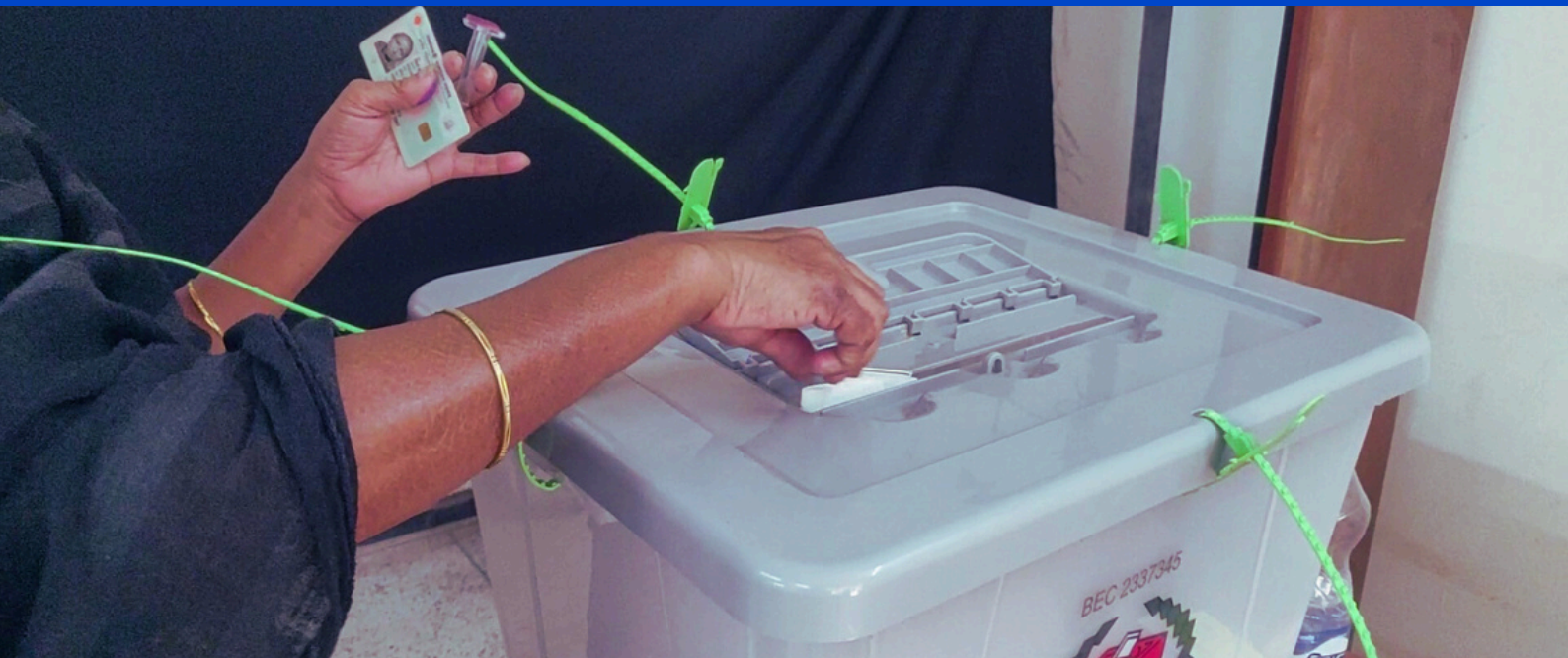


September 12, 2025



EC Releases Draft of 42,618 Polling Stations

By Newsman, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) has released a draft list of polling stations for the 13th national election scheduled for September 10. "There are 42,618 polling stations, each serving approximately 300 voters," EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said. Voters can submit claims and objections until September 25, with the final list available on October 20. Each center will accommodate about 3,000 voters, totaling 244,046 booths—114,939 for men and 129,107 for women. Claims will be resolved by October 12, with the election in early February.

