

ENERGY & POWER

Fresh Drive Toward Cleaner Dhaka Air

- Interim Govt's Scorecard In Energy Sector
- Launch Electric Public Transport With A Pilot First
- A Study On India's Independent Power-Producing Sector



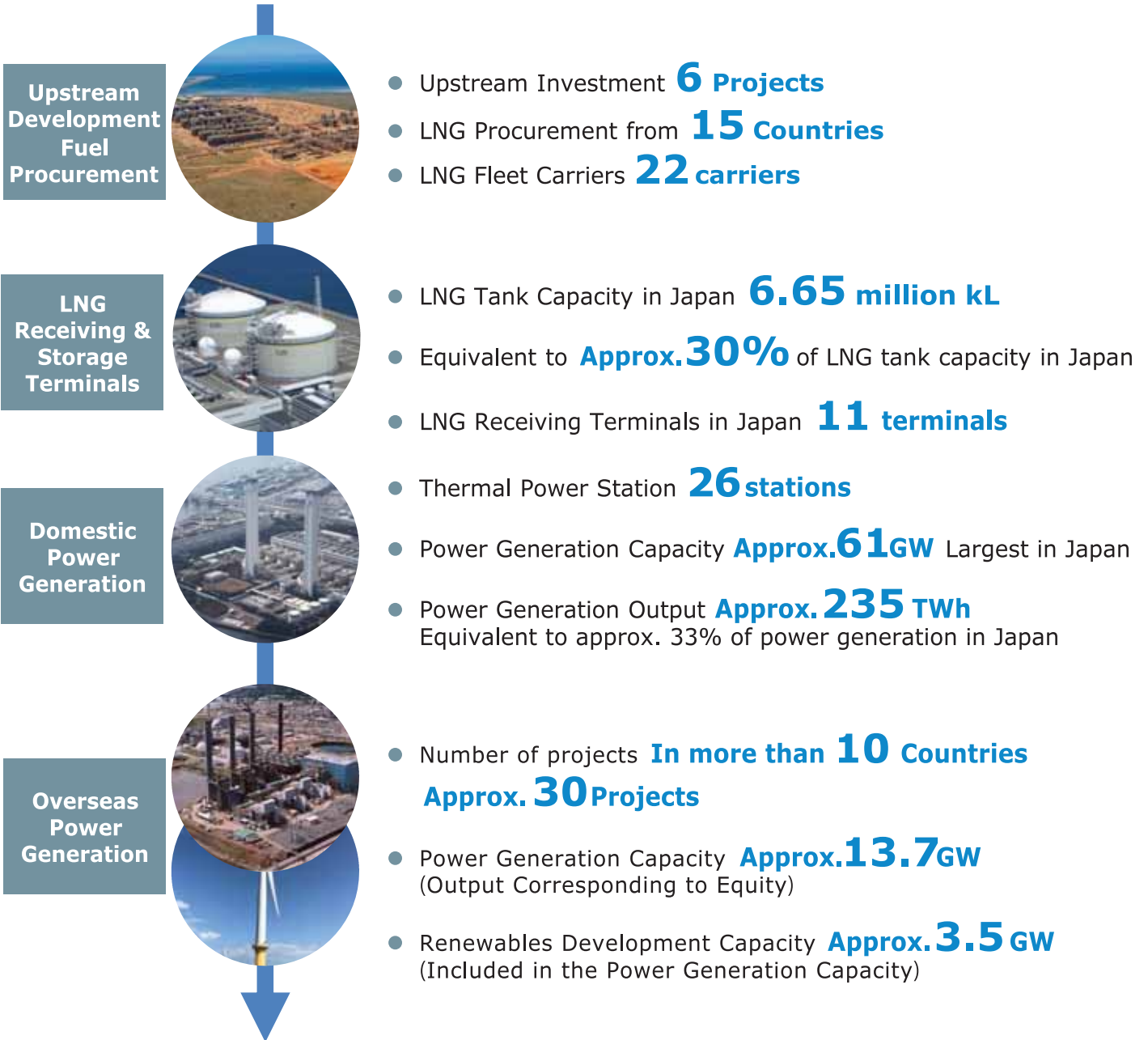
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Price

Bangladesh: Tk 100, SAARC: US\$ 9,
Asia: US\$ 12, Europe: US\$ 15, North
America, Africa & Australia: US\$ 21



EDITORIAL

For anyone living in Dhaka, the daily struggle with traffic and toxic air has become a grim routine. From schoolchildren to office workers, everyone breathes in the same dust and diesel fumes. That's why the government's new plan to introduce 400 electric buses by 2030 feels like a breath of fresh air—literally and figuratively. This initiative, backed by the World Bank, could mark a turning point for a city that has long suffered from neglect in public transport planning. Cleaner, quieter electric buses won't just reduce emissions, they are expected to offer a safer, more dignified way to commute for millions. It is a much-needed step toward making Dhaka more livable. But let us be honest—Dhaka has seen plenty of big promises before. What matters now is how this plan is carried out. Will outdated, smoke-belching buses finally be taken off the roads? Will commuters finally get relief from the chaos? Will the politics that often derail progress be kept at bay? Experts are right to urge caution: start small, get it right, and then scale up. Local capacity must also be built so that Bangladesh is not forever dependent on imports. And let us not forget the workers—drivers, mechanics, and helpers—who need to be part of this transition.

This is not just a bus project. It is a chance to clean the air, modernize transport, and give Dhaka's people a city they can move through and breathe in without harm. Let's not waste that chance.

Energy & Power steps into its 23rd year of publication on 16 June this year. Marking the occasion, we hope to bring out our anniversary issue in September.

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Electric vehicles may promise a cleaner future, but for Bangladesh, the road to that future must be paved with realism and local readiness. Start small, build capacity, and don't rush into mass adoption. Launching electric public transport in Dhaka should begin with a pilot, not a fleet... Professor Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Khan tells EP



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Bangladesh is planning to introduce electric buses in Dhaka and Narayanganj by the end of this year. The shift to electric public transport is expected to not only reduce fossil fuel use but also phase out thousands of outdated, polluting vehicles, offering cleaner air and better public health for the millions who live and work in the city every day.



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Greenpage

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

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Fugro Secures Gas Field Development Award in Southeast Asia



on a combination of Fugro's onshore, nearshore and offshore geophysical and geotechnical survey services.

Geo-data acquisition is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2025, with fieldwork estimated to last approximately one year. Detailed testing and consulting deliverables will continue into 2027.

Fugro has signed a letter of award to perform a site characterization program for a deepwater gas field development in Southeast Asia.

This significant award represents the largest geotechnical & geophysical survey project for Fugro in the Asia Pacific region to date, reflecting the positive momentum of deepwater developments in the region.

This complex project builds

Supporting site planning and engineering design, the resulting ground model will be made available to project owners in near real-time, to facilitate faster decision-making by project engineers and improved collaboration with stakeholders including regulatory agencies.

Rotork Joins Rockwell Automation's Technology Partner Program



Technology Partner product reference catalogue and system design tools.

This integration will make it easier for engineers, system integrators, and end users to specify Rotork's advanced actuation solutions in a wide range of industrial applications.

"We're proud to be joining Rockwell Automation's Technology Partner Program," said Andy Filkins, Global Head of Business Development. "This collaboration enhances the visibility of our Ethernet-enabled IQ3 Pro actuator and supports our commitment to delivering smart, connected solutions to customers around the world."

Rotork, a global leader in flow control and intelligent actuation solutions, is pleased to announce its official entry into the Rockwell Automation Technology Partner Program. This collaboration marks a significant step in expanding Rotork's presence within the industrial automation landscape.

As part of the partnership, Rotork's IQ3 Pro electric actuator with EtherNet/IP™ connectivity will be featured in Rockwell Automation's

Norwegian Offshore Vessel Services Quintet Assessing Remote DP Operations

Kongsberg Maritime, Solstad, Wstensjø, DeepOcean and Remota are jointly investigating the potential for remote dynamic positioning (DP) operations in the offshore sector.



The pilot project, announced at the Nor-Shipping exhibition in Oslo, will start later this year on the Solstad offshore vessel Normand Sentinel.

The partnership believes the technology could lead to better operational flexibility as well as smarter and more sustainable operations. Though enabling DP operations to be performed from shore, this could help attract a wider range of potential operators.

For the pilot, the shore-based

DP operator will work from a remote operations center (ROC) operated by Remota, assisted by connectivity and cybersecurity infrastructure.

The first phase of the pilot will involve both the Normand Sentinel and Wstensjø's Edda Freya. Both will carry full DP teams to ensure safety and provide comparative data.

In addition, the project will assess the viability of remote DP2 operations and potentially devise a more flexible model for future operations.

Fire Cuts Power to 45,000 in French Riviera

French Riviera authorities said recently they are boosting security around electricity grid sites after an overnight fire in a substation that cut power to 45,000 people, and a massive blackout during the Cannes film festival blamed on sabotage.



A blaze hit an electricity transformer in the western part of the city of Nice, knocking out power in the vicinity, the city's offices of the mayor and local prosecutors said.

"We strongly condemn the overnight attack against a Nice electricity transformer," deputy mayor Anthony Borre said on X, formerly Twitter.

A five-hour power cut disrupted the final day of the Cannes festival, knocking out traffic lights and ATMs and forcing organizers to use back-up generators.

Rooppur NPP to Join National Grid by December: Adviser



Power Plant will be possible to supply to the national grid in December this year. The construction of the 2,400 MW nuclear power plant in Rooppur is

Electricity from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is expected to be connected to the national grid by December this year, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said on 4 June.

In a post on his verified Facebook page, Asif Mahmud said, "The electricity generated from the Rooppur Nuclear

progressing rapidly." Highlighting recent developments in the energy sector, the adviser also announced that the government has repealed the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act 2010.

"This move is aimed at ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the power sector," he added.

Diesel, Octane, Petrol Prices Cut, Kerosene Up by Tk 10/ Liter

The government has reduced the prices of diesel, octane, and petrol while raising the price of kerosene.

According to a notification issued by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division recently, diesel will be cheaper by Tk 2 per liter, while octane and petrol prices have each been slashed by Tk 3 per liter.

In contrast, the price of kerosene has increased by Tk 10 per liter.

With the latest adjustment, diesel will now cost Tk 102 per liter, down from Tk 104. Octane will be sold at Tk 122 per liter, down from Tk 125, and petrol will cost Tk 118 per



liter, reduced from Tk 121.

Kerosene, however, will now be priced at Tk 114 per liter, up from Tk 104, creating a Tk 4-per-liter difference with petrol. This change aligns with the new pricing guideline aimed at preventing fuel adulteration.

Earlier, on May 19, the division introduced the revised Automated Fuel Pricing Guidelines, under which the price of kerosene is to be set Tk 4 lower than that of petrol per liter.

Test Drilling Discovers Gas Reserves in Jamalpur



According to officials involved in the project, a total depth of 2,600 meters was drilled.

Initial estimates suggest that a gas-bearing layer between 1,441 and 1,445 meters could contain

around 7.2 million cubic feet of gas.

An additional gas-bearing zone is suspected in an upper layer, though further testing is required to confirm this.

Authorities said it would take approximately 72 more hours of preliminary testing to accurately assess the volume of gas reserves.

Preliminary testing has detected traces of natural gas following the completion of a test drilling operation in Tartapara village of Jamalpur's Madarganj Upazila.

Director of the Jamalpur-1 Exploration Well Drilling Project, Mozammel Haque, confirmed the development recently.

Govt to Procure Refined Fuel Oil worth Tk 9,139cr

The government has approved a proposal to procure refined fuel oil from July to December to meet the country's growing demand.

The approvals were given at the 22nd meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase (ACCGP), held at the Cabinet Division Conference Room in the Bangladesh Secretariat recently, with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed in the chair.

In response to a proposal, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division would



procure refined fuel oil through an international quotation process with around Tk 9,139.24 crore.

PetroChina International (Singapore) will supply the package of refined oil 'A', while Vital Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore, packages 'B' and 'C' and Sinochem International Oil (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Singapore Package 'D'.



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Power Outage Hits Moulvibazar Upazila as Substation Submerged in Floodwaters



Power supply to Juri upazila of Moulvibazar remained suspended recently after floodwaters entered the local substation of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), following continuous rainfall and upstream flooding from India.

Officials said the water level of the Juri River has risen,

deteriorating the flood situation.

According to the Water Development Board, the river was flowing 186cm above the danger level.

Kabir Ahmed, resident engineer at the Juri power supply center, said, "Water entered the substation premises. As the water level continued to rise, we were forced to shut down operations to prevent further damage."

The substation, located beside the Juri-Botuli Customs Station Road in the Ranimora area, went underwater.

12kg LPG Cylinder Price Reduced by Tk 28



Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has reduced the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) of 12 kg cylinder at the retailer level by Tk28 to Tk 1,403.

The chairman of the commission, Jalal Ahmed, announced the new price at a press conference on 2 June.

He said the new price will be effective from 6pm on the day and all LPG marketing companies will implement

the new price.

Ahmed said the BERC also set the prices of auto gas at Tk64.30 per liter, reducing the amount by Tk1.27.

He also said that the price of government-owned 12.50 kg LPG cylinder at a dealer/retailer will remain unchanged at Tk825.

According to the new fixation, the price of 5.5 kg LPG cylinder at private sector has been fixed at Tk643, 12.5 kg LPG at Tk1,462, 15 kg at Tk1,754, 16 kg at Tk1,871, 18 kg at Tk2,105, 20 kg at Tk2,339, 22 kg at Tk2,573, 25 kg at Tk2,924, 30 kg at Tk3,508, 33 kg at Tk3,859, 35 kg at Tk4,093 and 45 kg at Tk5,262.

CNG, Refueling Stations to Remain Open 24 Hours for 13 Days During Eid

The government has instructed all CNG and refueling stations across the country to remain open round the clock for 13 days during Eid-ul-Azha to facilitate smooth travel for holidaymakers.



According to a media release issued by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, the 13-day period includes seven days before Eid, the Eid day itself, and

five days after the festival.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by the Senior Secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division.

Angry Mob Attacks Palli Bidyut Office over Electrician's Death

An agitated mob attacked the local office of Palli Bidyut Samity in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur recently, after an electrician was electrocuted to death.



