

ENERGY & POWER

Rupsha Power Plant

The Fate Of New, Efficient Facility Hinges On Gas

- The Controversy Over Bangladesh's Special Energy Act
- No Unreasonable Cost To Be Considered For Fixing Tariff
- Incoming Presidency Formulates COP 29 Action Agenda, Reveals Initiatives

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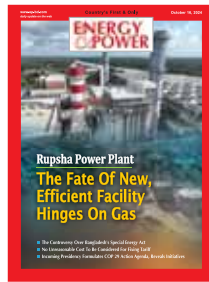
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EDITORIAL

The country's gas supply crisis is deepening by the day, and despite various efforts, there's little hope of improvement. Several key projects, especially gas-dependent power plants, are nearing completion, but many of them are unlikely to get the gas they need to start operating. One such project is the 880MW Rupsha Power Plant, the most efficient in the country and its first zero-waste gas-based plant. Although it's almost ready for a trial run, uncertainty around gas supply threatens to leave this huge investment sitting idle. When Petrobangla first promised gas to Rupsha, the country was producing 2,800 MMCFD of gas. Since then, production has fallen to 2,000 MMCFD, and even with an additional 1,000 MMCFD of imported gas, it's unclear if there will be enough to power Rupsha. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the financier of the project, has voiced concerns about this looming supply issue. Meanwhile, criticism is growing over how previous governments handled energy planning, with questionable projects pushed through under the Special Act of 2010. Many of these are now being reviewed or canceled. The fear is that if the gas shortage isn't resolved soon, the country might have to rely more on dirtier, more expensive liquid fuel power plants.

This would increase energy costs and strain the country's energy security. It's crucial to ramp up gas supplies to the Khulna region, where Rupsha is located, and elsewhere across the country to prevent a future burden on the public and avoid leaving critical power plants idle.

highlights

COVER



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The BERC Act embodies everything to create a fair ambiance of competition for all parties and protect the rights of the consumers. The BERC will soon be able to determine prices of primary fuel fairly and transparently. It will also conduct a mobile court to ensure compliance. No unreasonable expenditure will be considered while fixing the prices...Jalal Ahmed tells EP

Increasing power generation was a dire necessity. The Awami League government introduced oil and gas-based rental and quick rental power plants to address the issues. However, this approach drew widespread criticism due to inefficiencies and allegations of corruption. To expedite these projects and shield them from potential legal challenges, the government passed the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act, 2010... More in Special Article

The immediate past regime came under severe criticism for planning and implementing several less-priority projects in non-transparent manners under the controversial Special Act 2010. The interim government has started reviewing many such contracts concluded under the law. Many projects under negotiation and waiting for the conclusion of the contracts have been canceled. But gas supply is a major challenge now.



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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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Santos Signs Major LNG Deal for Asia



partnership between the two energy giants and underscores the growing demand for LNG in Asia.

Santos managing director and chief executive officer Kevin

Under the terms of the contract, Santos will supply 20 LNG cargoes to TotalEnergies, equating to approximately 0.5 million tonnes of LNG annually.

The deal spans a period of three years and one quarter, with deliveries set to commence in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Santos will leverage its global portfolio of LNG assets to fulfil the contract on a delivered ex-ship basis.

The agreement marks a fresh

Gallagher said the contract with TotalEnergies is a new LNG relationship for Santos and builds on our existing joint venture partnerships.

"This oil indexed contract, along with the recently executed long-term LNG sales and purchase agreement with Hokkaido Gas in Japan, and the mid-term contract with Glencore, demonstrates Santos' strong LNG portfolio position and customer relationships in the region," he said.

Norway's Offshore Discoveries Deliver Swift Payback



just below 1,600 MMcmoe.

Roughly 50 have already been developed and are producing, which means that 70% or so of the resources proven have yet to be

produced. These investments will remain profitable, the NOD said, as more fields come onstream.

Over the last five years, NOD added, the value of the discoveries made has been more than twice the exploration costs, with numerous finds as profitable tiebacks to existing infrastructure. Discoveries in the Equinor-operated Troll area in the North Sea are strong examples.

E&P companies spent about NOK660 billion (\$62.5 billion) exploring for oil and gas on the Norwegian Continental Shelf between 2004 and 2023, according to the Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD).

Their efforts led to more than 300 discoveries over the period. Although 110 of the finds are thought unlikely to go forward to development, the other 190 are considered commercial, with combined reserves of

World Gas Use to Hit Record in 2025 Amid Fight for LNG, IEA Says

Global demand for natural gas will hit an all-time high next year as competition for seaborne fuel intensifies between Asia and Europe, according to the International Energy Agency.



After a drop in imports this year, Europe will need more liquefied natural gas in 2025, tightening both the market and price spreads with Asia, the Paris-based agency said in a recent market report.

"Natural gas supply remains fundamentally tight, with uncertainties weighing on the 2025 outlook," the IEA said. The IEA's forecast suggests another challenging year for Europe, where consumers are still struggling with elevated energy bills.

While gas prices in the region have fallen

significantly from crisis peaks in 2022, they are still higher than historic averages. Expanding geopolitical risks — from the war in Ukraine to escalating conflict in the Middle East — have underpinned prices and market volatility.

Gas consumption in Europe could decline by 2% this year compared with 2023, according to IEA forecasts. Industrial demand has recovered but remains below pre-crisis levels, while gas usage in the power sector continues to decline as renewable energy booms.

OPEC+ Countries Keep Plans to Boost Oil Production from Dec: Novak

OPEC+ countries are currently keeping plans to ramp up oil production from December 2024 but will monitor the market situation, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak told reporters. "No changes have been discussed thus far," Novak said.

When answering the question whether the oil market is ready to consume extra barrels in December, Novak noted that it is early to



talk about that now and that the situation needs to be monitored.

In early September 2024, the OPEC+ decided to postpone the recovery of oil production until December 2024.

Denmark Keen to Invest in Bangladesh's Offshore Wind Energy, Port



Uddin at the foreign ministry recently, said a foreign ministry's press release here.

Jashim highlighted the interim government's reform initiatives and thanked Denmark for its specific offer of support to Bangladesh in the areas of good governance, democracy, human rights, institutional capacity building as well as rehabilitation of the victims of torture.

Danish envoy congratulated Jashim on his recent appointment as the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh.

Denmark has expressed keen interest to invest into Bangladesh's port infrastructure and offshore wind energy as well as support to further development of the pharmaceutical sector.

These were revealed while Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Christian Brix Moller held a meeting with Foreign Secretary Md. Jashim

RNPP Biggest White Elephant of Former Govt: Prof Mainul



Dr. Mainul Islam said the previous government has turned the country into an arena of looting and corruption.

"Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) needs to be reformed and institutionalized. One third

of parliamentary seats should be reserved for women. If an independent police commission is formed, reforms will go a long way. Presidential election should also be done through voting," he added.

Professor Nizam Uddin Ahmad, a researcher of parliamentary affairs and a former professor of public administration department of Chattogram University, said fundamental rights must be protected if steps are taken to change the constitution.

Economist Dr Mainul Islam said Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) is the biggest white elephant of the former government.

He also said the deal signed with Adani Group has caused huge losses to the country's economy.

Professor Mainul Islam came up with the remarks while addressing a discussion on 'Dialogue for Democratic Reconstruction' at a hotel in Chattogram city recently.

Farzana Mamtaz New Power Secretary

The government has promoted additional secretary Farzana Mamtaz to the post of secretary.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued two separate gazette notifications, signed by Deputy Secretary Jamila Shabnam recently.

According to the notifications, Farzana Mamtaz, additional secretary of the Agriculture



Ministry has been promoted as the secretary of Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

Explosion at Ctg Oil Tanker: Two Bodies Recovered

Two bodies were recovered from crude oil tanker "Banglar Jyoti" hours after a fire broke out following an explosion on the ship's bow recently. Bangladesh



Navy (Chattogram area) Commander Masud Iqbal, who is part of the rescue operation, confirmed the deaths.

He said one of the deceased was identified as Shourabh, the deck cadet of the oil tanker. The body was found hanging on the deck railing of the ship. Another body was recovered but could not be identified as the body parts were found scattered, he further said.

Following the incident, Shourabh and two other workshop technicians, Nurul Islam and Haroon, were missing, said Abdul Wadud, president of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation Seamen's Association.

The explosion took place while the tanker was anchored at Dolphin Jetty No 7 of Chattogram Port, said Md Omor Faruk, secretary of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA).

Titas Gas Prepaid Card Recharge to Remain Suspended for 48 Hours

The prepaid gas card recharge service of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution PLC through 'upay' agents will remain suspended for 48 hours from 12:00am on 4 October.

The service will remain closed due to technical maintenance works, the authorities said in a notification.

The gas service provider advised consumers to recharge their cards before the closure.



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Palki Motors Accepted into Accelerator Asia's Cohort 10 with \$100,000 Impact Investment



Palki Motors Pte. Ltd., a purpose-driven electric vehicle manufacturer committed to transforming commercial mobility, announced its acceptance into South Asia's largest pre-Series A accelerator, Accelerator Asia, as part of Cohort 10.

With an impact investment of \$100,000, Accelerator Asia is backing Palki Motors' mission to revolutionize urban transport for commercial drivers, making it greener, more affordable, and more accessible.

This partnership reflects a shared vision for driving sustainable and inclusive change in the mobility sector. Accelerator Asia's investment will support Palki Motors in scaling up its research and development, enhancing its production capacity, and expanding its reach across Bangladesh.

Palki Motors is dedicated to solving mobility challenges for ride-sharing drivers and last-mile logistics while ensuring environmental and social benefits for the community. With the guidance of Accelerator Asia, Palki Motors aims to amplify its impact and bring real, measurable change to the lives of drivers and corporates in Bangladesh.

Price of LPG 12kg Cylinder Rises by Tk 45



The price of liquefied petroleum gas has risen by nearly Tk 3 per kg in October in Bangladesh in line with rising prices on the international market.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission recently announced the new prices of LPG for October trading. The BEREC statement says that the set price of LPG has increased from Tk 118.44

per kg in September to Tk 121.32 in October. This means the price per kg has risen by Tk 2.88.

The price of a 12 kg LPG cylinder, commonly used for home cooking, has gone up by Tk 45 from Tk 1,421 to Tk 1,456. The prices of other cylinders have also increased according to the new price. The price of reticulated LPG for residential use has risen from Tk 114.62 per kg to Tk 117.49.

The price of autogas, sold at retail to fuel vehicles, has gone up from Tk 65.25 per liter last month to Tk 66.84 this month.

KrisEnergy, Bangladesh Holds Session on Gas Gun

As part of the initiative of the Southeast Asian Petroleum Exploration Society (SEAPEX), KrisEnergy, Bangladesh has arranged two sessions and the third session was held recently. The topic of the session was 'Gas Gun', and it was presented by Wade Davis, General Manager, Enhanced Drilling Solutions Co. Ltd (EDSL).

The program by KrisEnergy was sponsored by Halliburton, and was attended by officials from Cosmos, Petrobangla, Bapex, universities, geologists and others. SEAPEX launched its Bangladesh chapter with a colorful event in Dhaka last year.

The inauguration program was opened by Michael



Whibley, SEAPEX Committee Member and Asia Pacific Scoutcheck (APSC) Chairperson, and Masud Khan, DMD of Cosmos Group. Edwin Bowles, General Manager, KrisEnergy Bangladesh, among others were present.

Singapore-based SEAPEX is a non-profit organization formed with an objective to promote petroleum and natural gas exploration, development, and production in Southeast Asia.

Govt to Buy Two Cargoes of LNG from Spot Market

The advisory committee on government purchase has approved the import of two cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market.



Singapore-based MS Gunvor Singapore Pte will supply per million British thermal unit of the consignment at \$13.57 and \$13.77.

The first consignment will cost Tk 640.15 crore while the second one Tk 649.59 crore, according

to the meeting minutes.

"The committee approved the consignments after getting quotations from the companies which signed the Master Sale and Purchase Agreements with Petrobangla following the Public Procurement Rules 2008," read the minutes.

Rupsha Power Plant

The Fate Of New, Efficient Facility Hinges On Gas

Mollah Amzad Hossain



The gas supply crisis in the entire gas franchise is getting more intense daily. Despite various initiatives, there is no visible improvement in supplies. The projects, including power plants, taken based on assurances by the gas authorities to supply gas are nearing completion, but unlikely to get supplies by the time those would start operation. The country's most efficient 800MW Rupsha Power Plant project is nearing completion and going for a trial run soon. The authorities have assured it to ensure gas supply, but there is hardly any chance it would be possible soon. As a result, the investment-intensive facility would remain idle indefinitely.

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The gas supply crisis in the entire gas franchise is getting more intense daily. Despite various initiatives taken to increase production, no roadmap for improvement is visible yet. It was expected that RLNG would come from India through a pipeline on a limited scale by early 2026. The 3rd FSRU will go into operation by the end of 2026. It was also expected that the implementation of the deep-water LNG infrastructure off the coast of Kuakata and pipeline transportation of RLNG to Khulna would also advance. Pipeline gas transportation from Bhola to Barishal will also start after the evaluation of reserves. Expectations were also there that new gas resources would be added to the reserves through exploration and development. These may not increase production, but at least could assist in maintaining production above 2,000 MMCFD. Between now and 2026, RLNG was expected to add 1,700-1800 MMCFD. Consequently, the expected total gas production was estimated at 3,700-3,800 MMCFD. These could assist Petrobangla in catering to the gas demand of bulk consumers alongside meeting the demand for gas-based power generation.

