

# ENERGY & POWER

## Southwest

### Ensure Energy To Tap Full Potential

- Fuel Supply Main Challenge
- Focus on Developing Skilled Workforce
- Bravo Sheikh Hasina! You Have Done It

## নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

দেশের উন্নয়ন অগ্রযাত্রায় গর্বিত অংশীদার

# অনিবার্ণ আগামা

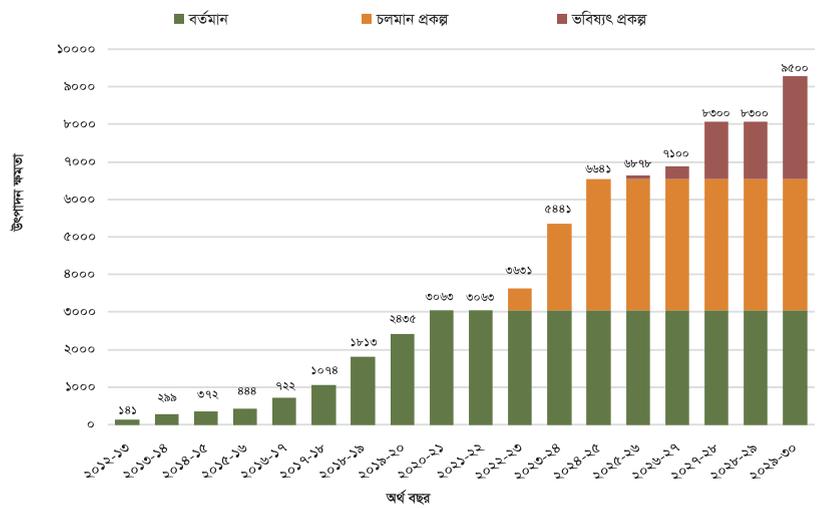
বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সপ্তাহ ২০১৮



দ্রুত বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন  
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পাওয়ার জেনারেশন  
কোম্পানি লিমিটেড  
এর প্রধান নির্বাহী  
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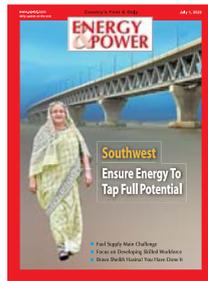
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## EDITORIAL

Bangladesh as also other countries of the world on 25 June 2022 witnessed the grand opening of Padma Bridge, a mega project that connected the country's south-southwestern region with the capital city, Dhaka. This is considered not just a mere infrastructure, but a corridor that opened a wide horizon for the economic development of the lagged-behind regions of the country. It is expected that the economic activities in the regions would increase substantially and the GDP growth to get an extra pace of 1.2% annually. However, there is a downside risk in achieving the full potential of the areas as a section of experts has expressed such an apprehension. They feared that the energy to be required for running the wheels of expected economic activities would not be available in time. They argued that though a few baseload power generation plants having substantial capacities are being developed in the regions, those would face setbacks mainly due to an inadequate, or an expensive, supply of primary energy.

The authorities concerned will have to think deeper into the problem and plan accordingly to tap the full economic potential of the regions offered by the dream bridge. The necessary fuels should be made available as required and that should be affordable particularly for the industries to be developed there as well as the people of the regions in general.

*Cover Photo: Focus Bangla*

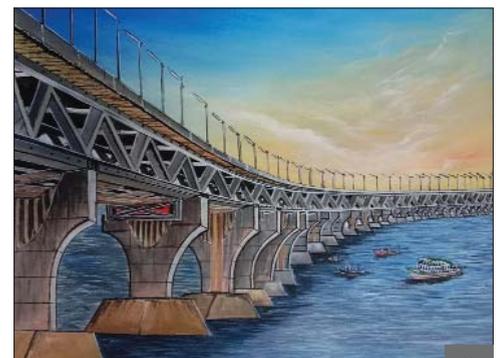
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Developing countries have expressed disappointment as climate talks in Bonn, Germany concluded on June 16 with major polluter nations shopping around for new fossil fuels and blocking finance for vulnerable people and communities impacted by climate-induced loss and damage. The conference showed the disconnect between the negotiation rooms and the reality of people suffering from climate change... More in Climate



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A sustainable supply of energy would be a major challenge to the smooth and equitable economic development of southwestern Bangladesh after the opening of the Padma Bridge on 25 June 2022. People of 21 districts in southwestern Bangladesh have started dreaming of getting integrated into mainstream economic development. Economists and analysts observe that the mega project, financed from the country's own coffer, would add 1.2 percent to the GDP growth annually.



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We have received requests for negotiation either with individual IPP or their association. Payment is made to IPPs which use imported liquid fuel, following the provisions of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). We have no scope as per PPA to renegotiate the price for cost increase due to dollar rate fluctuations.... Engineer Md Mahbubur Rahman Tells EP



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## Greenpage

Encouraged by the readers and patrons, the EP would continue bringing out Green Pages to contribute to the country's efforts in its journey towards environment-friendly energy.



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## Energy Crisis Grips Australia



Australians have been warned to expect blackouts across the densely populated east coast recently, as an energy crisis grips one of the world's biggest coal and gas producers.

The Australian Energy Market Operator warned there could be significant power shortfalls in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, which are home to more than 13 million people. It also issued notices for a

forecast of reserve shortfalls in the states of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Newly elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese blamed the energy crisis on the previous government, which was in power for nearly a decade.

"The consequence of the former government's failure to put in place an energy policy is being felt right now," he told reporters in Brisbane.

Albanese said "all things are on the table" as his government examines how to ease the crisis, which has dominated his centre-left government's first weeks in power.

## India's Fuel Demand Jumps 24pc



India's fuel consumption jumped 23.8 per cent in May from a year earlier, continuing a recovery from a relatively low base in 2021 when the world's third biggest oil consumer was in the grip of a second wave of Covid-19.

Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totaled 18.27 million tonnes last month, according to data from the Indian oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

Last month's increase was the biggest year-on-year jump since April 2021. Consumption also rose

modestly, by 0.4 per cent, from April.

The yearly increase is "because of a lower base, as demand in May 2021 was low due to high Covid cases at that time," although the monthly rise was surprising, said Refinitiv analyst Ehsan Ul Haq.

"However, high oil prices are likely to have an impact on consumption in the next few months. High fuel prices do not bode well for motorists all over the world," he added.

Consumption of diesel rose 31.7 per cent in May year-on-year to 7.29 million tonnes and was up about 32.6 per cent from two years earlier.

Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 51.5 per cent higher than a year earlier at 3.02 million tonnes.

## Saudi Arabia to cut oil supplies to China: Reports

Saudi Arabia will cut oil shipments to China in July, according to recent reports, citing sources with knowledge of the matter.



The world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Aramco, has notified at least four Chinese refiners that it will be supplying less than the contracted volumes of oil next month.

Sources say the move is due to the fact that China is increasing imports of Russian oil at a substantial discount, which Moscow offered to buyers after Western states began canceling Russian deliveries amid the Ukraine-related sanctions.

In addition, there is growing

demand for Saudi oil in the world, especially in Europe, amid the phasing out of Russian energy and the search for new suppliers.

Reports also state that refineries in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and India will receive their oil in full, while some will even receive extra supplies, including a Malaysian refinery in Pengerang. Also, at least three European refiners have received full contractual volumes for July delivery from the Saudi company, sources say.

## Petrobras CEO Quits

The CEO of Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras, who has stayed in his post despite being fired by Jair Bolsonaro in May, resigned recently



after a new fuel price hike that enraged the far-right president.

Jose Mauro Coelho is the third Petrobras CEO to leave since February last year in a stand-off between the company and Bolsonaro over fuel prices.

Petrobras announced Coelho's resignation recently.

The company said Fernando Borges -- its

head of exploration and production -- would take over temporarily until government pick Caio Paes de Andrade, an economy ministry official, assumes the top job.

Coelho was appointed for a one-year term in April after Bolsonaro fired his predecessor Joaquim Silva e Luna in March after slightly more than a year in the post.

## Nasrul Warns Actions Against Culprits Preventing Illegal Power Connections Drive



If anyone attempts to stop drive against illegal power and natural gas connections, they will face severe consequences, warned State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid.

“Severe actions will be taken if anyone tries to resist the drive against illegal power and gas connections as well as the outstanding arrears,” he said.

The state minister’s reactions came after an office assistant of Palli Biddut Samity-1 in Bagura was killed by the miscreants during a drive.

Md Abdul Hannan was killed during a drive of the Rural Electrification Board team against illegal electricity connections at Pukur Bazar Area under the Bagura Palli Biddut Samity recently.

Police arrested five people in the incident and continued raids to find any more suspects.

Nasrul Hamid expressed profound shocks and sorrow over the killing of Md Abdul Hannan, and expressed condolences to the victim’s family.

## Fire Snaps Gas Supply at Adamjee EPZ



The gas supply has been snapped at Narayanganj’s Adamjee Export Processing Zone due to a fire that broke out at an under-construction building inside the EPZ recently.

Firefighters were unable to move closer and extinguish the fire and had to cut off the gas supply to bring the blaze under control.

However, the fire was doused completely after six-hours of effort by nine firefighting units, said Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence.

‘The fire erupted due to a crack in the gas pipeline during the piling works at an under-construction building by Pallmall Group,’ he said.

## Titas Gas Official Charged for Amassing Wealth

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) recently pressed charges against Tahurul Islam, senior supervisor of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd, in a case filed over amassing wealth worth Tk 1.64 crore and concealing wealth statement of Tk 53.35 lakh.



Ali Akbar, ACC deputy director and also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court.

In the charge sheet, IO Akbar said the charges brought against Tahurul were primarily proved and he should be brought under trial for committing such offences.

The ACC filed the case against Tahurul with its Integrated District Office, Dhaka-1 on August 19 of 2020.

## Karnaphuli Gas Officers' Welfare Assoc Gets New Body



The election of the executive committee of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited Officers’ Welfare Association to elect new leaders was held at the head office of the company in Chattogram recently.

The association members elected Anupam Datta as the president and Md Belal Uddin as the general secretary, said a press release.

The voters elected Md Tazul Islam Chowdhury and Md Farid Ahmed Khan as vice-presidents, Md Golam Shahjahan as joint general secretary, Md Mubinul Alam as assistant general secretary, Md Kamrul Islam as organising secretary, Shahadat Osman Khan as finance secretary, Md Kutubur Rahman as office secretary, Ershadul Islam as information and publicity secretary, Mohammad Habibur Rahman as sports and cultural secretary, Ariful Haque as welfare secretary.

The newly elected members of the executive committee are Md Shahidul Islam Tareq, Md Imran Ali, Md Sarwar Zaman, Jamil Ur Rab and Tanzim Zaman.

# বসুন্ধরা

এল. পি. গ্যাস



পরম যত্নে জয়া আহসান জনমানুষের কাছে যেমন  
হয়ে আছেন অনন্যা, তেমনি বসুন্ধরা এল. পি. গ্যাসও সীমাহীন যত্নে  
হয়ে উঠেছে সবার প্রিয় এল. পি. গ্যাস ব্র্যান্ড।

আন্তর্জাতিক মান বজায় রেখে বসুন্ধরা এল. পি. গ্যাস তার সিলিন্ডার উৎপাদন,  
রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও গ্যাস ফিলিং কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে আসছে দীর্ঘ ২২টি বছর। প্রতিদিনের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ  
আমাদের সিলিন্ডারের তলানীতে জমতে দেয় না কিছুই, থাকে পরিপূর্ণ গ্যাস।  
সাধারণ সিলিন্ডারের তুলনায় তাই চলেও বেশিদিন।

## যত্ন সীমাহীন তাই চলে বেশিদিন



## Momen Meets Indian Energy Minister



Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, while visiting India recently, met the country's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi to discuss bilateral cooperation in

the energy sector.

"FM Momen emphasized on the collaboration and cooperation in energy sector while meeting the Indian Minister," Bangladesh Foreign Ministry tweeted.

Momen was attending the seventh meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Commission for Cooperation, our New Delhi correspondent reports. He also called on Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the latter's official residence in New Delhi today.

Naidu noted India has special relations with Bangladesh.

## Abdul Muhith Bangladesh's Envoy to UN



The government has appointed Muhammad Abdul Muhith as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

Muhith belongs to the 11th batch of BCS (FA) cadre and he will replace Rabab Fatima, a foreign ministry press release said here recently.

Muhith, a career diplomat, is currently serving as the Bangladesh Ambassador to Austria and the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Offices and other International Organizations in Vienna, with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Prior to that, he served as the Bangladesh Ambassador to Denmark and was concurrently accredited to Estonia and Iceland.

In his diplomatic career, Muhith has served in Bangladesh Missions in Kuwait, Rome, Doha, Washington DC as well as in the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and in the Ministry in different capacities.

He obtained BSS and MSS degrees in Sociology from the University of Dhaka.

## Bashundhara LP Gas Signs MoU with Apparel Wet Processing

Apparel Wet Processing Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bashundhara LP Gas Limited



aiming to boost production without harming the environment.

As per the agreement signed recently, Bashundhara LP Gas will provide alternative fuel technical support to Apparel Wet for the next 10 years, reads a press release.

Bashundhara will also provide incessant gas connection to the apparel factory once a bulk LPG tanker is installed there.

At the MoU signing ceremony, Chief Financial Officer Mahbub Alam, Brand and Marketing sector's CEO MM Jasim Uddin, Head of HR Saad Tanveer, Head of Division for Sales Engineer Zakaria Jalal, Supply Chain Division's GM Sarwar Hossain Sohag and Vice-Chairman's Secretary Mushfiqur Rahman were present from Bashundhara Group.

From Apparels Wet Processing, Managing Director Zillur Rahman Mridha, CEO Taslim Ahmed, Director Amit Kanti, Company Secretary Mujibul Islam, Head of Engineering Department Kawser Rahman attended the event.

## NESCO Bill Payment Through upay



Mobile financial service provider upay has signed an agreement with Northern Electricity Supply Company Limited (NESCO), facilitating around 17 lakh customers to pay their electricity bills through upay.

Rezaul Hossain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of upay, and Zakiul Islam, Managing Director of NESCO, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations recently at the NESCO head office in the city, says a press release.

The NESCO customers, from now on, can pay both the prepaid and postpaid bills from their upay accounts 27/4, sitting in the comfort of their homes.

Moreover, the customers do not have to pay any service charges to avail of the bill payment service. They can pay the bill by using the upay app or dialing USSD \*268#.



## Southwest

# Ensure Energy To Tap Full Potential

Mollah Amzad Hossain

**A** sustainable supply of energy appears to as a major challenge to the smooth and equitable economic development of southwestern Bangladesh after the opening of the Padma Bridge on 25 June 2022. People of 21 districts in southwestern Bangladesh have started dreaming of getting integrated into mainstream economic development.



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Economists and analysts observe that the Tk 30,000 crore worth of mega project, financed from the country's own coffer, would add 1.2 percent to the GDP growth annually. The bridge authorities are confident of getting back the investment in 35 years. Many believe that like Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge return of investment of Padma Multipurpose Bridge will be achieved much earlier from toll collections. Initiatives for the planned industrialization of the 21 districts have been launched since the commencement of the physical commencement of the mega project. Different projects are under implementation for multi-faceted development of the region including the Mongla and Payra ports of the region. These will act as catalysts for regional trading as well.

Plans are there under implementation for developing three export processing zones (EPZ) and seventeen special economic zones (SEZ) in the region. Construction works of some of these are now at advanced stages. The power generation hub has been set up at Payra, Patuakhali. 1320MW capacity Payra imported coal-based power plant has already started commercial operation. NWPGL, Bangladesh and CMC China under a joint venture are implementing another power project of the same capacity. RPCL in JV with another Chinese company is also implementing another 1320MW power plant in the region. Contingent upon the availability of gas, BCPCL will set up 3600MW gas-fired power plants. On the other hand, NWPGL has made significant advancements in the construction of an 800MW gas-based power plant at Khulna. Some power transmission lines are now under construction for evacuation of power and supply to different growth centers. The power transmission line parallel to Padma Multipurpose Bridge is nearing completion.



The entire population of Bangladesh including those of 21 districts of the South-Southwestern region has been brought under the coverage of power supply. Western Zone Power Distribution Company Limited under visions 2025, 2030, 2035 and 2041 is working on ensuring quality power supply on an uninterrupted basis to all in the region. With similar visions, 20 PBSs of BREB are also working. Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) is working on smooth power transmission by shortening the lengths of the power transmission lines in the region. The unique climate disaster-prone geography of the region presents much greater challenges to an uninterrupted power supply. Despite the above plans having been finalized for supplying power to industrial, commercial, agricultural and domestic power users of the 21 districts, many other action plans are in the formulation stages. But the success of achieving a sustainable power supply for all is largely contingent upon a sustainable supply of primary fuel. Plans are there for a fuel mix of 40% gas, 50% coal and 10% liquid fuel and other sources. Effectively due to a depletion of proven reserves of own natural gas and the government's move away from the coal exploitation program, the power generation would almost

exclusively rely on imported coal, LNG and liquid fuel. Some initiatives are visible for renewable power generation like solar and wind. But only a few mentionable contributions have been achieved. A 100MW solar power plant of Orion Group at Bagerhat has started operation. Some solar and wind power may be added to the power grid soon. Solar power generation is expected from Rampal as well soon.

However, fuel – gas, coal, liquid fuel, and renewable sources – is a basic requirement for power generation and industries. Till now, the power plants in operation in the region are importing their own coal. For the shallow drafts of the coast, smaller vessels with lesser capacity are being used for coal transportation. The costs are increasing as a result. The global market crash of coal for geopolitical and other reasons has also jacked up the imported coal price. This has increased the power generation cost substantially. All the liquid fuel-based plants also are using expensive imported fuels. Most of the liquid fuel is imported through the Chattogram port. Sundarban Gas Distribution Company Limited (SGDCL), created with the responsibility to supply gas to 21 districts of the region, now supplies

about 50-55 MMCFD gas in Bhola only from the BAPEx-operated Shahbajpur gas field. Optimum production from this field cannot be exploited due to the delayed implementation of the planned power plants at Bhola.

The present demand for power in the WZPDCL franchise area is 650MW. In 2030, it may grow to 850MW. Engr. Md Azharul Islam, Managing Director at WZPDCL, informed the EP that they supply power to the urban areas. Due to a very limited industrial demand, the overall demand is limited in the area. They are implementing some projects for ensuring an uninterrupted supply of quality power to all.

The planned industrialization will take place in the BREB franchise areas. Twenty PBSs are working in 21 districts now. The present demand is 2015MW. By 2030, the projected demand is 3780MW. The BREB and PBSs are implementing various projects for meeting the projected demand. Sources at the BREB said that subject to the availability of supply from the upstream segment of the power supply chain, these can meet the projected demand on time.

The SGDCL, keeping Bhola separate, has assessed the possible gas demand of 20 districts in 2024. Their estimate is 711 MMCFD. Power will require 412 MMCFD and industries 299 MMCFD. No assessment has been made yet for demand beyond 2024 to 2030. If all EPZs, SEZs and BSCIC enterprises are developed on time, the demand for gas may double by 2030 and triple by 2041. Petrobangla sources claimed that if Bhola gas fields can be developed as planned by 2025-26, about 160-200 MMCFD gas supply will be possible. A feasibility study on connecting gas fields of Bhola to the national gas grid at Feni suggests that a subsea pipeline is technically not possible. Five different options have been suggested for



A View of Mongla Port

supplying gas from Bhola to Barishal, Khulna and Gopalganj.

### **Options to Supply Gas from Bhola**

- 175 KM Shahbajpur-Bhola-Barishal-Khulna pipeline including 5 KM subsea pipeline.
- 100 KM Shahbajpur-Bhola-Mehediganj-Barishal pipeline including 2.5 KM HDD crossing.
- 65 KM Shahbajpur-Bhola-Barishal pipeline including 5 KM subsea pipeline.
- 136 KM Shahbajpur-Bhola-Muladi-Takerhat pipeline including 2.5 KM HDD crossing.
- 136 KM Shahbajpur-Bhola-Muladi-Gopalganj pipeline including 2.5 KM HDD crossing.

Petrobangla has been advised by the Energy & Mineral Resources Division to implement the most feasible option after a comprehensive feasibility study as soon as possible. Petrobangla sources informed the EP that it may not be feasible to connect Bhola gas fields to the national gas grid before 2027-28 after completing the detailed feasibility study, getting the necessary project approval based on recommended option, land

acquisition, and construction of the pipeline.

A 30 inches OD pipeline construction along the Padma Bridge has already been completed under the supervision of GTCL. Petrobangla sources informed the EP that 30 inches all the way from the national gas grid at Langalband-Mawa-Jazira-Takerhat has been planned. This may cost US\$ 400-500 million. The plan for commencement of implementation is from January 2023. If it is possible to proceed, the project may be completed by 2026. But the question is where from additional gas will come? The national gas grid has been extended to Khulna in 2016. But no gas can be supplied till now. Petrobangla sources said it would be possible to add 615 MMCFD new gas to the national grid by 2025 if the 46 exploration, development wells, and workovers as planned can be implemented. The total production from own sources may be increased to 2600-2700 MMCFD. The present LNG import capacity is 1000 MMCFD. But a decision has been taken not to further import from the volatile spot market unless it is unavoidable. Consequently, not more than 650 MMCFD RLNG may be available for the gas grid in the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, Petrobangla has initiated a negotiation with H-Energy India for importing 200 MMCFD RLNG through a pipeline, connecting the Bangladesh gas grid at Vomra, Satkhira. Even if the negotiation bears fruits, no RLNG may be available before 2026.

A proposal of Excelerate Energy Bangladesh Limited for supplying LNG to Payra and Khulna through a 90 KM subsea pipeline from a deep water LNG infrastructure off the coast of Kuakata has been given the green signal for negotiation. From the time of concluding an agreement signed, it may take 36-48 months for supplying LNG. Negotiation with Summit Energy for a 3rd FSRU at Maheshkhali is going on for a while. This may also take 18-24 months for completion after the signing of the agreement. The government is proceeding ahead with a Land-Based Terminal at Matarbari. At this stage, Petrobangla is optimistic about completing it by 2027. If all the above LNG supply infrastructure can be successfully implemented, the infrastructure will be in place for the 3200 MMCFD LNG supply chain. But success from this would largely depend on Bangladesh's capability for sourcing LNG and successfully completing longer-term LNG purchase contracts. Much will also depend on the LNG price stability of the spot market as well.

We are aware that the 1320MW Payra power plant is in operation. By 2026, another unit of similar capacity at Payra and a similar capacity power plant at Rampal, Bagerhat, and the other under-construction plant will be delivering together 5580MW power to the national grid. The annual coal demand for these plants will be 16 million tonnes. The required infrastructure for importing this huge volume of coal could not be



A View of Mongla EPZ

set up yet. The shallow draft of the coast in the region is not suitable for this. If the Coal Transshipment Terminal at Matarbari can be set up by 2027, coal supply to all power plants based on imported coal would be easier. Sumitomo Japan has backed out from it after expressing interest earlier. In the global reality, getting FDI for this will not be easy at all. The most feasible alternative can be developing our own mines and proving a railway system for the transportation of coal. But exploitation of coal appears to be not in the vision of the government.

It appears that the power supply chain development including generation capabilities will be in place on time in the southern region. Commencement of vehicular traffic and train across the mighty Padma River will greatly ease the transportation of goods and commodities. But whether the power supply security could be achieved will entirely depend on the supply of imported LNG and coal at an affordable price. Otherwise, the generation of power will stumble. Gas supply to industries will also be essential. But it is highly unlikely that by 2024 gas demand, as

projected, can be met. Contingent upon the success of all planned initiatives, the success of LNG procurement from new sources, and the increase of gas production locally, the situation may improve by 2027. Getting a sustainable supply of primary fuel at an affordable price is a prerequisite for industrial development anywhere. The main objective of the Padma Bridge is an accelerated economic development of the Southern region and through that, the country as a whole may be thwarted by fuel supply constraints. However, expedited exploration and exploitation of own fuel resources like coal, gas and renewables in a planned manner may comfort the situation to a great extent. Finally, for the sake of green and clean industrial development, Bangladesh must choose fuel-efficient second- and third-generation industries. All industries must have rooftop solar and rainwater harvesting facilities. Industries must not create a major carbon footprint in the already climate-vulnerable region of Bangladesh. Occupation, Health and Safety must also be a priority focus element in industrial development.

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# Padma Bridge Unlocks Avenues of Development

Saleque Sufi

The successful completion of the Padma Bridge linking 21 districts of South and South Western Bangladesh with the rest of the country by road and rail has opened up new windows of opportunities for the sustainable economic development of Bangladesh. The otherwise neglected southern region of greater Barishal and Khulna divisions, and greater Faridpur will have equitable access to national power and energy supply. Two important ports Payra and Mongla can make greater contributions to the national economy. The bread basket of Bangladesh can market food grains, fruits, vegetables, and fish to the rest of Bangladesh smoothly. Massive industrial development may happen using raw materials, and cheap labor. But for that to happen the south and southwestern region need quick access to national power and gas supply. The government has made a great achievement by bringing the entire nation under power supply coverage. Commissioning of Payra 1320MW imported coal-fired power plant, 450MW Bheramara power plant, and Payra-Gopalganj-Khulna power transmission network has improved the power supply situation. But the lack of gas availability has deprived the entire region of pipeline supply of gas. A gas transmission pipeline has been constructed up to Khulna from Ishwardi. But apart from supplying gas to Bheramara power plant, no consumer

has been provided with a pipeline supply of gas except a few in Bhola and that too from the isolated Shahbajpur gas field. This write-up will discuss the opportunities for power and energy supplies in the southern region. To derive the benefits of Padma Bridge, a smooth and equitable supply of electricity and energy is the cornerstone. Cities and towns that will be developed in the southern regions of Bangladesh must be all planned properly making efficient use of energy and power as is done in modern green cities. Air, water and natural resources must be efficiently utilized. We must bear in mind that the Southern region is also vulnerable to natural calamities.

## *Mongla, Payra, Bhomra and Benapole Gateways*

Two major river ports linking Bangladesh through the Bay of Bengal outlet to the world for trading and two land ports Bhomra, Satkhira and Benapole, Jashore with India will get a huge boost following the opening of Padma Bridge. Gradually the entire region will

be connected with railway communication. Regional trade with Indian states, Nepal and Bhutan will strengthen Bangladesh's economy. We are aware that the entire region grows various agricultural products – rice, jute, corn, vegetables, and fruits. Rivers and canals have huge fish resources. People of the region have poultries and dairy farms. These can develop many agro-based industries provided quality electricity and energy on an uninterrupted basis can be supplied to them at an affordable price. The quicker these can be done in a planned manner is better. But industries must grow in a planned manner without causing many impacts on agriculture, waterways, and the environment. Having connectivity with neighboring countries and the rest of the world is an added advantage.

## *Vision for Power and Energy Supply*

The Southern region is now in a much better position as far as electricity supply is concerned and is getting better. Commercial operation of 1320MW Payra power plant and Bheramara power plant must have stabilized supply from the nearest sources. The issues of power transmission are also being addressed with a new power transmission facility built from Payra-Gopalganj-Khulna. We know that West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPGCL) has undertaken a few projects for updating and modernizing power distribution and supply to all end users. By 2031



as part of the national vision and SDG 7 pledges, all in the Southern region are expected to get a sustainable supply of quality power on an uninterrupted basis. But whether or not the power can be supplied at an affordable cost will depend on the development of domestic energy resources, proper fuel mix, and at the same time efficient use of power. The 21 districts of the Southern region do not have a pipeline supply of gas although the gas transmission system has been extended to Khulna from Bheramara a few years back. All the discovered gas fields except fields at Bhola are in the eastern region. The gas fields of Bhola are also not connected to the national gas grid; neither these deliver gas to Barishal and Khulna regions. There have been very few exploration activities in the region. Gas supply to the entire region is essential for the growth of industries. However, industries must also grow in a planned manner so that utility services can plan and implement energy and power supply in a planned manner. It could be suggested that connecting gas fields of Bhola to the national grid at Khulna as soon as possible. At the same time exploration activities in onshore areas in the southern region must also be expedited. We are aware that the gas transmission line has been extended across Padma Bridge. It can be eventually extended all the way to Payra, Patuakhali. For the time being, it should be extended at least to all districts of the planned Padma division. There is a great possibility of developing various agro-based export-oriented industries in the region. However, emphasis must also be given to green energy, and clean energy as well. Industries must have facilities for rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, cogeneration, and tri-generation facilities. Through proper planning and regulation the local private sector should also be involved as JV partners of Power and Gas distribution utilities in the Southern region.

We have noted that the Energy & Mineral Resources Division is reviewing a few proposals for LNG import for the Southern region. Given the global scenario, importing LNG through a 90 KM

expensive subsea pipeline from an LNG facility off the coast of Kuakata cannot be cost-effective for Bangladesh. At the same time, Indian companies cannot supply RLNG through pipelines. These are dreams that will not happen. Bangladesh must concentrate on developing its own resources – petroleum and renewable resources. Bangladesh cannot grow as a preferred destination for LNG export in the near term. Over the next 4-5 years, LNG would be directed toward Western Europe, Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, and India. Bangladesh should expedite Land-Based Terminal construction at Matarbari and set up LNG storage facilities for taking advantage of a volatile LNG market.

### Conclusion

The successful implementation of the Padma Bridge is a historic and very significant event for crystalizing equity and parity of energy and power supply across the country. Cities and suburbs would grow in the Southern region, industries would grow. Let these not grow like mushrooms as happened around Dhaka and Chattogram so far creating congestions and messy situations. Hope the government must develop cities and towns in the southern region with a vision for urban-rural migration. Each Southern district has unique features and specialties. Each district's specialized industries can be developed considering the raw materials, energy, and power supply infrastructure development facilities. Finally, weather impacts and environmental impacts management, occupation, health, and safety must also get priority attention. The euphoria created from the success of iconic project development must not blow the visions away.



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**Saleque Sufi;**  
*Contributing Editor, EP*

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# The ‘First Fuel’ for Energy Security

Engr. Khondkar Abdus Saleque

The International Energy Agency (IEA) considers Energy Efficiency (EE) as the ‘First Fuel’ for achieving sustainable energy security in the present context of global reality. The essence of the 7th Annual Global Conference of IEA was underlining the value of urgent actions required for expediting the EE. Global efforts for recovering from the adverse impacts of COVID-19 coupled with the Russia–Ukraine war have made the global energy market volatile. Most countries have started struggling due to the energy crisis. Global warming also continues to play havoc through intensifying natural calamities across the world.

The present challenges of energy security, soaring energy prices and high cost of living combined with the climate crisis give a stark reminder about achieving energy efficiency, which has now become more indispensable than ever. The countries can no longer rely on the cleanest, cheapest, more reliable source of energy while ensuring quality energy supply to all citizens. The IEA appropriately referred to EE as the ‘first fuel’. According to them, if required actions have not been taken immediately, energy transition to net-zero emission will be more expensive and more challenging. The IEA’s Net Zero 2050 scenario (NZE) considered the average annual rate of global energy intensity (energy use per unit GDP) improvement as the master key for measuring the economy’s energy efficiency. IEA suggested doubling the energy intensity from 2% achieved between 2010 and 2020 to over 4% from 2020-2030. Expedited actions could make the global economy grow around one-third more

energy efficient in 2030 than in 2020.

## Highlights from the IEA Report

- Doubling the energy intensity from 2%-4% has the potential for avoiding 95 EJ final energy consumption a year. This is equivalent to the present total energy consumption of China.
- If higher efficiency can be achieved each unit of energy will deliver more than it does today. The final energy demand can be around 5% lower by 2030 but will serve an economy by 40% larger.
- The changes to a higher efficiency scenario would depend on the global push towards EE directed towards avoiding higher related demand through electrification, behavior change, digitization, and material efficiency in industries. Business as usual would lock in higher energy consumption for years to come.
- Accelerated actions could reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an additional 5 Gt per year by 2030 compared to present policy settings.
- The IEA’s Net Zero Emissions by 2050 considered this as about a third of the total emissions abatement required over the decade.
- Strengthening energy security and achieving 95 EJ of energy savings per year by 2030 will help avoid 30 million barrels of oil use per day. This is about three times Russia’s annual production in 2021. This will also save about 650 bcm of natural gas use per year, about four times that the European Union imported from Russia in 2021.
- The transition includes providing

clean and efficient cooking and heating to all who lack these now. This would avoid over 20 EJ demand for traditional biomass – wood and charcoal in 2030 compared with the present scenario. According to the IEA report, household air pollution alone causes 2.5 million premature deaths (women and children are mostly affected).

- These actions would save at least US\$ 650 billion in household energy bills a year by 2030 compared to the present situation.
- IEA also mentioned that scaling up investment for achieving energy saving would create additional 10 million jobs by 2030 in areas like new construction and building retrofits, manufacturing, and transport infrastructure.
- EE gains have made a significant contribution to constraining the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Without the gains achieved over the past two decades, emissions growth would have been doubled, which is about 8 Gt per year higher than in 2019.

## Why EE Measures Essential for Achieving Net Zero Emission?

Discussions and deliberations at the IEA summit had a meeting of minds that doubling the current rate of energy intensity, improvements from 2% to just over 4% per year over the next decade could help avoid an extra 5 Gt of emissions per year by 2030 compared with a scenario of no extra major push by policymakers. This provides around one-third of all emission reductions seen in the NZE scenario.

The IEA report stated that in 2020 the cumulative transportation energy con

sumption of 105 EJ, accounting for around 27% of total global energy-related emissions. Early action on electrification, improved efficiency of internal combustion engine vehicles, behavior change, and other avoided energy demand measures provide about 2.5 Gt of emission reductions or almost 80% of what's needed in the transport sector by 2030 in the NZE scenario.

In 2020, energy consumption in buildings was around 129 EJ and contributed around 28% of all global energy-related emissions. Expedited actions on EE including electrification and the other fuel switching would help avoid around 37 EJ by 2030. This results in around 1.2 Gt of emission reductions from the direct combustion of fossil fuels in buildings and also helps lower overall electricity sector emissions.

In 2020, industrial energy consumption was around 156 EJ, contributing around 39% of all global energy-related emissions. Faster action on energy efficiency-related measures, especially material efficiency, helps avoid 18 EJ and 1.3 Gt of industrial emissions by 2030. This is about 43% of the total industrial sector emissions abatement effort seen by 2030 in the NZE scenario. Energy security strengthening will save up to US\$ 650 billion in household energy bills in 2030.

The IEA report mentions that enhanced action on a wide spectrum of energy efficiency-related measures covering behavior change, electrification and fuel switching, digitalization, and material efficiency can help avoid about 95 EJ per year by 2030. This compares to a scenario based on current efficiency-related policies where energy demand rises around 18% instead of being 5% lower.

By 2030, around 55 EJ per year of oil consumption could be avoided. These reductions would reduce energy costs by between USD 400 billion and just over USD 1.0 trillion, depending on the IEA-stated NZE scenario, 20% of all cars are electric in 2030. For traditional cars, strict fuel-economy standards continue to play a crucial role through to 2030

along with behavioral shifts, such as increased use of public transport, walking, and cycling as well as train travel replacing short-haul flights.

The other major fossil fuel reduction will be natural gas. By 2030 it will be possible to avoid gas use by around 23 EJ per year. This equates to four times the EU imports of gas from Russia in 2021. About 17 EJ energy demands could also be avoided from coal use. This will be almost 500 mega tonnes or otherwise 1.5 times the coal imports of China in 2021.

### **How Bangladesh Can Expeditiously Enhance Energy Efficiency?**

Bangladesh requires policy changes, institutional reforms, a greater stakeholder engagement and participation for enhancing EE. In other words, for fueling an exponential growth of the economy and at the same time protecting the vulnerable country from global warming-induced climate disasters, Bangladesh has no option but to cut down on fossil fuel use. The main actions should be rationalizing demand through electrification, encouraging electric vehicle use, retiring energy-inefficient power generation, developing third-generation industries, and introducing smart grid and smart metering. At the same time, Bangladesh must implement austerity measures in all segments of the power and energy supply chain. SREDA must be an autonomous self-sustaining organization. Pulling down the shutters of shops, markets, and malls after 8 PM is a good decision. Even in the developed world, apart from essential services, pharmacies selling life-saving medicines and hospitals, all other organizations and institutions are closed after 6 PM. Once a week, it goes deep into 9 PM. Bangladesh as a developing country cannot lavishly use expensive energy and power till midnight and sometimes beyond, peoples' behavior must also change. Children in school must be educated about the environment, energy efficiency, health, and safety for developing culture. The media must carry on massive propaganda. We must work locally but remain connected globally. EP

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International Energy Consultant

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# Focus on Developing Skilled Workforce

AKM Monowar Hossain Akhand

The government of Bangladesh has a long-term vision to generate 60,000MW of electricity by 2041 – 15% is expected to come from imports, 35% to be generated from gas, 35% from coal, and 10% from renewable energy (with the opportunity of nuclear energy), and 5% from liquid fuels. The government has a target to provide energy access to all by 2030. Although the indigenous energy reserves are getting exhausted, it is believed that Bangladesh still has an enormous quantity of energy reserves that are yet to be unearthed, and used partly due to a lack of human expertise in making discoveries and the inability to execute exploration of existing ones. This is particularly due to the limited expertise and skilled human resource in the energy sector.

The present installed power generation capacity (including 2800MW captive power) in the country reached 25,000MW (4.8% or 1,160MW from import, 62% generated from gas, 29% from liquid oil and 2% from domestic coal and 2% from hydropower. So far, the domestic gas production has been at 2,500 MMCFD, and 1000 MMCFD equivalent LNG is being imported to meet the shortfall and planned for more than 1000 MMCFD. To handle the whole energy and power system management smartly, the country needs a skilled and expert workforce in both sectors.

It is obvious that at the current usage rate and if no new reserves are discovered, the natural gas reserve in

Bangladesh will be exhausted by 2030. Thus, skill development to create technologically skilled human resources aimed at operating in the energy and power sector is extremely important. A standard human resource management policy is needed to make the energy and power sector more effective. Training and development programs ensure the highest efficiency in both sectors. Therefore, it would be essential for the utilities and institutions to develop an efficient and skilled human resource

***Bangladesh still has an enormous quantity of energy reserves that are yet to be unearthed, and used partly due to a lack of human expertise in making discoveries and the inability to execute exploration of existing ones. This is particularly due to the limited expertise and skilled human resource in the energy sector.***

management system for meeting the gap between high demand and supply and ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the energy sector.

## ***Need for a Skilled Workforce in the Energy Sector***

The country has entered into the LNG import now. So far, no coal was imported for power generation. Huge infrastructure building works are

underway or in the planning stage to facilitate the said imports of LNG and coal in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the program for human resource development remains neglected. The Power System Master Plan and the Gas Sector Master Plan (2016 and 2017) have not included specific targets and plans for required manpower development for the power and energy sector development plans.

It is reported by a leading economist that the absence of quality education and a skilled labor force are the main causes of youth unemployment in Bangladesh. As a result, most of the investors in the energy and garments sector are hiring experts and skilled workforce from India, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and other technologically advanced countries to fill up the shortage. But Bangladesh has some professional experts in the energy sector both inside and outside the country, living as Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs). We can utilize this expertise to minimize the scarcity of skilled manpower and to include the matter in the updated Energy and Power System Master Plan.

The country's power and energy sector constructions, maintenance and operation works are heavily dependent on foreign experts and skilled workers. And one can easily understand that the overseas training offered for improving skills for power and energy sector management and operations did not yield desired results. It is high time that target-based training was undertaken for

developing young skilled manpower for the energy industry. The government needs to focus urgently on the matter so that coordinated and target-oriented training for skill development for energy and power sector operations and management could be accomplished.

### **Developing Human Capital**

Bangladesh needs to develop a detailed action plan for human resource development to improve its energy security by stepping toward the energy targets of 2030 and 2041. The key issue of the plan should emphasize increased and improved human resources, human capital mechanism i.e. skilled workforce and professionals, economic growth, regional cooperation, stronger policy frameworks, and efficient regulatory and training institutions with end-use technologies. The existing rules-regulations and policy decisions need to be reformed. Ensuring the high value of reliability and transparency, an advanced energy system, and access to a favorable environment of an efficient market system can be achieved.

An efficient human resource mechanism needs to consider the issues of: (a) Human capital: value derived from skills training, consisting of people's health, skills, knowledge, and motivation; (b) Social capital: value derived from social networks and institutions that improve people's social status and help them maintain and develop human capital in partnership with others; (c) Natural capital: value that resides in natural resources to produce goods and services; (d) Physical capital: value derived from durable and non-durable infrastructure, which contributes to the production process; and (f) Financial capital: value derived from income sources, assets and consumption patterns, which enables households to own or trade other capitals.

### **Human Capital Development Programs**

(i) Improved human resources: (a) Training for energy workforce, and



professionals; (b) Education programs: domestic and abroad practical experiences through exchange and site-visit programs; (c) Technology orientation programs; (d) Knowledge sharing programs.

(ii) Institutional improvements: (a) Increased capacity building; (b) Work independently; (c) Introducing corporate and private work cultures; (d) Creating a working environment; (e) Introducing a one-stop service center, addressing customer care; (f) Updating ICT based works; (g) Forming an active association among energy producers.

(iii) Curriculum and training manual: (a) Energy resources; (b) Energy security; (c) Energy conservation and savings; (d) Clean energy.

(iv) The tools for energy generation utilities: (a) Introducing end-use technologies; (b) Safety equipment; (c) ICT, Automations, and digitalization of the plant systems; (d) Installing watch center (with CC camera) to monitor generation; (e) Energy audit, and equipment replacement for energy efficiency.

(v) The creation of a "transparent and corruption-free" environment in the institutions and utilities is important with the following processes: (a) Digitalization of the monitoring system; (b) Transparent procurement process; (c) Rewards and incentives for the

workforce and staffs; (d) Recognition of services; (e) Welfare programs; (f) Legal actions for misconducts; (g) Awareness programs for integrity, values, and ethics.

### **Need for HR Development Cell**

A separate human resource development cell (HRDC) could play a vital role in the development of human resources and a skilled workforce for the energy and power sector. The HRC may have also made relations and partnerships among the domestic energy institutions, utilities, and donor organizations. The cell will play vital advisory roles in preparing, coordinating, and managing the energy projects, plans, strategies, and rules-regulations, for the implementation of energy security in Bangladesh according to the Power system and Energy Sector Master Plan. The cell will support the energy institutions, and operational plans to use the energy efficiently with efficient end-use technologies, and state-of-the-art technologies (i.e. ICT, digital, data-based).

### **HRD Cell may have Worked with Sub-Sector Based Actions**

(A) Technology (enabling environment): (i) Clean Energy (system); (ii) Management (end-use technology adoption, demand-side measures); (iii)

Quality Power and Energy Solutions; (iv) Finance (Fund Support).

(B) Energy Institutions: (i) Planning and Development; (ii) Operation (adoption of efficient practices by utilities); (iii) Human Resources (capital) and Developments (workforce, institutes, utilities).

(C) Procurement (transparent and best-valued perception and qualities): (i) Capacity Building (competitive, transparent, valued perception, effective and market-driven procurement).

(D) Regional Energy Trade: (i) Cross border energy trade-CBET (improved policy framework, rules-regulations); (ii) Operation-technical system (improved technical operation system for a synchronized regional grid).

(E) Climate Change and Emergency Response: This sector covers the natural hazards (i.e. tropical cyclones, floods, river erosion, droughts, epidemics from bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, pandemics-like the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, and local human-made emergency crises situations) to response and assistance effectively within budget limits. The response includes disaster preparedness and recovery, assistance to the government, and other key stakeholders.

(F) Training and Research: (i) This sector covers the training programs for the energy workforce, and professionals for capacity building; (ii) Research will be carried out for each energy plant, prepare reports with follow-up actions. There will be an international networking unit, to link with the development partners, institutes, organizations, and regulatory associations.

(G) Policy, Rules and Regulations: (i) Policy; (ii) Government Affairs.

(H) Social Responsibility and Welfare Programs: This sector covers social awareness, and welfare programs for the community, workforce, and



professionals with community participation, focusing on gender issues, and equalities.

### **Scaling Up Skilled Workforce**

Bangladesh is now facing problems with a high increase in population growth, scarcity of fossil fuel resources, high frequency of climatic events and decision-making processes that often lack transparency in the country. The lack of a skilled workforce operating in the energy and power sector is one of the most important factors attributing to energy insecurity. Lack of technical expertise is a factor limiting energy generation in Bangladesh. Despite having the naturally endowed reserves, such technical incompetence has resulted in those resources remaining unutilized. The poor skills of the energy workforce can be recognized to such failures in generating the potential power and energy sources.

Bangladesh traditionally had to rely on foreign expertise to handle its energy sector. Sometimes, the hiring of expertise becomes so expensive that it goes beyond the affordability range of the government creating a fiscal burden. A skilled labor force will drive the implementation of energy projects across the sector through local value addition, manufacturing, assembling, project designing, operation and

maintenance and vocational training.

The HRD Cell will have to arrange the appropriate training programs both in the country and abroad for Bangladeshi power and energy professionals and workforce, who would help for developing efficiencies, skills, knowledge of end-use technologies, self-confidingness, and integrity. The cell will prepare a training manual and guidelines for energy and power professionals. The cell may conduct various studies and research programs on power plants and other energy issues, make reports and recommendations; and provide support to government institutions and utilities with the outcomes for further actions of efficiency development based on the weakness and short-falls.

### **Skilled Workforce for Industrial Sector**

Skill development is a strategic concern in the national development and economic growth of a country. The nation depends on how many people are skilled to work and hence how productive they are. The skilled workforce can actively participate in the economic development activities, as they can produce quality products and services and also earn more than non-skilled ones.

Bangladesh facing a big shortage of skilled manpower in the industrial

sectors, which is a major concern for the country. A BIDS study (2020) says the industrial sectors (mainly, FMCG, RMG and textile, engineering, construction, leather, heavy processing and manufacturing industry (steel, rod, cement, chemicals, ceramics, glass, healthcare, shipbuilding, ICT, hospitality) will require 87 lakh (8.7 million) skilled, 56 lakh semi-skilled and 31 lakh unskilled work workforce by 2025.

On the other hand, more than 12 million Bangladeshi people are working abroad, but cannot earn the expected amount of foreign remittance, because of poor skills. Currently, the export-oriented RMG sector which contributes 84% to the country's total export earnings is running with a 20% shortage of skilled manpower.

On the other hand, around 2.5 lakhs (legally and illegally) foreign citizens are working in Bangladesh and taking away Tk 26,000 crore annually (TIB report-2021). Other private sources say the number is 90,000 and they remit US\$ 2.1 billion. Among the total workers, 60% came from India and China. If they could be replaced by the local skilled workforce, a huge amount of foreign currency could be saved.

The UN Industrial Development Organization survey report (2021) says a portion of rejection rates of Bangladeshi garment products are also pointed by the buyers at low average skilled workers. But some Asian countries (e.g. Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia) have provided a skilled environment that allowed the industrial sector to quickly move up in the value chain.

The skilled workers' deficiency problem in industries is getting worse day by day, whereas the surpluses of educated youth, but unskilled ones are most available. But there are lack of opportunities, i.e. training, technical education, probation, internee, etc. to make a youth skilled one, also blamed for forced to get a general higher



education, which carries fewer job opportunities.

The general education is not getting a match industrial demands. Both economists and industry owners have stressed and recommended providing skills training and other appropriate professional education to the youths as required to resolve the problem. The government is to take wide professional training programs according to the sector-based demand, and take actions for a qualitative working environment with all compliance and the workers' welfare activities. Bangladesh should set up more technical, vocational and training institutes, and improve the quality of general education at all levels so that the country can meet the growing demand for skilled personnel.

### Conclusions

The potential workforce for the energy sector should go through appropriate skills training while addressing the workforce skills and challenges would be the basis of productivity and profitability for the energy business, energy security, and ability to compete in a global energy trade market. The national skills development policy has a clear-cut and well-informed vision about how the issues are properly reflected in it. This policy is based on the National Skill Development

Authority Act, 2018 and NSDA Rules, 2020.

Bangladesh currently stands at an important crossroads of economic, human and social development, mainly in the energy and power sector. Human resource development should be strongly focused on as skills training is an important part of this impressive economic and social transformation. It is well-recognized that knowledge and skills are important driving forces of economic growth and social development in any country. Therefore, a comprehensive and well-thought-out national skills development policy will guide skills development strategies and facilitate coordination of all skills training organizations in the country. Also, the policy document will align with other relevant national economic, employment, and social policies so that Bangladesh can achieve its goals by 2041.

(Sources: BIDS Report-2021, BD-Skills Vision-2016, NSDA Act-2018, NSDA Rules-2020, NSD Policy-2011, 2020,).



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# Bangladesh at a Crossroads of Energy Transition

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque

An online technical session on “Bangladesh at a Crossroads of Energy Transition” was held on 28 May 2022 under Mir Moinul Huq Memorial Lecture Series-15. In the session, about 30 geoscientists from the USA, Canada, UK, Brunei and Bangladesh attended. The session chair was Naz Husain from Houston, a retired IT Administrator of NASA. This lecture series is an integral part of remembering Moinul Huq and carrying out his devotion to exploration geology that he left behind. The moderator of the session was Md. Jasim Uddin, Ex Geologist, Petrobangla and Nazim Ahmed, Ex Geologist, acted as Chief Coordinator from Calgary.

The keynote speaker was Prof. Badrul Imam, a Retd. Professor of Geology at Dhaka University. This presentation was an overview of energy transition in Bangladesh in a holistic and a practical point of view. He discussed the prospects, problems and challenges of energy transition. He said that energy is the prime mover of industrialization and development of any country. Bangladesh is fast moving towards industrial development. He gave a briefing on total primary energy mix and commercial primary energy mix scenario of Bangladesh along with world energy transition scenario. In 1990, Prof. Peter Odell predicted that the coal, oil and natural gas will predominate in the world energy market till 2050. Competition

between renewables and fossil fuels will run in by 2060. The battle will swing in favor of renewables by 2070. The renewables will almost completely take over the world energy market by 2100. The fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas will only remain in the history book thereafter. He apprised that our commercial energy transition is from almost natural gas-based mono energy with minor oil and hydro in between 2000 to 2015. Thereafter, we will proceed towards multiple energy mixing of gas, LNG, LPG, coal, oil, hydro, solar, wind, cross-border power and nuclear.

Dr. Imam discussed the challenges and alternative energy in view of meeting our energy demand. He pointed out that decreasing supply of gas from local gas fields against increasing demand is a major problem. Bangladesh imports 25% of its total gas supply as LNG which costs approx. Tk 44,000 crore per annum. Remaining 75% gas comes from local production by national companies & IOCs which cost about Tk 6000 crore per annum. He raised the appropriate question on our financial capability for LNG import and how much sustainable will it be? Apart from that, Dr. Imam opined about our indigenous gas reserve. The reserve is depleting and the remaining reserve is about 10 Tcf only which is likely to run out within 10 years provided there will not be

any substantial gas discovery in the future. He suggested that a serious drive for exploring new gas reserves may change the energy future which is being contemplated. He differs on the concept that Bangladesh is running out of gas resources, saying it has no scientific merit.

Coal is another area where a major transition is taking place. There are some ongoing coal-based power plants with a total capacity of 8000 MW which are under construction. A huge amount of coal will be imported to run these plants in the near future.

Renewable energy is another area where the government has given prime importance to meet the demand of energy in the future. Bangladesh has a tremendous achievement on solar home systems as well as one of the largest off-grid solar home systems in the world. More than six million solar home systems are already installed. Total generation through solar homes is 349 MW. At present, the power generation capacity from renewables is about only 3% of the total power generation capacity. Bangladesh has a target to achieve 40% of the power generation by solar within 2041 and 10% within 2030.

The Panel Speaker was Mortuza Ahmad Faruque, a gas sector specialist and Retd. Managing Director of BAPEX discussed the supplementary and complementary issues in relation to the



# Bangladesh at a Cross Road of Energy Transition

**LIVE**

**Time:**  
8pm (Bangladesh Standard Time)  
**Date:**  
May 28, 2022 (Saturday)



**Session Chair**  
**Naz Husain**

Geo-Scientist & (Retd.), IT Administrator of NASA Houston, USA.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Badrul Imam**

Professor of Geology (Retd.), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**Speaker**  
**Mortuza Ahmad Chisty**

MD, BAPEX, (Retd.), Ex. Consultant, ADB Dhaka, Bangladesh



**Chief Coordinator**  
**Nazim Ahmed**

EX. Exploration Geologist Occidental/Unocal, PB, BAPEX, Calgary, Canada.



**Moderator**  
**Jasim Uddin**

Geo - Consultant & (Retd.), Geologist of BAPEX, PB, IOC, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

presentation of Prof. Badrul Imam. He emphasized on energy mix scenario for power generation along with some necessary way forward to meet our future energy demand. He apprised the meeting that the power generation capacity has increased to 25566 MW including renewables at present from 4942 MW only in 2009. It's a great achievement made by the present government. He gave a picture on the power generation development plan, PSMP 2016.

Mr. Mortuza presented the state of regional cooperation in the power sector with neighboring countries to enhance electricity supply and meet the present and future demands of the country. At present, 1160 MW of electricity is being imported from India. Initiatives have been taken to import another 500 MW electricity from India, 500 MW hydro electricity from Nepal and 500 MW from Bhutan. A contract has been signed to import 1,600 MW from Jharkhand Coal Based Power Plants of India in 2017. As per PSMP-2016, electricity import may be reached to 9000 MW from cross-border trade in the year 2041.

To meet the growing gas demand of the country, the present government has

planned to construct two land-based LNG terminals at Matarbari and Payra with a storage capacity of 8 million tonnes/year and to import 16 million tonnes of LNG per annum within 2030 and 32 million tonnes within 2041.

Mr. Mortuza briefed a scenario of discovering coal deposits in Bangladesh, coal supply projection of PSMP 2016 and sharing information about the world's top coal producer countries. So far, there are five coal fields in Bangladesh with total estimated reserves of 3300 million tonnes. Coal is being commercially extracted through underground mining from Barapukuria since 2005 with an average annual production of 0.8 million tonnes only. Whereas, India produced 793 million tonnes of coal in 2021 and imported 215 million tonnes to meet their demand. China is the largest coal producing country and produced 3925 million tonnes in 2021.

Mortuza informed about new solar target as per Solar Energy Roadmap prepared by SREDA which is 40 GW by 2041. The target is highly ambitious and not pragmatic. Apart from this, an enormous potential of floating solar has been considered such as utilizing only

one-third of the ponds can generate 15 GW of electricity, 10% of the shallow water areas could generate 25 GW, big lakes and long river pockets may add 20 GW which are also very much questionable and incredulous.

Mr. Mortuza opined that oil and gas exploration activities should be expedited in the onshore and offshore by IOCs, under JV and by BAPEX. Considering long term demand for gas, it is necessary to harness possibilities of importing piped gas from Myanmar and from the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline (if constructed). To minimize import dependency on LNG & coal, the government may rethink and give priority to extract local coal through underground and open cut mining.

A question and answer session was held after the presentation, which was participated by Dr. Ahad Newaz Chowdhury (USA), Dr. Aminul Islam (Brunai), Manowar Ahmed (Ottawa), Dr. Nasir Ezaz (UK), Md. Jahangir, Saiful Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman and Dr. Yunus Akon in Dhaka.

**EP**

**Mortuza Ahmad Faruque;**  
Former Managing Director, BAPEX

# Bonn Climate Change Conference Makes Progress in Several Technical Areas

Afroza Hossain

**U**N Climate Change News, 16 June 2022 – The Bonn Climate Change Conference comes to a close today after two weeks of intense work to make progress on important technical issues and prepare decisions for adoption at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh in November.

Building on the many mandates that emerged from the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last year, discussions took place on a range of important topics, including the need for more ambitious climate action, deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced resilience to adapt to the effects of climate change and financial support for developing countries.

The Bonn Climate Change Conference has been the first opportunity for all Parties to the UNFCCC to meet since the adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact at COP26 last year. In Glasgow, governments agreed a package of decisions that pave the way for full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa said: “While much work remains, Parties have made progress in several technical areas here in Bonn. Such steps are a key part of negotiations and important to achieve our overall goals. The world is moving closer to an overall shift towards implementation of the Paris Agreement. Major political decisions, notably on finance for Loss and Damage, need to be taken at COP27. We now need to ensure that Sharm el-Sheikh will truly be

the place where important promises of the Paris Agreement are turned into reality.”

Key outstanding issues that still need to be resolved relate on the one hand to building adaptation to the inevitable impacts of climate change, which include ever more frequent and intense heatwaves, flood and storms, and Loss and Damage, along with the necessary financial support. On the other hand, important work has been launched on urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.

Delegates at the Bonn Climate Change Conference undertook the first technical dialogue of the Global Stocktake, designed to review collective progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement’s goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Marianne Karlsen, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) said: “The Global Stocktake and other discussions at the Bonn Climate Conference have demonstrated the many gaps that exist in climate action, but also the opportunities. I am heartened that governments and numerous stakeholders have been showcasing solutions, opportunities, innovations and best practices from throughout the world. And we have seen unprecedented engagement on the part of non-Party stakeholders who have a key role to play in helping governments achieve their climate goals.”

At the Global Stocktake, Hoesung Lee, Chair of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reported that human activities have warmed the

planet at a rate not seen in the past 2,000 years, putting the world on a path towards global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius within the next two decades. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), Tosi Mpanu Mpanu said:

“Science has been a central focus of this year’s Bonn Climate Change Conference. It is vital that the reports presented by the IPCC, as well as the science-policy interface, are reflected and that negotiators heed the call on the urgency of the climate challenge. We have seen some good progress here in Bonn. But governments need to more urgently act on the stark warnings we have been hearing.”

Many participants at the Global Stocktake and in other fora of the Bonn meeting highlighted the need for increased financial support.

“The international community has yet to live up to its commitment to mobilize USD 100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries. And these countries are calling for an overall substantial increase in finance, especially finance for adaptation and loss and damage, which is crucial to build a more sustainable and resilient future,” the UN’s top climate change official Ms. Espinosa said. “At COP27, progress needs to be demonstrated clearly and convincingly, along with the alignment of financial flows with the objectives of the Paris Agreement,” she added.

The UN Climate Change Conference COP27 will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6-18 November of this



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year. It will be preceded by two Regional Climate Weeks. These are Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week, 2022 scheduled for 18-22 July in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and Africa Climate Week 2022, scheduled to take place 29 August to 1 September in Libreville, Gabon.

### **Developing Countries Left 'Disappointed' at Climate Talks**

BONN, June 17, 2022 (BSS/AFP) - Developing countries voiced "disappointment" as climate talks in Germany ended Thursday with frustrations flaring over a lack of momentum on helping vulnerable nations cope with the impacts of warming.

With world attention drawn towards other challenges, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine and spiralling food, energy and economic crises, the technical discussions meant to lay the groundwork for key United Nations negotiations later this year were mired in disagreements.

Representatives of nearly 200 countries arrived in the city of Bonn buoyed by the ambition displayed six months ago during the UN COP26 negotiations in Glasgow, where countries rallied around the urgent threat of climate change.

"After that sense of emergency had been established, probably the expectations were very high," said Preety Bhandari, senior climate adviser at the World Resources Institute.

But the meeting produced little tangible progress, even on the emissions-cutting ambitions that countries have agreed are needed to meet the Paris agreement goal of limiting warming to preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Finance is an ongoing sore point, with a promise of \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries adapt to a warming world still not met.

Another flashpoint at the talks has been the slow pace of work on "loss and damage", the accelerating onslaught of impacts already being felt by vulnerable



countries, like floods, heatwaves and storms.

Developing nations want a specific funding "facility" to help poor countries least responsible for climate change to cope with its impacts.

But that call has been rejected by wealthy nations, particularly the European Union and United States, who have said funding can be channelled through a network of existing humanitarian, development and climate organizations.

As the Bonn talks wrapped up, developing countries lined up to convey their displeasure at the slow progress on loss and damage, which is now being dealt with as a rolling "dialogue" that will end in 2024 with no clear outcome emerging.

They want the issue to be on the agenda at the COP27 meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh in November.

Pakistan's representative, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China major developing countries, said the group was "dissatisfied", while Zambia, speaking on behalf of Africa, said they were "concerned by the lack of progress".

"We are disappointed by the lack of substantive progress," said the representative of Antigua and Barbados speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

He said countries were still waiting for

assurances that "the finance we need now will be delivered at speed, or any time by 2025".

### **'Hypocritical'**

Wealthy nations are concerned about any suggestion of legal liability that would put them on the hook for billions, if not trillions.

The European Union told delegates it had "engaged constructively" and promised to continue.

But campaigners say the current system puts the economic burden on the shoulders of the most vulnerable.

Harjeet Singh, Senior Climate Impacts Adviser, at Climate Action Network International said the EU "consistently blocked" discussions around finance for loss and damage and accused the bloc of having a "hypocritical stance".

"If the EU wants to step up as a climate champion it needs to align with the most vulnerable in their fight for justice," he said.

Bhandari said work on cutting emissions could stall if countries do not give more weight to both adaptation and mitigation, adding that it would be up to political leaders to reignite the momentum in the run up to the UN meeting in Egypt.

Nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming since the mid-nineteenth century has been enough to unleash a torrent of disasters across the planet.

Alden Meyer, senior associate at E3G,

said it has reached "boiling point" as impacts mount, adding that countries can also see the billions that the US and EU are mobilizing for the Ukraine conflict.

"It's not a matter of the money's not there. It's a matter of priorities," he told AFP.

"And if you're saying climate is an existential crisis, and yet you're treating other things as much more important in terms of where you're putting your money, that doesn't go unnoticed."

### **EU Hypocrisy As A 'Climate Champion' Exposed at Bonn Climate Conference**

Polluter nations shop around for new fossil fuels as they block finance for vulnerable people and communities impacted by climate-induced loss and damage

16 June 2022, Bonn: The Bonn Climate Conference showed the disconnect between the negotiation rooms and the reality on the ground of people suffering from the climate-induced loss and damage. Discussions across various issues offered no new breakthroughs - on overall finance, adaptation and emission reduction actions.

This uncertainty and lack of leadership from rich polluters sets up challenges ahead of the G7 summit in two weeks, and in building trust before COP27.

Despite their reassurances from COP26 to take finance and addressing loss and damage seriously through the last two weeks rich countries, particularly the EU, Switzerland and the USA, consistently stalled progress on discussions on loss and damage on the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage and on putting loss and damage finance on the formal agenda towards getting an outcome on a loss and damage finance facility from COP27.

The stark warnings from the IPCC report earlier this year and recent climate catastrophes all around the world seem to have made no dent on the moral and political landscape of historical polluters. While countries like Germany shop around for new sources of fossil



fuels in the context of a brutal war in Ukraine they refuse to commit to additional and scaled up finance to communities who have done the least to cause this climate crisis and are experiencing unavoidable impacts even at 1.2C.

Developing countries stood united in their demand for a loss and damage finance facility and ask for discussions on loss and damage finance to be on the agenda at COP27.

**Chiara Martinelli**, Director, Climate Action Network Europe: "People and the planet cannot afford the EU's irresponsibility and lack of ambition that we have witnessed over the last weeks in Bonn and at home. The EU completely misses the point of what it is to be a climate leader. The EU should stop blocking progress on loss and damage and increase finance for adaptation. European countries also urgently need to massively ramp up their climate and energy targets, rather than displace oil and gas from Russia with those from developing countries, further locking them into fossil fuels. That's what climate leader should do."

**Eddy Pérez**, International Climate Diplomacy Manager, Climate Action Network Canada: "Consumed by their narrow national interests, rich nations and in particular countries in the European Union, came to this Bonn Climate Conference to block, delay and undermine efforts from people and communities on the frontlines

addressing the losses and damages caused by fossil fuels.

The European Union and their allies tried to undermine people and communities but they have not been able to silence the loud voices that rallied and organized to secure the adoption of a financial facility to tackle losses and damages by COP27.

To these blockers, our message is clear: despite the dirty tactics, the momentum on loss and damage is unstoppable, and we will secure a COP27 outcome that gives hope, and connects the needs of people and communities everywhere with the decisions governments take in this space."

**Teresa Anderson**, Global Lead on Climate Justice, ActionAid International: "With the climate crisis escalating every day, countries from the global south, representing six out of seven people on the planet, were united in their plea for funding to help them recover and rebuild in the aftermath of climate disasters. But rich countries, particularly the EU, spiked the discussion about loss and damage at every single turn. Whether it was about setting up a new finance facility, providing funds, organizing technical support, or even just including the issue on the agenda for discussion at COP27 later this year, rich countries continued to block, block, block.

"At this very moment, 20 million people in the Horn of Africa are hovering on the brink of famine. There is a terrifying

disconnect between the real world and some rich country negotiators who live in safe bubbles and feel able to turn their backs on the rest of humanity.”

**Harjeet Singh**, Senior Climate Impacts Adviser, Climate Action Network International:

“The EU consistently blocked discussions on finance for loss and damage in Bonn. The last two weeks exposed its hypocritical stance, with major countries like Germany sourcing new fossil fuels abroad while denying support to developing countries facing devastation from climate-induced superstorms and rising seas. If the EU wants to step up as a climate champion it needs to align with the most vulnerable in their fight for justice.”

**Mark Lutes**, WWF Head of Delegation, Bonn SB56: “We did not expect concrete outcomes at this stage. But it is already clear that the general lack of a sense of urgency, and the perennial conflicts and fault lines between Parties, threaten the rapid progress we need this year and this decade. Process must lead to action, and urgency must be at the center of all actions and processes.”

“Undelivered climate finance and action by rich countries is standing in the way of future action by all. Countries are falling back into old habits of holding one issue hostage to another issue dear to them. So when some countries block progress on loss and damage finance and responding to increasing impacts of climate change, others block progress on mitigation.”

**Alden Meyer**, Senior Associate, E3G: “People around the world are experiencing devastating climate impacts, ranging from heat waves and wildfires to flooding and extreme droughts. We are facing what many leaders correctly term an existential threat, but the urgency of the actions needed to address that threat – by shifting away from fossil fuels to clean energy and helping vulnerable countries cope with mounting climate impacts – was not on display over the last two weeks here in Bonn.”

“It is now up to leaders and ministers to muster the political will to take bold, collaborative action to respond to the climate emergency. At their Elmau summit in two weeks, G7 leaders must respond to the clear call by developing countries to sharply scale up finance for loss and damage, and they should instruct their finance ministers to develop concrete proposals on how to fulfill their pledge made last December to help “shift the trillions” for developing country decarbonization. And at the Petersberg Dialogue next month, Germany and the incoming Egyptian COP presidency should engage ministers on ways to overcome the deep divides that were so evident here in Bonn on both loss and damage finance and crafting a strong mitigation ambition work program for adoption at COP27. Such actions taken at these two key meetings can go a long way to rebuilding trust amongst countries and assure a successful climate summit in Sharm-el-Sheikh.”

**Lien Vandamme**, Senior Campaigner, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) “Just days after the Stockholm+50 UN Conference finally recognized the need to phase out fossil fuels, negotiators representing the wealthiest countries at the climate talks in Bonn resumed decades-long patterns of procrastination and inaction. The total lack of political will to deliver real solutions and finance for people and communities living the reality of climate impacts, breaches the obligations of these states to protect human rights including, the rights to water, food, health, and a healthy and sustainable environment. Developed countries must urgently come forward with credible finance commitments to address loss and damage and commit to immediately phasing out fossil fuels if they do not want to bear the responsibility of a collapse of the COP27 climate talks, in Egypt in November.”

**David Waskow**, International Climate Director, World Resources Institute: “This UN meeting elevated the severe losses and damages that vulnerable countries face from climate change

higher than any negotiations have before but failed to clarify how to address the problem. While developed countries acknowledged the need to address such damages, they rebuffed requests from vulnerable nations to work toward establishing a new funding mechanism.

“Perhaps the most decisive outcome from these talks is that developed countries now realize that the chorus calling for solutions to address loss and damage is only getting louder and that making concrete progress on this issue is a central measure of success for the UN climate summit in Egypt.

“Now the pressure is on for leaders to pick up the slack and use upcoming diplomatic gatherings to deliver the political momentum that is needed ahead of COP27. Key opportunities include the G7 Summit and Petersberg Dialogue.

“Heightened attention to growing impacts must also lead to stronger climate action across the board, from dramatically cutting emissions and protecting forests to providing support for vulnerable countries facing the increasingly severe consequences of an overheating world.

“At Bonn, countries did move the ball on a process to assess countries’ collective progress to tackling the climate crisis, known as the Global Stocktake. If done right, the Global Stocktake could culminate next year with countries agreeing to new political commitments that deliver breakthrough climate solutions across sectors, access to finance and more.

“The benchmarks for success for COP27 are now coming into focus. It is vital for major emitters to strengthen their targets and for developed countries to demonstrate solidarity with vulnerable nations by implementing their emission reduction targets and rallying behind financial support to address loss and damage, build resilience to climate impacts and accelerate a just transition to cleaner sources of energy. The world will also be watching to hold countries, businesses, cities and others accountable

for the stunning number of commitments profiled at COP26 last year.”

**Cat Pettengell**, Director, Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK): “The majority world – suffering the worst impacts of climate change – came to COP26 in Glasgow with a clear demand for a finance facility to address loss and damage from climate change. Despite the urgency, progress was blocked. This cannot happen again at COP27, yet higher income countries have continued to block and failed to make the progress needed here in Bonn. Those least responsible for the climate crisis are paying the highest costs, and this injustice must end now.”

**Aurore Mathieu**, International Policy Coordinator, Climate Action Network France: “Bonn negotiations once again highlight the huge disconnect between the urgency of the climate crisis and the inability to progress on concrete outcomes to respond to it. Climate impacts are worsening throughout the world, hitting the most marginalized communities, and rich countries are still refusing to acknowledge their climate debt by providing finance for loss and damage. France, as the President of the EU Council, lacked leadership to ensure a constructive European position on these issues.”

**Susann Scherbarth**, Head of Climate Justice, BUND/ Friends of the Earth Germany: “Germany has a hell of an agenda next week when leading the G7 Summit from 26-28 June in the South of Germany. We urge G7 leaders to take clear action - and not just empty promises - and follow what civil society around the world is demanding: an equitable end to fossil fuels and get back on track to a 1.5 degree climate just pathway to limit devastating climate impacts around the world.

After two weeks of talks in Bonn the hope faded away to get clear commitments by rich nations to adequately finance impacts of the climate crisis. Finance in trillions is urgently necessary for mitigation, adaptation and loss & damage. We do not talk about technical numbers here,

we actually talk about lives and deaths around the world. The plan to have a well prepared COP27, happening later this year in Egypt, failed.”

**Collin Rees**, Program Manager, Oil Change International: “The hypocrisy and obstruction from rich countries in Bonn is deeply disappointing. Mere months after key commitments in Glasgow by major polluters to phase out international public finance for fossil fuels, these same nations are aggressively pressuring African and other Global South countries to build long-lived fossil fuel infrastructure the planet can’t afford. Rich polluting nations are also refusing to pay up for devastating climate-induced loss and damage. The gap between what’s being discussed and the bold action needed to phase out oil, gas, and coal and fund an equitable transition is larger than ever. We need a drastic increase in ambition and real support from rich countries at the G7 summit and at COP27 in November.”

**Mattias Söderberg**, Climate Advisor, DanChurchAid: “While workshops and dialogues indicated that parties begin to understand each other’s concern, this was not reflected in the actual negotiations. We leave Bonn with a very tiny result, as all important discussions were pushed to COP27.

Parties should never forget that these negotiations are about people, and their lives. We can only solve the climate crisis if we work together. Lack of progress is therefore disappointing, and it will delay climate action.

The most frustrating part of the Bonn session is the difficulty to agree on how to move a dialogue about how to address loss and damage, into clear decisions at the COP, which can deliver concrete results.”

**Azara Remalia Sanogo**, Climate Justice Coordinator, Oxfam West Africa: “Adaptation financial needs are far from being met. In West Africa Region, for example, despite making up 4.4% of the global population, WAS nations emit only 0.51% of the current global emissions. These countries are facing an adaptation gap of 83% as compared to

their reported adaptation needs in their NDCs. Despite their high level of vulnerability and low level of readiness, West Africa Countries are receiving considerably less adaptation than is fair.”

**Sven Harmeling**, Global Policy Co-Lead for Climate Change and Resilience, CARE International: “The Bonn UN climate talks were meant to lay the groundwork for an ambitious and fair COP27 outcome. But countries have hardly progressed on the critical work programme on mitigation to stay within the 1.5°C limit, and breaching this limit would have disastrous consequences for vulnerable populations across the planet. Concerningly, it is also not secured that COP27 will deliver a much needed new facility for funding actions to address loss and damage from climate impacts. This loss and damage facility is critical to help affected people, in particular women and girls, to manage the increasingly harsh impacts of climate change. It is shameful how developed countries blocked agreement on securing a place on the COP27 agenda for this matter.”

**Catalina Gonda**, Climate Policy Co-Coordinator, FARN Argentina: “It has been quite frustrating to see developed countries, once again, deliberately boycott discussions on adaptation and financial support for the most vulnerable people. Latin America and the Caribbean is already suffering tremendous and irreversible damages from climate disasters. Communities all over the region are being displaced, inequalities are being exacerbated, and critical ecosystem services supporting millions are being lost. We need real leadership and signals from rich countries that COP27 won’t be another talk shop, but a moment when concrete solutions and a finance facility to address climate impacts are finally delivered.”

**Mary Friel**, Climate Justice Lead, Christian Aid: “Once again we see the huge disconnect between the negotiations and the urgency of action needed. Right now it is people, communities and the most climate vulnerable who are being hit the hardest, who did the least to cause the crisis, yet are bearing the costs for loss

and damage. Richer countries need to pay up. We were making some progress on loss and damage but rich countries stalled action being made here, kicking the can down the road to COP27 with no certainty on how loss and damage will be reflected on the COP agenda. There's no time for warm words, there has to be action which will provide real financial help for the people living on the front line of the climate crisis."

**Landry Ninteretse**, Africa Regional Director, 350.org: "Africa contributes the least to the global greenhouse gas emissions but suffers the most from the devastating impacts of climate change, which come at a high cost for these vulnerable nations. It is therefore appalling to witness attempts by representatives of developed nations to block climate reparations that would require them to pay for the damage caused by their polluting practices. Meanwhile, they are seeking to explore new sources of fossil fuels on the continent. Ahead of COP 27, we are calling for climate action that caters to

the most vulnerable to climate change. Developed nations should and must pay for damage caused and support the recovery of African nations."

**Rebecca Hubbard**, Program Director, Our Fish: "Despite taking the significant and welcome step of organizing the first annual ocean climate dialogue, the UNFCCC must urgently navigate the long route from acknowledging the ocean's role in climate action to mapping how we can fully harness the power of the ocean in the fight against climate change. There was active participation in the Dialogue, with input from many countries on their commitments to decarbonize shipping and fishing, enhance protection of coastal and marine ecosystems, acknowledge the importance of sustainable fisheries, and to increase finance and support for developing a roadmap for further ocean climate action. We now need to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in other existing UNFCCC processes and workstreams, which includes

encouraging and supporting countries to integrate ocean actions in their Nationally Determined Contributions, National Action Plans and the Global Stocktake."

**Nithi Nesadurai**, Director & Regional Coordinator, Climate Action Network Southeast Asia: "The negotiations here at SB56 have been problematic. Various Parties from the Global North have been quick to block discussion on issues crucial for the Global South including Loss & Damage. In addition, given the ongoing expansion in fossil fuel infrastructure around the world, particularly in Southeast Asia, which will affect the 1.5C limit goal, the painstakingly slow progress on key issues including mitigation, showed that Parties were out of touch with reality."

EP

**Afroza Hossain;**  
Managing Editor, EP  
& Editor, Rang Berang





পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানি অফ বাংলাদেশ লিঃ  
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)



PGCB Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web : www.pgcb.gov.bd

## মানসম্পন্ন বিদ্যুৎ নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে দেশের সকল মানুষের নিকট পৌঁছে দেয়াই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

- \* গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র, গ্রিড লাইন ও টাওয়ার জাতীয় সম্পদ, তা রক্ষা করা সকলের দায়িত্ব।
- \* গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র, সঞ্চালন লাইন ও বৈদ্যুতিক টাওয়ারের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ যন্ত্রাংশ চুরি প্রতিরোধে সহায়তা করুন, বিদ্যুৎ বিপর্যয় থেকে দেশকে বাঁচান।
- \* উচ্চ ভোল্টেজের বৈদ্যুতিক টাওয়ার ও লাইন হতে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন।
- \* বিদ্যুতের গ্রিড লাইন ও টাওয়ার হতে নিরাপদ দূরত্বে স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করুন।
- \* বৃক্ষ রোপনে গ্রিড লাইন ও টাওয়ার হতে নিরাপদ দূরত্বে স্থান নির্বাচন করুন।
- \* বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সাশ্রয়ী হোন। আপনি বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয় করলে তা অন্য একজন ব্যবহার করতে পারে। এমনকি সাশ্রয়কৃত বিদ্যুৎ গুরুতর অসুস্থ কারও জীবন বাঁচানোর কাজে লাগতে পারে।
- \* বিদ্যুৎ অপচয় রোধে সচেতনভাবে ফ্যান, বাতি ও অন্যান্য বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রপাতি ব্যবহার করুন।
- \* বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ী (LED/CFL/T5) বাল্ব ব্যবহার করুন।
- \* যথাসম্ভব দিনের আলো ব্যবহার করুন।
- \* বিকাল ৫:০০ টা হতে রাত ১১:০০ টা পর্যন্ত সময়ে বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা বেশী থাকে। এ সময় দোকান, শপিংমল, বাসা-বাড়ীতে আলোকসজ্জা হতে বিরত থাকুন।



## Decision on Raising Petroleum Prices Soon: Finance Minister



Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has said a decision on raising the petroleum prices will come soon.

"You will get informed whenever the decision is made," he told reporters while virtually briefing on the outcomes of the two

consecutive meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) recently.

He said the government always tries to bear the load when price of any product goes up in the international market.

"But when the cost goes up excessively, the government shares the load with people," he said. **EP**

## Fuel Oil Price Hike Looms Large



The energy ministry was working on developing a suitable pricing formula for adjusting oil prices to a 'tolerable' level that would not affect the consumers and transport sector much, state minister Nasrul Hamid said recently.

"We want the oil price not to be a burden for the consumers and the transport sector," he said at a workshop at Bidyut Bhaban in the city.

He said that the way the oil price is increasing in the international market is 'abnormal', and informed the workshop that the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is

incurring a loss worth around Tk 1.0 billion per day as a consequence.

"We can't sustain this huge loss for long," said the state minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. "After devising the pricing formula, we shall place it to the government for consideration of an adjustment."

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop titled "Free Governor Mode of Operations (FGMO)", organized by the Bangladesh Power Management Institute (BPMI). Power secretary Md Habibur Rahman was the special guest. **EP**

## SHV Energy Enters Bangladesh's LPG Market



Global off-grid energy distributor SHV Energy has officially entered the LPG market in Bangladesh through the purchase of one of the biggest local distributors in this sector, Petromax LPG and Petro-max Cylinders.

The purchase agreement has been signed and the closing is expected in the next few months, said a recent press release.

In the meantime, Petromax will continue to operate out of Dhaka with the current team maintaining the high levels of operational excellence and customer support.

SHV Energy chief executive officer, Bram Graber, said,

"We are excited to be entering the Bangladesh market and look forward to contributing to the further development of Petromax and the LPG industry as a whole."

"Bangladesh will be a key market for SHV Energy, with a growing population and an important opportunity to help in the transition to LPG as a cleaner energy alternative than the more polluting fuels that are still widely in use," he added. **EP**

## Setting Fuel Price without Public Hearing "Illegal": CAB

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said the government's process of setting fuel price without holding any public hearing is "illegal".



Only Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has the right to set fuel price, not the government itself, CAB leaders said at a virtual press conference recently.

Earlier, two ministers hinted at hiking fuel price amid a price hike of crude oil and diesel in the global market.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, Vice President of CAB, said the government is trying to increase the fuel price again which was hiked last November.

"They want to reduce the subsidies by Tk 90 crore a day, but if fuel price increases, the consumer's living cost, including transportation cost, will increase by hundreds of crores," he said.

Mentioning the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) act, he said, BERC has all the rights to set the price of the petroleum products after conducting "public hearing", according to clauses 22 and 34. **EP**

## 1000 Pupils from RNPP Region Participate in 'Precise Energy 2022' Competition



Rosatom conducted the science Olympiad 'Precise Energy 2022' with the participation of over 1000 students from Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) region.

According to a recent message, the two-week-long science Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry "Precise Energy 2022" ended with prize distribution ceremony at Ishwardi.

It said the event was organized by JSC Atomstroyexport (Engineering Division of the Russian State Corporation Rosatom) and was powered by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Russian National Research Nuclear University MEPhI.

"We in Rosatom not only construct state-of-the-art NPPs, using the latest safety and efficient technologies but also support our partner countries in preparing skilled human resources", said

Andrey Cheremisinov, Director of the Communications Department, Rosatom.

The Olympiad was organized for the second time in RNPP construction area and held in two rounds: over 1000 students took part in the preliminary round and more than 300 of them qualified for the final round.

Students from Islamic University Kushtia, Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST), Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), and the University of Rajshahi participated in the senior-level competition, comprising separate written tests in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.

School and college students from Ishwardi and Pabna Region competed at the junior level and demonstrated their knowledge in the general science test. **EP**

## Pre-Paid Meter Installation Goes On at a Snail's Pace

The work on installing pre-paid electricity meters nationwide is going on at a snail's pace with only about 10 per

cent of the country's consumers covered in over a decade.

So far only 46,77,658

## Gazprom EP International Contributing to Bangladesh's Energy Security

Gazprom EP International is the operator of the overseas projects of PJSC Gazprom in search, exploration and development of hydrocarbons fields.



The company has presence in 10 countries on three continents and participates in the implementation of around 20 various-scaled projects.

Gazprom EP International has been working in the territory of Bangladesh since 2012, with Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) being its major partner here.

Between 2012 and 2017, Gazprom EP International constructed 17 exploration and operational wells at eight

gas fields with the total tunneling of 50,000 meters.

Competent designing and optimization of technologies allowed to complete works in the shortest possible time as well as to add more than 10% to the national gas extraction.

Drilling carried out by Gazprom EP International confirmed the significant hydrocarbon potential of Bhola Island. The year 2018 brought the discovery of the North Bhola field, 35 km away from Shahbazpur field. **EP**

consumers have received prepaid meters against total countrywide consumers of 4,15,49,092, which lags far behind the government's much-hyped promise of accelerating the process.



This figure was revealed by the latest government document, titled: "Bangladesh Economic Review 2022", published by the Ministry of Finance on the occasion of the national budget for FY2022-23.

According to this review and other documents of six power distribution

entities, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has been leading in installing the pre-paid meters.

It has installed the highest number of 14,46,414 meters for its consumers while its total number of its consumers is 32,36,886. The coverage of prepaid meters is nearly 45 per cent in the BPDB distribution areas. **EP**

## Dhaka Wants Local Investors in Nepal's Hydropower



**D**haka plans to urge Kathmandu this month to allow two of Bangladesh's experienced power companies to invest in hydropower projects in Nepal.

If the plan gets the go-ahead, it will help Bangladesh import low-cost green electricity and meet its goal of 40% renewable energy by 2041.

Bangladesh is expected to propose the investment plan

at a meeting of the joint working group and steering committee of the two countries in July.

Sources in the Power Division said since Nepal

is open for investment in various hydropower projects, Bangladesh's large power companies – Summit Group and United Group – are interested in working there.

Besides, the government also wants to build a new hydropower plant through a joint venture between the Bangladesh Power Development Board and its counterpart, the Nepal Electricity Authority. **EP**

## 146km Undersea Pipeline Completed for Oil Transportation



**T**he Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) took up the project to set up a single point mooring (SPM) to unload imported crude and refined oil from large ships anchored in the deep sea.

It will help the state-owned corporation to save around Tk800 crore annually that it now spends for unloading fuel with lighterage ships.

The normal depth of trench

digging in the offshore industry is 1.5-3 meters, but in the given project around 100km pipeline was buried 11.9 meters beneath the seabed to avoid the commercial and naval waterways.

The pipeline project, however, missed the deadline for the third time as the other part of it – 74km pipeline onshore – has not been completed yet.

Currently, the authorities aim to complete the project by June next year, but it was scheduled to be done by June this year after extending its implementation period twice. **EP**

## Rosatom Delivers New Model of Nuclear Fuel to India



**R**ussia's TVEL Fuel Company has recently delivered the first batches of TVS-2M nuclear fuel to India for the two functioning units-1 and 2 of Kudankulam NPP, India recently. These units are powered by Russian VVER-1000 reactors.

The new fuel model has an 18-months fuel cycle while the currently used UTVS fuel has a fuel cycle of 12 months.

Compared to the UTVS fuel model, which was supplied to Kudankulam NPP previously, TVS-2M fuel assemblies have a number of advantages making them more reliable and cost-efficient. **EP**

## Six Gas Fields, Wells in Enforced Idleness

**A**t least three feasible on-shore gas fields and three wells have remained "forced idle" for years due to cases pending with local and international

courts, slowing down the much-needed oil-gas discovery.

Inadequate exploration in potential gas fields is aggravating the country's energy crisis with growing dependency on expensive liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The idle gas fields are Feni, Chhatak and Kamta, and the wells are Begumganj-04, Motherganj-01 and Bangora north, says a senior Petrobangla official.

Energy experts blame a weak move by the government to settle the long-pending court issues.

It has been 'abnormally long

time' that the gas fields are kept idle, energy experts said adding the government should expedite its drive to explore these fields.

Officials say necessary excavations in onshore fields Feni, Chhatak and Kamta were halted in 2005 following two back-to-back blowouts at Chhatak gas field, also known as Tengratila field, in 2005.

Canadian firm Niko Resources's exploration job in Bangladesh was stopped following the blowouts, which resulted in a row over payment of gas sales and compensation for blowouts. **EP**

# 6

IDLE GAS FIELDS, WELLS

FIELDS	WELLS
» Feni	» Begumganj-04
» Chhatak	» Motherganj-01
» Kamta	» Bangora North

Experts for immediate steps to explore these fields, wells to tackle looming energy crisis

## Power, Gas, Fuel Tariffs to be Adjusted Further

The government has planned to adjust the prices of fossil fuel, gas, electricity and chemical fertilizers in the 2022-23 fiscal year alongside increasing subsidy on the commodities.

"The sales prices of fossil fuel, gas, electricity and chemical fertilizers will be adjusted gradually on a small scale," said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in his budget speech.

Importing the same volume of nine essential commodities, including crude oil and refined oil, LNG, wheat, fertilizer, palm oil, coal, soy-

bean oil, maize and rice, will cost an additional \$8.2 billion in 2022 due to the price rise, he said.

Due to the rise in prices of fuel and fertilizers in the international market, the government had to increase subsidy and incentives expenditure on fuel, electricity, gas and fertilizers.

As a result, the estimates of subsidy and incentives expenditure on the revised budget of FY2021-2022 had to be increased to Tk 66,825 crore (1.70pc of GDP), the finance minister said. **EP**

## India's Tata Steel Bought 75,000t Russian Coal in May



India's top steelmaker Tata Steel TISC.NS imported about 75,000 tonnes of coal from Russia in the second half of May, weeks after pledging to stop doing business with Russia.

Tata Steel had said in April all its manufacturing sites in India, the UK and the Netherlands had sourced alternative supplies of raw materials to end its dependence on Russia, adding it was taking "a conscious decision to stop doing business with Russia."

Still, in May, Tata Steel shipped about 75,000 tonnes of PCI coal, used in

steelmaking, from Russia's Vanino port, out of which 42,000 tonnes were offloaded in a port in Paradip on May 18 and 32,500 tonnes in Haldia, according to a recent report.

A spokesman for Tata Steel said the deal to import coal from Russia was made before the company's announcement to cut business ties with Russia, without providing further details.

India has refrained from condemning Russia - with which it has longstanding political ties - over what Moscow describes as its "special operations" in Ukraine.

India has instead defended its purchase of Russian goods as a bid to diversify supplies and argues that a sudden halt would boost prices and hurt consumers. **EP**

## Sylhet, Sunamganj Plunge into Darkness



with rising water levels in major rivers due to onrush of hilly water from India.

As floodwater entered Kumargaon grid power sub-station in Sylhet, the authorities suspended

power supply to the two districts, said PDB officials.

The unprecedented flood inundated 80 per cent area of Sylhet division and 90 per cent area of Sunamganj, according to Flood Forecast and Warning Center. **EP**

The sufferings of flood-affected people in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts have mounted with more and more areas going under water and suspension of power supply to the two districts.

The situation turned severe

## VAT Reduction Extended for LPG Cylinder Makers



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended for another year a value added tax (VAT) reduction for local liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder manufacturers, who believe it would help keep fuel prices low against rising demand.

The NBR reduced VAT on domestic manufacturing of LPG cylinders to 5 per cent from 15 per cent in September 2020 in response to demands from manufacturers seeking to better compete

with imported cylinders. The benefit was set to expire on June 30 this year.

"The extension of the support will help the industry grow further," said Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of East Coast Group, which has an LPG cylinder production plant. **EP**

## Electricity Demand in Rajshahi Region to Grow by 3 Times in Five Years

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said that the demand for electricity in Rajshahi region will increase by three times in the next five years.

"So, you should take necessary projects to cope with the demands," he told officials of the Northern Electric Supply Company Limited (Nesco)

while virtually inaugurating the newly installed data center of this power distribution entity recently. He also asked the Nesco officials to initiate a move to shift the overhead cables of the Rajshahi city to underground.

"The city will get a more beautiful look if overhead cables go underground," he told the function. **EP**

## Finland Keen to Cooperate Bangladesh in RE



**F**inland is keen to cooperate with Bangladesh in the field of its sustainable and renewable energy.

Finland's non-resident Ambassador to Bangladesh Ritva Koukku-Ronde recently expressed his country's interest while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban.

Prime Minister Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed the newsmen after the meeting.

The envoy, who resides in New Delhi, handed over a letter of greetings of Finland Prime Minister Sanna Mirella Marin to Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina, marking the 50th anniversary of the two countries diplomatic relations.

The Bangladesh prime minister also conveyed her greetings to her Finnish counterpart at the function. Honorary Consul General of Finland to Bangladesh Muhammad Aziz Khan was present. **EP**

## Austria Puts Green Energy Transition on Hold: Media

**A**ustria is bringing its biggest coal-fired power plant back to life for electricity production amid a reduction in Russian natural gas supplies, according to a recent report.

The nation's biggest utility and most valuable company, Verbund AG, was reportedly ordered to prepare its Mellach coal-fired station for operation. The plant was shuttered two years ago after the country decided to eliminate coal entirely from its electricity grid.



It was turned into a center for researchers looking for ways to safely feed hydrogen fuel to the power grid.

"The government and Verbund have agreed to convert the Mellach district heating plant, which is currently shut down, so that electricity can be produced again from coal in an emergency," Chancellor Karl Nehammer's coalition said in a statement. **EP**

## 200KW Solar Plant Installed in Ctg EPZ



**M**idas Safety Bangladesh, a Canadian multinational hand gloves manufacturer, installed 200-KW solar plant in Chattogram EPZ.

Bond Commissioner AKM Mahbubur Rahman formally inaugurated the plant as the chief guest, said a press release.

Country Head and CEO (Distribution) of Midas Safety Abbas Mustafa Kassem, Joint Commissioner Kamna Sheesh (Bond), Deputy Commissioner (Bond) Tapan Kumar Chakraborty, and General Manager Moinul Hossain were also present on the occasion.

AKM Mahbubur Rahman said that the environment-friendly projects by Midas Safety Bangladesh have set a shining example for other business organizations in the country.

Abbas Mustafa Kassem said, "Midas Safety" will stand by the people of Bangladesh in improving the socio-economic, quality of life, and quality of education of the people of Bangladesh and will continue such activities in the future. **EP**



## JOULES POWER LIMITED (JPL)

Joules Power Limited (JPL) is A Privately Owned Renewable Energy Company Operating in The Power Sector of Bangladesh. JPL Has Been Formed With A Fundamental Core Value Towards Sustainability and is Committed to The Country's Nationally Determined Sustainability Targets. Through Our Presence in The Power Sector We Not Only Stive to Achieve A Greener and More Sustainable Future for Bangladesh, But We Also Hope That JPL's Contribution Towards The Country's Green Infrastructure Will Lead to A Brighter, More Prosperous and Sustainable Future.



## Joules Power Limited - Future Enabled

### Current Portfolio

- 20MW Solar Ground Mounted Project IPP Basis
- 3.23MWp Rooftop Solar project in OPEX Model
- 1.7MWP Rooftop Solar Project in OPEX Model
- 0.325MWp Rooftop Solar Project in OPEX Model
- 2.00MWp Rooftop Solar Project in OPEX Mode

## Solar Peer-to-Peer Microgrid



**S**OLshare, the initiator of the world's first peer-to-peer energy exchange network for rural communities, in collaboration with Shakti Foundation, is set to break another glass ceiling in energy innovation.

Funded by the UK Government, SOLshare and Shakti Foundation will be interconnecting one of their P2P solar microgrids - a network of interconnected solar home systems, in a rural village in Bangladesh through a single point called the Point of Common Coupling (PCC), to feed the excess solar energy into the national grid.

The PCC, held on 21 June 2022 at SOLshare's offices in Dhaka, was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Tafiq-

e-Elahi Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy & Mineral Resources Affairs.

He was joined by Mr. Javed Patel, Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Special Guest for the event.

Dr. Chowdhury congratulated SOLshare and Shakti Foundation for the timely innovation in the power system saying "Hopefully, today's event will lead to the scale up of this idea so that the benefits of solar peer-to-peer microgrids would reach more customers."

Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Javed Patel said, "We are delighted to support this groundbreaking pilot program that builds on Bangladesh's global success in solar home systems and national grid expansion. It has the potential to bring benefits to many remote rural communities as well as increase the contribution of renewable energy in the national energy mix."

The PCC (Point of Common Coupling) integrates Bangladesh's two major electrification efforts- grid extension and Solar Home System dissemination.

EP

## EIB to Support Mauritania Green Hydrogen Investment Plans



**M**auritanian President El Ghazouani recently met Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank, to discuss cooperation with the world's largest international public bank and agreed to strengthen cooperation to scale up wind, solar and green hydrogen investment.

"Development of Mauritania's huge renewable energy potential can both enhance access to affordable energy in our country and allow clean energy to

be converted to green hydrogen. Closer cooperation with the European Investment Bank will allow Mauritania to benefit from the EIB's unique technical experience and financial strength." said Mohammed Ould Ghazouani, President of Mauritania.

Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, commented: "With the joint declaration signed today at the European Development Days, Mauritania and the European Union are strengthening their cooperation to accelerate clean energy investment, drive renewable hydrogen innovation and address global energy turmoil. This demonstrates how the European Union's Global Gateway, working in a Team Europe approach, can unlock investment to harness Africa's renewable energy potential."

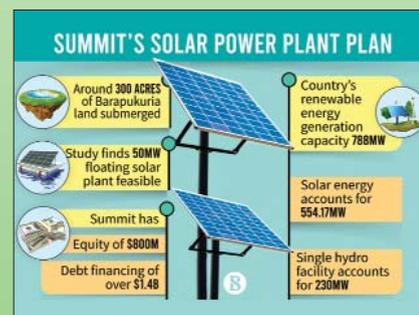
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Greenpage

## Summit Plans 50MW Floating Solar Plant

**S**ummit Corporation Limited, one of the largest business conglomerates in the country, is planning to build a 40MW-50MW floating solar plant on the lands of the Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Limited, now underwater.

In an expression of interest sent to the Power Division, Petrobangla, and Barapukuria Coal Mine Company, on 26 May, Summit proposed four models for implementing the project – through a joint venture with Barapukuria Coal Mine, under a land lease agreement, as a lead member with revenue sharing of the project, or any other arrangement



suggested by the power, energy and mineral resources ministry.

It also offered to deliver the project in Dinajpur, around 350km northwest of Dhaka, in the shortest possible time, using the world's most efficient technologies.

Sustainable and Renewable Development Authority (Sreda), a state-owned agency responsible for promoting renewable energy, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, conducted a feasibility study last year to determine scope for a floating solar plant on the submerged lands.

The study found that a 50MW floating solar is feasible there, said Sreda officials.

EP

## Europe Needs 600GW of Energy Storage by 2050



Europe will need a total of 187GW of energy storage by 2030 and 600GW by 2050 to meet its renewable energy targets, according to the European Association of Energy Storage (EASE).

The 2030 figure was first published last month while the target for 2050, when the continent's renewable mix is expected to reach 85%, is an entirely

new forecast. The 600GW is part of a total of 811GW of flexibility capacity needed, with the rest made up of gas turbines.

Of the 187GW, 65GW will be pumped hydro energy storage (mostly already existing today), 67GW of battery storage and other short duration solutions, and 55GW of energy storage from longer-duration batteries and other energy storage solutions.

The EU is targeting a 45% renewable mix by 2030, as per the recent REPower EU strategy, although EASE said this will easily be exceeded by many countries. It cites Spain's 20GW by 2030 and 30GW by 2050 targets.

EP

## GE to Increase Solar, Storage Power Electronics Capacity



GE will triple its manufacturing capacity for solar and battery storage Power Electronics Systems by 2022 to 9 GW per year. This is due to strong growth in backlog and a strong demand outlook.

These systems are made at GE's new Renewable Hybrids plant. In 2022, GE opened a Renewable Hybrids manufacturing facility in Vallam, India, which was announced earlier.

This site produces GE's Power Conversion Solution,

FLEXINVERTER, as well as FLEXRESERVOIR. It also integrates them with FLEXIQ, which is part of GE Renewable Hybrids's FLEX portfolio. These solutions are designed to meet customers' need for dispatchable, green MWhs, in Solar, Storage, and Hybrid applications.

Prakash Chandra (GE Renewable Hybrids CEO) stated: "Solar Energy Storage and Battery Energy Storage will continue to be a key driver for delivering Hybrid Systems that enable the energy transformation."

GE has provided Standalone Solar Inverters for customers worldwide for the past 15 years. In 2012, GE introduced the 1500 V technology to the industry. This has allowed customers to reduce their energy costs through a more efficient farm design.

EP

Greenpage

## WELTEC BIOPOWER, Enscope Bundle Competencies in Australia

In May 2022, WELTEC BIOPOWER, the world's leading specialist in the establishment and operation of biogas and biomethane plants, signed a cooperation agreement with the Australian company Enscope.

The partners' common goal is to offer complete solutions from the plant drafting stage to the turnkey rollout in Australia.

"With Enscope, whose offices are based in Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Darwin, our market position in Australia will become much stronger. The cooperation constitutes a sound



foundation for the further expansion of our activities and efficient growth," says Vladimir Bogatov, who is responsible for the sales operations of WELTEC BIOPOWER in the Asia-Pacific region. "In Australia, there is an enormous potential for developing green energies from renewable organic sources," emphasizes Kane Ramsay, President of Enscope.

Furthermore, the newly elected Federal Government has a stated policy of a cut in carbon emissions of 43% by 2030 when measured against 2005 levels, a significant increase over the previous Government's policy of a cut of between 26 and 28%.

EP

## Govt Planting Trees Extensively: Shahab Uddin



Combat Desertification and Drought 2022.

Speaking as the chief guest, Shahab Uddin said the government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is implementing various projects and activities for prevention of deforestation, restoration of forests, creation of new forests, conservation of biodiversity, prevention of land erosion and protection of natural environment.

He said Bangladesh would be successful if the people plant trees at a higher rate as per their ability.

The environment minister said the effect of desertification is being seen in some areas of the northern region of Bangladesh. **EP**

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin recently said the government is implementing afforestation program on a massive scale to prevent desertification and soil degradation.

"Work is underway to build a land degradation-neutral country by 2030 in line with sustainable development by preventing soil degradation," he said while addressing a seminar, organized by the Department of Environment (DoE), at its office here, marking the World Day to

## Offshore Methane Gas Leak Spotted from Space



globally emitted about 120 million tonnes of the planet-warming gas in 2020, nearly one-third of all methane emissions from human activity, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The new study in the journal Environmental Science and Technology Letters identified a plume from an oil and gas production platform in the Gulf of Mexico that spewed some 40,000 tonnes over a 17-day period in December.

The platform, near Campeche in southern Mexico, is in one of the country's biggest oil producing fields **EP**

Scientists have for the first time used satellite data to detect a major offshore leak of the potent greenhouse gas methane, according to peer-reviewed research.

The findings add a crucial tool to an expanding space-based arsenal for pinpointing previously invisible methane plumes from the oil and gas industry.

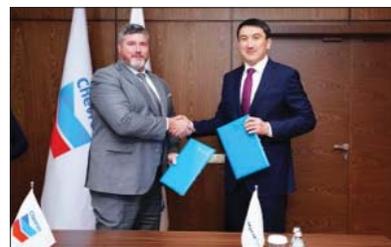
Fossil fuel operations

## Chevron, Kazmunaygas Partner on Kazakhstan Carbon Reduction

Chevron Corp., through its subsidiary Chevron Munaigas Inc., and Kazakhstan national oil and gas company KazMunayGas (KMG) have signed an MoU to explore potential lower-carbon business opportunities in Kazakhstan.

Chevron and KMG plan to evaluate the potential for lower carbon projects in areas such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage; hydrogen; energy efficiency and methane management; and carbon financial disclosure methodology.

At the UN Climate Ambition Summit, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stated that Kazakhstan intends to



achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. KazMunayGas, in turn, has set a goal to reduce its carbon footprint by 15% compared with 2019 levels by 2031 and is going to take further actions under the Paris Agreement and Kazakhstan's Doctrine of Carbon Neutral Development.

The collaboration between Chevron and KMG is part of the efforts from both companies to support Kazakhstan's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. **EP**

## US EV Maker ELMS Files for Bankruptcy

Electric delivery maker Electric Last Mile Solutions, under investigation by a top US securities regulator, has announced plans to file for bankruptcy, less than a year after going public.

The Michigan-based company, which aimed to provide urban delivery vehicles, announced late Sunday had filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy or liquidation.

In February, the company's CEO, Jim



Taylor, and chairman, Jason Luo, resigned following an internal investigation into share purchases by the co-founders before ELMS went public.

ELMS appointed board member Shauna McIntyre as interim CEO to review the company's products and plans. **EP**

## Energypac Celebrates World Environment Day



This year's theme for World Environment Day was "Only One Earth & Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature."

Centering the World Environment Day 2022, Energypac Power Generation Limited (EPGL) has recently undertaken various programs at G Gas LPG Plant, Khulna, G Gas Satellite Plant 101, Rupganj, and Energypac Industrial Park G-6, Gazipur, with an aim to maintain the ecological balance while promoting environmental sustainability and contributing to the development of the environment.

The day has been celebrated throughout the world, and the country through various events organized both officially and privately.

Humayun Rashid, Managing Director & CEO, Energypac Power Generation Limited, said, "As an organization committed to environmental sustainability, Energypac Power Generation Limited has been working with utmost responsibility." **EP**

## Australia Submits More Ambitious 2030 Emissions Target to UN



cheaper energy," Albanese said.

Despite being ravaged by floods, fires and droughts, Australia has long been seen as a laggard on climate action.

Australia's new center-left government submitted more ambitious emissions targets to the United Nations recently, seeking to end a decade of foot-dragging on climate change.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese raised the country's 2030 emissions reduction target to 43 percent, up from a more modest previous target of 26-28 percent.

The new goal "sets Australia up for a prosperous future, a future powered by cleaner,

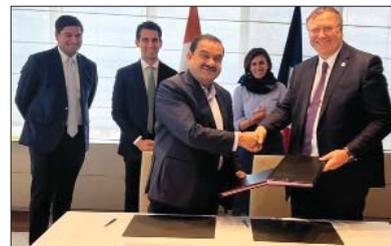
The vast continent-country is replete with fossil fuel deposits and is one of the world's top exporters of coal and gas.

Coal still plays a key role in domestic electricity production.

In 2022, MIT ranked Australia 52nd of 76 nations on its Green Future Index, which rates how much countries are shifting towards an environmentally sustainable economy. **EP**

## TotalEnergies to Acquire 25% Stake in Adani Group's Green Hydrogen Venture

TotalEnergies has entered into an agreement with Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) to acquire a 25% interest in Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL).



ANIL will be the exclusive platform of AEL and TotalEnergies for the production and commercialization of green hydrogen in India.

ANIL will target a production of one million metric tonnes of green hydrogen per year (Mtpa) by 2030, underpinned by around 30 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable power generation capacity, as its first milestone.

In order to control green hydrogen production costs, ANIL will be integrated along the value chain, from the manufacturing of equipment

needed to generate renewable power and produce green hydrogen, to the production of green hydrogen itself and its transformation into derivatives, including nitrogenous fertilizers and methanol, both for the domestic market and export.

To start with, ANIL intends to develop a project to produce 1.3 Mtpa of urea derived from green hydrogen for the Indian domestic market, as a substitution to current urea imports, and will invest around \$5 billion in a 2 GW electrolyzer fed by renewable power from a 4 GW solar and wind farm. **EP**

## PTTEP Assessing Carbon Capture at Arthit Field Offshore Thailand

PTTEP is working on Thailand's first carbon capture and storage (CCS) project at the Arthit offshore gas field.



The feasibility study, which recently concluded, included a preliminary assessment of carbon storage capacity in targeted geological storage formations and an associated conceptual development plan.

A preliminary pre-FEED study is underway, with CCS operations expected to start by 2026.

PTTEP CEO Montri Rawanchaikul said the company also collaborated with companies with experience in CCS technology in Japan to assess the potential for CCS development in other parts of Thailand. **EP**

## Biden to Lead Major Economies in Push for Action on Climate



U.S. President Joe Biden recently will urge China and other major economies to ramp up their efforts to combat climate change by cutting methane emissions, adopting ambitious targets for zero-emission vehicles and cleaning up shipping.

At the third virtual gathering of the Major Economies Forum (MEF) under his presidency, Biden will also call on countries to spend \$90 billion to speed commercialization of clean technologies, and to develop new fertilizers that cut agricultural emissions and boost food security, senior

U.S. officials told reporters.

The meeting will be the largest gathering of world leaders on climate change before the November global climate conference known as COP27 to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The White House said Biden and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will announce a joint effort to build climate resilience in Africa, while other countries were slated to join in several initiatives to reduce emissions.

The countries that make up the MEF account for roughly 80% of global economic output and global greenhouse gas emissions.

Several countries were expected to announce new 2030 emissions targets under the Paris climate agreement, the White House said, but did not name them. **EP**

## Govts' Inaction About Climate Change 'Dangerous': UN Chief

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently warned of a "dangerous disconnect" between what scientists and citizens are demanding to curb climate change, and what governments are actually doing about it.

Guterres said global greenhouse gas emissions need to drop by 45 percent this decade, but are currently forecast to increase by 14 percent.

"We are witnessing a historic and dangerous disconnect: science and citizens are demanding ambitious and transformative climate action," he said at a climate conference in Austria.

"Meanwhile many governments are dragging their feet. This inaction has grave consequences." **EP**



Guterres said Russia's war in Ukraine risked worsening the crisis, because major economies were "doubling down on fossil fuels" that are to blame for much of the emissions stoking global warming.

"New funding for fossil fuel exploration and production infrastructure is delusional," he said in a video message to the Austrian World Summit, initiated by former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "It will only further feed the scourge of war, pollution and climate catastrophe." **EP**

## IRENA's Climate Finance Platform Enters Next Phase

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed agreements with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and The Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (known as Masdar) at the Agency's headquarters recently.

The agreement with ADFD formalizes the fund's anchor investment of USD 400 million to IRENA's Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform. The signing of the Letter of Intent with Masdar paves the way for renewable energy projects through technical advisories and equity investments.

Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the Abu

Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Masdar's Chief Executive Officer, and Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA, signed the agreements and also delivered remarks at the signing ceremony.

"The financing development, business expertise and financial commitment of ADFD and Masdar to ETAF is a testament to the UAE's strong commitment to supporting the global energy transition. It will enable IRENA to facilitate capital mobilization and significantly accelerate the energy transition in developing countries," said Mr. La Camera. **EP**

## Allocate 2pc of GDP for Climate Resilience

Civil society groups have demanded that two percent of the country's GDP be allocated to fight the impacts of climate change. They made the demand in a seminar titled "Adequate Climate Financing for Sustainable Economic Development".

The seminar was organized by Coast Foundation, Centre for Participatory Research and Development and Coastal Development Partnership at Cirdap recently.

Coast Director Aminul Hoque said the allocated Tk 30,531 crore as the climate budget is unable to fight the

impacts of climate change. All the climate resilience plans prepared by the government require around 2.20 percent of the GDP to be implemented. "But the current allocation is only 0.69 percent," he said.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, MP and chair of standing committee on ministry of livestock, said, "If coastal people are not protected, all the development will fall flat."

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa, said the impact of climate change has become more widespread than ever, and the ongoing flood is proof of that. **EP**

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION AMONG PANDEMIC AFFECTED PEOPLE AT BARISAL SILO



# Fuel Supply Main Challenge

**B**angladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is in no way against the development of renewable energy in the country. Rather, it is a partner in the progress of every renewable project. At the same time, we are also implementing the largest solar project soon. BPDB is also working relentlessly on energy efficiency and conservation with the aim of environmental impact management through emission control. But the main challenge for us now is the primary fuel supply.

BPDB Chairman Engineer Md Mahbubur Rahman said the above in an exclusive interview with EP Editor **Mollah Amzad Hossain**.

*The financial stress of BPDB was intensifying over the past few years due to the widening balance of payment. The COVID-19 and war in Ukraine are impacting the fuel prices, adding to that stress. What are your plans for absorbing that?*

You are right that the negative balance of payment remains a cause of concern for BPDB over the past few years for increasing reliance on imported primary fuel and price volatility of the global fuel market. We have submitted a proposal to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) for adjusting the bulk power tariff for narrowing the difference between cost and tariff. We hope that BERC will determine power tariffs rationally in the context of reality. BPDB has taken up the following five initiatives for addressing the situation. The reliance on expensive liquid fuel-based generation is being reduced through demand-side management. The fuel-efficient power plants are being operated to their highest capacity as much as practicable while increasing revenue through pragmatic adjustment of tariffs, increasing subsidies from the government, and withdrawing or reducing CD and VAT on imported liquid fuel for the private sector power generators. We are following up on these initiatives vigorously. Apart from price adjustment by BERC, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has been approached for withdrawing CD and VAT. We are also continuously pursuing the

Power Division and Finance Ministry for increasing subsidies.

*Your proposal for increasing the bulk price of power is under consideration by BERC. Your proposal has three alternatives for a price increase for each unit. How will you manage to incase if not approved or partially approved?*

I have mentioned that we submitted a proposal to BERC for price adjustment. A public hearing has already been completed. The technical committee after review has also considered it prudent to recommend a tariff close to our proposed rate. We are optimistic that BERC's determination of tariff will be better than increasing the subsidy for improving the balance of payment of BPDB. In case BERC does not agree there will be no option left to increase the subsidy.

*We have learned that the government has decided not to import LNG from the volatile spot market. This may increase reliance on liquid fuel-based generation. This will obviously increase generation costs. Do you have a plan to go for loadshedding as a contingency management option?*

I have mentioned already that the demand management at peak hours has been initiated. This will be eased for 10 days during the ensuing Eid. But will be reintroduced later. But there is no plan for loadshedding. Efforts will continue through price adjustment and demand-side management.

*This is for the first time the IPPs' bills remain outstanding for 5 months. The IPPs are reportedly under stress as well. What actions is BPDB taking to redress the situation? How long would it take to bring it under reasonable control?*

Yes, outstanding payables have increased, but not really for 5 months. We have already cleared the payment for January 2022. Payments for February have also started. Actually, the outstanding payment is for February, March and April. IPPs have submitted invoices for the month of May. But the time of payment has not expired yet. We expect that subject to the



**Engineer Md Mahbubur Rahman**

*Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is in no way against the development of renewable energy in the country. Rather, it is a partner in the progress of every renewable project. At the same time, we are also implementing the largest solar project soon. BPDB is also working relentlessly on energy efficiency and conservation with the aim of environmental impact management through emission control.*

government clearing subsidies expeditiously, we can clear all outstanding payments without hassle.

*Many IPPs are now importing their own fuel. But due to added costs for opening a Letter of Credit, the cost of fuel is increasing. But BPDB is not adjusting the cost in spite of getting requests from IPPs. How can this be resolved?*

We have received requests for negotiation either with individual IPP or their association. Payment is made to IPPs which use imported liquid fuel, following the provisions of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). We have no scope as per PPA to renegotiate the price for cost increase due to dollar rate fluctuations.

*On behalf of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), it is*

***alleged that generation cost is being increased for keeping 40-60% of the power idle due to indiscriminate planning of generation. How will you react to this?***

Every country maintains a reserve margin in generation for ensuring the security of supply in power generation. This is essential for maintaining supply during a forced outage or regular routine maintenance of some plants. Our reserve margin is a bit higher. Though we have a diversified fuel mix yet for fuel supply insecurity we have to manage crises from time to time for issues emanating from difficulties in import and higher prices. In addition to the above, the reserve margin is facilitating us in ensuring required generation during regular maintenance and unforeseen forced outages.

Hence the allegation that the cost of generation is increasing for keeping plants idle is not at all acceptable.

***There are allegations that the loss in the sector is due to poor performance of BPDB and public sector companies. BPDB is transferring this to the users. What are your views?***

It's a baseless allegation. We have to bear in mind that the cost of generation of public and private sector power plants is the same using the same fuel and similar technology. Please also note that public sector companies as part of social responsibility have to run mosques, schools, and recreation centers in the power plants. These add to the cost. Now all public sector companies have been made accountable through increasing efficiency of management. The Power Division is also constantly monitoring. Hence it is not fair to allege that cost is increasing from inefficiency or wastage of public sector companies.

***Primary fuel supply is a major challenge for the power sector. BPDB is not getting supplies as required. The challenge will grow in the future. What alternatives should be planned you think?***

There is price parity for all fuel during normal times. For this, the price of all fuel increases in case of an increased price of one fuel. That is why the government for ensuring energy security has diversified bringing into use LNG, nuclear, dual fuel and renewable. The government's priority is increasing LNG import through

long-term contracts. Provided this is done and the use of renewable is expanded issues with primary energy supply can be addressed. Solar power generation and storage are getting cheaper. Higher use of Renewable will ease the situation.

***The price of LNG is increasing alarmingly in the global market. But Bangladesh is planning for more and more LNG-based power plants. How logical do you think the plan is?***

The government's priority is diversifying the fuel mix. On this consideration, there is no better less emitting fuel than LNG now. Though the price of LNG has shot sky-high because of economic recovery, triggered demand growth, and the impact of the Ukraine war, the price will eventually drop down soon. Generation costs will eventually come down if LNG is used as the preferred transition fuel.

***The power demand for the industries is not growing over the past few years. Many believe that the higher cost of grid power than captive power is the reason for this. There is a feeling that industries may not be interested in grid power even if the grid power supply gets more reliable. What is your opinion?***

We have taken a host of initiatives for attracting industries to grid power supply. The reason is industrial demand did not increase over the past few years. On the other hand, the demand for the domestic sector is increasing significantly. The power demand of industries must grow to reduce the loss of BPDB. Many infrastructures are being developed for increasing the reliability of grid power. It is expected that in about two years these will be completed. But there is another issue as you have rightly pointed out. The cost of captive generation is less than grid power. But all must bear in mind that captive power is 38-40% efficient while the efficiency of grid power is 60-62%. The use of grid power will eventually reduce overall cost.

Power division is working to reduce the difference in cost between captive power and grid power. Success in that is expected. The price of gas to captives should be further adjusted if required. For the interest of the power sector, there is no option now for the growth of grid power.

***There are talks that BDPB is less interested in renewable power. How true is it? What is the BPDB plan for RE development?***

It is not true at all. BPDB is the focal point of the power sector. As the sole buyer, BPDB is buying power from all sources including renewable. 229MW grid-connected solar is purchased by BPDB. By 2030 another 3100MW of renewable will be connected. Projects for 2800MW are at different stages of implementation. BPDB as a partner of these is to purchase this power. BPDB is also implementing some solar projects. DPP has been finalized for a large 260MW solar power plant at Block B of Rampal power plant. One French development partner AFD has shown interest in investment. Plans are there for a 70MW solar power plant at Rangpur and 80MW at Sonagazi. Plans are there for setting up a solar plant at Maheshkhali beside the Land-Based LNG Terminal following the government's decision of shelving planned coal-based power. Moreover, as per the SREDA wind mapping, a tender for wind power has been invited. Additional wind mapping is also being done.

Bangladesh has submitted an updated NDC to UNFCCC committing 6.7% carbon emission reduction effected using its own money and 15% conditionally. The power sector will be a major contributor. BPDB is working on a massive plan for expanding renewable, increasing efficiency and ensuring the conservation of energy.

***What according to you is the main challenge of BPDB? How are you planning to confront that?***

The main challenge of BPDB now is getting the required primary fuel supply. It is inconceivable that BPDB on a standalone basis can do this. The Power Division and Energy Division must work hand in hand for ensuring this. Challenges for fuel supply are intensifying as gas supply is progressively diminishing. Besides this our other changes are ensuring greater use of ICT and automation, developing modern technology embracing human capital. Finally, we have the challenge of developing and implementing a strategy for increasing grid power use in industries for the improved financial health of BPDB.

Without addressing the above challenges sustainable energy security cannot be achieved.



Farid Hossain

# BRAVO SHEIKH HASINA! YOU HAVE DONE IT

The euphoria over the Padma Bridge is yet to peter out. The nation's passion associated with the historic achievement of building the country's largest infrastructure project with its own funds will continue for quite some time. The construction of the 6.15km double-deck road-and-rail bridge is a testament to Bangladesh's capacity and self-determination in reaching a destination as tough as it has been. The will of the people has been well carried out by a determined leader of the country. While Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attributed the success to the "people's support" for her government, the real credit goes to her. But for her determined leadership this bridge to connect the capital city with the 21 south-western districts would never have been possible. In turning the nation's long-cherished dream into a reality Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu, has accomplished a Himalayan task. She went ahead with her decision to build the bridge shunned by the World Bank. The mighty Padma River, known for its unruly and unpredictable current, has been conquered.

In inaugurating the bridge PM Hasina repeatedly said this is not just an infrastructure of steel, cement and iron. Apart from embodying the dream and pride of the nation, the bridge has opened the socio-economic transformation of the resource-rich but less developed south-western region.

Connectivity has always been a key factor for national development. The Padma Bridge, until it is overtaken by another bigger achievement, will for sure accelerate the development of industries, agro-processing and tourism in the south. Going beyond it will boost regional connectivity with the South Asian neighbors India, Nepal and Bhutan. The prospect of BBIN has been brightened after the opening of the Padma Bridge. The congratulatory messages sent to our prime minister by the South Asian leaders are good enough to support the idea that this iconic infrastructure is also going to transform regional connectivity. The immediate beneficiary will be our close neighbor India. The distance between Dhaka and Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, will be reduced by 150 kilometers, the movement of people of both the countries will witness a big increase and above all commerce and trade will get a shot in the arm. Why not think about Indian tourists, especially from West Bengal, coming to Bagerhat to see the region's historic sites like the Sixty-Dome mosque and visiting Kuakata, a newly emerged tourist attraction, next only to Cox's Bazar.

Bangladeshis greeted the opening of the bridge (June 25) with much jubilation as it has celebrated the nation's capacity to stand on its own despite being neglected by a few arrogant westerners whose mean attitude towards Bangladesh and its people is really abhorring. Is this going to be the beginning of a new journey for Bangladesh? Sure it is. Today, we have built the bridge with our own finance. Tomorrow, such mega projects will be built by our own engineers. Our ambition has taken a big leap after this accomplishment. Bravo Bangladesh!

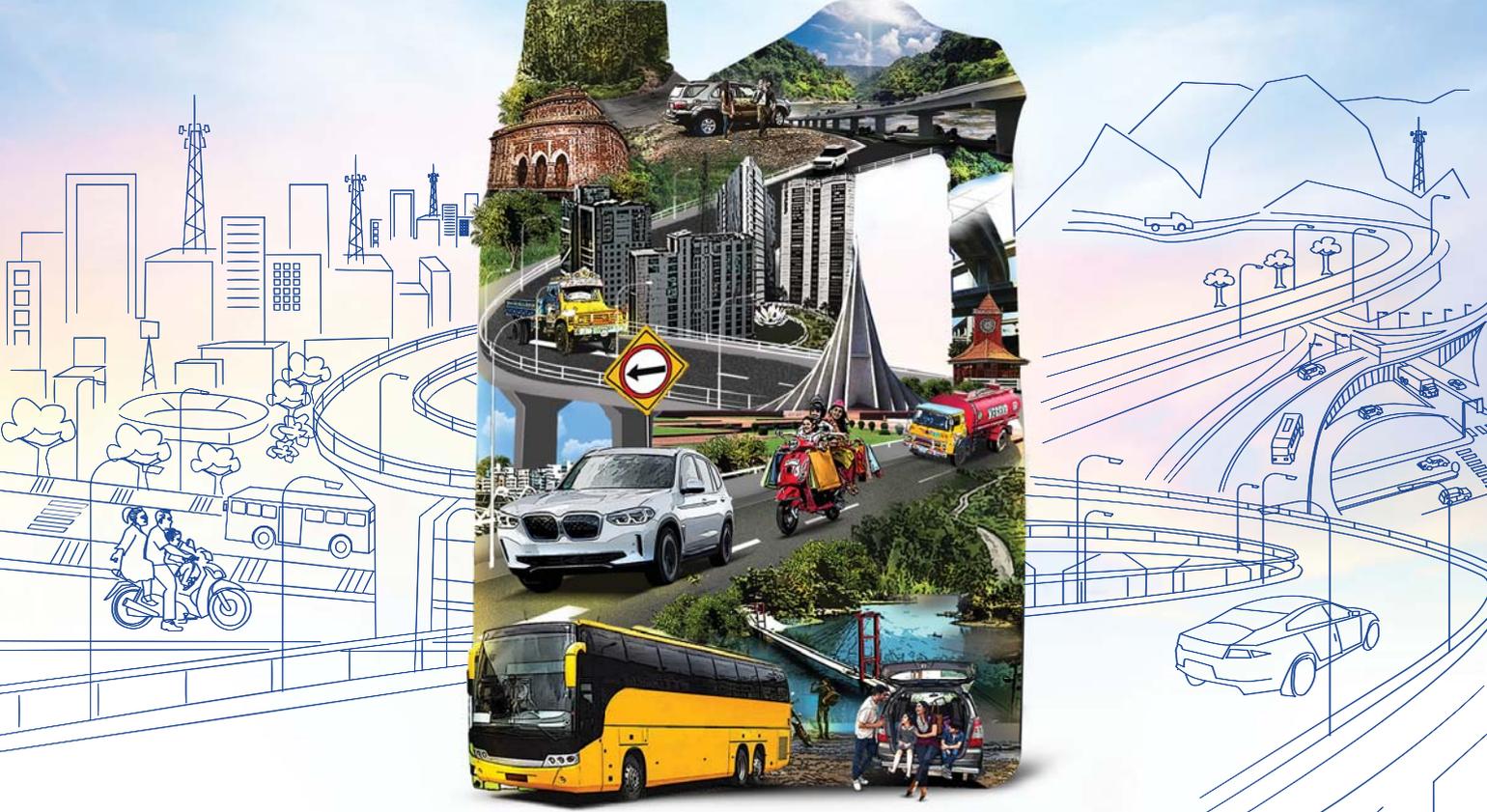
However, the achievement should also be an occasion for the people to reflect on the reality so the next course of action goes well planned. Politically, the ruling Awami League should be careful to ensure that the tremendous success does not go in vain. The Padma Bridge should bring more votes to the party so Sheikh Hasina returns to power also in 2023 in a credible election. On the development front, Hasina's government is doing well amid allegations of corruption and irregularities. On some other fronts, especially in regard to the treatment of the opposition and human rights, the Awami League should do better. We know that public perception does not always reflect the fact. But it can become damaging and can hurt a party as big as AL in the ballot boxes. It's time for Hasina's government to bask in success as big as the Padma Bridge. Also, it should be the time to guard against being overconfident and complacent.



Photo: PID

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