

REFORM WATCH

Monthly Update - August 2026

Monitoring Reform Progress,
Political developments,
and Implementation Trends in Bangladesh



Reform Watch
Monthly Update (August 2026)

***Monitoring Reform Progress, Political Developments, and
Implementation Trends in Bangladesh***



Reform Watch: Monitoring Reform Progress, Political Developments, and Implementation Trends in Bangladesh

August 2026

<https://reform-watch.com/>

Principal Investigator

Zillur Rahman, President, CGS

Research Assistants

Marzana Mahnaz, Research Associate

Kazi Rhid, Strategy Associate

Nuzhat Tabassum, Program Assistant

The project is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) conducts research on and facilitates collaborative efforts among the academic community, government, private sector, civil society, and development partners on governance, security, economic and human resource development, political and social order, and democratization. For details, visit: <https://cgs-bd.com/>

45/1 New Eskaton (2nd Floor), Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

Phone: +880258310217, +880248317902, +8802222223109

Email: ed@cgs-bd.com

Website: www.cgs-bd.com



Table of Contents

1.	Key Takeaways.....	5
2.	Introduction	6
3.	Continuing Disagreement over July Charter Implementation	6
4.	Dispute over Constitutional Reform Mechanism	9
6.	Bicameral Legislature and Upper House Structure	14
7.	Parliamentary Autonomy and the Future of Article 70.....	15
8.	ACC Leadership Restored After Prolonged Vacancy.....	16
9.	Overall Assessment	17
10.	Reference.....	21

1.Key Takeaways

- The constitutional reform process remained contested, with BNP supporting parliamentary amendments and the opposition demanding a broader reform mechanism.
- The proposed Upper House structure became a major point of disagreement between the government and opposition over the basis of representation.
- Bangladesh held its first competitive presidential election in decades, with Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir elected as President.
- Proposed constitutional changes aimed to expand presidential authority and introduce clearer procedures for exercising clemency powers.
- Debate over MPs' voting independence intensified, with Article 70 becoming a major focus of political discussion.
- The Anti-Corruption Commission resumed operations after a 166-day leadership vacuum with the appointment of a new chairman and commissioners.
- Disagreement continued between the government and opposition over the interpretation and implementation of the July National Charter.

2. Introduction

This monthly update tracks developments under the July National Charter 2025 during the monitoring period of July 15 to August 20, 2026. The update examines the continued debate over Charter implementation and reviews developments across key reform areas, including constitutional reform, presidential powers, parliamentary independence, and anti-corruption institutions.

During this period, the reform debate remained focused on the question of how the July National Charter should be implemented. While the government continued to emphasize constitutional amendments through parliamentary procedures, opposition parties and other stakeholders continued to demand broader institutional reforms aligned with the referendum mandate.

The August update highlights developments related to the constitutional reform mechanism, the structure of the proposed bicameral legislature, presidential election and authority reforms, parliamentary voting independence, and the restoration of Anti-Corruption Commission leadership after a prolonged vacancy. It also examines how political positions, institutional decisions, and legal developments shaped the progress and challenges surrounding Charter implementation.

This update documents these developments provision by provision, assessing whether commitments have advanced, remained contested, or continued to face institutional and political barriers during the monitoring period.

3. Continuing Disagreement over July Charter Implementation

The debate over the July National Charter continued to revolve around the unresolved disagreement between the government and the opposition over the meaning and pathway of implementation. On July 11, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Prof. Mia Golam Parwar, speaking at a seminar in Gazipur, urged the immediate implementation of the July National Charter during the current parliament session and warned that delays could create political instability. Referring to the February 12 referendum, he accused the government of deviating from the spirit of the Charter and stated that, out of 84 reform proposals, 47 require constitutional amendments while 37 can be implemented through executive orders or ordinary legislation. He also pointed to BNP's dissent on key issues, including separation of party leadership from the premiership, proportional

representation in Parliament, limitations on Article 70, and the creation of an independent appointment commission.¹

Balancing Charter Implementation and Reform Demands

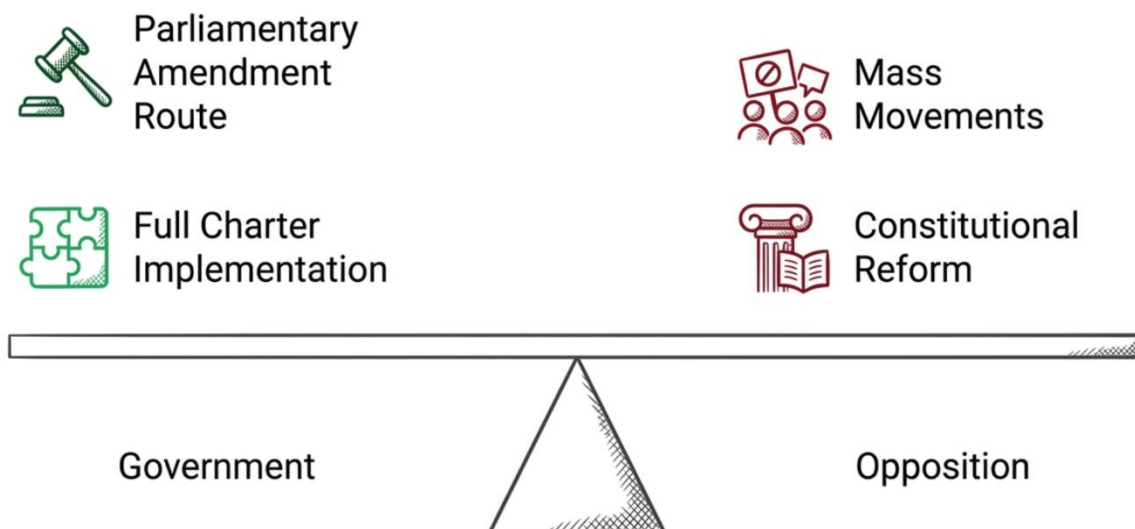


Figure 1: Dispute over Implementation

BNP, however, continued to reject the opposition's framing. On July 17, BNP's former Secretary General and now President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said BNP stands for constitutional amendments, not constitutional reforms, and accused the opposition of misinterpreting the July Charter to mislead the public. He argued that BNP, with its two-thirds parliamentary majority, would implement both its manifesto and the Charter "in its own way." He also criticized proposals such as proportional representation, saying they had been introduced without BNP's consent.²