Present Projects for Increasing Gas Supply

The projects were launched under the provisions of the Speedy Power and Energy Supply Special Act 2010, during the tenure of the previous Awami League government. There are many allegations of irregularities and corruption in these initiatives. The interim government put on hold the operations of the special act to create an ambiance of fair competition in the sector. It is almost certain the gas supply is unlikely to increase within the stipulated time as expected. Energy advisor Fouzul Kabir Khan has recently categorically said that the exploration of gas onshore and offshore will continue. In addition to the ongoing 48 wells-drilling program by 2025, 100 more wells will be drilled. National E&P Company BAPEX will execute part of the projects. For the remainder, drilling companies will be engaged through a fair and open tendering process. The present government will attach due

Rupsha 800 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project

Total Project Cost (As per DPP)	(In Crore BDT)		Net Plant Capacity 880 MW
	GoB	2460.78	
	PA	5987.87	
	NWPGCL	50.00	
	Total	8498.65	
Original Loan Amount	US\$ 500 million		Net Plant Efficiency 58.24%
Revised Loan Amount	US\$ 450 million		

Cost Comparison Between Estimated Price and Contract Price		
Package	Estimated Cost	Contract Price
EPC of Rupsha 800 MW CCGP Project (Package 1)	US\$ 660.84 million (Per KW Cost USD 826.05)	US\$ 373 million (Per KW Cost USD 423.86)
EPC of Transmission Line Infrastructure (Package 2)	US\$ 23.20 million	US\$ 24.75 million
EPC of Gas Pipeline (Package 3)	US\$ 5.00 million	US\$ 5.12 million
Engineering Consultant	US\$ 13.07 million	US\$ 11.39 million
Total	US\$ 702.11 million	US\$ 414.26 million (41% Less than the Estimate Cost)

priorities to completing the works by 2028. The government, however, has canceled an earlier initiative to drill 16 exploration wells by three foreign companies. Preparations have been made to let out tenders for this work. Negotiation with Excelerate Energy for the 4th FSRU and pipeline transportation of RLNG to Khulna has also been suspended. Negotiation for concluding a contract between H-Energy India and RPGCL to import RLNG from India through a pipeline has also been stalled. Petrobangla has also stalled the negotiation with Saudi Bangla Pipeline Limited (SBPL). SBPL is a joint venture company between Dipon Group and Saudi Investment Company EDII, which obtained the license for importing 550 MMSCFD under the Private Sector LNG/RLNG Import Policy. Earlier Petrobangla was negotiating with SBPL to purchase 115 MMCFD RLNG through India from SBPL's basket. The entire amount was supposed to be supplied to the power plant at Rupsha within 18 months from the formal signing of the contract.

Gas supply to the greater Khulna region has become uncertain yet again. GTCL constructed a 163-kilometer 20-inch outer diameter Bheramara-Khulna gas

transmission pipeline in 2016 to supply gas to the Kushtia, Jessore, and Khulna regions. The objective of constructing the pipeline was to supply gas to the 225 MW dual fuel power plant of NWPGCL and the 230 MW combined cycle power plant of BPDB. Some gas was supplied to these plants for a few months to test and commission these plants. But gas is no longer available for these plants now. Occasionally, expensive diesel is used to run these plants. Though this pipeline was constructed to supply gas to industries and power plants in the Khulna region, it remained idle over the past 8 years. Petrobangla assured of supplying gas to a highly fuel-efficient 880 MW capacity combined cycle power plant despite its failure to supply gas to 435 MW combined cycle plants. The Asian Development Bank provided a loan to NWPGCL to construct the power plant based on the gas supply commitment of Petrobangla. The plant is now almost ready to go for testing and commissioning. The first unit can be commissioned by the end of the year and the second within 6 months. Petrobangla may be able to supply gas for it for a while but cannot assure when gas for commercial operations of the plant can be supplied. Consequently,

the huge investment of NWPGL is now at great risk.

A senior executive of Petrobangla, on condition of anonymity, told EP that until new entrepreneurs for supplying RLNG are available or a gas transmission pipeline is built and commissioned from Bhola to Khulna, no guarantee can be given for supplying gas to 1,435 MW gas-based power plants, including the 880 MW power plant. This may take 2-4 years. The website of GTCL states about 5 new gas transmission pipeline projects due for completion by 2026. But till the writing of this story, no investors could be firmed up for these. These projects are the 110 KM Langalband-Mawa-Jajira 30-inch OD pipeline, 62 KM Bhola-Barishal pipeline, 30 KM Kuakata-Payra pipeline, 153 KM Payra-Barishal pipeline, and 48 KM Khulna-Gopalganj pipeline. Negotiation was in progress with US Company Excelerate for the last three pipelines and FSRU off the coast of Kuakata. The negotiation with Excelerate has been suspended for the project. One GTCL executive informed EP that they received no directives from the EMRD about the execution of the pipeline projects after the recent political change. Initiatives for sourcing the finance, feasibility study, and land acquisition for the ROW will start after getting the green signal from the authorities concerned. These projects as a package will take about 4-5 years to complete from the date of launching. The gas from Bhola Island cannot be made available to Khulna until the last 4 pipeline projects are constructed in a package. No further investment in developing the gas resources of Bhola will be justified without making positive policy decisions for the construction of the pipeline projects. The present capacity of gas production at Bhola remains underutilized now.

Controversy over Rupsha Power Plant

In recent discussions, the 800 MW gas-based Rupsha Power plant nearing completion has created controversies. The largest single-unit gas-based power plant is now at the last stage of construction. It is the first zero-waste power plant in the country. The planning for the project started at the end of 2016. The DPP of the project



was approved in 2018 by ECNEC after getting assurance from Petrobangla for the supply of gas in February 2017. A contract with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for financing the project was signed in August 2018. Petrobangla worked out three options for gas supply to the power plant by carrying out a feasibility study. These were (a) supplying gas to Khulna using the Bheramara-Khulna gas transmission pipeline on bringing into operation the Elega gas pipeline compressor station; (b) construction of gas transmission pipeline from Langalbandh to Khulna via Gopalganj through utilizing the gas pipeline constructed along the Padma Multipurpose Bridge; and (c) importing RLNG through cross border pipeline from India. The first was identified as the preferred option in the study. The reasons for the assumption were that the setting up of two new FSRUs at Maheshkhali and making ready the Elega compressor station for operation would be completed before the 800 MW Rupsha power plant was thought to be mechanically completed. NWPGL, the implementing agency, has been directed to construct a distribution line from the City Gate Station Khulna to the nearest power distribution network. ADB provided approval for this. The infrastructure was commissioned in 2020.

When Petrobangla committed to supply gas to the Rupsha Power Plant, its total gas production was 2,800 MMCFD. Petrobangla continued giving pledges

to new power plants since then, along with continuing supply to existing consumers. Domestic gas production within a couple of years depleted to 2,000 MMCFD and even with 1,000 MMCFD imported RLNG availability from the floating terminals of Maheshkhali, uncertainties for gas supply to Rupsha power on time started brewing. ADB registered its concern about the gas supply to the plant. Actions for concluding the Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) were launched at that time. The essence of the GSA with Sundarban Gas Distribution Company is the supply of 140 MMCFD gas for the full capacity operation of the Rupsha Power Plant from January 2027. The GSA also mentions gas supply during the winter of 2024 and 2025 for testing and commissioning of the plant. While NWPGL was looking for an alternative source, US company Excelerate Energy submitted an unsolicited offer for supplying RLNG through a pipeline to Khulna proposing to set up a deep-water LNG infrastructure off the coast of Kuakata. It was decided that Petrobangla would review the Excelerate proposal of RLNG supply when a joint review committee provided a positive signal. Excelerate started negotiations with Petrobangla. The essence of the project was setting up a gas transmission pipeline from Kuakata to Khulna, including a submarine pipeline from the deep-water LNG infrastructure. EP became aware that Excelerate would take 30-40

months from the date of signing the agreement to supply gas to the Khulna region. The present government after assuming office has suspended negotiations on the project.

Negotiations for two other contracts were advancing for RLNG import from India through pipelines. One was with H-Energy. They were supposed to supply 100 MMCFD within 20 months of the agreement. The negotiation under the special act has now been suspended at the advanced stages of negotiations.

On the other hand, Saudi Bangla Pipeline Ltd. acquired a license from the government under the Private Sector LNG Import Policy. Energy companies from Saudi Arabia partnered with Dipon Group in this initiative under which the JV company was supposed to set up fertilizer plants and power plants by importing up to 550 MMCFD of RLNG. The proposal also included a provision for selling gas to Bangladesh. Upon Petrobangla's intention to purchase gas to supply to the Rupsha Power Plant, negotiations on 115 MMCFD gas started between SBPC and Petrobangla. The proposal was subject to the conclusion of the agreement by December 2024, within 13 months that is by January 2025 gas will be supplied. However, this negotiation initiative was stalled as soon as the special act was suspended.

The construction of the Rupsha Power plant has reached the final stage as the testing and commissioning works are set to start from November 2024. It will not be possible if the required gas supply is not available by then. Acknowledging the importance, Fouzul Kabir Khan, Energy Adviser of the Interim Government, visited the project and discussed the issue at a meeting on 30 August 2024. Some decisions were taken regarding the confirmation of the gas supply and financial obligations of the project. It was decided to confirm the gas supply for the testing and commissioning of the plant. 20-75 MMCFD gas supply will be required for the works. Considering the efficiency of the plant, EMRD has been advised to ensure at least 40 MMCFD gas supply for running the plant on part load till full volume gas supply for operating the plant at full

capacity can be made. Instructions were also given for the immediate announcement of tenders to set up FSRU at Kuakata and gas transmission pipelines for gas supply to the Khulna region. Instruction has also been for the construction of the gas transmission pipeline from Bhola to Barishal. It has also been advised to consider the possibility of gas transmission from Bhola and FSRU together.

It is not yet guaranteed whether it will be possible to supply the 140 MMCFD gas supply required for the operation of the Rupsha power plant at full capacity from January 2027. But, for the protection of interest and integrity of supplied equipment, a supply of at least 35 MMCFD gas has been sought. Petrobangla is actively considering this.

Challenges of Gas Supply

Not only in the Khulna region but a modern fuel-efficient gas-based power plant of Jera-Reliance at Meghnaghat has also been lying idle since April 2024 due to the non-availability of gas supply. Including the Rupsha plant, the Khulna region has a 1435 MW gas-based power generation capacity. 200 MMCFD gas is required for running all these plants. The gas required for running all the gas-based power plants of Bangladesh now is 2,400 MMCFD. But Petrobangla can supply 900-1100 MMCFD. There is a huge shortage of gas supply for other end users as well. It is not possible to supply more than 3,100 MMCFD now from own fields and imported LNG. An agreement was signed with Summit Group for setting up a 3rd FSRU at Maheshkhali. The contract had a provision for bringing this into operation in October 2026. This could increase gas supply capacity to 3,600 MMCFD if production from local gas fields could be maintained at the present level. But Petrobangla has recently canceled the agreement. It is being told to select new entrepreneurs through open competitive bidding. Sector-relevant experts observed that even if the agreement can be concluded within the next 6 months commercial operation of the 3rd FSRU would not be possible before the end of 2027. There was a possibility of getting an RLNG supply from Excelerate Energy's

proposed project proposal by the end of 2027. It is not sure when such an RLNG supply may be available after selecting entrepreneurs.

There are a few thoughts that in the interest of gas supply to Rupsha Power Plants on time the proposals for RLNG supply through pipeline from India can be given fresh considerations. After the negotiated settlement of the agreement about gas price and wheeling charge, these can be verified following the Swiss Channel Tendering process. The third option is taking Bhola Gas to Khulna. As the first step, a feasibility study of the pipeline from Bhola to Barishal has been completed. The study for the pipeline from Barishal to Khulna must be completed as soon as possible. Gas from Bhola to Khulna cannot be supplied before the end of 2028 or the beginning of 2029 even if all feasibility studies are completed by the middle of 2025.

Conclusion

The immediate past regime came under bitter criticism for planning and implementing several less-priority projects in non-transparent manners under the controversial Special Act 2010. An initiative has been launched to review many such contracts concluded under the law. Many projects under negotiation and waiting for the conclusion of the contracts have been canceled. But gas supply is a major challenge now. Time demands taking immediate action to expedite gas supply initiatives. There will be no other options to increase the use of dirty liquid fuel-based power plants if the generation of gas-based power cannot be increased. The final obligation for leaving power plants idle for gas supply will also need to be borne. That will also impact the cost of generation. Smart decisions need to be taken for part supply of gas to power plants in Khulna including the Rupsha power plant till it is possible to ensure the full requirement of gas. All our initiatives must be taken now on a top priority basis to increase gas supply to the Khulna region over the next two years. Failures will transfer the burden on the people to absorb the consequences. Energy Security will be severely impacted.





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Energy Crisis And Recovery Roadmap

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

If one asks me about one of the burning issues the interim government has to deal with, I will mention the dwindling energy supply situation. Restoring law and order situations, combatting corruption, and controlling soaring prices of essentials are also essential while preparing the nation for a free, fair, and participatory general election. However, working towards sustainable and reliable energy security for comforting economic development is equally important.

