



13th National Election Process Tracking and Affidavits: TIB's Observations

(Executive Summary)

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Research Background, Rationale, and Methodology

- The precondition for effectively functional parliamentary democratic system is organising a free, fare, transparent, inclusive, and competitive election for all.
- Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has conducted research based on tracking of Bangladesh's national election process in the past to observe the integrity
- In this context, TIB has undertaken two separate but interrelated studies titled *13th National Parliamentary Election Process Tracking*, and *Candidate Disclosures in Affidavits*
- There is a research need to review the 13th National Parliamentary Election preces particularly to explore; the challenges of holding free and transparent elections with the participation of political parties, the role of various stakeholders, and the adherence of competing candidates to electoral laws, regulations, and code of conduct.
- These two studies include the roles of various stakeholders (Election Commission, political parties, contesting candidates, law enforcement agencies, administration, and media), compliance with codes of conduct, election expenditure by contesting candidates and political parties, and analysis of information disclosed in candidates' affidavits.
- For the tracking of the 13th National Parliamentary Election process, 70 constituencies have been selected as samples through random sampling using a representative sampling method from the total of 300 parliamentary constituencies.
- Python and Power Query were used for automatically collecting and processing data from the affidavits submitted by candidates to the Election Commission. Then Power BI was used for data analysis.

Figure 1: Division-wise distribution of the sample constituencies

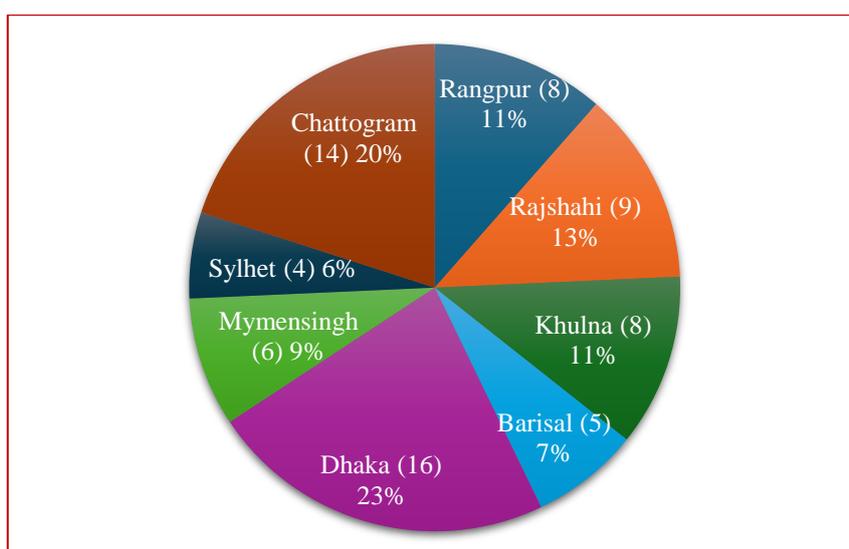
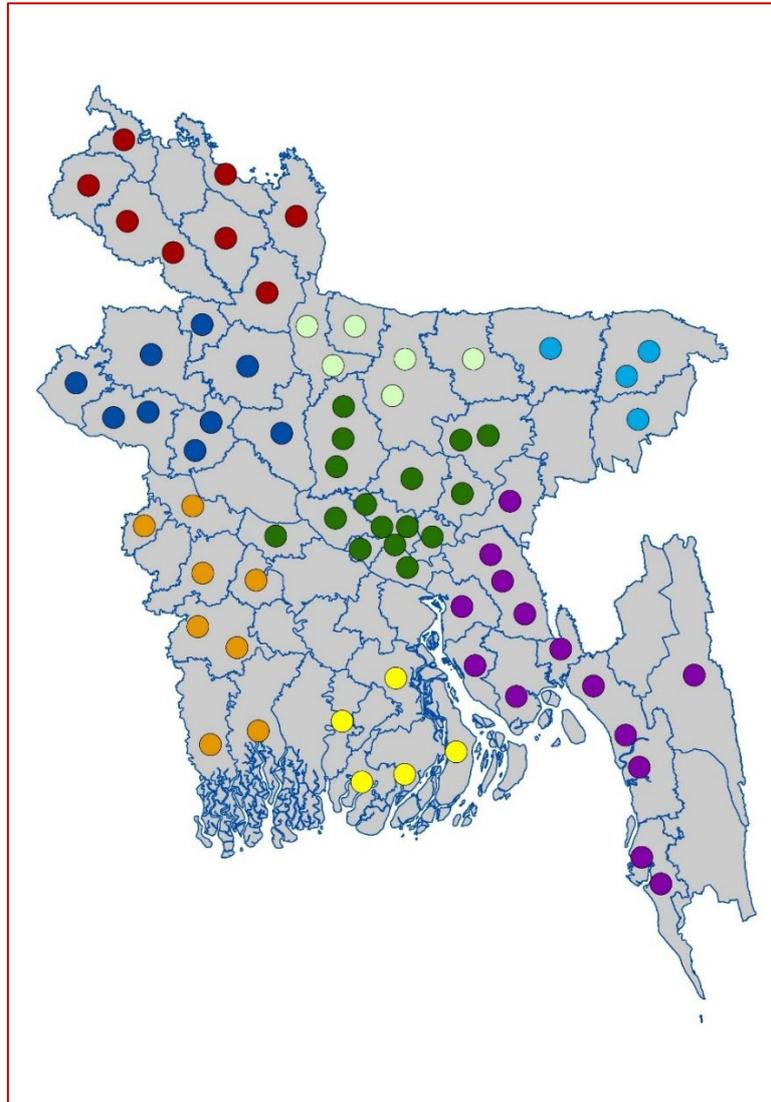


Figure 2: Locations of the sample constituencies



Role of the Election Commission

- Flaws were observed in the registration process of the election observer. Some observer organizations exist in name only, and the individuals involved with the organizations are affiliated with political parties or seek nomination from political parties in the past elections.
- Government influence in the observer registration process is also identified; despite applying more than once by experienced organizations, they were not granted for registration. On the other hand, institutions affiliated with two advisers of the interim government were registered as observers.
- The controversial decision of the Election Commission to bear the expenses of foreign observers was criticized as a continuation of practices from the authoritarian regime; this represented a conflict of interest between the EC and the election observers.

- Concerns over the lack of transparency in the political party registration process; although several new political parties have received registration, allegations have emerged in the media regarding the failure to properly verify the information on grassroots level, compliance with registration conditions and eligibility, and political parties expressed dissatisfaction with the commission’s neutrality in the allocation of election symbols.
- Despite extensive media coverage and TIB’s published analysis on the income and expenditure, dual citizenship, assets, overseas income and assets, loans, and liabilities declared in candidates’ affidavits, questions remain as to whether the accuracy and adequacy of this information were properly verified, whether the sources of income and assets were lawfully acquired, whether such verification would be conducted at all, and whether stern action would be taken in cases of discrepancies.

Role of the Election Commission

- The largest number of filing nomination appeals submitted by independent candidates also resulted in the highest number of rejections. Allegations are there of rejecting the nomination appeals of independent candidates due to inconsistencies in signatures of one percent supporter’s list, particularly, on the grounds that some of them were not found during verification.

Table 1: Nomination Form Verification and Appeal for Reconsideration

Political Parties	Verification of Nomination		Appeals for Nomination Reconsideration and Result	
	Submitted (individual)	Cancelled (individual/percentage)	Appeals	Granted (individual/percentage)
Independent candidates	478	350 (73.22%)	263	165 (62.7%)
BNP	301	27 (8.16%)	9	3 (33.3%)
NCP	44	2 (4.55%)	2	2 (100.0%)
Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami	276	9 (3.26%)	9	8 (88.9%)
Gonodhikar Parishad	104	28 (26.92%)	23	20 (86.9%)
Islamic Andolan Bangladesh	268	41 (15.30%)	39	36 (92.3%)
Jatiya Party	224	57(25.45)	53	34 (64.1%)

Role of Political Parties

- There were electoral understandings among political parties and alliances were formed for election which created internal conflicts and polarization within parties and alliances. There are also allegations of granting party’s nominations without properly assessing candidates’ competence. There were instances too where active candidates who contributed more to its party were deprived of nominations. In such a condition, more internal disputes, and violence was seen which projects the power politics.
- Digital platforms were used to disseminate false violence-related information to create instability and confuse voters. Propaganda news and disinformation was disseminated in social media through AI-generated videos, photo cards to influence the election.
- Candidates of political parties continued to use religion in their election campaign. Increased use of abusive, hateful, religiously prejudiced, and patriarchal harassment

targeting female candidates and their supporters on social media during election campaigns was observed.

