



Gas Deficit May Widen Further Until 2029

- Rejuvenated BERC Can Be A Game Changer
- Reducing Gas Sector System Loss To 2% Impossible With Old Network
- Maintaining Domestic Gas Output At Present Level May Not Be Possible Sans Major Discoveries





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EDITORIAL

Bangladesh is facing a deepening gas crisis, prompting the authorities concerned to take urgent action to stabilize the supply. The government is implementing a range of strategies, including boosting exploration, integrating untapped gas from Bhola, and revising production sharing contracts (PSCs) to attract foreign investment. Efforts to expand LNG import infrastructure are also underway, with new Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRUs) and a proposed land-based LNG terminal. The goal is to increase gas supply capacity to 4,800 MMCFD by 2030, up from the current 1,900 MMCFD. However, the path to this goal is fraught with challenges. Domestic gas production continues to decline, heavily reliant on the Bibiyana field, which is expected to see a steep decline in output in the coming years. The government has set plans to drill 150 new wells by 2028, but progress has been slow due to bureaucratic and procurement delays. A major part of the solution lies in Bhola's gas reserves, which come with challenges. While plans to develop the region's resources include drilling 20 wells and constructing a new pipeline, doubts about reserve estimates and grid connectivity remain. Offshore exploration also suffers from limited data and political uncertainty. LNG import expansion has faced setbacks with canceled projects and regulatory hurdles.

With demand growing, experts warn that Bangladesh could face a significant gas shortage by 2030 unless policy reforms are fast-tracked. They urge reforms in contractor engagement, data transparency, and PSC frameworks to accelerate gas sector recovery and ensure energy security.

h i g h l i g h t s



21



41

The ongoing program to drill 150 gas wells, including 87 exploration wells by 2028, is highly ambitious; it is unlikely to be achieved under the current system, considering BAPEX's existing technical manpower. To accelerate progress, we need to take a more pragmatic approach. Adopting realistic and well-structured plans is the key to achieving this.Mortuza Ahmad Faruque (Chisty) tells EP

The BERC Act has clear provisions for that. The BERC has issued letters to the power and energy divisions and utilities. From now on, any new project of any BERC licensee will require BERC's prior approval. Moreover, the nonexistence of the special act will require utilities to follow the National Procurement Rule. ...More In Focus



9

The chronic gas crisis in Bangladesh has grown into an alarming proposition. Even if the full LNG supply capacity is utilized, the current deficit of around 1,300 MMCFD could only be marginally reduced to around 1,000 MMCFD. If new initiatives on the domestic front bring 400 MMCFD into the grid by 2029, the domestic supply will not exceed 1,800 MMCFD.



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Greenpage

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Contents

- 33 IsDB to Lend \$167m for 220MW Solar Plant
- 33 Dream71 to Build RE Web Platform for Lesotho
- 34 Bangladesh Hosts First-Ever RE Festival at BUET
- 35 Draft RE Policy 2025 Falls Short of Means to Attain Targets



Contents

- 5 **WORLD WATCH**
Latest Development In World
- 6 **SNAPSHOT**
Latest Development
- 9 **COVER**
Gas Deficit May Widen Further Until 2029
- 15 **COVER ARTICLE**
Gas Sector Development Initiative Yet To Get Pace
- 17 **SPECIAL REPORT**
Reducing Gas Sector System Loss To 2% Impossible With Old Network
- 21 **FOCUS**
Rejuvenated BERC Can Be A Game Changer
- 23 **WORLD**
IDTechEx Explores: Is Fusion Energy Still "30 Years Away"?
- 25 **ROAD TO BELEM**
Brazil's Environment and Climate Minister Meets Over 200 Global Climate Activists
- 27 **REPORT**
Qatar to Extend MoU with Bangladesh over LNG Supply
- 28 Energy Adviser Expects Power Situation to Remain Tolerable in Summer
- 29 LNG Import at Tk75, Selling at Tk12-17 Not Sustainable: BERC Chairman
- 30 BIDA Urges BERC to Revise Recently Announced Gas Price Hike
- 31 Fresh Bid for New Coal Supplier for Matarbari Power Plant in the Offing
- 32 Stable Energy Tariff Key to Investor Confidence: EuroCham
- 37 **CLIMATE**
CA for Enhanced Regional Cooperation to Address Climate Challenges
- 38 Govt to Distribute Jute Bags at Subsidized Rates: Rizwana
- 39 Rizwana Urges Inclusive Trade Deals to Drive Green Growth
- 40 **COLUMN**
Load-Shedding Is A Headache, But Govt Is On The Right Track
- 41 **INTERVIEW**
Mortuza Ahmad Faruque Chisty, former Managing Director of BAPEx

US Slams Anti-Fossil Fuel Policies



An international summit on the future of energy security opened in London recently with stark opposition from Washington, which called policies to phase out fossil fuels "harmful and dangerous".

Profound differences emerged at the two-day International Energy Agency (IEA) meeting over the role of renewables in satisfying the world's thirst for energy.

"Some want to regulate every form of energy besides the so-called renewables, completely out of existence... We oppose these harmful and dangerous policies. This is not energy security," Tommy Joyce, US Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy

for International Affairs, told the conference.

That contrasted to a more moderate message from IEA executive director Fatih Birol in opening remarks at the summit, co-hosted by the UK.

"Every economy has its own pathway for energy. We should understand and respect it," he said.

He added also that "oil and gas are key parts of our energy mix, and they will remain as part of the energy mix in years to come."

Birol's comments depart from the IEA's own forecast in 2023 that fossil fuel demand would peak before 2030.

Several energy ministers from European countries attended the gathering, including 120 senior government officials, business leaders, and experts.

Brava Energia Starts Production from Two More Wells



Brava Energia has started production from two more wells connected to the FPSO at the Atlanta oil field in the Santos Basin offshore Brazil.

Currently wells 4H and 5H, which previously flowed oil through an early production system on the FPSO Petrojarl I, are both undergoing testing

and stabilization.

This brings the number of wells online and connected to the definite system (FPSO Atlanta) to four. Brava expects to complete hookup of the final two wells that produced via the early production system in June.

Last month, Brava Energia reported that it plans to install equipment to stabilize power generation onboard the FPSO at the Papa-Terra oil field in the Campos Basin offshore Brazil.

bp Advances GTA LNG Phase 1 Commissioning

bp plc has loaded the first cargo of LNG for export from the first phase of its Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) LNG project offshore Mauritania and Senegal.



For this stage of commissioning, flow of first gas from the project to the floating production storage and offloading vessel (FPSO)—which lies about 40 km offshore and removes water, condensate, and impurities before transfer to the FLNG vessel—occurred in January this year.

The first LNG shipment was transferred to a carrier from the project's floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) vessel, which lies 10 km offshore, where the natural gas had been cryogenically cooled, liquefied, and stored, the company said in a release Apr. 17.

GTA is one of the deepest offshore developments in Africa, with gas resources about 120 km offshore in water depths of up to 2,850 m on the maritime border between Mauritania and Senegal. The project has been declared one of "strategic national importance" by the governments of Mauritania and Senegal.

Once fully commissioned, GTA Phase 1 is expected to produce about 2.4 million tonnes/year of LNG to feed into the global energy market. An allocation of gas volumes will be made available to the domestic markets in both countries when they are ready to receive it, bp said.

Aramco Lengthens Lamprell Offshore Arrangement

Lamprell has extended its offshore long-term agreement (LTA) with Saudi Aramco, which was first awarded in 2018.

During the signing ceremony at Aramco's offices, Lamprell CEO Ian Prescott said his company had completed various LTA projects to date and is constructing equipment



for others in the UAE.

The company's operations in Saudi Arabia continue to expand, including its joint venture International Maritime Industries yard.

Govt to Set Up Land-Based LNG Terminal Soon: Alam



The interim government has decided to set up a land-based LNG terminal to ensure smooth gas supply to the country's factories.

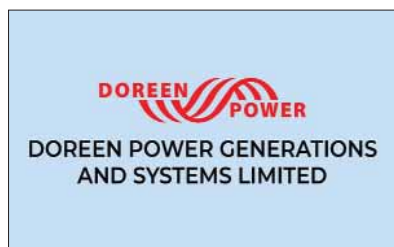
"Many are saying that they are unable to set up factories due to lack of gas. So, we want to set up a land-based LNG terminal as quick as

possible so that enough gas could be brought (from abroad)," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters in Doha recently.

In this regard, he said, a plan was shared with Qatar Energy during the Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus's tour to Doha.

The land-based LNG terminal will be set up soon to expend gas supply to factories in Bangladesh, the press secretary said.

Doreen Power Returns to Profit in Jan-Mar Quarter



Doreen Power Generations and Systems returned to profit in the third quarter of the 2024–25 fiscal year, thanks to a rise in revenue from its power plants.

The power producer posted a profit of Tk 18.83 crore during the period.

The company's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 1.04 for the January–March 2025 quarter, compared to a loss per share of Tk 0.60 in the same period a year earlier, according to a

disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website.

The company attributed the turnaround to a significant rise in sales revenue from its three

heavy fuel oil-based power plants, driven by increased demand for electricity.

In the nine months to March 2025, its consolidated EPS rose to Tk 3.05, up from Tk 2.23 a year ago.

Consolidated net operating cash flow per share stood at Tk 11.28, down from Tk 24.97 a year earlier.

The company said the figure was buoyed by the receipt of a large backlog of receivables during the period.

Three of a Family Suffer Burn Injuries in Gas Explosion in Fakirapool

Three members of a family suffered burn injuries following an explosion and fire caused by a gas leakage in their apartment in Fakirapool area of the capital recently.

They have been admitted to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The incident took place on the fourth floor of a building in Fakirapool's Gorom Panir Goli.

Ibrahim Khalil, a tenant and neighbor who brought them to the hospital, said: "They were cooking on two stoves when a sudden explosion occurred, reportedly from a gas leak. Upon hearing the

blast, I rushed upstairs, rescued them and took them to the hospital."

He further said the apartment previously had a Titas gas connection, which was cut off about a year ago. Since then, they had been using gas cylinders for cooking.

Meanwhile, Rafi Al Faruq, an official at the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters' control room, said a fire broke out at a residence in Fakirapool. In response to the report, two fire units were dispatched.

The fire was extinguished by locals before the fire-fighting units arrived.

Summit Corporation Ltd Appoints New CFO

Imtiaz Ibne Sattar (Imtiaz) has recently been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Summit Corporation Ltd, which is the wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore incorporated Summit Power International Limited (SPI), the largest independent power producer (IPP) and a leading LNG infrastructure operator in Bangladesh.

He will be leading Summit Corporation's unified finance team in project financing, risk management while liaising with investors, financiers and related regulatory authorities. He reports to the Board of Directors of SCL and SPI's



senior leadership team.

Imtiaz served as the CFO of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh for more than eight years overseeing a USD 4 billion Balance Sheet in a high growth period with strengthened capital position, maintaining 13% Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio, AAA credit rating and satisfactory audit outcomes.



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\$37m Dues in LNG Import to be Paid to Qatar Soon: Alam



Earthna Summit in Doha.

Alam said the interim government has already paid a large portion of the dues for LNG imported from Qatar.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam recently said the deposed Sheikh Hasina government did not pay dues of hundreds of millions of US Dollars in LNG import from Qatar.

"However, the interim government has taken an initiative to pay dues in LNG import and all the dues will be paid within a day or two," he said on the sidelines of

US Dollars 37 million in importing LNG from Qatar is yet to be paid but the government will pay the amount within a day or two, he added.

Earlier in the day, Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Qatar Minister of State for Energy Affairs, called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of Earthna Summit in Doha.

CUFL Suspends Production for Gas Crisis

Chattogram Urea Fertilizer Company Limited (CUFL) suspended its production recently due to a gas crisis.

Sources said the Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KDGCL) stopped gas supply to CUFL, forcing the CUFL to halt the fertilizer production.

CUFL Managing Director Mizanur Rahman said, "Fertilizer production at CUFL has been suspended due to a gas crisis."



Earlier, the state-owned CUFL, a leading fertilizer producing industry in the country, suspended its production from January 3 to February 25 due to mechanical faults.

Later, the CUFL resumed fertilizer production on February 26.

JERA Meghnaghat Power Limited appoints new Chief Executive Officer



2024 as Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Katsumata has played pivotal role in the development of the JMPL gas-fired power plant located in Meghnaghat, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.

Throughout his career, Mr. Katsumata has gained extensive international experience. He has served as General Manager of Renewables at JERA Americas in the United States and as Senior Vice President of International Business Development at Electric Generating Company Limited (EGCO) in Thailand. Mr. Katsumata was also a

30 April 2025 – JERA Meghnaghat Power Limited (JMPL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Yasunori Katsumata as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1 May 2025. With over 20 years of distinguished leadership in the energy sector, Mr. Katsumata brings a wealth of experience to lead JMPL through its next phase of growth and operations.

Since joining JMPL in August

Three of a Family Burnt Due to Gas Explosion

Three members of a family were burnt in an explosion caused by a gas line leak at a house in Gazipur recently.

They were admitted to the emergency department of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka.

Ali Mohammad Rashed, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gacha Police Station, confirmed the incident.

He said the explosion oc-



curred when they lit a gas stove for cooking.

He said, "Initially, it seems that accumulated gas from a gas line leakage caused the blast."

member of the Board of Directors at Mekong Energy Limited, an independent power producer that led the development of the Phu My 2.2 power plant in Vietnam.

In his new role as CEO, Mr. Katsumata will lead the efforts to complete the successful commissioning of

JMPL and ensure its reliability in contributing to Bangladesh's long-term energy security. JMPL is

in the process of commissioning one of Bangladesh's most efficient and largest gas-fired power plants which has a net output of 718 MW.

Gas Deficit May Widen Further Until 2029

Mollah Amzad Hossain
Khondkar Abdus Saleque



Bangladesh faces a worsening gas crisis, sparking strategic initiatives by the Energy Division and Petrobangla to stabilize supply, including exploration, Bhola gas integration, foreign investment, and LNG import expansion. Despite efforts like drilling 150 new wells by 2028, progress is hindered by delays, bureaucratic issues, and uncertain reserves. With growing demand, the country's gas supply capacity may remain insufficient by 2030 unless reforms in contractor engagement, data transparency, and PSC frameworks are implemented swiftly.



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The Energy Division and Petrobangla have launched multifaceted initiatives to confront a sustained, chronic gas crisis. These include implementing ongoing exploration and development projects, connecting discovered gas resources in Bhola with the national gas grid, and attracting private sector investment through fresh bidding—following the finalization of an updated Model PSC for onshore exploration and an updated MPSC for offshore, especially targeting prospective gas blocks in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and offshore areas of the Bay of Bengal. Plans also involve setting up an FSRU and a land-based LNG terminal to increase import capacity.

