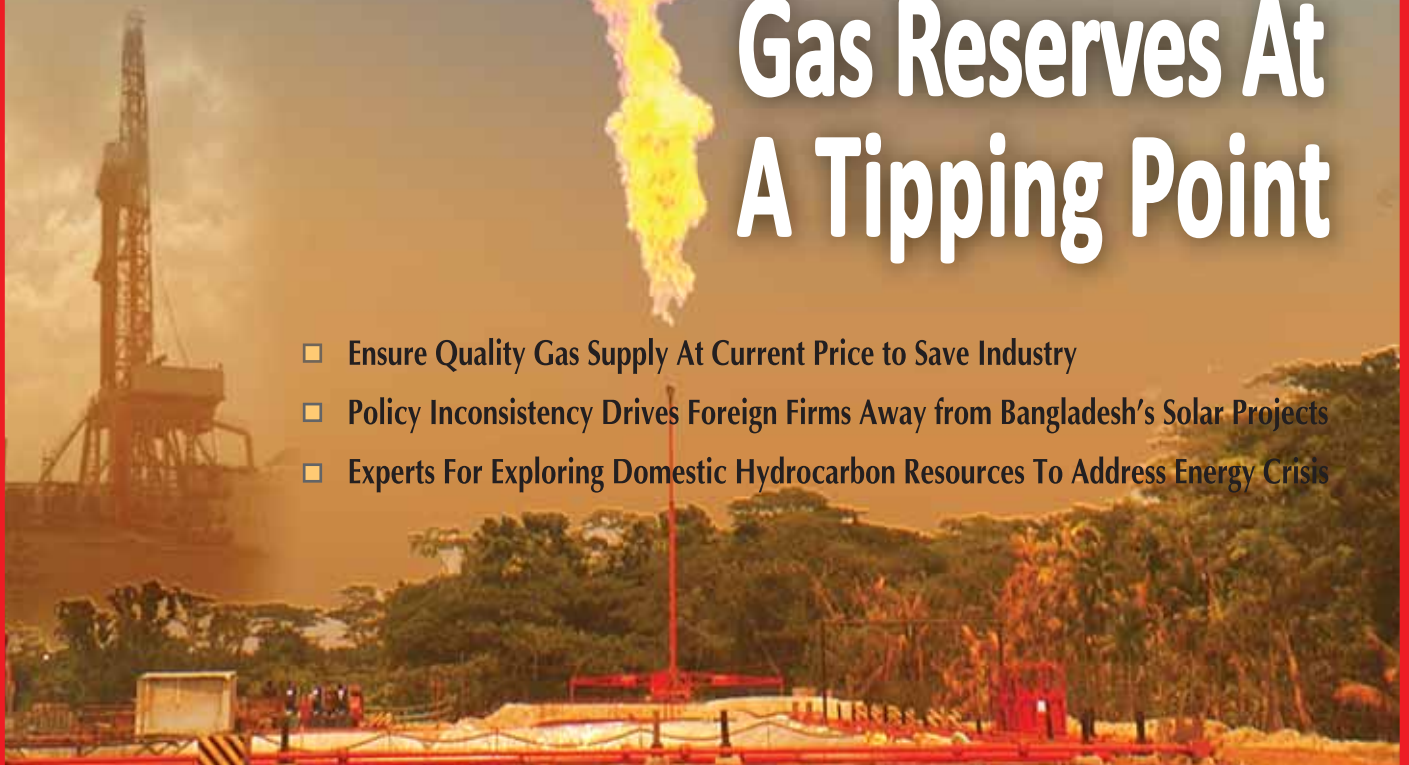


# ENERGY & POWER



## Gas Reserves At A Tipping Point

- ❑ Ensure Quality Gas Supply At Current Price to Save Industry
- ❑ Policy Inconsistency Drives Foreign Firms Away from Bangladesh's Solar Projects
- ❑ Experts For Exploring Domestic Hydrocarbon Resources To Address Energy Crisis





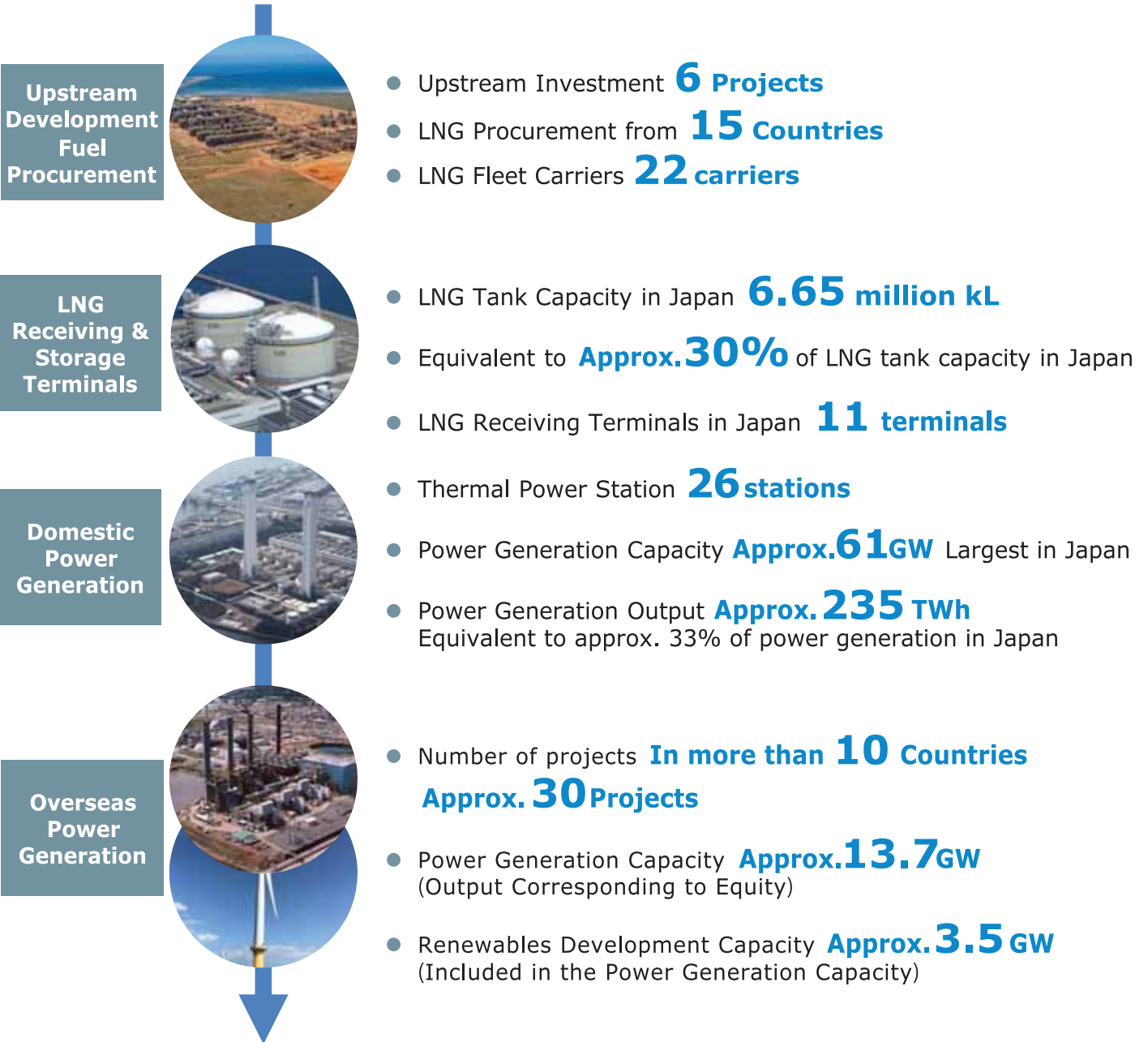
# JERA MEGHNAGHAT POWER LIMITED



718MW CCPP at Meghnaghat, Narayanganj – largest gas based IPP in Bangladesh

## About JERA

Japan's largest power generation company, producing about 30% of the Japan's electricity



### Mission

To provide cutting edge solutions to the world's energy issues

### 2035 Vision

Clean energy platform of renewables and low greenhouse gas thermal power

Goal: Zero CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2050





EARTHING & LIGHTNING PROTECTION

# FurseCEM™ earth electrode backfill

A reliable solution for lowering resistance to earth



Certain ground conditions make it difficult to obtain a very low earth resistance, which can be required for some particular installations.

For such cases, FurseCEM™ provides a convenient and permanent solution.

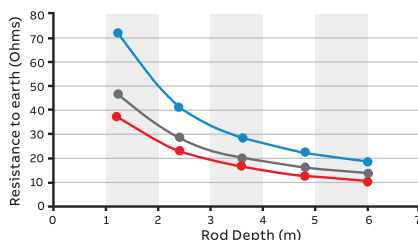


By adding FurseCEM™ in place of sand and aggregate to cement, a conductive concrete is formed. This enables this electrically conductive concrete to be used in many earthing applications, but it is primarily used within power generation and distribution, rail, underground and transport networks, telecommunication sites and defence facilities.

When used as a backfill for an earth electrode, FurseCEM™ will reduce its resistance to earth by greatly increasing the electrode's surface area and therefore improving its contact with the surrounding soil. For example, increasing the effective diameter of a rod from typically 15 mm to 200 mm, could lower its resistance to earth by as much as 50% (see graph).



Resistance versus diameter



Rod only ———●  
 Ø 100mm backfill ———●  
 Ø 200mm backfill ———●  
 Note: Based on 100 Ohm metre soil

**Features and benefits:**

- **Tested to industry standard**  
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- **Permanent earth reading**  
Resistivity that will remain constant over the life of the installation with no maintenance needed
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FurseCEM™ will not shrink or expand, thus maintaining constant contact between the earth electrode and the soil
- **Cost-effective**  
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Allows for quick and easy installation
- **Mechanical strength**  
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# North-West Power Generation Company Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

## Market Share

- ✓ 3131 MW generation capacity.
- ✓ Highest among all govt. companies.

10  
Power Plants  
Total: 3131 MW

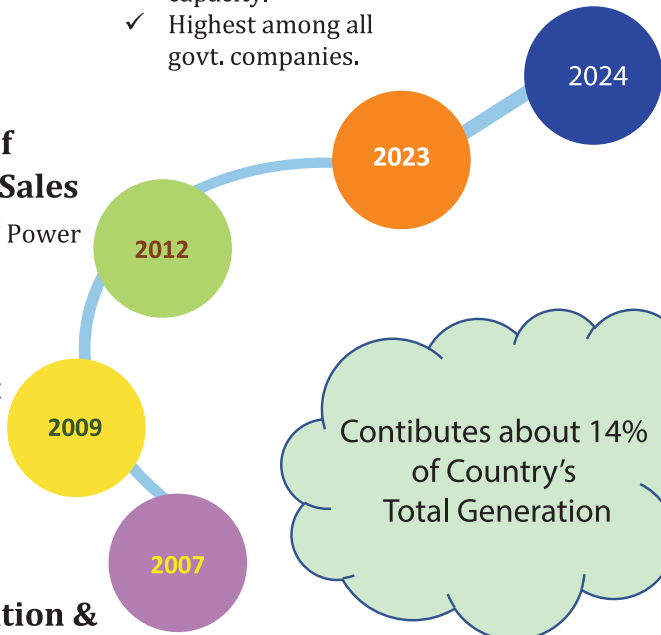
## Start of Electricity Sales

- ✓ COD of 1<sup>st</sup> Power Plant

## Commencement of Business

- ✓ Started with 02 development projects.

## Registration & Incorporation



Contributes about 14% of Country's Total Generation



# NWPGCL

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Power Plants of NWPGCL & its JVC



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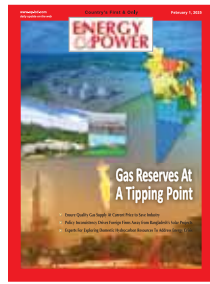
Circulation Assistant  
Harunur Rashid

#### Editorial, News & Commercial

Room 509, Eastern Trade Center  
56 Inner Circular Road (VIP Road)  
Naya Paltan. GPO Box : 677  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Tel & Fax : 88-02-58314532  
Email: ep@dhaka.net  
energypower@gmail.com  
Website: www.ep-bd.com

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## EDITORIAL

Bangladesh is facing a growing energy crisis as domestic gas reserves continue to decline while demand rises. With no immediate infrastructure to expand LNG imports, the country is struggling to bridge the supply gap. Plans for a third FSRU and other RLNG import initiatives have been canceled or stalled, making the situation even more challenging. Since 2018, local gas production has been decreasing, with only limited discoveries—mostly in Bhola, which isn't connected to the national grid. Currently, maintaining production at around 2,000 MMCFD is proving difficult. Recent data from Petrobangla shows that on January 27–28, 2025, the total gas supply reached 2,736.3 MMCFD, including 813.3 MMCFD from imported LNG. However, the deficit still exceeded 1,200 MMCFD. The country has just 7.6 Tcf of proven gas reserves left, having consumed 14 Tcf over the past 24 years while adding only 2 Tcf in discoveries. To address this, Petrobangla has launched a competitive bidding process for exploration. The 50-well drilling program now requires more time, pushing completion to June 2026, while a 100-well program is set to begin the same year. Experts believe that if both programs are completed by 2028, production could stabilize at 1,800–2,000 MMCFD.

## highlights

## COVER



37

Businesses accepted the gas price hikes during the former government's regime due to the assurance of quality gas supply. The industry paid a higher price, but the government failed to ensure a quality gas supply. The interim government plans to increase the gas prices again. Many industries have already closed business while many others have grown sick. ... Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury tells EP



19

Speakers agreed that adopting and executing appropriate plans for exploring and exploiting our petroleum resources must be the top national objective now for achieving sustainable energy security. Petrobangla and its companies must engage qualified and competent technical resources and provide them with the right compensation for retaining them. ...More in EP Special



9

The fast depletion of domestic natural gas reserves continues unabated amid growing demand for the fuel. To offset the supply deficit, LNG imports cannot be increased in the next 2-3 years due to the absence of required infrastructure. As a result, maintaining output from the domestic gas fields at the current level of around 2,000 MMCFD is a major challenge.



