

Electionwatch

Monitoring Report of the
Eighth Parliamentary Election
2001 in Bangladesh

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Acknowledgement

Foreword

Democracywatch played an important role in the last parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. We hope our work contributed what has been acclaimed as the most free and fair elections to date.

Although most of our work concentrated on the election day itself, there were several projects to increase voter awareness leading up to the election that we carried out with considerable success.

Firstly we held a national slogan competition where we asked the people to submit slogans for a poster to increase awareness and encourage women to vote. We received over 16,000 entries and a prize giving ceremony was held at the British Council Auditorium. The winning slogan was “Desher shebai jake pabo, amar vote thake debo” which translates to “Whoever takes care of the country, is the person who gets my vote”.

This slogan and others were printed on 13 lakh posters and displayed all over the country in two batches, the last being just before the election day for maximum effect.

We also monitored the output of the television news as part of our Mediawatch project. We measured the amount of time each party leader received on all channels and then printed the results on a daily and weekly basis. This project was very high profile and we had television companies phoning us up to confirm the timings we were publishing. Gradually most television news coverage equalized between the two major parties whereas before – even during the caretaker government – they were biased towards the former ruling party.

We also carried out a national opinion poll which accurately forecast the winning party and the margin of victory just one week before the election.

However it was the election and the Election Monitoring Working Group that was our greatest success. The EMWG comprised of 29 members from all areas of Bangladesh with different social and political backgrounds.

As part of the EMWG we placed 9,616 observers throughout the country on election day. All this work was carried out by ourselves, from recruiting the observers, to training them, producing training manuals and ensuring they carried out their duties efficiently on the day. Out of these observers were recruited 200 constituency co-ordinators who carried out most of the training and managed all payments and papers. At our headquarters in Dhaka we maintained a 24 hour control centre where many of our volunteers worked tirelessly to collect the thousands of reports.

There were many problems. Due to different rules between returning officers we had great difficulty obtaining accreditation for all our observers. Eventually we managed by appealing to the Election Commission directly who responded quickly to approve our observers. Mobile phone lines were cut on election day limiting our communications but our observers still managed to phone or fax their reports through.

Our election team at Democracywatch consisted of fifteen permanent workers who were joined on election day by an additional 100 people. They worked very hard and without sleep for about a fortnight and I wish to convey my heartiest thanks to them.

During this operation we held a number of Press Conferences with many leading journalists present. Due to our openness and the efficiency of our team we received excellent coverage of our work in the print as well as the electronic media.

I would like to thank the Election Commission for carrying out a superlative election, the other members of EMWG for their help and assistance, the Asia Foundation, the NGO Bureau, all returning officers and all the local and international observers who helped Bangladesh enjoy rather than fear election day.

I would finally like to thank the almost 10,000 observers who came together from all backgrounds and areas, disregarding personal politics and often personal safety, working for little payment, who joined us in making this election day the most successful ever.

Taleya Rehman
Executive Director
Democracywatch

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Democracywatch, a non-partisan, research, development and civil society organization with financial assistance of The Asia Foundation and under the umbrella of Election Monitoring Working Group (EMWG), a coalition of 29 civil society, development, and research organization, conducted a comprehensive nationwide program to monitor the 2001 parliamentary election. Democracywatch deployed 9,616 stationary observers with the help of it's 16 partner and well-wisher organization in 177 constituencies around the country on the Election Day.

On October 1, the Eighth National Parliamentary Election 2001 was held. This was the 3rd general election under a caretaker government headed by Justice Latifur Rahman, former Chief Justice of Bangladesh. For many reasons this election was very important. Firstly, the 2001 election took place amidst a wide range of violence and terrorism throughout the country. Secondly around 75 million voters including 18 million new voters cast their vote in this election, which was the largest in Bangladesh's history. Also due to the extreme polarization of Bangladeshi politics many people were expecting extreme violence during and after the election. To ensure therefore that this election was fair around 250,000 local and 250 foreign observers were asked to monitor this election.

Unlike any other elections the electoral atmosphere and campaigns was quite different this year. The people of the country had witnessed the performances of the two major political parties in the last two parliaments. So during this election the voters had an opportunity to decide based on past performances of the major political parties. Political polarizations in this election were also very apparent. The recently outgoing party Awami League was on side one while a coalition of the BNP, Jamat-e-Islami, Islami Oykkyo Jote and a fraction of the Jatiya Party were on the other side. Interestingly, in this election, Jatiya Party, which was the 3rd party during the last two elections, was divided into three sections.

The Eighth Parliamentary Election had a challenge as many political watchdogs were apprehending that the election might not be fairly contested and the possibility of large-scale violence was great. The domestic and international monitoring groups played an important role during the elections to restore public confidence on the electoral process that was established in 1991 and further consolidated in 1996.

Under the present political context where less than 5 percent swing votes favoring a major party to make a government, domestic election observers had a significant role to play

during the elections by encouraging citizen's participation in the electoral process and monitoring, deterring and exposing electoral irregularities and fraud, should they occur.

1.1 Political and Electoral Environment in Bangladesh

Bangladesh politics is traditionally marked by a lack of tolerance and respect. Polarization and deep mistrust among politicians of the main political parties are its glaring features. The ruling and opposition parties pursue confrontational politics. Political parties do not practice inner party democracy, instead it is built around personalities rather than policies and lacks transparency. Given the discretionary powers of the leadership to award party nominations and the tough anti-defection law, the party leadership has strong control over its members.

Parliament as an institution has not functioned well since 1991 due to the opposition boycotts of the parliament for much of the time during the last two terms. The culture of parliament boycott remains despite the fact that the parties switched their places between opposition and the government. Although the parliament is not functioning well, the committees have been conducting business with full participation of the opposition party legislators.

Elections in Bangladesh have historically been disrupted by political interference, including intimidation and violence at the polling stations, vote rigging, undue influence and manipulation. The 1991 parliamentary election marked a significant departure from this, which was further cemented by the parliamentary election of June 1996. Conducted by a neutral caretaker administration, these elections were widely acknowledged as free, fair, and credible. Local and international monitoring groups made important contributions to the credibility of the 1991 and 1996 elections.

The 8th General Election was a critical test of political and public participation in resolving the tradition of parliamentary stalemate. Under the present political context less than 5 per cent swing votes favouring a major party can form a government. That is why this election was crucial. In addition many political observers had predicted that the 2001 election would be different from those of 1991 and 1996 as the country was undergoing a terrible cycle of social and political degradation. Democracywatch undertook the election monitoring observation program in this background.

1.2 The Role of the Caretaker Government

The preliminary responsibility of the caretaker government was to hold free, fair and meaningful elections in Bangladesh. They started on the right track by revamping the election administration. The other area that the caretaker government focused on was the recovery of illegal arms for restoration of law and order situation that would assist the EC to hold free and fair elections in a peaceful manner. The caretaker government also brought some changes into not only the secretariat but also at the district levels, which came under

criticism from the former ruling party—The Awami League. Finally, they fulfilled their duties and responsibilities by holding a free and fair election, and handing power over to the new administration.

1.3 The Role of the Election Commission

The Election Commission is a constitutional body created under article 118 (1) of the constitution to conduct the election. It consists of a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and a number of Election Commissioners appointed by the President. The Commissioners administrates the elections through Returning Officers at district levels, Assistant Presiding Officers at Thana levels and Presiding Officers at polling station levels. The commission circulated a guideline for observers, which was very effective. Using this guideline Democracywatch monitored the general election effectively and to the rules.

1.4 Justification of Election Monitoring In the Prevailing Political Context

Non-partisan election monitoring serves a variety of functions in promoting free and fair elections. The presence of monitors at polling stations discourages election fraud and builds confidence amongst the citizens who might otherwise be hesitant to vote out of fear for their personal safety. Domestic observation efforts contribute to a more genuine electoral process by encouraging fair campaign practices and a more informed electorate, as well as by reducing the possibility of fraud and irregularities on Election Day. Monitoring also provides an independent assessment of procedural, security, or other safeguards introduced by election administrators, and practical recommendations for further reforms. Finally, the interaction between observers, candidates, election officials, and citizens, improves understanding of election issues and the evaluation of higher public expectations regarding the integrity of the electoral process.

The caretaker government is a non-political and non-partisan government. People drawn from various disciplines act as advisers to the Chief Adviser and their tasks are highly political and technical in nature, which is acceptable in holding a free, fair and credible elections both domestically and internationally. For a totally non-political government with a politicized civil bureaucracy and less organized police force citizens was expecting too much of a caretaker government to do this huge task alone during their short tenure. In such a critical situation the civil society and civil society organizations like Democracywatch have an important role to play by monitoring the elections to ensure their success.

Chapter 2

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 Scenario of Pre-election

After the declaration of the election schedule people from different corners of Bangladesh were in a festive mood. There was enthusiasm amongst the general people. Similarly many people were afraid and felt insecure regarding the election violence all over the country. More than half of the country was affected by the high incidents of violence. The most affected areas included Feni, Bhola, Sirajgonj, Bagherhat, Khulna, Barisal, B. Baria and Munshigonj.

One of the most important issues was the recovery of illegal arms prior to the election. But it was impossible for the caretaker government alone to recover all illegal arms and protect everyone from violence. In Panchagar the supporters of both the BNP and AL candidates were aggressive. They were sensitive before the election. In many places like Feni-2 Chandpur-3, Chandpur-4, Jessore-6, Dinajpur-2, Faridpur-2, Jhalokathi-2 some candidates violated electoral laws and regulations. The Election Commission issued warning notice to some candidates. On the other hand the EC announced that the District Returning Officer would issue accreditation cards for observers. In some places Returning Officers issued some cards but in most districts they refused to issue an adequate number of cards to Democracywatch observers. Finally The Asia Foundation and other Election Monitoring Organizations took initiative to distribute all the cards from the EC. The EC agreed to this and issued accreditation cards to all observer groups.

2.2 Pre-election Opinion Survey: Dhaka City

This survey was carried out jointly by Democracywatch and PPRC on a total of 1608 voting-age adults from the eight constituencies of Dhaka City between the 3rd and 15th of June, 2001. The survey was preceded by four weeks of conceptual discussions, questionnaire

design, pre-testing and training of survey teams. A total of 31 members from Democracywatch and PPRC took part in the survey.

The survey had two main parts. In part one, the focus was on the pre-election environment and voter expectations. In part two, the focus was on voter choice vis-à-vis the political parties.

The specific subjects covered in part one were:

- Voter list
- Willingness to vote
- Optimism on election being held on time
- Law and order situation
- Pre-conditions for fair polls
- Desired candidate characteristics

2.3 Pre-election Opinion Survey: Nationwide

Keeping the parliamentary election 2001 in mind Democracywatch carried out another pre-election opinion survey throughout the country. The three main objectives of the survey are as follow:

- a) Get a snapshot of the election preparations and conditions
- b) Voters' choice in selecting candidates
- c) Assessing the popularities of different political parties.

The fieldwork took place between September 8 and 17 September 2001. Some major findings of the survey are given below.

- Around 75 million voters including 18 million new voters cast their votes in this election, which made it the largest in Bangladesh's history.
- We surveyed over 5000 people in 50 chosen constituencies, of them 23 had been won by Awami League, 21 by BNP, 6 by others. The seats were chosen because they were mostly marginal last time and some seats were selected as special seats.
- More than three-fourths (76.5 percent) of the respondents thought that their local administrations were more or less neutral. Around 13 percent of the respondents thought that their local bodies had political influence.
- The BNP vote added to the 4-party alliance would push their share to 42 percent.
- The Awami League vote is at 33 percent, which is consistent with the last election.
- If these results of mid-September were spread across the country then the BNP would form the next government by a large majority.

2.4 Media Monitoring

Apprehending the importance of media coverage, Democracywatch has been involved in Mediawatch on politics and election related news, reports and other related programs from 17 July 2001. During the tenure of the caretaker government the Mediawatch unit delivered daily press releases with its findings. The Mediawatch reports were regularly published in a number of national dailies and weeklies. Some eminent writers also quoted the reports in their column, which were published in the newspapers. As a result of regular Mediawatch reports and analyses the question of biased media coverage for different political parties and radio channels were highlighted. Alongside the issue of government control over media the issue of the media's biased coverage was also gradually moderated. In this context it is worth mentioning that before the launching of this venture there was an increasing public debate on media's bias toward either the government or the opposition.

These reports created an awareness amongst the political parties including the BNP, Awami league, media and other walks of the society. Observers both in the country and elsewhere also discussed this issue. In England the local Bangladeshi people informed the head of BBC and accused them on their partiality toward the Awami League. They quoted Mediawatch reports in support of their allegation.

In holding a free and fair election the reports played a significant role. The allegations, which were raised against the media about their biasness towards some political parties, were published and discussed widely at the beginning of the Mediawatch project. These accusations began diminishing from the fifth week and exposure reached more or less a balanced status by the seventh and eighth week.