The target and objective are to achieve a gas supply capacity of 4,800 MMCFD by 2030. Relevant experts and analysts have observed that domestic gas production is declining by 120–150 MMCFD annually. Current production is hovering between 1,885 and 1,930 MMCFD. Petrobangla is optimistic about increasing this to 2,000 MMCFD by implementing its ongoing and planned initiatives successfully.

By early May 2025, about 49 MMCFD of new gas can be evacuated to the gas grid from three freshly drilled wells in the Sylhet region. The capacity of the two operational FSRUs stands at 1,100 MMCFD. Work is in progress to increase this capacity to 1,600 MMCFD by 2028, 2,100 MMCFD by 2030, and 2,600 MMCFD by 2032.

Officials at the EMRD and Petrobangla, who are responsible for delivering these programs, are optimistic that by 2030, the gas supply capacity in the supply chain (own production plus imported LNG) can be increased to 4,000 MMCFD. However, achieving this will require the financial capability to import LNG, as imported LNG would need to contribute over 50% of the total supply. New gas users will be required to use gas at the cost price. As part of this process, gas prices for new users in captive generation and industrial sectors have already been increased by 33%. Petrobangla, of course, has requested a higher price adjustment.

A Petrobangla official acknowledged



that the country's domestic gas production and supply currently rely heavily on a single field: Bibiyana, which presently supplies 950 MMCFD. Plans are being finalized to connect the Bhola gas fields to the national grid to avoid a major supply disruption due to the progressive decline of Bibiyana's production. Officials believe that the present and prospective gas reserves of Bhola and the adjoining areas may serve as a good alternative to Bibiyana. With this aim in view, construction of a gas transmission pipeline from Bhola to Dhaka via Barisal and Jajira—utilizing the pipeline already constructed along the Padma Bridge—is expected to begin by the end of 2025. A Petrobangla official told EP that the Bhola gas fields currently have 10 ready-to-produce gas wells, and 10 more wells will be drilled under the ongoing program. Together, these wells will have a delivery capacity of 400 MMCFD.

Petrobangla officials also mentioned plans for seismic surveys on islands adjacent to Bhola. Hence, there are prospects of discovering further resources. This would only strengthen the possibility of evacuating gas at higher rates from the region. The currently estimated recoverable reserve is about 2 TCF. Further success could make the Bhola gas reserve one of the largest in the country.

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque (Chisty) suggested continuing exploration and development of gas resources in Bhola, primarily to prove the reserves.

However, the dividends of this effort may not be realized until Bhola is connected to the national gas grid. It may take at least four years to establish that connection, as the pipeline will have to traverse very aggressive and challenging terrain.

50 Wells Drilling Program

Petrobangla launched a program to drill 46 wells in 2022, with a target for completion by 2025. Later, the number was increased to 50 wells. Among these were 18 exploration wells. The plan was to increase production by 648 MMCFD. At the time of writing this report, only 16 wells have been completed. These include 7 exploration wells, 7 workovers, and 2 development wells. Petrobangla sources claim to have increased production capacity by 184 MMCFD from the completed work. Of this, 72 MMCFD has been evacuated to the grid, while the remaining increased capacity remains stranded on the isolated Bhola island.

Responding to a question about delays in the implementation of the drilling program, a Petrobangla official explained that a specific number of wells had been planned for drilling by contractors. The previous government had selected contractors to drill 17 wells. However, the interim government canceled the 15-well drilling program finalized by the previous regime, as it had been processed under the Speedy Power and Energy Supply (Special) Act. Work on the other two wells, which had already commenced, is now at an advanced stage.

Chinese company Sinopec has been engaged in drilling under the Sylhet Gas Fields. For the remaining wells—including four deep-drilling projects—tenders were invited, and China's CCDC was selected to drill 10 wells (under Sylhet and Bangladesh Gas Fields). For five wells in Bhola, bids have been submitted and are currently being evaluated by BAPEX. Proposals for two additional deep-drilling projects are also under evaluation.

In total, 21 of the 34 pending wells will be drilled through contractors, and tenders are being processed for two more deep-drilling projects. The rest will be handled by BAPEX using its rigs. Currently, five BAPEX rigs are operational, and within the next three to four months, contractors are expected to bring five more rigs into the country to start drilling. Officials are optimistic that drilling will be completed for the remaining 34 wells, including 11 more exploration wells, by June next year.

This is expected to bring 313 MMCFD of new gas into production, of which more than 200 MMCFD can be added to the grid immediately. However, domestic production is projected to decline by another 100–120 MMCFD by then.

100 Additional Wells Drilling Program by 2028

The former government finalized a plan for drilling 100 wells, with a target for completion by 2028. The ambitious plan included 69 exploration wells. According to media reports, the planned initiative would require an investment of Tk 20,000 crore. Foreign drilling contractors, alongside BAPEX, are to execute the work.

During the previous government's tenure, a plan was finalized to drill a total of 100 wells, including 69 exploration wells. The interim government decided to continue with the plan and moved forward with phased execution. Expedited implementation programs have been taken up for certain wells identified as priorities. Work is underway to conduct



surveys and prepare DPPs to start drilling 19 wells—including 8 exploration wells—beginning in July 2026. The estimated cost for this phase is Tk 3,000 crore, to be financed from the Gas Development Fund and company funds. Of these 19 wells, 5 will be drilled in the grid-isolated Bhola region.

A Petrobangla source informed that the 100-well project will be implemented in phases, and they are optimistic about completion by 2028, with BAPEX and foreign contractors working together. However, former Petrobangla officials and experts are not optimistic about completing the 150 wells (including current and planned) on schedule. Mortuza Ahmad Faruque, former Managing Director of BAPEX, observed that under the current procedures followed by BAPEX and Petrobangla companies—whether working independently or through hiring contractors under PPR rules—the targets are not achievable. To implement the plan on time, he suggested adopting methods used by international oil and gas companies for appointing drilling contractors and hiring services.

Can Bhola Gas Fields be an Alternative to Bibiyana?

The present domestic gas production is 1,900 MMCFD. The Bibiyana field alone produces 950 MMCFD. Only a couple of years ago, Bibiyana was producing 1,200 MMCFD. Assessing the current depletion trend, experts predict production may fall to 400–450 MMCFD within the next 3–4 years. Senior Petrobangla officials are of the view that the gas reserves in the Bhola region can serve as an alternative to Bibiyana.

Greater Bhola currently has 10 production-ready wells, with local demand of 60–80 MMCFD being met from 5 of them. Tenders have been submitted for drilling 5 more wells in Bhola, and evaluations are ongoing. Additionally, under the initial phase of the 100-well plan, 5 more wells are planned for Bhola. Seismic surveys are also planned for the region.

When asked why 20 wells are being drilled and developed in the grid-isolated Bhola Island, Petrobangla officials responded that these wells will be ready for production in 3–4 years. In the meantime, Petrobangla is aggressively moving forward with plans to evacuate gas by constructing a transmission pipeline from Bhola to Dhaka via Barisal and Jajira. Within the next 4 years, Bhola's gas resources can be connected to the national gas grid. In such a scenario, gas from Bhola could potentially become an alternative to Bibiyana.

However, former Petrobangla Director Engr. Ali Iqbal Md. Nurullah pointed out several technical challenges in treating Bhola as a Bibiyana alternative. He noted that the actual reserves in Bhola are still not confirmed, making it difficult to determine the required pipeline diameter. Additionally, gas in the country is typically supplied through pipelines at 1,000 PSI, raising the question of whether Bhola's gas can be brought to Dhaka without compressors—something that requires technical assessment.

Engr. Nurullah also suggested considering LNG import possibilities using deep offshore LNG infrastructure off the coast of Kuakata, in conjunction with gas evacuation from Bhola. He believed that importing LNG at Kuakata and delivering gas via pipeline to Khulna could complement the supply to the national gas grid.

Delay in Developing the Chattak Gas Field

Two successive blowouts during operations by the Canadian company NIKO Resources—working under a contract as a joint venture partner of BAPEX—led to the discovered resource of Chattak and the probable gas resource of Tengratilla remaining unutilized for about 20 years. The incident, which created a contractual dispute, has since been resolved through arbitration. Although Petrobangla won a legal case against NIKO over accident compensation at an international court two years ago, the court has yet to determine which Bangladeshi entity will receive the compensation funds. As a result, Petrobangla has not been able to resume exploration in Chattak.

Experts believe Chattak holds significant potential, and results could be confirmed within a year if work starts. Any discovery here could immediately supply gas to the nearby grid, playing a major role in addressing the current gas crisis.

Petrobangla and BAPEX have confirmed that preliminary plans for exploration in Chattak have been finalized and that work will begin as soon as the court's final decision is issued. But the key question now is how long it will take to get the court's final verdict.

Unsolicited Exploration Proposal of Chevron

Most of the prospective areas in the Surma Basin are now ring-fenced for BAPEX. Chevron is currently producing gas from the Bibiyana, Jalalabad, and Maulavibazar fields under a PSC with Petrobangla. After completing exploration, Chevron relinquished most of Blocks 11, 12, and 13 as per the terms of the PSC. Chevron has now submitted a fresh proposal to Petrobangla, expressing interest in



exploring a 7,000–8,000 square kilometer area in Blocks 11 and 12 under a new PSC. Chevron has requested negotiations for a PSC following the model PSC framework used for offshore exploration.

Petrobangla and Energy Division sources have indicated that they agree in principle to negotiate with Chevron. However, such negotiations cannot be held based on the model PSC for offshore exploration.

It has also been informed that a separate PSC framework for onshore exploration is currently being finalized. Negotiations with Chevron may proceed under the updated PSC for onshore exploration.

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque observed that Chevron is an experienced company with proven success in these blocks. If they are allowed to proceed under a new PSC concluded through negotiations, there is every possibility of discoveries. This could be a “game changer” in alleviating the current gas crisis.

Onshore PSC

Petrobangla initiated action to draft a model PSC for onshore exploration following the government's policy decision to attract FDI in oil and gas exploration. Wood Mackenzie, appointed as a consultant, has recently submitted its final report. The consultants, taking due note of PSC models from other countries, finalized the report. They advised Bangladesh to include different financial packages in

the PSC for the Chittagong Hill Tracts, plains, and deep structures. While they mentioned in discussions setting the price at 10% of Brent crude per barrel (per mmBtu), in the final report, they did not specify it. Instead, they recommended setting prices between 8% and 9.5% of Brent crude for the plains, deep structures, and hill tracts. After receiving the final report, Petrobangla forwarded it to the Energy Division for directives, but no feedback has been received yet.

Apart from the financial package, Petrobangla has drafted other aspects of the PSC. In the draft, the gas share between IOCs and Petrobangla for the hill tracts is proposed to be similar to that of the shallow offshore blocks. Once Petrobangla receives guidance from the Energy Division, it believes it can finalize the onshore PSC draft within two weeks. Under this framework, two blocks in the hill tracts and some blocks outside the ring-fenced areas could be opened for bidding.

Offshore PSC

The EMRD has shown a positive attitude about launching a fresh bidding round to attract offshore oil and gas investment. However, it has not yet given Petrobangla formal instructions to proceed. In the updated offshore PSC, the gas price was adjusted to 10% of Brent crude, which initially drew considerable interest. Several companies purchased tender documents, but on the final submission day in December last year, no bids were submitted.

Petrobangla contacted IOCs under the Energy Division's instructions to understand the reasons behind the lack of bids. It was learned that concerns about political stability were among the key reasons. Most companies indicated their intention to wait until the formation of a newly elected government before making investment decisions. One company even cited the recent cancellation of an FSRU installation contract and the withdrawal of an LOI for a solar power project, questioning whether contracts signed under an interim government would be honored by the next elected government.

Questions were also raised about a provision in the current PSC that does not allow cost recovery from one block's discovery to cover investments made in another block. Some companies suggested allowing cost recovery across blocks if one company holds multiple blocks. While the PSC does allow cost recovery for pipeline investments following a gas discovery, IOCs believe they should also be entitled to profit-based cost recovery or receive wheeling charges.

A Petrobangla official said the lack of proper data is another reason for low IOC interest. Petrobangla had contracted multi-client seismic survey companies to carry out 2D seismic surveys offshore, prepare data packages, and sell them. However, since Petrobangla had no control over data pricing, complaints arose that the data package prices were too high.

According to the contract, the survey company was supposed to cover all offshore blocks on a 10x8 km grid, totaling 12,000 line kilometers. They surveyed only 3,500–4,000 line kilometers, scattered across various areas, failing to provide a clear picture of specific blocks.

At the time of tender submission, Brent crude was priced at \$70 per barrel, translating to around \$7 per MMBtu gas price, lower than the \$7.2 per MMBtu under the 2019 PSC.

Petrobangla believes these issues need to be addressed by revising the offshore PSC before inviting new bids. However,

they are still waiting for instructions from the Energy Division.

LNG Imports

Against the backdrop of the emerging gas crisis since 2008, Bangladesh launched an initiative to set up infrastructure for importing LNG and sourcing it from the global market. The first FSRU came online in 2018, followed by a second one a year later. Although the government had proposals for several more FSRUs at the time, it decided instead to fast-track the construction of an onshore LNG terminal at Matarbari. However, that has yet to happen. Recently, the interim government decided to implement the onshore LNG terminal as a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) project.

Meanwhile, Petrobangla is almost ready to invite bids for an additional FSRU at Moheshkhali, which could become operational by 2029. However, the government recently decided that before going for a new tender, a feasibility study must be conducted for that FSRU. As a result, the tender process may be delayed by 6–12 months. The onshore terminal is expected to be partially operational by 2030 and fully operational by 2032.

Currently, the two FSRUs have a combined capacity of 1,100 MMCFD. The previous government signed a contract with Summit Energy for a third FSRU at Maheshkhali, which was supposed to come into commercial operation by the end of 2027. The interim government canceled the contract due to it being awarded without tender—this has led to a pending court case. Other proposals, such as another FSRU at Kuakata and two RLNG import projects through pipelines from India, were also canceled during negotiations.

Petrobangla currently has no infrastructure in place to rapidly increase LNG imports to alleviate the gas crisis, meaning there is no alternative but to wait until at least 2029 to add new capacity.

Conclusion

The chronic gas crisis in Bangladesh has grown into an alarming proposition. Even if the full LNG supply capacity is

utilized, the current gas deficit of around 1,300 MMCFD could only be marginally reduced to around 1,000 MMCFD. Although domestic gas production is projected to increase, it is unlikely that the domestic supply will exceed 2,000 MMCFD. Even if new initiatives bring 400 MMCFD of gas into the grid by 2029, the decline in current production from 1,900 MMCFD to possibly 1,400 MMCFD during this period means total domestic supply will not exceed 1,800 MMCFD. Integrating Bhola's gas into the grid within this timeframe is almost impossible.