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# Greenpage

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

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Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury, Managing Director of Evince Group and President of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI)

## Global Electric Car Sales Rise by 25% in 2024



cars, with 11 million sold, an increase of 40 percent from 2023.

In Europe (including Britain, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland), sales

Electric car sales rose by 25 percent globally last year, surging in China but slowing in Europe, according to figures published recently by the British consultancy Rho Motion.

A record 17.1 million battery electric vehicles (excluding plug-in hybrids) were sold last year across the world, according to figures compiled by the firm.

China pulled further ahead as the world's leading market for electric

slipped by three percent to three million vehicles after four years of strong growth. In an overall declining market in Europe, hybrids took the largest market share at the expense of petrol and diesel vehicles.

The end of state financial purchase incentives to consumers penalized sales in Germany last year, while they jumped by 21.4 percent in Britain, which became Europe's top market for electric vehicles, due in part to sales objectives imposed on carmakers.

## IEA Forecasts Record Nuclear Electricity Production in 2025



construction worldwide -- one of the highest levels in 30 years.

It is forecast that electricity produced by nuclear power in 2025 would reach 2,900 terawatt hours.

Nuclear-powered electricity generation is set to hit a record level in 2025, accounting for nearly 10 percent of global production, the International Energy Agency forecast recently.

The leading energy monitor said in a report that 70 gigawatts of new generating capacity were under

The IEA's executive director Fatih Birol said it was a "new era for nuclear energy" with the highest nuclear-powered electricity production in history.

He said the rise was driven by demand to power technologies such as artificial intelligence and data centers.

## Exxon Mobil Discovers Gas Offshore Egypt

Exxon Mobil Egypt (Upstream) Ltd. has completed the drilling of the Nefertari 1 well in the North Marakia Block with the Valaris DS-9 drillship, the company posted on its LinkedIn recently.



Gas-bearing reservoirs were encountered, and Exxon Mobil says it will continue to evaluate the results.

Qatar Energy is a partner in the North Marakia block, which is operated by Exxon Mobil.

## Petronas Plans Platform Complex for Hidayah Oil Project Offshore Indonesia

Petronas subsidiary PC North Madura II has committed to develop the Hidayah oil field in the North Madura II contract area offshore East Java, Indonesia.

The plan calls for an

unmanned integrated wellhead and central processing platform, and a floating storage and offloading (FSO) unit with living quarters and a central control room.

## Chevron Names Laura Lane as New VP

Chevron Corp. has appointed Laura Lane as its new Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, effective February 1, 2025. The company said in a media release that Lane will oversee its government affairs, communications, and social investment activities.



Chevron stated that Lane will be based in Houston and is taking the spot over from Al Williams, who is retiring in April, having served the company for 34 years.

"Laura's background in both the private and public sectors, her proven leadership in complex global organizations

and experience working in diverse geographic locations make her well-suited to lead Chevron's global corporate affairs activities", Mike Wirth, Chairman and CEO, said.

"I'm grateful to Al for the contributions he's made to Chevron's success over the course of his career", Wirth added. "Al has been an accomplished leader in Upstream, Downstream, Midstream, and as a corporate officer.



## Plastic Goods Makers, Exporters Want Gas Prices at Tk30 per Unit



country," said Samim Ahmed, president of the BPGMEA, at a press conference held in the capital on 12 January.

The Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPGMEA) has called for the government to maintain the current gas price at Tk30 per unit.

"The association proposes that the current gas price of Tk30 be maintained in the interest of industrialization and investment in the

government should reconsider the gas price hike. A rise in gas prices will lead to higher production costs, which will further fuel inflation, making it uncontrollable," he said.

Petrobangla proposed a gas price increase with the approval of the Ministry of Energy on 6 January.

## 2,412 DESCO, DPDC Engrs., Staff Plead to CA for Due Salaries



DPDC authorities pay the salaries through their bank accounts, most of the engineers and employees are getting only 70-75 percent of the amount received from the authorities.

More than 2,412 engineers and staff of the Dhaka Electricity Supply Company Ltd (DESCO) and Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC), who were employed on a temporary basis through different outsourcing companies, are being deprived of getting their actual salaries even after giving relentless services to the companies to ensure smooth supply and management of electricity.

Though the DESCO and

Rests of the amount is going to the pocket of the outsourcing companies. They do not get the entire amount of their salaries, according to a prayer recently submitted to the Chief Adviser's Office in Dhaka.

The prayers were submitted to the Chief Adviser's Office on September 3 last year with the signature of DESCO Engr Anwer Hossain, the Chief Coordinator of the DESCO Outsourcing Manpower.

## Russian Ship with Rooppur Power Plant Machinery Reaches Mongla Port

A Russian flag-carrier ship, MV Melina, has arrived at Mongla Seaport with goods for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The



vessel, carrying general machinery for the RNPP, anchored at Jetty No. 9 on 10 January and departed after unloading its cargo.

Muhammad Makruzzaman, deputy director of Mongla Port Authority (MPA), confirmed that the goods will be transported to the RNPP by road.

He added that machinery and other goods for the nuclear plant have been imported through Mongla Port since the project's in-

ception, and this delivery involved a large amount of general machinery.

Makruzzaman also noted a significant increase in the arrival of foreign commercial ships at the port since the beginning of the year.

At present, 18 commercial vessels, carrying cargo such as coal, gypsum, DAP, TSP, MOP, clinker, LPG, and various container goods, remain docked at different points within the port.

## Boiler Blast Leaves 30 Hurt in Gazipur Factory

At least 30 Readymade garment (RMG) workers were injured in a boiler blast in a factory in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur recently.



Locals said the explosion occurred in the factory located near HD Apparel garment factory in the Jhainabazar area, leaving the workers injured.

Ten out of the injured

were admitted to several hospitals in the district and the rest were released after providing first aid.

Fire Service and police personnel rushed to the spot and inspected it.



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## NRPCL Coal Power Plant Starts Trial Generation



The newly constructed 1,320-megawatt coal-fired Norinco-Rural Power Company Limited (NRPCL) power plant in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has started trial electricity generation recently.

The first unit of the power plant began generating power and is

supplying electricity to the national grid, officials said.

Project Director Md Tawfique Islam said the plant initially generated 170MW of electricity. "The full 660MW capacity of the first unit will gradually add more power to the grid," he added.

Efforts are underway to begin production from the second unit by March, with plans for both units to go into commercial production by May or June this year, following trial runs, he added.

## Govt Now Focuses on Gas Exploration



On 8 January, following a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne), Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud said the previous government focused more on LNG imports rather than drilling new wells.

The interim government has now emphasized

exploration, extraction, and processing, and is expediting approvals for such projects.

"Bhola holds significant gas reserves. There is a 90% chance of discovering more gas if new wells are drilled in

Bhola. Additionally, many other regions also have substantial gas potential."

The adviser noted that extraction and exploration through the state-owned company Bapex can significantly reduce costs. He emphasized the need to enhance Bapex's capacity if any limitations exist.

## Titas Cuts Illegal Gas Connections in Narayanganj

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited has cut illegal gas connections at five different locations in Narayanganj's Fatullah.

During a raid, under the leadership of Executive Magistrate Fazle Wahid, on 19 January, Titas disconnected 40 connections in the Modern

## WB to Give \$30m for Power Transmission

The World Bank (WB) will provide Bangladesh with an additional \$30 million to help the country build up its power transmission network in eastern regions.

The funds will be used for an ongoing project that aims to enhance and strengthen power transmission in greater Cumilla, Chattogram and Noakhali, according to the Economic Relations Division (ERD).



ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky and WB Acting Country Director Gayle Martin recently signed an agreement to this end, said a press release from the finance ministry division tasked with boosting domestic socioeconomic development.

## Coal Production at Barapukuria Resumes after 43 Days

Coal production at Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited resumed recently following a 43-day suspension for relocating equipment, said Khan Mohammad Zafor Sadiq, general manager (operation-mine) of BCMCL.

"Initially, production will continue on a trial basis at a rate of 1,500-2,000 tonnes per day. Once the trial run is completed in a few days, daily production is expected to increase to around 3,500-4,000 tonnes," Sadiq added.

BCMCL officials explained



that underground coal is extracted from designated pockets known as "Phases".

Production at the 1414 Phase was halted following the depletion of its coal reserve.

Equipment was subsequently relocated to the 1305 Phase in a salvage operation that took approximately 43 days.

Housing area of Fultala and permanently cut off six connections due to illegal gas usage, said a Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources press release.

Additionally, 400 domestic double burners were disconnected. A 300-foot long, 3/4-inch diameter distribution

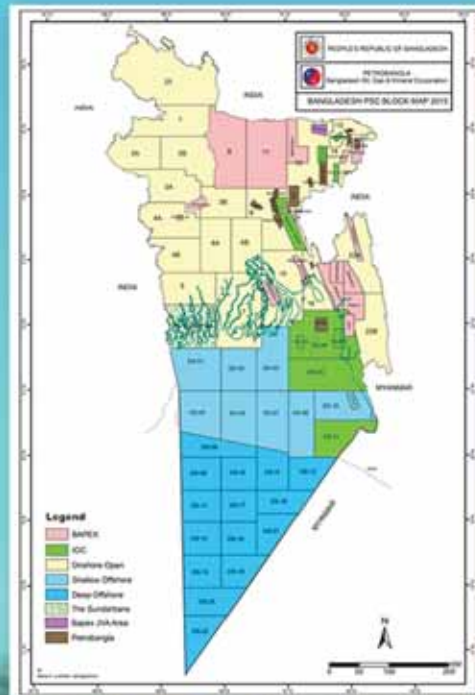
pipe was also removed from the area, the release said.

Besides, a consumer in Modern Housing was found to be using 28 double burners illegally against the approved limit of eight. The connection was immediately disconnected, and a fine of Tk90,000 was imposed under the Bangladesh Gas Act, 2010.



# Gas Reserves At A Tipping Point

Mollah Amzad Hossain



Domestic natural gas reserves are depleting rapidly amid rising demand, while LNG imports cannot increase in the next 2-3 years due to infrastructure limitations. Plans for a third FSRU and other RLNG import initiatives have been canceled or stalled. Since 2018, domestic gas production has been declining, with only limited success in exploration, mainly in Bhola, which is not connected to the national grid. Consequently, maintaining a current output of around 2,000 MMCFD remains a significant challenge.

However, exploration alone won't be enough. Experts stress the need to expand LNG import capacity to 2,500 MMCFD by 2029. Without these steps, Bangladesh risks worsening energy shortages, even if financial resources are available.



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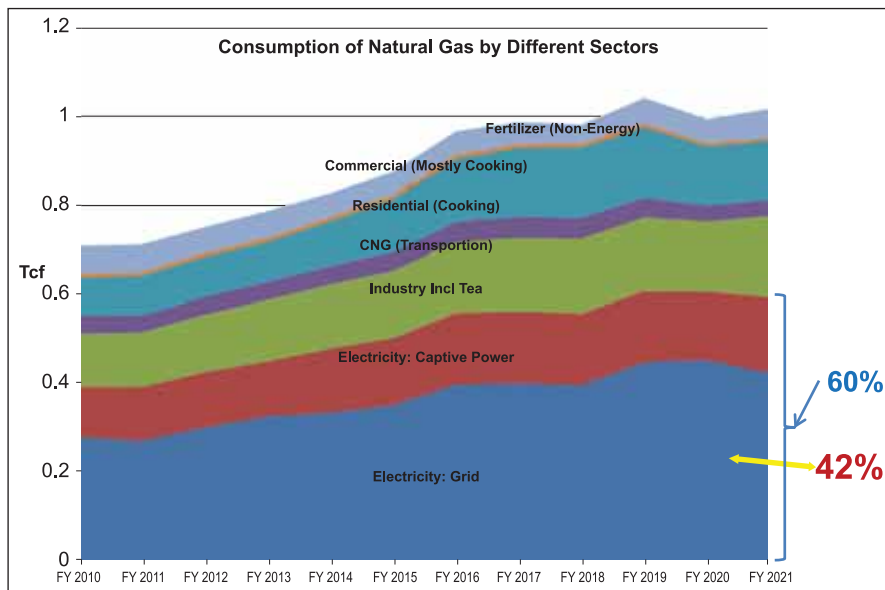
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The fast depletion of domestic natural gas reserves continues unabated amid growing demand for the fuel. To offset the widening supply deficit, imports of LNG cannot also be increased in the next 2-3 years due to the absence of required infrastructures. The contract for a third FSRU has been canceled, and negotiation for another has been stopped. In the same way, two other initiatives for the import of RLNG have been stalled. Production from the domestic gas fields has been progressively declining since 2018. Exploration and development expedited marginally, but the success came mostly from Bhola island – isolated from the national gas grid. Consequently, maintaining gas production from the gas fields at or above 2,000 MMCFD is now a major challenge. According to Petrobangla figures, production in 24 hours from 27-28 January 2025 was 1,905 MMCFD. Adding 813.3 MMCFD imported LNG the total supply available in the national gas grid was 2736.3 MMCFD. The gas deficit during the 24 hours was more than 1,200 MMCFD. Given expediting the exploration through the 50 and 100 wells drilling program on a priority basis, a 15-member committee was formed, headed by former secretary and former chairman of Petrobangla and

### Natural Gas Consumption by Sectors



incumbent chairman of BAPEx board Ishtiaque Ahmad. Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said at a recent FBBCI seminar on energy security that local gas production is decreasing at a rate of 200 MMCFD every year. Hence maintaining gas production at the existing level by adding new resources through exploration and development would be a major challenge for Petrobangla and the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD).

Speaking at a meeting on gas exploration at the Energy & Mineral

Resources Division on 22 January, Energy adviser Dr Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan emphasized expediting gas exploration. He said gas production continues to be depleted amid growing demand. Significant foreign exchange is required to import LNG. The ousted Awami League government opted for LNG imports instead of exploring domestic resources. This has led to the present gas crisis. To combat the crisis, an initiative to drill 50 wells was launched in 2022. This was also not given due priority. The adviser directed all concerned to advance the initiative by reviewing priority packages to avoid delays. Priority must be given to areas having greater possibilities of discovering new gas resources. It is urgent to increase gas resources by effectively utilizing the rigs of BAPEx in potential areas of large reserves and deeper prospects. He also advised forming a 5-member specialist committee for the 31 workover wells.