- Candidates and supporters posted content on social media that are disrespectful to female as well as controversial. Female candidates' campaign was also obstructed by tearing of campaign materials and misogynistic remarks, propaganda, and increased obscenity and fanatic harassment on social media.
- Activist of political parties were arrested with illegal seals intended for use on election day and then contesting parties started spreading the allegation of election engineering.
- On the eve of the election night, activists of political parties were arrested in different parts of the country with huge amount of money suspected for distribution among voters to influence. The incidence of arrests during distribution was also reported across the country.
- In some cases, rival candidates, leaders and activists have given speeches threatening voters. The incidence of arrests of leaders and activists with weapons, attacks on opponents' campaign offices, polling centers in some constituencies, attempt to illegally enter into polling centers, and exert influence also occurred on the eve of the election night.
- Eleven-party alliance led by Jamat alleged irregularities, including capture of polling centers, use of administration to manipulate vote counting up to 10 percent and alter election results. They demanded recounting votes in 30 constituencies.

Bangladesh Awami League in the Election

- The Interim Government suspended the registration of Bangladesh Awami League as political party, and banned its activities and the student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League. On the other hand, Awami League consistently maintained its position that the July uprising and the interim government were illegal and is a result of wider conspiracy.
- Similarly, the Awami League, as organization, declared the election illegitimate and announced to resist the election. The party maintained an active presence in the election and overall, the election environment, playing a negative role.
- However, despite its organizational stance to resist the election, its activists and supporters participated in the election as voters at the field level. Although a portion may have boycotted the vote, this was also applicable to general voters.
- At the field level, several influential political parties participating in the election, particularly the BNP and Jamaat alliances and the Jatiya Party, competed to attract Awami League voters. In response, leaders and activists of AL engaged in this process and, in many cases, directly joined and actively campaigned for some contesting candidates of election.
- While the AL officially maintained an opposite institutional position as a party, unofficially its leaders, activists, and supporters has exercised their political rights, including voting. In both roles, the party had direct and indirect involvement.

Roles of Other Stakeholders

Role of Law Enforcement Agencies

- Despite joint forces' operations, the law-and-order situation deteriorated; snatching, robbery, mob violence continued.
- Within 24 hours of the announcement of election schedule, one of the potential contesting candidates was murdered. Attacks, shootings, and killings of political activists and opponents continued. The apparent indifference of law enforcement agencies raised questions about their role in ensuring an appropriate electoral environment.

Role of Government Employees, Election Organizers, and Other Stakeholders

- The Anti-Corruption Commission stated that it would verify the information provided in affidavits, but no visible steps were taken.
- Vice-chancellors and university teachers participated in political campaigns of different parties.
- Government employees participated in political party campaigns including singing songs and ghazals.
- The Ministry of Local Government allocated special financial grants for certain constituencies before the election. These allocations were intended for the development of religious and social institutions. Many believe that there was bias in favour of the party associated with the Adviser who resigned from this ministry before the elections.
- Assigned polling officers, presiding officers, and assistant presiding officers engaged in various irregularities:
 - In some constituencies, they attended secret meetings with party leaders and accepted hospitality on the day before the election.
 - On election day, they assisted in fraudulent voting by staffing ballots, pre-signing and stamping ballot papers including assisting in the the fake voting.

Role of Election Observers

- The observation missions from European Union, Commonwealth, and various foreign and local organizations stated that the 13th Parliamentary Election was competitive and credible one after 2008, which is considered a positive precedent for Bangladesh's future elections.

Role of the Media

- Government media outlets provided greater coverage of the activities of one particular political party and its top leader and played a visibly supportive role in the election campaign.
- The coverage of the election campaign in other media outlets shows the preponderance of campaign images and news about a dominant political party.
- News related to the election campaigns of participating women candidates and their activities received limited attention and coverage in most media outlets.

Role of Government Media

Between 1 October 2025 and 12 February 2026, BTV's 8 PM news devoted a total of 593 minutes and 55 seconds to election-related coverage concerning political parties and candidates. The estimated monetary value of this time amounts to Tk 5 crore 34 lakh 52 thousand 500. In disseminating information related to election campaigning, BNP received a predominant share of the coverage.

Table 2: News Coverage of the Political Parties in State-Owned Media (BTV)

Political Parties	Timeline			Total time spent	Estimated * total monetary value (Taka)	Total time spent (percentage)
	Pre-schedule announcement period (1 October - 11 December 2025)	schedule announcement to before the permitted time for campaign period (12 December 2025 - 21 January 2026)	During the permitted time for campaign period (22 - 31 January 2026)			
BNP	143 minutes 33 seconds	98 minutes 40 seconds	110 minutes 2 seconds	352 minutes 15 seconds	3,17,02,500	59.32
Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami	27 minutes 38 seconds	19 minutes 32 seconds	81 minutes 5 seconds	128 minutes 15 seconds	1,15,42,500	21.59
NCP	38 minutes 52 seconds	9 minutes 8 seconds	22 minutes 39 seconds	70 minutes 39 seconds	63,58,500	11.89
Jatiya Party	0 minutes	0 minutes	0 minutes	0 minutes	0	0
Independent Candidates	0 minutes	0 minutes	10 seconds	10 seconds	15,000	0.03
Others Political Parties	25 minutes 37 seconds	5 minutes 3 seconds	11 minutes 56 seconds	42 minutes 36 seconds	38,34,000	7.17
Total	235 minutes 40 seconds	132 minutes 23 seconds	225 minutes 52 seconds	593 minutes 55 seconds	5,34,52,500	100.00

*Among the other political parties are AB Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Gono Forum, Ganosamhati Andolon, Ganodhikar Parishad, Bangladesh Labour Party, Khelafat Majlish, CPB, Insoniyat Bangladesh, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Revolutionary Workers Party.

**According to the terrestrial broadcast advertisement rate published on BTV’s website, based on the rate for every 10 seconds of “spot advertisement” aired during ‘peak time’ news.

Compliance with Candidate’s Electoral Code of Conduct

- 99 percent of candidates violated one of the electoral code of conduct. Among those-
 - Use of campaign materials without mentioning the information of printing press.
 - Processions with vehicles, torch processions, show-downs, etc.
 - Tearing or damaging opponent candidate’s posters, banners, or festoons.
 - Submission of nomination papers with more than five supporters.

Table 3: Rate of Violations by Party-based candidates in the Total 58 Code of Conduct issues

Violation of Code of Conduct (Number)	BNP (66)	NCP (11)	Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (52)	Jatiya Party (6)	Islami Andolon Bangladesh (35)	Independent candidates (14)	Others (24)	Overall (208)
1-10	19.7%	45.5%	7.7%	50.0%	48.6%	14.3%	45.8%	26.4%
11-20	31.8%	54.5%	51.9%	50.0%	34.3%	28.6%	25%	38.0%
21-30	30.3%	-	28.8%	-	5.7%	35.7%	12.5%	21.6%
31-40	13.6%	-	11.5%	-	11.4%	14.3%	12.5%	11.5%
40 >	4.5%	-	-	-	-	7.1%	4.2%	2.5%

Irregularities committed on the polling day

Multiple incidents of irregularities occurred in the 40 percent of 70 sampling constituencies.

- Among these, in 28.6 percent of constituencies, complaints were filed by candidates regarding irregularities and law and order violations; in response to the complaints the concerned authorities took action in 75 percent of constituencies.

Table 4: Irregularities on Election Day in 70 Sample Constituencies

Type of Irregularity*	Percentage of Constituencies
Threatening voters or preventing them from entering the polling station	46.4
Forcing voters to vote for a specific symbol	35.7
Fake vote	21.4
Inaction of the administration and law enforcement agencies in preventing violations of rules/breach of law and order/irregularities	21.4
Stamping ballot before voting	14.3
Capturing polling booth	14.3
Not allowing the opponent's polling agent to enter the center	14.3
Non-cooperation by law enforcement to voters	10.7

Type of Irregularity*	Percentage of Constituencies
Partisan activities of presiding officers and responsible staffs	10.7
Restrictions on information flow and communication (slowdown of networks and obstruction of journalists' vehicles)	7.1
Preventing journalists from collecting information of election at polling stations	7.1
Allegations of biased activities against law enforcement agencies	7.1
Allegations of fraud in vote counting	7.1
Running out of ballot papers	3.6
Obstructing election observers to observe election	3.6
Others	3.6

*Multiple Answer

Election Day

- **Irregularities that occurred at polling centers on election day:**
 - There have been incidents of attacks on independent female candidates, intimidation outside polling stations, and expulsion of independent candidates' polling agents from polling stations.
 - In some polling centers, agents of competing candidates were not allowed to enter and there were cases of agents were thrown out, and sitting there themselves, posing as agents.
 - Candidates' workers harassed voters under the pretext of fabricated rules, gave votes for others, and distributed money during the ongoing voting.
 - Besides, many people entered the booth together and illegally sealed the ballot papers, law enforcement officers intimidated polling agents of independent candidates, harassed agents, etc.
- Additionally, many voters were unable to cast their votes because their names and photos did not match the voter list.
- Although voting was not suspended or halted at any polling centers, clashes occurred in some places of the country between supporters of the BNP and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, as well as between supporters of the BNP and rebel BNP candidates.

Post-Electoral Conflict

Table 5: Post-Election Situation in Sampling Constituencies

Post-Election Situation (Findings from 70 Constituencies)	Number of Post-Election Conflict
Clashes Between Rival Political Parties	45
Threatening rival voters, activists, and supporters	34
Vandalism of homes and offices of political activists and supporters and attacks on businesses	18
Clashes among rebel candidates within the same party	16

Bomb or explosions, use of illegal weapons and gunfire	5
Forced extortion or collection of money from rival supporters and voters	3
Protests against the election result	2
Confrontations with the administration or law-enforcement agencies	1
Attacks on religious and ethnic minority voters	1

Campaign Expenditure of Political Parties and Candidates: Online

- Political parties and candidates have spent uncontrollably on election campaigns through social media.

Table 6: Party-wise Expenditure of Facebook campaign

Political Parties	Election schedule announcement to before polling day (22 Sept 2025 - 10 Feb 2026)				
	Party's Page (number)	Expenditure (A)	Candidate's Page (number)	Expenditure (B)	Total Expenditure (A+B)
BNP	21	1,24,52,532	111	1,75,34,780	2,99,87,312
Bangladesh Jamaat e-Islami	8	28,62,160	107	1,06,56,200	1,35,18,360
NCP	4	23,426	13	10,59,451	10,82,877
Islami Andolon	4	70,892	17	20,08,639	20,79,531
AB Party	2	3,066	5	3,26,126	3,29,192

Note: Expenditure data for Facebook pages has been compiled based on information obtained from Meta platforms. Candidates and parties may have additional pages and campaigns on other social media platforms which are not included in this calculation. **Exchange Rate:** 1 USD = 122.65 BDT

Candidates' Election Campaign Expenditure (70 Constituencies)

The maximum average expenditure limit for candidates is Tk 44 lac 24 thousand 877 (calculated at Tk 10 for each voter in a constituency). However, the candidates spent an average of Tk 1 crore 19 lac 23 thousand 832. Overall, the candidates spent an average of Tk 74 lakh 98 thousand 955 taka (169.5 percent) more than the expenditure limit.

Table 7: Candidates Campaign Expenditure by Party

Political Party (Number of Candidates)	Average Spending and Maximum Spending Limit per Constituency (in Taka / Calculated at 10 Taka per voter)					Expenditure More/Less Than the Limit (Percentage)
	Pre-schedule announcement time (4 - 11 December 2025)	Announcement of the schedule to finalisation of nominations (12 Dec 2025 - 21 Jan 2026)	Finalization of nominations to election (22 Jan - 12 Feb 2026)	Overall cost	Prescribed Maximum Spending Limit	
BNP (66)	20,52,281	37,43,180	1,31,18,001	1,89,13,462	44,24,687	327.5
Independent (14)	68,52,943	14,48,267	93,39,097	1,76,40,307	42,48,907	315.2
Bangladesh Jamaat e Islami (52)	14,11,860	11,08,169	86,02,433	1,11,22,462	42,92,629	159.1
Jatiya Party (7)	3,21,000	3,64,045	92,38,315	99,23,360	43,40,250	128.6
Others (24)	2,09,406	4,97,366	61,85,862	68,92,634	44,15,715	56.1
NCP (11)	1,91,670	3,52,404	48,82,607	54,26,681	45,59,951	19.0
Islami Andolon Bangladesh (36)	8,36,089	3,40,296	25,95,931	37,72,316	46,45,058	-18.8

*Among the other parties are Gono Odhikar Parishad, JonotarDal, JASAD, Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, AB Party, Bangladesh Communist Party, Bangladesh Islami Front, and the Revolutionary Workers Party.

Figure 3: Average expenditure of candidates against the maximum average expenditure limit (in Tk/calculated Tk 10 per voter)

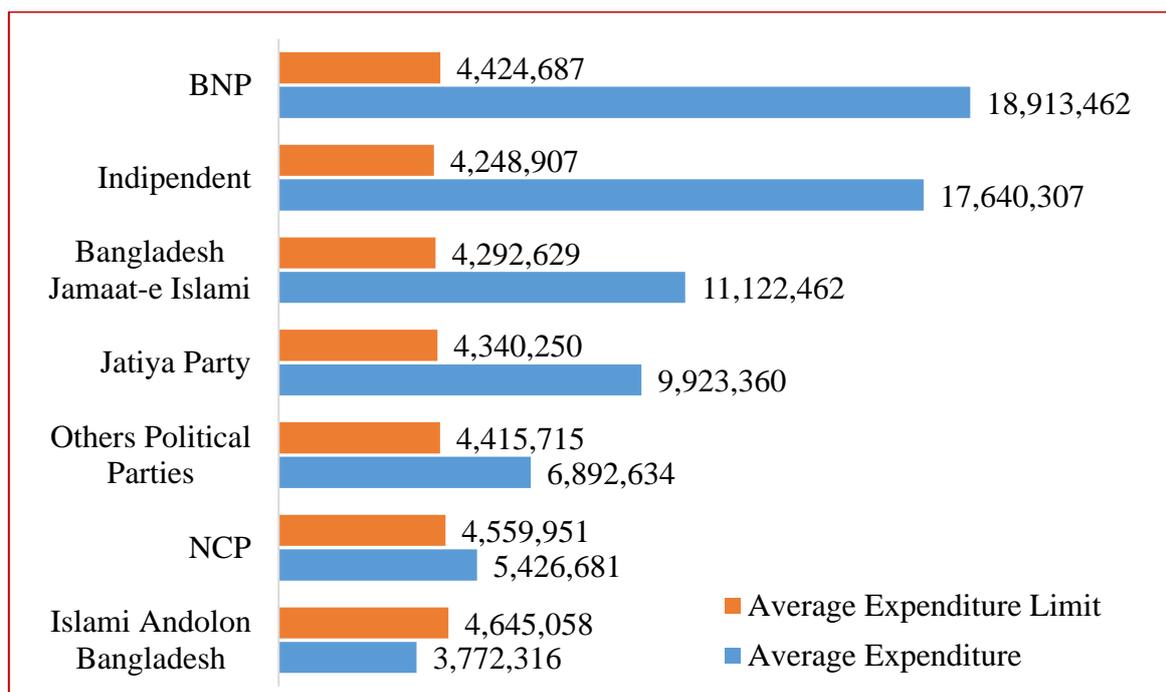
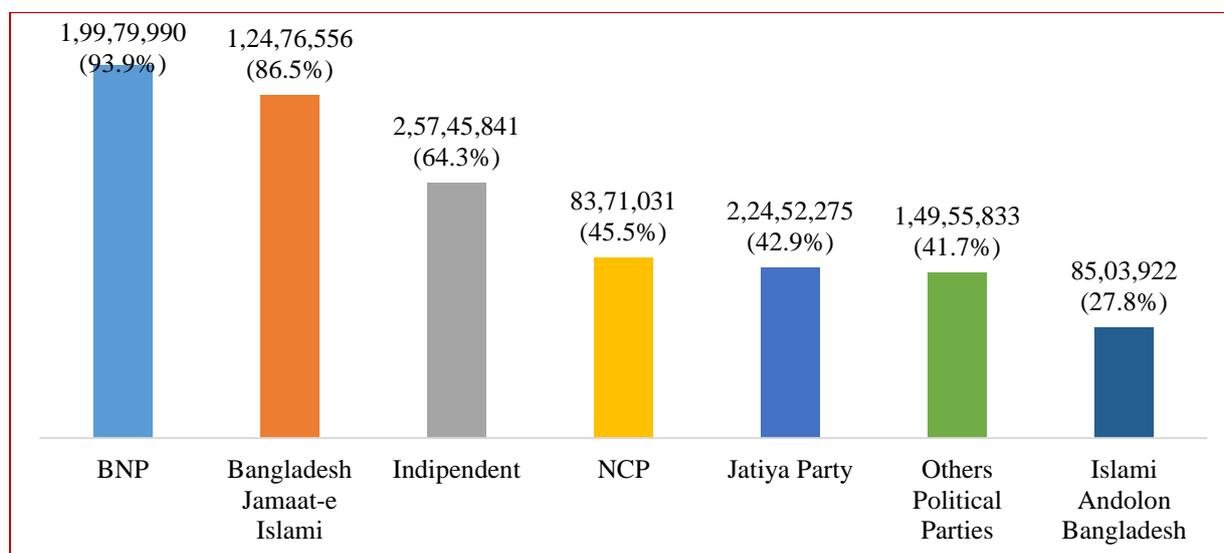


