



**BANGLADESH AWAMI LEAGUE :**  
A CASE STUDY OF ITS  
MILITANT POLITICS AND  
**CRIMES AGAINST**  
**HUMANITY**

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Prepared by:

**SAPI**  
South Asian  
Policy Initiative

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<https://southasianpolicyinitiative.org/>

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## About South Asian Policy Initiative (SAPI)

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South Asian Policy Initiatives Inc (SAPI) is a transnational research-oriented initiative. It analyses, deliberates, and evaluates policies aimed at promoting human rights and democracy in the South Asian region. SAPI envisions upholding and promoting authentic and constructive endeavours of civil society groups dedicated to human rights and democracy, with the goal of enhancing safeguards in accordance with international norms and standards across South Asian countries. Its primary focus is to generate knowledge through research on state policies, critically examining them from normative perspectives. SAPI seeks to inform and impact decision-making processes in the region, maintaining credibility and transparency in its approach.

To further its objectives, SAPI has launched Global Voice for Humanity (GVH), an inclusive platform dedicated to advancing human rights activities at both regional and international levels. The GVH collaborates with civil society organizations, policymakers, academics, and various stakeholders to advocate for the rights of dissidents and victims facing persecution under authoritarian and corrupt kleptocratic regimes. Through advocacy efforts, educational programs, and initiatives aimed at raising awareness, the GVH works towards fostering a more equitable, just, and democratic society in South Asia. By combining research and advocacy, SAPI and GVH work together to drive meaningful and positive changes within the region and beyond.

SAPI's organizational structure consists of an executive board, research fellows, and general members who collectively contribute to its mission. The executive board plays a crucial role in providing strategic direction. Distinguished research fellows contribute their expertise to shape the intellectual framework and aid policy formulation. Members actively engage in implementing policies and projects, working in various capacities to support SAPI's mission. Further details can be found on the official website of the South Asian Policy Initiatives, <https://southasianpolicyinitiative.org/>.

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## Executive Summary

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This report serves to compile and document the extensive history of violent political crimes committed by Bangladesh Awami League (hereinafter referred to as “BAL”) and its affiliated organizations. The BAL, being one of the largest political parties in Bangladesh and the incumbent ruling party, has been involved in a wide range of heinous acts, including murder, torture, vandalism, looting, robbery, abduction, gang rape, and targeted attacks on minority groups. It is important to acknowledge that these crimes, as outlined in Article-7 of the Rome Statute, constitute as crimes against humanity. By highlighting these atrocities, the report aims to draw attention to the gravity and systematic nature of the offences committed by the BAL.

The objective of this report is to investigate whether these criminal practices have been deeply ingrained in the ideology and psyche of the BAL since its inception. The compilation of reports and factual evidence makes it apparent that despite operating as a major political party in Bangladesh, the BAL functions more like a terrorist organization. Evidence suggests that these criminal activities have persisted since the party’s establishment in 1949, with a notable intensification of violence during the autocratic rule of BAL’s all-time supreme leader and ideological lord, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, after Bangladesh gained independence in 1971. Reports from that period describe a society plagued by fear and violence, with rural populations becoming refugees due to the actions of party cadres.

Bangladesh achieved its sovereignty in 1971, yet its potential as a developing country has not been fully realized despite abundant economic opportunities. Violent and unlawful interventions of the BAL have been one of the major hindrances that impede the flourishing of the rule of law and functional democratic institutions. The country is presently confronting an alarming surge in violence, criminal activities, and human rights violations, primarily involving individuals associated with the ruling party, the BAL, and its affiliates. This report aims to draw attention to these urgent issues and provide valuable insights to those capable of contributing towards restoring accountability. It also offers guidance on effective measures to address the situation and foster positive change.

This report also critically looks into the direct involvement of affiliated organizations, individual leaders and policymakers associated with the BAL in

Bangladesh, investigating their potential engagement in crimes against humanity. The party's violence and criminal activities have intensified over time, with the period spanning fourteen and a half years (2009 - 2023) under Sheikh Hasina's rule being particularly the most brutal in the country's recent history. However, it should be noted that the scope of this study does not cover the atrocities committed by state apparatus while the BAL has been in power. Instead, it mainly focuses on the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the BAL as a political party.

Furthermore, the study unveils the involvement of BAL members in attacks on ethnic and religious minority communities in Bangladesh. These attacks are often motivated by financial gains or a deliberate agenda to seize the properties of the targeted individuals or communities. Such attacks have been widespread on a large scale throughout the country, facilitated by a pervasive culture of impunity where members of the party and its affiliates evade accountability and deny access to justice. This alarming situation occurs within the context of a shift towards one-party rule, demolishing the democratic institutions and undermining the democratic principles that should prevail in the country.

While this study draws upon credible reports from reputable media outlets and other primary sources, it is essential to note that the absence of press freedom in Bangladesh may have resulted in many incidents going unreported. The 2023 media freedom report of Reporters Without Borders highlights the concerning state of press freedom in Bangladesh, placing it at the lowest position in South Asia. With a ranking of 163rd out of 180 countries, limitations on media independence could have hindered the full extent of information available for this study.

The study was conducted in 2023 by the SAPI research team under the supervision of Dr Mahmudur Rahman, with Shibly Sohail as the chief researcher. It employed robust methodology, collecting data from credible secondary sources, verifying it through cross-checking and addressing biases, and performing qualitative analysis. Limitations included restricted access to primary data, potential biases in secondary sources, and challenges in accessing older reports.

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## Introduction

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*“Hardly any mishaps occur in Bangladesh where the leaders and workers of the ruling party (BAL) or its allies are not involved”, – stated in an editorial of the widely circulated national newspaper, Daily Prothom Alo<sup>1</sup>. In a report titled, “Jubo League accommodates criminals” within the same newspaper, it is mentioned that “Crime and violence are not alien to Jubo League (the youth wing of BAL).”<sup>2</sup>*

Another English newspaper, The Daily Star, published an editorial in August 2022 titled *“BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of Bangladesh Awami League) has become a total menace”*. It reported, *“We are continually reminded by media reports how BCL activists have all but taken over the functioning of public universities, continually obstructing educational activities, harassing, torturing and, in worst cases, murdering fellow students over the most trivial of matters, such as expressing an opinion that differs from the party line. And while all these happen, top officials of the ruling party who are so eager to admonish the public – that they are meant to serve – for criticizing government policies, barely make a peep.”<sup>3</sup>*

Consistent with the above, numerous reports are available in local and international media on the extensive violence and various crimes perpetrated by the BAL and its affiliated organizations. These reports reveal a disturbing pattern of brutal crimes, including stabbing, lynching, and shooting in broad daylight. Shockingly, there have been instances where university students have been subjected to torture and even death in their own dormitories by the leaders of BAL’s student wing for daring to express critical opinions on social media. The list of offences committed by the members of the BAL and its student wing, BCL, is extensive and includes acts of vandalism, looting, abduction, extortion, gang rape, and other acts that defy basic human decency. It is important to note that many of those crimes have gone unreported due to harsh government censorship

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<sup>1</sup> Prothom Alo English, 21 February 2022: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/editorial/minorities-attacked-break-away-from-the-culture-of-impunity>

<sup>2</sup> Prothom Alo English, 1 October 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Jubo-League-accommodates-criminals>

<sup>3</sup> The Daily Star, 23 August 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/bcl-has-become-total-menace-3101416>

and self-censorship practised by media outlets, allowing the perpetrators to act with impunity.

These incidents have raised profound concerns regarding the dysfunctional and inadequate state of institutions responsible for upholding the rule of law, good governance, and accountability, irrespective of the identities or affiliations of the perpetrators. Ensuring accountability for individuals who commit major criminal offenses, as stipulated by the country's penal laws, is crucial for the establishment of a robust democratic system, regardless of their race, color, socio-economic status, or political affiliation.

Bangladesh, a developing country with abundant opportunities, has significant growth potential. However, the absence of a strong rule of law, deficiencies in the administration of justice, and hindrances in the political environment act as impediments to its progress. It is essential, therefore, to undertake a comprehensive and credible investigation into the extent and nature of the involvement of the Bangladesh Awami League (BAL), one of the largest political parties in Bangladesh, in such criminal activities. The investigation must be carried out meticulously, leading to the prosecution of all the perpetrators, to ensure that justice is served and foster an environment conducive to growth and accountability.

The role of BAL in the politics of Bangladesh is of considerable significance and cannot be disregarded. As one of the largest political parties in the country, BAL's influence and impact on the political landscape are substantial. Hence, it becomes even more crucial to thoroughly examine its involvement in criminal activities and enforce accountability accordingly.

This report collected and verified a total of 183 documented and published cases, which have been analyzed to uncover the involvement and culpability of the BAL and its affiliates in various crimes against humanity. These crimes, including murder, extermination, attacks on minorities, torture, persecution, and rape, are classified as “crimes against humanity” according to international legal instruments. The term “Crime Against Humanity” is defined in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as –

*“any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack: a) Murder; b) Extermination; c) Enslavement; d) Deportation or forcible transfer*



*of population; e) Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law; f) Torture; g) Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity; h) Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court; i) Enforced disappearance of persons; j) The crime of apartheid; k) Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.”<sup>4</sup>*

Various human rights reports confirm that the BAL government, during its tenure from 2009 to 2023, has also been involved in crimes such as deportation, imprisonment, and enforced disappearances. However, it is important to note that this report specifically focuses on the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the BAL as a political party and does not encompass the atrocities committed through the utilization of state apparatus. That means many other well-documented instances of human rights violations directly involving the use of state apparatus while the BAL government has been in power have not been included herein. These additional cases include:

1. An account of 2683 extrajudicial killings between January 2009 and March 2023, as documented by the Asian Human Rights Commission, committed by law enforcement agencies and security forces with the approval of the BAL president and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as highlighted in an investigative report by DW in collaboration with Sweden-based Netra News.<sup>5</sup>
2. At least 648 enforced disappearances between January 2009 and March 2023, documented by the Asian Human Rights Commission.<sup>6</sup>
3. Significant incidents of extermination and mass killings, such as the Bogra massacre from 28 February to 4 March 2013, the Shapla massacre on 5

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations: <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> DW, 3 April 2023: <https://www.dw.com/en/death-squad-inside-bangladeshs-rapid-action-battalion/a-65209010>

<sup>6</sup> New Age, 25 May 2023: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/202531/rights-groups-worried-about-enforced-disappearances-in-bangladesh>

May 2013, the Shatkhira massacre on 16 December 2013, and the Jhinaidah massacre that occurred between January and September 2016.

4. Various cases of unlawful imprisonment and arbitrary and incommunicado detentions, extensively reported by various human rights organizations, demonstrate a concerning pattern of violations of individuals' rights.
5. The issue of deportations, which lacks proper quantification and documentation, has been raised as a significant concern that warrants attention.
6. Widespread corruption, laundering of ill-gotten money to foreign jurisdictions under a kleptocratic system

In this report, the 183 verified cases have been presented in three main sections. They are:

1. The incidents of murder, torture, and violence
2. The incidents of rape and attack on women; and
3. The oppression of minorities.

The first category includes descriptions and various references to incidents of murder, torture, and violence, which is further divided into six sub-categories: (i) Murders, (ii) Tortures, (iii) Attacks, clashes, vandalism, looting, and extortion, (iv) Involvement in the casino and illegal trade, (v) Attack on Journalists and (vi) Assault and attack teachers.

The second category has two sub-categories: Rape and Attack on women.

The third category highlights various incidents of attacks and oppression of minorities.

In addition, the report includes a table summarizing all the 183 cases compiled in the report and a brief analysis of the historical trends of BAL.

Recorded cases and descriptions in this report include various terms to refer to the same political party and its affiliated groups. The BAL has various other political, social and cultural entities and fronts that operate with direct patronisation of the party and the government such as 'Muktijoddha Mancho'

which has unleashed substantive violence including attacking the pro-opposition newspaper office injuring the editor of The Daily Sangram Abul Asad.

Similarly, the 'Krishak League' (Farmers' Party) is a wing of the BAL which has also unleashed violence in the country. Other fronts of the BAL include 'Bangladesh Chhatra League' (BCL, the student wing), Jubo League (youth wing), Swechasebak League (volunteers' wing), Sramik League (Labour wing), Olama League (religious wing), Shommilito Shangskritik Jot (cultural wing), Jubo Mohila League (women wing), Shadhinota Chikitshok Porishod (physicians' wing), Tati League (cloth weavers' wing), Awami Ainjibi Porishod (lawyers' wing), Motshojibi League (fishermen's wing) and so on. BAL's leaders and activists are engaged in activities not only in Bangladesh but also in various countries under the banner of the 'Bangabandhu Council' or 'Bangabandhu Parishad'.

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## Research Methodology

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In order to ensure a comprehensive and reliable assessment of the situation in Bangladesh, SAPI has employed a rigorous research methodology. This section outlines the various steps taken to collect, verify, and analyze information from credible sources while also addressing potential limitations and biases. By doing so, it aims to ensure the reliability and validity of our findings.

### Data Collection:

At the SAPI, we relied on the following secondary sources:

- **Mainstream Media Reports:** We systematically analyzed articles and reports from reputable national and international media outlets, prioritizing sources known for their accurate, reliable and unbiased reporting.
- **Independent NGO Reports:** We thoroughly reviewed reports, publications, and press releases from both local and international NGOs involved in promoting democracy and human rights in Bangladesh.
- **Government Documents:** We examined publicly accessible government documents, including laws, policies, and official statements, to understand the legal and institutional framework related to political and human rights situations in Bangladesh.
- **Academic Studies:** We extensively consulted scholarly articles and reliable books written by important local and international politicians, journalists and researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the historical, political, and social context of relevant issues in Data Verification and Triangulation

To ensure the credibility of our findings, we employed a rigorous verification process. This involved several steps, including:

- **Cross-checking Information:** We meticulously compared and analyzed data from multiple sources to validate the accuracy and consistency of the reported incidents. By corroborating information across different sources, we aimed to ensure reliability and reduce the potential for errors or misrepresentations.
- **Considering Alternative Explanations:** Recognizing the possibility of biases or alternative viewpoints, we critically evaluated the data by considering different perspectives. This allowed us to address any potential limitations or biases in our analysis and arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.

- **Source Credibility:** We assessed the credibility of the sources by examining their track record, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest. This evaluation helped us ensure that the information we relied upon came from reputable and reliable sources.

Through the data verification and triangulation process, we aimed to provide a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the situation in Bangladesh. By adhering to these practices, we aimed to enhance the reliability and validity of our findings. However, it is important to acknowledge that certain limitations and biases may exist within the sources themselves. Nonetheless, we have made every effort to ensure the reliability and validity of our findings through a rigorous analysis of the collected data.

## **Data Analysis:**

We adopted a qualitative approach to data analysis, which involved:

- Identifying patterns, trends, and common themes in the data, as well as any discrepancies or contradictions.
- Comparing the findings from various sources to draw conclusions about the issues at hand.
- Assessing the implications of our findings in the context of international human rights standards and the country's legal and institutional framework.

## **Limitations and Challenges:**

We acknowledge that our research may be subject to certain limitations and challenges, including:

- It was not possible to access primary data due to security concerns or restrictions on communication with certain stakeholders.
- Potential biases or inaccuracies in secondary sources, such as media reports or NGO publications, which we have sought to address through verification and triangulation.
- Exclusion of certain reports: While we have made every effort to include all relevant information, some reports that we assumed to be correct could not be incorporated due to the unavailability of credible sources. This may have resulted in the omission of potentially significant incidents or perspectives.
- Difficulty in accessing older reports: Finding credible links for some older incidents is inherently challenging, which might have limited our ability to include many cases.

- Mysterious removal of web links: During our research, we found that web links to some reports implicating the involvement of the Awami League party in human rights violations have been mysteriously removed for reasons unknown. This may have hindered our ability to fully investigate and report on all relevant issues.
- The absence of press freedom in Bangladesh, which may result in underreporting or self-censorship among journalists and other sources.

The following section sheds further light on the issue of press freedom and its implication, i.e., potential underreporting.

### **The Reality Beyond Reports: A Bleak and Alarming Situation**

The situation of press freedom in Bangladesh has come under scrutiny by international media watchdogs, with reports indicating a concerning trend of increasing restrictions and harassment against journalists. The prevailing atmosphere of fear has resulted in widespread self-censorship within the media industry, as numerous news outlets opt to steer clear of sensitive subjects in order to evade potential reprisals. These conditions have had a severe impact on the ability of media outlets to report on the crimes committed by the ruling party and its allied organizations.

The United Kingdom’s statement regarding media freedom in Bangladesh being under “pressure” and political freedom being “restricted” reflects the alarming reality of the situation in Bangladesh, as the country has dropped to its lowest position ever at 163 out of 180 in the Reporters Without Borders 2023 Press Freedom Index, indicating a clear deterioration in media freedom.<sup>7</sup>

Similarly, a 2021 Netra News report stated that *“the international media watchdog RSF — Reporters without Borders — published a report that named Sheikh Hasina as a ‘Predator of Press Freedom’. RSF, among other claims, stated, ‘Although [Sheikh Hasina] claims to respect press freedom, her hold on power has been buttressed ever since by a refusal to tolerate any criticism. [...] The Digital Security Act (DSA) adopted in 2018 has rounded off the arsenal that her government uses to impose her views. Packed with deliberately vague wording, it is the ultimate weapon for getting journalists to censor themselves.’”*<sup>8</sup>

Additionally, the statement by David Bergman, a journalist based in Britain, in his article titled “Criticizing Hasina”, highlights the risks faced by journalists who go beyond what is considered an acceptable level of criticism of the government in Bangladesh. Bergman wrote: *“...if they [journalists] write or broadcast beyond what is considered to be an acceptable level*

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<sup>7</sup> Prothom Alo English, 8 July 2021: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/bangladesh-media-freedom-under-pressure-political-freedom-restricted-uk>

<sup>8</sup> <https://netra.news/2021/criticising-hasina/>

*of criticism, their reporters, editors or publishers may face harassment, threats, the lodging of criminal cases, and arrest.”<sup>9</sup>*

The government is imposing multi-layered restrictions on the media, ranging from the Digital Security Act - one of the harshest repressive laws the country has ever experienced - to “unofficial” press advice given through phone calls that can result in harassment, interference in doing business, and even risk to personal safety, as well as the threat of physical harm. As an independent journalist, Kamal Ahmed identified four layers of restrictions; he wrote: *“Challenges the media face are manifold. First, there is the most dreaded Digital Security Act, one of the harshest repressive laws the country has ever experienced. Secondly, many newsroom managers now say that what they fear most is ‘unofficial’ press advice which is given from the other end of a phone. This can be more potent than the previously written directives as they do not exist on paper (and so are not challengeable in a court of law), but, if defied, can result in harassment, interference in doing business and even risk to personal safety. Thirdly, the threat of physical harm has risen dramatically. Fourthly, the prevailing state of fear in the country makes self-censorship the norm in the media. A leading global media rights group, Reporters Sans Frontier, in its 2021 annual report, has said, ‘self-censorship has reached unprecedented levels because editors are justifiably reluctant to risk imprisonment or their media outlet’s closure’. Explaining the reasons behind self-censorship it notes, ‘there has been an alarming increase in police and civilian violence against reporters.’ It further notes that ‘the government now has a tailor-made judicial weapon for silencing troublesome journalists — the 2018 digital security law, under which “negative propaganda” is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.”<sup>10</sup>*

In interviews conducted by Reuters with 32 journalists and editors across print, digital, and broadcast media in Bangladesh, the vast majority reported that the strengthening of defamation laws with the Digital Security Act (DSA) had spread a climate of fear in the industry.<sup>11</sup>

According to a January 2020 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), the organization observed that 50% of media content in Bangladesh is self-censored due to the climate of fear and retaliation against journalists. The report states, *“Journalists are already self-censoring, fearing retaliation for criticism. One newspaper editor told Human Rights Watch that he currently publishes only “10 to 20 per cent” of the news at his disposal. Another newspaper editor estimated that about 50 per cent of the content is self-censored.”<sup>12</sup>*

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<sup>9</sup> <https://netra.news/2021/criticising-hasina/>

<sup>10</sup> New Age Supplements, 16 December 2021: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/157459/50-years-of-unending-struggle>

<sup>11</sup> Huffpost, 13 December 2018: [https://www.huffpost.com/archive/in/entry/in-bangladesh-journalists-are-self-censoring-ahead-of-election\\_in\\_5c122d79e4b0442c7f2bb68f](https://www.huffpost.com/archive/in/entry/in-bangladesh-journalists-are-self-censoring-ahead-of-election_in_5c122d79e4b0442c7f2bb68f)

<sup>12</sup> Human Rights Watch, 8 January 2020: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/08/bangladesh-online-surveillance-control>

A journalist, who asked not to be named, told Human Rights Watch, *“There is a blanket of fear spreading over this country, and I don’t know when we are going to be freed.”*<sup>13</sup>

*“Critics of Bangladesh’s government are liable to vanish”* was the title of a report in The Economist published on 19 August 2021. The report stated: *“Mr Sumon’s tale, in a new report on enforced disappearances in Bangladesh, is a chilling example of what can happen to those who oppose or criticize the government of Sheikh Hasina Wajed. Under her 12-year tenure, at least 600 Bangladeshis are reckoned to have “disappeared”. ... While these numbers may seem small in a country of 170m, fear of being gaoled (disappeared) muzzles millions of voices. Disappearances, along with an array of other human rights abuses, are not new in Bangladesh. Under previous governments, including those led by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the ruling Awami League, dissidents vanished and were killed. But since 2009, the year Sheikh Hasina took office for a second time, state-sponsored abductions have become a systematic tool of oppression, says Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director of Human Rights Watch, the advocacy group behind the report.”*<sup>14</sup>

Several individuals who were abducted have eventually resurfaced. *“Some have been implausibly “found” and produced in court—like Shafiqul Islam Kajol, a photojournalist who, 53 days after he went missing in March last year, turned up blindfolded, his legs and arms bound, in a no man’s land between Bangladesh and India.”*<sup>15</sup>

The ownership of the media of Bangladesh has been drastically changed under the Sheikh Hasina regime since 2009. The ruling party-affiliated journalists and corporate elites have used their influence to take over the country’s media.<sup>16</sup> The objective behind these takeovers, often under the patronage of governmental institutions, including intelligence agencies, was silencing the dissident voices, professional investigative journalistic reporting and hiding the regime’s crimes systematically.

Due to self-censorship and fear of harassment, arrest, and abduction or disappearance, a comprehensive picture of the situation in the country is not always captured in newspaper reports, and only obvious cases are reported. Occasionally, when evidence such as video clips goes viral on social media, mainstream media outlets will report on the involvement of the ruling party Awami League and its affiliated groups. In other cases, despite having strong clues, some reporters use nonspecific words like “influential people” or “miscreants” without referring to their affiliation with the Awami League. Furthermore, sensitive events such as rape might not even be reported at all.

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<sup>13</sup> Human Rights Watch, 19 October 2018, : <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/19/bangladesh-crackdown-social-media>

<sup>14</sup> The Economist, 19 August 2021: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2021/08/19/critics-of-bangladeshs-government-are-liable-to-vanish>

<sup>15</sup> ibid

<sup>16</sup> Center for International Media Assistance of National Endowment for Democracy (NED), 15 April 2021: <https://www.cima.ned.org/blog/media-ownership-in-bangladesh-why-more-media-outlets-does-not-mean-more-media-freedom/>



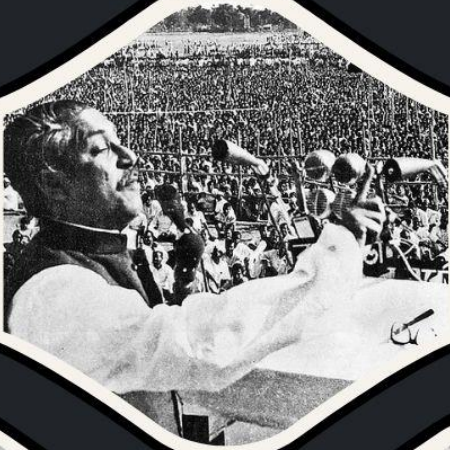
Despite these challenges, this report has endeavoured to provide a rigorous, objective and balanced assessment of the human rights situation in Bangladesh, drawing on a wide range of credible sources and employing a robust research methodology.

# PART-1



## HISTORICAL TRENDS OF BAL

In this part, we looked into the history of the formation and evolution of the BAL as a political party that mostly relies on violence to achieve its political goal. The fascist character of the BAL became more pronounced in the 1960s as Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of Sheikh Hasina, the current authoritarian Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gained ascendance in the party.



## **1.1. History of BAL : Before the Independence of Bangladesh**

The Awami League, initially established with the name Awami Muslim League, originated as a splinter group of the Muslim League, the political entity that was pivotal in establishing Pakistan for the Muslim populace. In East Pakistan, Maulana Bhashani held a position as an elected member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly within the Muslim League's leadership. However, his persistent opposition to the central government's policies, which he perceived as detrimental to the interests of the people in East Pakistan, prompted his resignation from the Assembly. Subsequently, a by-election was held. In a surprising turn of events, the local student leader Shamsul Huq achieved an unexpected victory in this by-election, triumphing over Khurram Khan Panni, a prominent leader within the Muslim League and a local feudal figure.

This surprising electoral win catalyzed the establishment of a new political entity on 23 June 1949, comprising leaders and activists who had been part of the Muslim League in East Pakistan, known as the East Bengal Muslim League. This new party took on the name Awami Muslim League, with Maulana Bhashani taking the helm and leading a 40-member organizing committee. During this period, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, another influential figure in East Pakistan, relocated to West Pakistan. He later assumed the presidency of the All-Pakistan Awami Muslim League. During this party's inception, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman held a junior leadership role and took on the position of Joint Secretary within the organizing committee.<sup>17</sup>

Since its inception, the Awami Muslim League underwent several name changes, evolving from the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League to the All Pakistan Awami Muslim League, and ultimately, during its third council meeting held on October 21-23, 1955, it adopted the name "Awami League."

In the 24 years that East Pakistan existed, the Awami League only held power in the province for a brief period of two years, from 1956 to 1958, with Aaur Rahman Khan as its head. The party also formed a coalition government at the national level for 13 months, from 12 September 1956 to 11 October 1957, which was led by Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.

In 1957, the Awami League was confronted with a significant organizational crisis. On 18 March, Maulana Bhasani resigned from the party and its presidency, leaving it in a precarious situation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assumed control of the organization.<sup>18</sup>

### **1.1. a) Sheikh Mujib's Drive for Power and the Erosion of Democratic Values within the Party**

According to reports, the Awami League's initial image as a democratic party started to fade away when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began to gain significant influence in the party. Abul Mansur Ahmed, a senior colleague of Sheikh Mujib and veteran politician in the party,

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<sup>17</sup> "The Political History of Muslim Bengal" by Mahmudur Rahman, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, January 2019, p-109, 110.

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Bangladesh\\_Awami\\_League](https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Bangladesh_Awami_League)

described Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as someone characterized by “egoism” and “self-love.”<sup>19</sup> However, Sheikh Mujib’s thirst for power went beyond mere egoism. It drove him to get entangled in party conflicts that tragically ended up being detrimental to both the party and the country. Iqbal Ansari Khan, an eminent author and political analyst, sheds light on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s brazen attempt to become a minister:

*“When the anti-Muslim League joint-front consisting of Awami Muslim League, Fazlul Haque’s Krishak Sramik Party (KSP) and Nezam-e-Islami fought and won 95 per cent seats in East Pakistan Assembly in 1954 provincial election, Chief Minister Fazlul Haque formed the ministry with Aatur Rahman Khan and other Awami members. Sheikh Mujib, despite his eager volunteering, was not taken in the cabinet by Fazlul Haque. Sheikh Mujib then got a resolution passed in the Awami League working committee that **until and unless he was made a minister, no Awami League members would join the Joint-Front cabinet!** Aatur Rahman Khan and Abul Mansur Ahmed, despite their intentions to join the cabinet, were kept at bay by the resolution. The 1954 Joint-Front was a victory for the crores of people of East Pakistan ...It was a personal, innate ambition of one man versus the whole gamut of people’s confidence and hopes that got enmeshed in hazy hopelessness.*

*The tussle between Aatur Rahman and Sheikh Mujib on the issue of ministership assumed a never-ending dimension, which could be called the single most important factor that shaped and influenced the subsequent decades of politics and history ..... In view of his influence on the party apparatus, Sheikh Mujib was the likely and practical choice to be the Chief Minister; he would love to be so, but his age and habit didn’t earn the choice from the high command: Surwardy. To quote Surwardy, ‘I didn’t believe my ears when I first heard that Mujib wants to be a Minister in Fazlul Haque’s cabinet! How could it be possible? It is downright ridiculous and nonsense’!<sup>20</sup>*

Another example illustrates his insatiable thirst for power. Abul Mansur Ahmed’s statement in his famous book, *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar*, revealed that he had been involved in a conspiratorial plot to secure a ministerial position:

*“He (Suhrawardy, the then president of Awami League) was reclining, but then he sat up and said, ‘I’ve thought deeply, and I’ve decided that you (Abul Mansur Ahmed) should take the responsibility of the Prime Ministership. Aatur Rahman isn’t performing well anymore.’ I was shocked. Had the situation inside deteriorated so much? Who advised the leader to make this decision? I felt my temper rising, but I remained outwardly calm and started to argue with the leader.*

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<sup>19</sup> “Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar”(Fifty Years of Politics As I Saw It) by Abul Mansur Ahmed, published by Khoshroj Kitab Mahal, September 2013, p-427.

<sup>20</sup> The Third Eye: Glimpses of the Politicos, by Iqbal Ansari Khan, published by The University Press Limited, 1991, p-34-37

*...I (Abul Mansur Ahmed) spoke with Secretary Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the phone and asked him to come over that night. He arrived. I greeted him with a smile but expressed extreme anger towards him as I accused him of having a dishonest motive. 'You have arranged to kill two birds with one stone, brother,' I said bitterly with a smile. He appeared surprised, but I told him not to pretend. 'By dismissing Ataur Rahman through harassment and putting me in his place for five months to prove me disqualified, you have arranged to become the prime minister after the election,' I said.*"<sup>21</sup>

According to another incident mentioned in the same book by Abul Mansur Ahmed, in a surprising turn of events in 1958, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman betrayed his party and became a minister shortly before martial law was declared. In doing so, he disregarded his own party's objections and went to Karachi to become a minister. His unexpected move left many questioning his motives behind it, considering it an opportunistic act for personal interest and a betrayal of his party. Abul Mansur Ahmed wrote:

*"Ataur Rahman, Manik Mia, and I (Abul Mansur Ahmed) opposed the idea. To the best of my knowledge, the leader was also against entering the ministry at that time. Mujibur Rahman also agreed with me that it was a ploy by Mirza. I am unaware of the reason why, and I do not understand whose advice Mujibur Rahman took, but he abruptly traveled to Karachi with some prospective ministers without informing any of us. He took the oath of ministership. He resigned four to five days later as he could not secure a good portfolio. That very night, martial law was declared, and it all seemed to have been executed in a meticulously planned manner."*<sup>22</sup>

A tragic incident happened in history in September 1958. The Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali was killed inside the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan. It is worth noting that at that time, Abdul Hakim was the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly. On 23 September, while Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali presided over the session, tensions between members of the ruling party and the opposition escalated into a violent clash. As a result, Shahed Ali sustained serious injuries and was subsequently hospitalized. Tragically, he passed away on the fourth day after the incident, on 26 September 1958, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The incident was documented in a report featured in Time magazine under the headline "PAKISTAN: Death in the Chair." The report stated:

*"... Though the eleven-year-old republic of Pakistan has yet to hold its first general election, its politicians stage some of the fiercest parliamentary battles of the British Commonwealth. Last week in Dacca, the evenly matched government and opposition forces of East Pakistan waged the biggest brawl in the young country's brief history.*

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<sup>21</sup> "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar"(Fifty Years of Politics As I Saw It) by Abul Mansur Ahmed, published by Khoshroj Kitab Mahal, September 2013, p-430,431

<sup>22</sup> "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar"(Fifty Years of Politics As I Saw It) by Abul Mansur Ahmed, published by Khoshroj Kitab Mahal, September 2013, p-438

*It began when Abdul Hakim, Speaker of the East Pakistan Provincial Assembly, managed to destroy the government's slim parliamentary majority by disqualifying half a dozen government deputies for unlawfully holding state jobs on the side. Outraged government deputies laid down a barrage of paperweights, desk panels and curtain rods, chased him out the door, voted him 'insane.' Thereupon one of their men, Deputy Speaker Shahid Ali, took over his place.*

*When Parliament met again, the new Speaker readmitted the six deputies. Opposition members exploded with fury. They tore their desks from the floor ripped their microphones out of their stands, and charged. Steel microphone stands whipped at Ali's face, a desk panel struck him full on the head, and he went down in a pool of blood. After steel-helmeted cops arrived to break up the melee, sergeants-at-arms bore Mr. Speaker off to a hospital on a stretcher. He died two days later, the first presiding officer of any parliament in the history of the British Commonwealth to perish of injuries received while occupying the chair.”<sup>23</sup>*

Certain reports squarely attributed the responsibility for the killing to Sheikh Mujib. It was reported that on 26 September, Abu Hussain Sarkar, former Chief Minister of East Pakistan, sent a phonogram to President Mirza, the content of which was as follows:

*“Mujibur Rahman and other leaders attacked Speaker with spears, rods and microphone stands stop imported armed goondas by Awami Leaguers rushed inside Assembly from outside attacked Speaker and opposition members encircling Speaker to save his life were molested and beaten stop despite frantic appeal police refused help stop some opposition members wrongfully confined in Awami Minister's house stop others threatened with attack anywhere any time stop. (Justice Asir Commission Report)”<sup>24</sup>*

Another account corroborates the aforementioned narrative mentioning that it is Sheikh Mujib who threw a paperweight at Shahed Ali, which provides further support for placing the blame on Sheikh Mujib for the killing:

*“...During that time, a tragic incident occurred in the East Pakistan parliament involving a fight between members of the Krishak Sramik Party and the Awami League over a parliamentary decision. The altercation escalated to physical violence, with scuffling and punching, while Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali of Chandpur, who was elected on the ticket of the Krishak Sramik Party, was presiding over the session. During the altercation, Sheikh Mujib threw a paperweight at Shahed Ali, who was a diabetic*

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<sup>23</sup> Time (USA)/Monday, 6 October 1958:

<https://content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,825494,00.html>

<sup>24</sup> Prof. Ashabuddin Ahmad, article name: Path Cholite [On the way] (19.04.1969), collected from the book: Professor Ashabuddin Ahmad Rochonaboly [essays] – 1, Edited by: Anu Muhammad, Meera Publications, February 2004. pp: 253-255.

*patient, and immediately fainted. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Later, I heard the entire story from Mohan Mia. The Awami League's violent behavior within the Parliament was unprecedented, and by killing an elected speaker in such a manner, they revealed their fascist character. This incident had a tremendous impact on the political arena of Pakistan, and General Ayub seized power in the country, citing such immoral activities by the politicians. In this way, power transitioned from the hands of politicians to the military.*<sup>25</sup>

According to alternative reports, there are suggestions that the responsibility for the incident lies with the Krishak Sramik Party (KSP), particularly its leader Yusuf Ali Chowdhury, also known as Mohan Mia. Given the tumultuous atmosphere prevailing inside the Assembly during that time and the presence of conflicting reports, it became exceedingly challenging to impartially establish the identity of the person who struck Shahed Ali and caused his fatal injuries. While the reports may not align completely, there is a prevailing notion that the Awami League and Sheikh Mujib bear responsibility for creating and fostering the disorderly environment that ultimately resulted in the killing of Shahed Ali.

According to the earlier-cited Time magazine report, a few days prior to the incident involving Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali, members of the ruling party at that time, the Awami League, engaged in a violent attack against Speaker Abdul Hakim. They pursued him out of the chamber and subsequently declared him 'insane'. At that time, Sheikh Mujib, serving as the party secretary, was at the forefront of these aggressive actions. Indeed, the actions taken were unquestionably provocative, instigating a chain of tumultuous events that ultimately culminated in the tragic death of the then-Deputy Speaker. On the day of the attack on Shahed Ali, Sheikh Mujib and his party members actively engaged in physical attacks and counter-attacks, further fueling the situation instead of attempting to de-escalate it. Furthermore, as reported, the ruling party went as far as allowing party thugs from outside to enter the Assembly, which not only intensified the situation but also failed to provide any relief. This misguided decision only contributed to a further deterioration of the circumstances. These facts find support in numerous reports.

As per M. B. Nair's book, published in New Delhi, the suggestion is made that Speaker Abdul Hakim was subjected to assault by Awami League members as a reaction to his ruling regarding the disorderly conduct exhibited by certain Awami League members. M. B. Nair vehemently denounced the Awami League for their outright neglect of democratic principles and procedures, resorting to unethical means to maintain their dominance. These actions, according to Nair, undermined the very foundation of parliamentary democracy, reducing it to a mockery.

