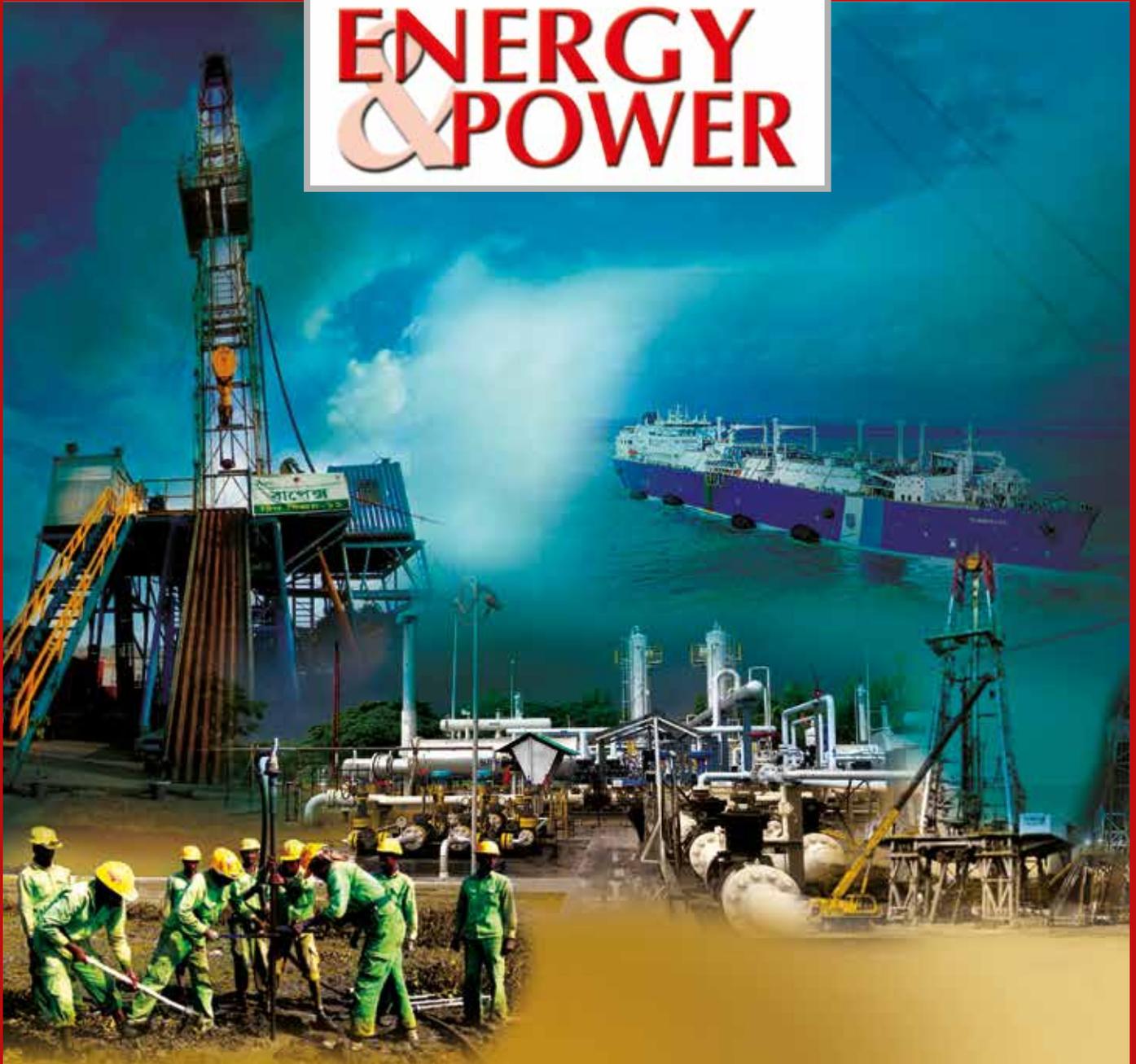


# ENERGY & POWER



## Hope In The Wells

- Expecting Climate Finance Breakthroughs in Belém Is Unrealistic
- Belém's Call For Climate Justice, Global Finance Reset
- Bangladesh Needs A Louder Voice At COP30 In Belém



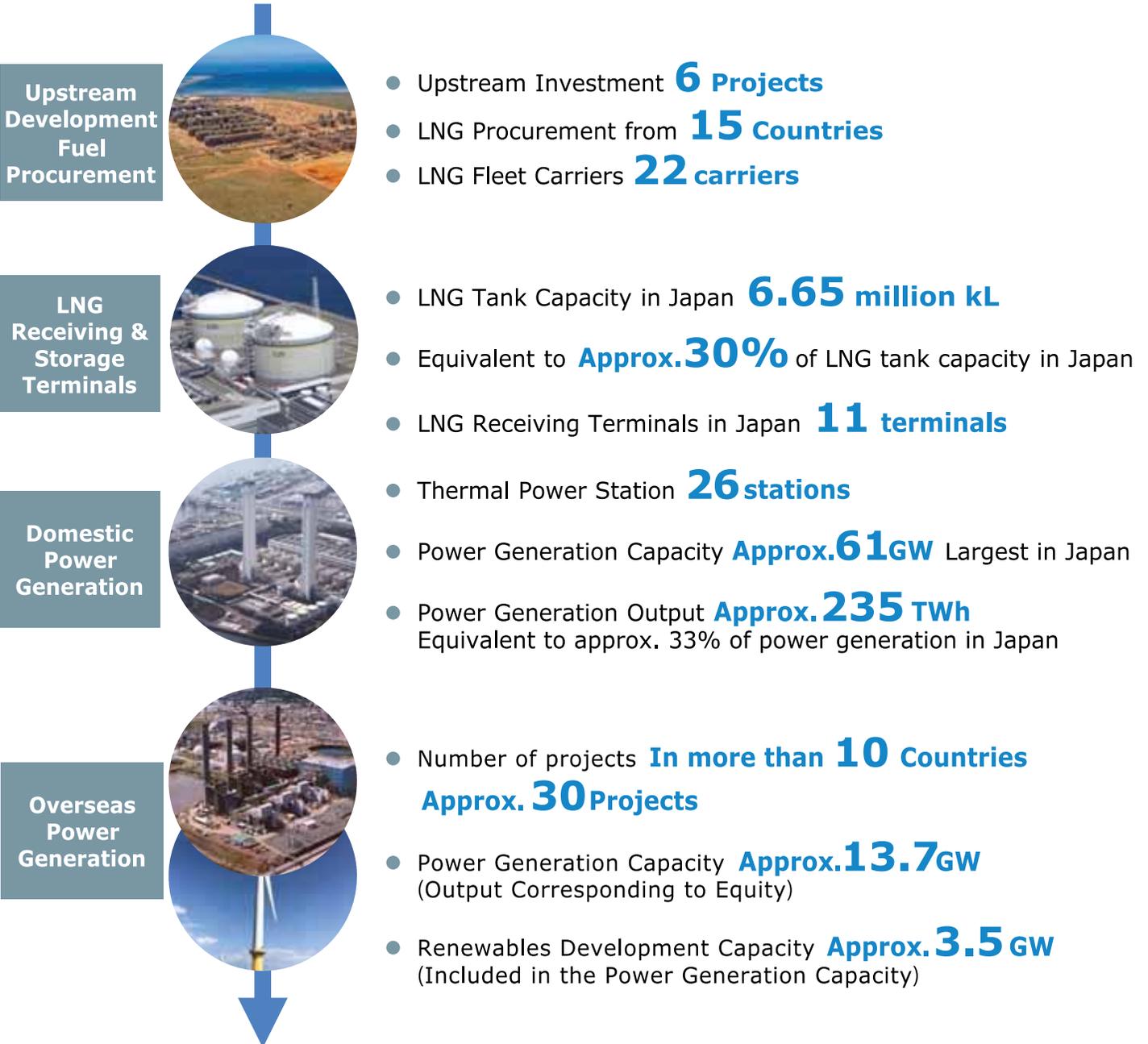
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Goal: Zero CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2050



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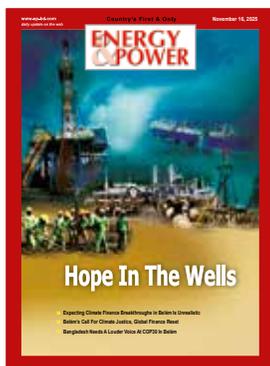
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**Price**  
Bangladesh: Tk 100, SAARC: US\$ 9,  
Asia: US\$ 12, Europe: US\$ 15, North  
America, Africa & Australia: US\$ 21



## EDITORIAL

Bangladesh's gas sector has spent years trapped in decline amid shrinking production, persistent shortages, and plans that never quite materialized. So the cautious optimism emerging today feels unusual, even slightly fragile. For the first time in a long while, there are signs that the country may be inching toward a more stable future. But that hope depends on whether long-delayed decisions finally turn into action. The reality remains tough. Daily demand stands at roughly 4,200 MMCFD, yet the country falls short by about 1,500 MMCFD. Experts believe the deficit could stop widening, and even begin to narrow by the early 2030s, if waste is reduced, efficiency enforced, and demand kept under control. But that will only happen if the government delivers on critical tasks: completing the 150-well drilling program, fast-tracking the pipeline to bring Bhola's gas to the national grid, and expanding LNG import capacity. Petrobangla points to progress. Nine rigs are now operating with the number set to rise to 11 soon. Officials say this new capacity can finally push drilling at the pace long promised. Yet scepticism persists. Previous plans were bold too, but often stalled mid-way, undermining confidence in the system.

Even if drilling succeeds, gas will remain stranded unless pipelines, import terminals, and transmission networks advance in step. If the next government can coordinate these pieces and avoid past delays, Bangladesh may finally reverse its long slide and move toward a more secure energy future. If not, another decade of shortages looms.

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The world may once again express political support in Belém for keeping the 1.5°C goal alive, but it would be unrealistic to expect any global consensus on the actions and financing required to achieve it. Major developed and emerging economies continue to rely on fossil fuels while increasing investments in technologies to reduce emissions, delaying the energy transition ... Advocate Hafij Khan tells EP



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Brazil has emphasized that COP30 should focus on implementation rather than new pledges. To avoid early conflict, Corrika do Lago separated several contentious items, including climate finance and national climate plan gaps, into parallel tracks. Negotiators from 195 countries are working to advance adaptation frameworks, measure climate impacts, and strengthen support for vulnerable countries..... More in COP30 Special



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The gas sector is slowly inching out of a long period of uncertainty, giving energy stakeholders their first real reasons for cautious optimism. After years of declining production and recurring shortages, the country is expected to see an improvement by the early 2030s. Still, it remains far too soon to say how much of today's shortfall can realistically be closed.



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

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## LNG Canada Starts Production from Train 2

The LNG Canada export plant in Kitimat, British Columbia, in the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation, is now exporting LNG from two processing trains with a total capacity of 14 million tonnes/year.



capacity of 14 million tonnes/year. LNG Canada loaded its first cargo in June of this year. By early September, a 10th LNG cargo departed LNG Canada, destined for global markets.

LNG Canada has started producing LNG from its second of two LNG processing trains, the company said in a release November 6.

The LNG Canada export plant in Kitimat, BC, Canada, in the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation, is now exporting LNG from two processing trains with a total

LNG Canada and its joint venture partners are exploring the potential for a Phase 2 expansion, which may include construction of two additional LNG trains, resulting in a total plant capacity of 28 million tpy.

## Shell Posts \$5.4b 3rd Earnings, Topping Forecasts



Shell plc reported stronger-than-expected third-quarter 2025 earnings on Oct. 30, buoyed by robust operations, higher trading contributions, and steady upstream performance in key regions.

