

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

13 KILLING **166** INJURED

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED

08 CASES OF VIOLENCE

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

07 CUSTODIAL DEATHS

MOB VIOLENCE

19 CASES **19** KILLED

JOURNALISTS FACED

13 CASES OF VIOLENCE & 37 JOURNALIST AFFECTED

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY FACED

02 CASES OF VIOLENCE

February 2026 witnessed a range of incidents affecting political stability, civil liberties, and public safety across Bangladesh. The month was particularly marked by election-related tensions surrounding the 13th parliamentary election, which contributed to political clashes, attacks on journalists, and intimidation in several districts. Alongside political violence, incidents involving religious minorities, indigenous communities, mob justice, and custodial deaths continued to raise concerns about the protection of vulnerable groups and the accountability of law enforcement institutions. Public demonstrations by students, journalists, and activists also reflected growing civic responses to issues such as police conduct, violence against women, and electoral tensions. The following sections present an overview of key incidents recorded during February 2026, highlighting trends in political violence, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and other areas affecting social stability and public rights in Bangladesh.



Police attack Inqilab Mancha's procession towards Jamuna demanding UN investigation

ELECTION VIOLENCE

Election-centric violence was a notable feature of the overall security situation in February 2026, largely surrounding campaigning and post-election tensions linked to the 13th parliamentary election. Clashes between rival political groups, attacks on candidates and supporters, and confrontations near polling centers were reported in several districts. These incidents often involved injuries, vandalism, and intimidation, reflecting the highly polarized political environment during the electoral period. The persistence of such violence indicates how electoral competition continues to trigger localized conflicts and security risks in different parts of Bangladesh.

ATTACKS ON PRESS FREEDOM

February also witnessed a number of attacks on journalists while they were covering political clashes, protests, and election-related incidents. Several reporters were injured during field reporting, including cases where journalists were allegedly assaulted by law enforcement personnel or local groups. These incidents highlight the continuing risks faced by media professionals in Bangladesh and underline the importance of ensuring a safe and secure environment for journalists to perform their work without intimidation or violence.

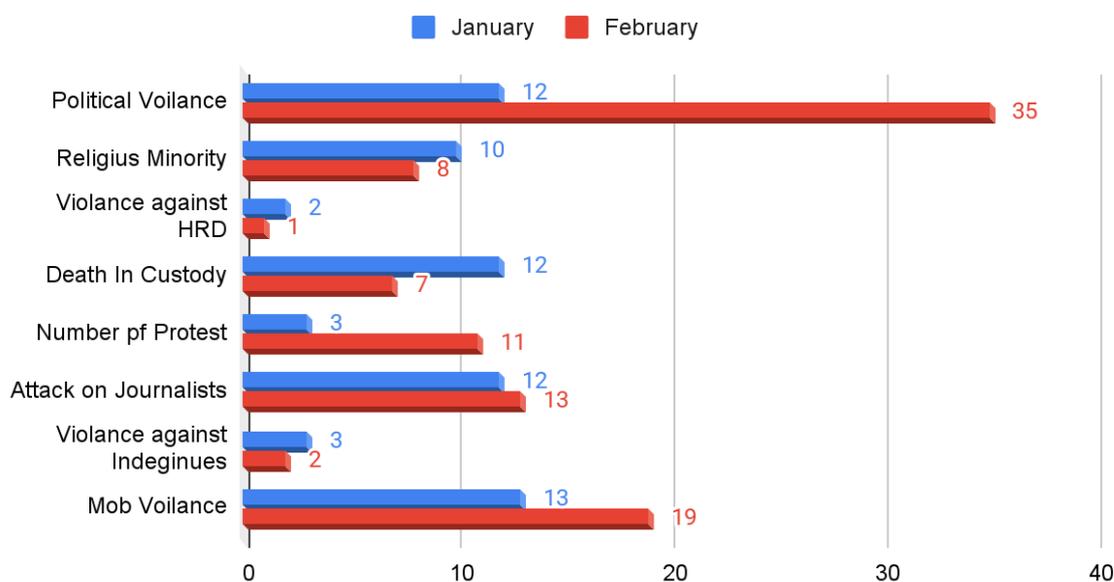
MOB CONTINUES

Another major concern during February was the continued rise of mob violence across several districts. Many of these incidents were triggered by suspicions of theft, personal disputes, or allegations of minor crimes, which quickly escalated into collective assaults by groups of local residents. The high number of deaths resulting from such incidents reflects the persistence of vigilante justice and the absence of immediate legal intervention in many cases, raising concerns about public confidence in formal law enforcement and judicial mechanisms.

