

Rejoinder & our reply

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wide-body aircraft, thereby increasing the capacity of foreign carriers to a great extent, hence the greater number of passenger carriage by foreign carriers compared to Biman while Biman's expansion remained limited due to fleet constraint. However, during the two-year period from January 2000 to December 2001, Biman's carriage grew by 1.21 times compared to foreign carriers' growth of 1.04 times. It is, therefore, apparent that Biman's passenger growth has maintained a steady growth. With a growth rate higher than that of foreign carriers during the last couple of years, Biman has started to regain its market share which today stands at about 44 per cent compared to 56 per cent of foreign carriers.

It may also be mentioned that during the last few years, the Govt in certain cases allowed additional frequency and fifth freedom traffic rights to foreign carriers without looking into the adverse effects it would have on Biman Bangladesh Airlines & on the drainage of foreign currency. Most of the time, Biman's reservations on these issues were overruled by the authorities concerned.

Regarding imbalance of carriage between Biman and foreign carriers, particularly to and from points in the Middle East, it needs to be noted that a lion's share of passengers carried to and from those points are destined for or coming from points beyond in America or Europe. Deduction of such passengers from total carriage of the foreign carriers will reveal that Biman is in effect carrying more basic traffic than the foreign carriers combined.

As regards low sectoral carriage on routes like Dhaka-Doha, Dhaka-Bahrain and Dhaka-Dubai, Biman would like to make it clear that Biman operates multi-sectoral flights as Dhaka-Kuwait-Bahrain-Dubai-Dhaka, Dhaka-Bahrain-Kuwait-Dubai-Chittagong-Dhaka and Dhaka-Doha-Dubai-Chittagong-Dhaka. Since the above flights are multi-sectoral in nature, available capacity is divided among the destinations on route and, therefore, passenger carriage to any destination on the route is less than what it would have been, if the flight was dedicated to that destination only. Still, Biman on an average had carried 77 passengers on Dhaka-Doha sector during January-December 2001 not 45 as mentioned in the report. It may be mentioned here that almost 60 to 70 per cent of the foreign carriers' carriage on those routes from Dhaka has been onward passengers travelling to beyond points -- not the terminating passengers. Therefore, mentioning only sectoral carriage per flight without mentioning the total per flight carriage for the whole route is misleading.

It must be pointed out without any malice to other Bangladeshi carriers that, if granted permission to operate to destinations outside Bangladesh, these Bangladeshi carriers would only succeed in cutting into & denting Biman's market share without making any impact or dent into foreign carriers' market share. Not only this, as a reciprocal benefit, Govt would have to give additional frequency with traffic rights to existing foreign carriers operating to Bangladesh or perhaps allow more foreign carriers to operate to Bangladesh. This would result in two things: firstly more foreign exchange would go out of Bangladesh and secondly increase the market share of foreign carriers, thereby proportionately reducing the market share of Bangladeshi carriers. The move could very well prove counter productive to the economy of the country.

If Biman had failed to market its product, as stated in The Daily Star, then how was it possible to maintain a growth higher than foreign carriers for the last few years.

Therefore, it is very clear that contentions made in the said report published on January 7, 2002 is not correct and might have been done with a motive to serve the interest of certain quarter.

Our reply

The Daily Star is pleased to note that Biman agrees that the government has been continually allowing newer foreign airlines to operate and compete against Biman, thereby leading to a faster exodus of the country's foreign exchange and

Runs at will

FROM PAGE 1
Resuming the day on 99 for one, the tourists lost opener Taufeeq Umar off the very second ball without adding any runs to his overnight 47.

The right-hander edged Mohammad Sharif into the safe hands of Aminul Islam in the slips.

But Younis Khan kept the runs flowing. He added with 67 runs for the third wicket with Inzamamul Huq, who made 30 before becoming off-spinner Fahim Muntasir's first Test wicket.

Younis then shared 68 runs with Youhana and in the process reached his fourth Test hundred.

His century came immediately after lunch with a boundary off Sharif through the covers. It took the right-hander 199 balls and included 17 sweetly timed hits across the rope.

Younis' innings came to an end when he mistimed an attempted drive off Fahim and was comfort-

evaporation of Biman's passengers.

