## The Election of a new Chamber Board for (2025-2026 & 2026-2027)

## Codes of Conduct to be followed by candidates

The following code of conduct shall be strictly followed by all the candidates till the completion of election:

1)

- (a) Any kind of advertisement, poster, wall-writing or banner cannot be used for the purpose of election;
- (b) Procession or slogans shall remain completely prohibited;
- (c) Only A4 size black and white leaflets can be sent to the voters but sending gifts to the voters shall remain prohibited;
- (d) No candidate in person or in group shall arrange and take part directly or indirectly in Election Meeting and Projection Meeting in any hotel or restaurant or community center, or arrange and take part in any entertainment party for the voters;
- (e) Panel/Group-wise Projection meeting of all the candidates may be arranged under the supervision of Election Board;
- (f) All sorts of election campaigns shall remain prohibited from 48 hours before the commencement of the polling;
- (g) On the day of polling, gathering or assembling of the candidates or their supporters, wearing badges and carrying posters within 100 yards of the polling center as declared by the Election Board shall remain completely prohibited; and
- (h) No candidate or voter shall be allowed to stay unnecessarily in the polling area violating the direction issued by the Election Board.
- Group wise projection meetings of all members shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Election Board. Candidates may address the voters for the time to be specified by the Chairman of the Election Board. Personal vilification, indecent remarks or political statements shall remain strictly prohibited. The Election Board may impose fees in equal rate on all candidates in order to meet the expenses of such projection meetings.
- In case of any violation of the code of conduct mentioned in sub-clause (1) (a) to (h) above or any complaint lodged against such violations, the Election Board shall immediately take appropriate steps including cancellation of concerned candidature after giving him/her an opportunity of being heard. Any party aggrieved by any such decision taken by the Election Board may appeal to the Election Appeal Board by next working day, in case of such violations before the polling-date.
- For violations that take place on the date of polling, such appeal may be field only within the next hour but before the closing time of polling on the polling day. The Election Appeal Board shall remain present in the polling centre during the polling in order to settle such references of violation of Code of Conduct. The Election Appeal Board shall hold hearing and the parties concerned shall be called for hearing by special announcements. A notice given in the Notice Board in this respect shall be treated as

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Md. Abdul Mannaf Member Election Board-2025 ind a-Bring agesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry 300mar

Md. Kohinoer Islam Member Election Board-2025

India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Md. Shamsul Alam Chairman Election Board-2025

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the only legal notice. The Election Appeal Board after holding hearing shall award its judgment and the decision of Election Appeal Board shall be final, provided that all references on grounds of violations of code conduct shall be disposed of before the counting of votes coasted.

- The Election Board shall regulate the number of voters to be admitted at a time in the polling booth. Only the members of Election Board, Law enforcing agencies, the polling agencies, the Candidates and the voters who have come to cast votes shall have the right to enter into the polling booth.
- 6) Not more than one voter at a time shall be allowed to enter the secret vote casting enclosure. The ballot papers shall not be taken outside the polling booth.
- All voters on the polling booth shall cast vote though secret ballot under the supervision of the Election Board. The Election Board reserves the right to expel any electoral candidate or voter from the polling center area who violets the above rules or Code of Conduct, or is found to be engaged in any election campaign or provocative act.
- The Candidates shall be allowed to stay at the place or seat earmarked for them by the Election Board in the polling area and polling booth. Candidates shall be allowed to enter the adjacent area of the polling booth by the Election Board only to cast their votes.
- 9) No candidate shall be allowed to be engaged in any conversation or canvassing with any voter in the polling center. If any candidate is engaged in any conversation or canvassing in the polling booth in spite of warning by the Election Board or Election Officer, his/ her candidature can be cancelled as stated in sub-class (3) above giving the candidate an opportunity of being heard.
- The Election Board shall prescribe the form of Ballot Paper. On the counter foil of the Ballot Paper, the number of Ballot Paper shall be engraved and the Ballot Paper shall compulsorily bear the seal of the Chamber and the original signature of the Chairman of the Election Board, otherwise it shall not be valid.
- 11) If any voter is physically unable to cast vote without the help of others, the Election Board shall employ one polling officer to help the said voter in the polling booth.
- At least 15 minutes before the poll begins the Election Board in presence of the candidates (if present), shall make sure that ballot box is empty and close and seal it and place the sealed ballot box in a proper place well visible to the Election Board, candidates and voters.
- In a polling booth, more than one ballot box cannot be used at the same time for the Election of a seat earmarked for a particular Group. If a ballot box is full or appears to the Chairman of the Election Board to be unsuitable for further use for collecting of Ballots, he shall seal that ballot box and preserve it in a safe and visible place and replace it with another empty and sealed ballot box.
- During the interval of poll or if voting is postponed temporarily, the ballot box shall be sealed and remain preserved until the Election Board directs to resume the poll again.

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Md. Abdul Mannaf
Member
Election Board-2025
India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Md. Kohinoer Islam Member Election Board-2025

India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Md. Shamsul Alam Chairman Election Board-2025

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- 15) All the voters present at the Polling Centre within the date and time as fixed in the Election Schedule shall be allowed to cast their votes.
- Polling shall be closed when voting as stared in sub clause (17) is finished. After polling is closed, counting of votes shall commence and continue at a stretch until counting is completed. The candidates shall be allowed to remain present during the counting. But if any candidate cannot remain present personally, he/she shall be allowed to appoint a representative on his/her behalf with prior permission of the Election Board.
- 17) For counting of votes, the Election Board shall, after taking out all the ballot papers from the ballot boxes, record in writing the total numbers of ballot papers from the ballot boxes, and then shall start counting of votes ballot papers shall be invalid on the following grounds:
  - (a) If it does not bear the signature of the Chairman, Election Board with official seal;
  - (b) If votes are cast for more or fewer candidates than the scheduled number of posts; or
  - (c) Illegible ballot paper with over-writing, or ballot papers filled in by violating directions prescribed in the ballot paper;

The Election Board shall record the total number of the aforesaid invalid ballot papers and put them in sealed packets.

- The Election Board shall count and record in writing votes cast in the valid ballot papers in favor of each candidate. Only the Election Board and the polling personnel shall take part in the counting of votes.
- The voter list will contain the voter number, voter's name, name and address of his/her organization and e-TIN number. Voters will be identified on the basis of the specimen signatures of the members nominated by the member organizations kept in the office of the Election Board or through the identity card with photo provided by the Election Board. If the said identity card is not available or if the signatures are incorrect, voting will not be possible.
- 20) The Election Board shall, after completion of polling and counting of votes announce and publish the result of election. The Election Board shall then pack the following documents in separate packets with seal and signature of the Election Board on each packet. Such packets shall be preserved in special custody under the joint supervision of the Election Board and the Election Appeal Board:
  - a. Unused ballot papers. (Serial numbers and total number are to be noted);

b. Valid ballot papers. (Number shall be mentioned);

Ballot papers declared invalid (Number shall be mentioned);

 d. Counterfoils of used ballot papers. (Serial number and total numbers shall be recorded); and

e. Vote counting and result papers should be signed by Returning Officer and the Chairman & Members of the Election Board.

21) The papers and documents preserved under sub-class (21) above shall only be unpacked for examination in presence of the candidate or candidates concerned according to the direction of the Election Appeal Board, FBCCI Arbitration Tribunal, the Government or the Court of law.

Commence.

Md. Abdul Mannaf
Member
Election Board-2025
India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Md. Kohinoer Islam Member Election Board-2025 Md. Shamsul Alam
Chairman
Election Board-2025
India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry