

Afghanistan retail store energy storage

FARAH, Afghanistan, June 21 (Xinhua) -- A zero energy cold storage with a capacity of keeping 500 tons of agricultural products has been built in Afghanistan's western Farah province, Mawlawi Nooruddin Anas, provincial director for agriculture, irrigation and livestock, said on Wednesday.

In recent months, the government was able to enter into discussions with its neighbouring counterparts and resumed and/or extend power supply contracts. For instance, in December 2021, Afghanistan's electric utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) signed a contract with the National Electric Grid (NEG) of Uzbekistan for electricity imports through 2022. In January 2022, DABS signed an agreement with Tajikistan's Tajik Electricity Company for the extension of the import of electricity.

Electricity generation declined by nearly 20 per cent to 1,031 GWh in 2020 from 1,285 GWh in 2019. Domestic generation accounts for only 20 per cent of electricity supply in the country while the rest is met by imports. During 2020, electricity imports stood at 5,152 GWh, an increase of about 5 per cent over 4,912 GWh in 2019.

Regarding transmission, the segment is highly fragmented, comprising isolated grid systems that are fed power from various plants and import sources. The power system is divided into four networks--the North East Power System (NEPS), which is connected with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; the South East Power System (SEPS); the Herat Zone System, which is connected with Iran and Turkmenistan; and the Turkmenistan System.

To improve energy security, Afghanistan needs to invest in generation projects, but new project announcements are few and far between. Recently, the Khepelwak Group Company expressed an interest in setting up a coal-fired power generation plant in the country.

Earlier in September 2020, a USD160 million deal was signed between Afghanistan, the US, Turkey and India to add 110 MW of solar and wind capacities in the country. The projects were proposed to be developed in Kabul, Balkh and Herat by a local company with partners from other countries. However, the status of the deal following the change of political regime is uncertain. The proposed projects include the 25 MW Western Herat-I solar plant, the 25 MW Western Herat-II wind plant, the 40 MW Northern Balkh solar plant and the 25 MW Naghlu Dam floating solar plant.

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