

CONSTITUTION WATCHDOG

Institutional Report on Mob Violence in Bangladesh

March 2026

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Date of Issue: April 1, 2026

Report Period: March 1 to March 31, 2026

Report Reference: CW/MVR/MAR2026/01

Classification: Public Interest Institutional Report

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

Bangladesh is a constitutional republic. Its founding document, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, is not merely a legal instrument. It is a social compact between the State and its citizens. It guarantees every citizen, and indeed every person within the territory of this republic, a set of inviolable rights: the right to life, the right to personal liberty, equality before the law, and the protection of the law. These are not privileges extended by the grace of the State. These are rights vested in every human being by the supreme law of this land.

It is with profound institutional concern and constitutional sorrow that Constitution Watchdog presents this report on mob violence incidents recorded across Bangladesh during the month of March 2026. The data compiled herein by our Mob Violence Monitor reflects a disturbing and sustained pattern of extrajudicial violence. This violence is not merely criminal in character. It is, in its very nature, an assault upon the constitutional order of this republic.

When a crowd beats a man to death on a street corner, it does not merely commit murder. It commits an act of constitutional negation. It declares, in effect, that the State's monopoly on legitimate force does not apply in that moment; that courts, due process, and fundamental rights are irrelevant; and that the instinct of the mob supersedes the authority of the law. When a crowd severs the wrist of an alleged thief, it does not merely inflict grievous injury. It imposes a punishment that no court in Bangladesh is authorised to deliver. When a mob shaves the heads of persons caught in alleged fraud, it does not merely humiliate them. It violates the constitutional prohibition on cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment with absolute impunity.

This report exists to name that negation plainly, document it rigorously, and call upon the State, its executive, its legislature, and its judiciary, to respond with the urgency and seriousness that the Constitution of Bangladesh demands.

We commend this report to all organs of the State, the legal fraternity, civil society, and the international community of human rights defenders.

Md. Ibrahim Khalilullah

President, Constitution Watchdog

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During March 2026, Constitution Watchdog's Mob Violence Monitor recorded 54 discrete incidents of mob violence across Bangladesh. These incidents span 29 districts, encompass both urban and rural settings, involve political and non-political motivations, and collectively resulted in 12 confirmed fatalities arising from 11 fatal incidents, with dozens more sustaining injuries of varying severity. Among the most grievous injuries documented is the complete severance of a person's wrist by a mob in Gazipur on March 5, 2026. Three further incidents involved the forcible cutting of women's hair and the punitive shaving of heads, constituting acts of degrading and humiliating treatment.

The month's data reveals a country in which extrajudicial crowd violence has become pervasive. It is deployed not only by spontaneous assemblies reacting to perceived crimes, but also by organized political factions, and in several cases by individuals exploiting mob dynamics to enforce extortion demands, settle personal disputes, or suppress legitimate business activity. The constitutional implications of this pattern are grave and multifaceted.

Summary Statistics:

- **Total incidents recorded:** 54
- **Fatal incidents:** 11 (resulting in 12 deaths, including one post-mob suicide)
- **Non-fatal incidents:** 43
- **Politically motivated incidents:** 15
- **Non-political incidents:** 39
- **Districts affected:** 29
- **Peak incident date:** March 24, 2026 (5 incidents recorded in a single day)
- **Most affected locations:** Dhaka city (9 incidents), Narayanganj (5 incidents), Meherpur (3 incidents)
- **Constitutional provisions directly and primarily implicated:** Articles 11, 27, 31, 32, 33, 35(3), 35(5), 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, and 44 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972

SECTION II: CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK — THE VIOLATED COMPACT

Before presenting the full incident registry, it is essential to establish the constitutional baseline against which these incidents are assessed. The Constitution of Bangladesh is unambiguous in its protections, and no provision of the Constitution creates an exception for mob action regardless of the gravity of the alleged conduct of the victim.

Article 11 — Democracy and Human Rights

The Constitution declares that the Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for the dignity and worth of the human person shall be guaranteed. Mob violence, by its nature, is incompatible with a democratic order premised on the dignity of every person. It substitutes collective fury for constitutional process and is therefore antithetical to the foundational character of the State.

Article 27 — Equality before Law

All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. When a mob decides that an alleged thief, a suspected mugger, or a political opponent does not deserve the protection of law, it directly nullifies this constitutional promise. The right to equal protection of the law is not contingent on innocence. It applies to all persons within the territory of Bangladesh without distinction.

Article 31 — Right to Protection of Law

Every citizen has the inalienable right to be treated in accordance with law, and no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation, or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law. This article is perhaps the most comprehensively violated by mob violence. Mob beatings, lynchings, wrist severances, head-shavings, property destructions, and business coercions documented in this report are each, in law, a violation of Article 31.

Article 32 — Protection of Right to Life and Personal Liberty

No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty save in accordance with law. This article is the most fundamentally violated by every fatal incident in this report. Life may not lawfully be extinguished by a crowd. The taking of life by a mob is a constitutional violation of the first order, irrespective of what the victim was alleged to have done.

Article 33 — Safeguards as to Arrest and Detention

Article 33 prescribes the procedural safeguards that must accompany any deprivation of liberty, including the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest, the right to consult a legal practitioner, and the right to be produced before a magistrate within twenty-four hours. Several incidents in this report involve mobs snatching suspects from lawful police custody. In these incidents, the State fails in its constitutional duty to maintain protective custody and ensure that persons deprived of their liberty receive the procedural safeguards Article 33 guarantees.

Article 35(3) — Right to a Fair Trial by a Competent Court

Every person accused of a criminal offence shall have the right to a speedy and public trial by an independent and impartial court or tribunal established by law. A mob is none of these things. It is not a court. It is not independent, impartial, or established by law. When a mob punishes an alleged offender, it usurps the function of the judiciary and extinguishes the accused person's right under Article 35(3) in its entirety.

Article 35(5) — Prohibition of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment

No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment. This prohibition is absolute. It applies to State actors and, through the State's positive obligation to protect persons from such treatment, it also places a duty on the State to prevent private actors from subjecting persons to such treatment. The wrist severance, the forcible hair cuttings, the public head-shavings, and the brutal beatings documented in this report all fall squarely within the conduct prohibited by Article 35(5).

Article 37 — Freedom of Assembly

Every citizen has the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms. Where politically organized formations use collective assembly as a cover for violence and intimidation, they abuse the right guaranteed by Article 37 and engage the criminal law. Political mob violence is not protected assembly. It is weaponised assembly.

Article 38 — Freedom of Association

Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions. The activities of political party formations and affiliated wings that deploy mob violence are an abuse of this right. The State is entitled, and indeed obliged, to take action against formations that systematically use their organizational capacity to perpetrate violence.

Article 39 — Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Speech

Freedom of thought and conscience is guaranteed, and freedom of speech and expression and of the press is guaranteed subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law. Mob attacks on journalists and political actors implicate this article directly. A press that cannot report without fear of mob attack is not a free press. A citizen who cannot express political views without fear of crowd violence does not enjoy the freedom guaranteed by Article 39.

Article 40 — Freedom of Profession or Occupation

Every citizen possesses the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation and to conduct any lawful trade or business. Incidents involving mob coercion of businesses and extortion-enforcement mob violence represent a direct interference with this constitutional guarantee.

Article 42 — Right to Property

Subject to reasonable restrictions, every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold, transfer, or otherwise dispose of property. Incidents involving vandalism of businesses and property destruction by mobs violate the property rights of affected persons under Article 42.

