



**BANGLADESH HINDU PERSECUTION**  
**2023 YEARLY REPORT**  
**January 2023 - December 2023**

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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 news portals. This report provides an overview of the atrocities committed against these communities in Bangladesh from January 2023 to December 2023.

## Overview

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

- Persecution category (collated by SoC team). The complete list is provided in the Appendix
- Administrative and 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.

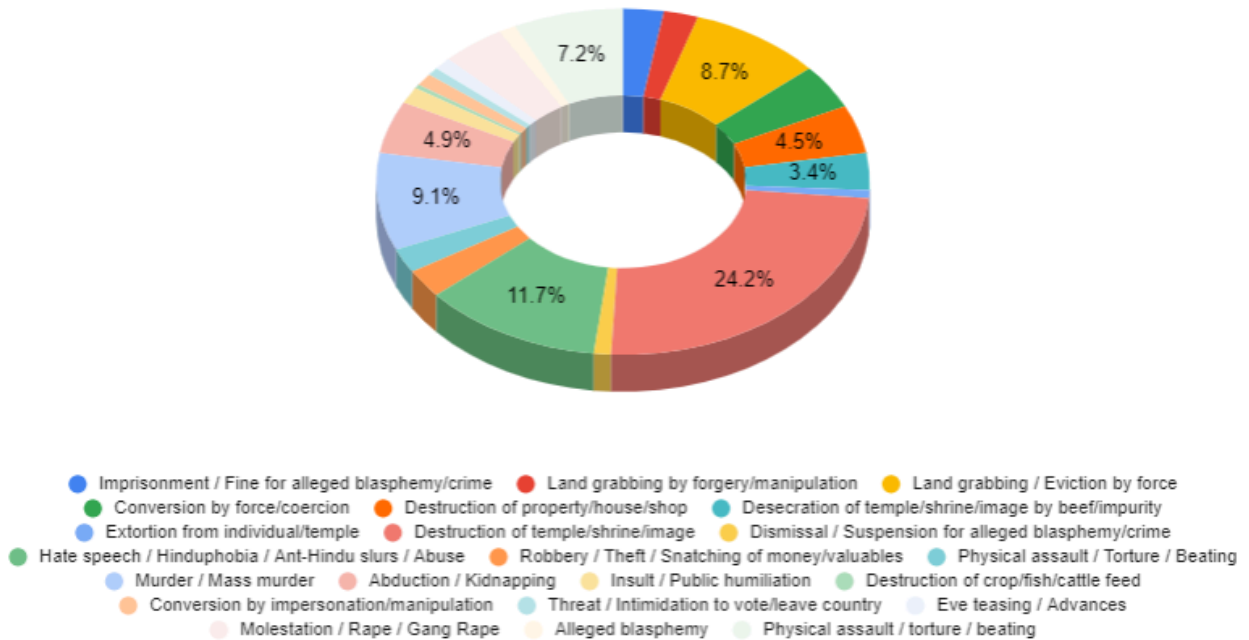
It is to be noted that SoC has compiled the data by incidents reported in news and social media. Without access to police reports and ground information about the victims, it is not possible to give accurate counts, hence we abstained from reporting details about the victims. We chose to report by the victim's social group and categorized the incidents by individual, family or community.

We also acknowledge that we have been able to gather information for only a fraction of total incidents. Hence, it was decided to analyze data with the sample collected, and not by absolute number. We feel that statistically the distribution of categories of persecution incidents collated by the SoC team will follow the pattern in real life.

As we see in the chart below, the top five persecution categories are; "Destruction of temple / shrine / image", which constitutes 24.2%, "Hate Speech / Hinduphobia / Anti-Hindu slurs / Abuse" constitutes 11.7% , Murder / Mass Murder accounts for 9.1%, "Land grabbing / Eviction by force" with 8.7%, followed by "Physical Assault / torture /Beating" accounting for 7.2%.

If we combine numbers for "Desecration of temple/shrine/image by beef/impurity" and "Destruction of temple / shrine / images", they constitute 27.6% of the persecution incidents.

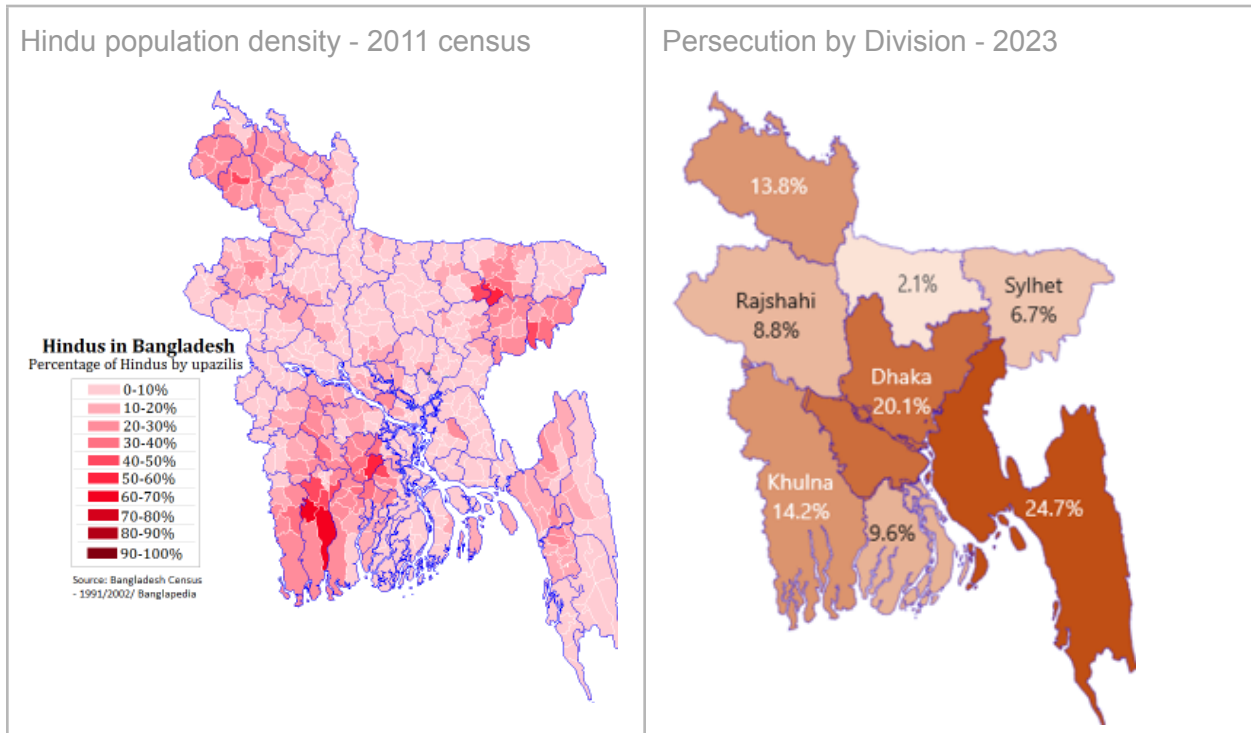
Persecution By Category



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. In May 2023, a Bangladeshi Muslim cleric, Enayet Ullah Abbasi, was not allowed to give speeches in the UK. The International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) and the Forum for Religious Freedom-Europe (FOREF) had demanded prosecution and deportation of the cleric from the [UK](#).

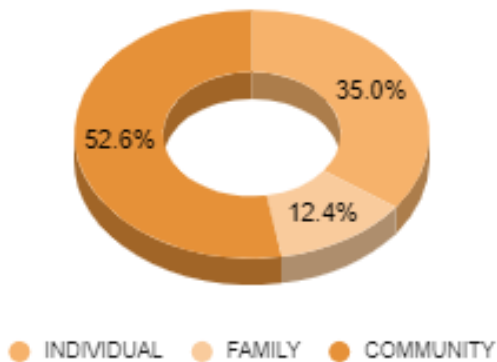
‘Online / Book / Media’ account for approx 8% of total incidents. Often local meetings and speeches by extremist religious leaders are uploaded in social media thereby increasing the reach by manyfold. Extremist elements among Bangladeshi diaspora are also active in spreading hatred against the religious minorities in the country and go under the radar for freedom of speech in the west.

When we analyze data by administrative/geographical divisions (excluding Online / Book/ Media), Chittagong division accounts for 24.7%, followed by Dhaka (20.1%), Khulna (14.2%), Rangpur (13.8%), Barisal (9.6%), Rajshahi (8.8%), Sylhet (6.7%) and Mymensingh (2.1%) divisions.



The heat map charts above show the percentage of Hindu population (2011 census) and incidents of persecution in 2023 by administrative/geographical division. The darker color indicates a higher percentage. It is noted that Chittagong has the highest percentage of persecution incidents even though the Hindu population is comparatively low. Khulna, with a higher percentage of Hindu population has 10 percent less persecution incidents than Chittagong.

Persecution by Victim Group

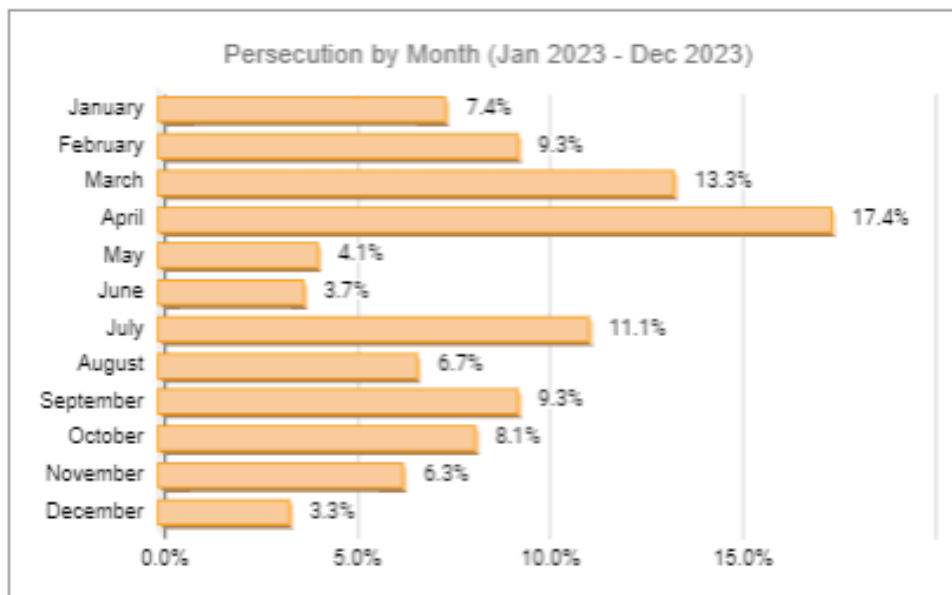


When data is analyzed by the victim's social group, the attacks on temples and other community properties or general anti-hindu slurs, mass threat for conversion, expulsion from the country and abuse are considered affecting the whole community, which accounts for 52.6% of the victim group.

