

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

04 KILLING **289** INJURED

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED

32 CASES OF VIOLENCE

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

14 CUSTODIAL DEATHS

MOB VIOLENCE

24 KILLING **13** VANDALISM

JOURNALISTS FACED

01 KILLING **37** PHYSICAL ATTACK

In September 2025, the overall human rights condition in Bangladesh became more alarming than in previous months. Political clashes, communal attacks, and violations of free expression occurred across different parts of the country. Most political violence took place within the BNP, while clashes between Sunni and Qawmi groups in Chittagong added a new layer of unrest. Attacks on religious minorities also increased, the most shocking being the assault at Nurul Pagla’s shrine in Rajbari, where a mob desecrated a grave and burned a body. Journalists faced frequent attacks and threats, making it difficult for them to work freely. At the same time, several people died in police and prison custody, raising serious questions about justice and state accountability.



burning the body of Nural Pagla in Rajbari

MAZARS STILL UNDER ATTACK

In September 2025, a series of attacks targeting religious shrines and clerics raised serious concerns over growing intolerance and sectarian tension in Bangladesh. One of the major incidents took place at the mazar of Nural Pagla in Narsingdi, where devotees were attacked by unidentified assailants, leaving several injured and spreading panic among followers. Around the same time, in Comilla, a violent mob vandalized a local shrine and attacked people during a religious gathering, reportedly over disputes regarding religious practices. These back-to-back incidents indicate a disturbing rise in violence against spiritual and faith-based communities.

VOIANCE IN KHAGRACHARI

In September 2025, Khagrachari witnessed widespread unrest after an indigenous teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped. The protests, led by the “Jumma Chhatra-Janata,” demanded swift justice amid accusations of police inaction, delayed medical tests, and suppression of the case. Roadblocks were set up across Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban, with tires burned and trees felled. Clashes with law enforcement in Guimara left at least three dead and several injured, while shops, homes, and motorcycles were torched. The incident exposed the acute vulnerability of indigenous communities and the failures of authorities to protect them.

JOURNALISTS UNDER ATTACK

Freedom of expression remained under severe pressure during September, as journalists and media workers continued to face attacks, intimidation, and restrictions in the line of duty. The month recorded the death of one journalist, 37 cases of physical assault, and 14 incidents of threats or intimidation. These attacks originated from both state and non-state actors, often involving political cadres, law enforcement personnel, and criminal groups who seek to suppress reporting on corruption and rights violations.

1. Overview

The human rights landscape of Bangladesh in September 2025 reflected a tense and volatile environment, shaped by widespread political unrest, rising communal aggression, and persistent violations of civil liberties. Throughout the month, the country experienced four political killings, hundreds of injuries, and numerous incidents of vandalism, largely stemming from intra-party violence within the BNP and clashes among religious factions in Chittagong.

Simultaneously, attacks on minority communities intensified, with the gruesome mob assault at Nurul Pagla's shrine in Rajbari symbolizing a dangerous resurgence of organized religious vigilantism. Journalists continued to face intimidation, physical assault, and even death while performing their duties, highlighting the shrinking space for free expression. Custodial deaths and reports of abuse within prisons and law enforcement agencies further revealed systemic failures in ensuring justice and accountability.

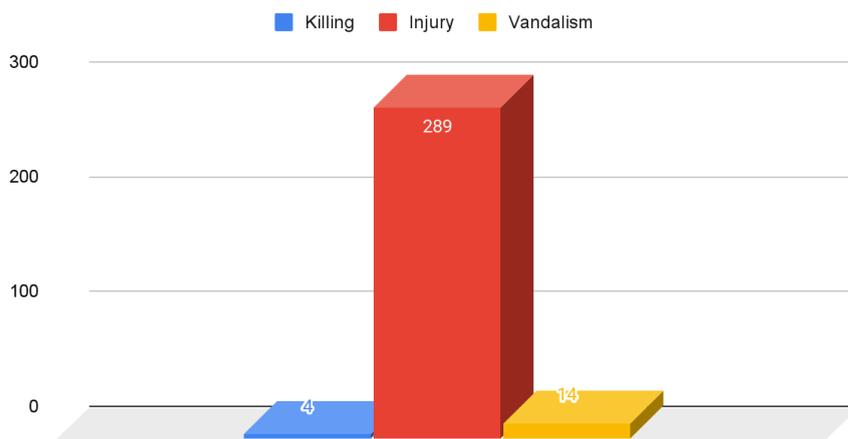
A particularly alarming incident occurred in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the rape of an indigenous teenage girl in Khagrachhari led to mass protests, clashes, and several deaths.