The oil major posted adjusted earnings of \$5.4 billion, topping the company's own forecast of \$5.09 billion. The result compares with \$6 billion in the same quarter a year earlier and \$4.26 billion in second-quarter 2025.

Cash flow from operations (CFFO) totaled \$12.2 billion, down from \$14.7 billion a year earlier. Cash capital expenditure was at \$4.9 billion for the quarter.

"Shell delivered another strong set of results, with clear progress across our portfolio and excellent performance in our Marketing business and deepwater assets in the Gulf of Mexico and Brazil," said chief executive officer Wael Sawan.

## Russian Oil Company Lukoil to Sell Int'l Assets

Russian oil giant Lukoil announced recently that it will sell its international assets after US President Donald Trump imposed new sanctions aimed at pressuring Moscow to agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine.



In a statement, the company said it has begun talks with potential buyers and will complete the sales under a grace period allowing transactions until 21 November.

Lukoil added that it may seek an extension if more time is needed to finalize the deals.

The company holds oil and gas interests in 11 countries, including refineries in Bulgaria and Romania, and a 45% stake in a Dutch refinery.

The sanctions, announced on 22 October, target Lukoil and Rosneft, Russia's two largest oil producers, which account for about half of the nation's oil exports.

Chevron, Petronas Appoint Operators of Two Shallow-Water Blocks Offshore Suriname

Suriname's state oil and gas company Staatsolie has signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for two shallow-water blocks around 50 km offshore Saramacca.

Petronas Suriname E&P will operate Block 9, in partnership with Chevron Suriname Exploration, QatarEnergy International and Paradise Oil (POC).

Chevron will operate Block 10, in partnership with the same three companies. The two blocks span a total area of around 5,456 sq km in the Suriname-Guyana basin.

## USEA Commends Historic LNG Export Record

United States Energy Association President & CEO Mark Menezes recently issued the following statement commending the U.S. natural gas industry for becoming the first nation to export 10.1 million metric tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in a single month.



"This achievement firmly establishes the United States as the world's leading LNG exporter and is a direct and decisive win for the Trump Administration's energy dominance policies," Menezes stated, noting his past support of the establishment of the National Energy Dominance Council.

"By prioritizing maximum production and cutting bureaucratic red tape, we are unlocking America's full energy potential. Our ability to rapidly scale up production showcases the strength and reliability of our energy infrastructure, which is crucial for U.S. economic stability and our influence on the global stage."

## Workshop on Safety Standards for Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances Held



To ensure the safety of domestic gas cooking appliances in line with international standards, a promotional workshop titled Safety Standards for Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances, was organized in Dhaka recently.

Under the joint initiative of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, Petrobangla, and the Asian Development Bank, the objective of the meeting was to reduce gas accidents and strengthen public safety, according to a press release.

Chaired by BSTI director,

quality, Engineer Md Saidul Islam, Petrobangla director, industry, Md Rajonur Rahman, was present as chief guest at the workshop.

Asian Development Bank country director Hoe Yan Jeong and International Gas Appliances Safety Standards specialist Chris Evans were present as special guests at the event.

The event was attended by industry experts and entrepreneurs in the gas sector, including Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC and PRAN-RFL.

## Workover Begins at Habiganj Gas Field

Workover operations have started at Well-5 of the Habiganj gas field, with the Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) aiming to boost the national gas supply by 10–15 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) once completed.

The BGFCL said the workover is expected to be completed by December 2025, helping to ease the country's ongoing energy shortage.

Petrobangla Director (Administration) SM Mahub Alam inaugurated the workover operations on 24 October.

The inauguration was



attended by BGFCL Managing Director Engr Md Faruque Hossain, Petrobangla officials, and senior executives from BGFCL and BAPEX.

An average of 105 million cubic feet of gas is currently supplied daily to the national grid from the seven operational wells at the Habiganj gas field. Well-5, drilled in 1988 to a depth of 3,521 metres, began feeding gas to the national grid in February 1992.

## Summit Extends Its Livelihood Enhancement Project in Moheshkhali

As part of Summit's commitment to improving the livelihoods of local communities, the largest infrastructure conglomerate of Bangladesh has committed to extending its Livelihood Enhancement Plan (LEP).

Building on the success of the first phase of LEP, SLNG has extended the project for an additional year, running till September 2026.

The first phase of the Livelihood Enhancement Plan (LEP) was implemented from 2020 to 2024 in partnership with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA).

SLNG provided skills development for 1,591 beneficiaries, and grants of about Tk 1.0 crore were disbursed.



The individuals are primarily small-scale fishermen operating boats from the areas of Ghotibhanga, Sonadia, Tajiakata, and Nayapara. Men received vocational training on boat repair, along with toolkits, earning an average of Tk 9,000 to 12,000 per month. Similarly, women were given training on tailoring and electric sewing machines.

SLNG undertook a comprehensive renovation of the Sonadia Government Primary School of about Tk 40 Lakh and handed it over to the Upazila Education Officer (UEO).

## United Group Wins “Bangladesh Operational Innovation of the Year – Energy” Award

United Group has brought global recognition to Bangladesh by winning the “Bangladesh Operational Innovation of the Year – Energy” award at the Asian Innovation Excellence Awards 2025, held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore.

