



A PATH TOWARDS A JUST SOCIETY

THE LEGAL MAILBOX

By Map of Justice

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THE LEGAL MAILBOX 2025

Dear Readers,

The Legal Mailbox published by Map of Justice, highlights key legal areas including constitutional law, technology and cyber law, environmental law, and market regulation and competition laws of Bangladesh. The Legal Mailbox tracks important judicial rulings, legislative updates, treaty developments, providing context for research, legal practice, and policy analysis. While readers are encouraged to consult official texts and gazettes for authoritative guidance, The Legal Mailbox offers insights into doctrinal shifts, and institutional practices. By documenting and sharing these developments, we aim to stimulate informed discussion and contribute to building a just society in Bangladesh and beyond.

With Thanks and Regards,

Tohinur Islam

Executive Director and Co-founder, Map of Justice

KEY JUDICIAL DECISIONS IN 2025



JUDGMENTS CONCERNING CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

REINSTATED THE CONSTITUTION'S PROVISIONS FOR A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT - In July 2025, the High Court Division (HCD) restored non-party caretaker government system by declaring that the 15th Constitutional Amendment which had abolished the non-party caretaker government system was unlawful and invalid.¹ The decision of HCD effectively restored the constitutional provisions for a caretaker government. The non-party caretaker government system was originally introduced through the 13th Amendment in 1996, with the sole purpose of safeguarding democracy by ensuring free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government, which was mandated to remain in office for only 90 days. According to the Supreme Court's 2025 judgment, this system will now be implemented for the 14th parliamentary elections, while the upcoming 13th election will be held under the current interim government in February 2026.

JUDGMENT CONCERNING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

CONTROL OF THE JUDICIARY OVER LOWER COURT JUDGES - In June 2025, the Appellate Division held that the 16th Amendment which allowed Parliament the power to remove Supreme Court judges is unconstitutional. The decision restored the pre-amendment

¹ 'HC releases full text of judgment declaring scrapping of CG system illegal' *BSS News* (online, 8 July 2025) <<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/290289>> accessed 9 February 2026.

mechanism giving full judicial control over lower court judges.² The Court also ordered the creation of a separate Supreme Court Secretariat to strengthen judicial independence and upheld its earlier decision of the 39-point code of conduct for judges under Article 96 of the Constitution.³ Previously, the Supreme Judicial Council, comprising the Chief Justice and two senior Appellate Division judges, had the authority to investigate allegations and recommend action to the President. The 16th Amendment, passed in 2014, had removed this authority from the Council. The 2025 judgment reaffirmed judicial independence by reviving the Council's constitutional role.⁴

JUDGMENT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENT

ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT - The High Court Division held that access to safe drinking water and safe food constitutes a fundamental right under Article 32 of the Constitution, On 27 February 2025.⁵ The Court issued a series of directives to ensure the availability of safe drinking water nationwide. It ordered that, within 1 year, all major public places including courts, places of worship, hospitals, railway stations, haats, airports, and other public facilities must provide safe drinking water for all citizens. The Court further directed that, within the next 10 years, comprehensive measures be adopted to guarantee access to safe and potable water at an affordable cost for every citizen of Bangladesh. Additionally, the Court instructed the government to submit a compliance report by 2026 detailing the steps taken to ensure the free supply of safe drinking water in all public place.⁶

PROTECTED WETLANDS - The Ministry of Housing and Public Works allocated 50% of a waterbody in Malibagh (Chowdhurypara Jheel) for the construction of a permanent building for the Rampura Police Station.⁷ The Court issued a verbal order directing that all construction activities remain suspended until the specified date and instructed the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) to ensure strict compliance with the order following a writ petition filed by the environmental organisation named Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).⁸

JUDGMENT CONCERNING MARKET REGULATION AND ECONOMY

HIGH COURT'S 9 DIRECTIVES FOR ONLINE BUSINESS - The High Court Division has issued nine directives to regulate the operations of online business platforms in

² 'Spirit of 16th Amendment case was to put independence of judges at stake: SC' *BSS News* (online, 5 June 2025) <<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/280461>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³ Shutosh Sarkar, 'Full text of verdict: SC upholds the 39-point judicial code of conduct' *The Daily Star* (online, 11 June 2025) <<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/full-text-verdict-sc-upholds-39-point-judicial-code-conduct-3915101>>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ 'Access to safe drinking water a basic right: HC' *The Daily Star* (online, 2 January 2026) <<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/access-safe-drinking-water-basic-right-hc-4071731>> accessed 9 February 2026.

