

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

Gazette Notification

Date: 19 Bhadra, 1433 Bangabda / 3 September, 2026 A.D.

S.R.O. No. 330-Law/2026. — In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009 (Act No. 61 of 2009), the Election Commission hereby formulates the following rules, namely:—

1. Short Title and Commencement.—

(1) These Rules may be called the **Union Parishad (Election Conduct) Rules, 2026**.

(2) It shall come into force immediately.

2. Definitions.— Unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, in these Rules—

1. **"Very Important Person"** means the Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament, Deputy Speaker, Minister of the Government, Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of Parliament, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Minister of State, Whip, Deputy Minister or any person of equivalent status, Member of Parliament, Mayor of a City Corporation or Person-in-Charge of Mayor or Administrator;
2. **"Act"** means the Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009 (Act No. 61 of 2009);
3. **"Union Parishad"** means any Union Parishad constituted under section 10 of the Act;
4. **"Commission"** means the Election Commission established under Article 118 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
5. **"Public Relations"** means contacting, meeting, or introducing oneself to voters of the relevant electoral area by any candidate for the purpose of Union Parishad election;
6. **"Wall"** means the outer and inner walls or fences of residences, offices, courts, educational institutions, business centers, industrial factories, shops, or any other structure, whether temporary or permanent, or their boundary walls or fences, and shall also include trees, electric and telephone poles, road islands, road dividers, bridges, culverts, road surfaces, and roofs of houses;
7. **"Election"** means an election or by-election to the post of Chairman or Member of any Union Parishad;
8. **"Electoral Area"** means the area designated for the election of the relevant Union Parishad;

9. **"Pre-election Period"** means the period from the date of announcement of the election schedule until the date of publication of the election results in the official Gazette;
10. **"Poster"** means any publicity leaflet prepared using paper, cloth, hessian, rexine, or environmentally harmful non-biodegradable materials;
11. **"Contesting Candidate"** means a candidate who has been validly nominated for election as Chairman or General Seat Member or Reserved Female Seat Member and who has not withdrawn their candidacy;
12. **"Candidate"** means any person who has submitted nomination papers for election to the post of Chairman or General Seat Member or Reserved Female Seat Member;
13. **"Festoon"** means a festoon made of cloth or hessian;
14. **"Banner"** means a publicity leaflet prepared with cloth or hessian or through electronic or digital media for campaign or similar purposes;
15. **"Hanging Banners and Festoons"** means hanging or suspending any banner or festoon for campaign or similar purposes;
16. **"Voter Slip"** means an information slip containing the candidate's name, photo, post name, and symbol, wherein the serial number of the voter according to the voter list is recorded and information regarding the polling station is included;
17. **"Mobile Financial Services (MFS) Transaction"** means financial transactions carried out through bKash, Nagad, Upay, Rocket, etc.;
18. **"Vehicle"** means any mechanical or non-mechanical carrier, with or without wheels, traveling by water, land, or air, carrying passengers or goods;
19. **"Political Party"** means a Registered Political Party defined in Clause (xixa) of Article 2 of the Representation of the People Order, 1972 (P.O. No. 155 of 1972); and
20. **"Statutory Public Authority"** means a statutory public authority defined in Article 152(1) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

3. Equal Rights in Election Campaigning.— Subject to the Act and other provisions of these Rules, any candidate or contesting candidate or any other person on their behalf shall have equal rights in respect of election campaigning.

4. Prohibition on Subscriptions, Donations, etc., to Any Institution.— No candidate or contesting candidate, or political party, or any other person, organization, or institution on their behalf, shall during the pre-election period, publicly or secretly, pay or promise to pay any subscription or donation to any institution located within the relevant union area.

5. Campaign Timing.— No candidate or any party, person, organization, or institution on their behalf shall start any kind of election campaign prior to the allotment of symbols.

6. Election Campaigning via Digital or Social Media.— Subject to compliance with existing laws, the Local Government (Union Parishad) Election Rules, 2010, and the

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provisions of these Rules, any candidate or their election agent or any other person may conduct election campaigns using digital or social media; provided that—

- (a) The candidate or their election agent or any other person or candidate shall not campaign without submitting to the Returning Officer the name of the relevant social media platform, account ID, email ID, and other identifying information prior to starting such campaign;
- (b) Artificial Intelligence (AI) shall not be used with dishonest intent in any election-related matter including campaigning;
- (c) No harmful content—including hate speech, false information, distortion of anyone's face, or fabricated election-related news—shall be created or shared;
- (d) Hate speech, personal or collective attacks, or provocative language targeting any population group based on race, religion, clan, caste, color, or gender community shall not be used;
- (e) No activity that misuses religious or ethnic sentiments to gain electoral advantage shall be committed; and
- (f) No candidate or any other person on behalf of a candidate shall, directly or by editing or using Artificial Intelligence, create, publish, propagate, or share any false, misleading, biased, malicious, obscene, vulgar, or defamatory content on social media or any other medium with intent to mislead voters or to assassinate character or damage the reputation of any candidate or person, irrespective of gender.