Figure 4: Proportion of Expenditure Limit Violations by Political Party Candidates Compared to the Average Candidate Expenditure (Based on BDT 10 per voter) in the Study Constituencies



*Among the other parties are Gono Odhikar Parishad, JonotarDal, JASAD, Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, AB Party, Bangladesh Communist Party, Bangladesh Islami Front, and the Revolutionary Workers Party.

- A total of 68.6 percent (144 candidates) of candidates exceeded the maximum average permitted limit of election campaign expenditures. Among those who exceeded this threshold, the average amount spent was Tk 1 crore 64 lac 98 thousand 101.

Table 7: Expenditures by Category for Candidates in Election Campaigns

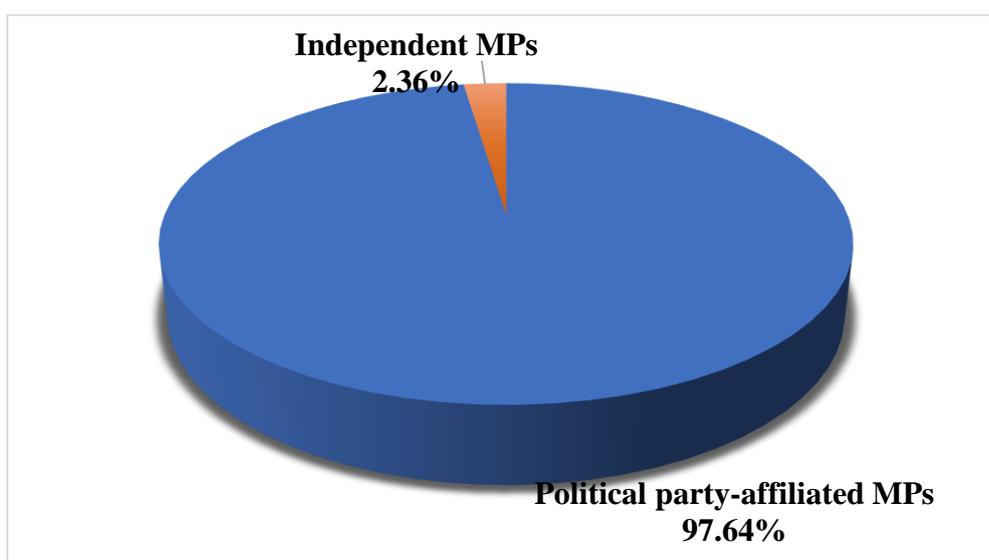
Category of Expenditure	Average Expenditure (in Taka) Up to the Announcement of the Schedule	Average expenditure from the announcement of the election schedule to the finalization of nominations (in Taka)	Average expenditure from the finalization of nominations to the pooling day (in Taka)
A donation/expense to the party office for nomination purpose	2,51,643	3,08,948	-
Black and white poster	15,215	816	11,843
Multi-colour Poster	61,992	1,703	3,616
Banner	1,23,309	6,551	4,21,669
Leaflet / Handbill	81,407	17,335	2,61,107
Billboard	1,00,996	1,900	92,828
Wall writing	2,530	167	85
Rally / procession	1,06,826	72,364	4,36,851
Production and public display of electoral symbols	6,181	703	37,410
Procession	1,92,502	79,874	5,14,684
Miking	3,588	1,546	3,06,288

Public rally	25,186	333	3,526
Voter Outreach/ Grassroots campaigning	1,28,650	4,50,985	10,17,363
Travel/Transportation Expenses	43,309	1,05,901	7,81,178
Food	40,383	1,34,009	8,40,811
Expenses for Party Agents and Workers	18,065	22,697	17,00,590
Expense on celebration	15,214	30,879	3,638
Donating to social organizations	41,318	86,902	38,945
Mobile bill	616	2,008	24,169
Campaign office operating expenses	3,487	29,809	11,56,175
Festoon	1,30,750	11,125	1,70,658
Others	2,42,416	2,80,905	7,45,851

13th Parliament: Political Composition

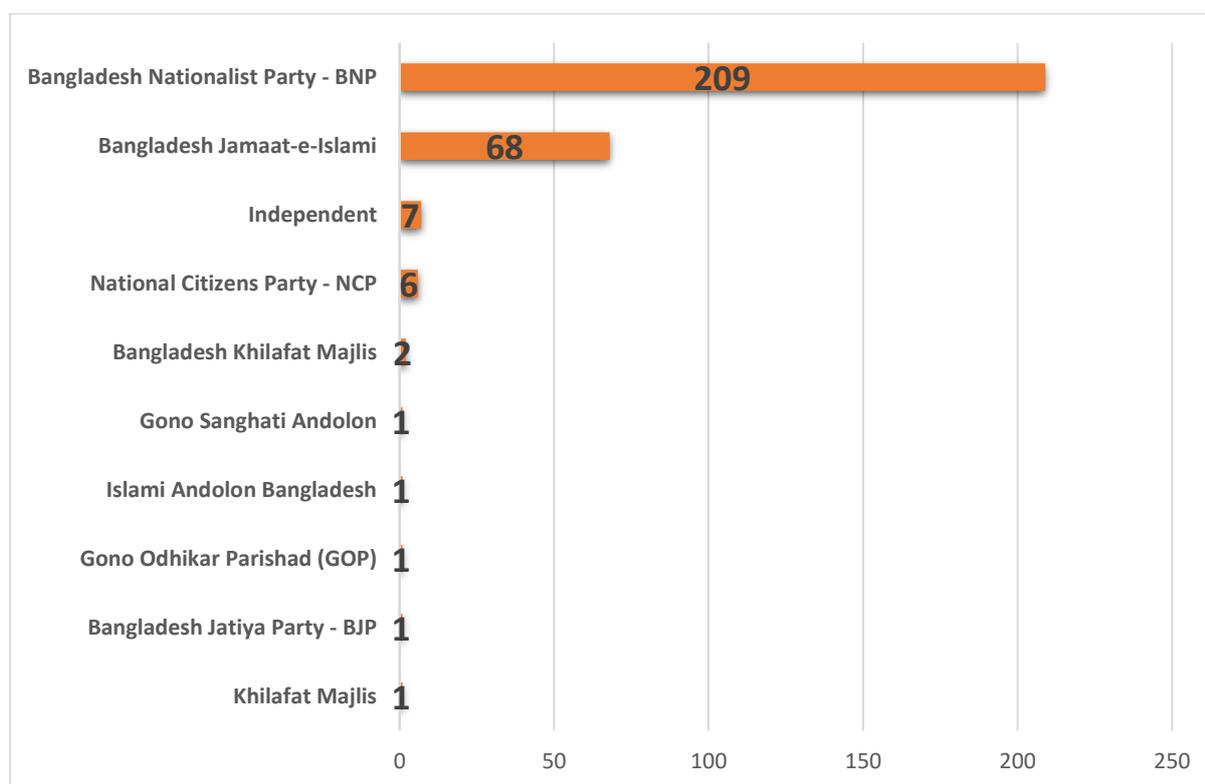
More than 2,000 candidates from 50 political parties contested the 13th National Parliamentary Election across 300 constituencies. Election results were announced for 297 constituencies, as the Election Commission (EC) has withheld results of the Chattogram-2 and Chattogram-4 races and suspended the election in Sherpur-2, pending Supreme Court rulings on legal challenges. Candidates from nine political parties were elected as Members of Parliament, along with seven independent candidates. In percentage terms, independent MPs represent only 2.36% of the total, while 97.64% of elected MPs are affiliated with political parties. It is observed that despite efforts to show broader political parties' participation, no more than 09 political parties have been elected to Parliament since 2008.

