

Russian firm evaluates Rooppur nuke plant's cooling options

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom's sister concern Atomproekt has begun examining the technical and economic aspects of Natural Draft and Ventilation Cooling Towers to select an optimum option for the Rooppur nuclear power plant (NPP).

A cooling tower is an important part of any NPP infrastructure; it is a hydro technical construction to cool the water in NPP water circulation systems.

The modern natural draft cooling towers are up to 180 metres high and are able to cool up to 170,000 cubic metres of water an hour, a statement said yesterday.

Ventilation cooling towers are an alternative to the natural draft cooling towers, which are traditional for NPPs. This type of cooling towers have not been used earlier in NPP turbine condenser cooling systems, as more cooling towers with ventilation need to be installed, and costs can go up with the additional energy for fan motors.

However, given conditions in Bangladesh with high temperatures and

humidity, the use of this type of cooling towers may be justified.

Besides, Atomproekt designers and engineers are designing ventilation cooling towers for the emergency raw cooling water system at Rooppur plant.

The use of these ventilation cooling towers allows a considerable reduction in the area covered by cooling equipment and an increase in water cooling efficiency, the statement said.

Such a project has been developed in Russia for the first time. Earlier, spray ponds were traditionally used in the emergency raw cooling water system.

Atomproekt has designed more than 100 cooling towers for power plants in Russia and abroad.

Russian state company Rosatom began working at Rooppur in mid 2013 and is currently undertaking a techno-feasibility study under a half-a-billion dollar loan.

Atomenergoproekt, which is conducting the study, has recently floated a tender for an engineering survey, environmental monitoring and development of project documents for the Rooppur site.

Apple studies self-driving car

REUTERS, Frankfurt/San Francisco

Technology giant Apple is looking beyond mobile devices to learn how to make a self-driving electric car, and is talking to experts at carmakers and automotive suppliers, a senior auto industry source familiar with the discussions said on Saturday.

The Cupertino, California-based maker of phones, computers and, soon, watches is exploring how to make an entire vehicle, not just designing automotive software or individual components, the auto industry source said.

"They don't appear to want a lot of help from carmakers," said the source, who declined to be named.

Apple is gathering advice on parts and production methods, focusing on electric and connected-car technologies, while studying the potential for automated driving, the source said.

"Fully automated driving is an evolution. Carmakers will slowly build the market for autonomous cars by first releasing connected and partially automated cars," the auto industry source said. "Apple is interested in all the potential ways you can evolve the car; that includes autonomous driving." Whether it will build and release an electric car or a more evolved autonomous vehicle remains to be seen, the source said.

But clearly Apple has sharply raised its ambitions in automotive technology. Car technology has become a prime area of interest for Silicon Valley companies ranging from Google Inc., which has built a prototype self-driving car, to electric car-maker Tesla Motors Inc.

An Apple spokesman in London on Saturday declined to comment on "rumours or speculation".

Trying to build an actual car would mark a dramatic shift for the maker of the iPhone and iPad. Apple often researches projects which are then discarded, but has so far mainly stuck to its core expertise in mobile and electronic devices.



PRAGATI LIFE INSURANCE

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director of Pragati Life Insurance, hands over a cheque for Tk 1.2 crore to Rajesh Ramakrisnan, managing director of Perfetti Van Melle, as death claim of two employees of the latter, at a programme recently.



BASIC BANK

AQM Kibriya, deputy managing director of BASIC Bank, poses with the participants of a foundation training course organised by the bank recently. M Kamran Hamid, deputy general manager, was also present.



AFC AGRO

AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, poses as ABM Ghulam Mostafa, chairman of AFC Agro Biotech, and Shahid Akter Hossain, pro-vice chancellor of Dhaka University, exchange documents of a deal at a programme recently for production of industrial enzymes at AFC's plant in Khulna.

