⁶ Custodial deaths of Awami League members have also been reported,⁷¹⁷ including the death of four Awami League leaders in Bogura jail in November–December 2024.⁷¹⁸ On 8 May 2025, the Awami League claimed that 21 of their leaders and activists had died in custody.⁷¹⁹ These figures could not be corroborated within the time constraints of drafting this report.

During the protests in July–August 2024, Awami League officials and supporters faced retaliatory violence in clashes with protesters.⁷²⁰ According to the UN OHCHR, the ‘most serious incidents’ took place from 4 August 2024 and onwards (with their reporting period ending on 15 August 2024), especially in the aftermath of Hasina’s flight to India on 5 August 2024.⁷²¹ Awami League officials and supporters were beaten to death by crowds, and in some cases attacked and stabbed to death.⁷²² According to Prothom Alo, 87 Awami League members and affiliates were killed in the period 4–6 August 2024, out of 326 people killed in

⁷¹⁰ New Age, Bangladesh’s ICT asks jail authorities to produce 14 politicians, 6 ex-security officials over crimes against humanity, 17 October 2024, [url](#)

⁷¹¹ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹² Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 23

⁷¹³ Print (The), From fighting for freedom to several rape allegations & now a ban. All about Bangladesh Chhatra League, 24 October 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Awami League's backers trying to destabilise the country, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁴ Business Standard (The), 569 more held under ‘Operation Devil Hunt’, 1 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁵ DW, Bangladesh: Can interim government contain latest unrest?, 11 February 2025, [url](#); David Bergman [X], posted on: 9 February 2025, [url](#); Benar News, Awami League, opposition activists among hundreds swept up in new Bangladesh crackdown, 10 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁶ Daily Star (The), Over 48,400 arrested in one month, 20 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁷ Daily Star (The), Savar AL leader dies in jail, 14 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Fifth AL leader dies in Bogura jail custody, 12 March 2025, [url](#); Bangladesh Awami League, Call for Independent Investigation into Deaths of 21 Awami League Leaders and Activists in Custody, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁸ Daily Star (The), Four AL leader died in Bogura jail custody in last one month, 10 December 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Fourth AL leader dies of ‘heart attack’ in Bogura prison in 29 days, 10 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷¹⁹ Bangladesh Awami League, Call for Independent Investigation into Deaths of 21 Awami League Leaders and Activists in Custody, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷²⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212; Daily Star (The), At least 100 injured as BCL activists attack protesters, 15 July 2024, [url](#); AFP, 100 injured as Bangladesh’s student groups clash over quotas, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Dorm rooms of DU Chhatra League president, general secretary vandalized, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

⁷²¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

⁷²² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 212, 218



total.⁷²³ In contrast, International Crisis Group reported on estimates of 250 people being killed in the slightly longer period 5–11 August 2024, and that most were Awami League members.⁷²⁴ Crowds also vandalised, looted and torched government offices, official residences, homes and businesses belonging to Awami League leaders and government officials,⁷²⁵ ‘or their close family members’ as reported by UN OHCHR.⁷²⁶ UN OHCHR documented one case of sexual violence against a female Chhatra League member, including sexual harassment and rape. Furthermore, she was reportedly denied healthcare due to her political affiliation. UN OHCHR believed that ‘substantially more cases of sexual violence’ occurred than what they could document in the period 1 July–15 August 2024.⁷²⁷

During a debate organised by International Crisis Group in November 2024, Thomas Kean, analyst with International Crisis Group, and Zafar Sobhan, journalist and political analyst, stated that, despite some attacks, there had been no major purges of Awami League supporters or others associated with the previous government since its downfall. Sobhan noted that dozens had been incarcerated and that hundreds were in hiding, but thousands still remained in the country – although they kept a low profile.⁷²⁸ Other sources also reported on Awami League leaders and prominent supporters living in hiding,⁷²⁹ and on many having escaped the country or trying to leave⁷³⁰ to avoid reprisals.⁷³¹

The International Crisis Group later reported that BNP made efforts to control their rank-and-file in the immediate aftermath of the former government’s downfall and that many families have members on ‘both sides of the political divides’ which might explain why revenge killings were not more extensive.⁷³² UN OHCHR reported that some retaliatory attacks were carried out during the protests and their aftermath by members of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, with overlapping motives such as political revenge, religious and ethnic discrimination, personal disputes and local communal conflicts. UN OHCHR however did not find any information supporting claims that the top leadership orchestrated such violence.⁷³³ They noted that reports of revenge violence had continued after 15 August 2024.⁷³⁴

⁷²³ Prothom Alo, 326 killed in 4-6 August, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷²⁴ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷²⁵ Prothom Alo, Houses of ministers, MPs attacked, torched, 5 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Houses of 2 ministers, 9 MPs come under attack, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷²⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 219

⁷²⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 220

⁷²⁸ International Crisis Group [YouTube], posted on: 5 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷²⁹ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 23; Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s new outcasts: Students from ex-PM Hasina’s party now in hiding, 27 October 2024, [url](#); Print (The), Bangladesh can’t afford another coup. Yunus govt must not trust all army officers with power, 1 October 2024, [url](#)

⁷³⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Ex-minister Narayan Chandra Chanda detained while fleeing to India, 6 October 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Ex-land minister Narayan Chandra Chanda arrested, 7 October 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Ex-minister Faruk Khan arrested, 15 October 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Former Awami League ministers remanded for 2 days each, 15 October 2024, [url](#)

⁷³¹ VOA, Fearing reprisals, Hasina’s supporters flee Bangladesh, 7 September 2024, [url](#); Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 8

⁷³² International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷³³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 301–303

⁷³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 224



Human Rights Watch stated that '[t]he authorities have failed to protect individuals affiliated with the Awami League from attacks'.⁷³⁵ Violent mobs have attacked Awami League leaders and activists at court hearings⁷³⁶ and a former minister of parliament was attacked by a mob upon his release from jail after being granted bail.⁷³⁷

In January–April 2025, ASK recorded the following instances of political violence:

- 23 incidents involving the Awami League and the BNP, leaving 4 dead and 329 injured;
- 5 incidents involving student wings of the Awami League and other parties, injuring 26 people;
- 5 internal clashes of the Awami League and affiliated branches, leaving 3 dead and 66 injured.⁷³⁸

Odikhar also recorded instances of intra-party violence, documenting six incidents involving the Awami League in the period January–March 2025, leaving 4 dead and 26 injured.⁷³⁹

Under the former administration, some Awami League leaders and government officials exploited their power position to engage in crime such as land grabbing and embezzling government assets,⁷⁴⁰ while corruption was institutionalised⁷⁴¹ and endemic.⁷⁴² According to TIB, reporting in November 2024, there were complaints of 'persistent influence' of the former government's 'allies' on the bureaucracy,⁷⁴³ and Odikhar reported in May 2025 that criminal elements were still 'influential in politics' and that violence and extortion were continuing.⁷⁴⁴ During its 15 years in power, the Awami League politicised state institutions,⁷⁴⁵ which 'permeated the entire security sector',⁷⁴⁶ with allegations of actors within law enforcement and other security agencies engaging in human rights abuse, sometimes on the order of top government officials.⁷⁴⁷ According to Netra News referring to local media, the party's student wing, the Chhatra League, allegedly engaged in violent acts, rape and killings of other students during the Awami Leagues' years in power. Members engaging in such crime were

⁷³⁵ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁶ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 7

⁷³⁷ Daily Star (The), Mob attacks ex-AL MP Aziz at jail gate, 9 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁸ ASK, Political Violence January–April 2025, [2025], [url](#)

⁷³⁹ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 30

⁷⁴⁰ Prothom Alo, Firoz had absolute control over Bauphal, 8 December 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Dharendra Debnath Shambhu grabbed commission from all projects, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁴¹ Daily Star (The), Awami League's legacy of corruption should serve as a cautionary tale, 5 December 2024, [url](#);

TIB, Corruption Is Pervasive in Service Sectors, According to the TIB National Household Survey 2023, 4 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁴² Daily Star (The), Awami League's legacy of corruption should serve as a cautionary tale, 5 December 2024, [url](#); Freedom House, Bangladesh 2023, 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁴³ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 6

⁷⁴⁴ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 9

⁷⁴⁵ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 1; UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 315

⁷⁴⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 315

⁷⁴⁷ DW, 'Death squad': Inside Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, 4 March 2023, [url](#); HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)



allegedly awarded by receiving more senior roles and better opportunities.⁷⁴⁸ The Chhatra League and security forces also violently cracked down on protesters during the July–August 2024, leading to deaths and injuries.⁷⁴⁹ More information is available in [Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024](#), [2.4. Accountability efforts and arrests](#) and [3.1.2. Involvement in human rights abuse](#).

Journalists and media outlets perceived as favouring the Awami League and the former government have also been targeted in violent acts,⁷⁵⁰ as well as Hindus.⁷⁵¹ More information is available in [8.3. Actors of civil society and the media](#) and [8.2. Ethnic and religious minorities](#).

8.1.2. Violence involving other political parties

There have been several intra-party disputes and violent incidents between members of various political parties after the fall of the former government.⁷⁵² According to the Daily Star, criminal elements within some parties feel ‘emboldened by the normalisation of such violence over time and the lack of legal and political consequences’.⁷⁵³ According to TIB, reporting in November 2024, political leaders and activists from various parties have been ‘killed in attacks by miscreants attempting to assert dominance across the country’.⁷⁵⁴ Political party affiliates have also engaged in criminal activities.⁷⁵⁵

BNP, the main opposition party under the former government,⁷⁵⁶ has been the main actor involved in inter- and intra-party violence since the fall of Hasina.⁷⁵⁷ Political violence reportedly intensified in early 2025.⁷⁵⁸ In January–April 2025, ASK recorded 49 incidents where BNP and its wings clashed with the Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, and other political organisations, leading to 9 deaths and injuries to 565 persons. ASK also recorded 105 internal clashes within BNP, leading to 17 deaths and injuries to 1 201 people, as well as 49 internal clashes between the BNP and its front organisations, killing another 15 persons and causing injuries to 459 persons.⁷⁵⁹ The party leadership has taken disciplinary actions against reportedly more than 1 000 party leaders and activists for inter alia ‘extortion, encroachment,

⁷⁴⁸ Netra News, Let a future Bangladesh be free of Chhatra League, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. iii, para. 69

⁷⁵⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 225

⁷⁵¹ BBC News, ‘There is no law and order. And Hindus are being targeted again’, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁵² TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁷⁵³ Daily Star (The), Political violence has to stop, 12 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁴ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁷⁵⁵ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15; Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 9

⁷⁵⁶ Riaz, A., What Bangladesh’s widely boycotted election reveals about its future, 18 January 2024, Atlantic Council, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁷ Daily Star (The), Political violence has to stop, 12 April 2025, [url](#); ASK, Political Violence January–April 2025, [2025], [url](#)

⁷⁵⁸ New Age, Political violence becomes deadlier, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁹ ASK, Political Violence January–April 2025, [2025], [url](#)



and infighting',⁷⁶⁰ but has struggled to control members⁷⁶¹ that have allegedly engaged in, inter alia, attacking Awami League leaders and activists, as well as looting and torching their homes.⁷⁶² BNP members have also reportedly engaged in extortion and encroachment,⁷⁶³ in order to gain influence over certain areas⁷⁶⁴ and grab land.⁷⁶⁵ In November 2024, TIB reported on some BNP party leaders and activists allegedly 'seizing control of various ministries, government institutions, educational and health institutions', local government bodies, and the road transport sector.⁷⁶⁶

There were instances of BNP activists being killed by political rivals,⁷⁶⁷ and hacked to death by masked assailants.⁷⁶⁸ In May 2025, Prothom Alo reported on two rivalling factions of the BNP engaging in shootings, attacks, and counterattacks to gain influence in Raozan. Although murders and counter-murders have been taking place in the area for almost 40 years, the conflict has intensified after the fall of the former government.⁷⁶⁹ In the period 5 August 2024 - 22 April 2025, it was reported that 11 people had been murdered in the area, eight of which being 'political murders'.⁷⁷⁰ In another case, BNP leaders in Sirandanj Sadar allegedly broke the hands and legs of another BNP leader in March 2025.⁷⁷¹ Furthermore, a local activist of the BNP student wing Jubo Dal died in custody after having been detained, for unknown reasons, by Joint Forces in January 2025. His body had signs of torture.⁷⁷²

Under the former government, thousands of criminal complaints were lodged against BNP activists, in many cases as a form of judicial harassment.⁷⁷³ Under the interim government, over 22 000 cases had reportedly been resolved by September 2024, with a 72 % acquittal rate.⁷⁷⁴ Meanwhile, BNP members have allegedly engaged in lodging criminal cases against Awami League affiliates, and BNP members have also been named as accused in some cases.⁷⁷⁵ More information is available in section [2.4. Accountability efforts and arrests](#).

⁷⁶⁰ Daily Star (The), BNP infighting claims 43 lives in 7 months, 21 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶¹ Dhaka Tribune, BNP to take stricter stance against misdeeds of leaders and activists, 23 March 2025, [url](#); New Age, Political violence becomes deadlier, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶² Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 58

⁷⁶³ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15; Dhaka Tribune, BNP to take stricter stance against misdeeds of leaders and activists, 23 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶⁴ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁷⁶⁵ Dhaka Tribune, BNP to take stricter stance against misdeeds of leaders and activists, 23 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶⁶ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁷⁶⁷ Prothom Alo, Another Jubo Dal activist shot dead in Raozan within 2 days, 22 April 2025, [url](#); New Age, One killed as BNP factions clash in Chattogram, 26 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶⁸ New Age, Attackers clad in burqa hack BNP activist to death, 23 April 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BNP activist murdered in broad daylight, 28 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁶⁹ Prothom Alo, Murder, retaliation for four decades, 7 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁰ Prothom Alo, Another Jubo Dal activist shot dead in Raozan within 2 days, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷¹ Dhaka Tribune, BNP to take stricter stance against misdeeds of leaders and activists, 23 March 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷² Prothom Alo, Detained Jubo Dal leader dies in custody, torture marks on body, 1 February 2025, [url](#); Benar News, Bangladesh govt orders probe into BNP youth activist's in-custody death, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷³ Guardian (The), Full prisons and false charges: Bangladesh opposition faces pre-election crackdown, 10 November 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁴ Daily Star (The), Framed by AL regime, they're in the clear now, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁵ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), para. 60



The student movement has formed a party and will run for parliament.⁷⁷⁶ As reported by TIB, the movement has been accused of extorting its identity as coordinators of the protests, and has put pressure on the interim government on various issues.⁷⁷⁷ In January–April 2025, ASK recorded instances in which the movement clashed with the National Citizen Party, which injured 19 people in total. ASK further recorded 5 instances of internal clashes within the movement, which injured 20 people in total.⁷⁷⁸ Media sources reported on a clash at Khulna University on 19 February 2025, when the movement clashed with BNP’s student wing, which injured 150 people in total.⁷⁷⁹ A few days after the demolition of Mujibur Rahman’s house in February 2025,⁷⁸⁰ students assembling outside another Awami League residence in Gazipur were attacked by Awami League leaders and activists.⁷⁸¹ At least 18 people were reportedly injured in the attack.⁷⁸²

8.2. Ethnic and religious minorities

8.2.1. General information

Bangladesh’s constitution prescribes a secular state and designates Islam as state religion. The state is to ensure equal status and rights of other religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity, and guarantees all citizens the constitutional right to profess, practice or propagate any religion.⁷⁸³ Bangladesh has ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁷⁸⁴ and constitutionally protects ‘the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects, and communities’. The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, or place of birth.⁷⁸⁵

A great majority of Bangladesh’s population belongs to the Bengali ethno-linguistic group, and most are Sunni Muslims.⁷⁸⁶ According to the most recent census from 2022, only 1 % of the population belonged to an ethnic minority.⁷⁸⁷ Most ethnic minorities thereto belong to a religious minority, and they are distinct from the Bengali majority as regards physical features, language, and culture.⁷⁸⁸ There are 50 groups that are recognised as ethnic minorities under

⁷⁷⁶ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh students who deposed PM Hasina form party to fight elections, 28 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁷ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 16

⁷⁷⁸ ASK, Political Violence January–April 2025, [2025], [url](#)

⁷⁷⁹ Le Monde, Au Bangladesh, les étudiants ayant provoqué la chute de Sheikh Hasina lancent leur parti politique, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Firstpost, Student vs Student: Why clashes broke out at a Bangladesh university, 21 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁰ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁸¹ Le Monde, Au Bangladesh, les étudiants ayant provoqué la chute de Sheikh Hasina lancent leur parti politique, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Case filed over attack on students in Gazipur, 35 arrested, 9 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁸² Daily Star (The), Attack on students in Gazipur: OC suspended as students protest all day, 9 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁸³ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), art. 8 (1), 41

⁷⁸⁴ United Nations Treaty Collection, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1966, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁵ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), art. 23 (A), 28 (1)

⁷⁸⁶ MRG, Bangladesh, June 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁷ Bangladesh, BBS, Population & Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Report, August 2022, [url](#), p. vii

⁷⁸⁸ IRI, The Challenges Facing Plainland Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh: Land, Dignity And Inclusion, 2020, [url](#), p. 4



the constitution.⁷⁸⁹ Many of these identify themselves as ‘indigenous’,⁷⁹⁰ but specific indigenous rights are not recognised by the state.⁷⁹¹ Religious minorities include Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, animists,⁷⁹² Shia Muslims, and Ahmaddiyya.⁷⁹³

Under the former government, indigenous communities faced censorship,⁷⁹⁴ but since its fall media has reportedly started to use the local term for indigenous communities (*adivasi*) more frequently, according to IWGIA.⁷⁹⁵ In contrast, a human rights activists reporting for the Daily Star stated that some politicians have become more hesitant of using the term.⁷⁹⁶ The inclusion of the term on a new school textbook cover, for instance, triggered protests in Dhaka⁷⁹⁷ from a group perceiving the reference to *adivasi* as undermining Bangladesh’s territorial integrity.⁷⁹⁸ In response, the term was removed,⁷⁹⁹ which triggered protests from indigenous students in Dhaka. On 15 January 2025, protesting indigenous students were attacked by a group opposing the term, who were armed with wooden sticks.⁸⁰⁰ The next day, indigenous students protested again, demanding justice after the attack, but police dispersed them with water cannons, sound grenades, and batons.⁸⁰¹

Minorities have been underrepresented in policymaking in general,⁸⁰² but particularly in areas relating to ‘cultural preservation, land rights, and overall social justice’, according to IWGIA.⁸⁰³ They are also underrepresented in state authorities,⁸⁰⁴ as well as in the reform commissions.⁸⁰⁵

Many minorities live in remote and inaccessible areas,⁸⁰⁶ mainly in the CHT⁸⁰⁷ and in northern and southern plainlands.⁸⁰⁸ The lack of infrastructure in remote areas pose challenges in

⁷⁸⁹ MRG, Bangladesh, June 2019, [url](#); IWGIA, Indigenous World 2019: Bangladesh, 24 April 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁰ Sweden, UD, Bangladesh – Mänskliga rättigheter, demokrati och rättsstatens principer: situationen per den 31 december 2021, 22 June 2022, [url](#), p. 14

⁷⁹¹ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁹² IRI, The Challenges Facing Plainland Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh: Land, Dignity And Inclusion, 2020, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁹³ MRG, Bangladesh, June 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁴ Netra News, Censoring the indigenous, 1 August 2022, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bangladesh and the indigenous people, 10 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁵ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁶ Daily Star (The), How are Indigenous people faring in the new Bangladesh?, 26 February 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁷ IWGIA, A letter to Chief Adviser, Interim Government of Bangladesh to take urgent action on violent attacks on Indigenous students, 31 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁸ Front Line Defenders, Bangladesh: Interim government must ensure accountability for violence against peaceful protesters advocating for Indigenous people’s rights, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁹ Daily Star (The), NCTB removes 'Adivasi' graffiti from textbook after protests, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁰ Daily Star (The), Attack on adivasis: Most attackers at large despite video proof, 22 January 2025, [url](#); Front Line Defenders, Bangladesh: Interim government must ensure accountability for violence against peaceful protesters advocating for Indigenous people’s rights, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰¹ Front Line Defenders, Bangladesh: Interim government must ensure accountability for violence against peaceful protesters advocating for Indigenous people’s rights, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), 7 hurt as cops foil march for adivasis, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Police use sound grenades, water cannon to disperse march protesting attack on ethnic minority students, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰² Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰³ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Bangladeshi politics is failing Bangladesh’s Hindus, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁵ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁶ AFP, Ethnic Minorities Missing From Census, Say Bangladesh Activists, 11 August 2022, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Ethnic population in 2022 census: Real picture not reflected, 9 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁷ Bangladesh, BBS, Population & Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Report, August 2022, [url](#), pp. 10, 31

⁸⁰⁸ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18



accessing public services,⁸⁰⁹ and indigenous children generally ‘face systemic barriers to education’ due to poverty, language, and limited opportunities and awareness.⁸¹⁰ According to MRG, people with disabilities from minority and indigenous communities face intersecting discrimination, due to their minority status and their disability. They face discrimination from the wider society and within their communities. In particular, minority and indigenous women and girls with disabilities fall ‘far behind’.⁸¹¹

Indigenous people have been facing discrimination for a long period of time.⁸¹² MRG reported that ‘discrimination and marginalisation pervade daily life’ of minorities,⁸¹³ and that indigenous people face a general context of stigmatisation, discrimination and violence.⁸¹⁴ According to IWGIA, indigenous people are one of Bangladesh’s most vulnerable and marginalised communities.⁸¹⁵ Access to land has been a key issue for indigenous people, who face conflicts with Bengali settlers, as well as discrimination from state and local administrations.⁸¹⁶

Local indigenous parties, as reported by IWGIA, recorded 200 human rights violations in the CHT in 2024, including 6 000 indigenous people facing various types of violations, including 2 134 acres of indigenous land being grabbed by companies, settlers, and influential persons. They further reported on at least 21 persons being killed by security forces, settlers, land grabbers and in inter-party violence between indigenous political groups.⁸¹⁷ This information could not be corroborated with other sources. According to IWGIA, violence against indigenous women and girls remained a ‘persistent concern’ in the plains and in the CHT. The state has responded to cases inconsistently, which ‘suggest discriminatory treatment’, according to the source. In five recorded incidents the police filed a case, but in 12 other cases they either refrained from taking action, or the response was ‘inadequate’ or delayed.⁸¹⁸

Some groups face caste-based discrimination and practices of ‘untouchability’,⁸¹⁹ including Dalits.⁸²⁰ Dalits face challenges in accessing education, health, political, social and cultural

⁸⁰⁹ Daily Star (The), How are Indigenous people faring in the new Bangladesh?, 26 February 2025, [url](#); Rasul, G. and Gurung, P., Unlocking the potentials of sustainable livelihoods in Chattogram Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, Nature-Based Solutions, June 2024, [url](#)

⁸¹⁰ Daily Star (The), How are Indigenous people faring in the new Bangladesh?, 26 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹¹ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 14

⁸¹² Daily Star (The), How are Indigenous people faring in the new Bangladesh?, 26 February 2025, [url](#); IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹³ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 14

⁸¹⁴ MRG, Bangladesh: MRG condemns renewed violence and hate speech against indigenous peoples, 24 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸¹⁵ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹⁶ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18

⁸¹⁷ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹⁸ IWGIA, The Indigenous World 2025: Bangladesh, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹⁹ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 17–18; Daily Star (The), Kaiputra: The untold story of a discriminated and excluded community, 1 June 2024, [url](#)

⁸²⁰ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 17–18; GFOD, The Situation of Dalits in Bangladesh: Country Report 2023, 26 February 2024, [url](#), p. 8

rights, employment and economic opportunities.⁸²¹ Limited opportunities for social mobility⁸²² often restrict them to perform ‘dirty, dangerous and demeaning work’, for example cleaning out sewers and septic tanks without protective gear.⁸²³ Most Dalits live in segregated informal settlements, and experience social prohibitions of renting⁸²⁴ or building houses outside these areas,⁸²⁵ as well as intermingling with people from upper-caste Hindus and Muslims.⁸²⁶

Biharis are an Urdu-speaking Muslim minority, facing hostility and persistent discrimination for their perceived alliance with East Pakistan during the 1971 independence war. Biharis became stateless after the country’s independence and remained so until 2008 when they were granted a right to citizenship by the Supreme court.⁸²⁷ Many Biharis, however, still face barriers in accessing their rights and privileges as citizens, as most live in extreme poverty⁸²⁸ and in overcrowded slum-like camps set up for them after the independence⁸²⁹ in the outskirts of Dhaka.⁸³⁰ In 2018, MRG reported that there were 300 000 Biharis in Bangladesh.⁸³¹

As regards religious freedom, those with ‘nonconformist views can face societal opprobrium and attacks from hardline Islamist groups’ as reported by Freedom House.⁸³² Odhikar reported on attacks and vandalism against ‘individuals with differing religious views’ taking place in various parts of the country in January–March 2025.⁸³³ UN OHCHR reported on Ahmadiyya Muslims experiencing ‘hostility and discrimination by some adhering to other Islamic schools of belief’.⁸³⁴

8.2.2. Violence after the fall of the former government

There is a long history of radical Islamists targeting Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh.⁸³⁵ In the aftermath of the former government’s fall, there were widespread attacks against Hindu

⁸²¹ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 17–18

⁸²² GFOD, The Situation of Dalits in Bangladesh: Country Report 2023, 26 February 2024, [url](#), p. 10

⁸²³ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 17–18

⁸²⁴ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18; GFOD, The Situation of Dalits in Bangladesh: Country Report 2023, 26 February 2024, [url](#), pp. 21, 24

⁸²⁵ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18

⁸²⁶ GFOD, The Situation of Dalits in Bangladesh: Country Report 2023, 26 February 2024, [url](#), p. 27

⁸²⁷ Guardian (The), ‘We have a right to live in dignity’: Biharis in Bangladesh fight for equality – and jobs, 9 May 2023, [url](#); MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18

⁸²⁸ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18

⁸²⁹ MRG, Exploring the status of persons with disabilities among minority and indigenous communities in Bangladesh, 28 January 2025, [url](#), p. 18; IRI, Bangladesh: Urdu-speaking “Biharis” Seek Recognition, Respect and Rights, 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁸³⁰ MRG, Biharis in Bangladesh, July 2018, [url](#)

⁸³¹ MRG, Biharis in Bangladesh, July 2018, [url](#)

⁸³² Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁸³³ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), paras. 55–56

⁸³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 237

⁸³⁵ Patel, R. P., Extremist Upsurge in Bangladesh Politics, Journal of North East India Studies, 24 September 2018, [url](#), pp. 91–92

homes, businesses, and places of worship, as well as properties of other minorities.⁸³⁶ Homes and businesses were vandalised, looted and torched.⁸³⁷ Physical assaults also took place and lead to at least one death, according to UN OHCHR.⁸³⁸ Indian state media sensationalised some news on attacks against Hindus,⁸³⁹ and reportedly ‘exaggerated’ the issue, which⁸⁴⁰ alongside fake news on ‘massacres’,⁸⁴¹ increased tensions.⁸⁴²

Many Bangladeshis stereotypically associate Hindus with the Awami League,⁸⁴³ and in the aftermath of the former government’s fall, most attacks against Hindus were reportedly carried out due to this perceived political connection.⁸⁴⁴ Nevertheless, UN OHCHR reported on the violence not only being rooted in political biases, but also in religious and ethnic biases in intersecting motives.⁸⁴⁵ Prothom Alo reported on most attacks being carried out during ‘victory processions’ after the former government’s fall.⁸⁴⁶ Some attacks were carried out by local members and supporters of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.⁸⁴⁷ In addition to Hindus, members of the Ahmadiyya community, Christians, and indigenous people experienced attacks,⁸⁴⁸ in overlapping motives such as political revenge, religious and ethnic discrimination, personal disputes and localised communal conflicts.⁸⁴⁹ There were also reports of violent mobs forcing headmasters and teachers to resign,⁸⁵⁰ some of whom were Hindus.⁸⁵¹ According to a minority rights organisation, at least 49 minority teachers had been forced to resign as of 31 August 2024. 19 of them had been reinstated.⁸⁵²

⁸³⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 232; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸³⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 303; Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 303

⁸³⁹ Al Jazeera, Anti-India Sentiment grows in Bangladesh post-Hasina, with unrest, attacks, and protests escalating, [Online video], 24 December 2024, [url](#), 00:42–01:00

⁸⁴⁰ DW, Bangladesh communal tensions grow amid Hindu protests, 29 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴¹ DW, Hindus in Bangladesh celebrate Durga Puja amid worries [Online video], 10 October 2024, [url](#), 00:40–00:45; Scroll.in, Bangladesh reels from ripple effects of misinformation out of India, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴² DW, Fact check: False claims fuel ethnic tensions in Bangladesh, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 232; New York Times (The), Hindus in Bangladesh Face Attacks After Prime Minister’s Exit, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴⁴ BBC News, ‘There is no law and order. And Hindus are being targeted again’, 6 August 2024, [url](#); Odhikar, Annual Human Rights Report 2024, 10 February 2025, [url](#), para. 95; Al Jazeera, Bangladesh mission in India attacked: Why are ties in freefall?, 5 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 230

⁸⁴⁶ Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 268; Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁴⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 239, 303; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁴⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 303

⁸⁵⁰ Daily Star (The), Vacuum looms as teachers being coerced to quit, 1 September 2024, [url](#); New Age, Action against teachers’ forced resignation ordered, 3 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁵¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 235

⁸⁵² Daily Star (The), At least 49 minority teachers forced to resign since Aug 5, 31 August 2024, [url](#)



In 2024, ASK recorded 147 incidents of violence against religious minorities,⁸⁵³ and, most incidents (81) occurred in August.⁸⁵⁴ This month, hundreds of homes and businesses were attacked, leaving two people dead and 44 injured. Hindus faced most attacks (against 168 homes, 96 business centres and 6 places of worship, two deaths and 20 injured), but the Ahmadiyya community also faced violent attacks (against 156 homes, 6 places of worship and 22 people injured). Moreover, ASK recorded attacks against properties of Christians and indigenous people.⁸⁵⁵ Other sources, however, reported on a larger number of attacks in the aftermath of the former government's fall.⁸⁵⁶ The Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Unity Council reported 1 769 attacks and acts of vandalism against minorities taking place in the period 4–20 August 2024. The police investigated these cases and stated that the majority (1 234 cases) had a political background.⁸⁵⁷ Prothom Alo mapped violence in the period 5–20 August 2024 and reported on at least 1 068 homes and businesses of the Hindu minority being damaged, and 22 places of worship being attacked. In at least 506 instances, the owner of an attacked property had been involved in Awami League politics. Most attacks were reported in Khulna Division, where at least 295 homes and businesses were destroyed, but attacks took place across the country, in places such as Rangpur, Mymensing, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet. Prothom Alo also recorded two deaths of Hindus, and described how two Hindu men had been beaten and killed in two separate incidents.⁸⁵⁸ UN OHCHR reported that most attacks took place in rural and 'historically tense' areas such as Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Dinajpur, but also reported on incidents taking place in Sylhet, Khulna and Rangpur, and on attacks against places of worship of Hindu, Ahmadiyya, Buddhist and Christian communities taking place 'across several regions' in 5–15 August 2024.⁸⁵⁹ Local minority groups reported even more incidents (at least 2 000), as well as nine people of minority communities being killed in communal violence in August 2024.⁸⁶⁰ Netra News investigated the nine alleged killings and reported that there was not a clear religious motive behind them.⁸⁶¹ There were also reports of several Sufi shrines being vandalised in the aftermath of the former government's fall⁸⁶² and such attacks have reportedly continued with 80 shrines being vandalised by Islamic fundamentalists as of January 2025, according to the Global Sufi Organisation.⁸⁶³

⁸⁵³ ASK, Violence Against Religious Minorities Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁴ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁵⁵ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁵⁶ Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 76.74% of minority attacks political in nature, 1.24% communal: Police report, 11 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁷ Business Standard (The), 76.74% of minority attacks political in nature, 1.24% communal: Police report, 11 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁸ Prothom Alo, Communal violence: 1068 houses and business establishments attacked, 12 September 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 32, 239

