

ENERGY & POWER

Danger Lurking Beneath Surface

- Energy Entangled with Dollar Crisis
- PM's Qatar Visit Set to Boost Energy Cooperation
- NG Leakage, Not Biogas from Sewerage, Responsible for Explosions



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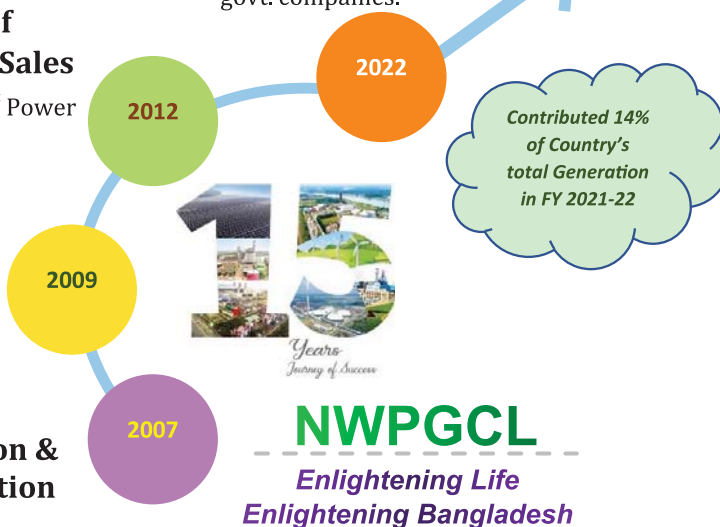
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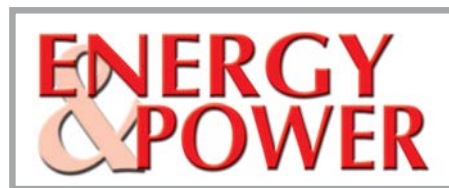
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EDITORIAL

A severe explosion took place in the basement of a building at Siddique Bazar in Dhaka on March 7, leaving at least 24 people dead and around a hundred injured. Initial investigations suggest that the accident occurred from accumulated methane gas in a confined space. The explosion was so powerful that it blew the concrete structure into pieces and the rubbles badly hit the nearby pedestrians and moving buses. It was not the first such incident in the country. Earlier, few other accidents of similar nature also took place in the city and elsewhere. The ones at Moghbazar in the capital and in Tollabag Mosque of Narayanganj could be mentioned notably due to their devastation. Habitats in the cities, towns, or villages are no longer out of danger of such gas-bomb explosions. Many fear that the entire country is now at a greater risk as accidents from unauthorized use of CNG cylinders, misuse of LPG, and gas accumulations from leaked distribution systems or sewerage lines have almost become a way of life now. Discussion continues only for a few days after such incidents and parties responsible for making the gas supply chain risk-free immediately lock horns on a mere blame game.

Modern civic life has no escape from the use of energy. But safety needs to be ensured at all segments of the supply chain.

h i g h l i g h t s

COVER



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It has been established that the explosions at Narayanganj Mosque, Moghbazar, and buildings near Science Laboratory and Siddique Bazar were not caused by explosives. It is also established that all these originated from sparks of explosive mixtures of methane gas accumulated from pipeline leakages. But the issue is that Titas Gas did not accept the responsibility in any of the cases ...
Dr. Md. Easir Arafat Khan tells EP



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Demand-side management and austerity in use will be the key to keeping the power supply comfortable over the summer. The farming community is restricting their irrigation at off-peak hours, after midnight. Shops and businesses in major cities must also pull their shutters down after 6 PM excepting Friday and Saturday. This will save substantial electricity...
More in Article



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Explosions from accumulated methane gas in confined spaces hit headlines in recent times. The most recent one took place at Siddique Bazar in Dhaka on March 7. The entire country is now at risk as organizations concerned are not shouldering the responsibilities of such accidents. Not only cities and towns, but even villages also are no longer out of danger of such gas-bomb explosions.



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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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PM's Qatar Visit Set to Boost Energy Cooperation

Ratan N. Tata Awarded 2022 Hoover Medal



Ratan Naval Tata, prominent engineer, entrepreneur, industrialist, and philanthropist of India, has been awarded the 2022 Hoover Medal by a board representing five engineering

organizations: the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME); the American Society of Civil Engineers; the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers; the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Established in 1929, the medal commemorates the civic and humanitarian achievement of engineers and is conferred upon an engineer whose professional achievements and personal endeavors have advanced the well-being of humankind.

Tata was recognized as the 74th recipient of the Hoover Medal in a private award ceremony in January at Somerset House in Mumbai, India.

Ponisseril Somasundaran, Ph.D., chair of the Hoover Board of Award and La von Duddleson Krumb Professor in the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Thomas Costabile, executive director/CEO of ASME presented the gold medal to Tata.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, chairman of the board for the Tata Group, also attended the event.

Massive Power Cut Plunges Argentina into Dark for Hours

A major power outage crippled several of Argentina's provinces recently, including parts of Buenos Aires, plunging millions of people into darkness for at least two hours as summer temperatures soared, officials said.

In the capital, the lights flickered back on at about 6:00 pm (2100 GMT) in the metro system, and public services were gradually restored.

Reports of the first outages came in from 4:00-5:00 pm, with traffic lights out of order and Buenos Aires metro stations in total darkness.

Argentina's undersecretary for energy Santiago Yanotti said that power demand had soared due to the high temperatures. In Buenos Aires, it was 36 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit) that day.

The power cut is believed to have been caused by a fire in a field near high-tension lines connected to the Atucha 1 nuclear power plant, Yanotti said.

Oil Prices Fall Amid Recession Fears

Oil prices declined recently, notching a three-day losing streak, as traders focused on recession risks.



The West Texas Intermediate for April delivery dropped 94 cents, or 1.23 percent, to settle at 75.72 U.S. dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for May delivery lost 1.07 dollars, or 1.29 percent, to close at 81.59 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The above market reactions came after data showed U.S. initial jobless claims came in higher than expected for the week ending March 4.

"The report served as a bearish catalyst," as it highlighted the negative impact of higher interest rates, Vladimir Zernov, analyst with market information supplier FX Empire, said.

"Oil markets are moving lower as traders worry that Fed's aggressive policy will put too much pressure on the economy," he said. In a testimony to the U.S. Congress earlier this week, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell raised the potential for more aggressive interest rate hikes.

ONGC Inks Deepwater MoU with TotalEnergies

ONGC has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TotalEnergies to establish a holistic framework between the two for exchange of each other's technical strengths in deepwater offshore, especially Mahanadi and Andaman, according to a March 6 ONGC post on Twitter.



Last year ONGC signed heads of agreement with Exxon Mobil for deepwater exploration on the country's east and west coasts. The tie-up with Exxon focuses on the Krishna Godavari and Cauvery basins in the eastern offshore region and the Kutch-Mumbai region in the western offshore area.

Exxon is also keen to buy a stake in some of the local deepwater blocks of ONGC, former oil secretary Tarun Kapoor said, according to a report. Last month ONGC discovered gas with a well in the Mumbai Offshore (SW) region. The MBS171HAA-1 (MBS171HAA-A) well in OALP block MB-OSHP-2017/1 flowed 145, 093 cu. m/d from the Panna Formation at a depth of ~3,800 m. This is the deepest recorded presence of a commercial hydrocarbon pool in the sector, the company said.

Summit Signs MOU with QFC



Summit Group and Qatar Financial Centre ("QFC") have signed an MOU in presence of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, CEO and MD of Summit Power International Ayesha

Aziz Khan, Sultan bin Rashid Al Khater, Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Qatar and the CEO of QFC Yousef Mohamed Al-Jaida.

On behalf of their organizations the MOU was signed by Sheikha Alanoud Bint Hamad Al-Thani, Co-CEO of QFC and Salman Khan, Director of Summit Oil & Shipping Co Ltd (SOSCL) enabling Summit to explore investment and business opportunities in Qatar especially in the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with QFC.

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is an onshore business and financial centre located in Doha, Qatar. A world-class platform for companies, QFC offers its own legal, regulatory, tax and business environment, contributing to the decisive economic development and diversification prescribed by Qatar National Vision 2030.

Adani Power Deal Important for Bangladesh: Shahriar



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has claimed that the \$4.5 billion Adani Power Project is an "important" one for Bangladesh and the government has no

"any issues" with the Indian conglomerate.

Shahriar, while speaking with Indian media outlet ABP Live on 3 March, said, "We are not having any issues with the Adani (power) project. It is done and it is moving.

"It [the project] is progressing...(Power purchasing agreement is agreed) That's all agreed. I don't have the details. I am not the line minister. But it's all agreed and it's moving."

"It's a very important project for Bangladesh," the state minister furthered refuting claims that the project will not go through.

The much-talked-about power deal was signed between the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Adani Power in November 2017. The deal also entailed the construction of a \$1.7 billion power manufacturing unit in Jharkhand India's Godda district for supplying power to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Bank Lifts Credit Limit for Power Companies



Bangladesh Bank (BB) has lifted the general credit limit for power generating companies. Banks will therefore be able to give loans to individuals, organizations and groups involved in electricity generation companies as much as they like.

The central bank issued a recent circular relaxed this limit till December 31 this year. The Banking Regulations and Policy Department of the Central Bank issued the circular and sent it to Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of all banks.

In order to maintain the uninterrupted supply of money required for power generation, to import fuel oil and other raw materials in the power sector, any person, organization or group generating power, can borrow any amount from banks, the circular stated.

On November 8 last year, the central bank provided facilities to coal-based power generation companies by lifting the lending restrictions.

ERL Declares Record Tk48cr in Net Profit



The country's only state-owned fuel oil refinery – Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) – has declared Tk47.89 crore in net profit for the last fiscal year, which is the highest in its 55-year history.

Eastern Refinery, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), refined 13.77 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil and deposited Tk20.85 crore in the government treasury in FY2021-22.

The data was disclosed at the company's 46th annual general meeting held at its office in North Patenga of the city on 24 February. The meeting, chaired by BPC Chairman and ERL Board Chairman ABM Azad, discussed and approved the audited accounts for the said fiscal year.

Shareholders present in the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the overall activities of the closing financial year.



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Electricity Price Less in Bangladesh than Many Countries: Hasan



Information and Broadcasting Minister and Awami League Joint General Secretary Dr. Hasan Mahmud today said despite the recent hike in the price of electricity in the

country, the tariff of power still remains less than in many countries.

"The increase in electricity price has exceeded cent per cent in the United Kingdom. It (price) has exceeded 20 to 100 per cent in European Union countries . . . It is 21 per cent in Germany and 95 per cent in Belgium. In this context, the increase in electricity prices in our country is comparatively less. The tariff has increased twice by 5 per cent recently," he said replying to reporters while exchanging views at the meeting room of his ministry at the Secretariat here.

Hasan said the per unit price of electricity in Bangladesh is Taka 7.32 while it is Taka 11.15 in Delhi, Taka 11.33 in Maharashtra and Taka 8.63 in Punjab in India. Per unit price is Taka 18.31 in the USA, Taka 41.93 in Germany, Taka 46.46 in Belgium and Taka 25.74 in Japan.

"The unit price of electricity is less in Bangladesh than in other countries even from India," he added.

Environmental Groups: Scrap Power Deal with Adani



Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (Ben) demanded recently that the government scrap its deal with

India's Adani Group to import electricity.

In a joint statement, the green organizations said importing electricity spending foreign currency will be "illogical", noting that, nearly half of the country's power production capacity currently remains unused.

They said the conditions set for purchasing electricity from the Adani Group are "adverse" for Bangladesh and blamed the government's present "power development plan" for this.

The organizations said as per media reports Bangladesh is likely to start importing electricity from Adani's 1,600MW coal-based power plant in India's Jharkhand this week.

Govt Increases Electricity Price to Meet Corruption Costs: BNP

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party said recently that the government was repeatedly increasing the price of electricity to cover up its corruption in the electricity sector. 'The



government has increased the price of electricity three times in two months. Prices are being raised to squeeze people's pockets in order to cover the deficit caused by corruption in the power sector,' BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said at a meeting.

The party organized the meeting at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan to exchange views with the former and current public representatives at union parishads.

He said that the prices of rice, dal, and edible oil are increasing, and the people in the country are living miserable life.

'When people are not able to eat, the prime minister celebrates with various kinds of food. Jokes are being made with common people,' he added. He also said that the government had looted and smuggled money abroad, and the people of the country had been suffering from a lack of food.

12kg LPG Cylinder Tk 1,422 in March

The price of liquefied petroleum gas has decreased by Tk 6.33 per kilogram to Tk 118.54 from the previous price of Tk 124.85 per kg for the month of March.



Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission announced its latest price through a press release recently.

As per the new price, 12kg LPG cylinder cost has cut by Tk 76 as a retail consumer will get it at Tk 1,422 instead of previous price of Tk 1498. LPG prices for other sizes of cylinders – from 5.5kg to 45kg – will go down rationally, said the BERC press release.

An official of the BERC said that the prices witnessed such fall due to a decline in the prices of Saudi CP.

As per the BERC decision, the price of "auto gas" (LPG used for motor vehicles) also decreased to Tk 66.22 per liter (including VAT) from previous Tk 69.71 per liter, down by Tk 3.49 per liter. The price of LPG, marketed by state-owned LP Gas Company, will remain the same as it is locally produced with a market share of less than 5 per cent.

Danger Lurking Beneath Surface

Mollah Amzad Hossain



Explosions from accumulated methane gas in confined spaces hit headlines in recent times. The most recent of such deadly accidents took place at a building in Siddique Bazar in Dhaka on March 7, leaving at least 24 dead and around a hundred injured. Earlier, similar accidents had occurred at the Tollabag Mosque of Narayanganj and a building at Moghbazar in the capital, killing several people and injuring many others. Discussion on such incidents continues only for a few days.

25 YEARS

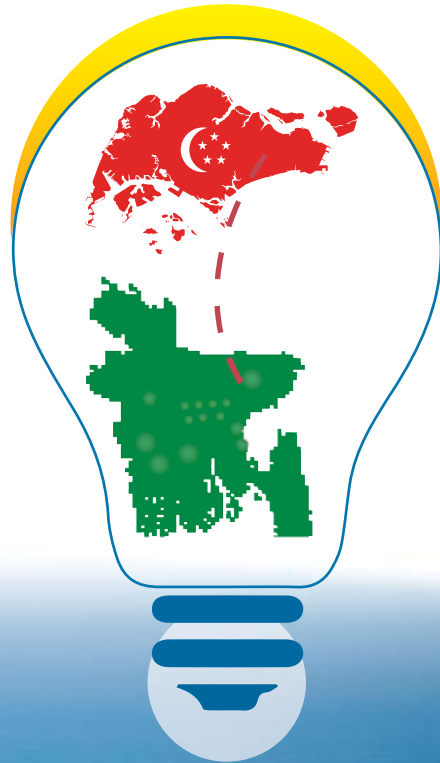
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Parties responsible for these accidents get engaged in the blame game. Even after identification of the reasons behind such accidents, the parties like gas distribution utilities, sewerage authorities and others are concerned to get involved in blaming each other. None takes any notice if such accidents do not cause any death. Whatever may be the case, whether it is from gas leakage or leakage from gas coming out from sewerage disposals, parties ignore it, disowning their respective responsibilities. It seems like everyone waits for the next such unfortunate incident and death of innocent people. No habitat in the cities, towns, or villages is free from the risks of explosions. Accidents from unauthorized use of CNG cylinders ignoring safety provisions, accidents from misuse of LPG, and explosions from gas accumulations from leaked gas distribution systems or sewerage lines have almost become a way of life now. The entire country is now at great risk as organizations responsible for ensuring risk-free supply are not shouldering the responsibilities. Not only cities and towns, but even villages also are no longer out of danger of such gas-bomb explosions.

Siddique Bazar Explosion

Residents of the building, pedestrians and bus commuters were among the victims of the explosion. Many of the injured people are now at the Sheikh Hasina Burn Unit and Dhaka Medical College Hospital. It emanated from investigations by different agencies that there existed a restaurant in the basement of the building. Later, a sanitary ware market was set up there. The gas connection to the restaurant was snapped, but gas is still supplied to the building's upstairs. On the other hand, though the connection to the restaurant was stopped in 2001, it was not permanently sealed. Initial investigations by the fire service, police and RAB indicated that the explosion is an outcome of sparks igniting the accumulated methane gas. TGTDC, however, claimed that there was no leakage from their gas line. They suspect that gas accumulated from the sewerage



Fire service personnel in rescue operation after Siddique Bazar explosion

line existing there might have led to the accident. But other agencies carrying out primary investigations assessed it as a methane accident from a leaked gas-supply line. A legitimate question is raised that Titas Gas is not supposed to provide a gas connection to a restaurant set up in the basement of a building. Rajuk and other organizations after visiting the spot were informed that the building was constructed ignoring provisions of the building code. There is no legitimacy to set up a market in the basement of a building. But the harsh reality is that the families of the victims have been thrown into great misery. Three including the owner of the building were arrested and sent to jail for confinement.

Explosion in a Building Near Science Laboratory

Another major explosion took place on the 3rd floor of Shirin Bhavan near the Science Laboratory on 5 March 2023 – only 54 hours before the incident at Siddique Bazar. Three got killed and fifteen others were injured. Preliminary investigation evidenced that natural gas leaked from Titas pipeline accumulated in a confined room.

Officials from Titas Gas visited the spot on the day of the accident and claimed that they had no connections on the second or third floor. Their only line was on the ground floor.

Safiqul Gani, Officer-in-Charge of New Market Police Station, claimed that pipelines evidence of gas connection on the third floor. An investigation was being done whether the explosion was from the gas leakage.

Moghbar Explosion

Twelve people died from an explosion on the 4th floor of a building at Moghbazar in Dhaka on 27 June 2021. CTTC is still investigating a case filed in this regard. Officials involved in the investigation claimed that the negligence of Titas Gas both at Siddique Bazar and Moghbazar is almost similar. In both cases, leaked gas accumulated in the confined air-conditioned rooms and sudden sparks led to the explosions. All symptoms appeared similar. The casualties were similar. In both cases, parts of the buildings have been blown on the adjoining roads. These caused greater losses of lives and properties.

One source at the CTTC claimed the negligence of Rajuk authority alongside TGTDC in the Moghbazar accident. It was a 60-year-old dwelling house. Still then, it was being used for commercial activity. The process of issuing charge sheets against the responsible officials of TGTDC was ongoing. However, TGTDC claimed that the explosion was not from gas escaping the Titas Gas line, but maybe from the sewerage line. Explosion at Tallabag Mosque, Narayanganj

Another major gas-induced explosion at the air-conditioned Tallabag Mosque in Narayanganj happened on 4 September 2020. Thirty people were burnt to death. Eight Titas Gas employees were found responsible for their negligence in duties as per the findings of an initial police investigation. The investigation also evidenced that TGTDCCL did not replace the leaking old, dilapidated gas distribution line. The mosque was constructed over that gas pipeline. Gas leaking from the line accumulated inside the air-conditioned mosque. There existed an illegal power line in addition to a legal connection there. The accident happened while switching over due to a power failure through the mainline during the Jumma prayers.

Explosion at Alauddin Tower

It was the month of Ramadan. An explosion during Iftar at Alauddin Tower, Sector 7 of Uttara Model Town, killed 7 people. Fire service investigation evidenced that the accident happened from the natural gas accumulated in the basement of the building. The accident happened by switching on the light for the evening prayers.

There is no end to such incidents from natural gas leakage. A gas pipeline leakage was caused during the construction of a drain at Banani. Gas finding its way into the sewerage line reached the bathroom of the 4th floor and exploded. Luckily there was no casualty.

A UNB report states 82 deaths in Narayanganj alone over the past three years from natural gas-induced explosions. The casualties must be higher in greater Dhaka areas. Although the leaking Titas gas pipelines are major culprits, leaking biogas from sewerage lines and inefficient use of LPG for cooking is no less responsible.

How Safe Are the Gas Distribution Networks?

TGTDCCL, KGDCL, BGDCL, JGTDSL, PGCL and SGDCL are entrusted as local distribution companies with the task of gas distribution across the gas franchise. TGTDCCL is the largest among those.



A view of the building near science laboratory after explosion

They are distributing gas to power, fertilizer industrial, commercial, domestic, and CNG in the huge area including 2,700 square kilometer area of Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur. Munshiganj, Manikganj, and greater Mymensingh. KGDCL in Chattogram is the second-largest distribution company. The lone transmission company Gas Transmission Company Limited delivers gas to all distribution companies evacuating it from upstream production companies and the RPGCL's RLNG supply facility. Though no major gas accident has happened yet in the GTCL-managed gas grid, the existence of many leakages has been reported. Recently, a private company has started surveying to identify the leakages with the possibility of a project for leakage management under carbon trading. GTCL initially was not interested, but after realizing the benefits extended its helping hand.

Titas Gas Distribution Network is at High Risk

TGTDCCL started gas distribution in 1968 before the liberation of Bangladesh. It expanded since then to a huge franchise in greater Dhaka and greater Mymensingh region. The existence of numerous leaks in the TGTDCCL network is not unknown to any now. Works for the identification of leaks and repairs at Gulshan, Banani, and Dhanmondi have been reported as completed.

Preparation for doing the work at old Dhaka is being done now. Titas no longer has the exact as-built drawings of its entire distribution network. Buildings and infrastructure have been constructed over the pipelines in many areas.

According to the annual report of TGTDCCL 2021-22, 9,926 sources of methane emission have been identified in surveys over 1,682 KM gas pipelines in Dhaka and Keraniganj areas. Of these, 459 locations have leakages. These have been subsequently repaired. Line pipes are wrapped with anti corrosion wrapping tapes before burial underground. Bare pipes get corroded if buried without wrapping. Leakage also depends on the quality of the pipes used. Most of the pipelines in the Titas franchise have outlived their designed life. Indiscriminate excavations of different utility services in the city area very often affect Titas gas pipelines.

A report from the Department of Explosives (DOE) stated that on 10 June 1990 a gas pipeline besides a building at Shonir Akhra got affected during the construction of a road by heavy construction equipment. The affected line was wrapped and buried. Gas leaking from the affected line entered the sewerage line and found access to the branch of a Bank in the building through the toilet. The windows and doors usually remained closed as the

building had central air conditioning. The office was filled with gas during the Eid Holiday. There was a big explosion when the explosive mixture of gas and air got a spark.

How Old are TGTDCCL Pipelines?

TGTDCCL has 12,243 KM gas distribution pipelines in the Dhaka division franchise area. Dhaka city area has about 7,000 KM. 60% of the pipeline is now under risk. Many of these pipelines are 20 to 40 years old. Some lines are replaced from time to time but not maintained under a planned project. A 12 inches Outer Diameter pipeline was constructed from Demra to Tejgaon in 1968-69. Another 14 inch OD-line was built from Demra to Postagola around the same time. From these lines, gas supply networks for supplying gas to domestic users and industries started through the construction of 2-6 inch pipelines from these feeders. During the 1980s and 1990s the gas distribution network witnessed massive expansions in and around Dhaka city. After 2,000 the expansion slowed down. According to relevant experts, most of the TGTDCCL distribution pipelines have outlived their designed life. Domestic and commercial houses having gas connections are now vulnerable to risks. The government has less attention after announcing suspensions of new gas connections. After 2015 the new gas connection was officially suspended. Only a few pipelines have been replaced though most are 20-40 years old.

Illegal and unauthorized connections have compounded the risks. The disconnection drive continues but the elimination of the nuisance now appears highly challenging. In 2021-22, through 288 operations 348 KM illegal pipelines and 2 lakh 74 thousand illegal connections could be taken out.

TGTDCCL network spreads over Narshigndi, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Gazipur, Tangail, Mymensingh, and Netrokona. Sherpur, Jamalpur and Kishoreganj are outside Dhaka. Of these, illegal connections are mostly in Dhaka, Gazipur,



A view of Moghbazar building explosion

Narayanganj, Mushiganj, Tangail and Narshingdi. Still, over 100 KM of the illegal pipeline is there in the Titas franchise area. The highest concentration is in Narayanganj. There are allegations that an unholy syndicate of TGTDCCL officials under the coverage and blessings of local politicians and influential people is involved in these illegal activities. Tolls are collected illegally month-wise from each illegal user. TGTDCCL authority claims that they cannot bring this nuisance under control despite unleashing a series of disconnection drives. According to them, the reason behind this is the active involvement of government party leaders and activists.

Some experts observed that the lack of awareness of users is among the reasons for gas accidents as well. Burners are often not switched off after use. Inexperienced, unauthorized fitters and even plumbers are used for domestic gas connections even after knowing illegal connections are taken. A report from DOE states that of the 8 gas-related accidents, 5 were from improper installations of gas burners.

Negligence of TGTDCCL

There are allegations that TGTDCCL often ignores complaints of gas leakage. A former Managing Director of TGTDCCL Engr Harunur Rashid Mollah told EP that it is an international practice of odorizing gas at a distribution point for

identifying leakage. If this can be done, it would alert people of gas leakage. Possibly this is not being practiced now. Hence the damages to pipelines these days cannot be immediately identified. Central emergency receives about 500-600 calls every month from Dhaka and adjoining areas. More than 500 of these are about gas leakage. Present ongoing development works also cause damage to Titas pipelines. Accidents also happen from these. In 2020-21 incidents of gas fire reported were 281. In 2021-2022, it increased to 311.

The replacement of age-old pipelines of TGTDCCL is under discussion for a while. A feasibility study has been recently completed. Engr. Harunur Rashid Mollah, Managing Director, TGTDCCL, informed EP that a Tk 1,200 crore worth of project proposal has been submitted to the EMRD for review and approval. It may take 5-7 years to implement the project after the nod.

Emergency Action Essential for Managing Leakage

It is a standard practice anywhere in gas distribution to odorize the gas before supply to end users. Odorant is a special chemical that gives off a pungent odor. It used to be done in TGTDCCL and BGSL. It is essential as natural gas is odorless. An odorant is added for identifying leakage and alerting users. But for reasons unknown, this is not being done now. Leakages can be

identified and brought under control within weeks if the EMRD executive order can make it mandatory for all distribution utilities to use odorant at prescribed doses. The Gas Act has a provision in this regard.

Accidents at LPG Use

Around 60-70 lakh families in Bangladesh now use LPG for cooking. Accidents during use at the domestic level are frequently reported. These do not attract media attention unless they are huge. There is no option to create awareness at all levels of the LPG supply chain. The government and LPG operators must work hand in hand for this. Otherwise, it will also go out of control soon.

Biogas from Sewerage Lines

The sewerage system of Dhaka cannot be termed safe at all. Biogas originates here. Methane is about 70% of the biogas. Though less methane than natural gas, this also creates an explosive mixture when mixed with air. In contact with sparks, this explodes. WASA must ensure the safety of the sewerage system. All organizations involved in different development activities in the city must work in close coordination ensuring that the works do not have a gas, electricity, and sewerage distribution system.

Short Circuit of Power Distribution Lines is a Death Trap

Short circuit-related fire accidents have become very common these days in all places including Dhaka and Chattogram. A survey of fire services found that 38% of recent fire incidents originated from the short circuit in the power supply chain. Utilities and consumers, both are responsible for these. But utilities must check whether the works at the consumers' end have been done correctly before giving connections. There must be arrangements for checking connections at regular intervals. Engr. Mizanur Rahman, a former Member of BERC while discussing this informed EP that there is no provision in the electricity act for giving compensations to the victims of short-circuit-related accidents



Explosion at Tallabag Mosque, Narayanganj

if these happen due to negligence of utility services. He suggested inclusion of this in the relevant act.

What Needs to Be Done?

Urban Planar Architect Iqbal Habib believes that gas leakage-related deaths in modern cities can no longer be tolerated. He termed this as murders. 11 ministries and 56 organizations are now involved in the development activities of Dhaka. City corporations must be given the authority as the single point of contact for the work they do. All the buildings of the city have now turned into bombs. He suggested city dwellers should themselves raise green flags on their rooftops after conducting safety checks of the gas, electricity and sewerage lines. Media should carry out campaigns for this. Every year every building should be issued with a certificate for safe living. Buildings failing to qualify must be abandoned. City Corporation should be tasked with this.

Rajuk in a recent meeting has decided to initiate a process for introducing certification. Private companies will be given the task. A draft policy will be introduced within 30 days. Brigadier General (Rtd.) Ali Ahmed Khan, Former Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defense, suggested creating specific provisions for fixing specific responsibilities of concerned authorities taking into view all pros and cons.

Specific responsibilities will ensure accountabilities. Monitoring will be easier. Side by side frequent mock safety drills will also create consciousness among all.

Conclusion

Modern civic life has no escape from energy use. Energy and power are essential ways of life in every aspect. But safety needs to be ensured at all segments of the supply chain. First and foremost, the responsibility lies with the suppliers. Then it transcends buildings and infrastructure approving authorities. Finally, the consumers and users have their responsibilities toward safe use. All must realize that unsafe use may lead to the loss of their own lives and those of neighbors. The responsibilities of gas distribution utilities must be clearly defined. Required all-proof initiatives must not be delayed for stopping all leakages from the gas supply chain. The use of odorant must be made mandatory in gas distribution. All buildings of the city must be checked and audited for certification for safe dwelling in phases. These also should be annually updated. Of course, these must be done through a transparent process. Even the organization/person(s) issuing the certificate must also be made accountable for his/her work. Otherwise, any one of us may die from accidents for lack of care. We may also have to live life as disabled.

EP

Getting Rid of Frequent Gas Explosions

Saleque Sufi

Frequent explosions that are causing human casualties and losses of properties prove the gas distribution networks have turned into sleeping volcanoes. Whether the authorities concerned agree or not most of the recent explosions emanated from accumulated gas that comes out of leakages and forms explosive mixtures with a certain percentage of air. The explosive mixtures coming in contact with sparks of any form are creating major explosions. Most accidents cause serious burns and deaths. In every case, committees are formed. Media remain active for a few days following the accidents while so-called experts appearing in electronic media give lofty ideas. After a few days, none takes any notice until another incident happens. The thickly-populated Dhaka and Chattogram gas franchises have now become highly vulnerable to

frequent accidents. In absence of accurate as-built documents or digital maps, the exact locations of gas distribution lines cannot be identified. Illegal syndicate has not only provided thousands of unauthorized connections but also laid hundreds of kilometers of illegal lines with substandard pipes and fittings. The leakages in the distribution networks could be easily identified by odorizing regularly at prescribed doses. The absence of such a measure has made natural gas a silent killer. The Department of Explosives (DOE) and Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) are also not playing their due role properly. In such a situation, people in the gas franchise are living on latent volcanoes. None knows when and where there will be the next gas explosion. Until Petrobangla and the Energy & Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) can develop an appropriate culture of gas distribution system operation, the menace of gas accidents cannot be avoided. The situation will turn worse as the networks become dilapidated. There must be a well-coordinated action plan for implementing HES or OHS at every segment of the gas value chain, especially at distribution and supply.

Basic Principle of Gas Distribution System

The gas distribution system is the downstream segment of the gas value chain. It spreads from the downstream flange of custody transfer meters of City Gate Stations and Town Border Stations along with the high-pressure gas transmission grid operated by the transmission companies. In a city, there can be many District Regulation Stations. Most of the line

pipes, valves, flanges, coating materials, and fittings are imported from abroad. Some fittings like locking cocks and low-pressure pipelines are manufactured locally. While disconnection drives are carried out in the gas franchises, very poor quality line pipes and fittings are discovered. These are often reported, but no actions are taken. As build documentation is mandatory for any pipeline anywhere, any type of con-

None could be made accountable for the mishap. Another accident suspected to have originated from a gas leakage at Maghbazar remained to be explored. Responsible persons without assessing the recent incidents near Science Laboratory and Old Dhaka started suspecting sabotage.

The leakages in the distribution networks could be easily identified by odorizing regularly at prescribed doses. The absence of such a measure has made natural gas a silent killer.

nection requires pressure testing. The distribution network requires it to be odorized at prescribed doses as gas is colorless and odorless. Odorization is basically for the primary identification of leakage. Buried mild steel line pipes are wrapped with PVC or PE tapes as means of protection from corrosion. On top of these, cathodic protection is applied as a preventive measure. The absence of most of the requirements stated above is the reason gas networks become prone to leakages and accidents. Usually, the distribution pipelines have 25-30 years of effective design life. If maintained professionally, these can be extended to 35-40 years. We are sure, in the absence of digital mapping, many active pipelines cannot be accurately traced.

Investigation of Recent Accidents

In the recent past, two major explosions happened at a mosque in Narayanganj and an office building in Moghbazar. Preliminary investigations evidenced that the first accident emanating from a gas-air mixture exploded from accumulated natural gas when it came in contact with sparks from an unauthorized electric connection. There must have been negligence of relevant authorities. We are not sure whether any action was taken. None could be made accountable for the mishap. Another accident suspected to have originated from a gas leakage at Maghbazar remained to be explored. Responsible persons without assessing the recent incidents near Science Laboratory and Old Dhaka started suspecting sabotage. This type of blame game hides the mischief-mongers. The culprits responsible for negligence are let off the hook.

If failures behind such a major accident go unidentified and unpunished, it is obvious that these will continue to happen. Health Safety and Environment (HSE) or otherwise Occupation Health and Safety (OHS) is a normal mandatory prerequisite for operating gas value chain or infrastructure dealing with Petroleum Products. Apart from distribution utilities, DOE, fire service and civil defense have responsibilities.

Given the frequency of recent incidents,

the culture of blaming and counter-blaming must be done away with. A well-coordinated action plan must be unleashed without any delay for identified leakage of the gas distribution sys-

While disconnection drives are carried out in the gas franchises, very poor quality line pipes and fittings are discovered. These are often reported, but no actions are taken. As build documentation is mandatory for any pipeline anywhere, any type of connection requires pressure testing. The distribution network requires it to be odorized at prescribed doses as gas is colorless and odorless. Odorization is basically for the primary identification of leakage.

tem. We can recommend the following actions:

- Carry out extensive leakage surveys in different segments of gas distribution of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Tongi,

Greater Chattogram, Sylhet and Mymensingh areas through odorization. All leaking lines should be abandoned. The pipeline supply of gas to these areas must be phased out. There is no point in the reconstruction of new gas distribution pipelines in congested city areas.

- Regular odorization by using prescribed doses of Tetra Hydro Thiophene (THT) must not be compromised.
- Digital mapping for the entire gas distribution network must be implemented as soon as possible.
- All above-ground installations must come under GIS monitoring.
- New distribution pipelines must be constructed with fiber optics monitoring devices for smart sensing.
- Arc GIS can be used for underground mapping of existing city areas and new towns. This will eliminate the possibility of under-operation utility services getting interrupted during the construction of above-ground infrastructure like Elevated Express Highways, Bus Rapid Transit, Metro Rail Etc.
- Distribution networks must also come under telemetry and automation.

Bangladesh aspires to become smart. The present state of buried utility services needs complete overhauling to turn cities and towns into smart places. Every single life is important. Every single citizen has the right to live safely. In the present circumstance, none is taking responsibility for the accidents or casualties.

Bangladesh has the gas act and electricity act. Distribution utilities are legally obliged to these acts. Regulatory organizations like DOE and BERC are mandated to carry out safety audits. It is high time that responsibilities are fixed and failures are identified. We know accidents can still happen. But once accountabilities are established, there will be a protocol developed for reducing and eliminating mishaps.

EP

Saleque Sufi
International Energy Expert

Energy Entangled with Dollar Crisis

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

Bangladesh needs US dollars for importing coal, LNG and liquid fuel from the volatile global market. It also needs foreign currency for making payments to IPPs for power purchases, and IOCs for gas. Moreover, dollars are needed for repaying loans with interest against mega power projects. These foreign exchange transactions are in addition to dollars required for meeting the import expenses on food, industrial raw materials, essential machinery and equipment. The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed the forex reserves of Bangladesh like all other countries in the world. The economy of Bangladesh is now huffing and puffing for providing dollars to the energy and power sector.

With summer challenges looming, the country's energy security is entangled with the dollar crisis. Peak summer demand may increase beyond 16,000MW. With 22,482MW installed generating capacity of grid power, Bangladesh could have cared less as the transmission grid and distribution networks advanced appreciably compared to 2022. But the main issue of concern is the smooth supply of required fuel for power generation. Even that could not be an issue had the country decided timely to mine its own coal buried at mineable depth and expedited exploration and exploitation of its probable natural gas resources. Rather, Bangladesh went for imported fuels (coal, LNG, liquid fuel) notwithstanding the risks of absorbing the global market shocks. The country also has constraints in setting up enabling infrastructures for fuel import

due to shallow coastal regions.

Bangladesh rightly diversified the fuel mix with the inclusion of liquid fuel, coal, LNG and power import. From a mere 21% in 2019, the imported fuel contribution grew to 48% in 2022. It would grow further in 2023. The

Bangladesh has to seriously review its long-term fuel mix. Exploration of own fuel must get added priority. No country can afford to leave its precious primary fuel resources remaining buried underground. Japan, Korea, and Taiwan had no options. They are not blessed with natural resources like Bangladesh.

economic recovery from the fallouts of the COVID-19 pandemic followed by the war in Ukraine and the consequent western embargo on the export of Russian fuel pushed up fuel prices sky-high. The Bangladesh economy is struggling now in arranging US\$1.0 billion dollars every month for six months from March 2023 for importing

coal, LNG and liquid fuel. The country with forex reserves of just over US\$31 billion in early March will have to rationally utilize it for retaining capabilities for importing necessary commodities and services. According to the IMF guidelines, the reserve is US\$23 billion. As a covenant of the IMF loan, Bangladesh will have to build a reserve of US\$24 billion by June 2023. Wherefrom the dollars will come for importing fuel and meeting other foreign currency obligations in managing the smooth operation of the power and energy sector? The fuel crisis badly impacted the operation of industries impacting exports of RMG, textiles and other export-oriented industries. This also caused stress on foreign reserves. Some large imported coal-based power projects like Payera and Rampal are already in trouble. Some other projects expected to come into operation in 2023 may also have to suffer from this.

Energy experts, researchers and economists have long been cautioning the government against growing big in fuel imports without assessing the possible and probable impacts. There was a consensus among energy experts that business-as-usual Bangladesh may grow over 90% dependent on imported fuel if it fails to explore and utilize its own fuel resources. But the government paid no heed to the suggestions. Some less informed academics and environment activists indulging in uninformed debates misguided the policymakers against exploiting domestic coal resources. In the same



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Gondwanan basin across the border of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand, India has been exploiting coal resources for several years. There is no desertification. State governments made coal companies set up green forests and sanctuaries in mined rehabilitated areas. If mined after strictly following environmental and social safeguards Bangladeshi coal can ensure up to 10,000 MW of mine-mouth power generation for 50 years. But the stubborn attitudes of the government policymakers did not let it happen. Bangladesh chose to go for imported coal, setting up large plants at Payera, Rampal, Bashkhali and Barisal. In the present situation, Bangladesh not only suffers from a dollar crisis for the import of coal but also struggles with coal transportation issues. Standard coal carriers with full load cannot reach the coal terminals of any of the above plants. Issues of coal transportation add cost to power generation. Matarbari will be the lone exception to having a proper coal port. Suspending planned power plants at Maheshkhali was a hurried decision. Bangladesh does not have any obligations for reducing carbon emissions of its negligible carbon footprints.

The present government in its first term in 2009 inherited a crisis that drowned the power and energy sector. It adopted a three-pronged policy in the power sector. For the short-term (3-5 years), it went for liquid fuel-based contingency



HFO-based 113MW power plant of Confidence Power at Rangpur

power plants. For the medium-term, coal and gas-based baseload power plants were included, and for the long-term, the government plan included a nuclear power plant, power import from neighbors, and renewable energy. But too many contingency plants arguably awarded to the government-favored entrepreneurs acted as a double-edged sword. The government could neither retire most of these as planned for prolonged delays in the implementation of baseload plants on time nor could avoid paying capacity charges for failing to utilize the agreed capacity of the plants for the super-saturation of installed capacity. Now with the commissioning of the large coal-based power plants the government could expeditiously retire most liquid fuel-based plants. But the

dollar crisis strangling the government's ability to purchase fuel will not lead to the government relieving the stress of reliance on contingency power plants. To meet the summer peak demand, the government will require a generation of at least 5000 MW liquid fuel-based power.

The major issue is with the gas supply. Bangladesh has about 11,019 MW of gas-based power generation capacity. But about 3500-4000 MW now remains idle for lack of required gas supply. BPDB requested Petrobangla to supply 1300 MMCFD gas from March to August for generating 6240 MW power. But capacity-constrained Petrobangla can only supply up to 1150 MMCFD provided that the required dollars are provided to them for procurement of 12 additional cargoes of LNG from the spot market. The production of Petrobangla companies is now 2250 MMCFD and progressively depleting. IOC-operated fields supply about 60% of the total production. Petrobangla for the dollar crisis for the first time failed to make payments to IOCs for six months. PSCs let the IOCs have options for suspending production in such cases. In the recent past, Petrobangla managed to clear some outstanding payments. Petrobangla cannot increase gas production significantly in a short time. A plan is in place for increasing gas production by 2025. But in the given scenario, maintaining the production and supply to the present level is a huge



Bheramara 410MW gas-fired power plant of NWPGL

challenge. Moreover, Petrobangla is committed to supplying gas to three large power plants at Meghnaghat in 2023. Moreover, trade bodies agreed to pay a higher price for gas and electricity on the condition that there is sustainable supply. But the present and emerging situation create huge challenges of uncertainty. The government has no alternative but to rely on liquid fuel-based power generation. There again dollars are essential for the purchase of liquid fuel. Government officials talk about power import from Adani Group, unique in its kind. There have been some issues regarding the lop-sided contract. Setting aside Adani power will also require dollars. Hence the overall situation is tricky. If not 16,000 MW at least 15000 MW must be supplied consistently over the summer peak planning up to 1000 MW of loadshedding. But experts have concerns about peak power demand growing to 17,000 MW in case of intense heat waves and prolonged drought. There will be monsoon cyclones and tornadoes.

Austerity to be the Key

Whatever may be the reasons behind the present crisis, it is a national issue. The entire nation must respond positively to the need of the hour. Demand-side management and austerity in use will be the key to keeping the power supply comfortable over the summer. The farming community is restricting their irrigation at off-peak hours, after midnight. Shops and businesses in major cities must also pull their shutters down after 6 PM excepting Friday and Saturday. This will save substantial electricity. Cooling loads must also be lowered by setting temperatures of ACs at 25 degrees. All social programs during summer must be restricted during day time. Lavish use of lights in hotels and clubs must also come under restrictions. About 800-1000 MW can be saved if all these are planned and enforced with strict monitoring.

Dollars for power and energy must get strategic priority. If necessary, tax and duties on fuel imports should be adjusted. Bangladesh has the capacity to supply power. The generation is not



A sketch of S Alam 1320MW coal power plant at Bashkhali

an issue now, but transmission and distribution have little concern. Dollars for the import of coal, LNG and liquid fuel must get priority. It is not advisable to supply dollars from foreign exchange reserves. The dollars must be carefully spent on managing imports of essentials. The IMF formula reassessed the present reserve as US\$23 billion. It must be retained at US\$24 billion by June 2023. The IMF and World Bank loans must not also be spent on fuel imports. The government may approach IDB for special concessionary loans for fuel imports. Countries like UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia may supply fuel on deferred payments.

There must not be any issues with supplying power and gas to export-oriented industries. These will earn dollars. Gas supply for domestic use must come under review. Supply to CNG must also be gradually replaced by Autogas. Gas supply to some fertilizer factories may be rationed.

Medium- and Long-Term Planning

The present crisis may not be over soon. Bangladesh has to seriously review its long-term fuel mix. Exploration of own fuel must get added priority. No country can afford to leave its precious primary fuel resources remaining buried underground. Japan, Korea, and Taiwan had no options. They are not blessed with natural resources like Bangladesh. They also have open sea around and deep-sea ports. Government must reassess coal resource exploitation.

SODs of at least two fields have extensive documents enumerating acquirer management, rehabilitation of farmed lands, and environmental and social impact management. PSC bidding for both offshore and onshore must be invited as soon as possible. BAPEX must be supported much more both technically and financially for carrying out their assigned tasks. There is no reason why the study reports of USAID-Petrobangla, Norwegian Company HCU and Gustavsson Associates cannot be reviewed. Solar and renewable energy usage must be expedited. Government must reassess the roles and obligations of SREDA and IDCOL. If required, a separate division under MOPEMR must be created for RE, EE and energy conservations. Reaching up to 20% contribution from RE is very much possible, turning all solar irrigations to solar, ensuring solar generation (flow batteries included) on all industrial rooftops, and going for hybrid generation of solar with micro wind turbines. exploring wind resources at shallow and deep offshores. All those required must be done for reaching 70% contributions of own fuel by 2030. But the present priorities are meeting the summer demand even with minimum load shedding. Industries must get gas, power must diversify fuel in a planned manner, and renewable energy generation must get priority attention. Finally, the political decision of mining coal must be taken.

EP

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

PM Seeks More LNG from Qatar



Phase Minister Sheikh Hasina recently sought increased energy particularly Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Qatar to meet the energy demand amid the Ukraine war.

She made the request during a meeting with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, held on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha.

Now Bangladesh is importing some 40 Cargos of energy that means 1.8-2.5 MTA,

under long term contract said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen while briefing reporters after the meeting.

"We want your help. Bangladesh faces energy problems due to the Ukraine war. I want more.... I will renew the contract. I want more LNG," the PM was quoted.

In response, the Emir of Qatar asked how much Bangladesh wants. Then he was told that Bangladesh wants another million tonnes annually (MTA) that means 16-17 Cargo. He said his energy minister would meet the Bangladesh PM to discuss it before she leaves Qatar.

"I want to help you. Qatar will always come to help Bangladesh," he was quoted as saying. **EP**

Two Vendors Reluctant to Supply Fuel to BPC



Two of the six vendors of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation have expressed reservations about providing further fuel cargos, in a development that raises questions of whether the state agency would be able to ensure uninterrupted supply in the coming months.

BPC owes Singapore-based Viton Asia and China's oil trading giant Unipet about

\$282 million amid the ongoing dollar crunch.

Earlier in 2020, the two won a tender to supply up to 1.06 million tonnes of oil products in the first half of the year after placing the lowest offers. Viton Asia, the Asian unit of the world's largest independent oil trading house, had dues of \$152.60 million from BPC.

The company sent emails on August 8 and 10 last year informing that they will not be able to supply fuel to Bangladesh if BPC does not clear the dues and demanded interest on the late payments. Then on February 28,

Energypac Holds Webinar on Boiler Technology

Energypac Power Generation Limited (EPGL) has recently organized a webinar titled 'Japanese Once-Through Boiler Technology'.



Atsushi Kozu, Senior Manager, Miura Industries (Thailand) Co Ltd, Atsushi Hirakuri, General Manager, Sojitz Bangladesh, Masum Parvez, Chief Business Officer, Power and Energy Division, EPGL, took part at the webinar.

Other high officials from EPGL also attended the webinar.

Masum Parvez Chief Business Officer, Power and Energy Division, EPGL said, "We are representing the world's best industrial boiler under the MIURA brand in Bangladesh. MIURA, being the number one efficient boiler in Japan (more than 98 percent), can lead our industry to operate more efficiently by saving fuel and maintaining all safety measures."

He said in light of the recent

scenario and perspective of the country, EPGL believes MIURA boilers can contribute a lot to saving energy and fuel and meeting the majority of the challenges facing our industry.

Atsushi Kozu Senior Manager, Miura Industries (Thailand) Co Ltd said, "Boiler market in Japan is quite huge. MIURA boilers have 57 percent market share out of 74 percent of the market share of Once-through boilers in Japan. The prospect of MIURA boilers in Bangladesh is quite promising. MIURA boilers are known for their advanced technology, energy efficiency, and compact size, which make them an ideal choice for businesses operating in a space-constrained environment." **EP**

officials of Viton Asia met with BPC.

As of this month, BPC was unable to clear the dues, an official of Viton Asia Bangladesh told The Daily Star asking not to be named.

Similarly, Unipet -- a subsidiary of Chinese Sinopec, the world's largest crude oil refiner by total capacity -- had dues of \$129 million. On February 28, the Beijing-based company wrote to the BPC about its dues.

Then on March 4, a ship loaded with diesel from Unipet arrived at the Chattogram port but the cargo was barred from leaving the vessel until the dues were cleared.

"We couldn't release the fuel due to the financial hold," said an official of BPC on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the issue.

On March 5, BPC made a payment of \$62.27 million to Unipet and was able to release the cargo from the port. **EP**



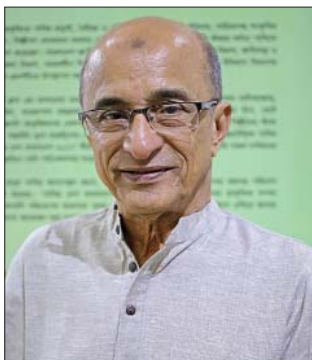
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No Power Crisis after Matarbari, Banshkhali Plants Start Generation: Tawfiq-e-Elahi



Prim Minister's Energy Advisor Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury has said there will be no power crisis in the country after two coal-fired power plants in Chattogram's Banskhali and Cox's Bazar's Matarbari go into operations. Tawfiq came up with remarks after visiting the coal-fired SS Power I Plant, installed in Banskhali recently.

Stating that energy price has been increasing due to high price of dollar followed by global turmoil, the energy advisor said Bangladesh like other countries have been facing the unrest situation. The situation will change after the ongoing war ends, Tawfiq-e-Elahi said.

S Alam group's vice chairman Abdus Samad Labu and Bangladesh Power Development Board's Chairman engineer Md Mahbubur Rahman, among others, were present during the visit.

Talking to the reporters, Abdus Samad Labu said the power plant's operations will go into full swing in the end of June by this year. **EP**

Spot LNG Prices Hit 19-Month Low on Tepid Demand



Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices continued their downtrend recently, hitting the lowest level since July 2021, due to tepid demand which is expected to last until the end of March.

The average LNG price for April delivery into northeast Asia LNG-AS was \$14.50 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), industry sources estimated, down \$0.50, or 2.3 per cent, from the previous week, industry sources estimated.

Prices have fallen more than 48 per cent year-to-date and around 79 per cent from the August 2022 peak at \$70.50/mmBtu.

"Recent prices have encouraged South Asian buyers. However it appears sub-\$15 still isn't quite enough for the Chinese," said Toby Copson, global head of trading at Trident LNG.

"While market weakness is still evident, it's likely going to take a prolonged period of lows to entice the state-owned enterprises and tier 2 and 3s (players) back. I don't think we've seen the trigger price yet to make the domestic arbitrage profitable," he added. **EP**

Momen Urges G20 to Allocate 10pc of Defense Spending to Deal with Climate Crisis



Bangladesh has urged the G20 leaders to allocate at least 10 percent of their defense expenditures to a climate fund to reverse the global warming trend.

Speaking at the G20 foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi recently, Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen also proposed that the companies, which are making a huge amount of money from the Ukraine war, should allocate at least 20 percent of their profits to the most affected countries.

Momen, a special guest of India at the meeting, spoke at two different sessions.

Momen said the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should remain on top of the agenda of all multilateral initiatives, including the G20.

"India, as a major country of the global south and as the president of the G20, may urge its leadership to allocate sufficient funds and means ... to achieve the SDGs by 2030," he said.

Referring to the climate change crisis, Momen said, "We must save this planet for our future generations. In order to take corrective actions to reverse the trend of global warming, India may ... ask the leaders to dedicate at least 10 percent of their defence expenditures to climate fund."

Momen said the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis is causing hardship across the globe. **EP**

India Readies Strategy to Meet Power Demand During Summer

With predictions of a searing summer, the Power Ministry has devised a multi-pronged strategy involving other ministries such as coal and railways to meet the high electricity demand in FY24.

With peak power demand expected at 229 gigawatts (GW) next month, Power Minister RK Singh held a review meeting recently with top officials from the Ministries of Power, Coal, and Railways.

Singh directed Gencos to en-

sure that there is no load-shedding during the summer and asked all stakeholders to closely monitor the situation. He also asked the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to ensure a fair and transparent mechanism for coal allocation to States, the Power Ministry said.

CEA expects India's energy demand to be 1,42,097 million units (MU) during April 2023, the highest in 2023, before reducing to 1,41,464 MU in May and 1,17,049 MU in November. **EP**

Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline to Assist Energy Security: Nasrul



Parbatipur.

Nasrul Hamid said one of the main conditions for development is uninterrupted power and energy supply in the country which is being ensured successfully by the Awami League government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen today said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi would open jointly the maiden cross-border oil pipeline on March 18 for diesel transportation to Bangladesh. **EP**

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid recently said Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline will contribute effectively to energy security.

"It will be a milestone in providing fuel to the northern region of the country quickly, uninterruptedly and in a cost-effective manner," he said while inspecting the progress of the pipeline project at

Test Transmission of Power Supply from Adani Plant to Bangladesh Starts

Test transmission of power supply from Adani's 1,600MW coal-fired power station in the Indian state of Jharkhand to Bangladesh started at 7:38pm on March 9 although issues of power tariff are yet to be resolved.

According to a Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) Facebook status, the electricity transmission was synchronized with Bangladesh's national grid on a test basis.

"More or less 50 MW of electricity from the Adani plant entered Bangladesh at 9pm



for the national grid through newly built transmission lines and substations," the PGCB said.

The company said it built a 134km 400kV transmission line, from the bordering Mankasha area through Rohanpur to Bogura. "Also, a 400/230kV substation was installed at Bogura to facilitate the evacuation of power." **EP**

EIA Expects US Natural Gas Consumption to Fall 2.4% in 2023

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects US natural gas consumption to decrease by 2.4% (2 bcf/d) in 2023 from 2022 levels due to mild winters and recent low natural gas consumption in the residential and commercial sectors. EIA made the forecast in its March Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO).

In January and February 2023, below-average US natural gas consumption in the residential and commercial sectors was driven by mild winter weather across large parts of the country, particularly in the Northeast and the Midwest.

Based on preliminary data from the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration for January and February, the first 2 months of 2023 combined were among the three warmest on record for that period going back to 1895.

In March, EIA expects natural gas consumption in the residential and commercial sectors to average almost 32 bcf/d, which is close to the 5-year average, because it expects more normal temperatures in March coupled with a near average number of heating degree days.

Reduced natural gas consumption in January and February slowed withdrawals from natural gas inventories to less than the 5-year average and reduced natural gas prices. **EP**

Gas pipeline commenced at Bashundhara EZ

The long-awaited District Regulating Station (DRS) and gas pipeline were inaugurated at Bashundhara Industrial Economic Zone Limited (BIEZL) of Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar in Mirsarai recently.

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) Managing Director (MD) Engineer Rafiqul Islam, and on behalf of the Bashundhara Group Vice Chairman Safwan Sobhan, Head of Project Support Services and Secretary Foyezur Rahman inaugurated the project at a ceremony at the BIEZL premises.

The company officials said the advanced gas supply system through DRS, installed with own fund of the BIEZL, will be the key point of en-



ergy source for the on-going projects at BIEZL including Bashundhara Chemical Industries Ltd (BCIL), Bashundhara Multi Steel Industries Ltd (BMSIL) and other upcoming projects on the premises.

The particular DRS will be capable of supplying 110 million standard cubic feet natural gas per day, where a required pipeline of 4.4 kilometers has also been set up to connect the DRS with the nearest Commercial Gas Distribution Station. **EP**

Bangladesh Open to Qatar's Investment in Energy Sector: PM Tells Doha Investment Summit



Premier Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 6 urged oil-rich Qatar to make investment in Bangladesh's energy sector, especially in renewable energy.

"We remain open to investment proposals in our infrastructures and logistics sectors. We believe there is scope for Qatari investment in the energy sector, including in renewable energy," she said.

The premier was addressing the Doha Investment Summit 2023 Titled 'The Rise of

Bengal Tiger: Potentials of Trade and Investment in Bangladesh' held at Grand Ballroom of The St. Regis Doha.

She mentioned that Bangladesh could benefit from Qatar's expertise in offshore gas exploration and energy distribution system.

She urged the business people from Qatar to look at certain thrust sectors in Bangladesh and invited a delegation of Qatari business people to visit the country soon.

"I also urge the non-resident Bangladeshis based in Qatar to invest in Bangladesh. We need your participation in our nation-building efforts," she said.

EP

Dr Zafrullah for Repealing 'Anti-State' Power Deal with Adani Group



Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury recently described the government's power deal with the Indian Adani Group as an anti-state one and demanded its cancellation.

"Bangladesh's power deal with India's Adani Group has shocked the patriots and sensible people. This deal is against the interests of Bangladesh and it should be revoked," he said.

Zafrullah, also a freedom fighter, made the demand at a press conference arranged by Bhasani Anusari Parishad at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the city's Dhanmondi area.

He said local and foreign experts called this deal-- to loot the country's resources in the name of electricity import-- as a gift to the Indian government by the Bangladesh government.

"This deal was mainly inked to fill the pockets of Adani. This is a one-sided and very expensive agreement," Zafrullah observed.

EP

Transport Lock Installed for Loading, Unloading of Fuel RNPP Unit 1



Installation of the Transport Lock has been completed in the Power Unit 1 of the reactor building of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The Transport Lock will be used for the loading of nuclear fuel and its unloading at the power plant.

The transport lock is 12.7 meters in length and 10 meters in width, and it weighs 235 tons. It is one of the biggest pieces of equipment on the project in terms of dimension. After the NPP start-up, fuel simulators will be delivered through the lock, and it will ensure full maintenance of the reactor, says a press release.

"Installation of the transport lock in the design position is an important stage for the completion of civil works in the reactor compartment building," said Alexei Deriy, ASE Vice President and Director of the RNPP Construction Project.

Further work on the assembly and adjustment of the transport lock will be carried out after the jacketing of the power unit 1 dome.

EP

Chevron-Funded ISCwD Project Closing Event Held

The closing event of the Integrated Support for Children with Disabilities (ISCwD) Project, funded by Chevron and implemented by Save the Children was held recently at Lakeshore hotel, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.



The project supported more than 400 (four hundred) children with disabilities aged between 0-18. The aim of the project was to promote access to education, health services, development, participation, and well-being through inclusive approaches (which supports the achievement of the UN SDGs).

This noble initiative started in March 2022 to support children with disabilities and their parents to get accessible basic services like health, education, and development from mainstream service providers, says a press release.

The project screened 219 children by technical professionals and provided customized assistive devices to 155 children. It also improved accessibility of 25 educational institutions, (disabled-friendly toilets, soil filling of the playground and entrances of schools, connecting roads, ramps, etc.) including library set up at 14 schools and 1000 magic bags (age-based educational materials) distributed to 20 government primary schools and children.

The impactful intervention was introducing inclusive games among children with and without disabilities which enhance the confidence of children with disabilities.

EP



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।



Clarke Energy & INNIO Jenbacher Participate in DTG 2023 Exhibition

Clarke Energy alongside INNIO Jenbacher participated in the 17th Dhaka International Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition 2023.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Punit Garg – Managing Director said, “Reports state that one of the key strategic objectives of Bangladesh is promoting green growth and climate resilience. Green growth is a matter of both economic policy and sustainable development policy. It tackles two key imperatives together: inclusive economic growth and improved environmental management needed to tackle resource scarcities and climate change. As the energy transition progresses with a push to net zero, the demands on



power generation are increasing. In addition to reducing use of polluting fuels, it is imperative for any country to enhance the usage of its renewable resources for generation of electricity. Decentralized wind energy and photovoltaic plants that provide power and heat where it is needed are replacing centralized plants. There's a downside, though: fluctuations in electricity production due to volatility of renewable energy sources. To avoid blackouts, in addition to natural gas, another renewable energy source, biogas, comes into play—as a

complement to these weather-dependent energy sources. In addition to renewable power, traditional combustion technologies can become CO₂-free by using hydrogen (H₂) as fuel, which is well suited for engines to generate electricity, heat and/or cooling”.

He added, “Our commitment to our customers is expressed in our company values – quality, reliability, integrity, and accountability. At Clarke Energy's offices, we've real commitment to energy generation from renewable resources. We've the expertise and resources to provide world leading gas engine technology coming from INNIO, combined with excellent product service and support. Whether you need a single gas engine or complete turnkey gas generation facility, we can meet that need. As we look at the future, our resolve is greater than ever to provide end-to-end solutions not only using natural gas as fuel but also biogas, hydrogen, steel off gases and other gases to meet the energy power need of the Bangladesh industry sector”.

For details, visit Clarke Energy website: www.clarke-energy.com

EP

Mitsubishi Power Achieves #1 Global Gas Turbine Market Share in 2022

Mitsubishi Power, a power solutions brand of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), captured the top market share by megawatts in 2022 with a global gas turbine market share of 33% according to McCoy Power Reports data.

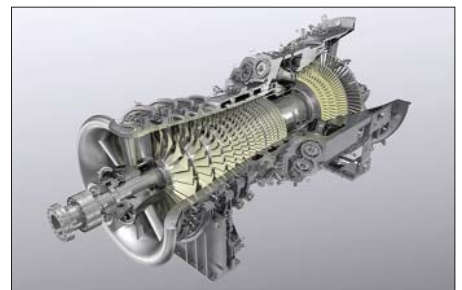
The company has also secured 49% market share in the Advanced Class*2 gas turbine market, led by Mitsubishi Power's latest model JAC (J-Series Air-Cooled) gas turbines.

Mitsubishi Power's high market share results is attributed to its strong project execution track record, high performance, and product reliability. Mitsubishi Power has extensive experience with large frame gas turbines, including the F, G and J-series. The G-series has surpassed 7 million actual operating hours (AOH)

and the J-series has surpassed 2 million AOH.

In the heavy-duty gas turbine market, which is the most popular segment for combined cycle gas turbines, the JAC is the world's leading gas turbine with an efficiency greater than 64%.

It meets rigid standards for reduced carbon emissions, offering the lowest emissions in its class. The J-series has surpassed 100 units of cumulative orders. In 2022, the company received orders for 20 units of the JAC gas turbines (the latest J-series model), accounting for about 60% in terms of output, and contributing to the high market share.



EP

100MW Power Plant Likely with New Gas in Bhola



Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) moved to install a 60-100 megawatt gas-fired power plant within a 15-year period under the 'no electricity no payment' policy, said an official.

Under the Special Power Act, the initiative was taken after the discovery of new gas at the Bhola north gas field.

According to the BPDB sources, the Aggreko International Projects Ltd (AIPL) made the proposal to the Ministry of Power and Energy to set up a 60-100MW high efficiency gas-fired

power project under no electricity no payment basis.

The ministry then asked the BPDB to evaluate the proposal.

The AIPL already enjoyed a four-year period to supply electricity from the 95MW rental power plant in Bhola and another three years for supplying power from the Asuganj rental power plant. **EP**

Bapex Staff Hold Sit-in Demanding Permanent Jobs



A group of employees of the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) is holding a sit-in program in the capital with the demand to make their job permanent.

The agitators said that they arranged the protest after getting no response from the prime minister's office, state minister for power and mineral resource and Bapex

managing director to a memorandum they submitted earlier.

Bapex Managing Director Mohammad Ali has asserted that those getting jobs without any circular would in no way be formalized as permanent employees of the organization.

Some 500 employees working for Bapex in 14 gas fields across the country staged demonstration in front of the National Press Club recently.

The protesters announced that they will continue the sit-in program until their demands are met and have threatened to fast to death. **EP**

Tough Action Likely Against Gas Bill Defaulters

The government has moved to take stringent actions like cutting off connections against public or-

ganizations, autonomous bodies and private agencies to realize Tk 7,312.56 crore outstanding natural gas bills.

Summit Power Not Eligible to Get Tk 11b Claim from BREB: SC



The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that the Summit Power Limited (SPL), a leading energy supply company, is not eligible to get the amount that it has been demanding from the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) as an additional cost of energy production.

The amount is about Tk 11 billion including interest, according to the BREB lawyers. However, the SPL's lawyer could not confirm the amount claimed.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, delivered the verdict after allowing three appeal petitions, filed by the BREB against a High Court (HC) verdict.

The apex court also ruled that the company has to sell electricity to the BREB at the price set by the government.

Lawyers Fida M Kamal, Murad Reza, Mehedi Hassan Chowdhury and Shaik Mohammad Zakir Hossain appeared in the hearing on

behalf of the BREB, while Pro-bir Neogi, Tanjib ul Alam, Mustafizur Rahman Khan and Karishma Jahan represented the SPL.

Zakir Hossain said, "The SPL signed an agreement with the BREB in 2000, under which it contracted to sell electricity to three units of the BREB in Dhaka, Cumilla and Narsingdi. The agreement was supplemented later. Tariff was fixed as BST minus Tk 0.03 per unit."

"Later, due to increase in the BST level, the company demanded additional production cost from the BREB. However, the Ministry of Energy and Power instructed the BREB not to give the additional payment."

"In this circumstance, the SPL filed a case with the Arbitration Tribunal of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), in support of its claim." **EP**

A meeting chaired by Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) secretary Dr Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder recently made the decision.

- Outstanding gas bills stand at Tk 7312.56cr
- Police Super of Bhola does not pay gas bills for 11 months
- BPDB gas bills are due for over five months
- Distribution cos asked to cut off lines of defaulter public offices

A source inside the meeting said Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited is yet to receive gas bills of Tk 3396.90 crore.

The company requested permission from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to issue notices

against the unpaid bills and realize them.

The source said Titas Gas visited 206 clients in public and private sectors in December, 2022 and cut off only seven connections. It suspended the gas supply to eight clients. **EP**



BGMEA, GIZ Team Up to Strengthen Environmental Due Diligence in RMG



The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and German development cooperation agency GIZ have teamed up to strengthen human rights and environmental due diligence in the readymade garments (RMG) sector of Bangladesh.

The BGMEA with the support of the GIZ will develop an environment, social and governance (ESG) digital data reporting platform for collecting and publishing data on the sustainability performance of the BGMEA member factories.

The BGMEA will set up a due diligence unit for its member factories to help them get prepared for the human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) requirements.

This unit will support factory management and mid-level management of RMG factories, including sustainability officers, social compliance officers, and human resource officers, to integrate environmental and human rights due

diligence into their operations and meet buyers' expectations regarding the implementation of risk-mitigating measures.

In this regard, the BGMEA and GIZ signed a cooperation agreement recently.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and GIZ Project Manager Michael Klode inked the agreement.

As per the agreement, BGMEA and GIZ will work together to develop, functionalize and implement the online platform for collecting and publishing data on the sustainability performance of the BGMEA member factories.

It also aims to build the capacity of the BGMEA in maintaining the platform and publishing sustainability performance data.

The objective of the due diligence unit at the BGMEA will be to provide a one-stop service for its members regarding the upcoming legislative changes related to due diligence and sustainability.

EP

Masdar Opens Jordan's Largest Solar Project with 200MW Capacity

Baynouna Solar Energy Company, a joint venture between Abu Dhabi's clean energy company Masdar and Finnish investment and asset management group Taaleri, has started operating Jordan's largest clean energy project with a total capacity of 200 megawatts.

Developed through a power purchase agreement between



Masdar and National Electric Power Company, Jordan's state electricity provider, the Baynouna Solar Park produces over 560 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of power annually, enough to power 160,000 homes.

The plant also displaces 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to taking nearly 80,000 cars off the road, Masdar said recently. "In partnership with the Jordanian government, the Baynouna Solar Park will contribute to Jordan's climate targets, provide access to clean energy, create jobs and ensure economic growth," said Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Cop28 President-designate and chairman of Masdar.

Jordan, which imports more than 94 per cent of its energy needs, is boosting its renewable energy capacity.

EP



**Clean Energy by partnering with IDCOL's innovative
financing and technical support
(Project Design, Equipment Selection and Monitoring).**



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Three More RMG with Energypac Factories Get LEED Certification



Three more readymade garment factories in Bangladesh have received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) for their green initiatives in apparel manufacturing.

Out of these three factories, Energypac Fashions Extension Project in Gazipur Sadar and P.N Composite Limited at Konabari in Gazipur received the platinum-rated certification while Dhaka Garments & Washing Ltd at Dakshin Varnahati, Dhaka received the

GOLD rated certification from the USGBC, said the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

With the latest developments, Bangladesh's RMG industry now has 192 LEED certified factories with 68 Platinum. Besides, Bangladesh currently also has the top 8 factories out of first 10 in the world and top 53 factories out of first 100 in the world.

Out of the certified factories, some 68 factories have so far received platinum rating, 110 factories received gold rating, 10 factories got silver rating, while 4 other factories received certified rating.

The increasing number of LEED certified factories manifest the commitment of the country's RMG industry towards establishing more green factories, said a BGMEA director.

EP

ACWA Power Inks RE Deal with Kazakhstan



ACWA Power, a leading Saudi developer, investor, and operator of power generation, water desalination and green hydrogen plants worldwide, has announced a ground-breaking partnership agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Energy and Samruk-Kazyna, the sovereign wealth fund of Kazakhstan to lead and develop a 1GW wind energy and battery storage project within the Central Asian country.

The project marks ACWA Power's entry into Kazakhstan, and with an initial investment of US\$1.5 billion, aims to support national climate action,

renewables integration, and sustainable development efforts through innovation and technology integration.

It is intended to successfully decarbonize fossil fuel-based power generation following its scheduled completion in 2027. The partnership was formalized with a head of terms agreement signed by H.E. Bolat Akchulakov, the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Almassadam Satkaliyev, the Chairman of the Board of Samruk-Kazyna, and Mohammad Abunayyan, the Chairman of ACWA Power; in the presence of HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, the Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who attended the signing ceremony recently.

The Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy which defines the course for long-term economic development is aimed at placing the nation among the top 30 global economies by 2050.

EP



US Battery Energy Storage Boom is Just Getting Started

New analysis of large-scale battery storage deployments in the U.S. in 2022 underscores an industry in the midst of rapid growth. The outlook for the next few years suggests that the boom is just getting started.

Project developers energized a record 4,221 MW of large-scale battery storage capacity last year, an increase of 29% from 2021, according to the



analysis from S&P Global Market Intelligence. Only about 42% of planned capacity additions came online in 2022.

Stand-alone storage projects accounted for 54% of that capacity, while 46% was co-located with new and existing power plants.

But the otherwise banner year for the battery storage industry closed with a lackluster fourth quarter.

Fourth-quarter additions fell 41.5% from a year earlier to 895 MW, S&P said. That was a nearly 43% drop from the third quarter of 2022.

Delayed projects can be attributed to persistent supply chain constraints and interconnection challenges. Some projects may have also been pushed to take advantage of new incentives for standalone energy storage projects in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Over the next five years, planned projects total nearly 62 GW, including almost 22 GW in each of the next two years.

EP

Bangladesh Holds Potential to Generate 4,000MW from Rooftop Solar



Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) organized a workshop on installation of rooftop industrial solar system at Hotel Radisson Blu, Chattogram on 07 March 2023 with a view to promote rooftop solar technology among the members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Cost of electricity generation from solar rooftop is cheaper than that of grid tariff. Thus, financing such kind of projects makes financial sense apart from achieving the country's target of renewable energy-based power generation.

Alamgir Morshed, Executive Director & CEO, IDCOL and Mahbubul Alam, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) graced the occasion with their presence.

The government has expressed its vision to generate 4,200 MW of electricity from renewable energy source by 2030.

Alamgir Morshed said, "Under Renewable Energy projects, IDCOL not only provides low cost financing to various organizations, but also provides technical support, quality equipment purchase & capacity building to the organizations, which is very important for the development of this sector. It is estimated that Bangladesh has a potential of generating more than 4,000 MW of electricity from rooftop solar energy. IDCOL has set a target to finance 300 MWp rooftop solar projects by 2025."

EP

Team Europe Strengthens Support for Gambia RE Project



At the United Nations (UN) 5th Conference for Least Developed Countries (LDC5), Gambia, the European Union (EU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the signature of a €24.08 million EU Global Gateway grant to be used alongside an €8 million EIB loan to support the implementation of a renewable energy on and off-grid generation, transmission and distribution program across the Gambia.

This new grant agreement brings the overall financial backing to the project from the EIB and the EU to more than €100 million.

The project will transform electricity access in rural communities across the country and ensure that education and health services benefit from reliable and clean power.

More than 1,000 schools and 100 health centers in rural parts of the Gambia that currently have limited electricity access are expected benefit from reliable energy supply through new connections to the national energy network and provision of off-grid solar and battery systems.

This project is also supported by the World Bank. Over the last decade the European Investment Bank has provided €5.3 billion for energy investment across Africa.

EP

Greenpage

New Technology Enables Charging of High-Power Electric Ferries and Vehicles

Researchers at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, have pushed inductive power transfer technology further to enable high-power battery charging without the need for human involvement or a robotic arm.



The technology is ready for immediate presentation to industry.

A new type of silicon carbide semiconductor and a newly developed copper wire as thin as a human hair – these two factors have suddenly made transmitting high power through air a realistic proposition.

Electric toothbrushes have been doing it for decades. And, in recent years, mobile phones and other portable electronics have picked up the technology. But until now, the wireless charging option had seemed too complex and ineffective for the high power of electric vehicle batteries.

However, inductive charging for battery vehicles seems to have made a breakthrough, especially when frequent charging is needed and the environment is demanding; an urban electric ferry, for example.

EP

Ecotourism to be Developed by Protecting Biodiversity: Minister



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin recently said the Forest Department will take all necessary measures so that local and foreign tourists visiting Bandarban can enjoy the immense natural beauty of nature.

"Various types of trees, including Krishnachura and Palash, will be planted in large quantities here. The trees will be planted on both sides of the road. These programmes will be implemented in coordination with the concerned authorities and local communities," he said.

The environment minister was addressing a meeting held at Nilgiri rest house after visiting the forest areas under the Bandarban Forest Division and Bandarban Pulpwood Plantation Division to explore the ecotourism potential.

He said the government will create livelihood supportive environment to improve the quality of life of ethnic people in hill districts.

Shahab Uddin said the government will plant trees on a large scale in the bared areas of 1.85 lakh acres reserved forest in Bandarban.

"If the mountains are covered with trees, there will be water, and if water is found there, human and wild animals can live," he said. **EP**

Rizwana Receives Intl Women of Courage Award in Washington DC



In 2022, Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh was honored with the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for her exceptional courage and leadership in her mission to protect the environment and defend the dignity and rights of marginalized Bangladeshis.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 IWOC award ceremony and International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) program were hosted online.

So, this year, Rizwana, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association and Supreme Court lawyer, and other awardees headed to Washington DC.

The annual IWOC Award recognizes women from around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equity and equality, often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

Since 2007, the US Department of State has recognized more than 180 women from more than 80 countries. **EP**

ABB, Pace CCS Partner to Drive CCS Growth

Working to make the capture, transportation and storage of industrial carbon dioxide emissions more accessible, ABB has signed a partnership



agreement with Pace CCS, a global leader in engineering solutions for this market.

Together, the two companies will apply their respective expertise to make it easier for industrial companies to implement CCS infrastructure by lowering the CAPEX and operational investment required to enter this market, says a press release.

CCS involves capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from industrial processes and then transporting these from where it was produced, via ship or in a pipeline, to be stored underground.

For countries to achieve their net-zero commitments,

uptake by industry needs to grow 120-fold by 2050, according to McKinsey & Company analysis. If successful, CCS alone could be responsible for reducing carbon emissions generated by the industrial sector by 45 percent.

"To date one of the biggest challenges to the mainstream adoption of CCS has been a lack of operational practice across the full value chain, but the combined expertise of ABB and Pace CCS can change this," said Matt Healey, Chief Executive Officer of Pace CCS.

"While companies can see the benefits of CCS, there is still a reluctance to make the investment without clear knowledge of how things will work on the ground, at every stage of the process." **EP**

Global Energy-Related CO₂ Emissions Hit New Record in 2022

Global energy-related CO₂ emissions climbed 0.9 percent last year to hit a new record, the International Energy Agency said recently, but rose less than expected given the global energy crisis thanks to renewables.

Nevertheless, the rise in energy-related CO₂ emissions,



which account for more than three quarters of the total, remains on an unsustainable growth trajectory, the IEA said in a new report. **EP**

DCs Asked to Stop Use of Single-Use Plastic at Govt Offices



In another notice of Environment Pollution Control Sub Wing (Odhi Shakha)-1, the ministry asked the DCs to shut down all illegal brick kilns in the country,

especially the more harmful ones on priority basis.

DCs were also directed to strengthen enforcement activities against new brick kilns constructed without any license. They were asked to conduct special drives in the districts where illegal brick-kilns are more than legal ones.

Earlier, a meeting was held here on January 3 for reviewing the latest status of environment-polluting brick kilns and measures taken to curb the use of plastic and polythene. **EP**

The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry has requested the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across the country to take measures for stopping the use of single-use plastic at all government offices in districts and in coastal areas.

To prevent plastic and polythene pollution, the ministry also asked them to arrange monthly meetings and regular discussions with stakeholders and hold public awareness programs, according to a press release issued here recently.

Climate & Health Resource Website on Bangladesh-Specific Data Launched

The USAID-funded Research for Decision Makers (RDM) activity, icddr,b and Data for Impact (D4I) recently organized a special session with health journalists, giving them a hands-on tour to a web-based platform, which provides a comprehensive resource for understanding the impacts of climate change on health.

The website - <https://cch.icddr.org/> - serves as a one-stop resource for the latest data, research, and information on this important and rapidly evolving topic, a joint press release said.

Dr Peter Kim Streatfield, Emeritus Scientist at icddr,b and the project lead, started the session with a presentation on how climate



change is affecting human as well as global health.

He highlighted the data scarcity issue and how it is hard to find good reliable and real time data on climate change in Bangladesh.

The website provides a plethora of information and tools regarding the impacts of climate change on health in Bangladesh, including data on vector-borne diseases, heat waves and heat stress, air pollution, and food security, among others. **EP**

US to be 'Global Leader' in Energy Transition: Energy Secretary



technologies," Granholm said in an address at CERAWEEK, a major energy conference, in Houston.

"The United States will be the global leader of this transition," she added.

Biden has signed into law a major 2021 infrastructure plan, followed by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) last year, which also included significant incentives for carbon-free energy.

Between the two packages, Washington has established nearly \$500 billion in subsidies, loans and tax incentives for renewable energy, climate-friendly transport and technology development. **EP**

Pointing to key Biden administration policies to mitigate climate change, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm promised recently that the United States would lead global energy transition.

"The Biden-Harris administration has made the United States the most attractive investment landscape for new energy and decarbonization

Govt Holds Meeting with WB to Implement Sustainable Plastic Management Plan

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently held a meeting with the World Bank (WB) to find the ways to implement the Sustainable Plastic Management Action Plan, aiming to prevent plastic pollution in the country.

Chaired by Environment Secretary Dr Farhina Ahmed, the meeting was attended, among others, by Additional Secretary (Climate Change) Md Moniruzzaman, Additional Secretary (Environment) Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, Additional Secretary (Environmental Pollution Control) Md Mizanur Rahman, World

Bank's senior environmental expert Yoon Ju Alison Yee and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) Executive Director Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

In the meeting, on behalf of the World Bank, proposals were presented on policies and financing mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Plastic Management Action Plan.

The meeting was also informed that the World Bank is preparing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as part of the implementation of the action plan. Syeda Rizwana Hasan spoke on the draft guidelines of EPR on plastics. **EP**

Government, Investors Urged to Stop Funding Fossil Fuel



The youth voiced solidarity in 26 districts of Bangladesh with a call for street and online movements with the slogan 'We Want Climate Justice' and #Tomorrow Is Too Late.

Academics and youth climate activists at a rally recently urged the government and investors to stop funding fossil fuel projects and reduce the country's reliance on such fuel imports.

They also called for an expansion of renewable energy to build a climate-resilient and energy-secure Bangladesh in the days to come. Fridays for Future Bangladesh and YouthNet for Climate Justice made the demand at a rally held in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka.

The program is part of the global climate strike organized by the worldwide school students' movement 'Fridays for the Future' to reduce global carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy sources, said a press release.

Professor Saleemul Huq, director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development, said, 'We must act swiftly to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel and turn to renewable energy sources that are more sustainable and equitable.'

Reiterating the fact, professor Dr Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, chairman, Department of Environmental Science, Stamford University, said, 'I urge private financial institutions to facilitate investments in a renewable energy revolution fully.'

Hundreds of youths from Activista Bangladesh Platform of ActionAid Bangladesh and more than 24 youth organizations attended the Global Climate Strike this time, said an ActionAid press release. **EP**

Cargill's New Plant Producing 115,000 tonnes of Biodiesel

These facilities, inaugurated in 2022, are the most important in Europe in the processing of used oils and other wastes for the manufacture of cleaner fuels.

Sarens works together with Cargill in the maintenance of these facilities, providing the necessary machinery and

technical advice to maximize biodiesel production and reduce downtimes.

Sarens, world leader in heavy lifting, engineered transport and crane rental, has been working with Cargill since June 2021 to facilitate the maintenance and repair of its

New York Nuclear Plant Now Producing Green Hydrogen

Clean hydrogen production is underway at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station in Oswego, New York. The facility is the first-of-its-kind in the United States to generate clean hydrogen using nuclear power.

This nuclear milestone is part of a \$14.5 million cost shared project between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Constellation to demonstrate how nuclear power plants can help lower the cost and scale-up the production of clean hydrogen.

Constellation will use the hydrogen generated on-site to help cool the power plant.

Check out a recent episode of the Factor This! podcast that examined the future of green hydrogen, featuring experts from Generate Capital, EDP Renewables, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.



DOE supported the construction and installation of a low-temperature electrolysis system at the Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant that leverages the facility's existing hydrogen storage system.

Constellation's new Hydrogen Generation System produces hydrogen without emissions by using electricity generated at the plant to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

The system started producing clean hydrogen in February to supply hydrogen for plant operations—a process that was previously dependent on trucked-in deliveries of hydrogen made from fossil fuels. **EP**

infrastructure at Ghent.

Their new biodiesel processing plant in that location is consolidating, since its start-up in June 2022, the European reference in processing recycled oils and fats, including cooking oils, tallow and edible oil production residues, to produce biodiesel and thus contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint in the maritime and road transport sectors.