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 35% of victims. In the case of

a family, the most common complaint is land and property grabbing.

When the total number of incidents recorded by the SoC team was analyzed by month, a sharp uptick was found in April. In April 2023, 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.



When we analyze data by age, majority of minors are females facing abduction, rape, forcible conversion and marriage. Looking into the data by gender (in cases where individuals are identifiable), the victims are almost equally divided, though the type of persecution varied between males and females. Looking into the total number of persecution incidents, the vast majority of the persecution incidents are targeted against Hindus and indigenous people. Christians, liberal Muslims, Ahmediya 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 teacher, Newton Sarkar taught biology 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. Some 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 · 🌐

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**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।



## Shariatpur: Three temples vandalized, stolen and *murti* damaged

July 2023: Unknown miscreants had broken the *murti* of Ma Ganga in a temple in Kartikpur village under Rambhadrapur Union of Bhedarganj Upazila on 1st July 2023. The temple is



situated near a public road and locals suspect that the miscreants threw rocks at the murti from outside.



*Broken Ma Ganga murti at Kartikpur, Bhedarganj Upazila, Shariatpur District*

On 12 July, Shri Shri Digambari Mata Thakurani temple in Maheshwar Union under Bhedarganj was broken in and money from a donation box stolen. The thieves broke security grills and doors to access the donation box.



*Shri Shri Digambari Mata Thakurani temple in Maheshwar, Bhedarganj Upazila, Shariatpur District*

On 17th July, a Kali temple belonging to Babu Anil Kumar Dey, (Awami League local leader in Chaigaon) was broken in and vandalized.

## Narayanganj: Influential group of people created fake land deed usurp land belonging to Hindu artisan

July 2023: Dinesh Biswas, an artisan from Kahena village, under Jampur Union in Sonargaon has accused that a non-resident Bangladeshi Anisur Rahman (30) and his father Hajrat Ali (64) had been trying to grab the victim's ancestral land for many years. They created a false land deed on 19 July 2022 in their name and have been continuing to torment the victim. The victim came to know about the false land deed from neighbors and confronted the perpetrators on 2 July 2023. The victim in his police complaint said when the accused threatened to murder him and grab his land.

## Jhalokati: Disabled Hindu woman raped

July 2023: A 19-year-old disabled girl was raped in home by Habib Hawaladar (50). The incident happened in Nalchiti, Jhalokati on 8 July. When the victim's brother Nayan Chandra Saha tried to save his sister, the perpetrator was able to escape from the crime scene. He was later arrested by police based on the complaint filed by the victim's brother.



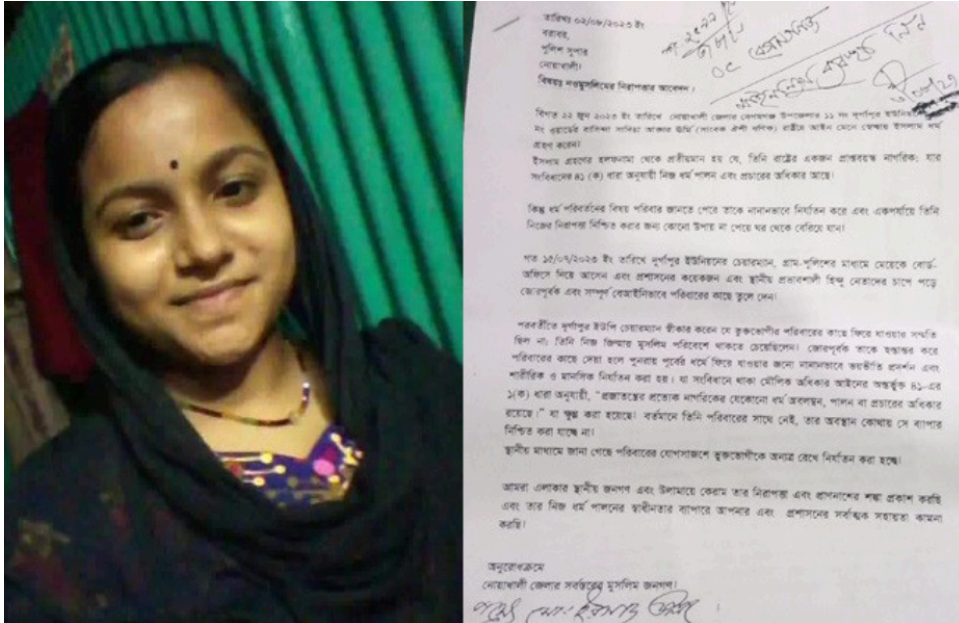
*Habib Hawaladar (50) accused of raping 19-year old disabled girl*

## Noakhali: Hindu minor girl Oishy Banik converted to Islam

August 2023: On 22nd June 2023, a Hindu minor girl, Oishy Banik was converted to Islam in Begumganj, Noakhali District. Her Islamic name was Sadiya Akhter Urmi. She was also recorded to be an adult in her conversion documents.

On 15th July, 2023 she was sent to her parents by the police. Muslim community accused her of being forced by her family to possibly re-convert to her parent's faith. They said that in her conversion document it was stated she was an adult and she converted to Islam willingly. Muslims said that article 41-1A of Bangladesh constitution gives her fundamental right to practice her chosen faith and they want her to stay away from her birth family to ensure she

continues to practice Islamic faith. This incident has created a lot of uproar in the society and might lead to disputes and clashes among the two communities.



## Pirojpur: Tumpa Roy (26) gang-raped in an abandoned house by four miscreants

August 2023: On 24th August, the victim had rented a ride with Mohammed Imran. The perpetrator, instead of dropping her in her destination, took her to a lonely abandoned house and held her captive. He then called three more accomplices, Muhammad Sohag Mir(34), Amin Khan(40) and Muhammad Rakib Shikdar(25). All four accused repeatedly raped her, and left her bleeding by the roadside.

Locals found the victim and had her admitted to the hospital. Later, the victim filed a complaint against the perpetrators in Pirojpur Sadar Police Station. Later the case was transferred to Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). On 26th August, RAB arrested the main accused Mohammed Imran from Barisal. The other three perpetrators are still absconding.





*Mohammed Imran arrested from Barisal*

### **Chittagong: Minor Hindu boy Sayan Das (13) found dead, his Muslim girlfriend's family suspected of murder**

August 2023: Body of Sayan Das, a 7th grade student of Haji Mohammad Mohsin School in Chittagong City was found in Karnafuli river on 31st August 2023. Two days earlier, his father had filed a complaint of him not returning home from school in the local Bakalia police station.

On the day of his disappearance, from CCTV footage, Sayan was found to be talking with a girl and a woman wearing fully covered clothing. He later went with them. Sources say he had a relationship with a Muslim girl student from his school. It is accused that family members of his Muslim girlfriend had murdered him and thrown his body in the river, as the relationship between a Muslim girl and Hindu boy is not accepted in Muslim faith. Police are awaiting the autopsy report to ascertain the cause of death.

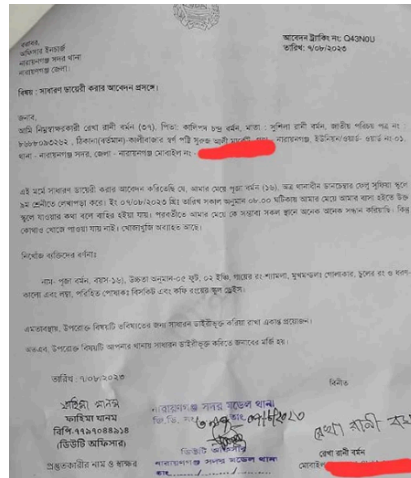


*Sayan Das was found conversing with two women before his disappearance*

## Dhaka: Hindu minor girl Puja Rani Barman feared kidnapped

August 2023: A minor Hindu girl, Puja Rani Barman (13) is missing from 7th August 2023. She is from Narayanganj town, Ward-01.

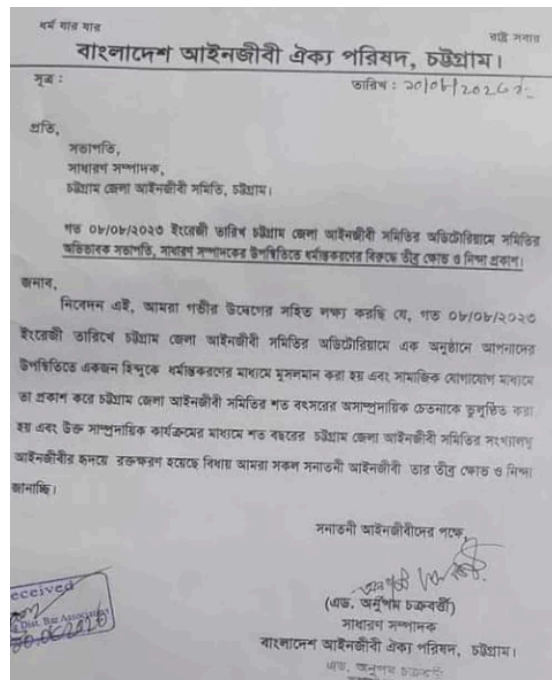
Her mother Rekha Rani Barman has filed a complaint in Narayanganj Police Station on the day of her disappearance. Her parents said she might have been kidnapped, a fear prevalent among parents of minority girls as number of kidnapping, conversion to Islam, rape and marriage is on the rise



Report filed in Narayanganj PS for Puja's disappearance

## Chittagong: A religious minority man publicly converted to Islam by members belonging to local lawyers forum

August 2023: A Hindu man was converted to Islam on 8th August 2023 by senior officials of Chittagong District Lawyers Forum at an event held in the Lawyers Forum Auditorium. Several minority organizations and law body "Bangladesh Ainjibi Oikyo Parishad, Chattogram" opposed the incident which they accused of promoting communalism by a secular legal organization.



