



**BANGLADESH HINDU PERSECUTION**  
**HALF-YEARLY REPORT**  
**January 2023 - June 2023**

Published by  
Sriti O Chetona  
28 July 2023

## Table of Contents

Overview for January 2023 - June 2023	3
Featured Incidents	6
Blasphemy Law in Bangladesh, Does It Apply to All Faiths Equally?	13
What is in a Name? Recent Spree of Renaming Places in Bangladesh	16
Recommendations	19
Appendix	23

In 2023, the plight of minorities in Bangladesh continued to worsen, with Hindus and indigenous tribal populations facing acts of aggression such as abuse, looting, destruction, kidnapping, rape, murder, eviction, and coerced conversion to Islam. This report provides an overview of the incidents compiled by Sriti o Chetona (SoC) from public information (including photos) that are available on social media and newspapers. This report provides an overview of the atrocities committed against these communities in Bangladesh from January 2023 to June 2023.

## Overview

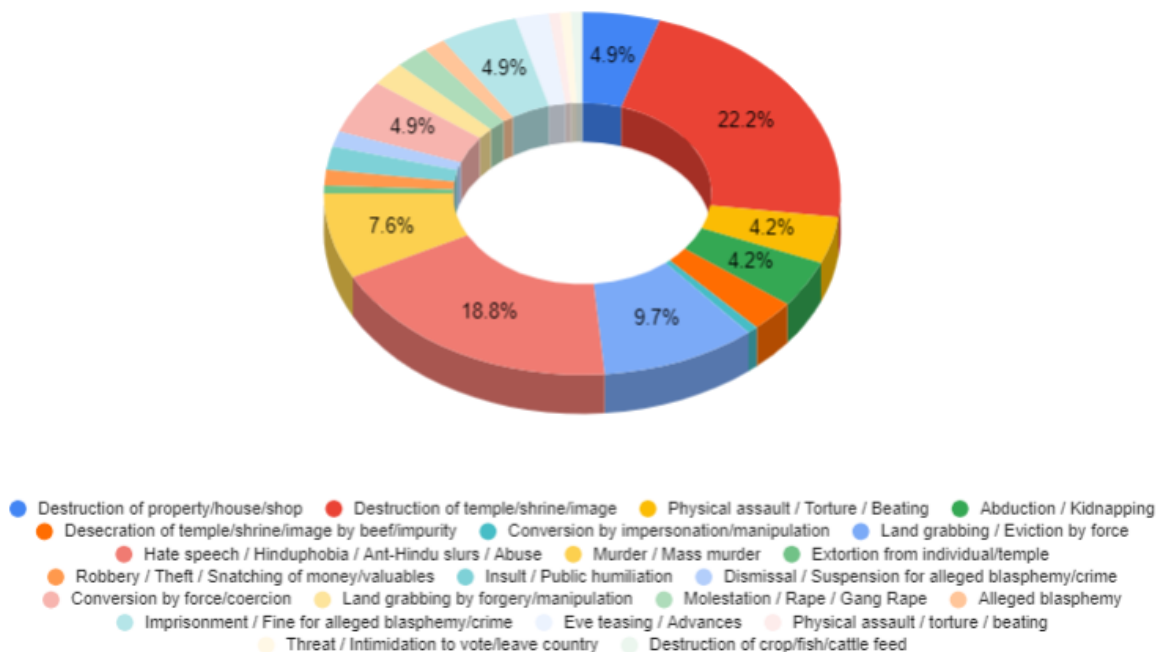
In this report, we analyzed the incidents of persecution primarily by following metrics:

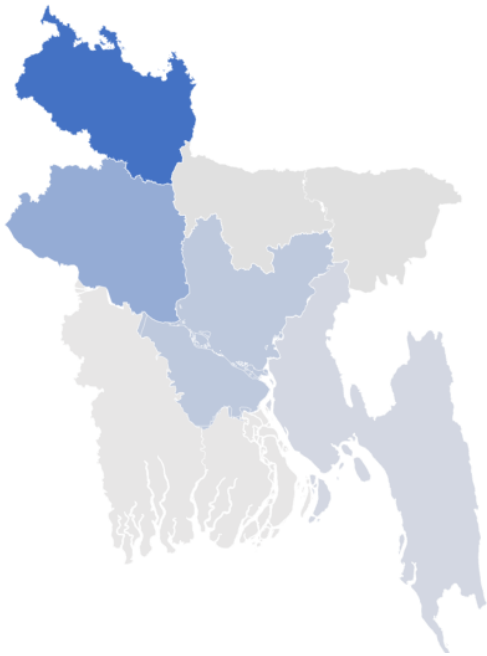
- Persecution category (collated by SoC team)
- Geographical division,
- Victim’s social group (individual, family, community)

In addition to the above-mentioned metrics, we will also look into the data by month of the year, religious belief, gender and age of the victims.

We will the persecution incidents in detail for top three categories, “Destruction of temple / shrine / image”, which constitutes 22.2%, “Hate Speech / Hinduphobia / Anti-Hindu slurs / Abuse” constitutes 18.8% followed by “Land grabbing / Eviction by force” with 9.7%.

Persecution By Category





If we combine numbers for “Desecration of temple/shrine/image by beef/impurity” and “Destruction of temple / shrine / images”, they constitute a quarter of the persecution incidents.

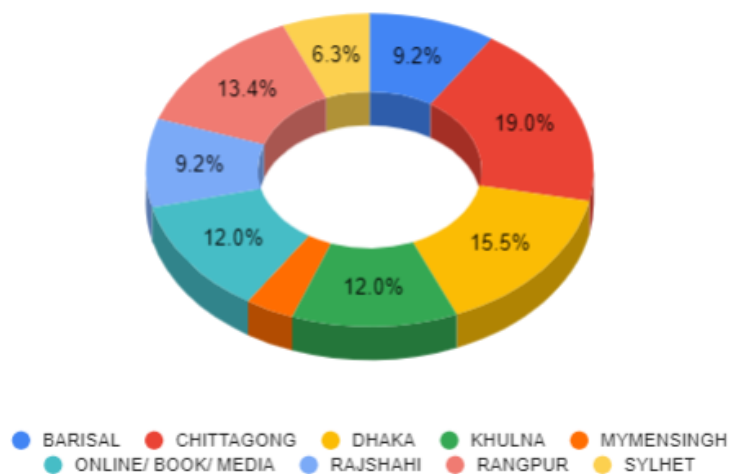
When we look at this category by geographical administrative division (eight in total), Rangpur division in the north-west adjacent to the Indian state of West Bengal, has the highest number of incidents, accounting for 31% of the incidents and Mymensingh is lowest, with less than 10% of the total incidents.

When we analyze the “Hate Speech / Hinduphobia / Anti-Hindu slurs / Abuse” category, we find the majority of the incidents are found in social media and other internet sources. Last month, a Bangladeshi Muslim cleric, Enayet Ullah Abbasi, was not allowed to give speeches in Great Britain. [IHRC](#) had demanded prosecution and deportation of the cleric from the UK. SoC has reported on the cleric’s hate speeches in prior month’s reports.

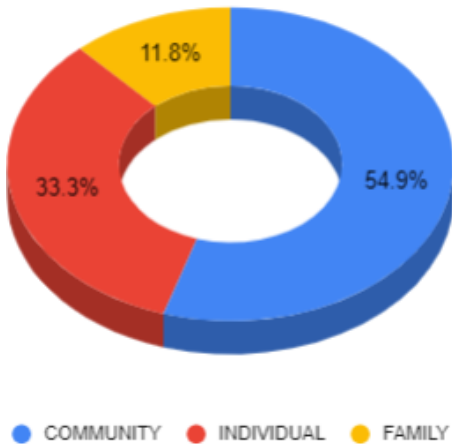
When we analyze data by geographical divisions, Chittagong division accounts for 19%, followed by Dhaka (15.5%), Rangpur (13.4%) and Khulna (12%) divisions.

Online / Book / Media account for 12% of incidents.

Persecution By Geographical Division



Persecution By Victim Group



When data is analyzed by the victim's social group, the attacks on temples and other community properties or general anti-hindu slurs, mass threat for conversion, expulsion from the country and abuse are considered affecting the whole community, which accounts for 54.9% of the victim group.

Most of the individual victims faced abduction and forced conversion in case of women and accusation of blasphemy in case of men. This group accounts for a third of all victims.

When the total number of incidents recorded by the SoC team was analyzed by month, a sharp uptick was found in April. Referring back to the April 2023 report, we found a sharp rise in online "Hate Speech / Hinduphobia / Anti-Hindu slurs / Abuse". This surge can be due to two reasons - celebration of Bangla New Year, which Islamists decry for having Hindu pagan roots and fasting and religious observance by Muslims, which lead to religious fervor and vigilance among the observers.

Persecution by Month (January 2023 - June 2023)



When we analyze data by age, about 10% of the victims are minors (both male and female). Looking into data by gender, the victims are almost equally divided, though the type of persecution varied between males and females. The vast majority (93%) of the persecution incidents are targeted against Hindus and indigenous people. Christians, liberal Muslims and atheists are also targeted, albeit less in number, possibly due to smaller demographics.

## Featured Incidents

At Sriti O Chetona we strive to cover as many stories as possible. However, due to lack of resources we are not able to cover each and every incident. Only a handful of the occurrences get published. The section contains a selection of the news reports on the persecution of minorities published at Sriti O Chetona between January, 2023 - June 2023.

We have also reported some additional incidents in the Appendix.