EC to start stakeholder talks, finish party registrations by month-end

By BSS, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) will hold stakeholder dialogues to prepare for the 13th National Parliamentary Elections. "The dialogue will take place in the last week of this month as part of the roadmap for the 13th National Parliament elections," stated an EC official.

Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarkar confirmed that the EC intends to begin discussions with stakeholders in the last week of September, as specified in the roadmap. The dialogues will bring together a wide range of actors, including registered political parties, civil society organizations, women's groups, media representatives, academics, election observers, and war-wounded freedom fighters, the EC said.

EC officials said the meetings will focus on voter registration, polling logistics, security arrangements, the role of state agencies, and mechanisms to ensure transparency and inclusivity. The commission also plans to discuss procedures for registering new political parties and allocating symbols.



The EC is in the process of gathering information on 22 political parties and aims to complete their registration by September 30, enabling them to participate in the upcoming parliamentary election.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed stated that the commission will submit verified reports to inform their final decisions. Out of 143 new party applications, EC rejected 121 during the initial review.

The rules regarding symbol allocation are currently awaiting approval from the Ministry of Law. This initiative aims to build public confidence in the electoral process and gather feedback from stakeholders ahead of the February 2026 election.

"The dialogue will take place in the last week of this month as part of the roadmap.."

Textbooks to include a chapter on voter registration and NID

The Election Commission has formed a committee to create educational content on voter registration and the National ID (NID) for primary to higher secondary students. The deadline for author submissions is September 30th. Committee convener SM Asaduzzaman stated that the initiative aims to raise awareness among young people about the importance of voter registration and the NID. [BSS, Sept 8]



Bangladesh reform charter finalized, parties asked to sign ahead of 2026 polls

By Newsman, Dhaka

Bangladesh's National Consensus Commission (NCC) has finalized the draft of the landmark "July Charter" and circulated it among political parties, urging them to nominate signatories by September 13 as part of reforms expected to shape the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The NCC, led by Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus, reviewed proposals from political parties and reform committees on September 11 at the State Guest House Jamuna. A six-member panel tasked with recommending implementation mechanisms also presented its report.

Professor Yunus emphasized the importance of the upcoming national election, stating, The national election scheduled for February is not just a general election; it will be a foundational election that will shape the future of Bangladesh.

He also stressed the need to finalize the necessary reforms before the election. "At the same time, we must keep in mind that we have no alternative to holding elections in the first half of February, he added.