7. Restrictions on the Use of Circuit Houses, Dak Bungalows, State Media, etc.—

(1) No contesting candidate shall during the pre-election period—

- (a) Stay in any government circuit house, dak bungalow, or rest house;
- (b) Use any government circuit house, dak bungalow, rest house, government office, or office of a statutory public authority as a venue for campaigning for or against anyone; and
- (c) Use state media such as Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, etc., to conduct campaigning for or against any candidate.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other rules or policies, officers involved in election management duties shall get priority in using government dak bungalows, rest houses, and circuit houses.

8. Restrictions on Holding Meetings and Assemblies.—

(1) No candidate, or political party, or any other person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

- (a) Shall hold any public rally or procession other than public relations, street corner meetings, and indoor meetings;

(b) Shall disrupt, obstruct, or cause fear in the street corner meetings, indoor meetings, and other campaign activities of opponents;

(c) Shall conduct street corner meetings/indoor meetings without written permission, which shall be granted in order of receipt of applications submitted to the appropriate authority regarding the date, time, and venue;

(d) If intending to hold a street corner meeting/indoor meeting, shall inform the local police authority about its venue and time at least 24 (twenty-four) hours prior to the proposed meeting, so that the police can take necessary measures to maintain law and order at the site; and

(e) Shall hold street corner meetings on any road that may obstruct public movement, nor shall any other person on their behalf hold public rallies, street corner meetings, etc., in a similar manner.

(2) Organizers of a street rally shall seek police assistance to take action against disruptors or anyone creating disturbances at the meeting and shall not take action against such persons themselves.

9. Restrictions on the Use of Posters, Leaflets or Handbills, Festoons, Banners.—

No candidate or any other person on their behalf shall in the relevant electoral campaign—

(a) Use any kind of poster;

(b) Use non-biodegradable items (such as rexine, polythene, plastic, or any eco-harmful material to make publicity leaflets, handbills, festoons, banners, and symbols);

(c) Paste or glue any leaflet, handbill, or festoon on any building, wall, tree, fence, electric or telephone pole, or structures of government or local authorities, or on buses, trucks, trains, steamers, launches, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, legunas, taxis, baby-taxis, or any other vehicles in the electoral area;

(d) Hang any festoon, banner, symbol, or billboard over those of another contesting candidate, or cause damage, distortion, or destruction to such festoons, banners, symbols, or billboards;

(e) Except for electronic and digital media, banners, leaflets, handbills, and festoons used for campaigning shall be black and white; banners shall not exceed 10 (ten) feet × 4 (four) feet horizontally or vertically; leaflets or handbills shall not exceed A4 size (8.27 inches × 11.69 inches); and festoons shall not exceed 18 inches × 24 inches; no picture or symbol of any person other than the candidate's own photo and allotted symbol shall be printed on them;

(f) The length, width, or height of a contesting candidate's election symbol shall not exceed 6 (six) feet;

(g) Use any banner, leaflet, handbill, or festoon without the name, address of the printing press, and date of printing; and

(h) Use polythene covering on banners, leaflets, handbills, or festoons, or use plastic (PVC) banners.

10. Restrictions on the Use of Voter Slips.— No contesting candidate or any other person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

- (a) Shall distribute voter slips within 400 (four hundred) yards of any polling station;
- (b) Voter slips shall not exceed 5 (five) inches × 3 (three) inches in size; and
- (c) Shall print any voter slip without the printing press's name, address, quantity, and date.

11. Restrictions on Using Live Animals as Symbols.— Live animals shall not be used as symbols in election campaigning.

12. Restrictions on Processions or Showdowns.—

(1) No procession or showdown of any kind shall be held at the time of collecting and submitting nomination papers, nor shall a candidate collect or submit nomination papers accompanied by more than 5 (five) supporters.

(2) No procession or showdown of any kind shall be conducted during the pre-election period.

13. Restrictions Regarding Establishment of Election Camps or Offices.—

(1) No candidate or any other person on their behalf shall establish an election camp or office on any road or space designated for public movement or general public use.

(2) A contesting candidate for the post of Chairman shall not establish more than 3 (three) election camps/offices in their electoral area; a contesting candidate for the Reserved Seat Member post shall not establish more than 1 (one) election camp/office; and a contesting candidate for the General Seat Member post shall not establish more than 1 (one) election camp/office in their respective electoral area.

