

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

13 KILLING **176** INJURED

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED

08 CASES OF VIOLENCE

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

09 CUSTODIAL DEATHS

MOB VIOLENCE

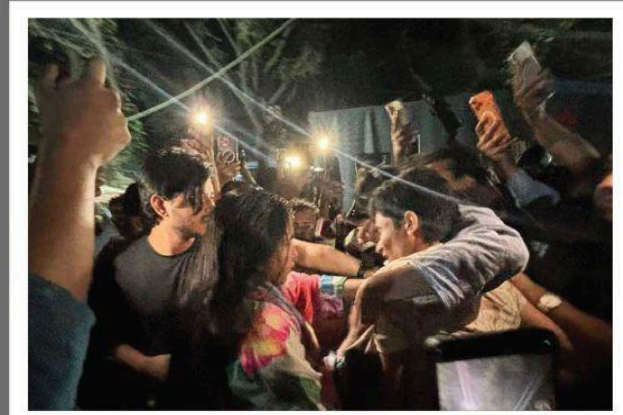
04 KILLING **07** INJURED

JOURNALISTS FACED

10 CASES OF VIOLENCE

Throughout March 2026, incidents of political violence, custodial deaths, attacks on religious minorities, mob justice, and assaults on journalists were recorded across multiple regions. Freedom of assembly also came under pressure, most notably on March 7, when individuals were detained for symbolic political expression, followed by further arrests and legal action against protest participants under anti-terrorism provisions. Additionally, mob violence led to four deaths, including three lynching cases and one suicide following public humiliation, while several other incidents involved torture, social humiliation, and cultural suppression.

Law enforcement was present in many cases but mostly acted after incidents occurred, with little evidence of prevention or effective prosecution. Ongoing violence, restricted freedoms, and weak accountability continue to undermine the rule of law and public trust.



A protest led by Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi outside Shahbagh Police Station ended in a confrontation, where she was assaulted and detained along with Abdullah Al Mamun.

POLITICAL VOILANCE

Political violence in March 2026 was extensive and deeply rooted in local power dynamics, with a significant number of incidents involving clashes, physical assaults, and killings. At least 31 cases of violence and clashes occurred, and 176 persons were injured, with 13 killed.

A notable feature of the month was the predominance of intra-party conflicts, particularly within factions of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), although clashes involving Jamaat-e-Islami and other political actors were also recorded. These conflicts were frequently linked to disputes over control of resources such as land, government benefits, tender processes, and local political dominance.

FRAGILE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The situation of religious minorities in March 2026 remained fragile, with multiple incidents of violence targeting places of worship and religious communities. At least 8 incidents were documented, including five physical attacks and three cases of vandalism.

The nature of the attacks, often targeting religious symbols and property, reflects attempts to intimidate communities and disrupt their cultural and religious practices. While law enforcement agencies responded by visiting sites and initiating investigations, the absence of reported arrests in most cases indicates a lack of effective accountability.

MOB VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Mob violence in March 2026 demonstrated a trend of vigilante justice, with multiple incidents resulting in deaths, severe injuries, and social humiliation. A total of at least 9 cases were recorded were four deaths, with 7 injured, three cases of lynching, and one suicide linked to public humiliation.

In addition, at least five incidents involved physical assault or torture, while two incidents involved social humiliation and one targeted a cultural gathering. The normalization of mob violence reflects that the Interim Government situation continues after the election.