According to locals, a power line had snapped during a storm in the Bausi area of the Sarishabari municipality. Three electricians were working to fix the line when an active 11,000-volt line from the Power Development Board (PDB), running above the Palli Bidyut line, electrocuted all three after they accidentally came into contact with it.

The victims were rushed to the Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared one of them dead.

The deceased was identified as Bipul Mia, 30, a resident of Bausi Panchpir area, confirmed Sarishabari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Rashedul Hasan.

The two other injured are Motaleb, 40, and Badol, 35.

Blaming the incident on negligence, locals stormed the zonal office of Palli Bidyut Samity in nearby Kamrabad and vandalized the office, said Delwar Hossain Khan, Deputy General Manager (DGM) of the Sarishabari zonal office.

Fresh Drive Toward Cleaner Dhaka Air

Aditya Hossain



Bangladesh's ambitious plan to introduce 400 electric buses in Dhaka and Narayanganj by 2030 is a critical step toward reducing air pollution and combating climate change. Backed by the World Bank, the project aims to modernize the city's public transport system, cut fossil fuel use, and improve public health. While the initiative holds promise, experts stress the need for careful planning, political will, and sustainable financing to ensure long-term success and a cleaner, more livable urban future.



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In a hopeful move to address the growing climate crisis and chronic air pollution in the capital, Bangladesh is planning to introduce electric buses in Dhaka and Narayanganj by the end of this year. The shift to electric public transport is expected to not only reduce fossil fuel use but also phase out thousands of outdated, polluting vehicles, offering cleaner air and better public health for the millions who live and work in the city every day.

Dhaka, one of the world's most densely populated capitals, struggles with some of the worst air quality globally. Whether you are walking to work, commuting by bus, or riding a rickshaw, you're constantly exposed to thick clouds of smoke and harmful emissions from old, unfit vehicles. The new electric bus project is expected to give residents a reason to hope that change is finally coming, both for their lungs and the planet.

The Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) will lead the effort, aiming to introduce 400 electric buses by 2030 under a route-based, company-franchise model. Supported by a substantial loan from the World Bank and a contribution from the government, the project has the potential to transform how people move around the city. The plan also promises to create a more reliable, environmentally responsible public transport system—something that has eluded Dhaka for years. This is not just about modern buses. It's about giving Dhaka a chance to breathe again.

Bangladesh has become a global hotspot for air pollution. In fact, according to data from 2019, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution caused around 164,000 deaths in the country each year. That's more than many diseases. The same pollution also led to an estimated 1.5 billion workdays lost, an economic blow equal to roughly 8.3% of the country's GDP.

Most of these pollutants—PM2.5, SO₂, NO₂, and NH₃—come from power generation, industrial processes, household fuels, fertilizers, brick kilns, and, of course, transport emissions.



Among SAARC nations, Bangladesh has the highest population exposure to air pollution at 97.9%, far exceeding already alarming rates in neighboring countries like India and Nepal.

With this context in mind, the World Bank has stepped in to support the government's effort to introduce electric buses as part of its broader Clean Air initiative. The project, launched in January 2024, aims to reduce emissions across sectors, with a strong focus on transportation.

Anyone who's spent time in Dhaka knows that the city's public transport system has long been broken. Buses often run in poor condition, driving recklessly and jostling for passengers at chaotic intersections. For decades, attempts to regulate and reform the system have fallen short due to weak enforcement, political interference, and a lack of coordination among agencies. There are currently around 6.4 million registered vehicles in Bangladesh. These include nearly 57,000 buses and 28,000 minibuses. But here's the problem: More than 1.7 million vehicles are not even required to have a fitness certificate. And among those that are, many are simply not roadworthy.

Old, polluting buses and trucks are major reasons why Dhaka's air often turns toxic. Sulfur levels in fuel have improved over the years, but fuel quality still lags far behind international

standards. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), responsible for fitness certification, lacks both capacity and resources to enforce the rules strictly.

In a recent joint government meeting, it was revealed that 18,205 buses have already passed their maximum service life, with over 10,500 operating in Dhaka alone. Similarly, 14,683 trucks are also overdue for retirement. Although the government has announced that it will gradually remove these vehicles from the roads—capping the lifespan of buses at 20 years and trucks at 25—experts are skeptical about how effectively this can be implemented in a transport sector dominated by vested interests.

Electric Buses for Dhaka and Narayanganj

The government has submitted a Tk 2,500 crore (approx. \$227 million) proposal to the Planning Ministry for introducing electric buses in Dhaka. The plan includes:

- Procurement of 400 electric buses
- Construction of three charging depots
- Development of intelligent transport systems
- Formulation of supportive policies and capacity-building initiatives

Of the total budget:

- Tk 2,135 crore will come as a loan from the World Bank

- Tk 365 crore will be financed by the Bangladesh government

The implementation period spans five years, from July 2025 to June 2030, with DTCA acting as the lead agency. The buses will be run by private operators under a franchise model, supervised and regulated by DTCA.

The three planned charging depots will be located in:

- Purbachal – on DTCA’s own 1.3-acre site
- Jhilmil – developed by RAJUK
- Kanchpur – final location under review

In addition, BRTA has proposed the setup of a Vehicle Inspection Center (VIC) to help improve the system for assessing vehicle fitness, especially for the new electric fleet.

According to the project proposal, the electric buses will be a cornerstone in reducing emissions and modernizing public transport. Besides their environmental benefits, they are expected to improve the overall commuter experience by being quieter, cleaner, and more reliable than their diesel-powered counterparts.

While the electric bus initiative is a major step, it's just one part of a broader strategy to shift away from fossil-fuel-based transportation.

Motorcycles now make up the largest share of vehicles on the road. To reduce their environmental impact, the government recently issued a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) lowering import duties on raw materials for electric bikes to just 1%. This is expected to boost local production and eventually bring down prices, making e-bikes more accessible to ordinary people.

Similarly, there's growing recognition that autorickshaws and tempos—which account for hundreds of thousands of urban and peri-urban trips each day—also need to go electric. Converting these three-wheelers into e-vehicles would dramatically reduce emissions and noise pollution, particularly in congested neighborhoods and narrow lanes.



If scaled properly, the government envisions a scenario where most fossil-fueled motorcycles and rickshaws could be phased out within the next 10 years—a bold but achievable goal, provided the right investments and policies are in place.

Despite the optimism, experts warn that throwing money at new buses without understanding why past efforts failed could lead to another costly disappointment.

Dr. Shamsul Haque, a transportation expert and civil engineering professor at BUET, cautions against repeating the same mistakes. “If we keep investing without identifying why previous urban transport plans failed, this will set a bad precedent,” he said. “There are already examples of running bus services without large investments. Continuing to invest public money in the same way will only lead to waste.”

He and others argue that reforms need to go deeper. Beyond introducing new buses, the city needs proper enforcement, strong institutional frameworks, and the political will to implement long-term changes.

Professor Ziaur Rahman Khan, from BUET’s Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, echoed similar concerns. He pointed out that Dhaka’s transport sector has long been controlled by political syndicates and informal power brokers. As a result,

even well-designed transport reforms often collapse under pressure.

In his view, the government should start small—perhaps with a pilot fleet of 8–10 electric buses—and then scale up based on what works. “For long-term sustainability, we must also create an investment-friendly environment to encourage local production of e-buses,” he added.

Some government advisors have voiced strong support for the project. Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan, Advisor to the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, wrote on his verified Facebook page that the project will begin on July 1, and that 400 buses and three charging depots will be built over five years.

He described the plan as part of the government’s broader effort to solve the city’s long-standing transport woes—bringing comfort, reliability, and climate benefits to millions of commuters.

However, even within the Roads and Highways Division, there are questions about how the operational costs of these electric buses will be covered once the five-year funding period ends. Will the government offer ongoing subsidies? Will fares remain affordable? These are critical issues that remain unresolved.

There’s no doubt that introducing electric buses in Dhaka could be a

game-changer. Cleaner air, fewer traffic jams, quieter streets, and safer, more reliable buses would benefit everyone—from daily wage workers to students, from pedestrians to cyclists. But for this dream to become a reality, the project must be carefully managed, with transparency, political neutrality, and community involvement.

It's also essential to build a skilled workforce to operate and maintain electric buses and charging infrastructure. For now, most of the technology will have to be imported. But over time, the goal should be to develop local expertise and manufacturing capacity, turning Bangladesh from an EV importer into an EV innovator.

And as new technologies and vehicles hit the roads, planners must ensure that existing informal transport workers aren't left behind. Any meaningful transport reform must include fair transition policies, retraining programs, and support for those whose livelihoods will be affected.



Conclusion

The electric bus project marks a rare opportunity for Dhaka to take a meaningful step toward cleaner air, better public health, and a more livable city. But it will only succeed if backed by strong political will, smart planning, and real accountability.

As Bangladesh looks to the future, embracing electric mobility isn't just about cutting emissions. It's about reshaping our cities to be more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable. The road ahead is long, but for the first time in a while, it feels like we're heading in the right direction.



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Interim Govt's Scorecard In Energy Sector

Saleque Sufi

From August 2024 to mid-June 2025, ten months have whistled past. For a non-political, unelected regime inheriting a trouble-prone energy and power sector, it is not enough time to restructure, reorganize, and turn things around. But ten months is also not too little to expect formulation of policy changes, planning of reforms, and launching of programs for good governance, transparency, and accountability. Judging from the prevailing situation in Bangladesh's power and energy sector, the interim government could have introduced fundamental changes to bring the derailed sector back on track. Achieving sustainable energy security still appears to be a significant struggle.

The government has not changed much; the bureaucracy-dominated energy and power sector administration could neither improve governance, nor create incentives for employees, nor ensure transparency and accountability. The Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) has not been updated. The government has made no decision on exploiting discovered coal reserves, nor has it expedited exploration of petroleum resources, both onshore and offshore. As a result, the sustain-

able supply of primary fuel for energy generation remains in crisis.

Although the government managed to provide funds to BPDB and Petrobangla to pay off outstanding dues, it failed to recover massive arrears from energy and power users. Domestic gas field production continues to deplete alarmingly, increasing reliance on imported LNG. A crisis could erupt if the LNG supply is disrupted during the high monsoon. However, power supply remains under control, mainly because demand hasn't reached the high levels seen last year. In brief, the situation is business as usual. The woes of end users remain unaddressed. People still cannot see any light at the end of the tunnel.

The government repealed the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act 2010, but simultaneously protected all existing contracts. It also reversed amendments to the BERC Act, which allowed the government to set tariffs and fuel prices. However, the tariff adjustments already made remain protected, effectively preventing BERC from conducting reviews. It is difficult to

say if end users benefited at all from these two actions by the interim government.

The interim government appointed a committee to prepare a white paper, which highlighted major incidents of corruption in the energy and power sectors. Yet, in ten months, not a single case of corruption has been proven. Contracts with Adani, Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd., and Rooppur NPP remain in force. The government abruptly cancelled the contract with Summit Group for the 3rd FSRU, as well as several gas well drilling and solar power LOIs. In ten months, not a single contract was signed for petroleum exploration, LNG terminal development, or related infrastructure. No significant progress has been made in reducing the high system loss in the gas supply chain. There is no major change in how Petrobangla companies operate. It is difficult to be optimistic that any significant positive change will occur during the remainder of the interim government's tenure.

Primary Energy Supply: A Major Concern

Experts, stakeholders, and the business

community expected that the interim government, having no political agenda, would take the bold decision to mine the country's discovered coal reserves. Technically and financially, domestic coal is the cheapest fuel option for Bangladesh. If mined using appropriate methods with due environmental and social safeguards, this could ensure sustainable energy security for at least 20 years. But the present government appears to lack the courage to take this decision.

Similarly, it has done little to accelerate petroleum exploration onshore and offshore. Despite BAPEX's efforts, the current pace is inadequate. It is highly unlikely that the targeted drilling of 50 wells by June 2026 and 100 wells by 2028 will be successful. Existing activities also do not indicate the possibility of new LNG imports before 2028.

Regrettably, the government could not take the right initiative to connect Bhola's stranded gas to the national grid. Why has the WRIP-identified pipeline ROW not been utilized to build a pipeline from Bhola to Khulna via Barishal? The gas-starved southern regions—greater Barishal and Khulna—urgently need this pipeline. Bangladesh must engage a competent international pipeline construction firm, equipped with lay barges and swap buggies, to construct the pipeline across challenging terrain. Bhola gas fields must be connected to the national grid at Khulna as soon as possible. Later, a pipeline from Barishal to Dhaka can be considered.

Strengthening Petrobangla Companies

It was expected that the interim government would restructure Petrobangla and its companies, perhaps inducting experienced professionals into their boards. But in ten months, apart from replacing current bureaucrats with former ones, no meaningful policy or governance reforms have occurred. Petrobangla companies have not improved in terms of competence or efficiency. It is unlikely that coal exploration will begin soon or that gas supply will improve. Instead, energy



supply will become increasingly reliant on imported LNG, coal, and liquid fuel. It has been reported that junior and mid-level technical staff are leaving Petrobangla companies due to low pay and a lack of incentives. This exodus is weakening the technical capabilities of companies that urgently need modern, tech-savvy professionals.

Managing Summer Load and Gas Supply Challenges

Some observers note that the interim government managed March, April, and May's power demand and gas challenges better than expected. Several factors favored the government. Until the end of May 2025, weather conditions helped keep power demand manageable. The government also allowed expensive liquid fuel-based power generation to play a greater role.

However, diverting more gas to power generation severely disrupted industrial supply, triggering strong protests from entrepreneurs. The government did succeed in paying off outstanding dues to energy and power suppliers, but energy and power companies are still burdened with huge receivables from users.

What Can the Interim Government Do Before It Leaves?