⁶ 'High Court declares safe water fundamental right for citizens' *Dhaka Tribune* (online, 27 February 2025) <<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/374952/high-court-declares-safe-water-a-fundamental-right>> accessed 9 February 2026.

⁷ 'HC orders halt to police station construction on protected wetland in Dhaka's Malibagh' *The Business Standard* (online, 2 November 2025) <<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/hc-orders-halt-police-station-construction-protected-wetland-dhakas-malibagh-1275596>> accessed 9 February 2026.

⁸ *ibid.*

Bangladesh.⁹ The directives followed by a writ petition filed by the owner of the Gulshan showroom “Sanvee’s by Tony”, which had been shut down by the Directorate of National Consumers’ Rights Protection. The Court issued a rule regarding the reopening of the showroom and set out these directives to ensure proper compliance by online businesses. Below are the High Court’s nine directives for online businesses:

1. All online businesses must comply with the laws of Bangladesh, and maintain proper relations with consumers.
2. In case of any violation of the law in online business operations, affected parties are entitled to equal legal protection.
3. Every citizen has the right to operate a legal business, which cannot be closed without due legal process.
4. The Directorate of National Consumers’ Rights Protection must register all online traders and provide proper authorisation.
5. No one may operate or start an online business without official authorization.
6. Special vigilance must be exercised to prevent clothing merchants from selling counterfeit or copied products as genuine. All online business operators, administrators, and consumers must be verified using their national identity cards.
7. Relevant government agencies, including the BTRC, must coordinate with e-commerce platforms to store and maintain information about online businesses.
8. Authorities should conduct widespread campaigns to warn consumers against purchasing from fraudulent, unregistered, or unauthorised online merchants.
9. Legal action must be taken against fraudulent online traders, including introducing necessary provisions under the Consumers’ Rights Protection Act, 2009.

⁹ ‘High Court issues 9 directives for online businesses’ *Dhaka Tribune* (Online, 10 March 2025) <<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/375882/high-court-issues-9-directives-for-online>> accessed 9 February 2026.

KEY LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025



CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order, 2025

The government has published the gazette of the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order, 2025,¹⁰ mandating a referendum on proposed constitutional reforms outlined in the July National Charter. According to the notification, the referendum will be held on the day of the 13th national parliamentary election to allow the people to exercise their sovereign power. The charter proposes wide-ranging reforms, including the introduction of a bicameral parliament, which indicates a parliament with ‘two-Chamber/House Parliament,’ with one upper and another lower house, and requires the two separate to agree when new laws are made. Hereunder, a 100-member upper house will be formed based on the proportional representation of votes secured by political parties in the election to the lower house. The Order would accordingly facilitate towards limiting the Prime Minister’s tenure, strengthening the President’s powers, electing a Deputy Speaker from the opposition, and increasing reserved seats for women. The Order includes around 30 reform proposals and states that their implementation will be binding on the political party forming the next government. The referendum will be conducted by secret ballot as determined by the Election Commission, and a separate law will be enacted to facilitate the process, with the Commission taking necessary measures.

¹⁰ Implementation Order of the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform), 2025 (English translation, unofficial, commissioned by International IDEA, published in Bangladesh Gazette, 13 November 2025) <<https://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/Bangladesh%20Implementation%20Order%20of%20the%20July%20National%20Charter%202025%20%28English%20translation%29.pdf>> accessed 9 February 2026.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025,¹¹ or commonly known as PRO Ordinance 2025 introduced extensive reforms to the country's electoral framework by regulating postal ballots, streamlining vote counting, and enhancing the enforcement and adjudication powers of election officials. Postal ballots are invalid if improperly marked, received late, or missing declarations, and a formal counting procedure is established under the Returning Officer's supervision. The amendment also creates the Electoral Enquiry and Adjudication Committee (EEAC), empowered to conduct summary trials for electoral offenses with magistrate-level authority, while police and election officials are mandated to provide support.¹² From the publication of the election gazette until results are announced, deliberately spreading false or misleading information including text, images, videos, audio, or AI-generated content intended to harm a candidate's reputation or disrupt the election will be treated as a corrupt practice. Individuals, political parties, campaign organisations, and media outlets involved will be held jointly liable and will be subject to legal penalties.¹³

