

Harbin hid actual

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year "guarantee period" during which time the company is contract bound to replace poor parts and deliver a performance as was committed.

Although PDB asked the Chinese company to replace inappropriate spares and supply the absent ones as the contract says Harbin is "liable to supply all consumable items within the warranty period", Harbin refuses to comply and asks PDB to pay additional prices.

It is also maintaining a silence to the PDB letters asking it to provide the necessary manpower to ensure that the plant is running as per the warranty clause, which it failed to achieve.

In a letter PDB wrote to Harbin on September 27, 2005. "The Tongji power plant has been facing frequent forced outages and in many cases it takes few days to put the machine into operation. You are not cautious about the operation and maintenance of the power plant. Every outage of power causes load shedding and a huge loss of revenue. FPDB will not take responsibility of this revenue loss and I request you to explain why this loss will not be realised from Harbin". Harbin did not reply to this letter, but PDB also did not try to 'realise' the losses.

Due to frequent tripping of the plant, the 'cheap' Tongji plant is imposing a huge financial burden on PDB.

"Frequent tripping means every time the machine has to be re-started, there is a significant start-up cost. Again, due to frequent tripping, outages, and start-up operations the expensive machines will have an accelerated wear and tear, and depreciation, resulting in requiring pre-mature overhauling ahead of the regular schedule had the machines run properly. Then, with every overhauling and maintenance, PDB will have to spend a significant amount for purchasing new spares and deployment of experts for successful overhauling of the plant. And finally due to early overhauling of the machines and accelerated depreciation, the replacement cost will come sooner and it will be costlier to keep the plant running in the long run," said a power plant expert.

While the company does not technically qualify, Harbin also won PDB's tender for the 90mw Fenchuganj combined cycle power plant and the 150mw Chandpur power plant. Regarding both these tenders, serious allegations were made against PDB for siding with Harbin, while PDB has been arguing that it picked Harbin because of its very low price offer.

In the Fenchuganj project Harbin turned out to be the lone bidder, as the other bidder Mitsubishi withdrew from the tender accusing PDB of siding with the Chinese company. In the Chandpur project, Harbin was picked as the lowest bidder amid gross procedural flaws. But PDB's argument is that Harbin offered a price 11 million dollars lower than that of another Chinese bidder. A section of PDB officials are backing Harbin.

But such a difference between the offers of two companies both owned by the Chinese government - itself has raised questions about the soundness of Harbin's bid.

Harbin recently submitted a tender bid for the 120mw Siddhirganj power project of the

government's newly formed Electric Generation Company Ltd (EGCB). Sources said Harbin's price offer here also turned out to be suspiciously lower than its rival Bhel.

The Tongji plant's frequent tripping and shutdowns already drained out Tk 35 crore of potential revenue from PDB. "Plus to make it functional, PDB will ultimately have to pay Harbin extra for the missing spare parts," noted an insider.

In addition, Harbin is charging PDB an operation and maintenance cost for the plant. As per the contract, Harbin is supposed to train PDB engineers during the two-year warranty period so that PDB can operate and maintain the plant by itself. But till now the progress is very little. Harbin men at the site speak little English making it too difficult for PDB to have the benefit of 'technology transfer'.

PDB already paid for 18 extra technicians from Harbin.

"Under the guise of low price bid of Harbin, PDB is already paying a high price through taxpayers' money by purchasing a dysfunctional power plant. PDB continues to bleed through paying extra money for spares and services which were supposed to be provided by Harbin free of cost," the insider added.

The records show that Harbin changed the list of spares in the middle of the project and is pressurising PDB to accept it. But since such changes need approval by PDB's board and also by the Purchase Committee, it is resorting to maintaining silence on the issue.

Again, the company brought some inappropriate spares and consumable goods without permissions from PDB.

Harbin brought the spares and consumable goods of its own choice. But these are lying in the airport warehouse, as Harbin is now demanding that PDB pays VAT and other taxes for these items after having it already pay for them once.

"Harbin's performance guarantee of 10 percent is lying with PDB which should have been forfeited long time back due to the company's repeated flouting of the terms and conditions but till date no such action has been taken," comments a PDB source.

BNP MP

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in the court when the judgement was delivered.

Court sources said two lecturers of the college, M Sadiqur Rahman Babul and M Safiuddin Bhuiyan, filed a case against them for not paying salaries and allowances to five other teachers and preventing them from signing in the attendance book. The court, later, ordered the authorities to disburse the salaries to the teachers.

Lawmaker Munshi and the principal faced the contempt of court proceedings as they ignored the court orders, the sources added.