It is unlikely the interim government can start coal mining or sign agreements with IOCs for petroleum exploration before handing over power. But it still has

time to launch some initiatives for meaningful structural reforms in the energy and power sectors. These include:

- Reviewing and updating the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) in consultation with stakeholders, leaving behind a realistic and implementable roadmap.
- Revising procurement policies in the energy and power sectors to improve transparency and competitiveness.
- Reviewing import duties, VAT, and taxes on renewable energy equipment such as solar panels, inverters, and batteries.
- Allowing energy and power companies to operate autonomously as per their Articles of Association, free from excessive government interference. BEREC should regulate as per its mandate under the BEREC Act.
- Reassessing the coal mining option through audits and review of SODs by accredited mining consultants. A clear, actionable plan should be left for the next elected government.
- Updating the Model PSCs (Production Sharing Contracts) for offshore and onshore petroleum exploration to make them more transparent and balanced.
- Making power and energy companies more accountable to a reorganized and professional BEREC.



Saleque Sufi
Energy Expert

Political Economy Of The Sagarmatha Sambaad

Costs Of Climate Change In South Asia

Laxman Neupane PhD & Umesh Dhital

The Sagarmatha Sambaad

The Government of Nepal hosted the Sagarmatha Sambaad (translated as the Mount Everest Dialogue) from May 16 to 18, 2025, in Kathmandu. The event brought together close to 350 delegates from 30 countries, including high-ranking government officials, diplomats, researchers, academics, representatives from different countries, international organizations, scientists, CSO Officials, and individual professionals. As the inaugural edition of this flagship climate event, the dialogue focused on critical issues such as climate change, mountain conservation, and the future of

humanity. The Himalayas, symbolized by Sagarmatha provide indispensable climate and environmental benefits to over two billion people, ranging from freshwater resources to the preservation of rare species like the snow leopard, fresh water Dolphins, Crocodile, rare fish species, an exotic wild cat native to the high-altitude regions. Beyond this, the mountain range supplies immeasurable water resources essential for human survival and countless other environmental services. Through the Sagarmatha Sambaad, the Government of Nepal sought global and regional solidarity to safeguard present and future generations from the escalating

threats of climate change, emphasizing the urgent need to protect mountain ecosystems and ensure the well-being of humanity.

The dialogue highlighted the severe consequences of climate-induced externalities, which have disproportionately impacted the lives and livelihoods of mountain communities, leading to significant human and economic losses. Conventional economic assessments fail to fully capture these damages, leaving governments with insufficient resources to mitigate the crisis. This challenge is not unique to the Sagarmatha country, Nepal alone but reflects a global reality for all mountainous and lower riparian countries. The Sagarmatha Sambaad served as a call to action, urging humanity to unite against climate change, which continues to degrade mountains: a vital lifeline for populations both upstream and downstream. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to practical and collaborative solutions in the face of this existential threat.

Political Economy – Faculty of Cooperation

Political economy offers a critical lens for analyzing why systemic change either progresses or stagnates. This



Sagarmatha; Source. Sgarmatha Sambaad, 2025

discipline provides valuable tools for dissecting power structures, examining the roles of key actors in specific contexts, and assessing how power is distributed and exercised. By understanding these dynamics, societies can better evaluate the capacity of individuals and institutions to implement effective mitigation measures while simultaneously addressing broader challenges. As the OECD illustrates, political economy concerns the interplay between political and economic processes, the distribution of power and resources among different groups, societies, governance, and the mechanisms that sustain or steer these relationships over time. The theory underscores the importance of power relations in determining whether societies can effectively combat climate change or remain trapped in unsustainable practices.

Why the Sagarmatha Sambaad?

The design and implementation of climate change interventions must recognize the intricate interplay of contextual, institutional, and societal factors that determine their success or failure. To maximize effectiveness, a broader analytical lens is required, one that moves beyond technical mitigation and adaptation measures to interrogate both the internal governance structures



H.E. Ms. Sharmeen Soneya Murshid, Advisor to the Bangladeshi Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs meeting to hon'ble PM KP Sharma Oli, Government of Nepal.

and external socioeconomic forces shaping climate action. This necessitates forging innovative partnerships, re-evaluating policy agendas, and critically examining the root causes of climate vulnerabilities. The Sagarmatha Sambaad, as a platform for dialogue, could strengthen its strategic influence by incorporating political economy resources to discern why certain climate outcomes persist while others remain unrealized. Embedding climate resilience at the

center of such an analytical dimension would illuminate systemic constraints and opportunities, particularly for mountain regions where ecological fragility intersects with developmental inequities. Such an approach would enable vulnerable communities and policymakers to better navigate structural barriers while capitalizing on transformative pathways, thereby fostering more responsive and equitable climate interventions. The ultimate goal must be to align political and economic incentives with the ecological imperatives of mountain ecosystems and the communities dependent upon them.

The Sagarmatha as symbolized “mountain systems” sustains an extraordinary diversity of human societies across South Asia, supporting nations with vastly different demographic and economic profiles from India’s 1.4 billion people and \$3.5 trillion economy to Bhutan’s modest 797,000 inhabitants and \$12.9 billion GDP. These nations, including Nepal (the primary custodian of Sagarmatha), Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan including China, rely directly and indirectly on the region’s ecological services, from freshwater provision to climate regulation, which have historically served as critical safety nets for



Thousands of hectares fertile land converted permanent wetland due to Koshi barrage. Photo: Laxman Neupane PhD. Sept 2023.

generations to generations. However, climate change is now disrupting these systems, with retreating glaciers triggering catastrophic downstream floods, shifting snowlines altering upstream hydrology, and rising temperatures expanding vector-borne diseases into high-altitude communities. The resulting losses, crop failures, degraded grasslands, collapsing livestock systems, rangelands, and disrupted wildlife habitats are inflicting severe socioeconomic consequences across the mountain systems. These impacts stem primarily from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in the atmosphere, accelerate glacial melt, and destabilize the delicate ecological balance of the Himalayas. The crisis underscores an urgent paradox: the very populations most dependent on these mountain ecosystems are simultaneously witnessing their rapid degradation due to globalized economic activities disproportionately conducted beyond their borders. Addressing this imbalance requires recognizing that the mountains function not merely as a regional geographic feature but as a vital life-support system for nearly two billion people across the continent. Disseminating such realities from ground are aims of the Sagarmatha Sambaad.

Social Cost of Carbon Emission (SCC)

The current heatwaves ravaging southern geographies of Nepal and India exemplify the escalating climate crisis, disrupting livelihoods, decimating agricultural outputs and businesses, and straining public health systems while imposing severe adaptation costs on vulnerable populations. India's carbon-intensive development trajectory has precipitated atmospheric CO₂ concentrations that now threaten to destabilize South Asia's climate systems through compounding feedback loops where rising temperatures beget further ecological



Koshi Flood in Nepal land due to Koshi Barrage.
Photo Credit: Laxman Neupane PhD; September, 2023

degradation. This paradox of progress reveals a fundamental tension: the very industrialization that lifted millions from poverty now undermines long-term socioeconomic stability through intensified cyclones, glacial retreat, and climate-driven disease vectors. The crucial dilemma remains whether political economies can transition from measuring growth purely through GDP to accounting for the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) a metric that quantifies how each tonne of emitted CO₂ imposes multi-generational economic burdens through climate externalities. India's SCC of \$90/tonne, nearly double America's \$50 valuation, reflects its acute vulnerability to agricultural shocks and labor productivity losses from extreme heat. China's surprisingly low \$26 SCC, despite comparable emissions to the US, suggests its developmental stage affords temporary insulation from climate costs; a dangerous illusion given the non-linear acceleration of climate impacts. These disparities reveal how SCC calculations must evolve beyond static modeling to incorporate three critical dimensions:



Lives and livelihoods of people after floods in Bangladesh.
Photo credit: Aljazeera, August, 2024.

first, the compound interest effect of delayed mitigation on future adaptation costs; second, the geopolitical externalities where one nation's emissions disproportionately harm neighboring economies; and third, the non-market valuation of biodiversity collapse in critical ecosystems like the Himalayas. The metric's true power lies in exposing how conventional cost-benefit analyses systematically undervalue the existential risks of carbon lock-in, particularly for developing economies where near-term growth imperatives conflict with long-term climate resilience. As the IPCC's latest assessments demonstrate, the difference between 1.5°C and 2°C warming scenarios could represent trillions in avoided losses across South Asia, making accurate SCC valuation not merely an academic exercise but a survival imperative for climate-vulnerable nations.

As emphasized by H.E. Ms. Sharmeen Soneya Murshid, Advisor to the Bangladeshi Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, during her keynote address at the Sagarmatha Sambaad in Kathmandu, this forum offers South Asian nations a unique opportunity to transcend geopolitical tensions and collaborate on climate resilience. For Bangladesh, a country disproportionately affected by catastrophic flooding such solidarity is imperative. Annual flood-related losses devastate infrastructure, livelihoods, and food security, underscoring the region's shared vulnerability and the necessity for unified climate strategies.

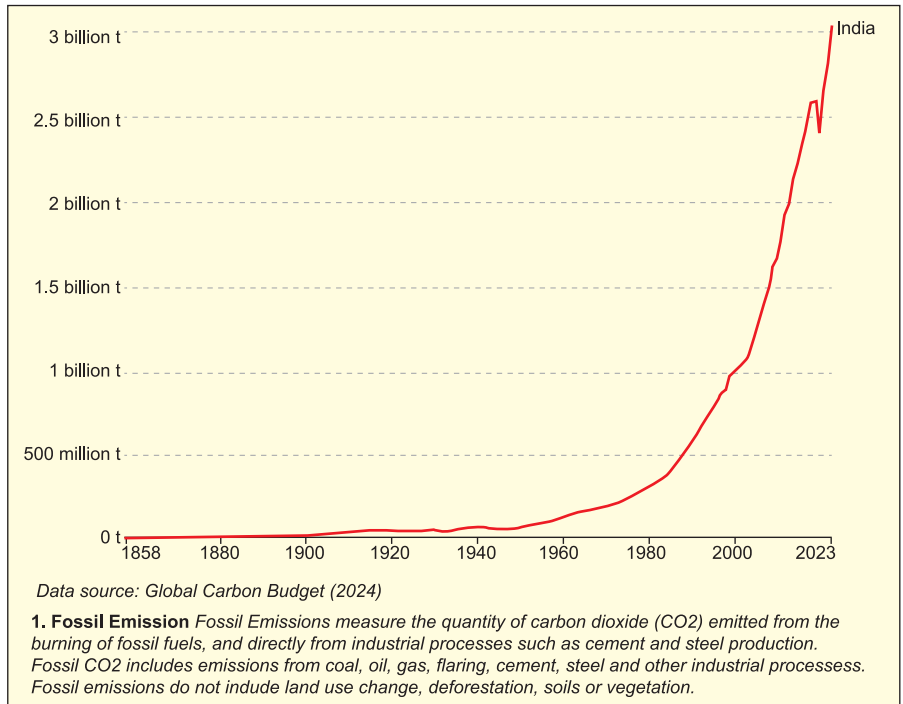
The Sagarmatha Sambaad thus serves not only as a platform for dialogue but as a catalyst for actionable, transboundary solutions to safeguard both mountainous and low-lying regions from an accelerating climate crisis.

Devastating Floods of Bangladesh

Bangladesh's annual monsoon floods represent a cascading climate catastrophe that systematically erodes

development gains while exposing the intersection of geographic vulnerability and anthropogenic climate pressures. As a low-lying delta fed by the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna River systems, the nation experiences compound flooding mechanisms from Himalayan meltwater pulses to cyclonic storm surges that inundate 60% of the country during severe events. The 2025 ADPC (Asia Disaster Preparedness Center) report confirms these floods now disrupt critical infrastructure networks (power grids, water treatment plants, transportation corridors) for prolonged periods, creating public health crises through waterborne disease outbreaks and malnutrition when croplands remain submerged. Particularly devastating is the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, where flimsy slum dwellings offer no protection against floodwaters that carry industrial pollutants and sewage. Jillian's (2025) Boston University study reveals Bangladesh bears among the world's highest Social Cost of Carbon at \$185/ton, driven substantially by uncontrolled emissions from its 8,000 brick kilns; the second largest CO₂ source after energy generation. This climate penalty manifests acutely during floods, when the nation's meager 0.28% global emissions share belies its extreme vulnerability to climate-amplified disasters. The Sagarmatha Sambad dialogue highlighted this injustice through Bangladesh's keynote address, emphasizing how transboundary water management and Himalayan glacier retreat now threaten 169 million people downstream. Current adaptation measures remain woefully inadequate against the triple threat of intensifying monsoons (projected to increase 20% by 2050), rising sea levels (8mm/year in the Bay of Bengal), and unsustainable upstream development that alters sediment flows. The solution space demands radical shifts in regional climate governance from binding emissions agreements covering the Himalayan watershed to decentralized flood forecasting systems that empower at-risk communities. Without such systemic interventions, Bangladesh's floods will continue functioning as

Annual Carbon Emission of India, 2024



Source: Authors' estimation and data retrieved from Global Carbon budget, 2024

poverty multipliers, erasing \$2-3 billion annually from GDP while displacing millions in perpetuity.

Livelihood Losses in India

India's per capita GHG emissions stood at approximately 2.9 tCO₂e in 2023, significantly below the global average of 6.7 tCO₂e, though its total emissions reached 2,516.967 MtCO₂e in 2022 (IEA 2025 estimate). The energy sector dominates India's carbon footprint, primarily through fossil fuel combustion for electricity generation, industrial processes, and transportation. While power plants and oil-dependent vehicles remain major contributors, sectoral emission patterns reflect broader economic and energy system structures. This accounting excludes process emissions from industries like cement production, which are substantial, as well as land-use change impacts that push India's actual annual emissions closer to 3.06 billion tons CO₂ (Figure 1).

The interconnected hydrological systems of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Nepal present a paradigmatic case of transboundary environmental challenges. These Indian states, bordering Nepal's Himalayan River

systems including the Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali basins, exhibit acute vulnerability to flooding despite benefiting agriculturally from the fertile Gangetic plains fed by these Nepal's waterways. The monsoon-driven hydrology of these rivers combines with geomorphological factors of steep gradients in Nepal giving way to flat, sediment-choked plains in India to create chronic flood risks. Annual water flows exceeding 178.35 BCM (Table 1) from major river system of Nepal drains to India annually that sustain critical ecosystems and human needs across borders, yet unilateral water infrastructure development like the Koshi Barrage has generated asymmetric costs to Nepal. Nepal endures permanent land submergence, disrupted drainage, and exacerbated flood damage, while India's embankment-centric flood control strategies prove ecologically maladaptive, failing to address root causes like unsustainable sediment loads measuring ~100 million tonnes annually from Himalayan erosion.