The energy security of Bangladesh is now in a deep crisis. The system cannot manage the generation and supply of 15,000 MW of electricity consistently despite possessing 31,175 MW grid and non-grid capacity. The sustainable supply of primary energy is the major issue. The maximum gas and LNG supply possible is 3,000-3,100 MMCFD against co-

incident peak demand of 4,200 MMCFD. 1,100 MMCFD gas deficit limits gas-based power generation and fertilizer production while making the operation of gas-using industries extremely difficult. With dollar scarcity, buying coal, LNG, and liquid fuel has also become difficult. Petrobangla, BPDB, and BPC owe billions of dollars to the fuel and electricity suppliers. The most worrying situation is that Bibiyana Gas Field, which supplies 50% of the total gas is depleting. BAPEX is having some success in discovering new resources. But the addition of the new reserve is too small for the evening feeling comfortable. The new government has canceled the contract with Summit for setting up 500 MMCFD capacity 3rd FSRU for supplying RLNG. Engagement of new investors or operators of FSRU selected through competitive bidding may take a year at least. Hence there is no

chance of any increase in LNG supply before 2028. The government has also canceled contracts with GAZPROM, SINOPEC, and ARIEL for drilling wells. There is every doubt that the Petrobangla and EMRD plan of drilling 100 wells by 2028 will be possible. The interim government has inherited a trouble-prone energy sector. It will not stay in state power for an indefinite period. But it can lay out a roadmap for the recovery of the power and energy sector. It can take some pragmatic actions that the political government hesitated in the past. The government may decide to mine domestic coal and use it for power and energy generation, evacuate Bhola gas to the national gas grid, and increase the contribution of solar and renewable energy to the energy mix. The government can also carry out essential reforms in the power and energy sector management.

Power Supply Chain

From the above, it appears that ensuring the supply of fuel is a major challenge for Bangladesh. Despite many challenges, natural gas and imported LNG still dominate the fuel mix. This is followed by dirty polluting High Sulfur Furnace Oil that was introduced as a short-term contingency measure. Power imports from neighboring India have also increased significantly following the commissioning of power from Adani. Own gas production is alarmingly depleting and LNG import has price and infrastructure challenges. The government has to get rid of polluting liquid fuel-based generation. Another pressing challenge is exploiting domes-

Power Generation Capacity as of 31 August 2024

Sector	Number of Plants	Installed Capacity (MW)
Public Sector: (BPDB, APSCL, EGCB, NWPGL B-R Power Gen, RPCL, CPGCL)	62	11,821 (43%)
Joint Venture (BCPCL& CMC, BPDB & NTPC)	02	2,478 (09%)
Private Sector (IPPs, SIPPS-BPDB, SIPPS-BREB, 15 years Rental, 3/5 Years Rental, Rental (No Electricity No payment)	80	10,836(39%)
Power Import (Bheramara HPDC, Tripura, Jharkhand (India) Adani Power		2,656 (9%)
Total	144	27,791

Adding Captive Power, Grid Renewable, and Off Grid HFO Total Installed Capacity = 27,791 +2800+ 549+05= 31,145 MW.

tic primary fuel resources coal and natural gas.

Petrobangla must review the capacity of the producing wells and make necessary amendments to their daily report. At times of gas crisis, the information let out in the public domain must be accurate. Gas production is fast depleting. The real concern is production from IOC-operated fields, especially prolific Bibiyana. At this crisis time gas from gas fields at Bhola remains stranded.

Contingency Measures

The interim government will not stay in the state power for an indefinite period. It must address the present energy crisis by taking some contingency actions. Petrobangla and EMRD after wasting valuable time in the wilderness have started executing some plans for increasing gas production. A project for drilling 48 wells by 2025 is in progress. A plan is at the final stage for drilling another 100 wells by 2028. BAPLEX will manage the program using its capacity and engaging drilling contractors or forming JV with foreign companies. But judging from historical records, the target appears highly optimistic. However, while facilitating the Petrobangla/EMRD program in all possible ways, the interim government must take the following initiatives on a priority basis.

Evacuation of Bhola Gas to the National Grid

It is ridiculous that while the country is suffering from a diabolic fuel supply crisis at least 1.5 Tcf discovered gas resources are lying stranded at Bhola island for dilemma over the construction of a gas transmission pipeline, linking Bhola Gas Fields to the national grid in Khulna. IOC UNOCAL in the late 1990s proposed an integrated project named the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP). The project in its scope included the development of Bhola Gas Fields, and the construction of a gas transmission pipeline from Shahbajpur, Bhola to Digholia Khulna via Barishal. The project also included gas-based power plant construction at Bhola, Barishal, and Khulna. Draft PSC,

Fuel Mix for Power Generation

Fuel	Total Installed Capacity	% of the total
Natural Gas and LNG	12,048	43.35%
Furnace Oil	5,835	23.13%
Coal	5,643	20.40%
Diesel	626	02.26%
Power Import	2,666	09.56%
Renewable	663	02.38%
Hydro	230	00.83%
Total	27,791 MW	

Highest Generation: 16,477 MW on 30.04.2024

GPSA, PPA, GTA, and IA were negotiated and developed. Pipeline ROW was extensively surveyed, and route maps were prepared. WRIP was abandoned at a mature stage for political reasons. At that stage, US geologists and engineers were confident about enough gas availability in the region to support the investment. Two decades have elapsed. BAPLEX and Gazprom have discovered additional gas resources on the island. The gas supply chain is suffering from a huge crisis. Even then Petrobangla and EMRD are hesitating about evacuation of gas from Bhola. True the pipeline needs crossing some mighty tidal rivers. But there are proven off-the-shelf technologies, there are competent international pipeline contractors. The government must make decisions as soon as possible. Gas from Bhola can be evacuated to the national grid in 3 - 3.5 Years. This project must get top-priority national attention.

Mining Own Coal

Successive governments since 2005 failed to make the required political decision for mining own discovered superior quality high-heating-value, low-ash, and low-Sulphur coal lying at mineable depth. True the coal resource is located

in highly fertile farming land of Dinajpur and Rangpur regions. There exist challenges in the aquifer and mine water management, mine-affected community relocation, and rehabilitation. However, there are technologies and proven measures for the restoration of mine land and management of water. Accredited mining consultants have carried out extensive studies. In a similar situation, mining has been successfully carried out in Germany, India, Poland, and other countries. Yes, mining will create a carbon footprint. But Bangladesh has

very little carbon footprint and now has no obligations to restrict carbon emissions. Exploiting about 4 billion tonnes of discovered coal resources by applying state-of-the-art modern technology for addressing and minimizing environmental and social impacts can facilitate the generation of 10,000 MW of coal-fired power generation for 30-40 years. The associated CSR implemented by the mining companies can vastly improve the living standard of the region. The government must give fresh attention to mining. The SOD (Schemes of Development) and mining proposals can be technically audited by competent experts and decide on mining. Phulbari and Barapukuria can be ideal candidates for launching mining operations by applying appropriate methods. In 3 years, the first coal can come to the surface, and in 4 years, the first coal-based power can be made available to the grid if works start simultaneously. Even the present mine-mouth power plants can get an assured supply of coal. Fuel from no other sources is cheaper and easily available than our coal.

Increasing Contribution of Solar and RE

The Chief Adviser of the interim government has set a "three-zero" vision that includes zero emissions. Ultimately, Bangladesh along with the rest of the world will move towards zero emissions. It is also a reality that nations will not be able to achieve net zero by 2050. Bangladesh has a vision for achieving a 40% contribution from clean energy by 2041. The present contribution is only a little

Natural Gas Scenario: (08-09 October 2024)

Companies	Gas Fields	Wells	Production Capacity (MMCFD)	Actual Production
BGFCL	05	44	853	541.30
SGFL	04	14	118	129.40
BAPLEX	07	15	145	106.00
IOCs	03	43	1615	1199.00
FSRU	02		11,00	701.10
Total		116	3829	2677.40

less than 3%. There are plans for increasing generations from solar, wind, and other sources. But, at the same time, there are issues affecting renewable energy growth. Some of these are fiscal, some physical. At present, the mindset of major consumers is not very positive towards RE. High import duties and taxes on imported solar equipment panels, inverters, and batteries made solar costlier than other competitive sources of power generation. Land and evacuation facilities are also issues. The previous government's strategy of awarding contracts to entrepreneurs under a special act was not right. The government should think about providing similar incentives given to entrepreneurs of IPPs of traditional fuel and selecting entrepreneurs under competitive bidding would enable the government to achieve at least 20% contribution from solar by 2030 and 30% by 2041. The government must acquire and develop land and provide land under the lease agreement. At the same time, the government should invest in evacuating the power. There should be provisions for storage for solar projects. The government must prioritize offshore wind resource development. We must realize that Bangladesh has a limit to RE generation and contribution.

Implementation of Austerity Measures in the Use of Power and Energy

At this time of severe gas and electricity crisis, the government must plan and execute appropriate austerity measures in the use of energy. The first measure must be optimizing the use of fuel – natural gas. Gas must be used in value-added operations only where there are no other alternatives. Gas for industrial use and fertilizer production must be given the highest priority. Coal, renewables, and power import facilities are there for power generation. Hence gas allocation to power must be restricted to highly efficient combined cycle power plants with limited supply to some simple cycle power plants for contingency operation. Gas for domestic and commercial use and CNG may gradually be phased out and replaced with LPG and Autogas.

As can be seen from the above, about

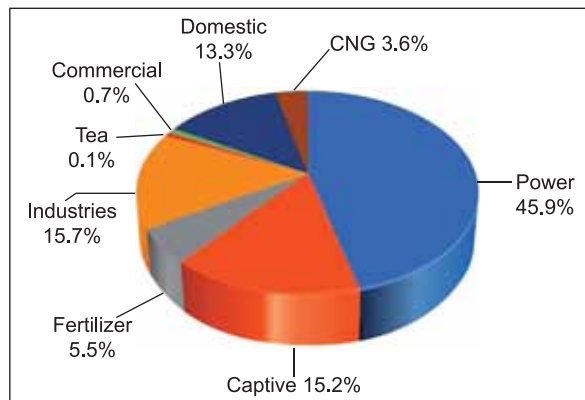
Item	Unit	Barapukuria Coal Mine	Phulbari Coal Field	Khalashpir Coal Field	Jamalganj Coal Field	Dighipara Coal Field
Depth	m	118~509	141~340	239~485	640~1158	320~506
Estimated Geological Reserve	Million metric tone	390	572	685	5450	706
Reserve area	Square kilometer	6.68	24	12.26	11.70	11
No. of Coal Seam	No.	6	5	8	7	7
Total Seam Thickness	m	44	52	37.21	64	47.32~71.07
No. of Borehole	Nos.	38	118	18	11	4

Source:

1. Preferred Mining Method in Barapukuria Coal Mine, Dinajpur, Bangladesh, 2014.
2. FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PHULBARI COAL MINE PROJECT, February 2019.
3. 3-Dimensional Modeling and Analysis of Mineable Seam of Khalashpir Coal Field Rangpur Bangladesh
4. Coal Reserve Estimation and Selection of Mining Method in Khalashpir Coal Field, Rangpur, Bangladesh, July 2017
5. Feasibility Study for development of Dighipara Coal Field at Dighipara, Dinajpur, Bangladesh.
6. Energy Resources of Bangladesh (2nd Edition) Hardcover – January 1, 2013.

29% of the present gas supply is required for captive power generation and domestic cooking. Industrial users may be encouraged to use grid power. But that will require a reliable supply of quality power and price incentives. The time has come to review gas use for domestic cooking. Gas distribution companies are struggling to manage unauthorized gas use, theft, and pilferages. Gas distribution networks have

Sector Wise Natural Gas Use



Source: Petrobangla Annual Report 2020

become unsafe for thousands of leakages originating from illegal tapping.

On the power side, the government may formulate a policy for formally launching electric vehicles. Millions of three-wheelers, rickshaw pullers, and even bicycles use batteries charged illegally from the power grid. The formal launching of electric vehicles creating incentives and setting up country-wide charging stations will increase power demand and help the power sector earn

revenues. Charging stations may set up small solar power facilities.

Reforms of Power and Energy Sector Management

The interim government has suspended the operation of the Speedy Power and Energy Supply Special Act 2010 and canceled a few projects negotiated under that act. The amendment of the BEREC act authorizing MPEMR to determine power tariffs and energy prices has been rescinded. There have been changes in the senior positions of power and energy at the ministry level, corporations, and companies. The government talked about withdrawing bureaucrats from company levels and reorganizing the board of directors with experienced competent professionals. But these have not been done yet. We observe some impatience in energy companies debating over disparities. The government must address these. The energy and power sector is a highly technically-intensive sector where absolute bureaucratic control has made things messy. Professionals must be posted in proper places and given enough freedom to contribute.

The interim government must take some contingency actions and carry out essential reforms as soon as possible. Energy is the key to smooth economic development.

EP

Khondkar Abdus Saleque,
International Energy Consultant



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The Controversy Over Bangladesh's Special Energy Act

Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal

Bangladesh's Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act 2010 has sparked both swift solutions and heated debates. This Act was introduced as a fast-track remedy to the country amidst the energy crisis. The Act granted unprecedented powers to the government. But as the lights stay on and power plants rise, a shadow of controversy lingers. Critics argue that the provisions of safeguard have opened doors to unchecked authority and potential misuse. Is this law an essential tool for national development or a dangerous overreach of power?

Since the fall of the Awami Government, the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act 2010 has become highly debated. Political parties and the public have consistently called for its repeal. Various platforms, including the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), have recommended abolishing this Act and aligning procurement in the electricity and energy sectors with Public Procurement Rules (PPR).

A writ petition was filed in the High Court challenging the legality of sev-

eral sections of the Act. The petition argues that the Act violates constitutional provisions, including Articles 7, 21, 26, 27, 31, 42, 44, 46, 143, and 145. Specifically, Section 9 states, "No question regarding the validity of any act done or purported to be done, any action taken, or any order issued or direction given under this Act shall be raised in any court." Similarly, Section 6 allows the government to negotiate directly with a limited number of organizations for energy-related projects, bypassing competitive bidding processes with ministerial approval.

Despite these concerns, the previous government extended the Act until 2026, citing the need to ensure an uninterrupted power supply amid ongoing national energy challenges.

Historical Context

Bangladesh has long struggled with inadequate power supply, hindering its industrial and agricultural sectors. Increasing power generation was a dire necessity. The Awami League government introduced oil and gas-based rental and quick rental power plants to address the issues. However, this approach drew widespread criti-

cism due to inefficiencies and allegations of corruption. To expedite these projects and shield them from potential legal challenges, the government passed the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010. However, things were improving gradually in residential and commercial establishments. A detailed report was published in the Daily Star on 16 September 2022.

Objectives of the Act:

The Act's main objective is to introduce urgent measures to increase the generation, transmission, and transportation of electricity and energy. This ensures a reliable supply to meet the demands of agriculture, industry, commerce, and households. Additionally, the Act allows for rapid implementation of energy imports and the extraction of energy resources. The legislation bypasses existing laws to meet the country's critical energy needs, recognizing that energy shortages have been a barrier to economic growth and national development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Controlling Powers and Criticisms

The Act grants the government extensive control over the energy sector. For instance, Section 9 prevents any legal challenges against government actions taken under the Act, and Section 10 shields officials from lawsuits for actions taken in good faith. While this enables quick decision-making, it has sparked concerns about corruption, lack of accountability, and bypassing competitive bidding.

Such extensive powers can lead to favoritism and inflated project costs, as lower-performing organizations might still secure contracts due to the absence of proper oversight mechanisms.

International Comparisons

While some countries have enacted similar emergency legislation, many maintain judicial oversight and accountability to varying degrees.

New Zealand's Electricity Supply Energy Act 1992, and The Electricity Industry Act 2010: This law allows the government to manage electricity generation and distribution during emergencies, ensuring an uninterrupted supply. Similar to Bangladesh's Act, it limits legal challenges to government decisions, which prevents questioning the validity of actions taken under it.

India's Electricity Act, 2003: This legislation grants the central government powers to intervene during crises to stabilize the electricity sector. Similar to Bangladesh's Act, officials executing duties are shielded from legal proceedings, thus allowing for swift responses.

The Emergency Power Supply Act, USA: This law provides the government with significant control over energy resources during emergencies, with government officials granted immunity for actions taken in good faith, akin to Bangladesh's provisions.

UK's Electricity Supply Act, 1989: This Act allows the government to in-



tervene during energy shortages, though some level of judicial oversight remains intact, unlike Bangladesh's complete restriction of legal challenges.

China's Emergency Response Law: This grants the Chinese government broad powers to take any necessary actions during emergencies, including controlling energy supply and infrastructure without needing court approval. Similar to Bangladesh's law, officials are protected from legal action for good-faith actions during crises.

South Africa, the National Energy Act 2008: Grants the government the ability to take steps to secure energy resources and ensure supply stability, including fast-tracking projects and controlling resources. Actions taken under the Act in good faith are protected from legal prosecution, similar to Bangladesh's provisions where officers and employees are shielded from legal consequences while carrying out their duties.

Australia's National Electricity Emergency Response Act, 2015: Unlike Bangladesh's Act, Australia's legislation maintains some judicial oversight, allowing courts to review government actions. This provides a balance between government intervention and accountability.

While some countries do grant their governments extensive powers in times of crisis or for essential infrastructure projects, the degree of control and legal immunity provided under Bangladesh's Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 is relatively unique in its lack of judicial oversight and complete legal immunity for officials.

Pros and Cons of the Act:

Cons:

- The act grants the government broad powers without adequate oversight, reducing transparency in decision-making.
- Officials are protected from lawsuits, weakening accountability and increasing the risk of misuse of power.
- Projects may be awarded without competitive processes, raising concerns about unfair contracts and inflated costs.
- Concentrated power and limited oversight increase the potential for corrupt practices.
- Urgency may result in insufficient environmental impact assessments, risking long-term sustainability.
- The absence of judicial review and transparency can erode public trust in government actions.

Pros:

- Allows the government to quickly address energy shortages by bypassing lengthy procedures.
- Reduces bureaucratic delays, speeding up project approvals and implementation.
- Enables swift execution of energy projects, including imports, to meet urgent demand.
- It prioritizes national economic growth by ensuring a continuous energy supply for agriculture, industry, and domestic use, thus supporting economic stability and development goals like the Millennium Development Goals.
- It encourages bold decision-making and reduces the fear of legal repercussions that might otherwise hinder timely interventions. It helps maintain the momentum of economic activities by preventing energy shortages.
- By expediting project approvals,

the act can attract private investment in the energy sector, fostering public-private partnerships in critical infrastructure development.

In a nutshell, we can say that the Act provides a fast-tracked mechanism to address Bangladesh's energy needs.

The Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 has played a pivotal role in addressing Bangladesh's pressing energy needs by allowing the government to take swift, decisive actions. However, the Act's provisions for broad government control, legal immunity, and lack of judicial oversight have made it a controversial piece of legislation. While many countries have enacted similar laws to ensure energy stability, most retain some form of judicial accountability or oversight—something that is largely absent from Bangladesh's Act.

As debates continue whether the Act

should be repealed or reformed, it's clear that balancing urgent energy needs with transparent governance will be critical for the country's long-term economic stability and public trust.

EP

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Where logic ends, our electricity policy begins | The Daily Star

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*Microsoft Word - Act with amendment.doc (cercind.gov.in)

Microsoft Word - The Electricity Act_2003.doc (powermin.gov.in)

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খাদ্য এবং
ঔষধ শিল্পের উপর
বিশেষ অনুসন্ধানমূলক
রিপোর্ট ও নিবন্ধ নিয়ে
বাজারে আসছে

যোগাযোগ

আরিফুল ইসলাম ০১৭২৫ ৫৮৩০৮৫

মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০৯

কম ৫০৯, ৫১০, ৫১১ ও ৫১২, ইস্টার্ন ট্রেড সেন্টার, ৫৬ ইনার সার্কুলার রোড, পুরানা পল্টন লাইন, ভিআইপি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০, জিপিও বক্স ৬৭৭, ফোন +৮৮০২৫৮৩১৪৫৩২



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

2007



Registration & Incorporation

NWPGCL
Enlightening Life
Enlightening Bangladesh

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

ISO



Power Plants of NWPGCL & its JVC

Gas Supply Chain Management Bangladesh and Beyond

Saleque Sufi

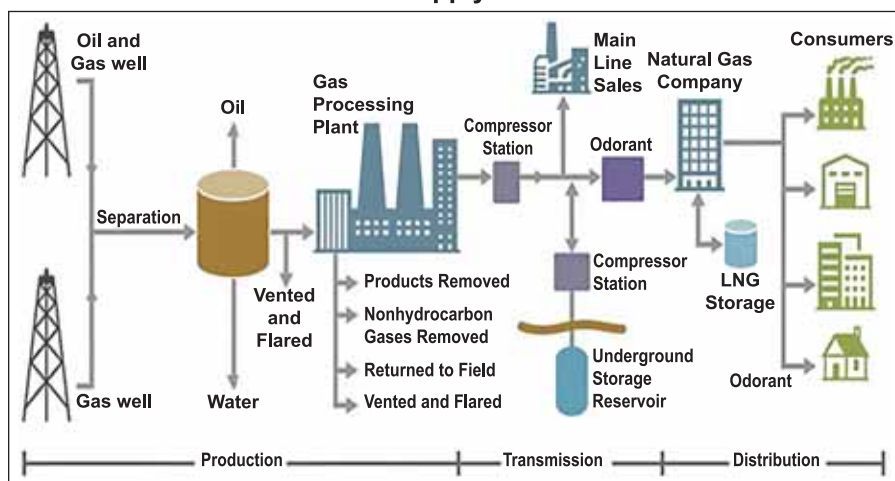
Following the recent political change from the mass uprising, disputes have surfaced among Petrobangla and gas companies over the gas supply chain management. Petrobangla companies are registered under the Companies Act which provides the companies autonomy to be governed by the properly constituted board of directors. But neither the boards are constituted properly nor Petrobangla lets companies operate autonomously. Various disparities and anomalies have created controversies. Major disputes are Petrobangla unnecessarily delaying the organogram of companies like TGTDC and GTCL

after the approval in the respective board of directors, irrational pay scales of energy sector companies, and Petrobangla creating disputes in system loss determination. Bangladesh gas supply management could not establish International Standards. Under the circumstances, officials of Petrobangla companies have unleashed aggressive agitation programs that tarnished the dynamic image of the energy sector.

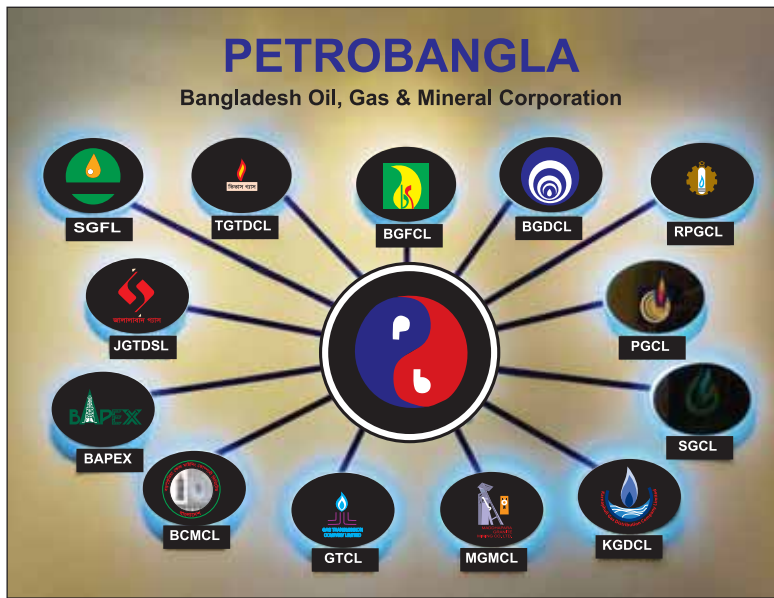
Despite fuel diversification over the past one-and-a-half-decade, natural gas remains the dominating fuel in the Bangladesh energy sector. Gas still contributes about 50% of the power

generation, is used as primary raw material for urea fertilizer, used as fuel, and in some cases raw material in industries and used as cooking fuel in gas franchises. In 2018, Bangladesh started importing Liquefied Natural Gas by setting up floating terminals off the coast of Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar. According to the Petrobangla sources, the present coincident peak demand is 4,200 MMCFD but the highest supply on 20 May 2024 was 3115.52 MMCFD which included 1101.05 MMCFD of imported RLNG. Own production from gas fields of Petrobangla companies and IOCs operated gas fields are fast depleting. Chevron from its operated Bibiyana Gas field produced 1015.62 MMCFD on 20 May 2024. It has been reported that the production of Bibiyana is also depleting and will deplete faster soon. The present exploration campaign needs expediting and stranded gas at Bhola needs to be evacuated to the national gas grid without further delay. Moreover, gas supply chain management needs to grow smarter to eliminate non-technical losses and limit technical losses. Modern metering systems can limit the technical loss of transmission systems to below 1% and distribution networks to below 2%.

Gas Supply Chain



The gas supply chain has three distinct activities. Exploration and Production is termed upstream activity, transmission is the mid-stream activity and distribution, and supply is the downstream activity. A well-managed gas supply chain needs a well-coordinated and coherent gas supply chain. Custody of gas is transferred from E&P companies to transmission companies and from transmission companies to local distribution companies through custody transfer metering stations. The global supply chain manages custody transfer by SCADA and telemetry. Distribution systems use digital mapping and smart sensing. The old distribution pipelines are replaced. These days MDPE and HDPE pipes and fittings are used to reduce costs as these do not need anti-corrosion coating. Distribution networks also use smart sensing with fiber optics. However, E&P companies must ensure the delivery of pipeline-quality gas. At the delivery point, the online chromatograph should continuously monitor the gas composition and heating value, and the dew point tester should monitor the water dew point



and hydrocarbon dew point. This writer visited the Alliance Pipeline in Calgary Alberta Canada, the Gasuine Transmission network in the Netherlands, British Gas Transco Transmission system in the UK.

Bangladesh Gas Supply Chain

Bangladesh's gas supply chain has one exploration and production company, BAPEX, and two production companies – BGFCL and SGFL. In addition, two international oil companies, Chevron and Tullow, supply gas to the national gas grid under a production-sharing agreement with Petrobangla. RPGCL manages LNG import and supplies to the grid,

Bangladesh's gas supply chain at the start was vertically integrated. Gas exploration and production before independence was done by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) in the Sylhet region and Shell BV in the rest of Bangladesh. Shell from its Titas Gas field constructed a gas transmission pipeline from Titas Gas field in Brahmanbaria to Demra in Dhaka via Norshingdi. Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company (TGTDCL)

started operation in the late 1960s. PPL was responsible for supplying gas to Fenchuganj and Chattak Gas fields to Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory and Chattak Cement Factory.

Following the liberation of Bangladesh, PPL was changed into BPL and later SGFL. Bangladesh Oil Gas and Mineral Corporation (BOGMC) and Later with the separation of mining activities from the petroleum sector Bangladesh Oil and Gas Corporation (BOGC) Petrobangla was formed. Gradually BGS, JGTDSL, PGCL, and SGCL were formed. KGDCL and BGDCL were created from BGS. In the unbundling process of vertically integrated gas supply chain operation, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) was created in December 1993 for midstream activity of the gas supply chain. All 13 companies in the Petroleum are registered under the Company Act and are supposed to be operated as autonomous bodies. Petrobangla holds all shares of the companies on behalf of the Bangladesh government. Only 20% share of TGTDCL has been let out to the public through stock exchange.

The above shows that the vision and objective of unbundling vertically integrated gas system operations were not completely achieved as TGTDCL and JGTDSL retained some transmission activities. Petrobangla also did not trans-



fer the operation of some IOCs' constructed transmission pipelines after IOCs handed these pipelines over cost recovery. All gas transmission assets must be handed over to GTCL for specialized operations. Distribution companies must concentrate their operations on gas distribution network modernization, automation, and curbing non-technical losses. Petrobangla must not directly own any gas transmission asset.

E&P Activity

BAPEX, BGFCL, and SGFL are three companies of the Petrobangla family. The following table will justify that for better management it will be far more logical that upstream activities should be consolidated into one large E&P company as SGFL and BGFCL activities have become very limited. An integrated E&P can have two to three regional subdivisions in the Present BGFCL, SGFL area, and another for the rest of the region. Reservoir study and reservoir management as part of E&P activity must also be transferred from Petrobangla to E&P Company. A properly restructured E&P company can also manage all exploration activities including PSCs. In that case, the restructured E&P can be developed like Petronas, PERTAMINA, ONGC, and Petrobras. A self-sustaining competent E&P company must be organized now to ensure the gas supply security of Bangladesh. Otherwise, the 48 wells or 100 wells drilling program and professional management of offshore activities will remain a dream.

Petrobangla Daily Report

Petrobangla must mention the present capacity of gas wells. BGFCL and IOC gas wells do not have the capacity mentioned in the report. Moreover, a general reader or even an investor gets confused reading that IOCs can produce 1,200 MMCFD from 43 wells but BGFCL only produces 550 MMCFD

Petrobangla Companies

E&P	Production	Transmission	Transmission & Distribution	Distribution	LPG, CNG and LNG
BAPEX	BGFCL SGFL	GTCL	TGTDCL JGTDSL	BGDCL, KGDCL PGCL, SGCL	RPGCL

from 44 wells. SGFL and BGFCL should merge with BAPEX for a single competent E&P company.

Gas Transmission System

Evacuating pipeline-quality gas from gas fields and LNG supply sources and transporting gas to distribution companies is a specialized nature of the job. In the unbundling process of the vertically integrated gas supply management chain Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) was created in 1993. The objective was to consolidate all high-pressure gas transmission operations in GTCL. But in 31 years of GTCL creation, some transmission pipelines and infrastructure remain under Petrobangla, TGTDCL, and JGTDSL. GTCL was designed to evacuate gas from sources through modern custody transfer metering stations and deliver gas at required pressure to distribution companies through custody transfer metering stations. Unfortunately, BGFCL and SGFL still rely on outdated orifice meter technology and chart reading. GTCL has SCADA-connected flow meters. However, there is no meeting of mind between GTCL and production companies. On the other hand, there are no existing custody transfer meters at all points whether gas custody is handed over from GTCL to distribution companies. Hence there

remains a dispute in gas metering and system loss determination. The transmission system has zero leakage, but there can be some technical losses due to metering inaccuracies. International best practice is 1-1.5% technical losses. We are not sure if BEREC or Petrobangla has considered international best practices in determining wheeling charges, and distribution margins for the gas companies. The present disputes among Petrobangla, GTCL, and distribution companies have originated from not following the standard practice. GTCL has no business with end users. All gas delivery from the transmission network to the distribution company must be done through GTCL Custody transfer meters. If necessary, distribution companies may set up check meters. Under no circumstance, any customer be given connection through hot-tapping of transmission pipelines. BEREC must serve notice to all its licensees about the above. There is no scope for fugitive emissions from the gas transmission network. GTCL however must regularly carry out onstream pigging of its transmission network. GTCL must also refurbish SCADA for supervisory control. SCADA should incorporate leak detection and pipe modeling software. BEREC should instruct Petrobangla to arrange the transfer of all transmission facilities to GTCL for unified operations.

Gas Production and Supply

Companies	Gas Fields	Wells	Capacity MMCFD	Actual Production MMCFD
BGFCL	05	44	851	549.50
BAPEX	08	15	145	128.20
SGFL	05	14	118	130.10
IOCs (Chevron & Tullow)	04	43	1615	1201.50
RPGCL	2FSRUs		1100	581.20
Total	22 GF +2 FSRUs	116	3828	2590.50

It may be noted that the GTCL transmission network now extends from Moshkhali, Cox'sbazar to Rangpur and from Beani-bazar Sylhet to Khulna. The company has over 2017.60-kilometer gas transmission pipelines, Compressor stations, and over 100 gas delivery sta-

tions. Presently, the GTCL delivers gas to distribution companies through 20 of its owned delivery stations while 44 of the delivery stations are below to distribution companies. The disputes over metering can not be resolved until all delivery points have modern accurate GTCL-owned metering stations. No gas dispatch from the transmission system from the transmission network to the distribution company should be measured by the metering stations of end users. Customers, who have been given connections through hot-tapping, must be brought under a standard metering facility as soon as possible.

Gas Distribution System

TGTDCL as the oldest and largest gas distribution company has a very complex and cumbersome gas distribution network. It accounts for almost 60% of the total gas used in Bangladesh. The networks spread over greater Dhaka and greater Mymensingh districts. BGDCL and KGDCL are two other distribution companies in the southeast Bangladesh. JGTDSL distributes gas regionally. PGCL supplies gas to Pabna, Bogura, and Rajshahi regions. It will also supply gas soon to Rangpur and Dinajpur. SGDCCL supplies gas to southern Bangladesh.

Many pipelines of TGTDCL, KGDCL, and BGDCL are old and corroded and are leaking. Moreover, unscrupulous elements through illegal tapping and extension of distribution lines have made distribution networks messy and vulnerable to fatal accidents. Titas pipelines in many areas have been now buried well below the ground. Many pipelines cannot be traded. An initiative taken for digital mapping could not be completed. Bringing gas distribution networks to Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur areas is a huge challenge. It is also difficult to isolate gas distribution networks into separate zones. Suspending gas supply to domestic consumers was not a smart decision. Millions of unauthorized connections have been given. It has become almost impossible to eliminate unauthorized gas use in widespread areas. The situation in

Gas Distribution Scenario

Gas Distribution Company	Gas Supplied MMCFD	% of the Total
TGTDCL	1500	58
JGDSL	361	13
BGDCL	304	12
KGDCL	216	10
PGCL	116	04
SGDCL	109	03

KGDCL and BGDCL is somewhat better for the design by experienced Engineers of TGTDCL. KGDCL has a ring main, HP DRS, and IP DRS. Setting up meters in DRSs and digital mapping of distribution network systems can be brought under control. TGTDCL must replace many pipelines in the Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur areas, and set up digital mapping, including GIS and Fiber optics. Even after all these will suggest dividing huge TFA into three companies.

Dhaka, Manikganj, Gazipur: Company One

Narayanganj and Munshiganj: Company Two

Greater Mymensingh including Norshingdi: Company three.

Managing TGDCL is extremely difficult. It needs special attention. It is not fair to criticize TGTCCL. EMRD and Petrobangla are equally responsible for the messy system operations of the TGDCL.

Gas supply chain management must be modernized and automated. Gas companies are deprived of similar salaries and benefits given to some power companies. As such companies cannot attract and retain smart young graduates. Company officials are demanding for special salary for a while and rational treatment. Their legitimate demand must be given attention.

Conclusion

Given the extensive discussion, the following recommendations can be put forward:

- Gas Evacuation and Delivery to and from the gas transmission network to the distribution system must be covered under modern metering and control systems (preferably under SCADA).
- No customer should be supplied gas through hot tapping of the gas transmission network.
- GTCL and distribution companies must have a custody transfer metering station at every point of change of custody of gas.
- At all custody transfer metering stations, there must be provision for an online chromatograph, dew-point analyzer, and Wobbe index meter.
- Gas purchased and sold must be done based on heat content, not volumetric.
- Gas must not be sold to any customer without a meter.
- Distribution pipelines in general and pipelines in city areas must be covered under digital mapping, above ground installations must also be covered under GIS
- Distribution networks may be covered under telemetry. Telemetry may be linked with the SCADA of the transmission system.
- For ease and comfort of maintenance of the gas distribution system wherever possible MDPE and HDPE pipes may be used.
- Smart sensing devices may be installed in Gas Transmission and distribution systems for remote monitoring of unauthorized access

One must remember that gas companies will explore, develop, and supply primary energy. Necessary reforms are essential at all segments of gas supply chain management to ensure efficiency and conservation of energy and energy security.



Saleque Sufi,
Energy Expert

Dr Yunus Praises Russian Cooperation in Power, Energy Sectors



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus recently praised Russia's cooperation in the power and energy sectors and acknowledged Russia's role as a supplier of wheat and fertilizer to Bangladesh.

These issues were discussed when Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander V Mantyskiy paid a farewell call on the Chief Adviser at his Tejgaon office.

He said that the interim gov-

ernment would resolve the payment issues over the Rooppur project and welcomed further Russian investment in Bangladesh. "We will work together."

During the meeting, Mantyskiy focused on his eventful time during his over three-year tenure as the Ambassador of the Russian Federation.

He updated the Chief Adviser on the progress of the Rooppur nuclear power plant, which is expected to generate power next year.

The plant is primarily funded by Russia and its experts are implementing the project. **EP**

Chevron Bangladesh Inaugurates Comprehensive Tree Plantation Drive

Chevron Bangladesh and Green Savers, an environmental organization, jointly inaugurated a tree plantation program in the vicinity of Chevron Bangladesh's Bibiyana Gas Plant in Habiganj as part of the comprehensive tree plantation initiative across the country to protect biodiversity.

Chevron Bangladesh is launching a five-year plantation program to transform the landscape around its gas plant.

This initiative will see the planting of over 4,000 high quality seedlings, including a variety of flowers, fruit trees, wood trees, and medicinal plants.



Prioritizing indigenous species, the program aims to enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and provide food and shelter for local wildlife. Additionally, the Debbaru trees, known for their sound-absorbing qualities, will help reduce noise pollution, creating a more peaceful environment.

This project is not just about beautification; it's a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. **EP**

Doreen Power to Sell Another Plant



tension of the power purchase agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), the company said in a stock exchange filing recently.

Doreen Power Generations and Systems has announced that it will sell another power plant in Feni a month after it sold its Tangail plant upon the expiry of its 15-year power purchase contract with the government.

The board of the independent power producer took the decision due to the uncertainty hanging over the ex-

It also approved a vendor agreement with Trust Marine Services for the sale of engines, alternators, including accessories, substation equipment, building, and steel structures of the Feni 22 MW Power Plant worth Tk 100.50 million.

"Land will be sold at a competitive market price to suitable customers in future," said the company. **EP**

TotalEnergies Plans to Grow Oil, Gas Production Until 2030

French energy giant TotalEnergies has announced plans to increase its oil and gas production until 2030, as it seeks to reassure investors about its fundamentals.



CEO Patrick Pouyanne has a raft of ambitious projects aimed at propelling growth through the decade, not least a \$10 billion offshore investment in Suriname that received a green light recently.

The company on Wednesday attempted to buoy investors at its annual strategy and outlook meeting in New York, as energy prices have fallen

since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

TotalEnergies raised its growth forecast in oil and gas production to around three percent a year until 2030, led by liquefied natural gas (LNG), and after the launch of six major projects this year in Brazil, Suriname, Angola, Oman and Nigeria, according to a company statement. **EP**

Bangladesh Deposits Instrument of Ratification of BBNJ Deal



Bangladesh has deposited instrument of ratification for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) to the United Nations.

Foreign Affairs adviser Md. Touhid Hossain deposited the instrument at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High Level Treaty Event held in New York recently, a foreign ministry's press release said.

"This ratification underscores

Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to international cooperation and regulatory initiatives in marine affairs," said the release.

As an early ratifier, Bangladesh aspires to pave the way for the swift entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and remains dedicated to its universal and effective implementation, it added.

With the deposit of the instrument of ratification, Bangladesh has now joined the ranks of the pioneering nations that have ratified this vital agreement, said the foreign ministry.

The BBNJ Agreement, adopted by consensus at the UN on 19 June 2023, represents a landmark achievement in the governance of the global commons. **EP**

RNPP Experts Receive Training in Russia on Nuclear Fuel Handling



Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant experts have completed training at a Rosatom research institute in Troitsk, Russia.

Organized by Rosatom Fuel Division, top experts in Theoretical Physics, Computational Mathematics, and Advanced Engineering, conducted the 3-week

training course on handling VVER reactor nuclear fuel, utilizing advanced computer analysis tools.

In particular, Bangladeshi engineers studied the Reactor Fuel-Coolant Activity (RTOP-CA) code, which allows for determining the loss of integrity of fuel rods and the release of fission products into the primary circuit of the VVER reactor. The knowledge and skills acquired will help the experts understand nuclear fuel behavior under abnormal conditions. **EP**

Govt Cancels Deal with Summit Group on Setting Up New FSRU

The government has cancelled the deal with Summit Group over setting up of a new floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU), known as LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal.