*"...On 20 September 1958, when the Assembly met, the Government moved a motion of no-confidence against the Speaker, Mr Abdul Hakim, mainly because the Government suspected that the Speaker was supporting the Opposition. (Earlier, the*

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<sup>25</sup> Phele Asha Dinguli (Days Left behind) by Ibrahim Hossein, New Tour Publications, September 2003, p. 75-76

*Government, by a notification deprived the Speaker of all his discretionary powers including that concerning no-confidence motion against him or the Deputy Speaker). The Speaker, while giving his ruling on the above motion, named several members of the Awami League for disorderly conduct. Thereupon the Legislative Assembly witnessed a disgraceful scene of a riot in which the Speaker was assaulted and government and opposition members attacked one another with chairs, microphone stands and other missiles. The Awami League retaliated by declaring the Speaker “insane” and demanding the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry to determine his sanity. (The Deputy Speaker, Shahid Ali, who was a member of the Awami League, ruled that the Government motion, saying that Abdul Hakim (the Speaker) was of unsound mind, had been carried). On 23 September, the Assembly again became the scene of physical violence in which the Deputy Speaker was so severely beaten by the members of the Opposition that he died a few days later. Several MLAs were injured. On the orders of the Government the members of the Opposition were removed from the House. The Government was thus able to have all its budget demands passed.*

***The Awami League and the Opposition parties showed utter disregard for democratic principles and processes. They adopted all unscrupulous means to remain in power. In their lust for power, they reduced parliamentary democracy to a farce.***<sup>26</sup>

There were also additional reports that further validated the assertion that Sheikh Mujib had previously made threats of severe violence against Speaker Abdul Hakim.

*“The report [Justice Asir Commission Report] quotes a telegram sent by the then Speaker to Mr. Iskandar Mirza which stated: ‘Mr. Mujibar Rahman over the telephone several times threatened me with violence of the worst sort saying that I will not be allowed to enter the Assembly House, will be bodily removed, adding that no Police will be able to help me.’”<sup>27</sup>*

Prominent Pakistani Bengali journalist and politician Tofazzal Hossain, also known as Manik Miah, asserted that Sheikh Mujib obstructed the participation of KSP (Krishak Sramik Party) in the Awami coalition on three occasions, motivated by his personal interests. Such political actions set in motion a series of events that ultimately resulted in the unfortunate death of Shahed Ali within the Parliament.

*“I am not aware whether Sheikh Mujib was informed about the meeting held at Zamiruddin’s residence. However, he abruptly arrived there and stood on the stairs, questioning in a furious tone, ‘Is this a plot against me?’ His behavior conveyed his disapproval of KSP’s participation in the Awami coalition. Sheikh Mujib’s behavior*

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<sup>26</sup> Politics in Bangladesh (A Study of Awami League : 1949-58), by M. B. Nair, Northern Book Centre (New Delhi) - 1990, p. 246-247

<sup>27</sup> Monthly Civic Affairs (Vol. 06, Issue: 11), Edited by S. P. Mehra, P. C. Kapoor (Kanpur, India), June 1959, p. 50-51



*caused the meeting to fall silent. Everyone was left stunned with grief, anger, and surprise.*

*...The negotiations with KSP were blocked once again, due to Sheikh Mujib's personal interests, preventing KSP from joining the Awami coalition for the third time. To this day, it is still unclear for what reason and to fulfill which personal desire Sheikh Mujib created this obstacle. I don't know whether Sheikh Mujib has realized the destructive impact his obstruction had on the Awami League and East Pakistan.*

*However, history remembers every event, and no injustice is ever forgotten. If this obstacle had not been created, Prime Minister Shaheed Suhrawardy would not have faced disgrace, the Awami coalition would have been the majority in the province, and there would have been no violence in Parliament resulting in the death of Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali due to injuries sustained in the parliament chamber.”<sup>28</sup>*

There is an account provided by Prof. Ashabuddin Ahmad, prominent author, educator and politician, that doesn't directly place blame on Sheikh Mujib for the killing but suggest that he was personally involved in a physical attack and/or counter-attack on that particular day. He mentioned that on that day Sheikh Mujib brought long tail of a Stingray fish inside the Assembly as a weapon to attack the opposition. He stated

*“Sheikh Mujib was seated beside me. When the other party started attacking the Speaker, he retrieved a 1.5 to 2 feet long tail of Sankar fish (Stingray fish) from his bag. I heard that the wound caused by the lash of the Sankar fish's tail could fester for a prolonged period. Abu Hussain's group was rioting around the Speaker. Before he could jump towards them, I grasped Sheikh Mujib's hand and implored him, “The Government is yours. Even the assembly marshals and The Inspector General of Police are present.” But Mujib broke free from my grip. Fighting was going on. The sun may rise in the west instead of the east, but when the fighting is going on, it is not possible for Sheikh Mujib to sit quietly like Ataur. In that case, Sheikh Mujib ceases to be Sheikh Mujib (The writer meant if Sheikh Mujib remains silent/calm his actions may differ from his usual behavior).”<sup>29</sup>*

Adding to the evidence, Mr. Hashim Uddin, a member of the Provincial Council during the events, offered an additional account, bolstering the notion that Sheikh Mujib was indeed physically involved in the situation. According to Mr. Hashim Uddin's testimony, Sheikh Mujib not only failed to calm the house but actually agitated it further. He claims that it was Sheikh Mujib who rushed towards the Speaker with a chair, escalating the tense situation:

*“But that day, Sheikh Mujib was the one who agitated the House the most instead of calming it down. In the beginning, I saw him rushing towards the Speaker with a chair.*

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<sup>28</sup> Twenty Years of Pakistani Politics by Tafazzal Hossain (Manik Mia), Bangladesh Books International Ltd, May 1981, p. 84-91

<sup>29</sup> Prof. Ashabuddin Ahmad, article name: Path Cholite [On the way] (19.04.1969), collected from the book: Professor Ashabuddin Ahmad Rochonaboly [essays] – 1, Edited by: Anu Muhammad, Meera Publications, February 2004. pp: 253-255

*Mujib's other allies were with him, and a fierce uproar started in the session. The loudspeaker was turned off. Later, I saw Shahed Ali being picked up by the police in a bloody state. A few days later, (on 26 September) Shahed Ali Patwari died." (This account.)*<sup>30</sup>

Kazi Zafar Ahmad, a prominent politician in Bangladesh, presents a significant and impartial perspective on the matter, holding both parties accountable for the incident. Nevertheless, he emphasizes that the Awami League bears greater responsibility for the events that unfolded.

*"It is very difficult to comment on who is responsible for Shahed Ali's murder. It is true that both parties are responsible for it. However, it seems to me that Awami League is the most responsible for the events of that day. Because under the guise of guards and officials, they inserted the Awami League workers into the session room of the legislature. As a result, the tension between the opposition parties increased tremendously."*<sup>31</sup>

### **1.1. c) 1971 Genocides:**

In the tumultuous era of Bangladesh's struggle for independence, a dark and harrowing chapter unfolded, characterized by political killings and widespread violence. The Pakistan Army's actions took on a genocidal nature, employing religious profiling to select victims.

Widespread conflicts erupted in the major cities of East Pakistan before and after the general election in December 1970. This election marked a significant moment as the first nationwide vote since Pakistan's formation. The Awami League, centered in East Pakistan and led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, achieved a landslide victory. Despite this outcome, the military dictatorship chose not to hand over power. Instead, they prolonged the situation under the pretext of negotiations. This delay tactic persisted until the military executed a brutal operation known as "Operation Searchlight" on the night of 25 March 1971.

Under the leadership of General Tikka Khan, the commander of the Pakistani Army's Eastern Command, who later earned notorious epithets like the "Butcher of Bengal" and "Butcher of Balochistan," that night, a ruthless massacre unfolded in East Pakistan. Civilians were mercilessly slaughtered. International media correspondents were confined to their hotels before the operation commenced and were later flown out to West Pakistan. Prominent figures of the Awami League, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Kamal Hossain were arrested by the Army and sent to West Pakistan as well. Other party leaders sought refuge in neighboring India.

The exact count of casualties during that harrowing night remains unknown. Anthony Mascarenhas, a foreign journalist reporting on the events in East Pakistan during that period,

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<sup>30</sup> Daily Inqilab, 22 April 1992

<sup>31</sup> Amar Rajnitar Shat Bachar: Joar Vatar Kathan (60 years of my politics:- the story of ups and downs) by Kazi Zafar Ahmad, Tarfdar Prakashani, February 2017, p.74

asserted that around eight thousand men, women, and children from Hindu communities were killed in Shankaripatti at old Dhaka that night. Hundreds lost their lives at Dhaka University and other suburban areas.<sup>32</sup> The consequences of Operation Searchlight unfolded in a grueling nine-month-long war marked by widespread genocide, rape, and torture conducted by the Pakistani Army, which adopted a scorched-earth policy. This conflict persisted until December 1971, when the Indian Army intervened, leading to the eventual surrender of the Pakistani Army.

Conversely, non-Bengali civilians living in different parts of East Pakistan also became victims of mass killings and genocidal actions. In fact, the Pakistani military government later attempted to justify the operation by citing widespread anti-Bihari violence orchestrated by Awami League leaders and activists earlier in the same month. According to Sarmila Bose, an Indian-American journalist and academic, the killing of non-Bengalis, both Biharis and West Pakistanis, at the hands of Bengalis can be labeled as ‘genocide’ under the UN definition. She stated:

*“While the Pakistan Army’s political killings turned ‘genocidal’ when religious’ profiling’ was used for the selection of victims, the killing of non-Bengalis - Biharis and West Pakistanis - by Bengalis was clearly ‘genocide’ under the UN definition. As many instances in this study show, many Bengali Muslims in East Pakistan committed ‘genocide’ and ‘ethnic cleansing’ of non Bengali Muslims and Bengali and non-Bengali Hindus. as the victims were targeted on the basis of ethnicity or religion.”<sup>33</sup>*

The magnitude of the Bihari massacre was truly immense. In March alone, perhaps over 5,000 non-Bengalis were brutally killed in Dhaka, over 50,000 in Chittagong, between 12,000 to 20,000 in Jessore, and over 5,000 in Rangpur.<sup>34</sup> In total, probably 50,000 to 500,000 non-Bengalis were thus killed.<sup>35</sup>

The responsibility for such genocide of Biharis in 1971 is explicitly attributed to the Awami League by a prominent American political scientist and professor at Indiana University, Yale University, and University of Hawaii, R. J. Rummel in his book “Death by Government.” He coined the term democide to describe the intentional killing of an unarmed or disarmed person by government agents acting in their authoritative capacity and pursuant to government policy or high command. Even though Awami League was not in the government of East Pakistan, he considered the killing of non-Bengalis as democide, arguing that the party (Awami League) had set up a parallel government in East Pakistan at that time. R. J. Rummel stated:

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<sup>32</sup> “The Political History of Muslim Bengal” by Mahmudur Rahman, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, January 2019, p-146.

<sup>33</sup> Dead Reckoning, Memories of the 1971 Bangladesh War by Sarmila Bose, Oxford University Press, 2011, p - 182

<sup>34</sup> Blood and Tears by Qutubuddin Aziz, United Press of Pakistan, 1974, p. 15, 48, 160 & 150.

<sup>35</sup> Death by Government by R. J. Rummel, Transaction Publishers, USA, 2009, P. 334

*“Rather than being democide, was not this simply unpremeditated, non-government communal mob violence that has so often inflicted this part of the world? The answer lies in the role of the Awami League. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman initiated his campaign of nonviolence against West Pakistan, his Awami League became a government parallel to that which already existed in East Pakistan. It issued decrees, gave orders, and, most important, was obeyed. The civil service operated under the command of the league. Taxes were collected by it. Moreover, in obedience to the Awami League, East Pakistan’s chief justice would not give the oath of office to the newly commissioned military governor, General Tikka Khan. West Pakistan’s rule did not extend beyond its military camps and bayonets.*

*While it is also clear that violent actions taken against non-Bengalis were contrary to Sheikh Mujib’s orders, nonetheless much of the killing was done by those ostensibly under the command of the Awami League- mutinous Bengalis of the East Pakistan Rifles, police, and armed Awami League members and supporters. No doubt much mob action by fanatic Bengali nationalists also occurred, and armed volunteers and some officers of the league did try to prevent violence. But those Bengalis who had the arms and should have prevented the violence or protected the non-Bengalis often did not. Sheikh was not fully in control of the events he put in motion nor the Awami League “government” he had set up. **The mass murder of the non-Bengalis is therefore the responsibility of the Awami League and should be considered genocide.** Regardless of status, sex, age, or past support of the league, people were killed simply because they were Biharis or other non-Bengalis, often by those very people who exercised local authority and to whom the victims had looked for law and order.”<sup>36</sup>*

The maniacal massacre did not cease even after the surrender of the Pakistani Army on 16 December 1971. The entire world was appalled and horrified by an incident that unfolded on 19 December 1971, which international media outlets extensively covered. Kader Siddiqui, a prominent freedom fighter and self-proclaimed disciple of Sheikh Mujib, brutally executed four alleged non-Bengali collaborators of the Pakistani Army. This gruesome act occurred in public view during a gathering at Dhaka Paltan Square, where the victims were bound in ropes and bayoneted repeatedly by him and his followers until they died.<sup>37</sup> While some pro-independence Bengalis viewed this execution of prisoners of war as a symbol of heroism and triumph, it casted a dark stain on the history of the newly formed nation.

## **1.2. Awami League: After the Independence of Bangladesh**

After the independence of the country in 1971, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, assumed power. However, numerous reports suggest that the aftermath of independence was marred by widespread terror and violence. Most Awami League leaders

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<sup>36</sup> Death by Government by R. J. Rummel, Transaction Publishers, USA, 2009, P. 333-334

<sup>37</sup> “The Political History of Muslim Bengal” by Mahmudur Rahman, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, January 2019, p-183.

transformed into local warlords, and many freedom fighters declined to surrender their weapons to the authorities. On 19 June 1973, the newspaper Ganakantha featured a headline that starkly proclaimed, *“Killing, looting, rape, harassment: people of rural Bengal have left their homes and become refugees in fear of bandits”*<sup>38</sup>

Sheikh Mujib possessed charismatic leadership qualities, but his approach often mirrored that of a feudal and cult leader. Instead of restoring law and order through systematic procedures, he chose to create a paramilitary unit aimed at quelling opposition and maintaining control. His strategy involved creating this new force by recruiting freedom fighters from his political party, the Awami League. He requested the Indian government to train and support this new unit, which he named "Jatiyo Rakkhi Bahini,"<sup>39</sup> translating to the "National Guard Force." Over the subsequent years, the members of this specialized force instilled fear throughout the entire nation, eventually becoming synonymous with violence, akin to Hitler's Brown Shirt Storm Troopers or the Gestapo. According to journalist Anthony Mascarenhas:

*“Its [Rakkhi Bahini’s] officers were mainly political cadres [of Awami League and its allied wings] and it was freely used to crush opponents and critics of Mujib and the Awami League. In time it completely terrorized the people.*

*There are several documented cases of murder and torture committed by the Rakhi Bahini. In May 1974, after a 17-year-old boy was found to have ‘disappeared’ after four days of torture, the Supreme Court severely castigated the Rakhi Bahini for ‘operating outside the law’. The Court found that Mujib’s storm troops had no code of conduct, no rules of procedure and no register of arrests and interrogation. Mujib’s answer to the Court’s censure was to strip it of its powers to intervene in such cases.”*<sup>40</sup>

There is a lack of consensus when it comes to determining the precise number of casualties caused by this paramilitary force, which was predominantly composed of political cadres. However, it is widely assumed that the number of casualties attributed to this force is significant in magnitude. Daily Ganakantha reported a single incident in Satkhira with a headline that read: *“A hellish carnage of gangsters of Rakkhi and Mujib Bahini (force) in Sirajganj: Operation was carried out in 21 camps killing more than 500 leftist workers”*.<sup>41</sup> A foreign magazine was cited

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<sup>38</sup> Hoota, Loot, Dhorshon, Hoirani: Dakater Voe Gram-Banglar Manush Vitemai Chere Shoronarshi Sejeche (Killing, looting, rape, harassment: people of rural Bengal have left their homes and become refugees in fear of bandits), Janakantha, 19 June 1973, quoted in “Bangladesh: Bahattor theke Pothattar” (Bangladesh: from 1972 to 1975) by Munir Uddin Ahmed, page - 28.

<sup>39</sup> “The Political History of Muslim Bengal” by Mahmudur Rahman, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, January 2019, p-187

<sup>40</sup> “Bangladesh: A Legacy of Blood”, Anthony Mascarenhas, published by Hodder and Stoughton, 1986, page - 37

<sup>41</sup> Sirajgonje Rokkhi O Mujibbadi Gundabahinir Narokyo Hottyajoggo: Ekush Camp Theke Operation Chalano Hoi, Pach Shotadhik Bamponthi Kormi Hottya (A hellish carnage of gangsters of Rakhi and Mujib Bahini (force) in Sirajganj: Operation was carried out in 21 camps killing more than 500 leftist workers), Ganakantha, 26 December 1973, quoted in “Bangladesh: Bahattor theke Pochattor” (Bangladesh: from 1972 to 1975) by Munir Uddin Ahmed, page - 418 (p-418)

as reporting that “at least 2000 anti-Awami League political leaders and activists were murdered [by this paramilitary force]”.<sup>42</sup>

In such a manner, the country was engulfed in a state of terror and violence, resulting in a gradual shift towards authoritarianism and the eventual establishment of a one-party state.<sup>43</sup> During this period, the state endorsed several armed groups to suppress opposition and secure complete control of Sheikh Mujib across the nation. Alongside the infamous Rakkhi Bahini, numerous other factions, such as the Mujib Bahini (Mujib’s Group), Gono Bahini (Civil Group), Lal Bahini (Red Group) and so on, were active in different cities. The Lal Bahini, under the leadership of Awami League leader Abdul Mannan, consisted of members from the party’s labor wing. This group operated with the claim of “advancing socialism” and “eliminating bad elements and corrupt officials”<sup>44</sup> while inadvertently spreading anarchy and destroying the heavy industries that West Pakistani industrialists had established.

According to reports, the absence of democratic checks and balances allowed state-sanctioned groups like Rakkhi Bahini, other government forces and Awami League cadres and activists to operate with impunity. This lack of accountability resulted in numerous incidents of torture, abductions, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. In fact, there were reports indicating the involvement of Sheikh Mujib’s own son, Sheikh Kamal, in cases of abduction.<sup>45</sup>

There were reports of Awami League leaders being involved in killings<sup>46</sup> and even robberies. A headline from Ganakantha read: “Joint forces operation in Rajshahi: Four Jubo League leaders arrested with stolen cars and weapons.”<sup>47</sup>

There were reports of a large supply of weapons being made available to Awami League cadres and its affiliated organizations. Journalist Anthony Mascarenhas reported: “*According to Brigadier Manzoor, who was Brigade Commander Jessore at that time, the profusion of arms was caused as much by illegal arms cached after the war as by the Awami Leaguers’ free access to the government armories. He said he was able to recover 33,000 weapons and 3.8 million rounds of ammunition from the six districts under his command. By the end of 1973, the total of politically motivated murders in Bangladesh had crossed the 2000 mark. The victims included some members of Parliament and many of the murders were the result of intra-party conflicts within the Awami League.*”<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Readers’ Digest, 1975 quoted by Ahmed Musa in the book “Itihashe Kathgorai Awami League”, Book Promotion Press, February 1988, page - 206.

<sup>43</sup> The New York Times, 25 February 1975 <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/02/25/archives/bangladesh-made-a-oneparty-state.html>

<sup>44</sup> “Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar”(Fifty Years of Politics As I Saw It) by Abul Mansur Ahmed, published by Khoshroj Kitab Mahal, September 2013, p-175

<sup>45</sup> Jashoder Utthan Poton, Muhiuddin Ahmed, Prothoma Prakashan, Sixth edition, 2016, page - 98

<sup>46</sup> Awami Leager Shoshostro Gundader Hamlay Char Sho Sromik Hottyar Protibad (protest against the killing of 400 workers in an attack by Awami League armed thugs) Ganakantha, 8 February 1973

<sup>47</sup> Ganakantha, 20 May 1974

<sup>48</sup> “Bangladesh: A Legacy of Blood”, Anthony Mascarenhas, published by Hodder and Stoughton, 1986, page - 37

Numerous reports highlighting such instances of intra-party conflict during that period came to light. According to one particular report, *“In early 1974, seven young men were killed in Mohsin Hall during internal clashes of the Chhatra League. Chhatra League general secretary at the time, Shafiqul Alam Prodhan, was the main accused in this case. He was arrested, but only when Khandkar Mushtaque came to power. He was given a 14-year prison sentence but was released during Ziaur Rahman’s rule.”*<sup>49</sup>

The period of Sheikh Mujib's rule (1971 – 1975) is etched in the memory of the Bangladeshi populace due to its widespread violence, authoritative tactics, and instances of extrajudicial killings, such as the death of opposition leader Siraj Sikder while in police custody under the orders of Sheikh Mujib.<sup>50</sup> During this time, all newspapers in the country were banned, leaving only four authorized publications, all of which were occupied and controlled by Sheikh Mujib's family members and followers. This ruthless approach effectively quelled all forms of political and intellectual dissent, resulting in the loss of numerous lives and the arrest and torture of hundreds of thousands. This era was further characterized by rampant corruption within the administration and culminated in the devastating famine of 1974.<sup>51</sup>

### 1.3. Awami League: 1991 – 2009

When the Awami League was in the opposition in the early 90s, they reportedly enforced a record number of hartals (strikes) across the nation. From 1991 to 1996, they observed 173 days of nationwide strikes.<sup>52</sup> According to a report, Hartal inflicts Tk 2,000 crore losses on the economy per day.<sup>53</sup> Furthermore, severe violence and widespread vandalism were prevalent during those Hartals. Reporting on one particular incident, Human Rights Watch stated: “The port city of Chittagong, whose powerful mayor is an influential Awami League leader, suffered widespread destruction at the hands of opposition protesters; on 28 February 1996, marauding crowds rampaged through the city ransacking offices, gutting buildings and damaging vehicles in protest at the mayor’s arrest.”<sup>54</sup> Another specific incident of harassment was especially disturbing and disgraceful. In September 1995, during a hartal, members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the BAL, led by Alam, publicly stripped several government officers, leaving them nearly naked in broad daylight.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Prothom Alo English, 31 July 2016: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/This-sin-is-ours>

<sup>50</sup> “Bangladesh: A Legacy of Blood”, Anthony Mascarenhas, published by Hodder and Stoughton, 1986, page - 46

<sup>51</sup> New York Times, 13 November 1974: <https://www.nytimes.com/1974/11/13/archives/bangladesh-fears-thousands-may-be-dead-as-famine-spreads-september.html>

<sup>52</sup> Daily Sangram, 18 January 2015: <https://bit.ly/3XBsdhs>

<sup>53</sup> The Daily Observer, 31 October 2014: <https://www.observerbd.com/2014/10/31/51917.php>

<sup>54</sup> “Bangladesh Political Violence on All Sides”, June 1996, Vol. 8, No. 6(C): <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1996/BANGLA.htm>

<sup>55</sup> Reuters, 16 September 1995: <https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/264089>

The Awami League assumed power in Bangladesh for the second time in 1996. Numerous reports have highlighted that following their return to power, several Awami League leaders became “godfathers of terrorism.” Prominent figures such as Joynal Hazari, Hazi Selim, Shamim Osman, and many others were specifically identified and linked to this label. Delving into the numerous reports published against any one of them would be an overwhelming undertaking. Taking Joynal Hazari as an example, the mere mention of his name was sufficient to instill fear among the people in his locality. A report in the Dhaka Tribune stated: “*The name of former Awami League lawmaker Joynal Hazari, known as the godfather of Feni, still seems to strike terror in the hearts of common people in Feni.*”<sup>56</sup> The same report cited a chilling account from a local resident who stated: “*Anyone even uttering a single word against Joynal Hazari had to lose their life as he never hesitated to take any action to obliterate his opposition political party leaders.*” Hazari was elected as a member of Parliament from Feni on an Awami League ticket in 1996. The report mentioned that the police had filed around 44 cases against him, mostly for murder, since 1970. He was first sent to jail in 1973 on charges of killing Chhatra Union leader Nasir.<sup>57</sup>

In a manner reminiscent of her father's approach, Sheikh Hasina endorsed and established local figures with significant influence and notorious pasts, employing them to exert fear and stifle opposition. Similar to Hazari, she actively supported the transformation of numerous leaders within the Awami League into influential personas akin to leaders of organized crime syndicates. These individuals were subsequently granted positions of authority, including parliamentary memberships and roles within local governments. Notably, among the ranks of the Awami League, figures such as Abu Taher from the Laksmipur district and Shamim Osman from the Narayanganj district gained national notoriety for their brutal tactics of killing and torturing opposition members.<sup>58</sup>

Following the 2001 elections, the Awami League became an opposition party. During this period, a disturbing incident unfolded on 4 June 2004, as a bus was deliberately set ablaze in front of Hotel Sheraton (now Rupasi Bangla), resulting in the tragic loss of nine lives (Case - 38). Subsequently, a case was filed involving the then-Jubo League (the youth wing of the BAL) leaders Jahangir Kabir Nanak, who later became a minister, and Mirza Azam, who went on to serve as a whip in Parliament.

Another horrifying and gruesome incident occurred in Dhaka on 28 October 2006. Under the orders of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina,<sup>59</sup> members of the party and its affiliated groups flooded the streets nationwide, armed with sticks, bamboo poles, oars, and sharp weapons. In the city of Dhaka, they brutally and mercilessly beat at least four individuals to death in broad daylight followed by their appalling dance of frenzy on the dead bodies.<sup>60</sup> As a

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<sup>56</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 23 May 2014: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/uncategorized/2014/05/23/joynal-hazari-a-name-that-still-evokes-fear>

<sup>57</sup> ibid

<sup>58</sup> The Daily Star, 24 April 2009: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-85392>

<sup>59</sup> Youtube Channel “Kuasha2009”, 28 October 2009, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99A3UuntSa4>

<sup>60</sup> Youtube Channel “Knazmee” 28 11 2006: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9pfPeKONYY>



result of the nationwide clash and the ensuing violence, a total of 12 lives were lost, and approximately 2,000 people suffered injuries.<sup>61</sup> For a more comprehensive overview of the events that occurred on this particular day, please refer to Part 2, Case 37, in this document.

#### **1.4. Awami League: the Post-2009 Era**

After the Awami League assumed power for the third time in 2009, reports indicated a disturbing trend of increased systematic crimes and violence associated with their rule, surpassing all previous levels. One of the most bone-chilling stories reported in the media was the gruesome murder of Abrar, a bright student of electrical and electronic engineering at BUET (Case - 15). Autopsy reports from Dhaka Medical College Hospital confirmed that Abrar succumbed to internal bleeding and excruciating pain caused by merciless beatings with blunt objects such as cricket stumps and bamboo sticks. This tragic incident serves as an alarming indicator of the prevailing cruelty and lawlessness in the country. In addition, the Biswajit murder (Case - 29) in front of hundreds of people, the murder of Taqi (Case - 27), and numerous other highly disturbing reports reveal a definite criminal pattern deeply rooted in the psyche and ideology of the party.

While this study found that some of the crimes were committed out of pure criminal motives, most of them were intertwined with politics and political ideology and were utilized as a political tool. For instance, the incidents of lynching on 28 October 2006, as well as the murders of Abrar and Biswajit, were not mere outcomes of trivial altercations or related to any economic issues. Even foreign diplomats were not spared from political attacks (Case 51, Case - 66). A thorough analysis of numerous cases reported in the mainstream media indicates that this may be their political modus operandi.

Besides murder, torture, and physical assaults, rape is another pressing issue that is frequently reported. According to a report in Daily Prothom Alo, nearly 50% of the cases filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act are related to rape. The report was based on data collected from 2018 to 2022.<sup>62</sup> Another report published in Daily Prothom Alo stated that from 2016 to 2020, there were 26,695 cases filed related to rape.<sup>63</sup>

According to Mizanur Rahman, a former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission and a law department professor at the University of Dhaka, the incidence of rape has now reached an alarming level in the country.<sup>64</sup>

An article published in the Harvard International Review identified political meddling as one of the primary factors contributing to the occurrence of rape in the country. “Of these factors,

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<sup>61</sup> Aljazeera, 28 October 2006: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2006/10/28/12-killed-in-bangladesh-clashes>

<sup>62</sup> Prothom Alo English, 24 August 2022: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/dbfibivu3h>

<sup>63</sup> Prothom Alo, 3 March 2021: <https://bit.ly/3KiCx16>

<sup>64</sup> Prothom Alo English, 24 August 2022: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/dbfibivu3h>

illicit political meddling in sexual lawsuits is arguably the most common in hamstringing the judicial system. Many political demagogues back up rapists on the grounds that they are politicians' relatives, nurtured or hired hooligans, or political bedfellows.”<sup>65</sup>

A renowned jurist, Dr. Shahdeen Malik, said, “We witness, in some of the recent rape incidents where offenders with political identities are involved, that it was not their maiden act of crime. It was just a continuation,”<sup>66</sup>

Numerous reports have revealed the widespread involvement of ruling Awami League party members and their affiliated organizations in incidents of rape, with political vengeance being cited as a motive in some cases. For instance, in the Subarnachar rape case (Case - 143), a mother of four was raped for not voting for the Awami League.<sup>67</sup>

Upon scrutinization of the locations of each reported incident of rape, it was found that these were not isolated occurrences in a few specific places but rather a widespread and regular phenomenon throughout all 64 districts of the country.

## 1.5. Awami League Attacks on Minorities

Another issue of concern in Bangladesh is the oppression of minorities, which is a complex and sensitive matter. On 29 October 2021, Foreign Policy magazine reported: “It was reported that Bangladesh has seen nearly 4,000 attacks against its Hindu community since January 2013, according to a prominent local human rights organization.”<sup>68</sup> The reported religious attacks on minorities in Bangladesh are often carried out with the motive of land grabbing from Hindus, according to various sources.<sup>69</sup>

According to Rana Dasgupta, General Secretary of the Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Unity Council in Bangladesh, “[t]here is an orchestrated attempt to grab Hindu houses and lands in Bangladesh, and [people] are being forced to leave the country,” as he told the BBC.<sup>70</sup>

It was reported that “local politics is also at play. As the ruling Awami League has consolidated power and is now effectively without a viable opposition, there are indications that rivalry over

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<sup>65</sup> Harvard International Review, 11 January 2021: <https://hir.harvard.edu/rape-in-bangladesh-an-epidemic-turn-of-sexual-violence/>

<sup>66</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 09 October 2020: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2020/10/09/rape-political-power-a-factor-for-impunity>

<sup>67</sup> The Daily Star, 02 January 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/mother-four-gang-raped-al-men-1681405>

<sup>68</sup> Foreign Policy, 29 October 2021: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/29/bangladesh-communal-violence-hindu-muslim-identity-crisis/>

<sup>69</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 06 February 2021: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2021/02/06/land-grab-mayor-ivy-s-family-seizes-temple-property>

<sup>70</sup> BBC News, 22 October 2021: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58999047>

resources (including land grabs) within the ruling party is becoming entrenched.”<sup>71</sup> In a particular district, two conflicting factions within the Awami League reportedly accused each other of being responsible for the attacks on Hindu residences and temples.<sup>72</sup>

The involvement of the Awami League has been explicitly established in some specific attacks, for instance, the Nasirnagar case, where the National Human Rights Commission’s report confirmed their direct participation. The New York Times provided coverage of this issue, stating, “Dozens of suspects in the attacks have been arrested, and the police officer in charge in Nasirnagar has been suspended from his duties. Bangladesh’s National Human Rights Commission has begun an investigation into the attacks, calling them a “preplanned conspiracy.” While the Awami League has suspended three local leaders for their involvement in the attack, a thorough investigation must determine who exactly was responsible for posting the offending image and to what end. The Awami League prides itself on being the party of pluralism in Bangladesh. Local Awami League politicians involved in a conspiracy to stir religious violence must face more than suspension from their party. The credibility of Ms. Hasina’s government is on the line.”<sup>73</sup>

In some cases, such as Case - 171, the local people caught the perpetrator red-handed, who then confessed that a local Awami League leader had instructed him to commit the attack.

This study has identified a definite pattern in the attacks on minority communities in Bangladesh. While some of the attacks were motivated by the economic interests of Awami League party members, others displayed a clear and deliberate pattern. The usual sequence begins with the propagation of false rumors against an individual from the minority community, which is then followed by active instigation by the members of Awami League or its affiliated organizations to incite public attacks (Case - 166, Case - 177). Subsequently, the attacks would unfold, accompanied by a perplexing silence on the part of the police and local administration (Case - 164, Case - 177), perpetuating a sense of mystery surrounding their inaction.

Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, a Hindu leader and advocate based in Dhaka who serves as the secretary general of Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mahajote, firmly asserts his belief saying that the ruling party deliberately orchestrates attacks and cunningly shifts the blame onto their political rivals, such as the BNP and Jamaat. He has stated that jealousy and militant tendencies within the Awami League are not even present in Islamist groups (Hujur). Furthermore, he claims that during the rule of BNP-Jamaat, no incidents involving statements against the prophet of Islam were ever heard of. Pramanik argues that while only a few incidents took place during BNP-Jamaat rule, Hindus are being attacked on a daily basis now.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> The Interpreter- Lowy Institute, 18 November 2021: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/minorities-under-attack-bangladesh>

<sup>72</sup> Prothom Alo English, 23 October 2021: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/awami-leagues-two-groups-blaming-each-other>

<sup>73</sup> The New York Times, 16 November 2016: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/16/opinion/attacks-on-hindus-in-bangladesh.html>

<sup>74</sup> Youtube Channel “Madhupoka” 22 July 2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlYjbfvANH8>

It has been observed that due to the lack of political will, the general public has little recourse to seek justice for the atrocities committed against them. As a result, the majority of perpetrators of attacks on minorities are not held accountable.

According to newspaper reports, during Sheikh Mujib's tenure, there was a lack of rule of law and justice. The Ittefaq newspaper reported that "Every day some news of murder, robbery, extortion, looting of police stations or banks is being printed in the newspaper. In 5 per cent of the cases that have occurred so far, it has not been possible to catch the real criminals or take appropriate legal actions against them."<sup>75</sup> It appears that his daughter, Sheikh Hasina, has continued this legacy. Therefore, it has been found that justice has not been served in the majority of cases, including those related to attacks on minorities.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Ittefaq, 1 December 1973

<sup>76</sup> The Daily Star, 29 September 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/justice-still-elusive-ramu-victims-3131151>

# PART-2



**MURDER**

**TORTURE AND  
VIOLENCE**



## 2.1. Murder

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### Case - 1

#### **The Court Sentenced 6 Awami League Leaders and Activists to Life Imprisonment for Killing Islami Chhatra Shibir Leader in Kushtia**

Date: 19 January 2023

On 13 April 2012, a group of Awami League leaders and activists planned and carried out the premeditated fatal stabbing to death of Abdullah Al Manju in Chairman Para located within the Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia district. Abdullah Al Manju held a leadership role within a prominent Islamic student organization in Bangladesh, known as the Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (referred to as “Shibir” hereafter). Subsequently, Abdul Razzak, the victim's father, filed a case in this regard. The investigation officer of the case, Nasir Uddin, presented charge sheets against the accused individuals on 30 April 2015.

On 19 January 2023, a Kushtia court sentenced six Awami League activists to life imprisonment in connection with the case of killing the Shibir leader around 11 years ago. Kushtia Additional District and Sessions Court Judge Md Tajul Islam also fined the convicts Tk20,000 each. In default, they will have to serve one more year of imprisonment, according to Advocate Anup Kumar Nandy, public prosecutor of the court.<sup>77</sup>

### Case - 2

#### **The Accused of Murder in Bogra was Made Swechasebak League, an Affiliate of Awami League, Leader**

Date: 9 January 2023

The appointment of Abdur Rauf as the joint secretary of the Swechasebak League, a wing of the ruling Awami League party, caused anger and frustration among Takbir's family and party leaders. This happened on 9 January 2023, despite the fact that Rauf had been expelled from the Government Azizul Haque College branch and was the primary accused person in the murder case of Bogra district Chhatra League leader Takbir Islam Khan, who had died on 16 March 2021. Many people believed that Rauf had been rewarded for killing a leader of his own party.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> The Business Standard, 19 January 2023: <https://publisher.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/6-awami-league-activists-get-life-term-killing-shibir-leader-kushtia-570774>, DBC 24/7 News, 19 January 2023: <https://bit.ly/3XxQzsc>, Daily Jugantor 20 January 2023: <https://shorturl.at/nPV36>

<sup>78</sup> Jugantor, 12 January 2023: <https://bit.ly/3YyF6tQ>

### Case - 3

## **Awami League Leader Arrested in the Murder Case of a Leader from Jubo Dal, an Affiliate of the Main Opposition Party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**

Date: 1 January 2023

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested Hekmat Sikder, a leader of the ruling Awami League party and Chairman of Sagardighi Union Parishad, Ghatail Upazila, Tangail district, on 1 January 2023, at noon. He was accused in the case of murder of Jubo Dal leader Abdul Malek, who died of gunshot during the election violence that took place on 29 March 2018 in Tangail's Ghatail area.<sup>79</sup>

### Case - 4

## **Government Employee was Killed by BCL, the Student Wing of the Awami League Party, Activists**

Date: 31 December 2022

Feroz Ahmed, an accounts assistant of the Department of Social Services, was killed during a clash between two factions of the local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Agargaon, Dhaka on the night of 31 December 2021. The fight erupted between Talha, the president of Chhatra League of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Thana, and Murad, the ward president, due to a long-standing conflict between them. During the clash, Talha and his associates reportedly beat and stabbed Feroz, who later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Although the police stated that Feroz was a supporter of the Chhatra League, he did not hold any position within the organization. Another young man named Sakib Hossain (22) was also injured in the incident.<sup>80</sup>

### Case - 5

## **Chhatra League Activists Killed in Narayanganj by a Leader of Sramik League, an Affiliate of the Awami League Party**

Date: 21 September 2022

On 21 September 2022, around 8:30 pm, a group of miscreants attacked Rakib Hasan, a Chhatra League activist, with sharp weapons due to a dispute over dominance, resulting in his death in the Golakandail Kathpatti area of Rupganj, Narayanganj district. Following the incident, the elite forces Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested three people, including Delwar Hossain, a leader and former General Secretary of Golakandail Union Paribahan Sramik League, a wing of the ruling Awami League party, in connection with the murder of Rakib Hasan.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> The Daily Star, 1 January 2023: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-435601>; bdnews24.com, 1 January 2023: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/yzkpt8kg2w>; Dhaka Post, 02 January 2023: <https://www.dhakapost.com/country/164316>

<sup>80</sup> Dainik Ittefaq, 02 January 2023: <https://bit.ly/3lAjAqe>

<sup>81</sup> Bonikbarta, 24 September 2022: <https://bit.ly/3S052w4>, Bangla News24, 24 September 2022: <https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/959428.details>

## Case - 6

### **Killing of Nahid Hussain**

Date: 20 April 2022

A poor delivery man Nahid Hossain died during a clash between Dhaka College Chhatra League students and local shopkeepers in Dhaka's New Market. Twenty-year-old Nahid Hossain, on 20 April 2022, started from his home in Kamrangirchar, a suburban area neighboring Dhaka, and went to work on Elephant Road in Dhaka city. But a few yards away from his workplace, he was surrounded by a mob, said to be Dhaka College Chhatra League activists, who brutally beat him to death with a sharp weapon and left him on the street. According to reports, Dhaka College student Siam hit Nahid with an iron rod. According to Dhaka College students, he was involved in Chhatra League politics.