Meanwhile, gas demand is expected to rise further. To manage the situation, the country could maximize the use of coal and nuclear power to reduce gas use in grid electricity production. However, leaving gas-fired power plants idle would negatively impact electricity generation costs.

There is no reason to believe that gas from Bhola can be an ideal replacement for Bibiyana. The Bibiyana gas field was developed following best international practices, including proper reservoir studies and an ideal development plan. It also had the advantage of being located almost at the heart of the national gas grid. The reserves of the Bhola gas fields have not yet been proven following international best practices. An integrated gas grid network simulation is also required for the engineering and design of gas evacuation facilities. We are not optimistic either about Petrobangla/BAPEX managing the two major drilling projects on time. There are also concerns about FSRU and land-based terminal projects being implemented on schedule, given past experience. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that foreign investment will be available for onshore and offshore exploration, as is currently anticipated.

Therefore, even if Petrobangla's current and upcoming initiatives are 100% successful, the gas crisis will not ease by 2029—it is likely to worsen. Moreover, experts believe that under Petrobangla's existing and upcoming plans, completing all the planned drilling within the set timeline is very unlikely.





Gas Sector Development Initiative Yet To Get Pace

Saleque Sufi

Eight months have whistled by since the interim government assumed office. No great news is available regarding exploring additional gas resources or infrastructure development to facilitate additional LNG imports. The gas deficit keeps widening. Gas supply shortage continues affecting gas-based power generation, industries, and other end users. BAPEX/Petrobangla could not intensify its exploration campaign for achieving its target of a 50-well drilling program by June 2026 and a 100-well drilling program by 2028. PSC bidding for offshore exploration fell flat. It is highly unlikely that even a fresh initiative will change the situation, as investors may not risk investing in an uncertain political regime. The interim government lost a trick in quickly cancelling the signed agreement with Summit Energy for the installation of 3rd FSRU and cancelling the LOIs to several companies for setting up grid-connected solar power plants. Petrobangla sources inform that the “coincident peak demand” of gas now is 4,200 MMCFD. But including 1,000 MMCFD imported LNG, the total supply capacity is about 2,700 MMCFD. The domestic production continues to decline. The present capacity is 1,842 MMCFD and is progressively declining. The Bibiyana gas field

alone is supplying 950 MMCFD. The production plateau has been reached. In 2025 and 2026, production may deplete alarmingly. The present exploration program, with limited success, may not significantly replenish. Any new LNG import infrastructure cannot start operation before 2029. The government is talking about land-based LNG terminals. Even if the contract for LBT is signed by the end of 2025, there is no chance for it to get into commercial operation before 2030. What will then happen with gas supply security? A few hundred small- and medium-sized industries have already closed their operations. Even large industries are growing sick. Despite failures in ensuring a quality gas supply on an uninterrupted basis, gas prices for new industries and captive power generation have entered a new round of price increases through a BERC determination. The business community considers this a major blow not only for new investments but also for the expansion of ex-

isting industries. The present situation warrants national consensus on the exploration and development of primary fuel resources and a strategic national commitment. Investors in the energy sector require confidence in the consistency of policies and additional incentives for a guaranteed rate of return, a bureaucracy-free decision-making process. Government and policymakers need to change their mindset and let the professionals plan and execute the energy sector to operate freely without undue bureaucratic interference. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) should be strengthened and allowed to operate as per its mandate in ensuring acts, policies, and regulations, and ensuring compliance by the licensees. The aspiring political party or alliance must conduct extensive homework about energy sector priorities, learning from the mistakes of the past regimes. Natural gas will continue to remain the favored transition fuel, and an intensive exploration campaign must continue to discover additional resources from onshore and offshore. The capacity of BAPEX and Petrobangla needs to expand to embrace modern technologies.

Present Production

From the Petrobangla daily report for 24 hours, 25-26 April 2025, we find the

Companies	Gas Fields	Wells	Capacity MMCFD	Production MMCFD
BGFCL	05	44	851.00	489.70
SGFL	04	14	118.00	132.00
BAPEX	08	15	145.00	83.50
IOCS	04	43	1615.00	1137.30
RPGCL	02 FSRUs		1100.00	856.90
Total	21 GF+2 FSRUs	116	3829.00	2698.40

total supply of gas was 2,698.40 MMCFD, including 855.90 MMCFD imported LNG. Petrobangla requires sustained fund flow to purchase LNG to ensure smooth supply of RLNG, though weather interruptions to the operation of FSRUs are likely to happen.

Gas supply to power, fertilizer, and all end users is well below the demand. Over 50% of gas-based power generation capacity remains unutilized, most fertilizer plants cannot operate, gas-to-CNG requires rationing, and most industries suffer from a chronic gas crisis.

One may ask why the gas fields cannot produce at or near their capacity. The reason is that Petrobangla did not update the information on their website about the actual capacity of the gas fields. Responsible people do not monitor it. One particularly valuable piece of information here is that IOCs from 43 gas wells of 4 gas fields produced 1,137 MMCFD, while Petrobangla-owned three companies from 73 wells of 17 gas fields produced 720.20 MMCFD. Some Petrobangla companies operating gas fields have higher recoverable reserves. Over 43 gas wells were identified by internationally reputed consultants, Schlumberger, for workover and interceptions to increase production. But unfortunately, Petrobangla did not pay attention. Petrobangla must complete the works on a top-priority basis to augment production.

Another aspect appeared from the Petrobangla daily report that major gas transmission pipelines of GTCL are remaining dry (AB 1 and AB 2). The Bibiyana-Dhanua pipeline is running at 50% capacity, very limited gas goes across the Padma River towards southern Bangladesh, major infrastructure like the compressor station at Elenga never came into operation, and the compressor stations at Ashuganj hardly operate. Despite this situation, GTCL spent through its nose on unnecessary gas transmission infrastructure. This spending on exploration could have brought better dividends.

Petrobangla committed to supplying gas to BPDB for three large, highly fuel-ef-



ficient gas-based power plants at Meghnaghat. The plants are ready for operation, but are not getting gas due to production constraints and the absence of required transmission infrastructure.

Exploration and Development Initiatives

We are not optimistic about the success of Petrobangla and BAPEx in their 50 and 100 wells ongoing drilling program on time. If these projects are completed by 2030, the production level of 2000 MMCFD may be sustained. Extensive seismic surveys should be conducted countrywide to identify resources, as Bangladesh remains the least explored riverine delta. Priorities must be set in exploration and development. Petrobangla may seriously consider Chevron's proposal for further exploration at blocks 12, 13, and 14 and negotiate a fresh PSC based on the updated MPSC for the onshore. They have been operating in Bangladesh for over the past two and a half decades and have felt the situation.

After spending years in hibernation, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division and Petrobangla realized that the BAPEx-only policy for onshore exploration has failed. Experts constantly suggested transparently engaging IOCs onshore alongside BAPEx. A section of civil society, with no idea how a PSC operates, misguided policymakers. Finally, the interim government has taken the initiative to update the MPSC for onshore, engaging a consultant. We are not sure there would be any re-

sponse to PSC bidding before the elected government returns to state power. The same can be mentioned about the fresh round of offshore bidding. We can foresee no success until an elected government is in state power through a free, fair general election and announces its policy.

LNG Import Initiative

The FSRUs in Bangladesh's turbulent offshore areas are a contingency option. But it served well till now despite a few heartbreaks, like disruptions through technical glitches and natural calamities. It can be said that cancelling the contract with the Summit Group for the 3rd FSRU was not a smart decision. It could be further negotiated, protecting the interests of the country. At present, there is no possibility of increasing LNG imports before 2029. The LBT cannot be set up before 2030. Bangladesh cannot take advantage of low-priced LNG in the spot market due to procurement policy constraints and the absence of reservoir capacity.

Bangladesh will continue to rely on natural gas, whether domestic gas or imported LNG, until a smart transition initiative takes momentum. Hence, a national consensus must be developed about the exploitation of local fuel resources. Energy and power as a strategic sector must get the highest national priority. Unfortunately, the situation looks bleak now.



Saleque Sufi
Energy Expert

Reducing Gas Sector System Loss To 2% Impossible With Old Network

Aditya Hossain

The system loss in the country's natural gas supply chain, which is much higher than standards or of neighboring countries, has been in discussion over the past decade or so. Experts observe that non-technical loss, mainly theft and pilferage, is of much higher proportion. Media reports suggest that the system loss after rising to 10-11% declined to 9.5% in February 2024. Experts say that if the loss can be halved through efficient system management, it could lead to saving 120-130 MMCFD of gas, which can be a huge relief at a time of chronic gas crisis.

Sector insiders, however, claimed that all the non-technical losses are not theft and pilferage. Gas pipelines using carbon steel are usually designed for an economic life of 25-30 years. In the distribution networks of Titas Gas (TGTDCIL), some pipelines are 50-60 years old. In the congested city areas, some pipelines are now buried at 8-10 meters depth and are leaking methane profusely. This is not only causing financial losses but also making the system vulnerable to gas-related accidents. Apart from this, it is causing GHG emission.

Officials claim it would not be an objective assessment that all losses be-

yond technical limits is theft. In the distribution areas of Titas Gas, 40-60-year-old decaying pipelines are still in use, causing massive leaks that release gas into the air, not only resulting in financial losses but also contributing to increased methane pollution.

During a meeting at the Energy Division on April 16, distribution companies informed Energy Adviser Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan that the system loss has started declining and is expected to come down to 4% by 2026. A national daily reported that Bangladesh's system loss is three times higher than India and nearly double that of Pakistan. Due to increasing losses in transmission and distribution, the gas sector in Bangladesh incurs an annual financial loss of \$1.0 billion (estimated based on LNG import costs). Leaks in old pipelines, theft, and unplanned infrastructure are the main reasons for these losses.

The report further stated that five years ago, the system loss in five major cities of Pakistan, including Islamabad, averaged 8.98%. Leakage from old pipelines was the main cause of waste. To reduce financial losses, Pakistan replaced 1,470 kilometers of pipeline and installed Town Border Stations (TBS) for gas maintenance. This re-

duced the system loss in these cities to 5.15%. Currently, Pakistan's overall system loss in the gas sector is just over 5%. TBS technology has played a key role in detecting leaks in old pipelines, preventing theft, repairing small-scale leaks, and identifying supply quantities.

In neighboring India, provinces operate extensive gas transmission and distribution networks. Due to the use of advanced technology, the system loss in natural gas supply remains below 3-4%. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) of India set the standard for system loss. For over a decade, India has kept its system loss within 4% through modern pipeline technology, proper design, operation, and maintenance. Additionally, gas pipelines in India primarily serve commercial and industrial sectors. Residential supply networks are only recently being installed in some cities relying on modern technologies.

In Bangladesh, six companies distribute gas via pipelines, with Titas having the largest customer base – 2.83 million. As of January, its system loss was 10.53%, while other companies have much less customer base.

According to the Energy Division, the

system loss among distribution companies reached as high as 14% this year. The losses for Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company and Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company were 10.53% and 13.60% respectively.

Dr. Ijaz Hossain, a former Dean at BUET and an energy expert, stated that most of the system loss is due to theft. However, technical faults and unplanned pipelines also contribute significantly. He believes that using modern technology, network replacement, and efficient management, Bangladesh can bring system loss down to 3-4%. He emphasized that given the high cost of gas now, wastage must be eliminated. Reducing system loss to a reasonable level could ease the pressure on LNG imports and help address the supply shortage.

In a recent meeting of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Titas Gas's system loss figures for February 2024 were shared – it reportedly succeeded in reducing its system loss from 10.53% in January to 9.21% in February, meeting its target of 9.20%.

Meanwhile, Bakhrabad Gas reduced its system loss from 13.60% in January to 9.47% in February, well below its goal of 11.50%. Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company in Chattogram reduced its system loss from 4.60% to 2.55%.

GTCL, the sole transmission company, brought down its losses from 2.23% in January to 1.16% in February. Overall, the national system loss for February stood at 9%. The companies have been instructed to reduce this loss to below half by June 2026.

Titas Gas Faces Major Challenges in Reducing System Losses

Titas Gas, the country's largest and oldest gas distribution company, is facing significant challenges in reducing system losses. It is grappling with both illegal gas connections and an aging pipeline infrastructure stretching thousands of kilometers. Preventing gas leakage from these deteriorating pipelines has become a daunting task.



Moreover, due to the absence of digital mapping the networks cannot be located accurately.

Between January 2023 and February 2025, a survey was conducted on 4,070 kilometers of pipeline, which revealed 9,384 leakage points - indicating that almost every section inspected had some form of leaks. In comparison, other gas companies reported far fewer leaks: Jalalabad Gas identified 118, GTCL just 2, Karnaphuli 11, Bakhrabad 3, and Poschimanchol Gas only 1. The overwhelming majority of leakages were found in the Titas Gas's distribution network.

Despite long standing criticism over Titas Gas's high system loss, little improvement has been seen until recently. However, the company has now begun achieving some success following a series of aggressive operations. In the first three months of 2025 (January–March), Titas conducted 79 mobile court drives and 485 additional operations without court involvement — a record for a single company. These efforts led to the removal of 91 illegal industrial connections, 90 illegal commercial connections, 24,533 illegal burners, and 54 kilometers of unauthorized pipeline.

Titas Gas Managing Director Shahnawaz Parvez told reporters, "The Energy Division has given us a roadmap to reduce system loss, with

specific targets. While there are challenges and limitations, we are committed to bringing system loss to a more acceptable level."

According to data from the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), overall gas system loss increased by 5% in the six months from July to December of fiscal year 2023–24 compared to the same period of previous year. In FY 2023-24, the system loss stood at 8.43%, but it rose to 13.53% in the first six months of the current fiscal year (FY 2024-25). Globally, a system loss below 2% is considered ideal. BERC had long recommended bringing Bangladesh's system loss below this threshold.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed told the Energy & Power magazine that transmission and distribution companies have been instructed to reduce system loss, and BERC will monitor their progress regularly.

According to the roadmap published by the Energy Division, the aim is to reduce system loss across gas distribution companies to below 1% by December 2026. However, Titas and Bakhrabad Gas have been excluded from this target due to their aging pipelines and large number of illegal connections. Instead, they have been given a more lenient goal of bringing losses down to at least 5%.

Adviser Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir

Khan has emphasized the importance of reducing system loss. He said that targets have been set with realistic goals, and officials who meet them will be rewarded, while those who fail will face disciplinary actions.