Together, these incidents illustrate a deteriorating rights situation where political rivalry, religious intolerance, and institutional negligence intersect to undermine public trust and social harmony.

2. Political Violence

Political violence in September resulted in 4 deaths, 289 injuries, and 14 incidents of vandalism nationwide. When analyzed by party affiliation, the majority of violence was linked to BNP, accounting for 125 Casualties, primarily arising from inter-party clashes. 21 injured from Jamaat-e-Islami, while 10 Awami League supporters were recorded. The remaining 141 injured from the other groups, including Sunni and Qawmi factions in Chittagong, where clashes erupted around Eid-e-Miladunnabi celebrations.

Political Violence - September 2025



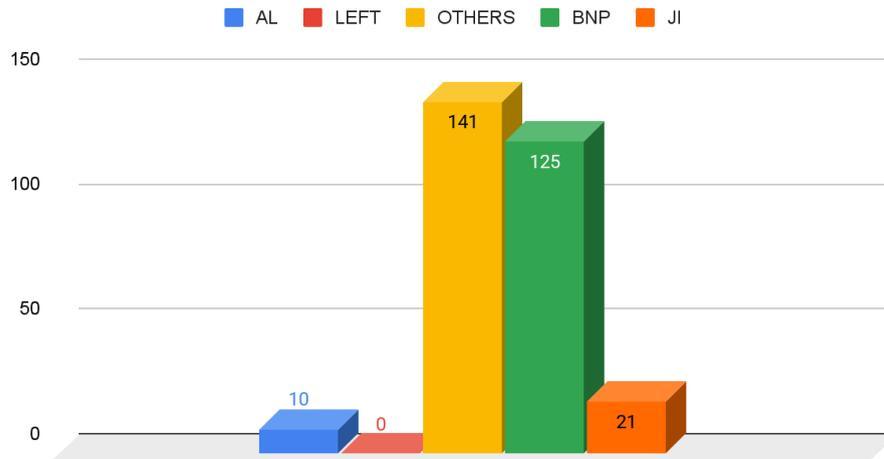
These incidents reflect the continuing entrenchment of violent tactics in political and social disputes. Injuries, property destruction, and fatalities occurred in both urban and rural areas, often disrupting local communities and causing fear among residents. Property vandalism has increased as a method of intimidation, while factional clashes continue to escalate physical confrontations.

Babul Akhter (55), who was seriously injured in a clash between two local BNP groups over a land dispute in Daulatpur, Kushtia, has [died while undergoing treatment](#). He died while undergoing treatment at Kushtia General Hospital around 2:30 pm on September 6.

[A clash broke out between Chhatra Dal and Shibir in Muladi](#), Barisal. On the morning of September 10, 25 people from both sides were injured in the incident at Muladi Government College in Muladi upazila of the district.

On the afternoon of September 3, a clash broke out between two groups over seating in front of the stage at a BNP foundation anniversary event in the Parashuram Station Road area. [At least 12 people were injured](#).

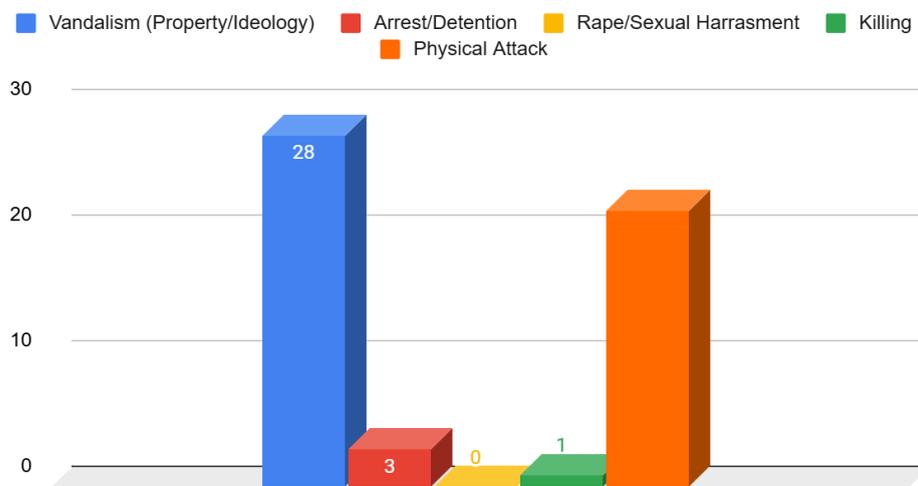
Political Violence by Party - September 2025



