



2015 CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS

ELECTION WORKING GROUP OBSERVATION REPORT



OCTOBER 2015

Acknowledgements

This report been produced by the Election Working Group (EWG) based on the findings of its long-term and short-term observation of the city corporation elections held on April 28, 2015 in Dhaka and Chittagong.

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Steering Committee

Election Working Group

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Executive Summary

In December 2014, following a cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina indicated her desire to see the Dhaka North (DNCC), Dhaka South (DSCC) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections be held in the first half of 2015. While the Chittagong City Corporation elections were indeed due following the five year term of the government expiration in 2015, Dhaka had not held City Corporation elections since 2002. During this extended absence of elections, the national government had replaced the elected mayor (whose tenure was due to end in 2007) with administrators in 2011, and bifurcated the corporation into Dhaka North and Dhaka South corporations in 2011. While intermittent pressure was applied to the government as to the delay in holding elections in Dhaka, there had not been significant public scrutiny of the issue leading up to the Prime Minister's announcement. Thus, this announcement came to an end on March 18, 2015 when the Election Commission Bangladesh (ECB) announced the schedules of the three City Corporation elections.

Following the announcement of the election schedule, the Election Working Group (EWG), as part of its core mandate, deployed 67 long-term observers (LTOs) across the three city corporations to observe the pre-campaign period, campaign period and post-election day. Eighteen LTOs were deployed in DNCC, 28 in DSCC and 21 in Chittagong. LTOs used a comprehensive checklist which includes questions relating to the collection and submission of nomination papers, scrutiny and appeal of the nomination papers, violations of the code of conduct, and election violence. For election day itself, EWG prepared and trained for a deployment of 1,700 short-term observers (STOs). However, due to significant challenges and barriers, only 619 observers were deployed across the three corporations on election day. EWG's election day observation activities were comprehensive, covering: (i) preparation and opening of the polling stations; (ii) voting operations and procedures; (iii) closing and counting; and (iv) voting environment inside the polling stations.

Political Environment

The election schedule was announced when parties aggrieved by the anniversary of the 10th Parliamentary Election implemented five day a week hartals and transport blockades, with a significant number of citizens killed by politically motivated violent incidences, including regular cocktail bombing of public transport vehicles. Many commentators believed that the decision to hold the elections had been in part guided by the goal of engaging political actors in the electoral process as a way of minimizing the ongoing political violence. Indeed, following the announcement of the election schedule there was a significant drop in the level of political related violence, with the hartals and blockades also called off. The announcement of the election schedule resulted in low political violence, with a very limited number of hartals or blockades.

Electoral Legal Framework

As per the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 it is the duty of the Government to draw the boundaries of each of the Wards of a city corporation. On behalf of the Government, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is given responsibility to conduct the delimitation of the wards. On the other hand, as per Article 35 and 120 of the Act, ECB is responsible to hold all elections to the position of mayor and city councilor within a city corporation which includes the recruitment of

returning officers, assistant returning officers and other polling personnel; the declaration of the election schedule, the request for submission of nominations, scrutiny of nominations; allotment of symbols; selection of polling stations; along with voting, counting, and result declarations.

City Corporation elections, through the obligations outlined in the relevant code of conduct are required to be non-partisan with candidates not allowed to display any party affiliation through the use of any party symbol or title, or the name or picture of any party leader. It's important to note that it is the code of conduct, and nothing within the relevant laws that require non-partisan participation within City Corporation elections.

Election Administration

In order to conduct the city corporation elections in Dhaka North (DNCC), Dhaka South (DSCC) and Chittagong (CCC), the ECB recruited 3 returning officers and 45 assistant returning officers; and all these officials were recruited from the ECB's own staff. The voter list used for these elections was the one which was updated in 2014 and published on February 01, 2015. As per this list total number of voters of DSCC, DNCC and CCC was 1,870,753, 2,345,374 and 1,813,449 respectively. In all three city corporations, the number of female voters were fewer than those of male voters. To conduct elections on election day, the ECB selected 2,701 polling stations across the three city corporations; there were 15,544 polling booths and in each of the booths the average number of voters were 387.9. The ECB recruited 49,333 polling personnel (presiding officer, assistant presiding officer and polling officer) to conduct elections on election day.

On deployment of army, ECB created a confusion among the voters. On April 21, the ECB announced that the army would be deployed from April 26 to April 29, but on April 22, the ECB amended its decision and sent a revised letter to the Armed Forces Division stating that the army would actually stay inside the cantonment as a reserve force and would act as a striking force to face the situation following request of the returning officers.

Pre-Campaign Period Observation

During collection and submission of nomination papers (26-29 March) by the candidates EWG LTOs observed 31 billboards across the three city corporations, however from March 30 to April 6 (during the scrutinization and appeals period), the number of billboards were significantly reduced suggesting enforcement of this provision was improved. EWG LTOs also observed significant numbers of posters during this period across all three corporations. While attempts were made in some to remove these, either by officials or candidates themselves, many remained throughout the entire period. Moreover, EWG LTOs observed nine processions during the collection and submission of nominations period (seven in CCC) and four during the scrutinization and finalization of nominations which were prohibited as per code of conduct.

Although the city corporation elections in Bangladesh are non-partisan, in practice this was far from reality as observed by EWG. EWG observed that the nomination of many candidates, especially the mayoral candidates were overseen and endorsed by political parties.

Campaign Period Observation

EWG observed a significant number and variety of violations of the code of conduct throughout the campaign period. This included using party identity/affiliated information in candidates' campaign materials by 10 mayoral and 22 councilor candidates, using color posters by 9 mayoral and 13 councilor candidates, using larger posters than the designated size (23x18 Inches) by 7 mayoral candidates and 21 councilors candidates, using/pasting of paraphernalia in non-permissible places by 28 councilor candidates in three city corporations. Candidates were also found organizing public processions which are also prohibited. In DSCC public processions were observed by 8 mayoral candidates and in DNCC by 5 while in CCC by 4 mayoral candidates were found to hold processions.

Election Day Observation

Electoral Administration on the Day

A majority of polling stations observed were found to be prepared with necessary equipment (79%) and opened on time (90%). Police were deployed at all observed polling stations. Problems with accessibility and poor layout of polling booths were reported across the three corporations (DSCC 24%, DNCC 39% and CCC 19%) making voting difficult for the elderly and those with disabilities at those stations. An average of six female polling personal were found to be present in polling stations, however their priority deployment in female polling booths was not apparent. Protests or objections by polling agents during counting were reported in 12% of observed stations in DSCC, 5% of observed stations in DNCC and 21% of observed stations in CCC, while the hanging of poll results as required by law was not undertaken in 14% of stations across the three corporations. Counting of votes was made difficult in some stations due to violations that had occurred earlier in the day.

Voting Incidents and Violations

Observer reports of electoral malpractice and violence were significant throughout the day. The table below outlines the reported incidents and violations.

Incident	DSCC	DNCC	CCC
Refuse to receive vote	4	8	2
Intimidation	33	39	30
Violation of electoral campaign law	20	25	5
Violence	66	26	72
Declaration of closure of polling center	21	6	31
Vote resumed in the closed center	14	9	15
Polling agent thrown out	24	19	31
Arrest of individual	2	2	2
Death of individual	0	0	0
Observers were prevented from entering polling station	15	6	5
Observers were expelled from polling station	13	13	11
Observers were prevented from entering counting room	52	56	30
ballot stuffing	55	46	37
Alteration of ballot boxes	0	0	1

Incident	DSCC	DNCC	CCC
Declaration of result not announced	0	0	1
Problem with distribution of electoral materials	0	0	0

The above violations highlight the fraudulent practice undertaken with the intent of altering the outcome of the vote across all three cities. In most cases these activities took place with disregard to the attendance of electoral officials, accredited election observers, candidate representatives and security forces.

Incidents involving observers

On Election Day, 26 EWG observers were not allowed to enter into their assigned polling station (DSCC-15, DNCC-6 and CCC-5), 37 observers were ousted from polling stations, and 138 EWG observers were not allowed to observe counting. Two EWG observers were beaten in DSCC while undertaking their work.

Transparency of the Process

In order to observe the City Corporation Elections, the EWG applied for accreditation for 1,700 observers. After scrutinization, the ECB approved 1,414 applications, however only 828 cards were issued without explanation as to the shortfall. Because of the late arrival of cards, EWG was only able to deploy 619 observers across three cities. Deployment was further complicated when the ECB in Dhaka South issued instructions that restricted observer movement to particular wards (a fundamental principle of credible observation is that observers have free movement, uncontrolled by an election commission). It was also reported that some polling agents faced difficulties in receiving accreditation as well. International observers also faced barriers with the ECB changing the treatment of how locally engaged staff received accreditation without notice. Unnecessary constraints and restrictions imposed by the ECB – many of them in an ad hoc manner - damaged the transparency of the process, reducing barriers to malpractice, and ultimately contributed to undermining the integrity of the process.

Conclusion and Recommendations

EWG found Election Day to be marred by a significant level of electoral fraud and violence. Numerous incidents of ballot stuffing, intimidation, booth capture and violence were reported. Despite adequate polling operations in many of the stations observed, the integrity of the overall process was undermined by the scale of violations observed. The transparency of the process was damaged by the significant hurdles observation groups faced in receiving accreditation and deploying observers. Based on the extent of malpractice and irregularities observed on election day, EWG evaluates these elections to be not credible.

Based on the observed findings detailed in this report, EWG recommends the following to ensure future elections can occur in a transparent and inclusive manner with a high degree of integrity and professionalism:

- Establish ECB’s authority over all relevant government machinery
- Strong implementation of code of conduct by the ECB

- Continuous revision of the code of conduct
- Transparency in information dissemination
- Deploy female polling officials for all female polling booths
- Strong mechanism of complaint adjudication
- Women's participation needs to be increased
- Ensure no interference in observation activities by accredited observers
- Ensure the right of observers in the counting process
- Special arrangements for persons with disability
- Strong implementation of Wall Writing Act
- Consideration should be given to making City Corporation elections officially partisan

Chapter I. Introduction

1.1 Background

In December 2014, following a cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina indicated her desire to see the Dhaka North (DNCC), Dhaka South (DSCC) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections to be held in the first half of 2015. This announcement came at the end of a year which had included the contentious 10th Parliamentary Elections of January 5th, and 7 rounds of upazila elections which had suffered from a significant level of violence and fraudulent activity. While the Chittagong City Corporation elections were indeed due following the five year term of the government expiration in 2015, Dhaka had not held City Corporation elections since 2002.

During this extended absence of elections, the national government had replaced the elected mayor (whose tenure was due to end in 2007) with administrators in 2011, and bifurcated the corporation into Dhaka North and Dhaka South corporations in 2011. While intermittent pressure was applied to the government as to the delay in holding elections in Dhaka, there had not been significant public scrutiny of the issue leading up to the Prime Minister's announcement. It was thus with some surprise that in early 2015 the Election Commission Bangladesh (ECB) along with parties, candidates, and civil society groups began preparations for the holding of the elections.

1.2 Electoral Context

The following sections describe the legal framework relevant to city corporation elections and an analysis of the political context in which the elections were held.

1.2.1 Legal Framework

Article 11 of the Constitution of Bangladesh provides that 'The Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for dignity and worth of the human person shall be guaranteed, and in which effective participation by the people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels shall be ensured'. Article 59(1) of the Constitution states that, "Local Government in every administrative unit of the republic shall be entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law."