### **Sylhet: Hindu activist sentenced to seven years imprisonment for blasphemy**

January 2023: A court in Sylhet has sentenced Hindu activist Rakesh Roy, former Sylhet divisional organizing secretary of the Hindu Mahazot, to seven years rigorous imprisonment and fined him one lakh takas (USD 1,000) for insulting Prophet Muhammad, prophet of Islam, on social media Facebook.

The announcement was made on Tuesday (January 3) at noon by the judge Abul Kashem of Cyber Tribunal Sylhet Court. Mustafa Dilwar Al Azhar, the Cyber Tribunal Sylhet PP (Acting), confirmed the news to Sylhetview. Rakesh, who was on bail, was present in the court when the verdict was announced and was immediately sent to jail.

### **Jessore: Hindu teacher suspended over alleged blasphemy**

January 2023: Upazila secondary education officer Shahidul Islam notified that a Hindu school teacher has been temporarily suspended by the authorities for allegedly insulting Islam in Abhaynagar, Jessore district, Bangladesh.

The dismissed Newton Sarkar is a biology teacher at the Deyapara Model Secondary School in Abhaynagar Upazila. His house is in Bahadurpur village, Manirampur upazila, Jessore.

Some of the students of the school said that on Sunday afternoon, when they went to Deyapara Model Secondary School, they saw students, parents, local residents, and hundreds of leaders and workers of various Islamic religious organizations protesting against the teacher in the school grounds. Eighth grade students allege that last Wednesday (January 25), while taking science class, Hindu teacher Newton Sarkar made offensive comments about Islam and the Prophet. Later he was dismissed by the authorities.

## Thakurgaon: Fourteen temples vandalized in a single night

February 2023: Fourteen temples were vandalized on the night of 4th February in different villages of Baliadangi Upazila of Thakurgaon District. According to Baliadangi Upazila Puja Udjapan Parishad's General Secretary Bidyanath Barman, nine (9) temples in Dhantala, four (4) temples in Paria and one (1) temple in Charol were vandalized. He said the temples vandalized included five Manasa temples, two Lakshmi temples, one each of Krishna, Haribasara, and Kali temple. The *murti* (statue) of the deities were broken and in some cases immersed in water (“প্রতিমাগুলোর হাত-পা, মাথা ভেঙে চূর্ণ-বিচূর্ণ করে ফেলেছে। আবার কিছু প্রতিমা ভেঙে পুকুরের পানিতে ফেলে রেখেছে।”)

Mahboor Rahaman, the District Magistrate and Police Superintendent Mohammed Jahangir Hossain visited the affected areas. Mr Hossain said the incidents seemed to be intentional and done with malicious intent of disrupting peace. He also assured that the perpetrators will be identified and punished according to the law. Police have been stationed at every temple that was vandalized.



Broken deity in Thakurgaon, Rangpur

## Rangpur: Paritosh Sarkar sentenced to eleven years of imprisonment on charges of blasphemy

February 2023: Judge Dr. Mohammed Abdul Majid of Rangpur Cyber Tribunal handed out an eleven year imprisonment to Paritosh Sarkar for an allegedly blasphemous Facebook post on 17th October, 2021. In October 2021, there was an attack on houses and properties belonging

to Hindu minority community in Pirganj, Ramnathpur Union. Paritosh had posted on Facebook condemning and criticizing the attack on Hindus. He was arrested the next day by Rangur District Police. Later he was charged under the Digital Security Act. He admitted to posting provocative content on 19th October 2021.

Religious minority leaders opined that even though the majority population was responsible for the attack on the minority, people from the minority are eventually punished. That is the reason why they do not protest when religious minorities are tortured. Many political leaders are blurring the demarcation of minority and majority saying there is no term called minority. This is a ploy to either convert religious minorities or drive them out of the country. This attitude is actually encouraging Islamist fundamentalists to act against the people of religious minorities.



Paritosh Sarkar in court room flanked by police

### **Gaibandha: Ahsan, son of Abul Hussain arrested for vandalizing Kali temple**

March 2023: Around midnight on 11 March 2023, local villagers from Gaibandha Palashbari upazila in Rangpur division found two young men vandalizing the Kumargari Kali temple. Locals were able to catch one of the perpetrators, Ahsan, son of Abul Hussain and handed him over to police.





### **Narayanganj: Hindu family threatened with expulsion from the country if they can't pay extortion money**

March 2023: Manik Dutta, from Narayanganj-Rupganj upazila under Dhaka division was asked to pay extortion money of 50 lakhs taka (USD 50,000) in lieu of staying in his ancestral property and ability to perform puja (Hindu worship). Mr Dutta had recently started renovating a 124 year old family temple and cremation ground on his ancestral land. Few criminals threatened and assaulted him. They also forcibly stopped the repair work and other construction in the temple and cremation ground in his property. The perpetrators also destroyed the property and looted 1.25 lakh taka (USD 1,250).

### **Sentencing of Iqbal Hossain, who incited 2021 Durga puja riots**

March 2023: On March 2, 2023, Dhaka Cyber Tribunal Judge AM Zulfiker Hayet sentenced Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, the primary perpetrator for orchestrating the anti-Hindu violence during the 2021 Durga Puja to 16 months imprisonment. As Mohammad Iqbal Hossain had already served 16 months in jail, he was released immediately from jail.

His action had started a week-long anti-Hindu violence in which at least 8 people were killed, and 150+ injured. At least 80 temples and 200 puja mandaps were attacked and a large number of Hindu owned properties destroyed.

The leniency of Mohammad Iqbal Hossain's punishment is indeed extremely shocking. A month earlier, in February 2023, a Hindu Bangladeshi named Paritosh Sarkar was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for hurting religious sentiments of Muslims. In January 2023, another Hindu man Rakesh Roy was sentenced for 7 years imprisonment for alleged blasphemy in a social media post. The discrepancy in punishment between a Muslim and a Hindu for similar accusations (blasphemy) is noteworthy.

### **Barguna: Political leader calls Hindu police officer *malaun* in public program**



April 2023: Political leader and Upazila (Sub-district) chairman Md Saidul Islam abused a Hindu police officer Dibakar Chandra Das and called him 'মলাউনের বাচ্চা (Kafir's child) during a public program for 60th anniversary of a school in Bamna, Barguna under Barisal division.

### Gopalganj: Minor girl abducted

April 2023: A minor girl from Kashiani Upazila, Gopalganj District was abducted by Rahman Mollah. Local police did not register a case for kidnapping and the girl has not been traced in 1.5 months. Mother of the girl complained, "আমরা হিন্দু মানুষ বলে হিন্দুদের উপর হওয়া কোন অন্যায়ের বিচার হয়না" (We are Hindus, so injustice done to us is not punished)



### Sunamganj, Sylhet: Land belonging to four Hindu families snatched by land grabbers

March 2023: Land belonging to four Hindu families have been grabbed by gangs headed by Nur Miah and Matin Miah. The victims, including Ukil Biswas, Ajit Biswas and their family members said in a press meet held on March 24th, how Nur Miah and Matin Miah have forcibly built pillars in their land with an intent to capture the land. The victims had complained to the police but the perpetrators paid no heed to orders from the authorities to cease construction.



## Rangpur: Titu Roy sentenced to ten years in prison for accusation of blasphemy in social media

May 2023: A cyber tribunal in Rangpur district sentenced Titu Roy (from Thakurpara, Rangpur) to 10 years of prison and a fine of 50,000 taka (USD 500) for a post on Facebook. In his post he had written that Prophet Mohammed had married a 6-year-old girl. It is to be noted that this fact is substantiated by Islamic sources but nevertheless Mr Roy was punished. He is also accused of insulting Kaaba, Islamic holy site in Mecca. The investigation carried out under Information and Communication Technology Act (replaced by Digital Security Act 2018) has sweeping provisions against blasphemy and have been criticized by US International Religious Freedom Report published in May 2023.



Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council said, “Roy is an illiterate for whom it was neither possible to maintain a Facebook account or type a post”, which indicates the possibility of him getting framed.

After his post, 20,000 Muslims had attacked a village of Hindu farmers and set 30 Hindu homes on fire, including the house belonging to Roy. This was followed by looting and destruction of village temples - a crime for which none of the arsonists and rioters got punished.

## Naogaon: Sarkarpara Kali temple destroyed by arson

May 2023: This incident is from Mahadevpur in Naogaon District under Rajshahi division. On 17th May night, suspected Islamic religious extremists set fire to Sarkarpara Kali temple, destroying the temple and the *murti* (statue) inside. As of 18th May, no one has been arrested, but police have assured the locals of justice and arrest of miscreants.



## Online: Hindus teased with pictures cows slaughtered during Eid feast

June 2023: Multiple accounts teased Hindus with pictures of cow slaughter and beef consumption during Eid feast and bragged about eating the “mother of Hindus”. This type of attitude not only demonstrates acute Hinduphobia but also cruelty towards animals. When veganism is gaining popularity in the west, not only for health benefits but also for compassion towards fellow living beings, this type of cruel jokes should be condemned in the strictest manner. Some of the comments include, “Eating your mom”, “Lmao! God is dead”, “Your god our food”



**Azmain Iktider** @iktider  
Replying to [redacted]  
Eating your mom 🍖



**Ahad Ahamed**  
8 h · 🌐  
Hai re



**Azmain Iktider** @iktider  
Replying to [redacted]  
Your god our food 🍖



The teasing was not just confined online. Lot of Bangladeshi Hindus complained that cows were slaughtered in front of their homes intentionally, in order to humiliate their religious sensibility.