The system loss in the gas sector results in significant financial damage to the government each year, necessitating large subsidies. According to BERC, in the first half of FY 2024–25, 1.37 billion cubic meters of gas were wasted under the label of technical losses. Considering the import cost of LNG, Tk 79.34 per cubic meter, the financial loss from this wastage exceeds Tk 10,850 crore.

Khondker Abdus Saleque Sufi, former Director of Operations at GTCL, told Energy & Power that while bringing Bangladesh's gas system loss to levels seen in Europe or the U.S. may not be feasible, losses can still be reduced to below 2% through better management, using modern technology, and replacement of outdated networks. However, he was skeptical about

achieving the 2026 targets unless pipelines aged 40–60 years in Titas' network are replaced. In contrast, transmission-level gas loss can be brought down to near zero through improved efficiency.

Sufi also highlighted the absence of precise data on residential gas consumption as most household connections remain unmetered. Until all residential connections are equipped with prepaid meters, the true extent of distribution loss will remain unknown.

One of the root causes of illegal connections and pipeline setups in Dhaka and nearby districts over the past decade has been a long-standing moratorium on new residential connections, combined with political influence. Despite Titas Gas taking a stricter stance in recent years, local political and criminal resistance continues to hinder enforcement efforts. Even after the interim government took over, operations to curb illegal gas use persist. But Titas officials and workers still face attacks, making the enforcement difficult.

Experts emphasize that beyond cracking down on illegal usage, there is no alternative to replacing or renovating the country's aging gas network. Currently, 25% of gas supply comes from LNG imports, a share expected to rise to 50% by 2030. With LNG currently costing about Tk 28 per cubic meter and being sold at an average of Tk 23, the government is suffering from a significant loss. The current budget allocated Tk 6,000 crore in LNG subsidies, later revised upward to Tk 9,000 crore, but that may not fully offset the losses.

Therefore, urgent investment is needed in modern technology, network repairing, and pipeline replacement. At the same time, improvements in management and monitoring are essential. If gas wastage under the label of system loss cannot be controlled, the growing reliance on LNG will only worsen the crisis. The Energy Division must take a coordinated, long-term approach to minimize the system loss.

EP

Aditya Hossain
Editor, Digital Content



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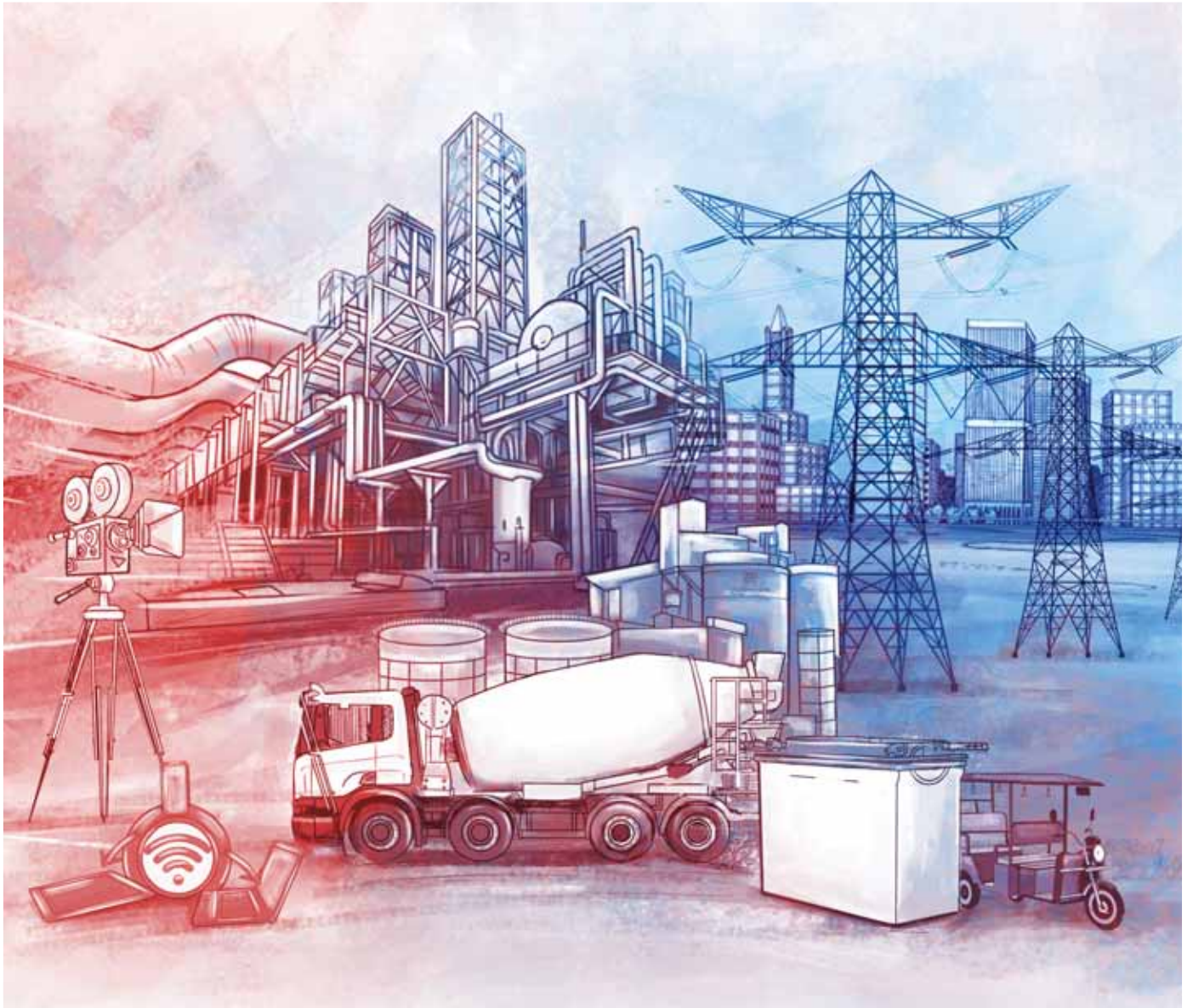


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Rejuvenated BERC Can Be A Game Changer

Saleque Sufi

I witnessed a lively interview of the BERC Chairman with EP Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain about the energy sector. The BERC Chairman has years of experience in senior positions in the public sector energy companies and government. He has also worked in leading private sector companies. From his talks, it became clear that he has the right kind of understanding about the authority of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC). He already has the challenges and plans to set roadmaps for exercising authority in disciplining the power and energy sector, improving governance, controlling costs through creating efficiency, and bringing transparency in operations. He mentioned that his task during his tenure at the BERC is to create a level-playing field for public and private sector players and serve the interests of both suppliers and users. The BERC would work on honest and transparent planning and operations.

Quoting relevant clauses of the BERC Act, the chairman mentioned that, for prevailing circumstances, manpower shortages, and to some extent for lack of initiatives, the

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BERC could not or did not play its role to bring the licensees accountable in matters of efficiency and transparency. The BERC's role was mostly confined to determining power tariffs and gas prices. He mentioned that some initiatives, like licensing, would require BERC's prior approval before taking on any new projects after probing their technical justification, financial viability, and impacts on tariff and pricing. He also mentioned that the proceeds of the Gas Development Fund from now on would preferably be spent on the exploration of new gas resources. The BERC chairman talked about the governance of the

sector, system loss management, and carrying out efficiency auditing. He pointed out that the Speedy Power and Energy Supply Special Act had irrationally created a huge reserve margin. Consequently, BPDB is required to bear the brunt of huge capacity charges. As a remedial measure, the government required either increasing subsidies or for the utilities to approach BERC for tariff and price adjustments. He appreciated the interim government's action rescinding the special act immediately after coming to state power. He also mentioned the government's decision to cancel the amendment of the BERC Act authorizing the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MOPEMR) to adjust the power tariff and fuel prices. The chairman talked about his plans for monitoring the operation of utilities through energy auditing by their resources and financial management through engaging specialized financial expert companies. He talked about his views on forming the board of directors of the companies, ensuring that this does not create

any conflicts of interest, and utilizing the home-grown professionals.

How the Speedy Power and Energy Supply Special Act 2010 Rocked the sector?

The BERC chairman mentioned that setting up a huge number of power plants without considering fuel supply, capacity constraints of transmission and distribution utilities, and demand growth. According to him, the capacity of over 28,000 MW installed in a power market of 17,000 MW is way too much. He mentioned that in the Philippines, the installed capacity is 22,000 MW against a demand of 17,000 MW. This could be avoided if utilities were made to get projects approved by the BERC. The various technical and financial aspects could be checked and vetted, including risk assessments. The BERC Act has clear provisions for that. The BERC has issued letters to the power and energy divisions and utilities. From now on, any new project of any BERC licensee will require BERC's prior approval. Moreover, the nonexistence of the special act will require utilities to follow the National Procurement Rule.

System Loss Control and Efficiency

The huge system loss in the gas sector is a big concern now. The world standard in gas distribution is 2%, and for transmission is 0.5%. A very accurate and efficient metering system, application of SCADA, and Telemetry ensure this. In Bangladesh, some distribution utilities have over 10% system loss. This is unacceptable in a gas market increasingly relying on expensive imported fuel. BERC has already discussed its plans with distribution utilities and the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) to reduce and minimize the system losses. Many age-old leaking pipelines are being replaced, and modern custody-transfer metering systems, along with SCADA, Telemetry, and GIS, are being introduced. BERC will intensively



Jalal Ahmed

monitor system operations through its energy auditors. The BERC chairman talked about reviewing gas use by non-metered domestic gas consumers. It is a reality that many domestic, unmetered gas users use much higher volumes of gas in many ways. Hence, a volume imposed by BERC based on conducting a survey, carried out randomly, may not be appropriate. Utilities must expedite setting meters to all legal domestic consumers and disconnect all illegal consumers as soon as possible by conducting combing operations.

In this context, the BERC chairman talked about the need for cost control by all licensees. BERC will now check and review the annual financial reports of all licensees by engaging specialized auditors. Licensees will also be required to submit reports in specially prepared formats to the BERC at agreed frequencies.

Optimum Utilization of Gas Distribution Fund

Responding to a question on the utilization of GDF, the chairman said that the matter has already been discussed at a meeting with BAPEX, SGFL, and BGFCL. GDF was created for funding the exploration of new petroleum resources. For reasons beyond the control of BERC, this was used for LNG purchases and other projects. Consequently, the projects of gas exploration and production

companies had cash constraints. He also mentioned inconsistent and irrational gas pricing. The BERC chairman pointed out that while LNG is imported at Tk 77 /unit, BGFCL and SGFL get Tk 1.0 only, and BAPEX gets Tk 7.0 /unit. Such a situation could be avoided if the proceeds of GDF could be spent on carrying out extensive seismic surveys across the country and expediting exploration campaigns. Bangladesh could have avoided expensive LNG imports. BERC will insist on spending the GDF for exploration only, said the BERC chairman.

Improved Governance

The BERC chairman found nothing wrong with the representation of the ministry, not necessarily the secretaries, in the company boards. But he agreed with the suggestions for the inclusion of line professionals on every board to benefit from institutional memories.

Energy Transition and BERC Role

BERC will continue to encourage energy sector users to go for renewable and green energy in a planned manner. The BERC chairman mentioned renewed interest in the readymade garment and textile sector's growing contributions to solar energy. Many RMG and textile factories have become green. He noted the possibilities of leading Chinese companies setting up solar equipment, including battery manufacturing factories in Bangladesh. BERC will continue doing its part in encouraging the smart energy transition.

The reactivated and rejuvenated BERC under the able leadership can do a lot in disciplining the sector and ensuring good governance, transparency, and accountability. BERC can ensure justice to utilities and users and create a healthy work atmosphere in the sector.

EP

Saleque Sufi
Energy Expert

IDTechEx Explores Is Fusion Energy Still "30 Years Away"?

Noah El Alami

Commercial perception of fusion energy has shifted significantly since the start of this decade. Once relegated to science fiction and lab experiments, Fusion is now being taken seriously as a safe, energy-dense, and continuous source of electricity for the green energy transition.

As of 2025, commercial fusion companies have raised over US\$9 billion in investments, while governments are beginning to see fusion as the modern day 'space race'. The IDTechEx report, "Fusion

Energy Market 2025-2045: Technologies, Players, Timelines", evaluates and compares the different technical approaches to producing commercial fusion energy, the key players involved, and potential timelines for their deployment.

Why now for fusion?

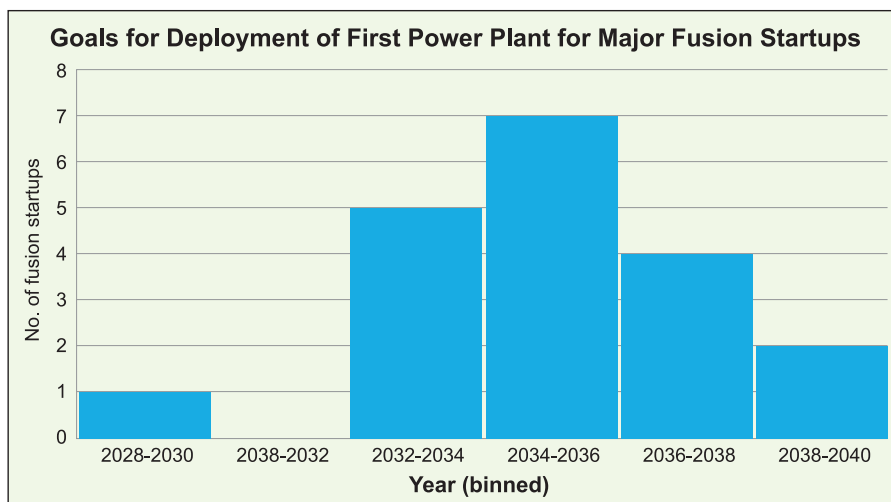
The largest funding rounds for commercial fusion occurred largely in the last 5 years. There are now around 50 private companies pursuing commercial fusion, with leaders in the industry demonstrating

substantial progress towards generating net positive energy and securing major public and industrial partnerships. But what has changed to bring fusion from research projects to a serious commercial industry?

The commercial fusion market has been catalyzed by recent developments in three areas: a better understanding of the science of fusion, growing global demand for clean energy, and the maturation of enabling technologies.

First, consistent academic progress in understanding plasma physics over multiple decades has now reached the point where fusion technology is becoming ready for commercialization. Research reactors around the world, such as the National Ignition Facility (NIF), the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), and Wendelstein 7-X (W7-X), all produced record-breaking results in recent years such as increasing the energy gain from fusion or sustaining a stable plasma for a longer time.

