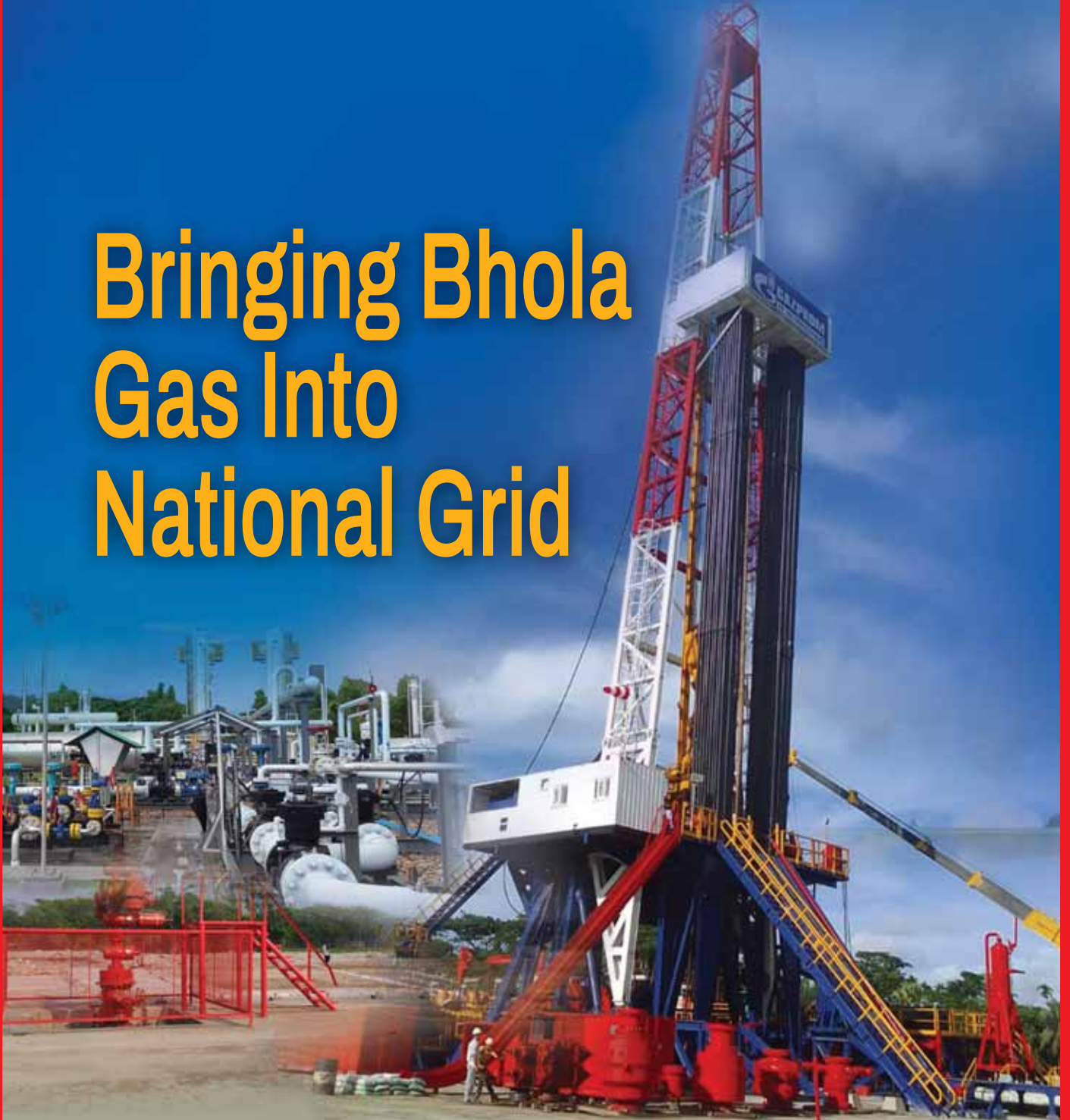


ENERGY & POWER

Bringing Bhola Gas Into National Grid



- Climate Change At UNGA: Prof Yunus Lived Up To Expectations
- Summit Power Seeks Protection For Its Investment, Facilities In Bangladesh
- Bhola Gas Resource Development Without Assured Market Not To Be Viable

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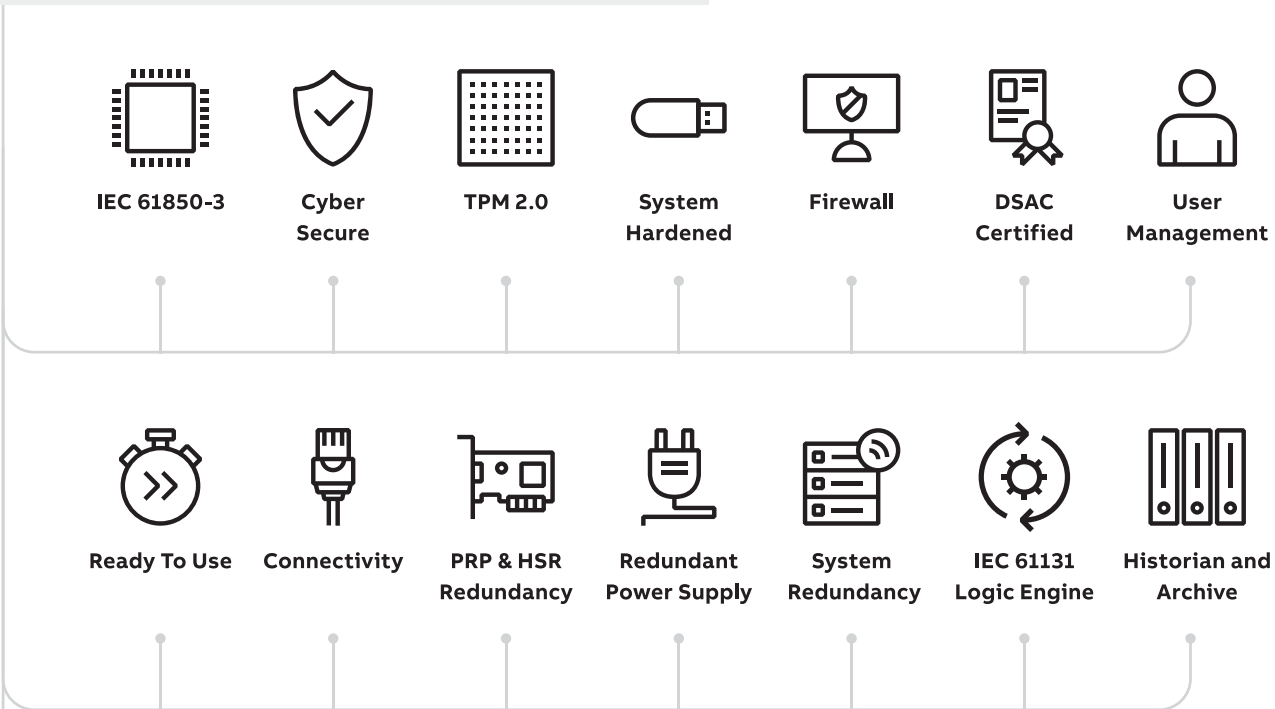
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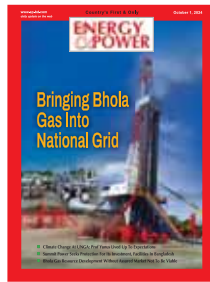
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EDITORIAL

Since the post-COVID-19 period, Bangladesh's natural gas supply has faced growing challenges, especially in the last two years. Despite repeated government promises to increase local production, the situation remains unchanged. The country now faces a 1,000 MMCFD supply shortfall, and as production declines, the gap is only expected to widen. Gas rationing has already impacted power generation, fertilizer production, and industries, with no immediate solution in sight. Hopes for increasing the LNG imports by 2027 seem dim, and domestic gas fields are not expected to fill the gap in the short term due to depleting reserves. In this challenging situation, the Shahbazpur gas field on Bhola Island offers a glimmer of hope. Recent estimates show the field holds 2.047 Tcf of gas, with 1.432 Tcf considered recoverable. There is even potential for the reserves to grow to 5 Tcf with further exploration. However, the gas remains untapped, mainly because it isn't connected to the national grid, and local demand is too low to fully utilize the resources.

To truly capitalize on Bhola's potential, swift policy decisions are needed to build the infrastructure required to bring its gas to the rest of the country. Without action, Bhola's vast reserves will continue to go unused as they have for nearly three decades.

h i g h l i g h t s

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Greater Bhola is a gas-studded region but, I think, the prospect is not that much or as prolific as the Surma basin. Geophysical prospecting and exploration-well drilling there must continue under long-term planning. Initiative for the development of gas resources may not be justified without developing a market for the consumption of the produced gas. ... Mortuza Ahmad Faruque tells EP

According to the communication, Summit's businesses are under significant pressure due to factors including extremely delayed payments by BPDB, the sharp depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka against the US Dollar without True Up, high interest rates, liquidity shortage in the banking sector, and recent mob attacks on some of their facilities. ... More in Special Report

The primary fuel supply deficit steadily increased with time in the post-COVID-19 period. Particularly, the natural gas supply deficit widened over the past two years. It is not unknown that the situation has not changed much though the past government repeatedly assured people of increasing the local production with new supplies, but it could not meet the pledges.



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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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USEA President & CEO Mark Menzes Honored to be Named to Fusion Commission



to utilize the public and private sector in an effort to maximize the deployment of fusion energy, setting the stage for large-scale domestic power generation," Menzes said.

USEA President & CEO Mark Menzes recently issued the following statement ahead of the Commission on the Scaling of Fusion Energy's inaugural meeting, on which he serves: "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on this critical commission that aims

"I look forward to working with the exceptional energy leaders on this team, including Co-Chairs Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Senator Jim Risch (R-ID), and Special Competitive Studies Project President & CEO Ylli Bajraktari as we aim to win the fusion race."

ADB Approves \$500m Loan to Boost Indonesia's Energy Transition

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said it approved a policy-based loan of US\$500 million to accelerate Indonesia's transition towards sustainable and clean energy.



The Affordable and Sustainable Energy Transition Program will support various policy measures for the country to achieve its enhanced nationally determined contribution and net-zero power emission targets by 2050, of which this is the first of two subprograms, the ADB said.

The rapid expansion of electricity generation capacity has helped Indonesia overcome much of

its power supply constraints, but it has left the system heavily reliant on fossil-fuel-based power sources like coal, gas, and diesel, the Manila-based bank noted.

The program focuses on establishing a robust policy and regulatory framework for clean energy transition, strengthening sector governance and financial sustainability, and ensuring a just and inclusive transition, the ADB said.

Woodside, JERA Sign 10-Year LNG Supply Agreement



the agreement will be sourced from volumes across Woodside's global portfolio.

The deal follows Woodside's February announcement of an agreement for the sale to JERA of a 15.1% non-operating participating interest in the Scarborough joint venture.

Woodside expects the Scarborough equity sale to JERA to be completed before end-2024.

Under the agreement, Woodside will supply about 400,000 tonnes/year of LNG (six cargoes) on a delivered basis, beginning in April 2026. LNG delivered to JERA under

Santos Signs Purchase Agreement for Bayu-Undan

Santos and TIMOR GAP executed a sale and purchase deed (SPD) for the Bayu-Undan Upstream Project offshore Timor-Leste.



Under the terms of the deal, the Bayu-Undan joint venture (BUJV) participants will transfer 16% interest in the project to TIMOR GAP, effective July 1, 2024.

TIMOR GAP will participate in the BUJV for the remainder of the economic life of production.

The production sharing

contract (PSC) for Bayu-Undan will end on June 30, 2026, or upon cessation of production, whichever comes first.

The upstream project comprises the offshore petroleum field and offshore production and processing infrastructure in Timor-Leste.

19,000 bbl of condensate. Oil production in August is 7.5% more than the

NOD's forecast and 3.3% higher than the forecast so far this year.

