

WAHID ADNAN/DRIKNEWS

this point in time transmission is a little ahead of generation; it was not so in 2001. Then we had more generation than transmission abilities, today we have been able to implement some transmission networks and are also in the course of implementing other transmission networks of 400 KV which would enable Bangladesh to transmit electricity to various places.

In the case of distribution, it is easier to enable distribution networks faster. In fact if we get more electricity, the distribution networks will perform better. Having less electricity in the grid huts the distribution network and the transformers and all other equipment using electricity.

The recent plan put forward by government tackles the issue of the generation of power, but lacks clarity on the distribution and transmission: your comments on the issue.

A good plan that has already been implemented is the separation of generation, distribution, and transmission. Today we have the Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh, which is a publicly listed company and they have done pretty well by expanding their transmission and being a profitable company. Down the stream distribution companies such as Desa, Desco, where privatisation has been implemented and these companies are supposed to be free to move forward. They have the funds and the ability to expand and implement their projects independent of government's bureaucracy. Whether they do so or not is to be seen.

Does renewable energy have a role to play in the energy generation of Bangladesh?

Bangladesh has six seasons and no deserts, therefore solar electricity is not a solution for Bangladesh. As for hydro-electricity, it's a flat country, the largest delta in the world, we have huge opportunities for supplying people with fresh water, but we have very little opportunity for hydro-electricity. Wind requires a lot of space and a lot of wind to put up wind power stations and unfortunately both of them are in short supply in the world most densely populated country. This is not Denmark.

So you are saying in a large-scale way you don't feel that it [renewable energy] can help power generation?

It's not a feeling, I know it. We cannot have large-scale electricity generation from wind or solar energy in Bangladesh.

How important is to be honest about the role the governments have played in the lack of power generation in Bangladesh?

A lot of inefficiency on the part of the government of Bangladesh has created this problem. It's the government who is supposed to provide the platform and the enabling environment to implement these projects. So in that sense consecutive governments have not been able to perform to the expectations of the nation.

Aziz Khan is Chairman, Summit Power Ltd. and Khulna Power Company, he was also the Founder President of Bangladesh Energy Companies Association.