

ELECTION COMMISSION  
Executive Committee Election  
2022-2024



**Gulshan Society Executive Committee Election 2022-2024  
Voting Guidelines**

Chief Election Commissioner  
**Amb. Iftikharul Karim**

Election Commissioner  
**M.A. Rahim (Feroz)**

Election Commissioner  
**Nurul Alam**

**1) General Instructions**

- a) Elections shall be held following the various Directives issued by the Government regarding holding of social events during Covid pandemic.
- b) Entrance to Gulshan Lake Park, where elections are planned to be held, will be restricted to Gulshan Society Voters only on Polling Day.
- c) Other officials and vendors, duly authorized by the Election Commission, will also be allowed entry.
- d) Voting shall be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022, and will commence at 9:00 AM and continue until 5:00 PM that day. Voting Booths and Ballot Boxes shall be kept open for all Members who have entered the Polling Area before 5:00 PM.
- e) Entrance shall be from the Main Gate (Road 63). However, as an exception, Members who require assistance may, if they so desire, enter through the South Gate (Road 62).
- f) Please bring any one of the accepted forms of identification: (a) Gulshan Society Membership Card, (b) National Identity Card, (c) valid National Passport, or (d) valid Driving License.
- g) For smooth elections, Returning Officers and Polling Officers have been appointed by the Gulshan Society Executive Committee. In addition, the two Panels have nominated Polling Agents. They are all Gulshan Society Members, who have volunteered their time and efforts, sacrificing quality time with their families. They should be treated with total respect.
- h) Election Commissioners, Returning Officers, Polling Officers, Polling Agents, Security and Administrative staff, and volunteers have all specific roles during the election process, with most of those roles specified in the Byelaws. Where the roles are not clearly specified, the Election Commission shall determine the roles.
- i) Entrance to the Polling Area shall be restricted, with only polling staff, security staff and members who are ready to vote being allowed within the Polling Area. Voters shall immediately vacate the Polling Area after casting their votes.
- j) Candidates shall only enter the Polling Area to cast their votes and shall depart immediately afterwards. As an exception, President and Secretary General candidates may be allowed entry, as a courtesy, into the Polling Area, to observe the polling process. They should provide prior notice to the Chief Election Commissioner about their intention to visit the Polling Area. They should keep their visits short and must vacate the Polling Area as soon as possible.

**2) Collection of Voter Slips**

- a) Volunteers will be stationed to assist Voters to find their Membership Numbers.
- b) Voter Slips shall be issued from eight stations by Dhaka Soft staff. Voters can approach any of the eight stations. Mention your Name or your Membership Number or your phone number (if recorded in Voter List) and Dhaka Soft staff shall print two Voter Slips. You should sign both the Voter Slips. Yellow coloured Voter Slip will be issued to you, while white coloured Voter Slip shall be retained by Dhaka Soft staff as their records.
- c) As a courtesy to very senior Members and Members who require assistance, Election Commission hopes other Members would give them priority in collecting Voter Slips.

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<p>Chief Election Commissioner <b>Amb. Iftikharul Karim</b></p>	<p><b>3) Collection of Ballot Papers</b></p> <p>a) Voters shall approach the designated Polling Officers for their respective Zones to collect Ballot Papers on submission of their Voter Slips. Each Voter shall be issued a set of two Ballot Papers - one for the Office Bearers and the other for Zonal Coordinator. They shall also be provided with two envelopes.</p> <p>b) Only one set of Ballot Papers shall be issued to a valid Voter. If damaged, replacements shall not be issued.</p> <p>c) Please do not fold the Ballot Papers. If any Ballot Paper is folded, the Optical Reader may not read the votes properly.</p>
<p>Election Commissioner <b>M.A. Rahim (Feroz)</b></p>	<p><b>4) Casting of Votes</b></p> <p>a) There shall be 20 Polling Booths where Voters can mark their Ballot Papers in private. Except the Voter, no one else shall be allowed entry into the Polling Booths when a Voter is marking their Ballot Papers.</p> <p>b) Please enter any one of the Polling Booths designated for your Zone.</p> <p>c) Please use the felt tipped black marker pens provided in the Polling Booths to mark your Ballot Papers. Marks can be done as a cross <b>X</b> (<i>recommended</i>) or as a tick <b>✓</b>, and shall be placed in the circle in the square box between the names and photos of candidates.</p> <p>d) Please mark your votes against one Candidate for each office bearers, except General Members. For General Members, please choose no more than three Candidates. For General Members (Females), please choose no more than two Candidates. Marking more than the specified numbers shall cause the cancellation of the votes for those particular positions.</p> <p>e) For Zonal Coordinator, please choose only one Candidate. Marking more shall cause the vote to be cancelled.</p> <p>f) While each Voter are expected to cast votes for all the positions, failure to vote for all positions shall not invalidate the votes for the remaining positions/candidates.</p>
<p>Election Commissioner <b>Nurul Alam</b></p>	<p><b>5) Dropping of Ballot Papers in Ballot Boxes</b></p> <p>a) After marking your Ballot Papers, please insert them in the two envelopes, the large one for the Office Bearers' Ballot Paper, and the smaller one for the Zonal Coordinator Ballot Paper.</p> <p>b) Insert the envelopes in designated Ballot Boxes, which are placed in front of the Polling Booths. There will be two Ballot Boxes – one for Office Bearers and the other for Zonal Coordinator.</p> <p>c) Dropping the Ballot Papers in a wrong Ballot Box shall not invalidate the votes.</p>
	<p><b>6) Counting of Votes</b></p> <p>a) Immediately after the last vote has been cast, electronic counting of Votes shall commence, with the Returning Officers supervising the counting with the assistance of the Polling Officers.</p> <p>b) Candidates shall be allowed in the Polling Area to observe the counting.</p> <p>c) Only Ballot Papers correctly marked would be considered to be valid votes. Improperly marked Ballot Papers cannot be corrected to make the votes valid.</p>
	<p><b>7) Some Typical Reasons for votes to be rejected</b></p> <p>a) Voting for more than the specified number of candidates for any particular category.</p> <p>b) Not marking the votes in the spots designated.</p>

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- c) Trying to erase votes after marking
- d) Folding of Ballot Papers

**8) Recounting of Votes**

- a) Election Commission shall conduct electronic recounting of votes if the difference between the highest and next highest votes for a particular position or positions is five or less.
- b) Panels or the Independent Candidate can request the Election Commission to conduct additional recounting on the payment of fees. For first recount, the fee shall be Tk. 15,000 for electronic recounting, and Tk. 30,000 for manual recounting. If further recount is requested, the fees shall progressively be doubled.
- c) Any request for recount must be made in writing. In case of Panels, the request for recount shall be made either by the President Candidate or the Secretary General Candidate. Independent Candidate requesting recount shall do so himself.

**9) Final Decisions**

- a) Election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of The Executive Committee Election Byelaws 2015, as amended in November 2017.
- b) Where there are no clear guidance in the Byelaws or where specific provisions may not be practical, the Election Commission shall use its best judgement.
- c) DECISIONS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION SHALL BE FINAL.

Amb. Iftikharul Karim  
Chief Election Commissioner

18/2/2022