

# Bangladesh sees rise in online disinformation

## Says Dismislab report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi YouTube space is flooded with “cheapfake” talk shows and single-host videos that mislead viewers with disinformation, according to a research report released by Dismislab yesterday.

A cheapfake refers to manipulated media – videos, images, or audio – altered using basic and widely accessible editing tools.

Dismislab reviewed 288 videos and found that all used the same tactic – slicing real interviews out of context to manufacture moments that never happened. Most are stitched-together clips from YouTube, TV shows, Facebook Lives, and stolen audio recordings.

Each video averaged around 12,000 views.

In total, the videos featured 58 political figures,

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# ‘491 workers killed in last 3 years’

HRSS calls for urgent labour reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Bangladesh observes International Workers’ Day today under the slogan “Shramik-Malik Ek Hoyer, Gorbo E Desh Notun Kore” (Workers and employers united to rebuild the nation), the latest data from the Human Rights Support Society highlighted persistent issues of abuse, unsafe working conditions, and systemic neglect within the country’s labour force.

Between January 2022 and December 2024, at least 491 workers lost their lives due to violence or abuse, while another

- Enforce laws against harassment, discrimination
- Eradicate child labour
- Expand access to edn, social safety nets
- Ensure healthcare for all labour sectors
- Provide legal protection for informal sector workers
- Strengthen labour courts

1,334 were injured – 61 of them by gunfire, according to a press statement from HRSS.

In the same period, 429 workplace deaths were recorded, attributed to hazardous environments and the lack of basic safety equipment, revealed the report.

The trend has persisted into 2025. In just the first three months of the year, 86 incidents of labour abuse resulted in 45 deaths and 294 injuries, it found.

In March alone, 75 workers were injured in clashes with police during demonstrations by garment

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# AL’s trial, reforms before polls

Demand NCP, IAB, Ganosamhati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) chief Syed Mohammad Rezaul Karim yesterday said they want the trial of the Awami League before considering the national elections.

He made the remark after a meeting with the National Citizen Party delegation, led by NCP chief Nahid Islam.

Rezaul said, “We hope the fascists who have siphoned off hundreds of crores of taka will be tried first, and then we will think of the national election. The necessary reforms should be done before that.”

He said those echoing the AL’s views and persistently calling for elections will lead to the same outcome as the past 53 years if they come to power.

Nahid discussed NCP’s three main agendas: trial, reforms, and elections. He said, “We have many similarities with IAB, and some differences. They shared their thoughts, and we shared ours. They agreed on the basic reforms. We also demanded the trial of Awami League as

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