Norway Production Down in August, NOD Says

Norway's daily production averaged 1.982 million bbl in August 2024, the Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD) reported. The figure is down

from the 2.079 million b/d produced in July 2024.

Average daily liquids production in August consists of 1.765 million b/o, 198,000 bbl of NGL, and

Prof Yunus, Nepal PM Oli Discuss Energy, Transit Cooperation



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli have discussed enhancing business, energy and transport collaboration between Bangladesh and Nepal.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly recently, they acknowledged the growing presence of Nepal's students in Bangladesh. "Delighted to meet with

Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus. Discussed Nepal-Bangladesh relations, focusing on energy and transit cooperation, tourism, cultural exchanges, educational ties, and cooperation in regional/multilateral forums," Prime Minister Oli said.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said there might be an agreement next month to export 40 megawatts of hydropower to Bangladesh from Nepal.

Alam said the two countries have a deep relationship with strong people-to-people contacts.

Matarbari Power Plant a 'Luxury Project': Energy Adviser

Power and Energy Adviser Muhammad Fozul Kabir recently criticized the Matarbari 1200 MW Power Plant built at Tk 57,000 crore in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali, calling it a "luxury project" at a press conference at the Cox's Bazar Hill Town Circuit House.

He said the plant has not significantly benefited the common people, pointing out that the original project plans included connections to deep-sea ports, industries, railways, and roads, which were not realized.



He also suggested that the interim government should focus on smaller, more community-oriented projects and avoid large-scale ventures like the Matarbari plant.

Regarding the plant's current coal reserves, which are sufficient for only 30 days, Kabir assured that the issue would be addressed promptly.

Bangladesh Can Import Petrochemicals from Egypt: Ambassador



Bangladesh can import petrochemicals and fertilizer from Egypt to meet the country's growing demand.

Egyptian Ambassador to Bangladesh Omar Mohie Eldin Ahmed Fahmy expressed such interests when he met DCCI President Ashraf Ahmed at the DCCI recently.

Welcoming the Ambassador, DCCI President Ashraf Ahmed said that Bangladesh's frozen food, shrimp, and delicious mangoes are being exported in large quantities to other

countries of the world, including Europe, which has a great opportunity in Egypt.

He requested the entrepreneurs of Egypt to import products or services under Information

Technology (IT), leather products, ready-made garments, ceramics, and medicine from Bangladesh.

Besides, Ashraf Ahmed emphasized Egypt's experience and technical support for the development of Bangladesh's river-based tourism industry, said a press release.

The DCCI President opined that Bangladesh can be considered as a gateway to South and Southeast Asian countries in terms of increasing Egyptian exports.

Review Body Asks BPDB to Provide Power Plants' Info

The national committee on reviewing power and energy sector deals has sought data on power plants that got approved under the 'controversial' special provision law.

The first meeting of the committee held on Monday asked for the information on the projects signed under the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010 (Amended 2021), meeting sources said.

The meeting asked officials concerned at the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to make available the data at least 3-4 days before the



next meeting, slated for September 28.

The committee is expected to set the next course of action after analyzing the information.

The interim government constituted the five-member national committee, headed by retired Judge of High Court Division Moinul Islam Chowdhury, on September 5 to review the deals inked under the special law.



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Energy Adviser Seeks Swiss Cooperation in RE, Advanced Technology



Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan has sought the cooperation of the Swiss government in the fields of renewable energy and advanced technology.

He also invited Swiss businessmen to participate in the development of Bangladesh and invest in business.

He made the call when the Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Reto Renggli met him recently. The Swiss

envoy was leading a delegation in the meeting held at the secretariat.

Fouzul Kabir discussed the activities he has undertaken in a short time after taking charge to ensure transparency and accountability in the power and energy sector. He welcomed Swiss companies to participate in various development activities in Bangladesh.

The adviser said he recently visited the Matarbari power plant project. The project also includes deep sea ports, economic zones, railways, and road projects. But it is not possible to get real benefits from just setting up power plants until other projects are implemented

Oil Exports from Indian Refinery to BD Stay Unaffected

The political crisis in Bangladesh has not impacted fuel supplies from Oil India Ltd's Numaligarh refinery in Assam to the neighboring country, said OIL chairman and managing director Ranjit Rath.



Expansion plans for Oil India's subsidiary Numaligarh Refinery Ltd also have not been affected by the unrest in Bangladesh, he said, adding that the neighboring country is expected to be a major buyer of the products from the refinery.

"I am very happy to report that there is no disruption at all. There is no disruption of movement...," Rath said recently, fol-

lowing the state-run oil and gas major's annual general meeting.

"The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, laid from Siliguri to Parbatipur in Bangladesh, is functioning smoothly. Absolutely no disruption. We are pushing diesel utilizing that particular pipeline."

Numaligarh Refinery has been supplying diesel to Bangladesh through rail since 2015 and the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline since last year.

Oil Tank Blast Kills Manager of Filling Station in Nilphamari



(Patwaripara) under Domar upazila.

Quoting local witnesses, Nur Alam, an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Domar upazila, said today that

leakage was detected in the oil tank of the petrol pump yesterday afternoon. The manager then called a technician for repairs.

During the welding work, Sohag was standing beside the tank. At one stage, the tank exploded, leaving Sohag critically injured.

The manager of a filling station was killed when an oil tank exploded during repair work at Abdullah Hatchery and Filling Station in Domar upazila of Nilphamari recently.

The deceased, Sohag Ali, 32, was the son of Irfan Ali from Litchutola village

Titas Severs Illegal Gas Connections

The state-run Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDCL) recently snapped illegal gas connections of an industry located at Keraniganj, the locality of former state minister Nasrul Hamid.

Titas officials found two separate piped natural gas connections – one legal and another illegal – to the industry, owned by Akbar Mollah, along Mirerbaggazar Road of Iquria at Keraniganj.

They severed both the



connections, according to a senior TGTDCL official.

The industry was stealing 2,041 cubic meters of gas worth Tk 61,232 daily.

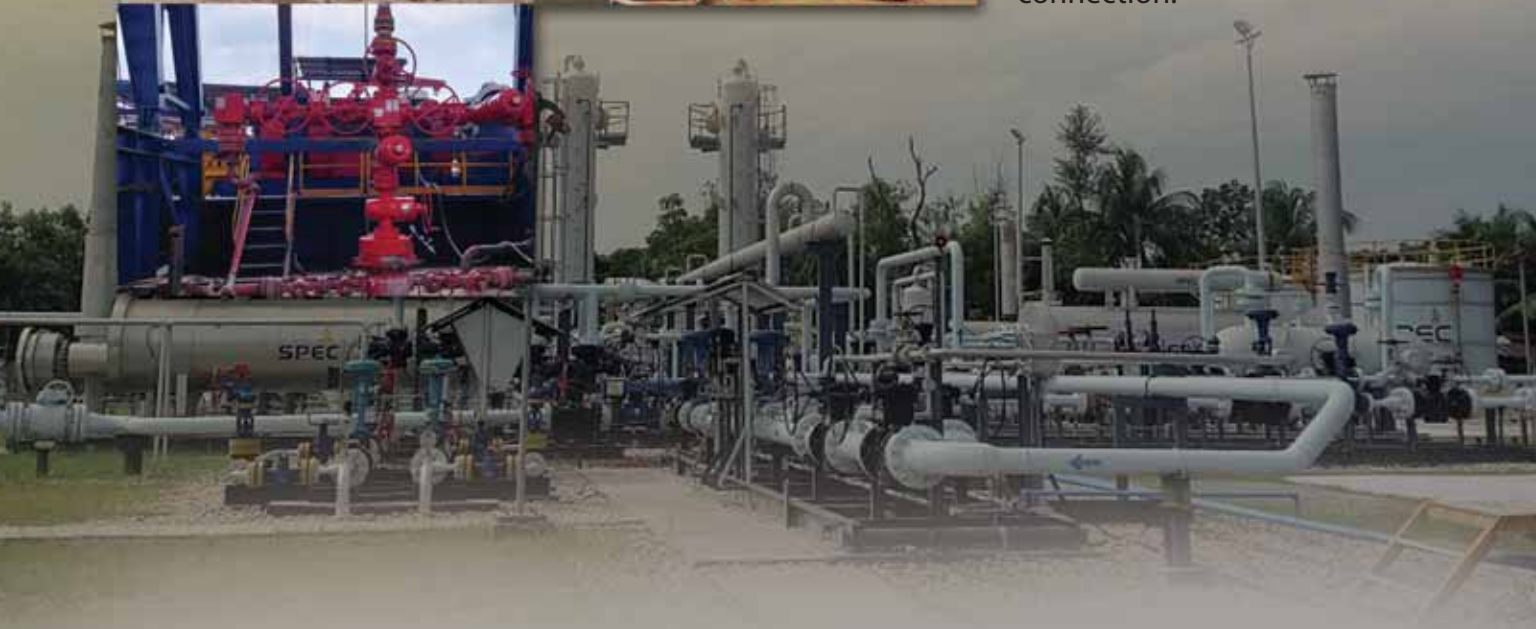
It was operating one boiler having a capacity of 1.5 tonnes and four dryers having 200 cubic feet capacity each with the connected natural gas.

Bringing Bhola Gas Into National Grid

Mollah Amzad Hossain



The post-COVID-19 period has seen a growing natural gas supply deficit in Bangladesh, with a 1,000 MMCFD shortfall. Despite repeated government promises, local production remains inadequate, and demand continues to rise, leading to gas rationing. LNG supply expansion by 2027 is uncertain, and domestic fields are unlikely to meet demand unless aggressive exploration campaigns are conducted. The Bhola Island holds potential reserves of 2.047 Tcf but remains underutilized due to a lack of national grid connection.



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The primary fuel supply deficit steadily increased with time in the post-COVID-19 period. Particularly, the natural gas supply deficit widened over the past two years. It is not unknown that the situation has not changed much though the past government repeatedly assured people of addressing it. Pledges were made to increase local production to 2,300-2,400 MMCFD with new supply. But that pledge could not be realized. Production from the local gas fields has depleted to 2,000 MMCFD. Chevron-operated Bibiyana gas field alone is supplying 1,000 MMCFD. Production from this field is on the verge of depletion. Sudden major depletion may happen at any time. The total supply may remain limited to 3000-3050 MMCFD with 1,100 MMCFD of RLNG. The official estimate states a 1,000 MMCFD supply deficit. The deficit will increase with the depletion of production. On the other hand, demand keeps on increasing with time. Gas supply is being rationed for power and fertilizer. Industries are not getting the required gas supply per demand.

The target for increasing the 618 MMCFD addition that Petrobangla adopted through drilling 48 wells by 2025 is heading towards failure. The 100 MMCFD production increase that could be achieved through this venture could not sustain the overall production increase for a long time. To implement the program, arrangements were finalized to conclude contracts with foreign companies for drilling 16 wells under the Speedy Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010. The interim government has decided to scrap the contracts and engage contractor(s) through competitive bidding. Another contract was signed with Summit Group to supply 500 MMCFD RLNG by setting up another FSRU. That has been suspended. The initiative for a deep-water LNG infrastructure offshore Kuakata and supplying RLNG to Khulna through a submarine pipeline by Excelebrate Energy under the special



act has also been stalled. Another negotiation with H-Energy that was progressing for RLNG import from India through a pipeline was in progress. The initiative for RLNG import from India through a pipeline by a local group, Dipon Gas, has also been suspended. Therefore, the possibility of increasing LNG supply by 2027 appears uncertain now. The only possibility of increasing the supply is from domestic gas fields. But that is also very unlikely to happen. Rather the possibility of the supply crisis deepening is very likely due to further depletion of reserves over the next three years.