1. Summary

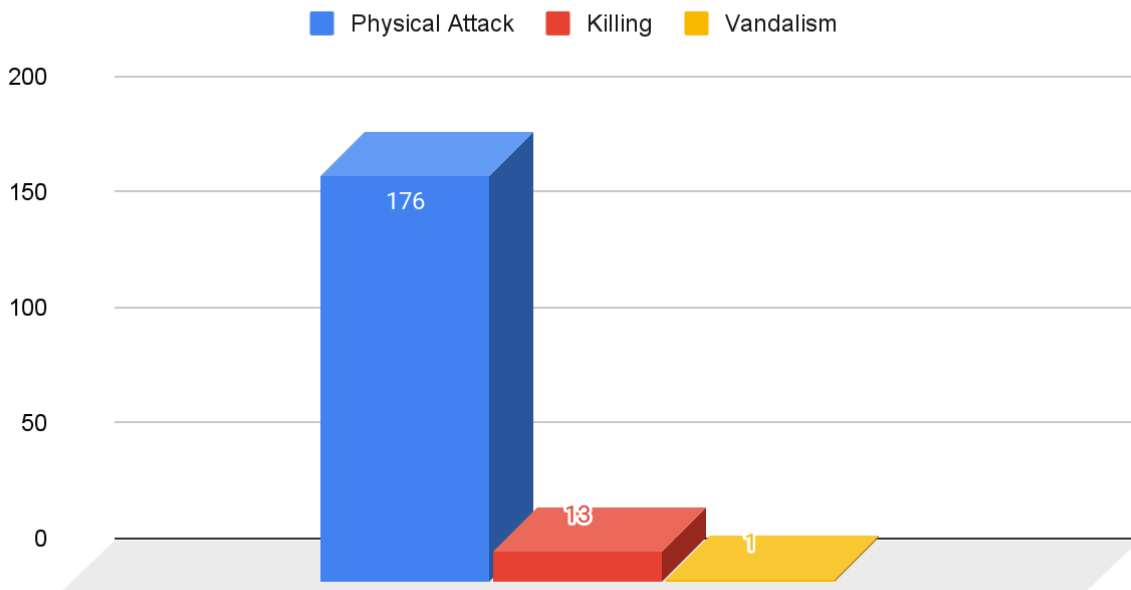
Throughout March 2026, incidents of political violence, custodial deaths, attacks on religious minorities, mob justice, and assaults on journalists were recorded across multiple regions. Freedom of assembly also came under pressure, most notably on March 7, when individuals were detained for symbolic political expression, followed by further arrests and legal action against protest participants under anti-terrorism provisions. Additionally, mob violence led to four deaths, including three lynching cases and one suicide following public humiliation, while several other incidents involved torture, social humiliation, and cultural suppression.

The overall scenario suggests a deteriorating environment where violence and restrictions on civil liberties are increasingly normalized across political, social, and institutional spheres. Although law enforcement agencies were present in many cases and often intervened after incidents occurred, their role remained largely reactive, with limited evidence of preventive measures or successful prosecution. This combination of frequent violence, constrained civic freedoms, and weak accountability mechanisms continues to undermine the rule of law and public trust in state institutions.

2. Political Violence

Political violence in March 2026 was extensive and deeply rooted in local power dynamics, with a significant number of incidents involving clashes, physical assaults, and killings. At least 31 cases of violence and clashes occurred, and 176 persons were injured, with 13 killed. A notable feature of the month was the predominance of intra-party conflicts, particularly within factions of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), although clashes involving Jamaat-e-Islami and other political actors were also recorded. These conflicts were frequently linked to disputes over control of resources such as land, government benefits, tender processes, and local political dominance.