Article 44 — Enforcement of Fundamental Rights

Every person has the right to move the High Court Division for the enforcement of the rights conferred by Part III of the Constitution. The documented failure of the State to

prevent recurring mob violence, and the consequent systematic denial of fundamental rights to numerous persons across the country, raises serious questions about whether the State is discharging its positive constitutional obligation to make these rights enforceable in practice. Constitution Watchdog respectfully calls upon the High Court Division to consider the systemic dimensions of this failure.

SECTION III: COMPLETE INCIDENT REGISTRY — MARCH 2026

The following is the complete and unabridged registry of all 54 mob violence incidents recorded by the Mob Violence Monitor during the month of March 2026. Incidents are presented chronologically by week. Each incident is recorded exactly as documented, with constitutional annotations applied with precision.

WEEK ONE: MARCH 1 TO MARCH 8, 2026

Incident No. 1

Date: March 1, 2026

Location: Patuakhali

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes

Source: [Dainik Amader Shomoy](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident involves an organized political formation in a mob violence event, placing it squarely within the category of politically instrumentalised crowd violence. This specific volunteer wing, affiliated with a mainstream political party, carries institutional responsibility for the conduct of its members. The use of organized political affiliation to perpetrate violence constitutes an abuse of the right of association guaranteed under Article 38. It also engages Article 11, which mandates that the Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights are guaranteed. Politically organized violence is fundamentally incompatible with democratic governance.*

Incident No. 2

Date: March 1, 2026

Location: Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes

Source: [Boishakhi Online](#)

Constitutional Note: *Politically-affiliated mob violence in the capital city implicates Articles 38 and 39 in a manner that goes beyond ordinary criminal conduct. Political parties enjoy constitutional recognition and derive their legitimacy from the democratic order established by Article 11. When a party's cadre deploys mob violence, it betrays that constitutional legitimacy and subjects the victims to a denial of their rights under Articles 31 and 32. Political violence in Dhaka, the seat of the national government, also carries a symbolic dimension of institutional challenge that the State must address with particular firmness.*

Incident No. 3

Date: March 2, 2026**Location:** Gazipur**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No (Categorised as Grey)**Source:** [The Daily Star](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is institutionally distinctive. The mob did not merely assault an individual; it attacked law enforcement officers and forcibly removed suspects from police custody. The suspects were subsequently rearrested, which is a positive development. However, the primary constitutional concern here is the direct challenge to the State's monopoly on lawful coercive authority. When a mob overpowers police and extracts persons from their custody, it violates Article 31 (the right of every person to be treated in accordance with law), and it also engages Article 33 by disrupting the lawful process of arrest and detention before the prescribed procedural safeguards can be administered. The State bears a positive duty to ensure that persons in police custody are protected from mob interference.*

Incident No. 4

Date: March 2, 2026**Location:** Narayanganj**Outcome:** Non-Fatal (Assault)**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Three women were assaulted and had their hair forcibly cut while restrained**Source:** [bdnews24](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is among the most grave in the dataset from the standpoint of human dignity. The forcible restraint and punitive hair-cutting of three women constitutes cruel and degrading treatment of the kind directly prohibited by Article 35(5), which provides that no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment. The gendered targeting of women for this form of public humiliation also engages Article 27, which guarantees all citizens equal protection of law. The State is obliged not only to criminally prosecute the perpetrators but also to ensure that the victims receive adequate redress. Degrading treatment directed at women in public spaces represents a particularly acute failure of the State's protective obligations.*

Incident No. 5

Date: March 2, 2026**Location:** Rajshahi (Puthia)**Outcome:** Fatal**Fatalities:** 1**Political Dimension:** No — Victim suspected of Dacoity**Source:** [Channel i Online](#)

Constitutional Note: *A person was killed on the basis of suspicion alone, without any arrest, charge, trial, or judicial determination of guilt. This is the quintessential constitutional violation arising from mob violence. Article 32 guarantees that no person shall be deprived of life save in accordance with law. Article 35(3) guarantees every accused person the right to trial before an independent and impartial court. Article 31 guarantees the right to be treated in accordance with law. All three provisions are simultaneously and completely violated when a mob kills a person on suspicion of an offence. Suspicion is not guilt. An allegation is not a conviction. A crowd is not a court. The State must prosecute the participants in this killing for culpable homicide or murder as appropriate under the Penal Code.*

Incident No. 6

Date: March 3, 2026

Location: Narayanganj

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes — Inter-party clash

Source: [Prothom Alo](#)

Constitutional Note: *Inter-party mob clashes represent a specific and serious dimension of politically motivated violence. When two organized political formations collide through mob action, the constitutional harm is compound: both the rights of individuals subjected to violence and the democratic character of political competition guaranteed by Article 11 are simultaneously damaged. Political parties must compete through legitimate democratic means, including speech, assembly, and electoral participation. Physical confrontation between party cadres constitutes an abuse of the rights guaranteed under Articles 37 and 38 and undermines the foundational democratic commitments of the Constitution.*

Incident No. 7

Date: March 4, 2026

Location: Munshiganj

Outcome: Fatal

Fatalities: 2

Political Dimension: No — Alleged theft

Source: [The Daily Star](#)

Constitutional Note: *Two persons were killed by a mob acting on an allegation of theft. This is the highest single-incident death toll of the month and one of the gravest constitutional violations documented herein. The killing of two human beings by a crowd, without arrest, without charge, without trial, and without any legal process whatsoever, constitutes a total negation of Articles 32 and 35(3). The value of human life protected under Article 32 is not proportionate to the gravity of the alleged offence. Even if the victims had been conclusively guilty of theft, no law of Bangladesh authorises the taking of their lives as punishment. The mob appointed itself as investigator, prosecutor, judge, and executioner simultaneously. This incident must be investigated as a case of murder.*

Incident No. 8**Date:** March 4, 2026**Location:** Meherpur**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes — Inter-party clash**Source:** [Bangla Tribune](#)

Constitutional Note: *A clash between two organized political formations resulting in mob violence. As with Incident No. 6, this implicates the constitutional framework of democratic political competition under Article 11 and the rights of assembly and association under Articles 37 and 38 respectively. The recurrence of inter-party mob clashes across the month indicates that the problem is not isolated to any single political formation but reflects a broader culture of political violence that the State has a constitutional obligation to dismantle through law enforcement, prosecution, and institutional reform.*

Incident No. 9**Date:** March 4, 2026**Location:** Rupsha**Outcome:** Non-Fatal (Police Detained)**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes — Former political leader targeted**Source:** [The Observer BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *A mob incident involving the targeting of a former leader of a political labour wing resulted in police detention. This incident raises layered constitutional questions. The targeting of an individual because of his political identity and past affiliation implicates Articles 38 and 39. The circumstances of the subsequent police detention also engage Article 33, which mandates that persons deprived of liberty must be informed of the grounds of arrest, afforded the right to consult a legal practitioner, and produced before a magistrate within the prescribed period. Constitution Watchdog emphasises that even persons who are the targets of mob violence may, depending on circumstances, also become suspects, and in either capacity their constitutional rights must be scrupulously observed.*