Against the backdrop, the gas reserves of Bhola Island presented a bright prospect. So far 9 gas wells have been drilled in the island. Five are in production. The gas field is known as Shabazpur. Gas in place as per the latest estimation is 2.047 Tcf. The proven recoverable reserve has been estimated as 1.432 Tcf. There is a plan for drilling 14 more wells there by 2028. 80 MMCFD gas is now being produced from gas fields at Bhola. Three power plants at Bhola use this gas. The total generation capacity is 475MW. The capacity of Bhola gas fields cannot be utilized due to the lack of demand for gas. Bhola Island's gas reserves are not connected to the national grid.

Several studies were conducted during

the past regimes of the Awami League for the economic utilization of Bhola gas. Finally, a project was launched to convert natural gas into compressed natural gas (CNG) and transport it to Dhaka for industrial use. The interim government has canceled that project. Vigorous parleys were made for setting up a fertilizer plant at Bhola during the last year. But that also did not proceed. Valuable time was also wasted in the futile exercise of conversion of gas to LNG. The possibility of transporting gas to Feni by crossing the Meghna River was also explored. Due to the technical challenge that initiative was abandoned. Petrobangla conducted a field survey for the transmission of gas to the national grid in 2022. Three alternatives were reviewed for the Right of Way (ROW). The first one was an 80 KM pipeline from Bhola to Barishal via Mehedi Ganj. The second was a 62 KM pipeline from Bhola to Barishal via Laharhat. The third was a 130 KM pipeline from Bhola to Jajira via Mehedi Ganj. The study recommended the second option. GTCL has completed a route survey of this option. The pipeline cost, including 8 river crossings spreading a total of 6,070 meters, was estimated at Tk 2,600 crore.

The consideration of transporting Bhola gas to Jajira stemmed from the previous government's vision of transporting gas to Khulna via

Gopalganj by constructing a gas pipeline along the Padma Multipurpose Bridge. A 6.1 KM gas pipeline has been built along the Padma Bridge. Negotiation was in progress with US company Excelerate Energy on their proposal to supply RLNG to Khulna through the submarine pipeline from a deep-water LNG facility off the coast of Kuakata. To reduce the risks of investment in the pipeline, the possibility of the route from Bhola to Barishal was given priority. Negotiation was progressing on building the pipeline to Khulna via Payra, Barishal, Gopalganj, and Fakirhat. The objective was to connect Bhola with this pipeline at Barishal. It was considered that the two integrated pipelines transporting RLNG and Bhola Gas would make the projects commercially viable. It was expected that the Sundarban Gas Distribution Company's demand may exceed 700 MMCFD by 2041.

The exploration initiative for increasing the gas reserves at Bhola continues although the opportunity to utilize the resources remains limited due to the absence of required infrastructure. Work on drilling 5 exploration wells at Bhola under the 48-well drilling program was finalized. Negotiations with Russian Energy Giant GAZPROM reached an advanced stage. The negotiation has, however, been suspended following the change of the government. Work is underway to engage contractors through competitive bidding.

BAPEX and GAZPROM have developed a joint resource potential assessment for the 5 wells considered here. It stated that at a 10% probability, the exploration area has the prospect for 2.686 Tcf gas. According to the assessment, drilling of 5 exploration wells is required to confirm the reserves there. BAPEX has plans to drill 9 more wells at Bhola besides the 5 wells. As a pre-exploration work, BAPEX has taken the initiative for 1930 Sq Kilometer 3D seismic surveys. The required initiative for drilling exploration wells will be



taken after completing the surveys by 2028.

National Exploration Company BAPEX discovered the Shahbazpur Gas Field in 1995. The recoverable reserve at that time was estimated at 400 Bcf. After tiding across various impediments, the Shahbazpur gas field started production on 9 May 2009. It has already been mentioned that 80 MMCFD gas is now being produced from 4 wells using a gas treatment plant.

Reviewing the chronological development of events, it is evident that due to a lack of firm decisions, the gas potential of Bhola Island has remained virtually underutilized over the past 29 years. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) after annexing state power in the 1990s awarded the development work of Petrobangla-owned Jalalabad Gas field to Occidental under the Production Sharing Contract. Later that contract was assigned to another US Company UNOCAL. They started exploring new sources of investment in the Bangladesh petroleum sector. Under such initiative, UNOCAL proposed an integrated project titled Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) for developing gas resources at Bhola, constructing a gas transmission pipeline from Shahbazpur, Bhola to Digholia, Khulna and constructing gas-based power plants of 150 MW in

Barishal and 200 MW in Khulna. The WRIP project was aimed to invest US\$ 700 million in phases. The project included drilling the required wells at Bhola, constructing a 120 KM gas transmission pipeline, and setting up power plants in Barishal and Khulna.

A positive joint feasibility study was conducted about the WRIP. The route survey and ROW identification were also completed. Petrobangla after getting the report and development plan of Bhola gas resources engaged a consulting company for further detailed study. UNOCAL in its proposal mentioned "Our Money Our Risk". It mentioned that Petrobangla will not have to bear any responsibility if required gas is not found at Bhola. However, the Petrobangla-appointed consulting company raised 5 critical observations. The then Awami League government constituted a committee, headed by then Principal Secretary Dr. SA Samad, to examine the WRIP. The committee, after examining all the pros and cons, recommended not to proceed with the project. Thus, the first initiative to utilize the gas resources at Bhola was nipped in the bud. The Awami League-led government, after assuming office in 1996, started exploiting Bhola gas resources. The production was started by setting up an old process plant relocated from another gas field.

Engr. Ali Iqbal Mohammad Nurullah former director of Petrobangla found

no technical reason for not proceeding with the WRIP. But he said that the WRIP was not approved then for political reasons, maybe. Dr. Badrul Imam, an energy expert, stated that there was not much confirmed information on the gas reserves of Bhola at that time. However, UNOCAL had taken the risk of investment. Hence not taking a positive decision on the WRIP was undoubtedly a wrong decision.

Recently, an initiative has been taken to set up a new gas treatment plant at Bhola North. After awarding the contract, it will take 18 months to bring it into commercial use. The total capacity of the gas supply of Bhola gas fields will increase to 185 MMCFD then. However, it would be a bad investment unless there is a gas transmission line to evacuate the produced gas.

Dr Badrul Imam, Honorary Professor of Geology at Dhaka University, said Bhola has already proved to be the second most potential gas basin after

Sylhet. The Hatiya trap, according to him, is the 3rd prospect. He said Bangladesh has a great prospect of discovering new gas resources through continuous exploration campaigns in the Bhola and Hatiya regions. The present proven reserve is above 2 Tcf. The planned exploration campaign may even lead to 5 Tcf gas reserves. Exploration must continue. At the same time, a decision must also be made to develop a gas transmission facility for the evacuation of gas to the national grid.

Officials at Petrobangla and EMRD did not agree to discuss the government plan for the evacuation of the Bhola gas. However, the prospect of a gas pipeline from Bhola to Barishal is viewed positively. Alternatives to high-risk crossings to tidal rivers of deep scouring are being explored. The interim government has requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance the proposed Bhola River Bridge. The gas pipeline will be an integral part of the bridge when it will

be built. That will significantly reduce the stability of the pipeline.

Another relevant source claimed that there is not much demand for gas at this moment in the Barishal region but two power plants at Khulna could not be brought into production because of the absence of gas supply. The construction of an 880 MW power plant has reached the final stage. The initiative must also be taken for a gas pipeline from Barishal to Khulna. A Petrobangla source said the initiative is being taken to set up an FSRU and a gas pipeline to Khulna by selecting investors through competitive bidding. Pipeline-related specialists observed that the construction of a gas transmission pipeline from Bhola to Khulna may take 4 years to implement because of the complex nature of the project and aggressive terrain. Hence, there is no possibility for Bhola gas to be connected with the gas grid before 2028.

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WRIP: A Lost Opportunity

Saleque Sufi

UNOCOL, a leading US-based International Oil Company, proposed an integrated Energy Project, Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP), in 1996 to further explore and develop the gas resources of Bhola Island by constructing a 120KM 20-inch outer diameter cross-country gas transmission pipeline from Shabajpur, Bhola to Digholia, Khulna along with three gas-based power plants – 60 MW at Bhola, 100 MW at Barishal and 200 MW at Khulna. The total estimated cost of the project was US\$700 million. The prospect of the project appeared exciting as successful implementation could have created sustainable energy security in the southern region. This writer was included in the Petrobangla negotiation committee to develop the draft PSC, GTA, GSA, PPA, and IA, and spent hours and days negotiating the contracts and finalizing most of the drafts. Two senior members of the Petrobangla committee – Major (Retired) Muktadir

Ali and Lieutenant Colonel Oilullah – have expired and Engr Md Atikuzzaman has migrated to Canada. This writer also led the GTCL team to survey the pipeline ROW with UNOCOL engineers and officials. After extensive surveys for 2 months in the aggressive terrain featuring many tidal rivers and waterways, we could agree on a feasible ROW. The alignment sheets showing locations of special points including mainline valve stations and offtakes were finalized. The findings of our survey were presented to a high-level audience including the then Secretary of MOEMR Dr. Tawfiu-E -Elahi Chowdhury, Chairman Petrobangla, Senior Executives of UNOCOL, and the US Embassy. The only concern was the availability of enough gas in the Bhola region. During intimate discussions with UNOCOL engineers and geologists, we were assured that the Bhola region would have at least 2 Tcf proven recoverable reserves. Some of our

Petrobangla colleagues differed but later after exploration by BAPEx and Gazprom it now appears that Bhola Island possesses about 2 Tcf proven recoverable reserves. Petrobangla and EMRD since 1999 remained puzzled and confused about the feasibility of the pipeline from Bhola to the national gas grid. The discovered gas remained stranded for over two and a half decades, and a gas transmission pipeline from Ishwardi to Khulna was constructed for over a decade now but remained dry due to a severe shortage of gas production. In our opinion, having thorough insight, the WRIP was an opportunity lost. A leading IOC like UNOCOL did not propose an integrated project without assessing risks and challenges. As a career pipeline engineer with a proven track record of managing the construction of high-pressure gas transmission pipelines in aggressive terrain was convinced about the feasibility. Yes, there were genuine concerns about the feasibility of some large rivers like Tetulia and Meghna for deep scouring during monsoons. The river crossing alignments were chosen after examining and reviewing the scouring history of the wide rivers. Our joint survey team had some US experts with experience in pipeline construction across mighty rivers.

GTCL After Surveying 4 Different Routes Selected One Option

Option	Pipeline	Total HDD
One	Shabajpur Gas Field- Laharhat-Barishal	9.5 KM
Two	Shabajpur Gas Field- Bakherganj -Barishal	6.1 KM
Three	Shabajpur Gas Field- Ilisha- Muladi-Barishal	5.1 KM
Four	Shabajpur Gas Field- Ilisha- Mehedi Ganj- Hijla -Barishal	3.5 KM

Government policymakers at that time had some issues with UNOCOL. A US company was engaged to examine the pros and cons of the project. The government did not give a green signal to WRIP. The project died at an advanced stage despite showing great promise for creating energy security for southern Bangladesh. Just imagine, if WRIP had been built on time, the controversial Rampal Coal Power Project would not have been required. The 1000 MW capacity gas power project would not have to bother with gas supply. SGDCL would have thrived by now.

Since then, successive governments have not taken the initiative to evacuate the stranded gas from the island. BAPLEX and Gazprom discovered additional gas reserves at Bhola which more than justifies a gas transmission pipeline from Bhola to the gas grid. Petrobangla worked out five options for constructing the pipeline but could not reach a conclusive decision.

After reviewing all the pros and cons, option 4 of the 96 KM pipeline was preferred.



A shallow vision of the EMRD made Petrobangla waste time exploring the possibilities of converting gas to LNG. The most ridiculous decision was converting gas to CNG and transporting it to Dhaka for use in industrial areas. The interim government has already scrapped this project and advised Petrobangla to finalize the project for constructing the pipeline. Another ill-motivated decision of the former government

was engaging Gazprom for drilling exploration and development wells at Bhola despite of the proven record of BAPLEX for exploration and discovery of gas there. The interim government has also advised Petrobangla to review and cancel the contract with Gazprom.