The information provided in Biman's rejoinder that six new airlines were allowed to operate in the period 1991-1999 (and not Bangladeshi private sector airlines) only reinforces the spirit of the report published on January 7. The fact remains that while foreign airlines continue to grow at a rate of approximately 100,000 passengers per year, Biman's 'steady' growth is approximately 30,000 passengers per year.

The Daily Star, however, has also found that Biman has been party to all air-service agreement negotiations and does not seem to have, on record or in any of the air service agreement (ASA) minutes, any objection to the government granting fifth freedom rights to destinations already being served by Biman. A double standard seems to be applied when opinion for private sector airlines is sought from Biman.

Biman's contention that the Middle-East traffic of foreign airlines consists of a large number of passengers beyond the Middle-East is even more enlightening & alarming. This means that the foreign exchange loss estimated in the January 7 report is even greater than earlier estimated as fares beyond Middle-East are likely to be even higher. This means that foreign airlines are not only taking away a large number of passengers to the Middle-East, but are also using the liberal frequencies granted by our government (with the consent of Biman) to compete against Biman on its destinations to Europe and America.

The number of passengers for the Middle-East sector in the news item is based on July 1999- June 2000 figures as published in Biman's reports. The Daily Star is pleased to see that Doha passengers increased to 77 per flight, instead of 45 passengers. However, The Daily Star has also found that the capacity of the DC-10 aircraft is 277 passengers. Does this mean that 200 seats go empty? How does Biman justify 'low sectoral' carriage routes when their competitors on the same routes are carrying two to three times passengers? Perhaps product quality and marketing are issues for discussion.

Biman's claim in the last paragraph that by allowing private sector to operate internationally, Biman's share would decrease and the country would be obliged to grant reciprocal rights and cause a greater loss in foreign exchange does not seem to be logical in light of the facts shown below:

The growth of passengers as shown in the January 7 report shows that the growth of 100,000 additional passengers per year is taken away by foreign airlines and only 30,000 additional passengers per year are taken by Biman. If the government adopts a policy of not extending additional frequencies to foreign airlines at their asking, then it is only logical to conclude that once capacity is reached by the already allocated frequencies to foreign airlines, a large portion of 130,000 additional passengers per year would then only go to Biman and the private sector airlines.

Even if Biman doubled its growth rate under the above circumstances, the private sector would flourish, as would the country's foreign exchange reserves.

There are many destinations in the Middle-East (such as Dubai and Sharjah) that do not require reciprocal landing rights. The Daily Star has evidence that one private carrier, GMG, has already obtained unilateral landing permission for both Sharjah and Dubai.

There are many destinations in the Middle-East such as Doha which Biman considers 'low-frequency.' These could be better served by the private sector which could have a better chance of competing with foreign airlines.

The private sector, even with unilateral landing rights in the Middle-East, is being constrained to fly even from Chittagong. On the contrary, Silk Air (another Singaporean Airline) was recently given permission to fly from Chittagong to Singapore. Would they not carry any passengers to the Middle-East? Does the country have a surplus of foreign exchange?

The Inam Committee formed on November 11 has been assisted by two deputy secretaries, three senior assistant secretaries and a stenographer during its two-month investigation.

The report is complete and is currently being typed out to be formally submitted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on January 23.

According to a reliable source, Chowdhury, who is also member of the BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council and currently the chairman of the Board of Investment, in his report has recommended cancellation of all the 107 orders.

Investigation into alleged irregularities in the administration was part of the BNP-led alliance government's 100-day programme announced by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia shortly after assuming office.

Necessary actions in terms of terminations and demotions as per committee recommendations would also follow after the report is formally submitted, the sources said. Also, those who were terminated from their jobs would be reinstated.

The sources said that the investigation committee prepared the list of the 107 officials and employees

An appeal for Shahriar's release

FROM PAGE 1
December government filed treason case against him under Section 123(a), 124(a) and 505(a) of Penal Code of Bangladesh.

So far the lower courts have rejected his bail petition four times. The High Court declared illegal the detention under SPA against which the government has appealed during the 57 days of detention:

1. Shahriar has not been allowed one of the most basic right of an accused under detention which is the right of family visits once every 15 days. So far not a single visit by his wife and two children has been permitted. He has been able to meet his family only during court appearances for his bail hearings.

2. He was not initially allowed any access to legal protection and no visit by his lawyers was permitted. Even after the High Court ruled about lawyers' visiting rights the jail authority did not comply. After a demonstration by lawyers at the jail gate and a threat to issue a demand for justice notice, two lawyers were permitted to see Shahriar in the presence of police thus preventing a confidential discussion of the case between the prisoner and his lawyers.

3. He has been kept with common criminals without the 'Division' (a special prison for respected citizens) which is normally allowed for accused who are writers, journalists, politicians and socially prominent people.

4. He has been brought to court in handcuffs and in prison vans with common criminals. These vans which has capacity to carry a maximum of 15-20 prisoners are made to carry 60 or more after being packed like sardines.

What is Shahriar's crime? He went to Kolkata. He interviewed some people who claimed to have cross the border following attack on some minorities after the October 1, 2001, election. He gave interview to BBC in which he spoke out against the oppression on the minorities. According to the FIR filed by the police, when arrested at ZIA he was in possession of some video films. These video films are supposed to contain interviews with members of

Hindu community who said they were forced to leave home because of attacks on them. There is also reportedly some footage of demonstrations in India in which slogans were raised against repression on Hindus in Bangladesh and some placards were seen which read "We do not accept the border". The police nowhere accuses Shahriar of organising any of these demonstrations, inciting people to violence, writing the anti-Bangladesh placards, or in any way being involved with any of the activities which was recorded in the video.

So what did Shahriar do that constituted treason? As we stated before he went to Kolkata. He interviewed some people who claimed to be citizens of Bangladesh who have been attacked and made homeless and forced to cross over to India. He spoke out against repression on minorities on BBC. He carried some videos back to Dhaka, which he did not show to anybody. So where is his treason? Is it "treason" to find out what has happened to members of Hindu community who could be CITIZENS OF BANGLADESH?

The Home Minister is on record to have said about the attack on minorities that "Some of it is false, some exaggerated and some true". Going by him the whole thing was not a figment of imagination and that some atrocities against the minorities were committed. This was later confirmed by the Secretaries Committee, which prepared an official report on it.

As an Editor I could have easily assigned a reporter to travel to the border areas to investigate whether stories about minorities going to India was true or not. My reporter would have taken pictures (or video, if he had a camera) of any demonstration taking place there as the one filmed by Shahriar. Then, would my reporter be guilty of "treason"? As for the BBC interview many people gave interviews and expressed similar views. In fact the BBC itself broadcast a highly critical series on this issue. Obviously the government thought better of not meddling with the international media.

Here are several counts on which we write this protest commentary.

First, why this maltreatment of Shahriar? The denial of family visiting rights is something that only the most oppressive governments can do.

Second, keeping Shahriar with common criminals. The Home Minister was reported to have said, "What is so special about him?" It is sad commentary on the sophistication of our governments that they forget what is proper and what is not once they assume power. Shahriar is an author of more than 70 books. He has done nothing else in his life except write-either books, or columns, articles for journals. For the most part of his life he was a journalist with the weekly Bichitra in its earlier incarnation as a magazine under the Danik Bangla Trust. That is what is special about him. If the minister cannot distinguish between a petty criminal (that is the way he is being treated) and Shahriar Kabir then it is indeed a sad day.

Third, the denial of legal counsel in the earlier phase of his internment and limitations on his full access to legal rights. Overall, the fact that he was not allowed meeting with his lawyers was a denial of the fundamental right of a prisoner. Only after a High Court order was the lawyer allowed to visit him, but that also in front of a police officer.

It is now 57 days that a writer, columnist and a civic right activist has been denied all his fundamental rights. He has been kept in prison with criminals, terrorists and murderers for the simple reason that he spoke his mind about an issue that embarrassed the government. So is embarrassing the government the new definition of treason. The government has not been unable to provide any credible evidence against Shahriar for the crimes he has been accused of. In fact there is a lot of speculation regarding what triggered the government to act the way it did? Some believe the pressure was from one of the coalition partners.