Petrobangla earlier on January 21 formed a 15-member committee to prepare a specific timeframe and supervise the workover of 31 wells. Members of the committee are from the EMRD, Petrobangla, Bangladesh University of Engineering and

### Primary Energy in 2022-23

Name	Unit	Amount	MTOE
Oil (Crude + Refined)	K ton	10491.56167	10.49
LPG	K ton	1294	1.29
Natural Gas	Bcf	803.63	18.63
LNG	Bcf	203.41	4.72
Coal (Imported)	K ton	7102.54424	4.49
Coal (Local)	K ton	767.3078	0.49
→ RE (Hydro)	MW	230	0.17
→ RE (Solar+ wind)	MW	964.17	0.71
Electricity (Imported)	MW	2656	1.96
Total Commercial			42.95
Biomass			14.32
Total primary			57.27

~ 2%

98% of the Energy is Fossil Fuels; 53% of the fuels/electricity are imported  
This is totally unsustainable from Climate Change and affordability perspective



Technology (BUET), and different gas production companies.

The terms of reference of the committee state setting the priorities of implementation upon reviewing the timeframe for 16 of the 50 wells and 31 of the 100 wells workover

program, possibilities of gas discovery, and proximities to the existing gas transmission grid. The committee will also review the impacts and prospects of successful workover, and examine the specifications of plants and equipment for drilling as well as gas treatment. Besides, they will set priorities for the 34 and 69 exploration and development wells included in the programs. The committee will submit its report to Petrobangla within 30 days.

#### Time Extension Required for Completing 50 Wells Drilling Program

The program for drilling 46 wells was taken up three years ago, targeting completion by the end of 2025. It was later increased to 50 wells. The program included 19 exploration wells, 15 development wells, and 16 workovers. This program is unlikely

### Natural Gas Reserve and Resource

Reserve Type	Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF)
Gas Initial in Place (GIIP)	39.8
Proven + Probable + Possible 3P	29.5
Proven + Probable 2P	28.3
Proven 1P	21.5
Remaining Recoverable 2P	7.6
Used (Consumed) as of 30 June 2023	20.7

to be completed by December 2025. The new deadline is June 2026. 16 wells, including 6 exploration wells, have so far been completed. Of the 16 exploration wells, a dry hole was encountered at Shariatpur, and the gas was found at Srikail North but, according to Petrobangla, is not commercially viable. Petrobangla reported finding 184 MMCFD new gas from 16 wells. 72 MMCFD has been evacuated to the grid. The remaining gas is stranded at Bhola Island.

When asked about delays in the implementation of the program, a Petrobangla executive said the contractors were appointed to drill some wells under the Speedy Electricity and Energy Supply Special Act 2010. After the assumption of the office by the interim government, the contracts negotiated and concluded were canceled as instructed by the adviser. Actions are underway to

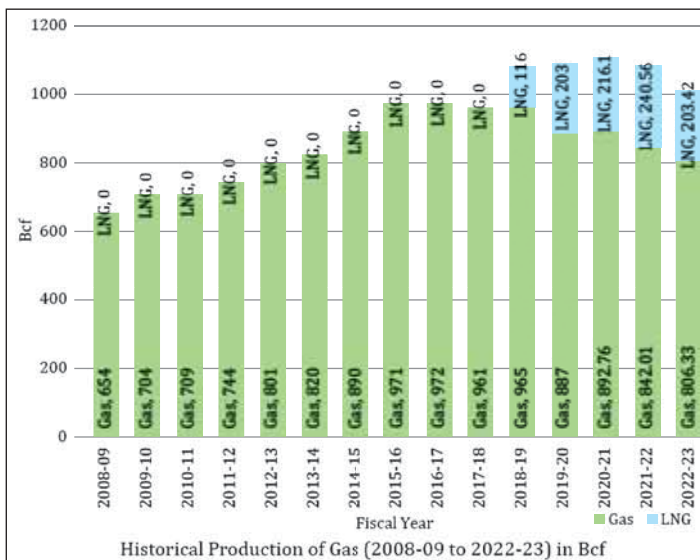
engage new contractors through a competitive bidding process. There were issues with financing as well. Following confirmation of financing, the DPPs of 33 out of 34 projects have been finalized and are awaiting approval. At the present rate of progress, the program is expected to be completed by June 2026.

Some 648 MMCFD gas is expected to be available from the 50-well drilling program. 184 MMCFD has already been available. In another 18 months, another 300-350 MMCFD gas is expected to be available. Petrobangla is optimistic that leaving 100 MMCFD gas stranded at Bhola and the rest of the newfound gas can be evacuated to the national gas grid. Even then, there is considerable concern about whether a gas supply at or above 2,000 MMCFD can be maintained.

#### 100 Wells Drilling Program

Petrobangla has taken up another 100-well drilling program. In three years, the program is set for completion by December 2028. 69 exploration and 31 development wells, and workovers are included in the program. Of these, 8 development wells are planned to be completed in 2025. An additional 100 MMCFD gas is expected to be available from these. But by then, the gas production is likely to decline by 80-90 MMCFD. Of the 69 exploration wells, works of 18 close to the existing gas grid have been planned to be taken up based on priority. Feasibility studies of 13 have been completed so far. Tk 3,000 crore is required for the work. Petrobangla will spend Tk 1,000 crore from its fund and the government will allocate Tk 2,000 crore. DPPs are being prepared. Physical work may start in 2026 after completing all approval processes. The work will be completed in phases under projects. Through the

#### Historical Production of Natural Gas in Bcf



- Gas production had peaked at 972 Bcf (0.972 Tcf; 2,663 MMcfD) in 2016-17
- Gas production is declining; in 2022-23, it was 804 Bcf
- From 2018-19, LNG import has started and increasing
- DOLLAR shortage – we could not buy as much LNG as required in 2023

implementation of the programs, endeavors will be made to maintain gas production at or above 2,000 MMCFD.

### NIKO Arbitration and Chattak Structure

Petrobangla and EMRD expect to get the official copy of the final verdict of the arbitration case between Canadian Company Niko Resources and Petrobangla in a month's time. Petrobangla has finalized the plan for working on the prospects at Chattak immediately after getting the report. There is a plan for drilling three wells. Petrobangla expects to start working there within the next couple of months at Chattak.

### Failed Venture of Fresh Offshore Bidding Round

A fresh offshore bidding round was invited for deep and shallow offshore blocks based on the updated Model PSC (MPSC) during the tenure of the fallen Awami League government. The revised deadline for the submission of the offers was 9 December 2024. But not even a single offer was submitted in response to the offer. Seven companies purchased bidding documents. Few companies participated in the pre-bid conferences. Petrobangla has formed a committee to assess why there was no response. The committee asked intending bidders about their reluctance. The committee has also received their response.

According to internationally reputed energy consulting firm Wood Mackenzie, Bangladesh's MPSC is among the most attractive in the region. Intending bidders purchased US\$30 million worth of data. Interested IOC suggested that TGS-Schlumberger should carry out

### National Gas Demand Forecast by Petrobangla

Year	Power	Share	Industry + Captive Power	Share	Total
FY2024 -25	1,454	38.5%	873 + 685	41.3%	3,777
FY2026 -27	1,601	37.3%	1,132 + 735	43.5%	4,288
FY2028 -29	1,738	37.4%	1,319 + 772	45.0%	4,643
FY2030 -31	1,827	37.4%	1,467 + 782	46.0%	4,885

3D seismic surveys in the second phase of the multi-client survey. But no response to the bidding is conspicuous. Some companies have mentioned tariffs on offshore pipelines. 5% of workers'

reasons for not responding.

Petrobangla is yet to finalize its report. They also have not received any advice from the EMRD for further updating the MPSC or going for a new round of bidding. Sources said that offshore bidding is not on the priority list of the interim government.

Experts observed that IOCs may not be interested in risking investment in offshore bidding till the elected government takes over state governance.

### 2030 Gas Requirement ~ 4,600 MMcf

Domestic Production (IEPMP)	2000 MMcf
Old FSRUs (one expanded)	1100 MMcf
Capacity expansion of the other FSRU	100 MMcf
2 new FSRU	1130- 1750 MMcf
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,330-4,950 MMcf</b>

- Through vigorous exploration we have to keep domestic production at 2,000 MMcf
- Keep existing FSRUs fully functional and add 100 MMcf capacity
- Build 2 new FSRUs to supply at least 1,400 MMcf
- Have enough **DOLLARS (\$\$\$\$)** to purchase 2,300 MMcf of LNG
- With ability to purchase FSRU increase will be useless

### Updating Model PSC for Onshore Exploration

Upon instruction of EMRD Petrobangla updated MPSC for onshore exploration after doing the work of Offshore MPSC. In most cases, offshore MPSC was used as a guiding document. However, the gas price and profit split have not been decided. Wood Mackenzie has been engaged as a consultant again to work these out. Within 6 weeks of

participation fund is outside the PSC provision. This follows the law of the land. Yet IOCs considered it too high. This was not acceptable to them. Finally, bidders mentioned regime change and political instability as

getting the letter of engagement, the consultant will submit the draft MPSC. Petrobangla upon discussion with the EMRD will prepare the final draft for approval.

### Gas Price Compared to Gas Cost

	Tk/M <sup>3</sup>	\$/MMBTU	Average Cost (per MMBTU)
Power Plants	15.50	3.5	
Captive Power	31.50	7.2	
Industry	30.75	7.0	
Domestic Gas	Estimate	3-5	\$4
LNG	65-75	14.8-17.1	\$16
Pooled Cost (80:20)		5.4-7.4	<b>\$6.4</b>
(60:40)		7.7-9.8	<b>\$8.8</b>

1 US\$ = Tk. 122

Industry is Paying Close to The Average Cost of Gas in Bangladesh

Till now Petrobangla received no instruction from the EMRD as to when and how the bidding will be announced. A source at Petrobangla has also mentioned that there is no decision on which land blocks would be let out for bidding. Hence no map could be prepared for onshore bidding.

Former Senior Executive of Petrobangla Fariduddin Ahmed observed that IOCs should be engaged alongside BAPEX in onshore exploration. He

suggested that without wasting any time Petrobangla must explore the identified prospects at Chattogram Hill Tracts either by BAPEx or engaging IOCs. There are credible possibilities for discovering new resources. This will relieve the gas system from the present deficit.

### Government Priority

Maintaining the gas supply at least at the present level is a major challenge for Petrobangla now. The chronic gas crisis will further deepen with time otherwise. According to Petrobangla data, the gas production in fiscal year 2018-19 was 961 billion cubic feet (BCF). It was reduced to 800 bcf in FY 2022-23. In 24 hours between 27 and 28 January 2025, the production was 1,905 MMCFD. Bibiyana alone produced 973.2 MMCFD. Experts believe that a sudden major depletion of Bibiyana may trigger a collapse of the gas supply chain. Hence increasing and expanding the resource base is the topmost priority of Petrobangla now. Petrobangla Chairman Md Rezanur Rahman informed the media that Petrobangla has stressed completing workovers as soon as possible to reduce the demand-supply gap as far as practicable. Of the 16 workovers, seven have already been completed, contributing marginally. More gas is expected to be added when all workover wells are



completed. DPPs are being approved in a short time now.

has been consumed over the last 24 years against which not more than 2 Tcf of new gas could be added. The past governments have failed to implement exploration projects onshore and offshore. Without preparing the BAPEx, a 106-well drilling program was imposed on it. The outcome was a failure. Petrobangla has initiated actions for engaging contractors under a competitive bidding process. It is now expected that the 50-well drilling program may require more time till June 2026 to complete. Implementation of the 100-well drilling program will start in 2026. Experts observed that if these programs can be completed by 2028, production can be stabilized at 1,800 MMCFD if not 2,000 MMCFD.

Gas Price in 2030

Year	Domestic Gas	LNG	Price
2024	80%	20%	\$5/Mcf Tk. 16/cubic meter
2030	50%	50%	\$10/Mcf Tk. 43/cubic meter
	20%	80%	\$13/Mcf Tk. 56/cubic meter

Assumptions:  
 LNG price in 2030 is \$15/Mcf (includes \$3/Mcf other costs)  
 Domestic Gas price in 2030 is \$5/Mcf  
 2024 \$ = Tk. 120  
 2030 \$ = Tk. 150

### Conclusion

The country has only 7.6 Tcf of proven gas reserves remaining. 14 Tcf of gas

They suggested bidding offshore and onshore PSC at the same time. Securing investment in resource exploration is of paramount importance now. At the same time, LNG import capacity must be enhanced to 2500 MMCFD by 2029 through developing the required infrastructure. Otherwise, the energy supply deficit cannot be managed even if Bangladesh acquires financial capability. This will cast dark shadows over the country's economic growth and development.