Incident No. 10**Date:** March 5, 2026**Location:** Gazipur (Tongi)**Outcome:** Non-Fatal — Wrist Severed**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Alleged robbery**Source:** [The Daily Star](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident demands the highest degree of constitutional attention and the strongest possible institutional condemnation. The severance of a human wrist by a mob constitutes grievous bodily harm of an exceptional order. It is not merely an assault. It is a permanent, irreversible mutilation. No court in Bangladesh, including the highest criminal courts, is empowered to order the amputation of a limb as punishment for any offence. A mob that imposes such a punishment does so in direct and absolute defiance of Article 35(5), which prohibits cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment and treatment without any qualification. The prohibition applies with equal force to the gravest and the most minor of alleged offences. Furthermore, the victim in this case was an alleged, not convicted, robber. Articles 31, 32, 35(3), and 35(5) are all violated. This incident must be treated as a priority case for criminal investigation and prosecution by the relevant law enforcement authorities.*

Incident No. 11

Date: March 5, 2026

Location: Moulvibazar

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Alleged Kidnapping

Source: [Daily Naya Diganta](#)

Constitutional Note: *Mob action taken against a person alleged to have committed kidnapping. Kidnapping is undoubtedly a serious offence. However, the gravity of an alleged offence does not create any constitutional space for mob punishment. Article 31 guarantees the right to be treated in accordance with law to all persons, including those suspected of the most serious crimes. Article 35(3) guarantees the right to trial before a competent court. These rights exist precisely to ensure that even the guilty are processed lawfully, and that those wrongly accused are not punished for offences they did not commit. The appropriate response to a suspected kidnapper is immediate surrender to law enforcement, not mob assault.*

Incident No. 12

Date: March 5, 2026

Location: Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Rising BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *An incident of extrajudicial mob violence in the capital city without a documented specific trigger. The absence of a specific provocation narrative does not diminish the constitutional significance of the incident. Every act of mob violence, regardless of its precipitating circumstances, constitutes a violation of Articles 31 and 32 with respect to the victim, and a challenge to the State's authority to maintain a lawful and orderly society.*

Incident No. 20**Date:** March 5, 2026**Location:** Jessore**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Defensive Vigilantism**Source:** [Bangla Tribune](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is categorised as defensive vigilantism, indicating that the mob acted in what it perceived as a protective capacity for the community rather than in a punitive one. Constitution Watchdog acknowledges that the motivational context of defensive vigilantism is analytically distinct from predatory mob violence. However, the constitutional analysis does not shift. The Constitution of Bangladesh does not create a right to vigilante justice, defensive or otherwise. Article 31 requires that all actions detrimental to the life, liberty, or body of any person be taken in accordance with law. Self-help justice by a crowd, however well-intentioned, falls outside that framework. Communities facing threats must engage law enforcement rather than take collective punitive action.*

Incident No. 13**Date:** March 6, 2026**Location:** Kishoreganj**Outcome:** Fatal**Fatalities:** 1**Political Dimension:** No — Victim suspected of cow theft**Source:** [Star News BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *A man was killed by a mob acting on a suspicion of cow theft. The taking of a human life over the alleged theft of livestock represents one of the starkest illustrations of the constitutional crisis posed by mob justice in Bangladesh. No hierarchy of property interests can constitutionally justify the extinguishment of a human life. Article 32 protects the right to life of all persons, including those suspected of property offences. Article 35(3) guarantees the right to trial. Both provisions are violated in their totality. The frequency with which allegations of theft result in mob killings in this dataset points to a systemic failure that the State must urgently address through structural interventions in the criminal justice system.*

Incident No. 14**Date:** March 6, 2026**Location:** Kishoreganj (Pagla Mosque area)**Outcome:** Non-Fatal (Assault)**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Two journalists attacked**Source:** [UNB](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is of acute constitutional significance and merits designation as a matter of institutional priority. The mob attack on two journalists engaged in their professional duties constitutes a direct and serious violation of Article 39(2)(b) of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of the press. The press does not merely enjoy a professional privilege. It exercises a constitutional function. A free press is the mechanism through which citizens are informed, through which power is scrutinised, and through which the democratic commitments of Article 11 are operationalised in daily life. Every attack on a journalist is an attack on these constitutional functions. The State bears an especially grave positive obligation to protect journalists from mob violence and to prosecute those who perpetrate such attacks with the full weight of the law.*

WEEK TWO: MARCH 7 TO MARCH 15, 2026

Incident No. 15

Date: March 7, 2026

Location: Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Desh Rupantor](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political incident of mob violence in the capital city. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated with respect to the victim’s right to personal security and to treatment in accordance with law. The recurrence of non-political mob violence in Dhaka across the month indicates that extrajudicial crowd violence is not the preserve of political actors but reflects a broader social condition in which the rule of law is perceived as inadequate or inaccessible.*

Incident No. 16

Date: March 7, 2026

Location: Dinajpur

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [NTV BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political incident of mob violence in the northern division. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated. The geographic spread of non-political mob violence to secondary cities and district towns confirms that this phenomenon is not confined to the capital and requires a national rather than localised policy response.*

Incident No. 17

Date: March 7, 2026**Location:** Chittagong**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes — Inter-party clash**Source:** [Ekushey Patrika](#)

Constitutional Note: *A politically motivated mob clash between opposing political formations in Chittagong. The persistence of inter-party cadre confrontation, even in the substantially altered post-2024 political landscape, is a matter of deep concern. It indicates that the culture of party-organised street violence is deeply institutionalised within both formations and will not be resolved by political transitions alone. It requires structural intervention through law enforcement and prosecutorial action. Articles 11, 37, 38, and 39 are implicated, with particular emphasis on the democratic values that Article 11 places at the foundation of the constitutional order.*

Incident No. 21**Date:** March 7, 2026**Location:** Jhenaidah**Outcome:** Fatal**Fatalities:** 1**Political Dimension:** No**Source:** [Prothom Alo](#)

Constitutional Note: *A fatal non-political mob incident in Jhenaidah. The absence of a documented specific trigger does not diminish the gravity of the constitutional violation. A human life has been extinguished without any lawful process. Article 32 is violated in its most fundamental dimension. The State must investigate this killing, identify the participants, and ensure prosecution under the applicable provisions of the Penal Code.*

Incident No. 18**Date:** March 8, 2026**Location:** Narayanganj (Siddhirganj)**Outcome:** Fatal**Fatalities:** 1**Political Dimension:** No — Suspected Mugging**Source:** [The Daily Star](#)

Constitutional Note: *A person suspected of mugging was beaten to death by a mob. The State's positive obligation under Article 32 encompasses not only the prohibition on State actors taking life unlawfully, but also the duty to maintain conditions in which all persons can safely be brought before legal authority rather than executed by a crowd. A person suspected of mugging has the right under Article 35(3) to be tried before an independent and impartial court. Article 31 guarantees that no action detrimental to his life shall be taken except in accordance with law. Both rights were extinguished entirely. This killing must be prosecuted as culpable homicide or murder as the evidence warrants.*

Incident No. 19**Date:** March 8, 2026**Location:** Dhaka**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes**Source:** [Somoy News](#)

Constitutional Note: *Mob violence perpetrated by the youth wing of a newly established political formation raises concerns about the perpetuation of cadre-based violence across the political spectrum, including among newly formed parties. The constitutional obligation under Articles 37 and 38 to exercise the rights of assembly and association peacefully is not suspended for new entrants to political life. Article 11's democratic values apply with equal force to all formations. The emergence of mob violence practices within newly formed political organisations suggests that structural countermeasures, rather than party-specific remedies, are required.*