LEGAL SYSTEM AND COURT RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

The Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025

The law ministry issued the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025,¹⁴ under the directive from the president, incorporating the provisions for keeping overall control of the secretariat and its financial issues with the chief justice.¹⁵ This ordinance was issued on 30 November 2025, and includes the separation of the judiciary and the executive branch, which gives the Supreme Court full financial and administrative independence. Prior to this, the Chief Justice proposed the establishment of a separate Secretariat for the Supreme Court on 27 October 2024. This was intended to help the High Court Division effectively supervise and manage subordinate courts and tribunals as outlined in Article 109 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025

The newly enacted Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025,¹⁶ established the Supreme Judicial Council including the Chief Justice, judges and law professors or experts. The selection criteria clearly point to the efficiency of case disposal, dependability of court

¹¹ Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1569.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹² 'Govt issues gazette on RPO (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025' *The Business Standard* (online, 3 February 2026) <<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-issues-gazette-rpo-second-amendment-ordinance-2025-1305326>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹³ Jahir Rayhan, 'RPO amendment ordinance: Alliance candidates must contest polls under own party symbols' *The Business Standard* (online, 4 November 2025) <<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-issues-rpo-amendment-ordinance-alliance-candidates-must-contest-polls-under-own>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹⁴ Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1585.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹⁵ Ashutosh Sarkar, 'Govt issues SC Secretariat ordinance' *The Daily Star* (online, 30 November 2025) <<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-issues-sc-secretariat-ordinance-4047556>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹⁶ The Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1516.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

rulings, court administration, integrity and professional image. Even though this ordinance has created procedural protections that curtail favoritism and excessive executive influence.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

To address this long-prolonged challenges of pending cases, the Government of Bangladesh promulgated the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025,¹⁷ which incorporated provisions to modernise, speed up, and make the civil justice system of Bangladesh more efficient. It will facilitate the taking of evidence, digital communication, and enforcement of judgments. Some of the key amendments are described below.

- I. **Digital Summons:** Courts are now authorised to serve summons through modern electronic means, including SMS, voice calls, email, and instant messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Messenger. This shift aligns Bangladesh with global trends toward e-litigation and is a significant step toward the digitisation of judicial communication (Section 27-32).
- II. **Examination-in-Chief by Affidavit:** Examination-in-chief can be filed as a written affidavit rather than orally. Nonetheless, cross-examination and re-examination will remain oral as before, which creates a new procedural framework for taking evidence (Order XVIII, Rule 4).
- III. **Repeal of Discriminatory Provisions:** The repeal of Section 57, which previously allowed the government to fix subsistence allowances for judgment-debtors based on factors such as rank, race, or nationality, is a progressive move.
- IV. **Raising Penalties for Frivolous Litigation:** The amendment raises the penalty for false cases. Courts may now impose a fine of up to BDT 50,000 on parties who file false or vexatious claims (Section 35A).
- V. **Procedural Simplification for Judgment Enforcement:** An execution application will suffice; a separate execution suit will not be required anymore. Nonetheless, in implementing the decree, other agencies including the police, has to mandatorily comply with the court's orders (Section 51 and Order XXI).

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025,¹⁸ present several significant reformative provision for criminal justice system concerning arrest, investigation and arbitrary detention. Following are some of the key changes it provides.

- I. **Interim Discharge During Investigation:** The new amendment allows courts to discharge accused persons early in the investigation if interim findings reveal no evidence against the accused person (Section 173A).¹⁹
- II. **Strengthened Arrest Protocols:** During arrests, police officers are now required to display their ID and name at the time of detention. A memorandum of arrest must also be prepared using a prescribed checklist and presented before a magistrate in the arrestee's presence (Section 54 and Related Provisions).

¹⁷ The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1531.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹⁸ The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1554.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

¹⁹ 'Advisory Council okays CrPC amendment requiring police to disclose identity during arrest' *The Business Standard* (online, 24 July 2025) <<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/politics/govt-okays-code-criminal-procedure-second-amendment-ordinance-2025-1196071>> accessed 9 February 2026.

- III. **Mandatory Notification and Immediate Access to Legal Advice:** Within 12 hours of an arrest, the detainee’s family or lawyer must be notified without exception. Moreover, the accused has the right to consult a lawyer immediately (Section 54).
- IV. **Health and Safety Oversight:** If an arrestee is ill or injured, a mandatory medical checkup must be conducted, with findings documented in a written report (Section 46D).
- V. **Witness Protection:** For the first time, courts can issue protective orders for key witnesses and provide financial support to cover their expenses (Section 544).