The opposition's position hardened further on July 18, when NCP Convener and opposition chief whip Nahid Islam, speaking at a divisional rally in Barishal, warned that failure to implement the July Charter in line with the referendum verdict would compel the opposition to launch mass movements. He accused Prime Minister Tarique Rahman of ignoring the 70 percent "yes" vote for reform despite campaigning for the referendum, and said the opposition alliance would

¹ Jugantor. (2026, July 11). চলতি সংসদ অধিবেশনেই সংবিধান সংস্কার কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে: গোলাম পরওয়ার. <https://www.jugantor.com/politics/1125560>

² The Daily Star Bangla. (2026, July 17). আমরা জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব: মির্জা ফখরুল. <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news-3943961>

escalate nationwide programmes demanding constitutional reform rather than mere amendment.³

In August, the government maintained that the parliamentary amendment route remained the legitimate path for implementing the Charter. On August 6, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed urged opposition parties to join the 17-member special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendments and assured that the July National Charter would be fully implemented. He rejected the distinction between reform and amendment, stating that the committee had already held its first meeting and would review the entire Constitution with the July Charter at its core, while also considering BNP's election manifesto.⁴

The opposition alliance responded by expanding its street programme. Also on August 6, the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance announced a series of division-based long marches to demand immediate implementation of the July National Charter and the referendum verdict. The programme is scheduled to begin on September 5 with a Dhaka–Chittagong march, continue through October with routes to Rangpur, Khulna, and Sylhet, and culminate in a mass rally in Dhaka on November 14. Alliance leaders presented the programme as part of a broader movement to ensure that the referendum mandate is honored.⁵

By mid-August, BNP's position became more explicit. On August 17, Prime Minister's Information Adviser Dr. Zahed Ur Rahman said BNP would implement the July Charter in full, excluding the notes of dissent attached by other parties. Speaking at a press conference marking 180 days at the Prime Minister's Office, he argued that if other parties were in power, they too would omit their own dissenting notes while implementing the Charter.⁶ On the same day, reports indicated that the Jamaat-e-Islami- and NCP-led opposition alliance was intensifying pressure on the government ahead of its six-month mark through planned long marches and a November mass rally. The alliance's broader demands also included reduction of fuel and electricity prices, inflation control, and justice for past atrocities, indicating that Charter implementation had become part of a wider opposition pressure campaign.⁷

³ Kalbela. (2026, July 18). হরতাল-অবরোধের মতো কর্মসূচির প্রস্তুতি রয়েছে: নাহিদ.
<https://www.kalbela.com/country-news/310144>

⁴ The Daily Star. (2026, August 6). July charter will be fully implemented.
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/july-charter-will-be-fully-implemented-4241236>

⁵ The Daily Ittefaq. (2026, August 6). জুলাই জাতীয় সনদ ও গণভোটের রায় বাস্তবায়নে লংমার্চের ঘোষণা ১১-দলীয় ঐক্যে.
<https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/802598/জুলাই-জাতীয়-সনদ-ও-গণভোটের-রায়-বাস্তবায়নে>

⁶ Daily Inqilab. (2026, August 17). জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব, তবে নোট অব ডিসেন্ট বাদ দিয়ে: জাহেদ উর রহমান.
<https://dailyinqilab.com/national/news/929289>

⁷ Desh Rupantor. (2026, August 17). চাপে রাখার কৌশলে জামায়াত-এনসিপি জোট.
<https://www.deshrupantor.com/amp/713331/চাপে-রাখার-কৌশলে-জামায়াত-এনসিপি-জোট>

4. Dispute over Constitutional Reform Mechanism

The dispute over Provision 3 of the July National Charter sharpened in July and August as the BNP-led government moved ahead with a parliamentary constitutional amendment route, while the Jamaat-e-Islami–NCP-led opposition continued to insist on a Constitutional Reform Council. On July 15, the Jamaat-led opposition alliance rejected the government’s special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendments, arguing that the July Charter referendum mandated a Reform Council and warning of movements inside and outside Parliament if the referendum verdict was bypassed.⁸ The disagreement became more explicit on July 16, when BNP advanced a 12-member parliamentary committee to amend the Constitution, maintaining that reform must proceed within the existing constitutional framework and later be placed before a referendum. Opposition parties, including Jamaat and the NCP, rejected this route, while CPB General Secretary Abdullah Al Kafi, AB Party President Mujibur Rahman Manju, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, Jamaat MP Saiful Alam Khan, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, and BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan all articulated competing positions on whether amendment, referendum, or a Reform Council should serve as the proper implementation mechanism.⁹



Figure 2: Provision Status

Legal and civil society actors also entered the debate. On July 17, the Bangladesh Lawyers Council demanded immediate formation of a Constitutional Reform Council under Article 7 of the July National Charter Implementation Order, 2025. Supreme Court lawyer Shishir Monir argued that the February 12 election and referendum rested on the order and that no court had declared it unconstitutional, making it a binding legal basis for forming the Reform Council.¹⁰ On July 23, 63 prominent citizens and representatives of different organizations similarly urged the government

⁸ Ajker Patrika. (2026, July 15). Jamaat-led alliance rejects special parliamentary committee, demands Constitutional Reform Council. <https://www.ajkerpatrika.com/politics/ajpid0gdru6pk>

⁹ Bangla Tribune. (2026, July 16). সংবিধান সংশোধন কোন পথে বিএনপি. <https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/bnp/957528/সংবিধান-সংশোধন-কোন-পথে-বিএনপি>

¹⁰ Daily Sangram. (2026, July 17). Bangladesh Lawyers Council demands immediate formation of Constitutional Reform Council. <https://dailysangram.com/bangladesh/accidents/eRmv9rCDrDYf/>

to form the Constitutional Reform Council within 180 days of the July uprising, warning that delay could endanger democratic transformation and invite instability.¹¹