Incident No. 45**Date:** March 8, 2026**Location:** Meherpur**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Alleged theft of a shallow machine (irrigation equipment)**Source:** [Meherpur News](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political incident arising from an allegation of theft of agricultural equipment. This incident illustrates the vulnerability of agricultural communities to mob justice dynamics in the absence of accessible and responsive formal dispute resolution mechanisms. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated with respect to the victim's right to bodily integrity and treatment in accordance with law. The State should consider enhanced rural outreach by law enforcement as part of a broader mob violence prevention strategy.*

Incident No. 22**Date:** March 9, 2026**Location:** Dhaka**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes**Source:** [Nagorik Bangladesh](#)

Constitutional Note: *A specific political volunteer wing appears in the dataset on two separate occasions, in Incidents No. 1 and No. 22, in locations as geographically dispersed as Patuakhali and Dhaka. This recurrence is constitutionally significant. It indicates a pattern of organised mob violence by a specific formation rather than spontaneous crowd behaviour. Where a named political organisation appears repeatedly in a mob violence dataset within a single month, the appropriate constitutional and legal response is not merely incident-by-incident prosecution but a systemic examination of whether the organisation is directing or enabling violent conduct through its structures. Articles 38 and 11 are engaged, as well as the general criminal law of Bangladesh.*

Incident No. 23

Date: March 9, 2026

Location: Barishal (Bakerganj)

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes — A Union Parishad Chairman was attacked; 13 persons including a political leader were subsequently named in an FIR

Source: [DBC News](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is significant for its target as well as its accountability dimension. The person attacked was an elected local government official, a Union Parishad Chairman. Mob attacks on elected representatives strike at the foundation of democratic governance. Elected local government officials derive their authority from the people through constitutional processes, and attacks on them are attacks on the institution of elected representation itself, which the Constitution protects. The filing of a criminal case naming 13 persons, including a political leader, represents a positive and constitutionally required exercise of accountability. Constitution Watchdog notes that where FIRs are filed against identifiable mob participants, the duty of the State does not end at registration. It must extend through investigation, charge, and prosecution to its conclusion.*

Incident No. 24

Date: March 13, 2026

Location: Thakurgaon

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes

Source: [Bangla Tribune](#)

Constitutional Note: *A politically-linked mob violence incident in the Rangpur division. The northern districts of Bangladesh have recorded multiple politically motivated incidents in this dataset, indicating that politically organised mob violence is not a phenomenon limited to the major urban centres. Articles 38, 39, and 11 are implicated. Law enforcement capacity in peripheral districts must be adequate to the constitutional obligation to prevent and respond to organised political violence.*

Incident No. 25

Date: March 14, 2026

Location: Dinajpur

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Jago News 24](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political incident of mob violence in Dinajpur. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated. The geographic recurrence of mob violence in Dinajpur (see also Incident No. 16) within a fortnight suggests a localised pattern that merits specific law enforcement attention.*

Incident No. 26

Date: March 15, 2026

Location: Kurigram

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Bangla bdnews24](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political incident of mob violence in Kurigram, a district in the northern division known for its economic vulnerability. The relationship between economic marginalisation, institutional distrust, and the propensity for mob justice is a structural issue that the State must address through both law enforcement and broader socioeconomic policy. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated.*

WEEK THREE: MARCH 15 TO MARCH 22, 2026

Incident No. 27

Date: March 15, 2026

Location: Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes — Institutional Mobbing

Source: [Jugantor](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is categorised as institutional mobbing, signifying that mob dynamics were deployed within or through an institutional setting. This is analytically among the most troubling categories in the dataset, because it indicates that the behavioural patterns associated with mob violence have penetrated institutional frameworks. Institutional mobbing typically involves the organised use of collective pressure, intimidation, or harassment to coerce, exclude, or punish an individual within a professional, academic, or civic institution. It implicates Article 31 (right to treatment in accordance with law), and depending on the specific institutional context, may also engage Article 40 (freedom of profession and occupation). The State must ensure that institutional settings are not weaponised as arenas for collective harassment.*

Incident No. 28

Date: March 16, 2026

Location: Uttara, Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal — Shopping mall vandalised

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Triggered by an unverified rumour of a rickshaw puller's death

Source: [The Daily Star](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident exemplifies the constitutional hazard of rumour-driven mob violence. A commercial establishment was vandalised on the basis of unverified information, almost certainly amplified and circulated through social media or interpersonal communication networks before any factual verification occurred. The right to property guaranteed under Article 42 was violated with respect to the proprietors of the vandalised mall. The incident also raises a broader constitutional question about the State's obligation to regulate the spread of incendiary misinformation that foreseeably leads to mob violence. Any regulatory response must, however, be carefully calibrated to remain within the limits imposed by Article 39(2) on restrictions of freedom of expression, which permits restrictions only in accordance with law, and subject to the requirements of reasonableness.*

Incident No. 29

Date: March 16, 2026

Location: Chuadanga

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Robbery Attempt

Source: [Somoy News](#)

Constitutional Note: *A mob response to an alleged robbery attempt. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated with respect to the victim's right to bodily integrity and treatment in accordance with law. As with other crime-reactive incidents, the constitutional analysis is unaffected by the seriousness of the alleged provocation.*

Incident No. 30**Date:** March 16, 2026**Location:** Chattogram**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Dacoity**Source:** [Bangla Tribune](#)

Constitutional Note: *A non-political mob incident arising from an allegation of dacoity in Bangladesh's second city. Dacoity, as an offence involving armed robbery by multiple persons, is among the more serious property offences in the Penal Code. However, as this report has consistently affirmed, the seriousness of an allegation does not alter the constitutional framework. Articles 31, 32, and 35(3) apply without qualification.*

Incident No. 31**Date:** March 17, 2026**Location:** Munshiganj**Outcome:** Non-Fatal — Bus/truck driver beaten**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Accident-induced mob violence following a fatal road collision**Source:** [Star News BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *Road accident-induced mob violence is a recurring phenomenon in Bangladesh and one that this dataset documents on multiple occasions. The death of a passenger in a road collision naturally and understandably generates intense public grief and anger. However, the translation of that grief into immediate physical assault on the driver, before any determination of fault, culpability, or criminal negligence, violates Articles 31, 32, and 35(3). The driver's culpability, if any, must be determined by lawful processes including police investigation and prosecution under the relevant provisions of road safety law. The predictability of this pattern creates a specific preventive obligation for the State: the development and implementation of accident scene protocols that protect drivers from mob violence while ensuring that passenger victims receive immediate assistance and that evidence is preserved.*

Incident No. 46**Date:** March 19, 2026**Location:** Faridpur**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** Yes — A political leader's brother was hospitalised following a mob beating and subsequently handed over to police**Source:** [Bhorer Bani](#)

Constitutional Note: *The eventual handover of the victim to police following a mob beating does not retroactively legitimise the extrajudicial assault that preceded it. The constitutional sequence mandated by Articles 31, 32, and 33 is: identification, apprehension through lawful means, and surrender to law enforcement. It is not: assault, hospitalisation, and then surrender. The mob's resort to violence before surrendering the individual to police constitutes a violation of his rights regardless of the eventual outcome. The political dimension of this incident, involving the relative of a political figure, also implicates Articles 38 and 11 in the context of politically motivated targeting.*

Incident No. 32

Date: March 20, 2026

Location: Dhaka

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Business and economic harassment; a shop known as Nabin Fashion was ordered to close by a mob and subsequently ordered by official intervention to reopen within 24 hours