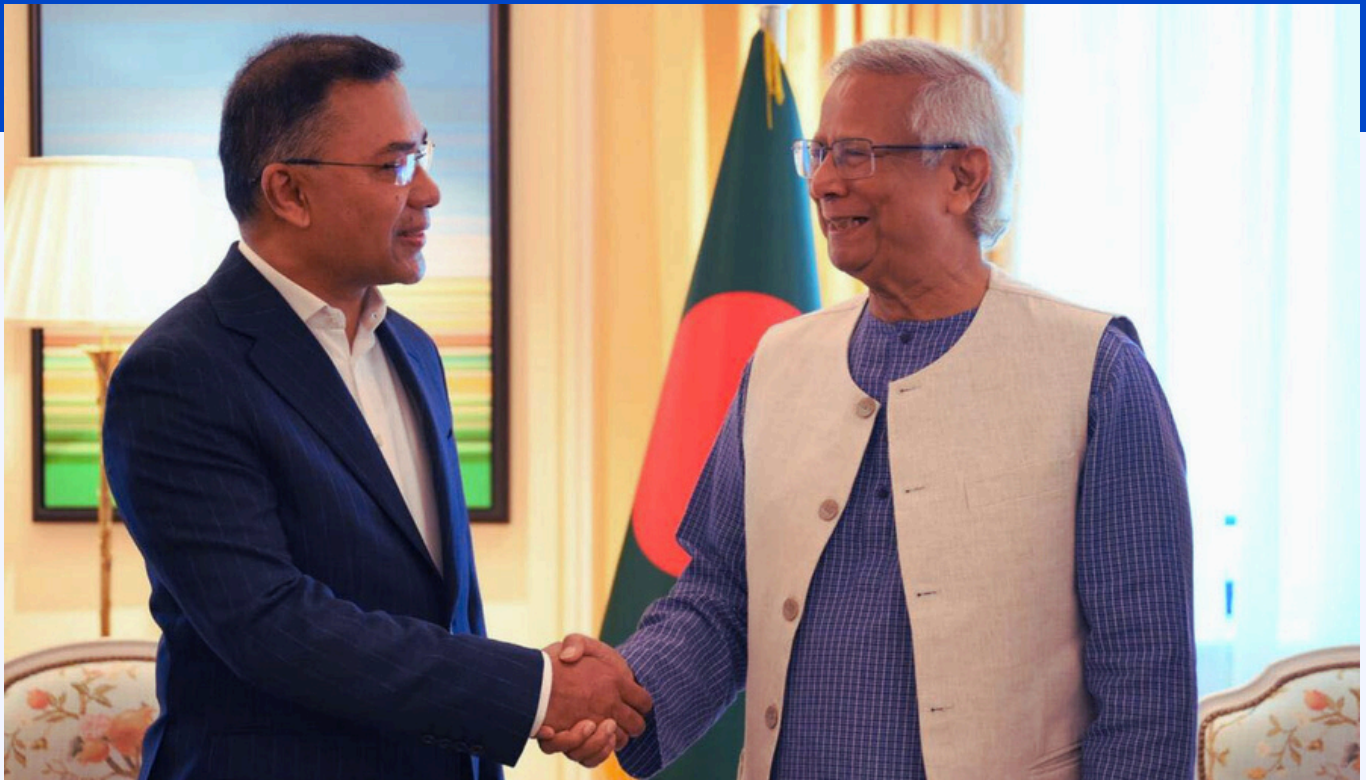
NCC Vice-Chairman Prof. Ali Riaz announced that the Charter's recommendations will be implemented through constitutional amendments, administrative regulations, and ordinances, reflecting their legal importance.

Approximately 30 political parties, including the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, NCP, and Islami Andolan, are participating in the dialogue process. Parties are requested to nominate two authorized representatives to sign the draft by 5:00 PM on September 13.

The July Charter process aims to rebuild consensus following years of electoral turmoil. Officials hope it will provide a roadmap for credible polls. At the same time, observers caution that success depends on broad political support and the swift implementation of reforms.

"We have no alternative to holding elections in the first half of February."





Tarique Rahman's return would "complete half" of the campaign

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the party's campaign work would be half-done if acting chairman Tarique Rahman returns to the country, signalling the party's continued focus on his leadership role, according to BSS on September 7.

On the same day, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters that there is "no reason for concern" regarding the upcoming parliamentary elections. However, he cautioned against attempts by some individuals to instill fear and confusion. He assured that the election will take place as scheduled.

He added that the BNP conference in Thakurgaon district, with Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman as the chief guest, is expected to signal a fresh start for the party. Fakhrul thanked Chief Adviser Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus for the February 2026 election commitment and urged unity against destabilization, according to BSS on September 8.

*"No force can obstruct
February polls," says
CA press secretary*

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam stated that the interim government is taking all necessary measures to ensure a free, fair, and peaceful election in the first half of February next year, insisting that no force can alter the poll timetable. He noted the widespread demonstrations that began in August 2024. He said authorities will hold all those responsible for the recent violent incidents accountable. [BSS, Sept 7]

Stay informed, stay critical, support
transparent elections by following
and sharing PollTrackerBD.



The Army awaits orders for poll duty

By BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Army is prepared to assist with the February parliamentary elections. Still, it is awaiting formal directives from the Election Commission.

Colonel M. Shafiqul Islam stated on September 8 that troops will professionally follow the EC's instructions.

About 80% of the lost weapons from the unrest were recovered by the Army, totaling 9,794 out of 12,119 stolen guns and 287,359 rounds of ammunition.

