

Bangladesh Election Commission
Election Commission Secretariat
Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka

Gazette Notification

Date: 17 Bhadra 1433 Bangabda / 1 September 2026 AD

S.R.O. No. 325 Act/2026

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 120(1)(b), read with Section 35 of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009 (Act No. 60 of 2009), the Election Commission hereby makes the following Rules:

1. Short Title and Commencement

- (1) These Rules may be called the **City Corporation (Election Conduct) Rules, 2026**.
- (2) These shall come into force immediately.

2. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, in these Rules—

- (1) “Act” means the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009 (Act No. 60 of 2009);
- (2) “Commission” means the Election Commission established under Article 118 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh;
- (3) “Public relations/Canvassing” means communication by a candidate with voters of the concerned electoral area for election purposes;
- (4) “Wall” means the exterior and interior walls or fences of any residential building, office, court, educational institution, business centre, industrial establishment, shop or any structure, whether kutcha or pucca, including boundary walls, trees, electric poles, road dividers, bridges, culverts, metro rail pillars, flyover pillars, road surfaces and rooftops;
- (5) “Election” means election or by-election to the office of Mayor or Councillor of a City Corporation;
- (6) “Constituency” means the area demarcated for election of Mayor or Councillor;
- (7) “Pre-election period” means the period from the announcement of the election schedule to the publication of the election results in the official gazette;
- (8) “Poster” means any publicity material made of paper, cloth, jute, rexine or other non-degradable harmful materials;

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- (9) “Festoon” means a banner made of cloth or jute;
- (10) “Banner” means publicity material made of cloth, jute or electronic/digital media;
- (11) “Hanging of banners and festoons” means suspending or displaying banners or festoons for campaigning purposes;
- (12) “Voter slip” means any material containing a candidate's name, photograph, the name of the post, and symbol, prepared with the intent to inform voters, and which records the voter's serial number according to the voter list along with information about the polling centre;
- (13) “Contesting candidate” means a person duly nominated for Mayor or Councillor who has not withdrawn candidacy;
- (14) “Candidate” means any person submitting nomination for Mayor, Councillor or reserved seat;
- (15) “Vehicle” means any motorised or non-motorised conveyance plying by road, rail, waterway, or air, whether carrying passengers or goods;
- (16) “Political party” means a Registered Political Party as defined in Article 2, Clause (xxia) of the *Representation of the People Order, 1972* (P.O. No. 155 of 1972);
- (17) “Very Important Person (VIP)” means the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Deputy Speaker, a Minister, the Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, a Whip, a Deputy Whip, or a person of equivalent status, a Member of Parliament, or the Mayor of a City Corporation or a person discharging the duties of Mayor;
- (18) “City Corporation” means any City Corporation constituted under section 5 of the Act; and
- (19) “Statutory Government Authority” means a statutory public authority as defined in Article 152(1) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- (20) “Mobile Financial Services (MFS) transaction” means financial transactions through bKash, Nagad, Upay, Rocket, etc. as sub-rule (16).

3. Equal right in election campaigning

Subject to other provisions of the Act and these Rules, contesting candidates participating in an election, or persons acting on their behalf, shall have equal rights in the matter of election campaigning.

4. Prohibition on donations

No candidate or rival candidate, or any political party, other person, organisation, or institution on his behalf, shall — during the pre-election period — publicly or secretly give or promise to give any donation or grant to any institution situated within the relevant constituency area.

5. Campaign timing restriction

No election campaigning shall be started before allocation of symbols.

6. Election campaigning through digital or social media

Notwithstanding anything in the existing law, the *Local Government (City Corporation) Election Rules, 2010*, and the provisions of these Rules, a candidate, his election agent, or any other person may conduct election campaigning using digital or social media, provided that —

(a) no candidate, his election agent, or any other person shall campaign via social media without first submitting the name, account ID, email ID, and other identifying details of the relevant social media handle to the Returning Officer prior to commencing such campaigning;

(b) No candidate or election agent shall use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for dishonest intent in election-related matters.

(c) no activity shall be undertaken that provokes any section of the public through hateful, defamatory, or inflammatory language on the basis of race, religion, caste, colour, or gender;

(d) no activity shall be undertaken that abuses religious or communal sentiment for electoral advantage;

(e) No exploitation of religious or ethnic sentiments;

(f) no candidate, or any other person on a candidate's behalf, shall — for the purpose of misleading voters or damaging the honour of any person or party — create, edit, or share, via social media or any other means, any false, defamatory, obscene, discriminatory, malicious, or dishonouring content.