A Bangladeshi Hindu posted:

This is the road in front of my home. Rain and blood flowing. We have to live like this. Even though others did not complain, I just requested to arrange for cleaning up.

আমার বাড়ির সামনের রাস্তা। বৃষ্টির জল আর রক্তের স্রোত। এভাবেই বাস করতে হয়। অন্য কেউ না বললেও আমি শুধু বললাম পরিস্কার করার ব্যবস্থা করতে।



## Blasphemy law in Bangladesh: Does it apply to all faiths equally?

More than 200 Hindus are jailed on charges of blasphemy. Negative remarks about Islam are not tolerated but, Muslims continue to abuse minority faiths with impunity.

The main perpetrator of 2021 Durga puja riots, Iqbal Hossain was handed a light punishment of 16 months imprisonment and freed in May 2023. It is to be noted that his actions started a week-long anti-Hindu violence in which at least 8 people were killed, and 150+ injured. More than 80 temples and 200 puja mandaps were attacked and a large number of Hindu owned properties destroyed.

Now, let us compare the punishment meted out to Hindus accused of blasphemy:

- Rakesh Roy from Sylhet given 7 years of Imprisonment
- Newton Sarkar, a teacher from Jessore suspended from job
- Paritosh Sarkar from Rangpur given 11 years of imprisonment
- Pritam Sarkar from Comilla dismissed from his job
- Tamal Pal of Bagerhat has been arrested
- Jiban Roy from Rangpur has been arrested
- Titu Roy from Rangpur given 10 years imprisonment

In May 2023, Titu Roy, an illiterate person was sentenced 10 years of prison term for a post in FB. Minority leaders opined that he might have been framed.

However, the mob of 20,000 Islamists that burned down his house and that of his Hindu neighbors in Thakurpara, Rangpur is yet to be punished.

The inherent bias against minority faith in the judicial system of Bangladesh is voiced by a Hindu twitter account (@VoiceOfHindu71).



Voice Of Bangladeshi Hindus   
@VoiceOfHindu71

...

[#SupremeCourtOfBangladesh](#)

★in 2016, Islam was retained as the state religion.

★Asks ISKCON to apologize to Muslims for distributing food to them in 2019.

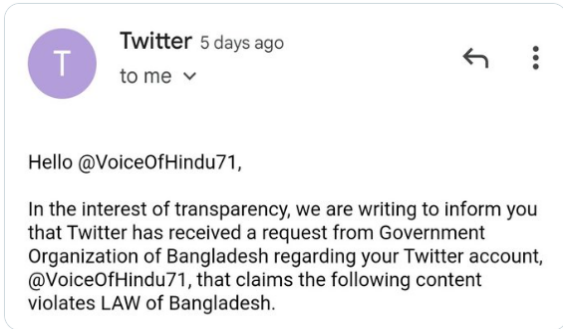
★In 2021, the investigation into the Durga Puja massacre was suspended.

★Now in 2023, want to repeal Hindu Family Law.





Reporting attacks on my community is a violation of Bangladeshi law. We are not against Bangladesh government. But has the government taken any action against attacks on Hindus, vandalism of temples, abduction of Hindu girls and encroachment of Hindu lands? #FreedomOfSpeech



5:21 PM · Apr 11, 2023 · 11.2K Views

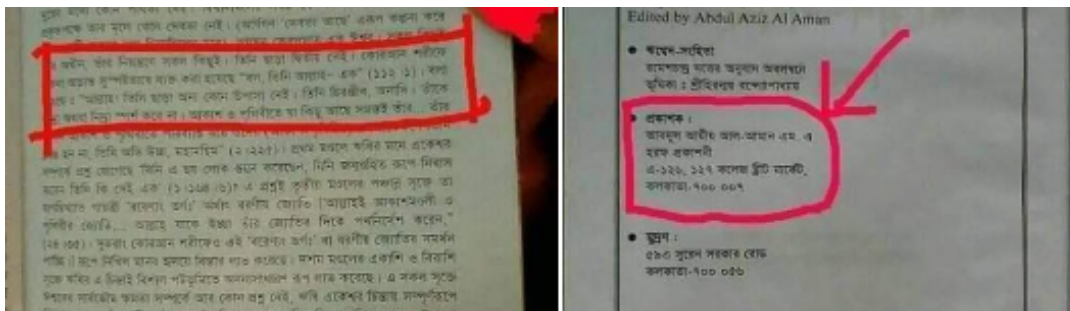
In April 2023, the government of Bangladesh had filed a complaint against the same account for violating the law of the land.

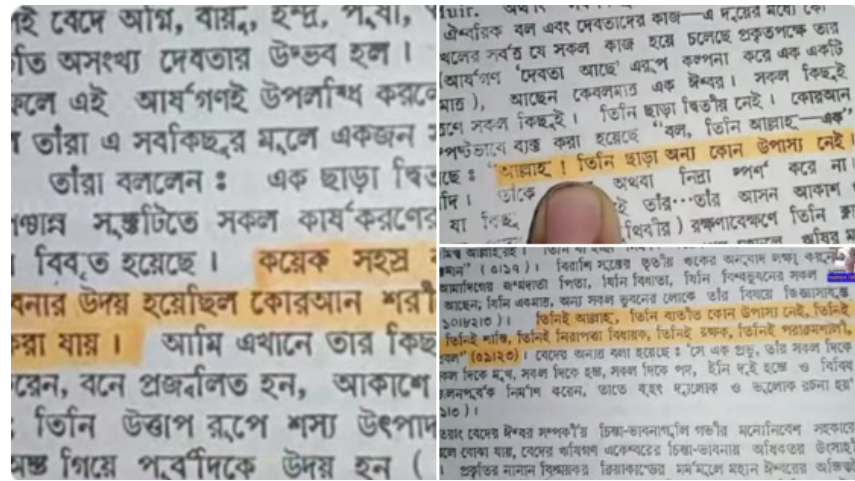
The incessant pressure to silence the voice of religious minorities not only comes from majoritarian religious right-wing, but a relatively secular government headed by Awami League.

**Educational System:** Textbooks in Madrassas spew venom against other faiths, especially Hinduism. In our 2022 Annual Report, we highlighted some of the hateful content in the educational system.

- Students at Hathazari Madrasa in Chittagong are taught slogans against Hindus in school
- In 5th grade Islamic Studies textbook it is written that Non-Muslims are greedy, liars and inferior to animals

**Malicious Re-interpretation of Hindu Scripture:** Another modus operandi is misinterpretation of Hindu scriptures like the Veda and Upanishad to either demean Hindu faith or use them as a tool for conversion by injecting Islamic references where no such content exist in the original scripts. If any criticism of Islamic faith leads to arrest for blasphemy, why will this willful, malicious and false interpretation not be considered blasphemy and punished under the law of Bangladesh?





