

"I am very happy today. I became a voter 11 years ago, but this is the first time I was able to cast my ballot."

Rabiul Islam Roni, a voter of Dhaka 12

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

THIRD EDITION
Star

THE DAILY

ON FRIDAY

KSRM
শেখড় থেকে শিখরে

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2026

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXVI No. 30

MAGH 30, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 24, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

BNP heads for big win

Jamaat makes a strong showing, as per trends, unofficial results, party tallies as of 3:50am; peaceful voting marks historic JS polls, referendum

STAR REPORT

The BNP is on course for a thumping win in the 13th national election, where millions of voters exercised their long-denied franchise in a festive and peaceful atmosphere yesterday.

According to unofficial results and the party's own counts, the BNP and its allies were leading in 170 constituencies till the filing of this report at 3:30am today.

The party, which has been out of office for nearly two decades, was hopeful of

posted on its verified Facebook page.

The National Citizen Party (NCP), born out of the student-led uprising and a partner of the Jamaat-led alliance, won six constituencies, said Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, chief of the party's election steering committee, on his official verified Facebook page.

These unofficial results are based on tallies by political parties and data from returning officers. It was not clear whether postal ballots were taken into account.

The Election Commission was yet

Alongside electing a new parliament widely seen as critical to the country's democratic transition after years of political turmoil, voters took part in a referendum on constitutional reforms -- two votes were held simultaneously for the first time in the nation's history.

securing more than a two-thirds majority with what it called "an overwhelming public mandate".

"Based on the vote count received so far and detailed seat-wise information, we are very hopeful about this victory," BNP Central Election Steering Committee Spokesperson Mahdi Amin told journalists at 11:45pm yesterday.

The Jamaat-e-Islami -- once a close partner of the BNP -- and its allies made significant gains, claiming victory in 60 seats, according to the party's own count

to announce official results as ballot counting was underway. It was declaring partial unofficial results of different seats. The commission also didn't announce the overall turnout till 3:50am today.

Top BNP leaders, including its Chairman Tarique Rahman and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, won their respective constituencies as per unofficial results.

Tarique, who returned to the country after 17 years in exile in the UK, has been

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Voters wait in long lines to cast their ballots at Siraj Mia Memorial Model School in Dhaka-11's Badda area at 11:30am yesterday.



No victory rallies, just offer prayers

Tarique asks BNP leaders, activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has instructed party leaders and activists not to organise any victory processions, rallies or public gatherings anywhere in the country over the election results.

Stating that the BNP stands on the verge of a historic victory in the national election, he said special prayers should be offered across the country after Juma prayers today to express gratitude to

Almighty Allah.

The remarks were conveyed by BNP Chairman's Press Secretary Saleh Shibli around 2:30am.

Yesterday, after the voting ended, Tarique spent more than nine hours at his Gulshan office, enquiring about poll results from various constituencies and speaking with party leaders across the country.

During this time, he instructed

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Yunus thanks the nation

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday extended his heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the entire nation as voting in the 13th national parliamentary election and the referendum 2026 concluded in a peaceful, orderly, and festive environment.

"The spontaneous participation of voters, the responsible conduct of political parties, the restraint shown by



candidates, and the professionalism of all institutions involved in the electoral process collectively demonstrated that our commitment to democracy remains unwavering," he said in a statement issued by his press wing after voting concluded at 4:30pm.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Results being 'withheld' in some seats: Shafiqur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday alleged that the results of several constituencies in the 13th national election were being "withheld" during the vote-counting process.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Moghbazar office around 11:45pm, Shafiqur said the returning officers were delaying announcements despite counting being completed in



constituencies where his party was reportedly ahead.

Leaders of the Jamaat-led 11-party electoral alliance including Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party, Mamunul Haque, ameer of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis; Mustafizur Rahman, chairman of Bangladesh Labour Party, were present there.

Shafiqur said, "As far as we know, we are ahead in several

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



"We have been waiting for this day for the past one and a half years."

Chief of Army Staff
General
Waker-Uz-Zaman



POLLS IRREGULARITIES 10 jailed, nine detained

3 electoral officials withdrawn

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were jailed for different terms, nine were detained and three electoral officials were withdrawn over alleged polling irregularities during the 13th national election and referendum held yesterday.

In Kushtia-2, a mobile court sentenced a man to three years in prison and fined Tk 1,000 for attempting to flee with a ballot paper from the Talbaria High School polling centre, said Mirpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazmul Islam.

In Panchagarh's Atwari upazila, a leader of Jatiya Jubo Shakti, the youth wing of the National Citizen Party, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for possessing sample ballot papers at the Atwari Pilot High School polling centre around 10:00am, said Atwari Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Motiur Rahman.

In Habiganj-2, a mobile court sentenced a young man to two years' imprisonment on the allegation of creating unrest at a polling centre at Mandari Government Primary School polling centre in Baniachong upazila, said Baniachong UNO Mahmuda Begum Sathi.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: REUTERS

Electoral workers sort ballots before counting votes, during the 13th general election in Dhaka, yesterday.

Pro-Jamaat actors dominate polls-day disinformation

Analysis of 100 content shows

STAR REPORT

Disinformation reached a fever pitch during Bangladesh's 13th parliamentary polls as spin doctors launched a relentless campaign on Facebook and Telegram, beginning on the eve of the election and surging through the voting period yesterday.

Various political actors, appearing to be aligned with the Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), weaponised social media platforms to confuse and panic voters as well as erode trust in traditional media.

The surge started hours before voting began and continued through the day.

This digital deceit involved tactics such as resurfacing years-old "zombie content," circulating AI-generated deepfakes and deploying fabricated news photocards that falsely claimed candidate withdrawals and election cancellations.

The Daily Star documented 100 instances of disinformation disseminated through Facebook and Telegram beginning 8:00pm on February 11 and ending after voting closed at 4:30pm yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1