Bangladesh has been suffering from an acute gas supply crisis for the past decade. The present deficit is about 1000-1200 MMCFD. The gas-supply shortage even with the addition of 1100 imported LNG has created great problems for power generation, production of fertilizer, and operation of Industries. After reviewing the pipeline construction options, the interim government may decide the best one soon. If a

genuine EPC pipeline contractor is engaged through a fair and transparent international tendering process, the pipeline can be completed in 24 months.

The former government was more interested in a contract with Excelerate Energy to get RLNG supply through a 70KM submarine pipeline from a deep-water LNG infrastructure offshore Kuakata. We are not sure about the technical and financial feasibility. Bangladesh offshore remains turbulent during monsoon. This writer from the bitter experience of Shangu cannot recommend RLNG supply from offshore as it could create supply issues due to natural causes. The Excelerate-proposed pipeline cannot get greater attention than the pipeline from Bhola gas fields. The interim government is expected to make the appropriate decision on time. It must be borne in mind that the pipeline construction especially the river crossing is well beyond the capacity of the local contractors.

EP

Saleque Sufi,
Energy Expert



Summit Power Seeks Protection For Its Investment, Facilities In Bangladesh

EP Report

Summit Power International (SPI), Singapore has sought government support and protection for its investment in Bangladesh to uphold the country's reputation as an attractive destination for international capital.

"We seek a favorable business climate to invest further and contribute to alleviating poverty and unemployment," the parent company of Summit Corporation Limited (SCL), Bangladesh, and all its

subsidiaries, said in a recent letter addressing the Chief Advisor (CA) and Energy Adviser of the interim government.

The CA's office received the request letter, signed by SPI Chairman Muhammed Aziz Khan, on 19 September 2024. The Energy & Power obtained a received copy of the letter.

According to the communication, Summit's businesses are under significant pressure due to factors in-

cluding extremely delayed payments by BPDB, the sharp depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka against the US Dollar without True Up, high interest rates, liquidity shortage in the banking sector, and recent mob attacks on some of their facilities.

Moreover, Summit has recently been subjected to unfounded, baseless, and defamatory media reports that, it claimed, falsely accused Summit and Mr. Khan of financial misconduct, including money laundering, and questioned SPI's investments.

"We are deeply disheartened by the silence of key government stakeholders, including BIDA, BPDB, and Petrobangla, who have long been beneficiaries of Summit's investments and are aware of our transparent and legal operations," the letter reads.

"We request the Government of Bangladesh to provide safety of our employees and security of our facilities which are critical infrastructures for Bangladesh and are Key Point Installations that are re-



quired to be protected pursuant to "KPI Protection Policy, 2013."

Given the circumstances, the SPI requested that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Police, Bangladesh Bank, BIDA, BPDB, REB, and Petrobangla immediately counter these false allegations and establish facts.

A public clarification from these entities would not only alleviate the current situation but also preserve the integrity of foreign investments in Bangladesh, it added. "We believe that swift government action will help restore the facts and ensure future investments in Bangladesh."

It also mentioned that the SPI and its subsidiaries are proud to serve Bangladesh and its people. "Our longstanding partnership with the Government of Bangladesh and global stakeholders has helped power the nation's growth, and we

look forward to continuing to contribute to Bangladesh's energy future."

The company sought government support in maintaining the sacrosanct nature of contracts enabling it to work with international partners as well as lenders to bring in investments of around US\$ 3 billion over the next 5 years to contribute towards Zero carbon emission, Zero poverty, and Zero unemployment.

SPI, presently co-owned by Jera of Japan, has invested US\$ 2.4 billion in Bangladesh in partnership with General Electric of the USA and Taiyo Life Insurance Company of Japan, to install a power generation capacity of over 2,500 MW for the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and the Rural Electrification Board (REB).

Furthermore, SPI in partnership

with Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan has developed essential LNG FSRU with subsea pipeline and mooring offshore infrastructure for Petrobangla, underscoring its commitment to supporting Bangladesh's energy security.

All these projects are financed by renowned lenders and development agencies including the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), Swiss Export Risk Insurance (SERV), Deutsche Investitions (DEG), and other European Development Agencies.

"We have always valued our relationship with the government of Bangladesh and remain committed to continuing our work to ensure the country's long-term energy security," the company said in the letter. **EP**

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আরিফুল ইসলাম ০১৭২৬ ৫৮৩০৮৬
মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০১
E-mail: rangberang2020@gmail.com

রঙ বিরঙ

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
জিপিও বক্স ৬৭৭, ফোন +৮৮০২৫৮৩১৪৫৩২

Smart Solar System Market Projected To Reach \$35.8b By 2032

EP Desk

The Smart Solar System Market is set to grow from its current market value of more than \$13 billion to over \$35.8 billion by 2032; as reported in the latest study by Global Market Insights, Inc. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that federal tax credits for solar installations, including the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), were extended through 2024, with an estimated \$30 billion allocated to renewable energy incentives for the year. Integrating IoT and AI technologies enables real-time monitoring and optimized energy management, further driving adoption. Additionally, rising concerns about climate change and the need for sustainable energy solutions encourage government and private sector investments in smart solar technologies. Incentives such as tax credits and

subsidies also play a crucial role in accelerating market growth.

The smart solar system market is categorized based on product, end-use, and region.

The inverters segment is set for decent growth through 2032, attributed to the increasing need for efficient energy conversion and grid integration. As solar installations become more prevalent, the demand for advanced inverters that can effectively manage and convert solar energy into usable electricity is rising. Inverters play a crucial role in ensuring the optimal performance of solar systems by handling fluctuations in power output and enhancing energy reliability. Integrating smart features, such as remote monitoring and automated fault detection, boosts their appeal, as

these capabilities improve system efficiency and user experience.

The residential segment will account for a notable market share by 2032, amplifying demand for tailored solar solutions that enhance energy efficiency and reduce utility bills. As homeowners become aware of the benefits of solar energy, including cost savings and environmental impact, they are investing more in smart solar technologies. The shift towards self-sufficiency and the desire for sustainable living are motivating residential consumers to adopt advanced solar systems that offer better performance and ease of integration with home energy management systems.

North America's smart solar system market will grow at an impressive pace during the forecast period, propelled by supportive government policies and incentives that promote the adoption of renewable energy. Federal and state-level initiatives, such as tax credits and rebates, encourage both residential and commercial sectors to invest in solar technologies. Additionally, increasing awareness of environmental issues and the push for energy independence are ushering in demand. The region's technological advancements and infrastructure improvements facilitate the deployment of smart solar systems, adding to market valuation.

Source: <https://www.gminsights.com/industry-analysis/smart-solar-system-market>

EP





North-West Power Generation Company Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Market Share

- ✓ 3063 MW generation capacity.
- ✓ Highest among all govt. companies.

09
Power Plants,
Total: 3063 MW

Start of Electricity Sales

- ✓ COD of 1st Power Plant

2012

2023

Contributed 14% of Country's total Generation in FY 2021-22

Commencement of Business

- ✓ Started with 02 development projects.

2009



Registration & Incorporation

2007

NWPGCL
Enlightening Life
Enlightening Bangladesh



ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified

ISO



Power Plants of NWPGCL & its JVC

From Isolation To Empowerment: Solar Power Solutions For A Sustainable Wetland Future

Md. Ashrafuzzaman Khan

The wetland areas of Bangladesh like Sunamganj, Sylhet, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, and Neত্রাকona form a unique ecosystem that is not only rich in biodiversity but also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Known as the 'Haor' region, this vast stretch of low-lying land is defined by two distinct seasons—the dry season and the wet season—both of which shape the lives and livelihoods of local communities. However, the intensifying effects of climate change have made both seasons more extreme, disrupting the delicate bal-

ance of this ecosystem and threatening the future of its inhabitants.

The Role of Solar Energy

The growing climate challenges have also affected electricity and communication in wetland areas. During the wet season that lasts approximately six months each year, electric poles submerge under water. This makes it extremely difficult to maintain the poles and transmission and distribution lines, as the flooding complicates access and repairs. Frequent load-shedding during the wet season se-

verely disrupts daily life in the wetlands. Electricity blackouts make it difficult for residents to charge their mobile phones, an essential tool for communication, particularly during emergencies. Many villagers are forced to pay Tk 30-50 to charge their phones at local shops, adding further financial strain to already struggling households.

Solar power offers a sustainable solution to this challenge. Installation of solar home systems could provide reliable electricity to households, reducing dependence on external sources for phone charging and other essential activities. Solar energy could significantly improve the burden of load-shedding, offering a consistent power supply during the wet and dry seasons.

Furthermore, solar power could help create new economic opportunities in the region. Women, in particular, could benefit from the installation of solar systems by offering phone charging services or running other small-scale businesses like small shops in their houses. These enterprises would provide an additional income stream, contributing to the economic empowerment of women and enhancing the overall resilience of the community.



Beyond energy access, solar power has the potential to transform other aspects of life in wetland areas. Solar-powered televisions can provide much-needed entertainment for communities during the wet season when they are often isolated due to flooding. In this "jailed" situation especially for women, access to TV not only offers a source of leisure but also keeps them connected to important health, political, economic, and weather updates from across the country, helping them stay informed and prepared despite the challenging conditions.

Solar-powered lights would enable children to continue their studies after dark, even during frequent power cuts, improving their educational outcomes. Additionally, solar street lighting could enhance safety and security, particularly for women traveling between households or navigating the wetland pathways, known as "hatis," during the night. These lights would offer a sense of safety and significantly reduce the risks associated with



moving through dark, isolated areas.

A Sustainable Solution to Climate Challenges

Renewable energy—particularly solar power—offers a sustainable solution that can help mitigate these challenges. By harnessing the power of the sun, wetland communities can build a more resilient future, where energy is reliable, livelihoods are sustainable, and families

are empowered to adapt to the changing climate.

The future of wetlands lies in a delicate balance, but with strategic investments in solar power as renewable energy, this unique ecosystem can thrive once again, offering hope for the generations to come.

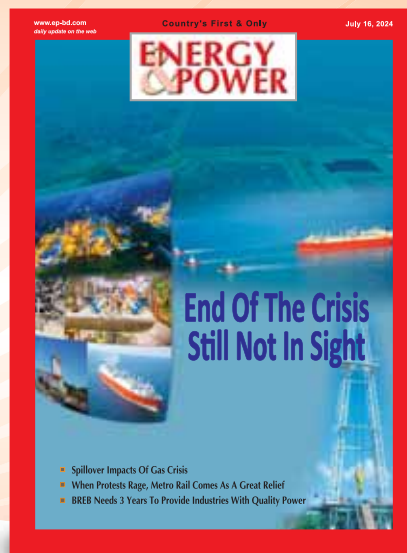


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Interim Govt Contemplating New Bond Issuance to Clear BPDB's Dues



The interim government is considering the issuance of additional bonds to address the Bangladesh Power Development Board's (BPDB) mounting unpaid dues to private power producers.

This move aims to ease the financial strain on independent power producers (IPPs) and stabilize the country's power sector.

According to official sources, the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has already initiated a move in this regard and

consulted with the Power Division so that it could discuss the issue with the Finance Division. "We've been calculating BPDB's dues with the private power producers, known as independent power producers (IPPs)," a top official of the BPDB said.

He also noted that currently the BPDB's total unpaid bills amount to about Tk 42,000 crore, of which the IPPs will get about Tk 7,000 crore.

Of the remaining amount, the gas bill will be about Tk 17,000 crore while state-owned public sector power plants will get Tk 10,000 crore, and Indian public and private sector including Adani Group will get Tk 8,000 crore. **EP**

Moscow Decries 'Fake News' about RNPP



ambitious project and to "undermine" steady and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries," said the Russian Embassy in Dhaka.