⁸⁶⁰ TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8; Al Jazeera, 'Our lives don't matter': Bangladeshi Hindus under attack after Hasina exit, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶¹ Netra News, Claims of sectarian motives in nine Hindu deaths falter under scrutiny, 30 October 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶² TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8; AFP, Minorities fear targeted attacks in post-revolution Bangladesh, 22 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶³ Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)



In response to the violence, the interim government increased security around Hindu temples and neighbourhoods.⁸⁶⁴ Nevertheless, Hindus interviewed by UN OHCHR and media described a persistent feeling of insecurity.⁸⁶⁵ Hindus have been protesting in several large demonstrations in different parts of the country, including in Dhaka, demanding protective minority laws, a ministry for minorities, and a special tribunal to handle ‘acts of oppression’ against minorities.⁸⁶⁶ Meanwhile, TIB reported on a lack of ‘effective initiatives to identify, verify, and investigate allegations of violence against religious minorities, indigenous people, marginalized communities, and those with dissenting opinions’.⁸⁶⁷ On 22 May 2025, a village of a Hindu minority group (Matua) was looted and torched by four men, following the killing of a local leader of a BNP wing (Krishak Dal) by unknown assailants. Despite police presence, the village’s male inhabitants reportedly went into hiding after the attack.⁸⁶⁸

In the period September–December 2024, the monthly average of incidents of religious violence recorded by ASK decreased to about 10 events (from 81 in August), and all incidents targeted Hindus, except for the death of one Ahmadiyya person in November 2024 and 17 indigenous homes being attacked in one incident in December 2024.⁸⁶⁹ A Hindu representative of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness stated in December 2024 that the situation had improved and referred to the interim government as cooperative.⁸⁷⁰ In January–April 2025, ASK recorded between one and three instances of religious violence each month.⁸⁷¹ Odhikar reported on two attacks against a Sufi shrine in Mymensingh on 8 January 2025 and an attack carried out by Jamaat-e-Islami against homes of Hizb-ut-Tahrir members in Rangpur on 25 February 2025.⁸⁷²

Anti-Indian and anti-Hindu sentiments have reportedly intensified,⁸⁷³ as Hasina fled to India and as India has expressed concern of Hindu community’s security in Bangladesh.⁸⁷⁴ Tensions intensified further as a Hindu monk was arrested in November 2024,⁸⁷⁵ on sedition charges for ‘insulting’ the Bangladeshi flag during a protest action in Chattogram.⁸⁷⁶ As he was denied bail on 26 November 2024,⁸⁷⁷ hundreds of his supporters clashed with security forces, causing the death of a Muslim lawyer.⁸⁷⁸ Indian politicians expressed concern after the event,⁸⁷⁹ and the

⁸⁶⁴ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh mission in India attacked: Why are ties in freefall?, 5 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 233; DW, Post-Hasina Bangladesh grapples with anti-Hindu violence, 13 August 2024, [url](#); Netra News, Bangladeshi politics is failing Bangladesh’s Hindus, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁶ Al Jazeera, ‘Our lives don’t matter’: Bangladeshi Hindus under attack after Hasina exit, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁷ TIB, ‘New Bangladesh’, Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁸⁶⁸ Daily Star (The), Torching of homes in Abhaynagar: Men flee village, women in trauma, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁹ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁷⁰ Al Jazeera, Anti-India Sentiment grows in Bangladesh post-Hasina, with unrest, attacks, and protests escalating, [Online video], 24 December 2024, [url](#), 00:22–00:41

⁸⁷¹ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, January–April 2025, [2025], [url](#)

⁸⁷² Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January–March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), paras. 55–56

⁸⁷³ Netra News, Why do anti-India sentiments simmer across Bangladesh?, 19 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁴ Netra News, Why do anti-India sentiments simmer across Bangladesh?, 19 January 2025, [url](#); DW, Turmoil in Bangladesh [Online video], 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁵ BBC News, India and Bangladesh spar over Hindu monk’s arrest, 27 November 2024, [url](#); DW, Turmoil in Bangladesh [Online video], 27 January 2025, [url](#), 00:45–00:55

⁸⁷⁶ Daily Observer, Sedition case filed against ISKCON leader, 18 others for disrespecting national flag in Ctg, 2 November 2024, [url](#); DW, Bangladesh communal tensions grow amid Hindu protests, 29 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁷ BBC News, India and Bangladesh spar over Hindu monk’s arrest, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁸ DW, Bangladesh communal tensions grow amid Hindu protests, 29 November 2024, [url](#); BBC News, India and Bangladesh spar over Hindu monk’s arrest, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁹ DW, Turmoil in Bangladesh [Online video], 27 January 2025, [url](#), 03:58–04:20



Bangladeshi consulate in the Indian state of Tripura was attacked by protesters.⁸⁸⁰ The consulate attack sparked anti-India protests across Bangladesh.⁸⁸¹ The monk was denied bail again on 2 January 2025.⁸⁸² The hearing was reportedly held 'amid tight security' with heavy security personnel around the court building.⁸⁸³ As of May 2025, 40 people had reportedly been arrested in connection to the violence on 26 November 2024.⁸⁸⁴

More information on minorities is available in section [6.3. Chittagong Hill Tracts](#).

8.2.3. Rohingyas

Rohingyas are an ethnic, linguistic and religious minority group in Myanmar,⁸⁸⁵ that have been displaced into Bangladesh for decades.⁸⁸⁶ They are in general stateless, as they are denied citizenship in Myanmar.⁸⁸⁷ In Bangladesh, they are not granted refugee status⁸⁸⁸ but stay on temporary humanitarian grounds.⁸⁸⁹ Most arrived in 2017,⁸⁹⁰ following a violent campaign against the group by the Myanmar military.⁸⁹¹ Yunus has pleaded that Bangladesh will continue to support Rohingyas seeking refuge in the country.⁸⁹²

Rohingyas continued to be displaced, inter alia in 2024 when many crossed the border into Bangladesh, fleeing the escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine state.⁸⁹³ UNHCR estimates that more than 1.1 million Rohingyas are hosted in camps in Cox's Bazar⁸⁹⁴ in the southeast of Bangladesh.⁸⁹⁵ The 33 camps in the area shelter more than 1 million people that cannot move freely or work, and that depend on humanitarian aid.⁸⁹⁶ The camps suffer from overcrowding,⁸⁹⁷ poor sanitation⁸⁹⁸ and poor health conditions,⁸⁹⁹ and Rohingyas living there

⁸⁸⁰ BBC News, India and Bangladesh spar over Hindu monk's arrest, 27 November 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Bangladesh seeks action against protesters who breached its mission in India's northeast, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸¹ Al Jazeera, Anti-India Sentiment grows in Bangladesh post-Hasina, with unrest, attacks, and protests escalating, [Online video], 24 December 2024, [url](#), 01:04–01:30

⁸⁸² DW, Bangladesh: Hindu monk suspected of sedition denied bail, 2 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸³ Daily Star (The), Ctg court denies bail to Chinmoy, 3 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁴ Daily Star (The), Police to grill Chinmoy at jail gate over assault on cops, 26 May 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁵ Uddin, N., Understanding 'refugee resettlement' from below: Decoding the Rohingya refugees' lived experience in Bangladesh, World Development, 15 May 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁶ UNHCR, 2025-26 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 13 April 2025, [url](#), p. 14

⁸⁸⁷ MSF Australia, The Rohingya: The World's Largest Stateless Population, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁸⁸ NRC, Rohingya in Bangladesh: Seven years, seven insights, 25 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁹ UNHCR, 2025-26 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 13 April 2025, [url](#), p. 14

⁸⁹⁰ UNHCR, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

⁸⁹¹ MSF Australia, The Rohingya: The World's Largest Stateless Population, n.d., [url](#); HRW, Myanmar: No Justice, No Freedom for Rohingya 5 Years On, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹² Al Jazeera, Bangladesh's Yunus promises support to Rohingya in first policy speech, 18 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹³ Al Jazeera, More injured Rohingyas arriving in Bangladesh as Myanmar war intensifies, 12 August 2024, [url](#); Al, Myanmar/Bangladesh: Rohingya community facing gravest threats since 2017, 24 October 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁴ UNHCR, Joint Government of Bangladesh - UNHCR Population Factsheet - Block Level as of March 2025, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁵ Britannica, Cox's bazar, 11 June 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁶ European Commission, Crisis in Cox's Bazar: aid cuts push Rohingya to the brink, 28 May 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁷ UNHCR, 2025-26 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 13 April 2025, [url](#), p. 48; International Crisis Group, Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: Limiting the Damage of a Protracted Crisis, 4 October 2023, [url](#); MSF, Bangladesh: "In the Rohingya refugee camps, life is hard, and hope is fading", 12 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁸ NRC, Rohingya in Bangladesh: Seven years, seven insights, 25 August 2024, [url](#); MSF, Bangladesh: "In the Rohingya refugee camps, life is hard, and hope is fading", 12 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁹ NRC, Rohingya in Bangladesh: Seven years, seven insights, 25 August 2024, [url](#)



are dependent on humanitarian aid.⁹⁰⁰ In March 2025, UNICEF reported on the worst malnutrition rates among children in the camps since 2017.⁹⁰¹

Armed Rohingya-led groups operating in the camps have subjected Rohingyas to lethal and sexual violence, torture, and abductions.⁹⁰² The security environment inside the camps deteriorated in 2024,⁹⁰³ inter alia due to the escalating conflict in Myanmar, leading to ‘a rise in killings, abductions, extortion, recruitment and violence incidents’.⁹⁰⁴ According to Fortify Rights, militant groups operate in the camps with ‘near-total impunity’, which has created ‘a climate of fear for all camp residents’, in particular among Rohingya religious leaders, human rights defenders and other opposing the militant groups fearing for their lives as they ‘may be killed any moment’.⁹⁰⁵ Also the police battalions stationed in the camps have subjected Rohingyas to abuse,⁹⁰⁶ including arbitrary arrests, extortion, torture,⁹⁰⁷ and sexual violence against women and girls.⁹⁰⁸ In 2024, there were reports of Rohingya teenage boys and young men being forcibly recruited by armed gangs in the camps to fight in Myanmar⁹⁰⁹ for the Myanmar military.⁹¹⁰ According to Doctors Without borders over 1 000 young men and boys had been forcibly recruited in the beginning of 2024.⁹¹¹

A local media source reported on a group of Rohingya men being arrested in Cox’s Bazar, after having worked informally for months. They were returned to the camp where they were registered.⁹¹²

8.3. Actors of civil society and the media

8.3.1. Civic space under the new government

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), civil society in Bangladesh is characterised by a high number of active civil society organisations that have

⁹⁰⁰ AFP, UN chief in Rohingya refugee camp solidarity visit, 14 March 2025, [url](#); NRC, Rohingya in Bangladesh: Seven years, seven insights, 25 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰¹ UNICEF, 27 per cent surge in number of children admitted for severe acute malnutrition treatment in Rohingya refugee camps, 11 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁰² HRW, Bangladesh: Spiralling Violence Against Rohingya Refugees, 13 July 2023, [url](#); Win, K., Cox’s Bazaar: Insecurity, Criminality and Rohingya Women, South Asia @ LSE, 6 February 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁰³ UNHCR, 2025-26 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 13 April 2025, [url](#), p. 44; NRC, Rohingya in Bangladesh: Seven years, seven insights, 25 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁴ UNHCR, 2025-26 Joint Response Plan, Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 13 April 2025, [url](#), p. 44

⁹⁰⁵ Fortify Rights, ‘I May Be Killed Any Moment’, March 2025, [url](#), pp. 8, 10

⁹⁰⁶ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants Felipe González Morales, 23 May 2023, [url](#), para. 102; Fortify Rights, Bangladesh: Ensure Accountability for Police Corruption, Torture of Rohingya Refugees, 10 August 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁷ HRW, Bangladesh: Rampant Police Abuse of Rohingya Refugees, 17 January 2023, [url](#); Fortify Rights, Bangladesh: Ensure Accountability for Police Corruption, Torture of Rohingya Refugees, 10 August 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁸ HRW, Bangladesh Police Abuses Rampant in Rohingya Camps, 24 January 2024, [url](#); DW, Rohingya in Bangladesh demand action against police abuse, 2 February 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁹ Fortify Rights, Myanmar/Bangladesh: End Abduction, Forced Conscription of Rohingya Civilians, 26 July 2024, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh Pressured to Join Myanmar’s Civil War, 21 June 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹⁰ Fortify Rights, Myanmar/Bangladesh: End Abduction, Forced Conscription of Rohingya Civilians, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹¹ MSF, Echoes of violence in the Rohingya camps of Cox’s Bazar, 4 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹² Country Today (The), 8 Rohingyas detained in Bandarban, 22 May 2025, [url](#)



been widely recognised for, inter alia, micro-loans and other development initiatives.⁹¹³ Under the former government, civil society faced shrinking civic space in an increasingly restrictive legal environment,⁹¹⁴ and although the government generally respected the right to form associations, as reported by the United States Department of State (USDOS), it frequently prohibited gatherings by opposition groups, and restricted organisations' receipt of foreign funds and also 'withheld or delayed' funding approvals, especially in areas the government deemed sensitive, including human rights issues.⁹¹⁵ The former government also allegedly made use of enforced disappearance as a tool to suppress dissent and spread fear,⁹¹⁶ and arbitrary arrests and surveillance of human rights activists and political dissidents were reported.⁹¹⁷

After the fall of the former government in August 2024, the High Court revoked the arrest of two Odhikar's members, including the organisation's director, and declared a previous decision not to renew the organisations registration illegal. This decision had been made by the Non-Governmental Organisations Affairs Bureau,⁹¹⁸ which remains 'a notoriously corrupt and deeply politicised agency with the power to control registration processes and the flow of foreign funds to civil society organisations', according to Naomi Hossain, research professor of development studies, specialising on Bangladesh, at SOAS, University of London.⁹¹⁹

As reported by Freedom House, '[d]uring the first five months of the interim government's tenure, it reopened political and civic space [...].'⁹²⁰ According to CIVICUS, civic space improved in 2024,⁹²¹ and the organisation updated its civic space rating for Bangladesh from 'closed' to 'repressed.'⁹²² According to CIVICUS, the upgrade resulted from announced and implemented reforms by the interim government, including the release of protesters and human rights defenders, the signing of CED, and the formation of the inquiry commission on enforced disappearance, but pointed out that restrictive laws remained.⁹²³ In contrast, UN OHCHR reported on many journalist and civil society observers facing 'a climate of reverse intimidation' where they are 'cautious about reporting anything that could be seen as favourable to the Awami League or critical of its political opposition'.⁹²⁴ In June 2025, VOICE, a research-based advocacy organisation, expressed concern over shrinking civic space, including journalists being charged in criminal cases and writers and poets being harassed,

⁹¹³ Hossain, N. and Lewis, D., Draft for discussion, Revisiting civil society in Bangladesh, January 2024, [url](#), pp. 1–2

⁹¹⁴ Asia Foundation (The), A Glass Half-Full: Civic Space and Contestation in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, March 2023, [url](#), pp. 3, 10, 16

⁹¹⁵ USA, USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights for 2023 -Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 29, 30

⁹¹⁶ ADPAN et al., Bangladesh, Government must cease enforced disappearances, stop harassment of the victims' families and hold perpetrators accountable, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#), p. 12

⁹¹⁷ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹¹⁸ New Age, HC scraps jail term against ex-Odhikar secretary Adilur, director Elan, 22 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹⁹ Hossain, N., Bangladesh: A Fragile Opening After a Successful Popular Uprising, European Democracy Hub, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁰ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁹²¹ CIVICUS, CIVICUS Monitor, People Power Under Attack 2024, December 2024, [url](#), p. 7

⁹²² CIVICUS, The CIVICUS Monitor upgrades Bangladesh's civic space to "Repressed" from "Closed" after reforms by interim government, 4 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹²³ CIVICUS, CIVICUS Monitor, People Power Under Attack 2024, December 2024, [url](#), pp. 46–47

⁹²⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 227



and gender disinformation spreading online.⁹²⁵ Between January 2025 and March 2025, Odhikar recorded incidents of the police blocking peaceful meetings, assemblies, and processions organised by political parties and minority groups.⁹²⁶

On 22 May 2025, the interim government replaced the Cyber Security Act (CSA) from 2023 with the Cyber Security Ordinance. The CSA was criticised by human rights groups for stifling dissent, and with the new ordinance several sections criticised for limiting free speech have been removed.⁹²⁷ TIB however expressed concern over the draft ordinance stating that ‘it effectively retained control and surveillance mechanisms of earlier repressive laws’ and that ‘[f]reedom of speech, expression, free media, and organising rights are at risk.’⁹²⁸ In response to criticism,⁹²⁹ the draft ordinance was updated in January 2025, with inter alia the removal of provision on warrantless searches by law enforcement.⁹³⁰

8.3.2. Treatment of journalists and media workers

Under the former government, the media landscape was diverse and growing, but journalists were subjected to intimidation and arbitrary arrests, and many resorted to self-censorship.⁹³¹ Furthermore, as reported by Freedom House, ‘attacks on media workers were enabled by a climate of impunity’⁹³² and other sources indicated that journalists and media outlets criticising the then government were targeted by it as well as by its supporters.⁹³³ Journalists had criminal cases launched against them under repressive laws such as the 2018 Digital Security Act (DSA),⁹³⁴ and later the 2023 CSA⁹³⁵ – that have been replaced with the 2025 Cyber Security Ordinance⁹³⁶ as outlined above. In May 2025, the head of the Media Reform Commission however criticised the ‘growing climate of fear and self-censorship in the media, fuelled by threats on social media and orchestrated ‘mob violence’ stating that while the government is supposed to ‘strictly control’ such behaviour, ‘little progress is evident’.⁹³⁷

⁹²⁵ Business Standard (The), VOICE expresses concern over shrinking civic space, spread of gender disinformation, 28 June 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁶ Odhikar, Quarterly Human Rights Report, January-March 2025, 14 May 2025, [url](#), pp. 25-26

⁹²⁷ Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh scraps controversial Cyber Security Act, introduces new AI-focused Cyber Safety Ordinance, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁸ Daily Star (The), Oppressive mechanism still there in draft law: TIB, 1 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁹ Daily Star (The), Draft data law: Privacy still under threat, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹³⁰ New Age, Draft Cyber Protection Ordinance: Cyberbullying, warrantless search clauses dropped, 23 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹³¹ EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, 2023 Country Updates, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 176

⁹³² Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁹³³ HRW, Bangladesh: End Crackdown Against Journalists and Critics, 3 May 2023, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: Press freedom under attack with largest daily newspaper declared an ‘enemy’ by the Government, 14 April 2023, [url](#)

⁹³⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Paris-based Bangladeshi writer Pinaki Bhattacharya sued under DSA, 17 November 2022, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Bangladesh: Türk urges immediate suspension of Digital Security Act as media crackdown continues, 31 March 2023, [url](#)

⁹³⁵ CGS, From Digital to Cyber Security Act: Thoughts of the Politicians, 1 March 2024, [url](#)

⁹³⁶ BSS, Govt issues gazette of Cyber Security Ordinance, 22 May 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Cyber security laws in Bangladesh: The ties that bind our past and present, 11 June 2025, [url](#)

⁹³⁷ Daily Star (The), Media reform chief decries attacks on journalists, 4 May 2025, [url](#)



During the protests in July–August 2024, journalists were targeted by police, ruling party supporters and protesters.⁹³⁸ In the period 15 July–5 August 2024, at least six journalists were killed and 200 were injured, according to UN OHCHR.⁹³⁹ According to Amnesty International, female journalists stated that they were targeted by the police, groups affiliated with the Awami League, and protesters for their coverage of July-August 2024 protests.⁹⁴⁰ After the interim government assumed power in August 2024, sources reported on continued attacks against journalists⁹⁴¹ by police,⁹⁴² BNP supporters,⁹⁴³ and mobs.⁹⁴⁴

On 7 October 2024, the interim government formed an eight-member committee to monitor harassment cases against journalists.⁹⁴⁵ On 18 November 2024, the interim government announced the formation of the 11-member Media Reform Commission, with a senior journalist as its chief.⁹⁴⁶ The Commission submitted its report to the interim government in late March 2025,⁹⁴⁷ with recommendations to improve the quality of journalism and its independence, including by a minimum starting salary for journalists and restrictions on media ownership.⁹⁴⁸

Between late October 2024 and early November 2024, the interim government's Press Information Department revoked the credentials of 167 journalists.⁹⁴⁹ The revocation was criticised by press groups,⁹⁵⁰ including Reporters Without Borders (RSF) that stated that it 'encourages self-censorship' and is 'incomprehensible'.⁹⁵¹ In April 2025, three TV journalists

⁹³⁸ CIVICUS, Bangladesh: Brutal crackdown on quota reform protesters by security forces and ruling party youth wing, 25 July 2024, [url](#); CPJ, CPJ urges Bangladesh to protect journalists as protests oust PM, 5 August 2024, [url](#); RSF, Political crisis in Bangladesh: RSF calls on the interim government to protect journalists, 9 August 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 48-49

⁹³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 48

⁹⁴⁰ AI, The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025, 28 April 2025, [url](#), p. 92

⁹⁴¹ IFJ, Bangladesh: Attacks on journalists continue amid ongoing violence, 22 November 2024, [url](#); ICFJ, ijnet, Amid power reshuffle in Bangladesh, journalists remain under attack, 14 April 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴² BJIM, BJIM condemns police attack on photojournalist in Dhaka, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BJIM condemns police brutality on 5 journos, 10 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴³ New Age, 3 journalists injured by BNP activists at SC, 6 February 2025, [url](#); New Age, Journalist beaten by BNP leader in Thakurgaon, 27 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Thakurgaon BNP expels leader for assaulting journo, 26 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BNP leader sued for assaulting journalist in Thakurgaon, 26 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁴ New Age, Four journalists injured in attack for publishing news, 3 February 2025, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Media self-censoring amid mob violence, intimidation, says Kamal Ahmed, 17 May 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁵ Daily Star (The), Govt forms committee to monitor harassment cases against journos, 7 October 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Information ministry forms 8-strong panel to monitor 'harassment cases' against journalists, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁶ Daily Star (The), Govt forms 11-member media reform commission, 18 November 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 11-member mass media reform commission formed, 18 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁷ Business Standard (The), Media Reform Commission's recommendations to be implemented for journalists' benefit: Adviser Mahfuj, 22 March 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Media Reform Commission submits report to chief adviser, 22 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁸ Business Standard (The), Media Reform Recommendations: Better pay and ownership control sound good on paper. But how do you implement it?, 26 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁹ AP, Rights groups condemn Bangladesh for canceling accreditation of 167 journalists, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁰ Business Standard (The), In Bangladesh 2.0, state of journalism remains far from ideal, 3 May 2025, [url](#); JMBF, JMBF Strongly Condemns the Recent Cancellation of Press Accreditation Cards for 167 Journalists by the Interim Government of Bangladesh, 10 November 2024, [url](#); Women Press Freedom, Bangladesh: Revoking Press Accreditations of Bangladeshi Journalists is an Attack on Press Freedom, 7 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵¹ Business Standard (The), In Bangladesh 2.0, state of journalism remains far from ideal, 3 May 2025, [url](#)



were terminated from their respective media organisations⁹⁵² due to alleged lack of professionalism while interviewing a government official, as stated by Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM), who implied that the dismissals were retributive.⁹⁵³

Sources reported on journalists perceived as supportive of the former prime minister being arrested in criminal cases.⁹⁵⁴ In August 2024, over 24 journalists were charged with crimes against humanity for the death of a protester in July 2024.⁹⁵⁵ In September 2024, a case was filed by a private citizen against 28 journalists from Chattogram for allegedly attempted abduction, assault, and publishing ‘fake news’ during the student protests.⁹⁵⁶ In November 2024, RSF reported on nearly 140 journalists accused of allegedly killing protesters which RSF described as ‘[e]xtremely grave but baseless accusations.’⁹⁵⁷ In April 2025, BJIM expressed concern over Dhaka Metropolitan Police issuing a summon letter to a journalist who was investigating police corruption.⁹⁵⁸

In 2024, local human rights organisation ASK recorded 531 cases of harassment of journalists⁹⁵⁹ with the majority of cases taking place in July–September.⁹⁶⁰ In January–June 2025, ASK recorded 196 cases,⁹⁶¹ in contrast to the same period the previous year when 145 cases were recorded by the organisation.⁹⁶² In February 2025, human rights organisations including BJIM, IFJ, RSF, and CPJ reported on the rise in violence against journalists since the beginning of the month.⁹⁶³ In March 2025, local sources reported on a gang-rape of a female journalist.⁹⁶⁴ Article 19 referred to the attack as characterising of a general increase in violence against women and girls in Bangladesh.⁹⁶⁵ More information on women and girls is available in section [8.4. Women and girls](#).

8.3.3. Treatment of human rights defenders

Under the former government, ‘[t]he human rights situation in the country was poor and worsening, making human rights defenders and human rights organizations’ work perilous’ as reported by CGS in 2023. According to the same source, 86 % of human rights defenders

⁹⁵² BJIM, BJIM expresses deep concern over TV journalists ‘dismissals’, 29 April 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Govt had no role in wrongful termination of 3 journos: CA Deputy Press Secy, 2 May 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁵³ BJIM, BJIM expresses deep concern over TV journalists ‘dismissals’, 29 April 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁴ DW, Bangladesh: Journalists supportive of ex-PM Hasina targeted, 14 October 2024, [url](#); CPJ, Journalists supportive of ousted Bangladesh leader targeted with arrest, criminal cases, 19 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁵ Daily Star (The), Crimes against humanity: Hasina, over two dozen journos sued in ICT case, 29 August 2024, [url](#); RSF, Bangladesh: RSF condemns the outrageous charges of crimes against humanity brought against at least 25 journalists, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁶ Daily Star (The), 109 including ex-info minister, 28 journos sued, 4 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁷ RSF, More press freedom violations in Bangladesh although panel created to monitor harassment of journalists, 12 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁸ BJIM, BJIM condemns police summoning journalist over corruption report, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁹ ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁰ ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁶¹ ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁶² ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶³ BJIM, BJIM Condemns Armed Attacks on Journalists in Bangladesh, 4 February 2025, [url](#); IFJ, Bangladesh: Four assaults on journalists within a week, 11 February 2025, [url](#); RSF, Bangladesh: violent attacks on journalists are surging — the government must take action, 14 February 2025, [url](#); CPJ, Bangladesh journalists face threats from attacks, investigations, and looming cyber laws, 17 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁴ Bdnews24.com, Journalist ‘gang-raped’ in Dhaka’s Pallabi, 2 arrested, 19 March 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Female journalist hospitalized following gang-rape in Pallab, 19 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁵ Article 19, Bangladesh: Authorities must investigate rape of woman journalist urgently, 19 March 2025, [url](#)



operating at grassroots level faced ‘various obstacles’ in their work, including threats and intimidation from law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies and other government officials, and also non-state actors such as activists connected to the ruling party or the opposition party, and religious, extremist or criminal groups.⁹⁶⁶ Other sources also reported on human rights defenders facing harassment by the then ruling party [Awami League] and state authorities.⁹⁶⁷ In an interview with the Daily Star, the director of Odhikar stated that ‘law enforcement was weaponised to detain and intimidate human rights defenders.’ Moreover, the director of Odhikar expressed concern about a ‘lack of dedicated institutional mechanism or framework to protect human rights defenders.’⁹⁶⁸

After the July-August 2024 protests, some human rights defenders were released from pending criminal charges⁹⁶⁹ or granted bail by the interim government,⁹⁷⁰ while others were detained⁹⁷¹ and arrested.⁹⁷²

In March 2025, Front Line Defenders reported that, after the change of government, targeted violence against human rights defenders continued, with reports of human rights defenders receiving threats.⁹⁷³ JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) and Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) reported on an attack against three defence lawyers by a group of students and members of the public.⁹⁷⁴

In February and March 2025, sources reported on two cases of human rights defenders sued by private citizens for blasphemy⁹⁷⁵ with one of the human rights defenders charged for blasphemy under the CSA in March 2025.⁹⁷⁶

⁹⁶⁶ Riaz, A., Who Defends the Defenders? The Predicament of Human Rights Activists In Bangladesh, July 2023, CGS, [url](#), pp. 6, 14, 21–22, 29

⁹⁶⁷ Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Bangladesh: Stop reprisals against victims, activists, 8 April 2022, [url](#); Odhikar, Bangladesh: Annual Human Rights Report 2023, 4 January 2024, [url](#), para. 80

⁹⁶⁸ Daily Star (The), ‘Independent body needed to protect human rights defenders’, 17 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁹ Prothom Alo, Journalist and woman human rights defender Rozina Islam acquitted after three years and three months, 26 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁰ Bdnews24.com, Court grants bail to JU student Arif Sohel; ex-Brac teacher Asif Mahtab remains in custody, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷¹ Front Line Defenders, Indigenous land rights defender Ringrong Mro arbitrarily detained in Bandarban District Jail on trumped-up charges, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁷² Front Line Defenders, Human rights defender Arif Sohel arrested and placed on a six-day remand by Dhaka court, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Court grants bail to JU student Arif Sohel; ex-Brac teacher Asif Mahtab remains in custody, 3 August 2024, [url](#); New Age, Arrest of Mro leader Ringrong Mro condemned, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁷³ Front Line Defenders, Escalating death threats and legal persecution against human rights defender Sazzadur Rahman, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Front Line Defenders, Human rights defender Nahid Hasan Knowledge charged under Cyber Security Act for hurting religious sentiments, 20 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁴ JMBF, JMBF Strongly Condemns the Recent Attacks on Defense Lawyers in Jamalpur Solely for Performing Their Professional Duty, 13 March 2025, [url](#); CCBE, Violent attack against lawyers Khalilur Rahman, Abdul Awal, and Shahjahan Ali, 17 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁵ Front Line Defenders, Escalating death threats and legal persecution against human rights defender Sazzadur Rahman, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Columnist Nahid sued for ‘hurting religious sentiments’, 24 February 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Rakhai Raha sued for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁶ Front Line Defenders, Human rights defender Nahid Hasan Knowledge charged under Cyber Security Act for hurting religious sentiments, 20 March 2025, [url](#)



8.4. Women and girls

8.4.1. Legislation and representation

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh Country Focus](#), Bangladesh is party to several international treaties and agreements related to the rights of women and girls, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),⁹⁷⁷ and its Optional Protocol.⁹⁷⁸ When Bangladesh adopted the CEDAW, it however made reservations against article 2 and parts of article 16, which inter alia states that women should have ‘the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution’ as this was considered to be against *sharia*.⁹⁷⁹ Women’s rights are enshrined in the constitution, which stipulates that ‘[w]omen shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life’.⁹⁸⁰ The constitution further guarantees 50 seats for women in parliament.⁹⁸¹ Personal laws based on religious beliefs however impact women’s possibilities to divorce⁹⁸² and inherit.⁹⁸³ Special legislation also addresses specific forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, dowry-related violence, and acid violence.⁹⁸⁴

Under the previous government, in 2023 and 2024, Bangladesh ranked highest among South Asian countries in the Global Gender Gap Index,⁹⁸⁵ meaning that the country had the best gender parity score in the region.⁹⁸⁶ Nevertheless, women were underrepresented in political and public life.⁹⁸⁷ Bangladesh, however, dropped 40 positions internationally in the 2024 index (published before the fall of the former government), as economic gender parity had ‘deteriorated significantly’ over the past five years. In 2024, women’s representation in senior leadership roles also decreased, resulting in a 92 %-point gap to bridge. Additionally, in 2024, Bangladeshi women encompassed one-fifth of professional and technical workers, resulting in a 25.4 % parity score. In 2024, there was only one female minister for every nine male ministers, and women occupied just one fourth of parliamentary seats.⁹⁸⁸

⁹⁷⁷ United Nations Treaty Collection, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁸ United Nations Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1999, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁹ United Nations Treaty Collection, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, [url](#), [footnote 5], art. 16 (c)

⁹⁸⁰ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), art. 19 (3), 28 (2)

⁹⁸¹ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), Art. 65 (3)

