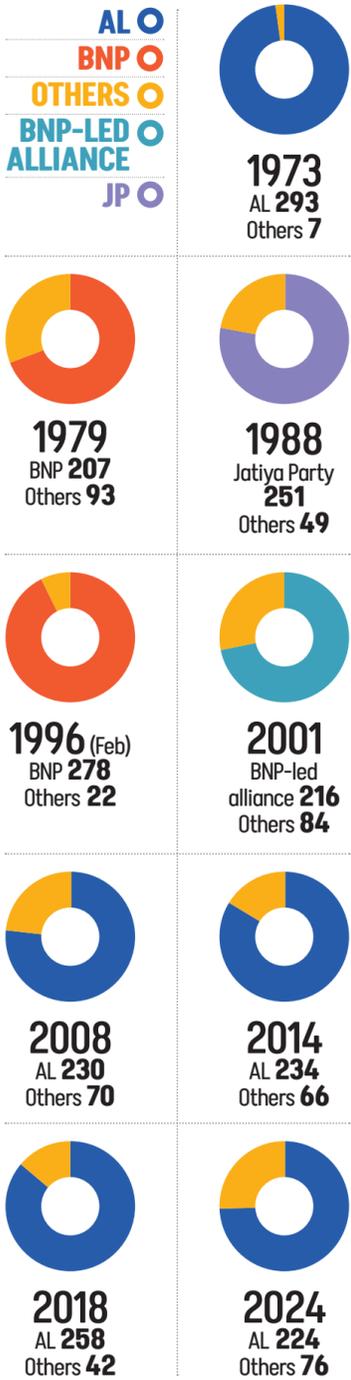




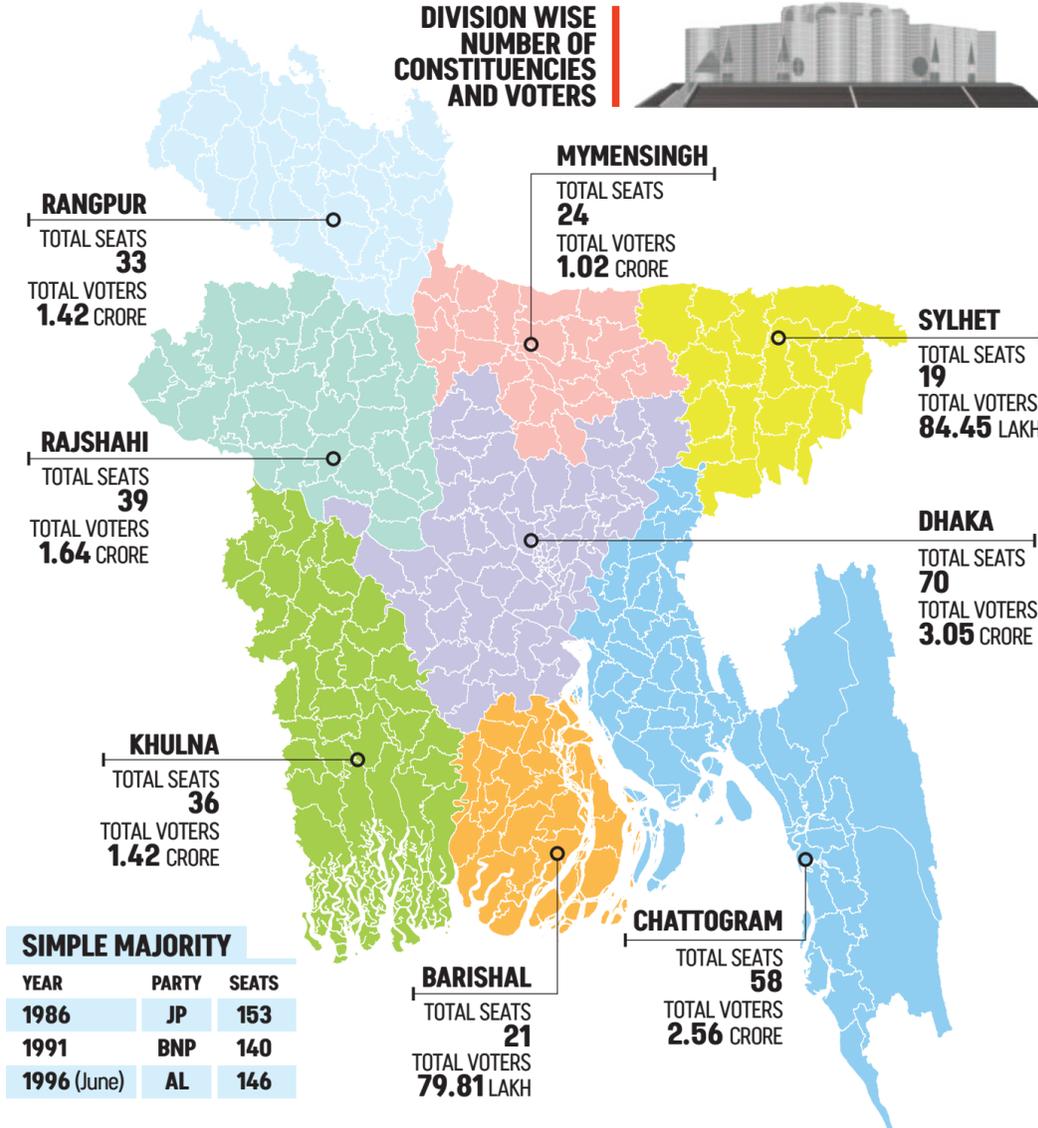
ELECTION FACTS 1973--2026

Since independence, Bangladesh has gone to the polls twelve times, and another election is now approaching. Across this long journey, one fact stands out: no ruling party has ever lost an election while in office. The Awami League first tasted victory while in office in 1973. Decades later, it returned to power in June 1996. It won again in 2008 and later in three consecutive elections – 2014, 2018, and 2024. Those victories, however, came under a cloud. The 2014 and 2024 contests were condemned as “one-sided” and boycotted by the opposition. The 2018 election carried even darker allegations, with claims that ballot boxes were stuffed the night before voting. Critics branded all three as “sham polls”. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) also had its moments, winning in 1979 and again in the short-lived February 1996 election and in 2001. The Jatiya Party, under military