Russian Embassy in Dhaka recently alleged that the media reports about the embezzlement at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) are deliberate attempt to "discredit" this ambitious project and to "undermine" steady and mutually beneficial relations between Moscow and Dhaka.

"These are "fake news" just an attempt to "discredit" this

"It has come to our attention that certain misleading and false information regarding alleged embezzlement in the Rooppur NPP project keeps circulating in Bangladesh media despite two press releases issued earlier by Rosatom State Corporation to refute these ungrounded statements," he added. **EP**

Cold Run of Diesel Generator Unit Completed at Unit 1 of RNPP

The Cold Run of one of three diesel generator units has been completed at unit 1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. The procedure was carried out in two stages: first, the diesel generator was tested using compressed air to check the operability of all systems. In the next stage, fuel was used to start the generator.

The diesel generator units are the most important element of the NPP safety system. They provide a standby power supply for the equipment when the reactor needs to be stopped for any reason. The unit's height is 5.5 meters, the length is 13 meters, the weight is 185



tons and the rated electric power is 6.3 MW.

"Before starting the power unit, all its systems undergo close quality control and operation testing, this is a mandatory process at the commissioning stage. The life cycle of Russian NPPs is more than 100 years, and we guarantee the reliability and safety of our technologies," said Alexey Deriy, Atomstroyexport Vice President for Projects in Bangladesh. **EP**

Cancellation of LNG Projects, Moratorium on Coal Demanded

Civil society members, particularly green activists, recently put forward a 16-point reform proposal for the power and energy sector.

The green campaigners sought a moratorium on the use of coal and that the Integrated Energy Power Master Plan be amended to drop from the plan the idea of building more coal-based power plants.

The citizens' demands were announced at a press conference in the morning organized by Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

'Reluctance in adopting knowledge-based policies has

been observed for long. Now is the time to step out of the stance and prioritise knowledge in making policy decisions,' said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director, Centre for Policy Dialogue. He called for dismantling the syndicate reigning over the power and energy sector. He advised that future laws and rules would seek to serve the interest of the people based on scientific knowledge instead of serving vested interests as happened in the past.

Green activists also demanded that the government move away from liquified natural gas that costs Bangladesh \$450,000 a day for the two LNG terminals leading to an annual loss of Tk 30,380 crore. **EP**



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid 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।



Bangladesh to Sign Deal to Import Power from Nepal Soon: Adviser



speaking as the chief guest at a reception program marking Nepal's National Day and Constitution Day at a city hotel recently.

Bangladesh, Nepal and India recently agreed to

Bangladesh is poised to sign the tripartite agreement with Nepal and India soon to import hydropower from Nepal via Indian transmission lines, according to Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Md Fouzul Kabir Khan.

"A delegation of the interim government will visit Nepal soon to sign the agreement for import and export of power," he said while

sign an agreement to import 40MW of electricity from Nepal via India six years after they reached an understanding on energy cooperation, according to the official source.

At the reception, hosted by Nepal Embassy in Dhaka, the Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser expressed satisfaction over the growing engagements between Bangladesh and Nepal. **EP**

Indian Staff Yet to Resume Work on Projects Linked to RNPP



Senior officials from Indian companies involved in critical power transmission projects in Bangladesh, which are essential for evacuating electricity from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP), have yet to return to their jobs, raising concerns about the progress of these projects.

"Few staff from KEC International Limited and Transrail Lighting Limited (TTL) have returned, but none from Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) or other

companies have come back," a top official from Power Grid Bangladesh PLC said.

The official clarified that the returning staff are mostly locally recruited temporary workers and mid-level officials from KEC, with no senior officials back on site yet.

However, another senior Power Grid Bangladesh official indicated that Indian staff from L&T are expected to rejoin the projects soon. "We are waiting to see them resume their work," the official said.

The return of Indian personnel has been delayed since all staff from Indian companies left Bangladesh following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, in the wake of a mass uprising. **EP**

Power Dues from Bangladesh: PTC & SEIL Seek to Invoke Bank Guarantees

PTC India and SEIL Energy India have written to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) seeking to invoke their respective bank guarantees in view of non-payment of dues for the power supplied, according to two industry sources aware of the development.

This is even as BPDB has started making payments to Adani Power, which has outstanding dues of over \$850 million, sources added.

SEIL Energy India is owed over \$150 million as of June 30, 2024. Its bank guarantee amounts to \$341 million. The company has a power purchase agreement for 250MW with Bangladesh.

PTC India is owed over \$79 million. Its bank guarantee amounts to \$307 million. **EP**



PTC India since 2013 has been supplying 250MW of power to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) from West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co.

"Indian power generators and suppliers, including SEIL Energy and PTC India, have issued a demand notice following the non-receipt of payments through the placement of Letters of Credit," said a source aware of the development, adding that the dues are pending for over eight months and the payment is critical to ensure viability and continuity of power supply to Bangladesh. **EP**

Gas Crisis Shuttters Four Urea Factories

Four out of five government-owned urea factories have stopped production due to an acute gas crisis, raising concerns over the availability of enough fertilizer during the ongoing Aman paddy cultivation season and the upcoming Boro paddy season. About 14 lakh metric tonnes of urea is typically needed for the Aman and Boro season. But the current stock of urea is around 5 lakh tonnes, enough to meet the farmers' demand for two months, said a top official of the Department of

Agricultural Extension preferring anonymity. "If the stock is not replenished, we might face a urea crisis in December," he said.

Domestic urea production suffered a big blow after one of the two floating LNG terminals in the Bay of Bengal was damaged due to the aftershock of cyclone Remal in May.

The terminal, which injects around 500 million cubic feet of gas a day into the national grid, is yet to be operational. **EP**

WB VP Assures of Bangladesh's Energy Sector Budgetary Support



The visiting World Bank (WB) Vice President (VP) for South Asia, Martin Raiser, recently assured of power and energy sector's budgetary support of Bangladesh.

The made the assurance at a meeting with Adviser to Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan at his ministry conference room at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Martin Raiser expressed his

interest to work sincerely with the current interim government. He also appreciated the power and energy adviser for taking steps by him and requested to take effective measures to purchase energy at lower cost in the future.

The World Bank Vice President also congratulated the adviser on taking charges of three important ministries of the government.

Earlier, welcoming the delegation, the Power and Energy Adviser discussed about various activities he took to ensure transparency and accountability in the power and energy sector after assuming office. **EP**

Russia Ensures Successful Completion of RNPP



ambassador for Russian ongoing support in the implementation of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the current state of bilateral

Moscow has assured Dhaka of continued cooperation to ensure the successful completion of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

The assurance was made when Russian ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Mantyskiy paid a courtesy call on Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin at the foreign ministry recently.

During the meeting, the foreign secretary thanked the

relations between Bangladesh and the Russian Federation and committed to further strengthening ties in the coming days.

They discussed on the issues of mutual interest including energy security, food security, trade and investment, cooperation in the multilateral forum.

Bilateral cooperation in the area of ICT, education and culture were discussed at the meeting. **EP**

MOL Signs Major Deal in Azerbaijan to Develop Gas Reserves

MOL Group and its Joint Venture (JV) partners signed commercial agreements for the development of gas reserves in Azerbaijan.

After SOCAR and BP, MOL is the third largest shareholder in the giant ACG field, where non-associated gas reservoirs were identified beneath and above the producing oil reservoirs.

The partners have now agreed on the development and commercial exploitation of these reserves. MOL has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SOCAR to evaluate further potential cooperation opportunities in the area of hydrocarbon exploration in Azerbaijan.

MOL Group and its JV partners signed commercial agreements for the development of gas reserves in Azer-



baijan. After the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) and BP, operator of the JV, MOL is the third largest shareholder in the giant Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) field, where non-associated gas (NAG) reservoirs were identified beneath and above the oil producing reservoirs.

The commercial agreements amend the existing ACG production sharing agreement (PSA) framework, enabling the parties to progress the exploration, appraisal, development of and production from the gas reservoirs of the ACG field. **EP**

Govt Won't Sign 4 Energy Deals Cut by AL Regime with Foreign Companies

The interim government is not going to sign gas extraction and supply agreements with four companies that were formulated and nearly finalized under the former Awami League government, according to officials from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

The companies involved are India's H Energy, Russia's Gazprom, China's Sinopec, and Uzbekistan's Ariel.

Officials say the contracts

will not be signed since the Quick Energy Supply Act, under which they were being processed, has been repealed by the interim government.

The interim government will review the agreements and proceed with those it considers necessary, they added.

"The contracts will be awarded to interested companies through an open tender process," said an official. **EP**

JETnet-BD Launched In Bangladesh



Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh (JETnet-BD), the largest energy network in the country, has been launched to achieve a sustainable and just energy transition in the country.

The network includes 75 civil society organizations (CSOs), national and international development organizations, local organizations, energy experts and environmentalists. The opening ceremony was held recently at a hotel in Dhaka.

A 23-member advisory panel, including Dr. Mohammad Tamim — Dean of the Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Ijaz Hossain, former Professor of Chemical Engineering Department, Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Shafiqul Alam, Lead Energy Analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA), is associated

with the network.

JETnet-BD will work on energy governance, affordable energy, green jobs, women's participation in a just and green energy transition, energy efficiency, energy conservation, environmental and community protection, campaigning, and strengthening regional cooperation.

Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Manager of the Just Energy Transition (JET) team at ActionAid Bangladesh, presented the network's goals, objectives, and necessity.

'The primary goal of JETnet-BD is to amplify the voice of civil society and mobilize everyone for a green and sustainable energy future. This collaborative network will be dedicated to achieving a sustainable energy transition in the country through promoting renewable energy, building the capacity of member organizations, ensuring environmental protection, and influencing policymakers,' he said.

Following the network's launch, a 14-point citizens' demands for a just energy transition, formulated with the advice and guidance of energy and environmental experts, was announced. **EP**

600MW Power Outage can be Cured Overnight

Bangladesh currently reels from load shedding of around 2,000-3,000 megawatts of electricity daily as the demand far outstrips production, market-insiders say, although much of it can be healed readily.

Despite having the shortfall in electricity generation, state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has kept six furnace-oil-run power plants, having the generation capacity of around 600 MWs, idle as the

Gastech 2024: Energy Ministers Debate Role of Natural Gas

The role of natural gas in the energy transition was the focus of the first day of Gastech in Houston. Energy ministers of some of the world's largest energy-consuming states assembled in the morning as part of a panel and discussed their perspectives on the topic.

The consensus of the presenters is that natural gas will be essential to a pragmatic and orderly transition. But the pace of the transition will vary by region. It will be dictated by national economic conditions and ambitions.

India, for example, is committed to a "green" transition but the pace of its transformation will be gradual as it relies heavily on fossil fuels.

The country's oil consumption is forecast to rise from 5.4 MMB/d to about 7 MMB/d by 2030. It also will account for 30% of

interim government has yet to decide on continuation of their operation under 'no-electricity, no-payment (NENP)' mechanism, they have said.

Officials think if such six furnace-oil plants got approval for continuing electricity generation under NENP, they would be able to contribute to reducing at least one-third of the load shedding without any immediate investment from the government.

"Of the peak-load power plants, these are most economical because they are the



global energy demand growth to 2035.

"To successfully make the transition, we must survive the present, said Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, India's minister of petroleum and natural gas. "The directive must be anchored in the real world."

Egypt is seeking to leverage technology and its domestic infrastructure to unlock the region's natural resources. Part of the plan is to establish Egypt as an export hub for the region to facilitate development, according to Karim Badawi, Egypt's minister of petroleum and mineral resources. Egypt is transitioning its energy mix as well, with a target of 42% renewables by 2030. **EP**

only plants among the 150 new ones that do not entail capacity payments," says a senior BPDB official.

"Operating these plants poses no financial burden on the government either," he adds.