DATA AND CYBER LAW RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

The Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025

The ordinance repealed 9 controversial provisions in the earlier Cyber Security Act, which had made it a crime to engage in lawful criticisms, misinformation comment on national symbols, and materials pertaining to the Liberation War and leaders of the country. The Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025 underwent 25 revisions following consultations with civil society.²⁰ According to Law Adviser Asif Nazrul, the proposed Ordinance recognised online abuse and sexual harassment of women and children as punishable offences, the first time this has been the case. Online betting has been prohibited under this ordinance.

The National Data Governance Ordinance, 2025

The National Data Governance Ordinance, 2025,²¹ allows authority to monitor enforcement, conducts audits, ensures regulatory compliance, and imposes penalties where necessary. The ordinance instructs that the confidential or restricted data must stay within Bangladesh unless approved by the National Data Governance Authority (NDGA). Exceptions are allowed for purposes of national security, law enforcement, public interest, or critical infrastructure.

The Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025

The Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025,²² creates a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of personal data in Bangladesh. It seeks to ensure that personal data is collected, processed, stored, and shared in a lawful, fair, transparent, and secure manner, aligning Bangladesh with international data protection regimes. The Ordinance applies extraterritorially to any entity processing personal data within Bangladesh, or processing data outside Bangladesh in connection with offering goods or services to, or profiling, individuals in Bangladesh. With increasingly strict controls, it classifies personal data into 4 categories: personal, sensitive, confidential, and restricted data. It introduces important concepts like data processor and data fiduciary. With very few statutory exceptions, processing usually requires voluntary, specific, informed, and revocable consent. The data fiduciary bears the responsibility of demonstrating genuine consent.²³ The National Data Management Authority is granted

²⁰ Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1538.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

²¹ The National Data Management Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1573.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

²² The Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1574.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

²³ Saqeb Mahbub and Md. Wazed Jamil, ‘Key Highlights of the Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025 for Businesses’ (*Mahbub & Company*, 16 October 2025) <<https://mahbub-law.com/key-highlights-of-the-personal-data-protection-ordinance-2025-for-businesses/>> accessed 9 February 2026.

broad powers, including issuing binding directives, accessing data systems, and supervising Chief Data Officers.

Reform of Arrest and Investigation Powers in Cyber Offences

In cyber-related arrests and investigations, law enforcement agencies were directed to follow stricter arrest protocols under the recent amendment to the code of criminal procedure. It provides provisions for identity disclosure, documentation, and judicial oversight in cybercrime cases, and reduce arbitrary arrests for online speech-related allegations. These changes were aimed at addressing long-standing allegations of abuse under earlier digital security regimes.

Digital Governance and E-Justice Initiatives

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs introduces technology-driven services to improve access to justice, reduce delays, and curb corruption. A landmark step has been the E-Bail Bond Management System, currently operational in nine districts. The system addresses long-standing delays and bureaucratic hurdles in the bail process.²⁴ The second phase, rolled out on 21 January 2026, expanded coverage to Manikganj, Bandarban, Meherpur, Joypurhat, Moulvibazar, Panchagarh, Jhalokathi, and Sherpur. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul noted that the system is expected to be operational across all 64 districts within six months. Other key digital platforms that are reshaping judicial interactions include:

- (1) **E-Family Court:** The court allows litigants, lawyers, and judges to file and manage family dispute cases online, reducing the need for physical court appearances.²⁵
- (2) **E-Attestation:** Streamlines document verification, enabling citizens to complete attestations online, saving time and avoiding long queues.²⁶
- (3) **E-Cause List:** Provides real-time access to case schedules, hearing dates, judicial summaries, procedural steps, and overall case progress, improving transparency and reducing uncertainty.²⁷
- (4) **Online Legal Aid:** Expands access for disadvantaged communities, allowing applicants to request government legal assistance and participate in online dispute resolution, with plans for fully digitised end-to-end service delivery.²⁸

The ministry is preparing two major initiatives: One for online registration for marriage and divorce, expected to simplify procedures and reduce administrative delays; another for e-registration for property transactions, facilitated through amendments to the Registration Act, enabling online land deed registration to cut corruption and public harassment.²⁹

²⁴ 'Digital transformation in justice sector gains momentum' *BSS News* (online, 23 January 2026) <<https://www.bssnews.net/law-and-court/354052>> accessed 9 February 2026.