⁹⁸² Daily Star (The), The process of getting a divorce, 5 August 2023, [url](#); South Asia Collective and Norad, South Asia State of Minorities Report 2022, [url](#), p. 40

⁹⁸³ Daily Star (The), Challenging tradition: women’s inheritance laws in Bangladesh, 4 March 2024, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 7. d

⁹⁸⁴ See: EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 74

⁹⁸⁵ WEF, Global Gender Gap Report 2023, Benchmarking gender gaps, 20 June 2023, [url](#); WEF, Global Gender Gap Report 2024, 11 June 2024, [url](#), p. 12

⁹⁸⁶ Business Standard (The), Gender equality: Bangladesh ranks best in South Asia 9th consecutive time, 22 June 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁷ EU, Election Expert Mission to Bangladesh 2024, Parliamentary Election, 7 January 2024, [url](#), p. 15

⁹⁸⁸ WEF, Global Gender Gap Index Report 2024, 11 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 12, 32



While women played a significant role in the mass uprising of July-August 2024, being at the forefront of the movement, as stated by Yunus in March 2025,⁹⁸⁹ their public visibility decreased as male students took ‘center-stage’ and ‘out-jostled’ them in competitions for leadership positions, as reported by the Fuller Project.⁹⁹⁰ Women have not been ‘adequately represented in the cabinet of the interim government’, as reported by Human Rights Watch.⁹⁹¹ Formed in August 2024, the 16-person interim government includes four women and 12 men.⁹⁹²

8.4.2. Societal attitudes

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh Country Focus](#), sources described Bangladesh as a ‘patriarchal society’⁹⁹³ with norms ‘undervaluing women’s rights and capabilities’, dictating men as the ‘primary decision makers and bread winners’, and women as having subordinate roles.⁹⁹⁴ Sources further described a social stigma surrounding sexual abuse and gender-based violence.⁹⁹⁵

In Bangladesh, misogyny has become ‘more visible’, particularly after 5 August 2024 according to Dr Fauzia Moslem, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, a non-governmental organisation, committed to women’s rights in Bangladesh.⁹⁹⁶ Women have been harassed and attacked by men in public, including for not wearing a veil⁹⁹⁷ smoking,⁹⁹⁸ or wearing ‘inappropriate clothing’⁹⁹⁹ under the guise of ‘moral policing’.¹⁰⁰⁰

Meanwhile, Islamic conservative forces have gained ground after the fall of the former government.¹⁰⁰¹ In May 2025, the group Hefazat-e-Islam opposed the government’s proposals that include equal inheritance rights for women, a ban on polygamy, and

⁹⁸⁹ Dhaka Tribune, CA Yunus honours outstanding women with ‘Indomitable Women’s Award 2025’, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁰ Fuller Project (The), Bangladeshi Women Turned a Movement Into a Revolution. Then They Disappeared., 16 January 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹¹ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹² Bdnews24.com, Who are the 16 advisors to Bangladesh’s new interim government?, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹³ OMCT, Women break the silence gender-based torture in Asia, 5 May 2022, [url](#), p. 112

⁹⁹⁴ UNDP, Over 99 percent of Bangladeshis hold at least one bias against women, 19 September 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁵ UNDP, Gender-based violence: taking stock of Bangladesh’s shadow pandemic, 10 April 2022, [url](#); UN Women, Ending violence against women, June 2023, [url](#), p. 1; Sultan, M. and Mahpara, P., Backlash in Action? Or Inaction? Stalled Implementation of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 in Bangladesh, IDS, 2023, [url](#), p. 14

⁹⁹⁶ Daily Star (The), Cultural interventions required to reform deep-rooted patriarchal norms, 27 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁷ France24, Bangladeshi women alarmed by emboldened Islamists, 15 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Harassment of women in public spaces on rise, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁸ New Age, 2 women attacked over smoking at Lalmatia, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), International Women’s Day: The grim truth behind the Lalmatia GBV case, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁹ Business Standard (The), Minor girls beaten in Munshiganj launch: Beat them to discipline them as elder brother, assaulter says, 10 May 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Is moral policing just an excuse for violence against women?, 11 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Is moral policing just an excuse for violence against women?, 11 May 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), International Women’s Day: The grim truth behind the Lalmatia GBV case, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰¹ HRW, Bangladeshi Women’s Rights Opposed by Hardline Religious Groups, 5 May 2025, [url](#); France24, Bangladeshi women alarmed by emboldened Islamists, 15 March 2025, [url](#)



recognition of sex workers as labourers. In support of Hefazat-e-Islam, 20 000 people protested against the proposal.¹⁰⁰²

Female-headed households have increased during the last decade, reaching 17.4 % of the population according to the latest national census from 2022.¹⁰⁰³ Households run by women have predominantly been among the poorest households.¹⁰⁰⁴ Based on the findings from the 2022 census, 5.6 % of female-headed households lived below the extreme poverty line, while 14.1 % of female-headed households lived below the median poverty line.¹⁰⁰⁵ The absence of male heads reportedly leads to increased vulnerability for women and their dependants, since women in general have a limited decision-making authority and deteriorated position in society. Some rural women heads of household were reportedly harassed and abused when engaging in agricultural activities, which is perceived as a 'male task'.¹⁰⁰⁶ UN Women reported on the unrest following the fall of the former government disrupting access to essential services, such as sexual and reproductive health, general healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene services, disproportionately impacting inter alia female-headed households.¹⁰⁰⁷

8.4.3. Announced reforms and their implementation

On 17 October 2024, the interim government announced the creation of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission,¹⁰⁰⁸ which was officially formed on 18 November 2024.¹⁰⁰⁹ The Commission comprises 10 women members¹⁰¹⁰ with a renowned feminist activist and a founder of the women's rights group Naripokkho, Shireen Huq, as its head.¹⁰¹¹

On 19 April 2025, the Women's Affairs Reform Commission submitted its report to Yunus and proposed a number of reforms to 'eliminate all forms of discrimination against women embedded in the country's laws, constitution, policies, and institutions'.¹⁰¹² The reform proposals included, inter alia, constitutional amendments, the introduction of a Uniform Family Code in place of religion-based personal laws, the establishment of a permanent National Women's Commission, the expansion of the Parliament to 600 seats with half of the seats to be filled by directly elected women, a gender zipper system,¹⁰¹³ and guarantees for equal pay, property rights, and health access.¹⁰¹⁴ Following the release of the Commission's report, in

¹⁰⁰² DW, Bangladeshi Islamists protest women's rights proposal, 3 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰³ Daily Star (The), Female-headed households rise to a decade high, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁴ Daily Star (The), Female-headed households rise to a decade high, 13 February 2024, [url](#); Mahbub, S., Female Headed Household in Bangladesh: An Alternative Approach to Attain Food Security, International Journal of Social Science Research and Review, 2023, [url](#), pp. 339–340

¹⁰⁰⁵ Daily Star (The), Female-headed households rise to a decade high, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁶ Islam, M. S. et al., Rethinking women empowerment in rural Bangladesh: Male out-migration, left-behind wives, and changing gender roles, Social Sciences and Humanities Open, 20 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁷ UN Women, Gender Analysis Bangladesh (July – December 2024), Impact of the civil unrest on women and marginalized groups, 11 March 2025, [url](#), p. 9

¹⁰⁰⁸ Business Standard (The), 10-member Women's Affairs Reform Commission formed, 18 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁹ Bdnews24.com, Commission seeks 'equality and security' for women, 19 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁰ Business Standard (The), 10-member Women's Affairs Reform Commission formed, 18 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰¹¹ PHM, Long time PHM activist Shireen Huq is to lead Bangladesh's Women's Affairs Commission, 25 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰¹² Daily Star (The), Eliminate gender disparities in laws, 20 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹³ A 'zipper system' aims to ensure gender parity, by alternating male and female candidates on party lists. See: European Parliament, Different Impact of Electoral Systems on Female Political Representation, 1997, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Women Affairs Reform Commission takes aim at constitution, personal laws governed by religion, 19 April 2025, [url](#)



April 2025, Hefazat-e-Islam, a platform of Islamist religious parties, and Jamaat-i-Islami, the largest religious political party, demanded the abolition of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission.¹⁰¹⁵

In March 2025, Yunus announced initiatives carried out by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to 'increase women's participation in all fields, including economic development'. The initiatives include, inter alia, 'shelter homes for distressed women, Women's Support Centers providing legal aid, housing for working women, and microcredit programs designed to foster self-employment and financial independence', as reported by local media.¹⁰¹⁶ In April 2025, the interim government under the social welfare ministry announced an increase in the allowance for widows and women abandoned by their husbands. The number of beneficiaries will be increased from 2.78 million individuals to 2.9 million and the monthly allowance amount will be raised from 550 taka to 650 taka [about EUR 3.80 to EUR 4.50].¹⁰¹⁷ Further updated information on the implementation of the reforms, including effectiveness, could not be found among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints for this report.

8.4.4. Violence against women and girls

Violence against women is a prevalent issue in Bangladesh,¹⁰¹⁸ with reports of widespread domestic violence,¹⁰¹⁹ 'ubiquitous' sexual harassment in public space and in the workplace,¹⁰²⁰ and large numbers of women and girls being raped or gang raped.¹⁰²¹ Forced marriage,¹⁰²² as well as dowry-related violence, have also been reported issues,¹⁰²³ including acid attacks – although acid attacks have significantly decreased during the past decades.¹⁰²⁴ More information on legislation and punishments for these offenses is available in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh Country Focus](#).

According to a BBS survey from 2024, 76 % of women had experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 49 % had experienced such violence the last 12 months. This constituted a decrease compared to previous years. Physical and sexual violence of non-partners had 'significantly decreased over time', from 27.8 % experiencing physical violence in their lifetime in 2015 to 15 % in 2024, and 3 % experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime in

¹⁰¹⁵ Business Standard (The), Women's Affairs Reform Commission's recommendations are a planned attack on Islam, Muslim identity: Golam Parwar, 20 April 2025, [url](#); Dawn, Religious parties seek abolition of Bangladesh women's commission, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁶ Dhaka Tribune, CA Yunus honours outstanding women with 'Indomitable Women's Award 2025', 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁷ Prothom Alo, Allowances for elderly, widow, disabled and underprivileged communities to increase by Tk 50 to 150, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁸ UN Women, Gender Equality Brief: Bangladesh 2024, 2 May 2024, [url](#), p. 5

¹⁰¹⁹ Daily Star (The), 114 women raped in first three months this year, 2 April 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Violence against women, intensity increase alarmingly: speakers, 4 December 2022, [url](#); OMCT, Women break the silence gender-based torture in Asia, [url](#), p. 112

¹⁰²⁰ France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République populaire du Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64

¹⁰²¹ Odhikar, Bangladesh: Annual Human Rights Report 2022, 30 January 2023, [url](#), paras. 81–82

¹⁰²² USA, USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 2023, 22 April 2024, [url](#), Executive summary

¹⁰²³ ASK, Violence Against Women (Dowry related violence) Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁴ Business Standard (The), Triumph over terror: How Bangladesh came together to end acid violence, 24 May 2024, [url](#)



2015 to 2.2 % in 2024.¹⁰²⁵ Since the change of government and under the deteriorated law-and-order situation,¹⁰²⁶ violence against girls and women has however been on the rise,¹⁰²⁷ including attacks in public spaces,¹⁰²⁸ and gang rape.¹⁰²⁹ A local women's human rights organisation, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, indicated a 27 % increase in cases related to violence against women and children in September 2024, compared to the previous month.¹⁰³⁰ ASK data suggested an increase in rape, with 441 rape and gang rape cases recorded in January–June 2025,¹⁰³¹ in contrast to 250 cases recorded in the same period in 2024.¹⁰³² There was moreover an increase in underage victims of rape. In January–June 2025, ASK recorded cases in which 48 children under the age of 6 had been raped (in contrast to 14 cases in the same period in 2024), 86 cases of victims in the age range 7–12 years (in contrast to 40 cases), and 94 cases of victims in the age range 13–18 years (in contrast to 50 cases).¹⁰³³ In 2024, ASK recorded a total of 401 cases of rape and gang rape.¹⁰³⁴ It should be noted that certain offences, such as rape and sexual abuse, are associated with shame¹⁰³⁵ and social stigma for the victim¹⁰³⁶ which make many survivors refrain from reporting such crime.¹⁰³⁷

(a) Domestic violence, including dowry-related abuse

According to the 2024 BBS survey most forms of violence had declined over the last 12 months, however sexual, physical, controlling behaviour, and emotional violence remained notably high over a lifetime. As a result, the overall prevalence of any form of violence remained high at 70 % in 2024, compared to 73 % in 2015.¹⁰³⁸ In the period January–June 2024, ASK recorded 269 cases of domestic violence against women,¹⁰³⁹ in contrast to January–June 2025, when 302 cases were recorded by ASK.¹⁰⁴⁰

Dowry is known as *joutuk*,¹⁰⁴¹ and is defined in the Dowry Prohibition Act of 2018 as money or any other asset demanded or given by the family of bride to the groom's family as part of a

¹⁰²⁵ Bangladesh, BBS, Key findings of violence against women survey 2024, 27 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 11, 13

¹⁰²⁶ New Age, End to violence against women in Bangladesh not in sight, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁷ Diplomat (The), Bangladesh Women Rise up Against Increasing Incidents of Rape, 25 March 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Moral policing, vigilante justice, and the persistence of patriarchy, 30 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Harassment of women in public spaces on rise, 8 October 2024, [url](#);

¹⁰²⁸ Diplomat (The), Bangladesh Women Rise up Against Increasing Incidents of Rape, 25 March 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Moral policing, vigilante justice, and the persistence of patriarchy, 30 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Harassment of women in public spaces on rise, 8 October 2024, [url](#);

¹⁰²⁹ Prothom Alo, Dhaka records 17 gang rape, 216 rape cases in just 7 months, 8 April 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Number of rapes in March over double that in February, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁰ Daily Star (The), Violence against women jumps by 27pc in September, 1 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³¹ ASK, Violence Against Women-Rape (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰³² ASK, Violence Against Women-Rape (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³³ ASK, Violence Against Women-Rape (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#); ASK, Violence Against Women-Rape (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁴ ASK, Violence Against Women-Rape (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁵ OMCT, Women break the silence gender-based torture in Asia, [url](#), pp. 112–113

¹⁰³⁶ Business Standard (The), Why are we struggling to combat child rape? 9 November 2023, [url](#); Tasnima, T. et al, Women, Technology and Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh, Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication, December 2023, [url](#), p. 174

¹⁰³⁷ USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), section 6

¹⁰³⁸ Bangladesh, BBS, Key findings of violence against women survey 2024, 27 February 2025, [url](#), p. 11

¹⁰³⁹ ASK, Violence Against Women-Domestic Violence (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁰ ASK, Violence Against Women-Domestic Violence (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴¹ Uddin, M. K., The Practices of Dowry in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges, Journal of Asian and African Social Science and Humanities, 30 September 2023, [url](#), p. 19



marriage. While this act prohibits the dowry practice and prescribe a penalty of imprisonment of up to five years and/or a fine of up to 50 000 taka [about EUR 350],¹⁰⁴² the practice still exists.¹⁰⁴³

In the period January–June 2024, ASK recorded 33 incidents of dowry-related violence against women, out of which 19 cases had been filed. In 12 of the 33 cases the women died of the violence and another four committed suicide after violence.¹⁰⁴⁴ In the same time frame in 2025, i.e. between January and June 2025, there were 45 incidents, out of which 29 cases had been filed. In 23 of the 45 cases the women died of the violence and there were no reported suicides.¹⁰⁴⁵ In 2024, a total of 77 cases were reported with 52 filed. In 36 of the 77 cases the women died of the violence while another seven committed suicide.¹⁰⁴⁶

(b) Rape

Rape, as foreseen in the 1860 Penal Code,¹⁰⁴⁷ is punishable by life imprisonment¹⁰⁴⁸ or death if the woman dies as a consequence of the rape.¹⁰⁴⁹ The law does not apply to marital rape if the wife is over 13 years. The definition of rape, as per the Penal Code, includes a requisite of penetration, and defines it as an act carried out by a man against a woman.¹⁰⁵⁰

A series of incidents of rape and sexual violence against children triggered nationwide student-led protests in February 2025, with protesters demanding ‘stricter law enforcement, the establishment of special tribunals for rape cases, increased police presence and enhanced protection for victims.’¹⁰⁵¹ In March 2025, another case sparked further outrage as an eight-year-old girl was raped¹⁰⁵² and died due to her injuries. The protesters demanded that the government expedite justice for rape victims and reform laws related to women and children's safety.¹⁰⁵³ In response, the Advisory Council [under the interim government] approved amendments to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on 20 March 2025, reducing the investigation period of rape cases from 30 days to 15 days and the trial time from 180 days to 90 days.¹⁰⁵⁴ Following the approval, the Council announced the strict and immediate implementation of the law.¹⁰⁵⁵ Further information on implementation in

¹⁰⁴² Bangladesh, Dowry Prohibition Act, 2018, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴³ Bangladesh Post, Dowry still exists in country, 11 October 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁴ ASK, Violence Against Women-Dowry (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁵ ASK, Violence Against Women-Dowry (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁶ ASK, Violence Against Women-Dowry (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁷ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, Chapter XVI, [url](#), art. 375

¹⁰⁴⁸ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, Chapter XVI, [url](#), art. 376

¹⁰⁴⁹ Bangladesh, Parliament of Bangladesh (The), Prevention of Crime against Women and Children, 2000, Unofficial Translation, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁰⁵⁰ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, Chapter XVI, [url](#), art. 375

¹⁰⁵¹ Daily Star (The), Sexual violence: Protests flare on campuses, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵² AA, Bangladeshi students march to protest rape of girl, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵³ BBC News, Fierce protests as eight-year-old rape victim dies in Bangladesh, 14 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁴ New Age, Council of Advisers clears amendments to Women and Children Repression Act, 20 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Law protecting women, children: Advisory council clears amendments to fast-track trial, 21 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁵ New Age, Council of Advisers clears amendments to Women and Children Repression Act, 20 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Law protecting women, children: Advisory council clears amendments to fast-track trial, 21 March 2025, [url](#)



practice could not be found among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this report.

(c) Sexual violence

In 2024, UN Women reported that incidents of sexual harassment at workplaces and schools remain widespread and normalised in Bangladesh.¹⁰⁵⁶ Women in Bangladesh are subjected to harassment in the streets, in buses and at the workplaces.¹⁰⁵⁷ According to Human Rights Watch, 'women and girls in Bangladesh have little recourse to seek protection or access justice' for crimes related to sexual and gender-based violence.¹⁰⁵⁸ In the period January 2024 – June 2024 ASK recorded 113 cases of women being sexually harassed,¹⁰⁵⁹ while they recorded 119 cases in the period January–May 2025.¹⁰⁶⁰ According to the 2024 BBS survey, non-partner sexual violence was higher among adolescents aged 15-19, with 3.2 % having experienced such violence in their lifetime, and 1.7 % during the last 12 months.¹⁰⁶¹ In 2024, ASK recorded a total of 166 cases of women being sexually harassed.¹⁰⁶²

In January 2025, the EU and UN Women signed a partnership agreement to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in public spaces, workplaces and tertiary educational institutions in Bangladesh, in support of the 2018-2030 Government's National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children.¹⁰⁶³

(d) Acid attacks

An acid attack 'involves the intentional throwing of any corrosive onto the face and body of a person to disfigure them', as described by the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF).¹⁰⁶⁴ The 'attacks are carried out with the intention of causing harm, inflicting suffering, and in certain instances, taking someone's life'.¹⁰⁶⁵ In the period January 2024–June 2024, ASK recorded 7 acid attacks against women,¹⁰⁶⁶ while in January 2025–June 2025, there were 3 reported acid attacks.¹⁰⁶⁷ In 2024, ASK recorded a total of 14 acid attacks against women.¹⁰⁶⁸

(e) Child marriage

In Bangladesh, marriage of girls under the age of 18 is illegal under the 2017 Child Marriage Restraint Act.¹⁰⁶⁹ According to UNICEF, Bangladesh has the 8th highest prevalence of child marriage in the world and the highest prevalence in Asia, with 51.4 % of women aged 20-24

¹⁰⁵⁶ UN Women, A step forward for women's safety in Bangladesh: The push for sexual harassment legislation, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁷ Daily Star (The), Why don't women in Bangladesh feel safe in 2025?, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁸ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁹ ASK, Violence Against Women-Sexual Harassment (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁰ ASK, Violence Against Women-Sexual Harassment (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶¹ Bangladesh, BBS, Key findings of violence against women survey 2024, 27 February 2025, [url](#), p. 21

¹⁰⁶² ASK, Violence Against Women-Sexual Harassment (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶³ UN Bangladesh, European Union and UN Women Sign €4.8 Million Agreement to Advance Gender Equality in Bangladesh, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁴ ASF, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Survivors of the extreme, 11 November 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁶ ASK, Violence Against Women-Acid Attacks (Jan-May 2024), 11 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁷ ASK, Violence Against Women-Acid Attacks (Jan-May 2025), 19 June 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁸ ASK, Violence Against Women-Acid Attacks (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁹ Bangladesh, The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, [url](#), art. 2 (1)

having married before 18.¹⁰⁷⁰ Moreover, according to the same source, 24 % of women aged 20-24 gave birth before 18.¹⁰⁷¹ According to Girls Not Brides, poverty is a driver behind child marriage with most of the girls being married before 18 coming from low-income households, although the practice is also prevalent in richer families. Dowry prices generally increase with age according to the source, so poorer households tend to marry off daughters at a younger age to relieve the family economy.¹⁰⁷²

8.4.5. Access to justice

As mentioned, many victims refrain from reporting gender-based violence due to the social stigma around the issue.¹⁰⁷³ When seeking justice, survivors of sexual violence ‘faced ‘long delays, stigma, systemic neglect, and have no choice but to give up.’¹⁰⁷⁴ Women’s access to justice, especially for gender-based violence, have moreover been described as ‘inadequate’,¹⁰⁷⁵ with women and girls having ‘little recourse’ to seek protection or access to justice,¹⁰⁷⁶ and insufficient shelter services.¹⁰⁷⁷

According to PhD candidate Subrata Banarjee, whose fieldwork research focuses on access to justice for women in Bangladesh, domestic violence cases come to Bangladeshi courts either via reporting to the police station through the Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU), or by filing directly with district courts.¹⁰⁷⁸ These specialised service desks for women are available at every police station,¹⁰⁷⁹ and there are also specialised Victim Support Centres¹⁰⁸⁰ and so-called One Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) available for rape victims.¹⁰⁸¹ The Daily Star, however, described the admission process to access these functions as ‘very complicated’ as victims needed to acquire police referrals or court orders¹⁰⁸² and sources consulted by OFPRA also stated that there were not enough OCCs across the country, that few knew about them, and that there was a lack of resources for the OCCs to be fully operational.¹⁰⁸³

¹⁰⁷⁰ UNICEF, UN Women and Plan International, Girl Goals: What has changed for girls? Adolescent girls’ rights over 30 years, March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷¹ UNICEF, Slow progress for adolescent girls in Bangladesh, including highest Child Marriage rate in Asia - UNICEF, UN Women and Plan International, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷² Girls Not Brides, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁷³ BRAC, Strengthening the Public Prosecution System to Ensure Justice for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, May 2022, [url](#), pp. 5, 13; UNDP, Gender-based violence: taking stock of Bangladesh’s shadow pandemic, 10 April 2022, [url](#); UN Bangladesh, Combating violence against women and adolescent girls in Bangladesh, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁴ Equality Now, Legal aid in South Asia is failing to reach survivors of sexual violence, 28 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁵ Banarjee Subrata., S., A Critical Analysis of How Victims of Sexual Assault Face Violence in the Medical Process of Bangladesh Through Foucault’s Concept of Medical Gaze, *Int Criminol* 5, 46–55 (2025), *International Criminology*, 22 February 2025, [url](#), p. 47

¹⁰⁷⁶ HRW, World Report 2025.: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁷ UN Bangladesh, Combating violence against women and adolescent girls in Bangladesh, 8 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Too few shelters for domestic violence victims, 11 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁸ Banarjee, S., Service Providers’ Role: Access to justice for women in domestic violence cases in Bangladesh and PNG, *Devpolicy Blog*, 2024, [url](#), p. 15

¹⁰⁷⁹ UNICEF, Justice Accountability and Support, 2023, [url](#), p. 20; BRAC, Strengthening the Public Prosecution System to Ensure Justice for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, May 2022, [url](#), p. 17

¹⁰⁸⁰ Zaman, I., Executive Director of TIB, online interview, 5 April 2024; Bangladesh, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Victim Support, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁸¹ UNICEF, Justice Accountability and Support, 2023, [url](#), p. 19

¹⁰⁸² Daily Star (The), Too few shelters for domestic violence victims, 11 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸³ France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République populaire du Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 66

Although there are special tribunals in place to process cases of gender-based violence, victims of gender-based violence faced delays in investigations and few cases led to convictions.¹⁰⁸⁴ In March 2025, the interim government passed a new women and child protection law¹⁰⁸⁵ and introduced a provision to establish a special tribunal dedicated to handling child rape cases separately.¹⁰⁸⁶ In 2025, the above mentioned Banarjee stated that women in Bangladesh are still subjected to harassment and discrimination during the medical process after being victims of rape.¹⁰⁸⁷ While the ‘two-finger test’ for rape survivors has been legally banned by the High Court of Bangladesh in 2018,¹⁰⁸⁸ the practice continues ‘due to a lack of awareness among doctors and even lawyers’, according to Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.¹⁰⁸⁹

In May 2024, the High Court of Bangladesh issued a circular clarifying that victims of sexual assault and other crimes against women may engage ‘personal lawyers beside the public prosecutor to handle their cases’.¹⁰⁹⁰ As reported by Equality Now in April 2025, public prosecutors in Bangladesh ‘are often political appointees, and no accountability mechanism exists to ensure effective performance’, and survivors bribe court officials to track their case status.¹⁰⁹¹ Banarjee listed a number of challenges to accessing justice for women victims, including: the absence of security for witnesses, lengthy procedures, politicised legal appointments, dependence on police for referral to court, corruption in the courts, limited court staff, lack of police cooperation to investigate, caseload pressure, and uneven resource allocation between urban and rural courts.¹⁰⁹²

In March 2025, without providing information on effectiveness in practice, sources reported that the national authorities introduced a number of initiatives to address and prevent violence against women. For example, the Police Headquarters launched a hotline service to take effective measures against incidents of violence, aggressive behaviour, abuse, teasing, harassment, and sexual assault towards women.¹⁰⁹³ In addition, a complaint about violence against women can be submitted by dialling a short code (‘3333’).¹⁰⁹⁴

¹⁰⁸⁴ BRAC, Strengthening the Public Prosecution System to Ensure Justice for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, May 2022, [url](#), p. 5

¹⁰⁸⁵ Prothom Alo, Govt moves to speed up child rape case trials, introduces special tribunal, 18 March 2025, [url](#); Arab News, Bangladesh passes new women, child protection law after rape and death of 8-year-old, 20 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁶ Prothom Alo, Govt moves to speed up child rape case trials, introduces special tribunal, 18 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁷ Banarjee Subrata, S., A Critical Analysis of How Victims of Sexual Assault Face Violence in the Medical Process of Bangladesh Through Foucault’s Concept of Medical Gaze, Int Criminol 5International Criminology, 22 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁸ Bdnews24.com, HC bans use of ‘two-finger test’, ‘bio-manual test’ during examinations of rape victims, 12 April 2018, [url](#); BLAST, High Court Bans the “Two-finger Test” on Rape Survivors, 18 April 2018, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁹ Daily Star (The), Cultural interventions required to reform deep-rooted patriarchal norms, 27 February 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁰ New Age, Victims can engage lawyers in sexual assault cases: HC, 12 May 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹¹ Equality Now, Legal aid in South Asia is failing to reach survivors of sexual violence, 28 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹² Banarjee, S., Service Providers’ Role: Access to justice for women in domestic violence cases in Bangladesh and PNG, Devpolicy Blog, 2024, [url](#), p. 18

¹⁰⁹³ Dhaka Tribune, Police Headquarters launches hotline to prevent violence against women, 10 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Govt to launch ‘3333’ shortcode service to combat violence against women, 11 March 2025, [url](#); BSS, Govt to launch shortcode, Police Command App to prevent violence against women, 11 March 2025, [url](#)



8.5. LGBTIQ persons

8.5.1. Legislation and treatment by the state

Consensual same-sex conduct is criminalised,¹⁰⁹⁵ with the Penal Code specifying that ‘carnal intercourse against the order of nature’ with any man of woman is criminalised, with penalties ranging from ten years imprisonment to life imprisonment, and fines.¹⁰⁹⁶ The law was ‘rarely enforced’ under the former government, as reported by Human Dignity Trust.¹⁰⁹⁷ Under the interim government, there was one so-called ‘sodomy charge’ being brought forward in a case of male rape,¹⁰⁹⁸ since male rape is not a recognised offence in the Penal Code.¹⁰⁹⁹ In another case, two lesbian girls were reportedly handed over to the police by their families ‘under pressure of local conservative religious figures’. The police returned the girls to their families the day after.¹¹⁰⁰

Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics are not identified as grounds of discrimination in national law.¹¹⁰¹ Proposed in the parliament in 2022 and pending official adoption as of May 2025, the Anti-Discrimination Bill aims to ensure equal rights and dignity for all citizens. Among the key features, the bill included a provision on protection of the transgender community.¹¹⁰²

The 2024-2028 National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS Response aims to eliminate new HIV infections, AIDS-related deaths, and related discrimination in Bangladesh. In addition, ‘[t]he plan focuses on increasing access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care services’, specifically among high-risk populations such as sex workers (female, male and transgender), ‘people who use drugs including injecting drug users (female and male), men who have sex with men, male sex workers and transgender (Hijra)’.¹¹⁰³ According to an associate professor of the Department of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) at the Bangladesh University of Health Sciences writing for the Daily Star in December 2024, the national prevention programmes running since 1985 had ‘played a pivotal role in prevention, awareness and treatment initiatives’, but challenges still impacted the access to treatment, including the stigma around being infected as well as limited resources of the healthcare system to address a growing number of HIV cases, including among Bangladeshi migrants returning from abroad. According to the same source, the general prevalence of HIV was low, 0.1 %, but certain groups, including men who have sex with men, transgender people and sex workers experienced higher infection rates than the general population.¹¹⁰⁴ Bangladesh has received

¹⁰⁹⁵ ILGA, Rights in Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2025,; Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁶ Bangladesh, The Penal Code, 1860, [url](#), art. 377

¹⁰⁹⁷ Human Dignity Trust, Bangladesh, 17 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁸ Business Standard (The), Sodomy case filed over 20-year-old man’s rape in N’ganj as Bangladesh yet to recognise male rape, 12 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁹ Jannat, J. F., The Code of Shame: Stigmatisation of Male Rape Victims in Bangladesh, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁰ Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh lesbian couple taken to police by their families, 5 May 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁰¹ ILGA, Rights in Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁰² Bangladesh, National Human Rights Strategy to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV Services in Bangladesh (2024-2029), October 2024, [url](#), p. 4

¹¹⁰³ Bangladesh, National Human Rights Strategy to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV Services in Bangladesh (2024-2029), October 2024, [url](#), p. 5

¹¹⁰⁴ Daily Star (The), HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh: A growing concern, 8 December 2024, [url](#)



support from various international agencies in HIV prevention,¹¹⁰⁵ including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in HIV/AIDS prevention, and access to services and rights.¹¹⁰⁶

There is a ‘third gender’ understood in the context of Bangladeshi society, referred to as *hijra*, which can be described as an umbrella term for intersex individuals, castrated men and transwomen.¹¹⁰⁷ Based on a 2013 Bangladesh Cabinet Directive, the former government recognised *hijras* as a legal ‘third gender’ category.¹¹⁰⁸ The precise definition of *hijra* was however not provided¹¹⁰⁹ and the gender recognition has not been reflected in laws and policies.¹¹¹⁰ However, *hijra* was included as a gender category in the national census from 2022.¹¹¹¹ Under the former government some *hijras* engaged in politics and were running in official elections,¹¹¹² with one diplomat coming out publicly as *hijra* in January 2024.¹¹¹³