Secondly, growing global demand



for continuous green energy is essential for decarbonizing data centers and industry. Fusion energy avoids intermittency or the need for energy storage, with fewer radiation-related safety risks than its nuclear cousin, fission, which has also seen renewed interest in powering data centers and microgrids.

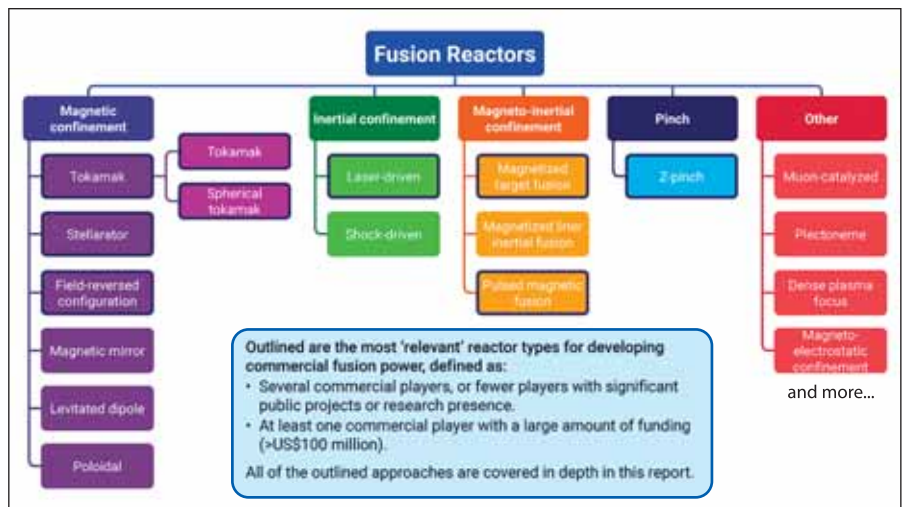
Finally, a range of specialized materials, components, and software solutions have reached maturity simultaneously to enable innovative fusion power designs. These include high-temperature superconductors, high-energy short-pulse lasers, and surrogate models for plasma simulations. IDTechEx's report focuses on the value chain for key materials and components and their applications beyond fusion, which startups can pursue to set up secondary revenue streams.

The many ways to bottle a star

The IDTechEx report "Fusion Energy Market 2025-2045: Technologies, Players, Timelines" explores the leading approaches to achieving commercial fusion energy, which is generally categorized by the way they confine the plasma to create the conditions for fusion.

Magnetic confinement fusion is historically the most researched approach to fusion, wrestling a fusion plasma into a confined shape using powerful superconducting magnets such as those used in MRI machines and particle accelerators. The tokamak reactor approach is pursued by the largest public fusion research project, ITER, and the US\$2 billion funded private fusion company, Commonwealth Fusion Systems.

However, alternative approaches to achieving fusion energy have recently gained commercial interest. Laser-driven inertial confinement uses powerful pulsed laser systems and microscopic capsules of fuel to achieve fusion, and in 2022, the National Ignition Facility (NIF) of the USA marked a historical mile-



stone in generating more energy from a fusion reaction than was directly supplied to it - although the energy balance is still far from positive overall. Catalyzed by this success, private companies pursuing a laser-driven fusion approach have raised over US\$600 million collectively and plan to drastically improve upon the technology developed by the NIF.

Commercially, at least seven major approaches to fusion have raised significant funding and show the potential to generate commercial energy in the next 20 years. IDTechEx's report analyzes each of these through a quantitative benchmarking scheme across six commercially relevant metrics and summarizes the leading startups and projects driving each approach.

Is fusion still "always 30 years away"?

The decade ahead will be a pivotal time for the fusion industry, with many leading startups aiming to bring fusion power to the grid by 2035. However, achieving these goals will require significantly more funding, a robust supply chain, and the formation of suitable regulations for fusion power.

Most fusion players seek to de-risk their approach by first building one or more demonstrator facilities, which either validate the enabling

technologies (e.g., magnet arrays or lasers), or achieve significant fusion milestones to generate commercial energy. Investors, scientists, and governments alike will be scrutinizing the results from these interim facilities closely to ascertain which startups can stick to their ambitious roadmaps.

The IDTechEx report "Fusion Energy Market 2025-2045: Technologies, Players, Timelines" contains a set of detailed 20-year timelines discussing the deployment of different fusion approaches, their fuels, and the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of fusion. These timelines and narratives are drawn from extensive research of the commercial fusion industry, including primary information from leading fusion startups and international fusion conferences.

Materials opportunities and supply chain challenges for fusion are also explored in depth, including their fuels, breeder blankets, superconductors, first wall materials, and more. Drawing on the wide technical expertise of IDTechEx, the demand for certain critical materials in fusion is also discussed, along with potential challenges and opportunities in their supply and demand.

EP

Noah El Alami
Technology Analyst at IDTechEx

Brazil's Environment And Climate Minister Meets Over 200 Global Climate Activists

EP Desk



Brazilian Environment and Climate Change Minister, Marina Silva took part in the final day of the 'Renew Our Power' event. The meeting organized by 350.org brought together more than 200 climate leaders from over 70 countries to Brazil with the aim of driving forward the renewable energy transition, a strategic milestone towards COP30.

This year, Minister Marina Silva is leading an organization proposed by Brazilian President Lula called the 'Global Ethical Balance'. According to the Brazilian government, this initiative will 'promote dialogues in different regions of the world to reflect on how to align decisions with the non-negotiable goal of keeping global warming to 1.5°C.' This year, during the Free Land Camp (ATL), Indigenous groups from the Amazon rainforest and the Pacific Ocean declared that "Indigenous and traditional community leadership, the just energy transition, direct financing and the integral preservation of forests, oceans and soils, is the starting point for any discussion on the Global Ethical Balance.

Marina Silva's visit to the event today came days after dozens of the activists staged a peaceful protest with a giant banner made by the artist Mundano with ashes from Amazon



wildfires to the doors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Itamaraty Palace). The activists from around 20 different countries called for Brazil's leadership at COP30 towards a just renewable energy transition. The action called for a direct response to a letter delivered to the COP30 presidency during the Indigenous Free Land Camp (ATL), signed by more than 180 organizations from around the world and thousands of people from 98 countries in an online petition, demanding that the end of fossil fuels, the just energy transition and indigenous and traditional leadership be at the heart of COP30 decisions.

Marina Silva, Brazil's Environment Minister, said: "We have to think about the root of the climate problem. Does anyone still not know that the root of the problem is the use of fossil fuels? Everyone knows that, it was even agreed at COP28 - now it's implement, implement, implement.

If we never plan, if we don't make a road map, if we don't set targets, if we continue to use fossil fuels, we won't be able to move forward. In 2025 we'll meet in Belém and we've already decided that given the imminence of the point of no return of the climate crisis, we're going to implement what we've discussed over the last few decades."

Marina Silva also spoke about the importance of implementing the renewable energy transition with traditional and Indigenous peoples at the forefront;

"Science can anticipate a lot, but we usually only consider the science of Western knowledge. There is another science, that of narrative knowledge, of ancestral knowledge, which says the same thing, but with a difference: it says it and does it. It does so because its experience is consistent with what it says. So I want COP30 to also be a space for learning.

What we need is a new perspective. It may sound dreamy, but it's the only thing that will save us. It's a good thing we have good teachers."

Cacique Ninawa, Huni Kui people, Brazil, said: "The Minister's visit is a strong signal to the country and the world. We need political courage to recognize ourselves, eliminate the use of fossil fuels

once and for all, accelerate a just energy transition and fund those who have done the most to tackle the climate crisis - we Indigenous and traditional peoples are the true climate authorities and guardians of the planet."

Ilan Zugman, 350.org's Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said: "Minister Marina Silva's visit to our event is a sign that the call is being heard - If we want to talk about an ethical balance this year, we can't leave out the people who are most affected by the climate crisis and yet have the least responsibility for it. That's why, this month, community leaders, activists and influencers from around the world have called for an end to fossil fuels, a just energy transition and indigenous and traditional



community leadership to be at the center of the COP30 discussion. We won't accept anything less."

George Nacewa, Pacific Climate Warrior and 350.org community organizer from Fiji: "This is a critical time for our people; the age of deliberation is long past. We need

this year's COP to be the one that spearheads the Just Renewable Energy Transition from words to action. It is now up to the Brazil COP Presidency if they heed the Indigenous and traditional climate leadership we have seen and heard in these last weeks, or lock us into climate catastrophe."

EP

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Qatar to Extend MoU with Bangladesh over LNG Supply



Bangladesh as much as possible, and we will continue doing that," Kaabi told the Chief Adviser.

Qatar and Bangladesh signed a Sell Purchase Agreement (LNG SPA) in September 2017 for 1.5-2.5 MTPA LNG imports for 15 years in a G2G process with Qatar Gas.

Forty cargoes are being imported under this agreement annually. A second LNG SPA was signed in June 2023 for an additional 1.5 MTs of LNG annually for 15 years, with effect from January 2026.

The MoU signed regarding the LNG SPA expired in January, prompting Qatari authorities to come up with a renewed pledge.



Qatar has agreed to renew a recently expired Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on LNG supply for Bangladesh and work on technical details for a proposed land-based LNG terminal in the country.

Qatar State Minister for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi gave the assurance recently when he called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the Earthna Summit in Doha.

"We want to support

BAEC Employees Warn of Strike



Scientists, officers, and employees of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) recently warned of going on strike, including work and service abstention, if the Ministry of Science and Technology did not address their problems, including stalled salary payments.

The announcement was made at a press conference organized by several

platforms of the commission at the BAEC headquarters in the capital's Agargaon.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists' Association president ASM Saifullah said that the press conference was arranged to protest at the ministry's ongoing 'unwarranted' interference and 'authoritarian' behavior, which is undermining the commission's autonomy.

In response to a question, Saifullah, also a chief scientific officer, said that if the ministry does not take any initiative, they will proceed with work and service abstention, he said.



Chevron Receives Dues from Petrobangla

Chevron Bangladesh has recently received its outstanding payments from the state-owned Petrobangla.

'We have received our entire outstanding bills from the government in recent weeks,' an official of the United States company said.

The company also issued an official statement, saying, 'We greatly appreciate the efforts of the interim government, the energy ministry, and Petrobangla to resolve this issue.'

It added that the outcome sends a positive signal to both existing and potential investors. 'We have been a partner in ensuring



Bangladesh's energy security and driving economic progress for 30 years, and we look forward to continuing the journey together.'

Environment adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan had recently indicated the government's commitment to clearing dues in the energy sector.

Speaking at an event on renewable energy, she said that the government had paid foreign companies, marking a strong sign of its efficiency.



Furnace Oil: BPC Burdened with Stock Overload

Based on private electricity producers' request, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) asked Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to nearly triple its import of furnace oil to around 500,000 tonnes a month to facilitate meeting the rising summer demand for electricity.

The PDB, however, took just 70,000 tonnes of the fuel in March, the highest intake this year, straining BPC's storage facilities with more consignments coming in soon.

Due to their unwillingness to take furnace oil from BPC, the private power plants have flagged quality

concerns and a lack of options to delay payments.

A backlog of undischarged fuel from incoming vessels creates the risk of costly late fees. If vessels are forced to wait, BPC may have to pay penalties ultimately be borne by the BPDB.

Moreover, the state-owned Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL), which produces about 1,100 tonnes of furnace oil daily, is facing shutdown as distribution companies are not collecting the furnace oil, BPC warned the Energy and Mineral Resources Division in a letter recently.

BPC could discharge only 35,428 tonnes this month, as of April 22.



Energy Adviser Expects Power Situation to Remain Tolerable in Summer



Energy affairs adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan has expected that the countrywide electricity supply situation to remain tolerable level during throughout summer with import of extra volume of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and coal for power production.

"The government has been trying to keep load-shedding at a tolerable stage during the summer season, for which

we are importing additional LNG and other fuels including coal," he told a seminar on "Energy Crisis: Way Forward", held at Biduyt Bhaban recently.

Khan said there will be no discrimination in electricity supply between urban and rural areas as he asked Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board the (BREB) to submit power supply report across the country.

Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) organized the seminar. **EP**

Aramco, BYD Collaborate on New Energy Vehicle Tech



Aramco, one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies, and BYD, a leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles and power batteries, have agreed to explore closer collaboration in new energy vehicle technologies.

A Joint Development Agreement signed by Saudi Aramco Technologies Company (SATC), Aramco's wholly-owned subsidiary,

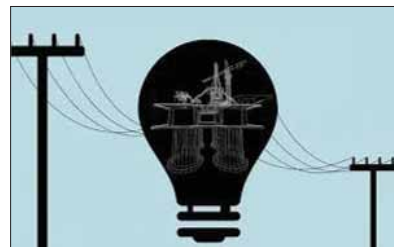
and BYD aims to foster the development of innovative technologies that enhance efficiency and environmental performance.

This collaboration leverages the research and development teams of two leading global companies, with the aim of achieving new energy vehicle breakthroughs.

Ali A. Al-Meshari, Aramco Senior Vice President of Technology Oversight & Coordination, said: "Aramco is exploring a number of ways to potentially optimize transport efficiency, from innovative lower-carbon fuels to advanced powertrain concepts." **EP**

Power Prices Not Going Up Anytime Soon

The subsidy allocation for the power sector is not going down anytime soon as the interim government does not have a plan to increase electricity prices on inflationary fears.



The disclosure was made during a meeting between the finance ministry and the visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund, according to people with knowledge of the discussion.

The IMF mission arrived in Dhaka on April 6 on a 12-day visit to review Bangladesh's progress against various conditions before releasing the fourth and fifth tranches of the \$4.7 billion loan.

The IMF has been concerned about Bangladesh's increasing subsidy allocation

for the power sector for long as they deem it to be an inequitable distribution of scarce state resources.

The visiting mission held discussions with several relevant ministries and departments to learn whether the government would increase electricity prices and whether it would allocate more funds for power sector subsidy.

This fiscal year, Tk 40,000 crore has been allocated as power sector subsidy, which was later revised upwards to Tk 62,000 crore, including arrears. **EP**

Govt Prioritises Gas Supply to Export-Oriented, EPZ Factories

The interim government has decided to resume gas connections for industries after a prolonged suspension caused by supply shortages.



Priority will be given to export-oriented factories and those located in export processing zones (EPZs).

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division conveyed the decision to Petrobangla recently, according to officials.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Advisor Fouzul Kabir Khan said instructions

have been issued to ensure proper gas supply to newly connected industrial units.

He said the move came after the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) revised gas prices.

"Gas connections will be given to export-oriented industries and factories in EPZs on a priority basis," he added. **EP**

LNG Import at Tk75, Selling at Tk12–17 Not Sustainable: BERC Chairman



Chairman of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Jalal Ahmed recently said importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) at Tk 75 per unit and selling it at Tk 12–17 is not a viable long-term solution.