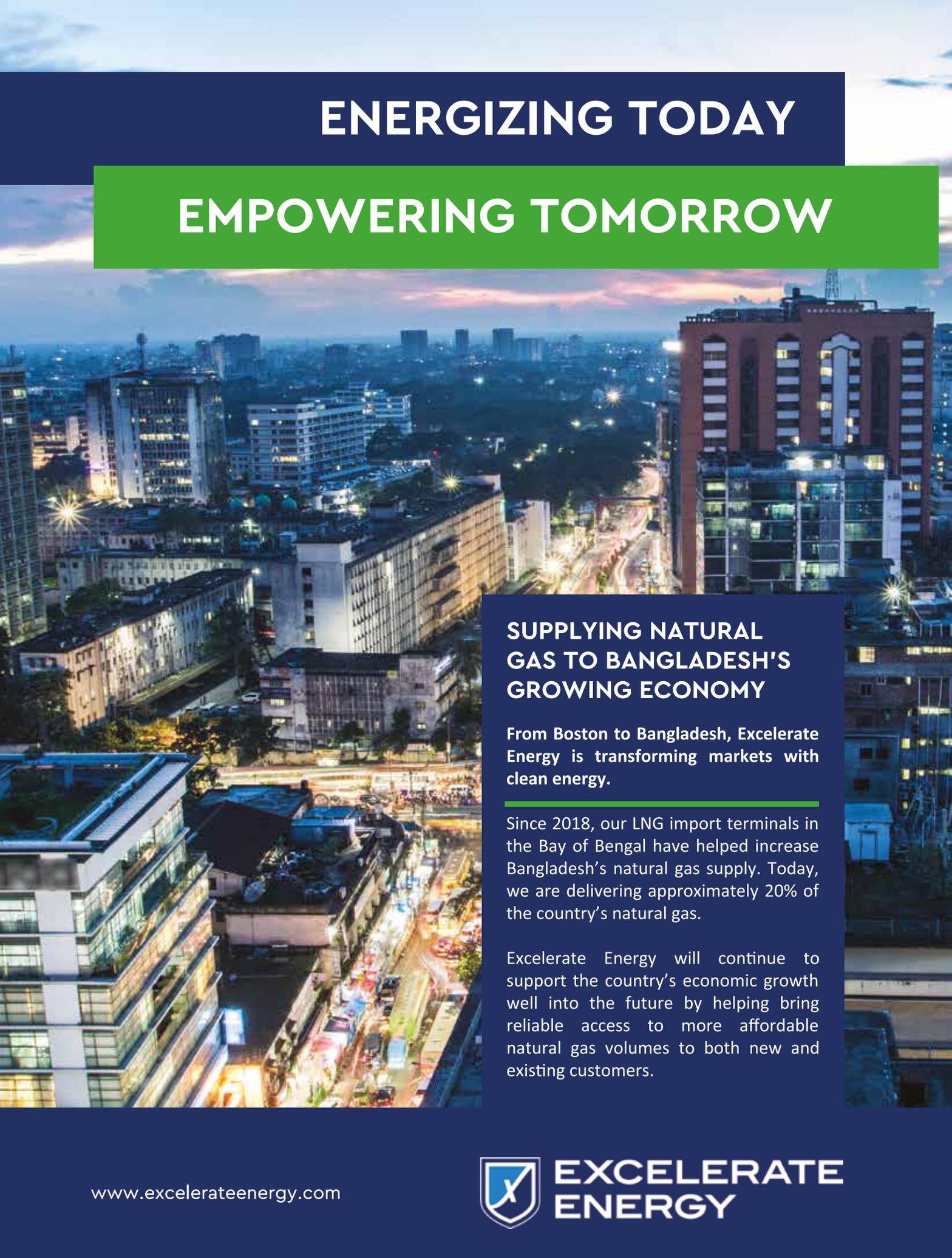
The award honors United Power Generation & Distribution Company Ltd. (UPGDCL), a concern of United Group, for its groundbreaking approach to operational innovation in power generation and distribution.

This achievement highlights Bangladesh's growing ability to deliver sustainable, efficient, and technology-driven energy solutions.



Organized by the Asian Business Review, the Asian Innovation Excellence Awards celebrate leading organizations across Asia that are transforming industries through innovation and leadership.

Representing United Power, Shish Swapnik, Head of Group Brand & Communications, received the award at the ceremony in Singapore.



# ENERGIZING TODAY

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## Fire at Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant under Control



A fire broke out at a wood pile within the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna district recently.

Abul Hashem, senior station master of Rooppur Green City Fire Service, said the fire erupted at an abandoned wood pile along the Padma River on the eastern side of

the power plant and quickly spread.

On information, eight firefighting units rushed to the scene and managed to extinguish the blaze after nearly an hour. The wood had been stored for use in the construction work of the project, he said.

## Newly Elected Leadership of Petrobangla Officers' Association Takes Oath

The newly elected representatives of the Petrobangla Officers' Association took oath in a ceremony held recently.



The ceremony followed the association's general election, which was held earlier on October 15, 2025, at Petrobangla. Through the oath ceremony, the new leadership takes charge.

Petrobangla is the Bangladesh Oil, Gas, and Mineral Corporation, a government-owned national oil company responsible for the exploration, production, transportation, and marketing of the country's oil, gas, and mineral resources.

The elected officers are President M Nasimul Alim, Deputy General Manager (Vigilance), and Senior Vice President Md. Shamim Hasan, General Manager (Audit), Vice

Presidents, Md. Shoriful Islam, Deputy General Manager (MEAI), and Shammi Akter, Deputy General Manager (Exploration), General Secretary Md. Fazlul Haque, joint secretary, Mohammad Mahbub Alam, assistant secretary Md. Sakib Mehedi.

Additionally, Touhidur Rahman, Nazmul Hasan, Md. Ashik Hossain, Md. Shahriar Sagar, Md. Abir Hossain, Md. Shahadat Hossain, Sabina Akter Runa, Md. Afzal Hossain, Md. Nazmul Islam and Mohammad Abdullah, Deputy Manager (Admin) were elected to various other posts by securing significant votes, according to a press release.

## Power Import Payment Rules Relaxed



Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed regulations governing power-import payments, allowing authorized dealer banks to make outward remittances for electricity purchases under government-approved cross-border arrangements without obtaining prior approval for each case from the central bank.

In a circular issued recently, the central bank said the move aims to streamline and facilitate smooth payment settlements for power imports transmitted through the national grid under bilateral agreements approved by the government.

Under the new directive,

banks are permitted to remit funds to foreign beneficiaries for electricity purchases from abroad, subject to several conditions.