While the former government made some progress in promoting social acceptance for *hijras*, limited efforts were made to advance rights and legal recognition of other LGBTIQ persons.¹¹¹⁴

In July 2024, a Supreme Court lawyer sent a notice to the former government requesting a monthly allowance, separate educational institutions, and civic amenities to the *hijra* community.¹¹¹⁵ Announced in April 2025 by the Advisory Council Committee on social safety net programmes, in the upcoming 2025–2026 fiscal year, the allowance for the *hijra* community would be raised from 600 taka to 650 taka [about EUR 4.20 to EUR 4.50]. The number of beneficiaries in this group would remain the same.¹¹¹⁶

8.5.2. Social attitudes

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus](#), sources described a stigma surrounding sexuality in Bangladesh,¹¹¹⁷ and that homosexuality is met with societal disapproval¹¹¹⁸ ‘deeply ingrained and reinforced by the legal system, societal norms, and

¹¹⁰⁵ Daily Star (The), HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh: A growing concern, 8 December 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁶ UNFPA, HIV/AIDS, n.d., [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁷ Daily Star (The), The twisted plight of Bangladeshi transgender community: A critical error in policymaking, 10 June 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁸ HRW, Bangladesh: Gender Recognition Process Spurs Abuse, 23 December 2016, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁹ Daily Star (The), The twisted plight of Bangladeshi transgender community: A critical error in policymaking, 10 June 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁰ BoB, Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh, 44th Session, April 2023, [url](#), p. 6

¹¹¹¹ Business Standard (The), Bangladesh includes transgenders in national census for first time, 27 July 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹² Business Standard (The), Two transgender candidates poised to rattle social and political norms, 26 December 2023, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Mymensingh mosque welcomes hijra community, 29 March 2024, [url](#); EU, Election Expert Mission to Bangladesh 2024, Parliamentary Election, 7 January 2024, [url](#), p. 16

¹¹¹³ New Age, Oalid Islam becomes first Bangladeshi diplomat with hijra identity, 12 January 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), The trials of world's ‘first Hijra diplomat’ from Bangladesh, 12 January 2024, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁴ VOA, Pride Month is a secret celebration in Bangladesh, 26 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Legal notice seeks allowance, separate educational institutions for hijras, 5 July 2023, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Who are they? Hijra, third gender, transgender?, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁶ Prothom Alo, Allowances for elderly, widow, disabled and underprivileged communities to increase by Tk 50 to 150, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁷ USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 6

¹¹¹⁸ Mozumder M. K. et al., Mental health and suicide risk among homosexual males in Bangladesh, PLoS One, 15 August 2023, [url](#), p. 2



religious beliefs.¹¹¹⁹ *Hijras* reportedly also faced social stigma and discrimination.¹¹²⁰ According to the Equaldex's Equality Index measuring the status of LGBT rights, laws, and freedoms as well as public attitudes towards LGBT people, Bangladesh rated 23 (with 100 being the most equal),¹¹²¹ ranking Bangladesh 138 out of 197 countries in 2025.¹¹²²

Hijra is considered the oldest transgender group in the world¹¹²³ and there are about 10 000 *hijras* in Bangladesh according to an official estimate.¹¹²⁴ Rights groups claim the figure could be as high as 1.5 million in a population of 170 million people, as reported by Reuters.¹¹²⁵ Government initiatives have included opening separate Islamic schools for *hijras*¹¹²⁶ as well as a one mosque dedicated to the community,¹¹²⁷ but *hijras* have continue to face social stigma,¹¹²⁸ discrimination,¹¹²⁹ and socio-economic marginalisation.¹¹³⁰ Historically, the *hijra* community has been impoverished,¹¹³¹ although they have been holding an important traditional role in entertaining at marriage and birth ceremonies.¹¹³² According to national authorities, 'modernisation has diminished the traditional earning opportunities' for *hijras*, and with limited education and skills many engage in high-risk sex work for survival.¹¹³³

8.5.3. Reports of discrimination and targeted violence

LGBTIQ persons have been facing various forms of violence, discrimination and harassment,¹¹³⁴ including conversion therapy which is reportedly a widespread practice.¹¹³⁵ Under the former government, organisations and activists advocating for LGBTIQ rights faced legal barriers, limited access to funding, as well as security risks.¹¹³⁶ LGBTIQ activists faced

¹¹¹⁹ VOA, Pride Month is a secret celebration in Bangladesh, 26 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹²⁰ Al-Mamun, M. et al., Discrimination and social exclusion of third-gender population (Hijra) in Bangladesh: A brief review, Heliyon Society and Politics, October 2022, [url](#), p. 1; EU, Election Expert Mission to Bangladesh 2024, Parliamentary Election, 7 January 2024, [url](#), p. 16

¹¹²¹ Equaldex, LGBT Rights in Bangladesh, n.d., 2025, [url](#)

¹¹²² Equaldex, World Equality Index, n.d., 2025, [url](#)

¹¹²³ Daily Star (The), The illusion of inclusion: Empty policies and promises for Bangladesh's hijra community, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹¹²⁴ Reuters, In Bangladesh, new school textbook features transgender people, 24 February 2023, [url](#)

¹¹²⁵ Reuters, A transgender woman's fight for dignity in Bangladesh's Rohingya refugee camps, 26 March 2025, [url](#)

¹¹²⁶ BBC News, Transgender in Bangladesh: First school opens for trans students, 6 November 2020, [url](#); Daily Star (The), The illusion of inclusion: Empty policies and promises for Bangladesh's hijra community, 4 July 2025, [url](#)

¹¹²⁷ BBC News, Heart and Soul: The mosque for Bangladesh's transgender women, 21 March 2025, [url](#)

¹¹²⁸ Islam, S., et al., Education failure: Untold tales of Bangladeshi transgender's unquenchable educational aspirations., Teacher's World: Journal of Education and Research, Volume 50, Issue 1, June 2024, [url](#), pp. 12–13

¹¹²⁹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh: How are hijras and the LGBTQ+ community different?, 23 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹³⁰ Hossain, I. et al., Marginalization and Societal Isolation faced by the Third-Gender Community (Hijra) in Bangladesh, IJFMR, May-June 2024, [url](#), p. 8; Daily Star (The), The illusion of inclusion: Empty policies and promises for Bangladesh's hijra community, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹¹³¹ Bangladesh, Department of Social Services, Livelihood Development Program for the Hijra Community, n.d., 2025, [url](#)

¹¹³² Bangladesh, National Human Rights Strategy to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV Services in Bangladesh (2024-2029), October 2024, [url](#), p. 8

¹¹³³ Bangladesh, National Human Rights Strategy to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV Services in Bangladesh (2024-2029), October 2024, [url](#), p. 8

¹¹³⁴ JMBF, 2022 Annual report, An updated state of LGBTIQ+ in Bangladesh, 2023, [url](#), p. 7; CIVICUS, Bangladesh: 'The legal vulnerability of LGBTIQ+ people leads to harassment and discrimination', 4 September 2023, [url](#)

¹¹³⁵ ILGA, Regional Campaign to End 'Conversion Therapy' in Asia by ILGA Asia, All Out and Local Organisations Launches, 23 March 2023, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), section 6

¹¹³⁶ CIVICUS, Bangladesh: 'The legal vulnerability of LGBTIQ+ people leads to harassment and discrimination,' 4 September 2023, [url](#)



ensorship and restrictions,¹¹³⁷ and organisations supporting the LGBTIQ community were hindered in registering their organisations with state authorities.¹¹³⁸ According to human rights organisation Inclusive Bangladesh, legal and social obstacles faced by the LGBTIQ community limit the annual pride festival Dhaka Pride to an online event.¹¹³⁹

As reported by UN Women, gender-diverse individuals were impacted by the 2024 political unrest. Specifically, gender-diverse individuals faced the highest levels of harassment and violence in the aftermath of the former government's fall according to a survey carried out by the source, with 42 % of respondents reporting incidents including verbal threats (15 %), psychological harassment (12 %), physical violence (7 %), harassment in public settings (4 %) and harassment in institutional settings (3 %). In contrast, 27 % of respondents reported incidents during and 25 % before the unrest. Gender-diverse individuals were reportedly facing 'compounded risk' during recovery due to weakened institutional and social support systems, and 76 % of gender-diverse respondents expressed a heightened sense of insecurity in public spaces. In the same survey, 76 % of gender-diverse respondents had received explicit harassing messages on social media and 16 % preferred not to disclose their experiences of harassment. Fear, stigma, or a lack of trust in available support mechanisms were claimed as reasons for not reporting cases of online harassment.¹¹⁴⁰

Organisations advocating for LGBTIQ rights expressed concern of extremist elements gaining ground under the interim government.¹¹⁴¹ While Erasing 76 Crimes pointed out the governance vacuum and lack of social protection priorities as a root causes,¹¹⁴² ILGA Asia alleged the interim government of aligning with radical Islamist groups who have been a part of anti-LGBTIQ movements, and that '[s]ome LGBTIQ activists who conducted advocacy work with Hasina's government feel [...] threatened' by this.¹¹⁴³ In the aftermath of the former government's fall in August 2024, sources reported on cases of targeted violence and intimidation that resulted in many LGBTIQ persons going into hiding.¹¹⁴⁴ Individuals identifying as LGBTIQ faced 'systemic discrimination and violence' as reported in 2024 by Inclusive Bangladesh, who indicated that the political instability 'emboldened conservative factions' leading to increased harassment and 'scapegoating' of LGBTIQ communities, increased

¹¹³⁷ Equaldex, LGBT Rights in Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#); Engage Media, In the Shadows of Self-Censorship: The Impact of Cyber Security Act on Bangladesh's LGBTQI+ Movement, 19 December 2023, [url](#)

¹¹³⁸ Outright International, Country Overview: Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2022 Country Reports on human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 20 March 2023, [url](#), sections 2. b, 6

¹¹³⁹ Inclusive Bangladesh, Dhaka Pride, n.d., 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁰ UN Women, Gender Analysis Bangladesh (July - December 2024), Impact of the civil unrest on women and marginalised groups, 11 March 2025, [url](#), pp. 9, 18–19, 28

¹¹⁴¹ ILGA Asia, Bangladesh: Student Protests, Government Transition, and Implications for LGBTIQ Communities, 10 October 2024, [url](#); Erasing 76 Crimes, Commentary: With priority given to political reorganization, social protections falter, 2 December 2024, [url](#); Erasing 76 Crimes, LGBTQ people at risk: Will Bangladesh be a safe haven for Islamist militancy?, 1 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁴² Erasing 76 Crimes, Commentary: With priority given to political reorganization, social protections falter, 2 December 2024, [url](#); Erasing 76 Crimes, LGBTQ people at risk: Will Bangladesh be a safe haven for Islamist militancy?, 1 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁴³ ILGA Asia, Bangladesh: Student Protests, Government Transition, and Implications for LGBTIQ Communities, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁴ Los Angeles Blade, Bangladesh political turmoil has forced LGBTQ people into hiding, 9 August 2024, [url](#); JMBF, Is Love a Crime? State Indifference and the Persecution of Lesbian Women-A Bangladeshi Reality, 8 May 2025, [url](#)



threats of violence,¹¹⁴⁵ and harassment of LGBTIQ activists.¹¹⁴⁶ Human Rights Watch also reported that LGBTIQ people and advocates faced increased threats of violence in 2024.¹¹⁴⁷

Sources reported on LGBT teachers affected by the political turmoil.¹¹⁴⁸ In October 2024, an assistant professor at the Islamic University in Kushtia was barred from teaching in response to pro-Islamist students' protests that he is gay,¹¹⁴⁹ and in November 2024, the principal of Kurigram Collectorate School and College was reportedly suspended from his job following 'allegations' of him being gay and subsequent protests.¹¹⁵⁰ In late 2024, the Islamic University barred two educators from teaching due to student protests accusing them of being gay¹¹⁵¹ or 'pro-LGBT'.¹¹⁵² Around this time a gay kindergarten teacher was killed following an argument about homosexuality with three men.¹¹⁵³ Moreover, in January 2025, one student from the Islamic University was expelled and another was arrested after both were accused of being a lesbian couple.¹¹⁵⁴ In April 2025, JMBF reported on a lesbian woman being arrested for physical assault and other charges, which the organisation claimed to be 'fabricated' charges. JMBF alleged that the woman was arrested because of her sexual orientation.¹¹⁵⁵

Violence against LGBTIQ persons continued to be reported in 2025, including:

- in January 2025, a *hijra* was allegedly murdered in Jashore [southwestern Bangladesh].¹¹⁵⁶ According to JMBF, the incident demonstrated 'a broader pattern of systemic discrimination against the *hijra* community in Bangladesh';¹¹⁵⁷
- in February 2025, a transgender activist was murdered by suspected extremists;¹¹⁵⁸
- in March 2025, two queer men were sexually assaulted in two separate incidents; according to Erasing 76 Crimes, one of the men was abducted and gangraped; the other man was allegedly sexually assaulted.¹¹⁵⁹

¹¹⁴⁵ Inclusive Bangladesh, 2024 Annual Report on Human Rights Violations of LGBTIQ+ People in Bangladesh, February 2025, [url](#), p. 5

¹¹⁴⁶ ILGA Asia, Bangladesh: Student Protests, Government Transition, and Implications for LGBTIQ Communities, 10 October 2024, [url](#); Inclusive Bangladesh, 2024 Annual Report on Human Rights Violations of LGBTIQ+ People in Bangladesh, February 2025, [url](#), p. 7

¹¹⁴⁷ HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁸ Erasing 76 Crimes, LGBT teachers suffer as new Bangladesh regime focuses on regaining stability, 2 February 2025, [url](#); JMBF, Are LGBT Teachers Paying the Price for Political Turmoil in Bangladesh?, 16 November 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Academic in Bangladesh barred from teaching in response to anti-gay protesters, 28 October 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁰ Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh school principal fired for being gay, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁵¹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Academic in Bangladesh barred from teaching in response to anti-gay protesters, 28 October 2024, [url](#); Voice7 News, IU Students Protest for Permanent Expulsion of Teacher, 29 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵² Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh school principal fired for being gay, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁵³ Erasing 76 Crimes, Three men charged with killing gay teacher in Bangladesh, 15 November 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁴ Erasing 76 Crimes, Despite lack of evidence, Bangladesh university ousts two alleged lesbians, 23 January 2025, [url](#); JMBF, JMBF Strongly Condemns and Protests the Recent Unjust Detention of Two Lesbian Women at Islamic University, Kushtia, on Allegations of Homosexuality, 23 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁵ JMBF, JMBF Condemns the Arrest of Lady Biker Esha: A Disturbing Act of Homophobic Injustice, 25 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁶ JMBF, JMBF Calls for Adequate Investigation into the Alleged Murder of Mau Hijra in Jessore, 2 January 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁷ Ferdous Jannat, Jannatul, The Code of Shame: Stigmatisation of Male Rape Victims in Bangladesh, 22 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁸ Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh trans activist brutally murdered, 12 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh activists demand justice after two queer men are attacked, 7 April 2025, [url](#)



8.6. Bangladeshi nationals migrating abroad

8.6.1. Migration profile

Bangladesh is one of the largest countries of origin of migrant workers in the world,¹¹⁶⁰ with 500 000 people emigrating to work abroad every year.¹¹⁶¹ The country is, moreover, one of the world's top remittance recipients.¹¹⁶² Mainly men go abroad to work, although thousands of women also do so,¹¹⁶³ and the main areas of destination are Southeast Asia¹¹⁶⁴ and Middle Eastern countries,¹¹⁶⁵ such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf states.¹¹⁶⁶ Most migrants are low- or unskilled workers and make use of agents and private recruitment agencies to arrange foreign employment and travel, which are associated with high costs.¹¹⁶⁷ In some countries Bangladeshi migrant workers have moreover faced widespread abuse, particularly in the Middle East.¹¹⁶⁸

According to Bangladesh's Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and as reported by The Business Standard, between 2020 and 2024, Bangladesh sent workers to 182 countries, including 42 European countries with Italy hiring 26 333 workers legally, followed by Romania, the UK, Croatia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Cyprus, Albania, and Russia.¹¹⁶⁹

In 2024, Ami Probashi, a Bangladeshi digital platform providing support to migrant workers who wish to work abroad, recorded a 27.4 % decline in 2024 in overseas migration compared to the previous year, 'due to structural reforms in the political system and economy', and the political and economic instabilities in the summer, as reported by the Daily Star.¹¹⁷⁰ However, the labour emigration decreased between May 2024 and September 2024; the numbers increased again in October 2024 and remained steady in October-December 2024.¹¹⁷¹

In 2024, Bangladeshis were the top-most represented nationality arriving irregularly in Italy through the central Mediterranean route, known as 'the deadliest route globally' as reported

¹¹⁶⁰ USA, USDOS, Trafficking in Persons Report 2024 - Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#); IOM, World Migration Report 2022, 1 December 2022, [url](#), p. 84

¹¹⁶¹ UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, 22 May 2023, [url](#), p. 3

¹¹⁶² MPI, Bangladesh's Economic Vitality Owes in Part to Migration and Remittances, 19 April 2023, [url](#); USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁶³ Bangladesh, BMET, Overseas Employment of Female Workers from 2004 to 2024, 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁶⁴ Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3; Bossavie, L., Low-skilled temporary migration policies: The case of Bangladesh, April 2023, [url](#), p. 7

¹¹⁶⁵ Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3; UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Official visit to Bangladesh of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [2023], [url](#), p. 3

¹¹⁶⁶ Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3

¹¹⁶⁷ USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁶⁸ UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Official visit to Bangladesh of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [2023], [url](#), p. 3

¹¹⁶⁹ Business Standard (The), Why Bangladesh migration to Europe drops 52% in 2024, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁰ Daily Star (The), Political, economic reforms led to drop in overseas migration last year, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁷¹ Daily Star (The), Migration drops by 27pc, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

by UNHCR.¹¹⁷² According to UNODC, transregional smuggling through North Africa to Europe of inter alia Bangladeshis was on the rise as of the beginning of 2024.¹¹⁷³

8.6.2. Illegal money lending

As reported in the [EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus 2024](#), Bangladeshis face high costs of migrating abroad, including fees of recruitment agencies and other intermediaries.¹¹⁷⁴ Many Bangladeshi migrants are therefore indebted,¹¹⁷⁵ including victims of trafficking in human beings.¹¹⁷⁶ Some have been facing exploitative labour conditions to repay loans taken from legal recruitment agencies or unlicensed brokers,¹¹⁷⁷ who sometimes convey false and misleading information about work prospects abroad.¹¹⁷⁸

Lending money with exorbitant interest rates is illegal in Bangladesh. According to the Daily Star, people living in slums commonly find themselves in a vicious circle of debts, and many who cannot repay their loans flee the slums in fear of loan sharks.¹¹⁷⁹ In April 2025, four men described as ‘local loan sharks’ allegedly beat a man to death in Biral, Rangpur Division, for failing to repay parts of a loan.¹¹⁸⁰ After a visit to Bangladesh in 31 October–9 November 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Mullally, stated that ‘returned migrant workers with significant debts are at continued risk of exploitation and face reprisals and threats because of difficulties in repaying debts and securing new employment’.¹¹⁸¹ The NGO Justice and Care reported that ‘failure to pay can have severe economical, reputational and physical’ consequences for migrants and their families.¹¹⁸² Sources also reported in 2023 on illegal recruiters not consistently being held accountable.¹¹⁸³

¹¹⁷² UNODC, Bangladesh: UNODC hosts third bilateral meeting between Bangladesh and Libya on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, 21 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁷³ UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024, December 2024, [url](#), p. 87

¹¹⁷⁴ UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, [url](#), para. 21; Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, [url](#), p. 2; Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, [url](#), p. 1

¹¹⁷⁵ Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, [url](#), p. 1; IOM and Samuel Hall, Returning to Debt: Examining the Effects of Indebtedness on Reintegration Outcomes Final Report, 6 February 2023, [url](#), p. 2

¹¹⁷⁶ UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, [url](#), para. 23; Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, [url](#), p. 2

¹¹⁷⁷ Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, [url](#), p. 1; Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, [url](#), p. 2

¹¹⁷⁸ Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, [url](#), p. 2; See also: AP, Migrant workers in Malaysia seek unpaid wages from a supplier to Japanese companies, 21 May 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁹ Daily Star (The), Debt, desperation and displacement, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Murder case filed over death of Bhabesh Chandra Roy in Dinajpur, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁸¹ UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, [url](#), para. 21

¹¹⁸² Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, [url](#), p. 1

¹¹⁸³ Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, [url](#), p. 2; USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

8.6.3. Victims of trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings is a prevalent issue both for Bangladeshis working abroad, and inside Bangladesh.¹¹⁸⁴ Inside Bangladesh, women and girls have been trafficked for sexual exploitation,¹¹⁸⁵ but women and children have also been trafficked overseas for the purposes of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.¹¹⁸⁶ Some of the groups vulnerable to sex trafficking included victims of child marriage and gender-based violence, as reported by USDOS.¹¹⁸⁷

In 2025, UNODC reported on socio-economic hardships, lack of employment opportunities, and demand for cheap labour in countries neighbouring Bangladesh and beyond, being factors contributing to trafficking and smuggling of Bangladeshis.¹¹⁸⁸

Bangladesh is among countries with the highest prevalence of ‘modern slavery’¹¹⁸⁹ within Asia and the Pacific (ranking 9 out of 27 countries) and ranks 56 out of 160 countries globally as per the 2023 Global Slavery Index.¹¹⁹⁰ According to USDOS the Bangladeshi government identified 1 210 trafficking victims in 2023, including 210 sex trafficking victims, 795 forced labour victims, and 205 victims of unspecified forms of trafficking.¹¹⁹¹

In 2022 Eurostat data, Bangladesh was ranked as the fourth non-EU country of origin of trafficking victims, with a total of 227 registered victims.¹¹⁹² Trafficking victims from Bangladesh were mainly male and subjected to labour exploitation.¹¹⁹³ The 2023 Eurostat data showed a decrease in trafficked victims from Bangladesh, with 203 registered cases.¹¹⁹⁴

According to IOM, in 2024, Bangladesh was the 7th most-represented nationality in Libya with 3 % of migrants being Bangladeshis. The majority were single men between 20 and 39 years old, and working mainly as construction workers, cleaners or waiters.¹¹⁹⁵ In March 2025, Libyan authorities arrested two Bangladeshi nationals and one Libyan in connection with a human trafficking network operating between Libya and Bangladesh.¹¹⁹⁶ In March another ringleader of a trafficking network was arrested in Bangladesh. The network had been luring Bangladeshi

¹¹⁸⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, 28 April 2023, [url](#), para. 19

¹¹⁸⁵ UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, 28 April 2023, [url](#), para. 19

¹¹⁸⁶ USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁷ USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁸ UNODC, Bangladesh: Shaping a collaborative roadmap to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling, 26 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁹ Modern slavery is an umbrella term, which encompasses several types of exploitation, including forced labour, human trafficking and forced marriage, Walk Free, About: What is modern slavery?, 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁰ Walk Free, Global Slavery Index/Country Study, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹¹ USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁹² Eurostat, THB annual data collection, extractions based on request, 27 May 2025

¹¹⁹³ EC, Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the progress made in the European Union in combating trafficking in human beings (Fifth Report), 20 January 2025, [url](#), p. 7

¹¹⁹⁴ Eurostat, THB annual data collection, extractions based on request, 27 May 2025

¹¹⁹⁵ IOM, DTM, Profile of Migrants from Bangladesh in Libya (July 2024), 30 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁶ Libya, Presidential Council, Stability Support Apparatus, Human Trafficking Ring Dismantled, 26 March 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Two Bangladeshis arrested as Libya busts human trafficking ring, 27 March 2025, [url](#)



nationals with promises of going to Italy but captured and trafficked them to Libya.¹¹⁹⁷ In Libya, victims of trafficking were tortured and held captive for ransom.¹¹⁹⁸

(a) Societal treatment of trafficked victims upon return

According to the international development organisation BRAC and reports by the Daily Star in May 2025, more than 470 000 Bangladeshi migrant workers have returned home in the past six years, including 67 199 women who were subjected to sexual and physical abuse. Upon return to their communities, women face mental health challenges such as trauma, depression, and social isolation. In addition, women migrant returnees are often indebted and experience difficulty in finding employment.¹¹⁹⁹

The NGO Justice and Care reported on women being forced into prostitution facing judgement,¹²⁰⁰ shame and fear when re-entering society.¹²⁰¹ A study from 2022, also found that many returning women who had been victims of trafficking in human beings experienced stigmatisation and blame from their families and community members, resulting in reduced self-esteem, confidence, and limited opportunities for successful reintegration.¹²⁰²

According to a representative of BRAC Migration Program, returnee migrants ‘usually bring with them a celebrating story of achievement around which a new identity is built’ and ‘returnees are constantly evaluated by what s/he have achieved abroad’, and this is why social networks tend to be unwilling to provide economic assistance to ‘unsuccessful returnees’.¹²⁰³ Meanwhile many returnees return home indebted.¹²⁰⁴ More information is available in section [8.6.2. Illegal money lending](#).

(b) Legislation and access to justice and legal assistance

In Bangladesh, there are laws to combat trafficking in human beings and specialised tribunals, while the police cooperate with INTERPOL on trafficking cases.¹²⁰⁵ Bangladesh has inter alia ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹²⁰⁶ and has specialised national legislation on trafficking under the 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act.¹²⁰⁷ The former government, moreover, implemented five year action plans to combat trafficking in human beings.¹²⁰⁸ The 2023-2025

¹¹⁹⁷ New Age, Suspected Libya-based trafficking ringleader held, 26 April 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Five Bangladeshis return from Libya, 21 February 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁹ Daily Star (The), BRAC report on migrant workers: Abused, 67,199 women returned in 6 years, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁰ Justice and Care, Survivor was ostracised from society after walking free but battled to become a Champion, 23 May 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁰¹ Justice and Care, Safina’s journey to breaking free from shame and fear, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁰² Niumai, A. and Rajesh, M. N., Stigma and Exclusion: Challenges of Re-Integration of Human Trafficked Survivors in Assam, Sociological Bulletin, 26 April 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰³ Business Standard (The), Why are returnee migrants desperate to go back?, 22 June 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁴ Daily Star (The), Migrant returnees: When dreams turn into debts, 30 December 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁵ USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁶ UN, United Nations Treaty Collection, UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000, 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁷ Bangladesh, The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁸ Bangladesh, National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018–2022, (Updated to 2023 - 2025), 2023, [url](#), pp. 17, 19



action plan identified five objectives, including prevention of trafficking in human beings, holistic protection of trafficking victims, prosecution of traffickers, partnership and transnational legal assistance, and monitoring and evaluation.¹²⁰⁹ Moreover, the former government amended its overseas migrant workers policy to bring recruitment agents under greater oversight and to increase accountability,¹²¹⁰ and launched the guideline for a National Referral Mechanism to Protect and Assist Victims of Human Trafficking in February 2024.¹²¹¹ Sources reported on weak enforcement of existing anti-human trafficking laws,¹²¹² including lack of training for relevant stakeholders, low public awareness and understanding of the laws and court processes, lack of financial means to initiate and continue legal proceedings, insufficient protection and care for victims and witnesses, and complex and prolonged procedures of trials, as reported by Arafat Reza and Shahariar Sadat, scholars of BRAC University.¹²¹³

In September 2023, the former government adopted victim identification guidelines for front-line officials.¹²¹⁴ Attitudes among inter alia police officers preventing victims from reporting crime, social stigma around sexual abuse¹²¹⁵ and corruption have posed challenges in combating trafficking in human beings.¹²¹⁶ The former government set up specialised Anti-Human Trafficking Tribunals in seven districts.¹²¹⁷ The tribunals are comprised of judges and specialised prosecutors assigned to hear cases of trafficking in human beings.¹²¹⁸ Although police, prosecutors and judges undergo anti-trafficking training,¹²¹⁹ there have been calls for further training efforts.¹²²⁰ There was inter alia a reported lack of expertise in trafficking in human beings.¹²²¹

¹²⁰⁹ Bangladesh, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2023-2025 National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression, 2023, [url](#)

¹²¹⁰ USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹¹ Bangladesh, Ministry of Home Affairs, Guideline for National Referral Mechanism to Protect and Assist Victims of Human Trafficking, February 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), National referral mechanism launched to protect human trafficking victims, 21 May 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹² Reza, A. and Shahariar, S., Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead, Oxford Human rights Hub, 21 November 2024, [url](#); Rahman, A. and Arunim Rahman, Q., Climate Change and Human Trafficking in Bangladesh, South Asia @ LSE, 16 September 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹³ Reza, A. and Shahariar, S., Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead, Oxford Human rights Hub, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹⁴ Justice and Care, Groundbreaking victim identification guidelines rolled out across Bangladesh, 1 September 2023, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹⁵ UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, [url](#), para. 12, 23

¹²¹⁶ USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

¹²¹⁷ UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, [url](#), para. 26; Bangladesh, Government of Bangladesh and UNODC, First National Study on Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), p. 12

¹²¹⁸ USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#); CBGA, CBGA Commentary, Bali Process and Bangladesh: New Collaboration to Combat Human Trafficking, March 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹⁹ USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

¹²²⁰ USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Human trafficking cases: Only 1.5pc see conviction, 8 October 2022, [url](#); Bangladesh, Government of Bangladesh and UNODC, First National Study on Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), pp. 61–62

¹²²¹ Bangladesh, Government of Bangladesh and UNODC, First National Study on Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh, 2022, [url](#), p. 63; Daily Star (The), Human trafficking cases: Only 1.5pc see conviction, 8 October 2022, [url](#); USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, [url](#)



More information on state response to trafficking in human beings under the former government is available in the [2024 EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh Country Focus](#).

The interim government, through its Home Affairs Adviser, reaffirmed publicly in April 2025 Bangladesh's 'strong commitment to combatting human trafficking.' Furthermore, several recent initiatives were highlighted, including 'a national action plan to combat human trafficking, a web-based national referral mechanism for victim support, and the establishment of dedicated tribunals to expedite the prosecution of trafficking cases.'¹²²² In May 2025, Bangladesh and Italy signed a memorandum of understanding to combat irregular migration and promote 'safe and legal migration pathways for workers.' Bangladesh and Italy both pledged to combat trafficking in human beings¹²²³ and agreed to establish a joint committee for cooperation in preventing and combating transitional organised crime.¹²²⁴

¹²²² Daily Star (The), Bangladesh committed to combat human trafficking, 6 April 2025, [url](#); New Age, Bangladesh committed to curbing human trafficking: Jahangir, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

¹²²³ InfoMigrants, Italy and Bangladesh strengthen ties on migration and labor cooperation, 6 May 2025, [url](#)

¹²²⁴ Daily Star (The), Bangladesh, Italy agree to combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling, 6 May 2025, [url](#)



Annex 1: Timeline of the protests in July–August 2024

This timeline provides an overview of events taking place during, or in connection to, the student protests on 1 July–5 August 2024. This is not an exhaustive list of events, since some reports on violent events do not refer to a specific date.