Speaking at the closing session of the Green Energy Olympiad 2025, held at the Bangladesh Military Museum, he stressed the urgent need for moving away from fossil fuels and embracing renewable energy, especially rooftop solar, as a more cost-effective and sustainable alternative.

The two-day Olympiad, the first large-scale event of its kind in the country, was

jointly organized by the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED) and the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), aiming to promote environmental awareness and foster climate leadership among young students, focusing on the shift towards renewable energy.

This Olympiad was more than a competition—it was a national platform for youth to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability through logic, analysis, and leadership, the organizers said.

The BERC chairman highlighted efforts underway to install rooftop solar systems across the garment sector by 2026. "Youth-led green energy initiatives are critical, and now is the time to priorities renewable energy," he said. **EP**

Govt to Clear QatarEnergy Dues Soon

The government is set to clear all outstanding payments worth US\$ 72.40 million for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) purchases from QatarEnergy soon.



The issues regarding the payment of arrears were resolved at a meeting in Petrobangla recently.

Chevron Bangladesh has recently received its outstanding payments from the state-owned Petrobangla. An official from the US company stated, "We have received all our outstanding bills from the government in recent weeks."

High-ranking officials from Petrobangla, including its chairman, director of finance, and representatives from Qatar Energy, attended the meeting.

Energy division officials mentioned that settling the arrears payment would facilitate a productive discussion between Emir of

Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Chief Adviser Dr. Mohammad Yunus recently.

Professor Yunus and Energy Adviser Dr Fouzul Kabir are currently in Doha to attend Earthna Summit 2025.

The Director of Finance at Petrobangla, AKM Mizanur Rahman, stated that the state-owned entity paid \$35 million on Monday, \$5.0 million on Tuesday, and \$32 million is scheduled to be paid by the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) on April 23, 2025.

LNG payments under the long-term contract with the government were due on March 24, April 9, and April 25, 2025. **EP**

Rooppur Payment: Govt to Seek US Sanction Waiver

Bangladesh will seek permission from the US treasury to repay Russia for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project, whose dues have piled up in the Bangladesh Bank's escrow account after sanctions were levied on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.

As much as \$900 million has been on hold since 2022 in the central bank's escrow account, a third-party special deposit fund to hold the assets of a transaction temporarily.

The assets are only released when all terms of the agreement have been met.



The finance ministry and the ministry of science and technology will be applying for the waiver from the US Treasury within a couple of weeks, according to people informed with the proceedings.

Before leaving for Washington DC, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters that the concerned officials would hold discussions with the US treasury on the Rooppur plant's payment issues. "We are searching for alternatives," he said.

As per the loan agreements signed with Russia for the power plant, Bangladesh is to repay the loan in dollars, which became unfeasible as some of the largest banks of the Soviet nation were expelled from the SWIFT financial system, which handles the vast majority of cross-border payments. **EP**

BIDA Urges BERC to Revise Recently Announced Gas Price Hike



Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has urged the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to revise the recently announced gas price hike, saying that otherwise, it would affect the economic momentum.

"The move could hurt the country's investment prospects and economic momentum," BIDA said in a letter to the BERC recently.

BERC recently announced a 33 percent increase in gas prices for industries planning to get new connections or expand with additional gas consumption.

In the letter, BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun said the newly fixed gas tariff discriminates against new investors, who will have to pay 33 percent more than existing ones.

"This discriminatory policy will discourage new investments," he added.

He said investors are already considering this decision unfair and have taken a stand against it.

EP

Spot LNG Prices Slip to 8-Month Low on Weak Demand



Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices slid to an over eight-month low recently, weighed by weak demand, high stocks and concerns of a global recession triggered by US President Trump's implementation of worldwide tariffs.

The average LNG price for May delivery into north-east Asia LNG-AS was at \$12.50 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), the lowest level since late July, industry

sources estimated.

The June delivery price was estimated at \$11.30/mmBtu.

"Asian LNG prices are under pressure amid weak seasonal demand, high inventories and recession concerns tied to elevated U.S.-China trade tensions," said Kpler analyst Go Katayama, referring to stockpiles in Japan and Korea.

While the 90-day tariff pause by the US has sparked optimism, it is limited, and the continuation of tariffs on Chinese goods keeps market sentiment cautious, he added.

"Restocking in Northeast Asia remains subdued and is unlikely to pick up unless prices drop below \$12/mmBtu or weather forecasts shift hotter."

EP

Gas Price Hike Puts Manufacturing Sector under Pressure: BUILD

The recent 33% hike in gas prices for new industrial users and captive power plants will significantly strain Bangladesh's manufacturing sector, according to Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), a private sector think tank.

In a press release issued on 16 April, BUILD said the new gas rate—imposed by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) through its order no 2025/06 on 13 April—will aggravate existing cost-push inflation, which is already approaching double digits.

Since 2023, gas prices for industries and power generation have surged by 179%.

"This price adjustment comes



at a time when many businesses are already struggling with rising raw material costs, a weakening taka, export market volatility, persistent power shortages, energy unreliability, and the imposition of US reciprocal tariffs," the organization said in the press release.

BUILD warned that the increased cost burden will discourage industrial expansion and investment, just as optimism had begun to grow following the Investment Summit 2025.

EP

Titas Gas to Begin Smart Prepaid Meter Installations from 2026

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution PLC will begin installing smart prepaid gas meters in 2026, having already appointed one project management consultant (PMC) while the selection of a second is in progress.

"We're hopeful that we can start the implementation of the smart prepaid meter project by the second half of 2026," said Shahnewaj Parvez, Managing Director of Titas Gas, the largest state-owned gas distribution entity with a 55% market share and



2.878 million consumers.

Another PMC will be appointed soon, as the selection process is underway for the ADB-financed project.

Meanwhile, Development and Technical Consultant Limited (DTCL), a local firm, has been awarded the consultancy contract under the WB-financed project.

EP

Fresh Bid for New Coal Supplier for Matarbari Power Plant in the Offing



Power Division is preparing to launch a fresh bid for a new coal supplier for the Matarbari 1,200MW Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Plant following the detection of substandard coal supplied by a consortium of Bangladesh's Meghna Group's Unique Cement Industries Limited and Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte Ltd of India.

To this effect, a joint committee comprising members from Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited, the

PDB and power division was formed and tasked to hear the version of the coal supplier as they stand accused of delivering substandard coal

and take necessary preparation to launch a fresh bid for a new coal supplier.

The committee will also look into the issue of future supplies as well as the already supplied coal by the current supplier.

The decision to launch fresh bidding for a new coal supplier came in the face of detecting soil-contaminated coal brought by the supplier on 17 March which was the 11th shipment and subsequently rejected by the Coal Power Generation Company. **EP**

Up to 65% of ADB's Energy Investments in Bangladesh Lack Safeguard Classification: NGO Forum

A coalition of private watchdog groups has revealed that approximately 65% of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) energy investments in Bangladesh—totaling \$11.36 billion—lack any safeguard classification, raising serious concerns over transparency and accountability.

The revelation came

during a press conference titled "Unpacking the Risks in ADB's Investments in Bangladesh," held at Banglamotor in the capital.

The event was jointly organized by the NGO Forum on ADB and the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), ahead of the ADB's 58th Annual

South Korea's LG Energy Solution Exits from \$8.4b Indonesia Project

South Korea's LG Energy Solution said recently it had withdrawn from a multibillion-dollar project to build electric batteries in Indonesia, citing a range of issues, including the "investment environment".

The company signed a 142 trillion rupiah (\$8.4 billion) deal in 2020 on the so-called Grand Package project, which aimed to establish a local electric vehicle battery value chain in the country.

"Taking into account various factors, including market conditions and investment environment, we have agreed to formally withdraw from the Indonesia GP (Grand Package) project," it said in a statement.

"However, we will continue to explore various



avenues of collaboration with the Indonesian government, centering on the Indonesia battery joint venture, HLI Green Power."

HLI Green Power, a joint venture between LG Energy Solution and Hyundai Motor Group, operates Indonesia's first electric vehicle battery plant, which was launched in 2024 with a production capacity of up to 10 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of cells annually.

Indonesia has been seeking to position itself as a key player in the global EV supply chain by leveraging its vast nickel reserve to attract investment. **EP**

General Meeting.

Speakers at the event accused the multilateral lender of deepening Bangladesh's energy and environmental crises by adhering to a one-sided investment model that heavily prioritizes fossil fuels over renewable alternatives.

Hasan Mehedi, Chief Executive of CLEAN; Rayyan Hassan, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on ADB; and Sharmin Bristy, Fossil Fuel Campaigner at the NGO



Forum on ADB, spoke at the event.

They said that the ADB has so far invested around \$17.34 billion in Bangladesh's energy sector, with the vast majority funneled into fossil fuel-based projects. **EP**

Stable Energy Tariff Key to Investor Confidence: EuroCham



Chairperson of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) Nuria Lopez has said maintaining a "predictable and balanced" energy tariff regime is essential for ensuring investor confidence and supporting industrial expansion.

"We believe a collaborative approach to policy design can help avoid business disruptions and send a positive signal to potential investors," Lopez said.

In the spirit of constructive collaboration and shared commitment to Bangladesh's

economic progress, the EuroCham of Bangladesh recently emphasized the importance of working hand in hand with the government and relevant stakeholders to create a more conducive environment for European investors.

EuroCham acknowledged the government's efforts towards a sustainable energy future and appreciates the progress made in energy sector reforms.

The Chamber, however, said they remain "concerned" about the recently announced gas tariff structure by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), which introduces differential pricing based on industrial consumers' contractual timelines and gas connections. **EP**

India's NG Consumption to Rise 60% by 2030: PNGRB



India's natural gas consumption is likely to rise by close to 60 per cent by 2030 on the back of rise in usage of the fuel as CNG in automobiles and for cooking and industrial purposes, according to a study by oil regulator PNGRB.

Consumption of natural gas,

which is used to produce electricity, make fertilizer or turned into CNG for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking, is expected to rise from 188 million standard cubic meters per day in 2023-24 to 297 mmscmd by 2030 under 'Good-to-Go' scenario which assumes moderate growth and developments based on current trends and commitments, the study by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) said. **EP**

bp Announces New Oil Discovery Off US Gulf Coast



British energy giant BP, which recently shelved carbon-reduction targets to focus on more profitable fossil fuel output, said recently it had made a new oil discovery off the US Gulf coast. The company said it had located oil at the Far South prospect.

"This discovery in the deepwater Gulf of America underscores how bp is in action to step up investment in exploration and strengthen its upstream portfolio under the strategy reset announced in February," bp said in a

statement, using President Donald Trump's new name for the Gulf of Mexico.

In an executive order signed hours after he returned to the White House, Trump called the water body an "indelible part of America" critical to US oil production and fishing and "a favorite destination for American tourism and recreation activities." **EP**

Global Transformers Market to Reach \$89.34b in 2030: GlobalData

The global transformers market is on a strong growth trajectory, projected to reach \$89.34 billion in 2030, driven by rising electricity demand, renewable integration, and grid modernization.

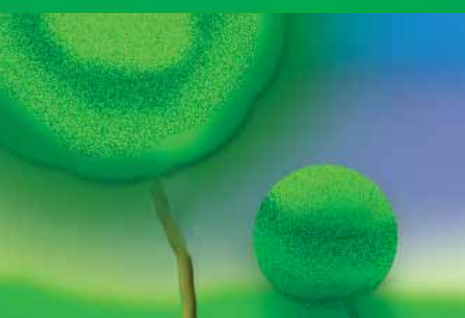
The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is set to lead the charge with robust investments, while the Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region is poised to grow fastest, fueled by infrastructure upgrades and power sector reforms across developing economies in the Middle East and Africa, reveals GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's report, "Transformers Market Size, Share and Trends Analysis by



Technology, Installed Capacity, Generation, Key Players and Forecast to 2030," reveals that the global market for power transformers is projected to reach \$35.83 billion, while the distribution transformers market is anticipated to attain \$53.51 billion in 2030.

The APAC power transformers market is set to grow from \$12.35 billion in 2024 to \$18.96 billion in 2030. The region's economic growth has driven commercial activity and spurred numerous nations to invest in large-scale development programs. **EP**



Green page

IsDB to Lend \$167m for 220MW Solar Plant



to Tk 1.25 billion, according to Planning Commission sources.

"The planning adviser has approved the development project proposal (DPP) in principle, and IsDB earlier confirmed its financing for the project," said a senior Economic Relations Division (ERD) official.

The project aims to enhance the share of renewable energy in Bangladesh's energy mix to support the national goal of generating 10 per cent of electricity from renewable sources, reveals the DPP sent from the Power Division to the Planning Commission.

Additionally, the project seeks to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower carbon emissions, and contribute to economic development and improved living standards, it added.

EP

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has agreed to provide \$167 million in loans - roughly Tk 20.10 billion - to develop a 220MW solar power plant in the Sonagazi area of Feni district, a facility with the highest solar capacity in the country to date.

The Power Division proposed the project with an estimated cost of Tk 21.35 billion, with the combined contribution of the government and Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited (EGCB) amounting

Dream71 to Build RE Web Platform for Lesotho

Dream71 Bangladesh Limited has been entrusted with building a digital platform to promote renewable energy in the African nation of Lesotho.

The leading Bangladeshi information technology company will develop a modern, web-based system to streamline e-tendering, data management, real-time monitoring, and geospatial analysis.

The work will be carried out under a "Renewable Lesotho: Access to



Affordable and Renewable Energy" initiative — jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the government of Lesotho.

The company signed an agreement with the UNDP after participating in a competitive international tender in January, under which financial and technical proposals went through a rigorous evaluation.

"We are proud to be associated with this project," said Rashad Kabir, managing director of Dream71, in a statement.

EP

EU Wants Bangladesh Enhance RE Use by over 3%

The European Union (EU) on 23 April expected Bangladesh to enhance its renewable energy use by over 3% through restructuring the South Asian nation's energy sector alongside pursuing political stability through democratic elections.

"We expect Bangladesh to increase its renewable energy use by more than 3%, reform its energy structure, and pursue political stability through democratic elections," a senior EU official at its Dhaka office said.

Joining the opening of a renewable energy festival, EU's Head of

Development Cooperation and Minister Counselor in Dhaka Michal Krejza

said the European Union earlier pledged Bangladesh to provide EUR 1.3 billion for its green energy transition.

The EU earlier offered the amount in the form of grant and loans for its overall ongoing and planned projects under a platform called Team Europe Initiative Green Energy Transition (TEI GET) in Bangladesh, co-chaired by the European Union and Germany.

According to EU officias, the initiative was being supported by countries including France, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Spain and Italy.