*Note: Tables used in the cover taken from a presentation of Dr Ijaz Hossain*





# A Reenergized BAPEX May Help Increase Local Gas Production

Saleque Sufi

If anyone with knowledge and information about Bangladesh's Energy sector is asked about the main challenge, the answer would be primary fuel or gas supply. Informed experts and analysts have alerted policymakers for a long time to explore and exploit domestic primary fuel resources. Experts also say that the economy of a country like Bangladesh cannot sustain and survive relying on imported primary fuel. The economy cannot absorb the fuel price shock from a volatile global market. Bangladesh cannot afford disruptions in the fuel supply chain from the impacts of regional and global politics. The obvious choice is a substantial reserve of superior quality coal and of course huge untapped petroleum resources at onshore frontier areas and vast offshore. Political governments motivated by environmental activists and less informed groups of civil society failed to take the required initiatives for exploiting coal

resources. The present interim government is unlikely to decide on utilizing domestic coal resources. Bangladesh with 27,820MW installed grid-connected power generation capacity is struggling to consistently generate 15,000MW. BPDB informed that during March-August, 2025, the power demand may peak at 17,500MW-18,000MW. The main challenge is fuel supply. BPDB if provided 2420 MMCFD gas can utilize 12,413MW gas-based power generation capacity. But in the present situation with 1,900 MMCFD own gas and 1,100 MW imported LNG, Petrobangla cannot spare more than 1,150-1,200 MMCFD gas for grid power. This can generate only 6,000-6,500MW, about 50% of the installed capacity. BPDB must rely on coal-based generation, import, and HFO-based peaking plants for catering to summer peak as far as practical. However, in the present economic situation, the government cannot allocate the required funds for

importing fuel. Neither can it assist BPDB, BPC, and Petrobangla in meeting their payment obligations for a huge accumulated outstanding dues. There will be 2,500-3,000MW load-shedding during peak summer. The situation requires austerity and smart utilization of power and fuel. The highest priority must be given to expediting gas resource exploration, development, and setting up infrastructure for LNG import. Bangladesh needs to adopt and launch an aggressive exploration and development plan for gas resources onshore and offshore doing everything possible to attract private sector investment including FDI alongside BAPEX. All BAPEX projects must be treated as top-priority national projects in matters of approval of DPP, land acquisition, allocation, and release of funds.

## Resource Potential

The largest riverine delta Bangladesh has huge potential for petroleum resources. The success achieved by IOCs and BAPEX from the 1950s amply proved that. But for an inappropriate mindset, a proper exploration strategy could not be developed even in 54 years of independence. Exploration Directorate

### Potential Gas Resource Onshore

Assessment	Resource
Petrobangla - USGS Assessment in 2000	50% Probability of 32 Tcf
Norwegian Petroleum and HCU Joint Assessment 2001	50% Probability of 42 Tcf
Gustavson Associates Assessment in 2011	92% probability of 42 Tcf

of Petrobangla (erstwhile Toil Onushondhani) and BAPEX were unfairly treated like stepchildren. Later it was made an exploration and production company. But never developed professionally as a competent flagship company of the upstream segment of Petroleum supply chain. Bangladesh remained the least explored riverine delta. There were significant volumes of works in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000. But from 2000-2023 exploration activities reduced drastically. Virtually nothing notable was done offshore and very little was done onshore. On the other hand, gas demand grew exponentially, leading to proven gas reserves depleting alarmingly. Several reputed organizations carried out joint assessments of resources and provided encouraging reports of probable and possible gas resources. But for the ill-motivated poor mindset of policymakers, the required initiatives were not taken for exploration.

In addition, Schlumberger identified several wells in under-operation gas fields which upon work overs could yield substantial volumes of additional gas.

Policymakers could care less and adopt policy for LNG import leaving the huge potential of domestic resources buried underground. The proceeds of the Hydrocarbon Carbon Fund created exclusively for carrying out petroleum exploration were utilized elsewhere. Russian company Gazprom was engaged in drilling development wells ignoring BAPEX. Without giving the required support to BAPEX, a highly ambitious virtually unachievable task for drilling 108 wells in 5 years was imposed on BAPEX. This project died a natural death.

### **LNG Import Initiative**

For bureaucratic tangles LNG import plan initiated in 2010 through setting up FSRUs at the Maheshkhali coast took 8 long years. There also EMRD and Petrobangla groped in the dark with several FSRUs and some land-based projects. Valuable time and energy were wasted before abandoning. The



lone project of the Land Based Terminal (LBT) of RPGCL at Matarbari is still hanging in the balance. Some initiatives of the former government including a signed agreement with Summit Energy for a 3rd FSRU have been cancelled by the interim government. There is no possibility of any addition to the present LNG supply of 1,100 MMCFD before 2028. The LBT may take till 2030.

### **Petrobangla/BAPEX Projects for Increasing Gas Production**

With its back to the wall, Petrobangla and BAPEX are implementing 2 projects. The first 50-well drilling project is due to be completed in December 2025. The other one is a 100-well drilling project planned for completion by 2028.

#### **50 Wells Drilling Project**

The expected gas addition is 648 MMCFD. Of these 34 are new wells and 16 are work over. Till writing this report in January 2025 16 wells have been completed. It is now obvious that the remaining 34 wells can not be completed by the end of 2025. Anyway, BAPEX is optimistic about completing the work by June 2026. After completing 9 wells and 7 workovers, BAPEX has reportedly increased the resources by 176 MMCFD, including 76 MMCFD evacuated to the grid. Of the remaining 34 wells, 19 will be drilled by engaging drilling companies by BAPEX through competitive bidding.

BAPEX using its drilling and work over rigs is executing works on other wells. The challenges of such self-funded projects in Bangladesh are a prolonged process of DPP approval, land acquisition, release of money on time, and procurement of materials. It is highly unlikely that the projects can be implemented on time. But if treated as a top priority national project and the BAPEX board and top management are given the freedom to work, the completion of the projects by the end of 2026 may be possible.

#### **100 Wells Drilling and Work Over**

BAPEX, BGFCL, SGFL, and Petrobangla after interpreting 2D and 3D seismic data identified 410 leads and prospects. From these, 100 wells were selected for drilling and workovers. 69 will be new wells and 31 workovers. 52 wells are in the BAPEX franchise (14 in Bhola Island, 17 at Noakhali, Chandpur, and Feni, 6 in Chattogram Hill Tracts, 3 in Hinze Zone, 6 in Surma Basin, and 6 in blocks 8 & 11). 9 wells are in BGFCL area (6 in Brahmanbaria, 1 each in Comilla and Habiganj). SGFL will have 8 wells (1 in Koillashtilla, 1 in Rashidpur, 4 in Beanibazar, and 2 in Haripur). The plan is to execute the program under 15 projects. Of which BAPEX would execute 10, BGFCL 3 and SGFL 2.

Of the 31 workovers, BAPEX will accomplish 16, BGFCL 12, and SGFL 3.

Of the 15 projects priority has been given to 13 wells drilling through 5 projects for completion by December 2027.

Of the above projects, BAPLEX will drill 33 wells using its rigs, 10 wells will be drilled by renting rigs with drilling crews and the remaining 26 wells will be drilled by engaging drilling contractors through open tendering. The expectation is to add 985 MMCFD of new gas from 69 new wells and add 500 MMCFD from 31 workovers.

The task is gigantic and judging from past proven track records appears sky-high dream. Let us hope that this project is completed by 2030. But even then these will require massive overhauling of Petrobangla and BAPLEX management, significantly strengthening the technical, financial, and administrative capability of BAPLEX.

### Challenges

As discussed above DPP approval, land acquisition, import of plant,

equipment, and consumables are major challenges. BAPLEX/Petrobangla has developed a framework agreement for engaging a third-party contractor for land acquisition and import of materials. We are not sure whether it will expedite the process. The government must reorganize the Petrobangla and BAPLEX Board of Directors and Management with competent, qualified technical resources. The question logically arises as to why Petrobangla was hibernating for so long doing virtually nothing. Why Petrobangla could not find sector-grown officials to work as chairman and directors? Why does Petrobangla require administrative cadre officials imposed from the government? The failures of Petrobangla made the energy sector virtually nonfunctional and created the gas crisis. Proper management of Petrobangla and BAPLEX will remain key to success.

### Conclusion

The system desperately needs

additional gas. For this, BAPLEX must mobilize its rigs in BGFCL, SGFL, and own fields for drilling wells and working over on a priority basis. Based on success, the additional gas can be immediately evacuated. BAPLEX must also give the highest priority for further exploration at Patiya, Sitapahar, and Jaldi in the greater Chattogram region which has credible potential for finding gas. Stranded gas at Bhola may not be evacuated to the National gas grid soon. There is no reason for giving priority to work there.

We are not sure in this unstable situation that there will be an encouraging response to competitive bidding from drilling contractors. Hence all efforts must be given to BAPLEX. BAPLEX must hire additional technical manpower to run all its rigs simultaneously. Former BAPLEX professionals at home and abroad may be recruited as consultants. **EP**

**Saleque Sufi**  
Energy Expert



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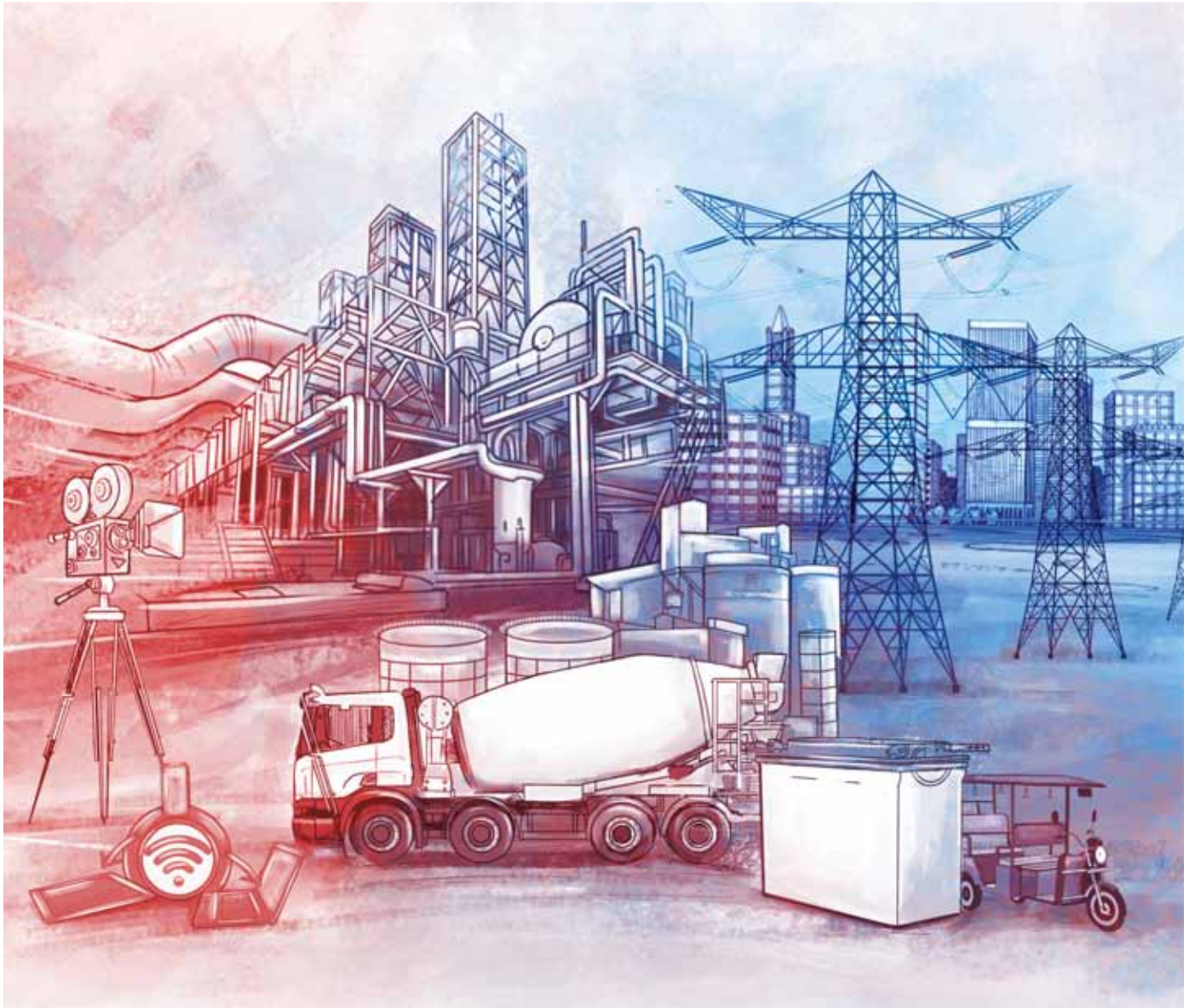
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# Experts For Exploring Domestic Hydrocarbon Resources To Address Energy Crisis

EP Report

**E**xperts have urged the authorities concerned to intensify hydrocarbon exploration in the local sources to reduce over-dependency on imported fuel and address the country's energy crisis.

"There is no alternative to explore and extract more gas from local resources for reducing fuel import," Khondkar Saleque Sufi, an international energy expert based in Queensland, told a webinar.

Bangladesh has long been facing a severe shortage of primary energy, especially natural gas, and increasingly becoming dependent on imports, putting extensive pressure on the foreign exchange reserves.

Mr. Sufi, former director of the Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), highlighted the crisis and showed the possible way out measures at an EP Special Webinar titled "Enhancing Gas Supplies: Exploration & Development of Domestic Sources", recently organized by Energy & Power magazine.

He presented a keynote paper with a focus on the importance of exploration of local gas fields to face the situation. Former Directors of Petrobangla Engr.

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Md Quamruzzaman and Engr. Ali Iqbal Md Nurullah, former Managing Director at Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (BAPEX) Geologist Murtaza Ahmed Faruk Chisti, and former Vice-President of Ocean Energy M Fariduddin were the distinguished panelists of the webinar, hosted by Energy & Power Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain.

In his keynote presentation, Mr. Sufi identified a lack of proper planning, the poor vision of policymakers, and the failures of bureaucrat-dependent Petrobangla as the reasons for the failure of offshore exploration.

Sufi further mentioned that the BAPEX-only policy for onshore exploration for

almost two decades and not strengthening the state-owned enterprise properly with competent manpower and adequate resources have led to successes that are considered to be well below the desired level.

Consequently, from almost exclusive dependency on its natural gas, Bangladesh's reliance on imported energy – coal, LNG, power, and liquid fuel – has gradually reached around 50 percent now, according to the presentation.

The grid-connected power generation capacity is now 27,820MW, but the power system cannot consistently generate more than 15,000MW mainly due to fuel shortage.

Some 12,413MW gas-based power generation capacity requires 2,420 MMCFD gas. From the existing 3,000 MMCFD gas supply capacity (1900 MMCFD own gas and 1100 MMCFD imported RLNG), Petrobangla can supply a maximum of 1,100-1,200 MMCFD for power generation.