Figure 5: Independent vs Political party-affiliated MPs ratio



If we look at the party-wise distribution, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured the largest number of seats, winning 209 out of 297 declared constituencies, establishing a dominant majority in parliament. The Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami emerged as the second-largest party with 68 seats. Independent candidates won only 7 seats. Among smaller parties, the National Citizens Party (NCP) won 6 seats, while Bangladesh Khilafat Majlis secured 2 seats. Several other parties—including Gono Sanghati Andolon, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Gono Odhikar Parishad (GOP), Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), and Khilafat Majlis—each won 1 seat, indicating minimal parliamentary representation.

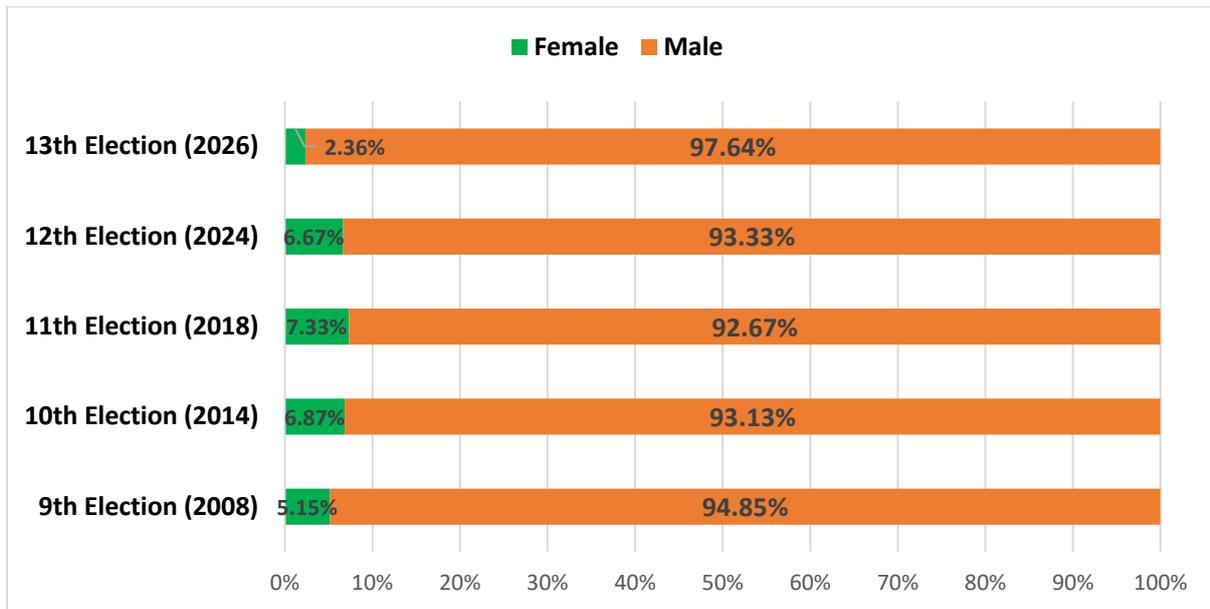
Figure 6: Party-wise distribution of MPs in the 13th Parliament



13th Parliament: Gender Composition

From a gender perspective, the 13th Parliament recorded the lowest number of directly elected women MPs since the 9th Parliament in 2008, with only seven women securing seats. Of these, six were elected from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), while one was elected as an independent candidate. In the 13th Election (2026), female representation reached its lowest level at only 2.36%, while male MPs accounted for 97.64%. Female representation was higher in earlier elections, with 7.33% in the 11th Election (2018), 6.87% in the 10th Election (2014), 6.67% in the 12th Election (2024), and 5.15% in the 9th Election (2008).

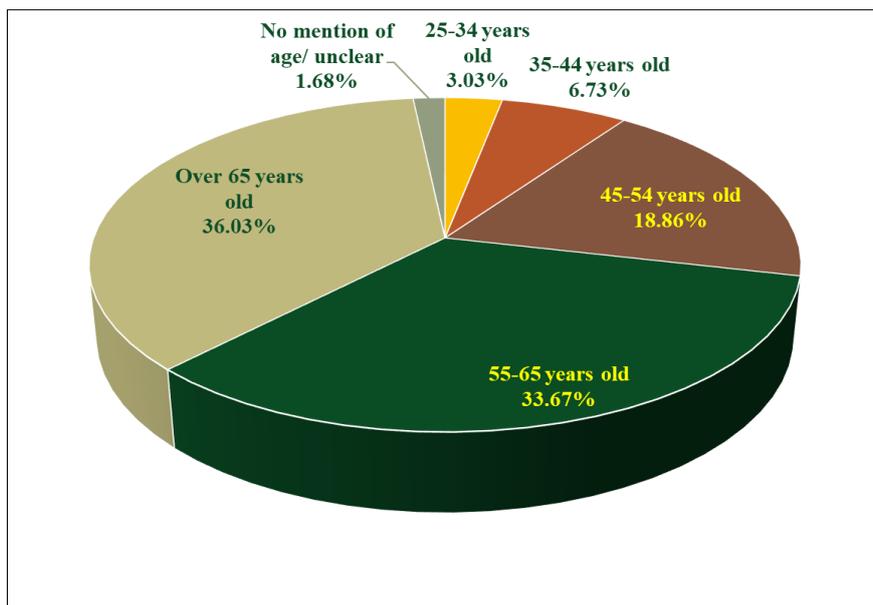
Figure 7: Election-wise directly elected women MPs ratio



13th Parliament: Age Composition of MPs

From the perspective of age, largest share of MPs—36.03%—are aged over 65 years, indicating that more than one-third of the Parliament consists of senior political leaders. This is followed by 33.67% of MPs aged between 55 and 65 years, meaning that nearly 70% of the Parliament falls within the 55+ age category. The 45–54 years age group accounts for 18.86%, representing a moderate presence of mid-career political actors. Younger representation remains limited. Only 6.73% of MPs are aged 35–44 years, and just 3.03% fall within the 25–34 years category, highlighting the significant underrepresentation of youth in Parliament. Additionally, 1.68% of MPs did not have clear or disclosed age information.