The circular also stressed that banks must comply with all foreign exchange regulations, including Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements and Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) standards, along with routine reporting to Bangladesh Bank.

Additionally, in cases where power purchase transactions require customs formalities, payments will be allowed following the standard import procedures, the circular added.

## Price of 12kg LPG Cylinder Cut by Tk26 to Tk1,215

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has reduced the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for November.

The price of a 12kg LPG cylinder has been decreased by Tk26, bringing it down to Tk1,215 from the previous Tk1,241.

The new price, announced by BERC on Sunday (Nov 2), will take effect from this evening.

The price of autogas, used in motor vehicles, has also been reduced—from Tk56.77 per litre to Tk55.58 per litre.



In October, BERC had cut the price of the 12kg LPG cylinder by Tk29 to Tk1,241, while the price of autogas was reduced by Tk1.38 to Tk56.77 per liter.

According to BERC, LPG and autogas prices have shown significant volatility throughout 2024.

# Hope In The Wells

Mollah Amzad Hossain



**B**angladesh's gas sector is entering a phase of cautious optimism after years of decline, but the path to recovery remains uncertain and heavily conditional. The country faces a large and persistent supply deficit, and closing it will depend on completing the 150-well drilling program, connecting Bhola to the national grid, expanding LNG infrastructure, and securing foreign investment. While Petrobangla claims new momentum, experts question its capacity. Without stronger coordination and timely decisions by the next government, the gas crisis is likely to endure.



Summit Power International is transforming Bangladesh's infrastructure with innovative solutions across sectors. Backed by global partnerships and foreign investments, we set new standards in development. At Summit, we empower communities and build a stronger, more prosperous future.

## **Empowering Communities** **Sustainable Progress** **Innovation**



S U M M I T

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**Bangladesh needs about 4,200 MMCFD of gas each day, but falls short by roughly 1,500 MMCFD. If the government can enforce efficiency, curb waste, and keep total demand near 4,500 MMCFD by 2030, experts say the deficit may at least stop widening — and could even begin to shrink.**

**B**angladesh's gas sector is slowly inching out of a long period of uncertainty, giving policymakers and energy experts their first real reasons for cautious optimism. After years of declining production and recurring shortages, some believe the country could start to see an improvement in supply by the early 2030s. Still, it remains far too soon to say how much of today's shortfall can realistically be closed.

Right now, Bangladesh needs about 4,200 MMCFD of gas each day, but falls short by roughly 1,500 MMCFD. If the government can enforce efficiency, curb waste, and keep total demand near 4,500 MMCFD by 2030, experts say the deficit may at least stop widening — and could even begin to shrink. But that outlook rests on several critical conditions. The Energy Division and Petrobangla stress that Bangladesh must complete the remaining 130 wells under the 150-well drilling program and connect the promising Bhola gas fields to the national grid.

One senior Petrobangla official, requesting anonymity, noted that the situation might already be improving had the government not cancelled LNG projects approved under a special act or stalled the rig agreements needed for drilling. Looking ahead, he said meeting the 2030 goal will require staying on course with the 150-well plan, adding at least one additional FSRU, and accelerating the land-based LNG terminal so it can begin operating by 2031.

### **Experts Remain Skeptical about Petrobangla's Capacity**

Energy experts are not convinced about the success of Petrobangla's drilling plan. They argue that neither Petrobangla nor its subsidiary companies possess the management or technical capacity to complete the plan by 2030. Petrobangla, however, disagrees, saying experts are basing their skepticism on past performance. The organization claims that over the past two years, both the Energy Division and Petrobangla have adopted a new results-driven approach to gas exploration and development.

For the first time, nine rigs are operational in Bangladesh, and the number will increase to 11 starting in January next year. With this capacity, Petrobangla believes drilling at least 30 wells per year should not pose a major challenge. However, the continuation of this momentum will depend on the policy direction of the incoming government.

Over the past 125 years, Bangladesh has drilled 100 exploration wells — the most recent being the 100th well in Jamalpur. In total, 258 wells have been drilled onshore and offshore. Since 2009, several onshore exploration plans have been undertaken, but none have achieved significant success. This has shaken

confidence in Petrobangla and BAPEx's ability to execute their drilling plans.

Former BAPEx Director Murtaza Ahmed Faruque said, "I do not believe that Petrobangla and BAPEx will be able to complete the 150-well program by 2028. I will be satisfied if even half of the plan is implemented."

### Why is there Still Hope around the 150-Well Plan?

As domestic production declined rapidly, the government approved a plan in 2022 to drill 46 wells, including 16 exploration wells, with the hope of restoring production to 2,000 MMCFD. The plan is expected to add 618 MMCFD of new domestic supply within three years. Later, the plan was revised to 50 wells, with a new target of adding 648 MMCFD. So far, 19 wells under the 50-well plan and one well from the 100-well plan (20 in total) have been drilled.

According to Petrobangla, these wells have collectively added 210 MMCFD of production capacity, though only 90 MMCFD has been connected to the national grid due to pipeline gaps. Work on another seven wells under the 50-well plan is ongoing and expected to be completed by January next year. Of the remaining 23 wells, seven will be drilled by BAPEx and 16 by contractors. Of these, 18 wells are at the DPP stage, 17 are approved, and one is awaiting approval. Petrobangla expects to complete the entire 50-well program by June 2026, adding another 438 MMCFD. But due to infrastructure gaps, only about half of that may be added to the national grid.

A Petrobangla official, requesting anonymity, said: "The biggest success so far is that we have slowed down the decline in production from national companies. Once the full 50-well program is completed, output from

national companies should stabilize, and may even increase slightly."

However, production from IOC-operated fields continues to decline by 140–150 MMCFD per year, a trend expected to continue.

### The 100-Well Program: Ambition vs Reality

Petrobangla has already initiated work on the 100-well program. A total of 21 DPPs have been finalized: 20 approved and one pending. The plan includes 52 exploration wells, 17 development & appraisal wells, and the rest workovers. Field implementation will begin in July next year. Petrobangla acknowledges that it will not be possible to finish all 100 wells by 2028. But with sustained effort and increased rig capacity, it believes the full program can be completed by 2030.