State-owned Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation Petrobangla cancelled the agreement as per directive of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

The Petrobangla, sent a letter to Summit LNG Terminal II Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of the Summit Group, signed by Ruchira Islam, the secretary of the organization, dated on October 7.

The Summit Group had signed the agreement for Terminal Use Agreement (TUA) and Implementation Agreement (IA) for installation of 3rd FSRU on March 30 this year.

In the letter, the Summit was informed about the cancella-

tion saying that the Petrobangla has cancelled the TUA in accordance to Clause 27.1 (a) (i) of the signed contract due to: i. Non-compliance and non-satisfaction of the key Condition Precedent which resulted in non-effectiveness of signed Terminal Use Agreement (TUA) and Implementation Agreement (IA).

"Non-compliance and non-satisfaction of one of the key Conditions Precedent -Performance Bond," was also mentioned as another cause of the cancellation of the agreement.

Earlier, the Summit Group obtained the contract for the 3rd LNG Terminal under Speedy Increase of Power and Energy Supply Act Special Provision) 2010. **EP**

Summit Group Urges Govt to Reverse Decision to Terminate FSRU Project

Summit LNG Terminal II Co Ltd ("SLNG II"), a unit of Summit Group, has urged the government of Bangladesh to reverse its decision to terminate the third Floating Storage and Regasification Unit ("FSRU") project in the country.

SLNG II said it had received a notice from the Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation ("Petrobangla") on 7 October notifying the termination of the project situated at Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar.



The Moheshkhali terminal ("2nd FSRU") in southeast Bangladesh is the second floating gas terminal project undertaken by Summit Group with a planned re-gasification capacity of 600 million standard cubic feet per day. **EP**

Tripartite Deal Inked to Bring 40 MW Power from Nepal to Bangladesh



Environment, Forest, Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hassan recently witnessed the signing of a 40-megawatt electricity trading agreement among Nepal, Bangladesh, and India.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVTN) of India signed the tripartite power trading agreement at a ceremony in Kathmandu, according to a message received here.

Under the agreement, 40 MW of hydroelectricity will be supplied from Nepal to Bangladesh via India for five months - from June 15 to November 15.

The ceremony was also attended by Nepal's Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation Minister Deepak Khadka, Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary Nazmul Ahsan and Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ghanshyam Bhandari.

In her address, Rizwana emphasized that this agreement marks a significant step forward in expanding regional energy trade. **EP**

100 New Gas Wells to be Drilled by 2028

Authorities have started work for drilling at least 100 new gas wells by 2028, 50 of which would be drilled by next year, in order to resolve the country's persistent fuel crisis, energy adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said recently.



Furthermore, energy and fuel projects will no longer be undertaken under government-to-government mechanism, with open bidding replacing the erstwhile opaque and corrupt practice, the adviser added when speaking to reporters at the Secretariat.

The new gas extraction efforts would help to ease the shortage of fuel for cooking purposes, industrial production, and power generation. Furthermore, the new gas wells would help reduce dependency on costly LNG imports.

The depletion of country's on-services underground gas reserves over the years have been increasing the economy's reliance on LNG imports and eroding foreign currency reserves, the energy adviser noted.

Tenders for private gas exploration bidders would be announced within a week or two, but unlike in previous years project deadlines will not be extended, he warned.

In a break from years of unfair practice, the state-run BAPEX would be given a greater role in gas well drilling activities. **EP**

similar to previous instances.

The initiative aims to ease the financial strain on independent power producers (IPPs) and stabilize the country's power sector, the officials said.

According to them, the BPDB initiated the move and consulted the Power Division to 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)," said another top BPDB official.



He disclosed that BPDB's total unpaid bills currently amount to approximately Tk42,000 crore, of which the IPPs are owed around Tk7,000 crore.

Of the remaining amount, Tk17,000 crore is owed for gas bills, while state-owned public sector power plants are due Tk10,000 crore. **EP**

Govt Set to Issue Tk5,000cr Bonds to Clear Power Sector Dues

The government is set to issue new bonds worth Tk5,000 crore to address pending payments to private power producers, according to official sources. The move is currently awaiting final approval from the Finance Ministry.

"We've completed all the necessary processes from our end to issue the new bonds amounting to Tk5000 crore. Now it's with the Finance Ministry for the final

approval," a senior official of the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) said.

The official expressed the hope that the BPDB will receive the final clearance from the Finance Ministry within this week, after which the bonds will be floated.

He added that some 25-27 public and private sector banks will be involved in the bond issuance process,



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।



China Keen to Invest in Bangladesh's Solar Panels, Deepen Ties



He also called Prof Yunus as "an old friend of the Chinese people," as he congratulated the chief adviser for assuming the leadership of the interim government of Bangladesh.

"We have full confidence in you that you will live up to the expectations of the people," Wang Yi said, hoping that Prof Yunus would unite the country.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently said his country wants to invest in solar panels in Bangladesh and deepen trade and economic ties with Dhaka.

Wang Yi expressed his country's interest as he called on Bangladesh Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters.

He said China would attach importance to Prof Yunus's call to Chinese solar panel manufacturers for setting up plants in Bangladesh.

The chief adviser made the call when the Chinese ambassador in Dhaka met him last month. **EP**

BPDB Likely to Invite Tender for Setting Up 10 Solar Power Plants



The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is preparing to float tenders for the development of 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 (LoIs) under the previous Awami League government, has become uncertain.

BPDB had selected these firms through the process of "unsolicited offer" under the Speedy Enhancement of Power and Energy Supply Act (Special) Act, 2010.

Under this law, the government can award the contract of a project to any private firm without tender process. **EP**

India Seeks 6,000 MW of Peak Renewable Power Supply with Storage

India is seeking bids to supply 6,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from renewable energy power projects for assured peak-hour supply with storage, according to a tender issued by state-run SJVN (SJVN.NS).

India is looking to connect a record 35 gigawatts (GW) of solar and wind energy capacity to its grid during the year ending March 2025, with a



target to increase its non-fossil power capacity to 500 GW.

SJVN seeks power from an inter-state transmission system that carries power across state boundaries nationwide.

India added 10 GW of renewable capacity from April to August, the first five months of this fiscal year, taking its total to about 153 GW, government data showed.

Earlier, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, the top bureaucrat at the ministry for new and renewable energy told Reuters the country expected a lot of projects for battery-linked storage. **EP**

\$300m WB Fund for Clean Air Project



Region, and Abdoulaye Seck, country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, according to a press statement.

The project will be funded by an IDA credit, along with a potential grant for clean cooking initiatives as part of the National Air Quality Management Plan.

The World Bank will provide \$300 million to assist the clean air project in Bangladesh.

The initiative has been taken to strengthen air quality management in the country and to reduce carbon emissions in key sectors.

Environment advisor to the interim government Syeda Rizwana Hasan shared the information following a meeting with Martin Raiser, the World Bank's vice president for the South Asia

During the meeting, the Environment Adviser also called for the World Bank's assistance in waste management and the restoration of Dhaka's canals to create a "blue network."

She further mentioned the possibility of support for a Loss and Damage Fund, as well as aid in implementing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). **EP**



Fuel Retailers See EV Charging as Key to Survival

Fuel retailers see EV charging as a critical battleground for retaining customers, with 88% concerned about the impact of growing competition as drivers plug in at homes, workplaces and destinations, according to a new survey by Konect, a Gilbarco Veeder-Root business.

Forecourt operators are under pressure to adapt to a fast-changing



mobility ecosystem, as consumers become more sustainability-savvy and federal and state regulations align behind electric vehicles.

The latest IEA data forecasts 71% of new passenger cars and 72% of new light-duty trucks / commercial vans in the United States will be electric by 2035, reducing the country's fuel consumption by 2.5 million barrels per day.

Meanwhile, Boston Consulting Group believes 80% of forecourts could become unprofitable by that date unless they adapt to changing demands.

However, EV charging is also an opportunity for forward-thinking fuel retailers. The NREL is predicting the U.S. will need 1.25m public chargers by 2030, providing critical infrastructure for long journeys, fleets and drivers who can't plug in at home. **EP**

Bangladesh Lags as Renewables Set to Offer Half of Global Electricity by 2030: Report



particularly solar and wind, remains dismally low, according to the report.

The IEA's 'Renewables 2024' report highlights that while solar photovoltaic (PV) technology is expected to account for a staggering 80% of global renewable capacity

In a striking contrast to global trends, Bangladesh finds itself lagging in the renewable energy sector, as outlined in the latest International Energy Agency (IEA) report recently.

The report indicates that the world is on course to add over 5,500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity between 2024 and 2030, bringing global renewable electricity generation to nearly half of total demand.

However, Bangladesh's progress in adopting renewable technologies,

growth, countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Bangladesh, are struggling to keep pace.

By 2030, solar PV is projected to become the largest renewable generation technology, yet Bangladesh is anticipated to have variable renewable energy (VRE) share of no more than 5% (Bangladesh's renewable energy share in power generation stands at a mere 1.6%, according to 2022 data.), far behind its regional counterparts. **EP**

Spain's Acciona Advances 2.4 GW of Energy Storage



Acciona Energía has just launched its second hybrid wind-solar project in Spain, at Villalba del Rey and Tinajas. A new, 19.7 MWp solar field has been added to a 26 MW wind complex.

Madrid-based Acciona Energía has completed its second hybrid renewable generation facility in Spain with the construction of a 19.7 MWp photovoltaic plant at the site of its 26 MW Peralejo wind farm, in the municipalities of Villalba del Rey and Tinajas, in Cuenca. The site will

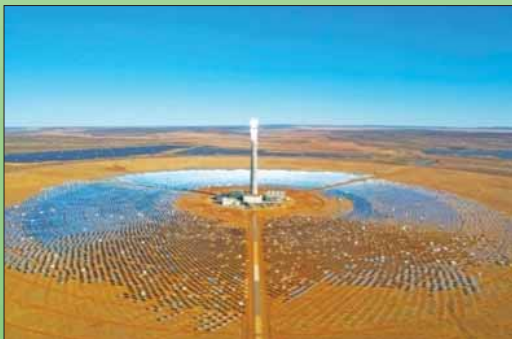
generate 37 GWh of clean electricity per year.

Peralejo is the company's second hybrid project. Hybridization enables the solar and wind fields to use the same grid connection point.

In January 2024, Acciona commissioned its first hybrid project, the 29.4 MWp solar and 36 MW wind Escepar site in Villalba del Rey. The company also developed the 50 MWp Bolarque photovoltaic plant in Tinajas.

Acciona Energía is promoting another hybrid project in Granada, as pv magazine has reported, a 29.54 MW photovoltaic plant will be hybridized with the 30 MW Los Morrones wind farm, launched in 2008 and located in the municipalities of Baza and Zújar. **EP**

PowerChina Switches on 100 MW Solar Tower in South Africa



PowerChina said South Africa's 100 MW Redstone CSP plant has achieved grid connection. The project will supply 480 GWh of clean energy per year to South African utility Eskom under a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA).

"The project utilizes advanced molten salt storage technology in a tower configuration and is equipped with 41,260 heliostats that precisely reflect

sunlight onto the solar tower's heat receiver," the company said.

"The stored molten salt allows for 12 hours of full-load operation, ensuring continuous electricity generation, even after sunset."

The Redstone project, located in Siyanda district, is the first molten salt solar thermal tower plant in sub-Saharan Africa. PowerChina said it is the largest investment project in South Africa's Northern Cape province.

Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power owns 49% of the facility and is the largest shareholder. The project, selected under South Africa's REIPP program, required a \$724 million investment. **EP**



US DOE to Invest \$112.5m to Promote Wave Energy

The US Department of Energy (DOE) says that it will fund up to \$112.5 million to promote and commercialize wave-created power in what it describes as "its largest-ever investment in marine energy."

This five-year investment will significantly accelerate the design, fabrication, and testing of multiple wave energy converters (WECs), which harness power from ocean waves.

The DOE says that if even a portion of this technical resource potential is captured, wave energy technologies would make significant contributions



to US energy needs by powering American electric grids and at-sea activities.

Administered by the Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO), this investment is designed to support the development and testing of WECs to provide power for at-sea applications, such as ocean observation, aquaculture, and marine carbon dioxide removal.

Coastal community needs, such as power and clean drinking water production.

WECs with utility applications may be tested at PacWave South, the first pre-permitted, grid-connected test facility for wave energy technologies in the continental United States that is expected to be operational next year. **EP**



Dhaka Hopes COP29 will Deliver Concrete Progress on Materializing Financing Commitments

He raised concerns about human mobility as a major climate challenge.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is likely to attend the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan next month, a senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told UNB.

COP, which stands for Conference of Parties, is the series of formal meetings of the Conference of Parties, where governments assess global efforts to advance the Paris Agreement and the Convention, also limit global warming to 1.5°C as informed by the latest science.

At COPs, world leaders come together to measure progress and negotiate the best ways to address climate change. There are now 198 Parties (197 countries plus the European Union) to the Convention, constituting near universal membership. The next Conference will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin has expressed hope that COP29 will deliver concrete progress on materializing international climate financing commitments.

In a meeting with Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to UN Chief Antonio Guterres and ASG for Climate Action at UN, the foreign secretary highlighted Bangladesh's continued leadership on Climate Adaptation.

