

# 3rd Upazila elections today after 19 years

After the lapse of two decades, the third crucial local-body election to 480 Upazila Parishads is going to be held simultaneously across the country today (Thursday) as per arrangement made by the just-past reformist caretaker government, reports UNB.

The Election Commission has already finalised its preparations by sending all election materials to all respective upazila areas. The commission has also taken special steps to ensure the voters and polling centers' security all over the country.

A total of 73,517,849 voters will cast their vote in 32,356 polling centers under the 480 upazila areas where 3,316 aspirants are in

the race for the post of chairman, 2,879 for vice-chairman, and 1,936 women as vice-chairperson.

Fourteen candidates have been elected uncontested, 9 of them as woman vice-chairpersons.

The first election for the Upazila Parishads was held in 1985 and the second in 1990.

The reconstituted Election Commission headed by Dr ATM Shamsul Huda finally made the detailed schedule for the third upazila elections declaring that those will be held only on January 22, instead of on three different dates declared earlier.

The commission postponed election to Dighinala upazila in

the Khagrachhari hill district as it found out that a candidate was forced to withdraw from the election race.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission asked voters to call out some cellphone numbers if they face problems getting information about their voting area and voter number in the respective regions.

"The information can be collected from the following numbers from 9am to 5pm on January 22 (Thursday)," an EC release said on Wednesday.

Dhaka and Rajbari---  
01730020634, Narayanganj and Munsiganj-01730020554, Gazipur and Gopalganj-01730020629,

Manikganj and Narsingdi-01730020636, Mymensingh and Madaripur-01730020570, Kishoreganj and Netrakona-01730020588, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Shariatpur-01730020508, Faridpur and Tangail-01730020643, Sylhet and Moulvibazar-01730020507, Habiganj and Sunamganj-01730020512, District under Rajshahi division-01730020637, 01730020638 and 01730020639 Districts under Chittagong division-01730020627, 01730020630 and 01730020631. Districts under Khulna division---01730020510, 01730020511 and 0173002012, Districts under Barisal division---01730020514, 01730020626 and 01730020645