

Parliamentary Election and Political Violence in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Politics of Bangladesh has been criminalized over the last four decades resulting multi-level political violence. Political violence is particularly high during the parliamentary election period. This study analyses the nature, causes, and immediate fatalities of political violence during parliamentary election in Bangladesh. Secondary research methods have been used to conduct this study. Data were collected using structured checklist technique analyzing the newspaper contents. This study has revealed that incidents of violence in the month of parliamentary election as well as before and after the month of election are higher than other months. People also become more victim of violence in the month of parliamentary election, before and after the month of parliamentary election than other months. This study has found that the main causes of political violence are strike, blockade, internal and external conflict between political parties, political conflicts, political revenge and establishing political supremacy over a certain area. This study also found that police responses to the incidents of political violence is very low. This rationale of the study implies on that the descriptive findings of the study that can be used to understand the issues and formulate policy to prevent political violence as well as to improve political environment in Bangladesh encouraging the democratic culture to fulfill their goals avoiding the means of violence and conflict.

Keywords: Politics, Violence, Election, Political conflicts, Democracy

DOI: 10.7176/JLPG/89-11

Publication date: September 30th 2019

1. Introduction and Background of the Study

Since the independence of Bangladesh its politics has been featured by several political conflicts and violence (Peiris, 2016). The contemporary politics in Bangladesh is also characterized by conflicts and violence having the practices of democratic parliamentary policy. Political instability is a major political phenomenon in Bangladesh, which impedes good governance and democratization process. Political violence is defined as violence perpetrated by political parties against their opponent parties or themselves or general people to achieve political goals (Datta, 2005). Political violence is a common means utilized by people, governments and political parties worldwide to achieve politics goals. Having less confidence over the political system and practices, many believe that violence is one of the ways to popularize their demand and to gain public attention. Though they feel that violence isn't justified but think it's necessary to achieve their political aims.

Bangladesh has a history of political violence, including the assassinations of two presidents and several coup attempts since its independence from Pakistan in 1971. One of the inevitable political facts of Bangladesh is that the two main political parties; Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) remain in disputes with each other over various issues, which made political culture of Bangladesh hostile in nature. Though It is also evident that higher level of exercise of democratic cultures among the political parties including ruling parties lowers the number of violence incidents (Bill, 1973). Every year thousands of people become victims of political violence in Bangladesh. Every year many people died, many get injured and many properties are damaged. In 2017, there were 256 clashes from January to September and at least 44 were killed and 3,506 injured across the country. In 2016 alone, 177 people, including 83 from the ruling Awami League activists and 84 bystanders, died in 907 political clashes, which also injured 11,462 (Ain o Salish Kendra, 2018). At least 1,028 people have been killed and 52,066 injured in 3,540 instances of political violence from January 1, 2013 to September 30, 2017 in Bangladesh (Dhaka Tribune, June 02, 2018). Over the period of 2009 to 2013 about 1330 people were killed and in an average 22 citizen of the country are victimized every month and 44 people were injured in an average every day totaling in 79,883 people are injured during the period (Save Bangladesh, 2014). From 2001 to 2006 at least 2389 people have been killed and 64942 injured in instances of political violence (Moniruzzaman, 2009). The root causes of these notable number of political violence have been identifies as the ideological conflicts and achieving political goals of the parties. The immediate causes of political violence are identified by many scholars as the hartal (strike), blockade, previous conflict, political conflict, political revenge, election conflict, provocative language, establishing supremacy, internal and external

conflict etc.

Political violence is mainly more concentrated during parliamentary election period. This is because of frequent hartals, blockades and election clashes. Sree Radha Datta (2005) studied with the trends and causes political violence in Bangladesh. But he did not specifically work with the political violence during parliamentary election period. Md. Moniruzzaman (2009) studied with party politics and political violence in Bangladesh. But he also did not specifically work with the political violence during parliamentary election period. Without these there is no enough related study on this topic in Bangladesh. That's why it makes interest to study about political violence during parliamentary election period. This study aims to analyze the political violence during two parliamentary elections period. This analysis includes nature, causes and immediate fatalities of political violence during parliamentary election period in Bangladesh. Secondary research methods have been used to conduct this study.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to find out the real scenario of political violence during parliamentary election in Bangladesh. Specifically, following objectives are formulated for the study: (i) to know the nature of political violence during parliamentary election; (ii) to find out the causes of political violence during parliamentary election period; (iii) to identify the immediate fatalities of political violence during parliamentary election period and (iv) to prepare comparative scenery of political violence before and after the parliamentary elections.

3. Research Method of the Study

This study has been conducted following the quantitative research approach. Data have been collected from secondary resources, mainly from the widely published recognized national daily newspaper. Every single incident of political violence has been considered as unit of analysis. Purposive sampling technique has been used to select the incidents of violence to analyze for the purposes of the study. Purposively one national daily newspaper has been taken named Daily Prothom Alo.