1. Overview

February 2026 witnessed a range of incidents affecting political stability, civil liberties, and public safety across Bangladesh. The month was particularly marked by election-related tensions surrounding the 13th parliamentary election, which contributed to political clashes, attacks on journalists, and intimidation in several districts. Alongside political violence, incidents involving religious minorities, indigenous communities, mob justice, and custodial deaths continued to raise concerns about the protection of vulnerable groups and the accountability of law enforcement institutions.

Number of Incidents January vs February 2026



Public demonstrations by students, journalists, and activists also reflected growing civic responses to issues such as police conduct, violence against women, and electoral tensions. The following sections present an overview of key incidents recorded during February 2026, highlighting trends in political violence, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and other areas affecting social stability and public rights in Bangladesh.

Several incidents illustrated these trends, including deadly post-election clashes in Narail, repeated mob killings triggered by theft allegations and local disputes, and attacks on journalists covering protests and election-related violence. In addition, deaths in custody

and intimidation of indigenous families facing eviction threats underscored broader concerns regarding accountability, rule of law, and protection of vulnerable communities.

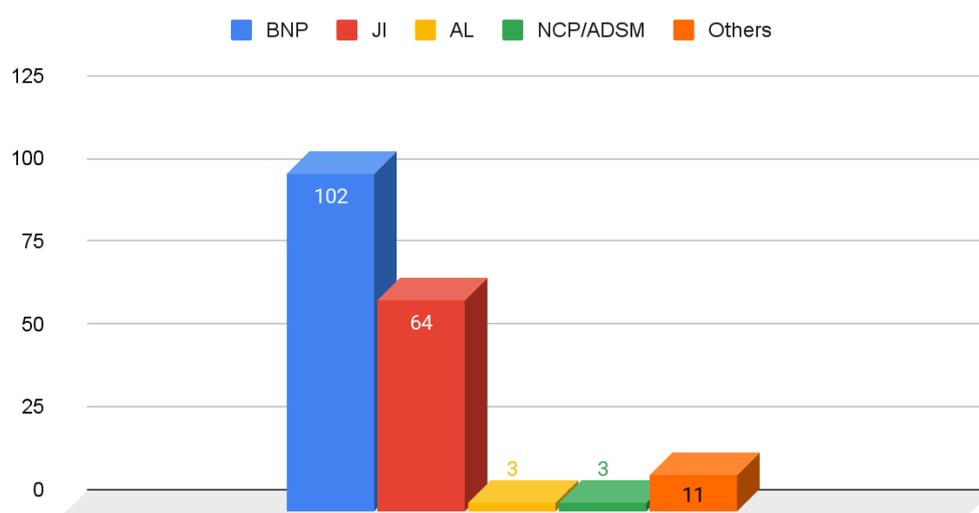
Together, these developments reveal a continuing pattern of insecurity and institutional fragility, raising serious concerns about the protection of human rights and the need for stronger mechanisms to ensure accountability and safeguard civil liberties in Bangladesh.

2. Political Violence

Political violence remained a significant concern during February, particularly in the context of election campaigning, post-election tensions, and internal disputes among political groups.

During February, at least **13 people were killed and 166 were injured** in incidents of political violence across Bangladesh. The highest number of injured were BNP members (102), followed by Jamaat-e-Islami (64), Awami League (3), National Citizens Party – NCP (3), and others (11).