The Army has made 17,926 arrests to date, including 1,294 in the past month. It has intervened in violent incidents, such as clashes at Kakrail and Chattogram University, resulting in injuries to both army personnel and police.

About 80% of the lost weapons from the unrest were recovered by the Army, totaling 9,794 out of 12,119 stolen guns and ..

EC on CCTV, Body Cams in Polls

By TBS, Dhaka

The Election Commission has informed the Home Ministry that it cannot provide CCTV coverage at polling centers or body cameras for police during the upcoming parliamentary elections.

In a recent letter, signed by EC Deputy Secretary Rashedul Islam, the commission stated that these proposals fall outside its jurisdiction and would be too costly for the approximately 45,000 polling centers.

The EC referenced the August 6 meeting of the Home Ministry on law enforcement logistics. Earlier on July 9, during a preparation meeting, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus advocated for CCTV coverage at vulnerable polling centres.

At the same time, the Home Affairs adviser supports its use for security. Despite this directive, Election Commissioner Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah told reporters that the EC was not considering the use of CCTV.

"How will you justify such an expense? Several proposals have come, but none are workable," the commissioner said on August 7.



Cabinet blocks EC reform

By Daily Star, Dhaka

The Cabinet Division has rejected a proposal that would have allowed the Election Commission (EC) to create a separate "Election Commission Service" and appoint its own secretary and other senior officials; a reform recommended by the Electoral Reform Commission earlier this year.

The EC had sent the "Election Commission Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance-2025" through the law ministry, seeking authority to staff its secretariat independently and manage the National ID database. However, an inter-ministerial committee on August 19 argued that the move fell under the Public Administration Ministry's remit and therefore should not proceed.

Election experts and former officials say the decision undermines efforts to strengthen the EC's autonomy ahead of the national polls.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, who led the reform commission, warned that blocking the proposal in the name of existing rules effectively preserves the old system rather than enabling reform.

EC officials argue that, as a constitutional body, the commission should not adhere to ordinary ministry rules and that its dependence on administrative cadre officers hinders its independence in elections. Critics highlight a contradiction, as the committee cited the reform commission's recommendations while rejecting the NID database clause.

Local election officials are urging the establishment of the EC Service by mid-September to maintain credibility. The Cabinet Division's recent decision presents a new administrative and political challenge as Bangladesh prepares for national elections.



61 EC officials transferred

The Election Commission has reshuffled 61 field-level officers for election preparations, relocating 49 district/regional election officers and reassigning five EC secretariat deputies, who must be relieved by September 18. [BSS, Sept 11]

Police training on election duty launched

The Election Commission has reshuffled 61 field-level officers for election preparations, relocating 49 district/regional election officers and reassigning five EC secretariat deputies, who must be relieved by September 18. [BSS, Sept 11]

Election environment "completely favorable"

Election Commissioner Md Anwarul Islam Sarker told reporters that the overall environment for holding the 13th national election is "100 percent" favourable, noting the EC's roadmap, as well as the pending law ministry vetting of proposed RPO amendments. [BSS, Sept 7]

Adviser Mahfuj urges journalists to be vigilant during the polls

Information and Broadcasting Adviser, Md. Mahfuj Alam told a media forum that journalists must act responsibly before, during, and after the election to rebuild public trust, and he assured the government that it will protect media safety. [BSS, Sept 7]



DUCSU Election Signals Momentum Ahead of National Polls

By Newsman, Dhaka

The elections for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and its hall unions are a positive sign for the upcoming national parliamentary elections, according to advisors.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki said Bangladesh has officially "boarded the 'election train'" through these campus votes, calling them festive and peaceful.

Home Adviser Lt-Gen (Retd.) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury echoed this sentiment, describing the DUCSU election as a possible model for the larger national election, praising the spontaneous voter turnout and the strong support from law enforcement.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Niaz Ahmad Khan expressed gratitude to all those involved, including students, media, EC officials, and law enforcement, for helping to revive a long-cherished institution under calm conditions.