The political violence in relation to the 9th (held on 29 December, 2008) and 10th (on 5 January, 2014) parliamentary elections of Bangladesh have been analyzed. The political violence occurred during before and after six months of the each election were selected as unit of analysis.

Data were collected by using structured checklist technique analyzing the newspaper contents relevant to political violence. The collected data were analyzed by using univariate tools and techniques. The statistical techniques used in the study were: frequency distribution, percentage, and graphical presentation. The results of the study were interpreted from criminological point of view.

4. Findings and Discussion

This section of the paper presents the results of the study organizing the findings in different themes. The findings are presented mainly according to month of occurrences, characteristics of the fatalities, identifying the parties involved, time and places of violence, responses of the police and causes of violence.

4.1. Incidents of Political Violence

Table 1.1: Number of incidents (Before six months of the 9th parliamentary election)

Month	Frequency	Percent
July	01	5.26
August	04	21.05
September	03	15.79
October	02	10.52
November	04	21.05
December	05	26.31
Total	19	100

Table 1.1 shows that the month of December (month of the parliamentary election) contained the highest number of incidents of violence revealing 26.31% followed by November and August (21.05%), September (15.79%), October (10.52%) and July (5.26%). Number of incidents were high in the month of election because then political situation was more unrest for mass gathering, campaigning, assemblies and processions of election. Democracy Watch in their election monitoring report claimed that the 2008 election took place amidst a wide range of violence and terrorism throughout the country.

Table 1.2: Number of incidents (After six months of the 9thparliamentary election)

Month	Frequency	Percent
January	40	58.82
February	12	17.65
March	05	7.36
April	05	7.36
May	02	2.94
June	04	5.89
Total	68	100

Table 1.2 shows that the month of January (next month of the parliamentary election) contained highest number of incidents of violence revealing 58.82% followed by February (17.65%), March and April (7.36%), June (5.89%) and May (2.94%). Numbers of incidents were high in the next month of election because, one of the major political party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) didn't accept the election as a fair election and they tried to make the country unstable and that's why clashes were frequent. Besides these, Bangladesh Awami League (AL) activists and leaders were also defensive against BNP and Jamaat-E-Islami (JMT) Bangladesh for their previous oppressions and exploitations.

Table 1.3 shows that the month of December (previous month of the parliamentary election) contained most number incidents of violence revealing 33.90% followed by November (22.03%), October (14.41%), September (11.87%), July (11.02%) and August (6.78%). Number of incidents were high in the previous month of election because then political situation was more unrest because BNP and its affiliates boycotted the election for the abolishment of caretaker government during election and they became more violent to make the country unstable.

Table 1.3: Number of incidents (Before six months of the 10thparliamentary election)

Month	Frequency	Percent
July	13	11.02
August	08	6.78
September	14	11.87
October	17	14.41
November	26	22.03
December	40	33.90
Total	118	100

Table 1.4 shows that the month of January (month of the parliamentary election) contained highest number incidents of violence revealing 45.83% followed by March (14.59%), April (12.50%), February (10.42%) and May and June (8.33%).

Table 1.4: Number of incidents (After six months of the 10thparliamentary election)

Month	Frequency	Percent
January	22	45.83
February	05	10.42
March	07	14.59
April	06	12.50
May	04	8.33
June	04	8.33
Total	48	100

Number of incidents were high in the month of election because then political situation was more unrestful because of BNP and its affiliates boycotted the election protesting the abolishment of caretaker government by constitutional amendment. They didn't accept the election as a democratic election and became more violent to make the country unstable.

Different researches also argue that the electoral violence increases just before and after the month of parliamentary election. Different political parties also raise some issues and make unrest situation just before the election fearing the aftermath of election (Toyoda, Shin, 2012). On the other hand the defeated political parties also challenge the result of election and different violent activities are seen just after the election (Straus, Taylor, 2009).

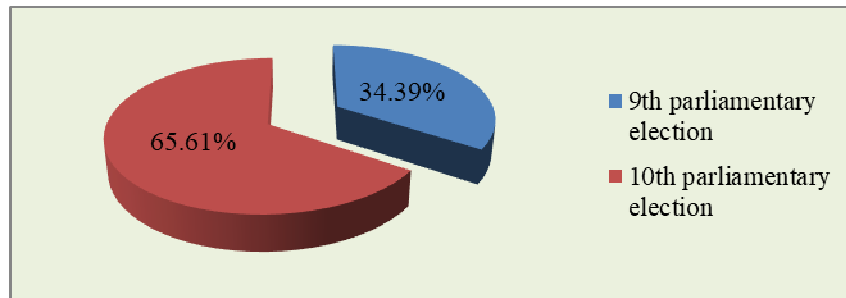


Figure 1: Number of incidents during 9th and 10th parliamentary election period (n= 253)

Figure 1 shows that total numbers of incidents were 253 in the 9th and 10th parliamentary election. Between them 65.61% incidents were committed during 10th parliamentary election period and 34.39% incidents were committed during 9th parliamentary election period. Numbers of incidents of violence were high in the 10th parliamentary election period than the 9th parliamentary election period because of the abolishment of caretaker government during 10thparliamentary election and that's why BNP and its affiliates didn't participate in election and they didn't accept the election as a democratic election and they became more violent to make unstable the country.