"Being elected by unanimous decision as the host country for COP29 is really a big honour for us. We consider it as a sign of respect from the international community to Azerbaijan and what we are doing, in particular, in the area of green energy," said Ilham Aliyev, president of the Republic of Azerbaijan. **EP**

Azerbaijan Fails to Mention Fossil Fuels at UNGA Speech



Nations General Assembly and outlined a few critical COP29 outcomes. 350.org recognizes and welcomes the mention of the need for a renewable energy uptake and the delivery of a fair and ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) at COP29, but expresses concern over Azerbaijan's continued pattern of not mentioning 'transitioning away from fossil fuels'.

In addition, Bayramov repeated its pledge to a fund for climate action, a mere distraction and greenwashing attempt as long as contributing companies continue to expand fossil fuel production.

Andreas Sieber, 350.org Associate Director of Policy and Campaigns says: "While Azerbaijan mentioned the need for a fair NCQG agreement at COP29, it is deeply troubling that phasing out fossil fuels was completely absent from the speech. This has become a worrisome pattern. If Azerbaijan is really 'ready to lead in the climate crisis', why is it not mentioning how it will stop its main cause: burning oil, gas and coal?"

COP29 Host Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jeyhun Bayramov, spoke recently at the 79th United

EP



Incoming Presidency Formulates COP 29 Action Agenda, Reveals Initiatives



Through its initiatives, the Presidency endeavors to “address all climate pillars, involve global, regional, national and subnational groups, take a holistic view of sustainable development, and include all demographics within an inclusive

process that delivers inclusive outcomes.

The idea is to bring stakeholders together to raise their levels of commitment and to develop efficiencies and synergies, informed by the first Global Stocktake, among other milestones.

In a letter to parties, UNFCCC COP 29 President Designate Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan’s Minister of Ecology and Natural

Resources, outlined initiatives, platforms, campaigns, and outcomes that will shape the ‘COP 29 Action Agenda’ – a “collective global effort” that seeks “to build momentum to enhance ambition and enable action

and move forward in solidarity for a green world.”

Dated 17 September 2024, the letter states that through its initiatives, the Presidency endeavors to “address all climate pillars, involve global, regional, national and subnational groups, take a holistic view of sustainable development, and include all demographics within an inclusive process that delivers inclusive outcomes.”

The idea is to bring stakeholders together to raise their levels of commitment and to develop efficiencies and synergies, informed by the first Global Stocktake (GST), among other milestones.

The 20-page letter includes 16 annexes summarizing the Presidency’s initiatives and anticipated outcomes and outlining the COP 29 agenda and thematic days. **EP**

Deal on Climate Aid Hangs in Balance at UN COP29 Summit



Nations remain in deadlock over a crucial pact on climate aid, with divisions over who pays, and how much, threatening chances of a deal being landed at next month's COP29 summit.

The UN conference starts just six

days after the US election and the possible return of Donald Trump -- who pulled the United States out of the Paris climate agreement -- looms over the negotiations.

World leaders will attend a two-day gathering at the opening of the summit in Azerbaijan, which faces scrutiny as the latest petrostate with limited tolerance for dissent to host the preeminent annual climate talks.

Organizers say over 50,000 attendees are expected between November 11-22 in the capital Baku.

COP29 has been dubbed a “finance COP” because rich countries most

responsible for global warming are supposed to commit to substantially increasing their assistance to poorer countries for climate action.

The current amount of \$100 billion a year expires in 2025 and is considered well below what developing nations need.

But major donors, including the European Union and United States, have still not said how much they are willing to pay, resisting pressure to put even a ballpark figure on the table.

They are being urged to turn billions into trillions at COP29, but the appeal for vast new sums of government money comes at a time of political and economic uncertainty for many donors. **EP**

Yunus for Operationalizing 'Loss and Damage Fund' to Address Climate Change



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has urged the world community to make the 'Loss and Damage Fund' operational with additional financing aiming to deal with the adverse impacts of global climate change.

He came up with the suggestion in his speech at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

"Climate change poses existential threats to us all. The record-breaking heatwave this summer starkly reminded the world of the climate-induced changes," he told the UNGA session while delivering his speech in Bangla.

"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 a most devastating flood in their living memory, in eastern Bangladesh," the chief adviser said. **EP**

Climate Change: 17% of Bangladesh's Territory to Submerge by 2050



Bangladesh has ranked 9th worldwide among countries at the highest risk of climate-induced disasters and 17 percent of Bangladesh's territory will

be submerged by rising sea levels by 2050.

This will compel coastal communities to migrate into cities, where they are likely to be subjected to poor living conditions and unemployment, according to a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report.

It said Bangladesh has the

Govt, Media Must Work Together to Combat Air, Water and Noise Pollution: Rizwana

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Advisor Syeda Rizwana Hasan emphasized the need for the government, media, and the public to work collectively to combat air, water, and noise pollution, as well as to address the adverse effects of climate change.

She stated, "The government has taken various steps to protect the environment. However, enforcing laws alone is not enough to control pollution. Public participation is crucial."

She also urged journalists to



play a more active role in raising public awareness about pollution control.

The environment advisor made these remarks during a discussion with members of the Bangladesh Climate Change Journalists Forum held recently at the ministry's conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat. **EP**

5th largest population in the Asia and the Pacific region and ranks 9th worldwide among countries at the highest risk of climate-induced disasters such as including tropical cyclones, tornadoes, floods, coastal and riverbank erosion, droughts, and landslides.

It is estimated that by 2050, 17 percent of Bangladesh's territory will be submerged by rising sea levels, resulting in a loss of 30 percent of the country's agricultural land. This will compel coastal communities to migrate into cities, where they are likely to be subjected to poor living conditions and unemployment, reads the ILO report released on 30 Sept.

"As the effects of climate change are increasingly felt in Bangladesh, social

protection gains greater importance for building resilience in the face of flooding, heat waves, and other natural disasters. Properly designed and funded effective social protection systems can greatly soften the adverse impacts of climate change, facilitate just transition and provide income protection for those impacted," said Tuomo Poutiainen, ILO Country Director for Bangladesh.

While Bangladesh has had a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) since 2015, it is yet to institutionalize social protection systems that can address sudden climate-induced shocks and the long-term benefits of a comprehensive social protection system, the report added. **EP**

Rizwana Directs DCs, Police to Check Polythene Use



Syedra Rizwana Hasan, Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently asked local administrations and police to take effective steps to prevent the use of banned polythene.

She came up with the directives while addressing all Divisional Commissioners (DCs), Deputy Inspector Generals (DIGs) of Police, Police Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Superintendents of Police at

a meeting held at the ministry's conference room.

The adviser provided guidance on banning plastic polythene and polypropylene bags during the meeting,

where the officials joined online.

She said from October 1, drives to stop polythene use would begin in superstores, while 10 kitchen markets in Dhaka from November 1.

However, she said a nationwide crackdown on polythene manufacturers will start from November 1.

Rizwana called upon all concerned to provide all out cooperation to the administrative efforts in this regard. **EP**

UN Warns World's Water Cycle Becoming More Unpredictable



"Water is the canary in the coalmine of climate change," WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said in a statement

accompanying the State of Global Water Resources Report.

Increasingly intense floods and droughts are a "distress signal" of what is to come as climate change makes the planet's water cycle ever more unpredictable, the United Nations said recently.

Last year the world's rivers were their driest for more than 30 years, glaciers suffered their largest loss of mass in half a century and there were also a "significant" number of floods, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in a report.

"We receive distress signals in the form of increasingly extreme rainfall, floods and droughts which wreak a heavy toll on lives, ecosystems and economies," she said.

Saulo said the heating up of Earth's atmosphere had made the water cycle "more erratic and unpredictable, and we are facing growing problems of either too much or too little water". **EP**

G20: Key Role of Energy Planning to Drive Just Transition Investment in Global South

Current global investment not only suffers from significant disparities between advanced economies and emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), but also with group of EMDEs, new IRENA reports commissioned by Brazil's G20 presidency find.

To propel a just and inclusive transition in the Global South, investment challenges must be addressed through risk mitigation instruments and a strong leveraging of public resources. Effective national energy planning is one of the key enablers that help reduce overall risks and uncertainties, as to IRENA.

In many developing countries, cost-effective renewables offer greater social justice in the form of jobs and economic growth and help address deficits in access to electricity and clean



cooking technologies.

A just and inclusive energy transition in emerging markets and developing economies: Energy planning, financing, sustainable fuels and social dimensions, highlights the significant role of G20 in scaling investments to meet the growing energy demand with renewables and fully harness their social dividend.

Development banks and energy planning: Attracting private investment for the energy transition; the Brazilian case, jointly done with the Brazilian Development Bank, showcases how energy planning can unlock investment. **EP**

UK Announces £22b for Carbon Capture Projects

The UK government recently announced investment of nearly 22 billion (\$28.8 billion) in projects to capture and store carbon emissions created by industry and energy production. The money will fund "carbon capture clusters" in Merseyside, northwest England, and Teesside, northeast England.

The new Labour government has launched a new public-owned body, Great British Energy, to spur investment in domestic renewable projects and quicken the pace of the move to cleaner power.

It hopes the new projects will create 4,000 jobs and support another 50,000 over the next 25 years and help the UK meet its climate targets by removing 8.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the projects were "reigniting our industrial heartlands by investing in the industry of the future". Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) is a technology that seeks to eliminate emissions created by burning fuels for energy and from industrial processes. **EP**

Govt Mulls Blue Network Using Dhaka's Canals: Rizwana



Water Resources Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has said the government plans to create a blue network using Dhaka's canals.

"The network will be established through the canals that are still possible to be recovered," he told a workshop at the Forest Department in the capital.

The Center for Environmen-

tal and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) arranged the workshop titled "Spatial and Temporal Changes in Dhaka City's Urban Ecosystem, Landscape and Biodiversity over the Past 100 Years and

Formulation of Strategic Action Plan".

Speaking as the chief guest, Rizwana said Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) should conduct weekly operations to recover occupied city canals.

She warned that no misdeed should be legitimized and eviction drives should be intensified if necessary. **EP**

SDG 7 Action Forum "Energizes" Sustainable Development



The climate crisis, ongoing conflicts, and a constrained global economic outlook have compounded the "fragility of past hard-earned progress" on the SDGs.

While there is still time to realize SDG 7, "efforts must be ramped up and accelerated as energy is critical for meeting the rest of the SDGs, as well as the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

A multi-stakeholder forum brought together decision makers and practitioners in support of "driving momentum and mobilizing action"

to achieve SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) by 2030. The ENERGYNOW SDG7 Action Forum 2024 showcased the Energy Compacts – voluntary, trackable commitments designed to incentivize energy action in line with net-zero goals.

The Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) summary report of the meeting notes that USD 1.4 trillion in investment has been committed to date to over 200 Energy Compacts.

Setting the scene, the ENB report notes that participants acknowledged the role of the climate crisis, ongoing conflicts, and a constrained global economic outlook in compounding the "fragility of past hard-earned progress" on the SDGs. **EP**

China Needs 'Ambitious' Climate Goals to Meet Commitments: Report

China should set a "strong but achievable" target of slashing emissions at least 30 percent by 2035 when it submits updated climate commitments in coming months, a report urged recently.



Signatories to the 2015 Paris climate accord must announce by next February their updated roadmaps to achieve the treaty's goal of limiting global temperature rises.

China currently aims to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

But its policies and targets are rated "highly insufficient" to limit global warming to 1.5 Celcius above pre-industrial levels, according to the Climate Action Tracker project.

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA),

a think tank that tracks climate progress, said Beijing should aim for an absolute emissions reduction target of 30 percent.

As the world's largest emitter, China's "ambition in its climate agenda is decisive for keeping the international community on track," CREA said in a report.

To meet that target, Beijing would need to slash electricity sector emissions by 30 percent and emissions from industry by a quarter. It should also set a target of reducing non-CO2 emissions by more than 35 percent, the group said. **EP**

EBL-German Embassy Partner to Promote Climate Action

Eastern Bank PLC and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany have entered into a partnership to collaborate on the EBL Climate Change Action Award. The award will be announced annually with the aim of recognizing and celebrating the best practices by local corporations, manufacturing companies, NGOs, and climate activists who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in implementing climate projects and initiatives.

The joint declaration of intent was signed by German Ambassador Achim Truster and Managing Director of



EBL Ali Reza Iftekhar at the Embassy recently.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Truster said mitigating climate change and adapting to it can only work if governments, private sector and civil society work hand in hand.

This effort needs leadership, innovation and mutual learning by all actors, he said. **EP**



Farid Hossain

YUNUS-LED GOVT INTENSIFIES FOCUS ON REFORMING STATE INSTITUTIONS

Since taking over the interim government, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and his advisers have focused on two major tasks: tackling the post-Hasina law and order situation and the reforms in the key institutions. Despite intensified efforts the law and order is still far from satisfactory. The authorities struggled to bring the RMG workers' unrest in Ashulia and Gazipur. Roadblocks staged by workers to press home more than a dozen demands, including clearance of wages backlogs, had caused enough of a headache for the interim government. Though the situation seems to have come under control it is still unclear how long the truce will last. Amid the low morale of a highly traumatized police force, Prof Yunus had to arm the army commanders with the magistracy power that would enable them to arrest troublemakers on the spot without waiting for a magistrate to arrive and make a move. That magistracy power seems to have little impact on the situation. The army-led joint forces preferred persuasion in their approach to resolve any trouble.

Critics, however, feel the interim government should have gone hard on the troublemakers.

