

# 22 firms get licence to produce 442MW power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday granted licence to 22 companies in three categories -- rental, independent and captive power producer -- for generating about 442.22 MW electricity.

The BERC at its 22nd open meeting at the commission conference room in the capital also granted licence to state-owned North-West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd for power distribution and also four companies to run four CNG filling stations, said a press release.

It issued the rental power producing licence to three private companies, independent power producing licence to five companies and captive power producing licence to 14 companies.

Venture Energy Resources Ltd (Bhola) was granted a licence for rental power production of 35.30 MW, Energy Prima Ltd (Fenchuganj) for generating 50 MW and Shahjibazar Power Co Ltd for producing 87 MW.

The BERC granted the independent power producing licence to Regent Power Ltd (Chittagong)

for generating 24 MW, Summit Uttaranchal Power Co Ltd (Sirajganj) for 11.3 MW, Summit Uttaranchal Power Co Ltd (Gazipur) for 34 MW, Summit Purbanchal Power Co Ltd (Comilla) for 34 MW and Summit Purbanchal Power Co Ltd (Narayanganj) for 34 MW.

Captive power producing licence was granted to Jamuna Spinning Mills Limited for producing 5.79 MW, Zia Fertiliser Company Ltd (Ashuganj) for 27 MW, Shamsuddin Spinning Mills (Gazipur) for 4.22 MW, Orion Laboratories Ltd (Tejgaon) for 1.03 MW, Square Hospitals Ltd (Panthapath) for 4.22 MW, Rahim Energy Ltd (Sonargaon) for 32.958 MW, BHT Industries Ltd (Joydebpur) for 1.03 MW, Kung Keng Textile (BD) Co Ltd for 5.632 MW, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Co (KAFCO) Ltd for 25 MW, Jamuna Fertiliser Co Ltd (Jalmalpur) for 16 MW, Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd for 2.39 MW, Bombay Sweets and Company Ltd for 2.73 MW, Sanjana Rotorspin Ltd for 2.128 MW and EOS Textile Mills Ltd for 2.716 MW.

## Jamaat

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In response, Jamaat hurried to fix the problem. In hours, it informed the committee that it had deleted the phrases in dispute, added the EC sources.

Following the deletion, the EC accepted Jamaat's charter, and said it does no longer run counter to the country's constitution.

Technical committee chief Nurul Islam Khan yesterday said, "We are pleased that Jamaat has discarded the phrases."

Speaking to reporters at his office, he said, "We don't think the party now will have trouble getting registered."

According to the revised Representation of the People Order (RPO), a political party shall not be qualified for registration if the objectives in its constitution contradict those in the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday directed BNP not to keep Jatayatadhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatayatadhi Sramik Dal as its associated organisations, EC sources said.

It communicated the instructions to the party at a meeting with BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan.

After the meeting at the EC Secretariat, the BNP leader told reporters that the party does not require any major changes in its revised charter.

"As far as I can make out, I don't see any obstacle for us to getting registered," he said referring to his discussions with the EC.

In its provisional constitution turned in to the EC Monday, BNP scrapped the provision for front organisations, but had a section providing for associated bodies made up of students and workers.

The expert committee found that giving JCD and Jatayatadhi Sramik Dal the status of associated organisations contradicts the registration criteria.

Sources in the EC said the commission is optimistic that like Awami League, BNP too will bring about the necessary changes in its constitution.

**THE WAY JAMAAT MOVED**

On a call from the technical committee, Jamaat's Legal Affairs Secretary Jasim Uddin Sarker rushed to the EC Secretariat Wednesday afternoon.

While leaving the EC Secretariat at around 5:00 pm, he told the waiting reporters that he would talk to the party's high command and come back to the commission Thursday.

But the Jamaat leader got back to the EC Secretariat at 8:30 pm the same day and informed the committee of his party's decision, said EC sources.

**HOW MANY PARTIES TO GET REGISTERED?**

As many as 107 political parties have applied for registration. Over half of them exist on paper only. Many do not meet the registration criteria, said sources close to the EC committee.