Political Voilance - February 2026

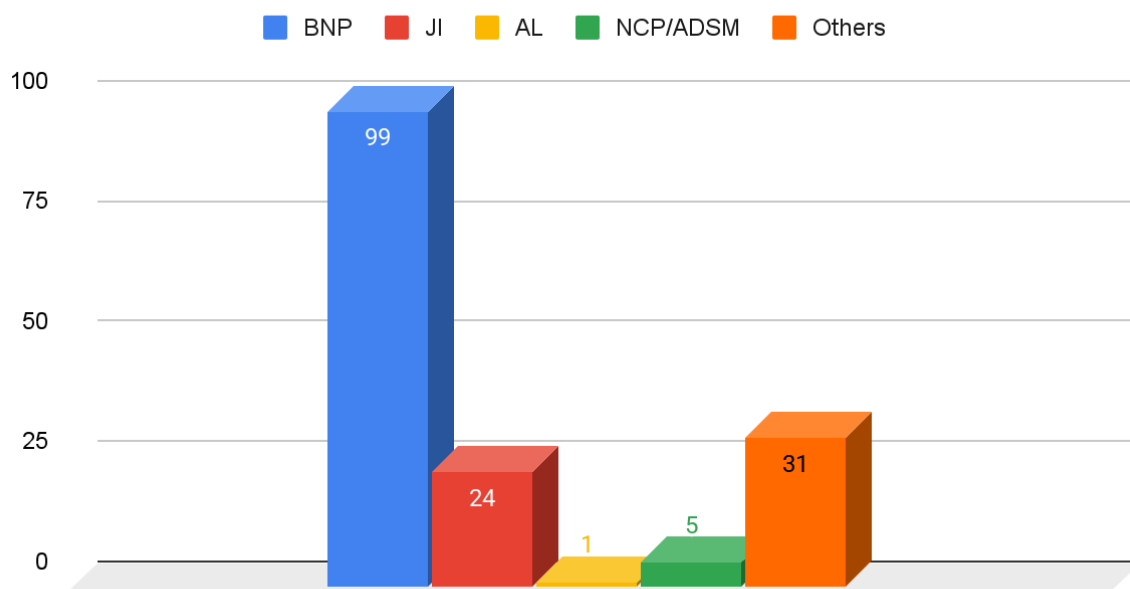


Several major incidents highlight the severity of the situation. On March 1 in Chuadanga, a [violent clash between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami](#) activists led to the killing of Hafizur Rahman, demonstrating how political rivalries can escalate into fatal violence.



On March 4 in Khulna, a [BNP labor leader, Masum Billah, was chased, hacked,](#) and shot dead in what appeared to be a coordinated attack, indicating the organized nature of some political killings. In Madaripur, repeated clashes throughout the month involved the use of handmade bombs, looting, and arson, reflecting entrenched local conflicts over dominance. Another significant incident occurred in Brahmanbaria on March 17, [a prolonged clash between rival BNP factions left around thirty people injured](#). Similarly, in Pabna on March 23, an armed confrontation over extortion-related disputes resulted in the death of a housewife, illustrating how political violence often intersects with criminal activity.

Political Violence by Group - February 2026



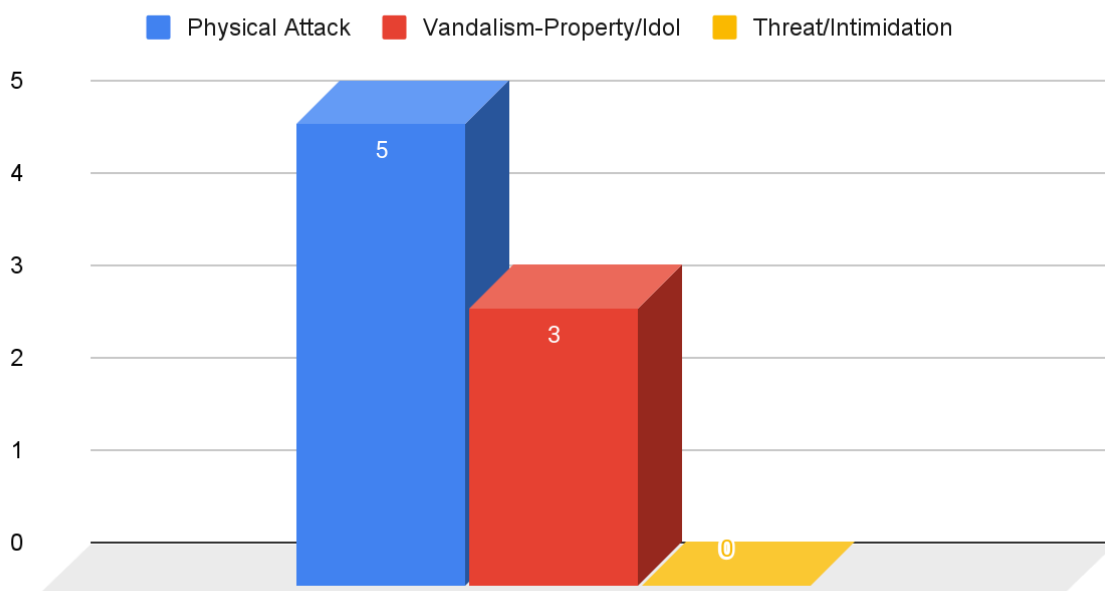
The analysis of these incidents suggests that political violence is increasingly decentralized and driven by local economic and power interests rather than ideological differences alone. The frequent use of weapons, including firearms and explosives, further indicates a high level of organization and preparedness among rival groups. While law enforcement agencies were often deployed to control situations and prevent further escalation, their interventions typically occurred after violence had already taken place. The absence of consistent legal