Typically, load shedding occurs for only 2-3 hours per day, equating to 30 to 40 per cent of the time when additional power is needed. At this plant-load factor, the NENP plants are 8-15-percent cheaper than other high sulfur-fuel oil (HSFO)-based plants that require capacity payments, the official explains. **EP**

Cash Purchase of Gas from Chevron on Cards



The interim government plans to gradually pay off Chevron's \$225 million outstanding dues while regularly paying for newly supplied gas in cash to ensure that the full amount owed to the company is settled within a period of next one year.

Currently, Chevron supplies gas to the government worth an average of \$40 million per month.

A senior official at the Ministry of Energy, requesting

anonymity, said that along with the \$40 million payment for the gas supplied each month, an additional \$10-15 million from the outstanding dues will also be paid to Chevron.

"In this way, the government plans to clear all of Chevron's outstanding dues within a maximum of one year," he said.

Chevron extracts gas from Moulvibazar's Bibiyana and Sylhet's Jalalabad gas fields and supplies it to the government. Of these, the Bibiyana field supplies the highest amount of gas for the company. According to data from Petrobangla, around 45% of the total gas supply comes from Chevron's gas supply. **EP**

Oil, Gas Industry Slows Energy Transition as Focus Shifts Back to Fossil Fuels: GlobalData

The oil and gas industry has pursued energy transition avenues to decarbonize its operations. However, heightened energy security fears amid the Ukraine war have brought back the focus on fossil fuels, which has led companies to scale down their energy transition pursuit.

This will likely continue in 2024, but the switch towards low-carbon energy is expected to proceed, albeit at a slower pace, says GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's thematic report, "Energy Transition in Oil and Gas," highlights the energy transition related develop-

ments in the oil and gas industry. Companies are switching towards renewable power and other low-carbon options in their energy transition efforts.

Most leading industry companies have adopted 2050 as the long-term goal for net-zero carbon emissions. A lot of promises made by them hinge on the successful implementation of their respective interim targets for 2030.

Leading oil and gas companies have set themselves decarbonization targets for both the medium and long-term, relying on the existing and emerging technologies. Firstly, companies are increasingly investing in renewable power generation, with wind and solar power being a particular area of focus. **EP**

Pvt Crude Oil Importers Struggle for Dual Tariff Policy

Private crude oil importers in Bangladesh face significant financial challenges due to a dual tariff policy imposed by the government, which creates disparities between public and private sector importers.

Sector insiders claim that fluctuating dollar rates and higher import duties for private companies make it difficult for them to compete in the market.

The government and private sector purchase crude oil from the global market at the same price. However, private importers are taxed based on the invoice value, whereas state-owned companies are taxed at a lower tariff rate (tariff value). This discre-

pancy is causing private entrepreneurs to suffer substantial losses.

Under such circumstances, they are calling for a uniform tariff policy for both sectors.

Energy experts have voiced concerns over this dual policy, emphasizing the need for consistent pricing regulations.

"It is not appropriate to have different policies for the same product within a country," said Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan. "A committee is being formed to review the issue, and a decision will be made based on the committee's recommendations." **EP**

Power Producers Urges Govt to Ensure Primary Fuel Supply, Clear Dues

The country's private power producers are struggling to import primary fuel due to a significant shortage of working capital, forcing them to operate at only 50-60% capacity resulting in frequent power cuts.

As financial troubles worsen for private power producers, to whom the government owes Tk 22,000 crore, industry entrepreneurs called on the interim government to make a pivotal decision: Should the country explore its local resources or continue depending on imports for its primary fuel needs?

"If there hadn't been any



money laundering, the taka wouldn't have depreciated to this extent, as a result of this massive fluctuation, we've lost \$1 billion. Without money laundering, electricity prices could be Tk2 lower per unit."

These views were presented during a roundtable on energy security organized by The Business Standard at its Eskaton Garden office on 19 September. **EP**



Green page

Germany to Give 1.0b Euro for RE Efforts



Germany will provide Bangladesh with 1 billion euro over the next decade to support renewable energy projects, including an initial 15 million euro this year, Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said recently.

The announcement followed a meeting between the adviser and German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Truster, held at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

in Dhaka, according to a press release sent by the ministry.

Rizwana emphasized the significance of collaboration, which aims to promote knowledge exchange and cooperation among the private sector, research institutions, and civil society.

The initiative will focus on engaging various stakeholders, including ethnic minorities, women, and youth, in climate-related efforts.

Ambassador Truster reaffirmed Germany's commitment to assisting Bangladesh in its environmental efforts.

During the meeting, both sides also discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation on river cleaning, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation. **EP**

Bangladesh Now has 229 Green Factories: BGMEA



Bangladesh's garment industry has solidified its reputation as a global leader in sustainability, now boasting 229 certified eco-friendly factories.

Director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mohiuddin Rubel confirmed that three more RMG factories in the country have been

recognized as 'green factories'.

The factories are Ananta Huajing Limited in Narayanganj, Sepal Garments Limited in Gazipur, and Unitex Spinning Limited (Unit-2) in Sitakunda, Chattogram.

With these additions, the total number of green factories in Bangladesh's readymade garment and textiles sector has reached 229, he added.

Of these, 91 factories hold the prestigious LEED Platinum certification from the US Green Building Council (USGBC). Additionally, 124 factories have achieved Gold status, 10 have earned Silver, and four are recognized with certified certificates. **EP**

Rosatom Launches Its First Foreign Wind Energy Project

Russia's state energy corporation is set to make a breakthrough in the wind energy sector by constructing a wind power station outside Russia.

The capsule of the power station was laid in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan, recently. The main construction of the 100 MW capacity wind farm is scheduled to begin in 2025 and is expected to be operational by the end of 2026.



Currently, wind measurements are being carried out at the site.

"We have begun to realize one of the United Nations targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Although the Kyrgyz Republic is among the regions with the greatest potential for renewable energy sources, we have so far not used wind, solar, and biogas energy. We have over 300 sunny days a year, and the power of the local wind is reflected in folk legends," said Akylbek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Kyrgyz Republic. **EP**

IEA Calls for Stronger Solar, Wind Integration Measures



Strategic government action, enhanced infrastructure, and regulatory action are required to ensure the successful integration of newly deployed solar and wind, according to a new report by the IEA.

It said new solar and wind should be well-integrated into power systems at the point of deployment to avoid losing out on significant benefits. It warns that a failure to do so could result in solar and wind generation being 15% lower

than projected in 2030, shaving 5% off their share of the global electricity mix and resulting in an up to 20% smaller reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector.

“Should integration measures fail to be implemented in line with a scenario aligned with national climate targets, up to 2,000 TWh of global renewable energy generation would be at risk by 2030,” the IEA said, equating this to the combined output of China and the United States in 2023.

“The world has seen a remarkable increase in solar and wind capacity as countries have looked to bolster their energy security and reduce emissions,” said IEA Director of Energy Markets Keisuke Sadamori. **EP**

Greenpage

UGS Installs Biogas Upgrading System in Michigan, Wisconsin

Unconventional Gas Solutions (UGS), the specialist in gas upgrading systems, announces the successful commissioning of two innovative biogas upgrading plants in the US states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

The two plants, which together feed 800 Nm³/h of biomethane



into the local gas grid, are the first UGS systems of their kind. The two projects exemplify the company's commitment to developing innovative and sustainable gas upgrading systems and offering economical solutions even under unusual conditions.

The projects were particularly challenging due to the change in operating procedures and the high grid requirements. The first commissioning, the Three Petals RNG plant in Berlin, Wisconsin, was followed by the second: the Red Leaf RNG plant at the Maple Row Dairy Farm in Saranac, Michigan.

In cooperation with the project developer Novilla RNG, UGS played a decisive role in the development, commissioning, and optimization of the systems. **EP**

BPDB May Invite Tender for Setting Up 10 Grid-Connected Solar Power Plants



The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is preparing to float tenders for setting up 10 grid-connected solar power plants in the private sector, each with a capacity of 50 MW, totaling 500 MW.

According to official sources, the move came against the backdrop of the interim government's decision not to sign any further contract under the Enhancement of Power and Energy Supply Act (Special) Act, 2010.

As a result, the future of 34 proposed private-sector grid-connected solar

power plant projects, for which the BPDB had previously issued Letters of Intent (LoI) under the previous Awami League government, has become uncertain.

The interim government's Energy Advisor Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan announced the decision soon after assuming office at the Power and Energy Ministry. He said all future projects will be implemented through an open tender process.

This decision, however, put the private sponsors, who pursued the 34 solar projects, in great trouble as they had already spent a huge amount of money to procure land and also to get the LoI.

In such a situation, they expressed their interest in getting these projects through a competitive bidding process and getting the contract through open tender. **EP**

Huawei, Walton Sign Contract for Lithium Battery Production



S M Monjurul Alam Ovee, Managing Director, Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited, and Md. Abdur Raihan, Director & Head, Tower Infra, Technology Division, Grameenphone along with around 30 carrier representatives were also present at the event.

Under this agreement, Walton will manufacture telecommunication lithium batteries in Bangladesh and launch the market in the next seven (approximately) months.

They will build an advanced fully automated production line with 80,000 piece yearly capacity, and manage sales and after-sales services nationwide in Bangladesh.

Huawei will provide technical support, design expertise, raw materials, and guidance for manufacturing these lithium batteries. **EP**

Huawei and Walton have signed a contract to produce lithium batteries in Bangladesh for telecom BTS (Base Transceiver Station), according to a statement.

Pan Junfeng, CEO, of Huawei Bangladesh; and S M Rezaul Alam, Chairman, Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd., signed the contract at Huawei Bangladesh Academy recently.

Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, attended the event as the chief guest.

World's Strongest Battery Paves Way for Light, Energy-Efficient Vehicles

When cars, planes, ships, or computers are built from a material that functions as both a battery and a load-bearing structure, the weight and energy consumption are radically reduced.

A research group at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden is now presenting a world-leading advance in so-called massless energy



storage – a structural battery that could halve the weight of a laptop, make the mobile phone as thin as a credit card, or increase the driving range of an electric car by up to 70 percent on a single charge.

"We have succeeded in creating a battery made of carbon fiber composite that is as stiff as aluminum and energy-dense enough to be used commercially. Just like a human skeleton, the battery has several functions at the same time," says Chalmers researcher Richa Chaudhary, who is the first author of a scientific article recently published in *Advanced Materials*.

Research on structural batteries has been going on for many years at Chalmers, and in some stages also together with researchers at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. **EP**

European Electric Car Sales to Rebound in 2025: Study



percent market share in 2025, supported by an expansion of mass-market EV offerings," the report said.

After three years of growth, EV sales slipped this year and represented just 14 percent of new car sales in Europe in the first half of 2024.

Higher sales in the Netherlands, Spain, and Italy have not made up for a decline in Germany, Europe's largest market, after a surprise cut to public subsidies there.