Memo by "Bangladesh Ainjibi Oikyo Parishad, Chattogram" protesting the public display of communalism by a secular legal organization



### Jhenaidah: Hindu maid Chinta Rani Das raped by her employer

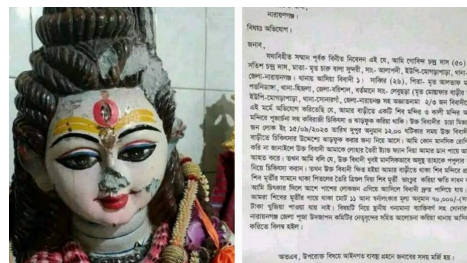
September 2023: On 3 September, Chinta Rani Das, a Hindu woman working as housemaid in the house of Mashiur Mattuburr (35), was raped by her employer in his home in Kaklash village in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenaidah district. The perpetrator had called the victim to his home in the pretext of work. When the victim fell ill, her son filed a police complaint on her behalf. Due to the extreme poverty of the victim, police had arranged for her treatment for free. The perpetrator was absconding immediately after the crime and was arrested almost a week later from neighboring Kachari Binni village.



Mashiur Mattuburr (35) after his arrest

### Narayanganj: Attack on temple dedicated to Shiva and Kali

September 2023: On September 15, Sabbir Mullick (26) and his gangs attacked the family temple of Gobinda Chandra Das. The incident is from Alapadi village under Sonargaon Thana in Narayanganj district. According to the police complaint filed by Mr Das, he works as a village shaman. The perpetrator was brought in for treatment to him but he told the family that he is not able to treat mental illness and suggested the family members seek treatment in the hospital. The perpetrator got upset and broke the murti of Shiva. When villagers came to rescue, the perpetrators fled but jewelry worth approximately 70,000 taka (approx USD 700) was found missing.



Broken deity and police complaint filed by Gobinda Chandra Das

## Rangamati: Bangladeshi army personnel accused of raping a 16-yr old Hindu tribal girl

September 2023: On 3 September, six army personnel is accused of raping a minor girl belonging to Marma tribe. The army personnel forcibly entered the house of the victim in Raikhali under Kaptai Upazila in Rangamati district and gang raped her. The victim was admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The army personnel is also accused of threatening the family not to disclose this incident or seek legal action.

The area is mostly inhabited by Hindu tribals belonging to Marma and Jhum tribes, and young women are often victims of sexual assault by army personnel and Bengali Muslim settlers. In 2023 alone, 12 incidents of rape has happened, but only two rapists have been arrested. Twenty four rapists in the remaining ten incidents have not faced any charges or been arrested.

The incident has created a lot of anger in the community. Brihattar Parbatya Chattogram Pahari Parishad, Hill Women's Federation and Democracy Youth Forum held the protest demonstrations in the capital Dhaka and locally at Khagrachari over this incident in Rangamati and another attempted rape on another tribal woman by a Bengali Muslim settler in Ramgarh. The protestors demanded exemplary punishment and deterrent to such heinous crime in future. In a protest march organized by Hill Women's Federation and Parbatya Chattogram Nari Sangha, 700 ethnic minorities took part with brooms and sticks.

As of the latest news, the perpetrator in case of attempted rape in Ramgarh has been attested, but none has been arrested in the Rangamati rape incident.



*700 people took part in protest march against sexual atrocities faced by native tribal women by Bangladeshi army personnel and Bengali Muslim settlers*

## Faridpur: Durga *murti* for upcoming Durga Puja vandalized

September 2023: On 18 September 2023, the Durga *murti* for upcoming puja next month was found broken in Tambulkhana Bazar under Khajuri Union in Faridpur upazila. It is to be noted that a similar incident happened in the same temple in 2021 and the perpetrator was caught by the locals and handed over to the police. However, the perpetrator was let go within 15 days by the police as they found he was mentally challenged. This is a similar pattern in many cases of temple and deity desecration. Police and legal establishment in a vast majority of the cases let the perpetrators free without any serious punishment.

Minority leaders visited the site and expressed anger and frustration. Rana Dasgupta, Dr. N Bhoumik, U Talukdar and N Rosario said in a joint statement that these types of incidents have been normalized as perpetrators do not face any consequences. They demanded the culprits be arrested and face justice within 48 hours.



*Durga idol vandalized at Tambulkhana Bazar temple in Faridpur, Bangladesh*

## Habiganj: Religious extremists attack Vishwakarma Puja mandap

September 2023: On 19 September 2023, religious extremists attacked a Vishwakarma Puja Mandap in Rameshwar village of Habiganj, under Madhabpur Upazila. Mr Sudan Chandra Das, a local organizer said that the event was peaceful until a group of Muslim extremists attacked the mandap with weapons at around 10 pm and started assaulting the crowd participating in the puja activities. Some of the organizers of the puja event were injured seriously. The perpetrators did not even spare women and children. Chairs and other equipment were broken along with the *murti* of Viswakarma. Twelve Hindus were injured in the attack. The injured include Ramprasad Sarkar (34), Sujan Sarkar (21), Shymal Sarkar (27), Anjan Sarkar (22), Gautam Das (21), Nibesh Sutradhar (45), Dobinda Sarkar (27), Parimal Sarkar (30), Hitendra Sarkat (32), Shymal

(45), Ayan Biswas (80) and Bikashi Mallick. The injured are being treated in Madhabpur Upazila Health Center.



*Religious extremists attacked Viswakarma puja in Rameshwar village, Madhabpur*

### **Gopalganj: Durga *murti* broken inside local temple**

September 2023: On 27 September night, unknown religious fanatics broke the Durga murti that was being built inside a temple in Charpara village under Gopalganj district. It is to be noted that Gopalganj is considered a liberal bastion, home of Bangladesh Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibar Rahaman, and birthplace of the current prime minister of the country, Sheikh Hasina.

Police have visited the site and promised to take proper action, but at the time of the report, no one has been arrested for the crime. Local religious minority organizations and Hindu population expressed their anger and frustration on this continual attack on religious sites and symbols. Kajal Chandra Das from Bangladesh Hindu Christian Buddhist Aikya Parishad, Arjun Karmakar Joy from Sanatan Juboshakti Parishad have taken to social media to express frustration on this ongoing religious assault.



*Broken Durga murti from Charpara village in Gopalganj*



## Moulvibazar: Dalit Hindu community assaulted

September 2023: On 15 September, Safiq and Rafiq Miyan along with 25 miscreants attacked Dalit Hindus in Harijan Pally in Arambagh village in Srimandal upazila under Moulvibazar district. The attackers were equipped with home-made weapons like sticks, metal rods, machete and swords. The perpetrators assaulted the locals with sharp weapons, attacked and broke temples, sexually assaulted women, and looted homes and businesses. Multiple people were injured in the attack, with seven people severely injured and hospitalized. The hospitalized include Kesab Ravidas (30), Maina Ravidas (55).

A victim, Joy Ravidas has said cash and jewelry worth 10 lakh taka (USD 10,000) has been stolen from his home, in addition to his house and neighborhood temple being broken.



Victims of Harijan Pally of Arambagh village, Sreemangal upazila describe the attack on them

## Bagerhat: Hindu woman arrested on charges of blasphemy

September 2023: On 24 September, Rupali Rani Das (45) got into a dispute with a Muslim woman named Momena Begum, while getting water from a public well. The incident is from Gouramba Union, Rampal Police Station under Bagerhat district. Begum issued threats during the altercation and spread misinformation in the village about Rupali Rani Das making derogatory comments about Islam and Prophet Mohammed. On 25 September, local Muslims demanded Rupali publicly ask for forgiveness, which she did. On September 26th, Yasin Khandakar (33) filed a complaint against Das under sections 153, 298 and 506 of Bangladesh Penal Code. Local Hindus assert that the accusations are unfounded and influenced by personal enmity. Even though the sections under which Das is accused of are eligible for bond, the judge directly sent her to jail. Multiple human rights, women and minority organizations were present in the hearing, but none dared to help her in fear of backlash from religious fanatics.

Coincidentally, a similar incident happened in Pakistan involving Asia Bibi getting into an altercation about drinking water. She had spent eight years on death row before she could

migrate out of the country with her family. We pray that Rupali Rani Das and her family are safe and get a chance to live with honor in her motherland.



### **Bogra: Married Hindu woman murdered by Nayan Islam**

October 2023: On 26th October, Asha Mohanta (32), a married woman from Shibganj Upazila of Bogra District in Rajshahi Division was found murdered at her home. Her body was discovered by her family members with a scarf and power cord wrapped around her neck. Asha was a member of Bangladeshi para-military force, Ansar. Her lover, Nayan Ali (Nayan Islam, according to some media reports) was arrested on 27th October after he admitted to the law enforcement of murdering her.



*Killer Nayan Islam and the victim Ashadevi Mohanta*

## Narsingdi: Attack on Hindu temple, *murtis* broken



October 2023: On October 18 morning, Manir Hussain alias Muhammed Monir (45) and his gang attacked the temple in Viti Chianadi village under Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi District in Dhaka Division. The miscreants broke multiple murti of Hindu deities in the temple. According to the police complaint filed by Mr Priyotosh Barman of the Durga Mandir Committee, the police arrested Manir Hussain at the spot after he admitted attacking the temple.

*Miscreant Manir Hussain alias Muhammed Monir was arrested by police for attack and desecration in the temple in Viti Chanadi in Dhaka division*

## Habiganj: Islamic organization exerts pressure to stop music in *puja*

October 2023: Muhammad Maniruzzam from Habiganj Islamic Foundation in Sylhet had urged the avoidance of sound systems or musical instruments during Islamic prayers such as Azaan and Namaz. Notably, Namaz occurs five times daily, whereas Durga Puja spans four days annually. Despite the infrequency of the latter, this restriction is imposed on religious minorities in the country. District administrator Debi Chanda has issued letters to all puja committees, advising against the use of sound systems and musical instruments during the five daily Islamic prayers in the interest of fostering religious cohesion and brotherhood. It is a notable observation that, in matters concerning Islam, it is consistently the non-Muslims who are called upon to exhibit tolerance and make concessions to accommodate Islamic practices.