Actually two type of monitoring were done under the media monitoring project; Print and Electronic. Seven electronic media were covered under the monitoring e.g. BTV, ETV, Channel I, ATN Bangla, Bangladesh Betar, BBC Bangla Service and the Voice of America. Under the print media seven national dailies were monitored which are: Ittefaq, Prothom Alo, Jugantar, Janakantho, Ajker Kagoj, Inqilab and Daily Star.

2.4.1 Objectives of Mediawatch

- i. Ascertaining people's right to information.
- ii. Equal access to the electronic media by all major and relatively smaller parties.

2.4.2 Daily Monitoring of Electronic Media

Mediawatch included all political and election-based news, views, and programs in conjunction with BTV's news at eight and ten pm. ETV's news at 7:30 pm and 11:00 pm were also monitored along with the political programs and interviews. Apart from these, political programs broadcast from Channel-I and ATN Bangla were also watched.

On Betar, news at 7:00 am, 12:00 noon, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:30 pm, and 8:30 pm were monitored. In case of BBC Bangla, news at 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:30 pm were included. News at 10:00 pm from the Voice of America was included in the project. 8 Program Officers monitored a number of political programs including 15 news items on seven electronic media every single day from 16 July 2001 till 10 October 2001 after the new government was sworn in.

Daily reports were published along with regular press releases in the following newspapers: Daily Ajker Kagoj, Financial Express, Sangram, Mattribhumi, and Al-Amin. Manabzamin and some other newspapers published weekly reports. Weekly JaiJaiDin and Chaltipatra also published weekly reports. (Appendix-1A)

We were given support for six Program Officers including a Co-coordinator in this project. Later, it was observed that for better monitoring another Computer Operator and a Technician would be appropriate.

Five staff including eight Program Officers monitored the media in 3 shifts. Daily TV news was recorded and preserved in case of any challenge to these reports. A number of such challenges were dealt with successfully.

News and programs on politics and related subjects were regularly recorded and preserved for two weeks.

2.4.3 Publish Findings on a Daily Basis

At the beginning, an allegation was made against some media of giving biased coverage for a certain political party. But from the third week these allegations were gradually dropped because of Mediawatch reports. By the sixth and seventh week of the caretaker government most of the alleged media got rid of this allegation and began to give almost equal coverage of different political parties.

2.4.4 Weekly Analysis

The situation began to change from the third week of Mediawatch. Gradually, by the 7th and 8th week the difference of coverage between the two major political parties started to be balanced. Although ETV was repeatedly accused of providing huge coverage for the Awami League, by the 7th and 8th week it reached more or less balanced status.

Finally, by the 12th week of the caretaker government, almost all the important media were providing a balanced coverage of different political parties. The main reason for this was, we believe, Mediawatch reports published daily in newspapers. People were increasingly becoming aware of media's treatment of different political parties.

2.4.5 Press Conference

To publicise Mediawatch reports and to create awareness two press conferences were held. On 12 August 2001 the first press conference was held in Democracywatch with the first three weeks' findings. Representatives from around 20 national dailies and weeklies joined in this conference. The next day, 15 national dailies published this news with great importance.

A Press Conference, which was to be held at the end of the project, was in fact held a few days earlier; as people were very keen to know the results of Mediawatch before the election was due to take place.

The second press conference took place in the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club, Dhaka. Apart from media professionals; representatives from different donor countries were also present there. This report highlighted the comparative coverage of different electronic media during the 3 months of the caretaker government.

2.4.6 Booklet

On completion of Mediawatch a booklet was supposed to be published. Instead of that we are preparing to publish a 200-page book consisting of different reports and activities of the project.

2.4.7 Achievements of Mediawatch

The effectiveness and achievements of Mediawatch were significant. Some important achievements are presented below:

- To get a clear picture of the political and social situation, reports and treatment of news by 7 print media was monitored before the election and during the months of the caretaker government.
- Mediawatch activities continued until 31 October 2001, after the caretaker government handed over power to the newly elected government. This was done with our own resources to find out if media again becomes the mouthpiece of the government. Observations show that it did happen that way.
- National dailies published several reports and features based on the observations after the launching of the project. Daily Ittefaq, Jugantor, Inquilab, Shangram, Aajker Kagoj, Prothom Alo published a number of reports and articles.
- Democracywatch's Mediawatch report was cited when the information Advisor to the BNP Chairperson met the Caretaker Government. He went to complain about the biased report by the media towards the ex-government party. The report was taken seriously.

- In London, the local Bengali-speaking people informed Mr. Mark Byford, the head of BBC Bangla, about their accusation regarding BBC's partiality toward Awami League. They quoted Mediawatch reports in support of their allegation.
- Based on Mediawatch reports the Caretaker Government changed the position of Chief News Editor of BTV three times. Those reports said BTV was allegedly providing unequal coverage for different political parties. This shows, Mediawatch reports played a significant role in reshaping the administration.
- On 10 September, towards the end of the Caretaker Government, members of the Awami League met with the Chief Election Commissioner and alleged that they were getting less coverage in different government run media. This allegation was also based on our Mediawatch reports.
- Great interest is being shown by people in the media for the book on Mediawatch, which will be published soon.

The three months of the caretaker government was the duration of the Mediawatch project. The end of the project noted a balanced coverage of different political parties by the policy-makers and media authorities. However, with the formation of the BNP Government the role of electronic media began to change. We continued Mediawatch activities until 31st of October to monitor this interesting change.

Observation shows that as soon as the new government was sworn in, different mass media was again used for the ruling party only. Media began to give more coverage for the ruling party unashamedly.

This gives rise to the need for watching both electronic and print media for a much larger time for transparency and accountability of the government towards establishing good governance.

Chapter 3

ELECTION MONITORING AND DEMOCRACYWATCH

3.1 Objectives of Democracywatch Election Monitoring Program

The specific objectives of Democracywatch Election Monitoring was to ensure the fairness of the electoral process including electoral laws and regulations, voter campaigning, voting process, vote counting. The organizations biggest goal was to build public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process and to legitimize the result of a competitive election. Democracywatch monitored the 2001 parliamentary elections to achieve the following objectives.

1. To encourage large-scale participation of voters in the election by building confidence on the electoral process.
2. To detect election fraud, manipulation and irregularities
3. Deter irregularities, intimidation and undue influence in election.
4. Ensure people's all-out participation, especially women and new voters in the electoral process.
5. Ensure free, fair, meaningful, and participatory election.