Political Violence by Group - February 2026



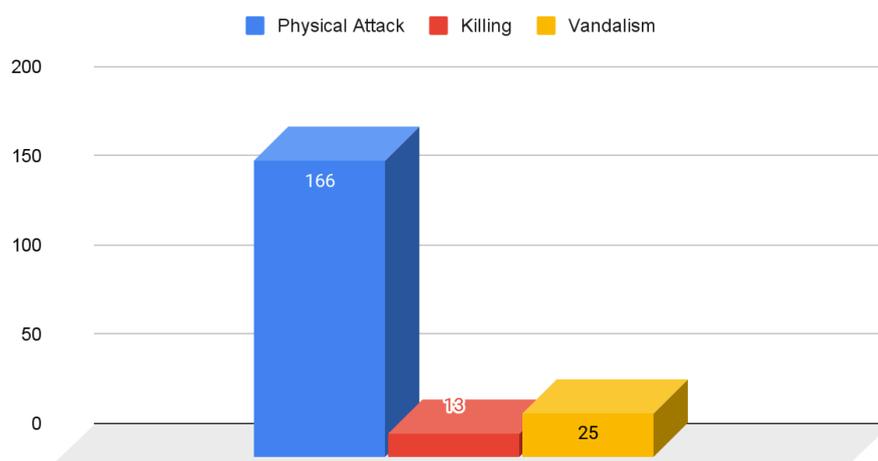
In addition, 25 incidents of vandalism targeting party offices, houses, and vehicles were reported. Most incidents were linked to election campaigning, post-election tensions, and

factional disputes within political parties, particularly surrounding the 13th parliamentary election.

On 8 February, [clashes broke out between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami supporters in Bauphal, Patuakhali, during election campaigning after BNP activists allegedly obstructed a Jamaat door-to-door campaign.](#) The confrontation escalated into several rounds of chase and counter-chase, leaving around 50 people injured before police brought the situation under control.

On 23 February, [a violent political clash in Narail reportedly involving Awami League and BNP supporters resulted in the killing of four BNP leaders and activists, marking one of the deadliest incidents of the month.](#)

Political Voilance - February 2026



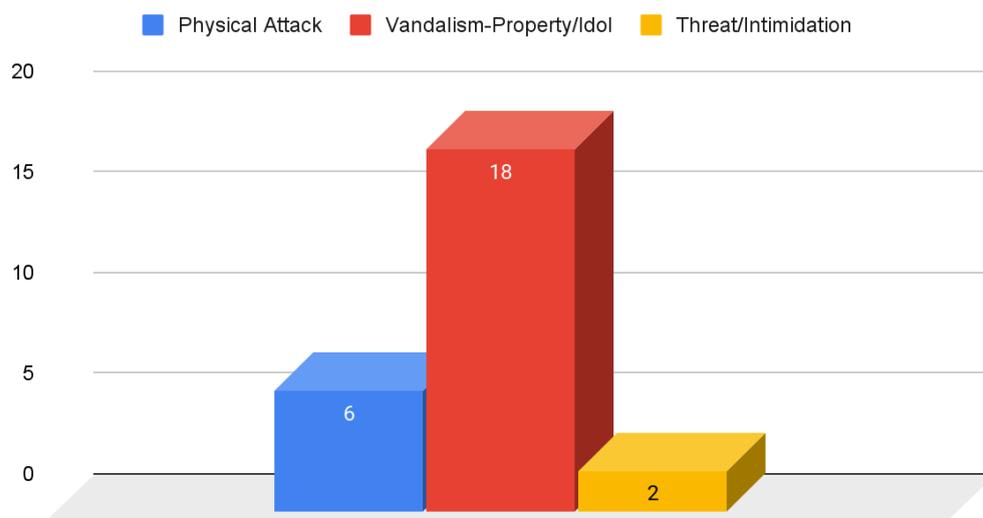
Another fatal incident occurred on 25 February in Chattogram, where Abdul Majid, [a Jubo Dal activist, was shot by masked gunmen at a local market.](#) He later died while receiving treatment at hospital. Similarly, [on 26 February in Feni, Ayub Nabi, organizing secretary of the BNP-affiliated Nationalist Tanti Dal, was beaten and hacked to death during a dispute mediation attempt involving local individuals.](#) These incidents highlight persistent election-related confrontations, factional rivalries, and targeted attacks on political activists, reflecting the continuing volatility of Bangladesh's political environment.

These incidents demonstrate how electoral competition and factional rivalries continue to trigger violent confrontations, contributing to instability in several regions of the country.

3. Attacks on Religious Minorities

At least **6 people from religious minority communities were physically attacked**, while 18 properties were vandalized, targeting temples, idols, and religious property, and 2 incidents of threat and intimidation were recorded in February. These incidents primarily affected members of the Hindu community and reflected the continued vulnerability of religious minorities, particularly in the context of post-election tensions, local disputes, and attacks on places of worship.