Moreover, the important aspects of the ground water resources shared between Nepal and India is being domination

during discourses. This vital hydrological link of shared transboundary groundwater aquifers, recharged by both monsoon infiltration and percolation from upper catchment including fragile Chure region should be major issue while dealing with the impact of climate change on shared water resources. So cooperative, science driven policy and management on interconnected upland degradation and lowland groundwater depletion must bring attention while before building water related infrastructures.

Climate change amplifies these systemic risks through intensified monsoons, accelerated glacial melt (Himalayan warming rates exceed global averages by 0.2°C/decade), and increased sediment flux. India's structural interventions often worsen outcomes by poorly maintained embankments breach routinely during peak discharges (~80% of Bihar's embankments are over 40 years old), while uncoordinated dam operations trigger catastrophic downstream flooding. This reflects a fundamental governance failure: the absence of institutionalized bilateral mechanisms for integrated basin management, despite the existence of frameworks like the 1996 Mahakali Treaty. The resulting cycle of ecological degradation and socioeconomic losses costs both nations an estimated \$500 million annually in flood damages alone.

Climate Change Governance – Opportunities and Challenges

The Sagarmatha Sambaad has established itself as a critical multilateral platform for confronting the complex policy challenges posed by climate change, serving as a convening space for institutions, experts, and stakeholders to evaluate climate impacts and coordinate mitigation strategies. As climate disruption manifests through increasingly erratic weather patterns, water scarcity, and intensified natural disasters, it threatens to reverse decades of socioeconomic progress particularly in vulnerable mountain regions where agricultural instability, public health crises, and climate migration compound existing fragilities. This forum's significance

Table 1: Major River System Drains from Nepal into India

Name of River Basin	Basin Area (Sq Km)	Annual Average Discharge (cumecs)	Total Annual Discharge (BCM)
Saptakoshi at Chatara	53686	1620	51.09
Sapta Gandaki at Naranghat	34960	1568	49.45
Karnali at Chisapani	45431	1380	43.52
Mahakali at Pancheshwar	15260	600	18.93
Kankai at Mainachuli	1167	58.9	1.86
Kamala River	1450	45	1.42
Bagmati at Karmaiya	2720	161	5.08
West Rapti at Jalkundi	5139	141	4.45
Babai at Bargad	3000	81.2	2.57

Source: Department of hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)
 Note: Sq.Km=Square Kilometers, Cumecs-Cubic Meter per Second, BCM-Billion Cubic Meter

extends beyond its Nepalese origins, addressing systemic challenges that demand international cooperation, especially between Nepal and India given their hydrological interdependence. Nearly half of the Ganges' dry-season flows originate from Nepalese river systems, creating both shared vulnerabilities and opportunities for collaborative water governance.

The platform's potential lies in facilitating a paradigm shift from reactive adaptation to proactive transformation of regional environmental management. Current unilateral approaches to transboundary water resources; exemplified by the Koshi River's severe aggradation have proven ecologically and economically unsustainable. By contrast, institutionalized cooperation through mechanisms like the Sambaad could advance three critical objectives: science-based sediment control protocols, climate-resilient infrastructure standards, and equitable benefit-sharing frameworks for hydropower development. The World Bank estimates such cooperation could unlock \$6.2 billion annually in joint energy potential while mitigating flood risks that currently cost both nations approximately \$500 million yearly.

Win-Win Cooperation

This transition from zero-sum hydro-politics to basin-wide governance requires moving beyond symbolic diplomacy. The Sagarmatha Sambaad's

value hinges on its ability to operationalize technical working groups on shared water metrics, establish binding protocols for dam operations during monsoons, and create joint financing mechanisms for adaptive infrastructure. India's active leadership in this process would serve dual strategic interests of securing its water security while positioning itself as a regional climate steward. The alternative of persisting with fragmented management that risks exacerbating climate vulnerabilities as Himalayan glacier retreat accelerates (currently 1.5 times the global average rate) and monsoon variability increases.

Think Globally Act Locally

Ultimately, the Sagarmatha Sambaad's test will be whether it can translate multilateral dialogue into actionable frameworks that reconcile climate change issues and sustainability with developmental needs. Its success would demonstrate how middle-power diplomacy can address asymmetrical transboundary challenges through knowledge co-production and benefit-sharing; a model applicable to climate hotspots worldwide. The forum's elevation from discussion platform to decision-making body will determine whether it becomes merely another diplomatic venue or the cornerstone of climate-resilient development in the South Asia



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

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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।



Oil from Amazon Mouth Likely To Emit 4.7b Tonnes Of GHG, Analysis Shows

EP Desk



Oil exploration at the Amazon Mouth, in the Equatorial Margin of Brazil, would increase CO₂ emissions by 4.7 billion tonnes-equivalent in the atmosphere, and oil money does not, and will not, finance the energy transition.

This is what analyses carried out by Climainfo from reserve estimates for the basin, as well as for the FZA-M-59 block, for which Petrobras is seeking an exploratory drilling license, and the company's and government's investments in the energy transition.

Recently, thanks to strong political pressure and contrary to the technical opinion issued by IBAMA, Brazil's environmental agency, Petrobras obtained approval of the new version of the Oiled Fauna Protection and Care Plan (PPAF, in portuguese). This is a worrying development in the licensing process for block 59.

Across the entire Amazon mouth, the Brazilian Energy Research Company (EPE, in portuguese) estimates that there are more than 10 billion recoverable barrels, and that the 5 basins that make up the Equatorial Margin contain more than 30 billion barrels.

From these volumes, Shiguelo Watanabe Jr., researcher at Climainfo,

estimates that burning the oil and gas from all the wells in the Amazonas Mouth would emit 4.7 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, and burning the oil and gas from the entire Equatorial Margin would release 13.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, more than the country emitted over the last 5 years including all deforestation in the Amazon during the period.

Although the proposed exploration is in an area of extremely high socio-environmental sensitivity, the licensing process for block FZA-M-59 has been moving forward since 2014 without conducting free, prior and informed consultation (FPIC, in portuguese) with indigenous peoples, quilombolas and artisanal fishermen in the Oiapoque region, directly in the area of influence of the project. In April, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF, in portuguese) of Amapá recommended that IBAMA and Petrobras review the Environmental Impact Study (EIA, in portuguese) and conduct individual consultations, with attention to the specific culture of each traditional community, a process that should have been carried out at least 11 years ago, together with the first submission for the license application to IBAMA.

No money for transition

One of the main arguments used by Petrobras and the Ministry of Mines and Energy for oil exploration in the Amazon Mouth is that the money from the region, if it is available in commercially viable quantities, could finance the energy transition in Brazil. However, Watanabe Jr. points out that currently only 0.06% of the resources from oil activity are allocated to this purpose. This shows that there is no lack of oil money for the transition, but rather the correct allocation of it.

Furthermore, there is currently no national energy transition plan that details targets, deadlines, projects, and sources of financing. Nor are there any budget lines dedicated exclusively to this transformation.

In its 2025-2029 Business Plan, Petrobras allocates almost 90% of the US\$111 billion it plans to invest in this period to activities linked to fossil fuels. Only 10% of the total is earmarked for what the company calls "low-carbon energy," which includes dubious carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology activities. The federal government, on the other hand, allocated only 0.03% of this year's General Budget to the energy transition.


If we consider only the application of Brazil's Social Fund, which is fed by oil and gas money and receives something in the order of R\$\$ 200 billion annually from the oil sector, in the period from 2018 to the beginning of 2025, the resource allocated to projects linked to the energy transition represents only 0.06% of the total.

On June 17, Brazil's National Petroleum Agency (ANP) will hold an auction for 332 exploratory blocks, including 47 blocks at the mouth of the Amazon. Large oil companies such as Petrobras, Shell, BP, and Total are among the participants in the competition.

This week, Brazil's Federal Public Ministry (MPF) recommended that the National Petroleum Agency immediately suspend the auction or exclude the blocks at the mouth of the Amazon from the offer. According to the recommendation, the decision to expand the oil exploration frontier in the region "represents a serious contradiction to global decarbonization efforts and the country's climate commitments".

Action by Brazilian civil society

To send a message to Petrobras, civil society organizations carried out an action with banners and posters at the company's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. This Friday (30), the location woke up with a banner with the message "Amazon or Oil: Which side are you on?", which highlights the inconsistency of the Brazilian government in continuing to bet on oil exploration in the Amazon, while seeking to position itself as a global climate leader, just months away from COP30.

Posters with phrases such as "Heat waves in Rio 60°" and "Floods, flooding and landslides: a gift from Petrobrós" draw attention to the real effects of inaction. The action was promoted by organizations such as 350.org, Climainfo, Coiab, Nossas, Climate Observatory, GTA, and the initiative Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. 

COP 30 Presidency Advances Global Mutirão Against Climate Change

Noting the "crucial interlinkage" between climate and sustainable development, the President-designate underscores that poverty eradication, reduction of the inequality gap between and within countries, and equity and justice for the most vulnerable should underpin all workstreams in the climate talks.

To ensure justice in transitions and sustainability in success, the President-designate spells the need for systems thinking and an "ecology of perspectives," whereby negotiations "evolve from competition to symbiosis".

In Bonn, special focus will be given to: the Global Goal on Adaptation indicators under the UAE-Beiyim Work Program; the UAE Dialogue on implementing the GST outcomes; and the UAE Just Transition Work Program.

In preparation for the June meetings of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs), the President-designate of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30) has released his third letter to the international community. In it, he urges all delegations to be guided by three interconnected priorities: reinforcing multilateralism and the UN climate regime; connecting the climate regime to people's real lives; and accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In his letter dated 23 May 2025, COP 30 President-designate Andr  Aranha Corrka do Lago draws upon the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST) and calls upon all public and private stakeholders to work together to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 and to accelerate the global energy transition by advancing efforts towards "tripling renewable energy capacity globally, doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency

improvements, and transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly, and equitable manner."

To ensure justice in transitions and sustainability in success, the President-designate spells the need for systems thinking and an "ecology of perspectives," whereby negotiations "evolve from competition to symbiosis."

Corrka do Lago's letter calls negotiators to the Global mutirro (coming together to work on a shared task and support one another), stressing the importance of "rebuilding a global infrastructure of trust [during the June climate meetings] for accelerated and scaled outcomes."

Urging negotiators "to shift gears in Bonn from possible moments of zero-sum confrontational approach to one of empathy and solidarity," he indicates special focus will be given to: the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators under the UAE-Beiyim Work Program; the UAE Dialogue on implementing the GST outcomes; and the UAE Just Transition Work Program.

Noting the "crucial interlinkage" between climate and sustainable development, the President-designate underscores that poverty eradication, reduction of the inequality gap between and within countries, and equity and justice for the most vulnerable should underpin all workstreams in the climate talks.

Looking at the future of climate conferences, Corrka do Lago's letter paints them as "systemic platforms to accelerate delivery, measure progress, and engage a broader ecosystem of actors" and as convergence points "where ambition meets alignment, and global decisions ignite local transformations."

Courtesy: IISD



Israel-Iran Lethal Conflict And Consequences

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

For a week now, Zionist Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been engaged in bitter conflict, destroying property, cities, and both military and civil infrastructure. It began with a massive Israeli attack on Iran's military and nuclear sites. Several top military commanders and nuclear scientists were killed. Iran responded by firing hundreds of missiles and drones at major cities and towns.

The two warring countries are not next-door neighbors. Aircraft, missiles, and drones must traverse thousands of kilometers across Persian and Arabian territories to strike each other. The escalation has brought the two nations to the brink of a formal war, raising fears of a wider regional or even global conflict. As expected, G7 countries have rallied behind their blue-eyed Israel. Meanwhile, 21 Muslim countries—including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, the UAE, and Egypt—have condemned the Israeli aggression against Iran.

Despite repeated calls from the United Nations, the U.S., the U.K., and the European Union, neither party has shown restraint. Every action is being met

with equal vengeance. Given that this region includes major oil and gas-producing and exporting countries, the ongoing conflict could have long-term consequences on the global energy market.

Iran or its sympathizers may target U.S. bases in Jordan, the UAE, or Qatar, or strike at U.S. aircraft carriers. Such actions could draw the U.S.-led Western alliance into direct conflict. Turkey, Pakistan, and a few other countries have vowed to stand by Iran. In this context, the possibility of a global war—or even a nuclear confrontation—is being seriously feared.

The price of crude oil has already spiked. If the conflict persists, the price

of all petroleum products—as well as oil-linked energy sources such as gas, LNG, and even coal—may soar. A particularly damaging consequence would occur if Iran strategically closed the Strait of Hormuz through which 20% of total global petroleum trade flows. All countries—whether exporters, importers, developed or developing—will be affected. Asian nations such as Pakistan, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh will be among the worst sufferers due to price hikes and supply chain disruptions.

As an immediate consequence of the conflict, the following has already occurred:

- Iran's oil exports have dropped sharply; activity at Kharg Island has halted
- The South Pars gas field has been damaged in an Israeli strike
- Israel has shut down nearly two-thirds of its gas production; a refinery has been damaged

Critical energy infrastructure in both Israel and Iran has already been significantly affected in the early days of this escalated conflict. While the worst-case



scenarios have not yet materialized, the war is disrupting energy production and exports. Benchmark Brent crude oil prices jumped 10% to over \$76 a barrel on Friday after Israel launched an unprecedented wave of airstrikes on Iran, prompting Tehran to fire hundreds of ballistic missiles at Israel. There is a real possibility of crude prices reaching US\$100 or more, as happened during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Countries reliant on imported fuel will be severely impacted.

The Strait of Hormuz: A Critical Energy Trade Route

The Strait of Hormuz, a vital trade passage between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, facilitates around 20% of global petroleum trade. In an extreme situation, if Iran were to close this route even temporarily, it would have a severely damaging impact, not only on fuel trading but also on global trade in general. Shipping and trading costs would rise manifold. The fragile economies of many developing countries like Bangladesh would come under immense pressure.