Figure 8: Age distribution of 13th Parliament MPs

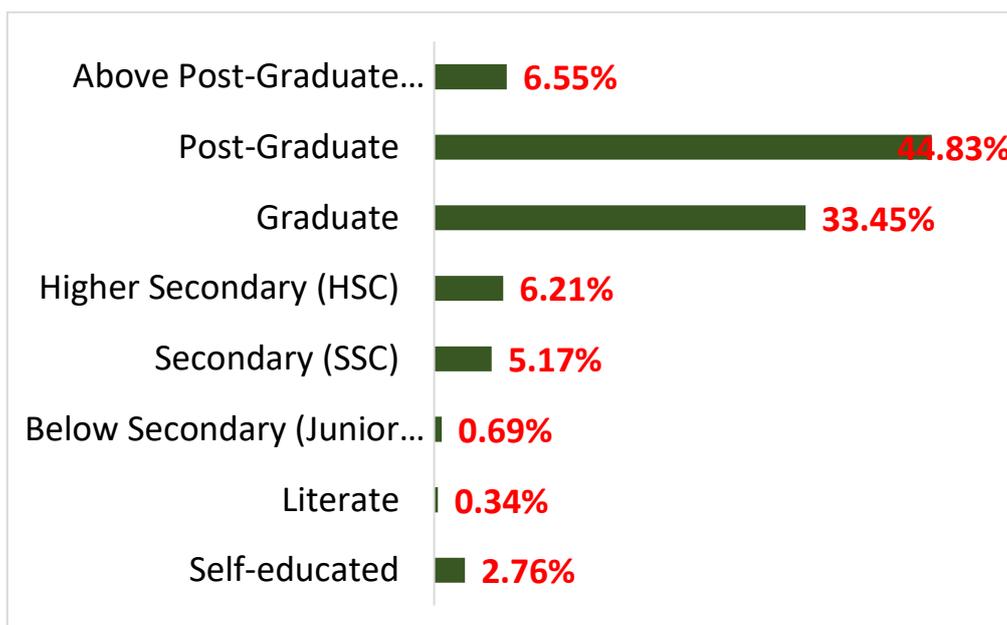


The average age of MPs in the 13th Parliament is 59, which is the lowest since 2008. Moreover, more than 220 MPs have been elected for the first time, meaning that nearly two-thirds of the Parliament consists of new members. Notably, both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition are serving as MPs for the first time.

13th Parliament: Educational Qualification of the Elected MPs

If we decode educational qualification of the elected members it reveals that the largest proportion of MPs—44.83%—hold postgraduate degrees, making it the most common educational qualification. This is followed by 33.45% who have undergraduate (graduate) degrees, meaning that more than three-quarters (over 78%) of MPs possess at least a university degree. Additionally, 6.55% have qualifications above postgraduate level, including doctoral or higher degrees, reflecting a notable presence of advanced academic credentials in Parliament. A relatively small proportion of MPs have lower levels of formal education. 6.21% completed Higher Secondary (HSC), while 5.17% completed Secondary (SSC) education. Only 0.69% fall below secondary education, and 0.34% are listed as literate without formal schooling, representing the lowest categories. Meanwhile, 2.76% are classified as self-educated.

Figure 9: Distribution of Educational Qualification of the Elected MPs

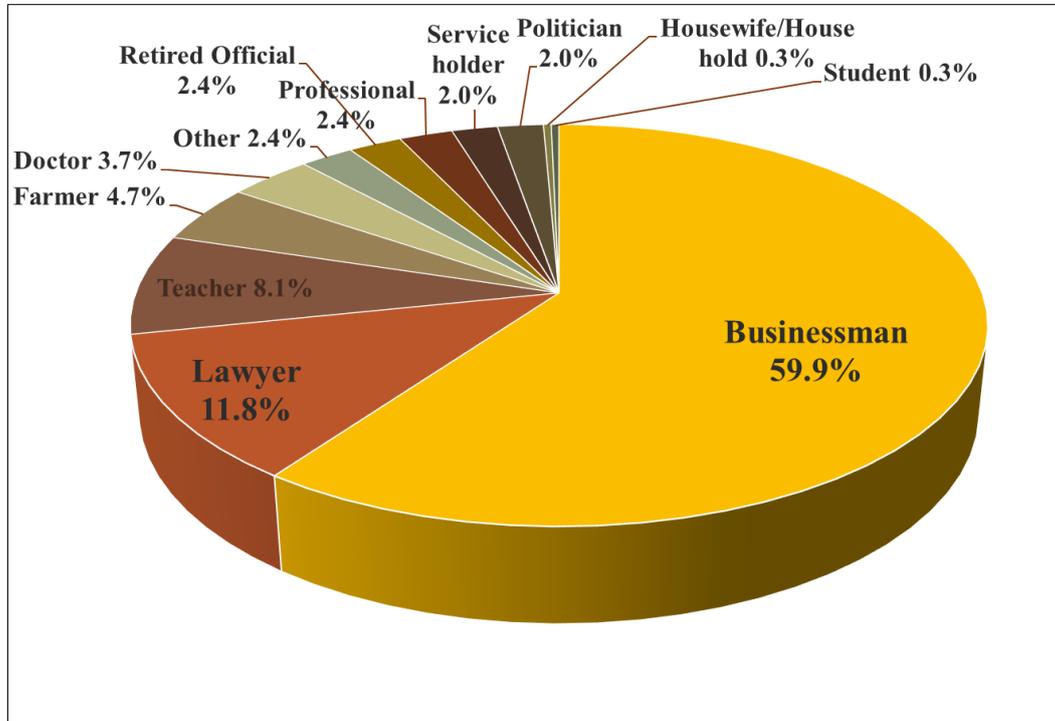


13th Parliament: Occupation of the Elected MPs

The largest share of MPs—59.9%—are businessmen, indicating that nearly three out of every five MPs come from business backgrounds. This highlights the significant influence of the business community in parliamentary representation. The second largest group consists of lawyers, who account for 11.8%, followed by teachers at 8.1%, reflecting the presence of professionals with legal and academic expertise. Other professions are represented in much smaller proportions. Farmers make up 4.7%, while doctors account for 3.7%. Several categories each represent around 2.0% to 2.4%, including retired officials (2.4%), professionals (2.4%), other occupations (2.4%), service holders (2.0%), and politicians (2.0%) whose

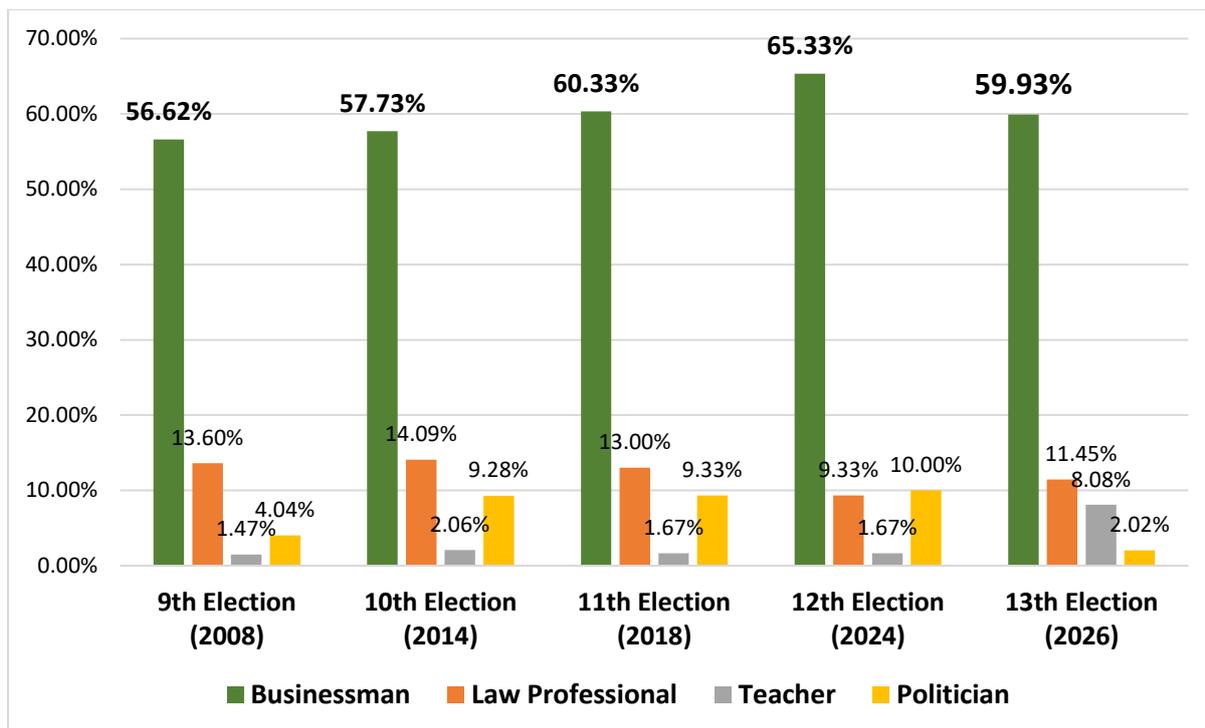
primary occupation is listed as political work. Very small proportions include students (0.3%) and housewives/household workers (0.3%), indicating minimal representation from these groups.