When contacted, Advocate Mizan, the counsel for the accused, said this verdict is a civil one and no warrant would be issued at this stage. "Body warrant would be issued after some procedures, and if the accused did not appeal against the verdict," he added.

Mizan said an appeal is likely to be lodged with Judge Court tomorrow against the verdict.

Contacted, lawmaker Munshi told UNB that he was yet to hear about such court verdict.

Salman jailed

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ago, officials said.

"The accused committed a heinous crime and hence he is being given five years of rigorous imprisonment," Judge Vijender Kumar Jain told stunned fans and lawyers in the northern Indian desert city of Jodhpur.

He also slapped a 25,000-rupee (560-dollar) fine on the 40-year-old actor.

Khan had already been given a suspended one-year jail sentence in February and fined 5,000 rupees (113 dollars) for killing two of the so-called "black bucks", known as chinkara in Hindi, during a 1998 hunting expedition.

"We want that the government withdraw false cases against us and sit in discussion to meet our demands," he said, adding that local lawmaker Shahjahan Miah is influencing Mizanur Rahman Minu and instigating the local administration to act against people.

"The firing on people and resisting movement are indicators of the government's intention to lock in war with people. A democratic government should not act in this way," he said.

"We are people of this land for which we fought in 1971. But the government has behaved with us like enemies from a foreign land. If we have no right to express ideas freely, what is the fruit of the independence?"

"Out of envy, the local lawmaker took me for his political rival due to my popularity and is trying to resist me to destroy the movement. I earned the popularity by staying beside the people in last nine months that the MP has failed" he said.

"Avisibly frightened Rabbani said he had learnt from a reliable source that two government lawmakers discussed plans to kill him in 'crossfire'."

"Fearing murder by either their party cadres or law enforcers, I can not stay at my house, and have to move to different villages," he said.

"Educated society means developed society. We are working relentlessly to build a developed society," she observed.

She also mentioned her government's efforts, including setting up educational institutions and steps to maintain congenial academic atmosphere, to educate the nation. She said they have stopped unfair means at public examinations and now it is necessary to ensure "quality education".

She believes that the 20-year-long strategic plan will be considered as an important document for expanding higher education in the country.

She suggested that as 20 years is long time so there should be provision of changing and addition to the document in the light of changed world scenario.

The PM disclosed that her government is thinking setting up English-medium model school in each upazila of the country to upgrade the quality of education.

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BNP stalwarts

FROM PAGE 1
Mizanur Rahman Minu MP and local lawmaker Shahjahan Miah from discussion for a solution to the electricity problems.

"The government does not believe in democracy in the true sense. Like Hitler and Mussolini, they are resisting people's movement for fundamental rights. But such moves will only spark anger among people", Rabbani told journalists at a mango orchard at Karimbazar, some 5 km from Kansat.

"We want that the government withdraw false cases against us and sit in discussion to meet our demands," he said, adding that local lawmaker Shahjahan Miah is influencing Mizanur Rahman Minu and instigating the local administration to act against people.

"The firing on people and resisting movement are indicators of the government's intention to lock in war with people. A democratic government should not act in this way," he said.

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She also mentioned her government's efforts, including setting up educational institutions and steps to maintain congenial academic atmosphere, to educate the nation. She said they have stopped unfair means at public examinations and now it is necessary to ensure "quality education".

She believes that the 20-year-long strategic plan will be considered as an important document for expanding higher education in the country.

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"Why did he [Minu] suddenly term me a terrorist just after March 6 violence?" Rabbani posed the question.

"Why did Shahjahan release me from jail being my guarantor on January 31, and why did Minu sit with me for discussion at my house on March 2? If I am a terrorist, they are my godfathers. They branded me a criminal for fighting for people. If it is a crime, I will continue to commit it," he said.

He refuted the government claim that most of their 14-point demand had already been met.

The government could have avoided violence and discussed impartially with people, he said, adding,

"Our movement will continue until our demands are met. It may end tomorrow, if the government wants."

20yr higher

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for ensuring standard of higher education.

Furthermore, the experts were also of the opinion that higher-education curriculum should be prepared in line with poverty reduction and appointment of teachers given on the basis of merit.

The report recommended setting up a postgraduate university and a central national laboratory for higher research, giving internet connections to all universities and colleges, setting up supervisory

units in six divisions to strengthen the activities of national universities, including latest technology-based subject in ICT, and expansion of UGC authority.

The PM said her government has given topmost priority to education as socio-economic development, advancement, prosperity and everything of a country depends on education.

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