He saluted the public's backing, including the efforts of journalists. He noted the EC's commitment to reliability and fairness in the process. The VC also mourned the loss of a journalist, Tariqul Islam Shibli of Channel S, who died covering the polls.

ICT Probe: Umar Alleges 15 Years of Election Fraud by Hasina

By Newsman, Dhaka

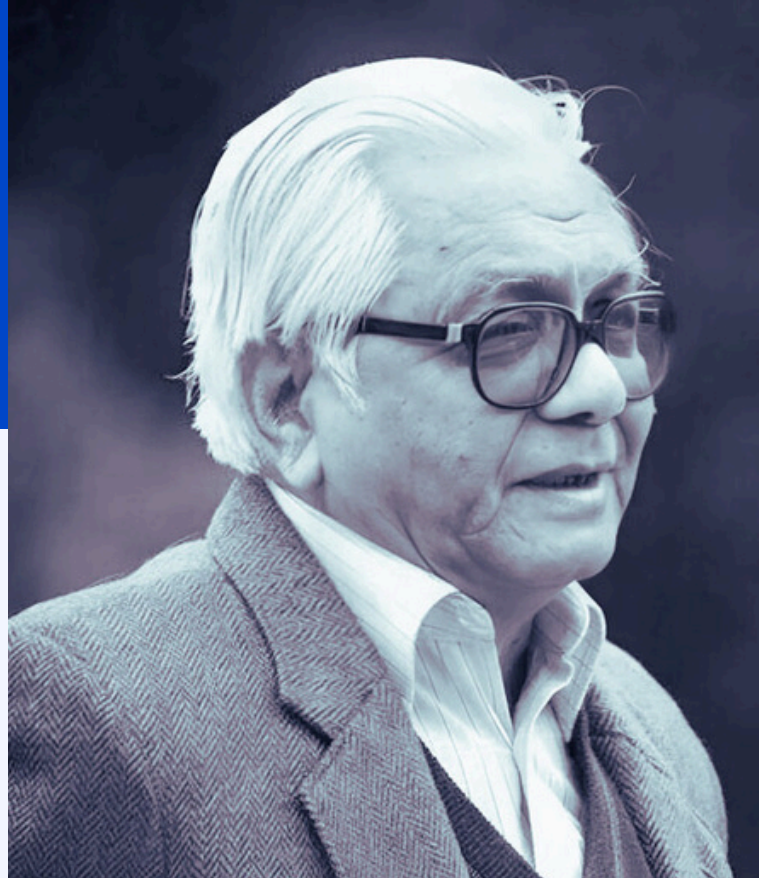
In testimony recorded before his passing, veteran researcher Badruddin Umar alleged that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "manipulated every election since she assumed office in 2009 until 2024." According to ICT Prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim.

Umar told investigators that she cemented power by controlling the Election Commission, police, and bureaucracy through bribery, money, and intimidation. "She established this control by 2009," Tamim said, noting Umar's refusal of a caretaker government as evidence of her intent to dominate the electoral process from the outset.