By late July, the opposition's criticism of the parliamentary committee had hardened. On July 25, NCP leader and opposition chief whip Nahid Islam, speaking at a divisional rally in Sylhet, accused the government of prioritizing constitutional amendments over genuine reform and warned that failure to implement the referendum verdict would intensify nationwide movements.¹² On July 26, the Jamaat-NCP-led opposition alliance rejected the government's 12-member special committee as a "farce," arguing that piecemeal amendment could not substitute for the referendum-mandated reform process. NCP leaders including Nahid Islam, Ariful Islam Adeeb, Sarwar Tushar, and Naseeruddin Patwari warned of escalating street movements if the government failed to act through the Reform Council.¹³

The government nevertheless formalized its parliamentary route in early August. On August 4, the Jatiya Sangsad formed a 12-member Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment, chaired by Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, to prepare recommendations and submit a report to Parliament. The committee was tasked with reviewing the existing Constitution, the July National Charter's reform proposals, and the BNP election manifesto, though opposition parties rejected participation and no deadline was fixed for submission of the report.¹⁴ A separate report the same day stated that the committee would consult experts, lawyers, media representatives, and stakeholders before preparing recommendations for parliamentary debate and voting.¹⁵ On August 5, the committee held its first meeting and outlined its plan to review the entire Constitution while incorporating proposals from both the July Charter and BNP's manifesto. Government ministers maintained that the amendment process would align with the Charter and seek broad acceptance, despite the opposition's refusal to join.¹⁶

The tension between the Charter and BNP's manifesto became a central issue after the committee began work. On August 6, it was reported that the committee would consider both

¹¹ Prothom Alo. (2026, July 23). 63 citizens urge formation of Constitutional Reform Council.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/lgg12khyy2>

¹² The Daily Ittefaq. (2026, July 25). গণভোটের রায় বাস্তবায়ন না করলে সরকার মেয়াদ পূর্ণ করতে পারবে না: নাহিদ ইসলাম. <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/800457/গণভোটের-রায়-বাস্তবায়ন-না-করলে-সরকার-মেয়াদ>

¹³ Dhaka Post. (2026, July 26). Opposition alliance rejects constitutional amendment committee as farce.

<https://www.dhakapost.com/politics/470082>

¹⁴ Prothom Alo. (2026, August 4). সংবিধান সংশোধনে ১২ সদস্যের বিশেষ কমিটি গঠন.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/zehr5kl7ym>

¹⁵ Prothom Alo. (2026, August 4). সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটির কর্মপরিকল্পনা প্রথম বৈঠকে চূড়ান্ত হবে.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/izwnu47bei>

¹⁶ Prothom Alo. (2026, August 5). সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটির প্রথম বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/vlxubogpmi>

documents, but important differences remained on the caretaker government system, the balance of power between the president and prime minister, and the structure and authority of a bicameral parliament. Law Minister Asaduzzaman indicated that where BNP's manifesto reflects dissent from the Charter, BNP's position would receive priority in committee deliberations.¹⁷ On August 7, Bangla Tribune reported that the core unresolved question remained whether constitutional change would proceed through amendment or reform, with the opposition viewing the committee as one-sided while BNP maintained that Article 142 of the existing Constitution made parliamentary amendment the only lawful path.¹⁸

The opposition continued to reject the committee's legitimacy. On August 8, Opposition Leader and Jamaat Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman accused BNP of pushing fragile constitutional amendments instead of genuine reform, arguing that only a Constituent Assembly or Reform Council could prevent the return of authoritarianism. He said the referendum had mandated reform, not ordinary amendments that courts could later repeal.¹⁹ On August 13, Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni stated that the Constitution would be amended in line with the July Charter after incorporating stakeholder views, arguing that even minor changes can qualify as reform. BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy added that the referendum process is separate, with its outcomes to be reflected in Parliament over time.²⁰

5. Presidential Election Procedure, Appointment Powers, and Clemency

Provisions 10, 11, and 13 of the July National Charter entered the August update through two connected developments: the presidential election process and renewed discussion on expanding presidential authority. Provision 10 requires the President to be elected by majority vote through secret ballot by members of both houses of Parliament, while also restricting presidential candidates from holding any position in the state, government, political party, or organization. Since Bangladesh still has no upper house and the constitutional amendment process remains unresolved, the Charter's full electoral mechanism could not be implemented in the 23rd presidential election. However, the provision showed partial practical movement

¹⁷ Prothom Alo. (2026, August 6). জুলাই সনদ ও বিএনপির ইশতেহার বিবেচনায় নেবে সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটি.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/lj17rdi1on>

¹⁸ Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 7). সংবিধান সংশোধন-সংস্কার বিতর্ক: শেষ পর্যন্ত কোন পথে.
<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/bnp/961456/সংবিধান-সংশোধন-সংস্কার-বিতর্ক-শেষ-পর্যন্ত-কোন-পথে>

¹⁹ Dhaka Post. (2026, August 8). শুধু সংস্কার নয়, সংস্কার পরিষদ বা গণপরিষদ দরকার: শফিকুর রহমান.
<https://www.dhakapost.com/politics/473337>

²⁰ Dhaka Tribune. (2026, August 13). Chief Whip: Constitution to be amended taking stakeholders' views.
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/election/417385/chief-whip-constitution-to-be-amended-taking>

through the candidate-eligibility clause. On August 7, the Election Commission scheduled the presidential election for August 20, with nominations due on August 13 and scrutiny on August 16.²¹ On August 8, Jamaat-e-Islami decided to participate in the election and coordinate with the 11-party alliance to nominate a joint opposition candidate.²² The following day, the alliance nominated Colonel (Retd.) Oli Ahmad, Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, while BNP finalized Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as its candidate.²³