Committee head Nurul Islam said, "The number of organisations being qualified for registration might be in the range between 30 and 35. It would not exceed 40."

Also joint secretary to the EC Secretariat, he said on EC's request, the home ministry Wednesday sent a list of banned political outfits.

According to the list, Shahadate-AL Hiqma, Jama'at Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Jagra Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMB), and Harkatul Jihad al Islami (HJI) have been banned by the government for terrorism in the name of religion.

The EC sought the list to ensure none of the banned organisations gets registered.

Quered if the Islamic Democratic Party, an organisation floated recently by members of HJI, would qualify for registration, Nurul said they are strictly following the RPO provisions in scrutiny of the applications for registration.

# 2nd PRSP okayed

Indicators	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
GDP growth (%)	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.2
Inflation	6.5	7.2	6.0	7.2	7.5	9.9
Investment (% of GDP)	25.0	24.7	25.5	24.3	24.9	24.2

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billion, including a Tk 1,052 billion deficit financing.

Of the deficit, Tk 631 billion or over 60 percent would come from foreign assistance and the remaining Tk 421 billion from domestic borrowing, according to the projection.

Advisers to the caretaker government attended the NEC meeting.

The first PRSP was introduced for the period 2005-2007 and the time limit was extended up to the last fiscal year.

It was prepared mainly with advice from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

But the government has not yet assessed the failures and successes of the first PRSP.

Talking to reporters after the NEC meeting yesterday, Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam said, "We are an unelected government, but not a normal three-month caretaker one."

Asked whether the elected government would own their decision or not, he said, "It is a matter of theirs."

Of the Tk 3,190.44 billion total expenditure projected for implementing the second PRSP, Tk 2,567.99 billion would be spent directly for implementing the goals of the PRSP II and the remaining Tk 622.45 billion for interest payment and defence expenditure.

The projected revenue earning has been set at Tk 2,138.45 billion while domestic borrowing would stand at Tk 421.05 billion.

Of the total estimated cost of implementing the PRSP, the highest 22.56 percent or Tk 579.34 billion would be for education, training and research followed by 20.64 percent or Tk 529.94 billion for infrastructure for pro-poor growth and 11.72 percent or 300.95 billion for promoting good governance and public services.

Some 3.32 percent or Tk 85.33 billion of the spending projected in the PRSP would be for food security.

The PRSP II says the government will extend the tax net and value added tax (VAT) to increase revenue earnings. It will introduce unified tax identification numbers (TIN) for income tax and VAT.

The government will also introduce public-private partnership for decentralising tax collection efforts.

The new PRSP also plans reduction of average protective tariff to 15 percent and enhancement of revenue mobilisation efforts for reducing dependence on imports.

To enhance private investment, the government will take measures to make unused land available for creating industrial or economic zones, provide incentives for private industrial estates, and will acquire land for handover to potential investors through the Board of Investment for setting up new industrial or special economic zones, or for industrial parks.

In the second PRSP, the government has also disclosed a plan for instituting new policies and regulatory frameworks to facilitate private investments in economic zones, and to improve land zoning for industrial purposes.

To attract foreign direct investment (FDI), the government will also introduce equity protection laws, and simplify procedures for opening up branches or liaison offices of foreign companies in Bangladesh.

Moreover, measures will be taken to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides along with phas-

## Writ petitions

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re-demarcation of constituencies were filed to damage the process of holding a free, fair and credible election.

During the hearing on such a petition, the attorney general told the HC bench that the government has pledged to hold the parliamentary election on December 18 to establish an elected government in the country.

The HC yesterday continued the hearing on the writ petition. An HC bench comprised of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hossain later adjourned the hearing until Sunday.

The EC re-demarcated constituencies after hearing and disposing of all objections and at this stage the EC's re-demarcation of constituencies cannot be challenged in any court, the attorney general said.

He said the government, the EC and the army have been relentlessly working to hold the election on the announced date. The nation is now on the train to elections but these petitions were filed with the HC to derail this train, he added.

He said the chief adviser to the caretaker government announced the date for holding the elections and the army chief also said that the elections would be held on December 18 so, there was no confusion in this regard.