Article 35 of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 provides the ECB with the responsibility to hold all elections to the position of mayor and city councilor within a city corporation, include the responsibilities of (but not limited to): the recruitment of returning officers, assistant returning officers and other polling personnel; the declaration of the election schedule, the request for submission of nominations, scrutiny of nominations; allotment of symbols; selection of polling stations; along with voting, counting, and result declarations. Article 120 also authorizes the ECB to promulgate regulations relating to code of conducts for the candidates, election disputes mechanisms and ensure the enforcement of those regulations effectively.

Pertinent to the Dhaka North and Dhaka South elections, as per the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 it is the duty of the Government to draw the boundaries of each of the Wards of a city corporation. On behalf of the Government, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is given responsibility to conduct the delimitation of the wards. Following the bifurcation

of the Dhaka City Corporation in 2011, a number of wards had not had their boundaries clearly defined, and it was for this reason that the ECB had indicated they were not able to move ahead with holding the elections earlier.

An important characteristic of City Corporation elections is the theoretical non-partisan nature in which they are meant to be contested. While not mentioned in any electoral law, the code of conduct relating to city corporation elections - published in 2008 - states that the city corporation polls will be non-partisan and that candidates are not allowed to display any party affiliation through the use of any party symbol or title, or the name or picture of any party leader. Despite these requirements within the code, City Corporation elections continue to be dominated by political parties, with most candidates having a clear relationship with a political party, and with parties having control over the nomination of candidates, and with influence over campaigning and the provision of finance.

1.2.2 Political Environment

The second half of 2014 had seen relative stability following on from the upheaval surrounding the January 5th Parliamentary Elections. Political violence had been low, and there had been a very limited number of hartals or blockades. However, the first anniversary of the 10th Parliamentary Elections on 5th January 2015 saw the return of significant disruptions and heightened political tensions. Parties aggrieved by the anniversary implemented five day a week hartals and transport blockades, with a significant number of citizens killed by politically motivated violent incidences, including regular cocktail bombing of public transport vehicles.

It was within this environment that the ECB announced the election schedule on 18 March. Many commentators believed that the decision to hold the elections had been in part guided by the goal of engaging political actors in the electoral process as a way of minimizing the ongoing political violence. Indeed, following the announcement of the election schedule there was a significant drop in the level of political related violence, with the hartals and blockades also called off.

1.3 Election Working Group's Scope of Observation

The Election Working Group (EWG) is a non-partisan network of 28 civil society organizations that share a common commitment to free and fair elections, good governance, and the achievement of higher standards of democratic process and practice in Bangladesh.

As part of its core mandate, EWG planned to observe the city corporation elections by deploying both long-term observers (LTOs) and short-term observers (STOs). Following the announcement of the election schedule, EWG deployed 67 LTOs across the three city corporations to observe the pre-campaign period, campaign period and post-election day. Eighteen LTOs were deployed in DNCC, 28 in DSCC and 21 in Chittagong. LTOs used a comprehensive checklist which includes questions relating to the collection and submission of nomination papers, scrutiny and appeal of the nomination papers, violations of the code of conduct, and election violence.

For election day itself, EWG prepared and trained for a deployment of 1,700 STOs. However, due to significant challenges and barriers, only 619 observers were deployed across the three corporations on election day, with the unfortunate outcome of a significant waste of resources. In accordance with EWG

deployment methodology, the location of observers in polling stations were assigned using a random sampling technique from the complete list of polling stations prepared and gazetted by the ECB. In each city corporation, a statistically significant number of observers were deployed. All observers received a full day's training, with many observers having previous experience in observation activities. EWG's election day observation activities were comprehensive, covering: (i) preparation and opening of the polling stations; (ii) voting operations and procedures; (iii) closing and counting; and (iv) voting environment inside the polling stations.

Chapter II. Key Aspects

2.1 Election Administration

Similar to parliamentary elections, the city corporation elections are conducted by the ECB. It recruits Returning Officers (ROs), Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and other polling personnel and provides training to them. The selection of polling stations and the provision of security at the polling stations are also the responsibility of the ECB.

2.1.1 Announcement of Election Schedule

On 18 March the ECB announced the schedule for each of the three corporations. To the surprise of some, it was announced that all three elections would be held on April 28. As per the schedule mayoral and councilor aspirants collected and submitted the nomination papers between March 19-29 and the ROs scrutinized the applications from April 1-2. The aggrieved candidates whose nominations were cancelled had the opportunity to lodge appeal from April 3-5, while the last date of withdrawal of nomination paper was April 9 and the symbol to the candidates were allotted on 10 April.

The legal framework does not refer to who should be recruited as returning officers or assistant returning officers. Although for all the recent city corporation elections it has been a practice that the ROs and AROs have been recruited from the officials of the ECB, recent upazilla elections saw some of these positions filled from the administrative cadres. It is praiseworthy that the ECB, for all 3 city corporation elections, returned to the practice of recruiting all the ROs and AROs from its own staff (Table 1).

Table 1: Returning and Assistant Returning Officers in the City Corporation Elections

Name of the city corporation	Returning Officer	Assistant Returning Officer	Appellate Authority
DNCC	Senior District Election Officer, Dhaka	12 Election Officers	Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka
DSCC	Regional Election Officer, Dhaka	19 Election Officers	Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka
CCC	Regional Election Officer, Chittagong	14 Election Officers	Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong

2.1.2 Stakeholder Consultation

Organizing an election entails a constant process of communication. One of the most useful and effective forms of communication is consultation between the election management body and other stakeholders. Key stakeholders in any election are the following:

- The electoral management body itself
- Political parties and candidates

- The media
- Non-governmental organizations, especially those responsible for election observation
- Representatives of voters themselves, such as community organizations

Unfortunately, the ECB did not carry out any consultations with any of these groups prior to the announcement of the election schedule. Before announcing the schedule, the ECB reviewed the security situation and did discuss probable dates of the elections with the law enforcing agencies and officials from different ministries.

2.1.3 The Voter List

The ECB used the voter list that was last updated through the 2014 update process. As per this list the total number of voters of DSCC, DNCC and CCC was 1,870,753, 2,345,374 and 1,813,449 respectively. The number of female and male voters are shown in Table 2 which shows that the number of female voters are fewer than the male voters in all three city corporations.

Table 2: Number of voters across three city corporations

Name of the city corporation	Female voters	Male voters	Total voters
DSCC	861,467	1,009,286	1,870,753
DNCC	1,120,673	1,224,701	2,345,374
CCC	876,396	937,053	1,813,449

Although the Electoral Roll Act clearly states that anyone can buy the CD of the voter list, ECB neither published the complete list of voters nor sold it to the stakeholders other than the candidates. The ECB did prepare the CDs containing lists of voters for the three city corporations as well as for individual wards and made them available during the nomination process.

2.1.4 The Code of Conduct for Campaign Period

Promulgated in 2010, the electoral code of conduct (including revisions since promulgation) for the city corporation elections mainly focuses on two issues: (i) Behavior during the nomination period and (ii) Behavior during campaign period.

During the time of submission of nomination papers, a candidate cannot organize any rally, or conduct any showdown; also they are not to be accompanied by more than 5 persons at any time. Moreover, they are not to organize a rally using any kinds of vehicle or bring out a procession using a torch. On the other hand, the code of conduct for the campaign period contains multiple measures aimed at ensuring a level playing field, including the level of participation of political leaders and parties, as well as attempting to minimize clashes and conflicts between candidates to ensure peace and order. It also makes provisions to ensure that the incumbent party does not misuse its office to gain an unfair advantage during the campaign. The uses of religious institutions, circuit houses and other government establishments have also been banned for the use of campaign activities. Some features of the campaign code of conduct have been listed below:

- Candidates (Mayor/Councilor) cannot use name/identity of a political party or party leader while campaigning
- Candidates or someone on their behalf cannot donate or promise to donate money to any institution (mosque, madrasa, educational institution, orphanage, temple, club, etc.) during the campaign period
- Candidates cannot use government establishments (circuit house, bungalow, rest house, offices etc.) for campaign purposes or night stay/accommodation
- Campaign materials (posters, leaflets, handbills) can only be hung; these must not be put on vehicles, walls, electric/telephone poles, trees, government offices/ establishments, other standing objects;
- Candidates cannot use color posters during the campaign
- Campaigns cannot use paraphernalia depicting a candidate in anything other than a normal pose (poses not legally acceptable include: praying, wearing a garland of flowers, leading a procession, etc.)
- Candidates cannot organize processions that utilize trucks, buses, motor bikes, trains or any other vehicles. Torch processions are also banned
- Candidates cannot build archways/gates specifically constructed and hung with campaign materials
- Candidates or their supporters must not use shirts, jackets, fatua, etc. with the candidate's photograph, symbol, or slogans
- Campaigns that utilize lighting or decoration with electricity is prohibited.

The most important provision of the code of conduct is that the ECB can cancel the candidacy of any person for violating the code of conduct.

2.1.5 Election Day Management

To conduct elections on election day, the ECB selected 2,701 polling stations across the three city corporations; there were 15,544 polling booths and in each of the booths the average number of voters were 389. The ECB recruited 49,333 polling personnel (presiding officer, assistant presiding officer and polling officer) to conduct elections on election day.

Table 3: Basic polling statistics for election day management

City corporation	Wards	Reserved Ward	Polling stations	Polling booths	Polling personnel	Average no. of voters per booth
DSCC	57	19	889	4,746	15,127	398
DNCC	36	12	1,093	5,892	18,769	394
CCC	41	14	719	4,906	15,437	370

The ECB also deployed 45 of its own observers (DNCC: 12, DSCC: 19 and CCC: 14) to monitor the situation, including recording election violations and other related issues on the day prior to the election, election day and the day following. These observers were asked to submit reports to the AROs

as well as the ECB. Moreover, in order to address the electoral violations, the ECB also formed 33 mobile courts (DNCC: 9, DSCC: 14, CCC: 10) for four days from 26 to 29 April 2015.

2.1.6 Confusion about Army Deployment

In a press briefing held on April 21, the ECB announced that the army would be deployed from April 26 to April 29 in Dhaka and Chittagong to provide security for the polls. It was claimed the army would act as the striking force and the reserved force as well as being deployed outside the polling stations. However on April 22, the ECB amended its decision and sent a revised letter to the Armed Forces Division stating that the army should stay inside the cantonment as a reserve force and would act as a striking force only following a request from a returning officer. Although this issue was circulated by the ECB later on April 25 on its website, a lack of clarity regarding this important matter was not conducive to assisting with the security environment on election day.

2.2 Pre-Campaign Period Observation

As described in 1.3, EWG deployed 67 LTOs across three city corporations; they collected information relating to the collection and submission of nominations, the scrutiny and appeals of nominations, violations of the code of conduct as well as election related violence.

2.2.1 Violation of Law in the Pre- Campaign Period

Although the electoral legal framework and the code of conduct do not have any mention about campaigning before the announcement of the election schedule, as per *Wall Writings and Poster Pasting (Control) Act 2012*, writing on walls and pasting of posters can only be done in the places specified by local authorities (the law provides an exception that any person can do these in the areas other than the specified places by giving fees as per regulations framed by the local authorities).

Before the announcement of the election schedule on March 18, a large number of billboards and banners of aspiring candidates in all three city corporations were visible, in violation of the *Wall Writings and Poster Pasting (Control) Act 2012*. Many mayoral and councilor candidates were observed conducting election related activities, such as hanging billboards describing their promises to the city dwellers and urging people to elect them as mayor or councilor. Not only do these activities contravene the relevant Act, money spent on these activities are not recorded and therefore essentially provide an opportunity for candidates to circumvent the expenditure limits placed upon them during the campaign period.