follow-up and accountability measures raises concerns about impunity and the long-term normalization of such violence.

3. Attacks on Religious Minorities

The situation of religious minorities in March 2026 remained fragile, with multiple incidents of violence targeting places of worship and religious communities. At least 8 incidents were documented, including five physical attacks and three cases of vandalism.

Violence against Religious Minority - February 2026



Among the notable cases, a family temple was attacked on March 1, miscreants broke the lock, looted valuables, and [set the structure on fire, indicating both economic and symbolic motives in a temple in Feni](#). On March 7, a more coordinated attack took place when individuals on motorcycles [threw crude bombs inside a temple and near a mosque](#), creating widespread panic and raising concerns about the use of explosives in such incidents. Another significant case occurred on March 10, [involving the theft and desecration of a 230-year-old historic temple](#), where ornaments and valuable items were stolen from deities.

On March 11, [a fire broke out at a Buddhist monastery](#), with the monastery's authorities claiming it was a deliberate act of arson, although law enforcement initially suggested it might have been accidental. This divergence in interpretation highlights ongoing challenges in establishing accountability and trust.



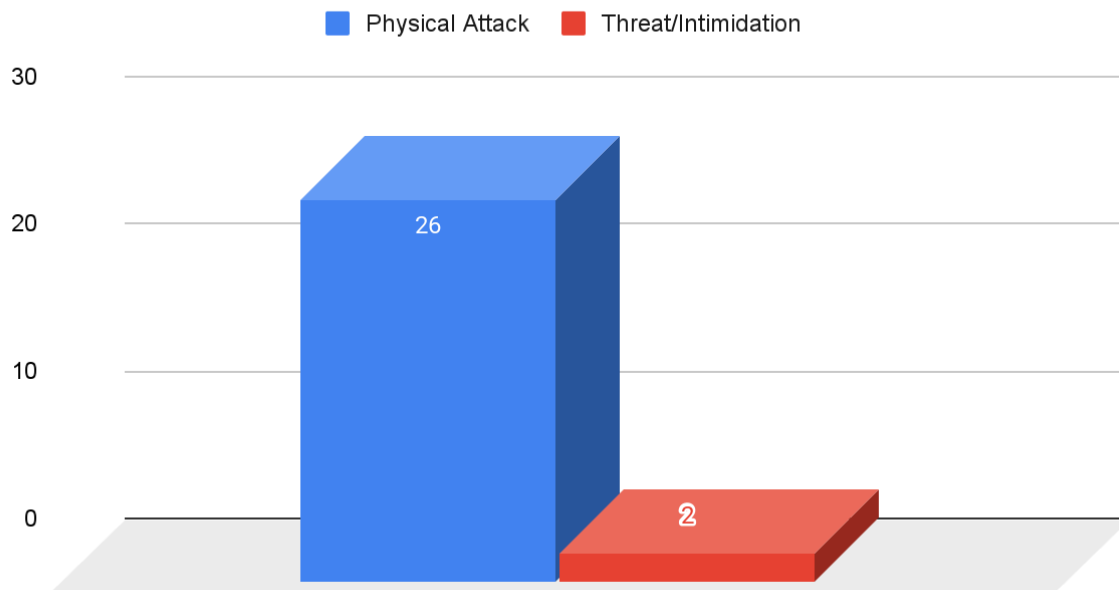
The nature of the attacks, often targeting religious symbols and property, reflects attempts to intimidate communities and disrupt their cultural and religious practices. While law enforcement agencies responded by visiting sites and initiating investigations, the absence of reported arrests in most cases indicates a lack of effective accountability.