Figure-10: Distribution of occupation of the elected MPs



Compared to the 12th Parliament (65.33%), the proportion of businessmen in the 13th Parliament declined by about 5 percentage points (59.93%), though it remains approximately 3 percentage points (56.62%) higher than in the 9th Parliament, underscoring the continued dominance of business backgrounds in national parliament and in politics. Law professionals fluctuated moderately, starting at 13.6% in 2008, peaking at 14.09% in 2014, and declining to 11.8% in 2026. At the same time, the 13th Parliament recorded the highest representation of teachers (8.08%) among the last four parliaments, reflecting a modest increase in professional diversity. In contrast, the share of career politicians dropped to its lowest level (2.02%) over this period, indicating a gradual shift away from traditional political career pathways toward candidates with professional and sectoral backgrounds.

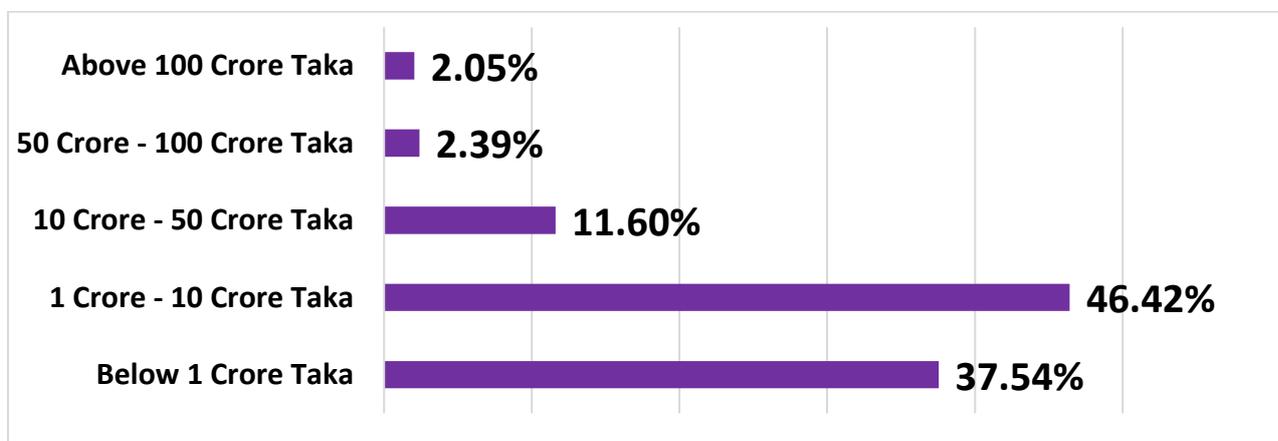
Figure 11: Parliament-wise occupation of MPs



13th Parliament: Income and assets of elected MPs

In the 13th Parliament, 67.34% of MPs (200 members) report annual incomes exceeding BDT 10 lakh (1 million), including 48 MPs whose declared annual income is above BDT 1 crore (10 million). The analysis of movable assets shows that all 184 elected Members of Parliament (MPs) are crorepati (multi-millionaires), indicating that every MP possesses movable assets exceeding BDT 1 crore. Average wealth of 13th Parliament members is BDT 09 crore (90 Million). This reflects a highly affluent parliamentary composition.

Figure 12: Distribution of movable assets of elected MPs



The largest proportion of MPs—46.42%—have movable assets between BDT 1 crore and BDT 10 crore, making this the most common wealth bracket among MPs. This is followed by 37.54% of MPs whose movable assets are below BDT 1 crore. A smaller but significant segment of MPs belongs to the higher wealth brackets. 11.60% of MPs possess movable assets between BDT 10 crore and BDT 50 crore, while 2.39% have assets between BDT 50 crore and BDT 100 crore. Additionally, 2.05% of MPs have movable assets exceeding BDT 100 crore, representing the ultra-wealthy segment of parliament.

When both movable and immovable assets are combined, 236 MPs qualify as crorepati (multi-millionaires), accounting for 79.46% of the total Members of Parliament. Among them, 13 MPs are billionaires.

Table 8: Top 10 Billionaire MPs

Candidate	Constituency	Party	Total Movable & Immovable Assets (in crore BDT)
Abdul Awal Mintoo	267 Feni-3	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	607.94
Fakhar Uddin Ahmed	156 Mymensingh 11	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	299.94
Zakaria Taher	256 Cumilla 8	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	292.20
Md. Jalal Uddin	261 Chadpur 2	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	233.72
Golam Mohammad Siraj	040 Bagura 5	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	206.52
Md. Shafiqur Rahman (Kiron)	222 Shariatpur 2	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	185.94
Hamidur Rahman	180 Dhaka 7	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	161.14
Naser Rahman	237 Moulvibazar 3	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	141.80
Md. Abdul Hannan	263 Chadpur 4	Independent	120.74
Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee	276 Lakshmipur 3	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	114.48

13th Parliament: Liabilities or Debts of MPs

Half of the members of the 13th Parliament have declared liabilities or debts, including 62% of BNP MPs and 16% of Jamaat-e-Islami MPs. The total declared liabilities of MPs in the 13th Parliament amount to BDT 11,356 crore, marking the highest level recorded in the last four parliaments. By comparison, total liabilities stood at BDT 10,382 crore in the 12th Parliament, BDT 6,423.69 crore in the 11th Parliament, BDT 3,624.83 crore in the 10th Parliament, and BDT 1,107.77 crore in the 9th Parliament, indicating a sharp and consistent increase in financial liabilities among MPs over time

Overall Observation:

- At the beginning of the election campaign, signs of relatively healthy competition were observed. Over time, political parties and candidates have returned to, and continued, an entrenched pattern of violent electoral practices. Consequently, conflicts between parties and alliances, intra-party disputes, unhealthy competition for power, and violence have intensified gradually and continuing into the post-election period.
- Alongside the election violence, instability and voter anxiety was increased due to the declaration and action of the anti-election activities by the fallen authoritarian regime.
- As in previous elections, political parties and candidates relied on money, religion, muscle power, patriarchal norms, and majoritarian influence. Notably, the use of money and religion increased significantly in the 13th National Election compared to previous national elections.
- The efforts and competency of the Election Commission and other stakeholders were evident in holding a free, fair, transparent, and level playing field, as well as a peaceful election. However, in many cases, the Commission was unable to effectively exercise its powers to prevent political conflicts, code of conduct violations, irregularities, and unhealthy competition.
- Overall 99 percent of candidates violated at least one of the 58 election code of conduct.
- Despite widespread violations and irregularities observed at nearly all stages of the election, both online and offline, the Commission was unable to exercise full regulatory oversight due to its institutional limitations. As a result, it was neither possible to ensure a level playing field for all parties and candidates nor to create a fully fair, impartial, and safe election environment for all.
- Government officials involved in organizing the elections, particularly some members of administrative and law-enforcement agencies, demonstrated apparent failures and irregularities and failed to take action to ensure a fair, healthy, and uninfluenced election environment.
- Political parties and candidates have shown little cooperation with the Election Commission to implement the electoral code of conduct. In many instances, their actions went against the basic principles of fair competition, which are essential for ensuring a level playing field for all competing candidates.
- Major political parties pledged to adhere to the electoral code of conduct but did not exercise in practice. Candidates continued to exceed their permitted expenditure limits in election campaigns like as in previous elections.

