

## Press Release

4 March 2026

### Human Toll of Post-Election Violence Raises Urgent Accountability Concerns

Odhikar has documented 104 incidents of post-election violence across Bangladesh between 13 and 28 February 2026, resulting in 10 deaths (including one of a child), and 476 injuries. The findings highlight the continuing human cost of political confrontation after the elections and underscore the urgent need for accountability and preventive measures.

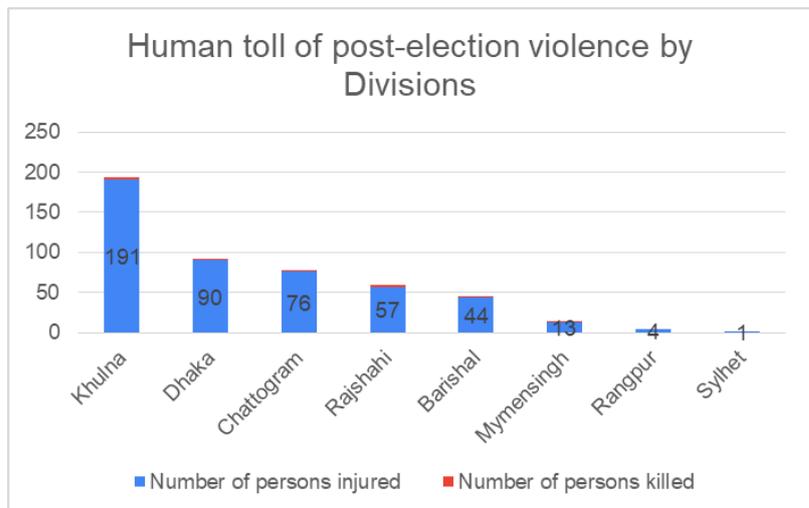
The data has been collected as part of Odhikar’s ongoing monitoring of political and electoral violence as part of its initiative, *‘Supporting the Restoration of Democracy: Monitoring and Reporting Electoral Violence in Bangladesh,’* supported by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). The nationwide figures are based on information received from direct monitoring in 50 parliamentary constituencies across 22 Districts in 8 Divisions, and documentation from major national media outlets.

#### National overview

Of the 104 incidents of violence recorded, 29 incidents (28%) involved factional clashes within the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) or its splinter groups. These clashes resulted in four deaths and 136 injuries, accounting for 40% of all fatalities and 29% of all injuries documented during the reporting period. Victims included activists from BNP and its affiliated organisations, Jamaat-e-Islami, Awami League supporters, supporters of two BNP-aligned independent candidates’, two non-partisan citizens, and a child. The data indicates that post-election violence affected both those affiliated to political parties and ordinary citizens.

#### Geographic concentration of violence

As per Odhikar’s monitoring, the south-western Khulna Division recorded the highest number of casualties, with three deaths and 191 injuries. Rajshahi and Barishal Divisions each recorded two fatalities, with 57 and 44 injuries respectively. Dhaka Division reported one death and 90 injuries, while Chattogram and Mymensingh Divisions each recorded one death, with 76 and 13 injuries respectively. Rangpur and Sylhet reported comparatively lower numbers of injuries, four and one respectively.



To illustrate the distribution of unrest, Odhikar has categorized districts into impact zones based on the number of casualties (death and injuries). Districts with deaths have been classified as ‘severe (Red) zones’. Those with 20 or more injured are marked as ‘high (Orange) zones’, while districts with 10-19 injured are placed in the ‘moderate (Yellow) zone’. Districts with fewer than 10 injured have been classified as the ‘low (Light Green) zone’, and those with no injuries remain in the ‘stable (Grey) zone’ category.

The map below visually demonstrates the geographic spread of post-election violence.