Violence against Religious Minority - February 2026



On 3 February, [miscreants vandalized several idols at the Shri Shri Maa Kali temple in Bhatikhumpur Malopara, Faridpur, damaging at least five religious statues during the night.](#)

Post-election violence also affected minority communities. On 12 February in Hatia, Noakhali, several Hindu families were reportedly attacked and their homes looted following the parliamentary election, with victims reporting intimidation and pressure from local groups. Human rights defenders visiting the area called for immediate investigation and

protection for affected families. Police and an army team later inspected the temple and launched an investigation to identify those responsible.



Another alarming incident occurred on 22 February in [Rupganj, Narayanganj, where a group of armed individuals attacked the Shri Shri Raksha Kali Temple, vandalized idols, looted valuables, and set parts of the temple on fire late at night.](#) These incidents highlight a continuing pattern of attacks on religious sites and minority communities, contributing to an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among minority populations in several districts of Bangladesh.

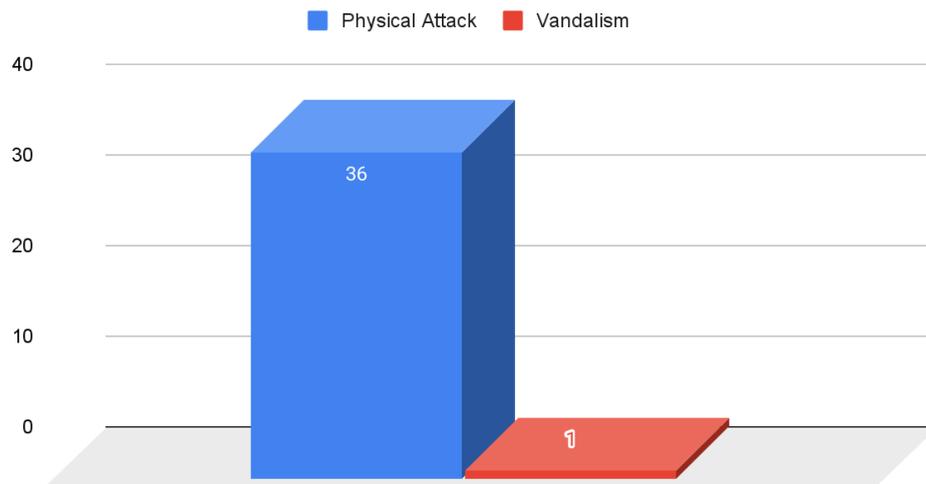
4. Freedom of Expression

4.1 Attacks on Journalists

In February, **36 journalists were physically attacked**, and 1 incident of vandalism targeting journalistic equipment was recorded. Most incidents occurred while journalists were covering political clashes, election-related violence, protests, or illegal activities, reflecting continued risks faced by media professionals while performing their duties.

On 6 February in Dhaka, [at least 19 journalists were injured when police allegedly assaulted media workers covering clashes between law enforcement and activists of Inquilab Mancha.](#)

Voilance of Freedom of Expression - February 2026



The incident sparked strong criticism from journalist organizations, and reporters later formed a human chain demanding accountability for the attack.



Journalists were also attacked while reporting on election-related violence. [On 12 February in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, three journalists were beaten while collecting news during an attack on a political candidate's motorcade near a polling center.](#) They sustained injuries and required medical treatment after the assault. These incidents illustrate the continued

vulnerability of journalists to violence, intimidation, and obstruction, particularly when reporting on political events, environmental crimes, and law-enforcement activities.

5. Freedom of Assembly

In February, at least **10 protest and demonstration events were reported across different parts of Bangladesh**, largely involving students, journalists, lawyers, and political activists expressing grievances over police actions, election-related issues, professional concerns, and violence against women. Most demonstrations remained peaceful, although several involved tensions with authorities or were organized in response to alleged use of force by law enforcement agencies.

On 6 February, students of Jashore University of Science and Technology [organized a protest](#) after police allegedly attacked activists of the Inquilab Mancha during a demonstration. Students held rallies on campus demanding accountability for the use of force by law enforcement.