4.2. Fatalities (Violence against Person)

Table 2.1: Number of Injured and Killed Victims during 9thParliamentary Election.

Fatalities	Before six months		After six months		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Injured	316	26.92	858	73.08	1174	100
Killed	02	16.67	10	83.33	12	100

Table 2.1 shows that after six months of election contained most numbers of injured and killed victims revealing 73.08% and 83.33% respectively than before six months of election revealing 26.92% and 16.67% respectively. Numbers of victims were high after six months of election than before six months because BNP and its allies didn't accept the election as a fair election and that's why clashes were frequent.

Table 2.2: Number of injured and killed victims during 10thparliamentary election period

Fatalities	Before six month		After six month		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Injured	3431	83.44	681	16.56%	4112	100
Killed	108	77.70	31	22.30%	139	100

Table 2.2shows that after six months of parliamentary election contained most of the injured and killed victims revealing 83.44% and 77.70% respectively than before six months of election revealing 16.56% and 22.30% respectively.

Figure 2 shows that total numbers of injured were 5286 and killed victims were 151 in 9th parliamentary election and 10th parliamentary election period. Between them 22.21% injured victims and 7.95% killed victims were in the 9th parliamentary election and 77.79% injured victims and 92.05% death victims were in the 10th parliamentary election. Numbers of victims were higher in the 10th parliamentary election than the 9th parliamentary election because then political situation was more unrest for the election and for frequent hartals and blockades of BNP and Jamaat because they boycotted the election for the abolishment of caretaker government and through violence they tried to make the country unstable.

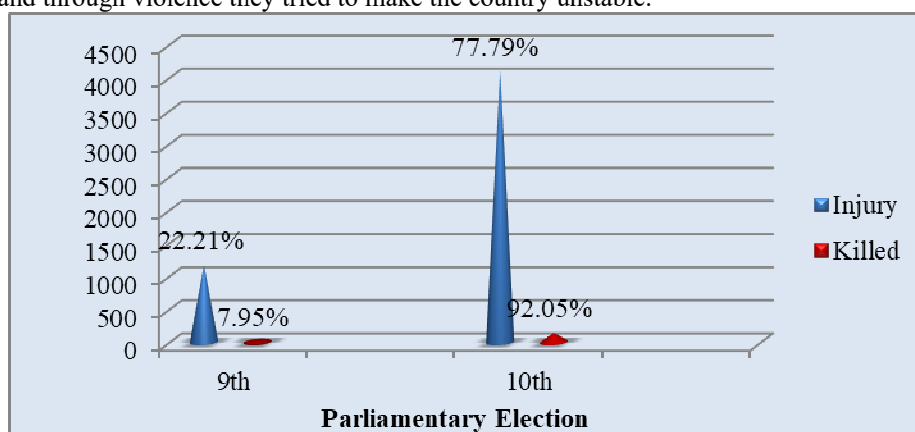


Figure 2: Number of victims during 9th and 10th parliamentary election (n=5286 and 151)

Several studies also find that, in the history of Bangladesh election period electoral violence have become common matters from the first election to last election. The common types of electoral violence against person are intimidation, threats, killing, forceful displacement, riot, physical harassment etc (Noorana, 2015). The common types of physical violence of electoral violence are assassination, looting, shooting, kidnapping and hostage taking, forcing disruption of campaign rallies, snatching ballot box, dacoits/robbery, rape, murder etc Besides, after finishing election the common types of immediate consequences of post electoral violence are assassination, kidnapping, rape, murder, looting, shooting, destruction of property, displacement, rioting. (Noorana, 2015).

4.3. Fatalities (violence against property)

Table 3.1: Number of property crimes during 9thparliamentary election period

Property crime	Frequency	Percent
Vandalism	22	25.29
Arson	03	3.45
Both vandalism and arson	01	1.15
Loot	02	2.30
Undefined	59	67.82
Total	87	100

Table 3.1 shows that during the 9th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most of the incidents of property crime were vandalism (25.29%) followed by arson (3.45%), loot (2.30%) and both vandalism and arson (1.15%)and 67.82% of incidents didn't defined property crime.