## What is in a Name? Recent Spree of Renaming Places in Bangladesh

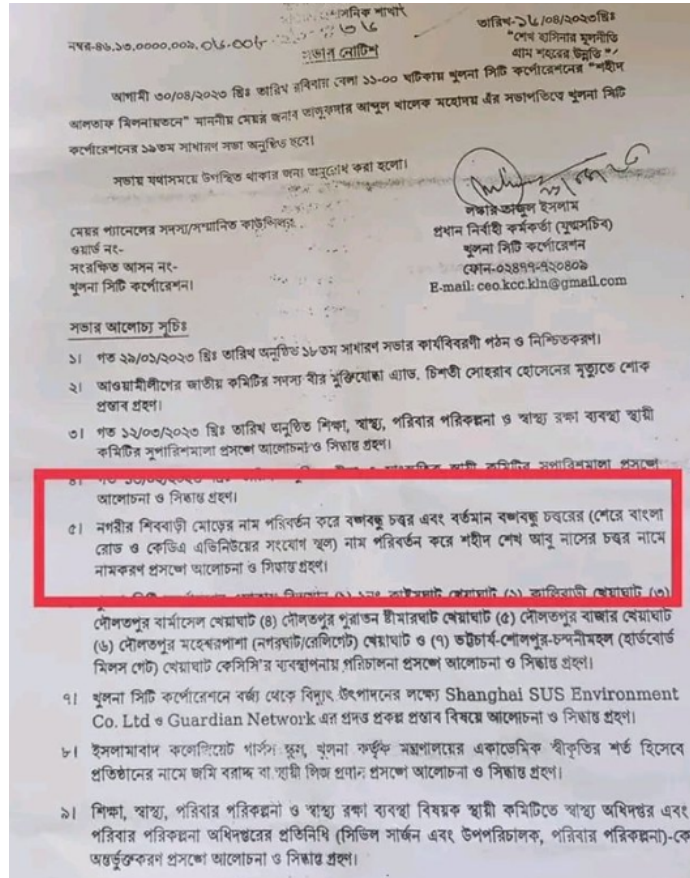
"Shiv bari Mor" in Khulna city was renamed as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Chattar on 30 April 2023. The chairman of Balithuba East Upazila declared the renaming of Debipur Govt Primary School to Islampur Govt Primary School recently. The renaming spree may have been to influence the pious Muslims in the upcoming general election in Bangladesh. Please see below the list of places renamed to erase the native Hindu heritage of the land.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1: Gopalpur has become Azimnagar  | 25: Shyamganj market has become Aliganj (Sunamganj Chatak)          |
| 2: Brahmachal has become Bormachal  | 26: Girishganj has become Balikhali                                 |
| 3: Kaliganj has become Netrokona  | 27: Shivpasha has become Shippa                                     |
| 4: Brahmanpara has become Burhanbagh (Chittagong)                         | 28: Thakurgaon has become Nintapur                                  |
| 5: Kalirbazar has become Fatema Nagar (Mymensingh)                        | 29: Rabindranath Road has become RN Road (Jessore)                  |
| 6: Sen house became Ahmednagar (Mymensingh)                               | 30: Krishna Nagar has become Mohammad Nagar (Khulna)                |
| 7: Shreehatt has become Sylhet  | 31: Barisal has become Chandradeep                                  |
| 8: Ramchandrapur has become Mohammadpur (Dhaka)                           | 32: Durgapasha has become Dargapasha (Sunamganj)                    |
| 9: Jaidevpur has become Gazipur   | 33: Durgapur has become Durgapura (Pathariya, Sunamganj)            |
| 10: Basupara has become Barkat Para (Khulna)                              | 34: Jagabandhu has become Selim Nagar                               |
| 11: Krishnanagar has become Muhammad Nagar                                | 35: Raipur has become Uthipur                                       |
| 12: Mahattir Hat (Mahathero's Hat) has become Md. Takir Hat               | 36: Gangabari has become Jalilganj (Chittagong Patharghatha)        |
| 13: Moger haat has become Chaitaila's haat                                | 37: Horcalled in Pratappur  |
| 14: Nanupur market has become Kalamunchi's haat                           | 38: Mahamaya Road has become Laden Road (Barishal)                  |
| 15: Azadi Bazar has become Yogi's Hut                                     | 39: Sunapur Bazar (Golapganj) has become Adhir's shop               |
| 16: Dutta Para has been Ghurni Residential Area (Ambarkhana Sylhet)       | 40: Haji Dighi (Biyani Bazaar) has become Baropal's Dighi           |
| 17: South Sunamganj sub-district has become Shantiganj sub-district       | 41: College Road (Biyani bazar) has become the way to Babu's house. |
| 18: Swarupkathi sub-district has become Nesarabad sub-district (Pirojpur) | 42: Mahakali has become Mahakhali (Dhaka)                           |
| 19: Babu's Hat has become Shekherchar (Narsingdi)                         | 43: Devpur has become Islampur (Sylhet)                             |
| 20: Hanumantala has become Islampur (Rangpur)                             | 44: Roydas has become Aminpur (Sylhet)                              |
| 21: Ramchandrapur has become Islampur (Pabna Sadar)                       | 45: Goalgaon has become Mohammadpur (Sylhet)                        |
| 22: Gaingaata happened to Mohammadpur (Brahmanbaria headquarters)         | 46: Kalyanpur (Sylhet) in Bhatpara                                  |
| 23: Bikrampur has become Munshiganj                                       | 47: Rampura has become Islambagh (Rangpur city)                     |
| 24: Bahmangaon has become Muslimpara (Mad, Fatulla, Narayanganj)          | 48: Sailed Pak Para (Rangpur City)                                  |
| 25: Shyamganj market has become Aliganj (Sunamganj Chatak)                | 49: Kalipur became Islampur (Chittagong, Rangunia)                  |
|   | 50: Brahmottar has become Islamabad (Chittagong, Rangunia)          |
|   | 51: Naveen Babu's Hut has become Nabin Ganj (Nabiganj)              |
|   | 52: Parvati Nagar has become Muslimpur                              |



52: Parvati Nagar has become Muslimpur  
 53: Jamalpur district became lioness  
 54: Singra's Kaliganj has become Aliganj  
 55: Natore Dayaram Purified Kadirabad (Cantonment)  
 56: Simba has become Shambhua in Raninagar  
 57: Ink market has become Mia's market (meaning)  
 58: Nania's chor has become nania's char. "Nanature was the native name kept by Chakma" (Rangamati district)  
 59: Khagrachuri has been Khagrachori  
 60: Dhuli crossed Islampur (Kulaura)  
 61: Sitarampur has become Fatemapur (Kasiyani, Gopalganj)  
 62: Ramdia has become Rahimdia (Kasiyani, Gopalga  
 63: Kaliganj has become Mobarakganj (Jhinaidaha)  
 64: Mogchita has become Manchuria market (Shilkup Banskhali upazila of Chittagong)  
 65: Naikong has become empty village Moulavibazar (Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar district)  
 66: Shekhar Nagar has become Sheikh's Nagar (Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj)  
 67: Ghoshherhat has become Miyarbazar (Chandpur)  
 68: Govindal has become Muslim Nagar (Manikganj)  
 69: Indurkani becomes Jianagar (Pirojpur)  
 70: Vasudev Charan village has become Baudharan  
 71: Ishwar Nagar has become Islam Nagar (Rahanpur, Chapainawabganj)  
 72: Kaliganj market has become Sachna market (Jamalganj, Sunamganj)  
 73: Harishankara in Hossainabad (Kushtia, Daulatpur)  
 74: Dev hill has become Noor hill (Chittagong)  
 75: Harinagar has become Osmaninagar (Sylhet)  
 76: Shiv's market has become Shahbazar (Kurigram)  
 77: Chingmrong has become Chitmaram  
 78: Sriramasi has become Chiramisi (Jagannathpur, Sunamganj)

60: Dhuli crossed Islampur (Kulaura)  
 61: Sitarampur has become Fatemapur (Kasiyani, Gopalganj)  
 62: Ramdia has become Rahimdia (Kasiyani, Gopalganj)  
 63: Kaliganj has become Mobarakganj (Jhinaidaha)  
 64: Mogchita has become Manchuria market (Shilkup in Banskhali upazila of Chittagong)  
 65: Naikong has become empty village Moulavibazar (Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar district)  
 66: Shekhar Nagar has become Sheikh's Nagar (Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj)  
 67: Ghoshherhat has become Miyarbazar (Chandpur)  
 68: Govindal has become Muslim Nagar (Manikganj)  
 69: Indurkani becomes Jianagar (Pirojpur)  
 70: Vasudev Charan village has become Baudharan  
 71: Ishwar Nagar has become Islam Nagar (Rahanpur, Chapainawabganj)  
 72: Kaliganj market has become Sachna market (Jamalganj, Sunamganj)  
 73: Harishankara in Hossainabad (Kushtia, Daulatpur)  
 74: Dev hill has become Noor hill (Chittagong)  
 75: Harinagar has become Osmaninagar (Sylhet)  
 76: Shiv's market has become Shahbazar (Kurigram)  
 77: Chingmrong has become Chitmaram  
 78: Sriramasi has become Chiramisi (Jagannathpur, Sunamganj)  
 79: Rampur has become Islampur (Chakaria Cox's Bazar)  
 80: Brahman village became Baongaon (Osmani Nagar, Sylhet)  
 81: Narendrapur has become Nurjahanpur (Kachua, Bagerhat)  
 82: Jagannathpur has become Basundhara Residential Area (Dhaka)  
 83: Krishna Nagar has become Kipait Nagar (Chittagong Fatikchori)

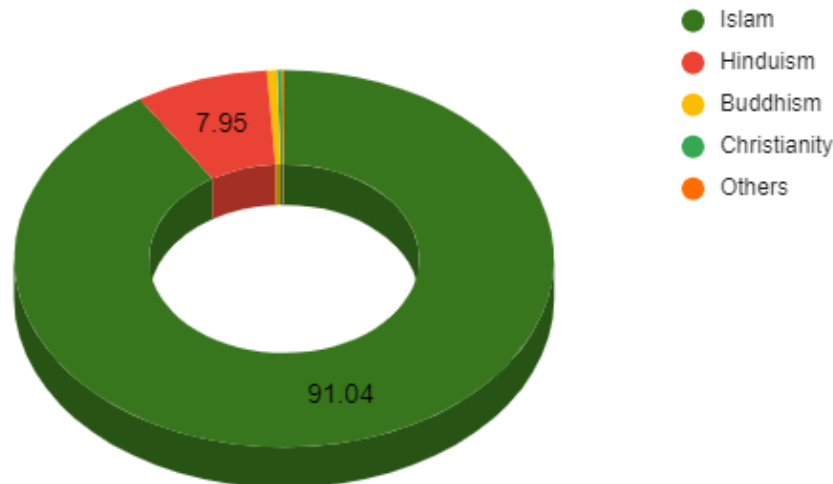


In May 2023, Awami League MP Mashrafe changed the place called “Kalidas” to “Lalmiya” in Narail district under Khulna division. This is one of the many instances in recent months. In April 2023 report, we provided information on almost 100 name changes from Bengali/Hindu names to Arabic/Islamic names (e.g., Narendrapur in Kachua, Bagehat renamed to Nurjahanpur).



## Recommendations

As per the latest 2022 census, the total population of Bangladesh is 165.16 million. Religious minorities constitute about 8.98% of Bangladeshi population, constituting 14.83 million. Hindus are the biggest religious minority group, with 88.5% of total minority population.