Salaudin Ahmed said the elections will have to be held in order to establish democracy, human rights and freedom of the press. He said the government has been working for this.

Earlier in the day, EC's counsel Mahmudul Islam told the court that the EC had completed all legal process before issuing the gazette notification on the re-demarcation of the constituencies.

Giving a number of references from judgments of the Indian Supreme Court, the counsel said the writ petitions cannot go on.

The HC bench on October 22 started hearing on the writ petition.

On May 12, upon the writ petition filed by ABM Nurul Islam, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, the HC issued a rule asking the EC to explain as to why the move to redo the demarcation of constituencies should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

# RTI gazetted

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The information commission will consist of a chief information commissioner and two commissioners, at least one of them will be a woman. It will have its headquarters in Dhaka and in case of necessity would be able to establish offices anywhere in Bangladesh.

The information commission will lay down guidelines to be followed by the authorities for publication and publicity of information and obtaining information.

Every authority shall prepare and publicise a list of information which will be supplied free of cost, the ordinance says.

People will have to apply for information either in writing or through electronic media or through email and will have to pay fees for applying and for the information where applicable.

However, the authorities may exempt an individual or a class of individuals or any other class from paying such fees.

The government in consultation with the information commission and by notification in official gazette may fix the fees and if needed the price of information.

The officer-in-charge of providing information upon receiving a request will provide the information within 20 working days. However, if more than one unit or authority is involved, the information will be provided within 30 working days.

If the officer-in-charge fails to provide the information, he will inform the applicant the causes in writing within 10 working days.

If the sought information is linked to life and death, arrest or release from jail, the officer-in-charge will provide the preliminary information within 24 hours.

The council of advisers on September 20 gave the final approval to the RTI ordinance.

Against the backdrop of a long-standing demand, the caretaker government took the initiative to formulate the RTI as part of its institutional reforms. After an eight-member government-formed body prepared a primary draft in February, opinions from different stakeholders were sought before the information ministry submitted it to the cabinet on June 18 when it approved it in principle.

The information ministry will form a five-member selection committee soon to recommend candidates for the job of chief information commissioner and information commissioners to the president. It will recommend two candidates for each post.

"We will soon prepare our proposal for the selection committee and finalise it after getting the nod from government high-ups," the information secretary said, adding that his ministry has commenced a 12-week-long roadmap for implementing the ordinance.

A judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, nominated by the chief justice, will head the selection committee that will also have the cabinet secretary as a member. The Speaker of the parliament would nominate a member each from the treasury bench and the opposition bench and the government would nominate a representative of eminent citizens for the selection committee.

# Citizens voice

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nurture the spirit of the Liberation War.

The anti-graft watchdog conducted a survey by involving different professionals across the country in the backdrop of shocking experience of the last three parliaments. It prepared the charter on the basis of the survey outcomes.

The survey was carried out in 32 parliamentary constituencies in 30 districts from June to September this year. As many as 3,200 voters, 100 each from a constituency, were interviewed.

Some 85.4 percent of the respondents want an MP to have a graduation degree, while 35.4 percent said educational status can't be considered," says a report prepared analysing the survey data.

Some 20.4 percent think lawmakers should be lawyers in profession, while 17.3 percent and 8.4 percent expect them to be teachers and businessmen respectively.

Ninety percent believe an MP would play a significant role in developing local infrastructure, but 69.8 percent say they should not interfere in implementing development projects.

Sixty-seven percent want the lawmakers to monitor law and order in their constituency but not hold president posts in different local-level committees. They will work for overall development, not only for their own, majority of the respondents observe.

The citizens also want to know the educational status, source of income, criminal cases, assets, profession, election expenditure and the amount of money owed from a government institution of an MP aspirant.

"For giving wrong information, there should be steps for his or her punishment," says the report, revealing hope of 87 percent that lawmakers would raise problems of their locality in parliament, while 82.6 percent expect they would help promulgate laws for the welfare of the people.