Former Petrobangla Director Engr. Ali Iqbal Md. Nurullah offered a practical proposal: "Achieving the target is essential, but the strategy must change. Contractors must be given clusters of 6–10 wells with strict deadlines and strong monitoring. This would significantly increase the chances of meeting the targets."

However, the Energy Division claims that an external monitoring committee has been formed to ensure that contractors and BAPEx can complete their work on time. In addition, a daily monitoring committee of Petrobangla and company representatives is also active. Because of this, there is no scope for falling behind the target.

Petrobangla sources say that if the 150-well drilling plan, including four deep-drilling wells, is completed, total production capacity will increase by 1,133 MMCFD (648 + 985). As a result, during this period, national gas field production can be raised again to 2,000 MMCFD. However, during the same period, IOC-operated fields will

see a significant decline in output. But the essential condition is that work to connect Bhola to the national grid must begin immediately, without losing even a single day.

### Bhola's Gas and the Challenges in Reducing Shortage

Bhola currently has nine gas wells, five of which are in production. Although the capacity is 100 MMCFD, due to low local demand, production is restricted to 60–80 MMCFD. Work is ongoing to bring the remaining four wells online. Under the new plan, 10 additional wells will be drilled in Bhola. Once all 19 wells are operational, Bhola's production capacity could reach 320–520 MMCFD.

Therefore, pipeline construction to connect Bhola to the national grid must begin immediately. Even though the issue has been discussed for nearly 25 years, no implementation steps have been taken. The interim government likely lacks enough time to decide on building the pipeline. Therefore, whichever elected government comes to power must take up and implement the pipeline project without delay.

### Gas Import & Infrastructure Expansion

Bangladesh currently has an LNG import capacity of 1,100 MMCFD, and with available pipeline facilities, 1,050 MMCFD can be imported. The two FSRUs can receive and regasify 114 LNG cargoes per year. The interim government has fully utilized the FSRU capacity this year to reduce industrial gas shortages.

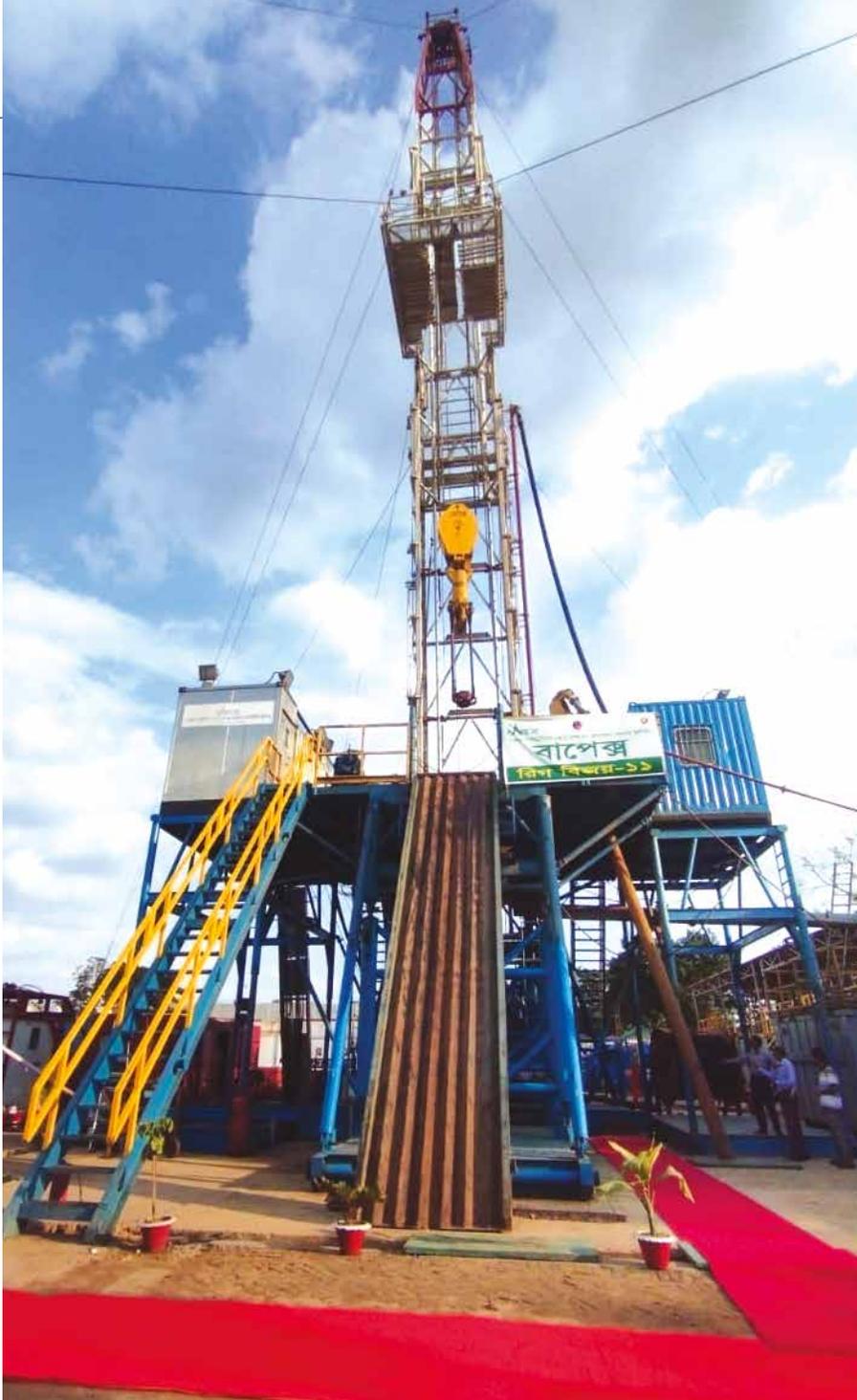
Under the previous Awami League government, agreements were made to expand LNG import infrastructure:

- A third FSRU contract was signed with Summit Group
- A fourth FSRU in Kuakata was initiated with U.S.-based Excelerate Energy
- Negotiations were underway with two entities to import RLNG from India via pipeline

These were all executed under the Speedy Supply of Power and Energy Act. However, the interim government halted the ongoing negotiations and canceled the third FSRU contract with Summit – now pending in court.