4. Freedom of Expression

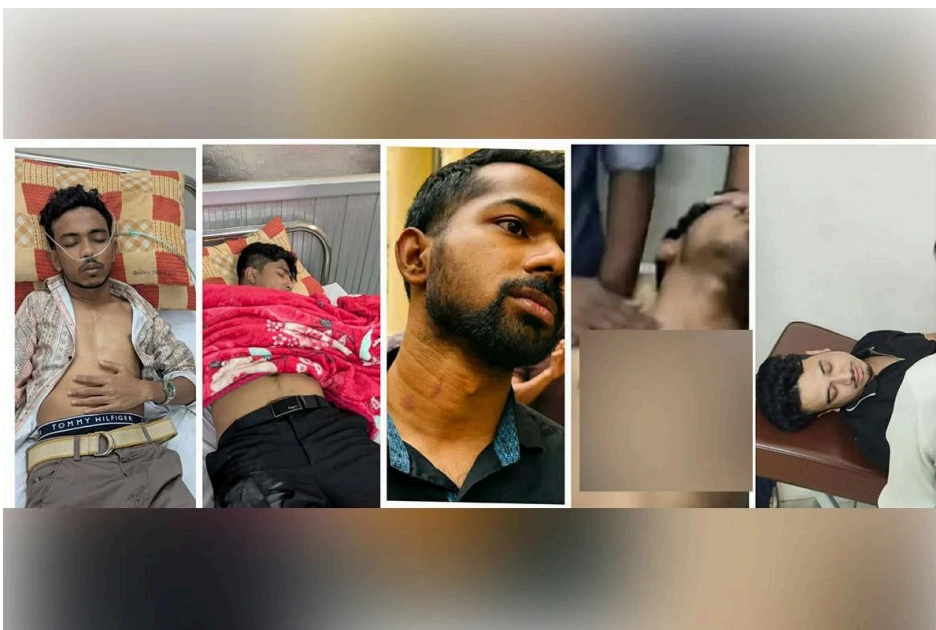
4.1 Attacks on Journalists

A total of 10 incidents involving journalists, in which 28 journalists were physically injured, alongside several incidents involving threats and intimidation.

Voilance of Freedom of Expression - March 2026



On March 2, [journalists Samiul Monir in Satkhira and Bikash Bashar in Magura were attacked](#) due to their reporting and online activities, reflecting direct retaliation for journalistic work. A particularly severe incident took place on March 5 at a university in Jagannath, [where at least twelve journalists were injured in a coordinated attack carried out by members of Islami Chhatra Shibir](#). This event underscores the vulnerability of journalists even in public and institutional spaces.



On March 8, [two journalists were assaulted by a political mob in Dhaka](#), further demonstrating the risks associated with covering politically sensitive issues. Later in the month, on March 18, [journalist Sohel Rana received death threats](#) while documenting a land-grabbing incident in Barguna, highlighting the dangers of investigative reporting.

The pattern of these incidents indicates an increasing willingness among political and ideological groups to use violence and intimidation to suppress media coverage. Although law enforcement agencies recorded General Diaries in several cases and, in some instances, rescued victims from immediate danger, there is little evidence of arrests or legal consequences for the perpetrators. This lack of accountability contributes to a culture of impunity and weakens the deterrent effect of legal protections for journalists.

5. Freedom of Assembly

On March 7, 2026, police took four people into custody near Dhanmondi 32 while they carried flowers, and later apprehended a student, Asif Ahmed Saikat, at Chankharpul for broadcasting the historic 7th March speech via a soundbox.



These actions led to a protest in front of the Shahbagh Police Station, organized and led by Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi, which resulted in a confrontation where Emi faced assault before her detention along with Abdullah Al Mamun. The state initiated legal action against Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi and the other participants under the Act against Terrorism, citing the involvement of members of a banned organization. The court in Dhaka later ordered the transfer of Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi to jail after the officer filed an application seeking her custody.