*Notice to regulate sound system during azaan and namaz*

## Lalmonirhat: Hindu woman raped by Awami League leader

October 2023: Solaiman Ali, a 30-year-old leader of the Kulghat Chatra League Union in Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila of Lalmonirhat District in Rangpur Division, is facing accusations of forcibly entering a home and committing rape, as reported by a housewife. The victim alleges that the assailant had been harassing her for an extended period, pressuring her into a sexual relationship. On the evening of October 13th, with the victim's husband away, the accused forcibly entered her residence and perpetrated the crime. Local residents, upon hearing the victim's cries, intervened and apprehended the accused. However, Solaiman's associates forcibly released him and issued threats to the victims. Despite the victim's initial intent to file a police complaint on the same day, Solaiman's associates compelled her to sign a blank judicial stamp paper.



*Accused Soliman Ali (30)*

Out of fear, the victim and her husband fled their home. It took four days for the couple to muster the courage to file a complaint, but as of reporting six days after the incident, the police complaint has not been officially recorded.

Bidhubhusan Roy from the Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has urged that the perpetrator be held accountable under the law. Failing this, the victims and minority organizations may feel compelled to initiate a social movement to seek justice for the victim.

## Munshiganj: *Murti* and donation stolen from Lakshmi Narayan temple

October 2023: During the night of October 5, thieves forcibly entered the Panchgariakandi Siddheswari Lakshmi Narayan temple, making off with numerous murtis and puja items crafted from silver and precious stones, as well as the funds from the donation box. The robbery came to light the following day when worshippers arrived for prayers. Khokan Majumdar, affiliated with the "Jela Puja Ujjapon Porishod, reported that several valuable murtis, including those of Radha and Krishna, Ganesh, Gopal, Ram and Sita, and Shiva, were among the stolen items.





*Religious items stolen from temple in Munshiganj under Dhaka division*

### **Jhenaidah: Durga *murti* vandalized**

October 2023: On October 21, a Durga murti, under construction for the Durga Puja celebration, was subjected to vandalism in Jhenaidah within the Khulna division. The incident occurred around midnight at Baroipara Sarbajonin Durga Mandir in Porahati village. Villagers maintained a night vigil to prevent any untoward incidents. Unfortunately, miscreants took advantage of a temporary absence of volunteers, who had left the temple premises to have dinner. Milon Kumar Kundu, the general secretary of the temple committee, reported that the perpetrators infiltrated the temple, vandalized the murti, and swiftly fled the scene.



*Durga murti vandalized at night in Baroipara Durga Mandir*

## Jhenaidah: Land belonging to Hindu families illegally acquired by AL leaders



*'Mollah Tower' accused by Saha family to be illegally built on their property and Kali temple*

November 2023: The residence once owned by the late Satendranath Saha in Sailakupa has been unlawfully seized by Sabdar Hussain Mollah, a prominent figure in the ruling party, along with his son, Shamin Hussain Mollah, who serves as the chairman of the ruling party's youth wing. The Saha family home was dismantled by the duo, and in its place, they erected a multistoried structure named 'Mollah Tower'.

Mallika Saha, the daughter-in-law of Satyendranath Saha, revealed that the accused, Sabdar and Shamin, forged fraudulent land ownership documents, transferring the property to their cousin in 2013, subsequently making an illicit purchase. Upon discovering this, the Saha family sought legal recourse and obtained a court-issued stay order. Despite the court's intervention, the accused proceeded to construct the building in defiance of the order. Mallika Saha further lamented the loss of not only 24 decimals of land but also the wrongful acquisition of their Kali temple by the accused.

Upon approaching local congressman Abdul Hai, the victims were subjected to mistreatment, and they were informed that possessing legal documents for the land would be of no avail. (‘কাগজপাতি আছে তা আমি কী করব। কাগজপাতি ধুয়ে পানি খা গিয়ে।’). The victims appealed to the prime minister of the country to get justice.

As per information reported by local media, numerous Hindu families, including the Saha family, have experienced the loss of their land and residences, either through forceful eviction, coercion, or illicit methods employed in property court proceedings. Local Hindus have expressed that this pattern of illegal acquisition involving land, temples, and properties from minorities has been ongoing for over a decade, with local politicians playing a role in these activities. The minority communities are uneasy, anticipating further attacks in the lead-up to the upcoming general elections in the country.

### **Chittagong: Suman Saha (45) lynched by Mamun, Mustafizur and Nur Hasan**

November 2023: On the night of November 27, Suman Saha, a businessman specializing in gold jewelry, was brutally lynched in Reazuddin Bazar. The perpetrators, identified as Mohammed Mamun, Mustafizur Rahaman, and Nur Hasan, mercilessly attacked Suman with metal rods, pliers, and pipes. Subsequently, the accused contacted Suman's mother, asserting that Suman had behaved inappropriately, and they had administered punishment.

Nurul Alam Ashik, the in-charge of Chittagong Medical College police station, reported that Suman was brought to the hospital already deceased at midnight. Suman, survived by a pregnant wife and parents, had reportedly endured torture at the hands of the accused before his death. His grieving wife expressed her anguish, calling for severe punishment for the perpetrators.



*Suman Saha (45) lynched to death in Chittagong*



## Barguna: Hindu family home destroyed, looted and occupied by masked miscreants



*Uttam Mitra's home and shop attacked and destroyed in Patharghata, Charduani*

November 2023: On November 6th, at 2:30 am, the residence and shop of Uttam Mitra, a Bangladesh *muktijoddha* (freedom fighter) in Patharghata, Charduami Bazar, fell victim to an attack orchestrated by masked men and women. The assailants demolished his shop and house, subjecting his wife, Gita Rani, and daughter to physical assault and verbal abuse. Following the destruction, the perpetrators engaged in looting and even erected a new structure on the land after dismantling the existing ones.

Eyewitnesses reported that, in addition to household items, goods from the grocery shop, valued at approximately one lakh taka (1,000 USD), were stolen. The remaining belongings from the Mitra family's home were callously discarded into a nearby pond. A female eyewitness recounted a distressing scene, describing the victims as disrobed and subjected to sexual assault, describing the victims being tossed around like a ball. The miscreants, identified by locals as Musharaf, Zia, and Nasir Biswas, were led by Musharaf, with Zia allegedly identified as the mastermind and a barrister.

Political leaders and police have intervened in the aftermath of the incident, resulting in the establishment of a status quo.

## Noakhali: Kali and Viswakarma *murti* vandalized



*Viswakarma murti broken during Kali Puja organized by Joy Shiv Rabi Das Sangha Kali Mandir*

November 2023: On the evening of November 11, at approximately 6 PM, a group of around 35 individuals led by Sheikh Selim (50) launched an attack on a Kali Puja event held in Chaumuhani, Begumganj. Three female devotees, namely Alo Rani, Lakshmi Das, and Lakshmi Rani, sustained injuries during the assault. The miscreants went on to vandalize the murti of Vishwakarma and pilfered funds from the donation box.

A local Hindu, Rabi Das has filed a police complaint, revealing that the puja had been a tradition for 26 years under the auspices of Joy Shiv Rabi Das Sangha Kali Mandir. The Sangha observes multiple pujas annually, including Kali Puja, Saraswati Puja, and Vishwakarma Puja. Das expressed grievances that Sheikh Selim had a history of creating disturbances during their celebrations.

## Nilphamari: Hindus attacked for cultivating potatoes in their ancestral land

November 2023: In a shocking incident on Thursday, November 9, 2023, in Dharmapal Dakshin Paitka Para, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, a group of assailants launched a vicious attack on farmers engaged in potato cultivation on their ancestral land. The assailants reportedly used sticks, soda rods, and sharp weapons during the assault.



*Hindu farmer attacked for cultivating potato on his own land*

Victims, including Shri Chatan Chandra Barman, Aurobindo Chandra Barman, Pratima Rani, and several others, suffered severe injuries in the merciless attack. These injured individuals are currently undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, highlighting the gravity of the assault.

Allegations have surfaced against several individuals, namely Alim Munshi, Babul Hossain, Shahidul Munshi, Abu Bakkar Siddique, Noor Alam, Hasan Ali, Rabiul, Ashraf, Rafiqul, and others, accused of perpetrating this brutal act. However, the victims express frustration, stating a lack of proper justice despite the harrowing experience.

The aggrieved parties cite discrimination, claiming that their status as a minority has hindered the attainment of fair treatment within the country's judicial system. They adamantly demand a fair trial and justice for the heinous attack they endured while working on their ancestral property.

The incident has not only left several individuals injured but has also stirred concerns about equity and justice within the local community, urging authorities to investigate and address the grievances raised by the affected farmers.

### **Lalmonirhat: Hindu farmer's land grabbed by ruling Awami League politicians**

December 2023: On 13 December 2023, ruling Awami League party office holders including Patikapara Union Ward No 4 AL President Hafizul Islam, General Secretary Abul Kalam, and AL activists Hazrat Ali and Redwan Ahmed have been accused of grabbing eight acres of farm land belonging to Hindu farmer Rathindranath Roy and his wife Sushila Rani from Parulia village. The accused physically assaulted the couple and drove them out of their land when

Sushila Rani had gone to sow maize. The accused threatened the victims of dire consequences if they dared to step foot in their farmland.

The victims complained that the accused are forcing them to sign non-judicial documents handing over the ownership of the land to the people who evicted them. One of the alleged land grabbers Abul Kalam claimed that he along with three of his accomplices bought the eight acre of land from Rathindranath Roy for eighty lakh taka (USD 80,000). Another accused, Hazrat Ali said he had bought the land for 87 lakh taka from the Roy family (USD 87,000).

Mr Shah Alam, officer in charge of Hatibandha police station said a complaint has been filed, but local Union Parishad chairman has been asked to resolve the issue locally. Nazir Hossain, Hatibandha Upazila officer said he was unaware of the whole incident.

It is very unlikely the victims will get access to their land back. A vast majority of Hindus are forced out of their land either by force or questionable legal routes with active help from politicians and local forces.

### **Bogura: Hindu family home set on fire by local Muslims for a dispute over land**

December 2023: On December 5, 2023, the house belonging to Debashish Sarkar in Chakanandan village of Sonatala Upazila was deliberately set on fire after a dispute over land. At the time of reporting on December 9, 2023, the perpetrators have not been arrested by the police.





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

More than 200 Hindus are jailed in Bangladesh on charges of blasphemy against Islam. 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
- Rupali Rani Das, a housewife from Bagerhat arrested and not given bond in spite of complaints filed under sections 153, 298 and 506 of Bangladesh Penal code, which are eligible for bond



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.



 Voice Of Bangladeshi Hindus @VoiceOfHindu71

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](#)

 **Twitter** 5 days ago  
to me

Hello @VoiceOfHindu71,

In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that Twitter has received a request from Government Organization of Bangladesh regarding your Twitter account, @VoiceOfHindu71, that claims the following content violates LAW of Bangladesh.