He has worked against the BNP during the elections and spoke out

against Jamaat (an alliance partner of the government) and wrote incessantly against fundamentalism and communalism. He has also written many books on our Liberation War. His life long mission has been against Razakars and criminals of the 71 War of Liberation. It is very clear that politically Shahriar belongs to the camp opposed to this government. Is this why he is being punished? Is he being set as an example of what will happen if anybody tries to embarrass the government? Is it a warning against writing on minority issues? Is he being made an example to warn other columnists?

For all the above questions we would like to believe the answer to be no. We would like to believe that BNP government would strengthen our democracy, civic rights, freedom of expression and freedom of journalists. But Shahriar's case is raising serious doubts in our mind. Permit us to remind the government that we live in a globalised world. We cannot oppress at home and expect to be treated as a democrat abroad. What we do at home has a ripple effect everywhere and impacts on our international standing. You may differ with a writer but you cannot oppress him for his opinion. In fact freedom of opinion and the right to express that opinion is what the present world is all about. Remember why the Soviet Union and the whole socialist bloc collapsed. Just for denying these rights.

We refrain from passing any comment on the case itself as a mark of respect for the judiciary before whom Shahriar is seeking justice. The Courts are our final destination to seek justice and we hope that Shahriar will find it there.

We would like to point out to the government that this particular case has damaged its image to the voters who elected them in the hope that state power be not abused as before. In conclusion we appeal to the government that Shahriar be released.

2 pc dip in GDP forecast

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tion. Besides, the overall investment, based on lower GDP growth projection, is likely to decline over previous fiscal to 22 per cent of GDP while the national savings rate is expected to fall to 19.7 per cent of the GDP.

During fiscal 2002, the current account deficit is projected to increase to 2.3 per cent of GDP from 2.1 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2001 on the assumption of an 8 per cent decline in exports, a 5 per cent decline in imports and a gradual tapering off of the recent spurt in remittances.

Fostering a climate more conducive to higher external assistance and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, restructuring and privatising state-owned enterprises (SOE), adopting a more flexible management of the exchange rate, improving governance and restoring monetary and fiscal discipline are the issues the government need to address, noted the report.

The global economic recession has seriously affected the ready-made garment (RMG) industry as well as garments accessory industry of the country.

"Growing infrastructure constraints such as port congestion and inadequate supply of utilities are also affecting the country's export performance," viewed the ADB update.

The monetary policy continues to be accommodative. Growth of credit from the banking system to the government increased sharply from 21.4 per cent in July 2001 to 27.1 per cent in October 2001. Although the high monetary growth did not result in higher inflation, there is need for retraining monetary expansion to ease on the balance of payments and also to arrest the further decline in the already low foreign exchange reserves, the update further

Organisers said about 10,000 devotees from 72 countries are expected to attend the ijtema this year while 40 lakh in the 'akheri munajat' (final prayer). The President, Prime Minister and the opposition leader are likely to join the akheri munajat.

Eight special trains apart from the 25 regular ones would halt at the Tongi station during the ijtema period.

Some 1,500 plainclothes policemen will be deployed in the ijtema venue and adjacent areas to maintain law and order.

Govt to cancel 'illegal' orders

FROM PAGE 1
promotion, appointment, transfer as well as retrenchment in the administration as irregular.

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The sources said that the investigation committee prepared the list of the 107 officials and employees

tances, the ADB report said.

The setback in export-oriented manufacturing and loss of investor confidence are affecting other key production and service sectors such as trade and transports, banking, insurance, port and shipping, it observed.

The ADB report, however, said the new government has undertaken a number of measures to address the emerging macroeconomic problems. It put accent on the need for consensus between the ruling and opposition political parties on substantive national issues in order to enable the government to carry out critical reform measures.

Referring to a study, the ADB said 40 per cent of the total volumes of remittances are sent through the unofficial channels like Hundi.

The report also observed that the existing manpower currently working abroad needs to be assisted so that they can retain their jobs.

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The report emphasised taking institutional initiatives to increase export of manpower and divert remittances from illegal channels to official channels.

Bangladesh has received US\$ 21 billion in remittances since 1976. The amount is equivalent to 62 per cent of the \$34 billion, the total amount of foreign aid the country received during the period.