3. Violence Against Minorities

September recorded 1 killing, 22 physical assaults, 28 incidents of vandalism, and 3 attacks on property targeting minority and marginalized communities. Attacks ranged from physical assaults on individuals to large-scale damage of temples, houses, and business establishments. These figures reveal the persistence of communal hostility and social exclusion faced by vulnerable groups across Bangladesh.

Attack on Religious Minority - September 2025



On September 5, an attack was [carried out on the grave, house, and Darbar Sharif of Nurul Haque alias 'Nural Pagla' in Goalanda, Rajbari, under the name of 'Tawhidi Janata'](#). The attackers even took his body from the grave and set it on fire at the Padma intersection of the highway. One of the injured in the attack died while undergoing treatment, while at least 21 others were injured.

Multiple eyewitnesses said that initially, a group of people tried to enter Nural Pagla's residence in groups. At this time, brickbats were thrown between the devotees and the agitators of the shrine. At one stage, a group of people climbed the wall of the shrine and entered, beating many people in the shrine and vandalizing the establishment. At this time, the attackers took his body from the grave in front of the house and took it to the highway a short distance away, and set it on fire.

On September 18, [four shrines were attacked and vandalized in Homna, Comilla, over a social media post that denigrated the Prophet Muhammad](#). Three houses in the courtyard of one of the shrines were vandalized and set on fire. The four shrines that were attacked are the shrine of Alek Shah's father Kafil Uddin Shah located in his house in Asadpur village, the shrine of Abdu Shah in the same village, the shrine of Kalai (Kanu) Shah, and the shrine of Hawali Shah.

On September 2, idols of the Sharadiya Durgotsav festival were set on fire in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha. [Five idols and various equipment were burnt in this incident](#). Sadullapur police station OC Tajuddin Khandaker said, "The idol was set on fire in the dark of night. The matter is being investigated seriously. Efforts are on to identify those involved."

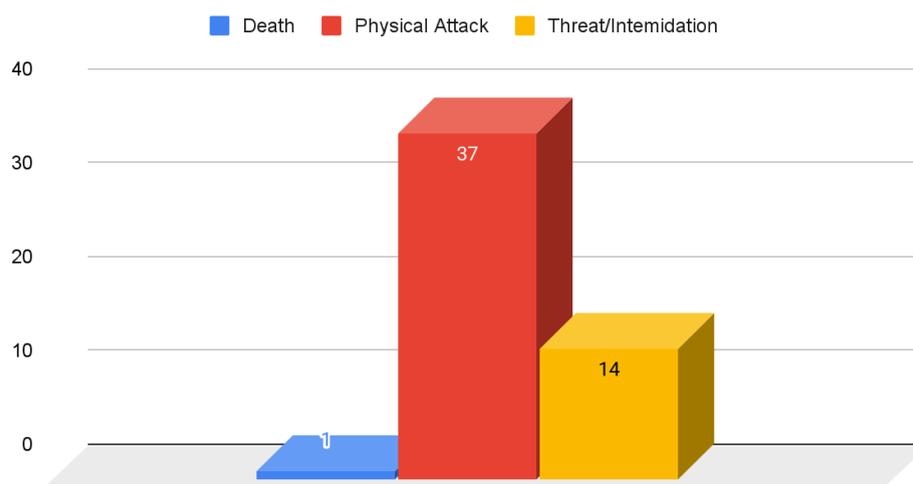
The destruction of property and the absence of swift justice discourage victims from seeking legal recourse, reinforcing a cycle of fear and silence. This climate undermines social cohesion and contradicts the constitutional promise of equal protection for all citizens regardless of religion, caste, or ethnicity. The repeated nature of these attacks reflects not only prejudice within communities but also institutional negligence in preventing or prosecuting hate-motivated violence.