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.

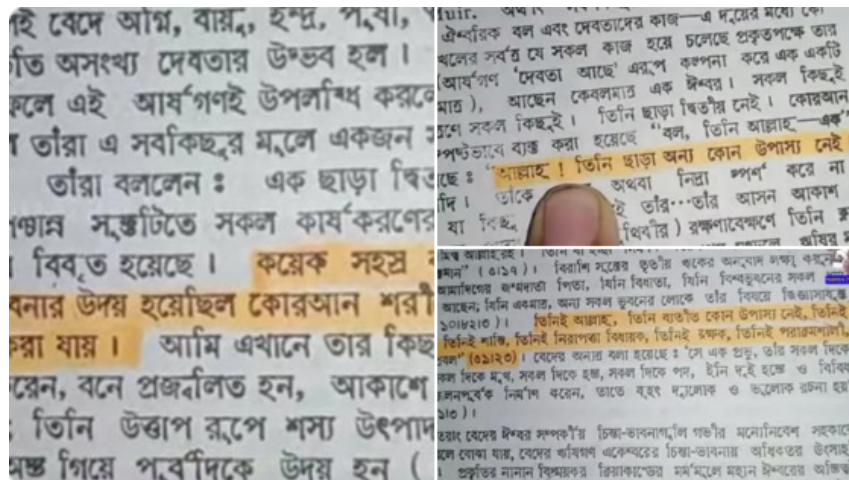
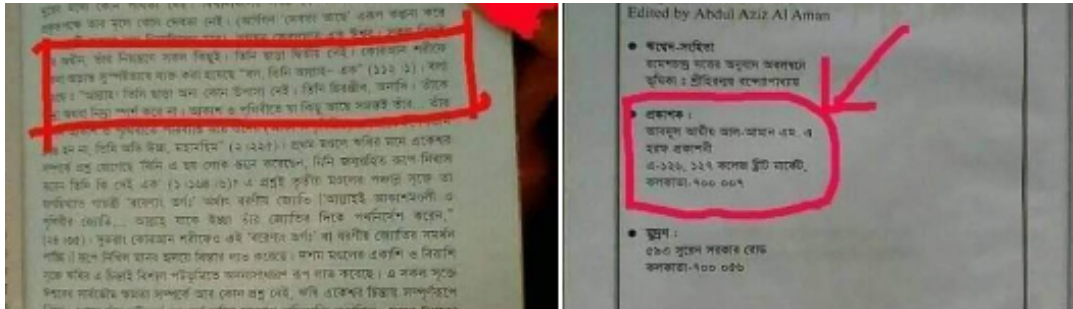
The incessant pressure to silence the voice of religious minorities not only comes from majoritarian religious right-wing, but a relatively secular government headed by Awami League.

**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.

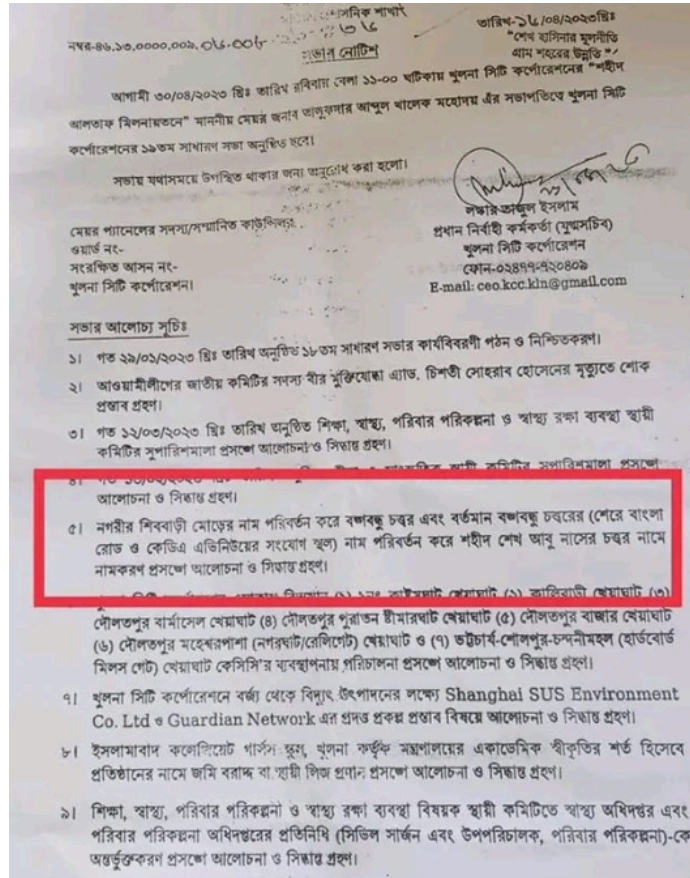
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1: Gopalpur has become Azimnagar  | 25: Shyamganj market has become Aliganj (Sunamganj Chatak)          |
| 2: Brahmachal has become Bormachal  | 26: Girishganj has become Balikhali                                 |
| 3: Kaliganj has become Netrokona  | 27: Shivpasha has become 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: Golaigaon 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: Sitampur 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)

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 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)



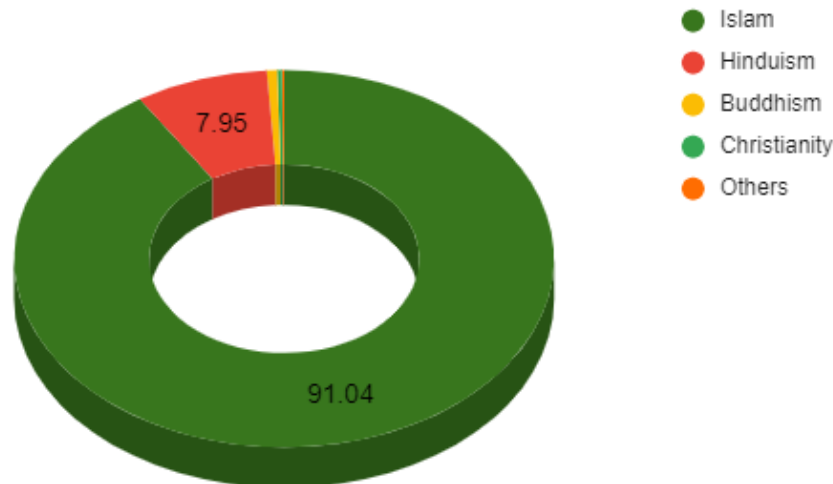


In May 2023, Awami League MP Mashrafe changed the place called “Kalidas” to “Lalmiya” in Narail district under Khulna division. This is one of the many instances in recent months. In April 2023 report, we provided information on almost 100 name changes from Bengali/Hindu names to Arabic/Islamic names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



## 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.



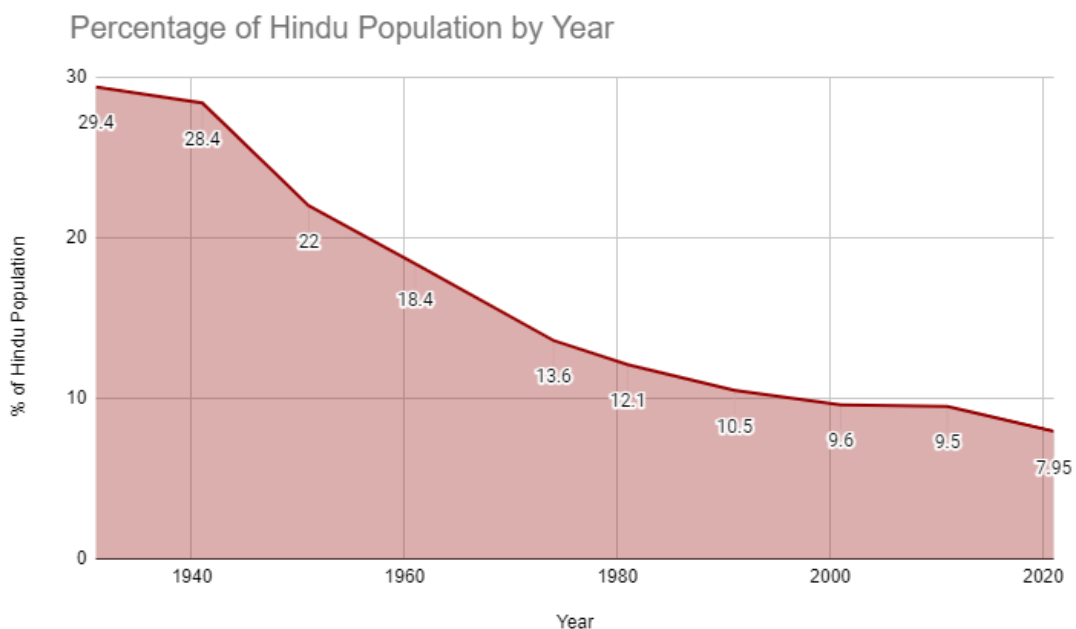
*Religions in Bangladesh (%) - 2022 Census Data*

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



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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 - 1

### Persecution Categories Compiled by SoC

- Abduction / Kidnapping
- Alleged blasphemy
- Conversion by force/coercion
- Conversion by impersonation/manipulation
- Desecration of temple/shrine/image by beef/impurity
- Destruction of crop/fish/cattle feed
- Destruction of property/house/shop
- Destruction of temple/shrine/image
- Dismissal / Suspension for alleged blasphemy/crime
- Eve teasing / Advances
- Extortion from individual/temple
- Hate speech / Hinduphobia / Ant-Hindu slurs / Abuse
- Imprisonment / Fine for alleged blasphemy/crime
- Insult / Public humiliation
- Land grabbing / Eviction by force
- Land grabbing by forgery/manipulation
- Molestation / Rape / Gang Rape
- Murder / Mass murder
- Physical assault / Torture / Beating
- Robbery / Theft / Snatching of money/valuables
- Threat / Intimidation to vote/leave country

## Appendix - 2

### Administrative / Geographical Division of Bangladesh

The eight administrative geographical divisions of Bangladesh are:

1. Barisal
2. Chittagong
3. Dhaka
4. Khulna
5. Mymensingh
6. Rajshahi
7. Rangpur
8. Sylhet



## Appendix - 3

### Additional Incidents of Persecution from 2023

#### 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 *murti***

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 Vighrahas kept in the temple and then started vandalizing the Saraswati Vighrahas 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