3.2 Organizational Structure for Election Monitoring

Democracywatch is a non-partisan and credible organization to all levels. The election observation network involved a young and efficient monitoring group supported by the national secretariat located in Dhaka.

The network involves 16 partner organizations and Democracywatch representatives. The organization recruited 177-constituency coordinators who were fully responsible in their own constituencies. They also recruited 582 union coordinators for the sake of smooth operation. Similarly 100 staffs from the national secretariat involved seriously in this operation. The constituency coordinators were also disseminated election materials and manual to observers.

3.3 Democracywatch Election Observation Plan

Democracywatch election observation program envisaged among others, recruitment, training and mobilizing of 10,000 volunteers for observing all polling stations set up for the Election Day. It undertook civic voter programs through the dissemination of posters during the election period and monitored the election campaign and the media. The program involved implementation through its countrywide network of non-partisan citizens.

Similarly 16 other partner organizations had been directly involved as associates of Democracywatch for election monitoring. The partner organizations were Rotaract Club of Dhaka; Prodip, Dinajpur; Sohad, Dhaka; Gontoibbyo Society, Dhaka; Sora, Jessore; Swapno Shahjya Shangstha, Jessore; Polli Shahitto Sangstha, Rangpur; CCD, Rajshahi; Rodisof, Dhaka; CPR, Dhaka and Sirajgonj; SASS, Dhaka and Gazipur; Friends Society, Noakhali, Mymensingh and Chittagong Democracywatch; and Agnishena (all over the country).

Democracywatch directly recruited 9,635 observers in 177 constituencies of 39 districts in all over the country. Among them there were 582 union coordinators, 201 mobile observers. Around 100 staff and volunteers of Dhaka National Office were involved in monitoring.

3.4 Relation with EMWG

With the objective of monitoring the parliamentary elections 2001, 29 organizations formed an association entitled the Election Monitoring Working Group (EMWG). Over a nine-month period EMWG deployed observers and designed the methodology and capacity to undertake election observations activities with the direct help of Democracywatch. Over 1,50,000 observers, both stationary and mobile, were involved on the Election Day covering all constituencies across the Country. Respective activities of the participating organizations were coordinated under the umbrella of EMWG. Democracywatch - a partner of this coalition co-operated with them satisfactorily including organizing the press conferences, releasing a series of press releases and coordinating the media.

3.5 Democracywatch Activities on Election Monitoring

3.5.1 Public Awareness and Voter Education

The Democracywatch activities plan included a public awareness strategy that had been implemented throughout the project period. This included voters meet, motivational meetings to highlight the non-partisan role of election observer discouraging electoral fraud and promoting a friendly environment in all the polling stations. The organization produced and distributed 2 kinds of posters all over the country.

3.5.2 Signature Campaign

Democracywatch election monitoring cell launched a nationwide signature campaign to create public awareness and demand of a free fair, credible and meaningful election in the country. Democracywatch collected more than five thousand signatures from different parts of the country including grassroots people.

3.5.3 Press Conferences

Democracywatch organized several press conferences at Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka. The Executive Director and other staffs of Democracywatch highlighted the activities of election monitoring and its purposes in these conferences.

3.5.4 Training

Democracywatch took comprehensive election Monitoring training program in all over the country. The organization produced a training manual to reinforce the information communicated during the training program. This training manual assisted the partner organization, trainees and observers. This manual describes the vote, duties and responsibilities of election monitors. It also designed checklists or other forms, in which the monitors recorded their observations accompanied by an explanation of how to properly complete a checklist of election monitoring.

In this manual some important things were included which are as follows:

- An introduction, which briefly describes the formation of the organization and its principal goals.
- A concise historical perspective, which explains the significance of the election.
- A overview on the evolution of nonpartisan election monitoring efforts.
- A description of the responsibilities of various election officials.
- A code of conduct for observers.
- A description of the activities undertaken by observers before and during the election day and the details involved in election manuals.
- Election data and information collection system of Democracywatch.

On the basis of this manual Democracywatch conducted 7 training programs (TOT) in 6 divisions. Training was conducted on 20th August, Khulna (venue: Jessore SORA and Shapwna Sahayjja Snastha office); Rajshahi Sishu Academy on 23rd August, Dhaka Democracywatch office on 25th August; Chittagong Anchalic Lok Proshasan Kendra on 2nd September, Sylhet Press club on 6th September, Barisal Zilla Parishad on 14th September, Mymensingh Democracywatch office on 27th August. 200 constituency coordinators and union coordinators participated in the training programs.

Similarly Democracywatch conducted 224 observers' training in all over the country. 9,700 volunteers took part in the training programs. Local elites, election officials, NGO leaders, journalists were also present in these training programs.

Chapter 4

MONITORING PROCESS

4.1 Observation Methodology

This report is based on the observation of Democracywatch observers (9,616) supported by 100 volunteers of National office, 582 union coordinators, 177 Constituency Coordinators in all 177 constituencies. In addition over 100 mobile observers comprising of Coordinators, Programme Officers, Internees and Volunteers of Democracywatch were deployed to supervise and coordinate the whole activities. The Executive Director of Democracywatch supervised and monitored the daily works regularly.

4.2 Observation Checklist

The Democracywatch observers used two checklists to record their observation. One checklist used by the stationary observers was comprised of 26 questions and other checklists used by the mobile observers comprised of 19 questions. The stationary observers sent their checklists to the union coordinators. Union coordinators used another consolidated checklist and sent it to constituency coordinators. Finally constituency coordinators collected all the union consolidated checklists and used another consolidated checklist for constituency wise results. They sent it to the national office of EMWG and also to the Democracywatch office.

4.3 Accreditation of Democracywatch Observers

Permitted by the Election Commission, Democracywatch had received accreditation cards for both stationary and mobile observers in each polling station of the country. Earlier Democracywatch approached the district Returning Officers to have these cards. Some of the Returning Officers did not allocate the maximum number of cards. Democracywatch Volunteers received nearly 10,000 cards across the country. Democracywatch observers were able to enter any polling stations in all over the country. They observed the opening of the poll, the complete voting process and the counting process. There are some instances where Democracywatch volunteers were not allowed to enter the polling station in spite of having proper accreditation cards.

Given the fact that nationwide election observation effort was undertaken in Bangladesh under the EMWG banner where 29 organizations worked. Democracywatch, as a partner of this group felt proud to be part of a milestone in promoting transparency and accountability of the electoral process.

Chapter 5

SCENARIOS OF ELECTION DAY

5.1 Security Arrangements

The security arrangement of each polling station generally involves one platoon army, police BDR and Ansar. A huge number of security forces were involved in maintaining security at the polling stations. The adequate number of security forces enabled the polling to proceed peacefully and ensure a large number of voter participation in all over the country was noted.