The Detective Branch arrested five Dhaka College unit Bangladesh Chhatra League activists for killing Nahid. RAB investigators analyzed footage of the attack on Nahid and confirmed that Siam, a third-year student of the college, beat Nahid with an iron rod.

Nahid, the RAB official said, first fell down after being hit by brickbats at about 1:30 pm, when Siam hit him with the iron rod while Emon, a second-year Bangla department student of the college, stabbed him.<sup>82</sup>

## Case - 7

### **Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Killed by Awami League Leader in a Meeting**

Date: 24 February 2022

On the night of 24 February 2022, Shahidul Islam, a local leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was fatally stabbed by Abu Saeed, an Awami League leader in Shibganj Upazila of Bogra district. The incident reportedly occurred due to a dispute over dominance within the Inter-District Truck Workers Union. Shahidul was attacked at the union office in Kichak Bandar in the upazila and was later pronounced dead at the Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.<sup>83</sup>

## Case - 8

### **5 Murdered Due to Rivalry between Awami League Candidates**

Date: 21 January 2022

Five people were murdered within a single Union Council area, a geographical unit of the local government, due to clashes between supporters of rival Awami League candidates. Mahmudul Hasan Mamun, the general secretary of the Shaikupa Sarutia Union Awami League, was

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<sup>82</sup> New Age, 5 May 2022: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/169633/bcl-activist-who-hit-nahid-with-rod-held>

<sup>83</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 25 February 2022: <https://bangla.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/02/25/1645765822211>



elected chairman of the Union Council in the local elections held on 5 January 2022, in Jhenaidah district, beating out his rival, Zulficar Qaiser alias Tipu, who was also a member of the Awami League and served as the vice-president of the same Union. Prior to and after the elections, there were intense clashes between supporters of the two candidates, resulting in the deaths of five people over a period of 23 days. The fifth death occurred on the night of 21 January 2022.<sup>84</sup>

#### Case - 9

### **Chhatra League Leader Killed by Jubo League, an Affiliate of Awami League, Leader in Gazipur**

Date: 13 January 2022

On 13 January 2022, a Chhatra League leader named Nayan Sheikh (25) was reportedly beaten to death by a local Jubo League leader and his associates in Sreepur, Gazipur district. According to reports, Nayan Sheikh was summoned to the Kawraid Union Awami League office and his body was later discovered in a nearby pond. The victim's elder brother, Ratan Sheikh, claimed that Jubo League leader Khairul Islam Mir (35), who was a candidate for the position of Kawraid Union Jubo League President, and his associates had planned and perpetrated the murder.<sup>85</sup>

#### Case - 10

### **Awami League Activist Killed in Conflict over Food Distribution**

Date: 22 August 2021

On the night of 22 August 2021, Awami League activist Abdul Mannan (38) was stabbed to death in Kalaroa Upazila of Satkhira district, following a dispute over the quantity of food provided at a meeting organized by the Awami League in the Deyara market area of the upazila. The victim, Abdul Mannan, was the son of Ali Baks in the same area. Following the incident, police apprehended Hanif (23) and his father Mujibur Rahman (50) for their alleged involvement in the murder. Reports suggest that the arrested father and son were supporters of Awami League's candidate with the Awami League party's boat symbol, and Union Awami League president Mahbubur Rahman Moff, in a postponed local election. In contrast, the deceased Abdul Mannan was a supporter of the Awami League rebel candidate and Union Awami League General Secretary Abdul Mannan (with glasses symbol). According to locals, Union Awami League leaders and activists were divided into two factions based on the local elections, leading to conflicts between them.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Prothom Alo, 23 January 2022: <https://bit.ly/3E4XwdK>

<sup>85</sup> Jugantor, 14 January 2022: <https://bit.ly/3n94eKh>, Samakal, 14 January 2022: <https://bit.ly/3NAsgsH>

<sup>86</sup> Kaler Kantha, 23 August 2021: <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2021/08/23/1066057>  
Jugantor, 24 August 2021: <https://bit.ly/3xq7ylG>

## Case - 11

### Fatal Violence Erupted as Anti-Modi Protesters Attacked, Resulting 10 Death Toll

Date: 25-27 March 2021

A series of violent clashes erupted across Bangladesh in March 2021, following protests against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country. At least 10 lives were claimed during these incidents. The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the ruling party's student wing, threatened to "peel off the skin" of anti-Modi protesters and launched attacks on progressive students, worshippers, and madrasa students in various locations.<sup>87</sup>

On 25 March, at least 14 people, including journalists, were injured when BCL activists attacked other student organizations during their demonstration at Dhaka University campus against Modi's visit.<sup>88</sup>

On 26 March, at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka, as soon as anti-Modi protesters began chanting slogans, BCL members swooped on and attacked them with deadly weapons at the mosque's north gate area. The protesters retreated into the mosque, then later counterattacked the BCL, leading to a violent clash. Police fired tear gas and blank shots to control the situation.<sup>89</sup>

On 27 March, in Brahmanbaria, BCL members from a procession attacked Jamia Islamia Eunusia Madrasa in Kandipara without provocation. The police joined forces with BCL cadres and opened fire on the crowd of madrasa students, resulting in the tragic death of five students.<sup>90</sup>

## Case - 12

### Chhatra League Leader Stabbed by Another Chhatra League Leader in Chittagong

Date: 19 February 2021

On the night of 19 February 2021, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist Mohammad Ashraf Chowdhury Imon (19) was fatally stabbed reportedly by Nayan Sarkar, secretary of Chittagong South District BCL sub-school affairs, in Anwara Upazila of Chittagong. The incident took place in front of the Ma Community Center in the Sadar Union of the upazila.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> The Daily Star, 18 March 2021: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/du-bcl-president-threatens-peel-the-skin-anti-modi-protesters-campus-2063041>

<sup>88</sup> Prothom Alo English, 26 March 2021: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/politics/clashes-break-out-at-baitul-mukarram-area>

<sup>89</sup> Ibid

<sup>90</sup> The Daily Star, 27 March 2021: <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/5-shot-dead-during-clashes-brahmanbaria-2067741>

<sup>91</sup> Daily Janakantha, 21 February 2021: <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/national/news/557452>, Jagonews24, 20 February 2021: <https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/644954>

### **Case - 13**

#### **Comilla Trader Murder by Jubo League Leader**

Date: 10 July 2020

A case was filed against Md Alamgir Hossain, Comilla City Corporation's ward 23 councillor and the city Jubo League senior joint convener, along with nine of his relatives, for allegedly beating trader Akhter Hossain to death in front of a mosque in Comilla city on 10 July 2020.

The deceased, Akhter, was the brother of Shahjalal Alal, Ward 23 Jubo League joint convener, who had organized a kite festival to mark the birth centenary of the country's founding president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Alamgir was not invited to the event, which angered the ward councillor. Rekha Begum, the victim's wife, alleged in the case statement that Alamgir and his brothers assaulted Shahjalal at his business establishment before beating her husband to death in front of the local mosque.<sup>92</sup>

### **Case - 14**

#### **Hindu Minority Abhishek Dwip Killed by Chhatra League in Sylhet**

Date: 6 February 2020

On 6 February 2020, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) worker Abhishek De Dwip, a student of MC College, Sylhet, was killed by members of his own group in Tilagarh, Sylhet city, following an internal power struggle. The assailants, led by BCL activist Saikat, reportedly attacked Dwip and fatally stabbed him to death.<sup>93</sup>

### **Case - 15**

#### **Tragic Death of Innocent Brilliant Student Abrar Fahad of BUET from Brutal Night-Long Torture by Chhatra League Leaders**

Date: 7 October 2019

On 7 October 2019, Abrar Fahad, a second-year student at the esteemed Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), was brutally murdered by members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League party. Fahad was beaten to death with bats, stumps, and sticks in a dormitory room. Fahad's lifeless body was discovered in his university dormitory, battered and bruised, mere hours after he posted a message on Facebook criticizing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the ruling BAL party, for endorsing a water-sharing agreement with India.<sup>94</sup>

Following the Facebook post, Fahad was summoned by a faction of pro-Hasina students to a room for questioning regarding his "anti-government" message. According to police reports,

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<sup>92</sup> New Age, 11 July 2020: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/110928/>

<sup>93</sup> Somoy News, 7 February 2020: <https://bit.ly/3IpsVd8>

<sup>94</sup> VOA News, 11 December 2021: <https://www.voanews.com/a/experts-doubt-bangladesh-student-murder-convicts-will-serve-harsh-sentences/6350264.html>

Fahad's severely battered body was discovered six hours later, bearing the marks of brutal beatings inflicted with cricket bats, tree stumps, and sticks.<sup>95</sup>

All 25 individuals involved in the incident were students at the university and members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, serving as leaders and activists within the organization.<sup>96</sup>

Abrar Fahad was forcibly taken from his room at approximately 20:00 (14:00 GMT) and subjected to a brutal beating for a minimum of four hours. The doctor responsible for conducting Fahad's autopsy has verified to the BBC that his body exhibited extensive bruising.<sup>97</sup>

The murder of Abrar sparked a wave of protests among students, teachers, and ordinary citizens. Following this incident, thousands of university students took part in demonstrations in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, and around the country. Asif Nazrul, professor of law at Dhaka University said: “Who gave the right to Chhatra League to interrogate another fellow student for his involvement with Shibir or posting anti-government Facebook statuses? The Chhatra League has gone out of control of the government. Their questionable activities have to be stopped”.<sup>98</sup>

Amnesty International South Asia described his murder as a “horrific crime that must be investigated immediately”.<sup>99</sup> “Abrar was only exercising his peaceful right to freedom of expression in his Facebook posts criticizing the government,” the human rights group said in a statement.

Analysts point out that acts of killing on campuses in Bangladesh, which began in 1974 with the Chhatra League activists killing seven students, often remain unpunished. It is noted that the participants in these killings are typically activists affiliated with student organizations supported by the ruling party.<sup>100</sup>

## Case - 16

### **Nayan Bond, an Awami League Affiliated Terrorist Killed Rifat Sharif in Broad Daylight at Barguna**

Date: 26 June 2019

Shah Neyaj Rifat Sharif, 25, the son of Halim Dulal from Burirchar union of Barguna sadar upazila, was stabbed to death with sharp weapons in broad daylight on 26 June 2019. Witnesses

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<sup>95</sup> ibid

<sup>96</sup> New Age, 8 December 2021: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/156804/20-buet-bcl-activists-to-die-five-get-life-term-for-abrar-murder>

<sup>97</sup> BBC, 9 October 2019: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49986893>

<sup>98</sup> Aljazeera, 7 October 2019: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/7/bangladesh-student-killing-thousands-protest-demanding-justice>

<sup>99</sup> The Guardian, 10 October 2019: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/10/father-demands-justice-after-beating-to-death-of-student-in-dhaka>

<sup>100</sup> The Daily Star, 9 October 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/killings-campus-no-punishment-most-cases-1811218>

said, Rifat Sharif was attacked while he was coming back from Barguna Government College where his wife Ayesha Siddika studies.<sup>101</sup>

A video clip of the barbaric attack, probably captured on a mobile phone, went viral on social media triggering public outrage. The clip showed that two assailants were hacking Rifat indiscriminately with sharp weapons as Ayesha was trying to hold back one of the attackers.<sup>102</sup>

According to reports, the miscreants involved in the killing have close ties with two influential local Awami League leaders. One among the main three accused, Sabbir Ahmed aka Nayan Bond, is a close accomplice of Sunam Debnath, district Awami League science and technology secretary and the son of Barguna-1 ruling party MP Dharendra Debnath Shambhu. The two other accused, Rifat Farajee, and Rishan Farajee, are nephews of Delwar Hossain, chairman of Barugna zila parishad (district council) who is a former vice-president of district of Awami League.<sup>103</sup>

According to reports, Nayan Bond established a terrorist organization known as the '007 Bond Group'. Rifat Farazi served as the second in command, while Sabbir Ahmed Nayan, also known as Nayan Bond, led the group. Nayan adopted the name Bond to mirror the famous James Bond. The group also maintained a presence on Facebook. The report further highlighted that Nayan Bond built his reign of terror with the protection and support of a prominent leader holding a significant position within the district Awami League, identified as Sunam Debnath. This affiliation provided Nayan Bond with an umbrella of influence and shelter for his heinous criminal activities.<sup>104</sup>

Abir Hossain Mahmud, the officer-in-charge of Barguna police station, stated that Nayan Bond had a record of 10 cases related to drugs, extortion, terrorism, and robbery. Despite multiple arrests and subsequent imprisonment, Nayan Bond was often released on bail within a short period of time.<sup>105</sup>

According to information obtained from sources within the Barguna Thana police, it was reported that Rifat Farajee had a total of 8 cases filed against him for various crimes, including assault, vandalism, extortion, robbery, and drug trafficking. He had been arrested multiple times in connection with these cases. However, due to legal loopholes, he managed to secure bail from the court each time, allowing him to resume his involvement in terrorist activities.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> Prothom Alo, 27 June 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Killing-in-broad-daylight>

<sup>102</sup> The Daily Star, 2 July 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/nayan-bond-killed-gunfight-cops-1765558>

<sup>103</sup> Prothom Alo, 30 June 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Killers-of-Rifat-close-to-Awami-League-leaders>

<sup>104</sup> Jugantor, 29 June 2019: <https://bit.ly/3IvcX0R>

<sup>105</sup> ibid

<sup>106</sup> ibid

It was reported that the main accused of Rifat Sharif's murder, Sabbir Ahmed alias Nayan Bond, was killed in what police called a gunfight with them in Barguna's Burirchar on 2 July 2019.<sup>107</sup>

Analysts suggest there is no such term as "crossfire" in the criminal justice system, and it is an "extrajudicial killing."<sup>108</sup>

The incident sparked an immense reaction throughout the entire country. Warning the law enforcement agencies against extrajudicial killings, the High Court of Bangladesh said, "We do not like extrajudicial killings. This can give a wrong message to the public." The court further observed, "These Nayan Bonds are not created overnight. They do not emerge on their own accord. They are backed by someone or the other and made into criminals. What about those who have created Nayan Bond?"<sup>109</sup> Some observers hold the belief that law enforcement agencies killed him to conceal the influential individuals related to the Awami League party who were connected to Nayan Bond.

## Case - 17

### **Hanging Body of Diaz Irfan Chowdhury**

Date: 20 November 2016

Diaz Irfan Chowdhury was the former organizing secretary of the Chhatra League at Chittagong University. Police recovered his hanging dead body from a rented house near the university on 20 November 2016.<sup>110</sup>

Twenty-two days prior to this incident, the residences of four University Chhatra League leaders, including Diaz, were vandalized. Allegations arose that the attack was orchestrated by activists aligned with the then-president of the University Chhatra League, stemming from a dispute over the distribution of a tender worth 950 million Taka.<sup>111</sup>

The accused in this murder are 10 current and former leaders and activists of the University Chhatra League including Chittagong University Chhatra League's then committee president Alamgir Tipu, vice president Abdul Malek, Mansoor Alam, joint general secretary Abu Torab, organizational secretary Md. Arman, publicity secretary Rashedul Alam, entertainment secretary Mizanur Rahman, member Ariful Haque, and former acting president Jamshedul Alam Chowdhury.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> Prothom Alo, 2 July 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Nayan-Bond-killed-in-police-%E2%80%98gunfight%E2%80%99>

<sup>108</sup> The Daily Observer, 13 July 2019: <https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=207035>

<sup>109</sup> Prothom Alo, 5 July 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Who-created-Nayan-Bond-asks-HC>

<sup>110</sup> BBC News Bangla, 8 October 2019: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-49969379>

<sup>111</sup> Jugantor, 30 March 2023: <https://bit.ly/3IvvCK6>

<sup>112</sup> Jugantor, 8 October 2019: <https://bit.ly/2Vsn1hk>, Jugantor, 30 March 2023: <https://bit.ly/3IvvCK6>

### Case - 18

## **Chhatra League Leader Accused of Murder Spotted Alongside Prime Minister during Her UN Trip**

Date: 22 September 2016

The main suspect in the murder case of the Chhatra League leader in Comilla was reportedly seen in the entourage of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to the UN. Masud Parvez Khan Imran, who is currently serving as the president of the Comilla Chamber, is the son of Afzal Khan, an influential leader of the Awami League in the district. Both Imran and his brother Nasrullah Arman Khan are also accused in the case, which was filed following the killing of Saiful Islam, the president of the Chhatra League's Comilla city branch, in April 2015.<sup>113</sup>

### Case - 19

## **Assassination of Zakaria and Milton**

Date: 16 April 2015

BBA second-year student Zakaria and agriculture department student Mahmudul Hasan Milton of Haji Mohammad Danesh University of Science and Technology was killed due to a clash between the local Awami League and the University branch of the Chhatra League. This incident occurred on 16 April 2015, during the freshman reception ceremony of the veterinary faculty of the university.<sup>114</sup>

Golam Mostafa, the father of the deceased Zakaria, lodged a case against 37 individuals, including Abu Ibn Rajab, the President of Dinajpur District Swechasebak League (a wing of Awami League), and Biswajit Ghosh, the General Secretary of Sadar Upazila Awami League.<sup>115</sup>

### Case - 20

## **The Killing of Tapas Sarker, a Hindu Minority, in Chittagong University**

Date: 14 December 2014

On 14 December 2014, Tapas Sarker, a Hindu Minority who was also an activist of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was fatally shot during a clash between two rival factions of the organization at Shah Amanat dormitory in Chittagong University. Subsequently, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) filed a charge sheet in the murder case, naming 30 BCL activists as the accused. Among them, BCL leader Ashrafuzzaman Asha was identified as the main perpetrator of the crime.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> NDTV, 24 September 2016: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/murder-suspect-spotted-with-bangladesh-pm-sheikh-hasinas-un-entourage-1465856>; bdnews24.com, 24 September 2016: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/bangladesh/article1217093.bdnews>

<sup>114</sup> Jugantor, 08 October 2019: <https://bit.ly/2Vsn1hk>

<sup>115</sup> Daily ittefaq, 15 October 2019: <https://bit.ly/3IqZYx2>

<sup>116</sup> The Daily Star, 3 May 2026: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/police-press-charges-against-29-bcl-men-1217632>; The Daily Star, 5 October 2017: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/prime-accused-ex-bcl-leader-sent-jail-cu-student-taposh-murder-1471708>; Bangla Tribune, 10 October 2019: <https://bit.ly/3MHmzrU>

### **Case - 21**

#### **Chhatra Dal Activist, Affiliated with Main Opposition BNP Party, Murdered by BCL**

Date: 4 June 2014

On 4 June 2014, Tawhidul Islam, an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was brutally killed in room No. 1003 of Abu Sina dormitory at MAG Osmani Medical College in Sylhet. Subsequently, Shoumen Dey, the president of the medical college unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was apprehended by authorities. Along with nine other BCL activists, Dey was named as a defendant in a murder case filed by the victim's uncle. In response to the incident, the college administration took action and suspended all ten students who were implicated in the murder.<sup>117</sup>

### **Case - 22**

#### **Killing of Rustam in Rajshahi University**

Date: 4 April 2014

Rustam Ali Akand, a resident of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall and the hall unit joint secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and a fourth-year student of political science department of Rajshahi university, was killed reportedly due to internal feud of the BCL over the formation of a new committee. On 4 April 2014, he was shot and died in his dorm room.<sup>118</sup>

### **Case - 23**

#### **Killing of Sayad in Agricultural University**

Date: 31 March 2014

Syed Sayad Ibn Momtaz, a student at the Fisheries Science Faculty of Bangladesh Agricultural University, resided in room 312 of B block in Ashraful Haque Hall on campus. He held the position of organizing secretary for the Hall branch of Chhatra League. On the afternoon of 31 March 2014, Rezaul Karim, the former Joint General Secretary of Chhatra League, summoned him to room number 205. Upon Rezaul's command, others present in the room brutally beat Syed using cricket stumps causing his death.<sup>119</sup>

### **Case - 24**

#### **Chhatra League Leader Murdered His Father by Stabbing**

Date: 19 January 2014

In Birampur Upazila of Dinajpur district, a distressing incident occurred where a Chhatra League leader reportedly stabbed his own father to death. According to police reports, Manik,

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<sup>117</sup> The Daily Star, 7 June 2014: <https://www.thedailystar.net/10-bcl-men-suspended-from-sylhet-medical-college-27431>; Prothom Alo, 7 June 2014: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Osmani-Medical-College-BCL-president-arrested>; bdnews24.com, 7 June 2014: <https://t.ly/dn-1dn-1>

<sup>118</sup> The Daily Star, 5 April 2014: <https://www.thedailystar.net/bcl-leader-shot-dead-at-ru-dormitory-18771>; New Age, 17 October 2019: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/87894/articlelist/323/index.php>; bdnews24.com, 5 April 2014: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/bangladesh/article768289.bdnews>

<sup>119</sup> Prothom Alo, 26 November 2019: <http://bit.ly/3IHimeM>



the joint convener of the upazila Chhatra League, fatally stabbed his father Aftab Uddin (60) on 17 January 2014. Tragically, Aftab Uddin succumbed to death due to his injuries on 19 January 2014.<sup>120</sup>

#### **Case - 25**

### **Murderer of 3 Nominated as Awami League Party Candidate in Election**

Date: 6 January 2014

Hukum Ali Chokdar, the main accused in the case involving the deaths of three individuals during the post-election violence, was a supporter of Awami League candidate Abdul Mannan. The violence erupted between Chokdar's supporters and Upazila Awami League vice-president Alauddin's followers on 6 January 2014, in Bilaspur, Doha, Dhaka. Despite his involvement in the case, Chokdar was subsequently nominated as a candidate in the UP elections, representing the Awami League with the boat symbol.<sup>121</sup>

#### **Case - 26**

### **Milky Killed by Jubo League Leader**

Date: 30 July 2013

Milky, the organizing secretary of Dhaka city (South) unit of Jubo League, was gunned down by his close associate Zahid Siddique Tarek, who was also the joint secretary of the Jubo League unit, in front of Shoppers World at Gulshan in the Dhaka city in the wee hours of 30 July 2013. The whole incident was captured by the CC camera and broadcast on different television channels.<sup>122</sup> Hours after the killing of Milky, the elite force RAB arrested Tarek from a hospital at Uttara. On 1 August 2016, Tarek and another suspected terrorist, Shah Alam, were killed in a so-called 'shootout' (a form of extrajudicial killing prevalent in Bangladesh) with the RAB members.<sup>123</sup> During the indiscriminate 'crossfire', an innocent college student named Samia Afran Jamal Prity, 22, was also shot dead. She was on a rickshaw on her way to a friend's place in Khilgaon area of capital Dhaka.<sup>124</sup>

#### **Case - 27**

### **Tanveer Muhammad Taqi Killing**

Date: 6 March 2013

On 6 March 2013, Awami League leader and known terror godfather Shamim Osman's men, led by his nephew Ajmeri Osman, kidnapped a 17-year-old boy, Tanveer Muhammad Taqi, and

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<sup>120</sup> Samakal, 19 January 2014: <https://bit.ly/3Xxtsy4>

<sup>121</sup> banglanews24.com, 6 April 2014: <https://www.banglanews24.com/fullnews/news/bd/280360.details>;  
Prothom Alo, 1 February 2014: <https://t.ly/Cpzpg> ; bdnews24.com, 20 March 2016:  
<https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/article1122752.bdnews>

<sup>122</sup> Youtube Channel "Independent Television" 30 July 2013:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3kLW0hBZAc>

<sup>123</sup> Daily Prothom Alo, 14 March 2016: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Milky-killing-Court-accepts-supplementary>

<sup>124</sup> The Business Standard, 25 March 2022: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/revenge-milky-murder-391310>

tortured him mercilessly in their party office. Two days later his body was found in the nearby Shitalakkhya river.

The murder of the 17-year-old high school student was much discussed for the alleged involvement of family members of ruling party MP Shamim Osman.

In June 2013, RAB-11 arrested some “aides” of the Osman family and raided Ajmeri Osman’s office in Narayanganj city in August 2013, and found evidence of torture there. Later in March 2014, RAB told the media that they found the involvement of Ajmeri and his 11 associates in Taqi’s murder.<sup>125</sup>

### **Case - 28**

#### **Child Rabbi killed in Bangladesh Agriculture University**

Date: 19 January 2013

On 19 January 2013, a tragic incident occurred at Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, where a 10-year-old child named Rabbi was fatally shot during a clash between two rival factions of Chhatra League, who were using firearms. Following the violence, enraged locals vandalized and set fire to two student halls on the university campus. As a result, the university was indefinitely closed. Subsequently, Mahamudul Kabir, a leader of the Chhatra League, was arrested in connection with the incident.<sup>126</sup>

### **Case - 29**

#### **Chhatra League Leaders Chopped Biswajit, a Hindu Minority, to Death in Broad Daylight**

Date: 9 December 2012

On 9 December 2012, Biswajit was mercilessly chopped with machetes and beaten up with iron rods by some Jagannath University unit Chhatra League activists inside the municipality market near Victoria Park during Bangladesh Nationalist Party’s countrywide blockade and the entire episode was seen by hundreds of people and later its video footage was broadcasted on television channels.

A newspaper commented, “when Biswajit was killed by a group of young men, it seemed as if the assailants were not human; they were cold robots.”<sup>127</sup>

The cadres claimed that Biswajit was an activist of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (BICS), a political rival of BCL. Although Biswajit was repeatedly claiming that he was a Hindu and

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<sup>125</sup> The Daily Star, 9 June 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/politics/news/taqi-killing-arrest-shamim-osman-demanded-1754521>

<sup>126</sup> The Daily Star, 20 January 2013: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-265890>; banglanews24.com, 24 January 2013: <https://www.banglanews24.com/cat/news/bd/168437.details>; bdnews24.com, 24 January 2013: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/bangladesh/article582243.bdnews>

<sup>127</sup> Prothom Alo, 13 July 2016: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/This-sin-is-ours>

that he was not a member of BICS, nobody paid any heed. Later it was discovered he was a hapless tailor, not involved in politics at all.<sup>128</sup>

Chhatra League activists from a procession chased Biswajit and attacked him. Tajul Islam, who was the final investigation officer in the murder case, told the court, “Chhatra League activists from the procession shouted ‘grab him, grab him’ and chased Biswajit up to the Intensive Dental Care’s first floor. There, accused Shakil, Yunus and Rajon hacked him with a machete and swords.” “Then he was brought to the ground floor where the other accused including Emdad, Nahid and Kaium beat him with metal rods and sticks.” Then Biswajit, with his body soaked in blood, tried to run away, but he fell down at Shankharibazar lane, rickshaw puller Ripon Sarker said in his deposition. Sarker had rushed him to Mitford Hospital in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead.<sup>129</sup>

In 2017, the High Court Division’s full verdict in the murder case was released with the observation that the innocent person became a victim of murder by Chhatra League activists in a sequence to provocations from their leaders’ previous day’s call to resist the opposition party’s blockade in December 2012.<sup>130</sup>

### **Case - 30**

#### **Sohail killing in Rajshahi University**

Date: 15 July 2012

On the night of 15 July 2012, Abdullah Al Hasan alias Sohail, a fourth-year student of the Rajshahi University's Department of Sociology who was also a BCL activist, died of gunshot wounds in the incident of gunfire between two groups of BCL leaders on the campus. In this incident, BCL leader Touhid Al Hossain was accused in the case filed by Mohammad Noman, the organizing secretary of BCL's university branch.<sup>131</sup>

### **Case - 31**

#### **Killing of Sajeeb in RUET**

Date: 12 March 2012

On 12 March 2012, Abdul Aziz Khan Sajib, a 25-year-old student of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), majoring in civil engineering and serving as the organizing secretary of the university's Zia Hall unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), died due to injuries to his head and chest in an attack by members of a rival faction within his own BCL party.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> The Daily Star, 11 October 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/news/terror-rising-1811842>

<sup>129</sup> bdnews24.com, 17 December 2013: <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/biswajit-murder-verdict-wednesday>

<sup>130</sup> New Age, 3 November 2017: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/27550/biswajit-killed-by-bcl-activists-following-instruction-from-leaders-hc-full-verdict->

<sup>131</sup> Prothom Alo, 23 July 2013: <http://bit.ly/3k3KZjQ>

<sup>132</sup> The Daily Star, 17 March 2012: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-226598>

### **Case - 32**

#### **The killing of Zubair by Chhatra League at Jahangirnagar University.**

Date: 8 January 2012

On 8 January 2012, Zubair Ahmed, a student of the English Department of Jahangir Nagar University, was seriously injured in an attack due to an internal dispute between two rival groups of the Chhatra League. He died the next day while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

According to eyewitness sources, after coming out of the examination hall around 5 pm on that day, 15-20 Chhatra League activists captured Zubair from the new art building behind the under-construction Wazed Mia science laboratory and injured him mercilessly causing his death.<sup>133</sup>

### **Case - 33**

#### **Naseem Killed in Rajshahi University**

Date: 15 August 2010

On 15 August 2010, Chhatra League activist Nasrullah Nasim, a student of Rajshahi University (RU), was flogged, stabbed, and pushed off the second floor of a residential hall of the university. Nasim's crime was getting involved in a scuffle over a "food token" during the organization's iftar party. After eight days of treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Nasim passed away on 23 August. Six Chhatra League workers were suspended from the university in connection with the incident, according to the decision of the university syndicate. A university investigation committee identified the six expelled Chhatra League workers as involved in the killing and submitted a report.<sup>134</sup>

### **Case - 34**

#### **Killing of Abu Bakr at Dhaka University**

Date: 1 February 2010

On 1 February 2010, a confrontation between two factions of the Chhatra League erupted over the occupation of a dormitory seat at Sir AF Rahman Hall. Abu Bakar, a third-year student in the Department of Islamic History and Culture at Dhaka University (DU), was injured during the clash and sadly passed away the next day due to his injuries. University probe committee had identified the then Chhatra League hall unit president Saiduzzaman Faruk as the main culprit responsible for the murder. According to the then proctor of Dhaka University, KM Saiful Islam Khan, Faruk had been involved in extortion and was backed by some leaders of the central Awami League party. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police

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<sup>133</sup> BBC News Bangla, 24 January 2018: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-42803291>

Daily Manab Zamin, 10 January 2012: <https://mzamin.com/details-archive2012.php?mzamin=1381&cat=18>

<sup>134</sup> banglanews24, 6 September 2010: <https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/7686.details>

later investigated the matter and submitted a charge sheet against 13 Chhatra League students. Unfortunately, in the end, all of the accused were acquitted by the use of political influence.<sup>135</sup>

### **Case - 35**

#### **Chhatra League killed Sunny in Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute**

Date: 7 January 2010

Rezwanul Islam Chowdhury Sunny, a leader of the rival political wing Chhatra Moitree of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute, was killed in an attack by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on the gate of the Institute on 7 January 2010.<sup>136</sup> Police Submitted charges against 13 leaders and activists of BCL in connection with the case.<sup>137</sup>

In 2012, the court sentenced two Chhatra League leaders to death in this murder case. Speedy Trial Tribunal judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury sentenced five more people to life imprisonment and three to 10 years imprisonment in this case on 16 May 2012. Most of the people sentenced were Chhatra League workers.<sup>138</sup>

### **Case - 36**

#### **Chhatra League killed Sharifuzzaman Nomani at Rajshahi University**

Date: 13 March 2009

Sharifuzzaman Nomani, general secretary of the Rajshahi University branch of Chhatra Shibir, was killed in an attack by the Chhatra League on 13 March 2009.

The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) has accused 27 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's RU unit, including its president and a local Awami League leader, in a case involving the death of Shibir leader Sharifuzzaman Nomani.

The case details say the BCL leaders and activists called Shibir member Farhad Alam from his room at Sher-e-Bangla Hall Friday at around 10 am, and then forcibly held him hostage in one of their rooms.

They verbally abused Alam and forced him to phone other Shibir activists, claimed the complainant.

The general secretary of Shibir's RU unit, Nomani, and four other ICS men went to rescue him at around 11 am. The Chhatra League men attacked them, according to the case details, with

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<sup>135</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 27 October 2019: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/191487/death-of-abu-bakar-verdict-delivered-but-family>

<sup>136</sup> The Daily Star, 8 January 2010: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-120992>

<sup>137</sup> The Daily Star, 12 March 2010: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-129721>

<sup>138</sup> The Daily Star, 17 May 2012: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-234496> ; bdnews24.com, 16 May 2012: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/bangladesh/article535501.bdnews>

Chhatra League leader Joy ordering his fellow members to "kill" the innocent Shibir men. Roni allegedly hit Nomani, while another BCL man attacked with a machete causing his death.<sup>139</sup>

### Case - 37

## 28 October 2006 Frenzied Killing and Mob Lynchings in Paltan and Other Locations across the Country

Date: 28 October 2006

In October of the year 2006, the four-party coalition government led by the BNP party was preparing to exit at the end of their term in government handing over the power to the Caretaker Government to hold the next election under the country's constitution. The 14-party alliance led by Awami League was protesting so that the recently retired Chief Justice KM Hasan could not take over the duties of caretaker government head.

In such a context, on 28 October 2006, a bloody clash took place between Jamaat-e-Islami, a party that participated in the BNP-led alliance government, and Awami League workers in Dhaka's Paltan-Baitul Mukarram area.

28 October was the last day of the BNP-led four-party coalition government.<sup>140</sup> On that day, with the explicit order of the Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina,<sup>141</sup> Awami League and its allied party men took to the streets around the country armed with sticks, bamboo poles, oars and sharp weapons. In Dhaka city only, in broad daylight, they beat at least four people mercilessly to death.

They were also seen firing shotguns at the Dhaka city streets.<sup>142</sup> It was reported that they set fire to the markets, set vehicles ablaze and clashed with the BNP and Jamaat activists, and even with the law enforcers. At least 12 people died, and 2,000 others were injured as a result of the clash and violence.<sup>143</sup>

It was also reported that after unleashing a state of terror around the whole country, the Awami League tried to falsely claim that some of the dead men were their activists.<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Banglanews24, 16 July 2012: <https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/126876.details>; bdnews24.com, 14 March 2009: <https://bdnews24.com/campus/shibir-sues-bcl-over-nomani-s-death>; The Daily Star, 14 March 2009: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-79604>

<sup>140</sup> BBC Bangla, 28 October 2022: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-62983660>

<sup>141</sup> Video clip from ATN News available in Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99A3UuntSa4>

<sup>142</sup> Video clips from different national news channels available in Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJuq3-BmDMQ&t=11s>

<sup>143</sup> Aljazeera, 28 October 2006: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2006/10/28/12-killed-in-bangladesh-clashes>

<sup>144</sup> Documentary clip titled "Awami Brutality on the Dark OCT 28, 2006": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9pfPeKONYY>

### Case - 38

## **Arson Attack on a Double-Decker Bus in Dhaka in Front of the Sheraton Hotel, Killing 9 Passengers, Including a 2-Year-Old Girl**

Date: 4 June 2004

On 4 June 2004, a shocking incident occurred where a bus was set on fire in front of Hotel Sheraton (now Rupasi Bangla). Tragically, this incident resulted in the loss of 9 lives.<sup>145</sup> Later, a case was filed involving the then-Jubo League leaders Jahangir Kabir Nanak, who later became a minister, Mirza Azam, who went on to serve as a whip in parliament and several others. However, after the Awami League came to power in 2009, the case was dropped by acquitting them in 2013 presumably under political influence.<sup>146</sup> It is well documented that the current BAL regime has led to significant political interference, undermining the independence of the judiciary in Bangladesh. This issue was highlighted in the 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices by the US Department of State.<sup>147</sup>

## **2.2. Torture**

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### Case – 39

## **Merciless Whole Night Torture of 3 Innocent Students by BCL Activists in Chittagong University**

Date: 8 February 2023

A section of BCL men beat up and severely tortured Sakib, 22, and Zahid Hossain alias Wakil, 22, both students in the fourth year of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), from 8 February night to the following evening on the allegation that the duo were associated with rival Islami Chhatra Shibir. Sakib had to be admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with severe injuries. Two more students—Abu Raiyat, 21, and Mobasshir Hossain, 22—were also beaten up at the same time.<sup>148</sup>

### Case - 40

## **College Student Tortured by Stripping in BCL Torture Cell**

Date: 24 April 2022

Tanmoy, a teenage college student, was abducted in Satkhira on Sunday, 24 April 2022 and kept in the BCL torture cell for five hours and was severely beaten and tortured. Later, his naked video was recorded with the head shaved.

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<sup>145</sup> The Daily Star, 5 June 2004: <https://archive.thedailystar.net/2004/06/05/d4060501022.htm>

<sup>146</sup> Bangla News 24, 10 January 2013: <https://www.banglanews24.com/cat/news/bd/164818.details>

<sup>147</sup> 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, US Department of State: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh/>

<sup>148</sup> Prothom Alo English, 11 February 2023: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/aoib1cut75>

According to the tortured college student, Shoaib Aziz Tanmoy, Nahid Hasan Utsho was an acquaintance of his. Nahid called him and took him out of his home. Then Nahid, Akib and some others took him to a room on the west side of the college and tortured him for five hours. According to the report, they were all leaders and activists of the ruling party-affiliated student wing BCL.<sup>149</sup>

#### **Case - 41**

### **Dhaka Medical College Student Severely Tortured by BCL Leaders**

Date: 14 January 2021

ASM Ali Imam Sheetal, a medical graduate who was interning as a doctor at Dhaka Medical College (DMC), the most prestigious medical college of Bangladesh, endured torture within a student dorm (Fazle Rabbi Hall) of the DMC on 14 January 2021. During the assault, he was struck on the head by his assailants, causing him to vomit. Reports indicate that Sheetal was led to the vicinity of Fazle Rabbi Hall's canteen by Shahriar Khan, the General Secretary of the DMC Inter Doctors' Association, with a group of waiting students present. Subsequently, a physical attack ensued.

Then, under the direction of Al-Amin, the President of the DMC branch of BCL, Sheetal was then taken to the student dorm's TV room. There, he faced brutal beatings at the hands of Shahriar Khan, Faisal Ifti, and others led by Zakiul Islam, the General Secretary of the BCL. The cries of agony prompted his batchmates to attempt a rescue, yet their efforts were thwarted by Al-Amin's resistance. He remained posted outside the door, wielding a rod.

In the course of the assault, Sheetal suffered a head injury that led to vomiting. Consequently, he was swiftly ejected from the TV room.<sup>150</sup>

#### **Case - 42**

### **Brutal Torture of Dhaka University Student Ehsan Rafique**

Date: 6 February 2018

On 6 February 2018, Ehsan Rafiq, a student at Dhaka University (DU), fell victim to a brutal assault at the hands of BCL members. As a consequence of the attack, his right eye sustained severe damage. Following the occurrence, Ehsan's father expressed that his son could not see anything with his right eye.

Ehsan Rafiq's plight began when he lent a calculator to a BCL leader in his student dorm. Over the course of several months, the calculator was not returned, leading to a confrontation

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<sup>149</sup> Manobzamin, 28 April 2022: <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=953>

<sup>150</sup> Daily Jugantor, 6 February 2021 <https://t.ly/xJMiI>, New Age. 8 February 2021 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/129526/articlelist/323/article/article/index.php>



concerning the matter. This dispute culminated in Ehsan being confined to a dorm room where he endured ruthless torture.<sup>151</sup>

#### **Case - 43**

### **Teen Hung from a Tree and Tortured by Jubo League Leader**

Date: 5 July 2015

Shamim Ahmed, aged 16 and the son of Shahid Mia from Mallikbarhi village in the Mymensingh district, underwent a harrowing incident on 5 July 2015. He was subjected to physical assault after being suspended from a tree. His tormentors abandoned him in an unconscious state right in front of his residence. Following the incident, Ahmed filed a case against nine individuals, including Mostafa Bhuiyan, the President of the Ward 5 unit of Mallikbarhi Union's Jubo League, the youth wing of the ruling BAL.<sup>152</sup>

#### **Case - 44**

### **BCL Activists Led by Alam Tortured Government Officials in Broad Daylight**

Date: 16 September 1995

In September 1995, during a countrywide strike, BCL cadres led by Alam stripped several of the government officers almost nude in broad daylight.<sup>153</sup>

## **2.3. Attack, Clash, Vandalism, Looting and Extortion**

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#### **Case - 45**

### **BCL Leaders Take Control of Examination Hall**

Date: 8 February 2023

On 8 February 2023, a group of students, including BCL leader and General Secretary (GS) of the Student Union of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute, Shahadat Hossain, confronted a teacher named Prakash Sikder. The confrontation stemmed from the teacher's efforts to prevent these students from engaging in unauthorized copying during an exam at the institute.

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<sup>151</sup> Daily Star, 18 February 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/ehsan-rafiq-dhaka-university-DU-student-beaten-by-bangladesh-chhatra-league-leader-sufferings-continue-1536247>; BBC News Bangla, 8 October 2019: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-49969379>

<sup>152</sup> Banglanews24, 8 August 2015: <https://www.banglanews24.com/fullnews/news/bd/415562.details>; bdnews24.com, 5 August 2015: <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/juba-league-leader-accused-of-torturing-teen-by-hanging-him-from-tree>

<sup>153</sup> Reuters, 16 September 1995: <https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/264089>

According to reports, three students were denied the opportunity to engage in unauthorized copying during an exam. Consequently, they swiftly submitted their answer scripts within an hour and departed. Later, they returned with the GS Shahdat, seeking to retrieve their answer sheets and insisting on a reexamination. During this encounter, Shahdat was accompanied by Abu Kaushar, Organizational Secretary of the Institute Branch BCL, and activist Sadman Shakib. Under the pressure of their unjust and inappropriate demands, the exam controller, Shahidul Islam, was coerced into returning the exam answer scripts to the three students.

At Chittagong Polytechnic Institute, a common trend has been reported. Examinations often lead to chaos and disruption caused by BCL. Various complaints have surfaced against the BCL, including frequent entry into examination rooms and distribution of materials for unfair practices among candidates. Teachers also fear their influence. If teachers raise objections, they face the BCL's anger and backlash.<sup>154</sup>

#### **Case - 46**

### **Clash between Two Factions of Ruling BAL in Jhenaidah Leads To Vandalism and Looting**

Date: 4 February 2023

In the Surapara village of Jhenaidah Sadar, the two feuding factions of the ruling BAL fought over gaining dominance over each other. During this time, several houses were vandalized and looted. The incident took place on Saturday, 4 February 2023. According to the police and local sources, there was a dispute between the supporters of Porahati Union BAL leader Monirul Islam and Alam Hossain over dominance in the area. At least six houses were vandalized and looted by activists and supporters of both sides in this connection.<sup>155</sup>

#### **Case - 47**

### **BCL Activists Attack Rival Chhatra Adhikar Parishad Activist**

Date: 2 February 2023

According to Bangladesh Chhatra Adhikar Parishad, a group of activists of BCL attacked their regular Qawwali (a kind of song) programme at the Teacher-Student Center (TSC) of Dhaka University on 2 February 2023.

Asif Mahmud, former vice president of DU Chhatra Adhikar Parishad, said that the BCL activists beat a member of their group when he arrived at the TSC to join about a dozen of them who gathered there to sing Qawwali songs.<sup>156</sup>

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<sup>154</sup> Prothom Alo, 14 February 2023: <https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/5yz6ke4yvu>

<sup>155</sup> Bangladesh Protidin, 6 February 2023: <https://www.bd-pratidin.com/first-page/2023/02/06/855803>

<sup>156</sup> The Daily Observer, Thursday, 2 February 2023: <https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=405346>

#### **Case - 48**

### **Ruling BAL Leaders Victim of Attack by BCL Leaders**

Date: 22 January 2023

Leaders of ruling party BAL in Pakundia of Kishoreganj district were attacked by the BAL affiliated student wing BCL's leaders and activists in Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj District. Upazila BAL joint convener VP Farid Uddin (48) was injured in the incident and had to undergo treatment at Kishoreganj General Hospital.<sup>157</sup>

#### **Case - 49**

### **Freedom Fighter's House Attacked by Ruling BAL Leader**

Date: 20 January 2023

A local BAL leader Mizanur Rahman (42) was arrested by the police in a case filed against him concerning an attack on the freedom fighter's home in Sarishabari of Jamalpur district. The attack took place on Friday, 20 January 2023, around 10 pm at the house of Mashreku Alam Lichu, the son of the deceased freedom fighter, in the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory area of Tarakandi in the Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur district.<sup>158</sup>

#### **Case - 50**

### **BCL Leader Accused of Murder Snatched Away from the Custody of RAB**

Date: 20 December 2022

BCL leader Abdur Rauf of Bogra Govt Azizul Haque College was snatched away by the leaders and activists of the District BCL from the hands of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) of police in broad daylight. Rauf was the prime accused in a murder case.

The incident occurred on 20 December 2022 at around 5 pm in the Satmatha area of Bogura City. Eyewitnesses said that when a team of Bogura RAB went to Satmatha and wanted to arrest Abdur Rauf, he was snatched away by a group of BCL leaders from around the district office of the district ruling BAL. Several members of the police were present at the scene.

After Abdur Rauf was snatched away, the activists started chanting 'Joy Bangla' slogan. This scene was caught on video camera by Bogura journalists. Abdur Rauf was the General Secretary of the BCL of Government Azizul Haque College Branch in Bogura. In March 2021, in a clash between two feuding groups of Bogra BCL, the then Joint General Secretary of District BCL, Takdir Islam, was seriously injured by sharp weapons and died while undergoing treatment in the hospital.<sup>159</sup>

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<sup>157</sup> Dainik Bangla, 23 January 2023: <https://www.dainikbangla.com.bd/wholebd/11083>

<sup>158</sup> RTV News, 22 January 2023: <https://bit.ly/311g8wb>

<sup>159</sup> DW.com, 21 December 2022: <https://bit.ly/40ZtEt5>

## Case - 51

### **US Ambassador Peter Haas Surrounded and Attempted Attack by BAL Activists**

Date: 14 December 2022

On 14 December 2022, Peter D. Haas, the United States Ambassador to Bangladesh, swiftly concluded his meeting with families of enforced disappearance victims at Shaheen Bagh in the capital city. This abrupt conclusion was prompted by security concerns arising from the presence of some supporters of the ruling party who had gathered around the meeting location. At approximately 9:00 am, the ambassador visited the residence of Hazera Khatun, co-founder of Mayer Daak, an organization advocating for the families of enforced disappearance victims. During this visit, he engaged in a 35-minute discussion with the families of 24 disappeared individuals. Subsequently, he left the premises promptly due to requests from his security unit.

As the ambassador exited the house, he was intercepted by individuals who proceeded to toss papers into his official vehicle. Various shopkeepers in the Shaheenbagh vicinity recounted witnessing a group, purportedly comprised of leaders from the ruling party, including Abdullah Al Manjur, vice-president of the BAL's Tejgaon Thana unit. These individuals were allegedly involved in facilitating the interruption of the ambassador's vehicle. This marked the second such incident in Bangladesh involving a US ambassador.<sup>160</sup>

## Case - 52

### **BAL Activists' Attack on BNP office in Netrokona**

Date: 4 December 2022

In Netrokona, the District BNP office faced an attack and vandalism on 4 December 2022, in the city's Chota Bazar area. Plastic chairs and tables within the office were damaged, as reported by BNP leaders, who have implicated leaders and supporters of the ruling party BAL in this incident.

Sources from the district's BNP relay that a torchlight procession occurred that Sunday around 8:30 pm in Netrokona city. The procession's objective was to advocate for the unconditional release of Sultan Salah Uddin, president of Jubo Dal's central committee, and other apprehended leaders and activists. The procession's culmination occurred at the BNP office in Chota Bazar. After this procession, BAL members and affiliated groups staged a counter-procession in the same area. A segment of this counter assembly proceeded to enter the BNP office premises, vandalizing chairs and tables in the main opposition BNP office.<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> NewAge Bangladesh, 14 December 2022: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/189061/us-ambassador-to-bangladesh-raises-security-concerns>

<sup>161</sup> Prothom Alo, 05 December 2022: <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/mpw7jw9u5>

### Case - 53

#### **BAL Leader's Attack on Government Officer**

Date: 1 November 2022

An incident of assault unfolded in Vedarganj of Shariatpur district, involving a BAL leader who attacked the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) along with four individuals, including the Assistant Commissioner (Land). Reza Shah Alam, Assistant Land Officer of Rambhadrapur Union in Vedarganj Upazila, lodged a formal complaint regarding this incident.

According to the police and case details, on 1 November 2022, Reza Shah Alam, Assistant Land Officer of Rambhadrapur Union, visited houses constructed for the homeless and land-deprived individuals as part of the Prime Minister's Asroyon-2 project. The housing units were on government land within Ward No. 6 of Rambhadrapur Union in Vedarganj Upazila. At that time, a group of 4 to 5 individuals, including Mir Golam Mostafa, members of the Vedarganj Upazila BAL and the former General Secretary of Rambhadrapur Union BAL, and Jinna Mir Malat, endeavoured to construct a bamboo enclosure on the land for occupation. When Reza Shah Alam, the Union Assistant Land Officer, intervened to prevent this action, he was subjected to verbal and physical assault. Furthermore, when Abdul Hai, a local freedom fighter, interceded to discourage the attackers, he too became a target of physical violence, accompanied by derogatory references such as 'Rajakar'.

Upon receiving news of the situation, Vedarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdullah Al Mamun and Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Imamul Hafiz Nadeem promptly arrived at the scene. In a troubling turn of events, Mir Golam Mostafa and his associates also assailed these officials. The intervention of local residents was essential in rescuing the injured victims of the attack, who were then transported to Vedarganj Upazila Health Complex for medical treatment.<sup>162</sup>

### Case - 54

#### **BAL Leader's Extortion**

Date: 30 September 2022

A demonstration unfolded on 30 September 2022, as the fishing community and residents expressed their strong disapproval against BAL leader Shafiur Rahman Shafi and his associates, accusing them of extortion. This protest transpired along Demra Road within Charachithulia village, in the Shahjadpur upazila of Sirajganj district.

Several protestors, including Salim Mandal and Afzal Mandal, vocalized their grievances during the demonstration. They asserted that Shafiur Rahman Shafi's affiliates had been coercing monetary contributions from fishermen who ventured out to fish in the river. The fishing community, alongside the general populace of the area, had become weary of these

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<sup>162</sup> Daily Inqilab, 2 November 2022: <https://t.ly/zfUmA>, Bdnews24, 2 November 2022: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/cb9gzx5qyv>

actions and their associated hardships. Thus, they sought the intervention of the local administration to curb these instances of extortion.<sup>163</sup>

#### **Case - 55**

### **BCL Attacked Rival Chhatra Dal Leaders**

Date: 27 September 2022

BCL activists launched an attack on leaders of rival Chhatra Dal, the student wing of main opposition BNP, within the premises of Dhaka University. On 27 September 2022, a clash ensued between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) members and activists of BCL on the Dhaka University campus, resulting in injuries sustained by at least seven JCD activists.

According to witnesses, the conflict arose as BCL activists assaulted JCD members attempting to enter the campus through the "Gonotontro O Mukti Toron" gate at Nilkhet. The intended purpose of their visit was to submit a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor concerning a range of issues faced by the university and various dormitories.<sup>164</sup>

#### **Case - 56**

### **BAL Attack on BNP Procession Injuring 30**

Date: 26 August 2022

A combined assault involving the police, the ruling BAL, its affiliated Jubo League, and BCL injured around 30 individuals during a protest organized by the main opposition party BNP in Munshiganj's Srinagar and Ghazaria upazilas.

The incident occurred on 26 August 2022, at around 10 am, on the Srinagar-Dohar bypass road within the upazila and in the Sonali Market area of Ghazaria. As reported by the BNP, BCL members initiated the attack on their procession without provocation, inflicting physical harm upon and injuring a minimum of 20 activists.<sup>165</sup>

#### **Case - 57**

### **BAL Workers Attacked Police Investigation Center Injuring 6 Policemen**

Date: 7 January 2022

A group associated with Upazila BAL's organizing secretary, Rafiqul Islam Rafiq, attacked the police investigation centre in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur district, leading to a clash with law enforcement personnel. This incident unfolded on 7 January 2022, in the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory area in Tarakandi.

Eyewitness accounts reveal that the events leading up to this confrontation began with lodging a General Diary against BAL leader, local Member of Parliament, and former State Minister

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<sup>163</sup> Kaler Kantho, 1 October 2022: <https://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/news/2022/10/01/1188839>

<sup>164</sup> The Financial Express, 27 September 2022: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/politics/chhatra-league-activists-attack-chhatra-dal-leaders-at-dhaka-university-1664282072>

<sup>165</sup> Ekattor TV, 26 August 2022: [https://ekattor.tv/news/article?article\\_id=29878](https://ekattor.tv/news/article?article_id=29878)

Murad Hasan at Dhanmondi police station. Subsequently, on 6 January 2022, individuals affiliated with Upazila BAL's organizing secretary, Rafiqul Islam Rafiq, ignited firecrackers in the Tarakandi region. They brandished traditional weaponry near the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory area the following day. When the police tried to prevent it, they started the clash.

In connection with these events, two individuals were apprehended by the police.<sup>166</sup>

### **Case - 58**

#### **Fierce Clash between Two Factions of BCL**

Date: 30 October 2021

On 30 October 2021, Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) was shut after two factions of BCL locked into a fierce clash. Mahadi J Akib, an adherent of Mohibul, was critically injured during that clash. Akib's skull was heavily crushed. A grim photo of injured Akib was gone viral on Facebook. In the photo, his whole head was wrapped in a white bandage inscribed with the writing "no bones, do not apply pressure". Two BCL activists named Raktim Dey, 21, and Enamul Hossain alias Shimanto, 21, were arrested in this connection. After the incident, student politics was banned from CMCH.<sup>167</sup>

### **Case - 59**

#### **BCL Attack on the House of a Government Officer**

Date: 18 August 2021

According to police, eyewitnesses and local admiration, hundreds of activists of the district unit of BCL attacked the government house of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) twice in Sadar upazila of Barisal district on 18 August 2021. Several Ansar members, employed to guard the UNO's house, were injured in the incident. The situation became so bad that ten platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members had to be deployed, led by ten executive magistrates, to keep the situation under control. Police arrested around 13 BAL and BCL activists in connection with the attack.<sup>168</sup>

### **Case - 60**

#### **BAL Leader Vandalizes Sheikh Mujib's Photo to Put Blame on Others**

Date: 12 August 2021

Three individuals, among them BAL leader Shihab Uddin Milon, allegedly vandalised images depicting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Natore. The purported

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<sup>166</sup> Bangla News 24, 7 January 2022: <https://www.banglanews24.com/politics/news/bd/904239.details>

<sup>167</sup> The Business Standard, 31 October 2021: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/politics/youth-hurt-bcl-infighting-battles-life-323431>

RisingBd.com, 31 October 2021: <https://www.risingbd.com/english/country/news/83301>

The daily Star Bangla, 31 October 2021: <https://bit.ly/3YQDRpD>

<sup>168</sup> NewAge Bangladesh, 19 August 2021 <https://www.newagebd.net/article/146815/12-al-activists-held-for-uno-house-attack>

NTV online Bangladesh, 19 August 2021: <https://bit.ly/3E8xAxz>

intention behind their action was to implicate others in the act. However, subsequent police investigation revealed the truth behind the incident. As a result, the police conducted a nighttime raid, leading to the arrest of the three individuals involved.<sup>169</sup>

### **Case - 61**

#### **BAL Leader Attacked Police**

Date: 27 March 2020

Dulal Mia recognized as a BAL leader and the proprietor of a brickyard known as "Radar Dulal," attacked the police while they were attempting to prevent him from engaging in the illegal extraction of soil from government canals and agricultural lands in Bahubal of Habiganj district. This attack led to injuries sustained by five police officers. The event occurred on 27 March 2020 in Govindpur village within the Mirpur union of Bahubal Upazila. Consequently, the police arrested five individuals, including Dulal Mia, concerning the incident.<sup>170</sup>

### **Case - 62**

#### **Jubo League Vandalized BAL Meeting**

Date: 10 January 2020

On 10 January 2020, a faction of Jubo League members launched an attack and caused damage to a discussion gathering hosted by Faridganj Upazila BAL in the Chandpur district. This incident resulted in injuries sustained by multiple individuals, including leaders from the BAL, police personnel and journalists. Furthermore, two privately owned vehicles were subjected to vandalism during these events.<sup>171</sup>

### **Case - 63**

#### **BCL Attack on Nurul Haque Noor, Elected Top Student Leader of Dhaka University Student Council**

Date: 22 December 2019

Dhaka University (DU) Central Student Union (DUCSU) Vice President Nurul Haque Noor was attacked severely. The leaders and activists of the BCL and Muktiyudda Manch attacked him in the DUCSU office. At least 19 people, including VP Noor, were injured in the attack. They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the help of the Proctortial Team. This incident occurred on 22 December 2019.

Witnesses said the attack was carried out on Nurul and some activists of Bangladesh General Students' Rights Protection Council (BGSRPC) when he was holding a meeting at his DUCSU office around 1:00 pm. The activists of BCL and a faction of Muktiyuddha Mancha reportedly hurled brick chips at Nurul's DUCSU office room when he and some of his associates were there around 12:30 pm. At one stage, BCL DU unit president Sanjit Chandra Das and general

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<sup>169</sup> Ekattor TV, 13 August 2021: [https://ekattor.tv/blog/article?article\\_id=7392](https://ekattor.tv/blog/article?article_id=7392)

<sup>170</sup> Bhorer Kagoj, 28 March 2020: <https://bit.ly/3XMIIdgR>

<sup>171</sup> The Daily Ittefaq, 10 January 2020: <https://bit.ly/3K9ubCx>



secretary Saddam Hossain along with their followers reached the front of the DUCSU office and asked them to come out but Nurul denied, leading to an altercation. When the two BCL leaders left the scene, their followers attacked Nurul and others.<sup>172</sup>

#### **Case - 64**

### **Vandalizing House and Expelling from It with a Lawsuit**

Date: 30 December 2018

In Sonargaon, Narayanganj district, a Union BAL leader vandalized and looted the houses of his adversaries after taking legal action against them. This event unfolded on 30 December 2018, in Lakshibardi village within the Noagaon union of the district. Led by Abdul Baten, the General Secretary of Noagaon Union BAL, a group of around 30-35 individuals reportedly used sticks to damage and ransack the home of Idris Ali.

A formal complaint was lodged against Abdul Baten, the mentioned General Secretary, for his involvement in the incident. The victims also voiced grievances against the local police for not pursuing the case when they attempted to file it at the Sonargaon police station.<sup>173</sup>

#### **Case - 65**

### **Attack on Barrister in Court**

Date: 4 November 2018

On 4 November 2018, Barrister Mainul Hosein was assaulted by a group of ruling party leaders and activists, including members of organizations like BCL and Swechchhasebok League. The attack occurred around 12:30 pm within the premises of a Rangpur court, as he was being escorted by the police. The attackers hurled objects like shoes, eggs, brooms, and bricks at him. This incident occurred while he was under police custody due to a defamation case. Notably, Barrister Mainul Hosein is a respected senior citizen, lawyer, and publisher of the daily newspaper "The New Nation."<sup>174</sup>

#### **Case - 66**

### **Armed BCL Men Attacked US Ambassador's Vehicle**

Date: 4 August 2018

On 4 August 2018, a disturbing incident occurred in the Mohammadpur area of Dhaka. A group of armed men, some of them on motorcycles, attacked an official vehicle from the US Embassy in Dhaka while it was transporting the ambassador. This incident was confirmed through a press release issued by the embassy. According to their report, the ambassador and her security

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<sup>172</sup> The Daily Nayadiganta, 23 December 2019: <https://bit.ly/3lx6CcF> ; Daily Prothom Alo, 22 December 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/DUCSU-VP-Nurul-comes-under-attack>

<sup>173</sup> Daily Nayadiganta, 14 January 2019: <https://bit.ly/3IrSGti>

<sup>174</sup> New Age, 6 November 2018: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/55180/articlelist/323/index.php> ; Financial Express, 5 November 2018: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/print/al-men-assault-mainul-at-rangpur-court-1541355488>

team departed the area unharmed. There were no injuries to the ambassador, her drivers and security staff. However, two security vehicles sustained some damage during the attack.<sup>175</sup>

Later at the end of February 2021, police submitted a charge sheet against nine people, including a BCL leader in the case filed for attacking the motorcade of the US ambassador. In the charge sheet, the police said that the attackers had launched the attack, suspecting a conspiracy afoot against the BAL government. This charge sheet reveals the motive of the attackers and their identity.<sup>176</sup>

### **Case - 67**

## **BCL Attacked School Students' Movement Demanding Safe Roads**

Date: 4 August 2018

A harrowing incident occurred in August 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as student protests for road safety turned into a violent clash with the ruling party's student wing members. Amid demands for justice after a fatal accident, the demonstrations escalated, leading to injuries among students, journalists, and activists. International organizations, including the US Embassy, European Union, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International, condemned the violence and called for accountability while urging an end to the crackdown on protesters.

Many people, including five photojournalists, were injured in BCL attacks in Dhaka's Dhanmondi and Science Lab areas during student protests demanding safe roads. It was a synchronized attack by police and BCL men on the students, mostly from universities, who took to the streets protesting the assaults on school children in the capital's Zigatola area on 4 August 2018.<sup>177</sup>

Students of schools and colleges in Dhaka had been staging demonstrations across the country demanding safe roads and justice for their two peers, Dia Khanam Mim and Abdul Karim Rajib, who were killed in a road accident at Dhaka's Airport Road on 29 July 2018. The students began their protest programs on 29 July and continued the demonstrations.

The protests soon spread across the country, also causing uproar in social media, while transport workers suspended bus services in all districts, fearing vandalism by the demonstrating students.

The students' protest took a horrifying turn as members of the ruling BAL's student wing attacked them at Zigatola in Dhaka's Dhanmondi, injuring hundreds of students.

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<sup>175</sup> New Age, 5 August 2018: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/47691/ambassador-bernicat-unharmed-us-embassy-in-bangladesh/articlelist/323/index.php>

<sup>176</sup> NewAge Bangladesh, 5 March 2021: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/131873/bcl-leader-8-others-in-charge-sheet-for-attack-on-us-envoys-motorcade>

<sup>177</sup> The Daily Star, 6 August 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/students-take-streets-science-lab-intersection-dhaka-safe-roads-demand-contal-traffic-for-8th-day-1616215>

It all began as police fired teargas shells when a several-thousand-strong procession of students that began at Shahbagh was about to take a U-turn at the Zigatola bus stand around 1:00 pm. For five long hours from 1:30 pm, Dhanmondi Road-3 became a battlefield on 4 August 2018.

On one side of it were thousands of school and college students. On the other hand, a small group of people allegedly belong to the BCL and other front organizations of the ruling BAL. Rumours of deaths and sexual harassment of some protesters were rife, which further angered the students who dislodged the bamboo sticks fringing the road divider, gathered stones and shouted slogans.

A group of alleged BCL men with sticks came running down the long road, throwing stones. From the middle of the alleged BCL men, a red-shirted young man was brandishing a pistol. He had a white helmet on his head. Moments later, gunshots rang out loud. The fleeing students were caught and beaten up by alleged BCL activists armed with sticks and sharp weapons and wearing helmets. Anyone found taking video on mobile phones was assaulted.

The chase and counter-chase continued, with the alleged ruling party men beating up people on suspicion till 6:00 pm.

At least 150 people - students, pedestrians, journalists and ruling party activists - were wounded. About 20, mostly students, sustained severe injuries, including in their heads, according to witnesses. No law enforcers were seen for around an hour when chase and counter-chase were going on constantly. The “ruling party men” beat up several students, finding them out from the alleys where they took cover.

The US Embassy in Dhaka condemned the attacks on the students protesting across the country, demanding safe roads and justice for the death of their two peers in a road accident at the capital’s Airport Road.

The US Embassy came up with a statement in this regard published on its official Facebook page on 5 August 2018 afternoon.<sup>178</sup>

“The peaceful demonstrations of the past week in favor of better vehicle and road safety, led by students and school children across Bangladesh, have united and captured the imagination of the whole country,” the statement read.

“While we do not condone the actions of a few who have engaged in senseless property destruction, including of buses and other vehicles, nothing can justify the brutal attacks and violence over the weekend against the thousands of young people who have been peacefully exercising their democratic rights in supporting a safer Bangladesh” it added.

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<sup>178</sup> The Daily Star, 5 August 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/politics/us-embassy-condemns-attacks-on-safe-road-demand-student-protesters-1616263>

The European Union has called for an immediate end to “disproportionate violence” against peaceful student protesters and journalists. It also demanded an investigation to hold the perpetrators accountable.

"Incidents of unlawful or disproportionate violence or action against protesters, journalists or others need to stop; those that happened must be investigated, and perpetrators must be held accountable," EU heads of mission in Dhaka said on 7 August 2018. "The government's recognition of the need for action is a welcome step, and we, therefore, expect further government action to address this without delay," read the statement signed by the envoys of the EU, the UK, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.<sup>179</sup>

The Human Rights Watch said, “Instead of prosecuting those responsible for unlawfully attacking student protesters demanding road safety, Bangladesh authorities are arresting students and targeting activists and journalists who are highlighting the abuses.”<sup>180</sup> Eyewitnesses and journalists also reported that in some areas, police stood by while children were beaten up by BAL supporters, some of whom wore helmets to hide their identity. Some perpetrators were identified when the attacks were caught on camera, it said.

Amnesty International called for Bangladesh to “end the crackdown on the student protesters and people speaking out against it”.<sup>181</sup>

## Case - 68

### Seven Activists of Quota Reform Movement Injured in BCL Attack

Date: 30 June 2018

A group of BCL leaders and activists made an attack on quota reformists in front of Dhaka University (DU) Central Library Building around 10:45am on 30 June 2018, injuring seven members of the quota reform movement (a movement to demand discriminatory quotas in government jobs). Among the injured joint convener of the movement Nurul Haque Nur, its activists Saddam Hossain, Ataulah and Hasan Al Mamun were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The attack occurred when the quota reform leaders, including joint conveners Faruk Hasan and Nurul Haque Nur, were preparing to hold the prescheduled press conference in front of the DU Central Library. At that time, a group of 200-250 BCL men beat up the quota reform leaders, injuring several of them. Apart from that, other members of the quota reform movement came under attack at different spots on the DU campus.<sup>182</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> The daily Star, 8 August 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/eu-voices-concern-over-violent-protests-1617133>

<sup>180</sup> Ibid

<sup>181</sup> Ibid

<sup>182</sup> The Daily Star, 30 June 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bangladesh-chhatra-league-attack-quota-reform-movement-leaders-dhaka-university-1597675>

### Case - 69

#### **BCL Attacked and Snatched the Accused in the Drug Case in Bogra**

Date: 9 June 2018

On 9 June 2018, Rajib Uddin was apprehended by the police concerning a drug-related case from the Sadarpara region of Dhunot in the Bogra district. Subsequently, upon learning about Rajib Uddin's arrest, his younger brother, a BCL leader named Rabbi, and another Shechwashebak League leader named Russell attacked the police station. They used batons to attack the police officers and seized Rajib from their custody. This act resulted in significant injuries to two police officers, ASI Shahjahan Ali and ASI Shahanur Rahman of the Dhunot police station, who were present at the scene during the incident.<sup>183</sup>

### Case - 70

#### **Student Shot during BCL Infighting at Shahjalal University**

Date: 20 March 2018

On 20 March 2018, a group of BCL men, led by Akando, Syed Jewel and Sajidul Islam Sabuj, swooped on Tariqul Islam, another BCL leader, while he was gossiping at Satkara Restaurant near the main entrance of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet around 10 pm. At one stage of scuffle, Tariqul opened fire, leaving Rony, who was at the restaurant, injured. Rony, who sustained bullet injuries to his leg, was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.<sup>184</sup>

### Case - 71

#### **The Pro-Awami Headmaster Conspired by Setting the School on Fire**

Date: 7 January 2014

Abdul Mannan, a head teacher of Bogra a local BAL activist, was caught by locals after setting fire to his own school. According to some reports, he did it in order to blame BNP-Jamaat. After the incident, when the angry people started beating him, the police led by the OC of Shahjahanpur police station and the joint forces led by Major Sufi Kamruddin brought the protest under control. Later, the school teacher was arrested by the police in response to the demands of the residents. After this incident, Shajahanpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdur Rahman visited the scene. Locals said that Abdul Mannan, the headmaster of Sujabad Government Primary School of Shajahanpur Upazila, came to the school in the morning on the day of the incident. Other teachers were not present in the school at that time due to the opposition party strike. At that time, Abdul Mannan, with the help of school staff Babul Hossain, set fire to the school furniture and started shouting.<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>183</sup> Manobzamin, 11 June 2018: <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=121233&cat=9>

<sup>184</sup> The Independent, 21 March 2018: <https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/142409>

<sup>185</sup> Ajker Khabor, 7 January 2014: <https://bit.ly/3IEVp9P>; Prothom Alo, 9 January 2014: <https://shorturl.at/bpzU9>

### Case - 72

## **The BAL Leaders Stopped the Construction of a Dam Due to Non-payment of Extortion**

Date: 15 June 2013

BAL and Jubo League activists brought the construction of a dam in the Pangatari area of Lalmonirhat district to a halt due to non-payment of illicit extortion. Concurrently, they subjected engineers and contractors from the Water Development Board to insults. In response, Commerce Minister GM Quader visited the site and instructed the engineers and contractors to resume work. The Minister of Commerce's directive resumed work on the dam. However, the area's leaders and members of the ruling party BAL, and its affiliated Jubo League, and BCL once again obstructed the progress, demanding unlawful funds.<sup>186</sup>

### Case - 73

## **Vandalism of Shaheed Minar in Sherpur by Jubo League**

Date: 7 March 2013

Tipu, the joint convenor of Sherpur city's Jubo League, who was apprehended by the police for his involvement in damaging the Shaheed Minar in Sherpur, Bogra, was released on bail from the police station approximately five and a half hours after his arrest. According to reports, Tabibar Rahman Tipu, the joint convenor of Sherpur City's Jubo League, was confronted and detained by individuals named Abdul Halim, Samiul Islam, and Sihab Uddin while he was in the process of vandalizing the newly constructed Shaheed Minar of Sherpur Shahidiya Aliya Madrasa. Subsequently, Tipu was handed over to the Sherpur police station. His subsequent release was attributed to his claimed mental instability. Nevertheless, it appears that this incident might have been an orchestrated act of sabotage intended to incriminate a political rival of the BAL.<sup>187</sup>

### Case - 74

## **BCL Men Set Fire to the Dormitory Building of MC College Sylhet**

Date: 8 July 2012

On the evening of 8 July 2012, a violent clash between Chhatra Shibir and BCL at MC College Sylhet resulted in the hostel being set on fire, leading to the destruction of forty-two rooms. The blaze prompted widespread criticism from various quarters, both within the country and abroad. Five years after the incident, the Judicial Investigation Committee successfully identified 29 individuals as perpetrators behind the arson attack on the MC College Sylhet hostel. Among them, a majority hold affiliations with the BCL as leaders and members. The

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<sup>186</sup> Manobzamin, 16 June 2013: <https://mzamin.com/details-archive2012.php?mzamin=58712&cat=20>

<sup>187</sup> Manobzamin, 7 March 2013: <https://mzamin.com/details-archive2012.php?mzamin=45428&cat=27>

remaining individuals also possess connections to the ruling party's political realm. The court issued arrest warrants against all those implicated in the incident.<sup>188</sup>

#### **Case - 75**

### **Attack in the Port of Chittagong**

Date: 28 February 1996

The port city of Chittagong, whose powerful mayor is an influential BAL leader, suffered widespread destruction at the hands of protesters of BAL; on 28 February 1996, marauding crowds rampaged through the city, ransacking offices, gutting buildings and damaging vehicles in protest at the mayor's arrest earlier that day (February 28).<sup>189</sup>

#### **Case - 76**

### **BCL Attacked Matiur Rahman Nizami in Dhaka**

Date: 27 May 1991

On 27 May 1991, students of Dhaka University beat up Matiur Rahman Nizami after the then Jamaat secretary general went to the campus. Without any explicit reason, the students let loose their political wrath towards Nizami, bleeding him severely through punching and slapping.<sup>190</sup>

## **2.4 Involvement in Casino and Illegal Trade**

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#### **Case - 77**

### **Jubo Mohila League Leader Involved in Various Illegal Activities**

Date: 23 February 2020

A team from RAB-1 has apprehended four individuals, including Shamima Noor Papia, the General Secretary of Narsingdi District Jubo Mohila League. They were alleged to have engaged in various illicit activities such as illegal weapons possession, drug trafficking, and extortion, all under the guise of social service and involvement in the car business.

Subsequently, a search of their possessions revealed seven passports, 2,12,270 Bangladeshi taka, 25,600 counterfeit taka, 310 Indian rupees, 420 Sri Lankan currency, 11,091 US dollars, and seven mobile phones.