Table 3.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most of the incidents of property crime were vandalism (32.53%) followed by arson (11.45%), both vandalism and arson (7.83%) and loot (3.61%) and 44.58% of incidents didn't defined property crime.

Table 3.2: Number of Property crimes during 10thparliamentary national election period

Property crime	Total	Percent
Vandalism	54	32.53
Arson	19	11.45
Both vandalism and arson	13	7.83
Loot	06	3.61
Undefined	74	44.58
Total	166	100

Different researches also find that, the common types of electoral violence against property are attacks and destruction of property, eviction from property etc (Noorana, 2015). So, during election period many people have to lose their property only for vengeance political culture in Bangladesh.

The consequence of electoral violence is very suffering like displacement of the victims from homesteads hampers their daily lives (Omotola, 2008). On the other hand, violence resulted in the damage of the building or road, cutting trees or burning properties which hamper economic and environmental damage of a country (Noorana, 2015). During the period of 10th parliamentary election a large number of political violence had occurred in the history of Bangladesh which caused lose of many human lives and property due to vengeance relationship between the two big leading political parties (International Crisis Group, 2015).

4.4. Gender of victims

Table 4.1: Gender of victims (9th parliamentary election period)

Fatalities	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Injured	1167	97.36	31	2.64	1174	100.00
Killed	12	100.00	0	0	12	100

Table 4.1 shows that during the 9th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) 97.36% of injured victims and 100% of killed victims were male and 2.64% of injured victims were female and there is no female killed victim. The number of female victims were fewer because female are less likely to involve in political activities and clashes.

Table 4.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) 96.89% of injured victims and 94.96% of killed victims were male and 3.11% of injured victims and 5.03% of killed victims were female. The number of female victims were fewer because female are less likely to involve in political activities and clashes.

Table 4.2: Gender of victims (10th parliamentary national election period)

Fatalities	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Injured	3984	96.89	128	3.11	4112	100.00
Killed	132	94.96	07	5.03	139	100

Various researchers also find that during election period political violence increases in a big number. In 2008 the number of event of political violence was 379 which became 3870 in 2013; number of wounded persons was 2413 in 2008 and 30353 in 2013 and the number of lethal casualties was 84 in 2008 and 765 in 2013 (Suykens and Islam, 2015). These indicate that the electoral violence is the leading sorts of political violence.

4.5. Age of Victims

Table 5.1: Age of Victims (9thParliamentary Election Period)

Age	Frequency	Percent
Child/ Juvenile (up to 17 years)	19	1.62
Early adult (18-27 years)	122	10.39
Adult (28-37 years)	73	6.22
Late adult (38-47 years)	32	2.73
Early aged (48- 57 years)	14	1.19
Aged (58 years above)	06	0.51
Undefined	908	77.34
Total	1174	100

Table 5.1 shows that during the 9ththe parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most of the victims of violence were early adult (10.39%) followed by adult (6.22%), late adult (2.73%), child/ juvenile (1.62%), early aged (1.19%) and aged person (0.51%) and 85.21% ages of victims were undefined. The numbers of early adult and adult victims were high because they are more involved in political activities and clashes than other ages' people.

Table 5.2: Age of victims (10thParliamentary Election Period)

Age	Frequency	Percent
Child/ Juvenile (up to 17 years)	61	1.48
Early adult (18-27 years)	228	5.54
Adult (28-37 years)	169	4.11
Late adult (38-47 years)	84	2.04
Early aged (48- 57 years)	43	1.05
Aged (58 years above)	23	0.56
Undefined	3504	85.21
Total	4112	100

Table 5.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most of the victims of violence are early adult (5.54%) followed by adult (4.11%), late adult (2.04%), child/ juvenile (1.48%), early aged (1.05%) and aged person (0.56%) and 85.21% ages of victims were undefined. The numbers of early adult and adult victims were high because they are involved in political activities and clashes than other ages' people.