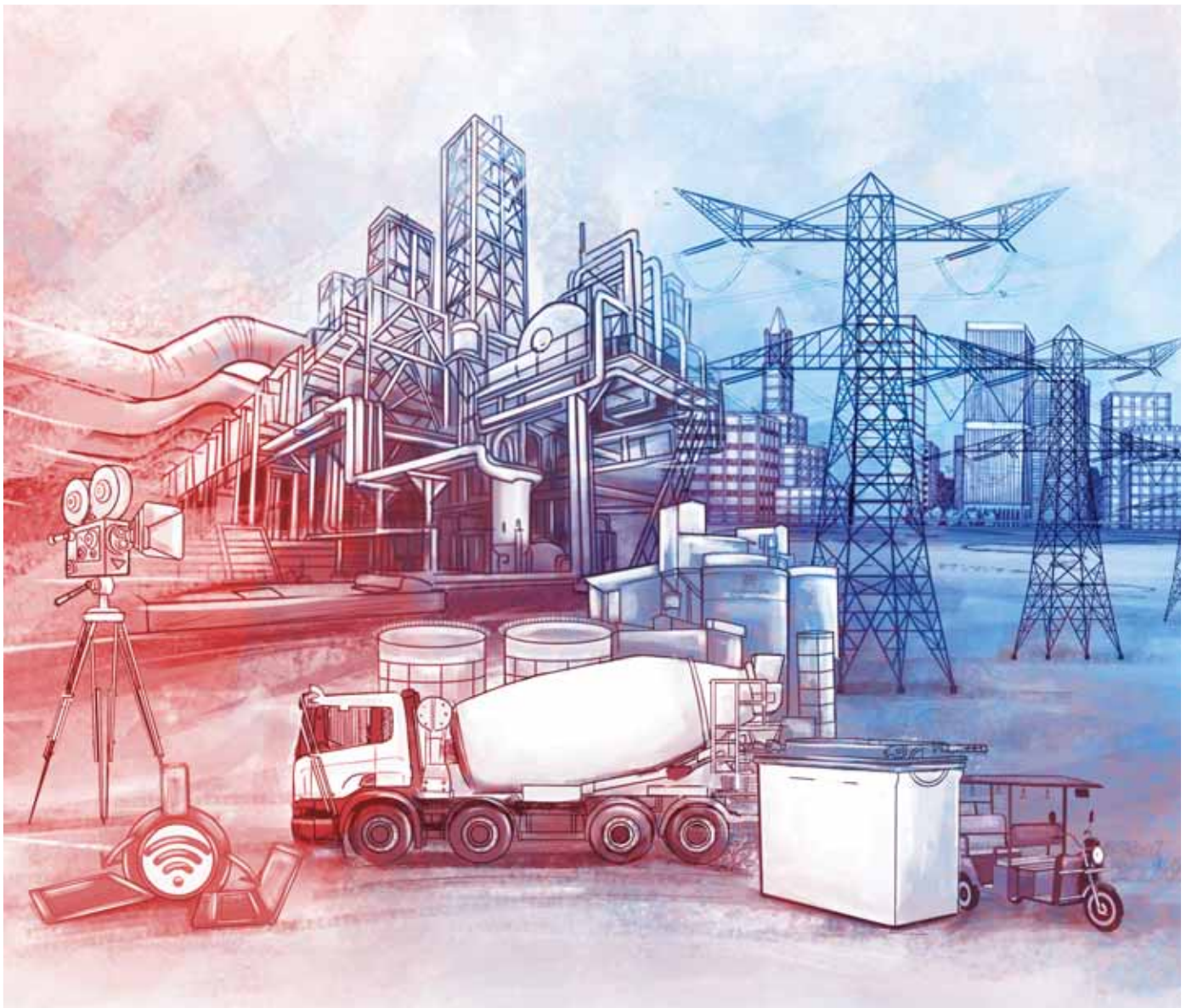
But a slew of new, more affordable models expected in 2025, should boost sales throughout the region, T&E said.

A study presented on September 11 by BMI Research (a firm associated with Fitch) also forecast strong sales growth for EVs in Europe, driven by purchases by corporate fleets and long-term rental companies. **EP**

The market share for electric cars should rebound strongly in 2025 as limits on emissions get stricter and manufacturers propose cheaper models, a study released recently said.

Electric vehicles will represent as much as 24 percent of new cars sold in Europe next year, according to a report by think tank Transport & Environment (T&E).

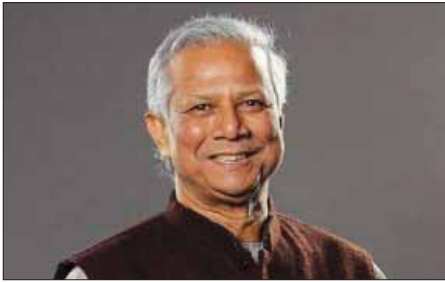
"EV sales are expected to rise to 24



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Radical Change a Must in Global Framework to Address Climate Change: Yunus



Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus has said a radical change is needed in the global framework to address climate impacts focusing on net-zero carbon emissions and eliminating extreme resource inequality.

He made the remark at an event titled 'Climate Forward' organized by New York Times in New York, USA recently.


The New York Times hosted a day-long event involving

innovators, activists, scientists and policymakers to discuss the steps needed to address climate change impacts. It was broadcast live from the New York Times Stu-

dios.

Anthropologist Jane Goodall also spoke, among others.

Prof Yunus discussed the challenges of leading a country facing adverse impacts of climate change.

When asked what debt rich countries have to countries like Bangladesh, he said climate actions should be taken focusing on net-zero carbon emissions and eliminating extreme resource inequality. 

Climate Finance Talks Make Little Progress before UN Summit


International negotiations on money to help developing countries tackle climate change concluded without a breakthrough, just two months before Azerbaijan hosts the United Nations climate summit.

The Azerbaijani chair of the COP29 summit voiced concern after the four-day talks concluded on Thursday, while NGOs accused richer nations of blocking efforts to reach a deal.

The November 11-22 talks in Baku are meant to produce a global agreement on how much wealthy nations should pay to help develop-

ing countries transition to renewable energy and cope with the effects of global warming.

"Determination and leadership is needed from all parties to bridge the gaps that still divide us in this critical final phase," said COP29 president Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's ecology and natural resources minister.

"Everyone now needs to take ownership of finding an agreement. Sticking to set positions and failing to move towards each other will leave too much ground to be covered at COP29," he said. 

AI is 'Accelerating The Climate Crisis,' Expert Warns

If you care about the environment, think twice about using AI.

Generative artificial intelligence uses 30 times more energy than a traditional search engine, warns researcher Sasha Luccioni, on a mission to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the hot new technology.


Recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the world of AI by the American magazine Time in 2024, the Canadian computer scientist of Russian origin has sought for several years to quantify the emissions of programs like ChatGPT or Midjourney.

"I find it particularly disap-



pointing that generative AI is used to search the Internet," laments the researcher, who spoke on the sidelines of the ALL IN artificial intelligence conference, in Montreal.

The language models on which the programs are based require enormous computing capacities to train on billions of data points, necessitating powerful servers.

Then there's the energy used to respond to each individual user's requests. 

Global South Deserves Ambitious, Equitable Climate Finance

Ahead of the informal Ministerial Dialogue on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) taking place in New York recently, Climate Action Network (CAN) International urged world leaders to adopt a bold, ambitious, and equitable climate finance goal.

This new goal must address the urgent needs of developing countries and uphold the principles of climate justice, focusing on delivering the resources necessary to help these nations mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, as well as address loss and damage (L&D).

Mohamed Adow, Executive Director of Powershift Africa, said: "Climate finance is the key that



can unlock a safe and prosperous planet for everyone. It can help the victims of climate breakdown adapt to the inevitable change and fund the needed transition to clean energy of the future."

The NCQG is a crucial mechanism for delivering on the promises of the Paris Agreement and ensuring a just and equitable transition to a low-carbon future. CAN International calls on all parties to engage constructively in the Ministerial Dialogue and commit to ambitious, meaningful action on climate finance. 

Rizwana for Using Environment-Friendly ACs, Refrigerators to Protect Ozone Layer



Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said environment-friendly refrigerators and air conditioners as well as non-CFC inhalers should be used to protect the ozone layer.

Technicians should also be aware of preventing the emission of harmful substances to the ozone layer, she said.

Rizwana made the comments while addressing a

seminar at the Department of Environment in Agargaon on the occasion of World Ozone Day.

Speaking as the chief guest, she said, "Proper maintenance of the equipment we use is crucial for environmental protection. Protecting the ozone layer is an urgent to prevent skin cancer and cataracts; therefore, the global community must work together."

The adviser asked women to be more aware as they often make decisions while purchasing refrigerators or air conditioners.

She also noted that the media should play a role in creating public awareness. **EP**

Malta Launches 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

By 2030, 30 percent of Malta's land and fishery zone will be legally protected, according to a biodiversity strategy and action plan released recently.

The plan aims to integrate the land and the fishery zones into a comprehensive National Ecological Network. The network will be both ecologically representative and sustainable. Additionally, the management of Natura 2000 sites, which are already designated as protected areas, will be strengthened as part of this initiative.

This effort is part of a new

National Biodiversity Action Plan designed to enhance biodiversity and protect Malta's environment until 2030. Building on the previous plan (2012-2020), the new strategy outlines 22 targets and 79 specific actions.

In a statement, the Environment Ministry explained that the action plan aligns with global and European Union (EU) biodiversity objectives, covering a range of priorities, from ecosystem restoration and genetic diversity to climate change adaptation and sustainable agriculture. **EP**

ExxonMobil, Mitsubishi Sign Framework Deal to Advance Hydrogen Project in Texas

ExxonMobil and Mitsubishi will advance discussions about equity participation and an offtake agreement related to ExxonMobil's proposed hydrogen and ammonia project in Texas.



ExxonMobil Corp. signed a project framework agreement with Mitsubishi Corp. under which the companies will advance discussions about Mitsubishi's participation in ExxonMobil's proposed hydrogen and ammonia project in Baytown, Tex.

Contingent on supportive government policy and necessary regulatory permits, the plant is expected to be the

world's largest of its kind upon startup, ExxonMobil said, capable of producing up to 1 bcf/d of low-carbon hydrogen from US-produced natural gas, and more than 1 million tonnes/year (tpy) of low-carbon ammonia.

A final investment decision is expected in 2025 with anticipated startup in 2029.

Earlier this month, ExxonMobil firmed a 35% stake in the proposed project to ADNOC. **EP**

Gas Flaring Hits 381m Tonnes of CO2e

The latest Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report has unveiled a disturbing trend in global gas flaring practices, emphasizing the urgent need for change to mitigate its growing impact on our planet.



In 2023, gas flaring surged by nine billion cubic meters (bcm) to reach a staggering 148 bcm globally, releasing approximately 381 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) – the highest level observed since 2019.

This alarming increase in gas flaring is equivalent to adding five million cars to the world's roads, painting a stark picture of the environmental consequences. The 7% rise from 2022 to 2023 represents a troubling reversal of the reduction trend observed be-

tween 2021 and 2022, raising significant concerns among environmental experts, policymakers, and industry leaders alike.

Nine countries, including the Russian Federation, Iraq, United States, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, and Mexico, are responsible for a disproportionate 75% of the world's gas flaring while only accounting for 46% of oil production. This imbalance underscores the need for targeted action in these regions to address the issue effectively and reduce global emissions. **EP**

Sakhawat Seeks Cooperation from All to Introduce Jute Bags Across Country



Textiles and Jute Affairs Adviser Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain has sought cooperation from all concerned to introduce jute bags across the country.

"An initiative will have to be taken to ensure widespread use of environment-friendly jute packaging as per the Jute Packaging Act, 2010," he added.

The adviser said this at a recent views exchange meeting on 'Environment-Friendly

Jute Sector and Overcoming the Problems of the Jute Industry', organized by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) at the conference room of its Motijheel office.

Environmental, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and BJMA chairman Md Abul Hossain, among others, spoke at the meeting.

In her speech Rizwana said the jute sector is crucial for the protection of the country's environment. Urgent measures should be taken to address the crisis of the jute industry, she said laying stress on the need for public-private partnerships to revive the potential jute sector. **EP**

'Disappeared Completely': Melting Glaciers Worry Central Asia

Near a wooden hut high up in the Kyrgyz mountains, scientist Gulbara Omorova walked to a pile of grey rocks, reminiscing how the same spot was a glacier just a few years ago.



At an altitude of 4,000 meters, the 35-year-old researcher is surrounded by the giant peaks of the towering Tian Shan range that also stretches into China, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The area is home to thousands of glaciers that are melting at an alarming rate in Central Asia, already hard-hit by climate change.

A glaciologist, Omarova is recording that process -- worried about the future.

She hiked six hours to get to

the modest triangular-shaped hut that serves as a science station -- almost up in the clouds.

"Eight to 10 years ago you could see the glacier with snow," Omorova said.