7. Restrictions on government rest houses

1. No contesting candidate shall, during the pre-election period-

(a) reside at any government circuit house, dak bungalow, or rest house; nor

(b) use, for or against his campaign, any government circuit house, dak bungalow, rest house, or the office of any government or statutory authority as a campaigning venue.

(c) State media such as Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, etc., shall not be used to campaign for or against any candidate.

2. Notwithstanding anything in any other rule or policy, officers engaged in the conduct of the election shall have priority in the use of government dak bungalows, rest houses, and circuit houses.

8. Meetings and rallies restrictions

(1) No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall hold any public gathering or procession other than a public meeting, street meeting, or house (courtyard) meeting -

(a) shall not hold any other meetings or public gathering except street meeting, house meeting, or other campaign programme;

(b) shall not obstruct or offensively interfere with an opponent's street meeting, house meeting, or other campaign programme;

(c) permission to hold a street meeting/house meeting — as to date, time, and venue — shall be granted by the appropriate authority in the order in which applications are received; no such campaign activity may be conducted without written permission;

(d) if a street meeting/house meeting is to be held, the local police authority must be notified at least 24 (twenty-four) hours in advance of the proposed venue and time, so that police may take the necessary measures to maintain law and order there;

(e) no street meeting shall be held on any road where it is likely to disrupt public movement, nor shall any other person similarly hold a public meeting, street meeting, or the like on a candidate's behalf.

(2) Organisers of a street meeting who are obstructed in any way shall seek redress through the police, and shall not themselves take action against the persons responsible.

9. Restrictions on posters and banners

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person shall, within the relevant constituency, in the course of campaigning —

- (a) use any poster;
- (b) use non-decomposable material (e.g., resin, polythene, plastic, or similarly environmentally harmful substances) in preparing any campaign material, leaflet, or handbill;
- (c) affix, by pasting or gluing, any leaflet, handbill, banner, or billboard on any building, wall, tree, fence, electricity or telephone pole, government or local-authority installation, or on any bus, truck, train, steamer, launch, rickshaw, auto-rickshaw, tempo, taxi, baby-taxi, or other vehicle within the constituency;
- (d) disfigure, deface, or destroy any rival candidate's festoon, banner, or billboard, nor shall any such item be torn down or discarded;
- (e) other than on electronic and digital media, campaign statements, banners, leaflets, or billboards used in campaigning shall be black and white in colour. No banner shall exceed 10 (ten) feet by 4 (four) feet, whether mounted vertically or horizontally; no leaflet or handbill shall exceed A4 size (8.27 × 11.69 inches); no billboard shall exceed an area of 18 inch × 24 inch; and no banner, leaflet, or handbill shall bear the photograph or symbol of anyone other than the candidate himself;
- (f) the height of a candidate's election symbol on any poster shall not exceed 6 (six) feet;
- (g) no banner, leaflet, or handbill shall bear the printer's name, address, or date of printing;
- (h) no banner, leaflet, handbill, or festoon shall be wrapped in polythene.

10. Voter slip restrictions

No rival candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, organisation, or institution shall —

- (a) distribute a voter slip within 400 (four hundred) metres of any polling centre;
- (b) prepare a voter slip exceeding 5 × 3 (three) inches in size;
- (c) print any voter slip that omits the printing establishment's name, address, print quantity, and date of printing.

11. Prohibition on using living animals as symbols

No living animal shall be used as a symbol in election campaigning.

12. Prohibition on processions and showdowns

- (1) No procession or showdown of any kind shall be held at the time of collecting or submitting a nomination paper, and no candidate shall be accompanied by more than 5 (five) supporters when collecting or submitting a nomination paper.
- (2) No procession or showdown of any kind shall be held during the pre-election period.

13. Prohibition on establishing election camps or offices in excess

- (1) A contesting candidate for the office of Mayor shall not establish more than one election camp or office per police station (thana).
- (2) A contesting candidate for the office of Councillor shall not establish more than one election camp or office per 30,000 (thirty thousand) voters, and not more than three in total.
- (3) No election camp or office shall make use of television, satellite dish, CCTV, CD, DVD, or similar equipment.