(3) No television, VCR, VCD, DVD, LED display, projector, etc., shall be used in any election camp or office.

14. Restrictions on the Use of Vehicles.— No candidate, or political party, or any other person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

- (a) Shall bring out any procession or torch rally or any other form of procession or showdown using trucks, buses, motorcycles, water vessels, trains, or any other mechanical vehicles;
- (b) Shall use helicopters or any other aircraft for election campaigning;
- (c) Shall use motorcycles or any other vehicles within the designated perimeter of a polling station; and

(d) To make the election festive, campaigning using a single caravan or mobile vehicle decorated with digital technology or general biodegradable materials around the vehicle shall be allowed from 12:00 PM (noon) until before sunset:

Provided that during such campaigning, no traffic obstruction or public harassment shall be caused.

15. Restrictions on Vehicle Use on Polling Day.— On behalf of any contesting candidate—

(a) No vehicle shall be hired or used to ferry voters to or from any polling station;

(b) For maintaining law and order during the election, no vehicle shall be used within the designated perimeter of a polling station by any person other than those authorized by the Commission; and

(c) Persons with disabilities or infirmities may use vehicles subject to prior permission from the Commission or Returning Officer.

16. Restrictions on Wall Writing.— No candidate, political party, person, organization, or institution on their behalf shall conduct election campaigning by writing, printing, engraving, or drawing pictures on walls or vehicles with ink, lime, or chemicals of any color.

17. Restrictions on Gates, Arches, Enclosures, Pandals, Camps, and Illuminations.— No candidate, political party, person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

(a) Shall construct any gate, arch, or enclosure for election campaigning or create any impediment on pathways;

(b) Shall set up any pandal or camp exceeding 350 (three hundred fifty) square feet in area for election campaigning;

(c) Shall use electricity for any illumination as part of election campaigning; and

(d) Shall establish an election camp or office on any road or space designated for public movement or general public use.

18. Restrictions on Campaign Attire, Serving Food, and Offering Gifts.— No candidate, political party, person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

(a) Shall wear or use shirts, jackets, futuas, etc., containing the candidate's image, promotional speeches on their behalf, or another person's photo or symbol for campaigning;

(b) Shall serve any food or drinks to voters in election camps; and

(c) Shall offer any gifts, tips, gratuities, etc., to voters.

19. Provocative Statements, Disorderly Conduct, Campaigning in Places of Worship, and Data Collection Prohibitions.— No candidate, or person, organization, or institution on their behalf—

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(a) Shall make statements defaming personal character, indecent or offensive speeches, or any bitter, provocative, defamatory, gender-insensitive speeches, or speeches hurting communal or religious sentiments during campaigning;

(b) Shall conduct any election campaigning in mosques, temples, pagodas, churches, or any other religious places of worship, or in government offices or educational institutions:

Provided that school grounds may be used with permission from authorities without disrupting academic activities;

(c) Shall damage land, buildings, or any movable or immovable property of any citizen, or disturb public peace through unwanted chaos or disorderly conduct on account of the election;

(d) Shall use force or spend money to influence voters for or against any contesting candidate; and

(e) Shall collect personal National ID (NID) numbers of voters or their family members, or mobile numbers for Mobile Financial Services (MFS) transactions with the intent of influencing voters for or against any candidate.

20. Restrictions on Carrying Explosives.— Except for persons authorized by the Commission, no person shall carry any explosive defined under Section 4(1) of the Explosives Act, 1884 (Act No. IV of 1884), explosive substances defined under Section 2 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 (Act No. VI of 1908), or arms and ammunition defined under Section 4 of the Arms Act, 1878 (Act No. XI of 1878) within the designated perimeter of a polling center.

21. Restrictions on Microphone Usage.—

(1) No contesting candidate or person, organization, or institution on their behalf shall use more than 1 (one) microphone or sound amplifier in a single ward for street meetings or campaign activities.

(2) Microphones or sound-amplifying devices shall not be used for campaigning before 12:00 PM (noon) and after sunset in any electoral area.

(3) The sound level of microphones or amplifiers used in campaigning shall not exceed 60 (sixty) decibels.

