

POWER SECTOR IN FISCAL 2021-22

Budget raises question on will for clean energy

Says CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget of fiscal 2021-22 failed to reflect the country's recently-adopted stance of shifting from coal to renewable energy, raising questions on the government's commitment to clean power generation.

The ongoing fiscal year has been an eventful one for the power sector as the government has publicly announced abandoning coal-based power generation, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, yesterday.

On different international platforms, the prime minister announced Bangladesh's commitment to shifting towards clean power generation, he said in a dialogue styled "The Power Sector in the National Budget for FY2022: Perspectives on Allocative Priorities and Reform Agenda".

The 8th Five-Year Plan (fiscals 2021-25), which was unveiled in December last year, did not properly reflect the shifting stance

on power generation, focusing on further enhancement of generation capacity mainly based on fossil fuel, according to Moazzem.

The budget for fiscal 2021-22 was expected to be one of the first official documents that would reflect the government's political stance and policy commitments.

But there was little reflection of the government's commitment to moving towards a carbon-neutral economy in Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's budget speech in the parliament on June 3, Moazzem said.

"Coal-based power plants are still being financed," he said, while presenting the keynote paper at the webinar.

At present, renewable energy accounts for only 730 MW of electricity generation capacity, which is only 2.86 percent of total capacity.

And none of the projects under the Sustainable and Renewable Energy

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Risking their lives, people living on the slopes of hills in Sylhet city's Nayabazar Kalibari area. Heavy rain may trigger fatal landslides. This photo was captured recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

10-year-old Rajshahi girl raped, killed

No arrest yet in rape, abduction of Harijan girl in Gaibandha

STAR REPORT

A fourth-grader was killed after rape in Rajshahi yesterday, while three teenage boys were arrested for raping another minor girl in Manikganj.

In a separate incident in Gaibandha, a man was sued on Friday for raping a teenage girl throughout the last one and a half months.

The body of the 10-year-old victim of Rajshahi was recovered around 10:00am yesterday from a pile of straw near her house in Godagari upazila's Lalitanagar village, said police.

Quoting her family members, police said the victim went to bed around 11:00pm after having her dinner with her parents, but she was found missing in the morning.

Hours later, locals found her body and informed police, said Mahmudul Hasan, in-charge of nearby Kakonhat police outpost.

He said they thought the girl was murdered after rape and it occurred sometimes in the early hours of yesterday.

The official added that police were working to identify the criminals.

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Trafficking victim lost her baby in the womb

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A few months after she was trafficked to India and forced into sex work, 18-year-old Sania, not her real name, found out that she was pregnant.

But that didn't stop the traffickers from exploiting her.

Luckily, she managed to escape through the window of a massage parlour in Bengaluru on May 2 and got on a train to Kolkata. She arrived in Bangladesh on May 6 crossing the border in Jashore.

Like all the other victims of this racket, Sania fell into this trap in the hope of finding a well-paid and decent job in India. The international human trafficking racket came to the fore after footage showing a Bangladeshi woman being tortured in India went viral on social media.

Right after reaching Bengaluru, Sania was forced into sex work at different hotels and massage parlours in Bengaluru and Chennai.

After she came back to Bangladesh and reached her home in the capital, she fell sick and was taken to a hospital. The doctors said that her baby had not survived the ordeal and she had to undergo a surgery.

Sania's elder sister and aunt were also trafficked to India in November and

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Decision on aid postponed

JUNE 21, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PAKISTAN IN LIMBO

Delegates of western industrial powers and Japan today postponed discussion of fresh aid for Pakistan until a political settlement of the conflict

between East and West Pakistan is in sight. They represented the 11 nations to the aid to Pakistan consortium and had intended to arrange a date for a meeting with Pakistan government officials for talks on future help. But a delegate said they chose to "wait and see" what political settlement Pakistan President Yahya Khan has to offer before they pledge further aid.

"We just do not know when our next meeting will be," he added. The consortium heard a report by Peter Cargill, South Asia director of the World Bank who had just visited both parts of Pakistan for talks with the country's economic and political leaders. Cargill denied press reports that he had recommended £210 million emergency aid to Pakistan. Pakistan received £158 million from the western countries and Japan in 1970 to assist her current five-year economic plan.