Bangladesh' current ratio of import to GDP is around 20 per cent and debt service payments are equivalent to 7.5 of foreign exchange earnings. Remittance financed 20 per cent of the imports in fiscal 2001. The current level of remittance is able offset 65 per cent of trade deficit of the country, the report said.

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Bank boards

FROM PAGE 1
Yesterday's meeting also discussed an incentive scheme for the bank staff for their efforts in recovering classified loans. It was proposed that the staff would get six per cent of the recovered bad loans, four per cent of doubtful loans and one per cent of sub-standard loans if they can recover the same.

However, no decision was taken on the issue as the chairman raised various questions. The BB and the ministry will later sit together and draw up a clear guideline in this regard.

The committee in its report will list the specific irregularities along-side recommendations for necessary remedial actions.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the government would take prompt action to resolve the cases and those who have been promoted through superseding seniors and violating rules would be demoted as per the existing rules. Subsequently the "illegal" appointments will also be cancelled.

Tk 7 lakh

FROM PAGE 12
and a ticket counter ransacked during the clash that continued for an hour.

Witnesses said, four employees of the godwon owned by Abdul Malek were going to the station road branch of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) in an autorickshaw to deposit the money.

When the autorickshaw reached near the BRTC intersection, a gang of 12 muggers stopped it and attacked the employees.

The muggers exploded several cocktails, fired shots and took away the money.

Shahid received bullet in his leg as he tried to resist the muggers.

He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

By-polls

FROM PAGE 1
Shahidul Islam (Narail-2), Akmol Ibne Yusuf (Faridpur-4), Dharendra Nath Shaha (Narail-1) of the BNP.

In Barguna-3, Golam Sarwar Forkan of the AL was leading.

Different election observer groups, in separate press releases, said the by-polls were marked by massive casting of false votes by the ruling party activists although an adequate number of security personnel including members of the armed forces were deployed in and around the polling stations.

AL-nominated candidates quit the electoral race, alleging that the atmosphere in the constituencies was not congenial for contesting the by-polls.

The five constituencies where by-election was held are Munshiganj-1, Narail-1, Narail-22 and Barguna-3 and Faridpur-4. The seats were vacated by President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and AL presidium member Abdur Razzak respectively.

Badruddoza's seat -- Munshiganj-1 -- fell vacant as the BNP leader was elected President. Hasina who had won four seats in the October 1 general election vacated three seats, retaining Gopalganj-3 seat. Senior AL leader Razzak who had won two seats vacated Faridpur-4 seat.

Members of the armed forces were deployed at strategic points in the five constituencies in aid of the civil administration to maintain the law and order during the polling from 8 am to 4 pm.

According to an EC press release, 23 candidates -- three in Narail-1, six in Narail-2, five in Barguna-3, five in Munshiganj-1 and four in Faridpur-4-- contested the by-polls.

A total of 444 presiding officers, 2020 assistant presiding officers and 4040 polling officers were appointed to conduct polling in the five constituencies with 9,92,084 voters.

BNP activists

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hospital for autopsy.

Police said that previous rivalry between the slain BNP activists and members of the outlawed party over establishing supremacy in the area and sharing of toll money collected by the two BNP activists from businessmen of Atra industrial belt were the reasons behind the killings.

But close relatives of the victims said that armed cadres of PBCP were hired for committing the gruesome murder.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 12
She asked the government to stop attacks on Awami League leaders and workers and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of the terrorists.

At the BIRDEM Hospital, the Awami League chief also visited ailing former MP and ambassador Osman Sarwar and former general secretary of Madina Awami League Gias Uddin Ahmed.

She inquired about the treatment of the three and asked the attending doctors to provide them with best possible treatment.

Awami League leaders Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Bahauddin Nasim, BM Mozammel Huq, SM Kamal Hossain and Iqbalur Rahim accompanied the AL President.

Graft case against Rafiq

FROM PAGE 12
MWAES power plant of the PDB.

In the first tender, a bidder, the First Survey and Design Institute of the Ministry of Railways, the People's Republic of China (FSDI), quoted the lowest price of Tk 123.76 crore for the project. But the state minister cancelled the bid and re-tendered the project to award it to China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Corporation (CWHEC) at Tk 141.65 crore and in the process, causing the state a loss of Tk 17.89 crore. Former AL minister Syed Abul Hossain is local agent of CWHEC.