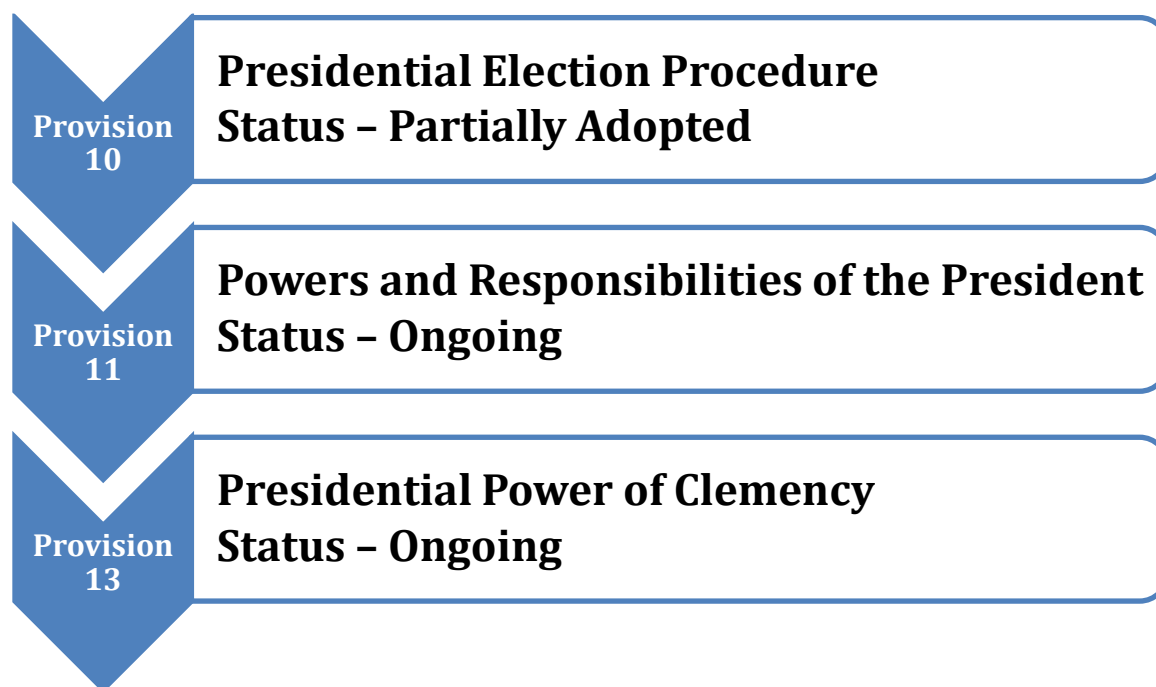


Figure 3 Provision Status

The election therefore became competitive for the first time in decades, even though BNP's parliamentary majority made its candidate the likely winner. Reports on August 9 noted that the contest between BNP's nominee and the Jamaat-led alliance candidate marked a break from the long practice of uncontested presidential elections and revived debate around the July Charter's proposal for a different presidential election mechanism.²⁴ BNP formally nominated Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on August 13, and following the nomination he resigned from his posts as

²¹ Prothom Alo. (2026, August 7). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচন ২০ আগস্ট, মনোনয়ন জমা ১৩ আগস্ট পর্যন্ত.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/oq8z8sc6js>

²² Prothom Alo. (2026, August 8). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে অংশ নেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত জামায়াতের.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/j8w4azaxrp>

²³ The Business Standard Bangla. (2026, August 9). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে বিএনপির প্রার্থী মিজা ফখরুল.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/bangladesh/news-details-524431>

²⁴ Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 9). ৩৫ বছর পর রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে ভোটের লড়াই, তবে ফল প্রায় নিশ্চিত.

<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/other-politics/961812/৩৫->

BNP Secretary General and member of the party's Standing Committee.²⁵ This aligned with the Charter's requirement that a presidential candidate should not hold any party or organizational position. By contrast, the Jamaat-led opposition alliance submitted the nomination papers of Colonel (Retd.) Oli Ahmad, who remained Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party.²⁶ On August 20, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected President after securing 255 votes in Parliament, defeating Oli Ahmad, who received 88 votes. Out of 349 MPs, 343 cast their ballots in the special session supervised by the Chief Election Commissioner.²⁷ Provision 10 is therefore assessed as Partially Adopted: the bicameral secret-ballot mechanism remains unimplemented, but the presidential election became competitive, and one element of the candidate-detachment principle was followed in practice by the ruling party's nominee, though not uniformly across all candidates.

Provisions 11 and 13 also entered discussion as the government prepared for constitutional amendment. Provision 11 seeks to amend Article 48(3) to strengthen the President's authority by allowing independent appointments to six key institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, Bangladesh Press Council, Law Commission, Bangladesh Bank, and Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission. Provision 13 seeks to regulate the President's clemency power through legal criteria, principles, and procedures, including a requirement to obtain consent from the complainant or victim's family before considering a clemency petition. On July 30, it was reported that the government was preparing to table a constitutional amendment bill that would significantly expand presidential powers, especially in appointments to key state institutions without requiring the Prime Minister's advice. The report also noted that while most parties supported granting independent appointment authority over four institutions, BNP objected to extending this authority to Bangladesh Bank and the Energy Regulatory Commission. The same proposed amendment package also included the Charter's clemency-related provision requiring victim or complainant consent.²⁸

Accordingly, Provisions 11 and 13 are assessed as Ongoing. No constitutional amendment has yet been adopted, and the proposed changes remain dependent on the wider amendment process. However, both provisions have moved beyond the Pending stage because they have entered the

²⁵ The Daily Ittefaq. (2026, August 13). বিএনপি মহাসচিব ও স্থায়ী কমিটির পদ থেকে পদত্যাগ মির্জা ফখরুলের. <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/803866/বিএনপি-মহাসচিব-ও-স্থায়ী-কমিটির-পদ-থেকে-পদত্যাগ>

²⁶ The Business Standard Bangla. (2026, August 13). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে অলি আহমদের মনোনয়নপত্র জমা দিয়েছে জামায়াত-নেতৃত্বাধীন জোট. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/bangladesh/news-details-525846>

²⁷ The Daily Star Bangla. (2026, August 20). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে জয়ী মির্জা ফখরুল. <https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news-3954486>

²⁸ Bangladesh Pratidin. (2026, July 30). রাষ্ট্রপতির ক্ষমতা বাড়াতে সংবিধান সংশোধনের প্রস্তুতি. <https://www.bd-pratidin.com/first-page/2026/07/30/1281357>

government's constitutional amendment agenda and are being discussed as part of the package intended to rebalance presidential and prime ministerial authority.