Despite the direction by the ECB to remove pre-election campaign materials within 48 hours of the announcement of the election schedule, both billboards and posters were found in many places in each city corporation. During collection and submission of nomination papers (26-29 March) EWG LTOs observed 31 billboards across the three city corporations, however from March 30 to April 6 (during the scrutinization and appeals period), the number of billboards was significantly reduced suggesting enforcement of the provision was improved.

Table 4: No. of billboards observed by EWG LTOs during collection, submission and finalization of nomination papers

Name of the city corporation	No. of billboards observed on 26-29 March	No. of billboards observed on 30 March-06 April
Chittagong City Corporation	3	0
Dhaka North City Corporation	7	3
Dhaka South City Corporation	21	0

EWG LTOs observed significant numbers of posters during this period across all three corporations. While attempts were made in some to remove these, either by officials or candidates themselves, many remained throughout the entire period. EWG LTOs also observed nine processions during the collection and submission of nominations period and four during the scrutinization and finalization of nominations (Table 5).

Table 5: No. of processions observed by EWG LTOs during collection, submission and finalization of nomination papers

Name of the city corporation	No. of processions observed on 26-29 March	No. of processions observed on 30 March-06 April
Chittagong City Corporation	7	3
Dhaka North City Corporation	2	1
Dhaka South City Corporation	0	0

2.2.2 Political Party Participation in Non-Partisan Elections

As discussed in Section 1.2.1, the city corporation elections in Bangladesh are mandated as non-partisan elections, with the participation of political parties forbidden. However it was clear that in practice this is far from the reality. EWG observed that the nomination of many candidates, especially the mayoral candidates were overseen and endorsed by political parties. Party forums were used to debate and decide upon candidates that were then endorse publically by party leaders. Many candidates, especially mayoral candidates were accompanied by senior party leaders when submitting their nomination papers. Candidates also attended various party forums and they were introduced to the party leaders as a candidate of the party. Even the pro-AL candidates were introduced by the Prime Minister at the Gono Bhaban, her official residence and she directed grassroots leaders of Awami League's Dhaka city unit to work together for the party-backed candidates in the upcoming Dhaka city corporation elections. Moreover, Ministers and State Ministers were seen attending 'election planning meetings' for particular mayoral candidates.

2.3 Campaign Period Observation

Throughout the campaigning period, EWG observed a significant number of violations of the code of conduct both by mayoral and councilor candidates across the three city corporations, with limited enforcement of the code by the ECB. Most of these violations were minor or small scale in nature,

however the lack of enforcement overall only encouraged the creation of an environment where the rules were regularly flouted.

While these abuses occurred without rebuke, some candidate had campaign activities limited or restricted by law enforcement authorities without the provision of a justification. Overall however, most campaigning was undertaken in a peaceful manner, with the security situation having improved significantly since the schedule of the elections was announced.

2.3.1 Code of Conduct and Its Violation

2.3.1.1 Use of political identity while campaigning

The code of conduct makes clear that candidates cannot use party identity/affiliated information in their campaign materials during the campaign. But in each city corporation EWG found both mayoral and councilor candidates using political identities (symbols, logos, names of political parties and leaders). In DSCC, 6 mayoral candidates used 5 types of prohibited material and in DNCC 2 mayoral candidates used 5 types and in CCC 2 mayoral candidates used 1 type of these prohibited materials. Councilor candidates were also found to breach the code in this regard; at least 22 councilor candidates used 24 types of campaign materials across the three city corporations (Table 6).

Table 6: Use of political identity by the mayoral and councilor candidates

Name of the city corporation	No. of candidates' who used political identity in their campaign materials		Types of campaign materials affix political identity	
	Mayoral	Councilor	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	6	8	5	12
DNCC	2	10	5	10
CCC	2	4	1	2

2.3.1.2 Use of color posters and billboards while campaigning

According to the electoral code of conduct, candidates are not permitted to use colored poster and billboard as campaign materials. Despite this, EWG found 9 mayoral and 13 councilor candidates using color posters (Table 7).

Table 7: Use of color posters and billboards by the mayoral and councilor candidates

Name of the city corporation	No. of candidates who used colored posters		No. of candidates who used billboards	
	Mayoral	Councilor	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	6	8	5	9
DNCC	2	3	2	3
CCC	1	2	0	0

2.3.1.3 Use of larger sized posters in campaign

According to the electoral code of conduct, the candidates are not permitted to use posters with dimensions larger than 23x18 Inches. Despite this prohibition, 7 mayoral candidates and 21 councilors candidates were found to use larger sized posters across three city corporations (Table 8).

Table 8: Use of bigger-six posters while campaigning

Name of the city corporation	No. of mayoral candidates' posters were bigger than the legal poster size	
	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	3	14
DNCC	3	6
CCC	1	1

2.3.1.4 Use of poster in non-permissible place

As per the electoral code of conduct it is prohibited to use posters in non-permissible places (for example, vehicles, wall/fence, electric/telephone poles, trees, government offices/establishments). But large numbers of posters were placed in non-permissible places across the three city corporations. EWG LTOs recorded nine mayoral candidates in DSCC, four mayoral candidates in DNCC and two mayoral candidates in CCC used posters in non-permissible places; this breach of the code was also found with 28 councilor candidates in three city corporations (Table 9).

Table 9: Use of posters in non-permissible places

Name of the city corporation	No. of mayoral candidates who used posters in wall, trees, vehicles, rooftops, electric post	
	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	9	20
DNCC	4	4
CCC	2	4

2.3.1.5 Organize public meetings during campaigning

Despite the prohibition of public meeting during campaigning, EWG LTOs noted that in three city corporations both mayoral and councilor candidates breached this code frequently (Table 10).

Table 10: Public meetings organized by the candidates

Name of the city corporation	No. of candidates who held public meetings for campaigning	
	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	8	6
DNCC	5	6
CCC	4	5

2.3.1.6 Use of microphone or loudspeaker beyond stipulated time

According to the code of conduct, no campaigning using microphone or loudspeaker can occur before 2.00pm or after 9.00 pm. But EWG LTOs found this code was frequently breached by both mayoral and councilor candidates across the three city corporations. In DSCC, 44 incidents by the mayoral candidates were recorded by EWG; in DNCC and CCC this number was 16 and 33 respectively. EWG observers also found 115 cases in DSCC, 14 in DNCC and 55 in CCC by councilor candidates (Table 11).

Table 11: Use of microphone beyond stipulated time

Name of the city corporation	No. of incidence where candidates used microphone beyond stipulated time	
	Mayoral	Councilor
DSCC	44	115
DNCC	16	14
CCC	33	55

2.3.2 Violence in the Campaign Period

EWG did not observe any acts of violence in DNCC and DSCC during the campaign period. Two instances of minor violent incidences were observed in CCC during the campaign period.

2.4 Election Day Observation

To observe the situation from the opening to the closing of polling stations on the Election Day (April 28, 2015), EWG observers were present from 07:15 am onwards at their designated polling stations. From the opening of the polling station, prescribed observation checklists were used to closely monitor the electoral process and to provide a strong civil society presence and voice on the credibility of the elections. Observers provided real-time reports back to the EWG control room throughout the day, where their responses were aggregated into a database to provide a comprehensive view of issues relating to inclusiveness and the credibility of the process undertaken as described in the proceeding sections.

2.4.1 Preparation of Polling Stations and Voting Operations

2.4.1.1 Poll Opening

During the opening, EWG observers reported that 94 percent of the polling stations opened on or before 8:10 am. While in DSCC and CCC, 88 percent of the polling stations were reported to be open by 8:10 am. EWG observers reported that preparations prior to the commencement of voting were generally adequate.

Table 12: Polling station ready for casting of votes

Name of the city corporation	Completely ready (%)	Partially ready (%)
DSCC	93	7
DNCC	84	16
CCC	95	5

Ninety-three percent of the polling stations were completely ready for casting of votes in Dhaka South, 84 percent in Dhaka North and 95 percent in Chittagong, while 7 percent of the polling stations were partially ready in Dhaka South, 16 percent in Dhaka North and 5 percent of polling stations were partially ready for casting of votes in Chittagong. The size of the voters' queue when the polling stations were opened for casting of vote is reported under Table 13 below:

Table 13: Size of queue in the polling station

Name of the city corporation	No voters in queue (%)	Between 1 - 20 voters (%)	Between 21 - 40 voters (%)	More than 40 voters (%)
DSCC	12	56	17	14
DNCC	11	47	22	21
CCC	8	43	25	24

During the opening of the poll, EWG observers queried the presiding officers about the quality of training they had received from the ECB (Table 14).

Table 14: Quality of training provided by the ECB

Name of the city corporation	Very good (%)	Good (%)	More or less okay (%)	Not good (%)	No training was provided (%)
DSCC	32	59	8	0	1
DNCC	23	62	14	1	0
CCC	18	72	9	1	0

More than 90 percent of the presiding officers from DSCC reported that the quality of training they received from ECB was either very good or good. While more than 85 percent in DNCC and 90 percent in CCC reported that the training was very good or good. Eight percent of the presiding officers in DSCC, 14 percent in DNCC and 9 percent in CCC reported that the training was *more or less okay*. Only a very small number of presiding officers reported that the training provided was either *not good*, or that *no training was provided*. This reflects well on the ECB's training programs for its presiding officers.

2.4.1.2 Voting Operations

Following the opening, EWG observers provided information on voting operations on Election Day by sending their responses against the questions set in their designated checklists. As observed during opening, security seals were attached properly on ballot boxes in almost all of the polling stations (Table 15).

Table 15: Security seals attached properly in the ballot boxes

Name of the city corporation	All boxes yes (%)	All boxes no (%)	Some boxes
DSCC	97	1	2
DNCC	98	0	2
CCC	97	1	3

Also in reference to Table 16, in most cases, the empty ballot boxes were shown before the start of the poll (DSCC-96%, DNCC-98% and CCC-98%). In Dhaka South, in 4 percent cases, the empty ballot boxes were either not shown or it was not clear whether the empty ballot boxes were presented. This figure for Dhaka North was 2 percent and for Chittagong it stood at 3 percent.

Table 16: Empty ballot boxes shown or not

Name of the city corporation	All Yes (%)	All No (%)	Some Boxes
DSCC	96	2	2
DNCC	98	2	1
CCC	97	2	1

In terms of the quality of the indelible ink used in the poll, Table 17 below shows the findings.

Table 17: Quality of the indelible ink used in the poll

Name of the city corporation	Indelible (%)	Applied but low quality (%)	Not Applied (%)
DSCC	79	19	2
DNCC	79	20	1
CCC	66	34	0

Table 18: Layout to ensure secrecy of the vote

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	98	2
DNCC	95	5
CCC	96	4

As shown in Table 18, EWG observers reported that in 98 percent of the polling stations in Dhaka South, 95 percent in Dhaka North and 96 percent in Chittagong, the layout inside the polling booths generally ensured the secrecy of the vote and the private booth was setup in a way that the voters were able to mark their ballot papers maintaining privacy.

Table 19: Agents present in the polling stations

Name of the city corporation	Average # of male agents	Average # of female agents
DSCC	10	7
DNCC	23	16
CCC	37	13

In reference to Table 19 above, EWG observers reported that on average, there were 10 male and 7 female agents present per polling station in Dhaka South. For Dhaka North, the average number of male agents was 23 and for females it was 16. For Chittagong, the average number of male agents per station was 37, and that of the female agents was less than half of the male with only 13 female agents per station reported. Both the disparity across the city corporations, and the gender disparity in Chittagong is noteworthy.

When the EWG observers asked party agents whether they received any training/guideline/manual to perform their duty, 78 percent in Dhaka South said that they had received training or had received guidelines or a manual or both. Eighty-nine percent of party agents in Dhaka North and Chittagong indicated likewise. However, 22 percent of the party agents in Dhaka South, 11 percent in Dhaka North and 11 percent in Chittagong indicated that they had not received any training, and nor did they receive any guidelines or a manual to help them discharge their duties appropriately (Table 20).

