

Rampal plant needs clean tech

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should employ clean technologies and ensure best practices at the coal-based power plant in Rampal to keep potential environment damage in check, experts said yesterday.

"There will not be much of an impact on the environment if the plant is run efficiently," said Ijaz Hossain, a professor of chemical engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Most debates on coal-based plants centre the technologies China had used 30 to 50 years ago, he added.

"But this is 2014, and there are modern technologies. Despite using the most polluting technologies to generate power from coal, China has not been destroyed."

How much monitoring authority the Department of Environment (DoE) will enjoy also remains to be seen, Hossain said. "We also need to look at the agencies that will run the plant."

Khondkar Saleque Sufi, adviser to the mines and petroleum ministry in Afghanistan, said Bangladesh would have to produce electricity

from coal to continue the pace of power generation, as gas the reserves are depleting fast with no major discoveries in sight.

Technologies are also available globally that can address the environmental and safety concerns, he said. "We also need to use low sulphur coal from the very beginning."

They spoke at a seminar styled 'Coal Power Generation in Bangladesh: World's Best Practices', organised by the Power Division, at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka.

The clean coal technology with the highly efficient super-critical boiler is a proven technology used worldwide to generate power with minimal disruption to the environment and water quality, said Anjuman Islam Kankon, who teaches biochemical and environmental engineering at University of Maryland.

"With proper monitoring of the effluent parameters and maintenance of the power plant, there will be no major environmental concern," she said.

The amount of fly-ash the plant will be producing would also not be a big concern as it can be used to

make bricks, the non-resident Bangladeshis added.

Potential sources of pollution include coal transportation, gas emissions, coal combustion products and storage and handling of the combustible products, she said.

"Technology involved in transportation and handling is widely available, while carbon capturing is still expensive and in the test phase. We can ensure good air quality by ensuring proper maintenance while generating electricity from coal."

She said despite environmental and safety concerns, power generation from coal has not gone down; rather it has gone up tremendously.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement, said there is no doubt that Bangladesh needs to produce electricity from coal to develop the country. "At the same time, we need to take care of the ecosystem of the Sundarbans and the local community."

Things should not end with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), said AR Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission. "There should be regular monitoring on whether the EIA is being followed."

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said the government would address all environmental and safety concerns, adopt world class technologies and ensure standard compliance.

The new government will fast-track the 1,320-megawatt coal-based Rampal Power Plant, said Energy Adviser Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury.

"Technologies are available in the world to address environmental and other concerns about the coal-based plant. We will employ them, and the plant will be completed quickly."

Rafiq Ahammed, a director of DoE, said the capacity of the people who will run and manage the plant would have to be developed.

Power Secretary Monowar Islam said the government would set up a monitoring system outside the plant for people to see what is going on inside and the emissions level.

Mollah Amzad Hossain, editor of Energy & Power, said Bangladesh would not go far in meeting its rising demand for electricity if it cannot exploit its domestic coal.

Power Cell Director General



KY STEEL MILLS

Khalilur Rahman, chairman of the KDS Group, poses at a dealers' conference and the company's 25th anniversary celebration at the Brac CDM in Savar on Friday. Salim Rahman, managing director, was also present.



METROCEM

Md Shahidullah, managing director of Metrocem Group, re-launches the Metrocem brand's new cement pack at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka on Saturday.



GP

Vivek Sood, chief executive of Grameenphone, and Md Shamsul Haque Chishty, president of Anjuman Mufidul Islam, attend the signing of an agreement recently to fit 40 vehicle tracking devices with one year's free service on the welfare trust's ambulance fleet.

Scooty: an agent of change for women

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Indian two-wheeler brand Scooty Pep+ arranged a seminar to encourage women empowerment and give lessons on how to ride a bike.

The seminar, titled Wheel of Women's Success, focused on the rights of women and how women can achieve their goals independently.

University students and working women from a diverse background attended the seminar at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on Saturday. TVS Auto Bangladesh is marketing the two-wheeler, in Bangladesh.

The event was moderated by actress Aupi Karim, the official brand spokesperson for Scooty Pep+ in Bangladesh.

Ekram Hussain, managing director of TVS Auto Bangladesh, and Reaz Ahmed, chief operating officer, was also present.



TVS AUTO

Participants of a seminar styled "Wheel of Women's Success" pose at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on Saturday. Scooty Pep+ brand of TVS Auto organised the event to encourage women empowerment.

Lenovo signals 'global ambitions' with Motorola deal

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"Just as iPhones and iPads have overtaken Macs in commercial importance for Apple, smartphones and tablets are expected to replace PCs in part for Lenovo," said Dufour, who called the firm "the pioneer of Chinese companies' global offensive".

The back-to-back deals are all the more significant because of their timing, coming just as US President Barack Obama noted in his annual State of the Union address on Tuesday that "for the first time in over a decade, business leaders around the world have declared that China is no longer the world's number one place to invest; America is".

With Chinese investment in the US doubling to \$14 billion in 2013, a larger and larger share of that capital is coming from America's rival across the Pacific -- a fact unmentioned by Obama in his speech.

From its humble beginnings, Lenovo has charted an impressive course in the personal computer market. Under its earlier name, Legend, it secured the biggest share in China's

domestic market in 1996 and in the Asia-Pacific region three years later.

Its 2003 decision to change the name of its PC brand from Legend to Lenovo in a bid to boost its sales abroad marked the beginning of its ascent to global preeminence.

That move was followed by a successful 2004 bid to serve as the exclusive computing technology provider for the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Games, making it the first Chinese firm to become a major Olympics sponsor.

But it was Lenovo's 2005 acquisition of IBM's PC division for \$1.75 billion that cemented its rise, setting it on track to unseat Hewlett-Packard as the world's top PC vendor last year.

Lenovo now has PC products in more than 160 countries and has worked to build its global brand by recruiting celebrities such as basketball star Kobe Bryant and Hollywood actor Ashton Kutcher, who the company named a "product engineer" for its new Yoga Tablet device.

Improve trade ties among developing nations: analysts

FROM PAGE B1

South-South Cooperation is a term historically used by policymakers and academics to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the global south.

South-South trades have immense potential due to the shifting of economic, political and social aspects to Asia, said UNDP Country Director Pauline Tamesis.

"Emerging economies are growing, while the growth of developed countries is slowing," said Tamesis, adding that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute of North-South trade, rather it complements global trade. "The recent economic crisis has shifted the centre of gravity to Asia. Therefore, it is time to strengthen South-South Cooperation," said Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The minister however stressed the need for strong coordination among the countries to address bottlenecks in cooperation among the nations.

"The real problem in South-South Cooperation is of course, coordination. I believe the development partners can contribute richly in this regard."

State Minister for Finance MA Mannan said Bangladesh is planning to become a mid-income country by 2021 and its cooperation with neighbouring countries of the South and development

partners in the North is vital.

"We believe in South-South Cooperation for better synergies, and we need to increase the effectiveness of both aid and trade in delivering the goals of development in the South."

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision to become a developed country by 2041, the state minister said attaining the target is possible if there is political stability and realistic foreign policies.

Such cooperation touches many areas, such as employment, trade, skills development, technical assistance and knowledge sharing, said ERD Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin.

Trade under such initiatives occurs in many forms, such as bilateral, multilateral, regional, sub-regional and triangular, he added.

Some barriers include weak institutional framework, a lack of capacity to articulate the needs of the beneficiary countries and resource sharing arrangements, he said.

Mejbahuddin stressed the need for political commitment, broad-based partnerships, and involvement of the private sector and civil society alongside the government to bring momentum in such initiatives.

Political challenges are impeding trade relations in many aspects. "There is a need to ensure that different kinds of cooperation are delivered in a synergic manner to ensure national development."