6. Bicameral Legislature and Upper House Structure

The debate over Provisions 17 and 18 of the July National Charter has centered on the structure and composition of the proposed upper house of Parliament. While both the government and opposition support a bicameral legislature in principle, they disagree on how upper house representation should be determined.

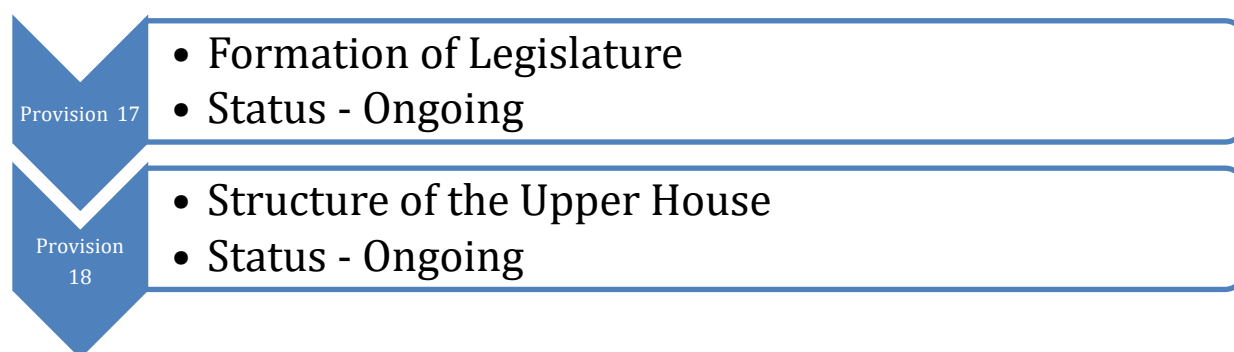


Figure 4 Provision Status

On July 17, BNP's Former Secretary General and now president Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir reiterated that BNP supports constitutional amendments rather than broader reforms and accused the opposition of misrepresenting the July Charter. He specifically criticized proposals introduced by the Constitutional Reform Commission, including proportional representation, arguing that such proposals were not agreed upon by BNP.²⁹

The disagreement became more specific on August 7, when BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami-led opposition alliance clashed over the proposed 100-member upper house. BNP maintained that representation should be based on the proportion of seats obtained by parties in the Lower House, consistent with its election manifesto and interpretation of its electoral mandate. In contrast, the opposition argued that the Upper House should follow the July Charter's provision

²⁹ The Daily Star Bangla. (2026, July 17). আমরা জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব: মির্জা ফখরুল.
<https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news-3943961>

of proportional representation based on votes received, stating that a vote-based system is necessary to ensure the chamber functions as an effective mechanism of checks and balances.³⁰

The debate reflects a broader disagreement over the purpose of the Upper House. While BNP's position emphasizes representation derived from parliamentary strength, opposition parties argue that the Charter intended the Upper House to provide broader proportional representation and prevent concentration of power within the ruling majority. As no constitutional amendment establishing the bicameral legislature or determining the final structure of the Upper House has yet been adopted, Provisions 17 and 18 remain Ongoing.

7. Parliamentary Autonomy and the Future of Article 70

Provision 25 of the July National Charter seeks to provide greater voting independence to Members of Parliament by allowing them to vote freely on parliamentary matters, except in cases involving money bills and confidence motions. During August, the provision moved from political debate toward possible legal consideration, with Article 70 emerging as the central point of discussion.

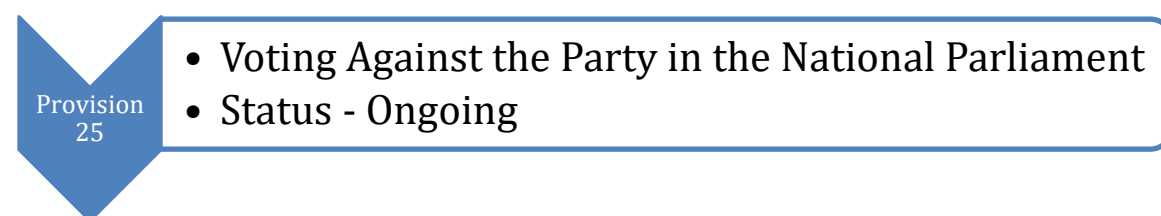


Figure 5: Provision Status

On August 10, the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance's decision to nominate Colonel (Retd.) Oli Ahmad in the presidential election renewed debate over Article 70 and its impact on MPs' voting independence. Alliance leaders argued that the provision restricts lawmakers' ability to vote freely and that reforms were necessary to restore genuine parliamentary accountability.³¹ On August 13, lawyer Md. Yunus Ali Akand filed a writ petition challenging the validity of Article

³⁰ Kalbela. (2026, August 7). বিএনপি-জামায়াতের দ্বন্দ্ব উচ্চকক্ষের আসন বণ্টন নিয়ে. <https://www.kalbela.com/ajkerpatrika/firstpage/316222>

³¹ Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 10). ফের আলোচনায় ৭০ অনুচ্ছেদ. <https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/jamat-e-islam/962027/ফের-আলোচনায়-৭০-অনুচ্ছেদ>

70, arguing that the provision undermines democratic rights by forcing lawmakers to lose their seats if they vote against their party.³²

The issue also drew responses from BNP leaders. On August 16, BNP Standing Committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy argued that discussions on Article 70 should be addressed through parliamentary amendments rather than street movements, emphasizing that constitutional changes must follow the parliamentary process.³³ On the same day, the Election Commission declared the nomination of Colonel (Retd.) Oli Ahmad valid for the presidential election, while alliance leaders reiterated that reforming Article 70 was necessary to ensure independent voting rights for MPs.³⁴

By August 20, the government indicated movement toward formal amendment. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed stated that the government was proceeding with amendments to Article 70 and proposed allowing MPs to vote independently except on confidence motions and money bills. He also noted that future presidential elections would be conducted under the revised provision.³⁵

Provision 25 is therefore assessed as Ongoing. While no amendment has yet been adopted, the issue has advanced beyond political discussion through legal challenges, public debate, and government acknowledgment of a possible constitutional amendment. The next stage of implementation depends on whether the proposed changes are formally incorporated into the Constitution.