Three cases were filed against Rafiqul Islam on January 8. In one case, he was accused of wasting Tk 24.96 crore of the state and misappropriating funds in the 210 MW Siddirganj 210 MW thermal power project. He was also accused of misappropriating Tk 68.6 crore in implementing the 60 MW Shahjibazar power plant.

The other case again deals with Meghnaghat land site development. Rafiqul has been accused of misappropriating government funds and making the government incur a loss of 4.5 million dollars.

The government paid Chinese contractor CWHEC Tk 141.65 crore for developing, as per specification and contract, the project site of Meghnaghat phase-1 power plant. Though the task was completed as per specification, the minister ignored the PDB opinion and arranged an additional payment of 4.5 million dollars for remedial work on the project site.

This issue originated from a dispute between PDB and AES over handing over of the power project's 100 hectare site from its Chinese developer CWHEC.

The AES-PDB dispute officially started on December 28. The US company -- upon its inspection of the Meghnaghat land site developed by a Chinese contractor on behalf of PDB-- officially raised several objections about the quality

Global water confce adopts Dhaka Declaration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A declaration was adopted yesterday at the global conference on water, seeking to document indigenous knowledge and practices of water management and other related issues both in electronic and print media.

The eight-point Dhaka Declaration came on the concluding day of the five-day conference organised by the World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) in collaboration with the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the CIRDAP auditorium here.

For comprehensive media coverage of water issues, the declaration pledged to encourage journalists around the world, especially those from the mainstream media to write in-depth stories regularly with the WWFJ as the leading group.

It resolved that the WWFJ would be the leading global media organisation to disseminate information on the forthcoming Third World Forum to be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2003.

Members of the WWFJ will chronicle articulate voices of their respective countries as well as initiate and participate in the global Internet debate and discussions on water issues, it said.

The conference planned to hold a separate session on media at the Kyoto Forum and organise another session at the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg later in this year.

As decided, the WWFJ would actively be involved in the consultation process undertaken by the Asian Development Bank at regional levels on four thematic issues -- Water and Poverty, Water and Cities, Water and Small Islands and Water, and Water and Regional Co-operation. "...Such a consultation and its related outputs will properly be channelled to the people."

The Dhaka Declaration resolved

Appellate Divn

FROM PAGE 12
Barrister Moudud Ahmed, the seven-member Appellate Division would facilitate formation of two to three benches and thus speed up the legal process.

Also, a proposal was sent by the Law Ministry to the Establishment Ministry to increase the number of bench officers, clerks, orderlies, drivers and other employees, and improve facilities to complement the increase of judges in the Appellate Division. The proposal is now being reviewed by the Finance Ministry, sources said.

Meanwhile, commenting on the restructuring of the Appellate Division, former chief justice Mostafa Kamal told BBC yesterday, "justice, in fact, does not depend on the number of judges. In order to ensure a competent judiciary, qualified judges are required."

He said lawyers from lower courts are presently appointed as judges. "There is little scope for selecting qualified people in this process," he said.

Asked if restructuring the Appellate Division would speed up trials, he said, "sometimes we are also responsible for the piling up of cases."

Meanwhile, the government has approved appointment of the most senior judge Justice KM Hasan in the Appellate Division where a vacancy was created with the recent retirement of Justice Golam Rabbani.

of construction work. AES said it would not take possession of the land unless the site quality was improved up to a certain standard. The PDB was supposed to reply to its objections in 15 days, but ultimately resolved the issue after 146 days of delay.

The project site was originally scheduled to be delivered to AES in mid-July 1999. But due to failure of the land site contractor, PDB convinced AES to take the site on November 15 without any Liquidated Damages. However, PDB could not avail the land for handing over till January 3.

Later, PDB took a position that as per the project's consultant Mott McDonald, the site was flawless and AES must take over it -- a position opposed by AES. AES said its own experts were not satisfied at the project's work.

AES lobbies then also raised questions about the integrity of Mott McDonald, which was in the past represented in Bangladesh by the same local agent of CWHEC.