Poultry show to kick off in Dhaka Thursday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An international poultry show as well as a seminar will begin in the capital on Thursday to help raise protein consumption in Bangladesh and explore global opportunities.

Some 147 local and international organisations will participate in the three-day show at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, said Moshir Rahman, president of World's Poultry Sciences Association's Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB).

"The poultry show will play a vital role in Bangladesh's mission to fulfil demand for chicken and egg in line with the poultry sector's vision for 2020," he said. Some 47 papers will be presented at the seminar.

Rahman announced the exhibition's schedule at a roundtable on "safe food and nutrition for future generation: role of poultry industry in Bangladesh" that was organised by WPSA-BB in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh is lagging behind in the nutritious food supply target although it has significantly improved health indicators in achieving its millennium development goals, livestock and nutrition experts said at the event.

On an average, every person in the country needs to increase consumption by 26 grams chicken and 23 grams of egg a day, to better health indicators. Currently,

nearly 38.7 percent of children aged between 0 to 59 months are stunted, 35.1 percent are under-weight and 16.3 percent are thin, they said.

Although the numbers of mothers and children have fallen, compared to the past, progress is not encouraging.

The poor eat very low amounts of eggs and chicken in Bangladesh, said Nazma Shaheen, professor at the Nutrition and Food Science Institute of Dhaka University.

"It is imperative to expand the poultry sector if we want to fulfil the demand for animal protein as per recommendations of United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation," she said.

M Gias Uddin, chief of animal health department of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, said, "There will be 22 crore people in Bangladesh by 2050. If we want to meet their food demand, we have to depend on the country's poultry industry."

Egg is such a product that has no scope of adulteration, he added.

Rahman of WPSA-BB said the government and private entrepreneurs need to work together to ensure safe and nutritious food for future generations.

Poultry industry operators have recently set a target to double their investment by 2020 from the existing Tk 25,000 crore to increase protein consumption in the country.



HATIL

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed presents the award for best pavilion at Dhaka International Trade Fair to Selim H Rahman, chairman of Hatil, at a programme recently.

Over 100 banks hit by sophisticated cyberattack

AFP, Washington

A sophisticated global cyberattack struck more than 100 banks in 30 countries stealing hundreds of millions of dollars, The New York Times reported Saturday.

Citing a soon to be released report from computer security company Kaspersky Lab, the newspaper said the attack involved malicious software that gave hackers long-term access to banking systems. A group of Russians, Chinese and Europeans was able to siphon off around \$300 million in one of the world's largest bank robberies, the report said.

The money was transferred to bank accounts around the world in small-value amounts to avoid detection.

Hackers largely focused on banks in Russia, but millions of dollars were also taken from banks in Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States as well, the Times said. Hackers had such advanced access to the banks' systems that they could force ATM machines to dispense cash at specific times and locations where hackers could pick it up.

BASIC Bank still suffers from after-effects of scams

FROM PAGE B1

Just three of BASIC's 68 branches -- Gulshan, Shantinagar and Dilkusha -- account for 80 percent of the classified loans and the recovery there remains woeful.

Gulshan branch had Tk 2,395 crore of default loans -- which is 73 percent of its total loan portfolio -- of which only Tk 26 crore was recovered last year.

Shantinagar branch's 64 percent of the loans were defaults; it managed to recover only Tk 8 crore of Tk 1,763 crore bad loans.

Dilkusha branch's defaults stood at Tk 905 crore, which is 60 percent of its total loans. It realised around Tk 41 crore.

However, after the new management took over, deposits, a pillar of the banking business, grew 6.41 percent.

Every official of its 68 branches has been given an individual target for deposit collection, said a senior official of BASIC Bank.

Historically a well-run bank, BASIC Bank's woes started when the Awami League government came to power in 2009 and appointed Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu as its chairman.

Under his influence, the bank indulged in all sorts of irregularities, which come to the fore in 2012 after a central bank investigation. Subsequently, the chief executive was removed and the board dissolved.