Similarly, on 24 February in Dhaka, students surrounded [Shahbagh Police Station to protest an alleged police attack on a Dhaka University student](#). Demonstrators demanded an

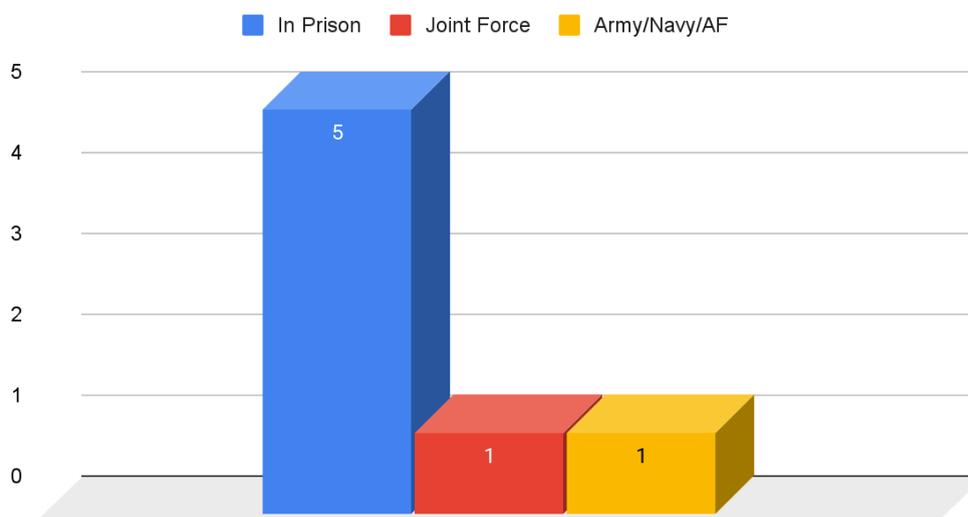
investigation and action against those responsible for the incident. Nationwide protests were also organized on 28 February, where student organizations and [activists gathered in front of the Raju Sculpture](#) at Dhaka University and in several other districts to protest incidents of rape, murder, and violence against women, calling for stronger legal action and justice for victims.

These demonstrations reflect the continued use of public assemblies by various social groups to express grievances and demand accountability, highlighting the importance of protecting the right to peaceful assembly in Bangladesh.

6. Custodial Deaths

A total of **7 custodial deaths were recorded in February, including 5 deaths in prison custody**, 1 during a joint-force operation, and 1 involving army personnel. These incidents

Death in Custody - February 2026



raised concerns over detention conditions, alleged torture, and lack of transparency in custodial oversight mechanisms.

On 7 February, [Russel Kazi \(35\) allegedly died after being detained by army personnel during an operation in Madaripur](#). According to family members, he was picked up from his house in the morning and allegedly tortured at several locations before becoming critically

ill. He was later taken to an army camp where he died. The family held protests and demanded an independent investigation, claiming he died due to custodial torture.

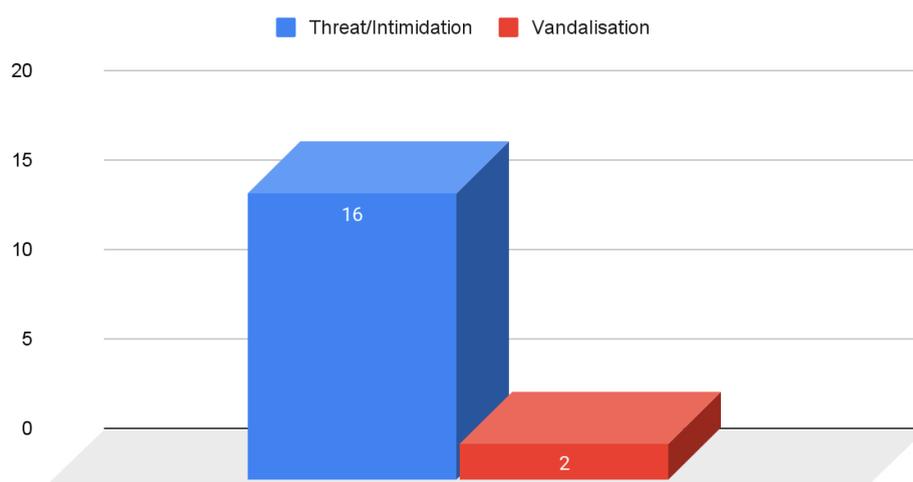
Several deaths were also reported in prison custody. On 7 February in Dinajpur, [Ramesh Chandra Sen, a former Minister of Water Resources](#), fell seriously ill inside the jail and was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead shortly after arrival.