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<sup>188</sup> Prothom Alo, 18 November 2017: <https://bit.ly/3I5KNbX>

<sup>189</sup> Human Rights Watch Report, BANGLADESH POLITICAL VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES, June 1996, Vol. 8, No. 6(c): <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1996/BANGLA.htm>

<sup>190</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 29 October 2014: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/uncategorized/2014/10/29/nizamis-humiliation-at-dhaka-university>

It was revealed that Shamima Noor Papia had established an extortion group in Narsingdi. Facilitated by her husband's direct support, she accumulated significant wealth through unlawful activities involving arms, drug trade, and extortion. This wealth includes luxury residences, cars, apartments, and plots across Narsingdi and Dhaka.<sup>191</sup>

## Case - 78

### Jubo League Leader and Casino Kingpin Ismail Hossain Samrat's Illicit Activities

Date: 6 October 2019

Corruption within the BAL is always a matter of concern. However, during September 2019, the focus was on a significant crackdown on casinos, bars, and spas, which predominantly implicated members affiliated with the BAL. A series of raids in 2019 led to the arrest of over 250 individuals, including at least 11 leaders from various organizations associated with the ruling BAL.<sup>192</sup>

Notably, during this period, attention was drawn to Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, the President of Jubo League's Dhaka South unit and one of the Casino kingpins. There were various allegations against Samrat, including tender manipulation and extortion, but he had managed to evade authorities. At one point, he took refuge in his office at Kakrail, where numerous BAL youth guarded him.<sup>193</sup>

Subsequently, on 6 October 2019, RAB apprehended Samrat in Chaudagram, Comilla. He was swiftly brought to Dhaka, where a simultaneous search was conducted at his personal office and two residences. During the search, illegal weapons and drugs were seized.<sup>194</sup> At his Kakrail office, RAB discovered two electric torture devices, a pistol with five bullets, two kangaroo hides, 1,160 Yaba tablets (a harmful, illegal drug), and 19 bottles of foreign liquor.<sup>195</sup>

Critics have highlighted the government's failure to hold accountable BAL leaders directly linked to illegal activities such as gambling, extortion, and land grabbing. A 2023 report by Daily Star observed that certain BAL members implicated in the illegal casino business scandal were released on bail and reportedly re-engaged in political activities, highlighting the prevailing lack of accountability within the ruling party.<sup>196</sup>

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<sup>191</sup> Jugantor, 23 February 2020: <https://bit.ly/3jWnDg3>

<sup>192</sup> Daily Star, 25 February 2023: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/al-needs-hold-accountable-its-members-3256971>

<sup>193</sup> Prothom Alo, 17 October 2019: <https://shorturl.at/gjstY>

<sup>194</sup> BBC News Bangla, 6 October 2019: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-49954050>

<sup>195</sup> Daily Star, 7 October 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/2-cases-filed-against-casino-king-samrat-1810582>

<sup>196</sup> Daily Star, 25 February 2023: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/al-needs-hold-accountable-its-members-3256971>



## 2.5 Attack on Journalists

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### Case - 79

#### Attempt to Kill Journalist in Front of Police

Date: 11 February 2023

Shamim Khan, a local journalist serving as the Dhamrai upazila correspondent for the Bangla daily Jugantor, was attacked by supporters of a local BAL leader while he was covering the BNP's union-level march programme in Dhamrai of Dhaka today. He had to take treatment at Saturia Upazila Health Complex in Manikganj. The victim's family claimed that the journalist was hacked and beaten by the followers of Gangutia Union Parishad Chairman Quader Mollah, also president of the union unit BAL, at Hatkora village around noon on 11 February 2023. According to the victim's son, Imran Ahmed, his father went to Hatkora village to cover BNP's march program. The followers of UP chairman Quader Molla tried to disrupt the BNP's program and also suddenly attacked his father.<sup>197</sup>

### Case - 80

#### Jubo League Leader Attacked Two Journalists for Reporting on Hero Alam

Date: 1 February 2023

Jubo League leader Shariful Islam Shipul attacked two journalists for making a report on Hero Alam, a social media performer turned politician. The incident took place in Bogra district. The two victims of the Jubo League leader's attack were JM Rauf, general secretary of Bogra Journalists' Union and district representative of Kaler Kantha, and Jahurul Islam, senior journalist of local newspaper Dainik Bogra.<sup>198</sup>

### Case - 81

#### Attack on Journalist in Savar Town: BAL Leader Arrested

Date: 15 January 2023

Ashraf Seizel, a correspondent for Ekattor TV stationed in Savar, lodged a formal written complaint with the Savar Model police station. The complaint targets four identified individuals, along with ten unspecified ones. These individuals were linked to an assault and an endeavour to abduct him over publishing a news article.

According to the complaint, the Aminbazar Union Parishad office building was marked as a dangerous establishment. When the local administration allocated a khas land nearby to move the building's works to a safer place, the chairman took no steps. Instead, he let businesses and other establishments take over the land. The journalist, Ashraf, filed a report on the matter on

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<sup>197</sup> Daily Star, 11 February 2023 : <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/journo-attacked-al-men-dhamrai-3245166>

<sup>198</sup> The Business Standard, 02 February 2023: <https://bit.ly/3xnz2bL>

Ekattor TV. The complaint added that some eight to 10 people attacked Ashraful, including Manjurul and Rakib.

On 16 January 2023, police detained a man for involvement in the incident. The detainee was Mohsin Babu, a Savar Municipal Unit BAL member.<sup>199</sup>

### **Case - 82**

#### **Attack on Journalist in Savar: Swechasebak League Leader Pavel Arrested**

Date: 14 August 2022

On 14 August 2022, a local journalist in Dhaka's Savar encountered an attack that resulted in injuries. The incident unfolded within the premises of Savar Upazila Parishad. Sohel Rana, who serves as the Savar correspondent for Daily Tritiya Matra, sustained injuries and underwent medical treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar. As per Savar Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Sayemul Huda, the journalist incurred injuries to his head, neck, and various other parts of his body. The severity of his head injuries led to vomiting, prompting medical professionals to refer him to Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital for more comprehensive treatment.<sup>200</sup>

The police arrested the organizing secretary of the Municipal Swechasebak (volunteer) League, an affiliate of Awami League, Mohammad Pavel Ahmed, for his involvement in the attack on Sohel Rana.<sup>201</sup>

### **Case - 83**

#### **Attack on 3 Journalists in Lalmonirhat Led by BAL Leader and His Sons**

Date: 12 August 2022

On 12 August 2022, at approximately 6:30 pm in the Sakorpar area of Panchagram Union in Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila, three journalists faced an assault and a camera was vandalized. The attack was led by a local BAL leader and his sons. The journalists were engaged in gathering information for news coverage at the time of the incident. The journalists who suffered injuries during the attack were Abdur Rob Suzon, the local correspondent for the Daily Prothom Alo; Anisur Rahman, a correspondent for Jamuna Television; and Mahfuzul Islam Bokul, a correspondent for Ekhon Television. Following the attack, local residents came to their aid and promptly took them to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital for medical treatment. According to Injured Journalist Anisur Rahman, Azizar Mandal, president of Panchagram

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<sup>199</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 16 January 2023 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/302846/one-detained-over-alleged-attack-on-savar-journo>

<sup>200</sup> The Daily Star, 14 August 2022 <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/journalist-attacked-savar-3095081>

<sup>201</sup> The Daily Star Bangla, 18 August 2022: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-383496>

Union BAL and his three sons Sultan Mandal, Sahed Mandal and Shahjahan Mondal and their men carried out the attack on them.<sup>202</sup>

#### **Case - 84**

### **Attack on Journalist at BAL Press Conference in the United States**

Date: 22 September 2021

During a press conference organized by the BAL in the United States, a journalist became the target of an attack. This incident unfolded during the question and answer segment of the press conference, which took place at the Queen's Palace in Woodside, New York, on the afternoon of 22 September 2021. The press conference was convened to give journalists an overview of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's participation in the UN session and her ongoing activities. Amid the question and answer session, tensions escalated when BAL members reacted strongly to a question posed by journalist Farid Alam. The situation reached a point where the BAL workers physically assaulted the journalist.

Journalist Farid Alam recounted that someone took away his cell phone and wallet during the attack on him at the BAL press conference. Although the cellphone was eventually recovered, the wallet remained missing. He further mentioned that his wallet contained four thousand dollars, a bank card, and essential documents.<sup>203</sup>

#### **Case - 85**

### **Attack on Journalists during the 2020 Dhaka City Corporation Elections**

Date: 1 February 2020

During the 2020 Dhaka City Corporation elections, BAL party men brutally attacked and beat up at least ten journalists at different places while trying to cover widespread election rigging in Dhaka municipal elections on 1 February 2020. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned the attack.<sup>204</sup>

Two of the ten reporters attacked on 1 February had to be hospitalized with severe injuries. One was Agami news website reporter Mostafizur Rahman Sumon, who was taking photos at a polling station at Zafrabad Secondary School in the residential area of Mohammadpur. Followers of AL-backed councillor candidate Md Hossain Khokon hit him in the head with a sharp weapon and snatched away his phone, according to witnesses and fellow journalists. Sumon was first taken to the Sikder Medical College Hospital and was later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He got six stitches on his head and was barely speaking,

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<sup>202</sup> Daily Star, 12 August 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/3-journalists-assaulted-camera-vandalised-al-leader-his-sons-lalmonirhat-3093591>

<sup>203</sup> The Daily Inqilab, 24 September 2021: <https://bit.ly/3x13Zxk>

<sup>204</sup> RSF, 4 February 2020 <https://rsf.org/en/news/bangladesh-attacks-against-reporters-covering-dhaka-municipal-elections>

according to Inspector Bachchu Mia, in charge of DMCH Police Outpost. Other journalists were beaten up and harassed at different places in Dhaka city that day.<sup>205</sup>

#### Case – 86

### **BAL Thugs Vandalized the Office of a National Daily Newspaper Daily Sangram and Attacked Its Octogenarian Editor Abul Asad**

Date: 13 December 2019

On 13 December 2019, the office of the newspaper Daily Sangram was attacked and vandalized in Moghbazar of the capital, Dhaka. The activists of an organization called "Muktijoddha Manch", an BAL-affiliated platform, carried out the attack.

A siege program was announced under the leadership of the organization's president, Aminul Islam Bulbul and general secretary, Al-Mamun, under the name of Muktijoddha Manch Central Committee. In the afternoon, 50/60 youth surrounded the Sangram office adjacent to the Moghbazar wireless rail gate and shouted threatening slogans. At around 6:30 in the evening, when the newspaper journalists were busy publishing the newspaper as usual, they broke the gate and entered the office shouting 'Joy Bangla'. They then locked the gate of the newspaper office and vandalized the computers, doors, windows, chairs, and tables. They ransacked every room, including the editor's room, newsroom, chief reporter's room, assistant editor, and co-editor's room, for about a quarter of an hour. During the rampage, the journalists remained helpless inside the office. Later, they harassed and assaulted an 80-year-old veteran journalist and editor of the newspaper, Abul Asad. They brought him out of his room and asked him to stand in front of TV journalists' cameras and apologize to the nation. Various journalist organizations protested and condemned the brutal attack and vandalism of the office.<sup>206</sup>

#### Case - 87

### **Attacks on Journalists in Dhaka University Campus**

Date: 23 September 2019

Three journalists were attacked by the BCL while performing their professional duties on the Dhaka University (DU) campus. BCL workers also attacked journalists while gathering news of an attack on Chhatra Dal workers. The attackers also beat journalists and snatched away a mobile phone from one of them.<sup>207</sup>

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<sup>205</sup> The Daily Star, 1 February 2020: <https://www.thedailystar.net/dhaka-city-elections-2020/attacks-on-journalists-covering-city-polls-1862119>

<sup>206</sup> Aljazeera, 14 December 2019: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/14/bangladesh-editor-arrested-after-report-on-executed-jamaat-leader>

The Daily Sangram: <https://bit.ly/3Ywycpb>

VOA News, 17 December 2019: <https://www.voanews.com/a/press-freedom-outcry-after-bangladesh-editor-arrested-under-new-laws/6181200.html>

<sup>207</sup> Prothom Alo English, 23 September 2019: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/BCL-men-attack-JCD-men-journos-at-DU>

In this context, admitting the responsibility, Saddam Hossain, General Secretary of Dhaka University Branch BCL, said, "This is our failure. These undesirable incidents are happening due to over-enthusiastic workers."<sup>208</sup>

## Case - 88

### Attack on Editor Mahmudur Rahman at Kushtia

Date: 22 July 2018

Bangla daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, who was oppressed many times by the government for his fearless stand against it, sustained injuries in the head and face as a group of leaders and activists of the ruling BAL-backed student organisation, BCL, attacked him in court premises in Kushtia district town on 22 July 2018 afternoon.

He came under attack after a Kushtia court granted him bail in a case filed against him by Kushtia district BCL president Yasir Arafat Tushar for making derogatory remarks about Bangladesh's founding president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Eyewitnesses reported that about 70 to 80 BCL activists led by the district BCL president took position outside the courtroom, confining Mahmudur to the courtroom just after the court granted him bail in the afternoon. Later, they said, he came out with pro-Bangladesh Nationalist Party lawyers and tried to leave the place, getting in his car when the BCL activists hurled brickbats at his car and hit it with sticks.

'The BCL men broke his car's window and hit him with brickbats at about 4:30 pm. Broken glasses also fell on him. The attackers hit him with bricks and bamboo sticks, causing injuries to his head and face,' said Amar Desh special correspondent M Abdullah, who was accompanying Mahmudur Rahman.

Abdullah reported that the police were mere witnesses when Mahmudur Rahman was attacked and his car severely damaged.

He said that the lawyers then rescued Mahmudur Rahman and took him to a lawyer's chamber, which also came under attack. 'He was bleeding from head and face, and we could not take him to hospital in fear of more attacks.'

Mahmudur Rahman left the court premises later by ambulance and received primary treatment at a hospital in Jessore before leaving the district by air for Dhaka, where he was admitted to United Hospital, reported Abdullah.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>208</sup> Barta24, 23 September 2019: <https://barta24.com/details/politics/54958/chhatra-league-claimed-responsibility-for-the-attack-on-journalists>

<sup>209</sup> New Age, 22 July 2018: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/46626/bcl-confines-amar-desh-editor-mahmudur-in-kushtia-courtroom/index.php>

## 2.6 Assault and Attack on Teachers

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### Case - 89

#### **Three Teachers Assaulted by BCL President in Agricultural University**

Date: 10 January 2023

In the Bangladesh Agricultural University located in Mymensingh, three teachers, including Purba Islam, general secretary of the pro-Awami teachers' organization Democratic Teachers Forum, had been assaulted. The victimized teachers alleged that this incident occurred on 10 January 2023 under the leadership of Khandkar Taifur Rahman, president of the university branch of the BCL.<sup>210</sup>

### Case - 90

#### **BCL Leader Attacked Teacher in Shariatpur**

Date: 30 March 2022

In Shariatpur district, the Branch BCL Committee of "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Government College" was dissolved following an incident involving an assault on a teacher. On 30 March 2022, Sohag Bepari, president of the college's BCL branch, physically attacked BM Sohail, a lecturer at the college. This altercation occurred due to Bepari's displeasure at not being invited to a meal.<sup>211</sup>

### Case - 91

#### **Dhaka University Teacher Assaulted by BCL**

Date: 5 January 2020

On 5 January 2020, a faculty member of Dhaka University, Professor Zobaida Nasreen from the Department of Anthropology, became the victim of physical assault by female leaders and activists associated with the BCL. The incident involved the pulling of her hair and causing harm to her body.

Professor Zobaida Nasreen lodged a written complaint with various authorities, including the university's Vice-Chancellor, the President and General Secretary of the Teachers' Association, and the Hall Principal, detailing the assault she had endured.<sup>212</sup>

### Case - 92

#### **Jagannath University Teacher Assaulted by BCL Activists**

Date: 18 April 2013

The BCL branch at Jagannath University faced accusations of assaulting teachers due to their objection against re-admitting students violating the rules. The university administration took

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<sup>210</sup> Prothom Alo, 10 January 2023: <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xutyhut0zm>

<sup>211</sup> The Daily Star Bangla, 31 March 2022: <https://bit.ly/3E8rPQC>

<sup>212</sup> Rising BD, 7 January 2020: <https://www.risingbd.com/national/news/327449>

action by expelling a BCL member involved in the incident. According to the university's regulations, students who fail in a short semester are not eligible for re-admission.

The incident involved BCL leaders and activists illegally demanding the re-enrollment of a student named Ariful, who had failed. During this, harassment and assault were directed towards Noor Muhammad, a teacher in the psychology department, and Al-Amin, a teacher in the botany department, by BCL members. Additionally, the department itself was vandalized during the incident.<sup>213</sup>

### **Case - 93**

## **BCL Attacked Teachers and Vandalized the Teachers' Lounge at Kushtia Islamic University**

Date: 12 January 2013

On 12 January 2013, a group of BCL leaders and activists reportedly assaulted teachers at Islami University.

Eyewitnesses recounted that at 2:30 in the afternoon, leaders and activists of the teachers' association were engaged in discussions about the campus situation with journalists in the teachers' lounge of the faculty building. During this time, a group of external BCL activists, identified as Japan, Lelin, Liton, Elias, Titu, Sajib, Johnny, Ratan, Shamim, Zahirul, Shafiq, Mithun, and Dilu, initiated an attack. They forcibly entered the faculty building after breaking its lock, proceeded to hurl bricks at the teachers, and vandalized the office.

The assault left approximately 45 teachers injured, including the president of the teachers' association. Notably, most of the injured teachers held doctoral degrees and were professors. This incident followed a prior attack on teachers on another occasion by the BCL on 19 November 2012.<sup>214</sup>

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<sup>213</sup> Bangla News 24, 18 April 2013: <https://www.banglanews24.com/cat/news/bd/190026.details>

<sup>214</sup> Bangla News 24, 12 January 2013: <https://www.banglanews24.com/print/165436>



## RAPE SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN





## 3.1 Rape

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### Case - 94

#### **BAL Leader Raped Eden College Student**

Date: 9 February 2023

A female student from Eden College accused a BAL leader named Monayem Hossain James of rape in Sirajganj. The student claimed that James had tempted her with marriage promises before committing the alleged act. Subsequently, the student filed a legal case against him after becoming pregnant due to the incident.

The accused, Monayem Hossain James, had held prominent positions, including membership in the Tarash Upazila BAL executive committee in Sirajganj district. Before this, he had served as the joint secretary of the Dhaka College Branch of BCL. Monayem Hossain James was identified as the son of Abdul Wahab from Hemnagar village within Saguna Union.<sup>215</sup>

### Case -95

#### **Schoolgirl Raped by BCL Leader**

Date: 23 January 2023

Russell Badsha (22), a leader of BCL, was accused of raping a schoolgirl by enticing her with the promise of marriage in Tala upazila of Satkhira district. He held the Magura Union BCL Joint Convener position and was identified as the son of UP member Mainul Islam from Maguradanga village within the upazila.

Chowdhury Rezaul Karim, the Officer-in-Charge of a nearby police station, stated that the victim's mother had lodged a case with the police station. The case alleged that Russell Badsha had committed rape multiple times while pretending to be interested in marriage.<sup>216</sup>

### Case - 96

#### **Disabled Girl Raped by BCL Leader**

Date: 6 December 2022

Mahbub Alam Shiful, a leader of the BCL, was apprehended by the police in Lakshmipur on charges of raping a speech-impaired girl. His arrest occurred in Lakshmipur city on 6 December 2022, following a case the victim's family filed against him. The detained individual, Mahbub Alam Shiful, is the son of Bachchu, a resident of Char Lawrence village in Kamalnagar upazila. He was the vice-president of the newly established Kamalnagar Upazila BCL.

As stated in the case's account, Mahbub Alam Shiful had been raping the speech-impaired girl for four months. At a certain point, the girl's aunt became aware of the situation and raised an

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<sup>215</sup> Manobzamin, 9 February 2023: <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=42208>

<sup>216</sup> Doinik Ittefaq, 23 January 2023: <https://bit.ly/3YPbBUo>

alarm, prompting local residents to intervene. During this time, Mahbub Alam Shiful managed to escape from the scene.<sup>217</sup>

### **Case - 97**

#### **Rape and Strangulation of an American Woman in Massachusetts US**

Date: 17 September 2022

Asif Ahmed Chowdhury, also recognized as Asif Babu, and a resident of Medford near Boston, faced apprehension by a Massachusetts court in the United States on allegations of raping an African American woman and engaging in strangulation. This incident unfolded on 17 September 2020, ultimately leading to his arrest. Subsequently, he was confined to incarceration after his detention. Asif Babu, aged 62, originally hailed from Kattali village within the jurisdiction of Pahartali Police Station in the district of Chittagong in Bangladesh.<sup>218</sup>

### **Case - 98**

#### **Rape with Threat to Spread Video**

Date: 10 September 2022

On 10 September 2022, a student filed an official complaint with the Boda police station in Panchagarh district, alleging that a local Jubo League leader named Manowar Hossain had raped her and subsequently attempted to blackmail her by threatening to share explicit content involving her. According to the case details, the student had established contact with Manowar Hossain via social media approximately a year and a half prior. Subsequently, she claimed that he had subjected her to multiple instances of rape and had coerced her by using the threat of distributing a video recording of the assaults. As a result of these accusations, the Jubo League leader in question reportedly faced a temporary suspension from the party.<sup>219</sup>

### **Case - 99**

#### **House Wife Raped by BCL Leader**

Date: 31 August 2022

A housewife (22) was allegedly raped at Alekharchar Baisakhi Residential Hotel in Adarsh Sadar Upazila of Comilla district around 10 am on 31 August 2022. The aggrieved housewife filed the case against four persons at the Kotwali Model Police Station of Comilla as the plaintiff.

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<sup>217</sup> Daily Inqilab, 7 December 2022: <https://bit.ly/3xIIcYd>

<sup>218</sup> The Daily Star, 20 October 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/nrb/news/awami-league-leader-arrested-sent-jail-over-rape-us-3147996>

<sup>219</sup> The Daily Star Bangla, 12 September 2022: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-392956>

Abu Kaushar Anik (38), the outgoing president of Comilla North District BCL, was arrested by RAB from Sonar Bangla Hotel in the Kalatoli area of Cox's Bazar in that rape case. RAB-15 Cox's Bazar members arrested him around 12 noon on 24 September 2022.<sup>220</sup>

#### **Case - 100**

### **Woman Raped with the Help of Intoxicating Tablets**

Date: 30 August 2022

On 30 August 2022, a 20-year-old woman was abducted and taken to a house against her will in Sherpur upazila of Bogra. According to the victim, BCL leader Ripon Roy administered intoxicating tablets to her and proceeded to rape her. Ripon also reportedly hindered her from seeking legal recourse after the incident. The victim claimed that she was kept under close surveillance for approximately 17 days following the assault, essentially amounting to a form of house arrest. Eventually, with the assistance of local authorities, she managed to reach a police station and lodged a formal complaint on 17 September 2022. Consequently, Ripon Roy was apprehended by the police in connection with the case.<sup>221</sup>

#### **Case - 101**

### **Housewife Raped for 3 Years**

Date: 9 August 2022

On 9 August 2022, a case was filed against Sujun Kumar Ghosh, who held the position of General Secretary in the Sonatala Upazila BCL, on charges of raping a married woman in Bogra. The victim, a mother of two children, had a husband who worked as a labourer in Bogra city. The husband would leave home in the morning and return at night. It was alleged that during this time, Sujun repeatedly raped the housewife over a span of three years. Sujun allegedly threatened her with his party influence to keep silent. However, when he assaulted her again on 25 July 2022, she shared her ordeal with her husband. As a result, a case was filed against Sujun, and he was subsequently arrested.<sup>222</sup>

#### **Case - 102**

### **Gang Rape in Rangamati by BCL Leaders**

Date: 15 July 2022

Two leaders of BCL from the Bongaltoli union and three accomplices were charged with raping a 21-year-old college student in Rangamati's Baghaichari upazila. The victim's father revealed that the incident, which occurred on 15 July 2022, prompted a delay in filing the case due to social stigma and local pressure for arbitration. The accused individuals include Bongaltoli BCL's President, Jishu Chowdhury (27) and its General Secretary, Biplab Barua Sohel (26), as well as Md Arif (26), Md Rassel (29), and Amal Barua (45). According to the case details,

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<sup>220</sup> Prothom Alo, 24 September 2022: <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/453118q26k>

<sup>221</sup> RTV News, 18 September 2022: <https://bit.ly/3lwpcBz>

<sup>222</sup> Channel 24 BD, 9 August 2022: <https://bit.ly/3K4AqHU>

Biplab lured the victim from her house around 9:00 p.m. to his residence, where he and the others reportedly assaulted her.<sup>223</sup>

### **Case - 103**

#### **Chittagong University Student Sexually Assaulted**

Date: 17 July 2022

On 17 July 2022, at 9:30 p.m., a student was subjected to sexual assault and physical violence by a group of five individuals within the premises of Chittagong University. Four individuals, including three university students, were apprehended in the sexual harassment case. Among these four, two were workers affiliated with BCL, and the remaining two were identified as followers of the university branch BCL president. The student's mobile phone was also recovered from the suspects. According to the accounts provided, the student was bound by those five individuals in the university's botanical garden area, where they recorded indecent video footage of her on a mobile phone. When a friend accompanying her voiced his protest, he was also subjected to physical assault. The student brought the incident to the proctor's attention on 19 July 2022 and subsequently filed a formal complaint with the Hathazari police station on 20 July 2022.<sup>224</sup>

### **Case - 104**

#### **Teacher Raped, Chhatra League Leader Arrested**

Date: 4 July 2022

In Bhola, a teacher fell victim to rape. After eluding the authorities in connection with various rape cases, including the assault of the teacher in a classroom in Manpura, Bhola, the former vice president of the Upazila BCL, Enam Howladar, was apprehended by the police. Notably, despite being listed as a fugitive in police records, this BCL leader continued to move about freely within the region under the protection of his political affiliation. Eventually, after four years, he was taken into custody. On 4 July 2022, around 12:30 noon, law enforcement conducted a raid and successfully apprehended him from the Janata Bazaar area of South Sakuchia.<sup>225</sup>

### **Case - 105**

#### **Woman Footballer Raped by BCL Leader**

Date: 22 April 2022

A female football player in Nandail Upazila of Mymensingh district fell victim to rape. The primary accused, Wahidul Alam Fakir Faisal, a former general secretary of the Upazila BCL, had been apprehended by the authorities. The survivor shared that on 22 April 2022, Faisal, a BCL leader, summoned her to Government Shaheed Smriti Adarsha College in Nandail under

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<sup>223</sup> Daily Star, 7 August 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/case-filed-against-2-union-level-bcl-leaders-rape-3089421>

<sup>224</sup> Prothom Alo, 23 July 2022: <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/48trdriscw>

<sup>225</sup> Daily Nayadiganta, 5 July 2022: <https://bit.ly/31BW4Jg>

the pretext of signing documents related to her stipend. Subsequently, he led her to a secluded area behind the administrative building, immobilized her, brandished a knife, and carried out the act of rape while capturing the harrowing incident on video. Accompanying him in this crime were Al-Amin and an unidentified accomplice. Faisal further coerced her by threatening to disseminate the explicit video on social media if she dared to report the incident to anyone.<sup>226</sup>

### **Case - 106**

#### **Raping Girl by False Pledge to Marry Her**

Date: 8 April 2022

A case was filed against SM Jobair Himel, a leader within the BCL, on charges of sexually assaulting a young woman in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur district. The written complaint of the victim was registered as a case on 8 April 2022 by the Kaliakor police station. The accused individual, SM Jobair Himel, is the son of Mobarak Hossain from the Mouchak area of Himel Upazila. Formerly, he held the position of vice president within the Upazila BCL and was also a contender for the presidency of the Gazipur District BCL. According to the case's account, the young woman had been in a romantic relationship with Himel for three years. Under the pretence of marriage, Himel engaged in physical relations with her multiple times. He also unlawfully obtained over two lakh taka and a mobile phone from her. Additionally, Himel threatened to kill her and her family members.<sup>227</sup>

### **Case - 107**

#### **Disabled Housewife Raped by Awami League Leader**

Date: 18 March 2022

The police arrested Upazila BAL Publicity Secretary Abdul Gani Mia for raping a disabled housewife in the Dahband Union of Sundarganj Upazila of Gaibandha district.

According to the complaint, the housewife was going through the paddy field aisle to buy betel at the local grocery store on 18 March 2022. BAL leader Gani was working in the paddy field at that time. He forcibly took the disabled housewife to the neighbouring cornfield and raped her.<sup>228</sup>

### **Case - 108**

#### **BCL Leader in Jail in Chapainawabganj Rape Case**

Date: 11 March 2022

On the night of 11 March 2022, around 9 o'clock, Abdullah Al Mamun, Co-Editor of Chapainawabganj District BCL, was apprehended by local residents while he was found in a compromising situation with a young woman in Barogharia-Bazarpara neighbourhood of

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<sup>226</sup> Rising BD, 28 April 2022: <https://www.risingbd.com/bangladesh/news/455712>

<sup>227</sup> Bangla Tribune, 09 April 2022: <https://bit.ly/3Yzy48i>

<sup>228</sup> Jugantor, 20 March 2022: <https://bit.ly/3xsBZrs>

Bargharia Union in Sadar Upazila of Chapainawabganj district. Later that same night, the police arrived at the scene and took Mamun into custody, transferring him to the police station. A rape case was filed against him, and he was sent to jail later. Abdullah Al Mamun, the arrested BCL leader, is the son of Nurul Islam Kalu, a doctor from Chakpara village within the Charbagdanga union of Sadar upazila.<sup>229</sup>

### **Case - 109**

#### **BCL Leader Arrested in Jamalpur Rape Case**

Date: 28 February 2022

Vishal Uddin, a BCL leader from the union level, was apprehended by the police in Melandah upazila concerning a rape case involving a student at a coaching centre. Aged 20, he was the son of Azhar Uddin, hailing from Thuri Tonkipara village within the Adra Union of Vishal Upazila in Jamalpur district. Vishal Uddin had been serving as a teacher at the coaching centre and concurrently held the position of joint secretary within the Adra Union BCL.

According to the filed complaint, the victim, a female student in the sixth grade at a local high school, was residing with her grandparents. She was also enrolled in a nearby coaching centre. Allegedly, the teacher at this coaching centre manipulated and assaulted the student, subjecting her to multiple instances of rape. These occurrences ultimately led to her becoming pregnant over five months.<sup>230</sup>

### **Case - 110**

#### **Rape of 14-Year-Old School Girl in Savar**

Date: 23 February 2022

A case was filed against Sohel Rana, the president of Savar Sadar Union BCL, for allegedly raping a teenage girl in Savar, Dhaka district. Model Police Sub-Inspector (SI) Shahidul Islam had confirmed the matter.

On the night of 23 February 2022, the victim girl's mother filed a case under the Women and Child Abuse Prevention Act at Savar Model Police Station, naming Sohel Rana as the main accused. According to the police, Sohel Rana had raped a fourteen-year-old girl in the Imandipur neighbourhood of Savar town area over several months after luring her into the promise of marriage.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>229</sup> Dhaka Post, 13 March 2022: <https://www.dhakapost.com/country/103751>

<sup>230</sup> Daily Janakantha, 28 February 2022: <https://bit.ly/3XyFd7w>

<sup>231</sup> Daily Ittefaq, 25 February 2022: <https://shorturl.at/dloEG>; Dhaka Prokash, 24 February 2022: <https://www.dhakaprokash24.com/saradesh/news/8713>

### **Case - 111**

#### **Young Girl Picked Up and Raped by BCL**

Date: 21 January 2022

Naeem Kazi (24), general secretary of Muksudpur College branch BCL in Gopalganj district, had been arrested by the police in a case of kidnapping and raping a young girl. The arrested Naeem Kazi was the son of Mosaraf Kazi of Prabhakardi village. Police arrested Naeem on 17 February 2022.

According to the case details, BCL leader Naeem forcibly picked up the girl and took her to an unknown place on 21 January 2022 and raped her.<sup>232</sup>

### **Case - 112**

#### **3 BCL Youth Raped Tourist Woman in Cox's Bazar**

Date: 22 December 2021

In Cox's Bazar, there was an incident of a tourist woman being raped, and the individuals responsible for the act were identified as members of the Cox's Bazar District BCL.

All three accused individuals involved in the rape incident were followers of Cox's Bazar District BCL President SM Saddam Hossain. These individuals were reportedly engaged in criminal activities under his protection, including Yaba drug trading.

The rape victim recounted her experience to the media, stating that she had arrived in Cox's Bazar from Jatrabari in Dhaka on the morning of 22 December 2021 with her husband and children. They checked into a hotel in the city's Holiday roundabout. In the afternoon, an altercation ensued between her husband and a stranger they encountered while walking at Laboni Point on the beach. Later that evening, the victim went out with her child and husband, and three individuals forcibly abducted her from behind a shanty tea shop near a tourist golf course. She was subsequently gang-raped at that location. Afterwards, she was taken to a hotel called Zia Guest Inn, where after consuming Yaba, the three men raped her again. Before leaving the scene, they locked the room from the outside and threatened her that her child and husband would be killed if she disclosed the incident to anyone.<sup>233</sup>

### **Case - 113**

#### **Rape of Teenage Girl in an Office in Pabna**

Date: 31 October 2021

A case was filed against a BCL leader for allegedly raping a teenage girl by taking her to an office in Bhangura, Pabna district. She was even asked to keep the matter a secret, or else threatened to be killed. On Sunday, 31 October 2021, his father filed a case at Bhangura police

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<sup>232</sup> Jugantor, 18 February 2022: <https://bit.ly/3KbXftd>

<sup>233</sup> The Business Standard (TBS), 23 December 2021: <https://bit.ly/3Si9XJ7>

station accusing three people. The accused in the case are - Abdul Alim, son of Abdul Jalil and general secretary of Bhangura Municipal BCL, Dulu (27) and Rana (21).<sup>234</sup>

#### **Case - 114**

### **BCL Leader Married Class-6 Girl to Avoid Rape Case**

Date: 12 October 2021

In Subarnachar Upazila of Noakhali district, there was an allegation of marrying a 6th-grade girl to escape a rape case against a BCL leader named Abu Sufian. The accused BCL leader got married with a court affidavit on 14 October 2021.

Sufian was serving as the third joint convener of the Subarnachar Upazila BCL. He is the son of Abul Basar, the village of Charlakshi. According to local sources, BCL leader Sufyan raped the 6th-grade student on 12 October 2021. When the family members of the victim-child came to know about the incident, they complained verbally to the local Mohammadpur Union Parishad Chairman Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Later, for mysterious reasons, the police visited the spot and returned.<sup>235</sup>

#### **Case - 115**

### **Ashuganj BCL Leader's Rape of College Girl**

Date: 6 October 2021

Rabiul Sani, the joint convener of Brahmanbaria BCL in Ashuganj Upazila, allegedly raped a 19-year-old college girl under the pretext of marriage. This incident created a commotion in the area as the accused BCL leader did not agree to marry the girl despite admitting guilt in the arbitration meeting held in the area. As a result, the victim student became mentally disturbed.

As per accounts from the girl's family and local sources, a romantic relationship had been established with Rabiul Sunny, the joint convener of Ashuganj Upazila BCL, via a mutual connection on Facebook dating back to 2020. In the meantime, Sunny coerced the girl into a sexual relationship under the false promise of marriage, leading to her pregnancy.<sup>236</sup>

#### **Case - 116**

### **Rape of Housewife in Habiganj**

Date: 25 August 2021

A bride was gang-raped in front of her husband in Lakhai, Habiganj district. Solaiman Hossain Roni, joint convener of Lakhai Upazila BCL, was among the three arrested by RAB and police for their involvement in the incident.

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<sup>234</sup> Jugantor, 31 October 2021: <https://bit.ly/3XAoyAn>

<sup>235</sup> Daily Inqilab, 15 October 2021: <https://bit.ly/3XA8nmA>

<sup>236</sup> Daily Nayadiganta, 6 October 2021: <https://bit.ly/3YxBjwR>



On 25 August 2021, the victim, her husband, and a friend set out on a boat trip. When their boat reached Tikkapur Haor near Krishnapur village around noon, the accused intercepted them in another engine-powered boat. At that time, the accused severely beat the victim's husband, friend, and boatman. Subsequently, they restrained the friend by tying his hands and feet and compelled the boatman to navigate towards the Hawar Switchgate area under the threat of violence. In this location, the accused took turns to rape the bride on the boat. They also captured explicit photos and videos of the husband and his friend, who were left naked alongside the victim after the assault. The accused threatened to release these images and videos unless they paid 9 lakh taka. Eventually, with the assistance of locals, the victims managed to return home.<sup>237</sup>

### **Case - 117**

#### **Rape of College Girl in Patuakhali**

Date: 26 July 2021

The members of RAB-8 Patuakhali camp arrested Abu Bakkar Siddique (25), former organizing secretary of District BCL, on the charge of raping a college girl in Patuakhali district. He was arrested from the area adjacent to the press club at noon on 8 August 2021.

About a year and a half ago, Abu Bakkar initiated contact with a college girl residing in Golbunia village of Rangabali upazila via Facebook. After several days, Abu Bakr expressed a romantic interest in the girl. In response to the student's refusal of his romantic proposal, he forcibly abducted her on the afternoon of 26 July 2021, transporting her to Panchjunia village within Dhankhali Union, Abu Bakr's place of residence. Subsequently, he led her to his room and subjected her to sexual assault.<sup>238</sup>

### **Case - 118**

#### **Housewife Raped in Kishoreganj by BAL Leader**

Date: 19 May 2021

Two local BAL leaders have been accused of raping a housewife in Kishoreganj. The arrested individual, Abu Hanifa, held the position of BAL president for Ward No. 5 of Patuavhanga Union in Pakundia Upazila. The second accused, Jalal Uddin Bachchu, held the position of former chairman of the Patuavhanga Union and served as the general secretary of the union's BAL. As per police reports, a 48-year-old housewife and mother of four was subjected to rape, subsequently filing a case at the Pakundia police station.