According to the case report, at around 3 pm on Saturday, some members of the banned Awami League, Jubo League, and Chhatra League gathered at the intersection adjacent to Shahidullah Hall and played March 7 speeches on loudspeakers. Upon receiving information, the police arrested Asif Ahmed Saikat at the scene.

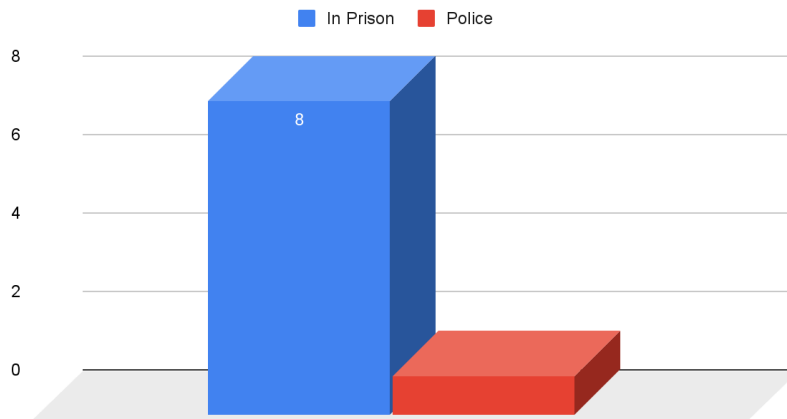
Later, at around 9:20 pm on the same day, Abdul Al Mamun and Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Imi, along with 10-15 unknown persons, gathered in front of Gate No. 1 of the National Museum. At that time, Tarawih prayers were being held at the mosque under Shahbagh Police Station. It is alleged that the accused, facing the mosque, shouted provocative slogans through loudspeakers and tried to reactivate the activities of the banned organization as part of an anti-government conspiracy.

The court finalized the transfer of Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi and the other two detainees to prison. The investigation into the allegations of anti-state activities and links to banned entities continued under the supervision of the Shahbagh Police Station.

6. Custodial Deaths

Custodial deaths remained a critical concern in March 2026, with a total of eight deaths recorded in prison facilities.

Death in Custody - March 2026



All reported cases were officially attributed to illness, with detainees being transferred to hospitals where they were declared dead. These incidents occurred across multiple districts, indicating that the issue is not confined to a single location.

On March 15, 2026, Shahnur Alam (60), from [Bogra's Sariakandi Upazila, died in prison custody](#). He was the vice-president of the Hatsherpur Union Awami League in Sariakandi, an organization whose activities are currently banned. He passed away while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the capital, where he had been admitted after being transferred from the Keraniganj Central Jail.

Shahnur Alam, [vice-president of the Hatsherpur Union Awami League](#) in Bogra's Sariakandi—where the organization's activities are currently banned—died in police custody on March 5, 2026.



[Aziz Sana died in Satkhira on March 2 after reportedly falling ill in prison](#), while Shahajan Mia died in Brahmanbaria on March 7 under similar circumstances. In Dhaka,

[Mashiur Rahman died on March 5 after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from custody.](#) Additional deaths were reported in Bogura, Panchagarh, and other areas, following the same pattern of illness and hospital transfer.