Investor focus remains firmly on the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow but strategic waterway between Iran and Oman in the Middle East Gulf, through which between 18 and 19 million barrels per day of crude oil and refined fuels flow, accounting for nearly one-fifth of global oil consumption. Additionally, about 85 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates passed through the strait last year, representing nearly 20% of global LNG demand.

What Can Bangladesh Do?

Bangladesh's power generation is now heavily dependent on imported fuel. The current gas demand stands at around 4,000 MMCFD, while the maximum supply, including 1,000 MMCFD of imported LNG, is only 2,800 MMCFD. The interim government, through special efforts, has managed to secure funding and import a few additional LNG cargoes from the spot market, reportedly at US\$17-18/MMBTU. Most of the LNG under long-term supply agreements with Qatar and Oman is shipped via the Strait of Hormuz.

Bangladesh now faces two immediate concerns—price volatility and supply disruption. Energy planners must devise contingency plans to prepare for a worst-case scenario. During peak summer, the country cannot afford a major power generation crisis, and at the same time, energy supplies to industries must be maintained without severe disruption.

If the conflict persists, prices of other fuels—LNG and coal—are also likely to rise, as these are closely linked to crude oil prices. Moreover, general trade, including imports and exports, will be impacted if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, even for a short period.

These impacts will not be limited to Bangladesh alone. It is hoped that the international community will come together to persuade Iran and Israel to end the conflict before it spirals out of control, causing irreversible damage.

EP

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মোফাজ্জল হোসেন জয় ০১৭১২ ৬৭৭৬০১
E-mail: rangberang2020@gmail.com

বিজ্ঞাপন হার	টাকা
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দ্বিতীয় প্রচ্ছদ (রঙিন)	৪০,০০০.০০
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ভেতরে অর্ধেক পাতা (রঙিন)	২০,০০০.০০
ভেতরে ১ কলাম (রঙিন)	১০,০০০.০০
ওয়েব সাইট প্যানেল প্রতিমাসে	২০,০০০.০০
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A Study On India's Independent Power-Producing Sector

Colonel Engineer A R Mohammad Parvez Mazumder (Retd.)

1. Foreword: India's power sector has undergone a notable transformation, marked by the increasing involvement of private, or independent, entrepreneurs since the economic

liberalization of the 1990s. This includes decisive policy drivers and regulatory frameworks that shape a dynamic private sector, which has demonstrated amazing growth, surpassing related challenges.

Important Policies and Regulations Relevant to India's Independent Power Producers

Policy / Regulation	Authority	Salient Pertinent to the Private Sector	
Electricity Act, 2003	Government of India	Delicensing of generation (except nuclear and large hydro), open access in transmission and distribution, establishment of CERC and SERCs	2003 and 2007
National Electricity Policy	Ministry of Power (MoP)	Emphasis on private sector participation in generation and distribution, rural electrification targets	Revised drafts in 2021, 2022
National Tariff Policy	MoP	Methodologies for tariff determination, promotion of competitive bidding	
Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022	Parliament of India	Facilitates multiple discoms, mandates payment security mechanisms, emphasizes RPOs, and strengthens contract enforcement	
Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2024	MoP	Eases licensing for dedicated transmission lines, standardizes open access charges, and promotes cost-reflective tariffs	
National Solar Mission	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)	Targets for solar capacity addition and incentives	
National Wind Energy Mission	MNRE	Targets for wind capacity addition, incentives for wind projects, and promotion of offshore wind	
National Green Hydrogen Mission	MNRE	Aims to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production, with incentives for pilot projects	Launched in 2023
Nuclear Energy	Atomic Energy Authority, MoP	Plans for nuclear capacity expansion, efforts to enable private sector participation, amendments to liability laws	Ongoing discussions

Let us make an effort to investigate India's independent power-producing sector, focusing on the prevailing policy and regulatory framework, tariff trends, generation capacity, and the challenges encountered by independent power producers. Such a comprehensive study focusing solely on the private sector may be useful for Bangladesh stakeholders seeking to gain knowledge for investment purposes.

2. Policy and Regulatory Framework:

2.1 Key Legislation, Policy, and Role:

The basis of India's power sector regulation is the Electricity Act, 2003. It serves as the primary legislation governing the electricity generation, transmission, distribution, trading, and use. This act is a contributor to promoting competition and inspiring private sector participation, except for nuclear and large hydroelectric

projects. Besides, the law creates a framework for open access to transmission and distribution systems, enabling any consumer with a substantial load to source power from any generator. The Act, 2003 also dictates the establishment of independent regulatory commissions at both the central (CERC: Central Energy Regulatory Commission) and state (SERC: State Energy Regulatory Commission) levels. These commissions commonly recommend regulating tariffs, ensuring compliance, and protecting consumer interests, creating a pathway for private entrepreneurs to invest and operate. Both CERC and SERCs arbitrate disputes between licensees and distribution companies at the national and state levels.

The independent regulatory commission acts as watchdogs and rule-setters for the sector. The primary objective behind the establishment of both CERC and SERCs was to depoliticize the sector. They create an environment favorable to private investment by ensuring transparency, competitiveness, and fairness in the regulatory processes. Their ability to make impartial

decisions on tariffs and the enforcement of regulations directly

Recent Trends in Renewable Energy Tariffs

Year	Type	Minimum Tariff (INR/kWh)	Maximum Tariff (INR/kWh)	Factors Influencing Tariff
2020	Solar	1.99	2.97	Competitive bidding, declining module prices
2021	Solar	2.14	2.87	Increase in module prices, supply chain constraints
2022	Solar	2.36	2.90	Imposition of BCD, ALMM
2023	Wind	2.91	3.42	Rising input costs, land acquisition hurdles
2024	Solar	2.15	2.68	Continued cost competitiveness
2024	Wind	3.42	3.80	Upward trend in wind tariffs

impact the profitability and risk assessment of private power projects.

Complementing the Electricity Act, the National Electricity Policy (NEP) outlines the vision and objectives for the development of the power sector. It emphasizes financial viability, signaling the government's intent to create a suitable environment, and focuses on cost recovery and commercial viability for attracting and sustaining private entrepreneurs. The National Tariff Policy further guides the regulatory commissions in determining tariffs, ensuring a balance between attracting investments and protecting consumer interests.

2.2 Policy Revisions:

The power sector in India evolves with recent policy revisions aiming to address emerging needs and

challenges. The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, proposes significant changes to the existing Electricity Act, 2003. Key provisions of the Bill include facilitating the entry of multiple distribution licensees (discoms: distribution companies) in the same area of supply to foster competition, mandating the establishment of a payment security mechanism to ensure timely payments to generation companies. These amendments increase competition in the distribution sector and improve the financial health of the ecosystem, creating new opportunities and challenges for private producers selling power to discoms.

Further rationalization of the regulatory landscape, the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2024, introduce exemptions to licensing requirements for dedicated transmission lines established by generating companies, captive generating plants, energy storage systems, and large consumers. These rules endorse ease of doing business, lessening project timelines, costs, and accelerating the development of renewable energy projects by simplifying the regulatory obligations for transmission infrastructure. The 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' allows incentives to entrepreneurs for the development of energy storage solutions and offshore wind energy projects.

3. Tariff Structures and Trends:

The tariff structure in India comprises two parts – the first



entails ‘fixed or capacity charges’, which allow the IPPs to recover annual fixed costs, including interest on loan capital, depreciation, operation and maintenance expenses (excluding fuel), and taxes on income. The second part is the ‘energy or variable charge’, which primarily covers the cost of the fuel consumed to generate electricity. This two-part structure aims to provide a more stable revenue stream for independent power producers by ensuring the recovery of both fixed investments and variable operating costs.

The tariffs for independent power producers are determined by CERC for inter-state generation and by SERCs for intra-state generation, guided by the principles of the Electricity Act, 2003, and the National Tariff Policy. The approach to power procurement is based on tariff-based competitive bidding. It is fixed following a cost-plus tariff mechanism, where tariffs were determined based on the cost incurred by the generator plus a reasonable return.

To improve grid efficiency and manage energy demand, time-of-day (TOD) tariffs are also being applied in some regions. These tariffs are dissimilar rates for electricity consumption at different times of the day, which offer lower rates during off-peak hours and higher rates during peak demand periods.

4. Source-wise Generation Capacity of Independent Power Producers:

In February 2025, the total installed capacity rose to 470.448 GW, with the private sector retaining a significant share of 253.178 GW (approximately 53.8%).

5. Challenges Faced by the Independent Power Producers:

5.1 Fuel Supply:

The availability, quality, and cost of domestic and imported coal as

Private Sector Installed Generation Capacity by Source (as of 31 May 2023)

Type of Energy Source	Total Capacity (MW)	% Share in Total Private Sector Capacity
Coal	~86,000	~40.60%
Gas	Data not available	Data not available
Solar	~67,078	~31.60%
Wind	~42,868	~20.20%
Biomass	Data not available	Data not available
Small Hydro	Data not available	Data not available

primary fuel are inconsistent, leading to operational interruptions. Gas-based private power plants face even more severe fuel supply challenges due to natural gas production has not kept pace with demand. The alternative, imported LNG, is often expensive, making gas-based power generation economically unviable for extended periods.

5.2 Financing:

Renewable energy projects typically need longer payback periods compared to conventional power plants, which may make these less attractive to commercial banks. Independent power producers also face financing challenges due to uncertainties and inconsistencies in state-level regulations.

5.3 Grid Connectivity and Infrastructure Limitations:

There is a challenge in obtaining timely and consistent grid connectivity for independent power producers invested in renewable energy projects. The insufficient grid infrastructure results in transmission bottlenecks and shortening of renewable energy generation.

5.4 Environmental Regulations Concerns:

The increasing global and national attention on sustainability and reducing carbon emissions is driving a transition towards cleaner energy sources. It brings opportunities with challenges for private entrepreneurs to adapt their

generation portfolios. Again, independent power producers operating fossil fuel-based plants face increasing pressure to comply with strict environmental regulations. This leads to additional costs for operational changes and technology advancements. Renewable energy projects also have environmental issues related to land use and waste disposal.

5.5 Policy Inconsistencies and Regulatory Hurdles:

The private power-producing sector in India operates within a multifaceted regulatory setting characterized by recurrent policy changes, inconsistencies in regulations across different states, and bureaucratic delays in obtaining necessary approvals. These regulatory hurdles can create uncertainty for investors in making long-term plans and project execution. Private entrepreneurs sometimes drop their ambition to invest due to frequent changes in policies related to tariffs, connectivity, and renewable energy obligations. Variations between central and state regulations further complicate the situation.

6. Conclusion:

The private power-producing sector is a vital component of India's energy infrastructure, possessing the potential to meet its rising power demands. It contributes to India's ambitious clean energy objectives. The sector is guided by a wide-ranging policy and regulatory framework, with a shift towards market-based tariff mechanisms. However, the sector wrestles with considerable challenges spanning fuel supply security, financing convenience, grid connectivity infrastructure, adherence to environmental regulations, and the complexities of the regulatory landscape.

EP

Colonel Engineer A R Mohammad Parvez Mazumder (Retd.), afwc, psc

FY26 Budget Targets Waste, Mismanagement: Energy Adviser



The proposed national budget for FY2025–26 reflects a strategic shift toward curbing waste, ending irregularities, and promoting disciplined governance, Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan has said.

Describing the Tk7.90 trillion budget as “exceptional,” Kabir said it breaks from the past pattern of unchecked expenditures.

“This is not a typical budget. It’s designed to reduce waste and inefficiency across the system,” he told reporters during a post-budget press conference in Dhaka on 3 June.

“We are not pursuing flashy projects or political optics.

Our goal is accountable, planned development that delivers real value to the public.”

The press event, organized by the Ministry of Finance, followed the interim government’s budget announcement amid its ongoing efforts to stabilize the economy after the July political transition.

Kabir highlighted significant reforms in the energy and transport sectors, saying, “We’ve reduced prices for electricity and LPG to ease the burden on consumers. Although LPG is imported at Tk65 per unit, it is now being sold at Tk30.”

He added that pricing inconsistencies and mismanagement in fuel distribution are being addressed. “We’ve revised prices of both LPG and petroleum products to ensure greater rationality in the energy market,” he said. **EP**

Japan Resilient about Clean Ammonia Prospects in Asia

Japan remains committed to scaling up the emerging clean ammonia industry for direct combustion through consistent government support mechanisms, despite government roll backs on funding and commitments in other regions.

“Renewables and EVs cannot solve everything, so serious demand for hydrogen and ammonia is waiting in heavy industry, heavy duty trucks, thermal power and other

[applications],” Japan’s economy, trade and industry ministry (Meti) director of hydrogen and ammonia, Daisuke Hirota, told delegates at the Argus Clean Ammonia Asia conference in Tokyo.

Meti continues to focus on addressing the price gap between clean ammonia for use in power in generation when compared with traditional coal feedstocks. The government’s contract

Alaska LNG Attracts Potential Partners in Asia, EU



The first round of partner selection for the planned Alaska LNG project attracted over 50 companies, lead developer Glenfarne Group LLC has said.

The potential partners are from the United States, the European Union, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and India. The companies “expressed interest for over \$115 billion of contract value for various partnerships with the Project, including equipment and material supply, services, investment, and customer agreements”, Glenfarne said in an online statement.

Alaska LNG, approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission May 2020, will deliver natural gas from the state’s North Slope to both domestic and global markets.

It is the only federally permitted liquefied natural gas (LNG) project on the United States Pacific Coast, according to co-developer Alaska Gasline Development Corp. (AGDC).

“Alaska LNG’s economic fundamentals allow it to

deliver LNG into Asia at prices that are lower than Henry Hub pricing from the U.S. Gulf Coast”, the statement said.

Alaska LNG is planned to have an LNG export terminal with a capacity of 20 million metric tonnes per annum (MMtpa), an 807-mile 42-inch pipeline and a carbon capture plant with a storage capacity of seven MMtpa.

Phase 1 aims to deliver gas about 765 miles from the North Slope to the Anchorage region. Phase 2 would install compression equipment and around 42 miles of pipeline under Cook Inlet to the Alaska LNG Export Facility in Nikiski, which would be constructed at the same time.

“Glenfarne anticipates a final investment decision on the domestic portion of the Alaska LNG pipeline in late Q4 2025”, the statement said. **EP**

for difference (CfD) scheme is progressing, with Meti currently in discussions with the 27 applicants.