8. ACC Leadership Restored After Prolonged Vacancy

Despite Provision 42 being assessed as Binned, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) saw significant institutional development in August after remaining without a functioning leadership for more than five months. Justice AKM Asaduzzaman was appointed as the new ACC Chairman, while Dr. Jahangir Alam Khan and Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain Bhuiyan were appointed as

³² The Business Standard. (2026, August 13). Writ challenges Article 70 of Constitution, seeks stay on presidential election. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/writ-challenges-article-70-constitution->

³³ The Daily Ittefaq. (2026, August 16). সংসদ থেকেই সংবিধান সংশোধন করতে হবে, রাস্তাঘাটে নয়. <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/amp/804407/'সংসদ-থেকেই-সংবিধান-সংশোধন-করতে-হবে-রাস্তাঘাটে>

³⁴ Ajker Patrika. (2026, August 16). Oli Ahmad's presidential nomination declared valid. <https://www.ajkerpatrika.com/national/ajp5lykbopyyz>

³⁵ The Business Standard. (2026, August 20). Constitution's Article 70 will be amended: Home Minister. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/constitutions-article-70-will-be-amended-home-minister-1520336>

commissioners. The appointments were made under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, with the chairman receiving the status and benefits of an Appellate Division judge and commissioners receiving that equivalent to High Court Division judges.³⁶

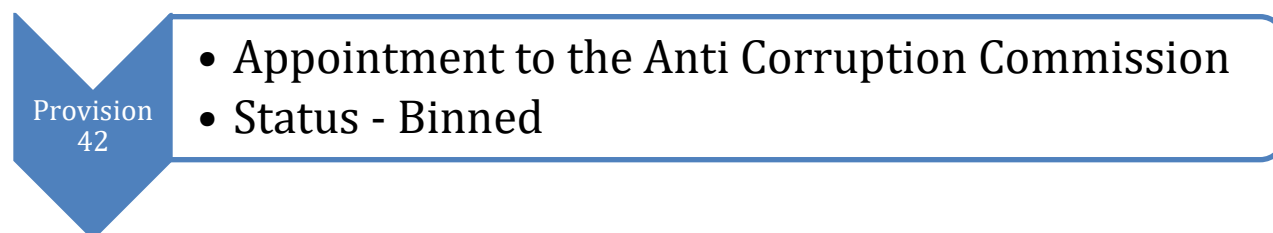


Figure 6 Provision Status

The newly appointed commission formally resumed operations after a 166-day leadership vacuum, during which pending complaints, inquiries, and investigations accumulated. The new commissioners identified addressing the backlog of unresolved cases and restoring institutional functionality as immediate priorities.³⁷ However, while the appointments restored the operational capacity of the ACC, they did not revive the appointment framework envisioned under Provision 42 of the July National Charter, which had proposed a separate constitutional mechanism for ensuring an independent and accountable commission.

Therefore, the August development represents institutional recovery rather than Charter implementation. Provision 42 remains Binned, as the government restored the ACC through the existing legal framework rather than adopting the Charter's proposed appointment structure.

9. Overall Assessment

The monitoring period from July 15 to August 20, 2026 recorded the most concentrated period of Charter-related activity since the April parliamentary session. Four provisions advanced in status — Provisions 10, 11, 13, and 25 — while Provisions 3, 17, and 18 remained under active political contestation, and Provision 42 remained Binned despite an important institutional development. Overall, the period reflects selective procedural movement rather than comprehensive Charter implementation, with progress occurring mainly through the

³⁶ Dhaka Tribune. (2026, August 18). Justice AKM Asaduzzaman made ACC chairman.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/417727/justice-akm-asaduzzaman-made-acc-chairman>

³⁷ The Daily Star. (2026, August 18). New ACC chairman, two commissioners assume office today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/new-acc-chairman-two-commissioners-assume-office-today-4250481>

government's constitutional amendment agenda while the broader dispute over implementation authority remained unresolved.

Provision 25 on parliamentary voting independence moved from Pending to Ongoing following renewed debate over Article 70, including a writ petition challenging the existing restriction on MPs' voting freedom and the government's acknowledgment of a possible amendment. Provisions 11 and 13 on presidential appointment powers and clemency also moved into the government's amendment agenda, indicating that the constitutional amendment committee was engaging with a wider range of Charter commitments. However, these developments remain preliminary, as no amendments have yet been adopted and some elements of Provision 11 remain subject to BNP's recorded dissent.

Provision 10 recorded the most visible development through the presidential election. The election introduced a competitive contest after decades of uncontested presidential elections, and BNP's nominee Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir resigned from party positions before nomination, reflecting the Charter's candidate-detachment principle in practice. However, the provision remains only Partially Adopted because the Charter's proposed bicameral secret-ballot mechanism could not be implemented without an upper house, and the eligibility principle was not applied uniformly across all candidates.

The central challenge throughout the period remained the disagreement over the constitutional reform mechanism. The formation of the 12-member Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment represented the government's most significant institutional step toward Charter implementation since February. However, the opposition's rejection of the committee prevented the consensus-based process envisioned by the Charter from materializing. The government's position that Charter implementation should proceed through parliamentary amendment, including priority for BNP's dissenting positions where applicable, has further deepened the disagreement over whether the process reflects the Charter's original consensus framework.

The ACC leadership appointments demonstrate the distinction between institutional recovery and Charter implementation. The appointment of a new chairman and commissioners after a 166-day vacancy restored the Commission's operational capacity and addressed an immediate institutional gap. However, the appointments were made under the existing ACC Act rather than the independent appointment mechanism proposed under Provision 42. Therefore, while the institution has resumed functioning, the Charter commitment itself remains Binned.

The dissent record further illustrates the uneven nature of implementation. BNP agreed without reservation to several provisions, including Provisions 10, 13, 17, and 25, while maintaining

dissent on specific elements of Provisions 11 and 18 and broader disagreement on Provisions 3 and 42. Jamaat-e-Islami, meanwhile, maintained agreement across all tracked provisions while opposing the government’s implementation pathway rather than the Charter’s substance. This indicates that the current dispute is increasingly centred not on whether reform is necessary, but on who determines the mechanism and scope of implementation.