5.2 Physical Arrangements

Physical arrangements of conducting the poll were generally satisfactory but in some cases it was inadequate to meet an unprecedented rush of voters early in the day. At the beginning of the polls the polling officials took some time to settle down. Some voters had to wait for a long time in many cases. Some polling stations, where more than one booth was setup in one small room, created confusion among officials, polling agents, observers and even voters. In some polling stations there were not adequate arrangements for secret voting. Some polling stations were situated in river locked areas such as Kishoregonj, Netrokona, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Munshigonj, etc. A lot of voters faced difficulties in casting their vote properly. In Banderban a polling station was setup, which was 20 km away from the locality. Election Commission should take appropriate measure in this regard.

5.3 Polling Stations and Officials

According to the Democracywatch observers most of the polling stations opened in time with a few exceptions (see interim report). In most polling stations all over the Country the Presiding Officers and polling officials were present and approached their tasks diligently although a lack of training was sometimes apparent while discharging their duties. In most cases they appeared to perform their tasks with pride and seriousness. In dealing with local and International observers the Presiding Officers were cooperative and willing to help. In a few instances the Presiding Officers did not allow our observers to oversee the voting and counting process (see the constituency wise report), but the overall situation was satisfactory and significant.

5.4 Polling Materials

Democracywatch volunteers observed that polling materials were available in almost all the polling stations. The ballot papers, ballot boxes and other materials related to elections were adequate. Most of the Presiding Officers informed us that they kept one extra ballot box for their polling stations. But the permanent number of the ballot boxes was not seen in some polling centers. In Dhaka-10 Ispahani School, Boro Moghbagar Primary High School, Shiddeswary Girls High School, TNT High School centers no permanent ballot boxes were not found. They used white chalk in the ballot boxes for marking.

5.5 Election Camps

The election camps established by the candidates to help general voters with their voter serial numbers and identifying polling stations/booths were seen around most polling stations. Particularly they played a vital role, which was very helpful for the polling officials to process the voters. There were seen a large number of election camps, which were setup by different political parties around the country.

5.6 Polling Agents

Democracywatch observers reported the presence of considerable number of polling agents appointed by the candidates but not all of them were to witness opening of the poll. Some party agents appeared to have been untrained and deficient in knowing what they were supposed to do. These agents often lacked reporting forms and did not understand the complaints procedure but some were certainly brilliant. Others made up for their lack of skills by their enthusiasm.

5.7 Voter Turnout

The Election Day witnessed a record number of voters and a high turnout of 74.14%. Long queues were seen in most polling stations all over the country even before the polling began at 8 am. Large numbers of female voters also came out eagerly early in the morning to cast their vote. The voters were peaceful and disciplined in spite of long queues. In a few polling stations there was some indiscipline in the long queues. Actually polling officials could not manage the queues properly due to inadequate training. The presence of such a large number of voters indicated that the Election Day was like a festival. In many polling stations all over the country the voters' turnout was high and there was visibly high number of women voters. Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Bogra, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajgonj, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal, Noakhali, Comilla, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Gazipur, Banderban, Rangamati, and Khagrachari were quite satisfactory regarding the turnout of voters.

5.8 Voters' Roll

The voters' roll caused occasionally difficulties because of some mistakes in the names and other particulars. Democracywatch observers reported that disorder was found in the voters' queues at the Ispahani Girls' School and College at Dhaka-10. The voters of the following serial numbers 01101, 00969, 00866, 00856, 00854, 01038 noticed that their names had been changed in the voter list. Voter serial numbers from 05836 to 058774 were missing in Fatema Institute Center, Dhaka. In Rangamati, Chittagong-13, Chittagong-6 some of the voters alleged the same. The voter list was generally accurate with a few exceptions.

5.9 International Observers

There were a large number of international observers to monitor the 8th parliamentary elections. The European Union, the Commonwealth, NDI, and the groups of

Japan and Canada observed the elections in all over the country especially in Dhaka city. Some of Democracywatch observers helped and accompanied them during the observation. International observers remarked that the 8th general election was free, fair and meaningful.

5.10 Counting Process

At the end of the polls, the counting process began which was open and transparent. The polling officers in the presence of different party agents completed the counting. In some polling stations Democracywatch observers were permitted to observe the counting process along with the polling officials. But in most of the polling stations they were not allowed to oversee the counting process. For the sake of democracy this process should be more open and transparent.

5.11 Clashes, Irregularities, Obstruction of Observers And Postponement of Polling

The results of 16 constituencies were suspended due to violence and incidents. Re-polling held on 8th October, 2001 in those constituencies, are as follows: Moulavibazar-1, and 2, Mymenshingh-5 and 6, Kishorgonj-1, Kishorgonj-4, Comilla-8 and 9, Sariatpur-1, Chandpur-2, Barishal-6, B.Baria-3 and 6, Laxipur-4, Munshigonj-4 and Bagherhat-4. 10 candidates of BNP, 3 of AL, 2 independent and 1 of Jamaat were leading in those constituencies.

According to our observers' report in booth no. 1 of Motijheel Government Primary School Center of Dhaka-6, out of 142 there were only 99 pages in a bundle of ballot papers. A small number of *Jal Votes* were been reported. Fake votes were recorded different areas are noted below: 11 fake votes in Tangail-2, 22 in Tangail-3, 23 in Tangail-4 and around one thousand votes were recorded in different centers in Chittagong. According to our observers' reports at the K. B Dovash School Center in Chittagong-8 a large number false votes were reported. In Rahamania High School center of Chittagong-10, many unauthorized people were seen around the polling station.

According to the reports of the stationary observers they were threatened for performing their work. In Fenchuganj Fertilizer Center of Sylhet-3 the Awami League activists tried to hinder the Democracywatch observers by attempting to snatch their ID cards in all the centers. In Barisal similar situation was reported. At the center of Keranigonj, Dhaka, Awami League activists threatened an observer of Democracywatch and obstructed him from observation. At Boalia in Barisal-6, a Hindu boy closed one polling center by snatching some ballot boxes. He was shot dead in a clash with Police and some miscreants. Pollimongal, Moheskhali, Shaampur and Nayamoti polling centers voting were postponed due to some unavoidable circumstances. (For more information see the constituency wise report)

5.12 General Comments

The election was free, fair, credible, meaningful and participatory. This election is a milestone towards a long journey in nation building and strengthening the democratic institutions and culture of Bangladesh. The most important challenge the new government and the opposition will face is the restoration of confidence of the people in the integrity of the democratic processes. This can be done through co-operation among the political parties and general people of the country.

Such high numbers of participation clearly indicates that all countries should take lessons from this historic election. The Bangladeshi people have once again showed their firm commitment to the Democratic process.

Chapter 6

INTERIM REPORT ON 8TH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Democracywatch deployed 9,635 observers in 177 constituencies of 39 districts all over Bangladesh to monitor the Eighth National Parliamentary Election. Among them there were 582 Union Coordinators, and 201 Mobile Observers. In addition to these, around 100 staff and volunteers of the Dhaka National Office were involved with monitoring.

6.1 Reports from Observers

According to the reports of the stationary observers the election was free, fair, significant and peaceful in almost all polling centers. Despite this, in many cases the observers were threatened and hindered from conducting their work. In Sylhet-3 at the Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory center the Awami League activists tried to hinder the Democracywatch observers by attempting to snatch their ID cards. In almost all the centers in Chittagong the observers were not allowed to enter the centers. In Barisal-6 a similar situation was reported. At Dhaka's Keraniganj center Awami League activists threatened an observer of Democracywatch and tried to stop him from observing the election.

In some centers polling was withheld according to the report of our observers. One person was shot by the police at the Boalia center of Barisal-6. In Pallimangal, Maheshpur, Shyampur, and Neyamati polling centers polling was withheld.

Except for some isolated incidents our mobile observers reported almost all the areas of the election was held freely and peacefully. Members of the Police, BDR, and Ansar were

deployed in every polling center. Military forces patrolled all polling centers without one or few exceptions. In general the law and order situation was very satisfactory.

Ballot papers were inadequate at a number of polling centers. In booth no. 1 at Motijheel Government Boys' High School (centre no.142) there was 99 pages in a bundle of ballot papers. Disorder was reported in the voters' queues at the Ishpahani Girls' School & College Center, Dhaka. The voters of the following serial numbers 01101, 00969, 00866, 00856, 00854, 01038 noticed that their names had been changed in the voter list. At the Mir Hazaribagh centre of Demra Thana, many voters accused that pages 27-37 were missing from the voters' list.

Although the election was fair to a large extent, according to the monitoring report, a small number of 'Jal Votes' (fake votes placed) have been reported. Fake votes were recorded in different areas are as follows: 11 in Tangail-2, 22 in Tangail-3, 23 in Tangail-4, and around a thousand fake votes were recorded amongst different centers in Chittagong.

6.2. Summary

Apart from these very few incidents the Eighth Parliamentary Election 2001 was held in a free, fair and peaceful environment. In all the polling centers including Dhaka, voters seemed to vote enthusiastically. The numbers of women voters in the voters' queues were remarkable and the overall turnout of voters was high. The irregularities that have so far been reported are very minor and do not affect the overall election results throughout the country. Democracywatch expects all political parties will accept the results and build an authentic democratic culture in Bangladesh by showing tolerance and lead the nation towards prosperity.

This is an interim Election Monitoring report by Democracywatch. A final report will be published when all the observer reports arrive.

Chapter 7

ELECTION 2001: SOME FACTS AND FEAGURES

7.1 Some Key Information on Election 2001: At a Glance

Number of constituencies	300
Number of polling stations	29848
Number of polling booths	148711
Total number of voters	74709678
Total number of male voters	38534907
Total number of female voters	36174771
Number of Returning Officers	68
Number of Assistant Returning Officers	523
Number of Presiding Officers	29848
Number of Assistant Presiding Officers	148711
Number of Polling officers	297422
Total number of polling personals	475981
Number of divisions	6
Total number of district	64
Number of Political parties	52
Total number of contesting candidates	1933
Number of candidates contesting more than one constituency	32
Total number of female contesting candidates	37
Number of International Observers	250
Number of domestic observers (approx.)	250,000

7.2 A Numeric Observations of Election Results

As soon as the election ends different calculation, debate, and analysis are being discussed everywhere. A number of numeric analyses are presented in the following list:

- According to the election results Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) received 40.86 percent vote, which is 0.65 percent more than Bangladesh Awami League (40.21 percent). In comparison to 1996 elections both the BNP and Awami League (AL) received more votes in this election. Individually AL's vote increased up to around 6.7 million while BNP added around 8.4 million. Of the total vote only BNP's vote increased around 7.26 percent. On the other hand around 2.77 percent more vote was added to the AL (See Table 1).
- In constituencies, where BNP and AL directly contested in 2001, the difference of vote between the BNP and AL is quite large i.e. 7.85 percent (BNP 48.73 percent, AL 40.13 percent; see Table 2).
- In Dhaka's eight constituencies the difference of vote between the BNP and AL is more than 10 percent (BNP 53.28 percent, AL 42.91 percent; see Table 3).

Table 1
Comparisons: Election 2001 and 1996

Party	2001				1996				% Vote difference	% Seat difference
	*Vote obtained	%	*Seats obtained	% Seats obtained	Vote obtained	%	Seats obtained	% Seats obtained		
BNP	22717548	40.86	191	64.09	14255986	33.60	116	38.67	+7.26	+25.42
Awami League	22360194	40.21	62	20.81	15882792	37.44	146	48.67	+2.77	-27.86
Jatiya Party (Ershad)	4037992	7.26	14	4.70	6954981	16.40	32	10.67	-9.14	-5.97
Jamaat-e-Islami	2385907	4.29	17	5.70	3653013	8.61	3	1.00	-4.32	+4.7
Jatiya Party (Naziur)	621515	1.12	4	1.34	-	-	-	-	-	-
Islami Oikya Jote	375980	0.68	2	0.67	461003	1.09	1	0.33	-0.41	+0.34
Independent	2086151	3.75	6	2.02	450132	1.06	1	0.33	+2.69	+0.83
Other Parties	1019961	1.83	2	0.67	764452	1.90	1	0.33	-0.07	+0.34
Total	55605248	100.0	298	100.0			300	100.0		

Valid Vote cast: 74.14%

** From the results published in the website of the Election Commission*

** 298 officially declared seats*

Table 2

Election 2001: Where BNP and Awami League were Head-to-Head

Party	*Vote obtained	%
BNP	22717548	48.73
Awami League	18704801	40.13
Jatiya Party (Ershad)	2842381	6.10
Jamaat-e-Islami	106789	0.23
Independent	1453953	3.11
Others	790407	1.70
Total	46615879	100.00