14. Prohibition on use of vehicles

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall -

- (a) conduct any procession or torch procession using a truck, bus, motorcycle, boat, train, or other motorised vehicle, nor conduct any such showdown;
- (b) use a helicopter or any other aircraft for election-campaigning purposes;
- (c) use motorcycles or other vehicles within the premises of polling centres;
- (d) Campaigning may be conducted using digital technology or ordinary biodegradable campaign materials mounted on a mobile caravan or vehicle, provided that only one mobile caravan/vehicle is used per police station (thana) for a Mayor candidate and one mobile caravan/vehicle per ward for a Councillor candidate. Such campaigning must not cause any obstruction to vehicular movement or inconvenience to the public while the vehicle is in motion.

15. Restriction on use of vehicles on election day

On behalf of a contesting candidate —

- (a) no vehicle of any kind shall be hired or otherwise used to transport voters to or from a polling centre; and

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(b) other than persons authorized by the Commission for maintaining order at the election, no other person shall be permitted to operate any vehicle within the boundary designated for the polling centre.

(c) Persons with disabilities may use vehicles with prior approval from the Commission/Returning Officer.

16. Prohibition on wall writing.

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall conduct election campaigning by writing, printing, stencilling, or drawing on any wall using colour, chalk, or chemicals.

17. Prohibition on gates/arches/fences, camp installation, and illumination-

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall

(a) Construct any gate, arch, or fence for campaigning purposes, or create any obstruction to traffic movement;

(b) occupy more than 350 square feet of space for a campaign panel or camp;

(c) use electric illumination as part of the campaign; nor

(d) establish an election camp or office at any location designated for road use or general public use, other than at a designated site.

18. Prohibition on speeches, food distribution, and gift

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall -

(a) wear or use any shirt, jacket, cap, or similar item bearing the picture or symbol of a rival candidate, nor deliver any speech, image, or symbol of that kind for campaigning purposes;

(b) distribute any food or drink to voters at an election camp; nor

(c) give any gifts, prizes, or similar items to voters.

19. Provocative or offensive statements, religious incitement and misuse of religion

No candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall -

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(a) during campaigning, deliver any speech or statement that is vulgar, indecent, aggressive, character-assassinating, provocative, or defamatory, or that harms communal harmony or religious sentiment;

(b) conduct any election campaigning at a mosque, temple, church, pagoda, or any other place of religious worship, or at any government office or educational institution;

However, grounds of educational institutions may be used with permission from the authority without disrupting academic activities

(c) cause damage of any kind to a citizen's land, building, or other movable or immovable property in connection with the election, nor destroy anyone's peace through undesirable communication or provocative conduct;

(d) No candidate or representative shall collect personal NID numbers of voters or their family members, or mobile numbers for MFS transactions, to influence voters.

20. Prohibition on carrying explosive materials

Other than persons authorised by the Commission and designated escorts of voters at the polling centre, no other person shall carry any explosive as defined under section 4(1) of the *Explosives Act, 1884* (Act No. IV of 1884), any explosive substance as defined under section 2 of the *Explosive Substances Act, 1908* (Act No. VI of 1908), or arms and ammunition as defined under section 4 of the *Arms Act, 1878* (Act No. XI of 1878).

21. Prohibition on use of Microphones and sound-amplifying devices

(1) No rival candidate, or, on his behalf, any political party, other person, organisation, or institution shall use more than one microphone or sound-amplifying device per ward for a street meeting or campaign activity.

(2) In an area where a microphone or sound-amplifying device is used, it shall not be operated before 12 noon or after sunset.

(3) The sound level of any microphone or amplifying device used for campaigning shall not exceed 60 (sixty) decibels.

22. Restriction on campaigning by, and misuse of government facilities by, Very Important Persons and government officials.

(a) Very Important Persons, and officers or employees of government/statutory bodies, shall not participate in any election campaigning or election-related activity in the relevant constituency during the pre-election period. They shall not join or attend any government

programme constituting an election-related activity at a time or place that, in the Commission's judgement, could influence the election.

(b) They shall not, on their own behalf or another's, use any government vehicle, government publicity apparatus, or unauthorised government facility for campaigning, nor cause officers or employees of government, semi-government, or autonomous bodies to be used for such purposes.

(c) No candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, shall, for election purposes in the relevant constituency, district, or elsewhere, use government publicity equipment or obtain any government facility through a government officer or employee.

(d) No candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, shall engage any government officer or employee in any election-related activity.