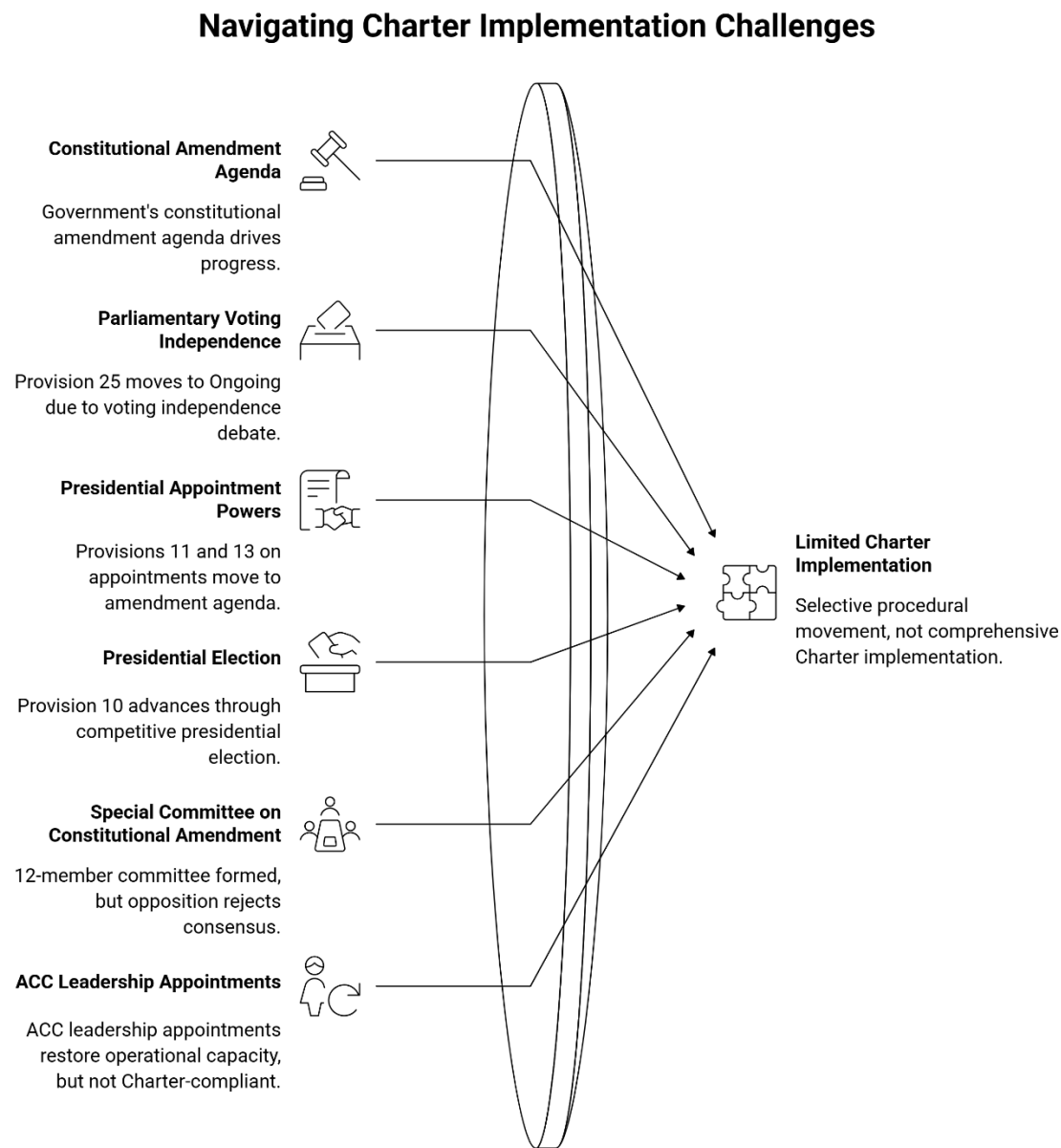


Figure 7 Overall Progress in August 2026

Overall, the August developments show increased procedural activity but limited resolution of the underlying political divide. While four provisions advanced during the monitoring period,

most movement occurred through contested constitutional amendment processes rather than completed reforms. The continuing disagreement between parliamentary amendment and a broader Charter-based reform mechanism is likely to remain the defining challenge for the next phase of implementation.

10. Reference

1. Ajker Patrika. (2026, July 15). *Jamaat-led alliance rejects special parliamentary committee, demands Constitutional Reform Council.*
<https://www.ajkerpatrika.com/politics/ajpid0gdru6pk>
2. Ajker Patrika. (2026, August 16). *Oli Ahmad's presidential nomination declared valid.*
<https://www.ajkerpatrika.com/national/ajp5lykbopyyz>
3. Bangladesh Pratidin. (2026, July 30). *রাষ্ট্রপতির ক্ষমতা বাড়াতে সংবিধান সংশোধনের প্রস্তুতি.*
<https://www.bd-pratidin.com/first-page/2026/07/30/1281357>
4. Bangla Tribune. (2026, July 16). *সংবিধান সংশোধন কোন পথে বিএনপি.*
<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/bnp/957528/সংবিধান-সংশোধন-কোন-পথে-বিএনপি>
5. Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 7). *সংবিধান সংশোধন-সংস্কার বিতর্ক: শেষ পর্যন্ত কোন পথে.*
<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/bnp/961456/সংবিধান-সংশোধন-সংস্কার-বিতর্ক-শেষ-পর্যন্ত-কোন-পথে>
6. Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 9). *৩৫ বছর পর রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে ভোটের লড়াই তবে ফল প্রায় নিশ্চিত.*
<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/other-politics/961812/>
7. Bangla Tribune. (2026, August 10). *ফের আলোচনায় ৭০ অনুচ্ছেদ.*
<https://www.banglatribune.com/politics/jamat-e-islam/962027/ফের-আলোচনায়-৭০-অনুচ্ছেদ>
8. Dhaka Post. (2026, July 26). *Opposition alliance rejects constitutional amendment committee as farce.*
<https://www.dhakapost.com/politics/470082>
9. Dhaka Post. (2026, August 8). *শুধু সংস্কার নয়, সংস্কার পরিষদ বা গণপরিষদ দরকার: শফিকুর রহমান.*
<https://www.dhakapost.com/politics/473337>
10. Dhaka Tribune. (2026, August 13). *Chief Whip: Constitution to be amended taking stakeholders' views.*
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/election/417385/chief-whip-constitution-to-be-amended-taking>
11. Dhaka Tribune. (2026, August 18). *Justice AKM Asaduzzaman made ACC chairman.*
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/417727/justice-akm-asaduzzaman-made-acc-chairman>