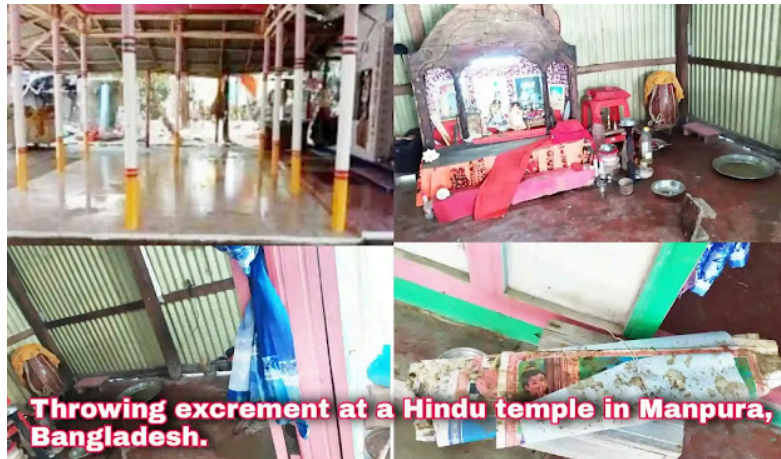
February 2023: A Hindu businessman, Ratan Bose was lynched in front of his family by Mohammed Alamgir and his gang. The deceased's family members said the victim had pleaded for his life and promised to repay the money he owed (“ও ভাই আম্মারে মাইরেন না, আম্মি টাকা দিয়ে দিবো”) but Mr Alamgir showed no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

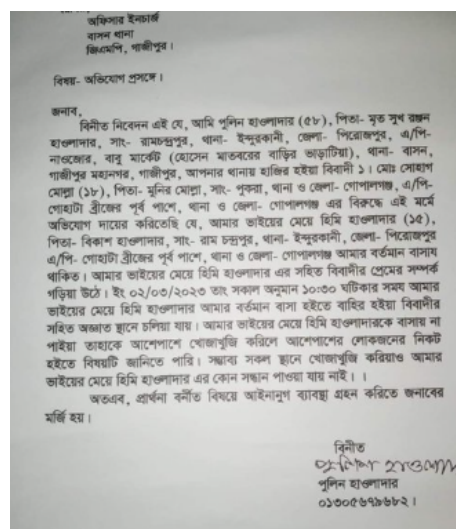
March 2023: Buddhists from Kankir Haat Barua Para, under Chittagong division appealed to PM Hasina for help in getting back their only accessible road, which was closed by Lokmaan Hussain. Mr Hussain's goons attacked the native residents of Barua Para and held them hostage. Police have not been able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

### 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.



Voice Of Bangladeshi Hindus  
@VoiceOfHindu71

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](#)



Twitter 5 days ago  
to me ▾

Hello @VoiceOfHindu71,

In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that Twitter has received a request from Government Organization of Bangladesh regarding your Twitter account, @VoiceOfHindu71, that claims the following content violates LAW of Bangladesh.

5:21 PM · Apr 11, 2023 · 11.2K Views





### Nilphamari: Madrassa student vandalized 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

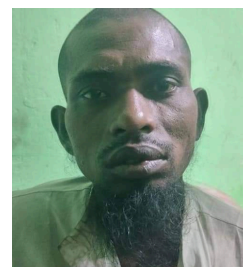
## Pabna: Shiva temple vandalized

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.



## 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.

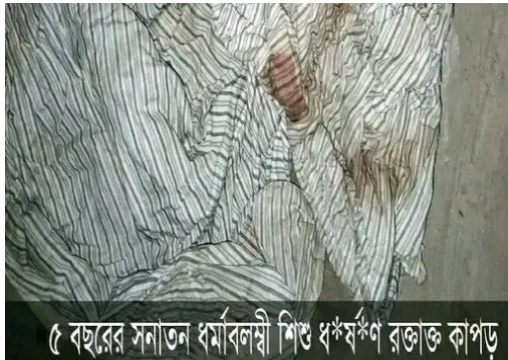


## Mymensingh: Kali temple vandalized

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.



## 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: 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: 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: 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.



## Cox's Bazar: 70-year-old Buddhist monk Srimat Dharma Jyoti found injured inside monastery

July 2023: Buddhist monk Srimat Dharma Jyoti (70) was found injured inside his monastery on the night of July 2. He was the head of Maricha Shrabasti Buddhist Bihar in Ukiah. Local devotees found him injured in a pool of blood the next morning. He was initially admitted in Ukha Health Complex. As his condition deteriorated, he was later moved to intensive care at Chittagong Medical College, where he died on July 5. Devotees claimed that he was a victim of robbery, but police said that the monk had said that he fell accidentally.

## Moulvibazar: Awami Youth League leaders accused of rape and extortion

July 2023: Chalik Box (40), Hsanul Bari (35) and Saifur Rahaman (32) has been charged by police in rape and extortion of a 34-year old Hindu woman. All the accused are absconding at present. The victim was visiting a relative's home in Paikpara Bazar in Kulaura. The perpetrators broke into the house when the victim was alone and raped her. The perpetrators also videotaped their rape and demanded 200,000 taka (2,000 USD) ransom. They threatened the rape video would be posted in social media if their demand was not met. The victim's family initially paid 50,000 taka out of fear. However, the victim later filed a police report against the perpetrators. The victim has been sent to Moulvibazar Main Hospital for a medical check. Police have assured to arrest the culprits and bring them to justice.

## Lalmonirhat: Kali temple broken in, donation and jewelry stolen, murti damaged

July 2023: On July 11 night, miscreants broke into the Kali temple in the cremation ground in Ratipur, Paschimpara in Gokunda Union, Lalmonirhat. The temple priest discovered the burglary the next morning and locals were informed. According to the temple committee president Pramod Chandra Roy, the burglars stole items for puja, gold jewelry for the deity, and contents of the donation box. In total, items worth 400,000 taka have been stolen. The *murti* was also damaged. Police and local leaders have visited the site and promised adequate investigation.



*Kali temple broken in Ratipur, Lalmonirhat*

## Narail: Multiple incidents of minority property grabbing

July 2023: Samir Bhakta (48), a Hindu from Pakhimara Bazar under Naragati PS, Pahardanga Union has complained 15 people under the leadership of Yakub Shikdar attacked his tea shop to forcibly grab the property. The accused broke the tin roof of the shop and destroyed the trees in his land. The accused also brought in bricks to build a permanent structure for themselves.

The victim said Yakub Shikdar had attacked his business four months earlier and he had filed a legal case on 5 February 2023. The accused had paid bail and promised not to ambush Bhakta's business in future, but nevertheless set fire to his store on 12 June. The latest attack on the shop was on 1 July when the accused broke the tin roof.





*Samir Bhakta's tea shop in Pakhimara Bazar, Narail destroyed*

Chandramukhi Chowdhury, owner of a shop from Lohagara village in Narail has complained that K M Wahahidzuman has been trying to evict her business. The accused owns a shop next to the victim and has been trying to purchase it from her at a low price. When the victim declined to sell her property, the accused tried to grab her business by force. The accused attacked her shop, broke the existing lock and installed a new lock so that she can't access her property. The victim laments that she has no other option other than flee her motherland (“অত্যাচারে দেশ ছেড়ে আমাদের চলে যাওয়া ছাড়া কোন পথ নাই”). She requested the administration to take legal corrective measures.



*Chandramukhi's Chowdury's shop in Lohagara village, Narail forcibly closed*

## Thakurgaon: 76 acres of minority-owned land illegally registered by land robbers with the help of government officials

July 2023: Seventy six acres of land belonging to Hindus in Courtpara, Goalpara, and Amtala villages have been illegally registered by land robbers with the help of Lahirihat sub-registrar Shafi Akramuzzaman. Mohammed Majibur Rahaman Sheikh has illegally registered the victim's land under the name of Jahangir Alam, Mohammed Mizan and Mamun Rashid. It is accused that sub-registrar Shafi Akramuzzaman and other influential political leaders are also involved in



this conspiracy of land grabbing. Many of the accused in this illegal land transfer are now absconding. Two of the victims, Jaten Pal and Kanu Ram Pal said that the accused created a fake government ID and sold the land on their behalf. They later found that legal land transfer deeds have been created without their knowledge. The victims have not been able to contact the new owners of the deed and are living in fear of eviction.

## Khulna: U-17 Khulna soccer player Mangali Bagchi attacked for defending her Muslim teammate wearing shorts during game

August 2023: When girls belonging to Super Queen Football Academy were practicing, a lady named Nupur Khatun took a picture of a Muslim player, Sadia Nasrin and sent it to her family accusing her of un-Islamic and vulgar clothing. When Sadia confronted the family who took the picture, she was beaten up. The mother of the accused taunted, "You will play in shorts and we can't comment?" ("তুমি হাফপ্যান্ট পরে ফুটবল খেলবা আর আমরা সেটা নিয়ে কিছু বলতে পারবো না!")

The next day Sadia, her family and teammate Mangali went to the accused Nupur's home again to confront why she was beaten by them. The family of the accused hit Sadia's mother and when Mangali tried to prevent it, the father of the accused hit her on the head with an iron rod. When Mangali lost consciousness, the accused family took her inside the house and tied her up. Sadia sought help from the local football club and was able to get her friend released and provide adequate medical help at Batiaghata Upazila Health Complex.

Another team member Jui Mandal said the accused family threatened them with false accusations of attack and set fire to their homes. Sadia has filed a police complaint against Nupur (22), her mother and father Nur Alam.



*Injured Mangali Bagchi*



*Female soccer players from Super Queen Football Academy*

### **Narail: Radhaballav Biswas murdered in a clash while harvesting crops**

August 2023: Salam Sheikh and Radhaballav Biswas had a dispute over the farm where the latter grew jute. Sheikh claims he purchased the land from Biswas' family members while Biswas claimed Sheikh was encroaching and trying to forcibly evict him. When the Biswas family tried to harvest the crop, they were attacked with sharp weapons by family members of Sheikh.. Sixteen people were injured including family members of both Sheikh and Biswas. Later Radhaballav Biswas died in the hospital.