"This short supply limits power generation to a maximum of 6,000MW, leaving almost half of the generation



capacity remaining unused,” Mr. Sufi said.

The keynote also analyzed the prospects of potential gas resources in onshore areas as assessed in 3-4 studies conducted by international agencies in collaboration with Bangladesh counterparts. USGS-Petrobangla, Norwegian Agency-HCU, Halliburton Group, and Schlumberger reports were referenced. Mr. Sufi mentioned that only one-third of the country’s land surface has been explored. There may be less success in the remaining two-thirds areas but there is no point leaving vast land surface unexplored.

Mr. Fariduddin supplemented that some areas in greater Chottogram like Patiya, Jholdi, and Sitapahar have great prospects of discovering gas and even oil. Exploring these blocks will be extremely useful as the evacuation of gas from discovered fields will be easy.

According to the paper, there are about 48 exploration blocks in Bangladesh territory – 22 onshore, 11 in shallow water (near coastal areas), and 15 in offshore deep waters. Of the 28 gas fields, 113 wells in 20 fields are in operation. There is an under-implementation and another planned exploration and development project of BAPEX /Petrobangla.

“Some wells will be drilled by BAPEX using its rigs, a second group of wells will be drilled by hiring rigs with manpower and crew under BAPEX management, and for the third group the state-owned company will let out tenders for engaging contractor,” says the presentation.

Mr. Sufi mentioned that BAPEX and Petrobangla identified 69 locations from the 2D and 3D seismic surveys and identified leads and prospects, 31 other



Engr. Khondkar Abdus Saleque

wells will be development wells or work over.

“Despite very dismal track records of exploration in Bangladesh, natural gas remains the preferred fuel for power generation and industrial use. For a lack of proper planning, poor vision of policymakers, and failures of bureaucrat-dependent Petrobangla, there has been virtually no success in offshore exploration,” he added.

He also pointed out that the BAPEX-only policy for onshore exploration for almost two decades has led to some successes but that were well below the desired level.

Addressing the webinar, Engr, Mohammad Quamruzzaman, said that there is no immediate possibility to come out of the existing energy crisis. “We must think about mid-term policy for the next one and half years to improve the situation.

There are some initiatives for importing LNG by setting up FSRUs. The tender process and implementation of the initiative may take 3-4 years, he mentioned, adding that the government is now focusing on FSRU to promote low-cost gas import.

This may give temporary relief. Over the long term, there is no alternative to exploring gas in the Bay of Bengal to address the challenges in the long term. “We wasted 5 years for a multi-sector survey that usually takes 6 months. Surprisingly, the foreign bidders didn’t come for exploration amid the political situation of the country,” he observed.



M Fariduddin



Mortuza Ahmad Faruque



Md Quamruzzaman



Ali Iqbal Md Nurullah

Engr. Ali Iqbal Md Nurullah emphasized drilling the deeper horizon to explore more gas from local resources. “There is a potential for a good reserve at 7,000-meter depth in Sylhet gas field. However, we keep exploring up to 4,000 meters. For getting maximum resources from limited land onshore, we have to focus on deep drilling,” he said. Mr. Nurullah also suggested engaging qualified and competent technical resources as chief executive officers of respective offices in the energy sector irrespective of political affiliation.

He suggested using co-generation and tri-generation in industries to reduce pressure on natural gas.

Mr Murtaza Ahmed Faruk Chisti identified problems of planning in the energy sector



as well as the exploration of natural gas over the decades. "There are hardly any industry-grown experts at the decision-making level in Petrobangla. Four directors are posted from the ministry. There is a lack of experienced people on the BAPEX board as well. How can we plan for a sustainable future? We have been advocating for a long time to appoint experienced people in the board of the state-owned energy companies to get better outcomes," he said, adding that continuous development of new wells is a routine job as the reserves of natural gas are decreasing over the years.

Mr. Fariduddin expressed deep concern over the possible power generation situation in the ensuing summer amid the chronic shortage of gas supply.

"We have 20 gas fields and 2 FSRUs producing 2800 MMCFD against the demand of 4000 MMCFD. There is a deficit of 1200 MMCFD. We are not feeling the depth of crisis in winter but it will expose in the summer," he said.

He criticized the BAPEX's selection of less-prospective sites as the drilling location rather than concentrating on highly potential Chattogram Hill Tract areas. He assured that if explored at Sitapahar, Jholdi, Kasalong, and Patiya, a significant volume of gas may be discovered in less than 2 years. He also expressed frustration that these blocks have been taken away from BAPEX. He thought, in the prevailing situation, competent international contractors may not be interested in bidding in response to Petrobangla's invitation. Hence such potential resources may remain unexplored for an uncertain period.

"The solution will take more time. We need to engage the right people in the right places. Unfortunately, there is no expert on the board of directors of state-owned companies. We talk about 50 wells within 3



years. That is a very difficult task if not impossible to implement," added Mr. Fariduddin.

Mr. Sufi, in his concluding remarks, suggested giving topmost priorities to the BAPEX's drilling projects. He suggested expeditious approvals of DPPs, special provisions for land acquisition, and approval of procurement and services. He also suggested that BAPEX should preferably concentrate on development wells and workover of gas wells in BGFCL, SGFL, and BAPEX's under-operation fields. This will facilitate quick evacuation of gas. He also agreed with Mr. Fariduddin that BAPEX must mobilize rigs at high-prospect CHT areas and explore them on a priority basis. He mentioned that India has achieved success in the adjacent Tripura region.

In his remarks, EP Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain mentioned that industries and power generation have been facing severe crises due to a shortage of gas although natural gas has been the main driving force of Bangladesh's economy.

"The gas supply is now 3000 million cubic feet per day against the demand for over 4000 MMCFD. Every year the demand increases by 10 percent as per different estimates," he said.

"In the current context, Bangladesh can import a maximum of 1100 MMCFD of LNG while the foreign investors didn't show any interest in the offshore bidding. Besides, a foreign consultant, Wood & McKenzie has been appointed to update model PSC for offshore exploration. They will hopefully submit their recommendation within next month (February)," he said.

Petrobangla undertook a project for the exploration of 50 wells three years ago and has so far implemented 16 wells. There is another plan to explore 100 wells by 2028.

More than three dozen gas-fired power plants remain idle as the state-run Petrobangla is supplying only around 802 MMCFD of natural gas to the power plants against their demand for 2,420 MMCFD.

Speakers agreed that adopting and executing appropriate plans for exploring and exploiting our petroleum resources must be the top national objective now for achieving sustainable energy security. Petrobangla and its companies must engage qualified and competent technical resources and provide them with the right compensation for retaining them. Bangladesh's economy cannot sustain the financial stress of importing primary fuel from the volatile global market. **EP**

## BB Governor Assures IPPs to Help Address Forex Losses



**B**angladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur has assured independent power producers of effective measures to address their mounting foreign exchange losses.

"We have met the central bank governor to discuss the gigantic — over Tk8,500 crore — foreign exchange losses accumulated by power producers. We sought his support for no more repetition of the nightmare," David Hasanat, president of the Bangladesh Independent

Power Producers' Association, said after a recent meeting.

The governor said the central bank will closely monitor the dollar rate the commercial banks charge for fuel importers so that multiple rates do not hurt them like before, according to the association president.

According to him, power producers also informed the governor about their present inability to open letters of credit to import heavy fuel oil (HFO) for electricity generation and supply in Ramadan in March as more than Tk5,000 crore of their receivables still remained unpaid by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). **EP**

## Titas Gas Sinks Further in Red on System Loss

**T**itas Gas's system loss hit a decade-high of 1,204 million cubic meters in fiscal 2023-24—enough to meet a month's import bill of high-priced liquified natural gas (LNG).

Gas unaccounted for because of illegal connections, leakages from old or corroded distribution lines, pipeline damages caused by underground utility service work, lack of information regarding actual gas use by non-metered customers, and measurement errors in intake points are counted as system loss.

In the last fiscal year, Titas, the country's largest piped gas distributor, saw a system loss of 7.67 percent -- way past the acceptable 2 percent mark, according to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

This was worth about Tk 2,945 crore, which is enough to meet a month's LNG import bill.

Subsequently, the once-profitable company's losses more than trebled from a year earlier to Tk 744.08 crore in fiscal 2023-24, according to its latest annual report. **EP**

## Without Electricity for Two and Half Months

**A**t least 1,354 families in Diara Narkelbaria Union in Faridpur's Sadarpur upazila, located on the banks of the Padma River, have been living without electricity for over two and a half months.

According to local Palli Bidyut Samity officials, a fault in an underground cable cut the power supply to the area on November 4. Despite repeated efforts, the faulty section remains unidentified, causing suffering to the community.

This prolonged outage has

sparked frustration among residents. On November 10, villagers from Nandanapur staged a human chain at Chungakandi market demanding the restoration of their electricity supply.

According to Sadarpur Palli Bidyut Samity, the union's electricity is supplied via a 3-kilometre-long underground cable connecting it to Narisha Union of Dhaka's Dohar. The power connection began on February 1, 2024. However, after just nine months, it stopped due to the glitch. **EP**

## Govt to Revisit IPP Tariffs Amid Pricing Concerns

**T**he interim government is set to form a committee to review the tariffs of independent power producers (IPPs), Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said recently.



The decision to revisit the government's power purchase prices from the IPPs followed a meeting with the Bangladesh Independent Power Producers Association (BIPPA) at his office in the capital.

BIPPA President David Hasanat said after the meeting that the generalized claim that IPPs enjoy an "extortion tariff" is threatening Bangladesh's energy security, economic stability, and investment potential.

"In response, we requested the government to analyze which plants' electricity

selling prices are fair and which are not," he said.

The meeting, which also included Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, secretaries for power and energy and mineral resources divisions, and the Bangladesh Power Development Board chairman, discussed the financial difficulties faced by IPPs.

BIPPA urged the government to clear overdue receivables amounting to Tk12,000 crore, with an emphasis on immediate payment of around Tk5,000 crore to heavy fuel oil-based (HFO) plants. **EP**

## Govt Rejects Summit's Plea to Revive Canceled Deals on Second FSRU



The interim government has turned down Summit Group's plea to revive the canceled contract earlier signed to build its second floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali island in the Bay of Bengal.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) rejected the request of the Summit LNG II Terminal Co.

Ltd. in this regard, following a recommendation from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, officials said.

Petrobangla has been asked to inform the Summit Group about the EMRD's latest decision, they said.

When contacted, a Summit Group high-up preferred to respond formally over the issue after getting the letter from the Petrobangla.

Petrobangla canceled the contract in October last year due to non-compliance with the terms. **EP**

## Titas Gas Disconnects Illegal Lines of Manikganj Washing Factory



Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution PLC has disconnected the illegal gas connection at Muftadi Washing Factory, a large washing plant located on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Manikganj as part of the ongoing drive against illegal gas connections across its command areas.

According to Titas Gas, the owner of the factory Md. Shafiqul Islam was

illegally using gas by installing two unauthorized service lines – one 02" (approximately 100 feet) and one 01" (approximately 300 feet) – from the existing 10" 4 50 PSIG distribution line on the west side of the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

A boiler with a capacity of 500 kg and nine dryers in the factory was using gas at a load of 3,300 cubic feet per hour, all through illegal connections.

Titas Gas officials capped the illegal service lines and filed a general diary (GD) with the Savar Police Station. **EP**

## Mitsubishi Power Advances Thailand's Energy Development

Mitsubishi Power, a power solutions brand of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), today announced the successful, on-schedule completion of the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of a 1,400 MW natural gas-fired gas turbine combined cycle (GTCC) power plant.

The milestone was marked by the commercial operation of the second M701JAC gas turbine for the plant owned by Hin Kong Power Company Limited, a joint venture company established by RATCH Group Public Company Limited (RATCH) and Gulf Energy Development Public Company Limited (GULF).

Located approximately 100 kilometers west of Bangkok, the project features two state-of-the-art M701JAC gas



turbines. The first unit began commercial operation in March 2024, with the second following in January 2025, completing installation of the plant's full capacity on schedule.

Mitsubishi Power will provide long-term maintenance for the turbines under a 25-year Long Term Service Agreement (LTSA) and the facility will supply electricity to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) under a long-term power purchase agreement, ensuring continued high-efficiency and reliable energy to support the power demand in the country. **EP**

## IEA: What Are the Issues Behind Global Energy Accessibility?

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has announced the release of their recent newsletter 'The crucial issue of access to energy worldwide'.

The IEA recognizes that whilst energy is taken for granted in developed countries, there are others who struggle for accessibility.

The recent data from the IEA relates to the United Nations' (UN) sustainable development goal of having accessible electricity globally by 2030.

After recent data has emerged, it's a global concern that hundreds of millions of people around the world don't have access to most essential electricity services.

Although the numbers are still high, they have dropped, due to Asia, Africa and South America connecting to the grid in the last century.

The global Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the progress of electrical accessibility becoming stalled. **EP**



## BSTI to Frame Safety Standards to Avoid Gas Cooking Accidents



**B**angladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), the national standards-setting and regulatory body, is going to formulate 17 safety standards to prevent accidents in gas cooking used in households.

BSTI Director General (Grade-1) S M Ferdous Alam gave this information as the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of a day-long workshop titled 'Safety Standards for Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances' held in the capital recently, says a press release.

Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Hoe Yun Jeong and Director (Planning) of Petrobangla Abdul Mannan Patwary were present as special guests at the event, jointly organized by BSTI, Petrobangla and Asian Development Bank (ADB). BSTI Director (Management) Md. Saidul Islam delivered the welcome speech at the event.

Citing various gas leakage-related tragic accidents including the death of a 32-year-old woman, Ruma, and her husband in Mirpur due to gas cooking at the end of last year, the BSTI Director General said a major reason for accidents in household gas cooking was the lack of awareness about safety cooking appliances.

Although it was late BSTI was going to formulate such safety standards, he added. **EP**

## Clear Dues by June to Avoid Surcharges: Adani Tells PDB



**I**ndia's Adani Power has warned the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) recently to clear the outstanding bills of \$845 million within June to avoid late payment surcharges.