However, the donor countries agreed to help India, who received £360 million in 1970. Cargill recommended that about £41.7 million be given as food.

About 120 Bangalees from London and Birmingham with placards reading "Foreign aid for Pakistan means genocide for Bangladesh" demonstrated outside the World Bank's office as the consortium's delegates gathered here. Police later herded them into a side street.

"Pakistan is bankrupt," one of the demonstrators said. "Its rulers can only continue their brutal war of oppression against the

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ABSENCE IN MEETING JS body for action against DGHS chief

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary watchdog yesterday expressed extreme disappointment over the absence of DGHS Director General ABM Khurshid Alam in its meeting.

The Jatiya Sangsad standing committee on the health ministry asked the officials concerned of the related ministry to take actions against Khurshid for not showing up to the meeting despite repeated requests, meeting sources said.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss purchase of health safety gears and Covid testing kits, steps taken to address the Covid vaccine

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Local body polls amid Covid fears

Voting in 204 unions, 2 municipalities today

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The elections to 204 union parishads and two municipalities and by-polls to the Laxmipur-2 constituency are going to be held today amid coronavirus fears.

The election will be held strictly following the health directives to prevent the spread of coronavirus, said the Election Commission officials.

EC Joint Secretary Asaduzzaman Arzu said that they have completed all preparations and believe that voting will be held peacefully.

"We have taken measures to prevent any kind of violence during and after the elections", he added.

Asked about the risks of holding polls during the Covid-19 pandemic, he said health measures would be strictly followed.

Hand washing and sanitising facilities will be available at the poll centres, he added.

The official said polling personnel must wear gloves and masks while issuing ballot papers, hand sanitizer for voters before entering the polling booths must be ensured, and physical distancing will be maintained.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 21

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
JAMAAT 4-20	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Vehicles have to go slow on the portion of road between Dhaka's Abdullahpur to Chandana Chowrasta of Gazipur on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway as rain water stagnates in potholes. The slow traffic also causes traffic jams. The photo was taken from Tongi Station Road area yesterday.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

Third Covid wave hits Brazil

Experts warn of worse ahead as daily deaths surpass 2,000

AGENCIES

Brazil became the second country after the United States to surpass 500,000 Covid-19 deaths as the South American giant grapples with a third wave of the pandemic.

"500,000 lives lost due to the pandemic that affects our Brazil and the world," Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga tweeted on Saturday.

The Health Ministry reported 500,800 deaths, including 2,301 in the last 24 hours, a toll that many experts say underestimate the real toll from the health crisis.

This week the average number of daily deaths surpassed 2,000 for the first time since May 10.

In large cities, life seems almost back to normal with restaurants, bars and shops open and many people in the streets not wearing face masks.

And yet the situation is critical in 19 of Brazil's 27 states with more than 80 percent occupancy of intensive care beds -- in nine of those states it's over 90 percent.

The "second wave," from January to April this year, was particularly deadly. The number of deaths increased exponentially with the arrival of the

Gamma virus variant that originated in Manaus, in the north of Brazil.

It gradually began to fall in May thanks in part to the closure of businesses when the pandemic was at its worst.

But many epidemiologists believe lockdown restrictions were lifted too soon at a time when daily deaths were still up around the 2,000 mark.

Brazil has recently received several batches of vaccines, including from US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, but the country has only managed to fully vaccinate 11 percent of the population,

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WE MOURN



MRS. MARINA YASMIN CHOWDHURY (1963-2021)

With profound grief, we regret to inform you that **MRS. MARINA YASMIN CHOWDHURY**, Honorable Vice Chairperson, East Coast Group and Sponsor Director, Prime Bank Limited, breathed her last on June 19, 2021 at Square Hospital. She is the wife of MR. AZAM J CHOWDHURY, Honorable Chairman, East Coast Group.

East Coast Group family is deeply mourning the sad demise of their revered guardian. She has been an inspirational icon to the Company, supporting the entity long years with her valuable vision and foresight. We pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul and convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.



East Coast Group