The housewife detailed that Jalal Uddin Bachchu frequently accompanied women, along with an individual known as a criminal, to an isolated location behind her residence during late night

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<sup>237</sup> Dainik Ittefaq, 3 September 2021: <https://bit.ly/3RZIdZu>

<sup>238</sup> Daily Nayadiganta, 8 August 2021: <https://bit.ly/3KaVuMM>

hours. In response to her protest and exposure of this behaviour to the public, the two men jointly raped her on 19 May 2021.<sup>239</sup>

#### **Case - 119**

### **Rape in Bandarban by BAL Leader**

Date: 6 May 2021

A local BAL leader of Bandarban's Lama Upazila had been accused of raping a housewife. The woman filed a case against the accused, Saching Pru Marma and his accomplice in the Bandarban Women and Child Abuse Prevention Tribunal on 6 May 2021. According to the report of the case, the incident of rape took place on 15 October 2020. However, when she went to file a case at the local police station, the case was not taken.<sup>240</sup>

#### **Case - 120**

### **BAL Leader Raped a Girl with the Help of Her Drug-Addict Husband**

Date: 9 March 2021

In the Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachari, local BAL leader Mohiuddin had been accused of raping a housewife. On 9 March 2021, a rape case was registered against her at Ramgarh police station.

The accused, Mohiuddin, was a member of Ward No. 2 of Patachhara Union Parishad of Upazila and was the ward president of the BAL. The victim's father said that with the help of her drug-addict husband and in-laws, her daughter was raped day after day by Ward BAL President Md. Mohiuddin. Being unable to bear this torture, her daughter went to her grandmother's house on 4 March, and consequently, the incident came to light.<sup>241</sup>

#### **Case - 121**

### **Girl Picked Up and Raped, Threatened to Spread Video**

Date: 7 February 2021

A local BAL leader named Anwar Hossain (50) had been accused of raping and blackmailing a 10th-grade madrasa student in Dinajpur district for two consecutive years and recorded the rape on his mobile phone.

In this incident, the girl's father filed a case on 7 February 2021 against three people, including the BAL leader, at Kotwali police station. Among the other two accused in the case were Anwar

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<sup>239</sup> NTV Online, 26 June 2021: <https://shorturl.at/tHLR8> ; bdnews24.com, 26 June 2021: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/article1906931.bdnews>

<sup>240</sup> The Daily Star Bangla, 7 May 2021: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/node/222153>

<sup>241</sup> RTV News Online, 10 March 2021: <https://bit.ly/40WrVVk>

Hossain's car driver, Md Manik (48) of Belbari village and Md Hafez (48), a peon of Fulban Fazil Madrasa. The victim's family was living in fear as the accused were influential.

Anwar Hossain had been making various bad suggestions while she was going to and from the madrasa. At one point, after showing various temptations, he took the girl in his private car and forcibly raped her and recorded the video. Later, with the help of a private car driver and madrasa peon, the girl was taken to different places and raped several times. At that time, when the victim student interrupted, Anwar Hossain threatened her by introducing himself as a leader and enticed her into marriage. After that, the leader threatened to cause severe damage to the family by making the recorded video viral if the matter was told to anyone.<sup>242</sup>

### **Case - 122**

#### **Rape of Housewife by Holding Child Hostage**

Date: 1 January 2021

In Khasnagar village of Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj, a housewife was raped by taking her child hostage. Sirajdikhan police station OC SM Jalaluddin said that BAL leader and UP member Afzal Hossain and his associate Nasiruddin entered the women's house on 1 January 2021. Her husband was not at home at that time. In this situation, Nasir took the 6-month-old child as hostage. BAL leader UP member Afzal Hossain raped the housewife on that occasion. In this incident, Afzal Hussain and his accomplice Nasiruddin were prosecuted.<sup>243</sup>

### **Case - 123**

#### **Rape Case against BCL Leader in Madaripur**

Date: 27 November 2020

In Madaripur, the relatives of a rape victim and the residents of the area held a protest march to demand the trial and punishment of the rapist, a BCL leader. The protest was held in front of the Madaripur District Commissioner's office. After the human chain, a memorandum was given to the District Commissioner demanding justice.

According to the statement of the case and the locals, around 10 am on 27 November 2020, in the absence of the victim's husband, the accused entered her house and tried to rape her by tying her hands and feet. At that time, the accused fled when the bystanders came forward after hearing the victim's shouting. It was also known that the accused in the case, Faisal Ahmed Mithu Howlader, the organizing secretary of Madaripur District BCL (31) and his associate Faisal Howlader (23) were often harassing the lady and making bad suggestions.<sup>244</sup>

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<sup>242</sup> Somoy News, 18 February 2021: <https://bit.ly/3xrtM72>

BD News 24, 17 February 2021: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/article1860373.bdnews>

<sup>243</sup> Samakal, 8 January 2021: <https://bit.ly/40Wsgay>

Dainik Amader Shomoy, 9 January 2021: <https://www.dainikamadershomoy.com/post/295537>

<sup>244</sup> Bangladesh Protidin, 7 December 2020: <https://bd-pratidin.com/country/2020/12/07/595024>

### **Case - 124**

#### **Rape Case Against Rajshahi University BCL Leader**

Date: 14 November 2020

On 14 November 2020, a woman filed a case in Motihar police station accusing a leader of Rajshahi University BCL of rape and killing a foetus. Accused Ferdous Mohammad Shraban was the human resources development affairs secretary of the Rajshahi University branch of BCL. He was a final-year student in the marketing department of the university. His house was in the Barguna district. The woman complained that she met Shraban in August 2019. Shraban raped her one evening that month. When she wanted to report the matter to the administration, he requested her to continue the love affair by assuring her of marriage. After this incident, Shraban raped her again. When she became pregnant in March 2020, Shraban forcibly got her aborted.<sup>245</sup>

### **Case - 125**

#### **Rape Case Against BCL Leader in Bagha**

Date: 22 October 2020

On 22 October 2020, a case was filed against a BCL leader named Ribon Ahmed alias Bappi (28) for raping a young woman in Bagha Upazila of Rajshahi. He was the President of Bagha Upazila Arani Municipal BCL.

The case statement said that Ribon Ahmed raped the young woman by taking her to a friend's house in the last week of July 2020. Since then, the girl kept pressuring the BCL leader for marriage. However, he refused to marry.<sup>246</sup>

### **Case - 126**

#### **Rape Case Against Raipura Upazila BCL President of Narsingdi**

Date: 22 October 2020

A case was filed against Asadul Haque Chowdhury Shakil, president of Raipura Upazila BCL of Narsingdi district, on the charge of raping a 10th-grade girl. On 23 October 2020, the victim student filed the case at Raipur Police Station as the plaintiff.

On 22 October, the incident of rape took place at Raju Auditorium of the upazila, where the accused took the victim to marry her. However, instead of marrying her, he raped her with the assistance of another person. Accused BCL president Asadul Haque Chowdhury is the son of Aminul Haque Chowdhury.<sup>247</sup>

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<sup>245</sup> Samakal, 17 November 2020: <https://bit.ly/3HVxSsI>

<sup>246</sup> Prothom Alo, 23 October 2020: <https://bit.ly/3S4FeyJ>

<sup>247</sup> DBC 24/7 News, 23 October 2020: <https://bit.ly/3EdicQF>

### **Case - 127**

#### **BAL Leader Arrested on Charges of Raping Expatriate's Wife**

Date: 2 October 2020

Police arrested a local leader of the BAL in Natore on charges of raping the wife of an expatriate who used to live in Saudi Arabia. The accused, Golzar Hossain (35), was the joint general secretary of the BAL's Zonail union unit at Baraigram Upazila in Natore district.

The woman, who lived in nearby Haripur union in Chatmohar Upazila of Pabna, said in a case that Golzar had developed a relationship with her when her husband went to Saudi Arabia two years ago. Golzar filmed video of their intimate moments and raped her on a number of occasions by threatening to spread it on the internet, the woman alleged. He also extorted Tk 520,000 from her. When her husband returned home and asked her for the money, she told him Golzar had it. As the husband demanded the money from Golzar, the local BAL leader beat him up on 2 October 2020, prompting the migrant worker to lodge a police complaint.<sup>248</sup>

### **Case - 128**

#### **Leader of Dhaka Metropolitan BCL Arrested in Rape Case**

Date: 28 September 2020

Dhaka Metropolitan North BCL vice-president Sabuj Al Sahaba and his associate Bibi Fatema were arrested for raping a young woman. According to the case statement, on 28 September 2020, Sabuj took the woman to his residence in the 60 feet area of the capital Dhaka and raped her. The victim filed a case on 30 September night at the Mirpur Model Police Station.<sup>249</sup>

### **Case - 129**

#### **Housewife Raped in Murarichand (MC) College Hostel in Sylhet**

Date: 25 September 2020

On 25 September 2020, BCL members raped a housewife in the college hostel of Murrichand College (MC College), Sylhet, as she was returning from the Shah Paran shrine. The woman was raped in front of the BCL Men's Room at the college. The victim's husband filed a rape case against six men, all BCL workers.<sup>250</sup> When the BCL's involvement in the rape incident

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<sup>248</sup> Nayadiganta, 8 October 2020: <https://bit.ly/3XB3Dxl>

<sup>249</sup> Somoy News, 1 October 2020: <https://www.somoynews.tv/pages/details/239118>

Daily Nayadiganta, 1 October 2020: <https://bit.ly/41c8Ezt>

<sup>250</sup> The Daily Star, 28 September 2020: <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/bcl-reign-over-sylhet-mc-college-crimes-thrive-factional-politics-1968633>

Prothom Alo English, 26 September 2020: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/husband-held-hostage-wife-gang-raped-before-bcl-mens-room-in-college-hostel>

Prothom Alo English, 26 September 2020: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime-and-law/gang-rape-at-mc-college-hostel-Case -filed-against-6-bcl-men-3-others>

faced nationwide criticism, the central general secretary of the BCL, Lekhok Bhattacharya, claimed, “Rape is far-fetched; there was no such worker in BCL.”<sup>251</sup>

### **Case - 130**

#### **A College Girl Raped in Bhola**

Date: 30 August 2020

On 30 August 2020, a college girl in Bhola was raped. The victim's family held a press conference demanding the arrest of BCL leader Mamun Howladar for the rape. In a written statement at the conference, the victim recounted, “On August 30, around 10 am, Mamun took me for a walk. From there, he brought me to his house to meet his aunt Hafsa Begum. Hafsa Begum locked us in a room, and Mamun raped me multiple times. When I later mentioned marriage, he began to avoid the topic. In this situation, on September 2, we filed a case against Mamun under the Women and Child Abuse Act.”<sup>252</sup>

### **Case - 131**

#### **Teenage Girl Raped by BAL Leader in Kurigram**

Date: 31 May 2020

A case was filed at the Char Rajibpur police station against local BAL leader Sirajuddaula (50) for immoral activities involving a teenage girl, who is the daughter of a blind mother. On the night of 31 May 2020, the girl filed the case herself. Police sent her to Kurigram General Hospital for a medical examination on 1 June 2020. The area was in turmoil. The BAL leader had developed an immoral relationship with the girl under the guise of marriage promises. She became pregnant and was pressured to have an abortion by intimidation to cover up the matter. Even the girl's blind mother was threatened with death. The girl fled the house and filed a written complaint at Char Rajibpur police station on the night of 31 May 2020.<sup>253</sup>

### **Case - 132**

#### **Kidnap and Rape of a College Girl by BCL Leader**

Date: 9 February 2020

A BCL leader named Bani Amin raped a class XI student in the Barisal district. Bani Amin, the information and research secretary of the District BCL and father of two children, is the son of

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The Daily Star, 27 September 2020: <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/mc-college-rape-court-records-victims-statement-1968373>

Dhaka Tribune, 29 September 2020: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/09/29/mc-college-gang-rape-3-more-suspects-on-5-day-remand>

<sup>251</sup> Dhaka Tribune Bangla, 28 September 2020: <https://bangla-archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2020/09/28/27880>

Bangla Tribune, 26 September 2020: <https://bit.ly/3RZLesM>

<sup>252</sup> Dhaka Times, 20 October 2020: <https://bit.ly/3YYaiCR>

<sup>253</sup> Daily Inqilab, 1 June 2020: <https://bit.ly/3Edk7ER>

Jahangir Hossain from the Ganapara area. On 9 February 2020, he kidnapped the girl from the Nathullabad area of the city. In this incident, the victim's mother lodged a complaint of kidnapping at the Barisal Airport Police Station. It was reported that Bani Amin forcibly took the student in a car on her way home from classes. After intimidating her, he brought her to a residential hotel on Kuakata Beach and raped her overnight.<sup>254</sup>

#### **Case - 133**

### **Rupganj School Girl Gang-Raped by BCL Activists**

Date: 8 January 2020

Abu Sufian Sohan, the Vice-President of Tarabo Municipal BCL, implicated in the gang-rape case involving a ninth-grade student in Rupganj of Narayanganj district, was expelled from the organization. According to reports, Sohan, Tausif, Afzal, and others took the victim to a microbus from the Gandhavpur bus stand area on 8 January 2020. After being held captive for two days and gang-raped, she was abandoned on the road in the Sanarpar area of Siddhirganj.<sup>255</sup>

#### **Case - 134**

### **Rape of a College Girl by BCL Leader in Bhuyapur**

Date: 3 January 2020

Hriday Mondal, president of “Ibrahim Khan Government College” Branch BCL, was arrested by the police in a rape case in Tangail district’s Bhuyapur.

In this regard, Rashidul Islam, OC of Bhuyapur police station, said that Hridoy raped a married HSC second-year student of the College through intimidation. The student filed a case on 3 January 2020, as a plaintiff in this incident. After the case, Hridoy was arrested during a raid. Later he was sent to jail by the court. The OC also said that two cases were previously filed against the arrested Hridoy Mandal in 2017 under the Kidnapping and Women and Child Abuse Act. He was on bail in two cases.<sup>256</sup>

#### **Case - 135**

### **Minor Girl Raped by Jubo League Leader**

Date : 31 October 2019

A rape case was filed against a Jubo League leader at Shivalaya police station in Manikganj district on 31 October 2019. The case was filed by the victim against Kausar Ahmed, general secretary of Shivalaya upazila’s Mahadevpur Union Jubo League.

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<sup>254</sup> Somoyer Alo, 12 February 2020: <https://www.shomoyeralo.com/details.php?id=85276>

<sup>255</sup> Banik Barta, 13 January 2020: <https://bit.ly/3YvEtkO>

<sup>256</sup> Samakal, 4 January 2020: <https://bit.ly/3XzhpAk>

Kausar began a relationship with the minor around eight months ago. Promising to marry her, he raped her at different times in different places.

Police detained Kausar with the girl at a hotel named Padma Riverview in Paturia ferry terminal area. Later, Kausar was produced before Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, and the girl was sent to Manikganj district hospital for medical tests.<sup>257</sup>

### **Case - 136**

#### **BCL Leader's Harassment on the False Promise of Marriage**

Date: 3 September 2019

Police arrested Sohail Hossain, General Secretary of Shahrasti Upazila BCL in Chandpur district on charges of oppression (rape) by promising to marry a girl. Sohail harassed a young woman several times with promises of marriage. Later, when the marriage was discussed, Sohail denied it and threatened her in various ways. OC of Shahrasti police station, Shah Alam confirmed that the victim's father Tajul Islam of Shankurpur village of Tamta South Union of the Upazila filed a case against Sohail. He was arrested from Shankurpur village of Tamta South Union of Shahrasti around 10:30 pm on Tuesday, 3 September 2019.<sup>258</sup>

### **Case - 137**

#### **BCL Leader Raped a College Girl with False Promise of Marriage**

Date: 17 August 2019

Shariful Islam, a BCL leader, was arrested by the police on charges of raping a college girl in Saturia of Manikganj. On 17 August 2019 night, the father of the college student filed a case with the police. When he was taken to court on 18 August 2019, the judge ordered him to be sent to jail. Shariful Islam is the son of Md Taru Mia in Tebaria village of Dargram union of Saturia upazila. He was the former General Secretary of Dargram Union BCL. Saturia Police Station OC (Investigation) Md. Abul Kalam said that Shariful first developed a love relationship with the college girl. After that, he raped her several times with the temptation of marriage.<sup>259</sup>

### **Case - 138**

#### **Helpless Single Mother Raped by BCL Leader in Nazirpur**

Date: 24 July 2019

A case was filed against a BCL leader in Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur district on charges of rape at Nazirpur police station on 25 July 2019, at 10:30 pm. The accused BCL leader is Tariqul

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<sup>257</sup> The Daily Star, 1 November 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/juba-league-leader-sued-raping-minor-1821439>

<sup>258</sup> Jugantor, 4 September 2019: <https://bit.ly/3IpTpLO>

<sup>259</sup> Jamuna TV, 18 August 2019: <https://www.jamuna.tv/news/99449> ; The Daily Star, 19 August 2019: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/node/118624>



Islam Tarek Hasan (26), son of Abul Hashem Khalifa of Tutbari (Godhara) village in Malikhali Union of the upazila and the joint convener of the new committee of the Upazila BCL.

The victim, a woman abandoned by her husband, lived with her 5-year-old daughter at her father's house in Madhya Jhanjhania village of Malikhali Union in the upazila. It was reported that the BCL leader had been making inappropriate suggestions to her on various occasions. On 24 July 2019, around 9:30 pm, the BCL leader entered her house and raped her when her mother was not at home. He covered her mouth as she screamed. At one point, locals came to her aid and captured him, but he later escaped.<sup>260</sup>

#### **Case - 139**

### **Attempted Rape by BCL Leader in Natore District**

Date: 23 May 2019

Ilyas Ahmed Lelin, BCL President of Bagatipara Upazila in Natore district, was arrested by the police for attempting to rape a housewife after abducting her from her home. Confirming the incident on 24 May 2019, Officer in Charge Rakibul Islam of Bagatipara police station stated that the accused was arrested on Thursday night, 23 May 2019.<sup>261</sup>

#### **Case - 140**

### **Garment Worker Raped by BCL in Rupganj**

Date: 14 April 2019

Two garment workers were raped in Rupganj of Narayanganj district. The accused in the rape case were members of the Abu Sufian Syndicate. Abu Sufian was the former Tarab Municipal BCL vice-president. This BCL syndicate had become synonymous with terror in the area.

According to police sources, a fair was organized at Rupsi New Model School ground on 14 April 2019 to celebrate the Bengali New Year. On their way back home after visiting the fair, two workers of Aresta Fashion Care Garment in the Maikuli area were kidnapped by a group of people including Akash (19), son of Anwar Hossain of Rupsi Pradhanbari area of Upazila; Ismail Pradhan (23), son of Iman Ali; Anishur Rahman (25), son of Wazed Ali from Tupkarchar area of Melandah police station of Jamalpur district; and Habu (27) son of Laichuddin. According to locals, all of them were members of the Abu Sufian Syndicate.<sup>262</sup>

#### **Case - 141**

### **BCL Leader's Rape of a Secondary School Girl in Kushtia**

Date: 1 April 2019

On 30 March 2019, in the afternoon, a student from Harinarayanpur Secondary Girls School in the Kushtia EB Police Station area was raped. The perpetrator was Jewel Rana, the leader of the Khater Ali College BCL, who took the girl to Roni Sheikh's house in the Shantidanga area

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<sup>260</sup> Daily Inqilab, 26 July 2019: <https://bit.ly/3k1Aspo>

<sup>261</sup> Daily Inqilab, 24 May 2019: <https://bit.ly/3YADSya>

<sup>262</sup> Daily Nayadiganta, 15 January 2020: <https://bit.ly/40XWqKm>

where he raped her overnight. Following the victim's complaint, a case was filed under the Prevention of Women and Child Abuse Act at the police station and the accused, Jewel Rana, was later arrested.<sup>263</sup>

#### **Case - 142**

### **A Mother of Six, Aged about 48, Gang-Raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar**

Date: 2 April 2019

A mother of six, aged about 48, was reportedly gang-raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila on 31 March 2019, over her campaign for an Upazila vice chairman candidate. The incident occurred only three months after a mother of four was gang-raped by 10-12 people in the same area reportedly for voting for “sheaf of paddy” symbol of main opposition party BNP (Case - 143) in the 30 December 2018 national election.

The victim recounted that during polling hours a group of supporters of vice chairman candidate Farhad Hossain Chowdhury Bahar had threatened her and her husband with dire consequences for campaigning for Bahar's rival candidate, Tajuddin Babar.

A report published in the Daily Star described the incident in the following manner:

“Fearing an attack, the couple took shelter at a relative's house in Bagga village after casting their votes.

But they became worried about their children as a storm hit the village in the evening. The couple decided to go home, about five kilometres away from there, on a motorbike.

As they travelled around half of the distance, 10-12 supporters of vice-chairman candidate Farhad, including Yusuf Majhi, Arman, Helal, Bechu Majhi, Fazal, Abul Bashar, Rubel, Bazlu and Raihan, intercepted them around 7:30 pm and beat them severely, the couple alleged.

At one stage, Bechu Majhi, Bazlu and Abul Bashar took the victim to a banana orchard inside the fish farm of Ruhul Amin, the alleged mastermind behind the gang-rape of the mother of four, and violated her.

Hearing screams for help, locals rushed to the spot and sent the victim to Noakhali General Hospital. The “rapists” managed to escape.”<sup>264</sup>

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<sup>263</sup> Barta Bazar, 1 April 2019: <https://bartabazar.com/archives/6547>

<sup>264</sup> The Daily Star, 2 April 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/gang-rape-again-subarnachar-1723642#.Y-sHQps5aa8.whatsapp>

### Case - 143

## Mother of Four Gang-Raped and House Looted by 10-12 BAL Men

Date: 31 December 2018

On 31 December 2018, a mother of four was gang-raped in Noakhali district's Subarnachar reportedly by 10 to 12 BAL activists. The victim, a 35-year-old woman who was being treated for severe injuries at Noakhali General Hospital, claimed that she was raped for voting for the "sheaf of paddy," the electoral symbol of the BNP, the main political rival of the ruling BAL, during the national polls held on 30 December 2018. The victim further alleged that the rapists were accomplices of Ruhul Amin, a former member of Char Jubilee Union Parishad and former publicity affairs secretary of the Subarnachar BAL. She stated that the attackers had repeatedly insisted that she should vote for the "boat," the symbol of the BAL, but she cast her ballot for the "sheaf of paddy."

As per reports, the woman stated that around midnight on 30 December 2018, a group of 10-12 men carrying sticks entered her house by cutting the surrounding fence. They then tied up her husband, who was an auto-rickshaw driver, and their four children with ropes.

The victim stated that the rapists took her outside and raped her while she groaned in pain. She also claimed that they threatened to kill her husband and children and burn their house down if she reported the rape. The victim's husband, who was also injured, said that the criminals left at around 4:00 am after beating his wife unconscious and stealing Tk 40,000, some gold ornaments, and other valuables. After the alleged rapists departed, the victim's husband and children called for help, and neighbors came to their rescue. Initially, a village doctor was called, but as the victim was still bleeding, she was taken to Noakhali General Hospital at noon, according to one of the neighbors who wished to remain anonymous. Shyamol Kumar Devnath of the hospital's emergency department reported finding evidence of rape and injury marks on various parts of the victim's body.<sup>265</sup>

### Case - 144

## Rape of Schoolgirl by BAL Leader in Joypurhat

Date: 23 July 2018

Abul Kalam Azad, the President of the Amdai Union Ward BAL, was accused of raping a sixth-grade student from Paikar village in Joypurhat Sadar Upazila. On the afternoon of 23 July 2018, Azad, who is the son of the deceased Abdus Salam of Paikar village, lured the schoolgirl to his house and raped her. When the villagers heard the girl's screams and came to her rescue, Azad fled the scene. The girl was later rescued and admitted to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital. A case was filed against Azad on charges of rape.<sup>266</sup>

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<sup>265</sup> The daily Star, 1 January 2019: <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/mother-four-gang-raped-al-men-1681405>

<sup>266</sup> RTV News Online, 25 July 2018: <https://bit.ly/2RCoEdU>

### Case - 145

## College Girl Raped through Seducing to Marriage by BCL Activist in Sunamganj

Date: 13 March 2018

According to reports, an HSC second-year student was raped for several months after being tempted with the promise of marriage. The accused, M Noman Hasan Khan, is the former President of the Bangabandhu Sainik League Sunamganj Sadar Upazila branch and its youth and sports affairs secretary. Noman is also the son of Motiur Rahman from Wejkhali. The victim, who is a college student from Gourarang Union, reportedly had a romantic relationship with Noman for several months. However, when the young woman expressed her desire for marriage, Noman appeared hesitant. After the victim filed a case against Noman for rape, he was found guilty by the court and sent to jail.<sup>267</sup>

### Case - 146

## A Young Woman Murdered after Gang-raped by BCL Leaders

Date: 10 August 2017

A young woman was reportedly gang-raped and murdered. In connection with the incident, four BCL leaders from Barguna district's Patharghata were temporarily expelled from the party and subsequently arrested for allegedly hiding the victim's body. On 10 August 2017, the body of an unidentified young woman was found in a pond on the west side of Patharghata College, and the Barguna Police Station began an investigation into the details of the murder. On November 10, the night watchman of Patharghata College was detained and interrogated by the DB police. Following the watchman's confession, BCL leaders Mahmud and Raihan were detained and interrogated by police. On 12 November 2017, College BCL President Ruhi Anal Daniel and General Secretary Saddam Hossain Chotto were arrested after Mahmud and Raihan reportedly confessed under section 164 in Patharghata court.<sup>268</sup>

### Case - 147

## Teenage Girl Gang-Raped by BCL Leaders and Incited to Commit Suicide in Netrakona District

Date: 3 September 2017

On the evening of 3 September 2017, Panna Akter, a teenage girl, was forcibly taken to a room at a nearby fish farm where she was forcibly gang-raped by Apu Chandra Sarker, Netrokona District BCL Agriculture Affairs Deputy Secretary, and two of his followers. The accused individuals are from Thakurakona village. Later that evening, the girl's mother rescued her daughter from the location. According to the complaint, the victim appeared "devastated" upon her rescue, and subsequently disclosed the details of the rape to her mother. One of the alleged

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<sup>267</sup> Jugantor, 13 March 2018: <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/bangla-face/27059>

<sup>268</sup> RTV News Online, 13 November 2017: <https://bit.ly/3jZkCeL>

rapists later visited the victim's home and threatened her family to keep the incident a secret, but the news eventually became known to the local community. The next day (4 September 2017) around 11 o'clock, the girl's body was found hanging from the wall of the adjacent room. The victim's mother, Alpana Akhter, filed a case under the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Act on charges of gang rape and incitement to suicide.<sup>269</sup>

#### **Case - 148**

### **2 Women Raped by BCL Leader in Jhenaidah**

Date: 5 May 2017

Police arrested three individuals, including a BCL leader, in connection with a gang rape of two women in Kotchandpur, Jhenaidah district. According to the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Kotchandpur police station, the incident occurred on 5 May 2017, when a housewife from Manoharpur village of Kaliganj Upazila and her neighbor were waiting for a delayed train at Kotchandpur railway station. The women were approached by several young men who offered to take them to a nearby Mango garden for rest. However, instead of providing them with a safe space to rest, the men allegedly held the women against their will throughout the night and gang-raped them.<sup>270</sup>

#### **Case - 149**

### **BCL Leader's Raping of Housewife for Four Long Years**

Date: 25 September 2014

On 25 September 2014, a BAL leader, Darshan Chandra Roy, was arrested by police in a rape case in Domar upazila in Nilphamari district. Roy, who was the president of Ward No. 6 of the Gomnati Union BAL, was arrested by Domar Thana Police from Boragari Bazar of Upazila late at night. The case was filed by Mukta Banu, who accused Roy of repeatedly having sexual relations with her over a period of four years under the pretext of marriage. Banu filed the case under the Prevention of Women and Child Abuse Act.<sup>271</sup>

#### **Case - 150**

### **Artist-Singer Gang-Raped by BCL Activists in Front of Husband in Satkhira**

Date: 4 January 2012

On 4 January 2012, a dancer and musician were gang-raped in front of her husband after being abducted in Satkhira. The victim was rescued by police and later filed a case under the Women and Child Abuse Act at Satkhira Sadar police station, naming the president and general

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<sup>269</sup> Daily Observer, 15 September 2017: <https://www.observerd.com/details.php?id=94810>; Bdnews24, 12 September 2017: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/article1393710.bdnews>

<sup>270</sup> Kaler kantho, 10 May 2017: <https://kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2017/05/10/496045>; Bdnews24, 10 May 2017: <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/article1332702.bdnews>

<sup>271</sup> Jugantor, 27 September 2014: <http://www.jugantor.com/old/bangla-face/2014/09/27/153199>

secretary of the District BCL as the accused. The incident occurred after dance artist Mousumi Parvin, her husband Saikat, and three other artists traveled from Khulna to Satkhira to perform at a cultural program at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Parks Shilpakala Academy on the occasion of the 64th founding anniversary of BCL.

After the cultural program ended around 11:30 p.m., District BCL president, Jewel Hasan, asked dancer Moushumi and her husband Saikat to get on his motorcycle, telling them he would take them to the hotel and pay the agreed amount. However, instead of taking them to the hotel, they were taken to the residence of District BCL General Secretary, Nazmul Huda Palash, who lived in Katia village in Satkhira town. Moushumi's husband Saikat was forcibly thrown from the motorcycle on the road, and his mobile phone was taken from him.

Moushumi was forcefully brought to Palash's home where she was subjected to a gang rape. When nearby residents heard Moushumi's cries, they immediately alerted the city patrol, who contacted the Satkhira Sadar police station. The police led a raid at 12:30 am and successfully rescued Moushumi and her husband Saikat, taking them to the police station for safety. The accused BCL leaders fled before being caught, and the victim's husband shared details of the attack with the reporters.<sup>272</sup>

#### **Case - 151**

### **BCL Leader Celebrates Rape Centenary**

Date: 27 September 1998

Jasimuddin Manik, a BAL cadre, had openly celebrated his 100th rape at the Jahangirnagar University in the late 90s and referred to himself as the “centurion”. On 27 September 1998, a fact-finding committee confirmed at least 20 incidents of rape and 300 incidents of sexual harassment inside the campus at various locations. The committee also observed that BCL rapist kingpin Jasimuddin Manik threw a cocktail party to mark the completion of his hundredth rape and gave sweets to his fellow BCL activists.<sup>273</sup>

## **3. 2 Attack on Women**

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#### **Case - 152**

### **BCL Activists’ Physical Abuse of Students Through Ragging**

Date: 11-12 February 2023

On 11-12 February 2023, Sanjida Chowdhury Antara, the vice-president of the university branch BCL, and her associates were accused of physically abusing and torturing a student of

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<sup>272</sup> United News, 5 January 2012: <https://bit.ly/3YVDha8>, Bangla News24, 31 January 2012: <https://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/85345.details>

<sup>273</sup> The Daily Star, 13 July 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/the-new-weapon-war-digital-bangladesh-1604494>

Islami University (IU) in the name of ragging. The victim, Phulpari, a student of the 2021-22 academic year of the Finance and Banking Department, alleged that she was stripped, physically abused, and tortured by the accused leaders at Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall. Phulpari further alleged that the accused BCL leaders recorded naked videos of her during the ragging.<sup>274</sup>

#### **Case - 153**

### **BAL Leader Arrested in Pornography Case in Moulvibazar**

Date: May 2022

According to reports, in May 2022, Abdus Salam, the general secretary of BAL ward number 7 in Fultala Union, was arrested by Moulvibazar police in a pornography case. Salam was taken into custody from his home in Purba Botuli village and later produced before the court. Police sources revealed that Abdus Salam had a love relationship with a woman who later got married to a young man from the United States. However, after the marriage, Salam allegedly created several fake IDs on Facebook in the name of the woman and spread his offensive photos on them. As a result, the woman's brother filed a case against Salam in Moulvibazar court on May 22, and a case was filed under the Pornography Act in the police station after the court directed the officer-in-charge of Juri police station to record the application as a case.<sup>275</sup>

#### **Case - 154**

### **BCL Leader's Molesting and Holding Hostage of a Female Student**

Date: 22 October 2022

On 22 October 2022, Imam Hasan Shuvo, the assistant secretary of Human Development Affairs of the Titumir College BCL and the vice president of Banani Thana BCL, was accused of molesting and holding a student hostage at the government Titumir College center for protesting against sexual harassment. The incident occurred while the student was taking an examination. A video of the incident, where the accused was seen harassing and robbing the student, was circulating on social media.<sup>276</sup>

#### **Case - 155**

### **Female Student Tortured at Eden College by BCL Leader by Pouring Hot Tea**

Date: 19 September 2022

On 19 September 2022, a student named Aishi was reportedly tortured by Ayesha Islam Meem, the vice president of the college's BCL branch, for protesting against the illegal placement of tables by some students on the road. Meem, who was said to be a follower of Tamanna Jasmine

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<sup>274</sup> Manobzamin, 14 February 2023: <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=42928>

<sup>275</sup> Prothom Alo, 4 January 2023: <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/2jbwveokmn>

<sup>276</sup> Samakal, 22 October 2022: <https://bit.ly/3xu3Ves>

Reaver, the college's BCL President, allegedly poured hot tea on Aishi and sprained her hand. The incident took place in room 313 of the Shaheed Bangmata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Student Residence at Eden College. This is not the first controversy involving the committee of Eden Women's College BCL since its formation.<sup>277</sup>

### **Case - 156**

## **Serious Sexual Exploitation of Female Students by BCL Leaders at Eden College**

Date: 29 September 2022

On 25 September 2022, clashes occurred at Eden Mohila College in Bangladesh between factions of the ruling BAL's student wing, BCL. The factions were in dispute over seat business, extortion, and forced sex allegations against the college unit leaders. The situation led to at least 15 people being injured in the clashes, drawing attention to the underlying issues and raising concerns about the conduct of the female wing of BCL.

The factions accused each other of engaging in seat business, which typically refers to the manipulation or control of seats within the college for personal gain or power. Additionally, they accused each other of extortion, which involves obtaining money, property, or services through coercion or threats. The most serious allegation, however, was that of forced sex, with some BCL leaders accusing their rivals of forcing fellow students to submit sexually to male party leaders and high-ranking members.

In response to the allegations and the resulting violence, the BCL suspended all activities at the Eden College unit committee and permanently expelled 16 members of the "rebel group" for violating organizational discipline. Despite multiple complaints, no action was taken against the Eden College unit BCL president, Tamanna Jasmine Riva, and general secretary, Razia Sultana.

The incidents at Eden Mohila College have raised serious concerns about the safety and well-being of students, particularly female students, as the allegations of forced sex point to a deeply troubling abuse of power by those in leadership positions within the student wing. The forced sex issue highlights the vulnerability of young students to exploitation by their peers and the potential for the misuse of authority within BCL.

As the situation continues to unfold, Women's rights activists and other concerned individuals demanded a thorough investigation into the allegations, including the forced sex claims, to uncover the facts and hold those responsible accountable for their actions. The incidents have raised questions about the role of student organizations especially BCL in educational

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<sup>277</sup> Manobzamin, 21 September 2022: <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=21738>



institutions and the importance of ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students, particularly in light of the serious nature of the allegations.<sup>278</sup>

#### **Case - 157**

### **BCL Activists' Attempted Rape at Chittagong University**

Date: 17 July 2020

Four individuals, all activists and supporters of BCL, have been arrested for their involvement in the sexual assault of a female student at Chittagong University campus on 17 July 2020. The arrestees are Md Azim, Nurul Akhter alias Babu, Md Masud Rana, and Hosain Shaon.

The suspects initially demanded money from the victim and her friend. When the demands were not met, they confined the friend and proceeded to sexually assault the female student. They stripped and attempted to rape her. The nature of the assault was further aggravated by the suspects recording the incident on their mobile phones, three of which have been recovered, including the victim's phone.

Lieutenant Colonel MA Yousuf, commanding officer of RAB-7, confirmed the information during a press briefing. Among the arrestees, Azim is a supporter of Rezaul Haque Rubel, president of BCL's Chittagong University unit. According to RAB, six people were involved in the assault, with five of them being directly involved. Two of the accused, both named Saiful, remain at large. The suspects were arrested during an overnight drive based on information provided by Azim.<sup>279</sup>

#### **Case - 158**

### **Female Student Hacked Severely by BCL Leader in Sylhet Government Women's College**

Date: 3 October 2016

On 3 October 2016, a female student at Sylhet Government Women's College was brutally attacked in broad daylight by Badrul Alam, a BCL leader and assistant secretary of the ruling party's student front unit at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST). She was waylaid and hacked on her way home from her college.

The victim, Khadija Akter Nargis, was in critical condition and underwent treatment at the neurosurgical intensive care unit of Square Hospital in Dhaka. She sustained multiple injuries to her head, skull, brain, and hands.

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<sup>278</sup> NewAge Bangladesh, 29 September 2022: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/182330/women-leaders-seek-probe-into-allegations>, Prothom Alo, 25 September 2022: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/politics/bcmifjs5im>

<sup>279</sup> The Daily Star, 23 July 2020: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/cu-sexual-assault-rab-arrests-4-direct-involvement-3077221>

Locals had heard the victim's screams and rescued her, apprehending Badrul and handing him over to the police after beating him. A case had been filed against Badrul, the lone accused, with Shah Paran Police Station by the victim's uncle, Abdul Quddus.