It adds, "Ninety-six percent believe lawmakers, including the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, should attend parliament proceedings regularly, while 81.7 percent observe the MPs should be allowed to remain absent for 30 days instead of 90 days."

Some 80.6 percent say they don't expect unwanted or anarchic situation in parliament, while 75 percent expect the MPs not to stage agitation outside parliament by calling hartal and strike.

The lawmakers would not be sycophant to their leaders and do constructive criticism of others," the report adds.

To make parliament functional, 94.9 percent say both the ruling and the opposition MPs must attend the proceedings regularly, 94.5 percent want taking opinions of citizens before promulgating an important law, while 85 percent demand access of media in every session.

A majority of the respondents also want availability of the outcome of the parliamentary standing committee meetings.

They also strongly denounce dynasty in politics, saying leaders should be selected in a democratic way and parties should be registered with the Election Commission.

"Some 65.7 percent want the parties keep an account of their income and expenditure."

They strongly oppose boycotting parliament and call for hartal and strike and confrontational activities on the streets, partisan attitude of the Speaker, and lack of constructive criticism by both the ruling and opposition lawmakers.

On giving nomination, 97.5 percent consider honesty of the candidates, 91 percent educational status, 85.3 percent welfare activities and 74.9 percent political experience.

Former chief adviser to the care-

taker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was the chief guest at the function. He said an elected political government should act as a caretaker government and conduct elections.

"We vote them to power. So they should hold the election like many nations in the world," he said referring to Sri Lanka.

Presiding the seminar, TIB Board of Trustees Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad stressed the need for increasing political awareness among the citizens to bring accountability among MPs.

He said the role of the Speaker is a main reason behind miserable state of the last parliaments. He put importance on question-answer sessions to make parliament effective and accountable.

Prof Muzaffer expressed the hope the parliamentary election would take place on December 18 but said there are confusions and concerns about it among cross-section of people.

Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Justice Abdur Rouf, Awami League president member Matia Chowdhury, former whip Principal Abdus Shabid, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Hasanul Haq Inu, chief of Unity for Political Reform ASM Abdur Rab, Jatiya Party (Manju) leader Shaikh Shahidul Islam, AL leader Shawkat Ali, Prof Dilara Zaman of Jahangirnagar University and Dhaka University teachers Dr Dalem Chandra Barman and Dr Tayyab Rahman also took part in the discussion.

AL leader Matia and JSD chief Inu supported the outcomes of the survey but were skeptical about its implementation in the polls.

"Politics has not been tainted in a day. We need to clean the dust from our body and that is not possible in a short time," Matia said, adding the civil society should have come forward much earlier with the initiative.

Inu expressed the hope that the next parliament would be much better than the past ones by muscle-men, bankrupts, corrupt, war criminals and toll collectors are barred from taking part in the elections. "But they are already back in the fold."

BNP leaders were also invited but none turned up.

# Bashundhara

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Meanwhile, ACC yesterday forwarded 15 clemency seekers to the Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) for making voluntary disclosures following their applications. The ACC has so far sent 143 people to TAC.

ACC Director General (Adm) Col Hanif Iqbal in a routine press briefing at ACC Headquarters yesterday said the government land was leased by abusing power and a multistorey building was constructed without Rajuk approval.

"The investigation is going on and the findings are result of a preliminary enquiry. The matter is being looked into and people involved with the process will be identified once the investigation is completed," said Col Hanif.

The enquiry also found involvement of former deputy commissioner Abdus Sattar of Dhaka in awarding illegal permission to Red Crescent in taking lease of government land and constructing a high-rise there in 2004.

**BASHUNDHARA HOUSING**

The investigation found that a file regarding exchange of 80.29 acres of government khas land in Gulshan with 85 acres of land bought by Bashundhara housing in Keraniganj is still under process.

Though the file has not been approved the Bashundhara housing has already filled the khas land, sold plots and handed over those plots to different individuals and institutions.

**RED CRESCENT SOCIETY**

Preliminary enquiry found that a former DC of Dhaka gave lease to 0.82 acres of land in Kakrail for 30 years in 1979.