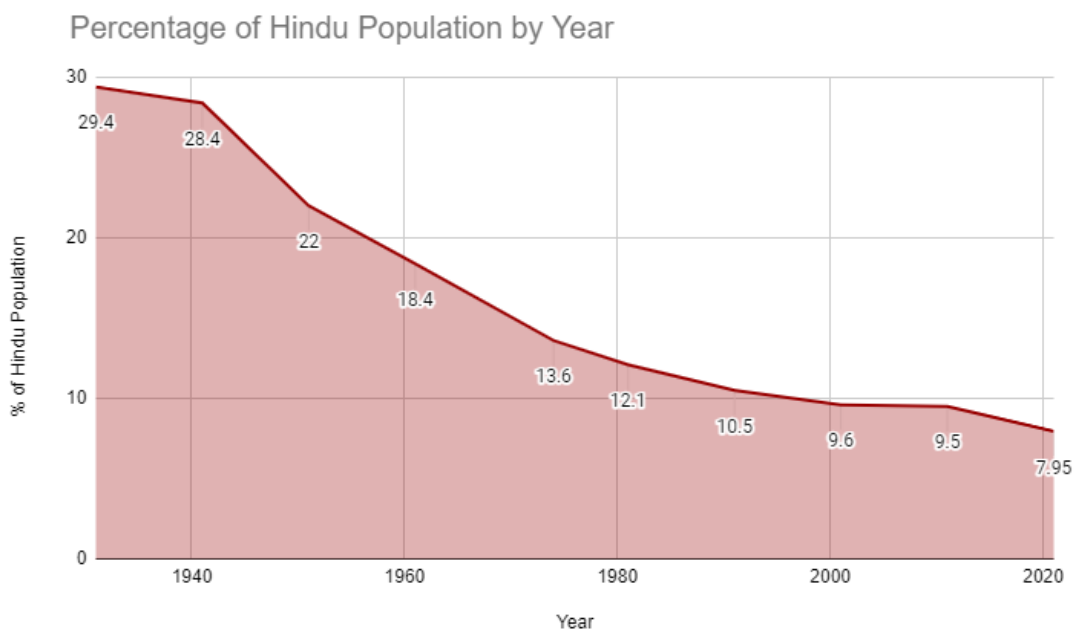
*Religions in Bangladesh (%) - 2022 Census Data*

Since the 1947 partition of India, Hindu population in East Pakistan/ Bangladesh is continuing to decline. The persecution of Bengali Hindus under the Pakistani regime is well recorded, especially during the Bangladesh war of independence. In less than an year in during 1971 Bangladesh war of independence, approximately three million Bangladeshis were killed, a rate worse than Nazi genocide of WW2. It is estimated that Hindus were about 20% of the population during that time, but the overwhelming majority (~80%) of the victims of Pakistani brutality. From 1947 to 1971, Hindu population fell from approximately quarter of the population to mere 13.5%.

1971 heralded a new hope among Bangladeshi Hindus under a secular constitution drafted by Sheikh Mujibar Rahaman's govt. However, the hope was short lived and Hindus faced hardship by Islamists under political aegis of various governments. It is also to be mentioned that General Ershad, who assumed power through a military coup, amended the constitution in 1988, to add Islam as the state religion. In the post-independence period, the first major anti-Hindu violence occurred in 1989-1990, following the Babri Mosque-Ram temple conflict in India. There was widespread destruction of temples, arson, looting and violence against Hindus. Another major anti-Hindu attack happened in 2001, following the election of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government led by Ms. Khaleda Zia. According to judicial enquiry by

Bangladesh government in 2009, more than 18,000 rapes of Hindu women happened during the riots. In October 2021, a frenzied coordinated communal attack happened all over the country following rumors of Quran desecration, which was later found to be done by a Muslim named Mohammad Iqbal Hossain. More than 50 temples were vandalized and at least eight people were killed. On March 2, 2023 the main culprit, Mohammad Iqbal Hossain was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment. The leniency of Mohammad Iqbal Hossain's punishment is indeed extremely shocking. A month earlier, in February 2023, a Hindu Bangladeshi named Paritosh Sarkar was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for hurting religious sentiments of Muslims. In January 2023, another Hindu man Rakesh Roy was sentenced for 7 years imprisonment for alleged blasphemy in a social media post. The discrepancy in severity of punishment between a Muslim and a Hindu for similar accusations (blasphemy) is noteworthy.

Since independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the Hindu population in Bangladesh fell from 13.5 to 7.95% in 50 years, a trend not very different from previous 25-year Pakistani rule of 1947-1971. The fall in minority population can be attributed to multiple causes - religious riots, election violence, exodus due to religious persecution, forced eviction, conversion under duress or enticement, economic hardship, less access to resources, political duress etc. The fall in Hindu population is often justified by Muslims stating lower Hindu birth rate compared to the majority population, which absolutely cannot justify the precipitous drop. From the last census of 2011, Hindu population has dropped by 1.55% in the 2022 census, a drop that cannot be justified by birth rate alone. Whatever the reason may be, Hindus and other religious minorities are vanishing at a very alarming rate from Bangladesh.



It is a matter of grave concern and surprise that this constant decline in Hindu population from Bangladesh has not been raised by the media, international human Rights and religious freedom organizations. This is a trend that is not endemic to Bangladesh only, but seen in other countries in South Asia.

In Pakistan, the Hindu population has fallen from 15% in 1947 to 2%. Every year, it is estimated that 1000+ Hindu and Christian minor girls are abducted and married to older Muslim men. In Malaysia, Hindus population has fallen to 6%. Hindus (mostly Tamils, constituting 9% of population) face constitutional discrimination, and children of parents converted to Islam are automatically converted, Hindu children in orphanages are converted to Islam by government authority. The constitutional bias prevents Muslims from converting to other faiths, but allows non-Muslims to convert to Islam. The last dozen Hindus and Sikhs have been forced to migrate out of Afghanistan in 2021, following the capture of Kabul by Taliban.

In 2021, in the “Dismantling Global Hindutva” conference, the speakers openly called for dismantling Hinduism, not just Hindutva or political Hinduism. Hindu festivities like Holi have been politicized and “Holi Against Hindutva” events organized in multiple US campuses (many times headed by non-Hindu students). Often protests against political parties are morphed into anti-Hindu rhetoric. In the United States, Hindu American Foundation (HAF) was attacked for using the term “Hinduphobia” and ridiculed for fear mongering and told nothing like “hinduphobia” exists. Hindu based human rights or political organizations or ordinary Hindus are frequently accused of fake victimization and bigotry.

Given the fact that media and power centers around the world are dominated by people educated on Abrahamic concepts, one wonders, is the indifference of the media and human rights organization to the plight of Hindus due to subconscious bias against “idol worshiping” or “pagan” people? India was colonized by Muslim Middle Easterners and Christian Europeans for more than 1000 years. Idol worship is forbidden both in Christianity and Islam, and remnants of colonizers' bias cannot be ruled out. In Islam, idol worship is the most serious crime, worse than even murder or rape. Do average Monotheists consider Hindu life of lesser value than people of monotheistic faith? There is a need for introspection and investigation about anti-idolatry and colonial bias. We urge the media and human rights organizations to actively remove any anti pagan, anti idol worship or colonial bias, if it exists. Media houses with a large Bengali audience or readership, like BBC Bangla can become a valuable tool to educate the world community about the plight of Hindus and suggest corrective measures for minorities to live in their motherland without any fear.

Media houses in India seem to have an unofficial censorship on news pertaining to minorities in Bangladesh. However, the events in India, which Bangladeshi Hindus have no control over, are

often used to instigate anti-minority attacks. Media houses and social media influencers from India should report in a neutral manner, and not fan the already turbulent situation which affects the religious minorities in Bangladesh adversely.

Hindus are considered a captive vote bank for Awami League, and often face wrath of political parties opposed to Awami League. The 2001 anti-Hindu violence after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party came into power speaks volumes in this regard. However, recently there have been incidents of Awami League party workers abusing Hindus, forcibly evicting them and misusing the trust Hindus have in the party. Bangladeshi Hindus need to align with all political parties and not blindly vote for a specific party, but vote for political parties that enact policies and action taken to protect the minorities and create a secular humanist environment in the country.

The activism of native Bangladeshi Hindus is extremely commendable. They, along with secular Muslims and humanists of the country, continue to support the religious minorities in an increasingly hostile environment, where Islamist power is on the rise. People of Bangladeshi origin, irrespective of religious affiliation and country of residence can help by amplifying the voice of secularism and moderation in the country.

The US State government, in their human rights reports has from time to time reported the hardships minorities face in Bangladesh. However, the reports have not touched up the everyday hardship faced by minorities and investigation of the root cause behind attrition in the minority population. The reporting by foreign government and human rights organizations, like US human Rights Reports, Amnesty International, UN Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, EU Annual Reports on Human Rights and Democracy can help the cause of lessening the atrocities against minorities by regular reporting and suggestions for remedial actions by the government. Finally, if the attrition of religious minorities does not stop, we request that the United States and European nations provide refugee status to the violence affected minorities in Bangladesh.

## Appendix

### Indian origin woman seeks help after conversion to Islam in Bangladesh

January 2023: An Indian Hindu woman, Amrita Datta, who was studying in Bangladesh, has sought help from Bangladeshi Hindus after converting to Islam and marrying a Muslim man named Abdul. Amrita, who now goes by the name Mehazabien Chowdhury, stated that she was facing physical abuse in her marriage.

According to the affidavit, Amrita is the daughter of Goutam Datta Chaudhuri from Kolkata and is currently living in the Dhaka National Medical College Hostel. Her date of birth is 05.03.1999.

The case has highlighted the issue of targeting non-Muslim women and forcing them to convert to Islam. Amrita has urged people to be aware of such cases and to ensure that women are protected from religious conversion and abuse.

### Barisal: Islamists allege blasphemy, attack and loot Hindu shop

January 2023: Islamists are finding new ways to torture Hindus in Bangladesh. In continuation of this, on January 10, 2023, in the area adjacent to the Barisal river port (the old launch ghat), local Islamists attacked and looted the Ghosh Sweets store on the false accusation of insulting Islam.

Onlookers and locals said Saurabh Dhali, a Muslim employee of a shop in Haji Mohammad Mohsin Market, had his breakfast at the Ghosh Sweets store. After eating, he tries to leave the shop without paying for the food. At that time, an employee of that shop asked the accused to pay the money due for the food. But the accused, Sourav, started beating the shop clerk without paying.