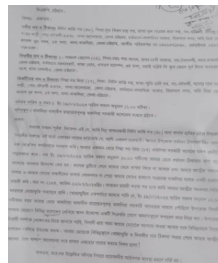
*The deceased Radhaballav Biswas*

### Chittagong: Multiple cases of abduction, rape and conversion of Hindu women and minor girls

August 2023: Police recovered minor Hindu girl Snigdha Datta(17) on August 9th and arrested her abductor Sajjad Hossain. The victim was abducted in front of her college on 19th July 2023 and her father had filed the police complaint in Bakalia police station the next day. Initially the police were unwilling to file an FIR. After the demand and intervention, police filed the FIR on 3rd August that eventually led to the recovery of the victim and arrest of the perpetrator from the Hathazari. During the time of her



Perpetrator Sajjad Hossain

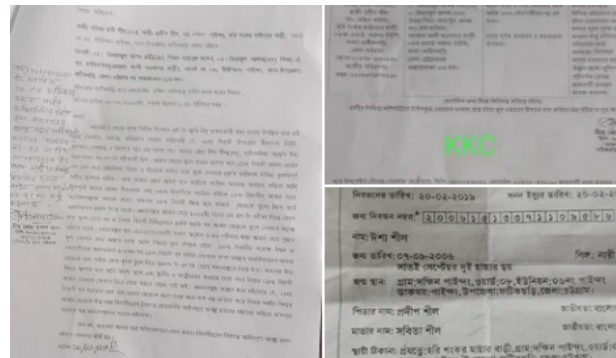


FIR filed by Snigdha's family

In another abduction incident, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) recovered minor Hindu girl Isha Shil and arrested the perpetrator Minhajul Alam Rahi (18) and his two accomplices. Isha was missing from 9th August 2023 from her home in Paidong, under Fatikchori PS in Chittagong. Her mother Sabita Shil filed a police report on the same day and the victim was recovered after two days.



Perpetrator Minhajul Alam Rahi



FIR filed by Isha's family



A 5th grade minor girl (11) in Nandankanan Paharika Girls' School was abducted by Muhammad Manjurul Islam(34) on 12th August 2023. The accused taught religion in the same school. He abducted the victim from the streets and took her to a hotel in the Bandarban area. The girl's family filed a police complaint on 12th August in Kotwali Police Station and police were able to arrest the perpetrator immediately by tracking his mobile phone.

### Chittagong: Physical assault on Hindu woman Mukta Rani in Sandwip

Mukta Rani Das, a widowed mother of two minor children (4th and 7th grade) from Swandip was severely beaten by her neighbor Mohammed Musharaf and Shahin. According to the eyewitnesses, Mukta and Musharaf are neighbors and got involved in altercations. The accused's wife said this was the first time the families had any conflict.

Local political leaders did not intervene when the victim had complained. However, he sought to diffuse the conflict when Musharaf requested remediation. This incident of abuse only became known when someone posted picture of injured Mukta in social media



*Mukta Rani showing her injuries*

### Rajshahi: Woman physically assaulted for declining sexual relationship

August 2023: Chitra Rani Bhowmik(40), a healthcare worker in Kadwa Community Clinic in Pabna district was physically assaulted by Abdul Motin Hussain (38), s/o Akram Hossain from Kadwa village. According to the victim, the perpetrator used to harass her regularly to establish a sexual relationship with him. After the victim repeatedly denied his advances, he physically



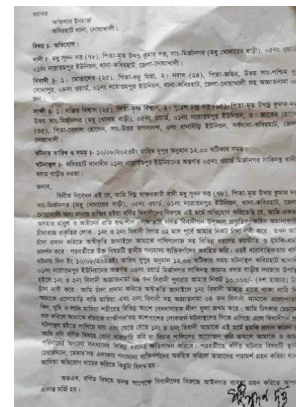
assaulted her at her workplace on 30th July 2023. When the victim's daughter Arpita Bhowmik tried to help her mother, the accused physically assaulted the daughter also and threatened both of them that he will make sure they can't stay in the village. The injured victim was admitted to Sujanagar Upazila Health Complex. She said, "Motin frequently came to the community health center and proposed me to be in illicit sexual relationship with him. I refused. He tortured me, beat me." She filed a police report against the accused in Sujanager police Station on August 2nd 2023. The perpetrator was absconding at the time of this report.



Accused Abdul Motin, who was a patient of the victim and sexually harassed her in her workplace

### Chittagong: Hindu family assaulted for not paying extortion money

August 2023: Madhusudan Datta (78) and his son from Mirzanagar village, Kabirhat, Noakhali district were assaulted on 10th August 2023 for not paying extortion money of BDT 10,000 (USD 100). In his complaint to the police Mr Datta accused Motaleb Mian, Nawab Mian and four others of beating up the father and son. The victim in his report accused Motaleb and Nawad for threatening him for extortion money for a long period of time. He also mentioned that the accused threatened them of grave consequences if the money was not paid.



*Injured Madusudan Datta, his son and the police report filed by him*

## **Rajshahi: Amrit Roy (32) killed while trying to defend female family member from sexual assault**

August 2023: Amrit Roy (32) from Gabtali upazila in Bogra district was lynched to death by Rifat Islam(17), his father Enamul Haque and other associates. The minor Rifat attempted to sexually assault a woman in Amit's family while she was working in her home. Hearing her cries, Amit caught Rifat and demanded remediation with the locals before letting the perpetrator free. Rifat's father Enamul Haque and his associates lynched Amrit and freed her son. Amrit Roy died on the way to the hospital. The accused Rifat and his father Enamul have been arrested.



## **Online: Religious bigotry and misogyny in social media posts by Bangladeshi national team cricket player Ranzim Hasan Sakib**

Recently a series of social media posts by Bangladeshi cricketer Sakib became viral. His posts (English and Bengali) since 2022 promote misogyny, Hinduphobia and intolerance. He proudly calls Hindus “kafir” and encourages Muslims not to partake in Hindu celebrations. It is indeed strange that left liberal western media choose to ignore misogyny, homophobia, religious bigotry in Muslim majority countries for the sake of diversity. We appeal to the media to have similar yardsticks for everyone, irrespective of nationality. If such comments by a western athlete is condemned, Sakib should also be condemned for hateful posts.

Some examples of the content from his posts are shared below:

Post from Sep 9 2022: “If the wife works, the husband's rights are not fulfilled, if the wife works, the children's rights are not fulfilled, if the wife works, her charm is lost, if the wife works, the family is destroyed, if the wife works, the veil is ruined, if the wife works, the society is destroyed.”



## Chandpur: Elderly Hindu couple murdered at home

September 2023: On September 8 morning, Uttam Barman (62) and his wife Kajali Rani Barman (55) were found murdered inside their residence with their hands and feet tied. Police suspected that the perpetrators broke into the home at night, tied them up and suffocated them to death. The couple worked as a caretaker in the house they lived in. Police arrested 10 men led by Md Mizan, who is considered the mastermind behind the murder plot, 16 days after the incident.



Uttam Barman (65)

Kajali Barman (55)

## Narail: Durga murti broken before Durga Puja

September 2023: A day after the attack on Durga murti in Gopalganj under Dhaka division, a similar incident happened in Narail under Khulna division. On 28 September 2023 night, the Durga murti in Kalia Purulia Sarbojanin pandal was broken. At the time of the report, no public complaint has been filed and local Hindus feel that the news will be suppressed by authority



Broken Durga murti in Kalia, Narail

## Chittagong: Hindu minor sisters missing from college

September 2023: Two 17-year-old sisters from Kanchana union under Satkania upazila went missing on September 18. Akhi Das and Rima Das left for college that day and did not return home.

Their family filed a complaint at Satkania Police Station on 19 September. Their mother, Sikha Das also filed another complaint to Rapid Action Battalion(RAB) -7 the next day.

The girls were later recovered from capital Dhaka after two weeks.



## Kurigram: Hindu family attacked, robbed

September 2023: Around midnight on 8 September, Maminul Islam, Ibrahim Ali, Jaminul Islam, Abdul Latif, Joni Miah, Aminul Islam attacked the home of Sagar Chandra Das with sharp weapons. They severely beat up the homeowner's father - Narayan Chandra Das (55), mother - Balamoni (40) and wife Santana (20). The miscreants derobed the victims and physically assaulted the family, snatched jewelry from his wife's body and stole cash and other valuables from the home. The parents have been admitted to Upazila hospital for treatment. The victim has filed a police report in Chilmari Model police station on 9 September 2023



*Home of the victim was ransacked, valuables stolen and religious symbols intentionally broken*



## Rajbari: Hindu businessman abducted for extortion

September 2023: A Hindu businessman, Ratan Karmakar (48) has reported that he was kidnapped and held captive at Rajbari Baliakandi Upazila office by the cousin of Awami League leader Maniruzzaman Monir. The perpetrators demanded 80,000 taka (USD 800) donation to the party fund and also forced him to sign in white papers, which he is afraid could be used against him in future. The victim complained that he had started building a new house and since then political clouts have collected donations from him four times earlier, but he did not complain as the amounts demanded were not exorbitant. Maniruzzaman Monir countered that Mr Karmakar takes drugs and is mentally unstable. Police officer Asaduzzam said complaints and counter complaints by both parties have been filed to the police.



*Ratan Karmakar, describing his ordeal to media*

## Jhenaidah: Two Hindu youths found dead

September 2023: On 3 September 2023, two dead bodies were recovered from two different places in Jhenaidah. The first victim has been identified as Gokul Chandra Karmakar (32), who was found hanging from an electrical pole in Kaliganj. The dead has been identified as the son of Jiban Chandra Karmakar from Mymensingh. Police said the dead person was mentally challenged and lived on his own. There was no suicide note, neither was any injuries to the body. Police are investigating the cause of death and the body has been sent to post mortem to Jhenaidah Main Hospital.



*Gokul Chandra Saha was found hanging from an elect pole*



*Amit Saha's wife publicly accuses Hossain of murdering her husband*

The dead body of Amit Saha was recovered from Dhopaghat, Gobindapur. It was found near the road, wrapped in polythene in a sack. Police believe he was killed elsewhere and his dead body was dumped at the location after murdering him. Amit Saha's wife Trisha Nandi accused Mohammed Razlu Hossain of her husband's murder. She also accused him of blackmailing the family and trying to establish a physical relationship with her. When her husband came to know about it, they decided to go back to their village. On August 31, Razlu Hossain had come to their home and taken Amit Saha with him, which was the last time he was seen alive. The accused Razlu is politically affiliated with Jubadal.

