

Load shifting bangladesh

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In 2009, Bangladesh had 27 power plants with a total generation capacity of around 5,000 MW (4,942 MW). Over more than a decade, the number of power plants has increased to 152, with several more under construction. As a result, the current generation capacity stands at 27,000 MW. Even with so many power plants and high production capacity, load shedding remains common in various regions. While load shedding was tolerable before, in mid-2022, it suddenly escalated due to the energy crisis.

A Bloomberg report mentioned that after the Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2022, global fuel prices skyrocketed. Starting mid-February 2022, the price of LNG (liquefied natural gas) in the Asian spot market soared. To avoid putting pressure on the foreign exchange reserves, Bangladesh could not purchase LNG according to demand, leading to load shedding. Although the government at that time managed to control load shedding after a few months, by the end of August 2024, following the government's collapse, load shedding returned. But why did load shedding return again?

On September 11, when load shedding reached its peak, the Power and Energy Advisor stated that it might take another three weeks to fully resolve the issue. However, much of the problem had already been brought under control. Yet, for a growing economy like Bangladesh, the recurring problem of load shedding is alarming. To solve this issue, long-term solutions are needed.

The country experienced a total of 1915 MW of load shedding today (July 19, 2022), the first day of a new era of area-wise planned power cuts announced by the government, that many believed they had left behind for good.

"We generated a total of 12,442 MW of electricity against a demand for 14,400 MW. The load shedding was planned to be 1915 MW to cover the gap between demand and supply," said Shamim Hasan, director, public relations, of the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) at 8pm today.

Dhaka metropolis and its adjoining areas started facing power outages this morning, with distribution companies (discoms) resorting to rationing of electricity to avert an energy crisis looming over Bangladesh.

Following a high-level meeting at the prime minister's office on yesterday, Prime Minister's Energy Advisor Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Choedhury announced the Bangladesh government's plan to resort to two hours of power cuts daily in each zone to tackle the energy crisis affecting electricity generation in the country.



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Following the government's decision, different power distribution entities - Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited and Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited - published their area-wise outage plans.

The government also announced a slew of measures for saving electricity, including the closure of shopping malls and markets by 8pm and the restricted use of air-conditioners. Plans are afoot to limit office hours and keep fuel outlets closed one day every week.

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