Stimulus drives RMG exports to new destinations

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Khondaker Golam Moazzem, additional research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said: "Sometimes, the trading cost itself forms a barrier to trade to some markets."

The country can export a lot of products to Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Chile by strengthening the South-South Cooperation, he added.

In another session titled "Upscaling skills and overseas employment", Muhammad Alkama Siddiqui, joint secretary of Economic Relations Division, said the government is working on enhancing skills to boost export of skilled manpower.

He also called for institutionalisation of migration and overseas employment

as well as skills development and professional training for manpower.

A separate overseas employment ministry with the prime responsibility of creating and developing skilled manpower to meet developed countries' growing demand for skilled manpower should also be established, said Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Employers' Association. The government should delegate skill development process to the private sector to ensure transparency, he added.

Loree Semeluk, second secretary of Canadian High Commission, said skills development can promote overseas employment of Bangladeshi workers as well as strengthen the national economy.

Local firms to make tyres

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"Local companies are grabbing the market for light automotive tyres, which depended on imports a decade ago," said Humayun Kabir, a leader of Bangladesh Tyre Merchant's Association.

Local makers have a price advantage over the imported tyres, sellers said. "A locally-made tyre for a pickup or microbus costs 20-30 percent less than an imported tyre," said Mohammad Hannan, owner of a tyre shop in Farmgate in Dhaka.

SM Mojibur Rahman, sales executive at Tyre and Battery Bazar, said locally-made tyres for big buses and trucks have the potential to grab market share if manufacturers can ensure quality. Tyre and Battery Bazar is a dealer of GT Radial and MRF along with local Husain Tyre.

Husain Tyre that started production in 1996 with three-wheeler scooter tyres, now makes more than 10 types, including light ones for small trucks and microbuses.

Importers and sellers said a scarcity of raw materials as an obstacle to producing tyres in Bangladesh. However, the main ingredient, rubber, is now being produced by local cultivators.

ICMAB picks top officials for 2014

STAR BUSINESS DESK


Mohammed Salim has recently been elected as the president of Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh for 2014, the institute said in a statement yesterday.

At the same time, ASM Shaykhul Islam and Arif Khan were elected as vice-presidents with Jamal Ahmed Choudhury as secretary and Md Abdur Rahman Khan as treasurer.

Prior to the new role, Salim served the institute as treasurer, secretary and vice-president for



Mohammed Salim



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Memo No. APSCL/Pro-29/2014/153 Date: 02/02/2014

"Amendment of APSCL's EOI Enquiry"

EOI Name, Enquiry no. & date	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
Expression of Interest for Selection of Consultant for detailed feasibility Study, Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study of 2x660 MW and future expansion facility up to 4000 MW Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant at Amtali /Taltali Upazilas of Bargauna district or any suitable location in Barisal Division.	Last date of collection of "Detailed Terms of Reference as well as document"	05/02/2014 during office hour	17/02/2014 during office hour
Memo No. APSCL/Pro-02/2014/17 Date: 07/01/2014	EOI closing date & time	06/02/2014 at BST 12.00 noon.	18/02/2014 at BST 12.00 noon.

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged.


 (Md. Rafiquddaula)
 Manager (Procurement)
 APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Bangladesh Power Development Board
Office: Central Secretariat, BPDB, Dhaka

"বিদ্যুৎ সশস্ত্রী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

Memo No. 198-BPDB(Sect)/Dev-194/2009 Date: 02-02-14

Time Extension Notice for

Submission of Expression of Interest for

"Rendering of Maintenance Services for Power Plant Projects at Maheshkhali Upazila in Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh"

Last date for submission of Expression of Interest for abovementioned Service [EOI No. 49-BPDB(sect)/Dev-194/2009 dated: 08/01/2014] is hereby extended to 20-02-2014 (11:00:00 hours BST). All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

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