4. Freedom of Expression

A. Attack on Journalists

Freedom of expression remained under severe pressure during September, as journalists and media workers continued to face attacks, intimidation, and restrictions in the line of duty. The month recorded the death of one journalist, 37 cases of physical assault, and 14 incidents of threats or intimidation. These attacks originated from both state and non-state actors, often involving political cadres, law enforcement personnel, and criminal groups who seek to suppress reporting on corruption and rights violations.

Attack on Journalists - September 2025



On September 27, [the body of a journalist was recovered from his private office](#) in Islampur Upazila of Jamalpur. According to police and local journalists, his family members found his body hanging in his private office on Saturday afternoon. Islampur Upazila Press Club President Md. Moraduzzaman told Prothom Alo that he had been physically ill for a long time. His family has claimed that he committed suicide due to financial crisis and physical illness.

[Five journalists](#), including the Narsingdi district correspondents of Jamuna Television and Somoy Television, were attacked by terrorists while covering a clash between two BNP groups in Alokballi,

Narsingdi, on September 18. The incident took place at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital around 10:30 am on Thursday.

[Three journalists were attacked in Uttara on September 30.](#) A gang of teenagers led by Akash attacked Daily Ittefaq journalist Jahangir Kabir, Sokaler Somoy city reporter Md. Jobair Ahmed, and Bijoy TV reporter AK Azad when they went to a restaurant in Uttara to gather news about a dispute between two businessmen. CCTV footage shows Akash and his associates beating the journalists indiscriminately. In particular, the footage also shows journalist Md. Jobair Ahmed being strangled and punched and kicked one after the other.

The continued pattern of violence and threats has created a climate of fear among media professionals, discouraging investigative reporting and promoting self-censorship.

5. Freedom of Assembly

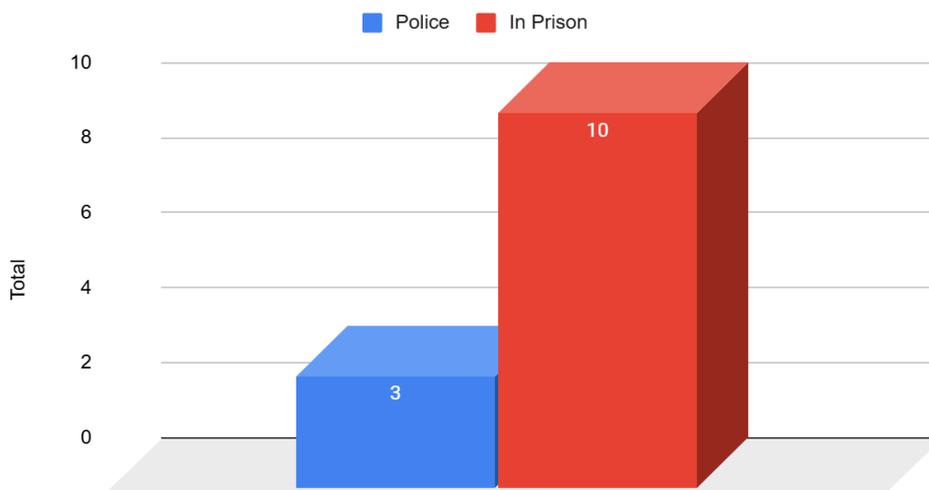
On Monday, September 15, 2025, the [police beat up protesters demanding the nationalization of private primary school teachers.](#) During this, the police dispersed them by using water cannons and sound grenades. When the protesters started marching from the National Press Club towards the residence of the Chief Advisor, the police attacked them. Abdur Rahim, the leader of private primary teachers, said, "The police stopped us in front of the High Court on the way to the Jamuna when we were marching towards the Jamuna. During this, they lathicharged and threw tear gas shells. 10-12 of us were injured. The teachers dispersed. He said, this program was being run under the banner of the Nationalization Deprived Private Primary Schools Oikya Parishad. We want the primary schools excluded from the nationalization list to be nationalized."

On September 8, [police batoned workers in Gazipur](#) while they were protesting by blocking the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, demanding payment of outstanding salaries. The factory employs about 800 workers. The protesting workers said that their salaries for July and August are still outstanding. Even though September has arrived, they are not being paid on various pretexts. As a result, it has become difficult to run a family.