“Clear and consistent policy is really what is required [for project developers],” ExxonMobil’s commercial director for Asia-Pacific low carbon solutions, Kon Wai Seng, said. The US



Department of Energy withdrew \$332mn in funding from ExxonMobil’s Baytown project in Texas recently. **EP**

Persons Involved in Illegal Gas Connections Face Music: Fouzul



Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan has said that administrative measures are being taken against the persons involved in illegal gas connections.

"A section of dishonest businessmen and officials of the Titas Gas Company are responsible for illegal gas connections," he said while briefing journalists at Ashulia and Valuka areas after visiting the supply condition of fuel and power to different industries recently.

The adviser visited different factories and industries at Ashulia, Chandra, Kaliakoir, Mirzapur, Gazipur and Valuka from 7am to 8pm on Saturday and exchanged views with the industry owners.

"The government has already imported four cargoes of additional LNG for increasing the supply of gas to the industries, which has already injected to the transmission lines," he said, adding that the pressure of gas supply to the factories and industries has already increased.

Replying to a question, Fouzul Kabir said there are some problems in the transmission lines and the government has already taken measures to solve it. **EP**

Power Division Gets 30% Lower Budget Allocation



Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed in his budget speech on 2 June.

"If the plan can be implemented, it is estimated that electricity subsidy of more than Tk 11,000 crore will be saved. We are reviewing the power purchase agreements and have taken the initiative to conduct energy audits to reduce the cost," he said.

The FY26 budget allocated Tk 37,000 crore in subsidies for the power sector, whereas it was Tk 40,000 crore last fiscal year before rising to Tk 62,000 crore in the revised budget, as the interim government paid most of the arrears. **EP**

The allocation for the power division in the national budget for fiscal year 2025-26 is around 30 percent less than that of the previous fiscal year, while it has been nearly doubled for the energy and mineral resources division.

The government has decided to cut electricity production costs by approximately 10 percent in a bid to ease the burden of subsidies in the power sector, said Finance

Rosatom Celebrates Anniversary of World's Only Floating Nuclear Power Plant



Five years ago, the world's first-ever Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP), Akademik Lomonosov, went into commercial operations in the Western Chukotka region of Russia.

Since then, it has become a reliable source of uninterrupted heat and electricity for the Chaun-Bilibino energy hub, which is isolated from Russia's Unified Energy System.

Over its five years in operation, the FNPP has generated more than 1 billion kWh of electricity. Nowadays, the plant accounts for over 60% of total energy production in the Chaun-Bilibino hub.

Moreover, the FNPP continues to increase its output yearly, demonstrating

its ability to meet the region's energy demands.

The FNPP is powered by two KLT-40S reactor units — similar to those used in nuclear icebreakers. The FNPP provides 70 MW of electricity and 50 Gcal/h of heat.

The onshore infrastructure distributes this energy to end users. Unlike traditional land-based nuclear power plants, which partially refuel every 12 to 18 months, the FNPP undergoes a full core refueling every few years, replacing all spent fuel at once. **EP**

JICA Warns of Halting Matarbari Power Project Funding over Corruption Allegations



Japan's development agency JICA has warned it may suspend funding for Bangladesh's Matarbari coal-fired power plant project, following corruption allegations involving a former project director.

In a letter to Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division (ERD), JICA requested responses to seven specific questions by 4 June. Failure to respond within this timeframe could lead to a

suspension of the loan.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against Jahangir Alam, who served as the project director for the road construction component of the Matarbari project from 2022 to 2024. **EP**

MAN Energy Solutions Becomes Everllence



The former MAN Energy Solutions is now operating under a new name and has become 'Everllence'. The new brand identity applies worldwide and marks a significant milestone in the company's strategic development.

CEO Uwe Lauber symbolically unveiled the new company nameplate at headquarters in Augsburg, Germany earlier today. Simultaneously, similar ceremonies were also held at the company's other main European locations in Oberhausen, Berlin, Zurich and Copenhagen.

Lauber said: "Our name change is the logical next-step in the execution of our 'Moving big things to zero' strategy, which focuses on decarbonization and efficiency solutions, especially for those sectors of the global economy that have to deal with 'hard-to-

abate', climate-damaging emissions. Today, we are no longer known in the market for just engines and turbomachinery, but also as a supplier of large heat pumps, carbon capture and storage, as a driver of climate-neutral shipping, and as part of the hydrogen ramp-up. This is what we want to express with our new name, Everllence."

Everllence' is a combination that merges the two English-language terms 'ever' and 'excellence', two central attributes of the company's self-image.

'Ever' expresses over 250 years of company history where the company has written industrial history for as long as industry has existed, but has always looked to the future – to the new and innovative, to the 'first-ever'.

From the first diesel engine to the first diesel-powered, ocean-going vessel; from the first wind turbine to the first gas engine and the world's largest fluvial heat pump – the company has always been driven by innovative strength, engineering and a pioneering spirit throughout its long history. **EP**

LPG Operators Oppose Govt's VAT Hike Proposal on Cylinder

The LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB) has strongly opposed the government's proposal to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders from 7.5% to 10%.



They warned that the move could severely destabilize the country's energy security and hurt millions of low-income families.

LOAB President Muhammed Amirul Haque in a recent statement said the proposed tax hike poses a 'serious threat' at a time when domestic natural gas reserves are dwindling and new household gas connections have already been suspended.

"LPG is the primary alternative fuel for millions of families. Increasing VAT will make it less affordable and limit access for those who need it the most," he said.

According to LOAB, more than 1.5 million tons of LPG are imported annually by the private sector with 97% of it used for cooking.

The usage is equivalent to approximately 2 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of natural gas and supports over 40 lakh households across the country. **EP**

Of the 24 awards cancelled, 16 were signed between Election Day and January 20th. The projects primarily include funding for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and decarbonization initiatives.



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) said it concluded the projects "failed to advance the energy needs of the American people, were not economically viable, and would not generate a positive return on investment of taxpayer dollars."

Although DOE did not specify which projects were affected, reports suggest that they include \$331 allocated to Exxon

Mobil for a hydrogen project at its Baytown, Texas refinery; \$170 million to Kraft Heinz for several clean energy developments; \$500 million to Heidelberg Materials for a low-carbon cement project; \$375 million to Eastman Chemical for its molecular recycling facility in Longview, Texas; and \$270 million to Calpine subsidiaries for carbon capture projects in Baytown, Texas, and near Yuba City, California. **EP**

Energy Secretary Terminates \$3.7b Worth of Biden-Era Projects Focusing on Carbon Capture, Decarbonization

U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright announced the termination of 24 awards issued by the

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) totaling over \$3.7 billion in financial assistance.

EGCB Appends Huawei IaaS for Disaster Recovery Enhancement



M o h a m m a d Rasheduzzaman Khan, superintending engineer and head of ICT at EGCB and Abdullah Al Maksud Begh, director of Omega Exim Ltd

Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh has taken a pivotal step in its digital transformation journey by adopting Huawei's infrastructure as a service to bolster its disaster recovery capabilities, says a press release.

A formal agreement has been signed recently between EGCB and Huawei's local partner, Omega Exim Ltd., at the Huawei Bangladesh Headquarters, Gulshan, Dhaka.

signed the contract in presence of other officials of Huawei, Omega Exim Ltd and EGCB.

Under the agreement, Huawei IaaS will host EGCB's DR site for an initial period of two years.

The solution is designed to provide a secure, scalable environment for data backup, replication, routine recovery testing, and swift restoration in the event of operational disruptions. **EP**

Bangladesh Slashes Duties on Fuel, Gas Imports



also been waived entirely.

Similarly, the import duty on recycled lubricating oil and recycled lube base oil has been reduced to zero.

For CNG, LPG, and LNG, the import duty has been

Import duties have been withdrawn on a range of fuels including diesel and natural gas, while concessions have been granted on the import of CNG, LPG, and LNG.

Notably, the import duty on natural gas has been slashed from 100 percent to 0 percent in one fell swoop. The duty on crude and partially refined petroleum, fuel oils, gas oil, other heavy oils, and preparations has

lowered from 10 percent to 5 percent. The proposed budget also recommends reducing the import duty on crude oil and oil derived from bituminous minerals from 5 percent to 1 percent.

For aviation fuels such as jet fuel, kerosene, naphtha, various types of motor and aviation spirits, and white spirit, the government has proposed reducing the import duty from 10 percent to 3 percent, and likewise for light diesel oil and high-speed diesel oil. **EP**

Record 153 BD Students Applied for Rosatom's North Pole Expedition

Over 3,500 entries received from students from 20 countries, including Bangladesh, to participate in the North Pole Expedition- 6th Icebreaker of Knowledge. It is an international scientific and educational project implemented by the network of Nuclear Industry Information Centers (NIIC) with the support of Rosatom.

The winners' names in the 6th Icebreaker of Knowledge qualifying round international scientific and educational project will be announced on June 20.

The project, aimed at promoting natural science disciplines and technologies of the nuclear industry,



involves the selection of students aged 14-16 from all over the world to participate in a scientific and educational expedition to the North Pole aboard the 50 Let Pobedy nuclear icebreaker.

Students from Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, and other countries took part in the foreign qualifying stage. This year, a record number of entries for the competition came from Bangladesh. **EP**

Modi Lays Foundation Stone for 1,010 cr City Gas Project in Bengal

Priime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for a new City Gas Distribution (CGD) project in West Bengal's Alipurduar, a significant step towards expanding the CGD network in India.

Speaking at the gathering, he extended his warm wishes to the people of West Bengal from the historic town of Alipurduar.

The PM spoke of Alipurduar's deep cultural roots, stating that the region is more than just its geographical borders. He said traditions and meaningful connections enrich it.



Alipurduar shares a border with Bhutan and is surrounded by Assam, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar.

PM Modi announced that over 250,000 households would benefit from clean, safe, and affordable piped gas. "City Gas Distribution Project is not merely a pipeline initiative but a testament to the government's commitment to doorstep delivery of essential services," he emphasized. **EP**

After Clearing Due Gas Bills, Petrobangla Now Pays in Time



markets which helped ease pressure on dollars.

In 27 days starting from 1 May, Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation, Petrobangla, made

\$426.45 million in regular payments to its suppliers.

Petrobangla said that, after clearing all dues on 30 April, no bill has remained unpaid.

Bangladesh had been struggling to pay due gas bills to different international oil companies (IOC), LNG suppliers and and LNG regasification companies since the Russia-Ukraine war broke out in 2022 and at one stage, dues of Petrobangla hit as high as more than \$1.0 billion.

EP

After clearing all dues on 30 April, Bangladesh has been making regular payments to different International oil, gas, and LNG suppliers from 1 May.

The country's energy bills had been piling up since the breaking out of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022.

Sector insiders and economists attributed this development mainly to the availability of dollars in the market, coupled with lower liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices in the international

Govt Commercializes Power Sector on WB, ADB Prescriptions: CAB



The interim government appears to continue commercializing the country's power and energy sector on the prescriptions of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, following the footsteps of successive governments, alleged the Consumers Association of Bangladesh recently.

The consumer rights body came to the conclusion based on recent steps taken by the government, particularly in its response to resolving the conflict that prevailed between the Rural Electrification Board and its entity Palli Bidyut Samity for a while.

Taking its root in discrimination between employees of the institutions, the conflict also led to the

demand that employees on contract or appointed on irregular basis be regularized.

Several thousand employees of the PBS offices in the country have been demonstrating on the Shaheed Minar premises in the capital Dhaka for about two weeks to press their various demands.

The committee that the interim government formed after coming to power in August 2024 recommended turning the PBS into a company as part of a structural reform.

EP

Trump Admin Approves Coal Mine Expansion to Boost Asia Exports



federal coal and 34.5 million tonnes of adjacent non-federal coal and extend the life of the Bull Mountains mine by nine years.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, who is also co-chair of Trump's

Energy Dominance Council, said unlocking more federal coal enables the U.S. to bolster ties with allies abroad.

"President Trump's leadership in declaring a national energy emergency is allowing us to act decisively, cut bureaucratic delays and secure America's future through energy independence and strategic exports," he said.

EP

The U.S. Interior Department approved a plan by Signal Peak Energy to expand coal mining, providing exports for Japan and South Korea, the agency said recently, as it responded to President Donald Trump's energy-emergency directives.

The approval authorizes the Montana-based coal company to recover 22.8 million metric tonnes of

Clean Energy Investment Rising Despite Economic Uncertainty: IEA

Investment in clean energy technologies is set to strike a record this year despite global economic uncertainty, double the spending on fossil fuels that will dip for the first time since 2020, the International Energy Agency said recently.

While the Trump administration has been hostile to renewable energy sources and trumpets boosting oil production, the IEA said security concerns as well as rising demand for electricity -- including from artificial intelligence and data centers -- is driving investment in clean energy sources.

"Amid the geopolitical and economic uncertainties that are clouding the outlook for the energy world, we see energy security coming through as a key driver of the growth in global investment this year to a record \$3.3 trillion as countries and companies seek to insulate themselves from a wide range of risks," Executive Director Fatih Birol said as the IEA published its latest annual World Energy Investment report.

It expects investment in clean technologies, including nuclear and electricity distribution grids, to hit a record \$2.2 trillion this year.

EP



Green page

Low Tender Submission Marks First Round of PDB's Solar Power Quest



Bangladesh's push for renewable energy from solar power failed to bring the leading national and international power companies on board owing to the policy volatility like abrupt cancellation of deal and lack of sustainable financial model.

Disinterestedness to participate in the tender process of Bangladesh Power Development Board's (PDB) grid-tied solar power plants is well reflected in the latest bid opening of 12 proposed solar power plants as no foreign company participated

in the bidding process.

After six deferrals of the bid submission and opening date, PDB on 2 June opened the bids of the first package of installing 12 plants with a combined 353 MW capacity which received only 20 bids from local companies.

Chinese companies who are installing renewable energy across the globe stayed out of the bidding process. However, there are at least four Chinese companies who got the Letter of Intent in the cancelled deal.

The earlier 31 deals – which were given in an unsolicited manner by the previous regime and later cancelled by the interim government – drew a number of foreign joint venture companies from China, Norway, South Korean and India.