Table 20: Training/guideline/manual to act as a polling agent in favor of the candidate

Name of the city corporation	Received training (%)	Received guideline/manual (%)	Received both training and guideline/manual (%)	Received none (%)
DSCC	38	30	11	22
DNCC	53	22	14	11
CCC	28	42	20	11

EWG observers also interviewed the voters who had just cast their vote about how they rated the efficiency of the polling officials assigned in the concerned polling station.

Table 21: Efficiency of the Polling Officials

Name of the city corporation	Very efficient (%)	Efficient (%)	Not very efficient (%)	Not efficient (%)
DSCC	18	77	4	1
DNCC	14	76	8	2
CCC	11	82	7	0

Results indicate that in each city corporation, at least 90 percent of voters believed polling officials were either very efficient or efficient. While DNCC registered highest with 10 percent of voters indicating that the officials were not very efficient or not efficient, this is a relatively low figure and is a credit to the ECB and the polling officials.

Finally, EWG observers also recorded the average wait time for both the male and female voters' (Table 22).

Table 22: Average waiting time in the voting queue

Name of the city corporation	Average wait time for males (in minutes)	Average wait time for females (in minutes)
DSCC	13	5
DNCC	3	4
CCC	10	11

DNCC had substantially shorter wait times than the other two city corporations, with voters in DSCC on average having to wait more than four times as long. Women in Chittagong had to wait more than twice as long as their fellow women in Dhaka.

2.4.1.3 Polling Station/Booth Accessibility

EWG observers reported that the access to the polling stations were generally good (easily accessible) for the old, disabled, the visually impaired and those who required extra assistance to cast their vote. 76 percent of polling stations in Dhaka South, 61 percent in Dhaka North and 81 in Chittagong were reported to be easily accessible (Table 23). However, problems with accessibility and poor layout of polling booths were reported across the three corporations (DSCC-24%, DNCC-39% and CCC-19%) making voting difficult for some of the elderly and those with disabilities.

Table 23: Accessibility of polling stations

Name of the city corporation	Easily accessible (%)	Difficult (%)
DSCC	76	24
DNCC	61	39
CCC	81	19

EWG observers also interviewed voters with disability in terms of how they found the accessibility of the polling stations. 89 percent of the polling stations in Dhaka South, 44 percent in Dhaka North and 78 percent in Chittagong were reported as having either very easy or easy access for voter with disability. Alarming, in 57 percent of the polling stations in Dhaka North, the voter with disability assessed the accessibility to the polling station as either difficult, or very difficult.

Table 24: Accessibility to polling station reported by a voter with disability

Name of the city corporation	Very easy (%)	Easy (%)	Difficult (%)	Very difficult (%)
DSCC	13	75	9	3
DNCC	7	37	48	9
CCC	9	69	14	8

2.4.1.4 Security Environment

Police and Ansar officials were deployed at all observed polling stations. An average of 25 members of security forces were found to be present per polling station in Dhaka South, 23 in Dhaka North and 22 in Chittagong (Table 25).

Table 25: Average number of Ansar/Police officials per polling station

Name of the city corporation	Average # of police officials per station
DSCC	25
DNCC	23
CCC	22

2.4.1.5 Women Polling Personnel

An average of 6 female polling personnel were found to be present in polling stations by the EWG observers, however their priority deployment in female polling booths was not apparent (Table 26). These numbers are relatively low, and the lack of prioritization of women to female polling booths is of concern.

Table 26: Female Polling Personnel at the polling stations

Name of the city corporation	Average # of female polling officers
DSCC	9
DNCC	4
CCC	6

2.4.1.6 Closing and Counting

Voting operations closed on time (4 pm) in most of the polling stations. (Table 27).

Table 27: Was the main gate of the polling station closed at 4 pm

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	88	10
DNCC	88	12
CCC	92	8

The average size of the queue as reported by the EWG observers at the time of closing was one voter for Dhaka South and Chittagong and two voters in Dhaka North. However, in 13 percent of polling stations in Chittagong, voters were refrained from casting their votes despite being present inside the premises of the polling station by 4 pm. This figure stood at 8 percent for Dhaka North and 4 percent for Dhaka South (Table 28). As per the regulations, all voters who are in the cue by 4pm should be allowed to vote.

Table 28: Voters refrained from casing vote despite being inside the premises within 4 pm

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	4	96
DNCC	8	92
CCC	13	87

As observed by EWG, vote counting generally commenced by 4:30 pm on the Election Day across 90 percent of the polling stations in Dhaka South, 87 percent in Dhaka North and 93 percent in Chittagong. Delayed ballot counting was more prominent in Dhaka North where counting in 13 percent of the polling stations started after 4:30 pm.

The hanging of poll results as required by law was not undertaken in 14 percent of stations across the three city corporations (Table 29).

Table 29: Did the presiding officer hang the result sheet outside of the polling station

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	81	19
DNCC	91	9
CCC	87	13

2.4.1.7 Observers' Access

In order to observe the elections, EWG applied for accreditation for 1,700 observers. After scrutinization, the ECB approved 1,414 applications, however only 828 cards were issued. No explanation was given for this discrepancy. In addition to these restrictions, so accreditation cards were provided as late as 3am on the morning on the election, preventing some observers from being able to

reach their polling station in time for the opening of the polls. Due to issues, EWG was only able to deploy 619 observers across the three city corporations (258 in DSCC, 181 in DNCC and 180 in CCC).

Effective deployment was all hampered when the ECB in Dhaka South issued instructions that restricted observer movement to particular wards (a fundamental principle of credible observation is that observers have free movement, uncontrolled by an election commission).

International observers also faced barriers with the ECB changing the treatment of how locally engaged staff received accreditation without notice. Unnecessary constraints and restrictions imposed by the ECB –many of them in an ad hoc manner - damaged the transparency of the process, reducing barriers to malpractice, and ultimately contributed to undermining the integrity of the process.

Throughout election day itself, twenty-six EWG observers were not allowed to enter into polling stations (DSCC-15, DNCC-6 and CCC-5), 37 observers were ousted from polling stations, and 138 observers were not allowed to observe counting. This large number of observers not able to observe the count is of particular concern as it undermines the transparency of the overall count. Disturbingly, two EWG observers were beaten in DSCC while undertaking their work.

2.4.2 Election Irregularities

EWG found Election Day to be marred by a significant level of electoral fraud and violence. Numerous incidents of ballot stuffing, intimidation, booth capture and violence were reported, and were particularly severe in Chittagong. Despite adequate polling operations in many of the stations observed, the integrity of the overall process was undermined by the scale of violations observed.

Protests or complains by candidate agents to the polling officials by 3 pm on the Election Day were recorded in 26% of the polling stations, with complaints occurring in almost half of all CCC stations (Table 30).

Table 30: Protest by candidate agents to polling official by 3 pm

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	17	83
DNCC	16	84
CCC	46	54

Protests or objections by candidate agents during counting were recorded in 13 percent of stations (Table 31).

Table 31: Protest by candidate agents during vote counting

Name of the city corporation	Yes (%)	No (%)
DSCC	12	88
DNCC	5	95
CCC	21	79

2.4.2.1 Voting Incidents and Violations

EWG observer reports of electoral malpractice and violence were significant throughout the day. Table 32 below outlines the reported incidents and violations.

Table 32: Voting incidents and violations

Incident	DSCC	DNCC	CCC
Refuse to receive vote	4	8	2
Intimidation	33	39	30
Violation of electoral campaign law	20	25	5
Violence	66	26	72
Declaration of closure of polling center	21	6	31
Vote resumed in the closed center	14	9	15
Polling agent thrown out	24	19	31
Arrest of individual	2	2	2
Death of individual	0	0	0
Observers were prevented from entering polling station	15	6	5
Observers were expelled from polling station	13	13	11
Observers were prevented from entering counting room	52	56	30
ballot stuffing	55	46	37
Alteration of ballot boxes	0	0	1
Declaration of result not announced	0	0	1
Problem with distribution of electoral materials	0	0	0

The above instances of irregularities and violations sometimes occurred multiple times in a given polling station. Table 32 shown are the cumulative number of instances a certain type of violation occurred, the attached *Annex A* provides a more detailed description of where (ward number, polling station serial number and polling station name) a certain type of violation occurred and the frequency of that particular incident.

When a serious incident was reported, the EWG secretariat sought confirmation of the reported violations—when possible—by sending a second person to verify details or to speak to the presiding officer via phone. Selected examples below illustrate the seriousness of the violations:

- CCC (Ward 8): At 11.35 am, a group of 25-30 people forcibly entered into the polling booths, creating panic by blasting *cocktails*. As a result most voters left the station, and the few who did not leave were beaten. The miscreants undertook ballot stuffing, stamping multiple ballot papers and placing them into the ballot boxes.
- CCC (Ward 14): At 12.08 pm, polling agents of BNP-backed mayoral and councilor candidates were ousted by the agents of the other candidates.
- CCC (Ward 10): In a polling station violence occurred between two councilor candidates. Later in the day at the same station EWG observed cocktail blasting and 3 ballot boxes were burnt.
- DSCC (ward 2): An observer reported that at 11.34 am, a group of 10-12 people entered into a polling booth, seized a significant number of ballot papers, stamped them and put into the ballot box. The law enforcement agency present assisted them and did not allow the voters to enter during that time.
- DSCC (Ward 41): Supporters and activists of a political party did not allow the voters to enter into the polling station.
- DSCC (Ward 4): The ballot papers for the mayoral candidates were not issued to the voters for about 30 minutes.
- DNCC (Ward 6): A student and youth front captured the polling station, expelled agents and observers, and the stuffed the ballot boxes.

The above violations are representative of the many violations reported, and highlight the fraudulent practice undertaken with the intent of altering the outcome of the vote across all three cities. In each case these activities took place with disregard to the attendance of electoral officials, accredited election observers, candidate representatives and security forces.

2.5 Election Results

2.5.1 Dhaka South Mayoral Results

Mohammed Sayeed Khokon was announced the winner with 61.86% of the vote. It is worth noting that other than the two candidates who had the support of the two major political parties, no other candidate was successful in garnering more than 2% of the votes.

