

NEWS

Nepal set to export 40mw power to Bangladesh via India today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Beginning at midnight yesterday, Nepal was set to export 40mw of electricity to Bangladesh through an Indian transmission grid.

Nepal, India, and Bangladesh inked a trilateral agreement on October 3 last year to export electricity produced by Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian transmission line.

As per the agreement, Nepal will export 40mw of electricity for five months from June 15 to November 15 using India's 400 kV Muzaffarpur-Baharampur-Bheramara transmission grid.

"The electricity will be transmitted to Bangladesh at 12:00am on June 15," a PTI report from Kathmandu said, citing sources in Nepal Electricity Authority.

Last year, Nepal exported electricity to Bangladesh on November 15 for a single day as a symbolic intent to implement the agreement.

As per the bilateral agreement reached between Nepal and Bangladesh, Nepal will charge \$0.064 (6.4 cent) per unit of electricity while selling to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has agreed to import electricity from Nepal for the next five years.

Youth killed after being hit by train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An unidentified youth was killed after being struck by a moving train at Teliapara Railway Station in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj yesterday afternoon.

The incident occurred around 3:30pm on the Dhaka-Sylhet railway line as the Chattogram-bound Paharika Express was passing through Teliapara station, police said.

According to witnesses, the youth was walking along the railway track while talking on his mobile phone and appeared unaware of the approaching train.

He was crushed under the wheels and died on the spot.

Joy Paul, sub-inspector of Teliapara Police Outpost, said upon receiving the information, a police team rushed to the scene and recovered the body.

The body was sent to Habiganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital morgue for post-mortem examination.

Efforts are underway to identify the deceased, said the police official.

Govt considers

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professionalise the legal aid programme further, the number of cases resolved through mediation can rise to one to two lakhs," he added.

Highlighting the government's reform goals, the adviser said the law ministry has been working with three primary objectives -- ensuring speedy and low-cost dispute resolution, enhancing access to justice, and alleviating the burden of litigation.

He said with the aim to expedite case disposal at low cost, they have already made an amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure.

"Also, we are in the final stages of amending the Code of Criminal

Procedure, which we aim to pass into a law within the next month," he added.

Mentioning ensuring justice is the second objective in the reform plan, Prof Asif said to strengthen the justice system, they have been focusing on digitalisation, upgrading the training curriculum for the judges, and enhancing judicial accountability with the support of legal experts.

The law adviser also said to improve access to justice and reduce case backlog, the government is going to reform the country's legal aid system.

He also said to expedite the resolution of legal aid cases, the ministry has planned to increase judicial manpower in this area.



Thick dust and sand blanket the Zero Point area of the Khulna-Satkhira highway, as continuous movement of buses and trucks on the poorly maintained road worsens air pollution. Commuters, residents, shopkeepers, and pedestrians -- especially children and the elderly -- suffer from respiratory issues, allergies, and other health problems due to prolonged exposure.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A constant struggle for Dhaka

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door lock was broken, but I had no choice. Suddenly, a man tried to force his way in. I had to hold the door shut with all my strength while he kept pushing from the outside. That experience terrified me. Since then, I totally avoid public restrooms."

However, Ismail Hossain, a security worker at the Ramma Public Toilet, disagreed. "There is no safety issue. We try to keep the washrooms clean and safe. But I think social taboos and shyness stop women from using them."

CONSEQUENCES

WOMEN FACE

The impact of limited access to public restrooms goes far beyond inconvenience -- it's a serious health and safety issue for women. "We're seeing more women with kidney disease and uterine infections," said Dr Farhad Hasan Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Renal Association. "Most are

students or professionals who spend long hours outside without access to clean toilets. They drink less water or delay urination, which causes serious harm to the body."

Dr Arefin Islam, country director of Noora Health, echoed this concern. "Lack of access to toilets affects both men and women, but it's far worse for women. It's not just a physical issue -- it takes a mental toll as well."

EXPERTS URGE ACTION

Dr Adil Mohammed Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, pointed to a lack of political will. "Policymakers don't face this issue. It affects working and middle-class people, not those in power," he said.

He also criticised the policy of charging for public toilet use. "The government spends crores on infrastructure but still asks the poor to pay for basic sanitation. That discourages use."

Locals block two advisers'

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of the Gowainghat upazila unit of Sramik Dal, said, "We demand that the stone lifting using the traditional manual method be authorised for the survival of the local stone workers."

The government's decision to ban stone lifting from Jaflong is an unjust act and we urge the Ministry of Tourism to promote eco-friendly tourism here and ensure

Earlier yesterday, Adviser Rizwana Hasan told reporters after visiting the area that the government will no longer allow stone extraction from the ecologically critical site.

"Jaflong has aesthetic and ecological importance. It is an Ecologically Critical Area. We've spoken to the Ministry of Tourism to promote eco-friendly tourism here and ensure

Dr Adil called for a public toilet every 500-600 metres across Dhaka, according to directives from the health ministry."

"We are not barring any of the July injured from receiving treatment here," he said in response to another question.

"But they must do so in accordance with hospital rules," he added.

Raju Islam, country director of WaterAid, echoed this concern. "Lack of access to toilets affects both men and women, but it's far worse for women. It's not just a physical issue -- it takes a mental toll as well."

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"Policymakers don't face this issue. It affects working and middle-class people, not those in power," he said.

"This is not just an issue of convenience," she said. "It's about safety, dignity, employment, and health. Women skip meals, avoid drinking water, limit their travel, and give up job opportunities -- all because the city has failed them."

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