1–3 July 2024: Initial protests

Students at public universities across the country launched simultaneous protests under the banner ‘Anti-Discrimination Student Movement’.¹²²⁵ They protested the High Court’s decision to reinstate the quota for civil service jobs¹²²⁶ and brought forward a four-point demand, including:

- 1) cancelling the High Court order reinstating the quota;
- 2) upholding the 2018 government notice abolishing the quota;
- 3) ensuring merit-based recruitment for public jobs;
- 4) appointing qualified candidates if there are no eligible candidates among quotas for ‘marginalised communities’.¹²²⁷

Most student protests started on 1 July 2024,¹²²⁸ as the student movement’s ultimatum to cancel the quota had expired the day before.¹²²⁹ The initial protest programme took place over the course of three days,¹²³⁰ until 3 July 2024, which was the day before a scheduled Supreme Court verdict on the quota.¹²³¹ Local media reported on students of various universities joining the protests, including universities in Dhaka Division¹²³² and in other parts of the country.¹²³³ The student protests took place in parallel to a teachers’ strike at 35 public universities,¹²³⁴

¹²²⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh university students launch protests against quotas in jobs again after High Court verdict, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²²⁶ Bdnews24.com, Students protest revival of quota system for government jobs in Shahbagh, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Barisal University students block highway protesting quota reinstatement, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²²⁷ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²²⁸ Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²²⁹ Daily Star (The), Students block Sahabagh intersection for an hours in protest of quota system, 2 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Students threaten nationwide movement against FF quota, 10 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁰ Business Standard (The), DU, JU students continue protest against quota reinstatement, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh university students launch protests against quotas in jobs again after High Court verdict, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota demos rage on across the country, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³¹ Business Standard (The), Buet students stage protest against quota system, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³² Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh university students launch protests against quotas in jobs again after High Court verdict, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Mirror Asia (The), Protest continues against quota system reinstatement, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³³ New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#); PrimeNewsbd.net, Pressure mounts on govt amid student protests, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁴ Daily Star (The), Teachers' protest over pension scheme, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

during which all academic and administrative activities were suspended indefinitely to protest changes in the teachers' pension scheme.¹²³⁵

The initial student protests reportedly took place at university campuses,¹²³⁶ although some marches moved outside the campus areas.¹²³⁷ Some protest actions included blocking major roads, in particular on the second and third day of protests (2 July 2024 and 3 July 2024).¹²³⁸ Some protests included the following:

- **Dhaka University:** students held protests at the university campus on 1–3 July 2024, and repeated a daily procession where they marched from the university's central library to the Raju Memorial Sculpture.¹²³⁹ On 1 July 2024, they continued protests in front of the proctor's office to demand the continuation of some student services during the teachers' strike.¹²⁴⁰ On 2 and 3 July 2024, they continued protests by blocking Shahbagh intersection,¹²⁴¹ which is a major intersection in Dhaka City.¹²⁴² There are discrepancies in media reports on the duration of the blockade, ranging from 30¹²⁴³ to 90 minutes on 2 July 2024¹²⁴⁴ and reportedly 60 minutes on 3 July 2024,¹²⁴⁵ as well as its scale with the Daily Star reporting on 'hundreds' of students from Dhaka University participating in the blockade on 3 July 2024,¹²⁴⁶ while another local media source, Dhaka Tribune, reported on 'several thousand students' participating from several universities and colleges.¹²⁴⁷
- **Jahangirnagar University (Dhaka Division):** students marched on the university campus on 1 July 2024, and then blocked the Dhaka–Aricka highway¹²⁴⁸ for about ten

¹²³⁵ Business Standard (The), DU, JU students continue protest against quota reinstatement, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Benar News, Faculty, university employees in Bangladesh strike against new pension plan, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁶ New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Students protest revival of quota system for government jobs in Shahbagh, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁸ Bdnews24.com, Students protest revival of quota system for government jobs in Shahbagh, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota demos rage on across the country, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: JU students block highway for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²³⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), DU, JU students continue protest against quota reinstatement, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Students protest revival of quota system for government jobs in Shahbagh, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Students block Sahahbagh intersection for an hours in protest of quota system, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁰ Business Standard (The), DU, JU students continue protest against quota reinstatement, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴¹ Daily Star (The), Students block Sahahbagh intersection for an hour in protest of quota system, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Protests against quota: Students block Shahbagh for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴² New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴³ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁴ New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁵ Bdnews24.com, Students protest revival of quota system for government jobs in Shahbagh, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Students block Sahahbagh intersection for an hours in protest of quota system, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁶ Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁷ Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: JU students block highway for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

minutes.¹²⁴⁹ This is one of the busiest highways in the country.¹²⁵⁰ Students blocked the highway again on 2 and 3 July 2024,¹²⁵¹ but expanded the blockade to 30 minutes on 2 July 2024, according to local media New Age,¹²⁵² and to two hours on 3 July 2024, according to Dhaka Tribune.¹²⁵³

- **Jagannath University** (Dhaka Division): students marched on the university campus on 1–3 July 2024,¹²⁵⁴ but also moved through areas outside campus, including Raisaheb Bazaar and Bahadur Shah Park (also known as Victoria Park).¹²⁵⁵ On 3 July 2024, students reportedly also blocked a road at Taantibazar intersection for about an hour.¹²⁵⁶
- **Rajshahi University** (Rajshahi City): students reportedly started protesting already on 30 June 2024 and protested during three consecutive days (30 June–2 July 2024) by forming a human chain at Paris Road¹²⁵⁷ – a famous avenue at the university campus.¹²⁵⁸
- **Barishal University** (Barishal City) students protested at the main gate of the university on 1 July 2024¹²⁵⁹ and according to local media outlet Barta24, they also marched on the Dhaka–Barishal highway in the afternoon.¹²⁶⁰ Protests were repeated on 2–3 July 2024, with students blocking the highway.¹²⁶¹
- **Bangladesh Agricultural University** (Mymensingh City): students reportedly protested on 1 July 2024¹²⁶² and on 3 July 2024, when they halted a commuter train for an hour.¹²⁶³

¹²⁴⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Bangladesh university students launch protests against quotas in jobs again after High Court verdict, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁰ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵¹ New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: JU students block highway for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: JU students block highway for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵² New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵³ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: JU students block highway for 2nd day, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#); Mirror Asia (The), Protest continues against quota system reinstatement, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protests against quota intensify, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁵ Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁶ Daily Star (The), Anti-quota demos rage on across the country, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁷ New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Students block Shahbagh, highway as quota protests intensify, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁸ Financial Express (The), Paris Road's iconic trees at RU on the verge of lifespan, 14 May 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Barisal University students block highway protesting quota reinstatement, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁰ Barta24, University campus in turmoil due to student agitations, 2 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶¹ Dhaka Tribune, Barisal University students block highway protesting quota reinstatement, 2 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota demos rage on across the country, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶² Dhaka Tribune, Public univ students hold protest rallies demanding abolition of quota, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶³ Prothom Alo, Anti-quota protestors halt moving train at BAU in Mymensingh, 3 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Anti-quota protest: BAU students stage demo by halting train movement, 3 July 2024, [url](#)



4–6 July 2024: Protests following the Supreme Court verdict

On 4 July 2024, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's ruling to reinstate the quota, by declaring the government's 2018 circular 'illegal'.¹²⁶⁴ Following the verdict, protests intensified.¹²⁶⁵ Students of Dhaka University repeated their march, and blocked Shahbagh intersection for the third consecutive day.¹²⁶⁶ This time for six hours.¹²⁶⁷ Protest coordinator Nahid Islam announced a new three-day protest programme from Friday to Sunday (5–7 July 2024).¹²⁶⁸ According to local media, members of the Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, locked the university's halls to prevent students from joining the protests¹²⁶⁹ and a large number of students of Dhaka University were reportedly intimidated by Chhatra League leaders and activists.¹²⁷⁰ Meanwhile, thousands of students blocked major highways, including those connecting Dhaka with the cities of Aricha,¹²⁷¹ Chattogram,¹²⁷² Barishal¹²⁷³ and Rajshahi,¹²⁷⁴ as well as Chattogram–Khagrachari highway.¹²⁷⁵ Some highways were blocked for less than an hour, while others were blocked for up to three¹²⁷⁶ and five hours.¹²⁷⁷

Nationwide protests continued at educational institutions on 5 July 2024, including sit-ins and road blockades.¹²⁷⁸ On 6 July 2024, students blocked Shahbagh intersection for an hour,¹²⁷⁹ and also the Dhaka-Mymensing railroad.¹²⁸⁰ The student movement launched the 'Bangla Blockade' initiative, set to start at 15:00 the next day, during which all major intersections and

¹²⁶⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Top court upholds HC verdict reinstating FF quota in govt jobs, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Top court maintains High Court verdict to restore freedom fighter quota for now, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁵ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota protests swell across univs, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁶ Bdnews24.com, Protests calling for quotas to be scrapped block Shahbagh intersection for third day, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁷ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, Quota protest: Students announce demo, class, exam boycott, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁸ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); PrimeNewsbd.net, Pressure mounts on govt amid student protests, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁹ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota reinstatement: University students announce class, exam boycott, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁰ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷¹ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reinstatement JU students block Dhaka-Aricha highway, 4 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷² Daily Star (The), Quota system protest: Comilla University students block Dhaka-Ctg highway for 3hrs, 4 July 2024, [url](#); PrimeNewsbd.net, Pressure mounts on govt amid student protests, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷³ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota protests swell across univs, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁴ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Students block Dhaka-Rajshahi highway demanding quota reform, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁵ New Age, Student protests against quota intensify, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Anti-quota protests swell across univs, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁶ Daily Star (The), Quota system protest: Comilla University students block Dhaka-Ctg highway for 3hrs, 4 July 2024, [url](#); PrimeNewsbd.net, Pressure mounts on govt amid student protests, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁷ Daily Star (The), Anti-quota protests swell across univs, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁸ Business Standard (The), Anti-quota movement intensifies, calls for class, exam boycott, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: Protesters announce Bangla Blockade on Sunday, 6 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protests against quotas: Students go for 'Bangla Blockade', 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁰ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)



roads would be blocked nationwide.¹²⁸¹ They also criticised the government for not making any attempts to initiate a dialogue with the student movement.¹²⁸²

7–10 July 2024: The ‘Bangla Blockade’, and temporary suspension of the quota

Thousands of students from all major universities participated in the ‘Bangla Blockade’ initiative¹²⁸³ by boycotting classes¹²⁸⁴ and blocking key highways and roads across the country.¹²⁸⁵ Traffic was disrupted over the course of three days,¹²⁸⁶ with a one-day pause on 9 July 2024.¹²⁸⁷ In Dhaka, student protesters blocked Shahbagh intersection, and other roads across the capital,¹²⁸⁸ both on 7 July¹²⁸⁹ (which brought traffic in Dhaka City close to a ‘standstill’¹²⁹⁰) and on 8 July 2024.¹²⁹¹ The blockades caused severe disruption to traffic in the capital for the fifth and sixth day since the protests started.¹²⁹² On 10 July 2024, the ‘Bangla Blockade’ resumed with day-long blockades.¹²⁹³ Shabagh intersection was blocked, for about eight hours,¹²⁹⁴ as well as other roads across Dhaka City.¹²⁹⁵

Student protesters also blocked major highways across the country,¹²⁹⁶ cutting of road traffic to and from Dhaka City.¹²⁹⁷ Including those connecting the capital to areas along westbound

¹²⁸¹ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: Protesters announce Bangla Blockade on Sunday, 6 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protests against quotas: Students go for ‘Bangla Blockade’, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸² Business Standard (The), Anti-quota movement intensifies, calls for class, exam boycott, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸³ VOA, Bangladeshi protesters demand end to civil service job quotas, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, PM Hasina rejects anti-quota demands, calls movement unjustified, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁴ Bdnews 24.com, Traffic at a halt in parts of Dhaka as quota protesters block roads, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, Bangla Blockade at Shahbag intersection, suffering traffic, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁵ VOA, Bangladeshi protesters demand end to civil service job quotas, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, PM Hasina rejects anti-quota demands, calls movement unjustified, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁶ Business Standard (The), Dhaka standstill as protest, festival trigger heavy traffic woes, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Train movement in Dhaka halted as students block rail tracks, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Bangla Blockade: Locations likely to be blocked by protesters today, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Anti-quota movement: Bangla Blockade to continue Thursday, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota Reform Demo: Protesters set to resume blockade today, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: DU students block Shahbagh intersection to protest quotas, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Dhaka standstill as protest, festival trigger heavy traffic woes, 7 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁹ Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁰ Business Standard (The), Dhaka standstill as protest, festival trigger heavy traffic woes, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Anti-Quota Movement: ‘Bangla blockade’ to continue on Monday, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹¹ New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹² Bdnews24.com, Traffic mayhem paralyses Dhaka again as anti-quota protesters block roads, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹³ Dhaka Tribune, Anti-quota movement: Bangla Blockade to continue Thursday, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota Reform Demo: Protesters set to resume blockade today, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁴ Prothom Alo, Blockade to continue tomorrow as students left Shahbagh after 8hrs, 10 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Quota protesters want law, not litigation, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁵ Prothom Alo, Blockade to continue tomorrow as students left Shahbagh after 8hrs, 10 July 2024, [url](#);

Jagonews24.com, Quota protest: Blockade brings nation to a standstill, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁶ Business Standard (The), Quota protest: JU students block Dhaka-Aricha highway for 2 hours, boycott classes, exams, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Train movement in Dhaka halted as students block rail tracks, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁷ Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#)



routes (such as Dhaka–Archia, Dhaka–Pabna,¹²⁹⁸ and Dhaka–Rajshahi),¹²⁹⁹ eastbound routes (such as Dhaka–Mymensingh),¹³⁰⁰ southbound routes (such as Dhaka–Chattogram highway,¹³⁰¹ Dhaka–Barishal,¹³⁰² Dhaka–Kuakata,¹³⁰³ and Dhaka–Khulna)¹³⁰⁴ and northbound routes (such as Dhaka–Dinajpur,¹³⁰⁵ and Dhaka–Rangpur).¹³⁰⁶ Additionally protesters blocked highways connecting Sylhet to Sunamganj in the east,¹³⁰⁷ and Kushtia to Khulna in the southwest¹³⁰⁸ and Barishal–Kuakata,¹³⁰⁹ as well as roads in other areas.¹³¹⁰

Train traffic was also disrupted with students blocking the Dhaka–Mymensingh railroad on 7 July 2024,¹³¹¹ and several other rail tracks on 8 July 2024 – which disrupted train traffic for hours. On 8 July 2024, students blocked the Karwan Bazar level crossing in Dhaka City,¹³¹² the Dhaka–Rajshahi railway,¹³¹³ and the Dhaka–Mymensingh railway (for the third consecutive day).¹³¹⁴ They reportedly also blocked Sholshahar station in Chattogram.¹³¹⁵ Consequently, rail

¹²⁹⁸ Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: RU, Ruet students block Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁹ Bdnews24.com, Commuters suffer as quota protest blocks roads to press for 'one-point' demand, 10 July 2024, [url](#); AFP, Bangladesh suspends job quotas after student protests, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁰ Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰¹ Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Students to remain on Dhaka-Chittagong highway till 8pm, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰² Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Barisal University students block highway for 4hrs, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰³ Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁴ Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁵ Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁶ Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Quota protesters want law, not litigation, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁷ Daily Observer, SUST students block Sylhet-Sunamganj highway, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Bangla blockade stalls Dhaka, chokes major highways, 8 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁸ New Age, Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked, 7 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Anti-quota protest: Students block Dhaka-Aricha, Cumilla-Ctg, Kushtia-Khulna highways, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Barisal University students block highway for 4hrs, 10 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Quota protesters want law, not litigation, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁰ Business Standard (The), Anti-quota protest: Students block Dhaka-Aricha, Cumilla-Ctg, Kushtia-Khulna highways, 10 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Quota protesters want law, not litigation, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹¹ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹² Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Train movement in Dhaka halted as students block rail tracks, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹³ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁴ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁵ New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Post (The), Country in deadlock by Bangla blockade, 8 July 2024, [url](#)



tracks connecting Dhaka¹³¹⁶ and Rajshahi to the rest of the country were cut off.¹³¹⁷ Also on 10 July 2024, rail tracks were blocked across the country.¹³¹⁸

Hasina publicly commented on the protests for the first time on 7 July 2024. She denounced them, stating that they were no longer justified and a waste of time following the Supreme Court's verdict.¹³¹⁹ Other senior government officials echoed this sentiment and implied that the protests were 'infiltrated' by the opposition in subsequent public statements.¹³²⁰

Following two petitions,¹³²¹ the Supreme Court temporarily suspended the High Court's verdict on the quota on 10 July 2024,¹³²² for one month.¹³²³

On 10 July 2024, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) (an elite paramilitary force that has been accused of 'serious human rights violations'¹³²⁴) was deployed to contain protests, alongside the police.¹³²⁵ According to UN OHCHR, Hasina authorised military intelligence to carry out 'secret negotiations' with the leaders of the student movement.¹³²⁶

11–13 July 2024: Police start intervening, protests continue

The student movement announced a half-day blockade for 11 July 2024.¹³²⁷ During the first three days of the 'Bangla Blockade', the police did not interfere with protests.¹³²⁸ However, on 11 July 2024, the police announced that it would act against road blockades,¹³²⁹ arguing that no valid justification remained for protests after the temporary suspension of the quota.¹³³⁰

¹³¹⁶ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Train movement in Dhaka halted as students block rail tracks, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁷ Financial Express (The), Quota protests disrupt rail, road transport, 9 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Anti-quota protests rock Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁸ New Age, Quota protesters want law, not litigation, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Jagonews24.com, Quota protest: Blockade brings nation to a standstill, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Anti-quota protest: Students block Dhaka-Aricha, Cumilla-Ctg, Kushtia-Khulna highways, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³¹⁹ Dhaka Tribune, PM Hasina rejects anti-quota demands, calls movement unjustified, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 30

¹³²¹ Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: Traffic halted as protesters block Science Lab, 10 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota Reform Demo: Protesters set to resume blockade today, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²² BBC News, Anger over jobs reserved for war heroes' children, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²³ Dhaka Tribune, Anti-quota movement: Bangla Blockade to continue Thursday, 10 July 2024, [url](#); AFP, Bangladesh's top court suspends job quotas after student protests, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²⁴ Atlantic Council, US sanctions on Bangladesh's RAB: What happened? What's next?, 16 December 2021, [url](#)

¹³²⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 39

¹³²⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 31

¹³²⁷ Daily Messenger (The), Quota protesters observe half-day 'Bangla Blockade' on Thursday, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²⁸ Bdnews24.com, Quota protesters to rally on campuses after 'Bangla Blockade', 11 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka police to take action against road blockades, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³²⁹ Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka police to take action against road blockades, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka police to take action against road blockades, 11 July 2024, [url](#)



Nevertheless, tens of thousands reportedly joined the protests,¹³³¹ defied police barricades,¹³³² and blocked Shahbagh intersection again,¹³³³ as well as major highways¹³³⁴ and rail tracks.¹³³⁵ In Dhaka City, police reportedly prevented students from blocking the Science Lab intersection in the afternoon,¹³³⁶ and prevented students of Dhaka College and Eden Mohila College from joining the Shahbagh blockade by stopping them in New Market area.¹³³⁷ According to Dhaka Tribune, more police officers were deployed in the area compared to previous days, and further reported on police barricades at Victory Square, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Shahbagh, Gulistan, Science Lab, Nilkhet, and Agargaon.¹³³⁸ Students however broke through police barricades, as well as their campus gates that had been locked to prevent protests.¹³³⁹ Police clashed with protesters at She-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Shahbagh.¹³⁴⁰ Somoy TV reported that one of their reporters and a cameraperson were attacked in the same area.¹³⁴¹

Students of Jahangirnagar University also broke through the campus gates and defied police barricades in order to block Dhaka–Aricha highway again.¹³⁴² They reportedly further defied police instructions to end the blockade within 30 minutes and continued for hours.¹³⁴³

At least 30 people were reportedly injured in clashes across the country.¹³⁴⁴ In the city of Cumilla, the police tried to disperse students trying to block a road and a railway¹³⁴⁵ by making use of teargas¹³⁴⁶ and reportedly also by charging with batons¹³⁴⁷ and firing rubber bullets.¹³⁴⁸ 20 people were reportedly injured due to police intervention in Cumilla,¹³⁴⁹ including two

¹³³¹ New York Times (The), Tens of Thousands of Students Protest Job Quotas in Bangladesh's Streets, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³² Daily Star (The), Students block Shahbagh removing police barricade, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³³ Bdnews24.com, Quota protesters to rally on campuses after 'Bangla Blockade', 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: BU students block Barisal-Kuakata highway, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁵ Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Students suspend Bangla Blockade in Science Lab, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁷ Daily Star (The), Quota protests heat up as govt mulls hard line, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Students suspend Bangla Blockade in Science Lab, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³³⁹ Financial Express (The), Protesters scale police cordons, continue demo for executive order, 12 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota protests heat up as govt mulls hard line, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32

¹³⁴¹ Daily Star (The), Quota protests heat up as govt mulls hard line, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴² Financial Express (The), Protesters scale police cordons, continue demo for executive order, 12 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Bangla Blockade: JU students block Dhaka-Aricha highway defying police, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴³ Financial Express (The), Protesters scale police cordons, continue demo for executive order, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁴ Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁵ Bdnews24.com, Quota protesters to rally on campuses after 'Bangla Blockade', 11 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32; AFP, Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32

¹³⁴⁸ AFP, Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁹ Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#); Financial Express (The), Protesters scale police cordons, continue demo for executive order, 12 July 2024, [url](#)



journalists.¹³⁵⁰ Police also clashed with students in the city of Chattogram.¹³⁵¹ According to Agence-France Presse (AFP), police charged with batons at hundreds of protesters.¹³⁵² Police also filed a report accusing students of vandalising police vehicles, and injuring police officers in Shahbagh by beating them up and throwing objects such as water bottles and bricks.¹³⁵³ Local media footage showed protesters mounting a police vehicle in the area.¹³⁵⁴

During a press conference, the President of the Chhatra League, Saddam Hussain, stated that 'some are trying to use the movement politically and the Chhatra League is ready to face them'.¹³⁵⁵ The UN OHCHR later described this statement as an 'apparent threat',¹³⁵⁶ and local media outlet the Business Standard reported on the Chhatra League subsequently staging counter-demonstrations close to student protests.¹³⁵⁷

On 12 July 2024, students across the country protested on their respective campuses against what they referred to as 'attacks' on protesters the previous day.¹³⁵⁸ In Dhaka, students defied heavy rain flooding parts of the city,¹³⁵⁹ and blocked Shahbagh intersection anew, but only for an hour this time, according to local media sources.¹³⁶⁰ Local media also reported on students blocking roads and railways,¹³⁶¹ including students of Rajshahi University blocking a nearby railway in the afternoon.¹³⁶² In the evening, students of Jahangirnagar University¹³⁶³ and other educational institutions nearby held simultaneous torch processions.¹³⁶⁴ Senior government officials, including the Awami League General Secretary, Obaidul Quader, accused the opposition of trying to infiltrate the student protest movement and incite anti-government agitations.¹³⁶⁵ The Minister of Law, Anisul Huq, accused the movement of conspiring with 'ghosts of the culprits' opposing Bangladesh's independence.¹³⁶⁶ The next day, the Detective

¹³⁵⁰ Daily Star (The), Quota protests heat up as govt mulls hard line, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32; AFP, Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵² AFP, Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵³ Daily Observer, Police sue protestors over vandalism, assault, 13 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁴ AFP, Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Chhatra League: Prepared to face those trying to politicise quota protests, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32

¹³⁵⁷ Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁸ Daily Observer, Quota reformists briefly block Shahbagh, protest police attacks, 13 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 'Attacks on students': Countrywide demonstrations at 4:00pm Friday, says protest coordinator, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁹ Financial Express (The), Quota protesters condemn police attacks, 13 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁰ Business Standard (The), Anti-quota protest ends for today after brief rally in Shahbagh, countrywide symbolic meetings announced for tomorrow, 12 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, Anti-quota protesters to announce decision after meeting on Saturday, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶¹ Daily Observer, Quota reformists briefly block Shahbagh, protest police attacks, 13 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶² Business Standard (The), Anti-quota protest ends for today after brief rally in Shahbagh, countrywide symbolic meetings announced for tomorrow, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶³ Financial Express (The), Quota protesters condemn police attacks, 13 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota protest: JU students bring out torch procession on campus, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁴ Financial Express (The), Quota protesters condemn police attacks, 13 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁵ Daily Observer, Quota protesters showing strength against court: Quader, 12 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁶ Daily Observer, 'Ghosts of anti-liberation forces conspiring with quota protestors', 12 July 2024, [url](#)



Branch of Dhaka's Metropolitan Police announced an investigation into alleged infiltration of the protests.¹³⁶⁷

14–17 July 2024: Clashes with the Chhatra League and law enforcement

In the period 14–17 July 2024, student protests continued to mainly take place on or near university campuses across the country.¹³⁶⁸ Chhatra League supporters, and at times also other Awami League supporters, launched attacks against protesters,¹³⁶⁹ which were incited by senior officials, according to UN OHCHR. The same source reported that the police 'consistently failed to intervene' to protect students.¹³⁷⁰ Students however continued to protest and often defended themselves¹³⁷¹ by fighting back.¹³⁷² Meanwhile, '[a]s the Chhatra League was outnumbered and unable to suppress protests, the police 'assumed a more forceful role', as reported by UN OHCHR, and made use of, inter alia, teargas, rubber bullets, and live-loaded shotguns. In some cases, Awami League supporters carried out attacks 'in support of the police', according to the same source.¹³⁷³ Security forces, including para-military units, were deployed to support the police in containing protests, including Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB),¹³⁷⁴ Armed Police Battalions¹³⁷⁵ as well as the Directorate-General of Armed Forces Intelligence (DGFI).¹³⁷⁶

14 July 2024: In the evening, Hasina escalated tensions by a comment that some viewed as insinuating that student protesters were descendants of *razakars*.¹³⁷⁷ Several ministers subsequently overtly labelled student protesters as *razakars* in public statements.¹³⁷⁸ Hasina's comment triggered countrywide protests the same evening, during which students chanted

¹³⁶⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 32; Prothom Alo, Checking if there is infiltration in the quota movement: DB, 13 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 78

¹³⁶⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 79; Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Sun, Despite BCL cranking up violence to intimidate students, quota reformists not cowering, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 36, 37; See also: AI, Bangladesh: Witness testimony, video and photographic analysis confirm police used unlawful force against protesters, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 36

¹³⁷² Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: 3 students injured in Tangail clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 37

¹³⁷⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 7, para. 39; Somoy TV, 14 platoons of Ansar personnel deployed in Dhaka, 17 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: BGB deployed in parts of Bangladesh, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 39; Prothom Alo, No vehicles plying in city's Shanir Akhra, Kazla, Rayerbag, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Quota protesters attack Jatrabari Police Station, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 39

¹³⁷⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 33; Daily Star (The), PM's comment ignites protests across campuses, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 35



sarcastic slogans¹³⁷⁹ such as ‘Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!’.¹³⁸⁰ During the night, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission instructed mobile operators to shut down mobile internet services around major universities.¹³⁸¹ At some campuses, students staging evening protests were attacked by armed Chhatra League supporters¹³⁸² including at:

- **Jahangirnagar University** (Dhaka Division): The Chhatra League attacked students with rods and sticks,¹³⁸³ and threatened female students with sexual violence.¹³⁸⁴
- **Begum Rokeya University** (Rangpur City): Chhatra League supporters attacked students with rods, sticks and knives, in an ‘apparently premediated’ attack, as reported by UN OHCHR.¹³⁸⁵
- **Chittagong University** (Chattogram Division), students were attacked by Chhatra League supporters¹³⁸⁶ that reportedly threw crude bombs.¹³⁸⁷
- **Shahjalal University of Science and Technology** (Sylhet City), students were attacked by Chhatra League supporters¹³⁸⁸ – the Daily Observer reported on 2 000 students clashing with the Chhatra League in front of the central library.¹³⁸⁹

Also at Dhaka University’s campus, students held an evening protest,¹³⁹⁰ and female students broke through the night locks of their dormitories to join it.¹³⁹¹ During the night, Awami League supporters were transported to the campus, some armed with sharp and blunt weapons, and ‘established an intimidating presence’.¹³⁹² The Chhatra League president addressed

¹³⁷⁹ Al Jazeera, ‘We sought rights’: Bangladesh on edge after quota protest turns violent, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁰ Daily Star (The), The ‘Razakar’ back and forth: Who said what?, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 193; Dhaka Tribune, Probe reveals deliberate internet blackout to suppress quota reform movement, 13 August 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 83–84; Business Standard (The), Thousands of quota protesters take to streets as campuses across the country come alive with slogans, 14 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as Chhatra League attacks protesting students at BRUR in Rangpur, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 83; Business Standard (The), Thousands of quota protesters take to streets as campuses across the country come alive with slogans, 14 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as Chhatra League attacks protesting students at BRUR in Rangpur, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83

¹³⁸⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 84

¹³⁸⁶ Country Today (The), Timeline of student-people’s ‘July uprising’, 30 December 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Thousands of quota protesters take to streets as campuses across the country come alive with slogans, 14 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁷ Business Standard (The), Thousands of quota protesters take to streets as campuses across the country come alive with slogans, 14 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁸ Sylhet Mirror, 3 SUST students injured as BCL attacks on quota protestors, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Thousands of quota protesters take to streets as campuses across the country come alive with slogans, 14 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁹ Daily Observer, 3 SUST students injured as BCL attacks on quota protestors, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 34; EFE, Student protests flare up in Bangladesh against job quotas, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 34; Daily Star (The), Women’s role in toppling the govt, 17 August 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 79



supporters on campus, saying that no *razakars* would be left on the streets the next day,¹³⁹³ and called upon Chhatra League leaders in ‘every district, city, university, and educational institution’ to ‘deal’ with protesters.¹³⁹⁴

15 July 2024: senior Awami League officials mobilised the Chhatra League to carry out armed attacks against student protesters at several universities, according to UN OHCHR.¹³⁹⁵ Other sources reported on Quader publicly threatening ‘to send the Chhatra League after student protesters’ in response to their *razakar* slogan.¹³⁹⁶ Following violent clashes with protesters, the Chhatra League claimed to have been provoked by students ‘self-identifying’ as *razakars*,¹³⁹⁷ and mocking ‘Bangladeshi independence’.¹³⁹⁸ About 300 people were reportedly injured in clashes, in which both sides engaged in stone-throwing and beatings with rods.¹³⁹⁹ Some events include:

- **Dhaka University:** competing protests between the student protests and the Chhatra League¹⁴⁰⁰ turned violent as the two sides eventually clashed in front of Bijoy Ekattor Hall.¹⁴⁰¹ The situation escalated,¹⁴⁰² with both sides throwing bricks and other objects at each other,¹⁴⁰³ and engaging in chases and counter-chases with iron rods and sticks.¹⁴⁰⁴ Chhatra League supporters prepositioned around campus, and many were wearing motorcycle helmets¹⁴⁰⁵ and were armed¹⁴⁰⁶ with wooden rods, hockey sticks,

¹³⁹³ Prothom Alo, Quota protesters call demo at 12pm, BCL calls sit-in at 3pm, 15 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 79

¹³⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 79, 272

¹³⁹⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 36

¹³⁹⁶ Odhikar, Third Quarterly Human Rights Report, July-September 2024, 14 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8; See also: Benar News, Over 300 Bangladesh students injured in protests against PM Hasina’s comments, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁷ Al Jazeera, ‘We sought rights’: Bangladesh on edge after quota protest turns violent, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁸ Bdnews24.com, Dhaka University campus awaits duelling rallies from quota protestors, Chhatra League, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁹ Benar News, Over 300 Bangladesh students injured in protests against PM Hasina’s comments, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85; Bdnews24.com, Attack by Chhatra League disperses quota protesters on Dhaka University campus, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85; Daily Star (The), At least 100 injured as BCL activists attack protesters, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴⁰³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85; Daily Star (The), At least 100 injured as BCL activists attack protesters, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Chhatra League takes control of DU campus after clashes, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, DU unrest: No hall closure ordered, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁴ Daily Star (The), At least 100 injured as BCL activists attack protesters, 15 July 2024, [url](#); AFP, 100 injured as Bangladesh’s student groups clash over quotas, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85; Daily Messenger (The), Bullet, cocktail explosions turn DU into battlefield, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Sun, Quota protest witnesses bloody violence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85; Daily Messenger (The), Bullet, cocktail explosions turn DU into battlefield, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, ‘Most of the attackers were outsiders, 20-30 female students injured’, 17 July 2024, [url](#)



and steel pipes,¹⁴⁰⁷ and also machetes, axes, and in some cases, pistols, according to UN OHCHR. The same source reported on some students arming themselves in response, 'with sticks, pipes and bamboo rods'.¹⁴⁰⁸ In the afternoon, Chhatra League supporters launched an attack against student protesters.¹⁴⁰⁹ A witness told the Daily Star that they were chasing, kicking, and beating students with wooden rods.¹⁴¹⁰ UN OHCHR reported that protesters could not escape the campus as Chhatra League supporters were blocking key exits, which pushed many protesters to defend themselves by force.¹⁴¹¹ Female protesters were also attacked.¹⁴¹² A victim told media that the Chhatra League attacked the front of the procession, where most female students were marching.¹⁴¹³ Women protesters were struck with sticks,¹⁴¹⁴ causing head injuries and severe injuries to their hands and feet.¹⁴¹⁵ Witnesses described how some women were beaten while lying on the ground crying,¹⁴¹⁶ and some were also threatened with rape.¹⁴¹⁷ Some female protesters hid in a bus parked on campus,¹⁴¹⁸ but a victim told local media that Chhatra League members dragged out and beat up people.¹⁴¹⁹ The police arrived after 30 minutes, but did not intervene¹⁴²⁰ – even though violence was escalating.¹⁴²¹ Hundreds of people were injured¹⁴²² and many student protesters as well as Chhatra League supporters¹⁴²³ sought care at nearby Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).¹⁴²⁴ Chhatra League supporters entered the facilities several times and maintained presence outside, scaring off students approaching the