Regarding the reforms, Prof Yunus has already formed six commissions to recommend reform measures for the constitution, judiciary, police, public administration, and the Election Commission. The initial controversy over the choice of the head of the commission on the constitution seems to have ended though question remains on the selection of the members. Many in Bangladesh are not aware of the background of the members and their ability to carry out such an important task. Questions apart, it is hoped that the commissions will not fail in fulfilling their tasks. The start has, however, been late. Not all the commissions could start working on the first of October. They are tasked to submit their reports by the end of December. The reports will be discussed in detail with the political parties, civil society members, and a cross-section of people before these take any final shape. The work of the

commissions is part of the roadmap the Yunus-led government has charted in its other critical mission of holding a free, fair, and participatory general election.

Meanwhile, on October 5, Prof Yunus and some of his advisers held another round of talks with the major political parties, including BNP and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. He plans to meet leaders of several more parties to discuss his reform agenda on October 19. The question as to when the reforms will be completed and national elections be held also came up during the dialogue held separately by BNP, Jamaat, Ganatantra Mancha, Left Democratic Alliance, Hefazat-e-Islami, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and Amar Bangladesh Party.

It appears that all political parties agree on the need for undertaking major reforms to make democracy sustainable and keep enough safeguards against the return of authoritarian rule where all powers concentrate on one hand. But parties like the BNP want the reforms to go hand in hand with the interim government's preparation to hold the next election. BNP is willing to let Prof Yunus reasonable time for the vital reforms before holding a genuinely free and fair voting. How long? And what constitutes a reasonable time? One year? 18 months? Longer even? The army chief's suggestion of holding the polls in 18 months also caused some ripples among the political circle. Prof Yunus and his advisers are yet to be ready to provide a timetable for the polls. In a recent interview, he said the council of advisers has not yet discussed any timeframe for the vote. **EP**



PRIDE IN
BANGLADESHI
INFRASTRUCTURE



CIL PRODUCTS

STEEL

- | STEEL POLE
- | STREET LIGHT POLE
- | TRANSMISSION TOWER
- | TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER
- | PRE ENGINEERED BUILDING/STRUCTURES
- | HARDWARE AND POLE FITTINGS
- | STEEL BRIDGE

TRANSFORMERS

- | SINGLE PHASE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER
- | THREE PHASE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER
- | THREE PHASE POWER TRANSFORMER

GEO TEXTILES

- | GEOBAGS
- | GEOMATS
- | GEOTUBES

PRECAST

- | SPC POLE
- | SPC PILE
- | RAILWAY SLIPPERS

CIL SERVICES

RIVER DREDGING

RIVER BANK PROTECTION

EPC (ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION)

No Unreasonable Cost To Be Considered For Fixing Tariff

The BERC Act embodies everything to create a fair ambience of competition for all parties and protect the rights of the consumers. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) could not yet formulate all rules and procedures for enforcement and compliance. Actions have been launched now for doing these. It is expected that BERC will soon be able to determine prices of all primary fuel fairly and transparently. BERC will also conduct a mobile court to ensure compliance. No unreasonable expenditure will be considered while fixing the prices. The profit margin will be determined based on equity and justice.

Jalal Ahmed, newly appointed Chairman, BERC said this in an exclusive interview with **Mollah Amzad Hossain**, Editor of Energy & Power.

BERC has already passed 20 years of its existence. How much could it justify its creation during this period?

It achieved partial success. BERC started operation in 2004 though the BERC Act was passed in the parliament in 2003. It started making small steps later during the tenure of former secretary Golam Rahman as Chairman of BERC. It started developing into a competent institution through its actions for determining prices of electricity, LPG, and Natural Gas. It started developing consumers' confidence by determining tariffs and prices through public hearings. However, its journey towards a functional authority was severely impacted by the actions of the previous government that amended the BERC act to curtail its sole authority of determining prices. The interim government has already reinstated the

authority of BERC by rescinding the amendment of the BERC Act. At the same time, BERC has been given the authority to fix the price of furnace oil and jet fuel. We hope that alongside protecting the rights of the consumers and ensuring transparency in determining fairly the power tariff and fuel prices, the BERC would work for a healthy competitive ambience for investment in the energy sector.

Do you think the BERC Act has required provisions for operating as an independent organization like other countries of the world? Do you think some amendments are required for this?

BERC Act has the required provisions for its operation as an independent authority. However, all regulations and procedures need formulation, and competent human capital needs to be engaged to ensure enforcement and compliance by the licensees. The absence of required regulations for determining the prices of petroleum products impedes fixing the prices of petroleum through conducting public hearings. BERC sent the draft act to EMRD in 2012 and 2023. Unfortunately, those files cannot be traced there now. Three draft regulations have now been sent to EMRD after my joining BERC. These regulations will be let into the public domain after vetting by the Ministry of Law. There will be no issues for BERC in determining the prices of petroleum products after that. The work on engagement of members of BERC is in progress. Hopefully, these will be done within October 2024. That will enable BERC to start working as a fully independent organization at full strength.



Jalal Ahmed

We have quite a few challenges. The power tariff cannot be adjusted soon. There is a huge difference between the cost of generation and the selling price. BERC, after preparing a strategy for minimizing the difference will move forward to EMRD. There are many challenges in making the liquid fuel price market-based.

BERC is supposed to protect the interest of consumers alongside ensuring transparent business operation of the licensees and creating a level playground for the public and private sector companies. Do you think BERC could establish its image as a consumer-friendly organization within two decades of its operation?

Please note that there are some administrative roadblocks in enforcing the BERC Act to make it consumer-friendly. To become consumer-friendly, BERC needs to determine the breach of acts by the licensees and award of punishment. BERC is required to

conduct mobile courts for this. The provisions of the BERC Act need to be included and attached to the schedule of mobile courts of the Ministry of Home. We will soon take that initiative. That will create enabling opportunities for the BERC to enforce the directives given by BERC to the licensees for compliance during the determination of tariffs and prices. Mobile courts can monitor and administer.

On the other hand, transparency and accountability of the licensees can be established through taking on board the views and opinions of the representatives of consumers and consumer rights protection organizations. We have started preparing for that.

BERC is determining power tariffs and prices of LPG and natural gas through public hearings. EMRD is still not fixing the price of other petroleum products. The authority to determine prices of all fuel must be vested in BERC. Is there any scope for limiting high expenditures? Power tariffs and the price of gas have increased manifold over the past two decades. Consumer rights organizations and civil society allege that irregularities and corruption are mainly responsible for the repeated price increase. Will BERC take note of these?

Limiting power tariffs and the price of gas to affordable limits is a huge challenge. IMF officials at a meeting with us suggested the withdrawal of subsidies completely from the electricity and fuel sector. BERC will investigate the reasons why power tariffs and fuel prices are increasing repeatedly. For example, the present average power demand is 15,000 MW. But grid-connected power generation capacity is 28,000 MW. Consequently, the idle generation capacity is contributing to the increased cost of generation. The cost of Barapukuria coal is higher than imported coal. However, the power price of Adani Group, Payra Power Plant, and Bashkhali Power Plant of S Alam Group is higher than Barapukuria. We will

investigate these. There is a crisis in fuel supply. Greater benefits could be derived if gas available now could preferably be supplied to fuel-efficient gas-based power plants. While determining power tariffs, BERC will consider all of the above.

Due to flawed planning, the supply of local gas is progressively reducing. Exploration for own gas was not done even after completing seismic surveys and identifying structures. Required FDI could not be attracted. After 1998 no large gas discovery could be made. BAPEX alone policy also failed to deliver. Financial obligations have been created at the Khulna power hub for the gas supply crisis. Required actions must be taken on a top priority basis for transmission of Bhola gas to Khulna.

All-out endeavors must continue to attract FDI for offshore exploration. The present government does not want to increase the prices of electricity and gas. But if the licensees come to us for a price adjustment, we will review that by conducting a public hearing. However, BERC will examine how subsidies can be reduced and how costs and expenditures can be minimized to a reasonable level.

There is a demand from the Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB) for operating the business of public sector power and energy companies at no loss no profit basis. Their demand does not consider the profit margins of these companies by BERC during price determination. What are your views about such demand?

There are two dimensions of this demand. How tariff will be adjusted if public sector companies run their business on a no-profit basis? There is nothing wrong with public sector companies operating their commercial business and earning reasonable profits. A crisis is created when companies earn windfall profits in non-transparent and illegal ways making consumers hostages. BERC through intensive monitoring will try to ensure that this does not happen. I was present as

Chairman Petrobangla in 2007-09 in the BERC-conducted public hearing when the price adjustment proposal for gas was being reviewed. With the increase in the contribution of imported LNG to negate the impact of depleting gas production from domestic gas fields, there was no option but to adjust gas prices when required.

It requires you to bear in mind that the profit the companies earn is preserved in the government treasury. The state uses this for other development activities. But we need to be careful in ensuring that company officials do not take illegal benefits from the company-earned profits. The Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has taken an appropriate decision reviewing all pros and cons of the matter.

BERC will be proactive now. We will thoroughly examine the justification for investment and expenditure while considering and determining price adjustments. We will scrutinize whether the cost increase emanated from flawed planning.

BERC created the Gas Development Fund (GDF) and Maintenance Fund for power plants. There are credible allegations that these funds have been used for other purposes. CAB has termed this as a bluff to the consumers. What is your opinion?

I will not term it a bluff or jugglery. These are tough allegations. It was justified in using these funds appropriately solely for the causes it was created. The delays in developing policies by BERC for utilizing the fund led to EMRD using the fund for other purposes. EMRD should have used it more appropriately. We should more carefully examine whether investments made for LNG import, unnecessary expansion of gas transmission network, and power plant construction were at all justified. This time we will develop a clear guideline about utilization of the fund in a justified manner.

What are the present and future challenges of BERC? How are you preparing to meet those challenges?

We have quite a few challenges. The power tariff cannot be adjusted soon. There is a huge difference between the cost of generation and the selling price. BERC, after preparing a strategy for minimizing the difference will move forward to EMRD. There are many challenges in making the liquid fuel price market-based. Diesel is the main fuel used widely used in Bangladesh. Can the users absorb the price shock if it is made market-based? We must bear in mind smuggling across porous borders if our price is cheaper than that of India. These are major challenges. EMRD, after taking over the responsibility of setting prices of gas through the amendment of BERC ACT has significantly increased the price of gas for industries and captive power. Stakeholders did not have any opportunity to share their views about the logic for the increase. In the changed circumstances, it will

be a huge challenge for BERC to take on board the views and opinions of different stakeholders during price determination.

BERC could not engage the required human capital essential for covering all activities under its scope. What type of actions you are planning for engaging the required manpower?

The present organogram of BERC does not have scope for the engagement of required manpower. We are working with 82 people only. We are preparing an updated organogram proposing the engagement of another 62 additional manpower. We need to recruit qualified manpower and enhance their competence through appropriate human resource development initiatives. We need to ensure that, we do not run short of the required numbers of competent human resources for managing our assigned responsibilities in the energy, power, and LPG sectors. We will also develop networks with regulatory commissions of other countries doing like-for-like

similar works. We can learn from the experience of other countries how to deal with challenging circumstances.

Regulatory commissions in other countries are working for the expansion of renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency. Has BERC started doing that? What are your views about assisting the energy transition?

Energy transition is a priority of BERC in the changed world order. SREDA is working on this. But we will take the initiative for the efficient use of primary fuel. We will encourage the initiative for priority use of gas in higher fuel efficiency power plants. We will try auditing the energy conservation and energy efficiency of all licensees.

But we must bear in mind that all actions so far in Bangladesh for expanding RE are single-dimensional - solar only. There are a few challenges. It is extremely difficult to achieve a 40% contribution of RE or even clean energy by 2041 overcoming all challenges. **EP**

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রঙ বিরঙ

কোরবানির পশু বিকিকিনি শুরু

বেনজীর কি দুর্নীতির বরপত্র নাকি প্রতীকী চরিত্র?

যোগাযোগ

আরিফুল ইসলাম ০১৭২৫ ৫৮৩০৮৫
 মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০১
 E-mail: rangberang2020@gmail.com

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

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Payra 1320 MW TPP

1ST Ultra Super Critical Power Plant of Bangladesh

- ✓ Plant Capacity - 1320MW (2 X 660 MW)
- ✓ Boiler Technology - Ultra-Super Critical
27 MPa / 600 / 610 c
- ✓ Heat Rate - 8746.35 kJ/kWh
@Full load
- ✓ Primary Fuel - Sub - Bituminous/
Bituminous Coal
- ✓ Coal Supplier - (1) PT Bayan Resources Tbk
(2) PT Multi Harapan Utama
- ✓ Coal Transporter - Oldendorff, Germany
- ✓ Commercial Operation Date - 15 May, 2020 (Unit - 1)
8 Dec, 2020 (Unit - 2)
- ✓ Shareholding Structure of BCPCL - NWPGL : 50%
CMC : 50%

Grand Opening

of

Payra 1320 MW TPP (1st Phase)
21st March, 2022

Eco Friendly Features

- ✓ Flue Gas Desulfurizer (FGD) with
93% efficiency to capture SO_x
- ✓ Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) with
99.60% efficiency to capture ash
- ✓ Low NO_x Burner
- ✓ 220 meter Chimney
- ✓ Covered Coal Dome
- ✓ Covered Coal Conveying System



Contribution to National Grid

About **10%** currently

Facilities at Resettlement Area

- ✓ Technical School with a big playground
- ✓ Multiple Foreign Language Training Facility at BCTI
- ✓ Mosque & Graveyard
- ✓ Tube-well- 48 (Forty-Eight) nos.
- ✓ Pond- 02 (Two) nos.
- ✓ Community Centre & Health Clinic



BANGLADESH-CHINA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

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

(A Joint Venture of NWPGL and CMC)

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