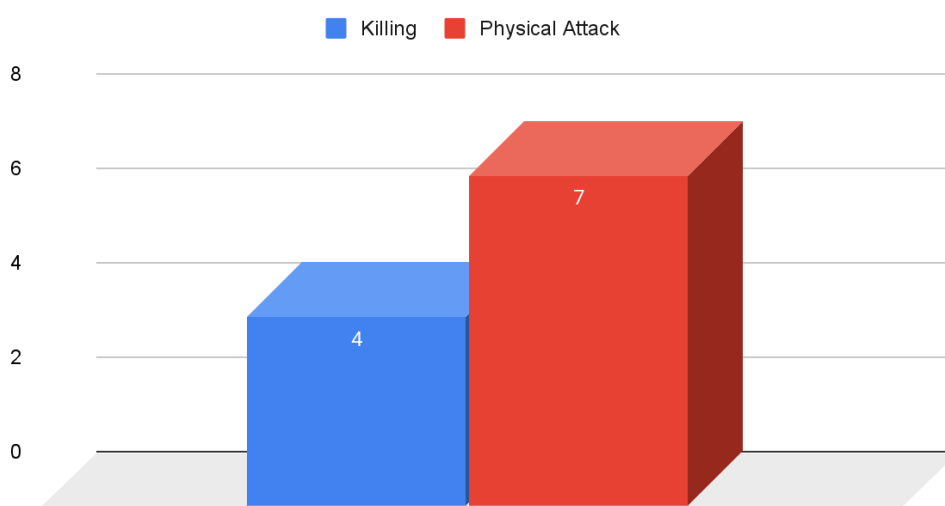
While authorities consistently reported that autopsies would be conducted, these cases raise broader concerns about prison conditions, access to adequate healthcare, and the overall treatment of detainees. The repeated occurrence of such deaths suggests possible systemic deficiencies in medical care within detention facilities. Furthermore, the lack of independent investigations limits transparency and accountability, making it difficult to determine whether negligence or other factors may have contributed to these deaths.

Custodial deaths in March 2026 highlight ongoing structural issues within the prison system, emphasizing the need for improved healthcare, monitoring, and independent oversight mechanisms.

6. Mob Violence

Mob violence in March 2026 demonstrated a trend of vigilante justice, with multiple incidents resulting in deaths, severe injuries, and social humiliation. A total of at least 9 cases were recorded were four deaths, with 7 injured, three cases of lynching, and one suicide linked to public humiliation. In addition, at least five incidents involved physical assault or torture, while two incidents involved social humiliation and one targeted a cultural gathering.

Mob Voilance - March 2026



The month began with a mob attack in Rajshahi on March 1, [where individuals suspected of robbery were beaten by a crowd](#). On [March 2 in Kushtia](#) and [March 6 in Kishoreganj](#), individuals accused of theft were beaten to death by local mobs, illustrating the lethal consequences of such actions. In Narayanganj, [two women were publicly assaulted and had their hair forcibly cut, reflecting the use of humiliation as a form of punishment](#).



In Gazipur, a [suspected snatcher was subjected to extreme violence, including the cutting of leg tendons](#), indicating the brutality of mob actions. Additionally, on March 8, [a youth was beaten to death in Narayanganj](#), and on March 22, [a traditional Baul music session in Sylhet was attacked and disrupted](#) by a group of around one hundred individuals.

The normalization of mob violence reflects that the Interim Government situation continues after the election. The lack of trust in law enforcement and judicial systems, as well as broader social acceptance of violent and humiliating forms of punishment. Although police

intervened in some cases to rescue victims or recover bodies, their actions were largely reactive and insufficient to prevent such incidents.

In conclusion, mob violence poses a serious threat to the rule of law and human rights, contributing to fatalities, long-term trauma, and the erosion of legal norms. Addressing this issue requires both stronger law enforcement responses and broader social awareness to counter the acceptance of vigilantism.

7. Conclusion

Persistent and multifaceted challenges, including political violence, custodial deaths, attacks on religious minorities, suppression of freedom of expression, and the rise of mob justice marked the human rights landscape in Bangladesh during March 2026. These issues collectively point to systemic weaknesses in governance, law enforcement, and accountability mechanisms.

The widespread nature of political violence and the increasing risks faced by journalists indicate a shrinking democratic space, while the continued targeting of religious minorities underscores ongoing social vulnerabilities. At the same time, the prevalence of mob violence reflects a broader erosion of trust in formal institutions and a dangerous normalization of extrajudicial actions.

Although law enforcement agencies were present in many situations, their predominantly reactive approach and the lack of visible legal consequences for perpetrators highlight significant gaps in the justice system. Without meaningful reforms aimed at strengthening accountability, ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups, and restoring public confidence in legal institutions, these patterns are likely to persist.