TVS Auto brings new bike

FROM PAGE B1

TVS Auto Bangladesh plans to raise its market share in 100cc segment from 12 percent to 25 percent by 2016, said Biplob Kumar Roy, business head of the company.

The company with 20 percent market share in Bangladesh's motorcycle industry expects the country's two-wheeler market to boom in the coming years, Roy said.

The company's turnover grew 40 percent last year compared with the previous year, he said. However, he did not disclose the turnover figure.

Assemblers and manufacturers sold around two lakh motorcycles in 2013-14, up from 1.83 lakh units in the previous year.

Ministries reluctant to spend foreign aid: minister

FROM PAGE B1

An official of the planning ministry said, when the government revises the ADP at the end of a fiscal year, it is seen that much of the foreign aid is refunded, but the government's own fund is spent almost entirely.

The planning minister asked the project directors to spend the entire amount of foreign aid and consult the ERD if they face any problem.

Canada plans to invest more in Bangladesh

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Through its development programme, Canada is helping to strengthen an enabling environment for business in Bangladesh, he said.

"As Bangladeshi businesses move up the value chain, it is essential that a healthy, educated, and skilled workforce be available."

In the garment sector, Canada is working with the government to strengthen the regulatory environment, especially workers' safety, Laramee said.

"As every business person knows, a stable and well-functioning regulatory system is one of the conditions for faster and more stable growth."

Since 2006, two-way trade has more than tripled and now stands at C\$1.9 billion. Trade remains in Bangladesh's favour, with the country exporting over C\$1.2 billion worth of merchandise. Canadian exports to Bangladesh in 2014 stood at C\$708 million.

During the period, Bangladesh has become the second largest source of Canadian merchandise imports from South

Asia, after India.

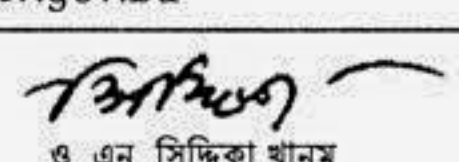
"With duty free access being offered to Bangladeshi exporters, there are tremendous opportunities to increase bilateral trade between our countries," Laramee said.

Mortzo Tarafder, a director for trade development of Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, which promotes the key province of Canada, said Canada has been offering a duty and quota free access to almost all products from Bangladesh since 2003, even before the US and the EU.

Canada imports furniture from Vietnam and China, he said. "This is an area where Bangladesh can make inroads, provided exporters can compete with better quality products."

CanCham, in association with the High Commission of Canada, organised the trade show.

Kamal Uddin, trade commissioner of the Canadian High Commission, and Ali Bakhtiar Mahmood, vice president of CanCham, were also present.

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১২। দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	৫ বছর বা তদুর্ধ্ব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন স্বাম্যমণ্ডল প্রতিষ্ঠান।
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১৫। বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	১. The Public Procurement Rules-2008 এর বিধি-বিধান মনোতে বাধ্য থাকবেন। ২. জাতীয় প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইমপ্লিমেন্টেশন অব ডিজিটাল একনেক (আইডিই) প্রকল্প, পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ বরাবর প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটারহেডে প্যাকে সিদ্ধি আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সিডিউলের শর্ত মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। ৩. দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় হালদাপাড়া ট্রেন লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, টিআইএনসহ হালদাপাড়া আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ (২০১৩-২০১৪), বাংলাক সলভেশন সনদ, ইন কর্পোরেশন সার্টিফিকেট, অথরাইজড ডিলারশিপ সার্টিফিকেট, এবং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে। ৪. দরপত্র জামানতের টাকা যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে বাংলাক পার্সিডি, বাংলাক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার আকারে জাতীয় প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইমপ্লিমেন্টেশন অব ডিজিটাল একনেক (আইডিই) প্রকল্প, পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ-এর অনুকূলে প্রদান করতে হবে। ৫. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
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