Source: [Star News BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is analytically distinctive and constitutionally significant in a manner that extends beyond the ordinary mob violence framework. It appears to involve the instrumentalisation of mob pressure to interfere with the operation of a legitimate commercial business. Article 40 of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation and to conduct any lawful trade or business. Article 42 protects the right to property. Both rights are directly implicated when a business is coerced into closure through mob intimidation. The reported involvement of a police officer being summoned in connection with this commercial dispute raises additional rule of law concerns about the potential intersection of mob pressure and official authority. The circumstances of this incident merit thorough and independent investigation.*

Incident No. 33

Date: March 21, 2026

Location: Panchagarh

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes — A political youth wing leader was beaten by a mob while collecting donations at a shop near Eidgah grounds

Source: [Star News BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is contextually complex. It involves a political youth wing leader engaged in donation collection at commercial premises adjacent to religious grounds, a practice that warrants independent scrutiny under the law governing extortion and collection of funds. However, whatever the lawfulness or otherwise of the donation collection activity, the mob response of physical assault remains constitutionally impermissible. Article 31 guarantees the right to be treated in accordance with law to all persons, including those suspected of improper conduct. If the donation collection activity constituted an offence, the appropriate response was complaint to law enforcement, not physical assault. Articles 31 and 32 are violated with respect to the victim, and the political dimension engages Articles 38 and 11.*

Incident No. 34

Date: March 21, 2026

Location: Jashore

Outcome: Fatal

Fatalities: 1

Political Dimension: No — Alleged Thief

Source: [Daily Star Bangla](#)

Constitutional Note: *A fatal incident in which a person alleged to be a thief was killed by a mob. This is the seventh fatal incident of the month and continues a pattern of lethal mob action against persons suspected of property offences. The frequency of this pattern in the dataset demands that it be treated as a systemic issue rooted in the collapse of public trust in the formal criminal justice system's accessibility and responsiveness. Article 32 is violated in the most fundamental sense. The State must investigate and prosecute this killing, and must simultaneously examine why communities repeatedly resort to lethal mob action against alleged thieves rather than engaging law enforcement.*

Incident No. 35

Date: March 22, 2026

Location: Rajshahi

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Suspects snatched from police custody by mob

Source: [Jugantor](#)

Constitutional Note: *This is a direct institutional challenge to the State’s authority and its constitutional duty of custody. The forcible removal of suspects from police custody by a mob constitutes a violation of Article 31 (the right to treatment in accordance with law with respect to both the suspects and the law enforcement process), and disrupts the operation of Article 33 (safeguards as to arrest and detention) before the prescribed procedural protections can be administered. The failure of law enforcement to maintain physical custody of arrested persons reflects a systemic inadequacy that must be addressed. Constitution Watchdog urges that incidents of forcible extraction of suspects from police custody be specifically categorised as a distinct and serious offence under Bangladesh law, carrying enhanced penalties, given the direct challenge they represent to the authority of the State.*

WEEK FOUR: MARCH 24 TO MARCH 31, 2026

Note: March 24, 2026 was the single highest-intensity day of the reporting month, with five separate mob violence incidents recorded across four geographically dispersed locations.

Incident No. 36

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Dhaka (Court Premises)

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: Yes — Political; eggs were hurled at a former Member of Parliament on court premises

Source: [TOB News](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is constitutionally alarming above all for its location. Violence or intimidatory conduct perpetrated on court premises or in their immediate vicinity represents a direct challenge to the authority of the judiciary, the third pillar of the State and the institution that the Constitution entrusts with the protection of fundamental rights under Article 44. The right of access to justice is incompatible with an atmosphere of mob intimidation at court precincts. Every person appearing before a court, as litigant, accused, witness, or advocate, must be able to do so without fear of crowd violence. The State must ensure through dedicated law enforcement presence and legal prohibition that the precincts of its courts are inviolate. The political targeting of a former Member of Parliament also implicates Articles 11 and 39.*

Incident No. 37

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Brahmanbaria

Outcome: Fatal

Fatalities: 1

Political Dimension: Yes — Political

Source: [Bangla Tribune](#)

Constitutional Note: *A fatal incident arising from politically motivated mob violence in Brahmanbaria. This is one of the gravest incidents in the dataset. A human life was extinguished by a politically motivated crowd. The killing of a person in the context of political mob violence violates Article 32 (right to life) and represents a fundamental attack on the democratic character of the constitutional order established by Article 11. Political competition in a constitutional democracy must never be prosecuted through violence. This incident merits independent investigative attention and the highest prosecutorial priority. The identities of the participants in this fatal mob action, and those who directed or organised the conduct, must be determined and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.*

Incident No. 38

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Gaibandha

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Extortion-related

Source: [Morning Post BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *An extortion-related non-political incident of mob violence. Extortion-linked mob violence is a category with specific structural implications, suggesting the deployment of organised crowd violence as an enforcement mechanism for unlawful rent-seeking. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated with respect to the victim's rights. Additionally, where mob violence is used to enforce extortion demands, Article 40 and Article 42 may be engaged with respect to the economic rights of the targeted person.*

Incident No. 39

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Meherpur

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Dainik Sangbad Pratidin](#)

Constitutional Note: *A third incident from Meherpur in the dataset, confirming the district as one of the most affected in the month. The geographic recurrence of mob violence in a single district within a reporting period demands localised law enforcement review. Articles 31 and 32 are implicated.*

Incident No. 40

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Madaripur

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Mob action following an alleged rape accusation

Source: [Bangla News 24](#)

Constitutional Note: *Mob action arising from a rape allegation demands careful and honest constitutional analysis. Rape is among the gravest violations of human dignity and personal autonomy recognised in law. Public outrage at sexual violence is a natural and legitimate moral response. However, the Constitution’s framework under Articles 31, 32, and 35(3) makes no provision for any exception based on the gravity of the alleged offence. A person accused of rape has the constitutional right to be tried before an independent and impartial court under Article 35(3). Mob assault on an alleged rapist, however morally explicable, is constitutionally equivalent to mob assault on an alleged thief. The severity of the allegation does not create a space for extrajudicial punishment. The appropriate institutional response is immediate reporting to law enforcement and support for the survivor through established legal and social support mechanisms.*

Incident No. 41

Date: March 25, 2026

Location: Narail

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Mob lynching following a child rape allegation; accused hospitalised

Source: [Star News BD](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident involves an allegation of child sexual abuse, one of the most serious categories of criminal conduct recognised by law and one that engages the strongest moral convictions of any community. Constitution Watchdog unequivocally condemns child sexual abuse in all its forms and affirms the paramount importance of protecting children from harm. Simultaneously, Constitution Watchdog maintains without qualification that the constitutional prohibition on extrajudicial punishment under Articles 31, 32, 35(3), and 35(5) is absolute and applies with equal force in cases involving the most abhorrent allegations. The hospitalisation of the accused as a result of the mob assault is indicative of severe bodily harm inflicted without any legal authority. Accused persons, including those charged with the gravest offences, must be surrendered to law enforcement and processed through the criminal justice system. This is not a protection extended as a favour to the accused. It is the mechanism through which the State protects the integrity of justice itself.*

Incident No. 42

Date: March 25, 2026

Location: Faridpur

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — A premeditated murder occurred following the failure of an informal shalish mediation; a secondary mob subsequently attacked the suspect and vandalised his vehicle