EP

One More RMG Factory Gets LEED Certification



One more RMG factory in the country got LEED certification, which is a testament to the country's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability in the readymade garment (RMG) sector.

The new LEED-certified RMG factory is Esprit Apparels Ltd, bringing the total number of LEED-certified RMG factories in Bangladesh to 244, with 102 Platinum and 128 Gold certified.

Bangladesh now has 68 out of the top 100 highest-rated LEED Certified Factories in the world.

Industry insiders said that this is a landmark moment for Bangladesh and a testament to the country's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability in the RMG sector.

EP

JinkoSolar Takes Top Spot on WoodMac's List of PV Module Manufacturers

JinkoSolar led global PV module shipments in 2024, followed by JA Solar, Longi, Canadian Solar and Trina Solar, according to Wood Mackenzie. The research firm notes a growing shift toward full vertical integration among top manufacturers.

"In many ways, 2024 was a year of survival through scale for the industry," said Yana Hryshko, head of global solar supply chain at Wood Mackenzie.

However, the top 10 module manufacturers globally shipped more the 500 GW of panels last year.

"Aggressive pricing, intense competition, and continued capital investment weighed heavily on margins as companies pursued long-term leadership in market share and technology," said Hryshko.

This year's rankings included a new criterion assessing manufacturers' ability to "navigate rising trade tensions and country-specific market barriers."

JinkoSolar was the largest module provider last year with shipments totaling 90.6 GW, followed by JA Solar with 89.6 GW, Longi with 86.5%, Canadian Solar with 84.0 GW, and Trina Solar with 83.7 GW. All the first 10 positions were taken by Asian manufacturers, including South Korea-based Qcells with 73.9 GW and India's Adani Solar with 72.8 GW.

EP

Alliance to Advance Cross-Border RE Supply



Energy companies from Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam have formed an alliance to explore the supply of cross-border renewable energy, with a key focus on offshore wind.

The joint development agreement will explore the export of renewables from Vietnam to Malaysia and Singapore.

Through this agreement, Malaysia as

represented by MY Energy Consortium, established by Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) and Petronas, will collaborate with a consortium comprising PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC) and Sembcorp Utilities Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Sembcorp Industries.

The aim of the initiative is to accelerate grid integration, energy security, and decarbonization across south-east Asia.

Together, the consortia will focus on unlocking Vietnam's renewable energy resources, particularly offshore wind power, as a source for clean electricity across borders.

EP

Linxens Teams Up with Dracula Technologies to develop Battery-Free Smart Labels for Next-Gen Sustainable IoT



Levallois-Perret and Valence, France, June 3rd, 2025 — Linxens, a global leader in component-based solutions for authentication and traceability, and Dracula Technologies, a pioneer in ambient light energy harvesting, have announced a strategic collaboration to develop next-generation autonomous IoT solutions for traceability and smart labelling applications.

This collaboration paves the way for smarter and more sustainable connected devices.

Dracula Technologies has developed a breakthrough organic photovoltaic (OPV) technology, LAYER®, capable

of harvesting energy even in low or intermittent indoor light.

In this collaboration, its OPV modules will be integrated into Linxens' smart label and traceability solutions.

Linxens contributes its expertise in the design and industrial production of

electronic inlays and flexible components, which are key elements in RFID tags, to create fully battery-free, reusable, and energy-autonomous smart labels.

Together, the two companies are addressing one of the key limitations of today's connected labels: reliance on batteries, which reduces lifespan and increases environmental impact.

This collaboration represents a technological leap forward, enabling long-lasting, cost-effective, and sustainable traceability solutions for logistics and other industries where durability and energy independence are essential.

EP



Global Renewable Power Installed Capacity to Surge to 11.2TW by 2035: GlobalData

The power sector is experiencing a notable growth in renewable energy sources, propelled by an array of factors such as technological progress, policy incentives, and a heightened awareness of the imperative for sustainable energy solutions.

Consequently, renewable resources particularly solar photovoltaic (PV)



and wind energy are gaining a larger share in the energy portfolio.

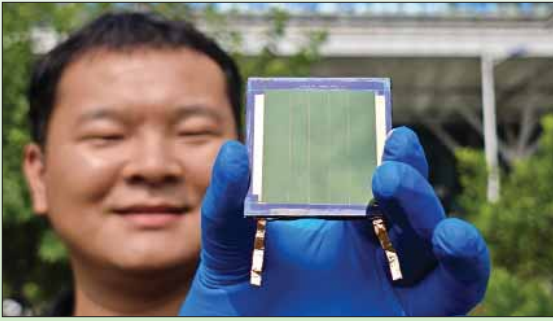
Driven primarily by declining costs and strong policy support, particularly for solar PV and wind energy, the global renewable power installed capacity is estimated to surge from 3.42TW in 2024 to 11.2TW by 2035, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's latest report, "Renewable Energy: Strategic Intelligence", reveals that the global renewables market expanded from a cumulative installed capacity of 0.93TW in 2015 to 3.42TW by the end of 2024, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16%.

The total cumulative installed capacity is projected to record a CAGR of 11% during the period 2024-35.

EP

Scientists Build 29.5%-Efficiency All-Perovskite Tandem Solar Cells



perovskite tandem and mini-module variations using a novel mercapto-functionalized scaffold interfacial engineering strategy.

In the study, “Mercapto-functionalized scaffold improves perovskite buried interfaces for tandem photovoltaics,” published in nature communications, the researchers describe how their approach enabled a single-junction narrow bandgap (NBG) tin lead perovskite solar cell with a power conversion efficiency of 23.7%, a two-terminal (2T) all-perovskite tandem solar cell with a certified efficiency of 29.5% and 24.7%-efficient mini-modules measuring 5 4 5 cm².

An international team of researchers used a novel interfacial treatment to improve the performance of perovskite solar cells across a range of narrow and wide bandgap single junction, tandem, and mini-module samples.

An all-perovskite tandem solar cell demonstrated its use with a certified efficiency of 29.5%.

The team, led by Huazhong University of Science and Technology, was able to improve (Sn-Pb) single junction tin lead perovskite solar cells, as well as all-

As for stability testing, the modified solar cells consistently outperformed control devices, according to the research. **EP**

Laos' Large Hydropower Capacity to Reach 16GW in 2035: GlobalData



according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's latest report, “Laos Power Market Outlook to 2035, Update 2025 – Market Trends, Regulations, and Competitive Landscape,” reveals that annual large hydropower generation in Laos is expected to increase at a CAGR of 4.6% between 2024-35 to reach 63.5TWh.

Although at the current pace, the country is expected to fall short of its 2030 target, proper policy enforcement and time-bound targets will enable it to bridge this gap.

In 2011, the country released Renewable Energy Development Strategy, setting a target to achieve 30% of energy consumption to be sourced from renewables by 2025. The government has primarily focused on hydropower along with biomass energy. **EP**

Laos' Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) has set a goal to reach hydropower capacity of 12GW by 2025 and 20GW by 2030, with the objective of facilitating regional exports. The nation is poised to export renewable electricity to Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, and to a lesser extent, to Myanmar and Malaysia.

Against this backdrop, large hydropower capacity in the country is expected to reach 16GW in 2035, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.8% during 2024-35,



Egypt's Renewable Power Capacity to Reach 31.6GW in 2035: GlobalData

Egypt is endeavoring to augment the proportion of renewable energy within its electricity mix to 42% by the year 2035.

The nation is actively expanding its capacity through the implementation of large-scale solar and wind energy initiatives.

Against this backdrop, renewable power capacity in the country is expected to reach 31.6GW in 2035,



registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20.4% during 2024-35, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's latest report, “Egypt Power Market Outlook to 2035, Update 2025 – Market Trends, Regulations, and Competitive Landscape,” reveals that annual renewable power generation in Egypt is expected to increase at a CAGR of 19.4% during 2024-35 to reach 88.9TWh.

With its advantageous conditions to harness solar and wind power, Egypt recognizes renewable energy as a pivotal factor for its economic growth.

The country possesses considerable wind energy potential, particularly in the Gulf of Suez area, where stable wind speeds average 8-10 meters per second at a height of 100 meters. **EP**

Rizwana Calls for Global Unity on Sustainable Plastic Use



Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has stressed the urgent need for global commitment to ensuring sustainable plastic use, and stronger international collaboration to achieve a carbon-neutral development pathway.

She delivered remarks in this regard during the "High-Level Ministerial Roundtable for Action towards Circular Economy and World Environment Day 2025", held in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, South Korea recently.

Highlighting Bangladesh's dedication to ensuring environmental sustainability, the environment adviser affirmed the country's willingness to work closely

with international partners in advancing initiatives on effective waste and plastic management as well as forest conservation.

She assured that Bangladesh would actively follow up on related projects to ensure their impact and continuity.

On the sidelines of the event, Rizwana held bilateral meetings with the Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and the Vice Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea.

Discussions focused on expanding cooperation between Bangladesh and South Korea in areas such as waste management, forest restoration, and wildlife conservation.

The Korean side expressed strong interest in forging long-term partnerships with Bangladesh to build a safer, greener future for the coming generations. **EP**

Bangladesh can Earn \$1.0b a Year from Carbon Market: Analysts



Bangladesh has the potential to generate up to \$1.0 billion annually from the global carbon market, but a lack of clear national policy continues to limit investment in the sector, analysts said at a discussion.

Despite some progress, including \$17 million earned since 2006 through projects like improved cooking stoves and solar home systems, the analysts stressed the need for stronger policy direction to unlock the country's full potential.

The discussion, titled "Catalysing carbon financing in Bangladesh: private sector pathways and policy readiness," was held recently in Dhaka and organized by international consultancy firm LightCastle Partners.

The event was organized to raise awareness among private sector leaders and investors about the country's

readiness for carbon market participation and the implementation of Article 6 under the Paris Agreement.

At the event, Lincoln Teo, managing director of ZERO13, in his presentation emphasized Bangladesh's commitment to combating climate change, citing national goals to produce 16 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2030 and to reduce annual carbon emissions by 89.47 metric tonnes of CO₂e.

He said that achieving these targets would significantly support sustainable agriculture, water management, and overall economic growth. **EP**

UN Says Strong Chance Average Warming will Top 1.5C in Next 4 Years

The United Nations has warned that there is a 70 percent chance that average warming from 2025 to 2029 would exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius international benchmark.

The planet is therefore expected to remain at historic levels of warming after the two hottest years ever recorded in 2023 and 2024, according to an

annual climate report published recently by the World Meteorological Organization, the UN's weather and climate agency.

"We have just experienced the 10 warmest years on record," said the WMO's deputy secretary-general Ko Barrett.

"Unfortunately, this WMO report provides no sign of respite over the coming

years, and this means that there will be a growing negative impact on our economies, our daily lives, our ecosystems and our planet."

The 2015 Paris climate accords aimed to limit global warming to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels -- and to pursue efforts to peg it at 1.5C.

The targets are calculated relative to the 1850-1900 average, before humanity began industrially burning coal, oil and gas, which emit



carbon dioxide (CO₂) -- the greenhouse gas largely responsible for climate change.

The more optimistic 1.5C target is one that growing numbers of climate scientists now consider impossible to achieve, as CO₂ emissions are still increasing. **EP**

Rizwana Urges Youth to Serve the Nation Getting Rid of Greed



She was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion titled “Manifesto Talk: Youth, Environment and Climate”, held at the Environment Department in Agargaon recently.

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has urged the youth to stay away from greed, lust for power, financial irregularities, corruption, and instead work for the betterment of the country.

“The youth must move away from greed, power, lust, financial irregularities, corruption, and work for the country,” she said.

Attending the program, the adviser also inaugurated the Youth Climate Coalition, a platform formed by 16 youth-led organizations involved in climate action.

Underlining the importance of collective efforts to address climate change, she said, “The youth must work together to tackle the risks posed by climate change.” **EP**

UN Scientists Propose ‘Minerals Trust’ to Power Green Energy



Rapidly scaling up renewable energy to limit future warming requires a sharp increase in the supply of critical minerals like cobalt, nickel and lithium for technologies including solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicles.

Yet sourcing these minerals often comes at a steep cost for both the environment and local communities.

Now, a coalition of U.N. scientists is proposing a new way forward: a global minerals trust.

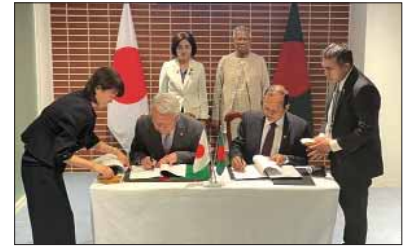
“We need to replace today’s fractured, competitive, and extractive model with one rooted in transparency, justice, and long-term resilience,” Kaveh Madani, a professor with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health and a co-author of the proposal and accompanying policy brief, said in a press release.

Broadly, a global minerals trust would treat critical green energy minerals as shared global assets “for the fair use of beneficiaries who might otherwise feel compelled to compete over them,” the scientists write in an article published in Science. **EP**

JICA, Bangladesh Sign Deals on Climate Change Resilience

To advance economic reforms, strengthen climate change resilience efforts as well as promote educational opportunities for government officials, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Bangladesh signed two major agreements in Tokyo, Japan, on May 30.

Dr. Tanaka Akihiko, President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Md. Daud Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bangladesh signed the Loan Agreement (L/A) on the Development Policy Loan for Economic Reform and



Strengthening Climate Change Resilience and Grant Agreement (G/A) on the JDS Scholarship for 2025.

The ceremony was witnessed by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, who is on an official visit to Japan. The signing of the L/A and G/A followed the signing of the Exchange of Notes (E/N) between the Government of Japan and the Government of Bangladesh. **EP**

Plastic Tsunami Threatens Bay of Bengal

On the occasion of Environmental Day 2025, Change Initiative warns that Bangladesh is facing a rising tide of plastic pollution from cross-border rivers — a crisis that threatens its coasts, ecosystems, fisheries, and public health.

According to Change Initiative’s new paper “Cross-Border Plastic Pollution and Its Impact on the Bay of Bengal”, an alarming 15,345 tonnes of single-use plastic flows into Bangladesh daily through 18 transboundary rivers — one of the highest such rates globally.