²⁵ 'E-family court launched as judiciary steps into full digital era' *Dhaka Tribune* (online, 24 November 2025) <<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/laws-rights/397175/e-family-court-launched-judiciary-steps-digital>> accessed 9 February 2026.

²⁶ BSS News (n 24)

²⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸ *ibid.*

²⁹ *ibid.*

POLICIE ACCOUNTABILITY RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Police Commission Ordinance, 2025

The government has approved the Police Commission Ordinance, 2025,³⁰ providing for the formation of a five-member Police Commission to modernise policing, strengthen accountability, and make the force more people-centred. Under the ordinance, the commission will be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and include a retired senior bureaucrat, a retired senior police officer, a university professor, and a human rights or good-governance expert. Its mandate includes recommending measures to ensure police neutrality, efficiency, transparency, and rights-sensitive operations, as well as investigating public complaints against police and addressing internal grievances. The commission will also conduct research on policing and legal reforms and advise the government on training and modernisation.

FISCAL AND REVENUE GOVERNANCE RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance, 2025

Bangladesh's interim government has abolished the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and replaced it with two separate divisions under the Ministry of Finance, aiming to modernise tax administration and improve revenue collection. The Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance, 2025,³¹ introduces a structural split in revenue administration by establishing a Revenue Policy Division and a Revenue Management Division. The Policy Division will focus on tax policy formulation, rate-setting, and international tax agreements, while the Management Division will be tasked with enforcement, audit functions, and compliance in income tax, VAT, and customs. The reform is aimed at improving fiscal governance and revenue collection at a time when Bangladesh is under economic strain, particularly due to shrinking foreign exchange reserves.³²

National Urban Policy, 2025

The National Urban Policy (NUP) 2025,³³ provides a framework to address rapid urbanisation in Bangladesh. It focuses on decentralised growth, stronger local governance, citizen participation, sustainable planning, affordable housing, improved services, social protection, environmental conservation, and the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI). It aligned with national development priorities and the Constitution. The NUP 2025 seeks to balance economic growth with social equity and sustainability, enhancing urban residents' quality of life and strengthening city institutions.³⁴

³⁰ Police Commission Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1589.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³¹ Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance, 2025 (Bangladesh) <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1537.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³² Staff Correspondent, 'Tax authority split in major overhaul' *The Daily Star* (online, 13 May 2025) <<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/tax-authority-split-major-overhaul-3893991>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³³ National Urban Policy 2025 (Government of Bangladesh) <<https://file.portal.gov.bd/uploads/8ef2a505-c131-4a8f-b6d0-2ac4760cc936/689/abe/9dd/689abe9dde703639987867.pdf>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³⁴ 'Government Approves National Urban Policy 2025' (*United Nations Development Programme*, 2 January 2026) <<https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/news/government-approves-national-urban-policy-2025>> accessed 9 February 2026.

INTERNATIONAL TREATY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025



The UN Water Convention

Bangladesh formally acceded to the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UN Water Convention) on 20 June 2025, becoming the first South Asian country and the 56th state globally to join this global water governance treaty.³⁵ The treaty provides a legal framework for cooperation over shared surface and groundwater resources, an important step given Bangladesh's extensive transboundary river systems and climate vulnerabilities.

The Artemis Accords

Defence Secretary Md Ashraf Uddin signed the 'Artemis Accords' with NASA. Bangladesh became the 54th country to sign the Artemis Accords, a set of non-binding agreements led by NASA to promote peaceful and cooperative civil space exploration.³⁶ The Artemis Accords, established in October 2020, provide principles, guidelines, and best practices grounded in the Outer Space Treaty and related international instruments, aimed at ensuring safe, transparent, and sustainable space activities.³⁷ By joining, Bangladesh aligns with global efforts to advance

³⁵ 'Bangladesh is first South Asian country to join UN Water Convention, aiming to improve cross-border cooperation' (*United Nations Bangladesh*, 26 June 2025) <<https://bangladesh.un.org/en/296948-bangladesh-first-south-asian-country-join-un-water-convention-aiming-improve-cross-border>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³⁶ 'Bangladesh signs Artemis Accords' *Dhaka Tribune* (online, 8 April 2025) <<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/378170>> accessed 9 February 2026.