Source: [Ajkalor Khobor](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is analytically layered and constitutionally instructive. It begins with the failure of informal dispute resolution through the shalish system, proceeds to a premeditated homicide, and culminates in secondary mob violence against the alleged perpetrator. It illustrates how the collapse of informal justice mechanisms can produce cascading violence of multiple kinds. The shalish system, while culturally entrenched in many communities, is not a constitutionally authorised dispute resolution mechanism. When informal mediation fails and parties resort to violence rather than formal legal process, the constitutional framework under Article 27 (equal protection of law) and Article 31 (right to treatment in accordance with law) is bypassed entirely. Constitution Watchdog urges that investment in accessible, efficient, and impartial formal justice mechanisms at the local level is both a constitutional imperative and a structural prevention measure against mob violence.*

Incident No. 43

Date: March 26, 2026

Location: Jamalpur

Outcome: Fatal — Suicide following mob assault

Fatalities: 1

Political Dimension: No — Alleged Theft

Source: [The Daily Ittefaq](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident is among the most tragic and constitutionally significant in the entire dataset and requires the most careful analysis. A person subjected to mob violence subsequently died by suicide. The causal chain between the mob assault and the death is direct and sufficiently proximate that, in Constitution Watchdog's institutional assessment, this death must be attributed to the mob's action and counted in the full accounting of mob violence's lethal toll for the month. Article 32 protects the right to life. The right to life encompasses the State's positive obligation to protect persons from conditions of trauma and suffering so severe that they threaten life itself. The mob's assault did not immediately kill this person. It inflicted injuries and humiliation of such severity that he took his own life. The perpetrators of the mob assault bear moral and legal responsibility for this outcome. Article 35(5), which prohibits cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, is violated in its most consequential dimension when such treatment drives a person to take his own life. This incident also speaks to the profound psychological harm inflicted by mob violence, a dimension that is insufficiently considered in existing legal and policy frameworks.*

Incident No. 44

Date: March 26, 2026

Location: Netrokona

Outcome: Fatal

Fatalities: 1

Political Dimension: No

Source: [Jago News 24](#)

Constitutional Note: *A fatal non-political mob incident in Netrokona. Articles 32 and 35(3) are violated in their most fundamental dimension. The loss of human life without any lawful process is constitutionally impermissible under any circumstances. The State must investigate and prosecute this killing.*

Incident No. 47

Date: March 26, 2026

Location: Chattogram

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Person accused of illegally catching fish using poison in the Sangu River

Source: [Desh Rupantor](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident represents an emerging category of mob violence triggered by environmental harm. The alleged conduct, the use of poison to harvest fish in a river, is not only an offence under applicable fisheries and environmental law but also a genuine harm to the shared resources and livelihoods of the surrounding community. The community’s outrage is understandable. However, the constitutional analysis does not shift. The accused person’s rights under Articles 31, 32, and 35(3) apply regardless of the nature of the alleged environmental offence. The appropriate response is reporting to environmental and fisheries law enforcement authorities, not mob assault. This incident also underscores the need for effective environmental enforcement mechanisms in riverine communities.*

Incident No. 48

Date: March 27, 2026

Location: Debidwar, Comilla

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Mob beating of a bus driver following a fatal collision with a CNG-run autorickshaw

Source: [Daily Amar Shohor](#)

Constitutional Note: *A further incident of road accident-induced mob violence, this time in Comilla district. This is the second such incident in the dataset (see also Incident No. 31). The repeated occurrence of driver beatings following road accidents across geographically dispersed locations confirms that this is not an isolated local phenomenon but a systemic pattern. Articles 31, 32, and 35(3) are implicated. The predictability of this pattern creates a specific and addressable preventive obligation: the State should develop and implement accident scene emergency protocols that include immediate police presence, protective action for drivers, medical support for victims, and accessible channels for survivors to seek legal redress.*

Incident No. 49**Date:** March 27, 2026**Location:** Rupganj, Narayanganj**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Women allegedly suspected of kidnapping a nine-month-old child**Source:** [Jago News 24](#)

Constitutional Note: *Allegations involving the kidnapping of a young child generate an extreme emotional response in any community, and the protective instinct of a community toward its most vulnerable members is morally legitimate. However, the constitutional analysis requires the same application of principle regardless of the emotive charge of the allegation. The women subject to mob action in this incident are entitled to the protections of Articles 31, 32, and 35(3). They must be surrendered to law enforcement and processed through the criminal justice system. Mob action based on an accusation of child kidnapping is constitutionally impermissible in exactly the same way as mob action based on any other allegation. The gravity of the suspicion does not create a constitutional space for extrajudicial violence.*

Incident No. 50**Date:** March 29, 2026**Location:** Noakhali**Outcome:** Fatal**Fatalities:** 1**Political Dimension:** No**Source:** [Daily Star Bangla](#)

Constitutional Note: *A fatal non-political mob incident in Noakhali in the penultimate days of the reporting month. Articles 32 and 35(3) are violated in their most fundamental dimension. Human life may not be extinguished by a crowd. The State must investigate and prosecute this killing.*

Incident No. 51**Date:** March 30, 2026**Location:** Brahmanpara, Comilla**Outcome:** Non-Fatal**Fatalities:** 0**Political Dimension:** No — Two youths caught attempting bKash mobile banking fraud were beaten and had their heads publicly shaved by a mob**Source:** [Amader Shomoy](#)

Constitutional Note: *This incident presents a dual constitutional concern. First, the physical assault of the two accused persons, regardless of the alleged fraud, violates their rights under Articles 31, 32, and 35(3). Second, and of particular significance, the public shaving of their heads as a form of punitive humiliation constitutes cruel and degrading treatment directly prohibited by Article 35(5). No punishment involving public humiliation, physical degradation, or the alteration of a person's bodily appearance as a form of shame is permissible under the Constitution, regardless of the offence alleged. The fact that the victims were allegedly guilty of financial fraud does not alter this analysis by one degree. Courts in Bangladesh do not impose head-shaving as a punishment. A mob has no authority to do what a court cannot.*

Incident No. 52

Date: March 30, 2026

Location: Narayanganj

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Accused escaped from police custody following arrest for attempted murder

Source: [Manob Kantha](#)

Constitutional Note: *A mob intervened following the escape of a person from police custody where the person had been arrested in connection with an attempted murder. The frustration of a community when an accused person escapes lawful detention is understandable. However, the constitutional framework requires that the State, through its law enforcement apparatus, undertake the recapture of the escaped accused through lawful means. The delegation of that function to a mob is constitutionally impermissible under Articles 31 and 32. This incident also exposes a specific institutional vulnerability: the failure to maintain custody of an arrested person accused of a violent offence. The circumstances of the escape from custody should be independently reviewed and the responsible officers held accountable.*

Incident No. 53

Date: March 31, 2026

Location: Patuakhali

Outcome: Fatal

Fatalities: 1

Political Dimension: No — A watermelon farmer was attacked after demanding extortion money and resisting the attackers

Source: [Manob Kantha](#)

Constitutional Note: *The final fatal incident of the reporting month. A watermelon farmer was killed, reportedly in the context of extortion demands being resisted. This victim was not an alleged criminal. He was an agricultural worker exercising his constitutional right to his livelihood and property under Articles 40 and 42. He was killed for refusing to submit to unlawful demands. This incident is constitutionally distinctive in that the victim bore no allegation of wrongdoing. He was killed for asserting his own rights. Article 32 is violated in circumstances of acute moral clarity. The State must treat this killing as a matter of highest prosecutorial priority and must address the structural conditions of extortion that put agricultural workers at such risk.*

Incident No. 54

Date: March 31, 2026

Location: Bagerhat

Outcome: Non-Fatal

Fatalities: 0

Political Dimension: No — Victim refused to pay demanded extortion money

Source: [Jago News 24](#)

Constitutional Note: *The final incident of the month. Like Incident No. 53, this involves extortion-enforcement mob violence against a person who refused to pay unlawful demands. The clustering of extortion-related mob incidents at the month's close, and the geographic spread of such incidents across multiple divisions, indicates a structural pattern of organised extortion enforcement through crowd violence that warrants a dedicated law enforcement and investigative response. Articles 31, 32, 40, and 42 are all implicated. The normalisation of extortion-linked mob violence represents a particularly corrosive threat to the economic rights and physical security of ordinary citizens, especially in rural and semi-rural areas where formal institutional protection is most attenuated.*

SECTION IV: THEMATIC AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

4.1 Typology of Mob Violence — March 2026

On the basis of a thorough analysis of all 54 incidents, Constitution Watchdog identifies seven primary typological categories of mob violence during this reporting period. Each category carries distinct constitutional implications and demands a tailored institutional response.

