

Staff reporter

The ruling Awami League on Sunday submitted its audited financial statement to the Election Commission (EC) for the 2013 calendar year.

A four-member AL delegation, led by its office secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap, handed over the statement to EC additional secretary Mokhlesur Rahman at 11:30am at the EC Secretariat. According to the statement, the AL's income was nearly double than its expenses in the last calendar year.

AL earned Tk 12.40 crore, while spent Tk 6.70 crore, Mrinal Kanti Das, a member of the delegation, told reporters after submitting the audit report to the commission.

Mrinal, also AL deputy office secretary, said the highest income of Tk 6.52 crore came from the sale of its nomination forms among 2,608 aspirants before the January-5 general election, but the AL spent only 2.33 crore on election purposes.

The party's sources income were mentioned as fee of membership forms, subscriptions of members of the central working committee, national committee and the advisory council, Members of Parliament, sale of nomination forms in the national parliamentary elections, magazines, and books.

Meanwhile, an AL press release said the ruling party has no objection if the EC makes the audit statement public.

"We think it (statement) is now the Election Commission's asset. If the EC thinks that it should be published in the interest of the country, its people and democracy it can do that...we've no objection," it said.

EC additional secretary Mokhlesur Rahman on Sunday afternoon told reporters that only four registered political parties, out of 40, are yet to submit their financial statements.

Twenty-six parties submitted their audit statements within the July-31 deadline, while the rest 14, including AL and BNP, had sought further time to place their respective reports.

On August 14, BNP submitted its financial statement, showing that it earned Tk 76 lakh and spent Tk 2.27 crore in 2013.

As per article 90H (1)(c) of the Representation of the People Order, the registration of a political party may be cancelled if it fails to submit its audit report in time for three consecutive years.