At one point, the accused Muslim youth came out of the shop and started complaining that the Hindu employee of Ghosh Sweets had deliberately pulled his beard. After that, the local Islamist crowd gathered at the place and attacked and looted the Hindu shop.

### Chandpur: AL leader occupy Hindu property

January 2023: In the Chandpur district of Bangladesh, a student leader of the government party has once again been accused of forcibly occupying the land of the Hindu community. The accused, Ibrahim Mia, is convener of the Chhatra League of the Kachua Bangabandhu Government Degree College Branch in Chandpur district. Ibrahim Mia has been accused of encroaching on the land of the Hindu community of Basabaria village in the upazila.

The victim, Uttam Sarkar, mentioned in the complaint that about two months ago, a police complaint was filed against his brother, Sushil Sarkar, due to a land dispute. Later, with the help of local individuals, the dispute was settled by registering 3484.8 square feet of land to Sushil Sarkar, Priyalal Sarkar, and Uttam Sarkar.

After that, the accused, Mohammad Ibrahim Mia, took the signature of Uttam Sarkar on 3 blank stamps, saying that he had to withdraw the complaint from the police station. At some point on Saturday night, Ibrahim built a bamboo fence in the middle of the property in order to fill and occupy the land, hidden from public view.

### **Netrokona: Islamic fundamentalists vandalize Saraswati *murty***

January 2023: Attacks by Islamic fundamentalists on the Hindu community in Bangladesh are increasing. In the first month of the year, multiple *murti* (*statues*) of Goddess Saraswati were vandalized in the Netrokona district under Mymensingh division.

It is known that the attack took place in the Sarbajaneen temple of Purbadhala Bazar in Netrokona, Bangladesh. The attacker took advantage of the temple being empty yesterday evening. The footage of the temple's CCTV camera was checked to detect the vandalism of the *murti*. During this time, the suspected Islamist attacker was seen in the video footage.

The temple's CCTV footage shows the suspected Islamist attacker, dressed in a lungi, sneaking into the temple in the evening. At one point, he stood in front of the Saraswati Vighras kept in the temple and then started vandalizing the Saraswati Vighras one by one. After vandalizing several *murti*, the suspected Islamist attacker fled the temple premises.

### **Noakhali: Muslim man demands *pranami* money as extortion**

January 2023: Police have arrested a man in Noakhali's Begamganj Upazila of Bangladesh for allegedly harassing a Brahmin priest belonging to the minority Hindu community, including demanding extortion money from him. The arrested Kazi Nayan (52) is the son of deceased Kazi Tofail Ahmad of Kadirpur village, Ward No. 5 of Kadirpur Union No. 16 of Upazila.

Begumganj Police Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mir Jahedul Haque Rony confirmed the matter on Saturday, January 21, at around 7 p.m. He said that the arrested accused was handed over to the Noakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on Friday afternoon.

Earlier, the main accused in the case was arrested by the police from Kadirpur village, Ward number 5 of Kadirpur Union of the upazila, on the basis of a verbal complaint at around 2 p.m. on Thursday. According to the police, last Friday, January 20, the victim, Gopal Chakraborty



(67), filed a case accusing four people of attempted murder, extortion, arson, theft, and intimidation.

## Comilla: Science teacher dismissed for alleged blasphemy, fundamentalists demand death sentence

February 2023: A Hindu teacher named Pritam Sarkar has been dismissed on accusation of blasphemy on 13th February. Sarkar was a teacher of Mosharof Hossain High School at Daudakhandi in Comilla District. It is alleged that Sarkar abused Prophet Mohammed and Islam while he was teaching.

An agitated mob surrounded his home and demanded he be hanged to death. The mob chanted Islamic religious slogans along with threats to physically harm the accused. Police later intervened and got the situation under control.

It is to be noted that since 2022 Hindu teachers have become an easy target of alleged blasphemy accusations by Islamic fundamentalists. On 29th January, Islamic fundamentalist mob had demanded a Hindu science teacher named Newton Sarkar from Abhoynagor, Jessore be hanged to death for blasphemy.

### ধর্ম অবমাননার ভূয়া অভিযোগ স্কুলশিক্ষক বরখাস্ত



Anweshan Desk

১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২৩, ১৮:৩২ পিএম

Share 0



বরখাস্ত স্কুলশিক্ষক প্রীতম সরকার

কুমিল্লার দাউদকান্দিতে ধর্ম অবমাননার ভূয়া অভিযোগ তুলে প্রীতম সরকার নামক এক সংখ্যালঘু স্কুল শিক্ষককে সাময়িক বরখাস্ত করেছে স্কুলটির কর্তৃপক্ষ। উপজেলার নৈয়ার ড. খন্দকার মোশাররফ

Pritam Sarkar, Dismissed from position of school teacher for alleged blasphemy

### Magura: Hindu businessman beaten to death

February 2023: A Hindu businessman, Ratan Bose was lynched in front of his family by Mohammed Alamgir and his gang. The deceased's family members said the victim had pleaded for his life and promised to repay the money he owed (“ও ভাই আমরা মাইরেন না, আমি টাকা দিয়ে দিবো”) but Mr Alamgir showed no mercy and lynched him publicly.



Distraught family members of Ratan Bose

### Bhola: Excreta and waste thrown in two temples

February 2023: On the night of 7th February, miscreants threw excreta and waste at the Ramnewaz Kalikanta Gutia Mandir and the Sitakunda Radha Gobinda Mandir at Manpura in Bhola District. Manpura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashish Kumar and Manpura Police Station Office-In-Charge Saidur Rahman visited the area. Subhash Das from the local temple committee demanded the perpetrators be identified and punished according to the law of the land. Local Union Chairman Amanutullah Alamgir assured that the area has religious tolerance and peace among communities and the guilty people would be identified and punished.



## Rajshahi: Awami League is building its party office on Hindu-owned land, acquired under Enemy Property Act

February 2023: Ruling Awami League claims to be secular and a minority friendly party. However, when it comes to land grabbing of Hindu owned land under the guise of Enemy Property Act, they do not fall behind other political parties.

The elected official from Rajshahi-4 (Bagmara) constituency Enamul Haque of Awami League Party had purchased the 10 kathas of land in 2017 and is also spending BDT 2.5 crores to construct the 4,000 sq ft building on the plot, intended for the district Awami League party office.

However, in the meantime, Awami League had approached the district administration for land for their district office. They were given a piece of land measuring 14 decimals acquired via Enemy Property Act. Currently both Enamul Haque's building and property in Rani Bazar acquired through the Enemy Property Act has banners declaring it to be the district party office. The party officials were not reachable for any comment.



## Chittagong: Attacked by Islamist militants tribal Christians from CHT seek refuge in Mizoram

February 2023: Around 500 Bangladeshi Christians have taken refuge in Mizoram, India, after an attack by the al-Qaeda affiliated Islamist militant group Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya (JAFHS) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area. JAFHS is a new militant organization whose members have undergone training with the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF).



Bangladeshi Christians in Mizoram refugee camp in February 2023

### Thakurgaon: Deity in Ganga Devi Temple desecrated

March 2023: The incident happened in Ruhia Police Station under Thakurgaon district of Rangpur division. On 6th March 2023 morning, villagers found the temple door broken in and the *murti* (statue) was beheaded. There was discontent among the Hindu minority in the village and police were informed. As of the time of reporting, perpetrators have not been arrested.



### Panchagarh: Deity in Kali temple desecrated

March 2023: The incident is from Garinabari Union of Panchagarh under Rangpur division. The attack happened on the night of Shab-e-Barat and the villagers found the *murti* (statue) beheaded the next morning. Just like the incident in Thakurgaon a few days earlier, the identity of the perpetrators is unknown and no one has been arrested.



### Chittagong: Kali Temple forced to close down for Islamic prayer

March 2023: This incident is from Hazari Gali in Chittagong district under Chittagong division. A Kali temple was forced to close during Islamic prayer on the road in front of the temple. The temple bells were also taken down in fear of aggravating the Muslims praying in front of the temple.

This area is Hindu majority and a new mosque was built in the neighborhood recently and Muslims have started public prayer on the road.



### Chittagong: Minor madrasa student tricked to place Shiva murti (statue) in mosque

March 2023: This incident is from Cox Bazar in Chittagong division. A minor Muslim boy was asked by his relative to place a Shiva Murty in a mosque. It can be assumed that the ulterior motive was to start a riot similar to 2021 October Durga Puja riots. However, his mother advised him to give the statue to Hindus, which he did. This simple action by a pious Muslim woman might have saved a lot of lives and avoided property destruction and countrywide disturbances.



### Rajshahi: Hindu monastery built 350 years ago endangered

March 2023: The incident is from Sapura, Rajshahi City under Rajshahi division. A Hindu monastery built around 1745 with protected status by the Department of Antiquities is endangered by encroachers. In 2018, with funding from the Indian government, Rajshahi City Corporation did the renovation of the monasteries. Locals complained that engineer Nazimul Islam and his brother Yasin Ali did not allow the monastery to be renovated completely. At present Nazimul Islam is building a six-storey building around the monastery. Trustee of Hindu Welfare Trust Tapan Sen fears the monastery will be damaged due to excavation of the foundation around the dome and have reached out to authorities for remediation.