Category A — Crime-Reactive Vigilante Violence

The largest single category, comprising approximately 25 incidents, involves mob action against persons alleged to have committed theft, robbery, dacoity, mugging, kidnapping, rape, fraud, or similar offences. These incidents are driven, in the institutional assessment of Constitution Watchdog, by a systemic collapse of public confidence in the formal criminal justice system's accessibility, speed, and credibility. Citizens who do not believe that the police will act, or that courts will deliver timely and proportionate justice, are more likely to resort to collective extrajudicial action. The constitutional system provides a complete criminal justice architecture whose purpose is precisely to channel public outrage into lawful process. Where that architecture is perceived as absent or inadequate, the constitutional order itself is at risk. The solution is not to excuse mob violence, which must be firmly prosecuted, but to invest urgently in making formal justice genuinely accessible.

Category B — Politically Motivated Mob Violence

Fifteen incidents were identified as involving organised political formations, including various mainstream and newly established political parties and their associated wings. Political mob violence is constitutionally distinct from crime-reactive vigilantism because it involves the institutional use of organised violence as a deliberate political instrument. It is not spontaneous. It is structured, directed, and repeated. It represents a strategy of intimidation and suppression deployed by political organisations against opponents, journalists, elected officials, and civic actors. This category presents the most direct and systematic threat to democratic governance in Bangladesh and must be treated with the highest degree of prosecutorial urgency, including the consideration of organisational liability for political formations that repeatedly appear in mob violence datasets.

Category C — Dignity-Based Punitive Mob Action

A specific subset of incidents involved the deliberate infliction of public humiliation as punishment: the forcible restraint and hair-cutting of three women in Narayanganj (Incident No. 4), the severance of a wrist in Gazipur (Incident No. 10), and the public head-shaving of two youths in Comilla (Incident No. 51). These acts are not merely assaults. They are forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment explicitly prohibited by Article 35(5). They are also particularly targeted at the dignity and bodily integrity of victims in ways that extend the harm beyond immediate physical injury. The gendered dimension of Incident No. 4 further engages Article 27 in its application to equal protection of law

for women.

Category D — Institutional Challenge and Custody Interference

Multiple incidents, including Incidents No. 3, No. 35, and No. 52, involved mobs attacking law enforcement personnel, extracting suspects from police custody, or pursuing persons who had escaped lawful detention. These incidents represent the most direct form of institutional challenge to the State's authority. They are not merely crimes against individuals. They are attacks on the constitutional function of law enforcement and on the procedural framework of Article 33. They must be categorised as a distinct and aggravated offence and prosecuted with particular priority.

Category E — Accident and Disaster-Triggered Violence

Incidents No. 31 and No. 48 arose from road accidents. The predictability of this pattern, confirmed by its recurrence across multiple reporting periods, means that the State can and should develop specific preventive interventions. These include dedicated first-responder protocols for accident scenes, immediate police deployment to protect drivers from mob action, accessible compensation mechanisms for accident victims, and public communication campaigns about lawful channels for grievance following road accidents.

Category F — Rumour and Misinformation-Driven Violence

Incident No. 28, in which a shopping mall was vandalised on the basis of an unverified rumour, illustrates the specific risk of misinformation-driven mob violence in an era of rapid informal communication. As digital platforms expand their reach across Bangladesh, the risk of rumour-triggered mass disorder increases proportionately. The State must develop a calibrated, rights-respecting misinformation response framework, working within the bounds of Article 39 on freedom of expression.

Category G — Extortion-Enforcement Violence

Incidents No. 38, No. 53, and No. 54 relate directly to extortion demands, either as triggers for violence against those who resisted or as enforcement mechanisms against non-compliant targets. The emergence of extortion as a distinct mob violence trigger indicates the penetration of organised rent-seeking behaviour, whether criminal or quasi-political in character, into rural and semi-rural communities. This category requires a dedicated law enforcement response, including the investigation of organised extortion networks in the affected districts.

4.2 Geographic Distribution

Dhaka Division recorded the highest concentration of incidents, with Dhaka city and Narayanganj together accounting for 14 incidents. This reflects both the population density of the metropolitan area and its political volatility. Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi divisions each recorded multiple incidents, and the northern districts of Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, and Kurigram were also represented. The presence of incidents from Patuakhali, Netrokona, Kurigram, Bagerhat, and other peripheral districts confirms beyond

question that mob violence is a national phenomenon, not a metropolitan one. Rural and semi-rural areas, often characterised by less visible law enforcement presence and lower institutional trust, are equally exposed to mob violence dynamics and in many respects more vulnerable.

4.3 The Question of Fatalities

Twelve deaths from mob violence within a single calendar month is an unacceptable toll by any measure of constitutional governance. These deaths occurred not in the course of any lawful exercise of State authority, not as the result of any judicial process, and not in circumstances of legitimate self-defence. They are deaths caused by crowds that appointed themselves collectively as judge, jury, and executioner. Each of these twelve deaths is a violation of Article 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

The suicide of Incident No. 43 in Jamalpur deserves specific acknowledgement. This death is, in this institution's assessment, a direct consequence of mob violence and must be counted in the honest tally of its lethal toll. The mob's actions created conditions of trauma and humiliation so severe that the victim took his own life. The State's obligation under Article 32 to protect life must be understood to encompass these downstream consequences of mob violence. A policy framework that addresses only deaths occurring at the scene of mob action will systematically undercount its human cost.

4.4 Patterns of Repetition

Several structural patterns emerge from the full dataset that are of particular analytical significance:

A specific political volunteer wing appears in two incidents across the month in geographically distant locations, Patuakhali and Dhaka, indicating organised rather than spontaneous conduct. Narayanganj records five incidents across the month, the highest count for any single district, suggesting either particularly severe local conditions or a concentration of organised violence. Meherpur records three incidents, all in the non-political category, indicating a localised pattern of crime-reactive vigilantism that merits specific investigative attention. March 24 recorded five incidents in a single day across four locations, the highest single-day intensity of the month, a concentration that warrants specific examination.

SECTION V: ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE'S CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The Constitution of Bangladesh does not merely prohibit the State from violating rights. It imposes a positive obligation on the State to create the conditions in which rights are real, effective, and enforceable. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has affirmed in its jurisprudence that fundamental rights carry both negative and positive dimensions for

the State. Against the background of 54 incidents, 12 deaths, and a month of sustained constitutional violation across 29 districts, Constitution Watchdog assesses the State's discharge of its positive obligations as critically deficient in the following respects.