Sl	Name of Mayoral Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
1	Mohammed Sayeed Khokon	535,296	61.86%
2	Mirza Abbas Uddin Ahmed	294,291	34.01%
3	Md. Adbur Rahman	14,784	1.71%
4	Mohammed Saifuddin	4,519	0.52%
5	Abu Naser Muhammed Masud Hussain	2,197	0.25%
6	Md. Riazul Karim Chowdhury	2,173	0.25%
7	Shahin Khan	2,074	0.24%
8	Md. Golam Mawla Rony	1,887	0.22%
9	Md. Shahidul Islam	1,239	0.14%
10	Bazlur Rashid Firoz	1,029	0.12%

Table 33: Vote received by the mayoral candidates in DSCC			
Sl	Name of Mayoral Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
11	Md. Zahidur Rahman	988	0.11%
12	S M Asaduzzaman Ripon	928	0.11%
13	A S M Akram	682	0.08%
14	Dilip Bhadro	669	0.08%
15	Md. Abdul Khaleque	550	0.06%
16	Mohammed Shafiullah Chowdhury	512	0.06%
17	Mashiur Rahman	508	0.06%
18	Md. Akhtaruzzaman	362	0.04%
19	Advocate Muhammed Ayub Hussain	354	0.04%
20	Md. Bahrane Sultan Bahar	312	0.04%

2.5.2 Dhaka North Mayoral Results

Annisul Huq was announced the winner with 54.71% of the vote. It is worth noting that other than the two candidates who had the support of the two major political parties, no other candidate was successful in garnering more than 3% of the votes

Table 34: Vote received by the mayoral candidates in DNCC			
Sl	Name of Mayoral Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
1	Annisul Huq	460,117	54.71%
2	Tabith Awal	325,080	38.65%
3	Seikh Md. Fazle Bari Masud	18,050	2.15%
4	Mahi Badruddoza Chowdhury	13,407	1.59%
5	Md. Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki	7,370	0.88%
6	Kazi M Shahidullah	2,968	0.35%
7	Bahauddin Ahmed	2,950	0.35%
8	Abdullah Al Kafi	2,475	0.29%
9	Nader Chowdhury	1,412	0.17%
10	A Y M Kamrul Islam	1,216	0.14%
11	Mohammed Zaman Bhuiyan	1,140	0.14%
12	Moazzem Hossain Khan Majlish	1,095	0.13%
13	Md. Shamsul Alam Chowdhury	982	0.12%
14	Sheikh Shahiduzzman	923	0.11%
15	Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky	915	0.11%
16	Md. Anisuzzaman Khokon	900	0.11%

2.5.3 Chittagong Mayoral Results

A J M Nasir Uddin was announced the winner with 57.87% of the vote. It is worth noting that other than the two candidates who had the support of the two major political parties, no other candidate was successful in garnering more than 2% of the votes.

Sl	Name of Mayoral Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
1	A J M Nasir Uddin	475,361	57.87%
2	Mohammed Manjur Alam	304,837	37.11%
3	M A Matin	11,655	1.42%
4	Md. Wazed Hussain Bhuiyan	9,668	1.18%
5	Md. Solaiman Alam Seith	6,131	0.75%
6	Hussain Muhammad Mujibul Haque	4,215	0.51%
7	Saifuddin Ahmed (Robi)	2,661	0.32%
8	Md. Alauddin Chowdhury	2,159	0.26%
9	Arif Moinuddin	1,774	0.22%
10	Md. Abul Kalam Azad	1,385	0.17%
11	Sayed Sajjad Joha	845	0.10%
12	Md. Shafiul Alam	680	0.08%

2.5.4 Dhaka South Ward Results (winners only)

There are 57 Wards within DSCC, with one councilor elected per ward. Among the 57 winning candidates, the highest percentage of the vote received was 70% (Ward no. 30) while the lowest was 36% (Ward no. 21). More than 45% of councilor candidates won by receiving 50% or more of the valid votes. **Detailed results are given in Annex B.**

2.5.5 Dhaka North Ward Results (winners only)

There are 36 Wards in DNCC with one councilor elected per ward. Among the 36 winning candidates, the highest percentage of the vote received was 58% (Ward no. 1) while the lowest was 28% (Ward no. 13). Only approximately 8% of councilor candidates won by receiving 50% or more of the valid votes. **Detailed results are given in Annex C.**

2.5.6 Chittagong Ward Results (winners only)

There are 41 Wards in CCC with one councilor elected per ward. Among the 41 winning candidates, the highest percentage of the vote received was 74% (Ward no. 1) while the lowest was 38% (Ward no. 38). More than 53% of councilor candidates won by receiving 50% or more votes. **Detailed results are given in Annex D.**

2.6 Expenditure by the mayoral candidates

In DNCC, the mayoral candidates, as per their election expenditure reports spent BDT 1,65,63,036; the highest expenditure was made by the Awami League Party backed Mr Annisul Huq (BDT 47,43,394) while the lowest was by Mr. Sheikh Shahidzaman, an independent candidate who claimed no expenses. The average expenditure by the mayoral candidates was BDT 10,35,189.75. The study conducted by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on campaign expenditure shows that the average actual (compared with reported) expenditure made by the mayoral candidates in DNCC was closer to BDT 2.7

crore, with the highest expenditure estimated at BDT 3 crore 60 lakhs¹. All mayoral candidates submitted their election expenditure return to the ECB within the stipulated timeframe (Annex E).

In DSCC, the mayoral candidates, as per their election expenditure report spent BDT 72,63,057; the highest expenditure was made by Awami League Party backed Mr Md. Sayeed Khokon (BDT 28,35,112) while the expenditure reports show that two candidates did not spend any money. The average expenditure by the mayoral candidates in this city was BDT 3,63,152.85. TIB's study proposed that the actual average expenditure made by the mayoral candidates in DSCC was closer to BDT 2.2 crore; with the highest expenditure estimated at BDT 3 crore 51 lakhs². All mayoral candidates contesting in DSCC submitted their election expenditure return to ECB within the stipulated timeframe (Annex E).

In CCC, the mayoral candidates, as per their election expenditure report spent BDT 1,01,19,067; the highest (BDT 29,74,521) expenditure was made by the BNP-supported candidate Mohammed Manjur Alam, while the lowest (BDT49,750) was by Saifuddin Ahmed (Robi), an independent candidate. The average expenditure by the mayoral candidates in this city BDT 8,43,255. TIB's study proposed that the actual average expenditure made by the mayoral candidates in CCC was approximately BDT 2.7 crore; with the highest expenditure claimed to be near BDT 6 crore 46 lakhs³. Two mayoral candidates did not submit their election expenditure return to ECB within the stipulated timeframe (Annex E).

¹ TIB Press Release on City Corporation Elections, 18 May, 2015

² ibid

³ ibid

Chapter III. Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusion

Elections are an essential institution of any democratic state. With elections in Dhaka well overdue, it was a welcome step to finally return the administrations of the city back into democratically elected hands. These elections also had the surprising effect of contributing to a significant de-escalation of political violence and unrest that had been occurring since the start of the year. This was exceptional in nature, with most elections only increasing existing political tensions. The elections also benefited from the active support of all major political parties throughout the campaign period, an important development following the boycott of a large number of parties from the 10th Parliamentary Elections in 2014. It was unfortunate that Election Day itself saw most BNP supported candidates withdraw from the race.

Despite a peaceful and mainly orderly campaign period, Election Day was marred by a significant level of electoral fraud such as ballot stuffing, intimidation, booth capture and violence which undermined the integrity of the overall electoral process. Based on these observed findings, the EWG found the elections not to be credible.

3.2 Recommendations

Based on the observed findings detailed in this report, EWG recommends the following to ensure future elections can occur in a transparent and inclusive manner with a high degree of integrity and professionalism.

Establish ECB's authority over all relevant government machinery: In order to conduct a free, fair and credible election, it is important to ensure that the ECB establishes control over the entire election machinery once the schedule has been announced. This should include all relevant government departments, agencies and units that contribute to the holding of the elections.

Strong implementation of code of conduct by the ECB: elections are conducted within a very limited time span according to an official election schedule. Thus, the expedition and promptness in dealing with cases of violation of the code of conduct is essential. If no timely action is taken to curb violations during the electoral period, there is little disincentive for candidates and their supporters to follow the code.

Continuous revision of the code of conduct: Social media is becoming a significantly used medium for campaigning. Currently, the code of conduct does not deal with type of campaigning. The ECB, by issuing a circular, could add a guideline on the use of social media for election campaign. This should consider how social media can be used, and within what timeframe (taking note of existing blackout clauses).

Transparency in information dissemination: The ECB should improve the transparency of its operations at all levels. This should include the prompt and complete publication of all decisions and internal procedures, as well as making available in a timely manner the provision of the voter list, polling stations and candidate nomination information. Regular consultative meetings with political parties and other election stakeholders should also be undertaken as a matter of course.

Deploy female polling officials for all female polling booths: To ensure female polling booths can be used for the purposes intended, they should be staffed by female polling officials. Male polling officials can cause problems relating to intimidation and when it comes to the identification of women who are veiled.

Strong mechanism of complaint adjudication: When the credibility of an election is called into question, an effective and timely process of complaints adjudication is required. The current system is neither effective or timely in its application, and should therefore be reformed.

Women's participation needs to be increased: Due to current electoral processes, it is not possible to properly measure the gender participation disparity, despite it being widely acknowledged that far fewer women vote than men. The ECB should make a mandatory provision to count female polling booths separately before the aggregation of polling station level results. This would provide proper data on the nature and scale of the problem, and allow for appropriate measures to be implemented to ensure the full participation of women on Election Day. The ECB should also increase the number of women polling officials.

Ensure no interference in observation activities by accredited observers: The ECB should amend all necessary rules and procedures and properly train returning officers and other staff to enable domestic and international observation groups to carry out their work unimpeded. This should include the provision for stationary observation in polling booths, the implementation of proper, transparent and timely accreditation processes, and the avoidance of ad-hock decision making regarding the provision of accreditation.

Ensure the right of observers in the counting process: currently it is at the Presiding Officer's discretion as to whether domestic observers are able to observe the counting process. This discretion should be removed from the position of the Presiding Officer, and the right to observe the counting process should be guaranteed. This would assist in improving the transparency of the counting process, and the integrity of the electoral process overall.

Special arrangements for persons with disability: The ECB should take special measures for persons with disabilities so that they can enter with priority access into polling stations, find their polling booth, and cast their vote easily and with privacy. This could include arrangements allowing a disabled voter to be able to vote in any polling booth within their assigned station, or the provision for a presiding officer to take relevant voting materials to a physically accessible point within the polling station to allow the voter to vote with minimal physical impediments.

Strong implementation of Wall Writing Act: As per the Wall Writings and Poster Pasting (Control) Act, before the announcement of the election schedule the ECB should ask the appropriate authorities to remove all the existing campaigning materials. This would assist the ECB to ensure a level playing field in the pre-campaign period.

Consideration should be given to making City Corporation elections officially partisan: The City Corporation elections have become partisan in nature if not officially with the nomination of candidates,

especially the mayoral candidates carried out by the political parties. Moreover, parties are selecting candidates in the party forums, openly nominating candidates in the press conference and urging others not to become candidate. Given the reality of the existing roles that the parties already party, it should be considered whether the relevant regulations should be updated to reflect this, and officially allow the participation of parties in the City Corporation electoral process.