4.6. Place of Occurrence

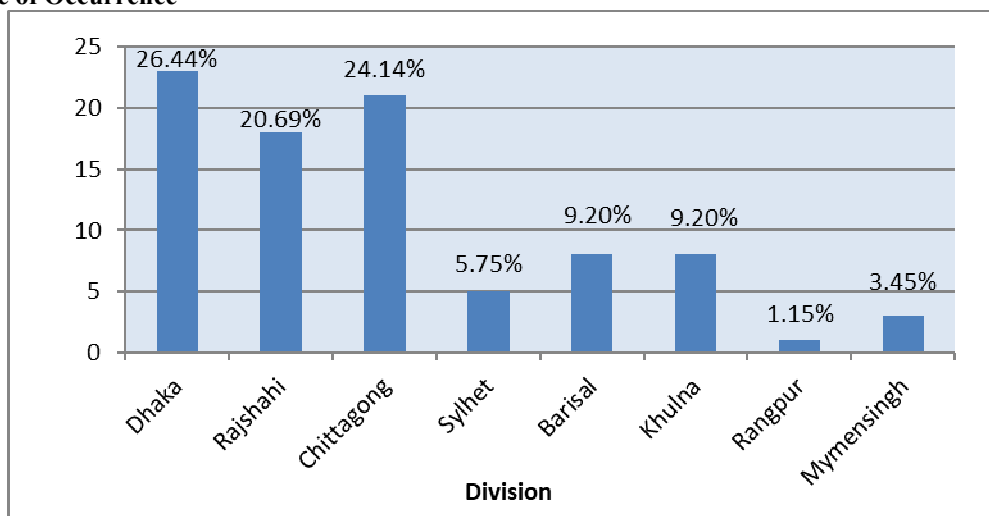


Figure 6.1: Place of Occurrence (9thParliamentary Election Period) (n=87)

Figure 6.1 shows that during the 9th parliamentary election period the highest number of violence were committed in Dhaka division (26.44%) followed by Chittagong (24.14%), Rajshahi (20.69%), Barisal and Khulna (9.20%), Sylhet (5.75%), Mymensingh (3.45%) and Rangpur division (1.15%). Dhaka is more violence prone division because it is the capital division and center of Bangladesh. All the political activities including violence are mainly Dhaka centered. Chittagong (biggest division) and Rajshahi are the two important divisions after Dhaka and that's why political activities including violence are also high in these two divisions.

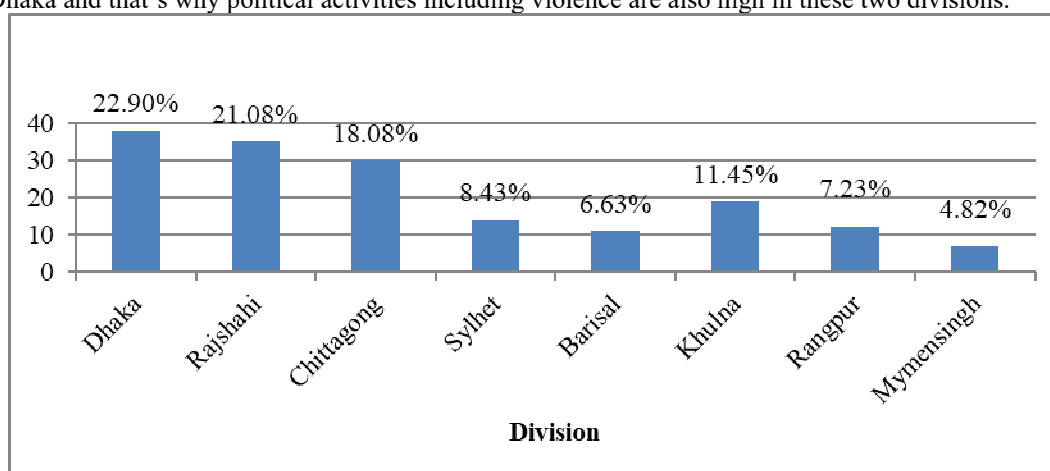


Figure 6.2: Place of occurrence (10thparliamentary election period) (n=166)

Figure 6.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election period the highest number of violence committed in Dhaka division (22.90%) followed by Rajshahi (21.08%), Chittagong (18.07%), Khulna (11.45%), Sylhet (8.43%), Rangpur (7.23%), Barisal (6.63%) and Mymensingh division (4.82%). Dhaka is more violence prone division because it is the capital division and center of Bangladesh. All the political activities including violence are mainly Dhaka centered. Chittagong (biggest division) and Rajshahi are the two important divisions after Dhaka and that's why political activities including violence are also high in these two divisions.

In the history of Bangladesh the Dhaka division (33.5%) is the most electoral violence prone areas during electoral violence. After that, Chittagong (18.6%) and Rajshahi (14.6%) are also vulnerable for electoral violence. In terms of wounded people Dhaka (32%), Chittagong (16.5%) and Rajshahi (12.3%) are vulnerable places (Suykens and Islam, 2015).

4.7. Parties involved in violence

Table 7.1: Parties involved in violence (9thParliamentary Election Period)

Parties	Incidents	Percent
AL-AL	04	4.60
AL-BNP	27	31.03
AL-JMT	01	1.15
BNP-BNP	03	3.45
BCL-BCL	14	16.10
BCL-ICS	08	9.20
JCD-JCD	01	1.15
JCD-ICS	04	4.60
BCL-JCD	05	5.75
BCL-BNP	01	1.15
BAL-JCD	02	2.30
JCD-Public	01	1.15
BCL-JD	02	2.30
Others	14	16.10
Total	87	100

(AL= Bangladesh Awami League, BNP = Bangladesh Nationalist Party, JMT = Jamaat-e-Islami, BCL = Bangladesh Chhatra League, JCD = Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal, ICS =IslamiChhatraShibir, JL= Jubo League, JD= Jubo Dal, SL= Sramik League)

Others: BCL-JL, BAL-JD, JL-JD, JL-BNP, BAL-Satantra, SL-SL, BAL-BCL.