EP

Bangladesh Hosts First-Ever RE Festival at BUET



Bangladesh took a historic leap towards a sustainable future as the country's inaugural renewable energy festival, the Renewable Energy Fest 2025, held recently at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Jointly organized by ActionAid Bangladesh, Buet, and the Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh (JETnet-BD), the two-day event is envisioned as a catalyst for a just and inclusive energy transition rooted in

policy reform, technological innovation and robust youth participation.

The festival opened with a spirited inauguration ceremony, where dignitaries unveiled a symbolic sculpture reflecting Bangladesh's renewable energy ambitions.

Attendees then explored the Innovation and Technology Fair, showcasing state-of-the-art green technologies and products developed by local entrepreneurs and corporations.

A central feature of the festival is the launch of the 'Youth Hub'—a dynamic space for youth-led discussions, workshops, cultural performances, quizzes, and networking opportunities.

The inaugural session, "The Energy Awakening: Justice, Innovation, and Power to the People," was presided over by Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh. **EP**

Renewables Sector Needs Long-Term Financing Roadmap



Bangladesh urgently needs a long-term financing roadmap to promote renewable-energy projects and reach the country's target of net-zero carbon emission by 2050, experts suggested recently.

To achieve the goal, they said, the country that is extremely vulnerable to global warming requires framing the monetary policy in such a way that the commercial lenders can feel encouraged to support proliferation of renewable energy.

As the expansion of renewable energy requires a significant volume of

investment, the experts recommended going for syndication between state-owned commercial banks (SCBs) and private commercial banks (PCBs) to finance large-scale projects.

Otherwise, the \$450 billion economy cannot come out of the high dependency on fossil fuels, which are very costly and environment-destroying options, according to them.

The suggestions and concerns came up at a research dissemination session titled 'Renewable Energy Finance in Bangladesh: Trends and Ways Forward' arranged by Unnayan Shamannay in the city.

Khondkar Morshed Millat, BIBM faculty member and former director (sustainable finance department) of Bangladesh Bank, moderated the session. **EP**



Vietnam Publishes FiTs for Large-Scale Solar, Storage

Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has published the new feed-in tariffs for utility-scale solar plants.

For projects without battery storage, the tariff will be VND 1,382.7 (\$0.053)/kWh for the northern part of the country, VND 1,107.1/kWh for the central part, and VND 1,012.0/kWh for the southern region.

For solar power plants relying on battery storage systems, the FiTs for the three regions will be VND 1,571.98/kWh, VND 1,257.05/kWh



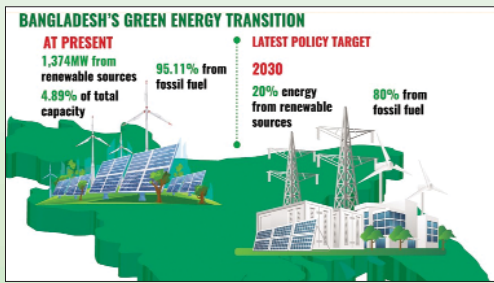
and VND 1,149.86/kWh, respectively.

For floating PV installations without storage, the tariffs will be VND 1,685.8/kWh, VND 1,336.1/kWh and VND 1,228.2/kWh., while for floating arrays with storage will be VND 1,876.57/kWh, VND 1,487.18/kWh and 1,367.13 VND/kWh.

The Vietnamese authorities also decided that battery projects under the FiT scheme must have at least 10% of a PV plant's capacity and offer at least 2 hours of storage.

According to the latest statistics from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Vietnam had approximately 18.66 GW of installed PV capacity at the end of 2024. Last year's new additions totaled around 79 MW. **EP**

Draft RE Policy 2025 Falls Short of Means to Attain Targets



Bangladesh's draft renewable energy policy 2025 has come under heavy scrutiny from energy and climate experts who say it lacks a clear roadmap and coherent direction to meet renewable energy targets.

The policy, which took more than four years for drafting, was made available for public consultation for just 21 days through February 24 this year.

Civil society groups, analysts, and sector stakeholders, who were largely left out of the formulation process, say the draft policy, without critical

revision, may fail to steer the country towards clean energy goals as the previous policies did.

The draft policy sets new renewable energy targets -- 6,145 MW, 20 per cent of the country's total power generation capacity, by 2030; and 17,470 MW, 30 per cent of the capacity, by 2041.

The targets are less ambitious than earlier pledges, but they are based on installed capacity, not actual power generation, raising concerns about the effectiveness of the 2025 policy in driving a real energy transition.

"Installed capacity doesn't reflect the actual contribution of renewables to the grid," said Hasan Mehedi of the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN).

"We need generation-based targets backed by annual and five-year roadmaps, which the draft policy completely lacks," he said.

EP

Greenpage

Google's Global Goal to Run on 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy by 2030

Google has signed its first offshore wind power purchase agreement (PPA) in Asia Pacific, committing to buy clean energy from the 495 MW Fengmiao I offshore wind project in Taiwan.

Developed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), this deal marks a major step in Google's journey toward 24/7



carbon-free energy (CFE) and reinforces its long-term commitment to decarbonizing operations globally.

"This project will help power our data center, cloud region and offices in Taiwan," said I-Chun Hsiao, Senior Lead, APAC, Google Energy and Infrastructure. "By integrating offshore wind with our existing solar and geothermal projects, we're advancing our 24/7 carbon-free energy goal while helping Taiwan bring on new energy resources to help meet electricity demand."

Fengmiao I is the first development from Taiwan's Round 3.1 auction to reach financial close, positioning it as a significant catalyst for the local offshore wind sector. The wind farm is expected to be operational by 2027.

The PPA is the second collaboration between Google and CIP for offshore wind and was facilitated through CIP's CI V fund, which recently closed at €12 billion (USD \$13.1 billion). The fund targets clean energy transition projects in stable, low-risk markets.

EP

Australian State Backs 20 GWh Pumped Hydro Project



The Queensland government has announced it will invest AUD 50 million via state-owned energy generator and retailer CleanCo into the proposed Mt Rawdon pumped hydro project to help progress the development toward a final investment decision.

The project – a 50:50 joint venture between gold miner Evolution Mining and an affiliate of advisory firm ICA Partners – involves converting Evolution's Mt Rawdon gold mine, located about 75 km southwest of Bundaberg, into a pumped hydro

facility that is expected to provide up a 2 GW/20 GWh of renewable energy storage capacity.

CleanCo said in a statement it has committed to working with Evolution Mining and ICA Partners to progress feasibility works, including geotechnical studies, environmental assessments and detailed design.

CleanCo Chief Executive Officer Tom Metcalfe said the project is a "practical, deliverable" energy storage project that can help safeguard reliability of supply in a net-zero future.

"Long-duration energy storage is essential in soaking up excess renewable energy when it's plentiful and delivering it back into the grid when demand is high," he said. "Mt Rawdon presents a unique opportunity to repurpose existing mining infrastructure to become part of the long-term solution to securing a renewable energy future for Queensland."

EP



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

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

মানসম্পন্ন বিদ্যুৎ নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে দেশের সকল মানুষের নিকট পৌঁছে দেয়াই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

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



CA for Enhanced Regional Cooperation to Address Climate Challenges



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has called for enhanced regional cooperation to tackle the growing climate and urban challenges in the Asia Pacific.

He made the call in a video message at the inaugural session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The eighty-first session of ESCAP commenced at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok recently.

In his remarks, Prof Yunus

highlighted Bangladesh's commitment to inclusive and climate-resilient urban development, emphasizing the country's reform journey and "Three Zero Vision"

- zero wealth concentration, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions.

He also urged the nations of the Asia Pacific to harness the youth potential and innovation to shape a sustainable future.

Guided by "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific," the session brings together 53 member states and nine associate members, according to a message received in Dhaka. **EP**

Green Energy Olympiad Launched Spotlighting Youth, Climate Leadership

The final round of the country's first large-scale two-day event, 'Green Energy Olympiad 2025,' was held at the Bangladesh Military Museum in the city on 19-20 April 2025.



Organized jointly by the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED) and the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), the event was designed not only as a competition but also as a national platform where young people can demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection through logic, analysis, and leadership.

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan inaugurated the event, emphasizing the involvement of youth in policymaking. **EP**

She said that most of those voted to power in Bangladesh were made by administrative-centric decisions and are not directly representative of civil society or the youth.

For building a sustainable and progressive Bangladesh, the input of youth, innovative thinking, and civil society guidance is crucial, she said.

Rizwana Hasan noted that those who support fossil fuels are not focused on reducing environmental crises but rather on sustaining them. **EP**

Youths Demand Revision of Energy Plan, Fair Climate Finance



Young climate activists have called for urgent revisions to Bangladesh's Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP), warning that the country's continued dependence on fossil fuels undermines both national and global climate goals.

As part of the Global Climate Strike, more than 200 youths under the banner of YouthNet Global staged a peaceful

demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka recently, demanding a just transition to renewable energy and greater access to international climate finance. Similar protests

took place in 50 districts across the country, with students from schools, colleges, and universities taking part.

Holding placards that read "Time to move away from fossil fuels" and "We demand renewable energy, don't sell our future," the demonstrators said the current IEPMP risks increasing Bangladesh's reliance on costly and polluting fossil fuel imports. **EP**

Adaptation Fund Board Approves \$10m Project to Enhance Climate Resilience in CHT

The Adaptation Fund Board has approved the Green, Resilient, and Adaptive CHT Economy (GRACE) project, a significant step forward in climate adaptation in Bangladesh.

The project will use US\$ 10 million to help the most vulnerable hill communities in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) become more resilient to climate change.

"The GRACE project marks a pivotal chapter for the Chattogram Hill Tracts - an ecologically rich yet acutely

vulnerable region of Bangladesh. This transformative initiative opens the door to meaningful investment in climate resilience while upholding the dignity, rights, and well-being of the ethnic minorities inhabiting this area," Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said.

"We deeply appreciate the approval, which is evidence of Bangladesh's national leadership in climate adaptation," Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Adviser Supradip Chakma said. **EP**

Govt to Distribute Jute Bags at Subsidized Rates: Rizwana



Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan recently said jute bags would be provided to the public as an alternative to polythene shopping bags under a government initiative that includes subsidized distribution.

"A project has already been undertaken in this regard, and the Ministry of Textiles and Jute will collaborate to implement it," she said at a seminar and cleanliness

campaign held at the Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University, focused on measures to prevent plastic pollution.

To raise awareness about using jute bags, she mentioned, a campaign will be launched.

"New entrepreneurs will also be developed around jute bag production," she added, stressing that institutions like JDPC, SME Foundation, and Joyeeta Foundation will be engaged to ensure a sustainable system.

Professor Dr Niaz Ahmed Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, presided over the seminar. **EP**

UN Conference Calls for Halving Health Impacts of Air Pollution by 2040

The health community's call to action urges governments to enforce robust measures to stop polluting the air, cut emissions at their source, and achieve the full implementation of the WHO global air quality guidelines.

It calls for ensuring a just and inclusive clean energy transition and fossil fuel phaseout.

More than 47 million health and care workers, patients' groups, CSOs, and individuals have expressed support for the ask, committing to lead by example.

The Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health called on all stakeholders to pledge voluntary actions to achieve a 50% reduction in the



health impacts of air pollution by 2040. This target will be monitored at a country level and aggregated to derive a global estimate of progress, with 2015 values serving as the baseline.

Co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Colombia, with the support of the Government of Spain and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Bank, among other UN agencies, the Conference took place in Cartagena, Colombia, from 24-28 March 2025. **EP**

IMO Approves First Global Carbon Pricing System



in London to decide which mechanism to adopt to reach carbon neutrality in shipping by 2050.

Those who do not meet the guidelines will have to pay annually for every tonne of

greenhouse gas emissions that exceed the targets set.

The IMO said the funds raised will be used to "reward" zero or near-zero greenhouse gas emissions technologies and to financially support developing countries to transition to lower-emission shipping.

A majority of members, 63 states, voted for a carbon pricing system, including the European Union, Brazil, China, India, and Japan. **EP**

Member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) voted in favor of a global pricing system to help curb maritime emissions, the UN shipping body announced recently.

From 2028, all ships will be required to use a less carbon-intensive fuel mix, or face financial penalties -- but the system is deemed by Pacific Island states as insufficiently ambitious.

The initial agreement comes after a week of negotiations

Europe's Hydrogen Initiatives and RE Auctions to Accelerate Transition: GlobalData

Three years into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Europe has significantly diminished its reliance on Russia.

Even though the EU has been importing liquified natural gas (LNG) primarily from the US, Norway, and Qatar since the onset of hostilities, the continent has decreased its overall consumption of fossil fuels, and the power sector has progressively become cleaner.

GlobalData, a leading data

and analytics company, says structural modifications to the permitting process for renewable energy projects and hydrogen initiatives are expected to further accelerate the region's energy transition.

GlobalData's latest report, "Europe Renewable Energy Policy Handbook 2025," reveals that in response to structural changes in permitting, EU countries acted in a united and prompt manner. **EP**

Rizwana Urges Inclusive Trade Deals to Drive Green Growth



Sayed Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the ministries of environment and water resources, recently expressed interest in exploring comprehensive economic partnership agreements with developed countries, underscoring the need for inclusive negotiations with major trade partners.

This is needed to avoid imbalances that harm exporters and consumers alike, she said.

She also reaffirmed Bangladesh's readiness to lead in sustainable development and trade-driven green growth.

Rizwana made the remarks during a meeting with Ratnakar Adhikari, executive director of the Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated

Framework (EIF) at the World Trade Organization (WTO), in Dhaka.

The meeting covered a broad range of topics, including enhancing Bangladesh's trade resilience in the face of global economic uncertainty, expanding regional cooperation, and attracting investment in green industrial infrastructure.

EIF Chief Adhikari highlighted the link between trade and climate action and said Bangladesh's potential to access international climate finance through better coordination between trade and environmental policies.

He shared examples from EIF-supported countries like the Gambia, where coordinated efforts led to the formulation of green recovery plans and major investment proposals for sustainable industrial development. **EP**

Countries Could Use Forests to 'Mask' Needed Emission Cuts: Report

Major economies are overstating how much carbon their forests can absorb in a climate accounting fudge that could allow them to use even more fossil fuels, new research said recently.

The assessment singled out Brazil and Australia, and warned that a lack of rules around accounting for forests and other land-based carbon sinks meant countries could "game the system" when reporting their national greenhouse gas emissions.

Scientists are still unclear about how carbon sinks might behave as the planet warms in the future, and exactly how much heat-trapping carbon dioxide they might soak up from the atmosphere.