Annex A: List of polling stations where election irregularities and violence were recorded by EWG

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
1. Refuse to receive vote				
CCC	5	107	Hamid Char Government Primary School	1
CCC	5	108	Hamid Char Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
CCC	8	189	Chittagong Government Women College	1
DNCC	14	472	Haji Ashraf Ali High School	4
DNCC	35	1056	Shahnuri Model High School	4
DSCC	7	135	Maniknagar Model High School	2
DSCC	28	488	KM Bashir Govt. Pri. School	2
2. Intimidation by anyone				
CCC	5	107	Hamid Char Government Primary School	1
CCC	6	115	Hasan Government Primary School	1
CCC	6	116	Hasan Government Primary School	1
CCC	7	123	Rahamaniya High School	1
CCC	7	125	Hamjarbag Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	161	Probortak Vidyapith	1
CCC	8	167	Forestry Research High School	1
CCC	8	168	Forestry Research High School	1
CCC	8	175	Nasirabad Government Boys High School	1
CCC	8	181	Technical Training Centre	1
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
CCC	9	213	Koibadhan Housing estate Bangabadhu High school	1
CCC	10	219	Munshipara Govt. Primary School	1
CCC	10	228	Katroli Nurul Haq Chowdhury High school	1
CCC	10	230	Natun Monsurabad Alhaj Mostafa Hakim KG & High School	1
CCC	11	244	South Kattali Government Primary School	1

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	11	248	Soraipara Haji Abdul Ali Govt. Primary School	2
CCC	11	250	Jameya Mohammadiya Islamia Dakhil Madrassa	1
CCC	12	256	Eidgah Boys Government Primary School	2
CCC	12	263	Hajee Eunos Community Primary School, Baca Mia Road	2
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	12	267	West Nasirabad Abdul Hakim City Corp. Kinder Garten	1
CCC	13	275	Pahartali College	2
CCC	13	285	TigerPass Multipurpose High School	1
CCC	14	290	Chittagong Police Institute	1
CCC	14	299	Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School	1
DNCC	10	339	Hazrat Shah Ali Model School And College	3
DNCC	13	418	Monipur High School(Boys)	3
DNCC	17	582	Sunflower School And College	5
DNCC	35	1054	Provati High School Home	2
DNCC	36	1088	UCEP Tweet Bud Field School	2
DNCC	6	183	Ahasina Mission College	4
DNCC	6	179	Rupnagar ideal High School	4
DNCC	6	202	Bangabandhu Bidyaniketon	5
DNCC	10	188	New Bud Ideal Bidya Niketon	4
DNCC	11	349	Kalyanpur Girls School And College	3
DNCC	12	394	Combined International School	4
DSCC	19	364	Siddeshori Girls High School	3
DSCC	14	254	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	257	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	260	Rayer Bazar Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	16	312	YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School	3
DSCC	24	447	New Islamia Govt. Pri. School	2
DSCC	25	453	Rahmat Ullaah Boys High School	2
DSCC	38	603	M.A. Alim Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	2	31	Ideal Muslim Govt. Primary School	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DSCC	15	264	Dhaka City College	5
DSCC	28	488	KM Bashir Govt. Pri. School	2
DSCC	29	493	Jamia Islamia Islambag Madrasha	3
DSCC	53	797	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	1
3. Violation of electoral campaign law				
CCC	7	135	Mohammadiya Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
CCC	11	248	Soraipara Haji Abdul Ali Govt. Primary School	1
CCC	13	274	Pahartali College	1
CCC	14	290	Chittagong Police Institute	1
DNCC	10	338	Hazrat Shah Ali Model School And College	4
DNCC	13	427	Little Flower Academy	8
DNCC	35	1054	Provati High School Home	4
DNCC	6	181	Dhaka Cadet Madrasa	2
DNCC	12	388	Morning Advance School	2
DNCC	12	397	Dhaka Modern School & Collage(School Shakha,185,Dokkhin,Bisil,Mirpur-1	2
DNCC	17	573	Jani-e-Alam Govt. High School	2
DNCC	18	629	House No-3, Road No-10, Baridhara, Gulshan, Dhaka	1
DSCC	25	457	Lalbag 1No Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	26	464	Agrani School and College	2
DSCC	2	31	Ideal Muslim Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	42	649	649.Kabi Nazrul govt. College,(Female, center-2)	4
DSCC	49	727	727.Dhalpur community center, (center-3)	1
DSCC	28	488	KM Bashir Govt. Pri. School	3
DSCC	29	493	Jamia Islamia Islambag Madrasha	2
DSCC	46	690	Faridabad Jamia Arabiya Imdabul Uloom Madrasha	2
DSCC	53	796	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	2
4. Violence				
CCC	5	105	Najiriya Naimiya Mohammadiya Senior Madrasha	1
CCC	5	106	Najiriya Naimiya Mohammadiya Senior Madrasha	1
CCC	6	114	Wachiya Ahamadiya Sunniya Madrasha And Orphanage	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	6	115	Hasan Government Primary School	2
CCC	6	118	MD Kamal Uddin High School	1
CCC	6	122	Majidiya Islamiya Alim Madrasha,	2
CCC	7	133	Mohammadpur Muk And Deaf School	1
CCC	7	135	Mohammadiya Government Primary School	6
CCC	8	158	Ahammad Mia Primary School	1
CCC	8	160	Probortak Vidyapith	2
CCC	8	164	Muradpur Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	169	Forestry Research High School	4
CCC	8	177	East Nasirabad Abdul Jalil Government Primary School	2
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
CCC	9	191	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	193	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	196	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	3
CCC	9	207	Hazi Abdul Ali City Corp. High School.	1
CCC	9	213	Koibadhan Housing estate Bangabadhu High school	1
CCC	10	220	North Katroli Nurul Haq Govt. Primary school	1
CCC	10	228	Katroli Nurul Haq Chowdhury High school	1
CCC	10	229	Natun Monsurabad Alhaj Mostafa Hakim KG & High School	1
CCC	10	230	Natun Monsurabad Alhaj Mostafa Hakim KG & High School	1
CCC	11	233	South Pranhari Amin Government Primary School	1
CCC	11	235	Dr. Fazlul Hajera Degree College	1
CCC	11	237	Abdurpara Regi. Primary School	2
CCC	11	238	Abdurpara Regi. Primary School	1
CCC	11	239	Alor Juti Primary School	6
CCC	11	246	Rabeya Bosri Girls' High School	1
CCC	11	248	Soraipara Haji Abdul Ali Govt. Primary School	1
CCC	12	256	Eidgah Boys Government Primary School	3
CCC	12	258	Youth Development Department	1
CCC	12	262	Soraipara City Corporation School and College	2
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	12	267	West Nasirabad Abdul Hakim City Corp. Kinder Garten	1
CCC	13	272	Pahartali College	6
CCC	14	293	Shahid Nagar City Corporation Girls High School	2
CCC	14	298	Usef Matirjhana School	5
DNCC	10	335	Hazrat Shah Ali Model School And College	2
DNCC	35	1056	Shahnuri Model High School	2
DNCC	35	1057	Shahnuri Model High School	2
DNCC	35	1060	Big Mogbazar Govt. Primary School	6
DNCC	36	1066	Ispahani Girls High School and College	2
DNCC	14	479	Paramaond School and College 479,East Kazipara, Mirpur, Dhaka	2
DNCC	32	993	Mohammadpur Preparatory High School	2
DNCC	6	202	Bangabandhu Bidyaniketon	5
DNCC	9	317	Doel Kinder Garden	2
DNCC	17	573	Jani-e-Alam Govt. High School	1
DSCC	22	393	National Young Association Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	1	9	Khilgaon Model University College	2
DSCC	14	235	Bhuiya International School	4
DSCC	14	239	Monesshor Govt. Primary School	4
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	257	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	260	Rayer Bazar Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	16	298	Meherunnesa Girls School and College	2
DSCC	22	391	National Young Association Govt. Primary School	4
DSCC	22	395	Hajaribag Girls Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	26	469	Little Angels School	2
DSCC	27	476	Badrunnesa Women High School	4
DSCC	15	278	Doctor Malika School, Plot- 72,Road,7/A Dhanmondi(Mohila) Kendro-1	2
DSCC	2	25	Ali Ahmed High School	5
DSCC	3	62	Meradia Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	15	285	Advance Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	4	76	Bashabo High School	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DSCC	5	98	Avoy Binodoni High School	2
DSCC	8	153	Komlapur Shere Bangla Railway High School	2
DSCC	5	100	100.Rajarbag adarsha govt. primary school, naton bhaban(female voter-1),center-2	1
DSCC	39	608	608.Sher e bangla girls college,(male & female center-1)	5
DSCC	49	727	727.Dhalpur community center, (center-3)	2
DSCC	29	493	Jamia Islamia Islambag Madrasha	2
DSCC	49	735	City Corporation Ideal High School	2
DSCC	53	796	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	3
DSCC	53	809	Sunflower Kindergarten and High School	2
5. Declaration of closure of polling center				
CCC	6	113	Wachiya Ahamadiya Sunniya Madrasha And Orphanage	1
CCC	6	114	Wachiya Ahamadiya Sunniya Madrasha And Orphanage	1
CCC	7	136	Mohammadiya Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	155	Renesa School And College	1
CCC	8	157	Sucayan Bidyapith Primary School	1
CCC	8	159	Metropolitan Residential School And College	1
CCC	8	182	Technical Training Centre	1
CCC	9	191	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	192	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	193	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	196	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	1
CCC	9	210	Pahatali Girls High School	1
CCC	10	220	North Katroli Nurul Haq Govt. Primary school	1
CCC	10	223	North Katroli City Corp. Girls High school	1
CCC	10	228	Katroli Nurul Haq Chowdhury High school	1
CCC	11	237	Abdurpara Regi. Primary School	1
CCC	11	238	Abdurpara Regi. Primary School	1
CCC	11	240	Bashanti Girls' High School	1
CCC	11	241	Bashanti Girls' High School	2
CCC	11	250	Jameya Mohammadiya Islamia Dakhil Madrassa	1
CCC	12	256	Eidgah Boys Government Primary School	3