ruler HM Ershad, claimed back-to-back victories in 1986 and 1988 – both boycotted and both one-sided. Amid this cycle of dominance, there were flashes of credible consensus. Four elections – 1991, June 1996, 2001, and 2008 – were held under caretaker or interim governments. Each time, the party that had ruled before the interim or caretaker administration lost, showing that free and fair elections could indeed change power. The broader record, however, tells another story. Bangladesh has endured five one-sided polls – 1986, 1988, February 1996, 2014, and 2024 – each marked by opposition boycotts. The Awami League secured a two-thirds majority five times, the BNP twice outright and once with allies, and the Jatiya Party once.

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN POLLS



DIVISION WISE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES AND VOTERS

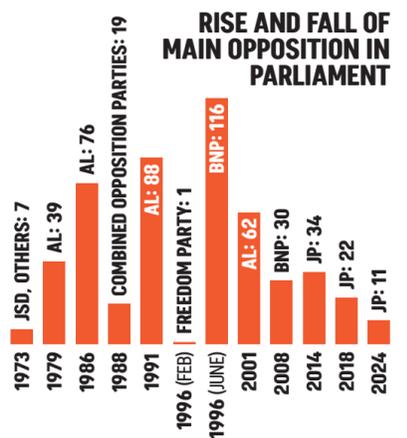
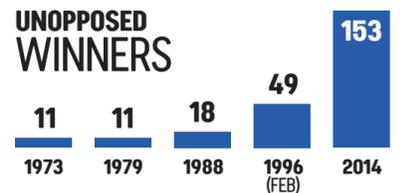
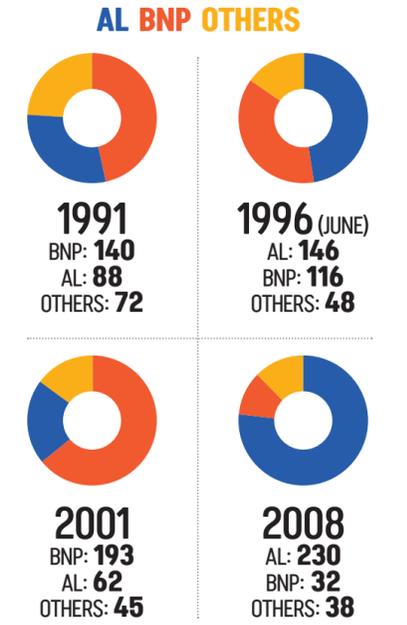


