

Rental power projects did not reflect transparency: CJ

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry said on Monday that the RPPs (rental power projects) case was being heard on a daily basis for almost a month, so it should be concluded now, adding that the court was not concerned with policies but with transparency in the transaction of projects. He said the rental power project deals did not reflect transparency.

The Supreme Court was also informed on Monday that Reshma Rental Power Plant was not being paid its outstanding amount of Rs750 million though it had reimbursed the money taken as mobilization advance.

A two-member Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and Justice Khilji Arif Hussain was hearing two identical petitions filed by Federal Minister for Housing and Works Faisal Saleh Hayat and PML-N MNA Khawaja Asif, alleging corruption in awarding of rental power project contracts.

Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, counsel for Reshma Power Project, Dr. Pervez Hassan, counsel for the Pakistan Power Resource (PPR) project in Guddu, Multan and Bhikki and counsel for Pepco Khawaja Tariq Rahim appeared before the court.

Abdul Hafeez Pirzada told the court that the Reshma Power Project was not receiving money against the power it was generating. He apprised the bench that even after paying back Rs2.5 billion, which the Reshma Power Project was given as mobilization advance, the project had not been paid the fuel cost.

Dr. Pervez Hassan told the court that RPP projects were installed in good faith and with due regard to transparency. The chief justice noted that there is huge difference between solicited and unsolicited projects.

Dr. Pervez Hassan contended that no electricity could be sold until the approval of tariff by Nepra, adding that Nepra had determined tariff and payments, which meant the contract was transparent.

The chief justice inquired whether the projects owned by PPR were solicited or not. Dr. Pervez Hassan told the bench that no power project could receive a single penny without the approval of Nepra. Meanwhile, the court issued notices to all respondents in the Rental Power Projects (RPPs) case and adjourned the hearing for today (Tuesday)