The company, which has been supplying half of its power generation capacity since November last year, said they would waive the surcharges if the PDB would be able to pay the monthly invoices in due dates from January to June this year.

"APJL proposes to waive the Late Payment Surcharge applicable from January to June 2025 on the prevailing overdue amounts if PDB pays the monthly invoices raised during this tenure within the due date and the outstanding amount is cleared fully on or before June 30, 2025," reads a letter from Adani Power

(Jharkhand) Limited (APJL).

The decision has been taken to tide over the severe cash crunch situation faced by APJL and to enable PDB to clear the outstanding payments on priority, said the letter signed by MR Krishna Rao, president of the joint coordination committee of APJL.

The decision came upon a discussion with the PDB on January 9 at the PDB, the letter said, adding that the meeting was discussed in detail regarding the liquidation of outstanding amounts of \$845 million from April 2024, for the power supplied under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). **EP**

## World Bank Offers Cheaper \$350m Loan Guarantee for LNG Imports



**T**he World Bank has proposed a \$350 million loan guarantee facility for Bangladesh, presenting more favorable

terms than the current foreign financing option and creating a new avenue to support the country's long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) import requirements in 2025.

The "revolving letter of credit facility" offered by the WB's Multilateral

Investment Guarantee Agency (Miga) will provide a 100% guarantee for LCs issued by local and international banks to Petrobangla, ensuring secure and efficient access to LNG supplies.

A WB document shared with the government shows the loan guarantee will be one percentage point cheaper than the rates offered by the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) for LNG imports.

The proposal also includes

the possibility of expanding the facility beyond \$350 million, though with reduced World Bank coverage.

A senior ERD official explained that a revolving letter of credit facility is a type of bank guarantee that allows a buyer to make multiple payments for goods or services without needing a new guarantee each time.

Once the funds are used up, they automatically renew, so the buyer can continue making payments, added the official. **EP**

## Bangladesh Signs LNG Deal with US Firm



**B**angladesh has signed a non-binding agreement with a US firm, Argent LNG, to purchase up to 5 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually.

Argent LNG is developing a 25 million metric tons per annum (MTPA) LNG facility in Louisiana.

This is the first major US LNG supply deal since President Donald Trump took office recently, according to a statement issued by Argent LNG.

Since coming to power, Trump has taken executive

action to end the Department of Energy's pause on licenses to export super-chilled gas to countries that do not have free trade agreements with the United States, as he tries to increase US exports of LNG.

If the Argent LNG project in Port Fourchon is completed, its cargoes could be sold to Petrobangla, according to the agreement.

"This agreement not only ensures a reliable energy supply for Bangladesh's expanding industrial base but also strengthens our strategic partnership with the United States," said Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority. **EP**

## Bangladesh's Power Subsidies Highest among Neighbors

**B**angladesh has the highest per capita power subsidies among its four neighboring countries, including India and Pakistan, despite having the second-lowest per capita consumption, according to an analysis by the Bangladesh Independent Power Producers Association (BIPPA).

BIPPA presented its findings to senior government officials recently at Rail Bhaban, near the Bangladesh Secretariat.

The presentation showed that Bangladesh paid \$18.53 in per capita power subsidies in fiscal year 2023-24,

which is higher than India's \$14.29, Pakistan's \$8.74, and Vietnam's \$0.0431.

Island nation Sri Lanka discontinued such subsidies in 2023.

Besides, electricity prices at the retail level in Bangladesh are the lowest among these countries, even though the country relies on the highest percentage of imported fuel for electricity generation, the BIPPA found.

According to their analysis, Bangladesh imports 65 percent of its total fuel needs, followed by Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Pakistan, and India, respectively. **EP**

## PDB Plans to Cut Cost by Tk 10,000cr in FY25

**T**he interim government has come up with a plan to reduce power sector expenses by Tk 10,000 crore while energy experts term the plan impractical, saying that the right intervention could save Tk 30,000 crore overnight.

The interim government has made the plan as part of the ongoing efforts to revitalize the economy destroyed substantially during the ousted Awami League regime by predatory power and energy expenses.

Energy experts said that the plan ignored key areas of corruption and some proposals would bear serious consequences for industries, the



environment, and public health. The plan reflects our inefficiencies,' said Hasan Mehedi, member secretary of the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development, a platform of green activists.

Prepared by the Bangladesh Power Development Board, the plan aims to reduce cost by 10 percent or Tk 10,548 crore in 2025 by reducing generation cost, avoiding surcharges, not renewing retired power plants, and adopting austerity measures. **EP**

## Power Grid Revenue Grows amid Persistent Losses

**P**ower Grid Company of Bangladesh, a government-owned company responsible for power transmission throughout the country, saw its revenue increase in the fiscal year 2023-24 despite persistent losses putting a dent in its earnings.

The company reported a revenue of Tk 2,785.56 crore in FY24, a 14 percent year-on-year increase.

Despite the revenue growth, the company incurred a net loss of Tk 457.46 crore, a significant improvement from the Tk 720.27 crore loss recorded in the previous



year, according to its audited financial statements.

The company reported a loss per share of Tk 5.01 for FY24, down from a loss per share of Tk 10.11 in the prior year.

The company said in its audited financial statements that its total income rose by 12.52 percent, while total expenses increased by 2 percent, reducing the net loss by Tk 262.80 crore. **EP**

## LNG Subsidies Set to Go Ballooning This FY



State subsidies on account of LNG import in the current fiscal year (FY 2024-25) are estimated to be around Tk 160 billion, nearly three times the previous FY's Tk 60.35 billion.

State-run Petrobangla has estimated the expenses considering the devaluation of the local currency taka against the US dollar while the government plans to ramp up imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to meet growing demand for the fuel,

officials said.

The subsidy for LNG this FY alone would constitute more than half the total amount paid to Petrobangla over the last six years since the beginning of import in FY '19.

According to sources at the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the government paid subsidies worth around Tk 25 billion in FY '19, Tk 35 billion in FY '20, Tk 34.97 billion in FY '21, Tk 60 billion in FY '22, Tk 63.32 billion in FY '23, and Tk 60.35 billion in FY'24.

During the first three months (July-September 2024) of FY '25, the amount of subsidy stood at Tk 30 billion, a senior MoF official said. **EP**

## IRENA to Host Secretariat for Global Coalition on Energy Planning



The outgoing G20 President Brazil has invited IRENA to serve as the Secretariat of the Global Coalition on Energy Planning (GCEP).

At a time when developing countries need to increase clean energy investments six-fold to meet global climate goals, Brazil's Minister of Mines and Energy, Alexandre Silveira De Oliveira, officially handed over the invitation to IRENA's Director-General Francesco La Camera during

the side event, 'Global Coalition for Energy Planning – Shaping the Agenda for Action', today, ahead of the 15th IRENA Assembly.

The establishment of GCEP was announced by the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting in Foz do Iguazu, Brazil, in October 2024. The initiative provides a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

GCEP aims to promote effective, inclusive, and transparent energy planning as a tool to accelerate clean energy investments, especially in developing countries, and ensure a just and equitable transition for all. **EP**

## Vietnam, Russia Sign Nuclear Energy Development Pact

Russia and Vietnam recently signed a memorandum of understanding on developing nuclear energy cooperation during a two-day visit by the Russian prime minister to the Southeast Asian nation.



A statement by the Russian government said the memorandum between Moscow's state nuclear energy corporation Rosatom and Hanoi's sole state power company Vietnam Electricity is one of seven documents signed between the two sides.

The signing of the document came during Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's visit to the Vietnamese capital Hanoi. He also held talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

This is Mishustin's first visit to

Vietnam and also the first visit to the Southeast Asian nation by any foreign leader this year.

During a meeting prior to the signing of the documents, Mishustin described Vietnam as an important partner of Russia in Southeast Asia, saying that they prioritize increasing trade and economic cooperation.

"Mutual trade turnover is growing steadily. It increased by 24% last year. Including thanks to the implementation of the free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Vietnam," Mishustin further said. **EP**

## Industries Demand Seamless Supply of Gas, Electricity

The country's businesses recently called for an uninterrupted supply of gas and electricity to run mills and factories smoothly and continue industrial growth.

They highlighted the pivotal role that captive power plants (CPPs) currently play in ensuring higher operational efficiency (up to 80 percent) compared to the national grid.

However, they stressed the need to improve the national grid's infrastructure, especially the distribution system, to enhance the power quality for better synchronization of grid power and CPPs for the best

possible energy efficiency.

A host of experts made the observations at a seminar styled 'Captive Power Generation for Industries in Bangladesh - Overview and Recommendations' at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Organized by the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD), the seminar brought together experts, academics, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore findings and recommendations on improving energy efficiency in the industrial sector through captive power solutions. **EP**



## Japan Unveils Draft for Updated Energy Plan



security, economic efficiency, and environmental protection.

The draft plan has omitted all references to “reducing dependency on nuclear

power as much as possible.”

As for the building of new and replacement nuclear plants, it states that the nation “will seek specific courses of actions enabling nuclear power operators to replace those NPPs whose decommissioning has already been decided with next-generation advanced reactors at those sites.”

Japan will also conduct a study for the development and installation of next-generation advanced reactors. **EP**

Japan has released the draft for its updated strategic energy plan, with nuclear still remaining to play a big part in the country's power generation.

According to the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, the draft of the 7th Strategic Energy Plan incorporates learnings from the March 2011 accident at Fukushima Daiichi, and the basic viewpoint of the government's S+3E policy, namely, the S of safety along with the three E's of energy

## Aramco Awards \$9.0b Contracts to be Executed Locally

Saudi Arabian Oil Co. recently signed 145 deals totaling about \$9 billion as part of the oil giant's In-Kingdom Total Value Add (iktva) program.

“The agreements and MoUs [memorandums of understanding] are expected to advance the localization of goods and services in Saudi Arabia, boosting local content in the supply chain and fostering collaboration”, Aramco said in an online statement.

The agreements were inked at the launch of iktva Forum & Exhibition 2025, where Aramco also announced the start of operation of ASMO.

It is a procurement and



logistics services hub built as a joint venture with DHL Group. The Riyadh project, announced on February 5, 2024, caters to the Middle East and North Africa.

Aramco also inaugurated the Novel Non-Metallic Solutions facility at King Salman Energy Park and the NMDC Offshore fabrication yard at Ras Al Khair. Novel is a joint venture with Baker Hughes Co. formed to develop and commercialize composite products. **EP**

## LPG Operators Seek 15-Yr Loan Rescheduling with Interest Waivers



Without such measures, operators warn, the stability of the sector that produces, stores and distributes liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is at grave risk.

The LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB) made these appeals following a recent meeting, chaired by its president Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director of Delta LPG.

On the day, the association formally submitted its proposals to the Bangladesh Bank governor. **EP**

Bangladesh's LPG sector is sounding alarms, urging the central bank for a bailout to stave off a potential collapse. The industry has requested the rescheduling and restructuring loans totaling at least Tk20,000 crore, proposing a repayment term of 15 years, including a two-year grace period.

## Vianode Signs Supply Agreement for EV Battery-Grade Anode Graphite with GM

Vianode, an advanced battery materials company, has been selected as a strategic supplier of high-performance anode graphite solutions to General Motors (NYSE: GM).

The agreement covers the development of large-scale manufacturing capacity and supply of synthetic anode graphite towards 2033.

The master supply agreement has a USD multi-billion value for Vianode and marks an important step forward in strengthening the North American battery and EV supply chain.



The high-performance anode graphite will be shipped from Vianode's IRA-compliant large-scale plant in North America with production starting in 2027. The agreement, which includes a minimum off-take commitment, follows a multi-year qualification process, demonstrating that the anode graphite produced at Vianode's pilot plant in Norway meets stringent performance and validation requirements. **EP**



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

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web : [www.pgcb.gov.bd](http://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।







# Green page

## Policy Inconsistency Drives Foreign Firms Away from Bangladesh's Solar Projects

<b>SOLAR PLAN FACES HICCUP</b>	Interim government suspended letter of intents of 37 renewable projects	The move hurt investors' confidence 	Govt again floated tenders of 52 new solar projects for 4953MW 	Investors, lenders worried amid no govt guarantee to power board
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Source: TBS

The new solar power projects floated by the interim government are riskier for investors as the tender conditions allow for payment delays or defaults alongside power purchase contract cancellation without enough compensation, experts and investors said recently.

They also said the cancellation of previously issued letters of intent (LOIs) for 37 renewable power projects is putting at risk the new plan for 4,952 MW solar power from 52 plants as it undermines the confidence of global investors like Japanese Marubeni and French Total.

Sensing an increasing country risk, international lenders are set to turn away, they opined in a roundtable titled

"Financing Solar Power Projects: Challenges and Opportunity," organized in Dhaka recently.

Speakers said such erratic policies are alarming for both global and local investors.

Adding to the woes, the tenders floated by the interim government for new solar projects were described as fraught with risks for investors. Provisions in the tenders reportedly allow delays or defaults in payments and even power purchase contract cancellations without adequate compensation.

Such terms make the landscape more precarious for investors, who are now reconsidering their stakes in Bangladesh.

EP

## Bangladesh Launches 500 MW Solar Tender



The Bangladeshi authorities are seeking proposals to build 10 PV plants with each a capacity of 50 MW across several regions.

The Bangladesh Power Development

Board (BPDB) has launched a tender for 10 solar power plants each having 50 MW capacity, in ten different locations across the country.

The plants will be set up close to the existing grid substations in Cox's Bazar, Gopalganj, Chuadanga, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Faridpur, Habiganj, and Mymensingh districts.

Bid documents have become available from January 8 this year and will remain open for buying until March 09. Bidders will have to pay a tender security amount at the rate of US\$5,000 for each megawatt of electricity.

EP

## Trump Halts Leasing and Permitting for Wind Energy Projects

President Donald Trump signed an executive order recently temporarily halting offshore wind lease sales in federal waters and pausing the issuance of approvals, permits and loans for both onshore and offshore wind projects.