Table 7.1 shows that during the 9th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most violence were committed by BAL-BNP (31.03%) followed by BCL-BCL (16.10%), BCL-ICS (9.20%), BCL-JCD (5.75%), BAL-BAL and JCD-ICS (4.60%), BNP-BNP (3.45%), BAL-JCD and BCL-JD (2.30%), BAL-JMT, JCD-JCD and JCD-Public (1.15%) and others (16.10%).

Table 7.2: Parties Involved in Violence (10thParliamentary Election Period)

Parties	Incidents	Percent	Parties	Incidents	Percent
AL-AL	07	4.22	JMT-Police	08	4.82
BNP-BNP	03	1.81	ICS-Police	01	0.60
AL-BNP	09	5.42	BNP-JMT-Public	03	1.81
AL-JMT	01	0.60	BNP-JMT-Police	08	4.82
BNP-JMT	02	1.20	JCD-JCD	02	1.20
BNP-Public	70	42.17	BCL-ICS	08	4.82
JMT-Public	04	2.41	BCL-JCD	02	1.20
BCL-BCL	04	2.41	Others	23	13.86
BCL-ICS	03	1.81	ICS-Public	08	4.82
ICS-Public	08	4.82	JMT-Police	08	4.82

Others: BCL-ICS -JD, BAL-JD, BCL-JCD - Police, ICS-RAB - Police, BAL-BNP-JMT - police, BNP-JMT-RAB -Police, ICS-BCL-Police, JL-CD, BAL-BNP-JMT -Public, BAL-BNP – JMT and JASAD (Jatiya Samajtantrik Dol).

Table 7.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election period (before six month and after six month) most violence were committed by BNP-Public (42.17%), BAL-BNP (5.42%), ICS-Public, JMT-Police, BNP-JMT-Public and BCL-ICS (4.82%), BAL-BAL (4.22%), JMT-Public and BCL-BCL (2.41%), BNP-BNP, BCL-ICS and BNP-JMT-Public (1.81%), BNP-JMT, JCD-JCD and BCL-JCD (1.20%), BAL-JMT and ICS-Police (0.60%) and others (13.86%). It is seen that the two main political parties Al (22.9%) and BNP (22%) are mainly involved in political violence. Besides various internal and external political conflicts also fuel political violence (Suykens and Islam, 2015). Defects of democratic culture among the political parties lead towards political violence. It is also proved that high level of legitimacy is correlated with low level of violence (Bill, 1973). On the other hand lack of respect to expectation, aspiration, needs of each others also cause political violence (Bluszkowski, 2007). Another research also reveals that marginalized political groups also take the illegal path to take revenge or power (Czyzewski, 2003).

4.8. Causes of Political Violence

By summing up the causes of violence before and after election it is seen from the table 8.1 that the during 9th parliamentary election the highest number cause of violence was political conflict/political revenge (17.24%) followed by altercation/muddled/ provocative language (14.94%), previous conflict (11.49%), internal conflict

and possession of hall seat (6.90%), supremacy create and others (5.75%), and obstruction in procession/ assembly and election conflict (4.60%) and 21.84% incidents didn't defined cause of violence.

Table 8.1: Causes of political violence (9thparliamentary election period)

Causes	Before six months		After six months		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Previous conflict	06	31.58	04	5.88	10	11.49
Internal conflict	02	10.53	04	5.88	06	6.90
Political conflict/political revenge	02	10.53	13	19.12	15	17.24
Establishing Supremacy	02	10.53	03	4.41	05	5.75
Altercation/muddled/ provocative language	03	15.79	10	14.71	13	14.94
Obstruction in procession/ assembly	01	5.26	03	4.41	04	4.60
Possession of hall seat	01	5.26	05	7.35	06	6.90
Election conflict	01	5.26	03	4.41	04	4.60
Others	01	5.26	04	5.88	05	5.75
Undefined	00	0.00	19	27.94	19	21.84
Total	19	100	68	100	87	100

By summing up the causes of violence before and after parliamentary election it is seen from the table 8.2 that that during the 10th parliamentary election the highest number cause of violence were hartal (25.90%) followed by blockade (22.29%), others (12.05%), both hartal and blockade and election conflict (7.73%), altercation/muddled/ provocative language and obstruction in procession/ assembly (3.61%), supremacy create (3.01%), internal conflict (2.41%) and political conflict/political revenge (0.60%) and 4.21% incidents didn't defined causes of violence.