¹⁴⁰⁷ Daily Messenger (The), Bullet, cocktail explosions turn DU into battlefield, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, 'Most of the attackers were outsiders, 20-30 female students injured', 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴⁰⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴¹⁰ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴¹¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴¹² Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴¹³ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁴ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴¹⁵ Prothom Alo, 'Most of the attackers were outsiders, 20-30 female students injured', 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁶ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴¹⁸ Daily Messenger (The), Bullet, cocktail explosions turn DU into battlefield, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁹ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁰ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 85

¹⁴²¹ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Chhatra League takes control of DU campus after clashes, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴²² Dhaka Tribune, Chhatra League takes control of DU campus after clashes, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴²³ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴²⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86; Prothom Alo, Over 100 injured taken to DMCH, 15 July 2024, [url](#)



hospital.¹⁴²⁵ In the evening, Chhatra League supporters stormed the hospital,¹⁴²⁶ armed with sticks and wearing helmets,¹⁴²⁷ and beat up students seeking care.¹⁴²⁸ According to UN OHCHR, they caused additional injuries to already injured students, and also beat up medical personnel.¹⁴²⁹ The Daily Star reported that also three injured Chhatra League supporters were beaten up by students at the hospital,¹⁴³⁰ and both sides moreover engaged in chases¹⁴³¹ and hurled brickbats in front of the hospital.¹⁴³²

- **Jahangirnagar University** (Dhaka Division): students held a sit-in protest on campus in the evening.¹⁴³³ The situation escalated in to what local media describe a ‘black night’¹⁴³⁴ of ‘mayhem’,¹⁴³⁵ as a large group of Chhatra League supporters attacked students.¹⁴³⁶ According to UN OHCHR, they were brought to the campus with vehicles, ‘armed with cleavers, knives and firearms’.¹⁴³⁷ Students tried to seek shelter at the vice-chancellor’s residence, but they were not let inside and got ‘trapped’ in front of it,¹⁴³⁸ while the Chhatra League¹⁴³⁹ and other Awami League supporters¹⁴⁴⁰ attacked them by throwing bricks, petrol bombs and other objects.¹⁴⁴¹ Police arrived but initially did not intervene.¹⁴⁴² According to Netra News, an award-winning investigative news platform founded by a journalist in exile,¹⁴⁴³ the police opened a gate which allowed for the attackers to pour in and clash with students trapped inside, ‘creating total chaos for

¹⁴²⁵ Daily Sun, Quota protest witnesses bloody violence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁶ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴²⁷ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁸ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴²⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴³⁰ Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³¹ Prothom Alo, Over 100 injured taken to DMCH, 15 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³² Prothom Alo, Over 100 injured taken to DMCH, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83; Somoy TV, Tension heightens at Jahangirnagar University over quota issue, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁵ Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83; Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83

¹⁴³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83; Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83

¹⁴⁴¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83; Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 83; Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴³ Standford University, FSI, Bangladesh-Focused Investigative Media Outlet Netra News Wins 2025 Shorenstein Journalism Award, 1 May 2025, [url](#)



around an hour'.¹⁴⁴⁴ Thousands of other student protesters came to rescue and chased away the Chhatra League, and attacked the police.¹⁴⁴⁵ Police then fired teargas,¹⁴⁴⁶ blank shots,¹⁴⁴⁷ and used water cannons.¹⁴⁴⁸ There were subsequent confrontations between ruling party supporters and students,¹⁴⁴⁹ and the police reportedly intervened to stop the violence at that points.¹⁴⁵⁰ At a nearby hospital, over 50 persons were reportedly treated overnight, including 30 with pellet wounds.¹⁴⁵¹ Mainly students were injured,¹⁴⁵² but also teachers and journalists,¹⁴⁵³ as well as 10–15 police officers, according to the police.¹⁴⁵⁴

- **Eden Mohila College** (Dhaka City): Chhatra League supporters tried to stop women students from joining demonstrations at Dhaka University.¹⁴⁵⁵ Chhatra League supporters, both male and female,¹⁴⁵⁶ reportedly locked the university entrance so that students could not get out,¹⁴⁵⁷ then they beat up them students,¹⁴⁵⁸ and poured hot water on them.¹⁴⁵⁹
- **Begum Rokeya University** (Rangpur City): Students were attacked by Chhatra League supporters¹⁴⁶⁰ which reportedly had taken position on campus and carried out several attacks and injured at least 15 students, according to Dhaka Tribune.¹⁴⁶¹

¹⁴⁴⁴ Netra News, Notes from a campus under siege, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁵ Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Tension heightens at Jahangirnagar University over quota issue, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁷ Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Tension heightens at Jahangirnagar University over quota issue, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Tension heightens at Jahangirnagar University over quota issue, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵¹ Al Jazeera, Student protests over Bangladesh job quota leave at least 100 injured, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵² Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵³ Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC's residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Dozens injured in midnight mayhem at JU, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 87; Daily Star (The), 4 Eden College students injured after being assaulted by 'BCL activists', 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 87

¹⁴⁵⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Students gather at DU to protest PM's quota movement comment, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁸ Daily Star (The), 4 Eden College students injured after being assaulted by 'BCL activists', 15 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 87

¹⁴⁵⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 87; Daily Observer, Eden College leftist leader among several injured in BCL attack, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 84; Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as Chhatra League attacks protesting students at BRUR in Rangpur, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶¹ Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as Chhatra League attacks protesting students at BRUR in Rangpur, 15 July 2024, [url](#)



During the night, the mobile internet shutdown was expanded to 59 university areas.¹⁴⁶²

16 July 2024: students clashed with police¹⁴⁶³ and Chhatra League members in several places across the country.¹⁴⁶⁴ UN OHCHR reported on the police, as of this day, engaging in ‘use of force violations’ to prevent students from protesting.¹⁴⁶⁵ Other sources reported on hundreds being injured in clashes,¹⁴⁶⁶ and six persons being killed.¹⁴⁶⁷ These were the first deaths connected to the protests,¹⁴⁶⁸ and among the victims was protest coordinator Abu Sayed, who was shot in the chest by police forces on a distance of 15 meters, while having his arms wide open towards them, ‘posing no apparent physical threat’, as described by Amnesty International.¹⁴⁶⁹ Footage of his killing circulated online, and mobilised more protesters.¹⁴⁷⁰ Around this time, many students of private universities joined the protests, out of solidarity with public university students that had been violently attacked.¹⁴⁷¹ Following deadly clashes on 16 July 2024,¹⁴⁷² the University Grants Commission ordered all public and private universities to close, including dormitories, to ensure students’ safety.¹⁴⁷³ The government moreover filed leave to appeal the High Court verdict on the quota,¹⁴⁷⁴ and Quader, the Awami League Secretary-General, called upon students to patiently await this coming court decision. Quader, however, again accused the movement of being infiltrated by the opposition, and ‘on behalf of our leader’ he called upon Awami League supporters to ‘take position’ in every ward across the country ‘to resist the evil forces.’¹⁴⁷⁵ Some events of this day included:

- **Dhaka University and other parts of Dhaka City:** Following the previous day’s attacks, student protesters retaliated and violently ousted Chhatra League supporters from their dormitories.¹⁴⁷⁶ Students reportedly stormed dorms in the morning, vandalised rooms of Chhatra League leaders, and chased away its supporters.¹⁴⁷⁷ A large protest in Science Laboratory area close to Dhaka College,¹⁴⁷⁸ was attacked by prepositioned

¹⁴⁶² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 193; Dhaka Tribune, Probe reveals deliberate internet blackout to suppress quota reform movement, 13 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶³ Daily Star (The), Quota reform protest violence: 6 killed across the country, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁴ New Age, Six killed as clashes erupt all over, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 274

¹⁴⁶⁶ New Age, Six killed as clashes erupt all over, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 37

¹⁴⁶⁸ AI, Bangladesh: Further video and photographic analysis confirm police unlawfully used lethal and less-lethal weapons against protesters, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁹ AI, What is happening at the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh?, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 37; BBC News, Videos reveal brutality that left scores dead in Bangladesh protests, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷¹ Daily Star (The), Universities closed until further notice, 16 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 37

¹⁴⁷² New Age, Six killed as clashes erupt all over, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷³ Daily Star (The), Universities closed until further notice, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Govt files leave to appeal against High Court verdict on quota system, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁵ Business Standard (The), Quader asks party men to take position to resist ‘evil forces’, 17 July 2024, [url](#); See also: Prothom Alo, Our existence has come under attack, we must resist it: Obaidul Quader, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 86

¹⁴⁷⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Dorm rooms of DU Chhatra League president, general secretary vandalized, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88; Daily Star (The), Science Lab turns into battlefield, 16 July 2024, [url](#)



Chhatra League supporters and ‘affiliated local workers’,¹⁴⁷⁹ some of which were wearing helmets and carried sticks, machetes¹⁴⁸⁰ and pipes.¹⁴⁸¹ Chases and counter-chases followed,¹⁴⁸² and students threw bricks and used makeshift weapons. Students could stand their ground due to their superiority in numbers, according to UN OHCHR, that further reported on the clash continuing for hours without the police intervening.¹⁴⁸³ Two persons died,¹⁴⁸⁴ reportedly by being beaten to death,¹⁴⁸⁵ including one Awami League supporter.¹⁴⁸⁶ UN OHCHR reported on students protesting also in Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka, where a dozen of Chhatra League supporters opened fire with small pistols, injuring at least four students.¹⁴⁸⁷ The Associated Press, referring to local media, reported on violence continuing in the evening, with police firing teargas and rubber bullets at protesters blocking streets, detonating explosives, and setting a toll booth on fire.¹⁴⁸⁸ The Daily Star reported on students protesting in front of the vice-chancellor’s residence at Dhaka University in the evening, criticising the deaths of fellow students. Some carried sticks and iron rods, and a person suspected of being a Chhatra League member was reportedly beaten up by protesters.¹⁴⁸⁹

- **Jahangirnagar University** (Dhaka Division): local media reported on a tense atmosphere following the violence of the previous night.¹⁴⁹⁰ Students armed with sticks took strategic positions around campus in the morning.¹⁴⁹¹ As reported by Dhaka Tribune, students from at least five nearby educational institutions gathered at the gates in the morning, to express their solidarity with the student protest movement, and later over 1 000 students participated in demonstrations¹⁴⁹² lasting throughout the day.¹⁴⁹³

¹⁴⁷⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88

¹⁴⁸⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88; Bdnews24.com, Pitched battle at Science Lab during quota protest, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88

¹⁴⁸² Prothom Alo, 5 protesters shot, over 100 injured in clash with BCL, Jubo League men at Science Lab, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Pitched battle at Science Lab during quota protest, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88

¹⁴⁸⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: Another killed in Science Lab area clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁵ Prothom Alo, 5 protesters shot, over 100 injured in clash with BCL, Jubo League men at Science Lab, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88

¹⁴⁸⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 88

¹⁴⁸⁸ AP, Violent clashes erupt between police and protesters in Dhaka even after 6 die during campus protests, 17 Jul 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁹ Daily Star (The), Universities closed until further notice, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Tension heightens at Jahangirnagar University over quota issue, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹¹ Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 6 killed in Dhaka, Ctg, Rangpur as quota protesters, police, BCL activists clash, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹² Dhaka Tribune, Black Night: Chhatra League men attack JU protesters at VC’s residence, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹³ Business Standard (The), 6 killed in Dhaka, Ctg, Rangpur as quota protesters, police, BCL activists clash, 17 July 2024, [url](#)



- **Begum Rokeya University** (Rangpur City): thousands of students demonstrated around the university.¹⁴⁹⁴ A group of students clashed with the Chhatra League outside one of the gates, and the police intervened.¹⁴⁹⁵ According to UN OHCHR, police charged with batons and sticks at students, alongside the Chhatra League, and also fired teargas and ‘shotguns loaded with lethal metal pellets’ at protesters.¹⁴⁹⁶ Hundreds were injured,¹⁴⁹⁷ including many students being injured by police fire,¹⁴⁹⁸ as well as 10 journalists and several police officers.¹⁴⁹⁹ One of those killed was protest coordinator Abu Sayed,¹⁵⁰⁰ whose killing was referred to by UN OHCHR as a ‘deliberate extrajudicial killing’.¹⁵⁰¹ In the same evening, students torched the vice-chancellor’s residence and looted the ground floor, while 15–20 staff members were inside the building.¹⁵⁰²
- **Rajshahi University** (Rajshahi City): Somoy TV reported on day-long clashes between student protesters and the Chhatra League,¹⁵⁰³ as well as the police¹⁵⁰⁴ which reportedly fired teargas and rubber bullets.¹⁵⁰⁵
- **Chattogram City**: as protesters approached the Sholoshahar Railway station, to repeat a protest staged the previous day,¹⁵⁰⁶ they were attacked by prepositioned ruling party supporters¹⁵⁰⁷ armed with sticks and firearms, according to the major local media outlet Prothom Alo.¹⁵⁰⁸ In response, students threw bricks, and a chase-counter chase broke out.¹⁵⁰⁹ According to Dhaka Tribune, ‘cocktail explosions were reported during the chaos’.¹⁵¹⁰ In the afternoon, 15 Chhatra League activists were reportedly ‘severely beaten’ by student protesters at a rooftop, from where they had been throwing bricks.¹⁵¹¹ Some Chhatra League activists were thrown off the six-storey building, while

¹⁴⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 19, 21

¹⁴⁹⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Violent clashes at Rokeya University leave student dead, dozens injured, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), How Abu Sayeed was shot and killed in Rangpur during clash between police and protesters, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 19

¹⁴⁹⁷ Benar News, At least 6 killed in Bangladesh student protests, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 19

¹⁴⁹⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Violent clashes at Rokeya University leave student dead, dozens injured, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 19, 21

¹⁵⁰¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 19, 21

¹⁵⁰² Daily Star (The), Universities closed until further notice, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰³ Somoy TV, Rajshahi University shut indefinitely, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁴ Somoy TV, Rajshahi University shut indefinitely, 17 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: Clash erupts at RU, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: Clash erupts at RU, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Chittagong's Sholoshahar turns turbulent over quota reform protest, 15 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁷ Prothom Alo, Quota reform: Three die during clash in Chattogram, two bear bullet wounds, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Third body found after clashes between pro-AL activists and quota protesters in Chattogram, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁸ Prothom Alo, Quota reform: Three die during clash in Chattogram, two bear bullet wounds, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁹ Prothom Alo, Quota reform: Three die during clash in Chattogram, two bear bullet wounds, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: 3 killed in Chittagong Chhatra League-protester clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁰ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: 3 killed in Chittagong Chhatra League-protester clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹¹ Dhaka Tribune, 15 Chhatra League activists allegedly thrown from six-storey building, 17 July 2024, [url](#)



others were forced to fall while trying to escape by climbing down the pipes.¹⁵¹² Three persons died in clashes,¹⁵¹³ including two students¹⁵¹⁴ and a bystander.¹⁵¹⁵ The police told media that they had not been using force,¹⁵¹⁶ although the BGB was deployed in the city.¹⁵¹⁷ However, one student told Dhaka Tribune that the police had been firing rubber bullets and teargas.¹⁵¹⁸

17 July 2024: protests continued and the police violently suppressed them, in some cases with the support of paramilitary forces, as well as of Awami League supporters.¹⁵¹⁹ In some ‘protest hotspots’ the police resorted to ‘extensive shooting’, according to UN OHCHR.¹⁵²⁰ At least 19 people, as reported by Deutsche Welle (DW), died in clashes between students and police.¹⁵²¹ Another major protest was held on Dhaka University’s campus, despite heavy presence of police, RAB and BGB, armed with rifles. Police deployed outside campus prevented people from joining, and Awami League supporters beat up and handed over protesters to the police, according to UN OHCHR.¹⁵²² On campus, students held funeral prayers in absentia for those killed the previous day.¹⁵²³ Security forces initially did not intervene,¹⁵²⁴ but in the afternoon when the students were carrying symbolic coffins around campus¹⁵²⁵ the police fired rubber bullets,¹⁵²⁶ teargas and sound grenades,¹⁵²⁷ and reportedly also used batons.¹⁵²⁸ In response, students reportedly threw bricks.¹⁵²⁹ According to UN OHCHR, the police used ‘unnecessary and disproportionate force’ on orders of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police command. Police reportedly fired about ‘100 rounds of tear gas’ in 40

¹⁵¹² Dhaka Tribune, 15 Chhatra League activists allegedly thrown from six-storey building, 17 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, ‘He works for the Chhatra League. Kill him’, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹³ Prothom Alo, Quota reform: Three die during clash in Chattogram, two bear bullet wounds, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁴ Reuters, Five killed in violent anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Third body found after clashes between pro-AL activists and quota protesters in Chattogram, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁵ Daily Star (The), Faruk’s family stares at a bleak future, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁶ Reuters, Five killed in violent anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, 16 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: 3 killed in Chittagong Chhatra League-protester clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: 3 killed in Chittagong Chhatra League-protester clash, 16 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁸ Dhaka Tribune, 15 Chhatra League activists allegedly thrown from six-storey building, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. i, 31, para. 39, 274

¹⁵²⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 121

¹⁵²¹ DW, Bangladesh: Protesters set light to state broadcaster, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵²² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. i, 23

¹⁵²³ Business Standard (The), Quota Reform Movement: Police-Student Clash in DU After Gaybana Janaza, 17 July 2024, [url](#); Report (The), Police-student clashes ongoing in Dhaka University, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. i, 23

¹⁵²⁵ Report (The), Police-student clashes ongoing in Dhaka University, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁶ DW, Bangladesh PM vows justice for 6 killed in student protests, 17 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. i

¹⁵²⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 23; Business Standard (The), Quota Reform Movement: Police-Student Clash in DU After Gaybana Janaza, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. i, 23

¹⁵²⁹ Report (The), Police-student clashes ongoing in Dhaka University, 17 July 2024, [url](#)



minutes, 'causing many students to scramble to escape the toxic smoke'. A female student also told UN OHCHR that several police officers 'kicked, slapped and verbally abused her.'¹⁵³⁰

In an address to the nation in the evening,¹⁵³¹ Hasina called upon the students to be patient and await the appeal of the High Court verdict on the quota, scheduled for early August 2024.¹⁵³² Hasina further expressed her condolences of those who had died, and announced the formation of a judicial inquiry to investigate their deaths. However, she attributed the violence to 'terrorists' taking advantage of the protest movement,¹⁵³³ and did not address the security forces' use of force. This reportedly made her statement come out as 'insincere' to students.¹⁵³⁴ The coordinators of the student movement therefore called for a 'complete shutdown' of the country on the following day (18 July 2024).¹⁵³⁵ BNP pledged support to the shutdown,¹⁵³⁶ and later another main opposition party, Jamaat-e-Islami, also expressed solidarity with the student movement and called upon its members to support it.¹⁵³⁷ The government made attempts to negotiate, but the students were 'no longer amenable', doubting its intentions following the violence against protesters, according to UN OHCHR.¹⁵³⁸

18–19 July 2024: Protests generalise, security forces apply lethal force

The general public took to the streets and joined the protests,¹⁵³⁹ including many high-school students.¹⁵⁴⁰ Protesters blocked key roads,¹⁵⁴¹ and disrupted traffic across the country.¹⁵⁴² Some protesters also engaged in vandalism and set dozens of government establishments and vehicles on fire.¹⁵⁴³ The police, RAB and BGB intensified their efforts to stop protests, and switched to 'a lethal force paradigm', as reported by UN OHCHR, making use of live

¹⁵³⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 23

¹⁵³¹ Barta24, Prime Minister called upon the students to have patience till the verdict of the court, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³² Al Jazeera, Bangladesh job quota protesters call for nationwide shutdown, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Barta24, Prime Minister called upon the students to have patience till the verdict of the court, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³³ Somoy TV, What did PM Hasina say in her address to the nation?, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 41, 247

¹⁵³⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 41; Prothom Alo, Quota protestors announce nationwide 'complete shutdown' for tomorrow, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³⁶ Daily Star (The), BNP pledges full support to 'complete shutdown', 17 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵³⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 41

¹⁵³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 41

¹⁵³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 43, 91; VOA, Student protesters return to Bangladesh streets despite violent crackdown, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁰ VOA, Student protesters return to Bangladesh streets despite violent crackdown, 19 July 2024, [url](#); AFP, Why are Bangladeshi students protesting?, 19 July 2024, [url](#); See also: Prothom Alo, 'How can someone kill a human this way': Rahat's mother wants her son back, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 43

¹⁵⁴² AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴³ Daily Star (The), Dozens of govt establishments set ablaze, 20 July 2024, [url](#)



ammunition.¹⁵⁴⁴ Police and security forces carried weapons commonly used for warfare,¹⁵⁴⁵ including automatic rifles and machine guns.¹⁵⁴⁶ Meanwhile, internet access was severely restricted, disconnecting Bangladesh from the world,¹⁵⁴⁷ up until 23 July 2024.¹⁵⁴⁸ Some sources accuse the government of shutting down internet to cover up serious violations.¹⁵⁴⁹

Protesters clashed with police,¹⁵⁵⁰ and Awami League supporters,¹⁵⁵¹ who carried out attacks and tandem against protesters.¹⁵⁵² AFP reported on nation-wide clashes in almost half of the country's 64 districts.¹⁵⁵³ Security forces shot against protesters with, inter alia, military rifles, and shotguns loaded with metal pellets,¹⁵⁵⁴ in some cases at a 'point blank' range.¹⁵⁵⁵ UN OHCHR reported on an 'apparent pattern of security forces firing lethal ammunition at protesters who did not pose an imminent threat', and on situations where security forces 'deliberately' aimed at and killed protesters who were already incapacitated, including children.¹⁵⁵⁶ Approximately 100 people reportedly died on 18 July 2024, and almost 300 on 19 July 2024,¹⁵⁵⁷ including students, journalists and bystanders.¹⁵⁵⁸ AFP reported that more than half of the protest-related deaths recorded by this time had been caused by police fire.¹⁵⁵⁹ Netra News reported on hundreds of men, women and children, seeking care at one hospital in Dhaka alone 'after being attacked by the police'.¹⁵⁶⁰ Many also suffered injuries to their eyes after having been shot in the face by rubber and lethal bullets.¹⁵⁶¹ In some cases, security

¹⁵⁴⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 43, 105–107

¹⁵⁴⁵ Prothom Alo, Analysis of 150 deaths: 113 of the deceased young, 45 students, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁶ Daily Star (The), Count of a carnage: about 95pc killed by gunshots, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁷ Netra News, Bangladesh disconnected and unreachable from the world, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 44

¹⁵⁴⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 288; New York Times (The), An Unbending Leader's Crackdown Rains Carnage on Bangladesh, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁰ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵¹ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota reform protests: Overall death toll today rises to 23, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 105–107; Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵³ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh bans rallies as violent protests spiral out of control, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁴ Lethal in Disguise, Bangladesh: Ban Pellet Guns now, October 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 43

¹⁵⁵⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii; New York Times (The), An Unbending Leader's Crackdown Rains Carnage on Bangladesh, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 104

¹⁵⁵⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 119

¹⁵⁵⁸ Al, What is happening at the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh?, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁹ France24, Protesters storm prison in Bangladesh, death toll from anti-quota clashes tops 100, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁰ Netra News, Scenes from a besieged city, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶¹ New York Times (The), An Unbending Leader's Crackdown Rains Carnage on Bangladesh, 23 July 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Shot in the eyes, victims of Bangladesh protest violence face dark future, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Shot during protests, they now stare at a bleak future, 23 August 2024, [url](#)



forces obstructed medical care of protesters,¹⁵⁶² for example by firing teargas in front of medical establishments.¹⁵⁶³

The police stated that police cars were vandalised,¹⁵⁶⁴ and that hundreds of police officers were injured in clashes in Dhaka.¹⁵⁶⁵ According to Prothom Alo, 259 police staff received treatment at Dhaka's Central Police Hospital in 16–20 July 2024. Most suffered head injuries. Some police officers explained how their helmets had been removed during severe beatings with blunt weapons, or how they had been attacked merely by being recognised as police personnel, including off duty.¹⁵⁶⁶

Clashes between protesters and the police and Awami League supporters took place in various locations in Dhaka City.¹⁵⁶⁷ The Daily Star described the neighbourhoods of Jatrabari, Shonir Akhra, Uttara, and Mohammadpur as 'protest hotspots' in the period 18–20 July 2024.¹⁵⁶⁸ The police fired teargas and charged with batons against protesters, who retaliated by throwing stones.¹⁵⁶⁹ The police and security forces opened fire against protesters in various neighbourhoods, including Uttara,¹⁵⁷⁰ Savar,¹⁵⁷¹ Azimpur,¹⁵⁷² and Badda/Rampura.¹⁵⁷³ Teargas was also launched from police or RAB helicopters in Mirpur, Mohakhali and Dhanmondi.¹⁵⁷⁴

Following an violent attack against the state-run broadcaster Bangladesh Television, the government 'reinforced orders authorising security forces to resort to lethal force', and instructed BGB to 'use maximum force', according to UN OHCHR.¹⁵⁷⁵ According to the same source, referring to testimonies from senior officials, the prime minister instructed security force officials to shoot protesters and to arrest, kill and hide the bodies of the movement's

¹⁵⁶² AI, What is happening at the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh?, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 149; Nutshell_today [Instagram], posted on: 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁴ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁵ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh bans rallies as violent protests spiral out of control, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁶ Prothom Alo, Police members mostly sustain head injuries, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁷ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reform: Clashes erupt in Badda, other Dhaka areas, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁸ Daily Star (The), Hastily buried in unmarked graves, 12 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁹ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷⁰ Peoples Dispatch, Police intensify repression of student protests in Bangladesh, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷¹ Dhaka Tribune, Quota reinstatement: Student dies amid clash in Savar, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Student killed in clash between protesters and police, AL activists, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 104, 106; Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 104, 107; Bdnews24.com, Police clash with protesters from BRAC University in Dhaka's Merul Badda, 18 July 2024, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: Further Video and Photographic Analysis Confirm Police Unlawfully used Lethal and Less Lethal Weapons against Protesters, 25 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 139

¹⁵⁷⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii, para. 116



ringleaders.¹⁵⁷⁶ During the night to 19 July 2024, the DGFI and DB arrested six coordinators,¹⁵⁷⁷ some of them endured torture while in detention.¹⁵⁷⁸

On 19 July 2024, clashes between police and protesters escalated further in Dhaka.¹⁵⁷⁹ The Dhaka Metropolitan Police issued a ban on rallies,¹⁵⁸⁰ but nevertheless protesters ‘occupied’ various areas of the city.¹⁵⁸¹ Police fired rubber bullets at crowds, which triggered clashes and chases between police and protesters.¹⁵⁸² Various neighbourhoods descended into chaos,¹⁵⁸³ in particular Uttara, Jatrabari, Badda, Rampura, Mohakhali, Science Laboratory, Paltan, Mirpur-10, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, Nilkhet and Old Dhaka, according to Prothom Alo.¹⁵⁸⁴ Thousands of protesters armed with sticks and rocks clashed with police,¹⁵⁸⁵ torched government and private establishments, while the police fired ‘huge amounts’ of teargas, rubber bullets, stray bullets and sound grenades, according to Prothom Alo.¹⁵⁸⁶ Security forces moreover made use of helicopters to drop sound grenades and teargas at protesters,¹⁵⁸⁷ and according to some accounts also gunfire.¹⁵⁸⁸ Netra News reported on RAB helicopters firing ‘indiscriminately’ at crowds in Dhaka,¹⁵⁸⁹ inter alia killing a young child playing at a roof top.¹⁵⁹⁰ From this day onwards, ‘BGB, Police and RAB, shot even more extensively at mixed crowds of peaceful protesters and violent rioters’; in some cases they ‘deliberately killed or maimed victims, including children, by shooting them at point blank range’, as reported by UN OHCHR. The same source reported on ‘an apparent pattern’ of the police, RAB and BGB resorting to ‘indiscriminate’ firing at entire crowds when some protesters engaged in violence.¹⁵⁹¹ This led to many bystanders, including children inside their homes being shot dead.¹⁵⁹² The BGB, RAB,

¹⁵⁷⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 117

¹⁵⁷⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 173

¹⁵⁷⁸ Odhikar, Third Quarterly Human Rights Report, July-September 2024, 14 November 2024, [url](#), para. 17–19

¹⁵⁷⁹ Al, Bangladesh: Further information: Thousands of protesters arrested arbitrarily: Rony Sheikh, 9 August 2024, [url](#); Benar News, Photos: Death toll soars in Bangladesh unrest, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁰ Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bangladesh bans rallies as violent protests spiral out of control, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸¹ Netra News, Scores dead as Bangladeshi authorities intensify crackdown on protests, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸² Netra News, Scores dead as Bangladeshi authorities intensify crackdown on protests, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸³ Le Monde, Violent crackdown on student protests plunges Bangladesh into chaos, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁴ Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁵ Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Sky News, At least 39 killed as students clash with police in Bangladesh over jobs reserved for veterans' families, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁶ Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁷ Prothom Alo, At least 103 lives lost in three days of clash, 24 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 139; Netra News, Why parents filed no complaints for killing of fifth grader, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁸ Le Monde, Violent crackdown on student protests plunges Bangladesh into chaos, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Netra News, Why parents filed no complaints for killing of fifth grader, 25 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Tales of 10 women killed in July uprising, 8 September 2025, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 140, 168; Netra News, Scenes from a besieged city, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁹ Netra News, Scenes from a besieged city, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁰ Daily Star (The), Tales of 10 women killed in July uprising, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 114, 276–277

¹⁵⁹² Diplomat (The), Bangladesh Carnage: The Facts that Belie the Government Narrative, 1 August 2024, [url](#)



and ‘others’ (including Awami League supporters¹⁵⁹³) also shot at crowds in many places in Dhaka and other parts of the country.¹⁵⁹⁴

In the evening of 19 July 2024, the government issued a national curfew, and deployed the military to maintain order.¹⁵⁹⁵ From that day on, security forces arrested many opposition leaders and activists of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami¹⁵⁹⁶ and Bangladesh Jatiya Party.¹⁵⁹⁷ The police,¹⁵⁹⁸ DB,¹⁵⁹⁹ and RAB were reportedly involved in these arrests,¹⁶⁰⁰ and placed many victims in DB custody,¹⁶⁰¹ where they were ‘extensively interrogated and often subjected to torture and other ill-treatment’, according to UN OHCHR, that further reported on senior police officials sometimes being directly involved in such treatment.¹⁶⁰² Security forces furthermore carried out so-called ‘block raids’, in which entire housing blocks or areas were raided in several locations in Dhaka and other parts of the country.¹⁶⁰³ According to UN OHCHR, this was part of a campaign of ‘mass arbitrary arrests’ to quell protests.¹⁶⁰⁴

Some events on 18–19 July 2024 include:

Uttara (Dhaka City): on 18 July 2024, the police tried to violently disperse protesters¹⁶⁰⁵ that were blocking a road,¹⁶⁰⁶ by using teargas, rubber bullets, and sound grenades while being ‘reinforced by RAB, Armed Police Battalions, BGB, Ansar’ as well as ‘armed Awami League

¹⁵⁹³ Netra News, Bangladesh protests 2024, 18 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 91; Dhaka Tribune, July Revolution: Armed attackers who disrupted movement remain at large in Barisal, 26 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 44

¹⁵⁹⁵ AP, Bangladesh imposes nationwide curfew as deadly protests over government jobs escalate, 19 July 2024, [url](#); Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁶ Prothom Alo, At least 550 arrested all over country in 5 days, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177

¹⁵⁹⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177; Daily Star (The), Quota protests: DB picks up three organisers from hospital, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177; Daily Star (The), Protest organisers: 2 more in DB custody ‘for their security’, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177; Daily Star (The), Recent violence: Rab arrests 290 more people, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177; Daily Star (The), Quota protests: DB picks up three organisers from hospital, 27 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protest organisers: 2 more in DB custody ‘for their security’, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 177; Daily Star (The), Quota protests: DB picks up three organisers from hospital, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰³ AA, 147 people killed in Bangladesh student protests, minister confirms, 28 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Block raids unnerve city residents, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 162

¹⁶⁰⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24; Peoples Dispatch, Police intensify repression of student protests in Bangladesh, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁶ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a ‘complete shutdown’, 18 July 2024, [url](#)



supporters'.¹⁶⁰⁷ Protesters reportedly retaliated by throwing bricks at the police and also vandalised a traffic police box and two buses. A chase-counter chase broke out between protesters and the police.¹⁶⁰⁸ As the situation escalated in the early afternoon, police and the RAB reportedly fired military rifles at protesters from different locations, including the rooftop of Uttara Police Station and from an armoured vehicle driving at protesters.¹⁶⁰⁹ At least six deaths were recorded,¹⁶¹⁰ and hundreds suffered gunshot wounds,¹⁶¹¹ including some shot in the head¹⁶¹² or eyes.¹⁶¹³ In one case, security forces killed a young man distributing water to protesters by shooting him in the forehead.¹⁶¹⁴ On 19 July 2024, clashes resumed, with police and armed Awami League supporters storming alleys and firing 'indiscriminately'.¹⁶¹⁵ Among others, a 15-year-old girl was shot dead on her balcony while observing the clashes.¹⁶¹⁶ UN OHCHR reported that armed Awami League supporters, led by party officials, shot at protesters near the local Crescent Hospital.¹⁶¹⁷

Badda/Rampura (Dhaka City): on 18 July 2024, the police reportedly chased hundreds of protesters outside BRAC university, that retaliated by throwing brickbats.¹⁶¹⁸ As protests 'spilled over' into Rampura, protesters also vandalised a traffic police box and torched several motorcycles.¹⁶¹⁹ The police fired teargas into the BRAC university campus,¹⁶²⁰ an enclosed space, injuring 30 people.¹⁶²¹ One bystander told Prothom Alo that he was shot with 22 pellets in his chest, forehead, hands and eyes.¹⁶²² Chases and counter-chases took place,¹⁶²³ and some police officers sought shelter inside the Canadian University, from where they were rescued by RAB helicopters.¹⁶²⁴ In the evening, 'several thousand protesters'¹⁶²⁵ stormed Bangladesh Television¹⁶²⁶ and set parts of the building on fire while staff were trapped

¹⁶⁰⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24

¹⁶⁰⁸ Dhaka Tribune, Clash in Uttara leaves police box, 2 buses vandalized, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24

¹⁶¹⁰ AP, 19 more die in Bangladesh clashes as student protesters try to impose a 'complete shutdown', 18 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24

¹⁶¹¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24

¹⁶¹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24; Daily Star (The), A promising life cut short by bullet, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶¹³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 24; Dhaka Tribune, Four killed, hundreds injured in Uttara clashes, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁴ Daily Star (The), A promising life cut short by bullet, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁵ Daily Star (The), Tales of 10 women killed in July uprising, 8 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁶ Prothom Alo, Bullet hits little Ahad in the eye and lodges in his head, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 93

¹⁶¹⁸ Daily Observer, 10 hurt as police fire rubber bullets, teargas shells at BRACU students, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁹ Daily Star (The), Police clash with BRAC University students, lob tear gas shells at campus, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁰ Daily Observer, 10 hurt as police fire rubber bullets, teargas shells at BRACU students, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²¹ AI, Bangladesh: Further Video and Photographic Analysis Confirm Police Unlawfully used Lethal and Less Lethal Weapons against Protesters, 25 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶²² Prothom Alo, They are on verge of losing their eyesight, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²³ Prothom Alo, Police members mostly sustain head injuries, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁴ France24, State TV set ablaze, death toll rises as student protests roil Bangladesh, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Rab helicopter airlifts stranded cops from university rooftop, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁵ BBC News, Bangladesh issues high security alert as deadly protests escalate, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁶ DW, Bangladesh: Protesters set light to state broadcaster, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

inside.¹⁶²⁷ On 19 July 2024, protests escalated into widespread violence,¹⁶²⁸ with protesters clashing with police and BGB throughout the day.¹⁶²⁹ According to UN OHCHR, security forces tried to protect the headquarters of Bangladesh Television, and BGB and the police fired lethal ammunition ‘indiscriminately’ at crowds. Witnesses recounted how security forces cornered protesters from three sides before opening fire simultaneously, and on bullets ‘dropping down [...] like rain’.¹⁶³⁰ An Associated Press reporter witnessed the BGB firing rifles and sound grenades at over 1 000 protesters, while police fired teargas and rubber bullets. According to the reporter ‘[b]ullets littered the streets’.¹⁶³¹ Some protesters threw bricks in retaliation, and also vandalised shops and government offices – including the Rampura Police station.¹⁶³² UN OHCHR reported that security forces shot dead persons who posed no threat, at a very close range, including individuals trying to flee or pleading for their lives.¹⁶³³ People in nearby buildings were hit by bullets penetrating walls. ‘[O]ne hospital in the area received more than 600 injured patients and 20 dead bodies, including children as young as 10 years old’.¹⁶³⁴

Jatrabari (Dhaka City): according to Bdnews24.com, Jatrabari turned into a ‘battlefield’, with clashes starting already in the evening of 17 July 2024 and the night to 18 July 2024, and continuing day and night for five days.¹⁶³⁵ On 18 July 2024, protesters clashed with the police that fired teargas, rubber bullets and sound grenades,¹⁶³⁶ while Awami League supporters ‘joined forces with police’ and attacked protesters by throwing bricks, according to the Daily Star. The same source reported on the police and RAB firing ‘several hundred rounds from shotguns’,¹⁶³⁷ while UN OHCHR reported that ‘the police fired shotguns with lethal metal pellets at mixed crowds’, including unarmed protesters. UN OHCHR further reported on the police firing from an anti-riot vehicle while running over protesters.¹⁶³⁸ A journalist was shot dead by police while covering the protest,¹⁶³⁹ his chest was reportedly ‘riddled’ with bullets.¹⁶⁴⁰ Hundreds of Awami League supporters also carried out an attack at Muzahid Nogar Central Mosque in Rayerbagh and killed two elderly men, according to UN OHCHR. According to the

¹⁶²⁷ BBC News, Bangladesh issues high security alert as deadly protests escalate, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁸ Daily Star (The), Horror engulfs Badda, Rampura as bullets fly, 20 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 28

¹⁶²⁹ Daily Star (The), Horror engulfs Badda, Rampura as bullets fly, 20 July 2024, [url](#);

¹⁶³⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 20, para. 44, 120

¹⁶³¹ AP, Bangladesh imposes nationwide curfew as deadly protests over government jobs escalate, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶³² Daily Star (The), Horror engulfs Badda, Rampura as bullets fly, 20 July 2024, [url](#);

¹⁶³³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 20, para. 44, 120

¹⁶³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 20, para. 44, 120

¹⁶³⁵ Bdnews24.com, Who fed unrelenting violence for 5 days to keep Jatrabari on edge during quota protest?, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁶ Daily Star (The), At least 29 dead in daylong mayhem, 24 July 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Who fed unrelenting violence for 5 days to keep Jatrabari on edge during quota protest?, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁷ Daily Star (The), At least 29 dead in daylong mayhem, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁶³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 185; Daily Star (The), Journalist killed in the line of duty, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁰ Netra News, Journalists’ chests, too, riddled with police bullets, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

same source, 80 people were injured and three died in subsequent clashes.¹⁶⁴¹ A violent mob beat two policemen to death and hung one of the bodies from the Rayerbagh bridge.¹⁶⁴²

Mirpur (Dhaka City): Mirpur experienced ‘extreme violence’ on 18–19 July 2024.¹⁶⁴³ Protesters clashed with Awami League supporters and police,¹⁶⁴⁴ firing rubber bullets, pellets and bullets, causing at least 16 deaths and thousands of injuries, as reported by the Business Standard.¹⁶⁴⁵ A helicopter was reportedly ‘raining down gunfire’ on 19 July 2024, according to Netra News. A young child was shot dead inside his home, when looking out through the window, and his uncle was shot in his shoulder.¹⁶⁴⁶ ‘Unidentified individuals on motorcycles’ also reportedly fired guns at civilians.¹⁶⁴⁷ Protesters vandalised the metro station, smashing everything inside ‘to bits’¹⁶⁴⁸ and torched the office of the Road Transport Authority and a stadium.¹⁶⁴⁹

Mohammadpur (Dhaka City): chase-counter chases between police and protesters broke out at around 8:00 and continued during the entire day on 19 July 2024. Police fired several rounds of rubber bullets and teargas, injuring several people¹⁶⁵⁰ which UN OHCHR described as ‘indiscriminate’ firing at mixed crowds of both peaceful and violent protesters.¹⁶⁵¹ Netra News reported on stun grenades ‘raining down’ from a RAB helicopter.¹⁶⁵²

Chattogram City: on 18 July 2024, students blocked a highway and reportedly threw stones at the police,¹⁶⁵³ which fired teargas.¹⁶⁵⁴ Two persons died,¹⁶⁵⁵ reportedly by bullet injuries.¹⁶⁵⁶

Kishoreganj City: on 19 July 2024, the police reportedly fired into a crowd surrounding the Bhairab police station, injuring over 100 students.¹⁶⁵⁷

Rangpur City: three protesters were reportedly killed outside a police station, which was attacked by 4 000 people on the same day.¹⁶⁵⁸

¹⁶⁴¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 93

¹⁶⁴² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 31; Dhaka Tribune, Why did unarmed policemen have to die brutally?, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴³ Business Standard (The), 18, 19 July: Mirpur hospitals on the frontline, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁴ Daily Star (The), At least 66 more lives lost, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁵ Business Standard (The), 18, 19 July: Mirpur hospitals on the frontline, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁶ Netra News, Why parents filed no complaints for killing of fifth grader, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁷ Netra News, Scores dead as Bangladeshi authorities intensify crackdown on protests, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁸ Daily Star (The), Mirpur-10, Kazipara metro stations: Mindless destruction leaves them in ruins, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁹ Daily Star (The), Dozens of govt establishments set ablaze, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁰ Prothom Alo, Protesters, police clash in capital's Uttara, Mohhamadpur, Badda, 19 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 207

¹⁶⁵² Netra News, Schoolboy's death tied to RAB helicopter's stun grenade, 8 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵³ Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁴ Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota reform protests: Overall death toll today rises to 23, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁵ Al Jazeera, At least 17 dead as Bangladesh student protests over jobs intensify, 18 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota reform protests: Overall death toll today rises to 23, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁶ Daily Star (The), Quota reform protests: Overall death toll today rises to 23, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁷ BSS, Timeline of student-people's 'July uprising', 30 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁸ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#)



Gazipur City: on 19 July 2024, Awami League supporters reportedly shot at protesters,¹⁶⁵⁹ that retaliated by beating the former mayor and killing his bodyguard.¹⁶⁶⁰

Narsingdi City: on 18 July 2024, police fired ‘shotguns loaded with metal pellets’ at a crowd near the central jail, injuring many protesters, including children,¹⁶⁶¹ and killing a 15-year-old boy. According to Prothom Alo, the boy died immediately after being hit by rubber bullets, and was thereafter displayed to the police, that fired at the child’s body again.¹⁶⁶² According to UN OHCHR the child was laying incapacitated and was ‘deliberately’ killed by the police.¹⁶⁶³ On 19 July 2024, thousands protested outside the jail, and some stormed it, armed with makeshift weapons, firearms and tools.¹⁶⁶⁴ They released hundreds of inmates¹⁶⁶⁵ and looted firearms.¹⁶⁶⁶ According to UN OHCHR, police shot indiscriminately at the crowd with ‘military rifles and shotguns loaded with lethal ammunition’.¹⁶⁶⁷

Cumilla City: on 18 July 2024, police and BGB reportedly shot teargas, sound grenades, rubber bullets and lethal ammunition, while Chhatra League supporters attacked protesters, and sexually assaulted some female protesters.¹⁶⁶⁸

Sylhet City: on 19 July 2024, police opened fired at a BNP rally.¹⁶⁶⁹ Some reportedly retaliated and attacked the police with flag poles and bricks.¹⁶⁷⁰ A journalist was killed by police fire.¹⁶⁷¹

20 July 2024: A ‘shoot-on-sight’ curfew

The government imposed a national curfew,¹⁶⁷² effective from midnight 19 July until 10:00 on 21 July 2024, with one window of two hours (from 12:00–14:00) for public movement.¹⁶⁷³

¹⁶⁵⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

¹⁶⁶⁰ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 110

¹⁶⁶² Prothom Alo, Even his dead body was shot, says Tahmid's father, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 110

¹⁶⁶⁴ Dhaka Tribune, How the prison break in Narsingdi unfolded, 25 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁵ Guardian (The), National curfew imposed in Bangladesh after student protesters storm prison, 19 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, How the prison break in Narsingdi unfolded, 25 July 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 110; Daily Star, Narsingdi Jail Attack: How it all unfolded, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 110

¹⁶⁶⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 109

¹⁶⁶⁹ Business Standard (The), 'Why did police kill my son?': Mother seeks answer for journo Turab killed during clashes in Sylhet, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 185

¹⁶⁷¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 185; Business Standard (The), 'Why did police kill my son?': Mother seeks answer for journo Turab killed during clashes in Sylhet, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 44

¹⁶⁷³ Washington Post (The), Toll in Bangladesh protests tops 100 as Dhaka falls quiet under curfew, 20 July 2024, [url](#)



Security forces were ordered to shoot-on-sight,¹⁶⁷⁴ and over 27 000 army soldiers were deployed.¹⁶⁷⁵ Metro railway services were furthermore closed.¹⁶⁷⁶ The Daily Star reported on 'systematic government efforts' to cover up medical records and hide the bodies of those killed during protests in recent days, for example by burying bodies in unnamed graves.¹⁶⁷⁷

The streets of Dhaka City were largely empty¹⁶⁷⁸ except for army troops on patrol¹⁶⁷⁹ and setting up checkpoints.¹⁶⁸⁰ In some areas, protesters defied the curfew¹⁶⁸¹ and sporadic clashes erupted¹⁶⁸² between protesters, police, army and Ansar forces.¹⁶⁸³ According to the Daily Star, the neighbourhoods of Rayerbagh, Jatrabari, Mohammadpur and Mirpur experienced some of the 'fiercest clashes'.¹⁶⁸⁴ Police opened fire on protesters in several locations,¹⁶⁸⁵ and a DW correspondent noted that protesters did not back down although shots were fired.¹⁶⁸⁶ At least 26 people were reportedly killed in the cities of Dhaka, Mymensingh,¹⁶⁸⁷ Savar (where three were shot dead by police fire¹⁶⁸⁸) and Narayganj.¹⁶⁸⁹ DMCH received injured patients and dead bodies from the Dhaka neighbourhoods of Jatrabari and Shanir Akhra,¹⁶⁹⁰ and the Daily Star reported that over 100 people suffered bullet and pellet injuries in Mymensingh and Savar.¹⁶⁹¹ From 20 July 2024 and onwards, law enforcement officers reportedly pushed medical staff not to treat protesters and prevented one hospital from admitting patients.¹⁶⁹²

Army personnel hesitated to shoot at protesters despite the 'shoot-on-sight' order,¹⁶⁹³ especially many junior and mid-level officers as reported by UN OHCHR.¹⁶⁹⁴ Nevertheless,

¹⁶⁷⁴ AI, Bangladesh: Further information: Thousands of protesters arrested arbitrarily: Rony Sheikh, 9 August 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 117

¹⁶⁷⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 44

¹⁶⁷⁶ New Age, Metro rail services closed for indefinite period, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁷ Daily Star (The), Hastily buried in unmarked graves, 12 March 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁸ DW, Dhaka protesters defy curfew after worst unrest in decades, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Washington Post (The), Toll in Bangladesh protests tops 100 as Dhaka falls quiet under curfew, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁹ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), At least 21 dead on first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁰ Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), At least 21 dead on first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸¹ DW, Dhaka protesters defy curfew after worst unrest in decades, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Benar News, Deaths, protests continue despite curfew in Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#); Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸² NPR, Bangladesh's top court scales back jobs quota after deadly clashes with, 21 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), At least 21 dead on first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸³ New Age, Protests, violence, killings mark first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁴ Daily Star (The), At least 21 dead on first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁵ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁶ DW, Dhaka protesters defy curfew after worst unrest in decades, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁷ Prothom Alo, 26 killed in Saturday's violence, 124 in four days, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁸ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, Protests, violence, killings mark first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁹ Daily Star (The), Violence flares in Mymensingh, Savar, N'ganj, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁰ Prothom Alo, 26 killed in Saturday's violence, 124 in four days, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹¹ Daily Star (The), Violence flares in Mymensingh, Savar, N'ganj, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 153

¹⁶⁹³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 135; Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 135



there were instances of soldiers shooting at protesters,¹⁶⁹⁵ including in the Dhaka neighbourhood of Mohammadpur where soldiers fired several rounds of lethal ammunition at a peaceful crowd, according to UN OHCHR.¹⁶⁹⁶

On 20–21 July 2024,¹⁶⁹⁷ security forces attempted to clear the Dhaka–Chattogram highway from protesters in the Dhaka neighbourhood of Jatrabari.¹⁶⁹⁸ Police fired live and rubber bullets, as well as teargas, while protesters were throwing bricks and stones.¹⁶⁹⁹ UN OHCHR reported on teargas being launched from RAB and police helicopters in the area, and further reported on the police and RAB ‘systematically using lethal force’ while army units provided coverage. The same source stated that the police had been ‘authorized to shoot rifles and shotguns loaded with lethal ammunition’ as they had been ordered to clear the highway ‘at all costs’.¹⁷⁰⁰ Witnesses told the Daily Star that law enforcement ‘fired indiscriminately at protesters’ and more than 70 people were admitted to DMCH, most with bullet wounds.¹⁷⁰¹ Four deaths were reported in connection to clashes in the area¹⁷⁰² – including a 10-year-old boy who was shot twice.¹⁷⁰³ UN OHCHR reported on the police firing at unarmed protesters, including protesters trying to run away, and one protester lying injured on the ground and pleading for mercy.¹⁷⁰⁴

According to Netra News, a group of unidentified individuals in plainclothes opened fire against protesters and killed at least three persons in the Dhaka neighbourhood Uttara.¹⁷⁰⁵ The same source reported on thousands of protesters attacking and torching a police building in Narayanganj City.¹⁷⁰⁶

The general curfew was extended indefinitely,¹⁷⁰⁷ leaving a window of two hours between 15:00–17:00, and the government declared 21–22 July 2024 public holidays.¹⁷⁰⁸

¹⁶⁹⁵ New Age, Protests, violence, killings mark first day of curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 129

¹⁶⁹⁷ Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii, para. 44; Business Standard (The), Police outnumbered in Jatrabari, Shonir Akhra as protest continues amid curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁹ Business Standard (The), Police outnumbered in Jatrabari, Shonir Akhra as protest continues amid curfew, 21 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), At least 7 killed, on 2nd day of curfew, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii, 31, paras. 44, 139

¹⁷⁰¹ Daily Star (The), At least 7 killed, on 2nd day of curfew, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰² Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰³ Prothom Alo, Bullet pierces 10-year-old Hossain’s lower abdomen, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁷⁰⁵ Netra News, Live Blog: Bangladesh Protests 2024, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁶ Netra News, Key events from a deadly Saturday in besieged Bangladesh, 20 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁷ Reuters, Bangladesh court scraps most job quotas that sparked deadly protests, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁸ Euronews, Bangladesh’s government extends nationwide curfew and internet ban, 21 July 2024, [url](#); Le Monde, Bangladesh’s top court scales back government jobs quota after deadly unrest killed scores, 21 July 2024, [url](#)



21–30 July 2024: The quota is overturned, protests temporarily ebb

On 21 July 2024, the Supreme Court advised a reduction of the job quota for descendants of independence fighters to 5 %¹⁷⁰⁹ and ruled that 93 % of jobs should be merit-based.¹⁷¹⁰ During the following days there was a ‘relative calm’,¹⁷¹¹ and protests temporarily subsided.¹⁷¹² There were, however, ‘scattered incidents of violence’,¹⁷¹³ including the clearance of the Dhaka–Chattogram Highway (more information is available in the previous section covering 20 July 2024).¹⁷¹⁴ Clashes were also reported in the city of Narsingdi,¹⁷¹⁵ killing at least four people, according to Prothom Alo,¹⁷¹⁶ and people were lethally shot during clashes in the Dhaka neighbourhoods of Rayerbagh and Jatrabari.¹⁷¹⁷ Prothom Alo reported on chases between police and protesters in various locations in the city of Gazipur, injuring more than 100 people, and on protesters attacking and vandalising the mayor’s house and confining her for 45 minutes.¹⁷¹⁸

On 22 July 2024, coordinators of the student movement suspended protests for 48 hours and launched an ultimatum for the government to withdraw the curfew, restore internet, and stop targeting student protesters.¹⁷¹⁹ No protests or clashes were reported.¹⁷²⁰ Security forces, however, carried out block raids¹⁷²¹ and mass arrests of individuals suspected of being involved in protests, including students and opposition supporters.¹⁷²² Thousands of arrests took place across the country in the following days,¹⁷²³ and several coordinators of the student

¹⁷⁰⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 45; DW, Bangladesh protests: What’s next after court cuts quotas?, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁰ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s Sheikh Hasina forced to resign: What happened and what’s next?, 5 August 2024, [url](#); DW, Bangladesh protests: What’s next after court cuts quotas?, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹¹ Reuters, Bangladesh factories, banks reopen as curfew is eased after protests taper off, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 45; Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters issue demands amid shaky calm, 22 July 2024, [url](#); Guardian (The), Bangladeshi students allege police torture after protests crackdown, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹³ Prothom Alo, Curfew day 2: Scattered incidents of violence, protest, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii; Daily Star (The), Hasina, Quader, Shamim Osman accused in N’ganj murder case, 19 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁵ Daily Star (The), At least 7 killed, on 2nd day of curfew, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁶ Prothom Alo, Curfew day 2: Scattered incidents of violence, protest, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁷ Daily Star (The), Four more injured in clashes die in Dhaka, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁸ Prothom Alo, Curfew day 2: Scattered incidents of violence, protest, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁹ Le Monde, Bangladesh student group calls 48-hour halt to protests, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁰ Benar News, Uneasy calm in Dhaka under curfew, police arrest hundreds for ‘violence’, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²¹ Prothom Alo, Area-wise block raid underway, 27 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Timeline of student protests, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 46; Guardian (The), Bangladeshi students allege police torture after protests crackdown, 23 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Area-wise block raid underway, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²³ Prothom Alo, 403 more arrested across the country, 30 July 2024, [url](#); France24, Thousands of protesters arrested in Bangladesh amid deadly unrest, 23 July 2024, [url](#)



movement¹⁷²⁴ and leaders of BNP and Jamaat-e Islami were arrested.¹⁷²⁵ They were allegedly subjected to torture while in detention.¹⁷²⁶

On 23 July 2024, the government announced that it would accept the Supreme Court's ruling¹⁷²⁷ and partially restored broadband internet.¹⁷²⁸ Social media applications such as Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and TikTok continued to be restricted,¹⁷²⁹ and mobile internet was not restored until 28 July 2024, which kept many disconnected.¹⁷³⁰ The curfew was gradually relaxed with extended hours of public movement,¹⁷³¹ as well as public office hours.¹⁷³² However, the students refused to accept the government's adjustments as a final resolution.¹⁷³³ They had expanded their demands on the government to also dismiss senior officials, arrest police officers and Chhatra League supporters involved in killings of students,¹⁷³⁴ and issue a public apology from Hasina.¹⁷³⁵ Many among the population were reportedly speaking about the need for Hasina to resign.¹⁷³⁶

On 26 July 2024, BNP called for 'national unity' among 'all democratic political parties, social and cultural organizations, and other forces' to demand the fall of government.¹⁷³⁷ In the period 26–28 July 2024, six student leaders were arrested by security forces,¹⁷³⁸ some being arrested for a second time while being treated at a hospital for injuries received during their previous detention.¹⁷³⁹ On 28 July 2024, the head of DB published a video with six student coordinators withdrawing the protests,¹⁷⁴⁰ which 'sparked public outrage'.¹⁷⁴¹ Other

¹⁷²⁴ Guardian (The), Bangladeshi students allege police torture after protests crackdown, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁵ Prothom Alo, Area-wise block raid underway, 27 July 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Steps underway to prevent anarchists from fleeing Dhaka: Biplob Kumar, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 45; Prothom Alo, Area-wise block raid underway, 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁷ DW, Bangladesh to accept cuts to job quotas after ruling, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 195; Daily Star (The), Broadband internet restored in selected areas, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷²⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 195

¹⁷³⁰ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh restores mobile internet after 11-day blackout to quell protests, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³¹ Somoy TV, Economy to continue to run over the Eid holiday: Salehuddin, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Curfew extended, relaxed for Dhaka, 3 other districts, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³² Somoy TV, Curfew office time 9am-3pm on Sunday, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³³ Daily Star (The), 4 organisers of quota reform demonstration reject circular, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 45

¹⁷³⁵ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh curfew eases: What's opened, what's still shut, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³⁶ Al Jazeera, In Bangladesh, protests are no longer about the quota system, 23 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³⁷ BNP [X], posted on 26 July 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 48

¹⁷³⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 174; Al, Bangladesh: End punitive mass arrests and arbitrary detention of student leaders and protesters, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 174; DW, Bangladesh: Protest leaders held 'for their own security', 27 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁰ Daily Star (The), From 'DB office', 6 organisers lift protest programme, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 45; See also: Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July uprising, n.d., [url](#)



coordinators took to the streets and denounced the statement.¹⁷⁴² The DB head was dismissed the next day, and the coordinators were released on 1 August 2024.¹⁷⁴³

On 29 July 2024, as the government failed to meet the students' new demands and arrested several coordinators, protests resumed.¹⁷⁴⁴ Several protests took place,¹⁷⁴⁵ including at Rajshahi University,¹⁷⁴⁶ BM College in Barishal,¹⁷⁴⁷ and Jahangirnagar University.¹⁷⁴⁸ Local media did not report on any clashes or casualties,¹⁷⁴⁹ but there were reports of police obstruction,¹⁷⁵⁰ and dozens being detained.¹⁷⁵¹ At Barishal University, Chhatra League members attacked protesters with sticks, rods and pipes,¹⁷⁵² injuring at least 15 protesters.¹⁷⁵³ The police dispersed a crowd in ECB Chattar in the Dhaka neighbourhood of Mirpur,¹⁷⁵⁴ reportedly by charging with batons. They also detained 10 persons. According to one of the police personnel, protesters were throwing bricks from the alleys in the area.¹⁷⁵⁵

On 30 July 2024, the government announced a national mourning day for those killed during protests,¹⁷⁵⁶ but the student movement rejected it and launched a counter-protest online.¹⁷⁵⁷ The government also banned Jamaat-e-Islami and associated organisations,¹⁷⁵⁸ accusing them of being involved in protest-related violence.¹⁷⁵⁹

On 31 July 2024, the student movement announced a protest programme called 'March for Justice', to protest killings, mass arrests, attacks and enforced disappearances during

¹⁷⁴² Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July uprising, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷⁴³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 176

¹⁷⁴⁴ Guardian (The), Bangladesh arrests more than 10,000 in crackdown on protests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁵ Daily Star (The), Timeline of student protests, 4 August 2024, [url](#); BSS, Timeline of student-people's 'July uprising', 30 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁶ Prothom Alo, Students demonstrate in front of RU, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, RU students block Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁷ Prothom Alo, 15 injured in attack on protesters at Barishal Uni, demonstrations at BM College, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Observer, Students protest on road in Barishal, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁸ AA, Bangladesh declares national mourning in memory of protest violence victims, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴⁹ Prothom Alo, 15 injured in attack on protesters at Barishal Uni, demonstrations at BM College, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Students demonstrate in front of RU, 29 July 2024, [url](#); AA, Bangladesh declares national mourning in memory of protest violence victims, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁰ Daily Observer, Students protest on road in Barishal, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Timeline of student protests, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵¹ Daily Star (The), Timeline of student protests, 4 August 2024, [url](#); AA, Bangladesh declares national mourning in memory of protest violence victims, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵² Prothom Alo, 15 injured in attack on protesters at Barishal Uni, demonstrations at BM College, 29 July 2024, [url](#); New Age, 15 injured at Barishal University in alleged BCL attack, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵³ Prothom Alo, 15 injured in attack on protesters at Barishal Uni, demonstrations at BM College, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Quota protest: 15 injured in attack at Barishal University, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁴ Daily Star (The), Quota protest: 15 injured in attack at Barishal University, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁵ Prothom Alo, Cops charge baton at protestors at ECB Chattar, 20 detained from Mirpur, Dhanmandi, 29 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁶ Prothom Alo, Quota protest deaths: Countrywide mourning today, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁷ Prothom Alo, Quota movement timeline: Unfolding events, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 48

¹⁷⁵⁹ Bdnews24.com, Jamaat-e-Islami faces ban in independent Bangladesh again after half a century, 1 July 2024, [url](#); New York Times (The), After Protest Crackdown, Bangladesh Accuses Tens of Thousands of Crimes, 30 July 2024, [url](#)



protests,¹⁷⁶⁰ to take place at courts, campuses and streets.¹⁷⁶¹ Demonstrations inter alia took place outside the High Court in Dhaka and at Dhaka University,¹⁷⁶² and in several other major cities.¹⁷⁶³ In some locations, students clashed with the police,¹⁷⁶⁴ that fired teargas, stun grenades, charged with batons¹⁷⁶⁵ and arrested many protesters.¹⁷⁶⁶ Students meanwhile reportedly threw bricks at the police.¹⁷⁶⁷ According to the Daily Star, at least 100 persons were injured across the country.¹⁷⁶⁸ The city of Khulna experienced intense clashes,¹⁷⁶⁹ with some areas turning into 'warzones' as reported by Prothom Alo.¹⁷⁷⁰ At least 60 persons were injured and 100 were arrested, according to Dhaka Tribune.¹⁷⁷¹ In the city of Sylhet, police made use of teargas and stun grenades to disperse a crowd marching towards the court premises,¹⁷⁷² injuring at least 50 persons, according to the Daily Star.¹⁷⁷³ The police also charged with batons at protesters in the cities of Thakurgaon and Jashore, according to Dhaka Tribune,¹⁷⁷⁴ as well as in Barishal¹⁷⁷⁵ – leaving 11 people injured, including five journalists.¹⁷⁷⁶

1–3 August 2024: Protests reignite

In early August 2024 protests reignited,¹⁷⁷⁷ now calling for the resignation of Hasina and her government.¹⁷⁷⁸ In response, security forces made use of extensive and lethal force.¹⁷⁷⁹

On 1 August 2024, the student movement launched the protest programme 'Remembering our Heroes',¹⁷⁸⁰ in memory of victims of violence during the quota reform protests.¹⁷⁸¹ According to Prothom Alo, the programme was observed in at least 16 districts and cities and involved students, teachers, and lawyers. The same source reported on the police obstructing