** From the results published in the newspapers, may be changed*

** Both BNP and Jamaat had candidates in Chittagong 14*

Table 3

Election 2001: Dhaka City Results

Party	*Vote obtained	%
BNP	1138451	53.28
Awami League	916907	42.91
Jatiya Party (Ershad)	65870	3.08
Others	15640	0.73
Total	2136868	100.00

- *From the results published in the newspapers, may be changed*

Chapter 8

RECOMMENDATIONS

Democracywatch observers made some recommendations on the basis of the observation of the 8th Parliamentary Election 2001. To make the electoral process more transparent and for holding free and fair elections in the country we should take some necessary steps immediately. Recommendations are:

1. Democracywatch observers oversaw the total electoral process. However in some places Presiding Officers did not allow observers to oversee the counting process. For the sake of transparency the EC should take a strong stand in this regard. The observers should be allowed to observe all aspects of the elections.
2. Physical arrangements for secret voting booths should be improved.
3. Polling stations should be located closer to the voters.
4. The polling officials should take adequate training to run their activities smoothly.
5. Given the importance of the political party agents' roles in the polling stations and lack of skill and understanding, it is strongly suggested that they must be well trained on their role and activities on Election Day.
6. Every ballot box should have permanent number, which must be sealed by the EC. Any temporary number in the ballot box should not be referred to.
7. Democracywatch feels that the observers should take more comprehensive training on election monitoring. They should also take advanced training on election and report writing.
8. Some of the voters alleged that voter lists were not accurate. For the sake of transparency in the electoral process the EC should take immediate and appropriate measures to resolve this.
9. The authority of declaring election results should be vested in the Election Commission itself instead of the Returning Officers. The task of the Returning Officers should be limited in conducting election and in consolidating the results only.
10. To establish an effective election code of conduct enforced by the Election Commission.
11. Almost 250,000 (Approx.) observers (those who were over 25 years), observed this election but they were unable to cast their own vote. This is unfortunate. Election Commission should take measures to allow observers to cast their vote more easily.

12. The Election officials, law-enforcing agencies related to the electoral process and importantly all the overseas voters could not cast their vote. The Election Commission should take strong measures in this regard.

Appendix I

Election Monitoring Team

of

Democracywatch

1. Mostafa Sohel, Coordinator
2. M Moniruzzaman
3. Md. Arifur Rahman
4. Md. Rezaul Haq Rafel
5. M. Khaliduzzaman
6. Md. Faruque Ahmed
7. S. A. M. Mohiuddin Moin
8. Kaniz Farzana Lizu
9. Adnan Khalid
10. Salma Jesmin
11. Rubayet-e-Taslim Lita
12. Nazmul Habib

Appendix II

List of the Partner Organization working with Democracywatch

<p>Kamran Chowdhury SORA Social Re-contraction Action 297, Kazipara, Kathal Tola puratan Kasba, Jessore-7400 Phone: 4732, 9344101(O), 9117621 (Res)</p>	<p>Humayun Kabir Bhayien SOHAC Society on Health Care House # 325, Lane # 22 New D.O.H.S. Mohakhali, Dhaka Phone: 8815468, 011-806468, 8115022(Res)</p>
<p>Aapel Mahmud SASS KA/9, Rasulbagh, Mohakhali, Dhaka Phone: 9883223</p>	<p>Mustaq Ahmed Chowdhury RODISOF House # 260, Lane # 19, New D.O.H.S, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone: 9880515</p>
<p>Rotaract Club, Firozul Alam Phone: 7212342</p>	<p>Rajesh Barua Chittagong Representative 34/A, Bangshal Road, Pathorgatha Chittagong-4000, Phone: 018-312491</p>
<p>Shahdat Islam Chowdhury Executive Director PRODIP 106/8 MonipuriPara, Tejgoan, Dhaka. Phone: 8121381, 011-855151, 017159906</p>	<p>Humayun Kabir Mazumder Palli Shahitto Sangstha P.O.: Boda, Dist. Panchagar Phone: 0562-61210 (req.)</p>
<p>Sohel Azad Project Officer Democracywatch Mymensingh, 16 Ganga Das Guha Road Phone & Fax: 091-52231 Mobile: 017-662587</p>	<p>Quazi Raquibul Islam Gontaybbya Society 83, Siddeshwari Circular Road, 2nd Floor (Above Prime Bank) Malibagh More, Dhaka – 1217 Phone: 9338783, 018-225881, 9338836(R) 017806830,</p>
<p>Ali Reza Haider Center for Peoples Rights Bangladesh (CPR) 81/1, Golartake, Palpara, Mirpur-1, Dhaka – 1218. Phone: 8018490, Fax: 8116152</p>	<p>Zahirul Haque Tuhin Agnisena Sangsad 296-97, Kallayanpur, Mirpur, Dhaka Phone: 017-821652, 017366806</p>
<p>Mr. Ghulam Murtaja Executive Director Center for Communication and Development Chandu House, Raninagar, Monafer Rajshahi-6204. Mobile: 017-353350</p>	<p>Md. Mozammel Haque (Rihad) S/O, Obaidul Haque Vill: Fulbarir, P.S: B.Barua Tel:017-825936(Dhaka), 017- 137638(B.Barua) Fax: 8318079</p>
<p>Mahmud Hossain Friends Society (Lecturer, Sonapur Degree College, Sonapur, Noakhali)</p>	<p>Shamim Ahmed / Shariful Haque Ripon Shawapna Shahaja Songstha (SSS) Bejpara, Jessore.</p>

Appendix III

Constituency-wise Observers Deployed by Democracywatch

SL #	Constituency No.	Name of Constituency	Number of Observers	ID Card Distributed
1	10	Dinajpur -5	350	350
2	12	Nilphamari-1	92	92
3	36	Bogra-1	35	35
4	37	Bogra-2	38	38
5	38	Bogra-3	33	33
6	39	Bogra-4	38	38
7	40	Bogra-5	30	30
8	41	Bogra-6	40	40
9	42	Bogra-7	43	43
10	52	Rajshahi-1	38	38
11	53	Rajshahi-2	35	35
12	54	Rajshahi-3	40	40
13	55	Rajshahi-4	43	43
14	56	Rajshahi-5	33	33
15	57	Natore-1	35	35
16	58	Natore-2	33	33
17	59	Natore-3	30	30
18	60	Natore-4	40	40
19	61	Sirajganj-1	38	38
20	62	Sirajganj-2	35	35
21	63	Sirajganj-3	40	40
22	64	Sirajganj-4	38	38
23	85	Jessore-1	385	385
24	86	Jessore-2	40	40
25	87	Jessore-3	38	38
26	88	Jessore-4	33	33
27	89	Jessore-5	35	35
28	90	Jessore-6	30	30
29	95	Bagerhat-1	40	40
30	96	Bagerhat-2	40	40
31	97	Bagerhat-3	35	35
32	98	Bagerhat-4	35	35
33	99	Khulna-1	40	40
34	100	Khulna-2	40	40
35	101	Khulna-3	40	40