### Chandpur: Hindu cremation ground boundary broken

March 2023: The incident is from Kachua in Chandpur district under Chittagong division. The cremation ground land amounting to 14 percent was donated by late Dharmadas Pal 50 years ago. Locals Shahidullah, Nagis Begum and Arshad Ali caused hindrance to repairing and building a boundary wall around the cremation ground. The pillars constructed for the boundary wall were broken in the middle of the night. Hindus have demanded punishment for property damage. Local police have offered help in remediation and de-escalation.



**Shariatpur: Shitala murti (statue) broken in the dark of the night**

March 2023: The incident is from 27th March, 2023. The Shitala Temple located next to Palang Harishava Temple was broken in and the murti was desecrated. Other objects used in puja (worship) were also destroyed.



**Narail: Gaudiya Math threatened to be bombed if a ransom of ten lakhs taka is not paid**

March 2023: On 14 March 2023, Sar Maharaj, the caretaker of Gaudiya Math in Kalia, Narail district under Khulna division received a phone call demanding a ransom of ten lakh taka (USD 10,000). The caller threatened to bomb the monastery if his demand was not met within 72 hours. Saj Maharaj has filed a police complaint on this threat. He said he was afraid about the safety of approximately 20 permanent residents in the math and also daily devotees who attend the worship every evening.



### Noakhali: Buddhists appeal to get back a road they have been using for past 200 years that from clutch of land grabbers

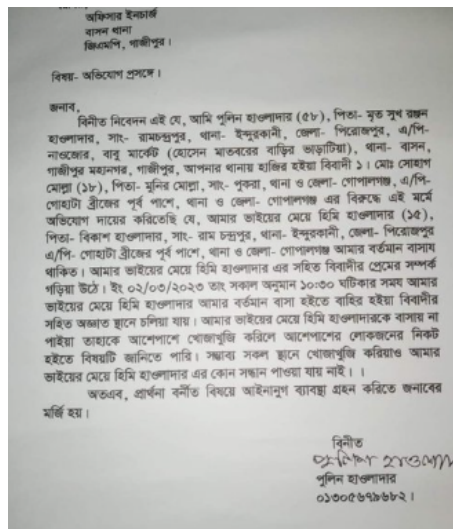
March 2023: Buddhists from Kankir Haat Barua Para, under Chittagong division appealed to PM Hasina for help in getting back their only accessible road, which was closed by Lokmaan Hussain. Mr Hussain's goons attacked the native residents of Barua Para and held them hostage. Police have not been able to help the victims as order from higher authority is needed to re-open the road.



### Gazipur: Minor Hindu girl abducted in Gazipur

March 2023: A minor girl named Himi Howlader (15) was abducted by Sohag Mollah (18) and his associates from Babu Market in Gazipur Sadar upazila under Dhaka division.

Her father Pulin Howlader has filed a complaint with the police.





### Jessore: Minor girl commits suicide due to sexual harassment

March 2023: The incident happened on 27 March 2023. Ani Roy (13) was harassed by Shakib after she refused his romantic/sexual advances. Shakib and his friends forcibly locked Ani in a classroom and abused her. Upon returning home, the victim committed suicide by hanging. Locals organized a protest march demanding severe punishment for the perpetrators.



### Sylhet: Minor girl found dead, lover arrested

March 2023: A minor girl, Deepa Rani Singha (14) was found dead in an under-construction building. Her body had signs of injury on the head and her back was smashed. Her lover Iman has been arrested.

### Indian flag removed from ambulance gifted by Indian government

March 2023: Hinduphobia and hatred for India go together in Bangladesh. Often Bangladeshi Hindus are abused and asked to leave for India. The exodus of Bangladeshi Hindus has resulted in a sharp drop of their population from the Bangladeshi census. The dislike for India is so extreme that the Indian flag is erased from the ambulance that was gifted by the Indian government.



### Satkhira: Muslim neighbor broke family temple because they disapproved the renovation work

March 2023: This incident happened in Shyamnagar upazila, Satkhira under Khulna division on 10 March 2023. Satindranath Baidya's family temple was attacked and broken down by neighbors because they disapproved of repair and renovation of them in his ancestral land.



### Kurigram: Father of minor girl beaten up by men who harassed his daughter



March 2023: The incident is from Kurigram-Fulbari under Rangpur division. Akhil Chandra Sarkar (46) and his family members were beaten up by Roni Ahmed (20) and his gang. The victim had protested against the harassment of his minor daughter by Roni Ahmed.

### Online: Enayetullah Abbasi threatens that Bangladesh is only for Muslims

April 2023: Enayetullah Abbasi said, "This Bangladesh is only for the Quran. This Bangladesh is only for the Muslims. This Bangladesh belongs to Islam. Bangladesh did not become independent with the blood of Hindus. Bangladesh became independent with the blood of Muslims. As long as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, Islam will remain the state religion of Bangladesh. If 30 lakh (three million) Muslims can die for independence, then another 30 lakh Muslims can die for Islam in this country, Inshallah."

It is to be noted that records from 1971 Bangladesh independence indicate the majority of victims murdered and raped were of Hindu descent.



## Moulvibazar Sadar, Sylhet: Hindu restaurant owner threatened for keeping business open during Islamic fasting

April 2023: Hindu restaurant owner Sujan Deb was abused and his business was attacked because Muslims led by Awami League councilor Faisal Ahmed felt Muslims will partake food from his business and not fast as prescribed by their religious scripture. The business was attacked in spite of signs indicating the restaurant was open for Hindu customers only.



## Online: Maulana Hasan Jamil threatens non-Muslims and plan hoisting Islamic flag in India

April 2023: Maulana Hasan Jamil said, "You have nothing to fear. In verses in the Quran, Allah says, your enemies will be destroyed. We cherish that belief. Hey Indians! Your destruction is inevitable! Hey Israel! Your destruction is inevitable! We don't need weapons! Hey Indian Rascals! I swear by Allah! I always dream that one day we will hoist the Kalema flag at the Red Fort in Delhi! Muslims do not believe in your nuclear weapons! A Muslim's trust is in Allah only! We will fight! We will occupy India!"

It can be seen that Hinduphobia and hatred for India go together in Bangladesh. Often Bangladeshi Hindus are told to leave and emigrate to India. At the same time they threaten India and plan to occupy it. Question is, how do Bangladeshi Hindus survive by emigrating out of Bangladesh if the threat to their faith is also present in India.



### Online: Indian Prime Minister accused of causing flood in Bangladesh

April 2023: An unknown person is seen accusing India of floods in Bangladesh. He said, “ Hey Narendra Modi! Flood water is coming from your country and drowning Bangladesh! The house of the poor is lost! Did your father make these houses? If you don't repair the houses, I will crack your head! Hatred for Hindus in Bangladesh is often translated to hatred for India and vice versa.



### Online: Enayetullah Abbasi says Allah has appointed China to punish India

April 2023: In an online video, Enayetullah Abbasi said, “Allah has placed China to punish India. Not only China! Now everyone is against India! Nepal and Bhutan are also showing strength against India! Extremist Hindus of India are shooting and killing citizens of my country every day! We cannot protest like Nepal and Bhutan! Our lives are in vain! Our freedom is in

vain! We also have to show courage like Nepal and Bhutan.” Islamists have always stoked anti-Indian sentiments to demonize Hindus in the country.



### Online: Bangladesh government reported “Voice Of Bangladeshi Hindus” in Twitter for violating law of the country

April 2023: @VoiceOfHindu71 tweeted that his account was reported by the Government of Bangladesh in April 2023. On April 11, 2023, he tweeted, “Reporting attacks on my community is a violation of Bangladeshi law. We are not against the Bangladesh government. But has the government taken any action against attacks on Hindus, vandalism of temples, abduction of Hindu girls and encroachment of Hindu lands? #FreedomOfSpeech”

It is unfortunate that the government, instead of addressing the problems of dwindling minority communities in the country, is censoring the voices of minorities. In the recent census, Hindu minority population fell by almost one percent. In addition to persecution by the majority community, the apathy and censorship of the government is responsible for the exodus of the Hindus from Bangladesh.



### **Kaunia, Rangpur: Durga temple vandalized**

April 2023: A Durga temple was vandalized and deity broken down by miscreants in Balapara Union of Kaunia upazila, Rangpur district under Rangpur division. Jakir Hussein (21) s/o Nazrul was arrested by the police. Nazrul is a resident of Raipur village under Kurigram Sadar.



### **Nilphamari, Rangpur: Madrassa student vandalized Maa Kali murti**

April 2023: A madrassa student (most likely a minor) vandalized the murti of Maa Kali in a temple in Kanthali union of Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district, Rangpur division. The perpetrator was arrested by police.



### **Online: Painting on a Pillar is Distorted by Fanatics and Tweet Reporting the Incident Abused Online**

April 2023: On 14 April 2023, @VoiceOfHindu71 tweeted, “An artist from Bangladesh painted a picture on a pillar. But the extremists harassed him & distorted the picture. The incident happened in Dhaka's Malibagh. Bangladesh is an Islamic country, so painting is #Haram. But taking pictures & posting them on social media isn't haram.”

In reply, an account from UK, who claims to be Human rights activist, said, "Painting on a bridge wall , it's a crime and Bangladesh is a Muslim country so you Hindu extremist needs to respect law of the land .Simple , Bangladesh isn't rule by Hindu extremist such as modi and terrorist Hindu organization rss." When someone noted that he claims to be a human rights activist, his reply was, "Yes I'm not a cow activist lol."

We have seen from history, degrading a human being to an animal is a step towards genocide, and attrition of minorities in the country validates that fact.

