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63 UNDECIDED TICKETS BNP juggles seat-sharing, internal feuds

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has held back announcing candidates in 63 constituencies, partly to honour seat-sharing commitments with allies and partly over fears of internal clashes among strong contenders.

While unveiling its list of 237 potential nominees on Monday, the party kept around 30 seats open for its allies who participated in the simultaneous movement alongside the BNP. The remaining 33 seats were left vacant due to difficulties in selecting suitable candidates.

"We've already begun seat-sharing discussions with our allies and will soon finalise candidates for the remaining seats. We're currently waiting for their lists of potential nominees," said a BNP standing committee member who preferred to remain unnamed.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, in a Facebook post yesterday, urged party leaders and activists to keep faith in the leadership, assuring that those who did not receive nominations will be given due responsibility and respect.

Nilphamari-1 is one of the seats that remain vacant. BNP Chairperson

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A BNP standing committee member

Khaleda Zia's nephew, Shahrin Islam Tuhin, and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Secretary General Monzurul Islam Afendi are both seeking nominations for the seat, making it difficult for the party to pick one over the other.

Party insiders said a decision would be made after further discussions with allies.

In Bogura-2, Nagorik Oikya nominated Mahmudur Rahman Manna. As a result, BNP did not field its own candidate.

In Patuakhali-3, BNP also refrained from nominating anyone, as Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur seeks to contest as an alliance candidate.

The party has likewise not named candidates for Jhenaidah-2 and Jhenaidah-4. Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan and the district BNP president are both vying for the Jhenaidah-2 seat, forcing the party to delay its decision. Sources said the BNP leader may be nominated from Jhenaidah-4.

Pirojpur-1 was left open for 12-Party Alliance Chief Coordinator and Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar) Chairman Mustafa Jamal Haider.

The situation is similar in Kishoreganj-5, where Jatiya Dal Chairman and 12-Party Alliance Coordinator Syed Ehsanul Huda wants to run.

Dhaka-13 has been kept for BNP ally Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) Chairman Bobby Hajjaj.

BNP is also not fielding a candidate in Dhaka-17, as Andaleev Rahman Partho, chairman of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party, is expected to contest the seat.

The party has yet to decide on Brahmanbaria-2, where former BNP lawmaker Rumeen Farhana and Ulama-e-Islam Bangladesh central leader Junayed Al Habib are both strong contenders.

In Brahmanbaria-6, Ganosamhati Andolan nominated its Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki. The Liberal Democratic Party nominated its Secretary General Redwan Ahmed for Cumilla-7.

Other constituencies left for allies include Habiganj-1, Sunamganj-2, Sunamganj-4, Sylhet-4, Sylhet-5, Laxmipur-1, Laxmipur-4, Dhaka-7, Dhaka-9, Dhaka-10, Dhaka-18, Dhaka-20, Narayanganj-4, Chattogram-14, Chattogram-15, Narail-2, Jashore-5, and Jhalakathi-1.

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NY MAYORAL RACE Mamdani on track to win

AFP, Queens

New Yorkers looked set to elect a young Muslim leftist as mayor yesterday as US voters cast judgment for the first time on Donald Trump's tumultuous second presidency in nationwide local elections.

While Zohran Mamdani's rise has dominated headlines, elections for governor in Virginia and New Jersey could also be revealing gauges of the US political mood nearly 10 months since Trump's return to the White House.

Democratic wins in those states may indicate a revived opposition ahead of next year's midterm elections to decide control of Congress.

Mamdani, aged just 34, is a self-described socialist who was virtually unknown before his upset victory to secure the Democratic nomination.



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Traffic signs installed along the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway and its service lanes have been stolen, raising questions about the effectiveness of security measures put in place by the authorities concerned. The signs have been missing for over a month, putting drivers at an increased risk of accidents. The photo was taken yesterday in Keraniganj's Rajendrapur.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Sand is being illegally extracted from a stone quarry and piled on the banks to be transported later in the cover of the night. Despite a government directive to shut down all quarries in Sylhet from August 5, this unchecked looting of natural resources continues to destroy the region's environment and scenic beauty. This photo was taken on Sunday afternoon at Sreepur in Jafalong, Sylhet.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Govt finalises draft for forming police commission

BAHARAM KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has finalised a draft ordinance for forming an independent police commission, aiming to ensure accountability within the force and make policing fair, transparent, and free from undue influence.

The draft Police Commission Ordinance 2025 gives the proposed commission authority to oversee promotions and postings.

Under the proposed law prepared by the law ministry, the president will appoint the inspector general of police (IGP) based on the commission's recommendation from a pool of three senior officers, each holding at least the rank of additional inspector general, for a two-year term.

The ordinance is expected to be placed before the advisory council soon, sources in the law and home ministries said. If passed, it will take precedence over other related laws and give the commission broad powers to oversee discipline, integrity, and performance within the force, and recommend reforms in policing policies and practices.

This paper has obtained a copy of the draft. The commission will also be able to recommend action against any person or entity found attempting to exert unlawful or undue

Under the proposed law, the commission will have broad powers to oversee discipline, integrity, and performance within the force, and to recommend reforms in policing policies and practices.

influence over police activities.

It will also investigate citizen complaints against police members and take appropriate action, ensuring confidentiality of the complainants.

The commission will function as a self-governed statutory authority, entitled to acquire and manage property, and will have the power to sue. The commission can be sued as well.

In reply to a journalist's query, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said he could not yet explain what benefits the commission would bring or how it would

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Charter, RPO row deepens amid buck-passing

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

November could prove decisive.

With barely a month to go before the announcement of the election schedule, many critical issues remain unresolved — the timing of the referendum on the July charter, who should issue its implementation order, and the fate of the dissenting notes, among others.

If all goes according to plan, the Election Commission is expected to announce the schedule in early December, paving the way for polls in the first half of February. The vote is seen as a crucial test for restoring credibility to Bangladesh's electoral process after three sham polls under the ousted Sheikh Hasina regime.

But two recent decisions of the interim government have further deepened the crisis.

Amid fierce debate over the mechanisms to implement the July charter, the interim government has urged political parties to reach an agreement — preferably within a week. If they fail, the government says it will act on its own.

This back-and-forth, with time running out fast, underscores the fragility of the moment.

Previously, on October 28, the consensus commission, after three rounds of talks with 30 parties, submitted its

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Over \$248m of climate fund lost to graft

Finds TIB study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of Bangladesh's climate fund has been lost to corruption, according to a new study by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Between 2010 and 2024, more than \$248 million of the \$459 million allocated to 891 projects under the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) was misused or siphoned off.

The findings indicate that political influence and collusion among members of the Trustee Board and the Technical Committee played decisive roles in project selection and approval, while BCCT officials responsible for oversight failed to prevent irregularities.

TIB found chronic implementation delays across projects.

Of the 891 projects reviewed, 62 percent had their duration extended from an average of two years to more than four years, while some four-year projects took as long as 14 years to complete.

Similar delays were recorded in internationally funded projects, where 41 percent of 51 projects were extended, pushing the average completion time to 2,978 days or more than eight years.

The study estimated that Bangladesh requires \$12.5 billion annually to address climate impacts, but has received only \$86.2 million a year on average from national and international sources between 2015 and 2023, which

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