5.1 Failure of Prevention

The State has not demonstrated any systematic, proactive strategy for mob violence prevention. There are no publicly available protocols for law enforcement response to crowd formation around alleged criminal incidents, no inter-agency rapid-response mechanisms specifically calibrated for mob violence contexts, and no evidence of a sustained public education campaign that situates mob violence within the constitutional rights framework. Prevention is a constitutional obligation, not an optional policy choice.

5.2 Failure of Prosecution

The dataset reveals widespread mob violence but minimal evidence of sustained criminal prosecution of mob participants. Where FIRs are filed, as in Incident No. 23, they represent the exception rather than the rule. In numerous incidents, the documentation indicates that law enforcement's primary focus remains on the alleged original offender rather than on the mob members who perpetrated violence. The State must prosecute mob participants. Individuals who beat, kill, humiliate, or maim a person in the context of a mob are individually criminally liable for their conduct under the applicable provisions of the Penal Code, and this liability must be consistently enforced.

5.3 Failure of Custodial Protection

Multiple incidents document the failure of law enforcement to protect persons in its custody from mob extraction or interference. The State's positive duty under Article 33 to administer the prescribed safeguards to arrested persons cannot be discharged if those persons are wrested from custody by a crowd. Adequate personnel deployment, protective infrastructure, and institutional accountability for custodial failures are constitutional requirements, not optional operational choices.

5.4 Failure of Accountability for Political Mob Violence

The involvement of named political organisations in fifteen incidents across a single month represents a pattern that demands a systemic institutional response. Case-by-case prosecution of individual participants, while necessary, is insufficient where a broader pattern of organisational enablement of mob violence is evident. The relevant authorities must examine whether specific political formations are directing, facilitating, or condoning mob violence through their institutional structures, and take appropriate legal action where such findings are established.

5.5 Failure to Address Root Causes

Many incidents in the crime-reactive category are ultimately expressions of a breakdown in public trust in the formal justice system. The State's constitutional obligation extends to creating the conditions in which citizens have confidence in and access to formal legal institutions. This requires investment in policing, the judiciary, legal aid, and community-

level dispute resolution that operates within, rather than outside, the constitutional framework.

SECTION VI: RECOMMENDATIONS

Constitution Watchdog addresses the following specific and actionable recommendations to the relevant organs of the State and to the broader stakeholder community.

To the Executive — Ministry of Home Affairs and Bangladesh Police:

First, a National Policy on Mob Violence Prevention and Response should be developed, incorporating specific protocols for the prevention of mob formation around criminal incident sites, the protection of persons in custodial settings, the preservation of evidence in mob violence incidents, and the coordination of prosecutorial action against mob participants.

Second, a dedicated Mob Violence Rapid Response capability should be established within the Bangladesh Police, with specific training, mandate, and resources for rapid deployment to mob violence situations and the preservation of evidence for subsequent prosecution.

Third, the filing of criminal cases against identifiable participants in all documented mob violence incidents should be mandated as a standard operational requirement. Prosecution of mob participants must proceed alongside, and not be subordinated to, action against alleged original offenders.

Fourth, accident scene protective protocols should be developed and implemented to prevent the recurrence of driver beatings following road accidents, which are both predictable and preventable.

Fifth, in coordination with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, a rights-respecting early warning mechanism should be developed to identify and address the dissemination of incendiary misinformation that foreseeably leads to mob violence, operating within the bounds of Article 39.

To the Legislature:

Sixth, the enactment of a dedicated Mob Violence and Lynching Prevention Act should be considered, criminalising participation in mob violence and providing enhanced penalties where the mob's conduct results in death, grievous injury, or degrading treatment. Comparative legislative experience from other South Asian jurisdictions provides a useful reference point for such legislation.

Seventh, existing provisions of the Penal Code should be reviewed to ensure that the doctrine of individual criminal responsibility is clearly applicable to mob violence contexts, so that the absence of individual causation evidence does not become an operational barrier to prosecution of mob participants.

To the Judiciary:

Eighth, Constitution Watchdog respectfully urges the High Court Division to consider

taking suo motu cognisance of the systemic pattern of mob violence documented in this and prior reports as a matter of fundamental rights enforcement under Article 44, and to issue appropriate directions to the executive for the development of systemic remedial measures.

Ninth, courts at all levels should be sensitised to the constitutional significance of mob violence cases through judicial education initiatives, and the expeditious disposal of mob violence prosecutions should be treated as a priority.

To Political Parties and Formations:

Tenth, all registered political parties and their affiliated formations are called upon to publicly and unequivocally disavow the use of mob violence as a political instrument, to enforce internal disciplinary procedures against members and affiliated formations implicated in mob violence, and to cooperate fully with law enforcement in investigations into politically motivated mob incidents.

To Civil Society and the Legal Fraternity:

Eleventh, lawyers and civil society organisations are urged to provide legal assistance to victims of mob violence, including those victims who are themselves alleged offenders, since the constitutional protection of Article 44 extends to all persons and not only to those who are innocent of any wrongdoing.

SECTION VII: CONCLUSION

The 54 incidents documented in this report are not isolated or aberrational events. They are expressions of a systemic condition: a crisis of constitutional culture in which the rights guaranteed by the supreme law of this Republic are routinely overridden by collective violence, with substantial impunity, across the length and breadth of the country.

The Constitution of Bangladesh is a document of extraordinary aspiration. Forged in the crucible of a liberation struggle fought in the name of human dignity and democratic self-determination, it promises equality, liberty, and the protection of law to every person within its territory. The promise, in March 2026, is being broken. It is being broken on the streets of Dhaka and in the fields of Patuakhali. It is being broken in the district towns of the north and in the coastal communities of the south. It is being broken by crowds, by political cadres, by extortionists, and by frightened communities whose trust in formal justice has collapsed. And it is being broken, in the final analysis, by a State that has not yet marshalled the institutional will to make good on the constitutional promise it has made.

Constitution Watchdog does not present this report as a counsel of despair. It is presented as a counsel of accountability, and as a call to constitutional seriousness. Bangladesh has survived the gravest imaginable crises of governance. It has constitutional institutions of historic distinction, a Supreme Court with the authority and the jurisdiction to protect fundamental rights, a civil society with the capacity and the courage to speak truth to power, and a citizenry that has demonstrated its commitment to constitutional

values under conditions of enormous difficulty.

The path from the data in this report to a Bangladesh in which mob violence is the exception rather than the near-daily norm is long. But it is visible. It runs through the consistent enforcement of criminal law against mob participants, the consistent protection of constitutional rights for all persons, the urgent rehabilitation of public trust in formal justice institutions, and the consistent insistence, by this institution and by all those who share its commitment to the Constitution, that no person in Bangladesh shall be deprived of life, liberty, body, or dignity save in accordance with the law of this Republic.

The Constitution demands no less. The twelve dead of March 2026 deserved no less.

Issued under the authority of:

Md. Ibrahim Khalilullah

President, Constitution Watchdog

The Mob Violence Monitor

Research and Documentation Division

Constitution Watchdog

Constitution Watchdog is an independent constitutional rights institution committed to the monitoring, documentation, and legal advocacy of constitutional norm compliance in Bangladesh. This report is published in the public interest and in the exercise of the institution's mandate under its founding charter. All incident data has been verified against primary source reporting as referenced in the incident registry. All hyperlinked sources are as documented in the underlying dataset compiled by the Mob Violence Monitor.

Report Reference: CW/MVR/MAR2026/01

Date of Issue: April 1, 2026

Classification: Public Interest Institutional Report