**Robin** 🇬🇧 🌍 🟢

@BaprayRobin

traveler 🗺️ Human rights activist,amnesty intl 🤝 unite the Union . i have no country to fight for, my country is the earth 🌍 🐯 Arsenal ❤️

📍 London, England 📅 Joined December 2011

### Pabna, Rajshahi: Shiva temple vandalized

April 2023: This incident happened on 16 April 2023 in Machpara village in Khidirpur Union, Atgharia Upazilla under Pabna district. Amirul Islam broke Shiva murti and attacked the local tribals over minor disagreements. Police have been stationed in the area to prevent any further deterioration in the law and order situation.



### Alkaram, Chittagong: Jagganath temple vandalized

April 2023: A Jagannath temple in Alkaran, Chattagram was attacked and set on fire by an Islamic radical Mohammed Rayhan Miyan. Local residents managed to put out the fire and handed over the perpetrator to the police.

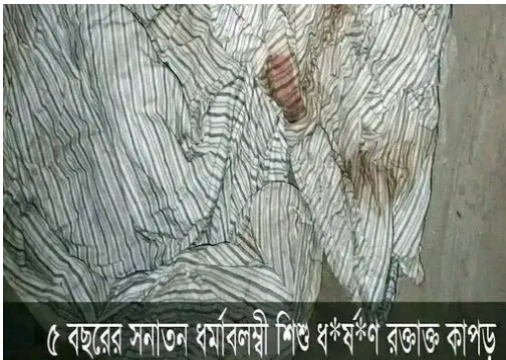


### Mymensingh: Kali temple vandalized

April 2023: Unknown miscreants broke the murti of Goddess Kali in a temple belonging to the local Dutta family. Nipendra Chandra Dutta, the General Secretary of the temple has filed a complaint in the local police station. This incident happened on 1st April, 2023 in Fulpur Upazilla under Mymensingh district.



### Taraganj, Rangpur: Five year old child raped



April 2023: A five year old child was raped by Nur Islam, a father of two children himself. The perpetrator enticed the child with chocolate and raped her. The parents of the victim are poor laborers who left their two daughters in Ashrayan (আশ্রয়ণ) program while they were at work. The child was admitted to Taraganj Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

### Natore, Rajshahi: Widow threatened with rape

April 2023: A widow named Jaya was threatened of rape and verbally and physically abused by Anwar Hossain (40). The perpetrators also assaulted the victim's family members. The victim told the press that the perpetrator had been harassing her for a long time. She was in the verge of committing suicide but couldn't kill herself thinking about the wellbeing of her little daughter.





### Bagerhat, Khulna: Tamal Pal (19) Arrested on Charges of Blasphemy

April 2023: Tamal Pal was arrested on charge of blasphemy under the Digital Security Act (Blasphemy Act). Mohammed Akhter Saikh had complained in Rampal Police Station that Pal had made derogatory comments about Islam and the significance of Islamic fasting.



Tamal Pal (19) arrested for blasphemy

### Nilphamari, Rangpur: Jibon Kumar Roy (22) Arrested on Charges of Blasphemy

April 2023: Jibon Kumar Roy was arrested on charge of blasphemy under the Digital Security Act (Blasphemy Act) for commenting on Facebook. It is to be noted that more than 200 Hindus have been jailed under Blasphemy Act in Bangladesh.



Jibon Kumar Roy (22) arrested for blasphemy

### **Chittagong Hill Tracts: Killing of native tribal people go on unabated**

April 2023: According to CHT News, BGB attacked villagers in Baishpari under Bandarban upazila on 1 April 2023. Many villagers were injured in this incident. BGB had accused three Tanchangya women of cow smuggling from Myanmar and physically abused a woman inside their camp. When locals protested, BGB attacked the village in the evening. The injured are being treated in Ukhia Upazila Hospital.

On April 2, Awami League leader Mohammed Jamal Patwari led a group of Bengali settlers and captured Hlaching Mong Marma (23), a member of the Bengali UPDF, and tortured him to death in medieval fashion.

On April 4, UPDF member Tridiv Chakma was shot dead by army-backed groups in Dighinala.

On April 6, an armed group supported by the state forces abducted 22 people, including school and college students, from Jarvarang Para in Rumar and took them to Khamtang Para School in Rwangchari on the border. Later, 15 people were released from there, and the next morning on April 7, rest were killed and their dead bodies recovered.

On 8 April, United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) Khagrachari unit held a protest march in Khagrachari to protest against the killings of Bom people in Bandarban. Bipul Chakma, Pahari Chhatra Parishad Khagrachari District President Shanto Chakma and Hill Women's Federation

Khagrachari District Convenor Antti Chakma spoke at the event. The speakers strongly protested and condemned the heinous murders.

The action of the government and the state forces are wiping out the hill people in Chittagong Hill Tracts. In the recent past, hundreds of Bam ethnic groups from various areas including Rowanchari and Ruma in Bandarban have taken refuge in Mizoram, India. Speakers from the rally demanded the formation of an impartial judicial inquiry committee to immediately investigate the killings, and bring exemplary punishment to the terrorists involved in the killings and stop human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

### **Dhaka: Hindu couple detained for vandalism, with no evidence of vandalism presented**

May 2023: A Hindu couple was attacked and detained by the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council in Dhaka. Anand Kumar Das, the husband said the couple were detained separately and his wife was abused physically and mentally. Khan Md. Golam Morshed, President of Bangladesh Nurses Association said the couple was detained at the Nursing Council on charges of vandalism against Anand Kumar Das and Sujela Rani Roy, but they could not show evidence of vandalism.

### **Rangpur: Kali Temple Vandalized**



May 2023: On 12th May, a Kali temple in Shingimari village in Gangachara Upazila in Rangpur District of Rangpur Division was vandalized and murti (statue) broken down by miscreants. No one has been arrested as of the latest update available.

### **Netrakona: Hindu minor girl publicly hacked to death**

May 2023: This incident is from Barhatta, in Netrokona District of Mymensingh Division. A minor girl Mukta Rani Barman was publicly hacked to death. Mohammed Kauchar Miah killed the

victim on her way back from school after writing exam. The killer used to tease Mukti and her sisters in the past and proposed the victim for a romantic relationship, which the victim declined. Victim's family and friends fear that the killer will not be punished and released soon for being a minor.



### Barisal: Hindu shopkeeper Sagar Chandra Pal dies in arson

May 2023: On May 8th, a Hindu shopkeeper Sagar Chandra Pal was killed in an arson that destroyed six shops in Champta New Market in Bakerganj under Barisal division. In addition to the death of Sagar, goods worth half million taka were destroyed. The victims claim the fire was set on deliberately as an act of revenge against the victims. Arifur Rahman, whose shop was also destroyed in the fire, accused that some people were jealous of the good business in Sagar's shop and deliberately locked the shop from outside and set it on fire. In recent days, Sagar's shop was vandalized and broken into multiple times, so he was sleeping inside his shop to prevent theft. He was burnt to death, as miscreants locked the store from outside so that he couldn't escape.



### Bogra: Factory owner blocks access to Hindu crematorium

May 2023: Belal Hossain, owner of agrofood factory, has built a drain for factory waste in Santahar, usurping land belonging to local hindu crematorium. The incident is from Bogra District under Rajshahi Division. The sewage from the drain polluted the Iramati Canal in front of the crematorium and deposited ash and pollutants in the water. Local Hindus can no longer use the crematorium because of lack of water. Santahar Municipal Crematorium Management Committee General Secretary Ratan Mukherjee lamented on the situation and hardships local Hindus face for the last rites of their deceased family members.



### Gopalganj: Hindu widow raped and murdered in a paddy field

May 2023: Mohammed Badal Sheikh is accused of raping and killing a Hindu widow named Smriti Bachar. Her dead body was retrieved from a paddy field in Muksudpur Upazila in Gopalganj District of Dhaka division. Locals accuse the perpetrator had tried to forcibly evict the victim from her land. He had also cut trees from her land before, for which he was arrested. After he was released on 21 May and returned to the village, the victim was found raped and murdered the same night.



### Dhaka: Jaipara Durga temple vandalized

June 2023: MD Siddique attacked the Jaipara Durga temple in Dohar Upazila under Dhaka division. The incident happened during broad daylight in front of hundreds of people who saw him vandalizing the murti (statue). He leisurely walked away after threatening that he would slaughter all Hindus.

As of the latest update, police have arrested him, but Hindus are not optimistic that he will be punished adequately. The comparative leniency of the judiciary and law enforcement has emboldened the Islamic extremists to vandalize religious sites of minority faith.



### Mymensingh: Father and minor daughter attacked and gravely injured



June 2023: A local Muslim leader Mohammed Jalil attacked a Hindu family in Trishal under Mymensingh district. He had earlier threatened to expel the Hindu family and grab their land. However, the victims ignored his threats and refused to leave.

On June 8th, Jalil and Mohammed Manna attacked the family and destroyed their property. A woman family member was hospitalized with injuries to her head.

### Patuakhali: Three temples are attacked in the same day

June 2023: Muhammad Russel attacked Kali, Durga and Manasa temples with a sword and broke the murtis in broad daylight. The incident is from Dakua village in Patuakhali district under Barisal division. The perpetrator was arrested later and police have assured the villagers that they will provide security.





Sriti O Chetona stands for 'memories and consciousness' - memories of the once vibrant Hindu life and culture in East Bengal and the consciousness about the present plight of Hindus in Bangladesh. Sriti O Chetona is a not for profit project that regularly monitors and reports the ongoing incidents of persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh.

<https://www.sritiochetona.org>

[sritiochetona@gmail.com](mailto:sritiochetona@gmail.com)