SIMPLE MAJORITY

Year	Party	Seats
1986	JP	153
1991	BNP	140
1996 (June)	AL	146



AL, BNP PERFORMANCE UNDER INTERIM or CARETAKER GOVERNMENT



NUMBER OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Polls	Parties	Party Candidates	Independent	Total
1973	14	1,089	120	1,209
1979	29	2,125	455	2,580
1986	28	1,527	453	1,980
1988	8	978	214	1,192
1991	75	2,363	424	2,787
1996 (Feb)	43	N/A	N/A	1,450
1996 (June)	81	2,290	284	2,574
2001	54	1,453	486	1,939
2008	38	1,416	151	1,567
2014	12	439	104	543
2018	39	1,733	129	1,861
2024	28	1,539	437	1,976
2026	50	1,755	273	2,028

STATE EXPENDITURE IN POLLS

Polls	Taka in Crore
1973	2.96
1979	5.59
1986	5.06
1988	12.11
1991	34.38
1996 (Feb)	37.04
1996 (June)	30.26
2001	72.71
2008	165
2014	282.72
2018	966.73
2024	1,927.51
2026	ESTIMATED 3,150

NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES, SEATS WON

Year	Candidates	Seats Won
1973	120	3
1979	455	16
1986	453	32
1988	214	25
1991	424	3
1996 (Feb)	N/A	10
1996 (June)	284	1
2001	486	6
2008	151	4
2014	104	16
2018	129	3
2024	437	62
2026	273	TBD

WOMEN CANDIDATES AND SEATS WON

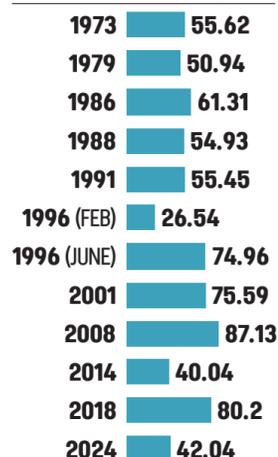
Year	Candidates	Seats Won
1973	2	0
1979	12	0
1986	13	5
1988	N/A	4
1991	40	4
1996 (Feb)	N/A	N/A
1996 (June)	36	5
2001	38	6
2008	59	19
2014	29	18
2018	70	22
2024	99	20
2026	83	TBD

NUMBER OF VOTERS, VOTES OBTAINED BY WINNER

Polls	No. of Voters	Winner (in %)
1973	3.52cr	73.2 AL
1979	3.84cr	41.16 BNP
1986	4.73cr	42.34 JP
1988	4.99cr	68.44 JP
1991	6.22cr	30.81 BNP
1996 (Feb)	5.61cr	N/A (BNP)
1996 (June)	5.17cr	37.44 AL
2001	7.49cr	40.97 BNP
2008	8.11cr	48.04 AL
2014	9.2cr	72.14 AL
2018	10.42cr	74.44 AL
2024	11.97cr	65.15 AL
2026	12.77cr	TBD



VOTER TURNOUT in %



NUMBER OF OBSERVERS

Year	National	Int'l
1991	N/A	59
1996 (June)	45,000	265
2001	2,18,000	225
2008	1,59,113	593
2014	8,878	4
2018	25,920	38
2024	20,773	124
2026	44,995	392

DATA SOURCES: ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS ON NATIONAL POLLS, ELECTORAL REFORM COMMISSION REPORT, AND 'BANGLADESHER NIRBACHONI BEBOSTHA O FOLAFOL', EDITED BY NASAR AMIN.