Source: My Republica, 11 April 2021

Kalikot residents have not been receiving electricity for 10 months

MANMA, April 11: It has been over ten months since the residents of Kalikot have been spending nights in the dark, due to disruption in power supply. The power supply was disrupted after the Santighat Small Hydro Power Project in Triveni Rural Municipality became dysfunctional.

People in the district headquarters Manma receive power supply for two hours a day with the help of a generator. However, there is no sight of regular power supply, said local resident Prem Bahadur Shahi. As a result, daily activities have been affected.

Meanwhile, power supply poles to connect to the national power grid have been constructed but it's not sure when it will come into operation, said Bikram Bahadur Shahi of Raskot Municipality-6.

“The Santighat Project is also being renovated while work is underway to connect Kalikot to the national power grid,” said an official at the National Electricity Authority, Kalikot Distribution Center.

According to the Economic Survey, 2075, more than 73 per cent of the people in Karnali Province have no access to power supply. A total of 43 of the 79 local levels of Karnali are yet to have access to power.

Source: My Republica, 12 April 2021

Import of electromechanical equipment stuck in China for months due to lockdown resumes

RASUWA, April 12: The import of electromechanical equipment meant for the Upper Sanjen Hydroelectric Project, which is under construction in Rasuwa, has resumed after several months.

Government officials said the import of electromechanical goods halted for several months due to the global spread of the COVID-19, has resumed from Lhasa, China. The Chinese contractor Dongfang Electric International Corporation, which is in charge of the electromechanical construction of the project, will bring the materials within a month.

Project Chief Sudan Singh Mahat said that all the materials would be delivered to Nepal by mid-May. “Now the process of getting the materials shipped has started,” he said. “Once the materials arrive in Nepal, the Chinese workers will start installing the equipment.”

Most of the electromechanical materials come from China and problems arose when the Chinese authorities halted export after enforcing a border lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. He said that the installation of hydromechanical and electromechanical equipment has not started due to delay in the arrival of Chinese workers owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. “The installation work of the equipment will start after the arrival of the Chinese team,” he told Republica. “Production will start within nine months of the start of the work.”

Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 12 April 2021

Badera Substation At Final Stage, 15,000 Trees To Be Felled For Sunwal-Bardaghat Transmission Line

Some 15,000 trees of the local community forests are to be felled to clear ground for the 220kv new Butwal-Bardaghat transmission line. The transmission line is being installed with the investement of Rs. 650 million of the government of Nepal.

Ashok Pokhrel, information officer of the new Butwal-Bardaghat 220kv transmission line and sub-station project, informed that construction work of the substation of the 220kv transmision line at Badera, near Sunwal, in West Nawalparasi has entered the final stage and that a large number of trees needed to be cut down to expand the transmission line from Badera to Bardaghat, which is the second stage of the project.

To take the electricity line to the electricity centre at Bardaghat from the 220kv substation being beilt at Badera, Sunwal Municipality-12, plan has been made to stretch the transmission line along the basin of the Chure hills lying to the north of the East-West Highway, according to Pokhrel.

The area from which the transmission line is to be stretched falls under the community forest and that about 15,000 tress have to be cut down for expanding the transmission line.

The transmission line will be 21 km long from Sunwal to Bardaghat substation and this will go through Bardagoriya of Sunwal Municipality, wards no 1 and 3 of Saralwal Rural Municiaplity, wards no 2, 4, and 10 of Bardaghat Municipality. Similarly, trees of Chisapani community forest, Badera community forest, Baba Bardgoriya community forest, Bhagawati community forest, Kotai community forest, Dambarbhar community forest, among others, are to be felled to clear the way for the transmission line.

PowerChina Sepco1 Electrical Power Construction Company is building the transmission line which will have 60 towers in the stretch of 21 km and that the construction will be completed within two years.

Following the construction of the substation and the transmission line, electricity generated in hydel projects in the Kaligandaki basins will be connected with the national grid and it will make it easy for expansion of electricity supply in Nawalparasi, Butwal and Bhairahawa, which will in turn provide electricity in sufficient amount for the burgeoning industries in the area.

Source: My Republica, 16 April 2021

Indian govt allows NEA to purchase electricity under free market mechanism through energy exchange market

KATHMANDU, April 16: Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) can now access the Indian market to purchase electricity at competitive prices set by the free market, with the Indian government incorporating the power-utility authority of Nepal as a member of NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd, India.

According to the NEA, India's Ministry of Power notified the Nepali authority after approving Nepal's request for allowing the NEA to be a member of the Indian energy exchange market. "The new development could set a milestone for Nepal as it will also open the access for the landlocked country to carry out energy trade with Bangladesh," said NEA Executive Director Hitendra Dev Shakya.

Shakya said with the decision of the Indian government, Nepal can now purchase electricity from the market of its southern neighbor. "But, Nepal's request for allowing its electricity to sell in the Indian market is yet to be decided," he said.

Nepal is looking forward to selling its surplus energy as per the free market prices in India. Currently, the government has proposed selling the electricity produced by the Upper Tamakoshi (456 MW) and Bhotekoshi Hydropower Project (45 MW) in the Indian market through this mechanism.

According to NEA, after receiving a permit from India, the power utility has immediately started the process to purchase 30 MW of electricity from the Indian market.

Source: The Himalayan Times, 15 April 2021

NEA selects contractor to instal electric vehicle charging stations across Nepal

The government has initiated the groundwork for installation of charging stations for electric vehicles across the country.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), on Tuesday, handed over the contract for the project titled 'Supply, delivery, installation, testing, commissioning, operation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations' to a Chinese contractor, Jiangsu Wanbang Dehe New Energy Technology Company.

The EV charging stations will be installed at 50 locations in the seven provinces.

According to NEA, the contract for the project worth Rs 377.9 million has been signed between the authority and the contractor.

As per the agreement, the contractor company will take the responsibility of maintenance of the charging stations for five years after they are brought into operation. Every station will have chargers of 142 kW capacity and 50 KVA transfer, along with online billing system. Three vehicles will be able to charge at once in the stations.

While NEA is installing software at its data centre to handle more than 300 such charging stations, the control hub for all the 50 charging stations will be in Kathmandu. Meanwhile, digital payment gateway will be used for bill payment at the charging stations.

According to NEA, the charging stations will be installed along the highways and the city bus parks. In this course, seven stations will be installed in Kathmandu valley.

Moreover, such charging stations will be installed in Damak, Bhadrapur, Kankai, Biratnagar, Sunsari in Province 1.

Similarly, in Province 2, it will be installed in Birgunj, Simara, Chandrapur, Dhalkebar and Janakpur, Bardibas and Rajbiraj.

Meanwhile, two stations each will be installed in Malekhu, Sindhuli, Hetauda, Bharatpur, Kurintar and one station in Kavre. One station each will be installed in Nawalpur, Damauli and Syangja, while three stations will be installed in Pokhara.

Meanwhile, one station each will be set up in Nepalgunj, Bhalubang, Dang, Butwal, Bardaghat and Sunwal.

Similarly, one station each will be installed in Mahendranagar, Dhangadhi, Surkhet and Dadheldhura.