The root cause of electoral violence of discussed two election period is the caretaker issue. The opposition political parties are very desperate to restore caretaker government system but the ruling government remained unchanged. The opposition political parties doubted about the creditability of election under ruling government (Noorana, 2015). According to Lisa, electoral violence is "An activity motivated by an attempt to affect the results of the elections either by manipulating the electoral procedure and participation or by contesting the legitimacy of the results. It might involve voters' and candidates' intimidation, killings, attacks against their property, forceful displacement, unlawful detentions and rioting" (The Daily Star, April 23, 2013). The electoral violence in 2013 showed a distinctive magnitude with over 30000 wounded and more than 750 lethal casualties due to excessive strikes, road blockades etc (Suykens and Islam, 2015). Internal political conflicts also causes death and injury of large number of people as 595 people were killed due to internal political conflict in Bangladesh during January, 2009 to December, 2011 (ODHIKAR, 2008).

Table 8.2: Causes of political violence (10thparliamentary election period)

Causes	Before six months		After six months		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Hartal	41	34.75	02	4.17	43	25.90
Blockade	34	28.81	03	6.25	37	22.29
Both hartal and blockade	05	4.24	07	14.59	12	7.23
Previous conflict	04	3.39	06	12.50	09	5.42
Internal conflict	01	0.85	03	6.25	04	2.41
Political conflict/political revenge	01	0.85	00	00	01	0.60
Supremacy create	03	2.54	02	4.17	05	3.01
Altercation/muddled/ provocative language	03	2.54	03	6.25	06	3.61
Obstruction in procession/ assembly	06	5.08	01	2.09	06	3.61
Election conflict	00	00	12	25.00	12	7.23
Others	16	13.56	06	12.50	20	12.05
Undefined	04	3.39	03	6.25	07	4.21
Total	118	100	48	100	166	100

On the other hand, the significant causes of electoral violence are the motive picking up power over and again. Similarly, lack of cooperation among political parties, negligence and domination of ruling parties over opposition are also responsible for electoral and political violence before, during and after the election (Mollah and Hasan, 2018). Unemployment forces the youth to take alternative ways to avoid unwanted dependency over parents and frustration. This frustration may force them to involve in political violence (Urdal, 2006). Bilateral mutual blocking and distance between government and other political parties cause political violence especially

electoral violence (Peyrefitte, 1982). Distinct values, beliefs, attitudes, socialization and motivation to achieve social and political objectives also cause political violence (Gurr, 1970). Rapid industrialization and urbanization may sometimes cause loose social ties and alienation that leads toward extreme political violence (Coser, 1967). Social strata, class and economic structure, power structure are also liable for polarization. Dissatisfaction of particular political parties influences them to conduct political violence (Apter, 1997, Burgoon, 2006). Besides, non-democratic culture and lack of initiatives for the solution of small or big problematic issues lead toward extreme political violence (Barkar, 2001).

4.9. Time of Occurrence

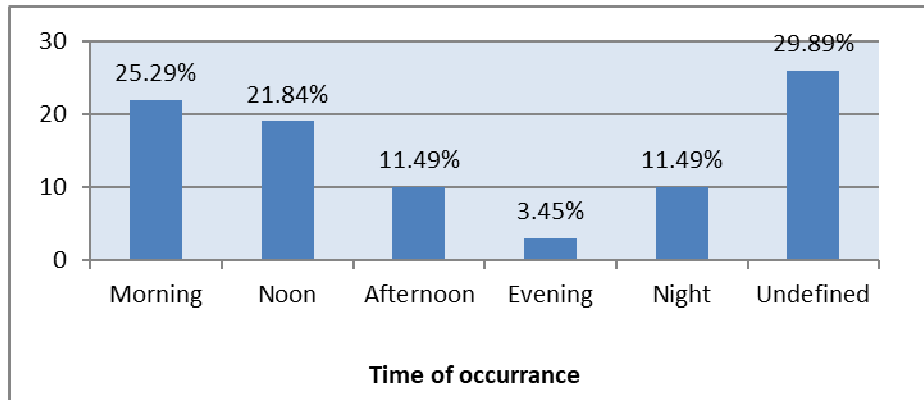


Figure 9.1: Time of occurrence (9th parliamentary election period) (n=87)

(The time range of morning is 6.00 am to 11.59 am, noon is 12.00 pm to 2.59 pm, afternoon is 3.00 pm to 5.59 pm, evening is 6.00 pm to 6.59 pm and night is 7.00 pm to 5.59 am.)

Figure 9.1 shows that during the 9th parliamentary election most of the violence were committed at morning (25.29%) followed by at noon (21.84%), afternoon and night (11.49%) and evening (3.45%) and 29.89% time of occurrence were undefined. This figure shows that 47.13% incidents were committed at before afternoon.