## Tangail: Durga *murti* vandalized

September 2023: On 23 September, the Durga murti in Delduar, Tangail was found broken in multiple spots. Locals believe the vandalism occurred on Friday, the prior night. Police have been informed. Atia Union Awami League and Delduar Upazila Hindu Christian Buddhist Aikya Parishad leader Krishnakant De Sarkar lamented on the vandalism incident and hoped for justice.



*Broken murti in Delduar, Tangail*

## Kurigram: Hindu poet and folk singer Radhapada Roy assaulted

September 2023: Radhapada Roy, who started his life as a laborer, has composed over 100 spiritual poems and songs, touching the heart and soul of rural Bengalis. Roy was attacked by Kadu Miah (42) and Rafiqul Islam (36) in Madhaikhal, under Nageshwari Upazila of Kurigram. The perpetrators hit him with bamboo sticks and the victim had to be hospitalized from his injuries. There is confusion about the root cause behind the attack - some say it is due to personal feud, while others opine that the attackers are open about their disapproval of music due to their association with Jammāt-e-Islami.



*Rural poet Radhapada Roy*

## Chittagong: Musim disguised as Hindu priest tries to enter puja pandal with Quran

October 2023: At approximately 11 pm on October 21, an individual dressed as a Hindu priest attempted to enter a temple in Mirzapur Union, specifically at the Sompara puja pandal under Hathazari upazila. The person was carrying a bag containing the Islamic holy book, the Quran. Local residents found his behavior suspicious and promptly handed him over to the police. Although there were rumors that the on-duty police officer, Jasimuddin, had released the individual, Mirzapur Union chairman Akhter Hossain Khan Suman clarified that the person is currently in police custody. Concerns have been raised about the possibility that this individual's motives might be aimed at sparking religious discord and inciting riots.



This incident draws parallels with a 2021 event where Iqbal Hossain, a Muslim man

intentionally placed the Quran in a puja pandal in Comilla, resulting in nationwide violence and vandalism against Hindu residences and places of worship.

*Unidentified man dressed as Hindu priest tried to enter puja mandap carrying Quran*

The ensuing unrest led to the loss of seven lives, some due to actions taken by security forces to maintain peace. Subsequently, it was determined that the accused in that incident was mentally unsound, and he was released in May, 2023.

### **Noakhali: Elderly Hindu woman attacked over property dispute**

October 2023: On October 20, Parul Rani Shil, the mother of Sahadeb Roy, chairman of Noakhali Hatia Sonadia Union Hindu Parishad, was assaulted by her neighbor, Mahatab Hossain. Roy alleges that Hossain has been attempting to seize the victim's land for some time without success, harboring resentment. According to the victim's son, the accused attacked her during her morning walk. The victim has been admitted to the upazila hospital, where she is receiving treatment for her injuries.



*Parul Rani Shil injured in land dispute with Mahatab Hossain*

### **Comilla: MP's hate speech on Durga Puja, pre-planned attack on protests**

October 2023: On October 13, the "Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad" (Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council) in Bangladesh convened a protest rally in response to



a speech promoting hinduphobia by A K M Bahauddin Bahar, a member of parliament affiliated with the ruling Awami League from Comilla-6. The rally, organized to express discontent, was met with an attack by the ruling party, resulting in the injury of five individuals, namely Sushil Das, Aditya Das, Tanmoy Das, and Kalipada Shil.

During an October 4 meeting with journalists, Bahar expressed views asserting that devotees engage in drinking and dancing during puja, suggesting the need for signs prohibiting drugs and alcohol in puja temples to curb such activities. He further claimed that the rise in Durga puja celebrations was attributed to an increase in substance abuse. These remarks triggered anger and frustration among local Bengali Hindus, who hold Durga puja in high regard as the most sacred religious event of the year.

In response to MP Bahar's divisive comments, recent temple attacks, and the Hinduphobia assault on Hindu MP Mrinal Kanti Das, the "Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad " organized a rally. Mr. Das had been derogatorily referred to as "Malaun " by Munshiganj mayor Mr. Faisal Biplab, a term employed by Islamic supremacists against Hindus. Despite being unarmed, the protesters were subjected to an attack involving sticks and makeshift weapons in the presence of the police.



*Rally organized by "Hindu- Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad" attacked by ruling Awami League cadres*

### **Jhalokati: Islamists vandalize temple and destroy Manasa *murti***

October 2023: On October 10, assailants targeted a temple located within the residence of Dhiren Pal. They vandalized three religious idols in the temple and subsequently went on to damage belongings inside the victim's house. Local Hindus assert that the

assault was preplanned and are urging authorities to take legal action against the culprits. The police have conducted an investigation at the site, but as of the current report, the individuals responsible for the attack have not been apprehended.



*Temple in Dhiren Pals house vandalized and murti broken in Jhalakathi*

### **Patuakhali: Temple attacked, Saraswati *murti* destroyed**

October 2023: During the night of October 30, a community temple dedicated to Goddess Manasa, situated in front of journalist Sanjay Kumar Das Littu's residence, was forcibly entered, and a Saraswati idol was vandalized. Sanjay reported the incident to the police after discovering the damaged idol during his morning prayers on October 31. Swapan Bangerjee, the chairman of the puja committee, visited the site and urged swift justice for the perpetrators. Police authorities have conducted an inspection at the location. However, as of the current report, no arrests have been made, and the police continue their investigation into the matter.



*Temple vandalized and murti broken in front of journalist Sanjoy Kumar Das Littus's house*

## **Jhenaidah: Residential and temple land grabbed using political influence**

**November 2023:** During the night of November 6, unidentified individuals targeted the Kuthibari Kali Temple in Bijulia village, causing damage to the deity inside. Dilip Kumar, the chairman of the temple committee, revealed that his family had been conducting puja at the temple for a century. The discovery of the broken murti in the morning raised concerns, and Kumar suspected sinister motives behind the incident. He called for justice and requested enhanced security for the temple.

This assault is not an isolated occurrence in the area. On October 6, 2022, Dinar Biswas, the chairman of the Upazila Chhatra League, led an attack on the century-old Kali temple in Dautiari village, resulting in the destruction of the murti. The head of the murti was found near the residence of the temple committee chairman, Sukumar Mondol. The accused in this case is the son of Upazila Awami League chairman Matiyar Rahaman.

Another incident transpired on August 1, 2022, where Awami League leaders, including Shariful Islam, Mohammed, Farid Munshi, Jewel, Ifti, Borhaan, Hamza, Kamal, and about 50 others, armed with locally-made weapons, attacked eight Hindu residences and businesses. The assailants targeted Deb Kumar's business, demanding 3 lakhs (3,000 USD) as protection money (jizya), and robbed 120,000 taka (1,200 USD) from another businessman, Bikash Mondol. Subsequently, they raided eight Hindu households, looting money and jewelry.

Local Hindus allege that individuals with political influence routinely threaten them to seize their land, compelling many to leave the area. Some residents have been forced to sell their property

at below-market rates. The local congressman, instead of assisting victims, reportedly subjected them to abuse when they lodged complaints.

On April 1, 2023, local Hindus and the Jhenaidah Puja Committee jointly appealed to the Awami League leadership not to nominate local congressman Abdul Hai, citing his communal, anti-minority, and biased actions.

## Jessore: Hindu stabbed and house set on fire by Abdus Samad and his family



*Lipika Mondal voices her fear standing in front of her burnt home*

**November 2023:** On November 10, 2023, a dispute arose between Abdus Samad from Sheikhpura and Arjun Mondal from Sadipur village over a banana plant in Jhikargacha. Arjun voiced his objection to Abdus cutting down the plant, leading to a heated verbal confrontation. Subsequently, Abdus, along with his two sons, Allauddin and Salauddin, and his wife Shahida Begum, launched an attack on Arjun. During the altercation, Allauddin inflicted stab wounds on Arjun using a machete. Witnessing Arjun's injuries, his family members—son Apurba, brother Nakul, and wife Lipika—rushed to his aid. The assailants persisted in their assault, injuring Apurba with a machete as well.

Upon Nakul Mondol's complaint, the police arrested the perpetrators. However, they were granted bail on the same day. Disturbingly, at 9:00 pm on November 12, the assailants set fire to Arjun's family home.

Lipika, Arjun's wife, expressed fear for her safety and that of her daughter, emphasizing the physical threat posed by the perpetrators who were still at large and continued to menace the family with the prospect of further attacks.

At the time of the report, Arjun was hospitalized in serious condition, having not yet regained consciousness according to his son.



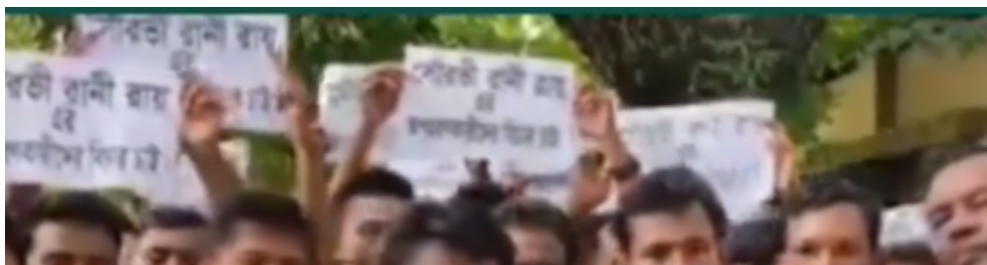
## Jhenaidah: Hindus assaulted for not attending political rally organized by the ruling party

December 2023: Ruling Awami League cadres assault local Hindus in Sripur village for not attending political rallies organized by the party. Several Hindus were stabbed and hospitalized



## Lalmonirhat: Hindu minor girl raped by Mohammed Dulal

December 2023: A 13 year old minor Hindu girl, Sauravi Rani Roy was abducted and raped by Niman, son of Mohammed Dula on November 3 from school. This incident happened in Golaghat village under Kaliganj upazila. The accused is married with two wives and multiple children. He lured the victim on social media to start a relationship with him. The accused was arrested the same night but local Muslims are threatening the victim's family to withdraw the police report. The accused are also threatening to have false police case imposed on the victim's family for drug dealing if the police case for abduction and rape is not withdrawn. The victim's grandfather, father and mother spoke publicly on the harassment they and their daughter faced.



## Chandpur: Donation from Hindu temple stolen

December 2023: On December 5, 2023, Akhter Hossain was arrested by Faridgonj police for theft of a donation box from Sri SRI Lakshmi Narayan temple in Faridgonj.





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.

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