In response to the incident, hundreds of students from the college blockaded the Sylhet-Tamabil highway, demanding exemplary punishment for the attacker. The protest lasted for around four hours and ended after police authorities assured the students that their demands would be met.<sup>280</sup>

### Case - 159

## **Sexual Assault on Women by BCL Activists in Dhaka University Campus During Bengali New Year “Pohela Boishakh 2015” Celebration**

Date: 14 April 2015

On 14 April 2015, during the Bengali New Year celebrations, several women were sexually harassed by a group of miscreants at Dhaka University's TSC and Suhrawardy Udyan gate areas. Witnesses reported a group of at least 30 unruly youths attacking and assaulting women. Liton Nandi, Bangladesh Students' Union's DU chapter President, attempted to rescue one of the women but was severely injured in the process. He criticized the police for their inaction during the assaults, claiming that they arrived at the scene almost an hour after the attackers had left.<sup>281</sup>

The incidents of sexual assault and harassment occurred near the Suhrawardy Udyan gate at Dhaka University, where around 20 women were assaulted by 30 to 40 rowdy youths for about an hour. They swooped on the women, assaulting them and attempting to remove their clothing in public. They stripped some women almost naked and touched the private parts of others. Witnesses alleged that law enforcers were only 20 yards away from the spot but did not intervene to rescue the women or arrest the attackers. Several student organizations protested the incident, demanding the arrest of the culprits.<sup>282</sup>

Many years have passed since the incident, yet the police have been unable to identify or arrest any of the criminals involved. This inactivity and reluctance on the part of the police is significant and mysterious. Based on reports, it has been found that the police were inactive and reluctant in multiple phases:

1. According to eyewitness accounts, the police were very near but they didn't take any action at all.

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<sup>280</sup> The Daily Star, 4 October 2016: <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/hacked-student-sylhet-college-critical-condition-1294042>

<sup>281</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 15 April 2015: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/uncategorized/2015/04/15/boishakh-celebration-women-harassed-near-tsc>

<sup>282</sup> The Daily Star, 16 April 2015: <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/outrage-over-sex-assault-77496>

2. Police reached the scene about one hour later even though the police station (Shahbagh police station) was very nearby.
3. It is claimed that police released some of the culprits after members of the public caught them and handed them over to law enforcement officials. The Daily Star report stated, “Masudur Rahman, another Chhatra Union activist, said they could not recognise anybody due to the lack of light at dusk. Amit and Masud said their group caught five of the offenders and handed them over to the police. When they inquired about them two hours later, police told them that all of them had been released. Of the five, two were DU students.”<sup>283</sup>
4. Initially, the police denied having any evidence of sexual harassment and described the incident as a mere scuffle. Later, they claimed to have identified eight people who carried out the harassment from CCTV footage but were unable to arrest or prosecute them.<sup>284</sup> This failure to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice raises serious concerns about the effectiveness and integrity of the police investigation.

In another report, it was stated that the central leaders of BCL, the student body of the ruling party, prohibited their female members from protesting against the assault on women during the Pohela Boishakh celebration on the Dhaka University campus. The report described this action as "strange."<sup>285</sup>

These unusual, mysterious, and strange activities by the police and BCL have led many to strongly believe the involvement of ruling party leaders and activists in the incident. Based on various reports and incidents, it appears that the ruling party student wing's involvement in such incidents, combined with deliberate inaction by the police, is a common phenomenon. Daily Jugantor report stated, “Apart from this, the ruling student organization is also responsible for these types of incidents, as at various times in such incidents, BCL has given support to party leaders and activists. It has been observed from previous incidents that whenever any of their party workers get involved in these incidents, others from the hall come and rescue him.”<sup>286</sup>

One of the few remaining opposition news media the Daily Sangram commented in their report: “The question has been raised whether the police are not arresting those who strip women of clothes because they belong to the BCL. Observers suggest that the individuals responsible for such lewd acts should be apprehended and given exemplary punishment to demonstrate that

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<sup>283</sup>The Daily Star, 24 December 2015: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/pahela-baishakh-sexual-assault-detectives-file-final-report-192103>

<sup>284</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 14 April 2019: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2019/04/14/4-years-on-no-progress-in-pohela-boishakh-sexual-harassment-trial>

<sup>285</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 19 April 2015: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/uncategorized/2015/04/19/chhatra-league-reins-in-its-women>

<sup>286</sup> Daily Jugantor, 17 April 2015: <https://www.jugantor.com/old/first-page/2015/04/17/249993>

they are not affiliated with the ruling BAL affiliated BCL or any influential power.”<sup>287</sup> However, after more than eight years, the police and government were not able to prove it.

### **Case - 160**

## **BCL Leaders’ Entry into Female Student Dorm and Attack on Resident Girl Students**

Date: 20 January 2013

On 20 January 2013, at midnight, two individuals, identified as BCL leader Abdullah Maruf and Chhatra Kalyan Parishad VP Abdul Baki, allegedly entered the Sher E Bangla Medical College student hostel in Barisal. The two individuals reportedly went to several rooms, including room no. 2023 of the new building and room no. 309, 210, and 214 of the old building, where they allegedly threatened female students and demanded that they leave the hostel.

According to the investigation, when the girlfriends of the two leaders were given rooms in the hostel, they went to the student hall in the middle of the night and threatened and intimidated the students to vacate the room by entering the room.<sup>288</sup>

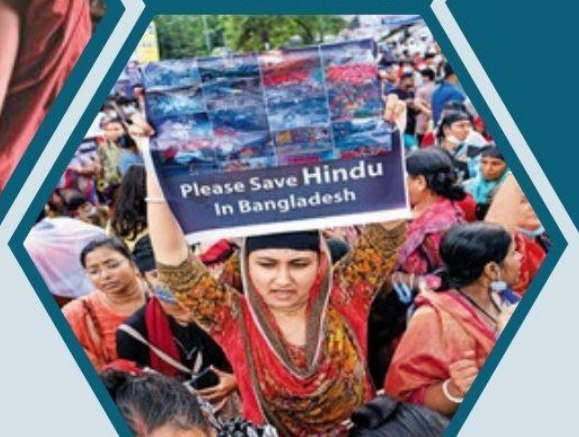
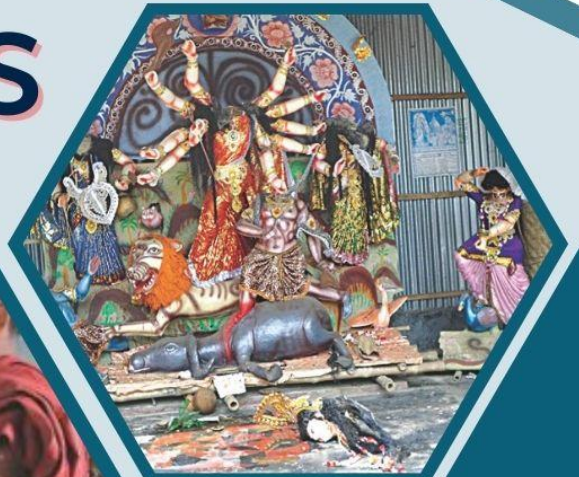
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<sup>287</sup> The Daily Sangram, 16 April 2015: <https://shorturl.at/zQY47>

<sup>288</sup> Amader Barisal, 21 January 2013: <http://www.amaderbarisal.com/news/33913.aspx>



## OPPRESSIONS AND ATTACKS ON MINORITIES



### Case - 161

## **BCL Leader Ibrahim Accused of Encroaching Land of Hindu Man**

Date: 10 January 2023

On 10 January 2023, the pro-government newspaper Daily Janakantha reported that a leader of the Chhatra League (the student wing of the ruling Awami League party) was accused of usurping the land of a Hindu family in the Basabaria village in Kachua Upazila in the Chandpur district of Bangladesh. The accused was identified as Ibrahim Miya (also known by Duronto Ibrahim), the convenor of the Chhatra League at the Kachua Government Bangabandhu Degree College. A complaint was filed with the Kachua police station against the accused, his mother, Fathima Begum and his sister by the victim Uttam Sarkar, who alleged that the trio had encroached upon his land.<sup>289</sup>

### Case - 162

## **Jubo League Leader's Attack on Hindu Families Left Nine Injured**

Date: 18 November 2022

At least nine members of a minority Hindu community were injured in an attack carried out by a Jubo League (the youth wing of the ruling Awami League party) leader at Kostapara village in Bhuapur Upazila of Tangail District of Bangladesh on 18 November 2022. The attackers vandalized at least two houses and idols. The attack was led by Govindasi Union Jubo League president Khorshed Bepari and his brother Arshed Bepari, along with others. According to Gauri Rani, wife of one of the victims, Subash Ghos, some people entered their house at about 7:30 am and vandalized idols in the prayer room.<sup>290</sup>

### Case - 163

## **Idol at Jhenaidah Temple Vandalized as per BCL Leader's Plan**

Date: 6 October 2022

In an attempt to stir up turmoil in the region due to their frustration over the police's intervention to prevent an unauthorized dance party, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) orchestrated a plot to deface Hindu goddess idols in Shailakupa in Jhenaidah district. Jhenidah police apprehended Dinar Biswas for his alleged involvement in vandalizing idols at the old Kali Mandir in the village of Dautia, under Shailakupa upazila, during the night of 6 October 2022.

The day after the incident, Temple Committee president Sukumar Mondol filed a case with Shailakupa Police Station. Dinar Biswas is the son of Motiar Rahman, chairman of Dhalhora Chandra union under Shailkupa Upazila. He was the former president of the Upazila Chhatra League and convenor of the Upazila Awami League.

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<sup>289</sup> The Daily Janakantha, 10 January 2023: <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/674523>

<sup>290</sup> New Age, 18 November 2022: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/186811/9-injured-as-jl-leader-attacks-hindu-houses>, The Daily Star, 19 November 2022: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/tangail-hindu-home-temple-ransacked-over-land-dispute-3173106>

According to police sources, Dinar and his friend Jinarul engaged in indecent dancing and gambling with 15-16 girls on a boat on the Gorai River. Upon receiving this information, police conducted a drive there and seized gambling equipment. Being angry, Dinar decided to cause disruption and unrest aimed at the police.<sup>291</sup>

#### Case - 164

### Attack on a Hindu Village by Jubo League Leadership through Microphone Announcement

Date: 17 March 2021

On 17 March 2021, an attack took place at a Hindu village in the Shalla sub-district of Sunamganj district of Bangladesh and around 60 to 70 houses were vandalized. According to eyewitnesses, the main leader of the attack was the current UP member of a nearby sub-district and Ward President of Saramangal Union Jubo League, Shahidul Islam Swadhin and Pakkan Mia of the same village.<sup>292</sup> The entire operation was orchestrated under their leadership. They gathered people by using a microphone to openly call them and subsequently initiated the act of vandalizing the village. It is noteworthy and puzzling that despite having a twelve-hour window to respond, the police remained inactive and did not take any measures to safeguard the well-being of the Hindu minority community.<sup>293</sup> The police arrested Shahidul Islam Swadhin alias Swadhin member on 20 March 2021.<sup>294</sup>

#### Case - 165

### Satkhira Jubo League Leader Sued for Vandalism and Looting of Hindu Houses

Date: 30 July 2020

A case was filed at the Sadar police station against five individuals, including Abdul Mannan, the Satkhira district Jubo League convenor, and 16 other unidentified individuals. This case pertains to the incident on 30 July 2020, where an attack was launched, resulting in vandalism, looting, and physical assault on four individuals in the house belonging to the Hindu community. The incident occurred in the Bankal Kheya Ghat area of Satkhira district.

The incident's details reveal that Mujibur Peshkar, the son of Sanaullah Gazi from South Katiar in Satkhira City, claimed that he had verbally purchased a piece of land from Pulin Makhal in the Kheyaghat area for a sum of five lakh taka, without any formal documentation. On the night of 8 June 2020, Mujibur Peshkar's son, Sourav (also known as Shubo), and a local driver named Ramiz, along with Alamgir Hossain (son of Ramiz), arrived at the location of the incident and issued an ultimatum to the Hindu residents, demanding that they vacate the country by the

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<sup>291</sup> The Daily Observer, 16 October 2022: <https://www.observerbdt.com/news.php?id=388548>

The Daily Star, 16 October 2022: <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-404981>

<sup>292</sup> The Daily Jugantor, 19 March 2021: <https://bit.ly/3S4KHWh>

<sup>293</sup> DW (Bangla version), 18 March 2021: <https://bit.ly/40WYqHI>

<sup>294</sup> DW (Bangla version), 20 March 2021: <https://bit.ly/3k20Qzq>

night. Otherwise, they threatened to forcibly expel them with the assistance of Jubo League leader Mannan. On 9 June 2020, these individuals attacked their houses, resulting in acts of vandalism and looting. During this incident, individuals named Jaidev Makhal, Sahadev Makhal, Biswajit Makhal, Shyamoli Biswas, and Sarjit Kazi were subjected to physical assault and injuries while attempting to obstruct their actions. These injured individuals were subsequently taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for medical treatment.<sup>295</sup>

### Case - 166

## Hindu Homes and Temples Under Attack by Awami League Men

Date: 30 October 2016

Hindu homes and temples in the Nasirnagar upazila (sub-district) of the Brahmanbaria district in eastern Bangladesh came under attack on 30 October 2016, following a rally over an alleged defamatory post by an illiterate Hindu fisherman, Rasraj Das, on Facebook even though he had reported to have apologized to the Muslims the day before saying that his account had been hacked.

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) estimated that more than 100 Hindu houses and 17 temples were vandalized and looted since the violence began on 30 October.<sup>296</sup>

The Daily Star published an investigative report on 9 January 2017, revealing the Awami League's involvement in the attack.<sup>297</sup> According to the report, locals, victims, and eyewitnesses stated that Suruj Ali, a top local leader of the Awami League, was seen riding on a motorcycle and instigating people to attack the houses and temples of Hindu people, centering on an anti-Islamic Facebook post made using the account of the Hindu - Rasraj Das. According to reports, the police investigation later found that Rasraj's Facebook account was hacked by someone else, and he did not give the anti-Islamic post. Additionally, Suruj Ali was reported to have attended a rally at the Ashutosh Pilot High School playground in Nasirnagar Sadar Union on 30 October 2016, where he chanted provocative slogans inciting attacks on Hindus.

When the reporter from The Daily Star visited Nasirnagar in early December 2016, many locals informed him that Suruj Ali had openly called for the killing of Hindus and urged them to leave Bangladesh for India.

On 27 December 2016, the police arrested Abdul Ahad, the former joint secretary of Upazila and former chairman of Sadar union units of Awami League, in connection with the attack on Hindus in Nasirnagar. In January 2017, the prime instigator of the incident, Suruj Ali, a top

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<sup>295</sup> Daily Naya Diganta, 5 August 2020: <https://bit.ly/40ZYgud>

SATV, 3 August 2020: <https://bit.ly/3jZrqZU>

<sup>296</sup> Aljazeera, 6 November 2016:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/June,dozens-arrested-for-attacks-on-hindus-in-bangladesh>

<sup>297</sup> The Daily Star, 9 January 2017: <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/attack-hindus-another-local-al-leader-held-1342795>



local leader of the Awami League, was also arrested and subsequently sent to jail after being produced before a Brahmanbaria court.<sup>298</sup>

### **Case - 167**

#### **Awami League Men Swoop on Hindus, Vandalized Temple in Barisal**

Date: 2 December 2014

Over 100 cadres of the ruling party (Awami League), including Shah Alam Lashkar, local leader of Dashar union Sramik League, Tipu Mridha, Arafat Sharif, local leaders of Jubo League, attacked and vandalized at least seven houses and a temple of Hindus in Dashar area of the Donarkani village in Gournadi sub-district of Barisal district in Bangladesh. The attackers also looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables from the houses.

According to the locals, the idols of Durga, Saraswati, Kartik, Mahadev, Ganesh, Laxmi, Ashur of the temple at Sarkar Bari, idols of Radha-Krishna at the worship rooms of Goutam Sarkar and Sushen Sarkar were damaged.

According to Gournadi police, at least 13 people were injured during the incident.

On 2 December 2014, Abinash Sarkar, a retired schoolteacher and president of the Donarkandi Government Primary School managing committee, filed a case, accusing 64 people in connection with the incident.

Abinash said, “Shaon Haoladar, an influential member of the Gournadi upazila BCL convening committee, attacked me with an iron rod at 3:30 pm on 2 December 2014, when I protested substandard construction work of the school building by the party leader.”<sup>299</sup>

### **Case - 168**

#### **Hindu House Looted by Awami League Men, Released by Police Learning upon Identity**

Date: 13 October 2014

Houses of several fishermen, mainly from the minority community of the Ujirpur area in the Barisal district, were looted by Awami League-backed youth front Jubo League members on 13 October 2014. Villagers in Ujirpur upazila of Barisal caught six persons while they were committing a robbery, beat them up and handed them over to the police. The police, however, released them upon learning their political identity. The six robbers caught on the spot were Ujirpur Jubo League convening committee member Zahidul Islam and Jubo League activists Jamal Hossain, Sumon Khan, Limon Kazi, Kuddus Sikdar and Subodh Majhi. The fishermen and residents of the village say that at about 3 am night, a group of robbers, identifying

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<sup>298</sup> Ibid

<sup>299</sup> The Daily Star, 3 December 2014: <https://sandbox.thedailystar.net/ruling-party-men-swoop-on-hindus-vandalise-temple-53071>

themselves as police, boarded a boat on the river Sandhya of Harta Union. They then grabbed money, mobile phones and other items from about 20 small and large boats and trawlers along the river. They beat up five fishermen who tried to stop them. They then entered the fishermen's settlement at the village Natarkandi in Harta and robbed five houses. They injured another five persons there. Housewives Geeta Baroi and Sumitra Samaddar say they were hiding on the house's roof in fear for their lives, but the robbers dragged them down and beat them up.<sup>300</sup>

#### **Case - 169**

### **Hindu Killed, Houses of Two Families Vandalized by Awami League Men**

Date: 9 October 2014

The Awami League men attacked Bholanath Chandra Roy and his family members as they tried to prevent them from fishing in the water body belonging to Bholanath and another Hindu family of the village on 9 October 2014 at Nawdabash village in Kaliganj sub-district of Lalmonirhat district.

One of five Hindus injured in the attack by the ruling party men died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on 11 October 2014. The deceased, Bholanath, succumbed to his injuries at around 11:40 pm. Four other injured are Bholanath's elder brother, Manir Chandra Roy, wife Sandhya Rani Roy, son Subol Chandra Roy, and daughter-in-law Kukila Rani Roy.

The accused are Khairuzzaman Miah, Khorshed Alam, Reza Islam, Ariful Islam, Shariful Islam, Jariful Islam, Kandura Miah, and Shahinur Islam. They all were members of the Awami League Chandrapur Union unit, according to police, locals and party sources.

The accused also vandalized and looted three houses of two Hindu families in the village the following day.<sup>301</sup>

#### **Case - 170**

### **Hindu's Land Grabbed by Awami League Leader**

Date: 9 February 2014

A ruling Bangladesh Awami League (BAL) leader forcibly occupied a piece of land of a Hindu family in the Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat. On 9 February 2014, Bhabani Kanta Sen and his two sons were picked up by a group of ruling party (Awami League) men. They were held hostage at the house of an Awami League leader, Nazrul Islam, in Rasulpur village of Bawra union. Bhabani and his sons were forced to sign a non-judicial stamp stating that they were handing over the ownership of a 32-decimal plot of land to Rabiul Islam Miron, president of

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<sup>300</sup> Daily Prothom Ali, 15 October 2014: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Robbers-released-on-Jubo-League-identity>

<sup>301</sup> The Daily Star, 13 October 2014: <https://www.thedailystar.net/hindu-killed-houses-of-two-families-vandalised-45406>

the BAL Bawra union unit. Bidyut, son of Bhabani, informed that they had to sign the document as Rabiul's men forced them to do so.

On 16 February, Bhabani filed a case with Patgram Police Station. Bhabani had shown necessary documents supporting his ownership, but Rabiul could not produce any.<sup>302</sup>

### **Case - 171**

#### **Juba League Leader Sets Fire to Hindu Houses in Satkhira**

Date: 14 December 2013

On 14 December 2013, a member of the Juba League, the youth wing of the ruling Awami League party, was apprehended by local residents while attempting to flee. This individual had been involved in setting fire to several Hindu residences in Debhata, located in the Satkhira district. The detained Juba League leader, Abdul Gaffar, confessed to his role in the arson, revealing that he had carried out the act under the direction of a local Awami League leader. He also disclosed the identities of three additional accomplices who had assisted him in the incident.

According to eyewitnesses, around 11 pm on 14 December 2013, a group of 15-20 individuals wearing masks set fire to the residence of Suneet Sarkar in Parulia village, situated in the Debhata sub-district. As a result of this arson attack, two houses were completely engulfed in flames. The perpetrators attempted to flee the scene, but they were pursued by local residents. One of the culprits, Abdul Gaffar, was apprehended by the mob and subsequently handed over to the police at approximately 9 am on the following day, 15 December 2013.

The Debhata police department verified the occurrence of the incident. Subsequently, on 16 December 2013, a Mobile Court led by Magistrate Rezaul Karim issued a verdict, sentencing the ruling party leader Abdul Gaffar to a one-year prison term for his involvement in the attack on Hindu residences.<sup>303</sup>

### **Case - 172**

#### **Attack on Hindu House in Barisal, Vandalism of Idols by Juba League Leader**

Date: 24 November 2013

A house of a Hindu community was attacked under the leadership of Barisal municipal councillor and Juba League leader Feroz Ahmed due to a land acquisition dispute.

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<sup>302</sup> The Daily Star, 2 March 2014: <https://www.thedailystar.net/hindus-land-grabbed-by-al-leader-13622>

<sup>303</sup> Bangladesh Pratidin, 15 December 2013: <https://www.bd-pratidin.com/country-village/2013/12/15/32295>;  
The Daily Sangram, 17 December 2013: <https://bit.ly/3Kb4qBO>

The attack ensued at the house of Ratan Bhowmik, a resident of the South Vijaypur area of Gournadi Municipality of Barisal, on 24 November 2013.

Around 6 o'clock, a group of 8 to 10 people led by municipal councillor Feroz attacked his (Ratan Bhowmik) house and beat his mother-in-law Tulsi Saha and aunt Maya Poddar. At this time, the attackers also vandalized the Mansa idol under construction in the Mansa temple. The assailants hung three signboards on trees demanding the land of the house.

Acknowledging the truth of the incident, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gournadi Police Station Abul Kalam said that Ratan Bhowmik filed a case in Gournadi Police Station on the same night.<sup>304</sup>

### **Case - 173**

## **Chhatra League Activists Set Fire to Temples and Houses in Barisal**

Date: 15 November 2013

On 15 November 2013, a group of approximately 50 individuals from Barisal city travelled by boat to Charkaua in the Sadar sub-district of Barisal district, where they proceeded to set fire to houses and temples belonging to the Hindu community. The individuals responsible for this attack were students of Flight Sergeant Fazlul Haque (Muslim Hall) hostel of the city's government Brajmohan (BM) College and were reportedly affiliated with the political group Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). The incident resulted in the destruction of 13 residences and two temples.

A student from the hostel of BM College mentioned that the BCL students had left the hostel around 7:30 am on the day of the incident. The group was reportedly led by individuals such as Shakil Howladar, KM Rafique, Zakaria, Zia, Sajeeb, and Arif. These students were actively engaged in the political activities of the college's Chhatra League branch and were often seen participating in various meetings of the organization at the forefront.<sup>305</sup>

### **Case - 174**

## **Hindus Attacked at Bonogram of Santhia Sub-District in Pabna District**

Date: 2 November 2013

On 2 November 2013, 25 houses belonging to Hindus were vandalized, setting fire to some houses at Bonogram of Santhia sub-district in Pabna district. At around 10:00 am that day, a group of people began distributing photocopies of what they said was a "Facebook page". They claimed one Rajib Saha had maligned Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) on the page. According to

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<sup>304</sup> The Daily KalerKantho, 25 November 2013: <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2013/11/25/24569>

<sup>305</sup> The Daily KalerKantho, 21 November 2013: <https://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/last-page/2013/11/21/23299#sthash.G8fDJL8t.dpuf>

an eyewitness, "None was given the chance to ask whether or not it was a faked Facebook posting." Rajib, son of Babul Saha, a shop owner in the bazaar, was a class-X student of Bonogram Miapur High School. Soon, hundreds of people stormed Babul Saha's house in Bonogram. Unable to find the boy, the mob got hold of Babul and took him to the bazaar. Despite repeatedly protesting his son's innocence, Babul was mercilessly hit and kicked upon. At one stage, some locals intervened to save him and confined him to a shop. Meanwhile, a more aggressive and violent gang set fire to Babul's house. Later, more gangs joined in to attack the predominantly Hindu villages of Bonogram, Sahapara and Ghoshpara and vandalized and torched about 100 homesteads.<sup>306</sup>

The individuals reportedly involved in the attack on the Hindu community in Pabna were observed alongside Shamsul Hoque Tuku, a former State Minister for Home and a prominent leader of the Awami League, along with two other lawmakers, during their visit to the affected Bonogram village. Among these individuals, Mithu and Rubel, whom villagers identified as participants in the attack, were prominently seen welcoming the ministers and participating in a rally organized by the local administration to protest against the violence. Another individual named Ani, who was also allegedly associated with the attackers, was reportedly present at the event as well. This incident gained significant coverage across major media outlets in the country, including the Daily Star.<sup>307</sup>

Later, according to a monitoring report by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), it was found that the attack on minorities was pre-planned and was carried out under the leadership and patronization of the Awami League party in Santhia sub-district of Pabna.<sup>308</sup>

The Commission observed that the attack was in no way a reactionary outburst of religious sentiment; instead, it was aimed at making the Hindu community financially handicapped and looting of valuables, including ornaments and cash from those families. The Commission found negligence on the part of local administration, particularly police and intelligence, for their failure to forecast the attack and take action against those who spread the rumour. According to the report, the local people told the Commission that the attack was planned as the Hindu community members had refused to pay extortion demanded by local goons backed by the ruling Awami League party. They also informed the Commission that Hindu community members in Santhia had to pay extortion regularly to the local goons. The Commission accused the local administration of their failure to provide security to the Hindus on the day and observed that the role of police and local politicians was 'doubtful'.

The Commission's Chairman Mizanur Rahman, in a letter to cabinet secretary M Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan on 14 November 2013, asked him to ensure exemplary punishment to the perpetrators after identifying them through an investigation into the heinous attack for the sake of upholding Bangladesh's non-communal character before the world. He also called for action

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<sup>306</sup> The Daily Star, 3 November 2013: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/hindus-attacked-in-pabna>

<sup>307</sup> The Daily Star, 7 November 2013: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/some-attackers-seen-with-tuku>

<sup>308</sup> The Daily Prothom Alo, 19 November 2013: <https://bit.ly/3I85J1M>

against the local administration and intelligence agencies for failure and politicians for their criminal activities. The Commission stated that akin to the previous incidents of attacks on minorities in Ramu and Banskali, the assault in Santhia was not a result of spontaneous provocation. Instead, it was a premeditated and orchestrated attack.

Even Awami League leader and former state minister for information Abu Sayeed publicly accused State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku and police for not taking immediate steps to protect Hindus in Bonogram of Pabna Santhia upazila.<sup>309</sup>

Pro-Awami League parties like the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BASAD) also blamed State Home Minister Shamsul Hoque Tuku for conniving in the attack on the Hindu community in Santhiya in Pabna.<sup>310</sup>

### **Case - 175**

#### **Awami League Leader's Attack in Bhola, Idol Vandalized**

Date: 1 June 2013

Local Awami League leader Ali Bepari and his associates attacked Lord Hardinge's temple in Lalmohan of Bhola district and vandalized the idol. At that time, four people were injured, including several women. On 1 June 2013, at around 12:30 pm, a group of miscreants, including Siraj, Mosaref, Mubarak, Riaz, Sanallah, Lokman, Kamrul and Anu, led by Awami League leader Ali Bepari, entered the temple and vandalized the idol. At that time, they beat up Kiran Chandra Das, Jharna Rani Das, Birangi Baishya, and Babita Rani Das and seriously injured them. The local residents sent the injured to the hospital. Mizanur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge of Lalmohan police station, said that the police arrested three people, including two sons of Awami League leader Ali Bepari, in this incident.<sup>311</sup>

### **Case - 176**

#### **Houses of Three Hindu Families Attacked for Skipping BAL Meeting**

Date: 26 March 2013

According to reports, a group comprising approximately 20 individuals affiliated with the ruling Bangladesh Awami League (BAL) committed vandalism on 26 March 2013. The incident involved the destruction of eight houses belonging to three Hindu families: Kartik Ghosh, Montu Ghosh, and Robi Ghosh. This incident occurred in Doyarampur village within the Kumarkhali upazila. It was reported that this vandalism was prompted by the families' failure to attend a BAL meeting held at the upazila headquarters.

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<sup>309</sup> The Daily Star, 9 November 2013: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/abu-sayeed-blames-tuku>

<sup>310</sup> The Daily Kaler Kantho, 10 November 2013:  
<https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2013/11/10/20037>

<sup>311</sup> The Daily Manab Zamin, 1 June 2013: <https://mzamin.com/details-archive2012.php?mzamin=56582&cat=18>

A case was filed with Kumarkhali Police Station in this connection, and police arrested two of the attackers, Abdur Rashid and Ibrahim Hossain. Shamsuzzaman Arun, Kumarkhali municipality mayor and general secretary of the BAL upazila unit, testified that the arrestees were BAL activists.

According to the case filed by Kartik Ghosh, one of the victims, a group of 20 to 25 people led by Abdur Rashid and Ibrahim Hossain, came to their house in the morning and introduced themselves as the men of Kumarkhali upazila BAL President Abdul Mannan Khan. Kartik said they asked all members of the three Hindu families to join the meeting of upazila BAL at Kumarkhali municipality market ground in the afternoon. “As only a few of us attended the meeting, the group led by the duo attacked our houses and looted valuables, including gold ornaments,” he stated.<sup>312</sup>

### **Case - 177**

## **Awami League’s Brutal Attack on the Buddhist Community in Ramu, Cox’s Bazar**

Date:29 September 2012

On 29 September 2012, a brutal attack on the minority Buddhist community in Ramu by some assailants shocked the entire Bangladesh. Hundred-year-old monastery and Buddhist temples were set ablaze, and most of the valuables, including gold and stone statues of Gautama Buddha, were looted. Poor Buddhists became homeless overnight after thousands of terrorists and thugs rampaged through villages, looting houses and burning down Buddhist temples. Local people said the violence went on for nearly six hours in various villages of the Ramu in Cox's Bazar. The protests were triggered after an image allegedly insulting the Quran was posted on the Facebook wall of a Buddhist youth. Investigations by local media later revealed that the youth had nothing to do with the incident. Although some tried to link the attacks on Buddhists with the ethnic conflict between Rohingya Muslims and the majority Buddhist population in the neighbouring Burmese state of Rakhine, local people dismissed the notion.

Upon further investigation into the crisis, it was discovered that the initial protest rally, which was in response to an unconfirmed post on Facebook insulting the Quran, was organized and led by local Awami League members and affiliated groups' leaders. Notable figures involved in spearheading the protest included Ansharul Haque Bhutto, leader of the Fishermen League; Nurul Islam Salim, a Jubo League leader; Saddam Hossain, a member of the district Chhatra League; Azizul Haque, President of Fatekhankul Union of the Swechasebak League, and other individuals.<sup>313</sup>

Subsequently, these leaders took further actions to incite the general population to launch an assault on the Buddhist villages. Remarkably, the violence persisted for approximately 5 to 6

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<sup>312</sup> The Daily Star, 28 March 2013: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/houses-of-three-hindu-families-attacked-for-skipping-al-meeting>

<sup>313</sup> The Daily Sangram, 5 April 2013: <https://bit.ly/3YvKjCK>

hours. Even more astonishing was the apparent lack of action by the police and administrative authorities, who failed to intervene during this rampage. An investigation by The Daily Star shed light on the gravity of the situation, revealing that the administration's inaction played a significant role in the escalation of the incident. Their report highlighted: "An investigation by The Daily Star had exposed that a forged Facebook profile of a Buddhist youth was used to instigate the crimes. Besides, the inaction of the local administration, intelligence and law enforcement agencies was blamed for the planned attack."<sup>314</sup>

This inaction raised suspicions that it might not have been arbitrary. It suggested the possibility of some level of complicity or tacit support from the government and ruling party members. The potential involvement of the Awami League became evident through another report published by The Daily Star, which stated, "A motley group comprising local leaders of pro-Awami League organizations, BNP men, madrasa students and common people were allegedly behind the communal violence at Ramu on Saturday night."<sup>315</sup>

Some pro-government media and Awami League leaders immediately blamed the opposition for this violence and some criminal cases were also filed against them. Even though some local newspapers published photos of vandalism, the police could not arrest the perpetrators, apparently because of their political affiliation with the Awami League.

## **Case - 178**

### **Torture in Brahmanbaria by Awami League**

Date: 1 August 2012

In Brahmanbaria, several Hindu families, including families of fishermen, lived under constant threats of physical harm and property damage by the local Awami League president, Muslim Mia, and his family members. Among the series of atrocities that took place, a Hindu man named Hira Lal was subjected to torture and lost his life. The deceased's family was prohibited from conducting a proper funeral and faced threats against pursuing any legal action. One of the oppressed fishermen, Horey Krishna Das, revealed that the Hindu families endured various forms of abuse, including extortion, kidnappings, rape, and mistreatment. Additionally, they were coerced into signing land transfer deeds and were subjected to ransom demands and harassment.<sup>316</sup>

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<sup>314</sup> The Daily Star, 11 January 2016: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/ramu-mayhems-prime-accused-detained-dhaka-200293>

<sup>315</sup> The Daily Star, 3 October 2012: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-252212>

<sup>316</sup> Human Rights Report 2009, Odhikar Report Bangladesh on, 1 January 2010, p - 52: <https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual-Human-Rights-Report-2009.pdf>



### **Case - 179**

#### **Hindu Goddess Idol Repeatedly Ransacked**

Date: 17 September 2010

An idol of the Hindu goddess, Durga, was allegedly ransacked by a group of criminals at Kali Mandir (temple) in Shree Nagar sub-district under Munshiganj district on 17 September 2010. The leaders of the temple committee said that on 16 September 2010, Alek Mia, Mizanur and Ashiqur, with their associates, came to grab the temple's land. The criminals threatened to kill the men when they tried to oppose them. Police arrested Mizanur in this connection. The assailants were released on bail from the cases filed against them, and on 18 October 2010, they reportedly carried out another attack. It was reported that the miscreants were affiliated with the ruling political party, Awami League, so no actions were taken against them.<sup>317</sup>

### **Case - 180**

#### **8 Hindus Wounded in an Attack by Awami League in Munshiganj**

Date: 25 September 2009

On 25 September 2009, eight persons, including the Shebait (the religious head) of the temple, were wounded by a group of miscreants at 'Nagmondir' situated at Balashur village under Sreenagar Upazila of Munshiganj district. The joint secretary of the Upazila Awami League, Hanif Bepari, also known for his notorious land-grabbing activities, led the attack.<sup>318</sup>

### **Case - 181**

#### **Kidnapping of 9 People and Robbery in Sutrapur, Dhaka**

Date: 22 August 2009

An incident of kidnapping of 9 Hindu family members, including women and children, and robbery at their home at Sutrapur in Dhaka took place on 22 August 2009 at house No. 95 of Hrishikesh Das Lane. A group of 10-12 kidnappers disguised as DB [Detective Branch] police took away the family's gold ornaments and other valuables, tied all nine of them up and attached scotch tape over their lips. Afterwards, the family members were rescued from an engineering workshop at holding No.65 in the same area by a police force. Four local Awami League activists were arrested in this connection.<sup>319</sup>

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<sup>317</sup> Human Rights Report 2010, Odhikar Report on Bangladesh, 1 January 2011, p - 47: [https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Report\\_2010.pdf](https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual_Human_Rights_Report_2010.pdf)

<sup>318</sup> Human Rights Report 2009, Odhikar Report on Bangladesh, 1 January 2010, p - 53: <https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual-Human-Rights-Report-2009.pdf>

<sup>319</sup> Human Rights Report 2009, Odhikar Report on Bangladesh, 1 January 2010, p - 52, 53: <https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual-Human-Rights-Report-2009.pdf>

### **Case - 182**

#### **Burning and Looting of Homes in Naogaon**

Date:12 June 2009

On 12 June 2009, a group of felons attacked ethnic minority people living in the Chaur Union of Porsha Upazilla under Naogaon district and burnt down and looted their homes. Twenty-five persons were injured during the attack. Norendranath Murmu, a leader of the local ethnic minority community, alleged that a man called Noor Hossain, with Awami League affiliation, had organized the attack on them with the motive of taking control of their land with fraudulent land documents.<sup>320</sup>

### **Case - 183**

#### **Vandalism of Historic Temple in Old Dhaka**

Date:12 June 2009

On 20 March 2009, the activists of the Awami League vandalized a 50-year-old temple at Sutrapur in old Dhaka. According to local people, the temple had 31 Kathas (approximately 22320 Square feet) of land where 68 families, irrespective of religion, lived. The Awami League activist Saleh and his two sons, Dipu and Asad, forcibly occupied the land by evicting 13 Hindu families. They had also demolished the temple idols with an ulterior motive to grab the land and estates.<sup>321</sup>

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<sup>320</sup> Human Rights Report 2009, Odhikar Report on Bangladesh, 1 January 2010, p - 55: <https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual-Human-Rights-Report-2009.pdf>

<sup>321</sup> Human Rights Report 2009, Odhikar Report on Bangladesh, 1 January 2010, p - 52: <https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Annual-Human-Rights-Report-2009.pdf>

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## Conclusion

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The study has examined the Awami League, which currently holds power in Bangladesh under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, and has raised concerns about its political practices and alleged human rights violations. This research adopts a comprehensive approach, incorporating critical scrutiny of the historical evolution of the Awami League and its affiliated entities. Additionally, it utilizes qualitative analysis of documents sourced from a variety of credible outlets.