- Limits on campaign spending were frequently violated both online and offline, with occurrences observed both per category and combined. The rate of violations is highest among the top two parties of BNP and Jamaat. Direct campaign spending exceeded the prescribed limits by approximately 19% to 328%. Specifically, BNP exceeded the limit by 327.5%, independents by 315.2%, Jamaat by 159.1%, Jatiya Party by 128.6%, and NCP by 19.0%.
- Overall, the election was free, participatory, competitive, and inclusive. However, many parties and candidates did not fully adhere to the code of conduct. Despite the fall of the authoritarian government, a “win at any cost” mentality remained among political actors. Although the Election Commission and other authorities took action in certain cases, their action failed to meet the expectations for a “new Bangladesh.
- The 13th Parliament reflects a significant generational shift, with 209 MPs (70%) entering Parliament for the first time, making it one of the most politically refreshed legislatures in recent history. This transition is particularly notable as both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition are first-time MPs, indicating a major leadership turnover.
- At the same time, the Parliament remains highly educated, with 84.83% of MPs holding graduate or higher degrees, including nearly 45% with postgraduate qualifications. This suggests strong formal educational credentials among lawmakers, which may enhance legislative capacity and policy engagement.
- Gender representation has sharply declined, with women constituting only 2.36% of directly elected MPs—the lowest level since the 9th Parliament in 2008 and half of its representation. This regression highlights persistent structural barriers to women’s political participation and raises concerns about inclusiveness and gender balance in democratic representation.
- Professionally, businesspersons continue to dominate Parliament, accounting for around 60% of MPs. Although this share has slightly declined compared to the 12th Parliament, it remains higher than earlier parliaments, reinforcing the sustained influence of business interests in political decision-making.
- The financial profile of MPs reveals a high concentration of wealth and rising financial exposure. Nearly four out of five MPs (79.46%) are crorepatis, including 13 billionaires, reflecting the growing presence of economically powerful individuals in Parliament. At the same time, half of the MPs have declared liabilities, with total debts

reaching BDT 11,356 crore—the highest among the last four parliaments. The high levels of wealth combined with substantial liabilities, particularly among major political parties, raise important questions about financial interests, potential conflicts of interest, and the broader relationship between wealth, political power, and governance.

Annex:

Table 7: Candidate's Compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct (Percentage)

Types of Electoral Code of Conduct Violations	Party							Overall
	BNP	NCP	Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami	Jatiya Party	Islami Andolon Bangladesh	Independent	Others	
Using leaflets, handbills, festoons, banners, or billboards that do not include the name and address of the printing press and the date of printing.	92.4	81.8	98.1	85.7	83.3	92.9	66.7	88.6
Using microphones at sound levels exceeding 60 decibels.	93.9	81.8	94.2	71.4	75.0	100.0	79.2	88.1
Printing and Displaying Posters	92.4	63.6	96.2	28.6	72.2	92.9	62.5	82.9
Organizing vehicle processions, torch processions, showdowns, and concerts	92.4	72.7	96.2	42.9	52.8	92.9	50.0	79.0
Using polythene covers and PVC or other non-biodegradable materials for banners, leaflets, handbills, and festoons.	68.2	36.4	76.9	28.6	52.8	85.7	50.0	63.8
Submitting nomination papers with more than five (5) supporters, including the candidate or their representative.	78.8	36.4	65.4	57.1	44.4	57.1	45.8	61.4
Using a microphone outside of the hours of 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM	72.7	45.5	63.5	42.9	36.1	71.4	45.8	58.6
Campaigning for elections in places of worship.	65.2	27.3	75.0	28.6	47.2	57.1	37.5	57.6
Displaying more than 20 billboards.	77.3	27.3	75.0	0.0	30.6	57.1	12.5	54.8
Providing drinks or food, giving gifts, and offering money at election camps	69.7	27.3	57.7	42.9	41.7	57.1	29.2	53.3
Holding rallies/Stage on busy roads or areas that obstruct public movement	66.7	36.4	51.9	28.6	25.0	64.3	20.8	47.6
Use of symbols, names, or pictures of any political figure other than the candidate's own picture and the picture and symbol of the party leader	83.3	27.3	36.5	0.0	13.9	64.3	16.7	45.2
Setting up multiple camps or offices in each ward of the union, municipality, or city corporation area.	68.2	27.3	51.9	14.3	19.4	57.1	16.7	45.2
Using festoons larger than 18 inches by 24 inches	57.6	0.0	51.9	0.0	30.6	42.9	29.2	42.4
Using Banners lager than maximum 10 feet × 4 feet	59.1	9.1	48.1	14.3	22.2	42.9	25.0	41.0
Participating in an election campaign on behalf of a candidate by a government official or beneficiary	54.5	27.3	50.0	42.9	13.9	28.6	8.3	37.6
Giving or promising to give any kind of donation before the election	50.0	9.1	30.8	0.0	22.2	64.3	20.8	34.3
Dissemination of hateful, false, distorted, obscene or defamatory information	45.5	0.0	46.2	14.3	16.7	35.7	12.5	32.9
Using billboards larger than 16 feet by 9 feet.	42.4	18.2	36.5	28.6	19.4	28.6	16.7	31.4

Types of Electoral Code of Conduct Violations								
	BNP	NCP	Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami	Jatiya Party	Islami Andolon Bangladesh	Independent	Others	Overall
Using drone or quadcopter in election campaigns	47.0	36.4	42.3	14.3	2.8	42.9	0.0	31.0
Holding processions or showdowns during nomination filing	43.9	9.1	36.5	14.3	11.1	42.9	16.7	30.5
Using pandals larger than 400 square feet	47.0	36.4	25.0	0.0	16.7	57.1	4.2	30.0
Establishing of gates or arches	47.0	0.0	28.8	0.0	13.9	35.7	4.2	27.1
Campaigning activities 48 hours before voting begins	34.8	18.2	28.8	28.6	16.7	28.6	20.8	27.1
Holding public meetings without permission from relevant authority	42.4	9.1	25.0	14.3	16.7	35.7	4.2	26.2
Placing leaflets, handbills, festoons, banners, etc., on rival candidates, or defacing, damaging, or removing rivals' materials	43.9	9.1	28.8	0.0	0.0	42.9	16.7	26.2
Engaging in personal character assassination and delivering bitter or provocative speeches, or making statements that hurt gender, communal, or religious sentiment	34.8	27.3	25.0	14.3	0.0	50.0	16.7	24.3
Using force or spending money to influence voters	36.4	0.0	21.2	0.0	8.3	50.0	16.7	23.3
Using hate speech, personal attacks or provocative language targeting women, minorities or any other community	36.4	9.1	21.2	14.3	2.8	28.6	16.7	21.9
Distributing voter slips within 400 yards of a polling station	30.3	18.2	21.2	28.6	13.9	21.4	8.3	21.4
Receiving any kind of reception by candidate	34.8	9.1	21.2	0.0	0.0	42.9	8.3	20.5
Approving a project, unveiling a plaque, or participating in a related meeting	37.9	9.1	17.3	14.3	8.3	14.3	4.2	20.0
Using election symbols on posters exceeding three meters in length, width, or height	15.2	0.0	40.4	0.0	11.1	28.6	4.2	19.0
Setting up election camps on roads or public places	31.8	0.0	17.3	0.0	8.3	28.6	12.5	19.0
Using leaflets or handbills larger than A4 size	24.2	0.0	17.3	0.0	22.2	21.4	8.3	18.1
Causing disruptions to others' peace through unwanted noise or disorderly behavior	30.3	0.0	11.5	14.3	5.6	42.9	8.3	17.6
Blocking opponents' road rallies, house meetings, or other campaign events.	33.3	0.0	5.8	14.3	2.8	35.7	4.2	15.7
Using voter slips larger than 12 cm by 8 cm	27.3	18.2	13.5	0.0	8.3	14.3	4.2	15.7
Printing pictures on posters showing people leading a ceremony or procession, praying, etc.	21.2	0.0	11.5	0.0	5.6	28.6	4.2	12.9
Writing or drawing on walls for election campaigns.	13.6	0.0	5.8	0.0	22.2	7.1	4.2	10.5
Using in circuit houses, Dak Bungalow for election campaign	9.1	9.1	13.5	0.0	2.8	7.1	0.0	7.6

Types of Electoral Code of Conduct Violations								
	BNP	NCP	Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami	Jatiya Party	Islami Andolon Bangladesh	Independent	Others	Overall
Using of helicopters or any other aircraft for election campaigns (except for party leaders and Secretary General) and distribution of campaign materials	13.6	0.0	3.8	14.3	0.0	7.1	4.2	6.7
Entering polling station of the candidates or supporter for any other purpose than voting purpose	10.6	0.0	5.8	14.3	2.8	0.0	4.2	6.2
Campaigning for election while serving as president or board member of an educational institution	4.5	0.0	7.7	0.0	5.6	0.0	8.3	5.2
Damaging any citizen's land, building, or other property during the election period	6.1	0.0	5.8	14.3	0.0	7.1	4.2	4.8
Using live animals as symbols in election campaigns	7.6	0.0	1.9	14.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	4.3
Lighting as part of the campaign	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Using state-owned media for candidate's election campaign	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Facing obstacles from rival candidates while filing nomination papers	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	1.0