These incidents highlight ongoing concerns about detainee safety, medical care, and accountability within detention facilities, underscoring the need for stronger oversight and transparent investigations into custodial deaths.

7. Violence Against the Indigenous Community

The violence against Indigenous communities in February 2026 shows a worrying pattern of intimidation and targeted incidents affecting these populations in Bangladesh. During this period, a total of 2 incidents were recorded, and a minimum of 18 people were affected, of which 16 involved threats or intimidation and 2 involved vandalism.

Violence against Indigenous Community - February 2026



The high number of intimidation-related cases suggests that psychological pressure and fear are being used as primary methods to control or silence Indigenous communities.

In Kallagram, Sylhet, about 80 members of 16 Garo families from three generations are living in mud-brick houses on 25.7 decimal places. In addition to paying holding tax to the Union Parishad, the adults have national identity cards with the address of their neighborhood.

Recently, [there have been allegations that the local 'Chairman Housing Company' has threatened to evict families. This has left women and children terrified. The residents are suffering from insecurity.](#) Such threats can discourage community members from raising concerns about their rights, land, or livelihoods, and may limit their participation in social and public activities. At the same time, the incidents of vandalism indicate direct attacks on property and community spaces, which further contribute to insecurity in the affected areas.

8. Mob Violence

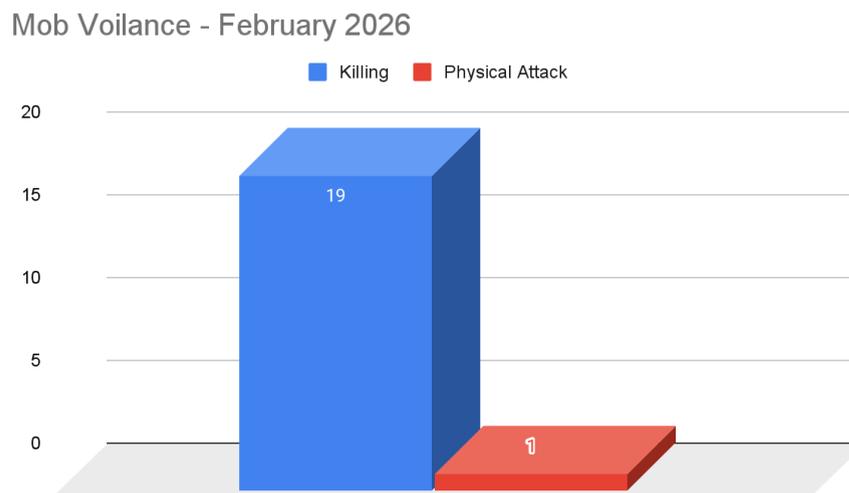
Mob violence resulted in at least **19 deaths and 1 serious injury** during February. Many incidents were triggered by suspicions of theft, minor personal disputes, and financial conflicts, often escalating rapidly into collective assaults by groups of residents. These incidents reflect the ongoing trend of public vigilantism and the lack of immediate legal intervention, resulting in fatal outcomes.

On 3 February in [Cumilla, Saeed \(23\), a construction worker from Maligaon village in Daudkandi Upazila, was beaten to death with rods and hammers by several individuals over an alleged chicken theft.](#)

He was taken to Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead. Police later arrested two suspects and initiated an investigation into the killing.

Another shocking incident occurred on [13 February in Mymensingh, where Iman \(9\) was allegedly beaten to death by a neighbor over accusations of stealing betel nuts \(supari\).](#) The child was lured into the neighbor's house and assaulted. Police later recovered the body and began legal proceedings against the accused.

Similarly, on 20 February [in Gaibandha, two men suspected of attempted robbery were chased and beaten to death by a mob](#). Police recovered the bodies and launched an investigation to identify the victims and determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.



Similar cases across multiple districts involved public beatings, lynchings, and fatal assaults based on unverified allegations or minor disputes, highlighting the persistent culture of mob justice and collective violence in Bangladesh.

9. Conclusion

Compared with January 2026, February exhibited a notable concentration of political violence and election-related clashes, particularly during the campaign and in the post-election period. While protests and demonstrations continued to occur, they were largely connected to incidents of police action, violence against women, and broader political grievances. The overall pattern suggests that **political competition and social tensions remain key drivers of violence**, emphasizing the need for stronger institutional oversight, transparent investigations, and effective legal action to prevent further escalation of such incidents.