But that has not stopped countries from making their own assumptions and using those numbers in their national climate plans, which are due to be finalized by 2035 before the next UN climate talks in Brazil in November.

Climate Analytics, a policy institute that independently assesses these plans, said overly optimistic assumptions about how much CO2 forests might draw down were "masking the scale and pace of the fossil fuel emissions cuts needed". **EP**

Ashes from the wildfires in the Amazon were used to create the 30ft artwork banner with the words "Brazil, lead the just energy transition at COP30."

The action called for a direct response to a letter delivered to the COP30 presidency during the Free Land Camp, signed by over 180 organizations from around the world and thousands of individuals from 98 countries in an online petition.

The letter demands that ending fossil fuels, ensuring a just energy transition, and

centering Indigenous and traditional leadership be core priorities at COP30.

Participants in the action are attending the event "Renew Our Power", organized by 350.org, an international climate activism and community organizing group, advocating for a just energy transition.

The gathering brings together over 200 climate leaders from more than 70 countries in Brazil, aiming to boost community renewable energy projects — a strategic milestone on the road to COP30. **EP**

Activists from Asia join Indigenous Peoples to Demand Climate Justice



Dozens of people from around the world, including

climate activists and community leaders from Asia, brought solar panels and a giant banner created by renowned Brazilian artist Mundano to the doors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brasilia recently.

LOAD-SHEDDING IS A HEADACHE, BUT GOVT IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

In tropical Bangladesh, the summer means plenty of juicy fruits – from delicious mangoes to nutritious jack fruits, better known as the poor man's favorite. With the summer season setting in amid kalboishakhis (nor'westers), Bangladesh has other worries too. Load-shedding, caused by a short supply of electricity against higher demand, is a major headache for the authorities. The consumption of electricity at homes, offices, and factories increases manifold as fans and air conditioners go on almost 24-hour operations, drawing an increased amount. The government has other obligations too; a steady supply of power to irrigation pumps and industries. Good that irrigation does not need electricity right now, as the harvesting of paddy crops is going on. With the short supply of gas, the government aims to boost power generation by using coal and imported LNG. The focus has rightly been on keeping the load-shedding at a tolerable level.

Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan is someone who does not mince words in regard to issues his ministry faces. He

has been candid in acknowledging that some extent of power outage is "inevitable" during the summer months, but the government will manage it in a way that it remains at a tolerable level.

Addressing a seminar titled "Energy Crisis: Way Forward" at Bidyut Bhaban in the capital on 26 April, Khan acknowledged that while power outages are inevitable, efforts are underway to ensure minimal disruptions.

"I won't say there will be no power outage this summer, but load-shedding will remain within a tolerable level. There will be no significant difference between urban and rural areas in terms of power supply," a news report quoted him as saying.

The government plans to increase power generation to 18,000 megawatts (MW) during peak demand, up from the current 16,000 MW. To meet additional demand, the government intends to import more coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Strange that the country has to worry about load-shedding despite a power

generation capacity estimated at around 28,000 MW. A maximum utilization of the capacity has remained a far cry from a variety of factors. A lack of an effective transmission line is one of them. The declining availability of natural gas, a cheaper home-grown input for power generation, has been the other big factor. In a major policy mistake, the past government put greater focus on increasing power generation capacity by using imported oil and LNG than going all out for boosting the domestic gas resources. Instead of making plans for the exploration of gas resources and prioritizing renewable energy (solar plants), the past government went for the import of LNG, putting pressure on the foreign currency reserves. The proliferation of independent power producers had been possible because of the encouragement of crony capitalism. Many of these IPPs remain idle as the government has failed to purchase power from them. Still, the government had to pay them in the form of capacity charges – a much controversial provision that had been extensively abused largely due to misguided policy and greed by a handful of policymakers and businesses. The energy adviser could not be faulted in his remarks that the interim administration had inherited a power sector in disaster. The dues to the IPPs, oil and LNG exporters kept piling up, much of which had to be cleared by the interim government despite pressure on foreign currency reserves. In the latest move, Bangladesh has cleared all dues to Qatar for LNG imports. The outstanding bills of companies like Chevron have also been paid to a large extent.

This and other steps so far taken confirm that the interim administration of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus is on the right track in regard to the power and energy sector.

EP



Maintaining Domestic Gas Output At Present Level May Not Be Possible Sans Major Discoveries

Significant discoveries are needed to sustain domestic gas production at the existing level of 2000 MMCFD. Adopting realistic and well-structured plans is the key to achieving this.

The ongoing program to drill 150 gas wells, including 87 exploration wells by 2028, is highly ambitious; it is unlikely to be achieved under the current system, considering BAPEX's existing technical manpower. To accelerate progress, we need to take a more pragmatic approach. Following the example of international oil and gas exploration companies and experienced drilling contractors, we could bypass some rigid procedures under the Public Procurement Rules (PPR). By enlisting a pool of reputed vendors and service companies, soliciting quotations directly from them, and awarding contracts accordingly, implementation could be significantly faster and more efficient. For this approach to be effective, BAPEX should be facilitated with special regulatory provisions for at least 5-10 years. This would allow the national company to operate with greater flexibility, attract quality service providers, and respond more quickly to operational needs. On the other hand, under current circumstances, it seems unlikely that investment can be attracted under the PSC (Production Sharing Contract) framework, either offshore or onshore.

The observation was made by

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque Chisty, former Managing Director of BAPEX, in a conversation with Energy & Power Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain.

Of the 50-well plan, 34 wells remain to be drilled, and it's said that these would be completed by June next year. Of these, 17 will be drilled by BAPEX and 17 by contractors. Do you think this is realistically achievable?

The target to drill 34 wells by June next year under Petrobangla's 50-well plan is certainly ambitious. I don't think that when these plans were adopted, the actual capacity of BAPEX, BGFCL, and SGFL was properly assessed. As a result, even after taking up such aspiring programs, success is not achieved. However, it's commendable that the interim government, after taking office, has continued with the work initiated by the previous government and is trying to complete it by June next year. I don't think all 34 wells, particularly the 17 assigned to BAPEX, can be completed.

The success of meeting this timeline depends on several critical factors, including rig availability, timely procurement of materials, efficient coordination among agencies, and logistical challenges. On the contractors' side, much will depend on how quickly contracts are finalized, rigs are deployed, and operations are commenced. Delays in



Mortuza Ahmad Faruque Chisty

The country's current socioeconomic and political factors are critical for attracting investment.

I think that until an elected government takes office, the chances of successfully attracting investment in oil and gas exploration remain very limited. I believe meaningful progress in securing investment for oil and gas exploration is unlikely until a fully elected and stable government is in place.

tendering or contractual bottlenecks could impact the timeline. Moreover, effective supervision and coordination will be necessary to ensure that both BAPEX and contractor-led operations progress in parallel without delays.

Petrobangla claims that 10 rigs will be operational by the end of this year. If this target is achieved, how many wells can be drilled per year?

BAPEX has five rigs in operation. Contractors have been appointed and are starting work, but I'm not sure when their rigs will arrive. The

challenge is that once 10 rigs are operational, ensuring their supply and monitoring becomes critical, and that responsibility falls mainly on BAPEX. Given the circumstances, even if the contractors bring in five rigs as per their contracts, I don't think they can be made operational within this year. Moreover, skilled manpower is a major requirement to run these rigs. Even though BAPEX has five rigs, they don't have enough manpower to operate them all simultaneously. Exploration wells involve even greater complexities — often, the locations aren't physically verified but assigned based on seismic data, and when the time comes to mobilize the rig, issues like access arise. These factors must be considered. I firmly believe that in many cases, the exploration well locations were assigned without physical verification, which may cause delays once work begins due to accessibility challenges at some of the drilling sites.

Do you think Petrobangla can ensure the necessary support services and monitoring if all 10 rigs are operational simultaneously?

There's a plan to drill 150 wells in two phases. According to the plan, BAPEX will drill 120 of these wells. Out of that, 16 wells have been completed, leaving 104 still to go. This includes 47 workovers by the three companies, plus development and exploration wells of BAPEX. We're now at the end of April 2025, and BAPEX will have to complete drilling of 104 wells by 2028. The question is: how is that possible? To keep five BAPEX rigs running, adequate and experienced technical manpower is needed; otherwise, it's impossible to keep all rigs operational simultaneously. So, BAPEX needs to assess how many wells they can drill. For the rest, deadlines must be set, and contractors must be appointed accordingly.

Bhola is a grid-isolated gas field.

Already, 10 wells are producing there. Bids have been submitted for drilling five more wells, which are currently under evaluation. Additionally, under the new plan, five more wells are scheduled to be drilled. Before Bhola is

The target to drill 34 wells by June next year under Petrobangla's 50-well plan is certainly ambitious. I don't think that when these plans were adopted, the actual capacity of BAPEX, BGFCL, and SGFL was properly assessed.

connected to the grid, how realistic is the plan?

The development plan for Bhola's gas is certainly necessary. But there's no immediate need to implement it right now because, since it's not yet connected to the grid, drilling new wells would mean letting the gas sit unused, and perhaps now is not the right time. Instead, attention should be given to areas already connected to the grid, where it could help address shortages. So far, Bhola's

potential suggests reserves will stand at around 3.0 trillion cubic feet.

Establishing a pipeline to connect Bhola to the grid is a major undertaking. There was a proposal for the Western Region Integrated Project in 1997, but based on gas reserves, it wasn't considered viable at that time. However, now the confirmed reserves justify building the pipeline, and future exploration will likely increase the reserves further. Still, new investments in Bhola won't help address the ongoing gas crisis immediately.

What is the main challenge in connecting Bhola to the grid? The feasibility study for the Bhola-Barisal pipeline has already been completed. A new plan has been taken to bring Bhola's gas to Dhaka via the Barisal-Jajira and Padma bridges. What is your opinion on its implementation and timeline?

The primary challenge in connecting Bhola to the national gas grid lies in the infrastructure gap, particularly the absence of a transmission pipeline across the riverine southern Bangladesh. While the feasibility study for the Bhola-Barisal pipeline has been completed, the broader plan to transport Bhola's gas to Dhaka via Barisal-Jajira and the Padma Bridge is ambitious and technically feasible, but comes with significant logistical, financial, and coordination challenges. All challenges need to be addressed to proceed with the pipeline. For this, both Bhola gas and the planned LNG terminal at Kuakata should be considered together. Once work begins, it will take about 4–5 years to connect Bhola to the grid.

However, rather than only thinking about bringing Bhola's gas to Dhaka, it would be more appropriate to extend it toward Khulna to connect the grid.

Bhola is already being called a 2 TCF (trillion cubic feet) gas field. Seismic surveys have been

initiated on nearby islands, and it's being claimed that Bhola could become a 4 TCF field. What is your take?

Not just Bhola — the broader Bhola region's reserves are over 3 TCF. With continued work, there's potential for it to exceed 4 TCF. However, actual reserves can only be confirmed after exploration, field development, and the commencement of production. By comparing the current formation pressure to the initial reservoir pressure after a few years of gas production, we can assess whether the reserves are being replenished or if there is pressure support, which may indicate the presence of additional resources. For example, in 1991, the Titas field's reserves were estimated to be 2.1 TCF. But later, after analyzing reservoir pressure and gas production behaviors, it was found to be 7.4 TCF in 2001. Production is ongoing at Shahbazpur in Bhola, and the production data there is quite promising. Among all gas fields in the country, Shahbazpur and Bhola have the highest initial formation/reservoir pressure, which is more than 5500 psi.

Bhola is being considered as an alternative to Bibiyana. It's being said that within four years, Bhola will be fully operational and connected to the grid, and its gas will help offset the supply shortages when Bibiyana's production declines. What's your opinion?

Bhola has significant potential as a domestic gas source, and considering it as a partial alternative to Bibiyana is a pragmatic approach. While Bhola's reserves are promising, they are not yet at the scale of Bibiyana, which has been the country's largest producing field for many years.

The plan to fully operationalize Bhola and connect it to the national grid within four years is encouraging. However, achieving this timeline will require coordinated efforts in

infrastructure development, including transmission pipelines, compression facilities, and production optimization.

On the other hand, work is underway on a plan to build a Bhola bridge over the Tetulia and Kalabador rivers. If the pipeline can be linked with the bridge, it will significantly reduce the challenges. Beyond that, we'll need to continue exploring the greater Bhola, and only after seeing the results, can we truly assess its resource potential.

It's said that because 16 out of the 50 planned wells have been completed, an additional 184 MMCFD of gas has been added, of which 72 MMCFD has gone to the grid. It's expected that once the remaining 34 wells are completed, another 313 MMCFD will be added. Do you agree with this calculation?

Let's assume the work is completed within the set timeline. Our current local production is around 1,850 MMCFD. Every year, production drops by about 100–120 MMCFD. So, even if we add 300 MMCFD as planned, it's unlikely that we can push production above 2,000 MMCFD. Still, it would offset part of the decline. Previously, domestic production was around 2,700 MMCFD. In the past few years, it dropped by about 900 MMCFD. Therefore, only major discoveries can meaningfully improve the supply situation. Continued exploration, including deep drilling, is the only option.

There was a plan to install field compressors, but that hasn't been done yet. If implemented, it could also contribute to increasing supply.

How realistic are the locations identified for drilling 100 wells, including 69 exploration wells? According to Petrobangla's plan, can this be completed by 2028?

Look, without realistic planning, you

can't achieve major success. To attract oil and gas exploration investment and hire contractors, we need to move away from the current PPR (Public Procurement Rules). Globally, oil and gas companies enlist qualified vendors, take limited offers from them, negotiate, and assign work that way. To do exploration work faster and broadly, the national company BAPEX should be given that opportunity for 5-10 years. Similarly, drilling service providers should be selected under this system in advance, so we can quickly draw on their services when needed.

Petrobangla also needs to consider how to explore and develop the Chatak Gas Field, including the east. Additionally, Chevron has expressed interest and submitted an unsolicited proposal to Petrobangla to develop onshore hydrocarbon Block-11 and an extension of Block-12 in Bangladesh's northeastern Surma Basin. The proposal includes terms from the 2023 offshore Production Sharing Contract model, such as linking gas prices to 10% of the Brent crude oil price. I think, instead of outright rejection, Petrobangla could have initiated negotiations with Chevron.

Offshore tendering is being reconsidered, and draft PSCs (Production Sharing Contracts) for offshore and onshore are being worked out. How optimistic are you about attracting investment?

The country's current socioeconomic and political factors are critical for attracting investment. I think that until an elected government takes office, the chances of successfully attracting investment in oil and gas exploration remain very limited. The prevailing socioeconomic and political climate plays a critical role in attracting investment. I believe meaningful progress in securing investment for oil and gas exploration is unlikely until a fully elected and stable government is in place. **EP**

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