(e) Other than the candidate himself, no chairman, mayor, or officer discharging the duties of chairman/mayor of any local government body shall participate in election campaigning.

23. Restriction on exercising authority over government development programmes.

No contesting candidate shall exercise authority over government development programmes in their constituency or attend related meetings during the pre-election period.

24. Restriction on participation in the management of an educational institution during the pre-election period.

If a rival candidate was previously elected or nominated as chairman or member of the managing committee of an educational institution, he shall not, during the pre-election period, participate in any meeting of that committee or otherwise involve himself in the affairs of that institution.

25. Restriction on approval of new projects, foundation-laying ceremonies, etc. relevant to a constituency during the pre-election period

(1) During the pre-election period, no government, semi-government, or autonomous institution shall approve, announce, or lay the foundation stone of any project funded by the state or a development fund.

(2) During the pre-election period, no grant shall be announced, or funds disbursed, from government, semi-government, or autonomous institution funds, in favour of any person, group, or institution benefiting any Very Important Person.

(3) During the pre-election period, no funds shall be disbursed for any development project approved or announced by the Mayor, a Councillor, or any related office-holder of a City Corporation, within the area of that City Corporation.

26. Conditions for use of billboards.

In election campaigning -

- (a) the area of a billboard used for campaigning shall not exceed 16 feet × 9 feet;
- (b) no candidate shall use more than one billboard per ward;
- (c) no billboard shall be installed in a manner that disrupts vehicular or pedestrian movement, damages the environment, or is placed in an unsafe location.

27. Election expenditure ceiling.

- (1) No rival candidate shall exceed the prescribed expenditure ceiling.
- (2) All expenditure on campaigning through social media shall be included within the candidate's overall election expenditure ceiling.

28. Restriction on obstruction during submission of nomination papers and withdrawal of candidature

- (1) No candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, organisation, institution, or political party, shall create any obstruction to another candidate, or a person acting on his behalf, at the time of submitting a nomination paper to the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer.
- (2) No rival candidate, or, on his behalf, any other candidate, person, organisation, institution, or political party, shall create any obstruction at the time of withdrawal of candidature before the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer.

29. Polling station access

- (1) Only polling centre election officers and staff, rival candidates, election agents, polling agents, election observers, persons authorised by the Commission, and voters shall have the right of entry to a polling centre.
- (2) No polling agent shall repeatedly enter or exit the polling centre for any purpose other than casting a vote.
- (3) Polling agents shall perform their designated duties within the space allotted to them.

(4) No polling agent or any other person shall enter a polling centre wearing any shirt, jacket, cap, badge, or similar item bearing a propaganda statement or a symbol identifying a candidate.

30. Election shall not be influenced

No contesting candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, shall influence the election through money, muscle power, communal influence, or local power.

31. Violation of these Rules is a punishable offence

If a candidate, or, on his behalf, any other person, violates any provision of these Rules during the pre-election period, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 (six) months, or with a fine not exceeding BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand), or with both.

32. Cancellation of candidature by the Commission.

(1) Notwithstanding anything else in these Rules, if it appears to the Commission from any source, record, or written report to be established that a rival candidate for Mayor or Councillor, or his election agent, has violated or attempted to violate any provision of these Rules, and that by reason of such violation or attempted violation he may become disqualified for election as Mayor or Councillor, the Commission may direct an immediate inquiry into the matter.

(2) If, after receiving the inquiry report under sub-rule (1), the Commission is satisfied that a rival candidate or his election agent, or, with the knowledge, consent, or connivance of the candidate or his agent, any other person, organisation, or institution acting on his behalf- has violated or attempted to violate any provision of these Rules, and that by reason of such violation or attempted violation he may become disqualified for election as Mayor or Councillor, the Commission may, by written order, immediately cancel that rival candidate's candidature.

(3) An order issued under sub-rule (2) shall be communicated by the Commission, as promptly as possible, to the concerned rival candidate or his election agent, and to the Returning Officer concerned.

(4) The Commission shall arrange for publication of an order issued under sub-rule (2) in the government Gazette.

33. Repeal and saving.

(1) The *City Corporation (Election Conduct) Rules, 2016*, hereinafter referred to as "the said Rules," are hereby repealed.

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(2) Notwithstanding such repeal under sub-rule (1)

(a) any programme carried out or measure taken under the said Rules shall be deemed to have been carried out or taken under these Rules; and

(b) any pending case or proceeding shall be disposed of as if the said Rules had not been repealed.