The Secretary of Interior will now review wind leasing and permitting practices for federal waters and



lands. The assessment will consider the environmental impact of wind projects on wildlife, the economic costs associated with the intermittent generation of electricity, and the effect of subsidies on the viability of the wind industry.

Trump's pick for Interior Secretary, Doug Burgum, was asked during his confirmation hearing whether he would commit to continuing with offshore wind leases that have been issued.

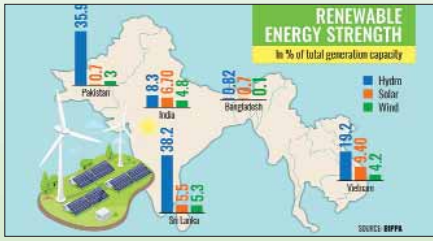
Burgum said that projects "that make sense" and have already been approved will continue to be developed.

Wind power currently provides about 10% of the electricity generated in the United States, making it the nation's largest source of renewable energy.

EP



## Renewable Ambitions Still Mired in Uncertainty



Although the Awami League government made ambitious commitments to renewable energy before being ousted by a mass uprising in August last year, meeting those lofty goals remains a distant dream for the country.

The interim government has been trying to accelerate the transition, but experts and businesses have voiced concerns that the new tenders, which do not feature implementation agreements, may hold back progress. According to

an analysis by the Bangladesh Independent Power Producers Association (BIPPA), Bangladesh produces the least electricity from renewable sources compared to four other countries – India, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh's power generation mix is heavily skewed towards fossil fuels, with only 0.8 percent of energy being produced through renewables.

The nearest competitor, Pakistan, gets 3.7 percent of its total 42,131 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity from renewables, according to the findings, which were shared with senior government officials on Monday at Rail Bhaban.

The comparison was based on data till June 2024.

At present, Bangladesh has a total installed capacity of 27,115MW, with solar and wind contributing 663MW. **EP**

## PV Capacity Reaches 52 GW in Brazil

According to the Brazilian Association of Photovoltaic Solar Energy (ABSolar), the PV sector has generated more than 1.5 million green jobs in the country since 2012. The recent increase in import taxes, however, is hampering that growth, the association warns.

Solar power has reached the 52 GW mark of operational installed capacity in Brazil, according to the ABSolar. Since 2012 the sector has brought more than BRL 238.3

billion (\$39 billion) in new investments to the country, generated more than 1.5 million green jobs and contributed more than BRL 73.8 billion in revenue to the public coffers.

The balance sheet takes into account the sum of distributed solar generation, with 34.8 GW, and large solar plants, with 17.4 GW. As a result, solar power has already avoided the emission of about 63 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in electricity generation. **EP**

## China's New Energy Storage Capacity Surges



In 2024 alone, China added 42.37 GW/101.13 GWh of new storage capacity (excluding pumped hydro), with an average discharge duration of 2.3 hours—up from 2.1 hours in 2023.

China's National Energy Administration (NEA) announced on

January 23 that the country's installed capacity of new energy storage had surged to 73.76 GW/168 GWh by the end of 2024, marking a twentyfold increase from the end of 2021.

Compared to the 31.39 GW/66.87 GWh recorded at the end of 2023, this represents an annual growth rate exceeding 130%.

According to NEA's definition, new types of energy storage exclude pumped hydro and include electrochemical energy storage, compressed air energy storage, flywheel energy storage, superconducting energy storage, supercapacitor energy storage, and hydrogen energy storage. **EP**

GREENpage

## Wood Mackenzie Predicts Solar Growth to Stagnate in 2025

Wood Mackenzie's latest report forecasts that 493 GW (DC) of solar will be added throughout the world this year, compared to 495 GW in 2024. Solar module prices are expected to rise this year as



manufacturers aim to recover profit losses from the past two years.

The global solar market is on course to add 493 GW (DC) of solar this year, according to forecasts by Wood Mackenzie. The figure would be a 0.5% decline on the 495 GW of installed solar in 2024.

Sylvia Leyva Martinez, Wood Mackenzie's principal analyst for utility-scale solar in North America, said solar deployment will decelerate in many countries as policy changes come to fruition.

"Post-election uncertainty, waning incentives, power sector reforms and a shift towards less ambitious climate agendas will drive solar installations to stagnate at 493 GWdc after years of exponential growth," Martinez explained. **EP**

## 20MW Muktagachha Solar Plant Set for June Production



**M**uktagacha Solartech Energy Limited, a 20MW power project in Mymensingh, is set to begin production in June with construction progressing at full speed.

The Tk320 crore project, encompassing construction and the first year's

operational costs, is being developed on 70 acres of previously unusable wetland in Muktagachha upazila.

The plant, a subsidiary of Joules Power Limited, will supply electricity to the local Palli Bidyut Samity at Tk8.12 per unit.

Currently, Palli Bidyut meets only 60%-70% of the area's demand, which ranges between 30MW in winter and 50MW in summer.

Muktagacha Solartech Energy's contribution is expected to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply in the area. **EP**

## Sembcorp Inks MOUs with Odisha Govt During Singapore President's Visit



**S**embcorp Industries (Sembcorp), through its wholly-owned subsidiaries Sembcorp Green Hydrogen India Private Limited (SGHIPL) and Sembcorp Development Ltd, recently signed two non-binding Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the government of Odisha.

These MOUs were signed by representatives of the government of Odisha and Sembcorp, in the presence of Singapore's Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Chee Hong Tat and Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha, along with other dignitaries.

The MOUs exchange took place on the sidelines of the Presidential State Visit of Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore, to India.

Under the MOU signed with Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited, SGHIPL will explore the development of a production facility for green hydrogen and its derivatives, with an anticipated production capacity of 720,000 metric tonnes per annum.

The facility, to be strategically located in Odisha, is expected to generate over 2,000 employment opportunities during its operational phase.

Sembcorp Development Ltd has also signed a non-binding MOU with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation to assess the potential for the development of an industrial park in Odisha, India. **EP**



## ACWA Power, Solarabic among Winners at 2025 MESIA Solar Awards

**T**he Middle East Solar Industry Association (MESIA) honored several of the region's most significant contributors at the 2025 edition of its annual MESIA Solar Awards.

Solarabic, ACWA Power, Yellow Door Energy, and Meteocontrol were among the awardees.

More than 250 people gathered to



see ACWA Power, Yellow Door Energy and more win industry recognition at the 13th edition of the MESIA Solar Awards.

The ceremony took place in Abu Dhabi on Jan. 15, 2025, during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the World Future Energy Summit.

Riyadh-headquartered utility ACWA Power won "Utility Scale Solar Project Developer of 2024" for its involvement in several large-scale projects. These include its planned trio of solar parks in Saudi Arabia, as well as its big Uzbekistan battery storage project, which comprises 200 MW of solar and 500 MWh of battery energy storage. **EP**



## Global Action Key to Tackle Climate Change: Rizwana



**E**nvironment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has called for unified global action to confront the challenges of climate change.

She spoke about the importance of minimizing environmental harm while striving to meet mitigation targets during a capacity-building workshop on Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation, held recently at the Department of Environment in Dhaka.

"Market-driven solutions have a role, but my humble

request is to prepare ourselves for the challenges of climate change. Together, we must work to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Failure to do so will

endanger the existence of vulnerable countries like ours. Let the urgency of this crisis inspire us to achieve our future aspirations," Rizwana said.

"Mitigating through trading comes with a price, but it also offers opportunities to improve governance standards and operational efficiency. For instance, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in the energy sector can address gas emissions and improve efficiency across industries," she added. **EP**

## 15th IRENA Assembly to Set Energy Transition Narrative for 2025



**T**he 15th Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly convenes on January 12 in Abu Dhabi, marking the first international energy meeting of the year.

Under the theme 'Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition – The Way Forward,' the two-day meetings will bring together ministers and high-level delegates from IRENA's 170 Member States, academia,

development banks, CEOs and youth to enhance wider, cross-sectoral collaboration on the energy transition.

Key discussions will focus on tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030,

enhancing ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), supporting transitions in emerging economies, and leveraging innovative financial flows in developing countries.

"The world is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by a shifting geopolitical landscape and technological breakthroughs such as artificial intelligence," said IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera. **EP**

## Billionaire Bloomberg to Fund UN Climate Body after US Withdrawal

**B**illionaire Michael Bloomberg announced recently that his foundation will step in to fund the UN climate change body after President Donald Trump declared the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement for the second time.

Bloomberg's intervention aims to ensure the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) remains fully funded despite the United States halting its contributions.

The United States typically provides 22 percent of the UNFCCC secretariat's budget, with the body's operating costs for 2024-2025 projected at 88.4



million euros (\$96.5 million).

"From 2017 to 2020, during a period of federal inaction, cities, states, businesses, and the public rose to the challenge to uphold our nation's commitments -- and now, we are ready to do it again," Bloomberg, who serves as the UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, said in a statement.

This marks the second time Bloomberg has stepped in to fill the gap left by US federal disengagement. **EP**

## US Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement Again

**P**resident Donald Trump signed an executive order recently directing the United States to withdraw from the landmark Paris climate agreement, dealing a blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming and once again distancing the U.S. from its closest allies.

Trump's action, hours after he was sworn into a second term, echoed his directive in 2017 when he announced that the U.S. would abandon the global Paris accord.

The pact is aimed at limiting long-term global warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-



industrial levels or, failing that, keeping temperatures at least well below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial levels.

Trump also signed a letter to the United Nations indicating his intention to withdraw from the 2015 agreement, which allows nations to provide targets to cut their own emissions of greenhouse gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. **EP**



## Bangladesh, Germany Strengthen Cooperation for Sustainable Development



In a significant step towards promoting sustainable development, three technical cooperation agreements were signed on Jan 15 between Bangladesh and Germany.

The agreements, amounting to €14.45 million, focus on

advancing sustainability in the textile sector, localizing national climate adaptation targets, and transitioning to sustainable e-mobility.

Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, and Andreas Kuck, Country Director of GiZ in Bangladesh, signed the agreements, marking a new chapter in Bangladesh-Germany bilateral cooperation, said an ERD press release. **EP**

## Denmark, AYW to Promote Women's Climate Leadership



Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Christian Brix Moller has said Asian University for Women (AYW), as a university promoting women's leadership and offering higher education to the most vulnerable women from diverse backgrounds, is uniquely positioned to implement the promises of climate leadership project.

"Through this engagement, we believe AYW can create women leaders who can step up as climate frontrunners for Bangladesh and the region," said the Ambassador.

Through the signing of a new project, Denmark and Asian

University for Women (AYW) are set to foster climate leadership among young women, said the Danish Embassy in Dhaka recently.

The initiative aims to create a platform for youth-driven climate solutions by making linkages between academia and industry.

The Ambassador and AYW Vice Chancellor Dr Rubana Huq recently formalized the four-year partnership.

This project aims to develop innovative climate change leaders and change-makers by providing AYW students with comprehensive education and training in climate science, environmental engineering, and leadership.

The program will equip students to play a vital role in advancing climate resilience and environmental sustainability. **EP**

## Top Canada Banks Quit Global Climate Coalition

Four of Canada's biggest lenders said recently they were withdrawing from a global banking sector climate coalition, joining six major US banks.

The departures from the Net-Zero Banking Alliance began with Goldman Sachs' announcement on Dec 6 and come ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House. Trump has been critical of efforts by governments to prescribe climate-change policies.

The four Canadian banks are TD Bank, Bank of Montreal, National Bank of Canada and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The other big US banks that have withdrawn are Wells Fargo, Citi, Bank of America, Morgan



Stanley and JPMorgan.

The Net-Zero Banking Alliance, a UN-sponsored initiative set up by former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney, was launched in 2021 to encourage financial institutions to limit the effects of climate change and push toward achieving net-zero emissions.

The Canadian banks said in separate statements that they were equipped to work outside the alliance and develop their climate strategies. **EP**

## 242m Children's Schooling Disrupted by Climate Shocks in 2024: UNICEF

Extreme weather disrupted the schooling of about 242 million children in 85 countries last year -- roughly one in seven students, the UN children's agency reported recently, deploring what it said was an "overlooked" aspect of the climate crisis.

Heat waves had the biggest impact, the report showed, as UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell warned children are "more vulnerable" to extreme weather.

"They heat up faster, they sweat less efficiently and cool down more slowly than



adults," she said in a statement.

"Children cannot concentrate in classrooms that offer no respite from sweltering heat, and they cannot get to school if the path is flooded, or if schools are washed away."

Human activity, including the unrestricted burning of fossil fuels over decades, has warmed the planet and changed weather patterns. **EP**

## Stricter Enforcement of Polythene Ban Crucial for Future Generation:

Rizwana



will implement stricter measures to enforce the ban on polythene shopping bags, warning that failure to do so will cause severe harm to both current and future generations.

**S**yeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Water Resources, recently stressed that enforcing the ban on polythene is essential not only because it is legally mandated but also to ensure a healthy future for children. She said that the government

"Polythene is a significant contributor to cancer and environmental degradation and must be eradicated," she added.

The adviser made these remarks as the chief guest at a stakeholder consultation meeting on combating polythene use and conserving the environment, held at the Theatre Institute, Chattogram. **EP**

## Thailand's Fight against Air Pollution

**F**lying through Bangkok's cloudless blue skies, a small aircraft sprays a white mist over a thick haze of pea soup smog below.



This is Thailand's desperate, unproven attempt at reducing the oppressive air pollution over its capital, which recently reached eight times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum average.

The scourge has made more than a million people ill since late 2023 and cost Thailand more than \$88 million in medical expenses, the public health ministry said earlier last month.

According to Bangkok

governor Chadchart Sittipunt, the main culprits are vehicle emissions, crop burning in the wider region, and "closed" weather conditions -- a warm atmospheric lid covering the dust, preventing it from dispersing.

Known as a temperature inversion, the kingdom is trying to deal with the phenomenon using a homegrown experimental method to displace the pollution. **EP**

## Politics has 'Weaponized' Science: UN Climate Chief



**T**he UN's climate chief recently said that the science of global warming had been "weaponized" by politics, a day after Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement.

Simon Stiell said that shifting geopolitical events could not change the hard facts that underpin climate change and the disastrous consequences linked to a warming planet.