Officials at the Energy Division and Petrobangla, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that there is no alternative to gradually increasing LNG imports to address the gas shortage. Yet the interim government has taken no effective steps to expand infrastructure after canceling previous agreements.





however, may require 8–10 years to yield results. Because energy companies are hesitant during the interim government period, PSCs are not being finalized. A newly elected government is expected to restore investor confidence.

### Chhatak Gas Field & Legal Issues

A long-pending case between Petrobangla and Niko involving a section of the Chhatak gas field is yet to receive a verdict. Although the hearing is complete, the financial liability determination order has not been issued. As a result, Petrobangla cannot undertake any new exploration work in Chhatak, which is widely regarded as a promising structure. Once the court verdict is delivered, exploration can begin, potentially leading to major discoveries. Because the field is close to the national grid, new production can be connected quickly, playing a crucial role in reducing the ongoing gas crisis.

### Conclusion

For the first time in the country's history, nine drilling rigs are running at once, a rare moment of momentum in Bangladesh's long-stalled gas sector. Within the next few months, that number is expected to rise to 11. Petrobangla argues that with this capacity, it should be possible to finish the remaining wells under the 150-well program, including four deep wells, within the planned timeline. At full pace, the rigs can drill around 30 wells a year.

But drilling alone won't solve the crisis. The bigger hurdle lies in connecting new production to the national grid. Several wells, especially those in Bhola, remain stranded without transmission links. Unless pipeline construction begins early next year and the Bhola fields are integrated without delay, much of the new gas will remain unusable. The third FSRU also needs to be operational by 2029 for the supply outlook to meaningfully improve.

If all these pieces fall into place, Bangladesh could raise its total gas supply to around 3,500 MMCFD by 2030, with domestic output potentially climbing back above 2,000 MMCFD.

But that outcome depends on something the sector has struggled with for years: coordination. Previous attempts to ease shortages have repeatedly faltered because exploration, production, grid expansion, and LNG infrastructure were pursued in isolation.

This time must be different. The incoming government will need to move quickly, pushing forward ongoing projects and launching new ones, to prevent the gas crisis from dragging on for yet another decade. **EP**

Thus, once a new government takes office, it must urgently resume negotiations for LNG infrastructure expansion and review canceled agreements for faster results.

A new FSRU would take at least 3 years to install. A land-based terminal would take 5–6 years. Additionally, new transmission pipelines must be constructed simultaneously. Otherwise, increased LNG imports will not help reduce shortages.

### Foreign Investment in Oil & Gas Exploration

Petrobangla has finalized draft offshore

and onshore PSCs to attract foreign investment for oil and gas exploration. Preparations for bidding have also been completed. However, according to one Energy Division source, the interim government is unlikely to approve the final PSCs. Therefore, the elected government must quickly approve the draft PSCs after taking office. Petrobangla believes that tenders can be invited within 3–4 months thereafter.

Onshore, the Chittagong Hill Tracts are considered highly promising. If PSCs are signed with IOCs, success may come within 3 to 5 years. Offshore exploration,

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# Gas Crisis Demands A Coherent Strategy

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

Without decisive reforms and a credible exploration strategy, the country risks sliding into a prolonged era of structural energy insecurity.

Bangladesh's gas sector is once again at a crossroads. After decades of under-exploration, mismanagement, and missed opportunities, the country now faces a crisis that can no longer be dismissed as temporary or cyclical. With production declining and demand climbing, the question is no longer whether Bangladesh has a gas problem, but whether its institutions are capable of solving it.

Despite sitting atop one of the least explored deltas in the world, Bangladesh has failed to assess its true resource potential. Offshore prospects remain virtually untouched, onshore structures only partially explored, and several discovered fields still underdeveloped. Meanwhile, proven reserves are expected to run out by 2030, and LNG imports, costly and constrained by infrastructure, cannot fill the gap for long.

Without decisive reforms and a credible exploration strategy, the country risks sliding into a prolonged era of structural energy insecurity.

It goes without saying that the long-standing crisis in the gas supply chain is rooted in Petrobangla's chronic lack

of institutional competence. Bangladesh remains one of the least explored riverine deltas in the world. While the country is certainly not "floating on petroleum," it is equally unscientific, and irresponsible, to conclude that the country no longer possesses significant untapped energy resources. Onshore prospects remain only partially explored, offshore areas are virtually untouched, and even many discovered fields have not been fully developed.

According to Petrobangla's daily production report (12–13 November 2025), total gas supply stood at 2,638 MMCFD, of which 872.90 MMCFD came from regasified LNG (RLNG). Local production totaled 1,765.10 MMCFD. Petrobangla-operated companies produced 703.90 MMCFD from 17 fields, while IOCs supplied 1,061.20 MMCFD from four fields. Bhola's fields remain disconnected from the national grid. Against a coincident demand of 4,200 MMCFD, the system is running a staggering deficit of roughly 1,500 MMCFD.

Petrobangla's reports also confirm that several power and fertilizer plants remain idle due to inadequate supply, while



domestic production from existing fields continues to decline at an alarming pace.

With no realistic possibility of adding new LNG-import infrastructure before 2029—and with proven reserves likely to run out by 2030 unless substantial new discoveries are made—Bangladesh’s gas supply outlook appears grim. Unfortunately, Petrobangla’s initiatives, past and present, have consistently failed to deliver meaningful relief. Even the ongoing “50 wells” (by 2026) and “100 wells” (by 2028) drilling programs do not inspire confidence. Progress in engaging IOCs offshore and onshore remains sluggish despite updated Model PSCs.