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	12	267	West Nasirabad Abdul Hakim City Corp. Kinder Garten	1
CCC	13	272	Pahartali College	3
CCC	13	275	Pahartali College	1
CCC	14	296	New Tiger Pass Primary School, Tiger Pass	1
DNCC	35	1057	Shahnuri Model High School	2
DNCC	35	1063	Ispahani Girls High School and College	2
DNCC	36	1066	Ispahani Girls High School and College	2
DSCC	1	2	Model High School	2
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	257	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	260	Rayer Bazar Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	16	312	YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School	3
DSCC	1	1	01.Model high school, Khilgaon (male voter-1) center-1	3
DSCC	42	649	649.Kabi Nazrul govt. College,(Female, center-2)	3
DSCC	53	805	Jurain Ashraf Master Ideal High School	4
6. Voting resumed in the closed center				
CCC	6	113	Wachiya Ahamadiya Sunniya Madrasha And Orphanage	1
CCC	6	114	Wachiya Ahamadiya Sunniya Madrasha And Orphanage	1
CCC	6	122	Majidiya Islamiya Alim Madrasha,	1
CCC	7	136	Mohammadiya Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	159	Metropolitan Residential School And College	1
CCC	9	191	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	193	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	196	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	1
CCC	10	220	North Katroli Nurul Haq Govt. Primary school	1
CCC	11	250	Jameya Mohammadiya Islamia Dakhil Madrassa	1
CCC	12	256	Eidgah Boys Government Primary School	1
CCC	12	258	Youth Development Department	1
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	12	267	West Nasirabad Abdul Hakim City Corp. Kinder Garten	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DNCC	35	1056	Shahnuri Model High School	3
DNCC	35	1057	Shahnuri Model High School	3
DNCC	36	1066	Ispahani Girls High School and College	3
DSCC	22	393	National Young Association Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	257	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	16	312	YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School	2
DSCC	7	135	Maniknagar Model High School	2
DSCC	5	100	100.Rajarbag adarsha govt. primary school, naton bhaban(female voter-1),center-2	2
DSCC	42	649	649.Kabi Nazrul govt. College,(Female, center-2)	2
7. Polling agent thrown out from the center				
CCC	6	116	Hasan Government Primary School	9
CCC	7	138	Jahur Ahammad Chawdhary City Corporation Primary School and Urban Hospital	2
CCC	8	157	Sucayan Bidyapith Primary School	1
CCC	8	167	Forestry Research High School	1
CCC	8	168	Forestry Research High School	3
CCC	8	179	Polytechnic Institute	1
CCC	8	180	Polytechnic Institute	1
CCC	8	182	Technical Training Centre	1
CCC	11	239	Alor Juti Primary School	2
CCC	12	257	South Paharthali Jharna Para Private Primary School	1
CCC	12	258	Youth Development Department	1
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	13	272	Pahartali College	2
CCC	13	278	Wireless Jhautala Bohumukhi High School	1
CCC	14	290	Chittagong Police Institute	2
CCC	14	296	New Tiger Pass Primary School, Tiger Pass	1
CCC	14	299	Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School	1
DNCC	13	416	Monipur High School(Boys)	2
DNCC	35	1056	Shahnuri Model High School	2
DNCC	35	1057	Shahnuri Model High School	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DNCC	6	183	Ahasina Mission College	6
DNCC	10	188	New Bud Ideal Bidya Niketon	2
DNCC	12	394	Combined International School	2
DNCC	17	604	Bidyasagar School & College	1
DNCC	18	629	House No-3, Road No-10, Baridhara, Gulshan, Dhaka	2
DSCC	19	364	Siddeshori Girls High School	3
DSCC	16	298	Meherunnesa Girls School and College	2
DSCC	17	326	Lake Circus High School College	2
DSCC	18	351	Birseshto Nur Mohammad Public College	4
DSCC	12	201	Abujar Gifari College	3
DSCC	5	100	100.Rajarbag adarsha govt. primary school, naton bhaban(female voter-1),center-2	2
DSCC	42	649	649.Kabi Nazrul govt. College,(Female, center-2)	1
DSCC	28	488	KM Bashir Govt. Pri. School	2
DSCC	38	607	Shahid Memorial High School	2
DSCC	53	793	Jurain Ideal Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	53	797	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	1
8. Anyone arrested				
CCC	12	257	South Paharthali Jharna Para Private Primary School	1
CCC	14	299	Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School	1
DNCC	35	1054	Provati High School Home	2
DSCC	14	246	Holy Flower Model College	2
9. Anyone killed				
None				
10. Observers were restricted to enter in the center				
CCC	5	106	Najiriya Naimiya Mohammadiya Senior Madrasha	1
CCC	7	138	Jahur Ahammad Chawdhary City Corporation Primary School and Urban Hospital	1
CCC	8	164	Muradpur Government Primary School	1
CCC	9	207	Hazi Abdul Ali City Corp. High School.	2
DNCC	12	390	Dhaka Ahsania Mission girls High School	2
DNCC	6	183	Ahasina Mission College	2
DNCC	5	150	Abdul Manna Govt. Primary School	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DSCC	1	8	Khilgaon Model University College	4
DSCC	1	10	Khilgaon Model University College	2
DSCC	1	14	Khilgaon Govt. High School	2
DSCC	14	262	Holy Rose School and College	2
DSCC	26	464	Agrani School and College	2
DSCC	15	267	Junior Laboratory High School, Bari No-77/A, Dhanmondi (Purush) Kendro-1	3
11. Observers were expelled from the center				
CCC	6	122	Majidiya Islamiya Alim Madrasha,	1
CCC	7	139	Amin Jute Mills Labour Club, CBA Office	1
CCC	9	192	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	197	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	2
CCC	9	207	Hazi Abdul Ali City Corp. High School.	2
CCC	10	223	North Katroli City Corp. Girls High school	1
CCC	11	232	P.H. Amin Academy	1
CCC	11	235	Dr. Fazlul Hajera Degree College	2
DNCC	6	183	Ahasina Mission College	8
DNCC	9	318	Shaheed Abdul Mannan Khan Model School	2
DNCC	12	394	Combined International School	3
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	14	260	Rayer Bazar Govt. Primary School	4
DSCC	15	267	Junior Laboratory High School, Bari No-77/A, Dhanmondi (Purush) Kendro-1	2
DSCC	18	340	Teachers Training Collage, Mirpur Road, (Purush) Kendro-2	2
DSCC	49	730	Jatrabari Model High School	3
12. Observers were not allowed to enter in the counting room				
CCC	6	117	East Solasahar Government Primary School	2
CCC	6	121	Majidiya Islamiya Alim Madrasha,	2
CCC	7	139	Amin Jute Mills Labour Club, CBA Office	1
CCC	8	171	Nasirabad Government Girls High School	1
CCC	8	189	Chittagong Government Women College	2
CCC	9	197	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	2
CCC	9	201	Madrasa a Nuria Complex	2

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	9	206	Western International School and college.	1
CCC	9	207	Hazi Abdul Ali City Corp. High School.	2
CCC	9	214	Koard P Block Govt. Primary school.	2
CCC	10	220	North Katroli Nurul Haq Govt. Primary school	1
CCC	10	227	Katroli Nurul Haq Chowdhury High school	1
CCC	10	228	Katroli Nurul Haq Chowdhury High school	1
CCC	10	229	Natun Monsurabad Alhaj Mostafa Hakim KG & High School	2
CCC	10	230	Natun Monsurabad Alhaj Mostafa Hakim KG & High School	2
CCC	11	235	Dr. Fazlul Hajera Degree College	2
CCC	11	244	South Kattali Government Primary School	2
CCC	11	247	Soraipara Haji Abdul Ali Govt. Primary School	1
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	13	285	TigerPass Multipurpose High School	1
DNCC	34	1032	Rajmushuri Govt. Primary School	2
DNCC	34	1046	Jafarabad Ideal Govt. Primary School	6
DNCC	10	223	Bangladesh Korea Technical Training Centre	3
DNCC	5	150	Abdul Manna Govt. Primary School	3
DNCC	9	312	Jahanabad Govt. Primary School	2
DNCC	9	318	Shaheed Abdul Mannan Khan Model School	2
DNCC	9	319	Fulkurhi Kinder Garten	4
DNCC	11	350	Kalyanpur Girls School And College	8
DNCC	11	357	kalyanpur Model Govt. Primary School	10
DNCC	11	366	Haqqani Mission Bidyapith and Moha Bidyaloy	3
DNCC	11	371	Mohammadia Islamia Alim Madrasa	5
DNCC	12	380	Bashir Uddin Ideal School And College	3
DNCC	30	966	Begum Nurjahan Memorial Girls High School	3
DNCC	17	573	Jani-e-Alam Govt. High School	2
DNCC	18	622	Kalachadpur High School	3
DSCC	23	422	Shahid Anwar Govt. Primary School	3
DSCC	26	463	Agrani School and College	6
DSCC	1	8	Khilgaon Model University College	5

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DSCC	1	11	National Ideal School	4
DSCC	11	182	Abdul Gafor Study Shibir	3
DSCC	14	234	Evan Laboratory High School	3
DSCC	14	262	Holy Rose School and College	3
DSCC	16	293	Radiant Star Kindergarten	2
DSCC	17	329	Dhandmondi 1 No Govt. Primary School	3
DSCC	26	469	Little Angels School	3
DSCC	15	267	Juniour Labretory High School,Bari No-77/A,Dhanmondi(Purush) Kendro-1	3
DSCC	18	337	Govt Labretory High School,Newmarket,Dhaka,(Purush + Mohila) Kendro-1	4
DSCC	1	6	Khilgaon Model Govt. Primary School	1
DSCC	49	727	Dhalpur community center (center-3)	3
DSCC	53	796	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	6
13. Probable stuffing				
CCC	7	130	Jamiya Ahammadiya Sunniya Aliya Madrasha	1
CCC	7	139	Amin Jute Mills Labour Club, CBA Office	1
CCC	7	141	Al Hera Islamia Dakhil Madrasha	2
CCC	7	144	Mohammadnagar Registered Private Primary School	2
CCC	8	155	Renesa School And College	2
CCC	8	157	Sucayan Bidyapith Primary School	2
CCC	8	158	Ahammad Mia Primary School	1
CCC	8	161	Probortak Vidyapith	1
CCC	8	167	Forestry Research High School	1
CCC	8	169	Forestry Research High School	1
CCC	8	177	East Nasirabad Abdul Jalil Government Primary School	1
CCC	8	179	Polytechnic Institute	1
CCC	8	180	Polytechnic Institute	2
CCC	8	187	Chittagong Model School and College	1
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
CCC	9	191	East Firoz Shah City Corp. Girls High School	1
CCC	9	197	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	1
CCC	9	206	Western International School and college.	1

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
CCC	9	207	Hazi Abdul Ali City Corp. High School.	1
CCC	10	220	North Katroli Nurul Haq Govt. Primary school	1
CCC	12	261	Soraipara City Corporation School and College	1
CCC	12	263	Hajee Eunos Community Primary School, Baca Mia Road	2
CCC	12	266	Islamia Foundation Bhaban	1
CCC	12	267	West Nasirabad Abdul Hakim City Corp. Kinder Garten	1
CCC	13	272	Pahartali College	2
CCC	13	276	Wireless Jhautala Bohumukhi High School	1
CCC	13	278	Wireless Jhautala Bohumukhi High School	1
CCC	13	280	Usef Ambagan School	1
CCC	13	281	Railway Employees Girls High School	1
CCC	14	287	Chittagong Police Institute	1
CCC	14	290	Chittagong Police Institute	2
CCC	14	296	New Tiger Pass Primary School, Tiger Pass	1
DNCC	17	594	Kuril Kuratali Ideal High School	17
DNCC	36	1066	Ispahani Girls High School and College	4
DNCC	6	183	Ahasina Mission College	6
DNCC	6	202	Bangabandhu Bidyaniketon	4
DNCC	10	188	New Bud Ideal Bidya Niketon	3
DNCC	12	394	Combined International School	3
DNCC	17	573	Jani-e-Alam Govt. High School	2
DNCC	17	604	Bidyasagar School & College	5
DNCC	17	612	Kurmitola High School	3
DNCC	18	629	House No-3, Road No-10, Baridhara, Gulshan, Dhaka	2
DSCC	18	350	Birseshito Nur Mohammad Public College	5
DSCC	23	422	Shahid Anwar Govt. Primary School	5
DSCC	14	256	Jarina Shikdar Girls High School	2
DSCC	16	293	Radiant Star Kindergarten	2
DSCC	16	298	Meherunnesa Girls School and College	2
DSCC	16	312	YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School	2
DSCC	18	351	Birseshito Nur Mohammad Public College	4

City Corp.	Word No.	Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	No. of Incident
DSCC	25	453	Rahmat Ullaah Boys High School	5
DSCC	15	284	Just International School & Collage,Bari-279/A,Road-15,///A(New) West Dhanmondi (Mohila)	3
DSCC	18	340	Teachers Training Collage,Mirpur Road,(Purush) Kendro-2	2
DSCC	2	31	Ideal Muslim Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	5	109	Ahmed bag Govt. Primary School	2
DSCC	5	100	Rajarbag Adarsha govt. primary school, naton bhaban (female voter-1),center-2	2
DSCC	39	608	Sher e bangla girls college,(male & female center-1)	3
DSCC	49	727	Dhalpur community center, (center-3)	4
DSCC	53	793	Jurain Ideal Govt. Primary School	7
DSCC	53	796	Dr. Abdur Raof Govt. Primary School	3
14. Alteration of ballot boxes				
CCC	8	188	Chittagong Government Women College	1
15. Declaration of result withheld in the center				
CCC	9	196	Mirza Ahmad Ispahani High School	1
16. Problem with distribution of electoral materials (pen, paper etc)				
None				

Annex B: Vote received by winning ward councilors in Dhaka South

DHAKA SOUTH			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 1	Wayahidul Hasan Milton	7,784	41.22 %
Ward 2	Mohammad Anisur Rahaman	24,571	49.87 %
Ward 3	Md. Moksud Hossain	8,967	43.46 %
Ward 4	Md. Golam Hossain	10,596	43.62 %
Ward 5	Md. Ashrafujjaman	8,817	53.40 %
Ward 6	Md. Shirajul Islam Vatti	7,147	42.75 %
Ward 7	Abdul Basit Khan	6,853	45.40 %
Ward 8	Md. Sultan Mia	5,009	44.40 %
Ward 9	AKM Mominul Hoque Saeed	11,880	57.07 %
Ward 10	Maruf Ahmed Mansur	4,915	56.77 %
Ward 11	Md. Hamidul Haq	6,298	40.70 %
Ward 12	Gulam Asraf Talukdar	12,248	55.93 %
Ward 13	Mostaba Zaman	17,676	52.31 %
Ward 14	Md Selim	15,574	40.06 %
Ward 15	Jakir Hossain Shwapon	15,342	46.30 %
Ward 16	Md. Hosen Haidar	12,659	41.43 %
Ward 17	Salauddin Ahmed Dhali	10,695	44.32 %
Ward 18	Josim Uddin	12,779	46.60 %
Ward 19	Munshi Kamrujjaman	15,907	60.73 %
Ward 20	Farid Uddin Ahmed Roton	13,895	65.51 %
Ward 21	M A Hamid Khan	2,686	36.01 %