Last year was the hottest on

record, and the combined average temperature of 2023 and 2024 exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius benchmark set under the Paris climate accord for the first time.

Stiell said that support for climate science was "far, far more significant than those few voices that challenge" it.

"The science has actually been weaponized, and again that is reflective of the politics," he told an audience at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

On the first day of his second term as president, Trump announced that the United States would again withdraw from the Paris climate accord

## Tech Industry Struggles to Meet Net Zero Targets

**I**n 2024, the average global temperature exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold above pre-industrial levels for the first time. Companies must speed up their net zero efforts to curtail the impact of worsening climate conditions.

The tech sector contributes significantly to the trend of increasing carbon emissions and although tech companies have ambitious net zero targets, they are far from reaching actual net zero, says GlobalData, a

leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's latest report, "Net Zero Strategies in the Tech Industry," analyses the net zero strategies of the 20 largest tech companies globally, including consumer electronics manufacturers, semiconductor companies, software companies, and hyperscale cloud providers.

The report found that despite tech companies having ambitious net zero targets, they are still far away from reaching actual net zero. **EP**

endorsed by nearly 200 nations.

Trump, who has expressed skepticism of climate change and global efforts to confront

it, did the same thing during his first term but Joe Biden rejoined the pact.

"We've been here before," said Stiell. **EP**

# ALL EYES ARE ON STUDENTS' BID TO LAUNCH A POLITICAL PARTY

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

Launching a student-led political party in Bangladesh is a matter of months if not weeks. The leaders (popularly known as coordinators) of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement have been talking about forming a new party soon after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government in a mass upsurge led by them last year. A branch called the Jatiya Nagorik Committee (JNC) has emerged out of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. Strong speculation that the JNC will transform into a political party has been in the air for quite some time.

In remarks to reporters in December last year, Nasiruddin Patwary, convener of JNC, said, "The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Jatiya Nagorik Committee are planning to form a new political party within a month or two."

Explaining further, he added, "We are currently a political initiative, born out of the 2024 mass uprising, comprising forces that defeated Awami fascism and aim to rebuild Bangladesh."

In their bid to launch a political party,

the students have strong backing from Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus who took over the charge of the country's interim government at their request. In a podcast with the London-based Financial Times, he cleared his position. "In the changed political scenario," he said, "one of the possibilities is that the students will form a political party". Yunus said that many believe students would not have the chance to get even one seat in parliament because no one knows them, but that is not what he thinks. "I said the whole nation knows them. Let them take a chance, whatever they want to do. So they will do it."

Sure the students will do it. The new political party may even be launched by February. Student leaders (though some of them are no longer students) have been out on the streets to shop for support for their yet-to-be-launched party. They have been holding meetings with local-level student coordinators, like-minded people, and sympathizers to explain why they need a separate political party. In simple words, it is to build a new Bangladesh by establishing

a government that will take care of people's aspirations for a democratic country free of corruption and respectful of human rights. As one leader says the new party will sit neither on the right nor the left. It will be a centrist organization.

The new party will enter into the pages of history when it is launched. The students of Bangladesh, mostly those from Dhaka University, have a long history of leading all pro-democracy movements. Starting from the 1952 Language Movement, the students were at the forefront of subsequent movements in 1962 and 1969 leading up to the 1971 War of Liberation. In every movement, political parties followed the students. But never before do students think of forming a political party of their own, contesting elections, and winning power so they can govern the country in fulfillment of people's aspirations. The experiment, if we may see it this way, has already raised many questions besides inspiring interest at home and abroad. The key question is whether the initiative would be a king's party. What will be the status of the three student leaders who sit in the Council of Advisers of the Yunus-led interim government? Are they going to quit as advisers to join the new political party? Aren't they already involved in the organization of the party? Speculations are rife that the three advisers will quit the interim government should they decide to join the political party. BNP, which is largely expected to win the next national polls and form a government, is keeping a close watch on the students' experiment with direct politics, forming a party, and taking part in elections. So are others. Let's see how it unfolds.

EP







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# Ensure Quality Gas Supply At Current Price To Save Industry

**B**usinesses accepted the gas price hikes during the former government's regime due to the assurance of quality gas supply on an uninterrupted basis. The industry paid a higher price, but the government failed to ensure a quality gas supply. Yet the interim government plans to increase the gas prices again for the industry and captive power generation. The textile sector will lose competitiveness in the global market if industries do not get quality gas supply as per demand and at the existing price. Many industries have already closed business while many others have grown sick. We have made it clear that amid the present state of industries, if gas and electricity prices are increased, entrepreneurs should have the option to exit from the business honorably.

Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury, Managing Director of Evinco Group and President of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), said this in an exclusive interview with **Mollah Amzad Hossain**, Editor of Energy & Power.

**The businesses have already rejected the government's proposal for increasing the gas prices for new industries. However, the government stated its inability to provide subsidies anymore. What would you say?**

Please note that the spinning and weaving segments have flourished as a dream backward linkage of the garments sector. These are supplying yarn and fabric to the readymade garments sector competing with the raw materials imported from India and China. Now the cost of production has already become higher than that of

India and China. Hence the RMG sector has lost incentive in using local raw materials and has leaned towards import. Spinning and weaving industries have lost competitiveness despite increasing productivity and enhancing fuel efficiency. The main reason is the poor quality of the gas supply. The gas crisis continued compounding over the past four years. Gas price for industries and captive generation was increased by 176% to Tk 30 per MSCF on condition of ensuring quality gas supply. But unfortunately, the gas supply situation did not improve. The price of processing gas has been increased to Tk 30.75/unit and for captive generation to Tk 31.50/unit.

According to Petrobangla information, it appears that the average sales price of own gas and imported LNG is Tk 24.38/unit. The average supply cost is Tk 22.87/unit. It is evident that Petrobangla is earning profit from the sales of gas to industries and captive power generators. Hence the strategy of the government for transferring the burden of the additional cost of imported LNG is not acceptable for us. This indicates that the government does not want new industries to grow and existing industries to survive. These are the reasons why we have rejected the government initiative to increase gas prices.

**The government stated that the Petrobangla losses reached Tk 16,000 crores in the current financial year. It is no longer possible to let the gas sector survive on subsidies. What do you think is the alternative to price adjustment?**



Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury

*No more new gas-using power plants should be set up. We are facing a serious gas supply shortage. I do not think we can any longer live with the luxury of keeping 60 Tcf equivalent coal resources buried underground. Exploitation will increase the diversity of fuel use, and reduce reliance on imports. It will reduce stress on foreign exchange, and the cost of generation. It will also delay requirements for increasing LNG imports.*

Please note that the industry is already buying gas at the cost-plus price. There is no scope for adding new burden. Gas is supplied to the grid-connected power generation at a subsidized price. There is a scope for adjustment there. By increasing the supply of coal, nuclear, and furnace oil-based power and over the mid-term increasing the contribution of renewable energy, the stress on gas can be relieved. These will also limit the requirement of LNG import.

The government must realize that gas-based industries are now struggling to survive. Hence there must not be any consideration to increasing the price

now. Almost every day sick industries are closing business. The government must take note of it. There is no scope now to increase gas prices for industries. Rather, by increasing the supply of fuel from domestic sources, especially gas, the cost must be minimized.

***It is being said that the present energy supply situation has been created by neglecting the exploration of petroleum resources for decades. The interim government has no obligation for it. They are now trying to expedite the exploration campaign. What are your observations?***

Please note that the Energy Adviser after assuming office announced that there is no intention to increase power tariffs and gas prices. We became optimistic, knowing this from the media. Advance initiatives for the exploration and development of own petroleum resources are commendable. But before witnessing the outcome of such initiatives, why is the government considering actions that may jeopardize the operation and even the existence of industries? We have invested our fortune in industries complying with all the rules and procedures of the government. State governance is a continuous process. Why would we, the industrial entrepreneurs, have to bear the burdens of the flawed planning of any of the former regimes?

***Around 16% of the available gas is now used in captive power generation. Government sources claim that gas can be more efficiently used in grid power generation limiting supply to captive generation. Why are Industries not moving towards grid power getting out of captive generation?***

This question can be answered from different aspects. We invested in industries based on the government's assurance of supplying gas and electricity as required. One of the driving forces behind the flourishing of the textile sector in Bangladesh was

relatively cheaper energy availability. But the gas price is now higher than in neighboring countries. We finalized our investment plan considering quality uninterrupted power supply from the grid. Following the government's failure to ensure quality power supply and then responding to the government's request, large industries made additional investments in captive power generation. But now Petrobangla cannot ensure gas for the operation of industries and captive power generation. Power grids cannot also ensure quality supply on a reliable basis.

It is said that grid power generation is more fuel-efficient. Not actually. Gas power generation has 43% efficiency. For captive power generation with cogeneration and trigeneration, efficiency has been enhanced by over 60%. The cost of captive power generation is now Tk 9.50-10.25 per unit. The price of grid power to industries is Tk 10.50/unit. Captive power plants require a supply of 400 MMCFD gas. That is not available now. Even if the supply is there, gas cannot be used for power generation for lower-than-minimum pressure.

Moreover, most of the industries are in the distribution franchise of BREB where the grid power distribution network is much less reliable. Textile industries cannot rely on such an unreliable power supply situation. In the above situation, there is no way to get out of captive power generation in the foreseeable future.

It must be borne in mind that in the existing energy crisis, the textile sector is endeavoring to survive by utilizing grid power, captive power, and solar power as efficiently as possible. Industries and entrepreneurs are passing through nightmares.

***Media reports and studies of chambers and trade bodies state about 30-40% loss of production of industries due to gas-electricity supply shortages. The cost of production has also increased because of power tariffs and gas price hikes. The RMG sector also***

***relies more and more on imported raw materials. Value addition is on the decline. What is happening?***

Studies and reports are correct. The gas supply shortage is a major reason for production interruption and material loss. Poor quality gas supply is harming machinery, increasing repair and maintenance costs. Production costs of textile industries have increased by 50%. Spinning and weaving are dream export industries. The production cost of yarn now is US\$2.45 per kg. Till now, local industries used to contribute 90% of raw materials for the knitting industries. This is on the decline. The industries are getting sick and closing. Before the increase in gas prices, the production cost of each yard of fabric was Tk 16. Now it increased to Tk26.75. Consequently, RMG factories for their survival are progressively moving towards imported raw materials. Our hard-earned foreign exchanges are going out. Local value addition of the RMG sector is falling.

***It is being said that enhanced energy efficiency and increased productivity are ways to confront the situation. What are your thoughts?***

Please note that all textile industries are using energy very efficiently now. Productivity has also increased significantly. Where energy supply is a major issue, the question of efficient use has no relevance. We must keep the dream export sector textile is now competing with India, China, and Vietnam. The cost of energy is less there. They also do not have supply issues as experienced in Bangladesh. If Bangladesh wants its industries to remain competitive with countries in the global market gas prices must be kept at a rational level. Even at the price of the present level, it is very difficult to remain competitive.

***During the tenure of the past regime, a decision was made that new gas and electricity connections would***



be provided to industries located within the Special Economic Zones and Export Processing Zones only. At the same time, it was also said that quality gas supply would only be ensured in the selected industrial areas. That decision still exists. What are your views?

The decision of the former government was not acceptable to us. Unfortunately, the present government is also following that. Special Economic Zones are not yet ready. The areas of investment now appearing attractive may not remain like this in the future. As such gas and electricity connections should also be given to areas considered feasible for any industry. There is no other option for attracting investment and increasing employment.

You are advising to reduce the use of gas for power generation. But coal is also being imported for power generation. That is also increasing the cost of generation. Using furnace oil makes generation

the most expensive. What is the alternative?

Please note that I am not an energy expert. I am an entrepreneur and investor and I am creating employment opportunities. We are earning foreign exchange from export-oriented industries. Low-carbon development is the way to go globally now. The use of coal is being discouraged. However, countries like India, China, and the USA are burning much higher volumes of coal. I believe without wasting any time, we must decide to exploit domestic coal resources and start using them. Whatever gas resources are added must be preferably dedicated to industries. No more new gas-using power plants should be set up. We are facing a serious gas supply shortage. I do not think we can any longer live with the luxury of keeping 60 Tcf equivalent coal resources buried underground.

Exploitation will increase the diversity of fuel use, and reduce reliance on imports. It will reduce stress on foreign exchange, and the cost of generation. It will also delay requirements for increasing LNG imports

What will be the alternatives if the government decides to increase the gas price of industries irrespective of the present challenges?

We have recently mentioned alternatives to the government. Meeting with the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, we have thoroughly appraised him of the situation of the industries. The energy price and supply situation have also been informed. It will not be possible to run the industries if the government does not pay heed to our suggestions. We have requested the government to work out an exit policy for the entrepreneurs. That will facilitate our honorable exit after meeting all liabilities of investment.

EP

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## রঙ ঝিরঙ

বিজ্ঞাপন হার	টাকা
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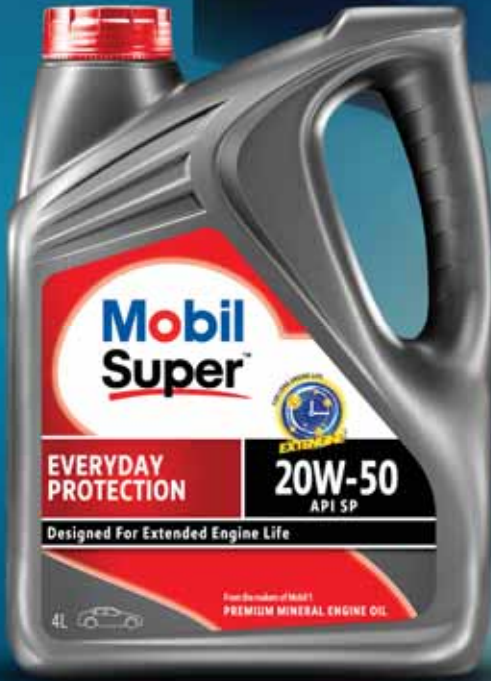
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