12. Daily Inqilab. (2026, August 17). *জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব, তবে নোট অব ডিসেন্ট বাদ দিয়ে: জাহেদ উর রহমান.*
<https://dailyinqilab.com/national/news/929289>
13. Daily Sangram. (2026, July 17). *Bangladesh Lawyers Council demands immediate formation of Constitutional Reform Council.*
<https://dailysangram.com/bangladesh/accidents/eRmv9rCDrDYf/>
14. Desh Rupantor. (2026, August 17). *চাপে রাখার কৌশলে জামায়াত-এনসিপি জোট.*
<https://www.deshrupantor.com/amp/713331/চাপে-রাখার-কৌশলে-জামায়াত-এনসিপি-জোট>
15. Ittefaq, The Daily. (2026, July 25). *গণভোটের রায় বাস্তবায়ন না করলে সরকার মেয়াদ পূর্ণ করতে পারবে না: নাহিদ ইসলাম.*
<https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/800457/গণভোটের-রায়-বাস্তবায়ন-না-করলে-সরকার-মেয়াদ>
16. Ittefaq, The Daily. (2026, August 6). *জুলাই জাতীয় সনদ ও গণভোটের রায় বাস্তবায়নে লং মার্চের ঘোষণা ১১-দলীয় ঐক্যে.*
<https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/802598/জুলাই-জাতীয়-সনদ-ও-গণভোটের-রায়-বাস্তবায়নে>
17. Ittefaq, The Daily. (2026, August 13). *বিএনপি মহাসচিব ও স্থায়ী কমিটির পদ থেকে পদত্যাগ মির্জা ফখরুলের.*
<https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/803866/বিএনপি-মহাসচিব-ও-স্থায়ী-কমিটির-পদ-থেকে-পদত্যাগ>
18. Ittefaq, The Daily. (2026, August 16). *সংসদ থেকেই সংবিধান সংশোধন করতে হবে, রাস্তাঘাটে নয়.*
<https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/amp/804407/সংসদ-থেকেই-সংবিধান-সংশোধন-করতে-হবে-রাস্তাঘাটে>
19. Jugantor. (2026, July 11). *চলতি সংসদ অধিবেশনেই সংবিধান সংস্কার কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে: গোলাম পরওয়ার.*
<https://www.jugantor.com/politics/1125560>
20. Kalbela. (2026, July 18). *হরতাল অবরোধের মতো কর্মসূচির প্রস্তুতি রয়েছে: নাহিদ.*
<https://www.kalbela.com/country-news/310144>
21. Kalbela. (2026, August 7). *বিএনপি জামায়াতের দ্বন্দ্ব উচ্চকক্ষের আসন বণ্টন নিয়ে.*
<https://www.kalbela.com/ajkerpatrika/firstpage/316222>
22. Prothom Alo. (2026, July 23). *63 citizens urge formation of Constitutional Reform Council.*
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/lgg12khyy2>
23. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 4). *সংবিধান সংশোধনে ১২ সদস্যের বিশেষ কমিটি গঠন.*
<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/zehr5kl7ym>

24. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 4). সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটির কর্মপরিকল্পনা প্রথম বৈঠকে চূড়ান্ত হবে.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/izwnu47bei>
25. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 5). সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটির প্রথম বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/vlxubogpmi>
26. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 6). জুলাই সনদ ও বিএনপির ইশতেহার বিবেচনায় নেবে সংবিধান সংশোধন কমিটি.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/lj17rdi1on>
27. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 7). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচন ২০ আগস্ট, মনোনয়ন জমা ১৩ আগস্ট পর্যন্ত.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/oq8z8sc6js>
28. Prothom Alo. (2026, August 8). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে অংশ নেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত জামায়াতের.
<https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/j8w4azaxrp>
29. The Business Standard. (2026, August 13). Writ challenges Article 70 of Constitution, seeks stay on presidential election.
<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/writ-challenges-article-70-constitution-seeks-stay-presidential-election>
30. The Business Standard. (2026, August 20). Constitution's Article 70 will be amended: Home Minister.
<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/constitutions-article-70-will-be-amended-home-minister-1520336>
31. The Business Standard Bangla. (2026, August 9). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে বিএনপির প্রার্থী মির্জা ফখরুল.
<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/bangladesh/news-details-524431>
32. The Business Standard Bangla. (2026, August 13). রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে অলি আহমদের মনোনয়নপত্র জমা দিয়েছে জামায়াত নেতৃবৃন্দ.
<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/bangladesh/news-details-525846>
33. The Daily Inqilab. (2026, August 17). জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব, তবে নোট অব ডিসেন্ট বাদ দিয়ে: জাহেদ উর রহমান.
<https://dailyinqilab.com/national/news/929289>
34. The Daily Star. (2026, August 6). July charter will be fully implemented.
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/july-charter-will-be-fully-implemented-4241236>
35. The Daily Star. (2026, August 18). New ACC chairman, two commissioners assume office today.
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/new-acc-chairman-two-commissioners-assume-office-today-4250481>

36. The Daily Star Bangla. (2026, July 17). *আমরা জুলাই সনদ বাস্তবায়ন করব: মির্জা ফখরুল*.
<https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news-3943961>
37. The Daily Star Bangla. (2026, August 20). *রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্বাচনে জয়ী মির্জা ফখরুল*.
<https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news-3954486>