In the case of the Ghent plant, Sarens has recently



carried out various tasks to remove one of the motors in which the transesterification process of fats -a chemical reaction used for the conversion of fats contained in oils into usable biodiesel-takes place in order to proceed with the disassembly and overhaul of its engine and drive shaft. **EP**

রঙ ধরঙ



যোগাযোগ

আরিফুল ইসলাম ০১৭২৫ ৫৮৩০৮৫

মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০১

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বিজ্ঞাপন হার	টাকা
শেষ প্রচ্ছদ (রঙিন)	৫০,০০০.০০
দ্বিতীয় প্রচ্ছদ (রঙিন)	৪০,০০০.০০
তৃতীয় প্রচ্ছদ (রঙিন)	৪০,০০০.০০
ভেতরে পুরো পাতা (রঙিন)	৩০,০০০.০০
ভেতরে অর্ধেক পাতা (রঙিন)	২০,০০০.০০
ভেতরে ১ কলাম (রঙিন)	১০,০০০.০০
ওয়েব সাইট প্যানেল প্রতিমাসে	২০,০০০.০০
ওয়েব সাইট স্পট প্রতিমাসে	১০,০০০.০০

রুম ৫০৯, ৫১০, ৫১১ ও ৫১২, ইস্টার্ন ট্রেড সেন্টার, ৫৬ ইনার সার্কুলার রোড, পুরানা পল্টন লাইন, ভিআইপি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০
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আসছে ভিন্ন ধারার ম্যাগাজিন

একটি বিশেষায়িত মাসিক প্রকাশনা



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বিশেষ অনুসন্ধানমূলক
রিপোর্ট ও নিবন্ধ নিয়ে
বাজারে আসছে

যোগাযোগ

আরিফুল ইসলাম ০১৭২৫ ৫৮৩০৮৫

মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০১

NG Leakage, Not Biogas from Sewerage, Responsible for Explosions

It has been established that the explosions at Narayanganj Mosque, Moghbazar, and buildings near Science Laboratory and Siddique Bazar were not caused by explosives. It is also established that all these originated from sparks of explosive mixtures of methane gas accumulated from pipeline leakages. But the issue is that Titas Gas did not accept the responsibility in any of the cases that gas leakages from its distribution lines led to such accidents. On some occasions, gas leaked from gas lines entering sewerage lines accumulate in the confined spaces of buildings and offices. It becomes extremely difficult to find out exact reasons behind the explosion if the defaulting organization continues flatly denying the responsibility.

Dr. Md. Easir Arafat Khan, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering of BUET, said this in an exclusive interview with **Mollah Amzad Hossain**, Editor of Energy & Power. Dr. Easir is a Hazard and Risk Analyst and an expert of Industrial and Fire Safety Management.

Methane gas accidents have now become really alarming. What are the ways of getting rid of it?

Please note that it is important to finally identify the source and exact reasons behind any incident or accident. Preliminary investigations have indicated that sparks of accumulated methane led to explosions at the Mosque of Narayanganj, buildings at Moghbazar, Science Laboratory and Siddique Bazar. But Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company

Limited (TGTDCCL), which is responsible for gas distribution in Dhaka, disowned the responsibility. They keep on arguing that methane did not accumulate from the leakage of their distribution system. They are pointing towards gas accumulations from sewerage lines. This is not tenable. If the presence of methane is 5-15% in a gas mixture in a confined space, it will cause a major explosion coming in contact with a spark. In all cases, exactly that has happened. Hence there is no scope for TGTDCCL denying the responsibility. How is it possible to recommend remedies if TGTDCCL continues denying its responsibility?

Presence of accumulated methane gas is accepted as the reason behind the accidents. But the debate is over the source. TGTDCCL claims that their distribution lines are not leaking. They put the blame on sewerage gas. What is your view?

Technically, if at least 3kg of methane accumulates at a confined place it can cause an explosion of the magnitude that happened at Moghbazar when the gas mixture came in contact with a spark. But after the incident, it is extremely difficult finding the source of methane leakage. Explosions may cause leakage from otherwise gas lines not leaking before. It cannot claim that investigations in the accidents are properly done now. Preparing a proper guideline for these, a committee of relevant experts should be constituted. Members must be drawn from such a committee in the investigation team when such an accident happens.



Dr. Md. Easir Arafat Khan

It is not true that sewerage gas can contain 70% methane. It may be even as low as 1%. The methane gas originated at sewerage lines of Dhaka is much lower. It is mixed with NH₃ (Ammonia) and SO₂ (Sulfur-di-oxide). In case of gas leakage from sewerage people can easily smell from the pungent odor.

Software-based simulations can be used as an aid in such investigations. That can assist in accurately establishing the cause of accidents and formulating proper recommendations for safeguarding against future similar incidents. Otherwise, the source of methane emissions cannot be established.

Most of the gas distribution lines have outlived their designed life. It may take 5-7 years to replace these. What can be the interim solution?

Media reports state of 300-400 complaints daily registered in Titas franchise areas. Around 90% of these are about gas leakage. This evidence shows how vulnerable is Titas

distribution system now. Leaking lines must be replaced as soon as possible. This must not be delayed even for a day. This must start from the most vulnerable area.

Is there any possibility of greater explosion from a mix of methane gas with biogas accumulated in confined space? It is being said that natural gas contains about 95% and biogas 70% methane. What is the exact case?

It is not true that sewerage gas can contain 70% methane. It may be even as low as 1%. The methane gas originated at sewerage lines of Dhaka is much lower. It is mixed with NH₃ (Ammonia) and SO₂ (Sulfur-di-oxide). In case of gas leakage from sewerage people can easily smell from the pungent odor. But methane leaked from natural gas lines may enter sewerage lines and accumulate in the confined spaces of dwelling houses and offices. These can cause explosions when they come in contact with air. I do not find any possibilities of major accidents on sewerage gas on a standalone basis.

Gas distribution companies, especially TGTDC, acknowledge the presence of millions of unauthorized connections and thousands of kilometers of unauthorized lines in their system. They are continuously disconnecting these. But unfortunately, unscrupulous persons are reconnecting again. Knowing fully about risks of accidents the trend continues. Do you think that drives for consciousness can be a way to redress?

Illegal use of gas cannot be done without strong political backing. People knowing well about associated risks are indulged in such practice. TGTDC or any distribution company now cannot control it without active political support. But there is no alternative now to put an end to it. There will be no way of avoiding major accidents causing

huge casualties emanating from use of unspecified pipelines and fittings.

Reports of frequent accidents from use of expired CNG cylinders are being received these days. There is regulation of rechecking cylinders after every 5 years of use. But this is being ignored by the most. What can be done?

Provision of testing CNG cylinders must be strictly followed. Monitoring is not difficult at all. BRTA at the time of checking the fitness of CNG using vehicles can check this. But it cannot be guaranteed that only having proper cylinders guard against accidents. In most cases, failures of gas lines cause accidents of CNG driven automobiles. These lead to explosions of cylinders as well. All rules and norms of CNG use must be obliged during use of CNG in vehicles.

Around 70 lakh consumers are now using LPG for cooking. Accidents have also become a daily affair. The use is growing in geometric progression with time. What can the government do?

Technically, there is no scope of cylinder explosion. Liquid petroleum is filled at 6 bar (about 90 PSIG). Cylinders can withstand 100 bars. Hence cylinders cannot explode during use of LPG. The accidents are mostly taking place from use of unspecified valves as regulators and hose pipes. It is also caused by careless use. It must be kept in mind that in a confined space even 2% mix of LPG may cause an explosion. Users must be made aware of the risks in using LPG through intensive campaigning. LPG operators must do this. Government must intensively monitor. Consumers must also get fully aware about safe use at the time of purchase. Use of specified valves and hose pipes must be ensured. Media campaigning must be done intensively. Government must monitor the safe operation of the operators.

Gas law mandates use of odorant compulsory for all gas distribution utilities. TGTDC and other utilities are reportedly ignoring this. What are your views?

Law has compulsory provision for use of specified odorant at right doses in distribution lines for safe use of gas for domestic and commercial users. Distribution utilities are going against the Law in ignoring the provision. If odorant is used regularly users can easily identify any leakage. It will be much easier to avoid frequent gas accidents.

Families of the victims can sue the distribution for violating the act provision as reasons for the death of their kin. This should be done. Utilities then will be compelled to use odorant.

Is the Department of Explosives (DOE) performing their duty properly?

DOE has not much to do about gas usage at residences. Gas law has no provision for it. But DOE lacks expertise and manpower for performing their assigned tasks.

Claims are there for introducing occupation certificates for every residential and commercial building and renewing these annually. RAJUK is reviewing it. What will you say?

There is a lot to ponder about before this is introduced. We do not think RAJUK has such qualified and trained human resources for this. This must not be another tool for harassing citizens. It can be introduced by engaging specialized private sector companies for certification. Legal framework needs formulating for this. There must be provisions for accountability if building users suffer from any failures of certificate providers.

EP

PM'S QATAR VISIT SET TO BOOST ENERGY COOPERATION

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

At the press conference at her official residence, Ganabhaban on Monday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had been as eloquent as before. She first read out a written statement detailing the outcome of her March 4-8 official visit to Qatar where she attended the UN-sponsored 5th LDC conference. For Bangladesh, which is set to leave the LDC club to become a middle-income developing economy by 2026, the Qatar conference turned into an event of saying goodbye to the Least Developed Countries. Representatives, including high officials from the United Nations, applauded the Bangladesh prime minister for her remarkable leadership that saw the country's transformation from a country of poverty to middle-income group of nations. Bangladesh, she said, stole the show at the Qatar conference. Echoing UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres the prime minister told the developed nations at the conference that the graduating countries should be rewarded instead of being punished for their good work. She told the conference that it must be borne in mind that the LDCs don't want any charity, but ask for their dues.

The graduation of Bangladesh, Nepal and Laos come at a very difficult time. The global economy has been rocked by the Russia-Ukraine war that came just as the world struggled to return to shake off the damages caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Now into its second year the war has disrupted the supply of food grains, energy and many other essential commodities triggering global shortages and pushing the



inflation up. Even the developed nations such as the UK, Germany and the US are struggling with rising high cost of living. Sale of essentials items is being rationed even in the supermarkets in the UK.

Bangladesh, the prime minister said, has been hit too. Before the pandemic struck in 2020 the country's economy posted growth above 7 percent and was even poised to reach 8 percent. The Covid-19 took a toll and before the country could overcome this shock, then came the Ukraine war. Bangladesh is dependent on imports in meeting its energy requirement. The prices of fossil fuel – oil, coal, LNG and LPG – leaped forcing the government to go for austerity measures and hiking rates in the domestic market. The hikes, forced upon the government, were greeted by criticisms from both domestic and industrial users as well as the energy experts. The higher rates passed into the

commodity prices further raising the inflation or the cost of living. The higher prices of electricity meant less working hours in the factories and reduced production, which in turn affected the markets. The domino effect of the price hikes caused sufferings to the common people as the final victims. This did not go unnoticed even by the prime minister. She acknowledged that the prices of essential commodities have gone up and urged the businesses to behave properly for the sake of the consumers, especially during the upcoming fasting month of Ramadan.

During her stay in Doha, the capital of oil-and-gas-rich Qatar, Sheikh Hasina met with Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to discuss further promotion of bilateral relations with focus on energy cooperation. Bangladesh imports fuel, including LNG, from Qatar. The prime minister told the emir to increase its export of LNG to Bangladesh. She also requested the leader of Qatar to consider making investment in Bangladesh's energy sector, especially in renewable energy. The response from Qatar, the PM told the press conference, has been positive. Bangladesh has now a 15-year agreement with Qatar on the import of LNG. This government-to-government deal is set to expire in 2032. Besides, Qatar employs over eight lakh Bangladeshi nationals in different sectors of its economy. Dhaka and Doha thus continue a productive bilateral relation, which is set to grow further following the PM's visit and talks with the emir and other Qatari officials.

EP

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