SL #	Constituency No.	Name of Constituency	Number of Observers	ID Card Distributed
36	102	Khulna-4	35	35
37	103	Khulna-5	40	40
38	104	Khulna-6	40	40
39	105	Satkhira-1	30	30
40	106	Satkhira-2	35	35
41	107	Satkhira-3	33	33
42	108	Satkhira-4	40	40
43	109	Satkhira-5	35	35
44	110	Barguna-1	35	35
45	111	Barguna-2	35	35
46	112	Barguna-3	30	30
47	113	Patuakhali-1	40	40
48	114	Patuakhali-2	40	40
49	115	Patuakhali-3	35	35
50	116	Patuakhali-4	45	45
51	117	Bhola-1	35	35
52	118	Bhola-2	30	30
53	119	Bhola-3	38	38
54	120	Bhola-4	40	40
55	121	Barisal-1	35	35
56	122	Barisal-2	38	38
57	123	Barisal-3	38	38
58	124	Barisal-4	40	40
59	125	Barisal-5	43	43
60	126	Barisal-6	45	45
61	129	Pirojpur-1	35	35
62	130	Pirojpur-2	35	35
63	131	Pirojpur-3	35	35
64	133	Tangail-1	40	40
65	134	Tangail-2	38	38
66	135	Tangail-3	40	40
67	136	Tangail-4	43	43
68	137	Tangail-5	40	40
69	138	Tangail-6	45	45
70	139	Tangail-7	43	43
71	140	Tangail-8	45	45
72	142	Jamalpur-2	30	30
73	143	Jamalpur-3	33	33
74	144	Jamalpur-4	35	35
75	145	Jamalpur-5	35	35
76	146	Sherpur-1	30	30

SL #	Constituency No.	Name of Constituency	Number of Observers	ID Card Distributed
77	147	Sherpur-2	33	33
78	148	Sherpur-3	30	30
79	149	Mymensingh-1	40	40
80	150	Mymensingh-2	40	40
81	151	Mymensingh-3	35	35
82	152	Mymensingh-4	143	143
83	153	Mymensingh-5	33	33
84	154	Mymensingh-6	38	38
85	155	Mymensingh-7	40	40
86	156	Mymensingh-8	43	43
87	157	Mymensingh-9	45	45
88	158	Mymensingh-10	35	35
89	159	Mymensingh-11	383	383
90	172	Manikgonj-1	40	40
91	173	Manikgonj-2	35	35
92	174	Manikgonj-3	35	35
93	175	Manikgonj4	38	38
94	176	Munsigonj-1	40	40
95	177	Munsigonj-2	40	40
96	178	Munsigonj-3	40	40
97	179	Munsigonj-4	40	40
98	180	Dhaka-1	40	40
99	181	Dhaka-2	40	40
100	182	Dhaka-3	40	40
101	183	Dhaka-4	161	161
102	184	Dhaka-5	158	158
103	185	Dhaka-6	194	194
104	186	Dhaka-7	151	151
105	187	Dhaka-8	132	132
106	188	Dhaka-9	138	138
107	189	Dhaka-10	118	118
108	190	Dhaka-11	175	175
109	191	Dhaka-12	40	40
110	192	Dhaka-13	40	40
111	193	Gazipur-1	35	35
112	194	Gazipur-2	35	35
113	195	Gazipur-3	35	35
114	196	Gazipur-4	35	35
115	197	Narshngdi-1	40	40
116	198	Narshngdi-2	35	35
117	199	Narshngdi-3	40	40

SL #	Constituency No.	Name of Constituency	Number of Observers	ID Card Distributed
118	200	Narshngdi-4	35	35
119	201	Narshngdi-5	35	35
120	202	Narayanganj-1	40	40
121	203	Narayanganj-2	40	40
122	204	Narayanganj-3	40	40
123	205	Narayanganj-4	40	40
124	206	Narayanganj-5	40	40
125	207	Rajbari-1	35	35
126	208	Rajbari-2	35	35
127	214	Gopalganj-1	35	35
128	215	Gopalganj-2	40	40
129	216	Gopalganj-3	390	390
130	217	Madaripur-1	35	35
131	218	Madaripur-2	35	35
132	219	Madaripur-3	35	35
133	228	Sylhet-1	40	40
134	229	Sylhet-2	40	40
135	230	Sylhet-3	40	40
136	231	Sylhet-4	40	40
137	232	Sylhet-5	40	40
138	233	Sylhet-6	40	40
139	234	Moulavibazar-1	40	40
140	235	Moulavibazar-2	35	35
141	236	Moulavibazar-3	38	38
142	237	Moulavibazar-4	35	35
143	242	Brahmanbaria-1	35	35
144	243	Brahmanbaria-2	38	38
145	244	Brahmanbaria-3	30	30
146	245	Brahmanbaria-4	33	33
147	246	Brahmanbaria-5	35	35
148	247	Brahmanbaria-6	40	40
149	248	Comilla-1	35	35
150	249	Comilla-2	40	40
151	250	Comilla-3	45	45
152	251	Comilla-4	40	40
153	252	Comilla-5	43	43
154	253	Comilla-6	38	38
155	254	Comilla-7	35	35
156	255	Comilla-8	95	95
157	256	Comilla-9	35	35
158	257	Comilla-10	35	35

SL #	Constituency No.	Name of Constituency	Number of Observers	ID Card Distributed
159	258	Comilla-11	35	35
160	259	Comilla-12	35	35
161	263	Chandpur-4	38	38
162	266	Feni-1	40	40
163	267	Feni-2	40	40
164	269	Noakhali - 1	27	27
165	270	Noakhali - 2	27	27
166	271	Noakhali - 3	26	26
167	272	Noakhali - 4	27	27
168	273	Noakhali - 5	27	27
169	274	Noakhali - 6	27	27
170	284	Chittagong-6	130	130
171	286	Chittagong-8	154	154
172	287	Chittagong-9	130	130
173	288	Cgittagong-10	110	110
174	291	Cgittagong-13	131	131
175	298	Khagrachhari	80	80
176	299	Rangamati	98	98
177	300	Bandraban	35	35
Total			9635	9635