¹⁷⁶⁰ Prothom Alo, Protesters take positions at Doyel Chattar, road in front of HC, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶¹ Prothom Alo, Students Against Discrimination announces 'March for Justice' Wednesday, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶² Prothom Alo, Protesters take positions at Doyel Chattar, road in front of HC, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶³ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁵ Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁶ Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁷ Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁸ Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁰ Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷¹ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷² Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, March for Justice: Students face police resistance, arrests across country, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷³ Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁴ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Nationwide 'March for Justice' protests escalate amid clashes and arrests, 1 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁶ Daily Star (The), Police block 'March for Justice', 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 50

¹⁷⁷⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 50; Netra News, For Bangladesh's stability, Hasina must step aside, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 50

¹⁷⁸⁰ Prothom Alo, Protesting students announce fresh programme 'remembering our heroes', 31 July 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸¹ Daily Star (The), 'Remembering Our Heroes': Quota protesters announce fresh programme, 31 July 2024, [url](#)



some protests, triggering chases and counter-chases.¹⁷⁸² Several protesters were also arrested.¹⁷⁸³ At Rajshahi University a shuffle broke out when teachers tried to prevent police from arresting students on campus,¹⁷⁸⁴ and two journalists were reportedly assaulted¹⁷⁸⁵ by the police.¹⁷⁸⁶

On 2 August 2024, the student movement announced a programme of prayers, followed by mass demonstrations.¹⁷⁸⁷ Protests took place in Dhaka and other parts of the country,¹⁷⁸⁸ involving hundreds of thousands of protesters.¹⁷⁸⁹ Two people reportedly died during clashes, including one police officer,¹⁷⁹⁰ and more than 100 people were injured, according to Benar News.¹⁷⁹¹ In some places, police fired rubber bullets and teargas¹⁷⁹² and opened fire on protesters as violence erupted.¹⁷⁹³ Awami League supporters attacked protesters in parallel.¹⁷⁹⁴ In Dhaka neighbourhoods, there were some protests taking place without reported clashes, including in Mirpur¹⁷⁹⁵ and Shabagh – despite heavy presence of police and Awami League supporters.¹⁷⁹⁶ In the Dhaka neighbourhood of Uttara, however, clashes erupted,¹⁷⁹⁷ as police fired teargas and stun grenades,¹⁷⁹⁸ and allegedly shot at protesters,¹⁷⁹⁹ while protesters threw

¹⁷⁸² Prothom Alo, Students against discrimination to hold ‘prayers and mass procession’ today, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸³ Prothom Alo, Students against discrimination to hold ‘prayers and mass procession’ today, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Sun, ‘Remembering Our Heroes’ programme: Police pick up 12 students of Barishal University, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁴ New Age, Teachers-students scuffle with police at RU, 1 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, RU: Teachers intervene as DB men try to pick up students, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁵ Prothom Alo, RU: Teachers intervene as DB men try to pick up students, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁶ New Age, Teachers-students scuffle with police at RU, 1 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁷ Prothom Alo, Students against discrimination to hold ‘prayers and mass procession’ today, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁸ Reuters, Thousands protest in Bangladesh demanding PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Netra News, For Bangladesh’s stability, Hasina must step aside, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Benar News, 2 killed as Bangladesh protests swell; demands grow for PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸⁹ Netra News, For Bangladesh’s stability, Hasina must step aside, 2 August 2024, [url](#); New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁰ AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹¹ Benar News, 2 killed as Bangladesh protests swell; demands grow for PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹² Benar News, 2 killed as Bangladesh protests swell; demands grow for PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Thousands protest in Bangladesh demanding PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹³ New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁴ New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Thousands protest in Bangladesh demanding PM Hasina’s resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁵ Dhaka Tribune, Protests, rallies held in Mirpur, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁶ Dhaka Tribune, Quota movement: Students leave Shahbagh declaring to continue program, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁷ Le Monde, Bangladesh: Renewed protests against prime minister demand justice for 200 killed in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Student protests: Clash at Uttara, tear gas shells, sound grenades fired, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁸ Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as clash erupts in Uttara, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Student protests: Clash at Uttara, tear gas shells, sound grenades fired, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷⁹⁹ New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#)



stones at them.¹⁸⁰⁰ Awami League supporters also attacked protesters,¹⁸⁰¹ and reportedly beat women protesters with pipes and pistols.¹⁸⁰²

Clashes also occurred outside Dhaka City,¹⁸⁰³ including in the city of Khulna, where police fired teargas and rubber bullets,¹⁸⁰⁴ which triggered clashes and chases.¹⁸⁰⁵ 50 persons were reportedly injured.¹⁸⁰⁶ As the police failed to disperse protesters, they retreated from some situations.¹⁸⁰⁷ Somoy TV reported on protesters attacking two police stations,¹⁸⁰⁸ and Prothom Alo reported on four police officers being beaten 'mercilessly' after having opened fire at protesters from inside a shop at Gallamari Kitchen Market.¹⁸⁰⁹ One police officer died from his injuries.¹⁸¹⁰ In the Akhalia, a neighbourhood in Sylhet City, police fired sound grenades,¹⁸¹¹ rubber bullets¹⁸¹² and lethal metal pellets,¹⁸¹³ injuring at least 20 people,¹⁸¹⁴ including a journalist being hit by three bullets¹⁸¹⁵ in his chest, face and head.¹⁸¹⁶ In the city of Habiganj, Sylhet Division, protesters clashed with police and Awami League supporters. Some protesters engaged in vandalism and torched the Awami League district office, and hurled bricks at the house of a local lawmaker.¹⁸¹⁷ According to Prothom Alo, police opened fire at students approaching them from two sides,¹⁸¹⁸ while the New Age reported on police firing rubber

¹⁸⁰⁰ Le Monde, Bangladesh: Renewed protests against prime minister demand justice for 200 killed in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#); AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰¹ New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 15 injured as clash erupts in Uttara, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 94

¹⁸⁰³ AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, 2 killed in mass processions, clashes across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁴ AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Mass Procession: Massive clashes in Khulna, cop beaten dead, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁵ Prothom Alo, Mass Procession: Massive clashes in Khulna, cop beaten dead, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 16 injured in sporadic clashes during protest march in Khulna, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁶ AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Mass Procession: Massive clashes in Khulna, cop beaten dead, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁷ Prothom Alo, 2 killed in mass processions, clashes across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Somoy TV, Satkhira ex-reserved seat MP Sejuti arrested, 20 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁸ Somoy TV, Satkhira ex-reserved seat MP Sejuti arrested, 20 May 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰⁹ Prothom Alo, 2 killed in mass processions, clashes across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹⁰ Prothom Alo, Mass Procession: Massive clashes in Khulna, cop beaten dead, 3 August 2024, [url](#); AP, New protests in Bangladesh kill 2, keeping pressure on the government after 200 died in violence, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹¹ Reuters, Thousands protest in Bangladesh demanding PM Hasina's resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Police open fire on 'mass procession' in Sylhet, 20 injured, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 188; Business Standard (The), Police open fire on 'mass procession' in Sylhet, 20 injured, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 188; Prothom Alo, Police open fire on 'mass procession' in Sylhet, 20 injured, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹⁴ Reuters, Thousands protest in Bangladesh demanding PM Hasina's resignation, 2 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Police open fire on 'mass procession' in Sylhet, 20 injured, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹⁵ IFJ, Bangladesh: IFJ demands protections for media workers as political instability continues, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 188

¹⁸¹⁷ Prothom Alo, Protesters clash with police, Chhatra League in Habiganj, Awami League office torched, 2 August 2024, [url](#); New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸¹⁸ Prothom Alo, Protesters clash with police, Chhatra League in Habiganj, Awami League office torched, 2 August 2024, [url](#)



bullets and teargas shells.¹⁸¹⁹ In Lakshmipur, Chattogram Division, protesters clashed with Chhatra League and Jubo League activists,¹⁸²⁰ and a man carrying firearms was seen chasing protesters.¹⁸²¹

On 3 August 2024, local media reported on an ‘outburst of protests’,¹⁸²² with blockades of various roads and intersections.¹⁸²³ Violent clashes were reported in Dhaka City,¹⁸²⁴ and in other parts of the country.¹⁸²⁵ According to Netra News, at least two people died,¹⁸²⁶ including one person killed during clashes in the city of Gazipur¹⁸²⁷ and a police officer in the city of Khulna.¹⁸²⁸ Hundreds more were injured as security forces shot at crowds.¹⁸²⁹ In the city of Bogura, Rajshahi Division, protesters clashed with police firing teargas. Protesters retaliated by throwing bricks and other objects, followed by a chase during which police fired rubber bullets.¹⁸³⁰ In the city of Rangpur, the police reportedly shot at protesters, killing seven and injuring 15.¹⁸³¹ In the city of Cumilla, Awami League supporters carried out attacks against protesters.¹⁸³² According to UN OHCHR, they were armed with firearms, machetes and iron rods and carried out attacks in ‘formations of about 60 men each’. According to the same source, the police did not intervene,¹⁸³³ while at least 30 people were reportedly injured,¹⁸³⁴ some being shot by bullets.¹⁸³⁵

Some protesters engaged in violent acts.¹⁸³⁶ In the city of Chattogram, protesters attacked the residence of the Minister of Education,¹⁸³⁷ and the mayor’s residence, where one person was reportedly shot dead and five were injured by police fire.¹⁸³⁸ An office of local media Ekattor TV was also attacked by a mob armed with sticks and stones,¹⁸³⁹ and in Shahbagh, protesters

¹⁸¹⁹ New Age, Protests all over, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁰ Prothom Alo, 2 killed in mass processions, clashes across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 10 injured as Chhatra League, Jubo League activists clash with protesters in Lakshmipur, 2 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²¹ Prothom Alo, 2 killed in mass processions, clashes across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²² Business Standard (The), Protests all around, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²³ Prothom Alo, Protesters block Mirpur-10, Uttara, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Protests all around, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protesters take to the streets across country, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁴ Bdnews24.com, Two more die in Khulna, Sylhet during nationwide mass protest rally, 3 August 2024, [url](#);

Prothom Alo, Protesters take position in Shahbagh, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁵ Bdnews24.com, Two more die in Khulna, Sylhet during nationwide mass protest rally, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁶ Netra News, Bangladesh’s protests refuse to subside as police open fire, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁷ Prothom Alo, Man killed after caught in Gazipur clashes, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸²⁸ Bdnews24.com, Two more die in Khulna, Sylhet during nationwide mass protest rally, 3 August 2024, [url](#);

¹⁸²⁹ Netra News, Bangladesh’s protests refuse to subside as police open fire, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³⁰ Business Standard (The), Clashes erupt between police, protesters in Bogura, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Protesters clash with police in Bogura, many injured, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 122

¹⁸³² Prothom Alo, Protesters confront AL activists in Cumilla, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 95

¹⁸³⁴ Prothom Alo, Students come under attack in Cumilla, seven hit by bullets, one referred to Dhaka, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³⁵ Prothom Alo, Five students shot as their procession faces Jubo League attacks, 3 August 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 95

¹⁸³⁶ Prothom Alo, Protesters take position in Shahbagh, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Two more die in Khulna, Sylhet during nationwide mass protest rally, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³⁷ Prothom Alo, Education minister’s house attacked, MP’s residence torched in Chattogram, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³⁸ Prothom Alo, Man dies after being shot in Chattogram, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸³⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 225



reportedly hurled bottles at the police that retreated to a local police station, while the BGB took shelter inside the national museum.¹⁸⁴⁰ In the cities of Sylhet and Khulna, many police officers were reportedly injured in clashes, and one officer died after being beaten by protesters in Khulna.¹⁸⁴¹ Students from Rajshahi University blocked Dhaka–Rajshahi highway, some vandalised a police box and beat up a DB officer.¹⁸⁴² According to Netra News, the police began retreating from the streets due to the magnitude of protests, and redeploying resources to protect police stations and key installations.¹⁸⁴³

Hasina called upon student coordinators to negotiate and put an end to the violence,¹⁸⁴⁴ but they rejected her calls.¹⁸⁴⁵ Instead, they announced, in the afternoon of 3 August 2024,¹⁸⁴⁶ that their only remaining demand was the government's resignation.¹⁸⁴⁷ They further announced that unless the government adhered, they would initiate a 'non-cooperation movement' on the following day (4 August 2024).¹⁸⁴⁸ Meanwhile, junior military officers increasingly resisted orders to shoot at protesters, and informed the army chief of their unwillingness to do so.¹⁸⁴⁹

4–5 August 2024: Last days of protests, Hasina flees the country

On 4 August 2024, thousands of protesters took to the streets and 'engaged in pitched battles' against police and Awami League supporters, as reported by Prothom Alo.¹⁸⁵⁰ The Daily Star reported on Dhaka and all other major towns turning into 'battlefields' between 'students alongside common people and government forces'.¹⁸⁵¹ Almost 100 people were killed,¹⁸⁵² in day-long clashes.¹⁸⁵³ The Daily Star reported on intense clashes in Jatrabari, 'in the final days' of fighting, without specifying a date, where police and security forces shot at protesters from vehicles and helicopters and made use of drones to identify their exact positions. A protester described how bodies were piling up, and stated that '[p]olice only stopped shooting at protesters when they ran out of ammunition'.¹⁸⁵⁴ Protest-related deaths were reported, inter alia, in the cities of Dhaka, Feni and Lakshmipur (Chattogram Division).¹⁸⁵⁵ Police and Awami League supporters attacked protesters by firing lethal ammunition in

¹⁸⁴⁰ Prothom Alo, Protesters take position in Shahbagh, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴¹ Bdnews24.com, Two more die in Khulna, Sylhet during nationwide mass protest rally, 3 August 2024, [url](#);

¹⁸⁴² Prothom Alo, Thousands of students gather on street in front of RU defying rain, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴³ Netra News, Police retreat from Dhaka's streets as students call for government resignation, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁴ Prothom Alo, Ganabhaban door is open for students: PM Hasina, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁵ Prothom Alo, AL wants to hold dialogue with students, coordinator refuses, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁶ Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July Uprising, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁷ Daily Star (The), Quite now, protesters to govt, 3 August 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Students Against Discrimination declares one-point demand for govt's resignation, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁸ Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July Uprising, n.d., [url](#); Prothom Alo, AL wants to hold dialogue with students, coordinator refuses, 3 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii

¹⁸⁵⁰ Prothom Alo, At least 97 die across country on a day of carnage, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵¹ Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July Uprising, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸⁵² Al Jazeera, How Bangladesh's 'Gen Z' protests brought down PM Sheikh Hasina, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵³ Prothom Alo, At least 97 die across country on a day of carnage, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵⁴ Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July Uprising, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸⁵⁵ Prothom Alo, Six Awami League men beaten to death after they open fire, 4 August 2024, [url](#)



Ashulia (Savar),¹⁸⁵⁶ in Mirpur, and other places in Dhaka,¹⁸⁵⁷ and also clashed with protesters blocking important roads and starting fires in Uttara¹⁸⁵⁸ and also in Bogura¹⁸⁵⁹ where three died by bullet injuries and 35 more were injured by gunfire, according to Prothom Alo.¹⁸⁶⁰ Prothom Alo also reported on chases and counter-chases in Munshiganj, between protesters and Awami League supporters, while the police fired teargas. Many protesters, about 40–50 people, were injured by bullets.¹⁸⁶¹

Awami League supporters attacked protesters with firearms in several areas,¹⁸⁶² including in Cumilla, where armed Awami League supporters reportedly carried out attacks in formations for the second day and fired at protesters from buildings.¹⁸⁶³ In Chattogram City, a combined force of police and Awami League members shot at and injured at least 24 people. According to Prothom Alo, Awami League shot several rounds before police arrived at the scene and fired teargas and sound grenades.¹⁸⁶⁴ In Feni, 300–400 Awami League supporters attacked protesters.¹⁸⁶⁵ Eight persons reportedly died¹⁸⁶⁶ and 79 were injured.¹⁸⁶⁷ Awami League supporters also chased and shot at protesters at Dhanmondi Road 27 in Dhaka,¹⁸⁶⁸ in Narsingdi, where they shot at least four individuals blocking an important highway¹⁸⁶⁹ and in Rangpur, where Awami League supporters, including the city councillor, shot at protesters.¹⁸⁷⁰ In Narsingdi and Rangpur, protesters retaliated and lynched their attackers.¹⁸⁷¹ According to UN OHCHR protesters in Rangpur dragged the local councillor's body through the streets.¹⁸⁷²

¹⁸⁵⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 96; Somoy TV, Massacre in Ashulia: Chilling eyewitness accounts surface, 2 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 96; Prothom Alo, What happened across the country Sunday, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵⁸ Prothom Alo, Demonstrators gain control of street after clashes with police and AL in Azampur, Uttara, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Protesters, police, Awami League clash in Uttara's Azampur, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵⁹ Daily Star (The), 93 killed on day of carnage; AL defers Monday's programmes, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶⁰ Prothom Alo, Police-protesters clashes in Bogura kill 3, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶¹ Prothom Alo, Two die from bullet wounds, 50 injured in Munshiganj, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶² Daily Star (The), 93 killed on day of carnage; AL defers Monday's programmes, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 95

¹⁸⁶⁴ Prothom Alo, Clashes at Chattogram, 24 hospitalised with bullet wounds, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

¹⁸⁶⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212; Daily Star (The), 93 killed on day of carnage; AL defers Monday's programmes, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

¹⁸⁶⁸ Prothom Alo, Awami League men open fire, chase protesters at Dhanmondi Rd 27, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka Tribune female journo assaulted in Dhanmondi, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶⁹ Prothom Alo, Six Awami League men beaten to death after they open fire, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 213

¹⁸⁷¹ Prothom Alo, Six Awami League men beaten to death after they open fire, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, 6 Narsingdi Awami League leaders, activists beaten to death, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Netra News, Claims of sectarian motives in nine Hindu deaths falter under scrutiny, 30 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 213



Journalists were also reportedly ‘severely beaten’ during clashes in Rangpur, when identified as media personnel.¹⁸⁷³

From 4 August 2024 and on, ‘the most serious revenge killings’ against police and Awami League supporters took place, according to UN OHCHR, as the government was ‘increasingly losing control of the country’.¹⁸⁷⁴ In Sirajganj, 22 people were killed¹⁸⁷⁵ including 15 policemen at the Enayetpur police station, and five local Awami League officials alongside a journalist during an attack against an Awami League office in Rayganj.¹⁸⁷⁶ As reported by UN OHCHR, one of the Awami League officials ‘was beaten to death after first being publicly humiliated, by being forced to do squats while holding his ears.’¹⁸⁷⁷ In Shahbagh, several thousand protested, and some chased and clashed with Awami League supporters chanting slogans outside Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Protesters reportedly went inside the hospital looking for ruling party activists and vandalised 35 vehicles,¹⁸⁷⁸ including an ambulance.¹⁸⁷⁹

Mobile internet was shut down again,¹⁸⁸⁰ and the government declared an indefinite ‘shoot-on-sight’ curfew,¹⁸⁸¹ and three days of public holiday starting on 5 August 2024.¹⁸⁸² Meanwhile, the student movement announced the programme ‘March on Dhaka’ to take place the next day and called on protesters across the country to march towards the capital.¹⁸⁸³

On 5 August 2024, many defied the curfew in the early morning, despite heavy police and military presence.¹⁸⁸⁴ The Daily Star reported on at least a million people marching from different parts of the country, and that hundreds of thousands approached Hasina’s official residence.¹⁸⁸⁵ According to UN OHCHR, the army and security forces were ordered to stop the march by force, but while ‘[t]he police shot and killed many protesters’, the army and BGB ‘largely stood by’ and let them pass. UN OHCHR however noted one case where soldiers shot ‘indiscriminately’ at protesters at Jamuna Future Park, shooting one man to death at a very close range, and thereafter beating protesters with sticks to disperse them.¹⁸⁸⁶

¹⁸⁷³ Dhaka Tribune, 4 killed, several injured in Rangpur clash, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

¹⁸⁷⁵ Prothom Alo, At least 97 die across country on a day of carnage, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Anti-government protesters attack AL office in Raiganj, kill 6 amid unrest, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷⁶ Bdnews24.com, Anti-government protesters attack AL office in Raiganj, kill 6 amid unrest, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 212

¹⁸⁷⁸ Prothom Alo, Protestors’ huge gathering at Shahbagh, more processions joining, 4 August 2024, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Ambulance in BSMMU vandalized, torched as clashes break out in Shahbagh, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷⁹ Dhaka Tribune, Ambulance in BSMMU vandalized, torched as clash break out in Shahbagh, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 195

¹⁸⁸¹ Prothom Alo, Curfew for indefinite period from 6pm today, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸² Prothom Alo, At least 97 die across country on a day of carnage, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸³ Prothom Alo, Students Against Discrimination’s ‘March to Dhaka’ on Monday, 4 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸⁴ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh’s Sheikh Hasina forced to resign: What happened and what’s next?, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸⁵ Daily Star (The), A chronicle of the July Uprising, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸⁸⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii, para. 52, 198



Sources noted a peak in violence on 5 August 2024.¹⁸⁸⁷ UN OHCHR estimated that almost 400 people were killed on this day, many due to government efforts to stop the ‘March on Dhaka’.¹⁸⁸⁸ Police fired at protesters in various places,¹⁸⁸⁹ and ‘indiscriminate’ police fire was reported in Chankharpul in Dhaka Division,¹⁸⁹⁰ and the Dhaka City neighbourhoods of Ashulia,¹⁸⁹¹ Azampur and on Rampura bridge.¹⁸⁹²

Law enforcement also opened fire at protesters assembling outside police stations, including in the Dhaka neighborhood of Jatrabari, killing at least 30 people.¹⁸⁹³ UN OHCHR reported that the police stormed out of the station in the afternoon ‘in formation while shooting their rifles and shotguns’, and that they ‘intentionally shot and killed several unarmed protesters at close range’.¹⁸⁹⁴ Police also shot at protesters assembling outside and attacking police stations in Uttara, killing at least 10 people,¹⁸⁹⁵ in the city of Kushtia, killing at least eight people,¹⁸⁹⁶ in the village of Baniachang in Sylhet Division,¹⁸⁹⁷ and in Shibganj (Rajshahi Division).¹⁸⁹⁸ Protesters also attacked a police station in Ashulia (Dhaka Division), by throwing bricks and other objects. Police reportedly responded with ‘indiscriminate’ fire,¹⁸⁹⁹ ‘using military rifles loaded with lethal ammunition’.¹⁹⁰⁰ The police later piled dead bodies into a van and set it on fire.¹⁹⁰¹ According to UN OHCHR, this was carried out on the order of senior police officials, with the apparent intent to ‘create the false impression that the victims had been killed by protesters’.¹⁹⁰² According to Human Rights Watch, at least one person was burned alive while being handcuffed, and police fatally shot people trying to put out the fire.¹⁹⁰³

¹⁸⁸⁷ CIR, Investigating police violence in the deadly Bangladesh quota protests, 5 November 2024, [url](#); Prothom Alo, 326 killed in 4-6 August, 12 August 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 37, para. 123

¹⁸⁸⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 33

¹⁸⁸⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 33

¹⁸⁹⁰ Business Standard (The), APBn member arrested for shooting at people during 5 August long march programme, 13 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹¹ Somoy TV, Massacre in Ashulia: Chilling eyewitness accounts surface, 2 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), August 5 violence: Death toll in Savar rises to 36, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 34

¹⁸⁹³ Prothom Alo, 109 killed in clashes in a single day, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 34

¹⁸⁹⁵ Prothom Alo, 109 killed in clashes in a single day, 12 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), At least 10 killed, over 100 hurt in Uttara East Police Station mayhem, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹⁶ Prothom Alo, 109 killed in clashes in a single day, 12 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Sun, At least 8 dead, hundreds injured in clash with police in Kushtia, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹⁷ Prothom Alo, 109 killed in clashes in a single day, 12 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), 3 killed in Habiganj clash this morning, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹⁸ Prothom Alo, 109 killed in clashes in a single day, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸⁹⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 35; Dhaka Tribune, Disturbing August 5 footage reveals police piling bodies onto van in Savar, 31 August 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Deadly 5 Aug: Unveiling the shocking truth behind the Ashulia carnage, 3 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹⁰⁰ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 35

¹⁹⁰¹ Dhaka Tribune, Disturbing August 5 footage reveals police piling bodies onto van in Savar, 31 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹⁰² UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 35

¹⁹⁰³ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)



The army chief decided that the army would not open fire on civilians to enforce the curfew,¹⁹⁰⁴ and informed the prime minister's office in the afternoon of 5 August 2024 that the army would not be able to prevent protesters from reaching Hasina's official residence. Just before protesters stormed it, around 14:00, Hasina left the country in a helicopter flying to India.¹⁹⁰⁵ As Hasina escaped, retaliatory violence surged.¹⁹⁰⁶ Many Awami League leaders and activists, as well as their houses, were attacked.¹⁹⁰⁷ Retaliatory violence also targeted the police, media outlets and 'others perceived as affiliated with the Awami League'. Some religious and indigenous groups were also attacked.¹⁹⁰⁸ Out of 326 deaths recorded by Prothom Alo on 4–6 August 2024, 87 were Awami League supporters and 36 were police.¹⁹⁰⁹ The same source reported on government installations being attacked in 39 districts on 4 August 2024, including '[h]ouses of public representatives, Awami League offices, [and] police stations'.¹⁹¹⁰ The parliament was also stormed¹⁹¹¹ and vandalised,¹⁹¹² as well as the official residence of Hasina.¹⁹¹³ The Zabeer International Hotel in the city of Jashore, reportedly owned by a prominent local Awami League leader,¹⁹¹⁴ was also set on fire,¹⁹¹⁵ causing the deaths of 24 people.¹⁹¹⁶

According to the police, 450 out of 639 police stations were either destroyed or damaged.¹⁹¹⁷ Crowds attacked and torched police stations in various places. They also killed police officers,¹⁹¹⁸ including by lynching them.¹⁹¹⁹ In the Dhaka neighbourhoods of Jatrabari,¹⁹²⁰ Uttara, and the Dhaka suburb Ashuila, the bodies of killed police officers were 'strung up in public places', as reported by UN OHCHR.¹⁹²¹ On 6–7 August 2024, DMCH received 15 bodies of police officers beaten or shot to death, and some bodies were mutilated.¹⁹²² Some police

¹⁹⁰⁴ Reuters, Exclusive: Bangladesh army refused to suppress protest, sealing Hasina's fate, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹⁰⁵ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 53

¹⁹⁰⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 214; Macdonald, G., Bangladesh's Accidental Revolutionaries Topple Sheikh Hasina – What's Next?, USIP, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹⁰⁷ Prothom Alo, 326 killed in 4-6 August, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹⁰⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 54

¹⁹⁰⁹ Prothom Alo, 326 killed in 4-6 August, 12 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁰ Prothom Alo, Houses of ministers, MPs attacked, torched, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹¹ Le Monde, Military in control of Bangladesh after prime minister ousted, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹² Al Jazeera, Bangladeshis dream of a better future after Hasina ousted, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹³ Al Jazeera, Photos: Celebrations after PM Sheikh Hasina resigns, flees Bangladesh, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁴ Business Standard (The), 18 killed after hotel owned by AL leader set on fire in Jashore, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁵ Daily Star (The), 76 killed in attacks, clashes outside capital, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 219

¹⁹¹⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 216; Bdnews24.com, Four policemen among 7 killed in attack on police station in Noakhali, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁸ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 216; Bdnews24.com, Four policemen among 7 killed in attack on police station in Noakhali, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹¹⁹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 214

¹⁹²⁰ Netra News, An eye-witness account from inside Jatrabari Police Station of the last bloodbath, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁹²¹ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 216

¹⁹²² Prothom Alo, 326 killed in 4-6 August, 12 August 2024, [url](#)





officers continued to shoot at crowds after Hasina left the country; some people, including children, were for example shot during celebration parades.¹⁹²³

Mobs attacked and torched several media outlets, including Ekattor TV, Somoy TV, ATN Bangla,¹⁹²⁴ Channel 24,¹⁹²⁵ ATN News TV,¹⁹²⁶ and reportedly also DBC News, My TV, Bijoy TV, Gazi TV,¹⁹²⁷ and Gaan Bangla TV.¹⁹²⁸

More information on the aftermath of the fall of the former government and the violence that followed is available in section [6.1. Public order, crime and mob violence](#).

¹⁹²³ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 34–35, para. 125; Daily Star (The), Shot during protest: Many barely hanging on to life, 5 September 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹²⁴ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 225; Daily Star (The), 66 dead as city convulsed with violence, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹²⁵ Daily Star (The), 66 dead as city convulsed with violence, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹²⁶ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 225; Daily Observer, Somoy-Ekattor among 5 television channel offices attacked, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹²⁷ UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), para. 225

¹⁹²⁸ Financial Express (The), Consolidation of cultural mooring is sorely missed, 10 August 2024, [url](#)





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Annex 3: Terms of Reference

The purpose of this report is to provide information on political developments and the human rights situation in Bangladesh under the interim government, which took office following student-led protests in July–August 2024. The report examines the interim government, its mandate and reform efforts, and ability to maintain public order and security, as well as its impact on civic space and human rights. Additionally, it covers the impact of the government transition on key parts of the state structure, including law enforcement and the judiciary, and the situation of a number of profiles. The report also provides information on the student protests that led to the resignation of the previous government, and the subsequent treatment of former ruling party members and supporters, and sheds light on new information on past human rights violations committed under the previous administration.

The reference period covered by this report is 16 May 2024–30 June 2025. It should be read in conjunction with the [EUAA COI Report Bangladesh – Country Focus](#) that was published before the student protests in 2024.

Political situation

Overview of the student protests and their aftermath

- Background to the protests
- Timeline of events in June–August 2024
- Violence during the protests

The new interim government

- Composition of the new interim government, its stated aims, authority and mandate
- Perceived legitimacy and support among the general population and civil society
- Announced reforms, and their implementation, with a particular focus on efforts to combat corruption
- Overview of new legislation in force, and abolished laws

Impact on actors within law enforcement

- Operational status following the power shift
- Announced reforms and their implementation
- Impact on the conduct of the Rapid Action Battalion, the Detective Branch and other actors accused of human rights abuse under the previous government, i.e. information on whether such conduct continues under the current government and whether such actors have been dissolved or purged
- Accountability for conduct of law enforcement serving under the former government



Impact on the justice sector

- Operational status following the power shift
- Announced reforms and their implementation

Human rights under the new government

- Corporal punishment and the death penalty
- Enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings
- Treatment of detained individuals, and prison conditions

Security and public order under the new government

- Violence and crime trends following the change of government
- Security developments in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Socio-economic situation

- National economic and financial situation, and poverty rates
- Climate-induced displacement
- Basic subsistence and employment
- Food security
- Housing
- Healthcare

Treatment of specific profiles and groups of the population

Awami League officials and party members

- Treatment by state actors
- Treatment of the general public, and other non-state actors such as former opposition party affiliates
- Accountability for conduct of government officials and law enforcement serving under the former government, including information on former officials leaving the country and on human rights abuse committed under the previous administration
- Other political party affiliates

Actors of civil society and the media

- Civic space under the new government
- Journalists and media workers
- Human rights defenders



Women and girls

- Position in society and discrimination, including information on single female heads of households
- Announced reforms addressing the rights of women and girls, and their implementation
- Targeted violence following the shift of power
- Violence against women, e.g. forced marriage
- Access to justice

Ethnic and religious minorities, including indigenous people

- Position in society and discrimination, including religious freedom
- Announced reforms addressing the rights of ethnic and religious minorities and indigenous people, and their implementation
- Targeted violence following the shift of power
- Rohingyas from Myanmar

LGBTIQ persons

- Position in society and discrimination
- Announced reforms addressing the rights of LGBTIQ persons, and their implementation
- Targeted violence following the shift of power

Bangladeshi nationals migrating abroad

- Migration profile
- Illegal money lending, and access to justice and legal assistance upon return
- Victims of trafficking in human beings
 - Overview of trafficking of Bangladeshi nationals abroad
 - Societal treatment upon return
 - Access to justice and legal assistance