22. Restrictions on VIPs, Public Servants, and Use of Government Facilities.—

(a) Very Important Persons (VIPs) and officers/employees of government/statutory institutions shall not participate in election campaigning or election activities in the electoral area during the pre-election period;

(b) They shall not combine any election program or activity with their official government programs;

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(c) VIPs shall not directly or indirectly campaign for or against any candidate and shall not stay in locations or at times that, in the opinion of the Commission, may influence the election;

(d) They shall not use government vehicles, state publicity equipment, or enjoy other government facilities for campaigning on behalf of themselves or others, nor utilize officers/employees of government, semi-government, or autonomous bodies for this purpose;

(e) No candidate or person on their behalf shall use government publicity machinery, government employees, or enjoy government facilities for election work in the electoral area, district, or any other place;

(f) No candidate or person on their behalf shall utilize government officials/employees or persons associated with organizing the election in any activity; and

(g) Except for a candidate, no Chairman, Mayor, Administrator, or Person-in-Charge of any local government council shall participate in election campaigning.

23. Restrictions on Exercising Authority Over Government Development

Programs.— No contesting candidate shall exercise administrative authority over government development programs in their electoral area or attend meetings related to such programs during the pre-election period.

24. Restrictions on Participating in Educational Governing Bodies.— If a contesting candidate was previously elected or nominated as President or Member of the Managing Committee of an educational institution, they shall not preside over or attend meetings or engage in any activities of that institution during the pre-election period.

25. Restrictions on Project Approvals, Unveiling Plaques, Grants, etc.—

(1) During the pre-election period in the electoral area, no project under revenue or development funds shall be approved, announced, foundation stones laid, or plaques unveiled in government, semi-government, or autonomous institutions.

(2) During the pre-election period, VIPs shall not announce, allocate, or release any grants from government, statutory, semi-government, or autonomous funds to any individual, group, or institution.

(3) During the pre-election period, no Chairman, Member, or official of a Union Parishad shall approve new development projects or release/disburse funds for previously approved projects within the Union Parishad area.

26. Terms for Using Billboards.— For election campaigning—

(a) The advertising section of a billboard shall not exceed 16 (sixteen) feet × 9 (nine) feet;

(b) No candidate shall use more than 1 (one) billboard per ward; and

(c) Billboards shall under no circumstances obstruct the movement of the public or vehicles, nor be installed in a manner that harms the environment or compromises safety.

27. Electoral Expenditure Limit.—

- (1) No contesting candidate shall exceed the prescribed election expenditure limit.
- (2) Expenditures incurred for campaigning on digital and social media shall be included in the candidate's total election expenditure limit.

28. Prohibition of Obstruction During Nomination Submission and Withdrawal.—

- (1) No candidate, person, organization, institution, or political party shall create any obstruction while a candidate is submitting nomination papers to the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer.
- (2) No candidate, person, organization, institution, or political party shall create any obstruction while a candidate is withdrawing candidacy.

29. Access to Polling Stations.—

- (1) Only election officials and staff, contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents, election observers, Commission-authorized individuals, and voters shall have access to polling stations.
- (2) Activists of any contesting candidate shall not enter or loiter inside polling stations except for the purpose of casting their vote.
- (3) Polling agents shall remain seated in their designated spots and perform assigned duties.
- (4) No polling agent or voter shall enter a polling station wearing shirts, jackets, futuas, caps, badges, or attire containing campaign slogans or symbols of any candidate.

30. Keeping the Election Free From Influence.— No contesting candidate or person on their behalf shall influence the election through money, arms, muscle power, or local influence.

31. Violation of Rules a Punishable Offense.— If any candidate or person on their behalf violates any provision of these Rules during the pre-election period, they shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 (six) months, or a fine not exceeding BDT 10,000 (ten thousand), or both.

32. Cancellation of Candidacy by the Commission.—

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(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in other provisions of these Rules, if it appears to the Commission from records or written reports from any source that a candidate or their election agent has violated or attempted to violate any provision of these Rules, which may render them disqualified to be elected Chairman or Member, the Commission may order an immediate inquiry into the matter.

(2) Upon receiving the inquiry report under sub-rule (1), if the Commission is satisfied that a contesting candidate, their election agent, or any other person, organization, or institution acting under their direction or explicit/implicit consent has violated or attempted to violate these Rules, the Commission may, by written order, immediately cancel the candidacy of the contesting candidate.

(3) Any order passed under sub-rule (2) shall be notified as soon as possible to the candidate, their election agent, and the Returning Officer.

(4) The Commission shall arrange for the publication of orders passed under sub-rule (2) in the official Gazette.

33. Repeal and Savings.—

(1) The Union Parishad (Election Conduct) Rules, 2016, hereinafter referred to as the said Rules, are hereby repealed.

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

(a) Any action taken or measure adopted under the said Rules shall be deemed to have been taken or adopted under these Rules; and

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

By Order of the Election Commission
Akhtar Ahmed
Senior Secretary