6. State Violence and Custodial Deaths

September documented 14 deaths related to state violence and custody, including 3 attributed to police action, 1 linked to the Rapid Action Battalion, and 10 deaths inside prisons..

Death in Custody - September 2025



Former [Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun](#), who was in prison, died on September 29 while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A photograph of him wearing handcuffs on his deathbed was released, sparking a strong reaction.

Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has been in prison since his arrest in a case of murder, assault and vandalism in Narsingdi during the anti-discrimination student movement.

An accused in a murder case in [RAB custody died in Sylhet](#) on September 13. RAB claimed that the accused committed suicide by hanging himself while in custody. The deceased Tanvir Chowdhury's home is in Gazipur. He was an accused in a murder case in Naogaon district.

A man named Roni (30), who was detained at the police station on suspicion of theft in Tongi, Gazipur, died. The incident took place on the evening of September 11 at the Tongi West Police

Station's gardakhana. Police claim that he fell ill at the gardakhana and was rescued and taken to the hospital. From there, he was sent to Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment, where he died. [The deceased Roni Mia's body had multiple injury marks.](#)

Abu Bakkar Siddique (70), former chairman of Kanchipara Union in Fulchhari Upazila and president of the union Awami League, [died at Gaibandha Central Jail.](#) He was taken from the prison to Gaibandha 250-bed General Hospital around 11:30 pm on Sunday, September 22, in an unwell condition, and was declared dead by the doctor on duty.

On September 23, a man was allegedly tortured to death by police in Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria. Abdullah, a suspect in a theft case in Barail village of the upazila, was arrested and beaten by the people of the area. Later, he was handed over to the Salimganj police outpost in a seriously injured condition. Local residents alleged that after being handed over to the outpost, [the police detained him for four days for unknown reasons and tortured him.](#) As a result, the young man fell seriously ill. He then died at the Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital last Sunday (September 28) while undergoing treatment.

Reports from various prisons indicate inadequate supervision and denial of timely treatment for ill inmates. Deaths linked to police and RAB operations further expose the absence of accountability and the continued reliance on excessive force. Despite repeated national and international concern, mechanisms for independent investigation remain ineffective.

7. Violence Against Indigenous Communities

September witnessed one of the most violent incidents in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In Khagrachhari, the rape of an indigenous teenage girl triggered widespread protests under the banner of Jumma Chhatra-Janata, demanding justice and the arrest of all perpetrators. [Protesters alleged that local police initially hesitated to file the case,](#) delayed medical examination to destroy evidence, and framed a weak complaint to ensure the accused could secure bail. On September 26 and 27, protesters enforced a dawn-to-noon blockade that paralyzed road communication between

Khagrachhari, Chattogram, Rangamati, and Sajek. Tires were burned, roads blocked with logs, and processions were met with heavy police deployment and army patrols.

As tensions rose, clashes broke out in Guimara upazila between security forces and demonstrators. Gunfire was reported, [resulting in the deaths of three people and injuries to several others](#). Later, unidentified individuals set fire to Ramessu Bazar—mostly owned by indigenous residents—burning shops, homes, and motorcycles. Witnesses accused armed men, some masked, of looting before setting the market ablaze. The entire area remained under heavy security following the incident, and public movement was restricted.

This chain of events highlights the continuing vulnerability of indigenous communities in the Hill Tracts, where long-standing grievances over land, justice, and security are met with delayed or inadequate state response. The Khagrachhari case became not only a symbol of gender-based violence but also of systemic discrimination and the absence of credible justice mechanisms for indigenous peoples in Bangladesh.

8. Organized and Targeted Mob Violence

September 2025 witnessed a surge of mob attacks and organized religiously motivated violence in multiple districts of Bangladesh, revealing an alarming pattern of intolerance, vigilante actions, and collective punishment justified under the pretext of defending religious sentiments. These incidents often began with allegations of blasphemy or “anti-Islamic behavior” and quickly escalated into violent mob actions—often with minimal preventive intervention from authorities.