These plastics accumulate in the Sundarbans mangrove and the Bay of Bengal, where

they smother marine life, disrupt fisheries, and endanger livelihoods.

Plastic is turning the Sundarbans — the world’s largest mangrove forest — into a “cesspit of waste,” threatening critical fish nurseries, coastal livelihoods, and public health. An estimated \$11.4 billion in ecosystem services are lost annually to Bangladesh and neighboring countries due to marine plastic pollution.

Globally, Asian rivers contribute 86% of river plastic emissions into oceans — with the Ganges ranked as the second largest plastic-emitting river worldwide, discharging up to 115,000 tonnes annually. **EP**

Development Partners' Continued Support Crucial to Combat Climate Change Fallout



Speakers at a recent event said that long-term initiatives are crucial while continued support from the development partners is essential to combat climate change fallout since the government continues to implement various programs to tackle these impacts despite resource constraints.

They said every year Bangladesh loses 1-2% of its GDP due to climate change-induced floods, droughts, cyclones, tidal surges, heatwaves etc.

The speakers made these remarks at the closing ceremony of a PKSF project

titled 'Climate-resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Community Life in the Haor Region of Bangladesh', in short 'giz-Haor', at PKSF Bhaban in the capital.

The project was funded by the German government, according to a press release.

With PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan in the chair, Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) was the chief guest while Dr Fahmida Khanom, Additional Secretary (Environment Wing), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Ulrich Kleppmann, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Bangladesh attended the event as special guests. **EP**

Climate Advocates to ADB: Embrace People-Powered, Ecologically Sound Climate Solutions

On World Environment Day, climate justice and clean energy advocates across Asia held creative protests and solidarity actions to challenge the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s continued support for fossil fuels and market-driven climate schemes and call on the region's top energy funder to choose real, community-driven climate solutions.

Carrying a giant globe with community-built renewable energy structures, 350 Pilipinas led a creative action in front of the ADB's headquarters in Mandaluyong City, Philippines where the Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) is being held.

Dancing and chanting to jazz music, the advocates called for a just energy transition grounded in ecological integrity, Indigenous wisdom,



and energy democracy. Dressed as fireflies, they drew attention to these insects as indicator species—living signals of ecosystem health whose fading presence warns of deeper ecological harm.

Each year, the ADB gathers government leaders, the private sector, and other stakeholders in the ACEF to advance clean energy across the region. However, civil society has long criticized the ACEF for being dominated by private sector interests and corporate-driven decarbonization models that marginalize frontline communities and grassroots innovations. **EP**

Brazil Fires Drive Acceleration in Amazon Deforestation: Report



A record fire season in Brazil last year caused the rate of deforestation to accelerate, in a blow to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's pledge to protect the Amazon rainforest, official figures showed recently.

The figures released by the National Institute for Space

Research (INPE), which tracks forest cover by satellite, indicated that deforestation rate between August 2024 and May 2025 rose by 9.1 percent compared to the same period in 2023-2024. And they showed a staggering

92-percent increase in Amazon deforestation in May, compared to the year-ago period.

That development risks erasing the gains made by Brazil in 2024, when deforestation slowed in all of its ecological biomes for the first time in six years. **EP**

EU Says 'Well on Track' to Reach 2030 Climate Targets

The European Union is on track to reach its 2030 climate targets, Brussels said recently, but uncertainty remains over the bloc's ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions much further by 2040.

The European Commission expects emissions to fall by 54 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, very close to its 55 percent target, it said, after analyzing member states' energy and climate plans for the coming years.

"Emissions are down 37 percent

since 1990, while the economy has grown nearly 70 percent -- proving climate action and growth go hand in hand. Now we must build on this momentum," said the EU's climate chief, Wopke Hoekstra.

Brussels also pointed to disparities between member states and highlighted the problems of protecting forests and carbon storage.

The commission singled out Belgium, Estonia and Poland, which have not submitted their energy and climate plans, urging them to "do so without delay". **EP**

Launch Electric Public Transport With A Pilot First

Electric vehicles may promise a cleaner future, but for Bangladesh, the road to that future must be paved with realism and local readiness. "Start small, build capacity, and don't rush into mass adoption," says Professor Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Khan of BUET, who believes launching electric public transport in Dhaka should begin with a pilot, not a fleet.

In an in-depth interview with Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor of Energy & Power, the seasoned energy expert also warns that battery-powered rickshaws could spiral into a serious safety and infrastructure crisis if left unregulated. He discusses why a measured, locally-driven approach is vital for the success of EVs in Bangladesh—and how policy gaps, political interests, and lack of technical preparedness could otherwise derail it.

These were the key observations made by Professor Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Khan, from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), during a conversation with **Mollah Amzad Hossain**, Editor of Energy & Power.

How would you assess the current state of Bangladesh's power and energy sector? Currently, 55% of the electricity and energy supply depends on imports. With rising prices of crude oil and LNG due to the Israel-Iran conflict, what should Bangladesh do?

Given our increasing dependence on imported fuel, long-term purchase agreements for oil and LNG could have helped mitigate such wartime supply shocks. But now, nothing can be done in that regard. Instead, the focus must be on monitoring global prices and ensuring energy efficiency and conservation domestically, starting with the public sector, where energy waste remains significant. At the same time, an environment must be created to

encourage greater private sector investment in energy-efficient technologies.

I don't support rationing or load shedding as an emergency measure to cut imports. That would disproportionately affect rural consumers, creating discontent and unrest, something that would not be favorable for the government.

The government finalized its Renewable Energy Policy 2025, aiming to produce 20% of electricity from renewables by 2030 and 30% by 2040. Is this realistically achievable?

You can't achieve meaningful change by force. Previously, there was a target of generating 10% of electricity from renewables by 2020—but that wasn't met. Now, the new policy sets a 20% target by 2030 and a 30% target by 2040.

In my view, we must focus on creating an investment-friendly environment and offering proper incentives to achieve these targets. Under this new policy, SREDA has been tasked with developing a "Renewable Purchase Obligation" guideline for utility companies. But again, results won't come from pressure alone.

Instead, the government should develop land and grid infrastructure for solar projects, then invite bids from investors. That would make target achievement more realistic and efficient.

After canceling 37 LOIs (Letters of Intent) under the caretaker government, the authorities have invited bids for 52 renewable energy projects, but received very little response due to the absence of implementation agreements. How do you assess this situation?

On the canceled LOIs, many of them were issued under the previous government without competitive bidding. In several cases, corruption



Professor Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Khan

Suppose electric buses in Dhaka are launched through a public sector agency like BRTC. That would be a good move. Not only would it reduce air pollution in the city, but it would also help us build local expertise and capacity for long-term sustainability.

occurred in tariff setting and project selection. So canceling them was justified.

However, the issue now is that the government updated its renewable energy policy to attract private investment, but still, there was low interest in the 52 tendered projects. Why? Because without investment return guarantees, reputable companies will not participate, nor will financing institutions provide loans. The Implementation Agreement provides that guarantee.

In these new tenders, the Implementation Agreement was excluded, which discouraged participation from credible domestic and international players.

In my view, the government should build

solar parks with developed land and transmission infrastructure, and then invite tenders that include Implementation Agreements. This would allow solar power to be procured at much lower tariffs. The government can also seek investment support from the World Bank and ADB for this.

If done right, significant progress in renewable energy capacity can be achieved quickly.

The government has taken an initiative to gradually electrify public transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. As part of this, electric buses are expected to be launched in Dhaka by December. How do you see this initiative?

Look, the government can definitely implement this initiative in collaboration with development partners. Suppose electric buses in Dhaka are launched through a public sector agency like BRTC. That would be a good move. However, instead of launching 40-50 buses at once, it would be better to begin with a pilot project of 10 buses. This would help us build local technical expertise for maintenance. Additionally, instead of importing electric buses, initiatives should be taken to manufacture them locally through public and private sector investment. That would make the transition to electric buses more sustainable. We must remember that to make such projects sustainable, we need to build our own capacity.

What do you see as the biggest challenge in gradually electrifying public transport? What kind of roadmap should the government follow?

In most countries, public transport is state-controlled. But in Bangladesh, this sector is controlled by political interests. As a result, even though AC buses were launched on some routes, they couldn't be sustained. The attempt to introduce a franchise-based route system also failed. So replacing the current system with electric buses won't be easy. Technically, it's doable. But the main barrier to modernizing public transport in a people-centric way is the politics of the transport sector. That's why

implementing electric public transport in Bangladesh won't be easy.

Bangladesh currently lacks a robust EV charging infrastructure. What kind of policies should be adopted to scale this up quickly? Do you see potential in solar-powered charging stations?

At present, the limited number of four-wheeler EVs in the country doesn't require quick charging. Most users can drive during the day and charge at home at night. However, if EV use grows and inter-city travel starts, then quick charging stations will be necessary. For public transport in Dhaka, BRTC depots can be used for charging. For three-wheelers, solar charging stations combined with net metering could be a good solution. It would also reduce charging costs. Such solar charging stations are already in operation in places like Manikganj, Khulna, and Rajshahi.

To boost EV adoption, the government has recently issued an SRO reducing import duties on key components like e-bikes, lithium, and graphene batteries from 60–80% to 1%. How would you evaluate this step?

It's a good decision. If this tax benefit is used to locally produce e-bikes and lithium/graphene batteries, it will help lower costs. However, it's important to monitor this carefully. We must ensure that these tax benefits are not misused.

What kind of policies should the government adopt to increase EV usage in Bangladesh?

Although EV use is growing rapidly worldwide, I don't think there will be a large market in Bangladesh for now. Users here typically buy internal combustion engine cars priced at BDT 3–4 million. However, even after duty reductions, Chinese EVs cost BDT 6–7 million, and Japanese EVs may cost BDT 8–9 million. So to make EVs popular, significant duty reductions and low-interest loans, along with other incentives, are necessary. Above all, we need to build our own technical capacity. Otherwise, even if EV production begins in Bangladesh, I

don't see it achieving great success.

Battery-powered rickshaws—often referred to as the “Tesla of Bengal”—have created new opportunities in transportation but also worsened road safety issues. What should be done to register and regulate them?

Ensuring road safety requires bringing battery rickshaws under strict regulation. Their fitness must be ensured. Drivers should receive training and a license. Ideally, BRTA should handle this. But there are plans to place registration and control under local government, and I doubt that will succeed. Unless this sector is quickly brought under regulation, it will create serious problems. The battery rickshaw sector involves large sums of unofficial money and extortion. It's hard to say how successful the government will be in regulating it while ignoring those vested interests.

These rickshaws have created a new challenge in rural and urban power distribution. It's said that late-night charging significantly increases the load, causing power outages in Dhaka and elsewhere. How do you assess this technically?

Multiple factors are involved. It's not entirely accurate to say charging suddenly spikes the load. Distribution utilities know when and where loads increase due to charging. Three-wheeler batteries are charged by converting AC to DC power, which creates harmonics—i.e., high-frequency currents. This causes transformers to overheat and leads to outages.

In a study conducted in a battery charging zone in Khulna, we found that a 250 kVA transformer starts overheating and becomes overloaded when the load hits 190 kVA, leading to power disruptions.

To tackle this, the quality of charging units must be ensured. The ones currently used are substandard. There is no requirement for BSTI certification for importing, manufacturing, or using them. Before this problem worsens, we must ensure the use of quality-certified chargers to avoid a major harmonic-related crisis.

EP

BANGLADESH'S NEXT ELECTION TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

Is Bangladesh going into the polls? If so, when?

In his June 6 address to the nation, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presented a tentative timeframe for the next national election. It could be held in the first week of April, provided enough progress is made regarding institutional reforms, especially of the Constitution, and some visibility in the process of holding trials of the perpetrators of the July mass killings. Among those facing the trial in the reconstituted International Crimes Tribunal – a domestic tribunal to try cases of crimes against humanity – is ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, now sheltered in India.

Yunus declared the new roadmap as he and his interim administration faced mounting pressure to hold the much-anticipated polls by December this year. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the party that hopes to sweep the next vote in the absence of its arch rival, the Awami League, whose activities are now banned, resulting in the loss of Election Commission registration, has been at the forefront in demanding that

the election be held by December. There are others, too. During a visit to Japan, Yunus said only one party wants the election by December, but dozens of others refuted him, saying they too want it by the end of this year. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and the newly formed National Citizen Party backed Yunus's plan. It was the Jamaat who first suggested election be held in April after Yunus had been insisting that the election could be held anytime between December this year and June next year. When he shifted the election timeframe to April, it was seen as a move aligned with Jamaat. The drama did not end there. During his recent visit to London, Yunus held a crucial meeting with BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, their first since the interim government took over following Hasina's ouster by the student-led upsurge on August 5 last year, in a cordial atmosphere. The outcome of the June 13 meeting – that lasted one hour and a half at the six-star Dorchester hotel, not far from London's historic 350-acre Hyde Park – has been a short but crisp joint statement (between the interim govt and BNP). According to the

six-paragraph statement, Tarique proposed that the election be held in the second week of February (one week before the start of the next Ramadan) instead of the first half of April. Yunus's response: It can be done provided sufficient progress is made in the preparation of the polls, reforming the institutions, and above all, the trial of the July offenders.

An ecstatic BNP started celebrating immediately what it called a historic victory in being able to convince Yunus to move away from its original plan to hold the ballots latest by June next year. At a joint press briefing with National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman at the hotel, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of BNP, said they were satisfied with the result as supporters waved victory signs with leaders flashing broad smiles. At home, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir called the outcome a historic turning point in Bangladesh's contemporary politics. For both the BNP and the interim government, it was a win-win outcome. It was, however, not without caveats. Jamaat, which has emerged as a not-to-be-ignored factor in today's Bangladesh politics, is unhappy as it thinks the party has been overlooked in the interim government's sudden bonhomie with the BNP. So has been the position of NCP, largely seen as a King's party, meaning it is close to the heart of Yunus. While welcoming the outcome, NCP insists that there is no way the election can be held without the much-talked July Charter being signed and other reforms along with the trial of the July massacre being completed.

So, there should not be any ambiguity as to the hurdles that lie ahead of the next polls. All the stakeholders should be brought to the mode of consensus. Is it possible? If so, how soon? **EP**



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