



## NCP will not participate in elections without 'Shapla' symbol: Hasnat Abdullah



Collected picture

Hasnat Abdullah, the chief organizer of NCP's southern region, sharply criticized the Election Commission (EC) for its decision not to grant the party the 'Shapla' (water lily) symbol. He stated that the party would not accept any other symbol if forced. He also alleged that the commission's actions raise serious doubts about its ability to conduct free and fair elections.

He made these remarks on Sunday (October 19) during a briefing with journalists after meeting Election Commission Secretary Akhtar Ahmed on the last day of symbol allocation.

Hasnat said, "There is no alternative for us other than Shapla. The EC has not provided any legal justification for denying the Shapla symbol. Their actions appear to be moving toward institutional authoritarianism."

He added, "There is no explanation for how some political parties' symbols were included in the regulations while Shapla was excluded. The Election Commission's decisions are unilateral and imposed. It seems the EC's control is no longer in Agargaon. If they continue this arbitrary behavior, their fate will be like former Chief Election Commissioner Nurul Huda."

Expressing doubts about the upcoming national elections scheduled for February, Hasnat said, "This Election Commission is not capable of conducting impartial and participatory elections. It is a spineless institution that protects the interests of the political power that appointed it."

He emphasized, "NCP will not register any symbol other than Shapla. Shapla is our only symbol."

Meanwhile, the Election Commission stated that Sunday was the final deadline for NCP to select its symbol. If the party fails to do so within the prescribed time, the commission will allocate a symbol at its discretion. Earlier, the EC had invited NCP to choose its symbol from a list of 50 options. However, NCP has submitted seven different designs of the Shapla symbol and will not accept any other symbol.