³⁷ 'The Artemis Accords: Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes' (NASA, 13 October 2020) <<https://www.nasa.gov/specials/artemis-accords/index.html>> accessed 9 February 2026.

scientific discovery, protect space heritage, and responsibly utilise space resources. Bangladesh's participation will facilitate cooperation between Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) and NASA, enhance the country's satellite programmes, and support the development of earth observation and climate monitoring satellites crucial for disaster management. It also offers opportunities for university researchers, scientists, and students to engage in global space research, training, and exchange programmes.

Ratification of ILO Fundamental Instruments

Bangladesh has ratified three key ILO conventions: the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155),³⁸ the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187),³⁹ and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).⁴⁰ These ratifications follow the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, enacted on 17 November 2025, which aligns national law with international standards by prohibiting discrimination, violence, and harassment at work and affirming workers' rights to leave hazardous situations without retaliation.⁴¹ Together, these steps signal Bangladesh's commitment to a world of work grounded in dignity, respect, and safety. About the Conventions: Conventions Nos. 155 and 187 establish a comprehensive framework for occupational safety and health, promoting a preventive, systems-based approach engaging governments, employers, and workers. Convention No. 190 is the first international treaty recognising the right to a workplace free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence, covering all workers across formal and informal sectors. Implementation and Reporting: Once registered, the conventions enter into force 12 months after ratification. Bangladesh will progressively integrate them into law and practice and submit its first report to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) two years after ratification, with subsequent reports on a three-year cycle for Conventions 155 and 187, and six-year cycle for Convention 190.⁴² A tripartite international labour standard committee has been institutionalised to monitor implementation, address CEACR observations, and ensure national-level compliance.

³⁸ Occupational Safety and Health Convention 1981 (No 155) (adopted 22 June 1981, entered into force 11 August 1983) 20 ILM 1331 (ratified by Bangladesh 22 October 2025).

³⁹ Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention 2006 (No 187) (adopted 15 June 2006, entered into force 20 February 2009) (ratified by Bangladesh 22 October 2025).

⁴⁰ Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No 190) (adopted 21 June 2019, entered into force 25 December 2021) (ratified by Bangladesh 22 October 2025).

⁴¹ Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Ordinance 2025, (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 17 November 2025) <https://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/59278_24645.pdf> accessed 9 February 2026.

⁴² ASM Anam Ullah, 'State's Obligation to Ratify ILO Conventions C155, C161 and C187: A Review of Bangladesh's RMG Sector' (2023) 2(5) European Journal of Law and Political Science <<https://eu-opensci.org/index.php/politics/article/view/8110>> accessed 9 February 2026.

BANGLADESH LEGAL DEVELOPMENT MATRIX 2025

SL	SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT	DOCTRINAL SHIFT	INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE
1.	Constitutional & Electoral Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of referendum for people's sovereignty; Free, fair, and impartial general elections and constrained executive influence over elections via reinstating Non-Party Caretaker Government (NCG); Upholding Checks and balances as judiciary asserts its role to limit executive and legislative overreach, maintaining the separation of powers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstates caretaker government mechanism; Election Commission-led referendum process;
2.	Judicial Independence & Court Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential toward a fairer and more transparent judicial appointment process in Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activation of Supreme Judicial Council Judicial independence via financial and administrative independence through separate secretariat
3	Procedural Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upholding constitutional principles of speedy trials Time-bound and enforcement-focused judiciary; Focus upon an essential cultural change and proactive case management system for both the Bench and the Bar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced accountability mechanisms Reduced arbitrary powers of enforcement agencies Speedy trial and disposal of suits/cases
3.	Environmental Rights and Protection	Safe drinkable water rights as constitutional obligation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Public Interest Litigation to ensure constitutional obligations Judicial oversight Compliance reporting

SL	SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT	DOCTRINAL SHIFT	INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE
4.	Data and Cyber Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognition of and addressing concerns over misuse of laws and ensuring protection of freedom of expression ▪ Need for safeguarding personal data and information ▪ Focus on data integrity, accountability, and the creation of a data governance body to oversee compliance. ▪ Incorporation of digital technology within legal system to improve access to justice, reduce delays, and curb corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced accountability ▪ Enhanced protection of data
5.	Fiscal, Revenue, and Market Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separation of tax policy and administration to ensure doctrine of good governance and separation of power and rule of law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structured compliance ▪ Enforcement mechanisms
6.	International Treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promise to uphold international water norms ▪ Protection and Dignity in workplace confines both basic doctrines of dignity and protection under constitution, labour law and human rights law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tripartite committees for ILO implementation ▪ National reporting mechanisms