Later in 2001, Red Crescent applied for permanent settlement to construct a multistorey building on the land, but the land ministry rejected the appeal in 2004.

Red Crescent then applied to the DC ignoring the ministry order.

The then DC Abdus Sattar permitted Red Crescent to construct an 18-storey building on the land. The DC gave the permission without informing the ministry by abusing power and illegal means, ACC enquiry found.

Red Crescent reached an imbalance deal with Borak Builders following the permission in a ratio of 25 percent and 75 percent respectively.

Following the deal Borak Builders constructed a 20-storey building on the land without Rajuk approval, the preliminary enquiry found.

# 'Deranged' man

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Locals beat up Mohammad Amin, 32, after the killing before handing him over to the police.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) under police custody.

The deceased was identified as Nasrin Akter Tuli, 28, daughter of Rashid Uddin of Dakkhin Kuttapara village under Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria district.

She was living as a sub-tenant in the same house that Amin lived in for the past three months. She had been practising in the judge court under a senior lawyer.

Amin admitted to the murder saying that he decided to kill his wife, as he was convinced that an evil spirit had taken over her soul.

Amin said that he left the house three days ago after a quarrel with his wife and spent this time visiting different shrines in the city.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said, "I returned home early in the morning and snatched away a machete from a coconut vendor on the way to kill my wife with it."

He claimed that when he entered the house and couldn't find his wife, he found Tuli having breakfast and thought that his wife had taken 'Tuli's form'. So he hacked her with the machete and dragged her out to the stairway-landing before decapitating her.

The house in question is sub-let to around 20 inhabitants. Eye-witnesses said that Amin tried to hack anyone who fell on his way. He also struck at the furniture in the flat as he looked for his wife.

Fatema, a neighbour who lived in the opposite flat and witnessed the brutal killing, told The Daily

# 42 trees

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and that such a move should not be allowed.

Locals allege that the price quoted by RCC is peanuts compared to their real market value.

A private organisation, Modina Printing and Packaging, purchased the trees and begun felling the trees yesterday morning and seven trees were chopped down by the afternoon, witnesses said.

Some branches of the felled trees were piled up for sale as firewood at a nearby roadside shop.

Shahanur Alam, proprietor of Modina, said he won the job through a tender.

He added that he would sell the tree trunks as timber and branches as firewood.

"The decision to chop down trees to make way for a drain does not make any sense. The authority should reconsider its decision," Mahtab Uddin, an environment activist, said.

When contacted, RCC's acting chief engineer Ashraf Haque said that felling the trees was not in the plan of the Secondary Town Integrated Flood Protection Project.

"However, the necessary arose as these trees stand on the alignment of the planned drain," he said.

The job was allocated in accordance with the offer of highest money in an open tender, he said.

# Ban slapped

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Bangladesh (HRPB).

Secretaries to the ministries of home, finance, commerce and health, chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), director general of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) and inspector general of police (IGP) have been made respondents to the rule.

During hearing, petitioners' counsel Manzil Murshid argued that protecting the lives of children is a constitutional obligation of the government.

But the present administration has acted quite irresponsibly by not doing much to stop the sale of melamine-added milk powder.

The petition, filed following news reports on melamine contamination, says the government officials concerned have failed miserably to perform their duties.

The sale continued even after presence of melamine was detected in the powder milk of the popular foreign brands.

Not only that, the government officials have opted to wait for the results of further laboratory tests abroad.

Petitioners said without taking measures to stop the sale of poisoned milk powder, which endangers the lives of children, the respondents have in fact violated human rights.

Assistant Attorney General Abdus Samad Kamal however told the court that the government has taken a number of steps regarding the sale of contaminated milk.

Supreme Court (SC) lawyers Asaduzzaman Siddique, Sarwar Ahad Chowdhury, Moksadul Islam, Forhad Ahmed, Tapan Kanti Das, Mamun Aleem, Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan and Swapan Kumar Das filed the petition on behalf of HRPB.

# Govt 'accepts'

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security measures for both the two former prime ministers--Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia.

The government yesterday said the AL president can lead her party but did not make it clear if she can take part in the upcoming parliamentary election.

"Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is a very important person in the political arena. Under the present political process, the issue of Sheikh Hasina's leading (her party) is in reality without any question," Hossain Zillur said while briefing newsmen after the government's talks with the AL at the chief adviser's office.

The legal matters on Hasina would be resolved soon, he added.

Acting AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said, "What we have understood from today's dialogue is that Sheikh Hasina's release will be ensured prior to holding of the national election and she can take part in the poll and lead the Awami League as a free person."

**BNP-GOV'T TALKS**

At the briefing Delwar said the issue of upazila election date has to be settled through discussions. "We want the upazila polls at a reasonable gap after the national election so that no uncertainty is created over the national election," he said.

"We are optimistic about taking part in the poll unless the government frustrates us and there is no reason not to participate in the election if the government meets our demands," he said, adding that they are prepared both mentally and institutionally for the election but the polls should be free, fair and participated by all parties.

Delwar, who led the 13-member BNP delegation at the talks, said the government has also agreed with them on their demand for cancelling the arbitrary power of the Election Commission (EC) to cancel candidatures.

He expressed hope that the government will implement their demands without any delay as "the government's attitude seemed positive to us."

Asked if Khaleda and Hasina will be able to participate in the coming polls, Hossain Zillur said the law has its own course and there are no obstacles for the two leaders to leading their own parties.

"Their presence in politics has been ensured...it is already established that they will conduct their party activities and lead their parties in the election but other issues depend on legal procedures and we will get answers to those in time," Zillur said.

On BNP's demand for declaring May 30 and November 7 government holidays, he said it is up to the government to decide these matters.

"These issues need a permanent solution and also need to be discussed between the two major parties," he added.

The other demands of the BNP include cancelling the gazette of re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies, ensuring a level-playing field, approving their proposals for amending the revised Representation of the People Order (RPO), withdrawal of false cases against political leaders and freeing them, and neutrality of the judiciary, the media and all government institutions.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed led the government side at the talks that lasted for two and a half hours from 6:30 pm.

**AL-GOV'T TALKS**

At the dialogue that lasted for about three hours, the AL placed a nine-point demand including Hasina's unconditional release, withdrawal of the state of emergency, deferment of upazila elections, resolving the complexities centring re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies, ensuring neutrality of the administration, preparing guidelines for the media during the polls, and bringing a few amendments to the revised RPO.

"We believe the dialogue was very much fruitful as decisions were taken on some issues and we hope that decisions on other issues discussed at the talks will come in our favour," Syed Ashraf said, suggesting that the government hold further talks if needed to reach consensus over any issue.

"Holding of the election on December 18 has moved a step forward through today's dialogue," he said.

Hossain Zillur described the second round talks with political parties as getting on the "election highway" from the "side road". He said they are confident that all political parties have got on to that highway and now moving towards the goal--the election--is what matters only.

On lifting of the state of emergency, Zillur said from now on there are no restrictions on party workers' carrying out activities.

On upazila election, he said, "We have assured them again and again that it is possible to hold upazila elections although there could be some difficulties. We have emphasised that it will be possible to strengthen the grassroots level organisations through holding upazila elections." Further discussion on the issue will be held, he added.

Zillur described the AL demand for making an objective guideline and code of conduct for the media as "very much timely and important."

"We have told them that there has to be coordination to ensure both freedom of speech and accountability and that the government wants to sit for dialogue on the issue with media people to find out how and under which guidelines the media can play an impartial role," he said.

"We have also discussed the post-election scenario...How we can get a better situation after the election needs to be discussed at the national level at the moment when we are moving towards the election," Zillur said.

Asked if the AL wants to curb freedom of the media, the acting AL general secretary said they suggested formulating guidelines to ensure freedom of the media. "Without a policy, anyone can curb freedom anytime by misusing power," he said.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed led the government side at the talks that began at 2:30 pm. Advisers Ghulam Quader, AF Hassan Arif, Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Anwarul Iqbal were also present.

Acting AL President Zillur Rahman, President members Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury and acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam were in the AL team.