"But in the last three-to-four years, it has disappeared completely. There is no snow, no glacier," she said.

The effects of a warming planet have been particularly visible in Central Asia, which has seen a wave of extreme weather disasters. **EP**

International Day of Climate Action-2024 Celebrated in Gaibandha



The International Day of Climate Action-2024 was celebrated in the district recently with a call to reducing carbon emission in a bid to make the environment suitable for living. The theme of the day is "Fight For Fossil-Free Future". Marking the day, SKS Foundation, a non-government organization,

chalked out the elaborate programs.

In the morning, a human chain was held on the bank of the Brahmaputra river at Pepulia char under Fulchhari union of Fulchhari upazila in the

district under Community based Resilience Women's Empowerment and Action (CREA) project funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Project officer Sultana Bahar, members of climate action group including adolescent girls spoke at the human chain. Project coordinator Lovely Khatun moderated the human chain. **EP**

Bp, Iberdrola Announce Final Investment Decision for Largest Green Hydrogen Plant in Spain

bp and Iberdrola have given the green light for construction of a 25 MW green hydrogen project at bp's Castellyn refinery which is expected to be operational in second half of 2026.

This is the first hydrogen project jointly undertaken by bp and Iberdrola through Castellyn Green Hydrogen S.L., a joint venture equally owned by both companies.

The project was presented at an official event to publicly celebrate the signing in July 2024 of the final investment decision between bp and Iberdrola.



This initiative, which includes the participation of the Technology Institute of Energy (ITE), has been awarded funding of 15 million euros from the Innovative Value Chain and Renewable Hydrogen Knowledge call of the Spanish Recovery, Transformation, and Resilience Plan, with funding allocated by NextGenerationEU of the European Union. **EP**

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Bhola Gas Resource Development Without Assured Market Not To Be Viable

Greater Bhola is a gas-studded region but, I think, the prospect is not that much or as prolific as the Surma basin. However, it is a region full of natural gas presence. Geophysical prospecting and exploration-well drilling there must continue under long-term planning. Initiative for the development of gas resources may not be justified without developing a market for the consumption of the produced gas. Instead, it will adversely affect the financial viability of BAPEX.

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque, former Managing Director of BAPEX, observed in an exclusive interview with *Mollah Amzad Hossain*, Editor of Energy & Power.

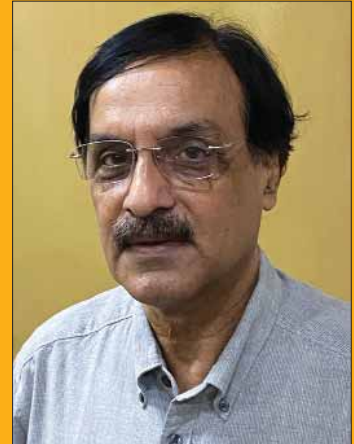
What are your views on the gas prospect of the greater Bhola region? Is BAPEX on the right track for converting the resource into reserve?

Bhola is a prospective region. Seismic surveys and other activities must continue there to tap the potential. Exploration wells must also be drilled based on the findings in a planned manner. There is no other way to prove the presence of gas resources without exploration well drilling and carrying out required testing. There is no logic in questioning BAPEX's capability or

actions for developing Bhola's prospects. BAPEX alone cannot make decisions. Unless Petrobangla and EMRD make any decision, BAPEX cannot do anything. However, it can be said that Petrobangla and EMRD could not provide the required directives to BAPEX for developing the Bhola gas prospect over a long time. EMRD must make the right decision for developing and exploiting Bhola gas resources.

Many experts believe that Surma Basin has the largest proven gas reserves in the Bengal Delta. They also believe the Hatiya trap may prove to have larger reserves than the Surma basin if the right decision is made to explore and develop. What are your views?

Hatiya trap though not as prolific as the Surma basin is believed to have a significantly large gas presence. The exploration campaign must continue there to convert resources to proven reserve. In the meantime, 2 wells at Muladi and one at Kazla have been drilled and found dry. There is no reason to consider the Hatiya and Bhola regions as big or prolific regions as the Surma basin. But that does not mean that we should sit with our fingers crossed. Surveys and mapping of resources must continue under a proper plan. Based on this, exploration wells must be drilled to turn resources into reserves.



Mortuza Ahmad Faruque

A pipeline project will take four years to complete even if the decision is taken now. The project for further expansion of Bhola gas resources must be taken complementing the project for evacuation of gas to the national gas grid to Khulna. The exploration campaign for finding new gas resources must be continued there.

Nine wells have so far been drilled at Bhola including four at Shabazpur. 80 MMCFD gas is now being produced using one gas process plant. BAPEX has started working to set up another process plant at Bhola North. How logical do you think the decision is?

Please note that the production of any commodity depends on the market for it. There exists no market at Bhola to consume the gas produced at present capacity. Consequently, there is no logic in extending production capacity without a firm plan for setting up

fertilizer plants or gas-guzzling industries at Bhola or constructing a gas transmission pipeline to connect Bhola to the national gas grid in the Southern region. That will be a bad investment and will hurt BAPEX financially.

In 1996, US company UNOCOL submitted an integrated project WRIP for comprehensive development of Shabazpur gas resources. Under the Western Region Integrated Project, UNOCOL proposed to develop Bhola gas resources, construct a gas transmission pipeline from Shabazpur, Bhola to Digholia, Khulna via Barishal, and set up gas-based power plants at Barishal and Khulna. There is a popular belief that not approving WRIP was an opportunity lost. What are your views?

I find no reason to consider the project not being approved by the then government was a mistake. BAPEX or Petrobangla did not have enough data and information about the potential gas resources at Bhola at that time. The government took the right decision as there were risks in approving the WRIP at that time based on resource information with one gas well only. Based on the information available now, there is no scope to consider the decision made at that time was a mistake.

It is being told now that the proven gas reserves of gas fields at Bhola is more than 1.4 Tcf. Do you think that such proven reserves will justify constructing a gas pipeline to Khulna?

Please note that if there is any risk, constructing a 62 KM pipeline to Barishal will not be justified. Barishal region has no gas market at this moment. Rather a 190 KM pipeline to Khulna and connecting Bhola with the national gas grid will be far more justified. Without wasting any time initiative must be launched for constructing the pipeline after

carrying out a feasibility study. Right actions taken now may witness the evacuation of gas from Bhola to the national grid by 2028.

The discovery of Shabazpur Gas field in 1995 was a milestone success for BAPEX. But later the works of further exploration and development were awarded to GAZPROM. The previous government under Speedy Electricity and Gas Supply Special Act 2010 finalized the engagement of GAZPROM for drilling another 5 gas wells at Bhola. The interim government has scrapped that initiative. What are your views?

Foreign company is not required for developing Bhola gas resources. It is not at all a priority. No ready market is there at this moment. BAPEX is more than capable of developing the resources matching with the development of the gas market in the region. There is no justification for engaging GAZPROM for expensive drilling operations. I believe the decision of the present government to scrap the award of 5 wells drilling contract to GAZPROM under the special act is more than justified.

An initiative has been launched for drilling 14 gas wells at Hatiya and Bhola including 3D seismic surveys by 2028. Many suggested utilizing BAPEX exclusively for this work. That will significantly reduce costs. What is your opinion?

BAPEX alone cannot conduct the required 3D surveys. For 3D surveys at onshore and offshore regions, a competent foreign company may be engaged through competitive bidding. As far as I know, BAPEX is going alone with that plan. The location for drilling exploration wells will be finalized based on the findings of 3D surveys. BAPEX should explore onshore areas while foreign contractors may be engaged


through competitive bidding for offshore regions.

GTCL has carried out feasibility studies including route surveys for a gas pipeline to Barishal. But gas is required to be transported to Khulna. What should Petrobangla do?

Only a gas pipeline to Barishal would not help improve the present gas supply crisis. Barishal region has no market now for utilizing the gas. Extending the pipeline to Khulna and connecting it to the existing gas grid will be the right option. As far as I know, Petrobangla was negotiating for supplying RLNG through the pipeline from a deep offshore LNG infrastructure off the coast of Kuakata. That may be further advanced. RLNG and Bhola gas together can be a great source for the industrial development of Khulna and Barishal regions. The planned gas pipeline must be extended up to Khulna.

River crossings are key challenges for the pipeline construction in the region. Rivers are very wide, tidal, and subject to deep scouring. A feasibility study for the Bhola-Barishal bridge has been completed. The risks of constructing the gas pipeline will be greatly minimized if a section of the gas pipeline can be constructed along the bridge.

How justified it is to think about major investment projects for further expanding Bhola gas resources without a firm decision to evacuate the gas to the Khulna region?

Please note that a pipeline project will take four years to complete even if the decision is taken now. The project for further expansion of Bhola gas resources must be taken complementing the project for evacuation of gas to the national gas grid to Khulna. The exploration campaign for finding new gas resources must be continued there. 

CLIMATE CHANGE AT UNGA

PROF YUNUS LIVED UP TO EXPECTATIONS

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

Before he visited New York to attend the 79th session of the UNGA, Prof Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, was urged to push the global leaders to intensify the fight against climate change. Bangladesh has been one of the major victims of global warming and carbon emission even though it has contributed little to the climate change factors. His responsibility had been heavier as this time he got an opportunity to meet a galaxy of world leaders not only as a Nobel laureate but also as the leader of a country that is being threatened by climate change more than any other sufferers. The world listens to him seriously when he talks about his new concept of Three Zeros: Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero emission.

He did not disappoint us. During his four-day stay in New York, Dr. Yunus held at least 50 meetings – 12 with world leaders, including US President Joe Biden.

He used these meetings as an opportunity to talk about the new Bangladesh following the fall of the Hasina-led government and the promises it holds in

starting anew on the path to freedom and democracy. Yet, the climate crisis faced by Bangladesh, a low-lying delta nation, and by other vulnerable countries received priority in his talks, especially in the UNGA speech. There was an opportunity to highlight the climate emergency and the urgent need to tackle it. Dr Yunus made optimum use of that opportunity.

In his UNGA speech on September 27, the chief adviser made a clarion call to the world leaders, mostly from the wealthy nations, to make the 'Loss and Damage Fund' operational with additional financing aiming to deal with the adverse impacts of global climate change.

He rightly pointed out that "Climate change poses existential threats to us all. The record-breaking heat wave this summer starkly reminded the world of the climate-induced changes."

"What we need is climate justice - so that the irresponsible choices or, indifferent actions or, harms caused are accounted for. Long-term damages leave irreparable damages all-around: we are losing bio-diversity; changing pathogens leading to newer diseases;

farming is under stress; shrinking water wealth threatening habitat; rising sea level and salinity decimating eco-systems," Prof Yunus said.

He said the damages in terms of rising intensity and frequency of cyclones or floods can hardly be ignored.

"The climatic risks are faced far deeper by our small farmers and artisanal livelihood-holders. As I speak, over five million people witnessed the most devastating flood in their living memory, in eastern Bangladesh," the chief adviser said.

Reminding that UN Secretary-General Guterres showed that under the "current trajectory", the world is heading for a +2.7 degree Celsius scenario, he called for channeling robust resources for climate adaptation in climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

"We equally need access to technologies and increased capacity. To be specific, we need access to live-saving technologies, particularly in agriculture, water, or public health, where the trickle of modest solutions or innovations can save millions of vulnerable populations," he said.

What Prof Yunus said resonated with the feelings of the people of Bangladesh and beyond. Bangladesh has long been at the forefront of the global fight against climate change emergencies. Carrying the fight forward is what is expected from the new leadership in Bangladesh. In 2022 the rich nations pledged to contribute annually \$100 billion in climate financing to developing nations. The climate campaigners were happy even though the agreement came two years later than it was promised. There has been some marked improvement in the channeling of funds to the climate-affected countries like Bangladesh. This momentum must not be allowed to get slow. **EP**



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