

Fresh Cement becomes the major supplier of cement in Payra Power Plant

Electricity now in every house

Says PM as she announces 100pc coverage, opens 1,320MW Payra power plant

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 13 YEARS

	2009	2022
Number of power plants	27	150
Power generation capacity (in MW)	4,942	25,514
Highest power generation (in MW)	3,268	13,792
Total power delivery lines (in km)	2,60,000	6,21,000
Population with access to power (in %)	47	100
Per capita power generation (in KWh)	220	560
Number of subscribers	1,08,00,000	4,21,00,000



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects the 1,320MW Payra Thermal Power Plant after inaugurating it in Patuakhali yesterday. During the inauguration, she said 100 percent of the country's population has been brought under electricity coverage.

PHOTO: BSS

STAR REPORT

It's a milestone that can make the country proud. From a mere 47 percent in 2009, Bangladesh has now ensured 100 percent coverage of electricity.

"Every house of the country now has access to electricity," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday while officially inaugurating the 1,320 MW Payra Thermal Power Plant, the largest of its kind in the country.

The PM said, "The biggest thing is that we have been able to illuminate houses of all the people."

She also said her government has managed to distribute power to every house in the remote hilly and hard-to-reach areas by setting up solar panels, and to char areas through submersible cables.

For the last 13 years, the government has been working tirelessly for the overall development of the power sector, the PM said.

Inaugurating the coal-fired power plant, she said, "It's a gift from me to the people of the country ahead of Ramadan and the holy Eid-ul-Fitr."

The prime minister released 1,320 pigeons, the symbol of peace, and went round the central control room of the plant after unveiling the plaque of the power plant in Patuakhali.

In her first in-person speech since the outbreak of the Covid-19 two years ago, she thanked China's president and its prime minister for their cooperation in setting up the power plant, which is a joint venture between Bangladesh and China.

Bangladesh is now ahead of India and Pakistan, which have brought 98 percent and 74 percent of their populations under the electricity network, according to World Bank data.

The power generation capacity has risen to 25,514 MW in February 2022 from 4,942 MW in January, 2009, according to data of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Per capita power generation has increased from 220 kWh to 560 kWh and distribution losses of electricity have been cut by 5.85 percent.

The PM's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, State Minister

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VIOLENCE AGAINST ROHINGYAS

It's genocide

Blinken announces at US Holocaust Memorial Museum

STAR REPORT

The Biden administration yesterday declared that the Myanmar army committed genocide and crimes against humanity by carrying out mass killings of the Rohingya Muslim population.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the decision at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Analysts say the decision should strengthen efforts to hold the Myanmar junta accountable.

"There was clear evidence of an attempt to destroy the Muslim minority," Blinken said, citing the killings of thousands and forcing close to a million to flee the country in 2016 and 2017, reports AFP.

"The United States has concluded that genocide has been committed seven times. Today marks the eighth. I have determined that members of the Burmese military committed genocide and crimes against humanity," he added.

The top US diplomat said the responsibility of determining whether genocide has been committed is one he takes "very seriously," especially given his own family history as the stepson of a Holocaust survivor.

He said the military's intent went beyond ethnic cleansing to the actual destruction of the Rohingyas. "The attack against Rohingya was widespread and systematic, which is crucial for reaching a determination of crimes against humanity."

Blinken noted 2017 remarks by Min Aung Hlaing,

the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military, that the government was "solving" an "unfinished job" in its destruction of Rohingya communities.

The Holocaust Museum prepared its own report in late 2017 with the Fortify Rights that concluded there was compelling evidence of crimes against humanity in Myanmar.

The US decision comes nearly 14 months after Joe Biden took office as president and pledged to conduct a new review of the violence in a shift from the stance of the Trump administration that had condemned the violence against the Rohingyas, but fell short of determining it as genocide.

Myanmar's military operation in 2017 forced about 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh, where they recounted killings, mass rape and arson.

Rohingyas had been facing persecution and were denied citizenship and other fundamental rights, forcing them to flee to the neighbouring country since the late 1980s. Following the violence in 2017, the UN

termed it a classic example of ethnic cleansing. Later, the UN Fact-Finding Mission said the Myanmar military had genocidal intent behind the crackdown.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018 determined the violence as genocide.

In 2019, the Gambia filed a case with the International Court of Justice in this regard. The International Criminal Court is also investigating

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GROUNDWATER

Bangladesh among top extractors Finds a recent UN study

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh is one of the 10 countries in the world that extract groundwater the most, found a recent report by the UN.

The excessive extraction of water is causing groundwater levels to drop.

Anwar Zahid, director of groundwater hydrology of the Bangladesh Water Development Board, said, "It is very alarming that the water table is fast depleting."

Apart from Dhaka, the depletion is also taking place in its surrounding areas and even in some rural areas, he told The Daily Star.

"The availability of freshwater would be scarce due to the quick depletion. At the same time, our agriculture and industry would also suffer," Zahid added.

The other six countries in the continent that made the top 10 list are China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, said the United Nations World Water Development Report 2022.

This is an annual flagship report that was this year styled "Making the invisible visible".

Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey account for roughly 60 percent of the world's total groundwater withdrawal, according to the report, which was unveiled yesterday.

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এশিয়া কাপে তীরমেনাদের স্বর্ণ জয়

এশিয়া কাপ ওয়ার্ল্ড রাংকিং (স্টেজ-০১) এর রিকার্ড মিক্সড, রিকার্ড নারী দলীয় ও রিকার্ড নারী একক ইভেন্টে ৩টি স্বর্ণ জয় করেছে আমাদের তীরসেনারা। তাদের এই দাপুটে জয়ে আমরা গর্বিত।

বাংলাদেশ আরচারি ফেডারেশনের গর্বিত উন্নয়ন সহযোগী

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