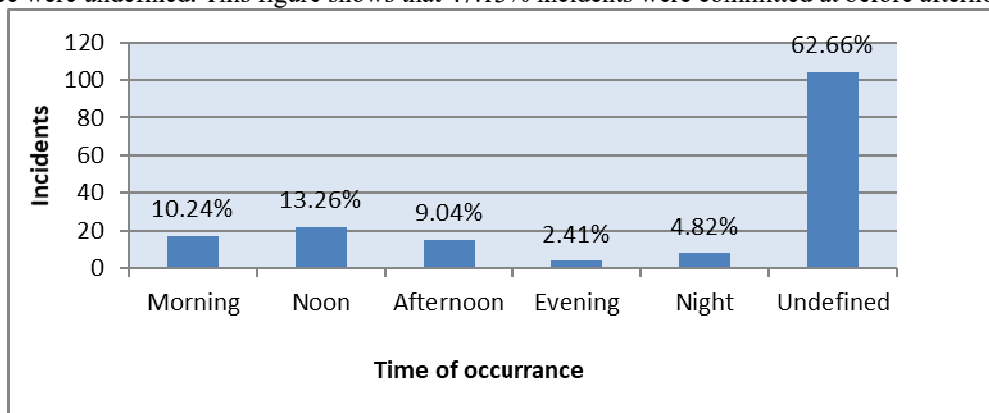


Figure 9.2: Time of Occurrence (10th Parliamentary Election Period) (n=166)

(The time range of morning is 6.00 am to 11.59 am, noon is 12.00 pm to 2.59 pm, afternoon is 3.00 pm to 5.59 pm, evening is 6.00 pm to 6.59 pm and night is 7.00 pm to 5.59 am.)

Figure 9.2 shows that during the 10th parliamentary election most of the violence were committed at noon (13.26%) followed by at morning (10.24%), afternoon (9.04%), night (4.82%) and evening (2.41%) and 62.66% time of occurrence were undefined. This figure shows that 23.50% incidents were committed at before afternoon.

4.10. Nature of Police Response

Table 10.1: Police Response (9th Parliamentary Election period)

Police response	Before six months		After six months		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Arrest	08	42.11	09	13.24	17	19.54
Detained	0	00.00	08	11.76	08	9.20
Case filed	03	15.79	06	8.82	09	10.34
Immediate control	04	21.05	05	7.36	09	10.34
Undefined	03	15.79	40	58.82	43	49.43
Total	19	100	68	100	87	100

By summing up the police response before and after parliamentary election it is seen from the table 10.1 that during the 9th parliamentary election highest number of police response was arrest (19.54%) followed by case filed and immediate control (10.34%) and detained (9.20%) and 49.43% incidents didn't defined police response. From this study it is seen that police response to the incidents of political violence is low.

Table 10.2: Police response (10thparliamentary election period)

Police response	Before six months		After six months		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Arrest	11	9.32	02	4.17	13	7.83
Detained	21	17.80	08	16.67	29	17.47
Case filed	05	4.24	02	4.17	07	4.22
Immediate control	10	8.47	04	8.33	14	8.43
Undefined	71	60.17	32	66.67	103	62.05
Total	118	100	48	100	166	100

By summing up the police response before and after election it is seen from the table 10.2 that during the 10th parliamentary election the highest number of police response was detained (17.47%) followed by immediate control (8.43%), arrest (7.83%) and case filed (4.22%) and 62.05% incidents didn't defined police response. From this study it is seen that police response to the incidents of political violence is low. These data shows that police response become higher when the incidents of political violence increases as police response during 10th parliamentary election is higher than the 9th parliamentary election.

5. Conclusion

State and politics are interrelated with each other. It is seemed that sound political culture is the key of development. But political violence becomes hindrance for development. Once upon a time, politics was connected with good things like service, benefits and welfare of the people. But now, the situation is that it is an exhibition of power and supremacy over other political parties.

From this study it can be concluded that during parliamentary election period political situation of Bangladesh become more unrest than any other time of the years. From the findings of the study, nine conclusions can be made. First, incidents of violence in the month of election, before and after the month of election is higher than other months of the year. Second, in the month of election, before and after the month of election people become more victim of violence than other months. Third, early adult and adult male becomes more victim of political violence than other age of people. Fourth, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong division are more violence prone division than other divisions. Fifth, clashes between Awami League; BNP and Jamaat are more frequent than other parties. Sixth, main causes of political violence are hartal, blockade, internal conflict, political conflict; political revenge and supremacy create over one another. Seventh, morning and noon are the more violence prone time. Eighth, police response to the incidents of political violence is poor in quality. For the betterment of the country and the people all the political parties should have good will and follow and practice sound democratic culture to fulfill their goals and should not work in violent ways. Besides this, law enforcement agencies have to work effectively to deter and control political violence.

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