# Human toll of post-election violence

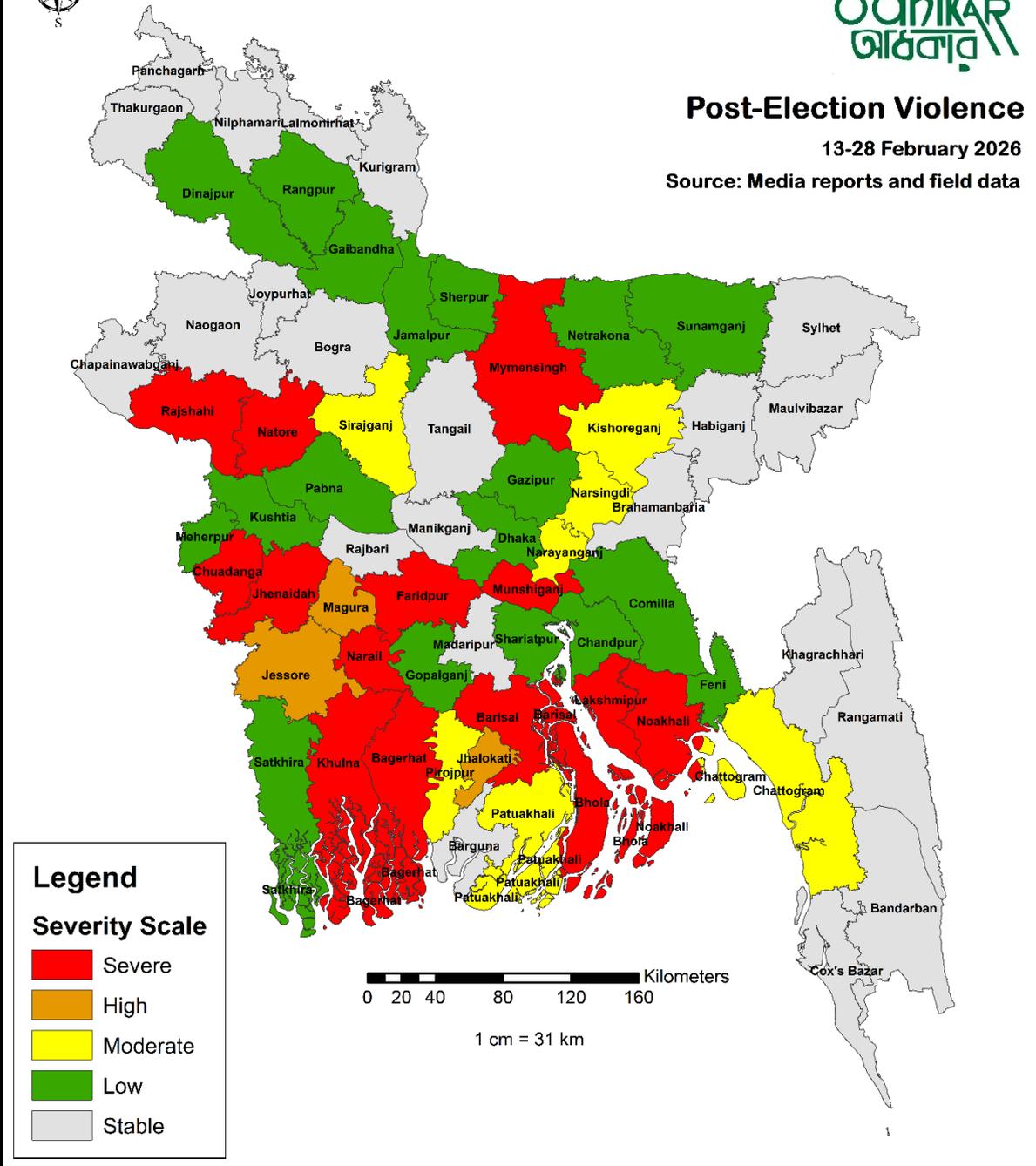
## Categorized by severity of unrest



### Post-Election Violence

13-28 February 2026

Source: Media reports and field data



### Constituency-Level Findings from Odhikar’s Direct Observation

Odhikar’s trained election violence monitors documented 32 incidents in 17 of the 50 constituencies under direct observation. These incidents accounted for 5 of the nationally reported deaths and 41 injuries. Khulna-3 constituency recorded the highest number of injuries (20) among the monitored areas.



The types of violence documented included physical assaults, property damage, intimidation, and one night time attack on a Hindu temple in Sylhet.

An analysis of the political identity behind the incidents indicates that 19 of 30 incidents were linked to BNP and its alliance, three to Jamaat-e-Islami, one to Awami League supporters, three to supporters of independent candidates, and 9 incidents could not be clearly attributed to any political party. Notably, while pre-election violence had been more concentrated in rural constituencies, post-election incidents were found to be more or less equally distributed between rural and urban areas.

In monitored constituencies, authority action—such as investigations, filing of case, detentions, or crowd dispersal—was observed in 44% of the incidents, reflecting meaningful engagement, though the unevenness of authority responses from incident to incident, remains evident.

## Recommendations

- **Ensure independent and time-bound investigations.** While authority action was observed in 44% of the monitored cases, responsiveness from authorities varied. Authorities should initiate prompt, impartial, and transparent investigation into all incidents of post-election violence, regardless of political affiliation. Investigation findings should be publicly disclosed, and perpetrators held accountable in accordance with the law.
- **Address intra-party conflicts.** Political parties, particularly where intra-party clashes were documented, should strengthen internal dispute resolution mechanisms to prevent factional clashes and ensure peaceful management of post-election disagreements.
- **Strengthen civilian protection measures.** Law enforcement agencies should enhance protective measures for civilians, including non-partisan individuals and vulnerable groups, such as children and women, particularly in districts identified as high-risk zones.
- **Deploy early warning and rapid response mechanisms.** Authorities should collaborate with civil society organisations to establish structured, early warning systems such as local peace forums and rapid response measures in districts with recurring violence, to prevent escalation during post-election periods.
- **Extend post-election monitoring frameworks.** Electoral authorities and relevant institutions should recognize that risks persist beyond Election Day, and incorporate post-election violence prevention into broader electoral management strategies between electoral stakeholders, rule of law institutions, and civil society.

Odhikar will continue to monitor and report on developments to support transparency, justice, and democratic integrity.