The most horrific incident occurred in Rajbari’s Goalanda upazila, where thousands of people, mobilized under the banner of the *Iman-Aqidah Rokkha Committee*, [attacked the Nurul Pagla Darbar Sharif on 20 September](#). The mob vandalized the spiritual center, set it on fire, desecrated graves, and shockingly exhumed and burned the body of the late spiritual leader *Nurul Haque*, known locally as Nurul Pagla. Reports indicate that the attack followed days of incitement, including a press conference by local clerics who accused the Darbar of “anti-Islamic activities” and

demanded the leveling of the raised burial site. Following Friday prayers, the pre-announced protest turned violent, leaving around fifty people injured. Law enforcement—including police, RAB, and army personnel—were eventually deployed to control the situation, but only after significant destruction and desecration had already occurred. Later, a murder case was filed over the killing of a local man named *Rusel Mandal*, with 3,500–4,000 unidentified attackers named and eleven arrests reported. The Rajbari incident represents one of the most severe cases of organized mob violence in recent years, demonstrating the lethal consequences of unchecked religious incitement and collective vigilantism.

Similar patterns of mob attacks unfolded across other regions during the month. In Faridpur's Boalmari, an 80-year-old man was detained by police after locals accused him of making derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad (SM). The situation escalated rapidly as a crowd surrounded his home demanding punishment. In Narayanganj's Rupganj, police arrested *Pritom Das (21)* for allegedly posting offensive comments on Facebook, with angry residents gathering near his home prior to the arrest.

In Jamalpur's Dewanganj, *Majnu Mia (43)*—reportedly affiliated with a political party—was arrested over similar allegations. The incident prompted agitation by local Islamist groups including Hefazat-e-Islam, who demanded the maximum punishment and hinted at possible protest actions. In Mymensingh's Haluaghat, *Mostafizur Rahman Suman* was arrested for allegedly desecrating a mosque and insulting the Prophet, after locals subdued him and turned him over to police.

In Dhobaura, Mymensingh, [religious students and local residents detained and assaulted an Ansar member accused of blasphemy, sparking a mass protest.](#) The situation required intervention by senior local officials to prevent further escalation.

The month also saw multiple attacks on Sufi shrines and khanqahs. In Rajshahi's Paba upazila, over a hundred people [stormed and vandalized the Azizur Rahman Vhandari Khanqah Sharif](#) during Eid-e-Miladunnabi celebrations, reportedly led by local political figures affiliated with opposition parties. Police, despite being on site, failed to prevent the attack. In Mymensingh city, the *Ata Rasul*

Khaja Baba's Daira Sharif was ransacked by a group that accused the shrine of hosting “immoral activities.” Local authorities later described it as a “spontaneous reaction,” reflecting the normalization of mob violence in the name of morality and faith.

In Cumilla's Homna upazila, organized groups used mosque loudspeakers to mobilize residents after a Facebook post allegedly defamed Islam. [The resulting mob vandalized and set fire to four shrines — Kofil Uddin Shah, Hawali Shah, Kalai Shah, and Abdu Shah.](#) Despite the suspect's prior arrest, the attacks continued unchecked for hours, underscoring both the premeditated nature of the violence and the failure of law enforcement to act decisively.

Collectively, these incidents demonstrate a growing trend of organized vigilantism, mob incitement, and religiously charged violence targeting individuals and spiritual communities. The recurring use of mosque announcements, public processions, and pre-declared protests as mechanisms of collective punishment reflects a dangerous erosion of social harmony and legal accountability. The state's delayed or inadequate response has further emboldened such groups, leaving vulnerable citizens and minority religious practices exposed to intimidation, desecration, and destruction.

9. Conclusion

The overall human rights situation in September 2025 reflects a pattern of violence, negligence, and repression that continues to undermine democratic and civic life in Bangladesh. Political clashes, custodial deaths, and attacks on journalists and minorities expose an enduring culture of fear where justice remains out of reach for ordinary citizens. Especially, the Nural Pagla and Khagrachhari incidents were very alarming.

The state must urgently strengthen its accountability mechanisms, ensure transparent investigations into all forms of violence, and guarantee the independence of media and civil society. Legal protection for minority communities should be reinforced through active monitoring, rapid response systems, and prosecution of perpetrators involved in communal attacks. Prisons and law

enforcement agencies must undergo comprehensive reform to eliminate torture, neglect, and arbitrary use of power.

Most importantly, restoring public confidence in governance requires a renewed commitment to fairness, equality, and the protection of every citizen's right to life, dignity, and expression. Only through sustained institutional reform and an end to impunity can Bangladesh begin to rebuild a culture of justice and human rights.