The dedicated research team at SAPI has diligently investigated and assessed the wealth of data at their disposal and arrived at the conclusions through an exhaustive analysis and thoughtful interpretation of the extensive dataset. Throughout this report, we reference excerpts from these sources to support the analysis presented.

Bangladesh ranks lowest in South Asia in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index at 162 out of 180 countries, according to the study of Reporters Sans Frontier, a Paris-based reputed journalist organization.<sup>322</sup> In the global democratic index, Bangladesh has been identified as a “hybrid” regime by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU),<sup>323</sup> defined as regimes that prevent the exercise of free democracy and engage in regular electoral fraud. As a rule, this type of government persecutes dissidents and opposition political forces and exercises absolute control over the judiciary and media. The US-based eminent human rights organization, Human Rights Watch (HRW), reported on rampant abuse by the various government agencies in Bangladesh in its 2021 global report:

Bangladesh’s Awami League-led government doubled down on an authoritarian crackdown on free speech, arresting critics, and censoring the media. Arrests under the abusive Digital Security Act (DSA) increased dramatically. Impunity for abuses by security forces, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, remained pervasive.<sup>324</sup>

Amnesty International, another eminent human rights organization, notes:

The Government of Bangladesh is responsible for multiple human rights violations, including unlawful killings and disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, and torture.<sup>325</sup>

On 10 December 2021, the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on the notorious Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) paramilitary force known as Hasina’s “death squad”, along with seven

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<sup>322</sup> RSF publishes press freedom ranking every year. In 2022, they ranked 180 countries on the basis of independence of media in each country. In South Asia, rankings of other seven countries are, Afghanistan-156, Bhutan-33, India-150, Maldives-87, Nepal-76, Pakistan-157 and Sri Lanka-146: <https://rsf.org/en/index?year=2022>

<sup>323</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report, Democracy Index 2022: <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/>

<sup>324</sup> For details, see Human Rights Watch, World Report 2021: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/bangladesh>

<sup>325</sup> See, Bangladesh Human Rights (<https://www.amnestyusa.org/>)

military and police officials, including the serving police chief, Benazir Ahmed, due to grave human rights violations.<sup>326</sup> Benazir Ahmed completed his tenure as the IGP and is presently retired and replaced by Abdullah Al-Mamun, another high-ranking officer sanctioned by the US.

The government of Bangladesh has completely destroyed the electoral process to remain in power since January 2009. As mentioned earlier, the country's judiciary has also been made dysfunctional by the appointment of party cadres and thugs as judges in the highest court. Sheikh Hasina's regime has engineered two farcical elections in 2014 and 2018 to cement her autocratic authority in a virtual one-party state. Until 2021 the government in Bangladesh could avoid any serious international condemnation, as neighboring hegemonic power India, recently accused of the state-sponsored murder of a Canadian citizen, successfully intervened and lobbied in favor of its client government in Dhaka in various Western capitals. But, since the Biden administration has made human rights and democracy the cornerstone of US foreign policy, the days of immunity for the fascist ruler in Bangladesh appear to be over. Sheikh Hasina's regime has been identified and condemned as autocratic and brutally oppressive by all eminent global human rights organizations, and the UN human rights body is under increasing pressure to act against the authoritarian regime and contemplate action against the law-enforcing agencies of the country. In a move welcomed by the people of Bangladesh, the US administration has very recently imposed strict "Visa Sanctions" against the regime that is now in the process of holding another sham election at the end of the year to prolong its stay in power.

Unrest in Bangladesh is escalating. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Dhaka, demanding Sheikh Hasina's resignation.<sup>327</sup> However, they faced a "brutal crackdown", according to Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director of Human Rights Watch. She stated, "Since the BNP announced it was planning a massive rally in the capital, Dhaka, on December 10, Awami League members, backed by security forces, have violently assaulted opposition gatherings." "On December 7, one man was killed and over 50 others injured during clashes between police, ruling Awami League and opposition supporters. Hundreds of opposition leaders and activists were arrested, and BNP headquarters raided."<sup>328</sup>

There is a prevailing sentiment among various groups and individuals that another farcical election is imminent.<sup>329</sup> It is crucial to recognize that the previous two elections during Sheikh Hasina's current tenure were "marked by intimidation and fraud,"<sup>330</sup> as Sumit Ganguly noted

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<sup>326</sup> For details, see Press Release dated December 10, 2021 of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, under the heading, "Treasury sanctions perpetrators of serious human rights abuse on International Human Rights Day": <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0526>

<sup>327</sup> Aljazeera, 11 Dec 2022: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/11/bangladesh-opposition-protests-amid-harsh-government-crackdowns>

<sup>328</sup> Human Rights Watch, 09 Dec 2022: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/09/bangladeshs-brutal-crackdown-political-opposition>

<sup>329</sup> Dhaka Tribune, 7 Oct 2022: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/10/07/bnp-awami-league-wants-to-win-polls-unchallenged>

<sup>330</sup> Human Rights Watch, 09 Dec 2022: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/09/bangladeshs-brutal-crackdown-political-opposition>

in a Foreign Policy article, stating, “The ruling party is making a mockery of the electoral process.”<sup>331</sup>

In 1975, Sheikh Hasina’s father granted himself the authority “to declare Bangladesh a one-party state shutting off any prospect for organized opposition.”<sup>332</sup> It has now become completely evident that she, too, has embraced authoritarianism. “The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) has marked Bangladesh as an authoritarian regime and said the people here are facing restrictions on the freedom of expression.”<sup>333</sup>

The unwavering authoritarian power appears to make them believe that they are not accountable to anyone. Consequently, corruption has surged on an alarming scale.<sup>334</sup> Billions of dollars have been smuggled by politically influential (mostly Awami League) and corrupt individuals. Reports indicate that ruling party members and corrupt pro-government officials have funneled significant sums of money to Canada's Begum Para and Malaysia's second home programme.<sup>335</sup> On the other hand, ruling party members and security forces have instilled a pervasive state of terror throughout the country by engaging in killing, rapes, looting, torture, vandalism and various other crimes and acts of violence. The situation outlined in this report through case studies is profoundly serious and a matter of great concern. In this situation, the citizens of the country feel utterly helpless and at a loss. They lack the right to protest, and the government remains indifferent to protests, as Sheikh Hasina stated, “Don't think that the party will fall down if it is shaken. Things are not that easy.”<sup>336</sup>

However, it appears that foreign and diplomatic pressure makes Sheikh Hasian uneasy.<sup>337</sup> Previous sanctions on RAB related to its extrajudicial killing demonstrated some degree of effectiveness. Human Rights Watch noted, “Following the US Global Magnitsky human rights sanctions against Bangladesh’s Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and some of its top commanders in December 2021, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances dropped dramatically, indicating that authorities have the ability to bring security force abuses under control.”<sup>338</sup>

Taking into account all the factors mentioned and analyzed in this report, we recommend that the Awami League be declared by the democratic world as a party that has consistently committed crimes against humanity with the full support of the current fascist regime in Bangladesh. This party is not only an enemy of democracy and human rights within the country,

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<sup>331</sup> The Foreign Policy, 07 Jan 2019: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/07/the-world-should-be-watching-bangladeshs-election-debacle-sheikh-hasina/>

<sup>332</sup> The New York Times, 26 Jan 1975: <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/01/26/archives/sheik-mujib-gets-total-authority-over-bangladesh-a-strong.html>

<sup>333</sup> Prothom Alo English, 30 Nov 2022: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/mz3xj2ni1f>

<sup>334</sup> The Economist, 17 Oct 2020: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2020/10/17/a-crackdown-in-bangladesh-reveals-corruption-on-a-daunting-scale>

<sup>335</sup> The Business Standard, 23 Oct 2021: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/money-being-smuggled-out-would-be-12-15b-year-319915>

<sup>336</sup> Dawn, 12 Jan 2023: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1731231>

<sup>337</sup> New Age BD, 14 Jul 2014: <https://www.newagebd.net/print/article/175838>

<sup>338</sup> Human Rights Watch, World Report- Bangladesh: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/bangladesh>

they are also a threat to world peace. It should be noted that in many democratic countries, the Awami League has opened its branches, and the members of those branches frequently indulge in illegal activities. It is now the responsibility of the international community to take account of the crimes of Awami League under international law. Party leader Sheikh Hasina, her family, partners in crimes against humanity in the military, civil bureaucracy, judiciary, and corrupt oligarchs must be sanctioned with maximum severity without further delay and brought to justice.

The people of Bangladesh are hardworking, peace-loving and highly democratic. They deserve the right to democratically elect their leader in a free environment where there would be no fear of persecution from state machinery and Sheikh Hasina's "Death Squad". This is only possible if the current fascist regime in Dhaka is replaced by a non-partisan, caretaker government to hold a free, fair, and inclusive election with the necessary help and guidance of the international community. Let us unitedly strive to make Bangladesh, a country of 170 million people, a shining light of democracy, good governance and moderation among the Islamic nations in particular and the world in general.

## Annexure-1 List of All Reported Cases

<a href="#">Case - 1</a>	<a href="#">The Court Sentenced 6 Awami League Leaders and Activists to Life Imprisonment for Killing Islami Chhatra Shibir Leader in Kushtia</a>
<a href="#">Case - 2</a>	<a href="#">The Accused of Murder in Bogra was Made Swechasebak League, an Affiliate of Awami League, Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 3</a>	<a href="#">Awami League Leader Arrested in the Murder Case of a Leader from Jubo Dal, an Affiliate of the Main Opposition Party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)</a>
<a href="#">Case - 4</a>	<a href="#">Government Employee was Killed by BCL, the Student Wing of the Awami League Party, Activists</a>
<a href="#">Case - 5</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Activists killed in Narayanganj by a Leader of Sramik League, an Affiliate of the Awami League Party</a>
<a href="#">Case - 6</a>	<a href="#">Killing of Nahid Hussain</a>
<a href="#">Case - 7</a>	<a href="#">Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Killed by Awami League Leader in a Meeting</a>
<a href="#">Case - 8</a>	<a href="#">5 Murdered Due to Rivalry between Awami League Candidates</a>
<a href="#">Case - 9</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Leader Killed by Jubo League, an Affiliate of Awami League, Leader in Gazipur</a>
<a href="#">Case - 10</a>	<a href="#">Awami League Activist Killed in Conflict over Food Distribution</a>
<a href="#">Case - 11</a>	<a href="#">Fatal Violence Erupted as Anti-modi Protesters Attacked, Resulting 10 Death Toll</a>
<a href="#">Case - 12</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Leader Stabbed by Another Chhatra League Leader in Chittagong</a>
<a href="#">Case - 13</a>	<a href="#">Comilla Trader Murder by Jubo League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 14</a>	<a href="#">Hindu Minority Abhishek Dwip Killed by Chhatra League in Sylhe</a>
<a href="#">Case - 15</a>	<a href="#">Tragic Death of Innocent Brilliant Student Abrar Fahad of BUET from Brutal Night-Long Torture by Chhatra League Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 16</a>	<a href="#">Nayan Bond, an Awami League Affiliated Terrorist Killed Rifat Sharif in Broad Daylight at Barguna</a>
<a href="#">Case - 17</a>	<a href="#">Hanging Body of Diaz Irfan Chowdhury</a>
<a href="#">Case - 18</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Leader Accused of Murder Spotted Alongside Prime Minister during Her UN Trip</a>
<a href="#">Case - 19</a>	<a href="#">Assassination of Zakaria and Milton</a>
<a href="#">Case - 20</a>	<a href="#">The Killing of Tapas Sarker, a Hindu Minority, in Chittagong University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 21</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra Dal Activist, Affiliated with Main Opposition BNP Party, Murdered by BCL</a>
<a href="#">Case - 22</a>	<a href="#">Killing of Rustam in Rajshahi University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 23</a>	<a href="#">Killing of Sayad in Agricultural University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 24</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Leader Murdered His Father by Stabbing</a>

<a href="#">Case - 25</a>	<a href="#">Murderer of 3 Nominated as Awami League Party Candidate in Election</a>
<a href="#">Case - 26</a>	<a href="#">Milky Killed by Jubo League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 27</a>	<a href="#">Tanveer Muhammad Taqi Killing</a>
<a href="#">Case - 28</a>	<a href="#">Child Rabbi killed in Bangladesh Agriculture University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 29</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Leaders Chopped Biswajit, a Hindu Minority, to Death in Broad Daylight</a>
<a href="#">Case - 30</a>	<a href="#">Sohail killing in Rajshahi University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 31</a>	<a href="#">Killing of Sajeeb in RUET</a>
<a href="#">Case - 32</a>	<a href="#">The killing of Zubair by Chhatra League at Jahangirnagar University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 33</a>	<a href="#">Naseem Killed in Rajshahi University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 34</a>	<a href="#">Killing of Abu Bakr in Dhaka University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 35</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League killed Sunny in Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute</a>
<a href="#">Case - 36</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League killed Sharifuzzaman Nomani at Rajshahi University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 37</a>	<a href="#">28 October 2006 Frenzied Killing and Mob Lynchings in Paltan and Other Locations across the Country</a>
<a href="#">Case - 38</a>	<a href="#">Arson Attack on a Double-Decker Bus in Dhaka in Front of the Sheraton Hotel, Killing 9 Passengers, Including a 2-Year-Old Girl</a>
<a href="#">Case - 39</a>	<a href="#">Merciless Whole Night Torture of 3 Innocent Students by BCL Activists in Chittagong University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 40</a>	<a href="#">College Student Tortured by Stripping in BCL Torture Cell</a>
<a href="#">Case - 41</a>	<a href="#">Dhaka Medical College Student Severely Tortured by BCL Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 42</a>	<a href="#">Brutal Torture of Dhaka University Student Ehsan Rafique</a>
<a href="#">Case - 43</a>	<a href="#">Teen Hung from a Tree and Tortured by Jubo League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 44</a>	<a href="#">BCL Activists Led by Alam Tortured Government Officials in Broad Daylight</a>
<a href="#">Case - 45</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leaders Take Control of Examination Hall</a>
<a href="#">Case - 46</a>	<a href="#">Clash between Two Factions of Ruling BAL in Jhenaidah Leads To Vandalism and Looting</a>



<a href="#">Case - 47</a>	<a href="#">BCL Activists Attack Rival Chhatra Adhikar Parishad Activist</a>
<a href="#">Case - 48</a>	<a href="#">Ruling BAL Leaders Victim of Attack by BCL Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 49</a>	<a href="#">Freedom Fighter's House Attacked by Ruling BAL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 50</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Accused of Murder Snatched Away from the Custody of RAB</a>
<a href="#">Case - 51</a>	<a href="#">US Ambassador Peter Haas Surrounded and Attempted Attack by BAL Activists</a>
<a href="#">Case - 52</a>	<a href="#">BAL Activists' Attack on BNP office in Netrokona</a>
<a href="#">Case - 53</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader's Attack on Government Officer</a>
<a href="#">Case - 54</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader's Extortion</a>
<a href="#">Case - 55</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attacked Rival Chhatra Dal Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 56</a>	<a href="#">BAL Attack on BNP Procession Injuring 30</a>
<a href="#">Case - 57</a>	<a href="#">BAL Workers Attacked Police Investigation Center Injuring 6 Policemen</a>
<a href="#">Case - 58</a>	<a href="#">Fierce Clash between Two Factions of BCL</a>
<a href="#">Case - 59</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attack on the House of a Government Officer</a>
<a href="#">Case - 60</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Vandalizes Sheikh Mujib's Photo to Put Blame on Others</a>
<a href="#">Case - 61</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Attacked Police</a>
<a href="#">Case - 62</a>	<a href="#">Jubo League Vandalized BAL Meeting</a>
<a href="#">Case - 63</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attack on Nurul Haque Noor, Elected Top Student Leader of Dhaka University Student Council</a>
<a href="#">Case - 64</a>	<a href="#">Vandalizing House and Expelling from It with a Lawsuit</a>
<a href="#">Case - 65</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Barrister in Court</a>
<a href="#">Case - 66</a>	<a href="#">Armed BCL Men Attacked US Ambassador's Vehicle</a>
<a href="#">Case - 67</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attacked School Students' Movement Demanding Safe Roads</a>

<a href="#">Case - 68</a>	<a href="#">Seven Activists of Quota Reform Movement Injured in BCL Attack</a>
<a href="#">Case - 69</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attacked and Snatched the Accused in the Drug Case in Bogra</a>
<a href="#">Case - 70</a>	<a href="#">Student Shot during BCL Infighting at Shahjalal University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 71</a>	<a href="#">The Pro-Awami Headmaster Conspired by Setting the School on Fire</a>
<a href="#">Case - 72</a>	<a href="#">The BAL Leaders Stopped the Construction of a Dam Due to Non-payment of Extortion</a>
<a href="#">Case - 73</a>	<a href="#">Vandalism of Shaheed Minar in Sherpur by Jubo League</a>
<a href="#">Case - 74</a>	<a href="#">BCL Men Set Fire to the Dormitory Building of MC College Sylhet</a>
<a href="#">Case - 75</a>	<a href="#">Attack in the Port of Chittagong</a>
<a href="#">Case - 76</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attacked Matiur Rahman Nizami in Dhaka</a>
<a href="#">Case - 77</a>	<a href="#">Jubo Mohila League Leader Involved in Various Illegal Activities</a>
<a href="#">Case - 78</a>	<a href="#">Jubo League Leader and Casino Kingpin Ismail Hossain Samrat's Illicit Activities</a>
<a href="#">Case - 79</a>	<a href="#">Attempt to Kill Journalist in Front of Police</a>
<a href="#">Case - 80</a>	<a href="#">Jubo League Leader Attacked Two Journalists for Reporting on Hero Alam</a>
<a href="#">Case - 81</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Journalist in Savar Town: BAL Leader Arrested</a>
<a href="#">Case - 82</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Journalist in Savar: Swechasebak League Leader Pavel Arrested</a>
<a href="#">Case - 83</a>	<a href="#">Attack on 3 Journalists in Lalmonirhat Led by BAL Leader and His Sons</a>
<a href="#">Case - 84</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Journalist at BAL Press Conference in the United States</a>
<a href="#">Case - 85</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Journalists during the 2020 Dhaka City Corporation Elections</a>
<a href="#">Case - 86</a>	<a href="#">BAL Thugs Vandalized the Office of a National Daily Newspaper Daily Sangram and Attacked Its Octogenarian Editor Abul Asad</a>
<a href="#">Case - 87</a>	<a href="#">Attacks on Journalists in Dhaka University Campus</a>
<a href="#">Case - 88</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Editor Mahmudur Rahman at Kushtia</a>
<a href="#">Case - 89</a>	<a href="#">Three Teachers Assaulted by BCL President in Agricultural University</a>

<a href="#">Case - 90</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Attacked Teacher in Shariatpur</a>
<a href="#">Case - 91</a>	<a href="#">Dhaka University Teacher Assaulted by BCL</a>
<a href="#">Case - 92</a>	<a href="#">Jagannath University Teacher Assaulted by BCL Activists</a>
<a href="#">Case - 93</a>	<a href="#">BCL Attacked Teachers and Vandalized the Teachers' Lounge at Kushtia Islamic University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 94</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Raped Eden College Student</a>
<a href="#">Case -95</a>	<a href="#">Schoolgirl Raped by BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 96</a>	<a href="#">Disabled Girl Raped by BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 97</a>	<a href="#">Rape and Strangulation of an American Woman in Massachusetts US</a>
<a href="#">Case - 98</a>	<a href="#">Rape with Threat to Spread Video</a>
<a href="#">Case - 99</a>	<a href="#">House Wife Raped by BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 100</a>	<a href="#">Woman Raped with the Help of Intoxicating Tablets</a>
<a href="#">Case - 101</a>	<a href="#">Housewife Raped for 3 Years</a>
<a href="#">Case - 102</a>	<a href="#">Gang Rape in Rangamati by BCL Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 103</a>	<a href="#">Chittagong University Student Sexually Assaulted</a>
<a href="#">Case - 104</a>	<a href="#">Teacher Raped, Chhatra Leage Leader Arrested</a>
<a href="#">Case - 105</a>	<a href="#">Woman Footballer Raped by BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 106</a>	<a href="#">Raping Girl by False Pledge to Marry Her</a>
<a href="#">Case - 107</a>	<a href="#">Disabled Housewife Raped by Awami League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 108</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader in Jail in Chapainawabganj Rape Case</a>
<a href="#">Case - 109</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Arrested in Jamalpur Rape Case</a>

<a href="#">Case - 110</a>	<a href="#">Rape of 14-Year-Old School Girl in Savar</a>
<a href="#">Case - 111</a>	<a href="#">Young Girl Picked Up and Raped by BCL</a>
<a href="#">Case - 112</a>	<a href="#">3 BCL Youth Raped Tourist Woman in Cox's Bazar</a>
<a href="#">Case - 113</a>	<a href="#">Rape of Teenage Girl in an Office in Pabna</a>
<a href="#">Case - 114</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Married Class-6 Girl to Avoid Rape Case</a>
<a href="#">Case - 115</a>	<a href="#">Ashuganj BCL Leader's Rape of College Girl</a>
<a href="#">Case - 116</a>	<a href="#">Rape of Housewife in Habiganj</a>
<a href="#">Case - 117</a>	<a href="#">Rape of College Girl in Patuakhali</a>
<a href="#">Case - 118</a>	<a href="#">Housewife Raped in Kishoreganj by BAL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 119</a>	<a href="#">Rape in Bandarban by BAL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 120</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Raped a Girl with the Help of Her Drug-Addict Husband</a>
<a href="#">Case - 121</a>	<a href="#">Girl Picked Up and Raped, Threatened to Spread Video</a>
<a href="#">Case - 122</a>	<a href="#">Rape of Housewife by Holding Child Hostage</a>
<a href="#">Case - 123</a>	<a href="#">Rape Case against BCL Leader in Madaripur</a>
<a href="#">Case - 124</a>	<a href="#">Rape Case against Rajshahi University BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 125</a>	<a href="#">Rape Case against BCL Leader in Bagha</a>
<a href="#">Case - 126</a>	<a href="#">Rape Case against Raipura Upazila BCL President of Narsingdi</a>
<a href="#">Case - 127</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Arrested on Charges of Raping Expatriate's Wife</a>
<a href="#">Case - 128</a>	<a href="#">Leader of Dhaka Metropolitan BCL Arrested in Rape Case</a>
<a href="#">Case - 129</a>	<a href="#">Housewife Raped in Murarichand (MC) College Hostel in Sylhet</a>
<a href="#">Case - 130</a>	<a href="#">A College Girl Raped in Bhola</a>
<a href="#">Case - 131</a>	<a href="#">Teenage Girl Raped by BAL Leader in Kurigram</a>

<a href="#">Case - 132</a>	<a href="#">Kidnap and Rape of a College Girl by BCL Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 133</a>	<a href="#">Rugganj School Girl Gang-Raped by BCL Activists</a>
<a href="#">Case - 134</a>	<a href="#">Rape of a College Girl by BCL Leader in Bhuyapur</a>
<a href="#">Case - 135</a>	<a href="#">Minor Girl Raped by Jubo League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 136</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader's Harassment on the False Promise of Marriage</a>
<a href="#">Case - 137</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Raped a College Girl with False Promise of Marriage</a>
<a href="#">Case - 138</a>	<a href="#">Helpless Single Mother Raped by BCL Leader in Nazirpur</a>
<a href="#">Case - 139</a>	<a href="#">Attempted Rape by BCL Leader in Natore District</a>
<a href="#">Case - 140</a>	<a href="#">Garment Worker Raped by BCL in Rugganj</a>
<a href="#">Case - 141</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader's Rape of a Secondary School Girl in Kushtia</a>
<a href="#">Case - 142</a>	<a href="#">A Mother of Six, Aged about 48, Gang-Raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar</a>
<a href="#">Case - 143</a>	<a href="#">Mother of Four Gang-Raped and House Looted by 10-12 BAL Men</a>
<a href="#">Case - 144</a>	<a href="#">Rape of Schoolgirl by BAL Leader in Joypurhat</a>
<a href="#">Case - 145</a>	<a href="#">College Girl Raped through Seducing to Marriage by BCL Activist in Sunamganj</a>
<a href="#">Case - 146</a>	<a href="#">A Young Woman Murdered after Gang-Rape by BCL Leaders</a>
<a href="#">Case - 147</a>	<a href="#">Teenage Girl Gang-Raped by BCL Leaders and Incited to Commit Suicide in Netrakona District</a>
<a href="#">Case - 148</a>	<a href="#">2 Women Raped by BCL Leader in Jhenaidah</a>
<a href="#">Case - 149</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader's Raping of Housewife for Four Long Years</a>
<a href="#">Case - 150</a>	<a href="#">Artist-Singer Gang-Raped by BCL Activists in Front of Husband in Satkhira</a>
<a href="#">Case - 151</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Celebrates Rape Centenary</a>

<a href="#">Case - 152</a>	<a href="#">BCL Activists' Physical Abuse of Students through Ragging</a>
<a href="#">Case - 153</a>	<a href="#">BAL Leader Arrested in Pornography Case in Moulvibazar</a>
<a href="#">Case - 154</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader's Molesting and Holding Hostage of a Female Student</a>
<a href="#">Case - 155</a>	<a href="#">Female Student Tortured at Eden College by BCL Leader by Pouring Hot Tea</a>
<a href="#">Case - 156</a>	<a href="#">Serious Sexual Exploitation of Female Students by BCL Leaders at Eden College</a>
<a href="#">Case - 157</a>	<a href="#">BCL Activists' Attempted Rape at Chittagong University</a>
<a href="#">Case - 158</a>	<a href="#">Female Student Hacked Severely by BCL Leader in Sylhet Government Women's College</a>
<a href="#">Case - 159</a>	<a href="#">Sexual Assault on Women by BCL Activists in Dhaka University Campus During Bengali New Year "Pohela Boishakh 2015" Celebration</a>
<a href="#">Case - 160</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leaders' Entry into Female Student Dorm and Attack on Resident Girl Students</a>
<a href="#">Case - 161</a>	<a href="#">BCL Leader Ibrahim Accused of Encroaching Land of Hindu Man</a>
<a href="#">Case - 162</a>	<a href="#">Jubo League Leader's Attack on Hindu Families Left Nine Injured</a>
<a href="#">Case - 163</a>	<a href="#">Idol at Jhenaidah Temple Vandalized as per BCL Leader's Plan</a>
<a href="#">Case - 164</a>	<a href="#">Attack on a Hindu Village by Jubo League Leadership through Microphone Announcement</a>
<a href="#">Case - 165</a>	<a href="#">Satkhira Jubo League Leader Sued for Vandalism and Looting of Hindu Houses</a>
<a href="#">Case - 166</a>	<a href="#">Hindu Homes and Temples under Attack by Awami League Men</a>
<a href="#">Case - 167</a>	<a href="#">Awami League Men Swoop on Hindus, Vandalized Temple in Barisal</a>
<a href="#">Case - 168</a>	<a href="#">Hindu House Looted by Awami League Men, Released by Police Learning upon Identity</a>
<a href="#">Case - 169</a>	<a href="#">Hindu Killed, Houses of Two Families Vandalized by Awami League Men</a>
<a href="#">Case - 170</a>	<a href="#">Hindu's Land Grabbed by Awami League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 171</a>	<a href="#">Juba League Leader Sets Fire to Hindu Houses in Satkhira</a>
<a href="#">Case - 172</a>	<a href="#">Attack on Hindu House in Barisal, Vandalism of Idols by Jubo League Leader</a>
<a href="#">Case - 173</a>	<a href="#">Chhatra League Activists Set Fire to Temples and Houses in Barisal</a>
<a href="#">Case - 174</a>	<a href="#">Hindus Attacked at Bonogram of Santhia Sub-District in Pabna District</a>
<a href="#">Case - 175</a>	<a href="#">Awami League Leader's Attack in Bhola, Idol Vandalized</a>

<a href="#">Case - 176</a>	<a href="#">Houses of Three Hindu Families Attacked for Skipping BAL Meeting</a>
<a href="#">Case - 177</a>	<a href="#">Awami League's Brutal Attack on the Buddhist Community in Ramu, Cox's Bazar</a>
<a href="#">Case - 178</a>	<a href="#">Torture in Brahmanbaria by Awami League</a>
<a href="#">Case - 179</a>	<a href="#">Hindu Goddess Idol Repeatedly Ransacked</a>
<a href="#">Case - 180</a>	<a href="#">8 Hindus Wounded in an Attack by Awami League in Munshiganj</a>
<a href="#">Case - 181</a>	<a href="#">Kidnapping of 9 People and Robbery in Sutrapur, Dhaka</a>
<a href="#">Case - 182</a>	<a href="#">Burning and Looting of Homes in Naogaon</a>
<a href="#">Case - 183</a>	<a href="#">Vandalism of Historic Temple in Old Dhaka</a>

## Annexure-2 Graphical Depiction of Atrocities Committed by BAL

### Nayan Bond, an Awami League Affiliated Terrorist, Killed Rifat Sharif in Broad Daylight at Barguna

Rifat Sharif was seen to be killed in broad daylight by Sabbir Ahmed alias Nayan Bond (See Case - 16). A video clip of the barbaric attack went viral on social media:



Source: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Killing-in-broad-daylight>

### Chhatra League Leaders Chopped Biswajit, a Hindu Minority, to Death in Broad Daylight (Case - 29)



Source: <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/biswajit-murder-verdict-wednesday>



Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/70748/hc-issues-verdict-in-biswajit-murder>





Source: <https://mnabd.com/biswajit-murder-verdict-august-6/>

**28 October 2006 Frenzied Killing and Mob Lynchings in Paltan and Other Locations across the Country (Case - 37)**



Source: BBC Bangla, 28 October 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-62983660>



Source: <https://www.oct28.info/picture/3942>

### Dhaka Medical College student severely tortured by BCL men (Case - 41)



Injured ASM Ali Imam Sheetal, Source: Manobkantha, 6 Feb 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3xHhkjP>)



আহত এ এস এম আলী ইমাম | ছবি: সংগৃহীত

Injured ASM Ali Imam Sheetal  
Source: Prothom Alo, 15 January 2021 <https://t.ly/VcZSm>

## Brutal Torture of Dhaka University Student Ehsan Rafique (Case - 42)



Injured Ehsan Rafique

Source: Bangla Tribune, 9 Feb 2018, (<https://bit.ly/3Yw851C>)

## Teen Hung from a Tree and Tortured by Jubo League Leader (Case - 43)



### Ruling BAL Leaders Victim of Attack by BCL Leaders (Case - 48)



হামলায় আহত ফরিদ উদ্দিন। ছবি: দৈনিক বাংলা

Injured Farid Uddin Ahmed

Source: Dainik Bangla, 23 Jan 2023 (<https://www.dainikbangla.com.bd/wholebd/11083>)


### Awami League attacked on BNP procession, injuring 30 people (Case - 56)



Source: Ekattor TV, 26 Aug 2022 ([https://ekattor.tv/news/article?article\\_id=29878](https://ekattor.tv/news/article?article_id=29878))

## Fierce Clash between Two Factions of BCL: Mahadi J Akib Severely Injured (Case - 58)



Mahadi Akib, an MBBS 62nd batch student at Chattogram Medical College (CMC), has been put on life support after being attacked by rival BCL activists during a factional clash on CMC campus on Saturday. 

This grim photo of injured Akib went viral on Facebook. In the photo, his whole head was wrapped in a white bandage inscribed with the writing "no bones, do not apply pressure".

Source: The Business Standard, 31 Oct 2021 (<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/politics/youth-hurt-bcl-infighting-battles-life-323431>)

RisingBd.com, 31 Oct 2021 (<https://www.risingbd.com/english/country/news/83301>)

## Jubo League Vandalized BAL Meeting (Case - 62)



Source: The Daily Ittefaq, 10 January 2020: <https://bit.ly/3K9ubCx>

### Vandalizing House and Expelling from It with a Lawsuit (Case - 64)



মামলা দিয়ে বাড়িছাড়া করে বাড়িঘর ভাংচুরের অভিযোগ আ. লীগ নেতার বিরুদ্ধে - ছবি : সংগৃহীত

Source: Daily Nayadiganta, 14 Jan 2019, (<https://bit.ly/3IrSGti>)

### Chhatra League attacked school students' movement demanding safe roads (Case - 67)



Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/students-take-streets-science-lab-intersection-dhaka-safe-roads-demand-contal-traffic-for-8th-day-1616215>



Police baton-charge agitating students near the BRTA office in the city's Mirpur-13 around noon on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Students of several colleges in the area brought out the procession, demanding justice for the two college students who were killed in a road crash in Kurmitola area on Sunday. Photo: Collected

Source: The daily Star, 8 Aug 2018: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/eu-voices-concern-over-violent-protests-1617133>

### **Seven Activists of Quota Reform Movement Injured in BCL Attack (Case - 68 )**



Seven leaders of quota reform movement are injured in an attack allegedly by the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Dhaka University campus on June 30, 2018. In the photo, a joint convener of the platform, Nurul Haque Nur, is seen being attacked by 'BCL men'. Photo: Collected

Source: The Daily Star, 5 Aug 2018: (<https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-ruling-party-men-attack-student-protest-road-safety-jigatola-dhanmondi-dhaka-1615828> )





Injured quota movement activist Ataullah. Photo: Star/ Shaheen Mollah

Source: The Daily Star, 30 Jun 2018, (<https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bangladesh-chhatra-league-attack-quota-reform-movement-leaders-dhaka-university-1597675> )

### **Chhatra League attacked Motiur Rahman Nizami in Dhaka (Case - 76)**



Motiur Rahman Nizami under attack by BCL

Dhaka Tribune, 29 Oct 2014, (<https://archive.dhakatribune.com/uncategorized/2014/10/29/nizamis-humiliation-at-dhaka-university>)

**Attempt to kill journalist in front of police (Case - 79)**



<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/journo-attacked-al-men-dhamrai-3245166>

**Attack on 3 Journalists in Lalmonirhat Led by BAL Leader and His Sons ( Case - 83)**



Prothom Alo, 12 Aug 2022 (<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/i045h8zu3o>)

**BAL Thugs Vandalized the Office of a National Daily Newspaper Daily Sangram and Attacked Its Octogenarian Editor Abul Asad (Case - 86)**



Sangram office under attack

Source: <https://www.justnewsbd.com/index.php/en/national/news/8204>



Daily Sangram office after the attack

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/196083/daily-sangram-office-vandalized>



Octogenarian editor of Daily Sangram was arrested by police after the attack

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/daily-sangram-editor-arrested-office-vandalised>

#### Attacks on Journalists on Dhaka University campus (Case - 87 )



Source: Prothom Alo English, 23 Sep 2019, <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/BCL-men-attack-JCD-men-journos-at-DU>

## Attack on Editor Mahmudur Rahman at Kushtia ( Case - 88)



Mahmudur Rahman was attacked on the premises of the Kushtia court on July 22, 2018 - Dhaka Tribune

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/151127/amar-desh%E2%80%99s-mahmudur-rahman-attacked-in-kushtia>



Mahmudur Rahman's vehicle under attack

Source: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/BCL-men-attack-Mahmudur-Rahman-in-Kushtia>



Source: <https://newsbeezer.com/bangladesh/bcl-attack-on-mahmudur-rahman-in-kushtia/>

### Rape Case Against Rajshahi University BCL Leader (Case - 124)



Local people formed Human Chain demanding the trial and punishment of alleged rapist Faisal Ahmed Mithu Howladar, Organizational Secretary, Chhatra League, Madaripur District Branch.

Source: Bangladesh Protidin, 7 Dec 2020, (<https://bd-pratidin.com/country/2020/12/07/595024>)

## 'Gang rape' again at Subarnachar



A mother of six, who was allegedly gang-raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila on Sunday evening, talks to police and journalists at Noakhali General Hospital yesterday. The victim accused some supporters of an upazila vice chairman candidate of committing the crime. Photo: Star

Source: The Daily Star, 2 Apr 2019, (<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/gang-rape-again-subarnachar-1723642#Y-sHqps5aa8.whatsapp>)

## BCL Activists' Physical Abuse of Students Through Ragging (Case - 152)



The accused Sanjida Chowdhury Antara (Shown above), a leader of BCL, stripped, physically abused a female student:

Source: Manab Zamin, 14 Feb 2023, (<https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=42928>)

## Serious sexual exploitation at Eden College (Case - 156)

Sunday, August 20, 2023 Advertisement ({});

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**BCL FACTIONAL CLASH AT EDEN COLLEGE**

### Women leaders seek probe into allegations

Moloy Saha | Published: 00:12, Sep 29, 2022

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Source: NewAge Bangladesh, 29 Sep 2022, (<https://www.newagebd.net/article/182330/women-leaders-seek-probe-into-allegations>)



# Hacked student of Sylhet college in critical state



Khadija Akter Nargis is in critical condition, hospital sources say.  
Star file photo

The Daily Star, 4 October 2016, <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/hacked-student-sylhet-college-critical-condition-1294042>

**Hindus Attacked at Bonogram of Santhia Sub-District in Pabna District (Case - 174)**



Men alleged to have vandalised over 100 Hindu houses and temples, inset, at Bonogram in Santhia of Pabna, was seen behind State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku when he visited the area. Photo: Rashed Shumon (Daily Star)

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/some-attackers-seen-with-tuku>

**Awami League's Brutal Attack on the Buddhist Community in Ramu, Cox's Bazar (Case - 177)**



Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/eight-years-ramu-attack-buddhists-still-wait-justice-1969173>



Source: <https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/10-years-of-ramu-attacks-trial-still-stalled-95749>



Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/sites/default/files/styles/infograph/public/images/2019/09/28/ramu-violence-tbs-1-new.jpg>

A large, dark blue curved shape that starts from the top left and curves towards the bottom right, framing the white area where the logo is located.

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