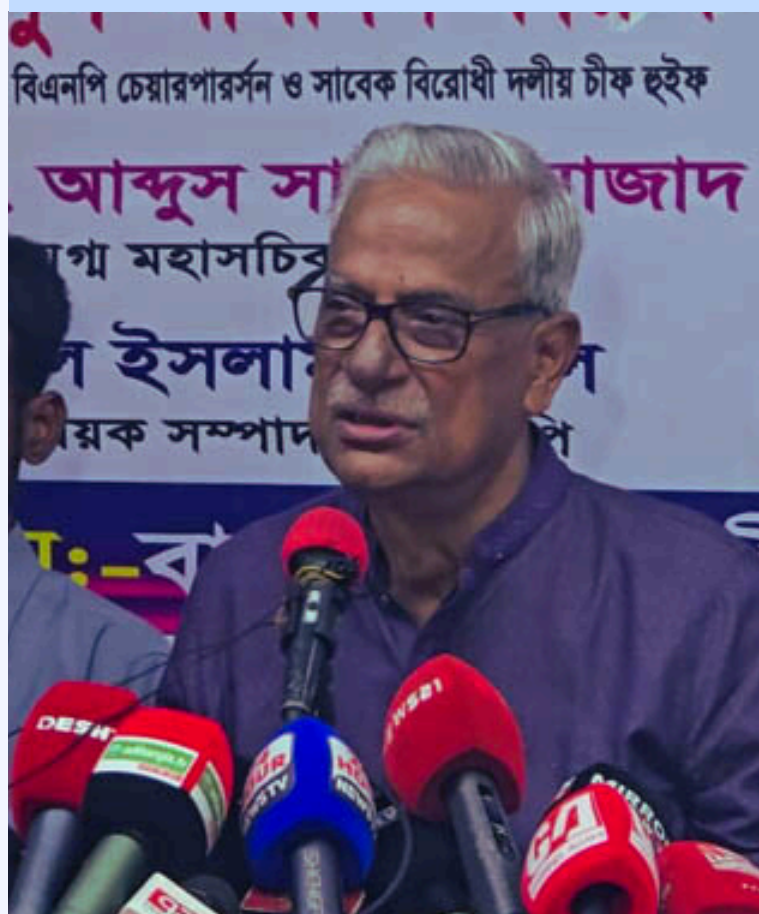
Umar's account forms the backbone of a case before the International Crimes Tribunal challenging the former prime minister's authority. Tamim described him as "an essential witness" whose firsthand insights laid bare the mechanisms of influence used to skew poll outcomes in 2014, 2018, and 2024.

At a National Press Club forum on September 5, BNP adviser Zainul Abedin Faruque warned of continuing conspiracies to rig upcoming elections. "Not just under Sheikh Hasina, but even under Sheikh Mujib, elections weren't fair," he said.

He cautioned that if "some people in Bangladesh, instigated by Delhi, try to collude with the Awami League once again to foil the election under this Yunus government, the people will resist."



"Not just under Sheikh Hasina, but even under Sheikh Mujib, elections weren't fair."



Bangladeshi diaspora to use smart NIDs for postal voting, says CEC

By Newsman, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) A M M Nasir Uddin announced that expatriate Bangladeshis with National Identity Cards (smart cards) will be able to vote by postal ballot in the upcoming Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections.

To support this, a new app called "Postal Ball"t BD" is being developed, according to a press release issued by the Press Information Department (PID) on September 11.

While visiting Canada, CEC Nasir Uddin spoke with expatriate Bangladeshis at a discussion organized by the Consulate General of Bangladesh in Toronto on September 8

PID stated that the event aimed to launch the distribution of smart national identity cards abroad and motivate expatriates to participate in the electoral process. As the chief guest, he encouraged expatriates to participate in the voting process.

CEC Nasir Uddin provided details about the electoral process, including voter registration for those living abroad. The meeting featured an open discussion with the CEC.

Earlier, on September 9, Md Akhtar Ahmed, Senior Secretary of EC, told reporters that expatriate Bangladeshis would be able to vote in the upcoming 13th National Parliament elections. He emphasized that the EC is actively developing platforms for overseas voting and ensuring that expatriates with National IDs are registered.

Ahmed noted that while there are technical challenges with expatriate voter registration, solutions will come over time. "EC is making all-out efforts to ensure it," he told journalists at a briefing.



Published by One-man Newsroom

One-man Newsroom is a three-year, non-commercial initiative focused on independent, technology-enabled journalism. Founded by award-winning Bangladeshi journalist and filmmaker Sharif Khiam Ahmed, this project investigates whether a dedicated editor—supported by a reliable local network, modern tools, and principled funding—can produce high-quality investigative reporting, compelling multimedia stories, and practical training for aspiring journalists.