DHAKA SOUTH			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 22	Md. Toriqul Islam Sajeeb	10,128	49.35 %
Ward 23	Md. Humayun Kobir	6,052	43.71 %
Ward 24	Mosharof Hosen	7,081	43.25 %
Ward 25	Haji Md. Delowar Hossain	5,163	53.22 %
Ward 26	Alhaj Md Hasibur Rahman	2,589	41.86 %
Ward 27	Umor-Bin-Abdul Aziz	3,717	54.85 %
Ward 28	Md. Anowar Parvez Badol	2,566	51.38 %
Ward 29	Jahangir Alam Babul	7,950	50.72 %
Ward 30	Md. Hasan	7,961	70.00 %
Ward 31	Rofiqul Islam Rasel	2,896	58.31 %
Ward 32	Md. Billal Shah	4,395	54.07 %
Ward 33	Md. Aual Hosen	5,597	52.62 %
Ward 34	Mir Somir	4,162	44.71 %
Ward 35	Hazi Md: Abu sayed	3,317	61.06 %
Ward 36	Ranjan Biswas	4,887	61.66 %
Ward 37	Md. Aa. Rohoman Miyazi	3,817	63.31 %
Ward 38	Abu Ahmed Munnafi	8,065	52.32 %
Ward 39	Moynul Hoq Monju	6,161	47.62 %
Ward 40	Mokbul Islam Khan Tipu	6,911	50.90 %
Ward 41	Saroyar Hasan (Alo)	13,603	65.77 %
Ward 42	Md. Selim	5,868	52.43 %
Ward 43	Md. Arif Hossen	6,518	58.57 %

DHAKA SOUTH			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 44	Md. Abdus Shahed Montu	3,130	51.94 %
Ward 45	Abdul Kadir	5,099	47.40 %
Ward 46	Md. Shohid Ullah	3,549	44.27 %
Ward 47	Nasir Ahmmod Vuyha	11,183	59.18 %
Ward 48	Md. Abul Kalam	10,326	53.70 %
Ward 49	Badol Sharder	5,255	41.53 %
Ward 50	Md. Delwar Hossain Khan	5,128	40.30 %
Ward 51	Kazi Habibur Rahman (Habu)	13,768	45.73 %
Ward 52	Md. Nasim Miya	8,693	56.89 %
Ward 53	Mohammad Nur Hossain	6,874	48.82 %
Ward 54	Md. Masud	5,368	43.52 %
Ward 55	Md. Nure Alom	9,563	42.75 %
Ward 56	Mohammad Hossen	15,547	43.33 %
Ward 57	Md. Saidul Islam	15,970	47.42 %

Annex C: Vote received by winning ward councilors in Dhaka North

DHAKA NORTH			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 1	Md. Afsar Uddin Khan	23,862	58.22 %
Ward 2	Md. Sazzad Hussain	14,634	34.28 %
Ward 3	Kazi Jahirul Islam Manik	8,684	42.22 %
Ward 4	Md. Jamal Mustafa	6,520	34.50 %
Ward 5	Abdur Rauf	20,409	45.75 %
Ward 6	Md. Rajjob Hosen	22,378	36.08 %
Ward 7	Md. Mobassher Chowdhury	20,127	43.41 %
Ward 8	Md. Kazi Tipu Sultan	10,104	39.93 %
Ward 9	Muhammad Abul Hosen	4,825	50.53 %
Ward 10	Abu Taher	12,653	39.72 %
Ward 11	Deoyan Abdul Mannan	5,850	36.09 %
Ward 12	Md. Iqbal Hossain Titu	12,743	36.53 %
Ward 13	Md. Harun-Or-Rashid	10,742	27.83 %
Ward 14	Muhammad Humayun Roshid	9,052	30.40 %
Ward 15	Salek Molla	8,510	37.56 %
Ward 16	Md. Motiur Rahman	9,250	32.69 %
Ward 17	Md. Zinnat Ali	22,361	39.33 %
Ward 18	Md. Zakir Hosen	13,275	51.14 %
Ward 19	Md. Mofijur Rahman	10,890	31.58 %
Ward 20	Md. Nasir	8,733	31.93 %
Ward 21	M Osman Gani	16,540	43.19 %

Ward 22	Liyakot Ali	10,080	31.07 %
Ward 23	Moshtaq Ahmed	5,293	34.18 %
Ward 24	Md. Shafiullah	16,236	30.66 %
Ward 25	Sheikh Mojibur Rahman	data not found	data not found
Ward 26	Samim Hasan	12,103	36.54 %
Ward 27	Foridur Rahman Khan	18,756	45.59 %
Ward 28	Md. Forkan Hossain	5,153	40.68 %
Ward 29	M. Nurul Islam Raton	7,570	46.80 %
Ward 30	Abul Hashem Hasu	11,333	34.69 %
Ward 31	Md. Shafiqul Islam	data not found	data not found
Ward 32	Habibur Rahman	4,096	37.79 %
Ward 33	Tarequzzaman Rajib	data not found	data not found
Ward 34	Md. Abu Taher Khan	6,380	37.71 %
Ward 35	Foyjul Monir Chowduri	4,523	32.36 %
Ward 36	Taymur Reza	8,815	35.29 %

Annex D: Vote received by winning ward councilors in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 1	Toufiq Ahmad Chowdhury	9,666	74.32 %
Ward 2	Md. Shahed Iqbal Babu	8,652	41.94 %
Ward 3	Kafil Uddin Khan	8,451	52.75 %
Ward 4	Md. Saifuddin Khaled	12,487	44.38 %
Ward 5	Md. Ajom	9,392	39.62 %
Ward 6	M Ashraful Alam	7,668	47.89 %
Ward 7	Md. Mobarak Ali	17,102	42.55 %
Ward 8	Md. Morshed Alam	10,345	41.79 %
Ward 9	Md. Jahurul Alam Jashim	15,457	57.33 %
Ward 10	Nichar Uddin Ahmed	7,121	50.21 %
Ward 11	Morshed Akter Chawdhuri	13,747	55.17 %
Ward 12	Md. Saber Ahmed	9,634	46.44 %
Ward 13	Mohammad Hosain Hiron	20,373	57.16 %
Ward 14	Abul Fozol Kabir Ahmed	9,227	51.07 %
Ward 15	Mohammad Gias Uddin	15,711	61.06 %
Ward 16	Sayed Golam Haidar Mintu	6,909	50.76 %
Ward 17	AKM Jafrul Islam	10,572	39.64 %
Ward 18	Haji Mohammad Harun Ur Rashid	9,781	63.87 %
Ward 19	Haji Moha. Yeasin Chowdhury (Asu)	5,757	42.42 %
Ward 20	Chowdhuri Hasan Mahmud Hasni	7,543	49.89 %
Ward 21	Shaibal Das Shuman	6,687	52.96 %

CHITTAGONG			
Ward No.	Winning Candidate	Vote Received	Percentage
Ward 22	Mohammad Salim Ullah	6,596	58.34 %
Ward 23	Mohammad Javed	8,690	64.89 %
Ward 24	Nazmul Hoque	13,681	44.12 %
Ward 25	Abdus Sobur Liton	4,900	45.11 %
Ward 26	M. Abul Hashem	7,318	51.30 %
Ward 27	H.M Sohel	10,782	54.35 %
Ward 28	Mohammad Abdul Kader	10,141	45.82 %
Ward 29	Golam Mohammad Jobair	6,622	46.09 %
Ward 30	Mazharul Islam Chawdhuri	3,689	44.13 %
Ward 31	Tarek Soleman Selim	7,543	70.42 %
Ward 32	Jahar Lal hazari	10,070	66.99 %
Ward 33	Hasan Murad	4,746	56.04 %
Ward 34	Mohammad Ismail	5,233	57.09 %
Ward 35	Haji Nurul Haq	3,867	50.18 %
Ward 36	Mohammad Habibul Hoque	5,168	43.87 %
Ward 37	Mohammad Shofiul Alam	3,979	56.38 %
Ward 38	Golam M Chawdhuri	18,997	38.31 %
Ward 39	Ziaul Hoque Sumon	24,984	40.64 %
Ward 40	Haji Md.Joinal Abedin	13,751	48.53 %
Ward 41	Saleh Ahmad Chawdhuri	11,546	55.66 %

Annex E: Mayoral Candidate Expenditure

Mayoral Candidate Expenditure-Dhaka North City Corporation

SL	Name of the Candidate	Total Expenditure
1	Annisul Huq	47,43,394
2	Abdullah Al Kafi	5,17,300
3	A Y M Kamrul Islam	1,05,000
4	Kazi M Shahidullah	9,950
5	Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky	4,91,529
6	Tabith Awal	45,27,943
7	Nader Chowdhury	2,88,680
8	Bahauddin Ahmed	3,64,036
9	Mahi Badruddoza Chowdhury	31,89,392
10	Md. Anisuzzaman Khokon	1,89,800
11	Mohammed Zaman Bhuiyan	46,000
12	Md. Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki	14,48,162
13	Md. Shamsul Alam Chowdhury	4,04,650
14	Moazzem Hossain Khan Majlish	70,000
15	Seikh Md. Fazle Bari Masud	1,67,200
16	Sheikh Shahiduzzman	00

Mayoral Candidate Expenditure-Dhaka South City Corporation

SL	Name of the Candidate	Total Expenditure
1	Abu Naser Muhammed Masud Hussain	18,750
2	A S M Akram	20,800
3	Advocate Muhammed Ayub Hussain	16,500
4	S M Asaduzzaman Ripon	13,500
5	Dilip Bhadro	00
6	Bazlur Rashid Firoz	97,660
7	Mashiur Rahman	19,595
8	Mirza Abbas Uddin Ahmed	19,13,170
9	Md. Akhtaruzzaman alias Ayatullah	28,960
10	Md. Adbur Rahman	4,56,800
11	Md. Abdul Khaleque	1,38,400
12	Md. Golam Mawla Rony	4,40,810
13	Md. Zahidur Rahman	00
14	Md. Bahrane Sultan Bahar	60,000
15	Md. Riazul Karim Chowdhury	5,36,000
16	Md. Shahidul Islam	39,500
17	Mohammed Shafi Ullah Chowdhury	33,500
18	Mohammed Sayeed Khokon	28,35,112
19	Mohammed Saifuddin	5,54,000

20	Shahin Khan	40,000
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Mayoral Candidate Expenditure-Chittagong City Corporation

SL	Name of the Candidate	Total Expenditure
1	A J M Nasir Uddin	24,72,196
2	Arif Moinuddin	Not Submitted
3	M. A Matin	5,57,950
4	Md. Abul Kalam Azad	1,48,900
5	Md. Alauddin Chowdhury	6,68,400
6	Md. Wazed Hussain Bhuiyan	8,02,450
7	Md. Solaiman Alam Seith	16,76,000
8	Md. Shafiul Alam	2,98,900
9	Mohammed Manjur Alam	29,74,521
10	Saifuddin Ahmed (Robi)	49,750
11	Sayed Sajjad Joha	4,70,000
12	Hussain Muhammad Mujibul Haque	Not Submitted