In this context, achieving energy security—particularly gas security—appears increasingly uncertain.

### Energy Policy, Exploration Strategy, and Depletion Planning

Countries that have successfully leveraged natural resources for development have done so through comprehensive energy policies and long-term exploration strategies. Bangladesh, despite eight decades of gas-sector history and five decades of independence, still lacks a coherent national energy policy, a structured exploration strategy, and a depletion plan.

Most major fields were discovered by IOCs before independence. Early milestones, the creation of BOGMC (later Petrobangla) and the launch of the first offshore PSC round in 1974, were significant. Yet successive governments failed to translate these steps into sustained exploration or systematic capacity-building.

BAPEX, intended to evolve into the national flagship exploration company, was never allowed to mature into a competent E&P entity. Compared with PETRONAS, Pertamina, CNPC, CNOOC, ONGC, or Petrovietnam, Petrobangla and BAPEX fall far short. Even so, Bangladesh’s discovery success ratio in the prolific eastern basin was once an impressive 1:3.

Between the 1970s and 1990s, dynamic leadership enabled steady progress.

Despite scandals (Scimitar, SAIPEM, NIKO), major fields such as Bibiyana, Shabajpur, and the Shangu offshore field were discovered.

The period from 1996 to 2001 saw significant expansion in gas and power infrastructure. But weak human-resource planning, political interference, and the rise of corrupt “energy syndicates” subsequently eroded institutional integrity. From 2001 to 2024, Bangladesh failed to undertake even the minimum required exploration efforts.

Diversifying away from a mono-fuel dependence on domestic gas was a sound decision. However, the government simultaneously failed to develop domestic coal or accelerate exploration. By the mid-1990s, dozens of IOCs participated in PSC rounds. But controversies, including the questionable award of Block 9 to Tullow and the NIKO scandal, undermined investor confidence. A High Court-imposed embargo on onshore IOC exploration further crippled the sector.

Between 2008 and 2024, bureaucratic interference and poor strategic direction prevented Petrobangla from attracting meaningful IOC interest either onshore or offshore. LNG imports, adopted as a short-term fix, saddled the country with long-term exposure to extreme price volatility. Since 2000, Bangladesh has consumed about 14 TCF of proven gas, replacing it with less than 4 TCF of new discoveries. Meanwhile, Bhola’s sizable resources remain stranded without a grid connection.

Excessive reliance on imported LNG is already straining the economy and cannot sustainably meet Bangladesh’s long-term energy needs.

### Petrobangla’s Current Initiatives: Too Little, Too Late?

Awami League governments, despite more than 16 years in office, failed to plan or deliver a credible exploration roadmap. The 2009 initiative for accelerated exploration collapsed due to Petrobangla’s lack of technical and

managerial capacity.

Engaging Russia’s GAZPROM to drill development wells, tasks BAPEX could have executed with proper support, proved costly and unnecessary. The ambitious “108-well program” (2016) faltered almost immediately, as experts had predicted.

In 2019, a 50-well program was approved for completion by 2025. Before meaningful progress materialized, Petrobangla launched another plan for 100 additional wells by 2028. Neither program’s current status justifies optimism.

BAPEX has made modest progress through workovers and recompletions. The Jamalpur-1 discovery in Block 8 is a positive milestone. Additional delineation wells are planned. Sylhet-10 identified crude oil traces, prompting the drilling of Sylhet-12 to assess commercial feasibility.

To unlock Bhola’s potential, Petrobangla plans to drill 19 new wells and develop a dedicated industrial hub. Drilling of four deep wells is ongoing under BGFCL and BAPEX. Parallel seismic surveys are underway. Five BAPEX rigs and three turnkey rigs are currently in operation.

While Petrobangla and EMRD now appear more proactive, concerns persist about institutional capacity and available technical manpower. Exploration carries inherent risks, but Bangladesh has no choice but to pursue aggressive exploration immediately.

To salvage the situation, the drilling campaign must receive top national priority, including:

- Increased budgetary allocations
- Temporary tax exemptions or reductions for Petrobangla
- Fast-track land acquisition for drilling sites
- Special import duty reductions for drilling equipment
- Accelerated hiring of drilling contractors and rigs

Bangladesh cannot afford “dry-hole disasters” caused by inadequate geological data. A credible new PSC bidding round, offshore and onshore, must be launched by early 2026. If 10 exploration rigs (BAPEX and IOCs) can be mobilized by the end of 2026, between 50 and 75 exploration wells could be drilled by 2030.

Political parties preparing for future governance must treat energy security as a core national security priority. A coordinated national mission, free from vested interests, is essential. Petrobangla must re-engage with IOCs to rebuild investor confidence and attract risk capital. **EP**



# COP30 Reaches Crossroads As Finance, Fossil Fuels Stall Progress

Mollah Amzad Hossain

COP30 in Belém has passed its midpoint with negotiations intensifying, tensions rising, and political divisions deepening. After six days of talks, delegates have shifted from opening statements to the heavy lifting of drafting options texts across multiple tracks — mitigation, finance, adaptation, carbon markets, and the Loss and Damage Fund. Despite the flurry of activity, countries remain sharply divided on the core issues of finance and fossil fuel language, raising doubts about whether the summit can deliver a meaningful package before closing.

Outside the conference halls, political pressure is mounting. Indigenous groups, civil society networks, and youth activists have amplified their demands through visible demonstrations, calling for stronger protection of forests, climate justice, and a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels. Their actions have injected urgency into a process that many believe remains too slow and too cautious, given the escalating climate crisis.

Meanwhile, the geopolitical environment surrounding the talks has shifted dramatically. With the United States absent from the summit for the

first time in three decades, China has stepped into the leadership vacuum, projecting influence through high-level diplomacy and showcasing its dominance in renewable energy. This shift has reshaped negotiations and underscored the broader global transition now playing out in Belém.

With draft texts circulating and political consultations set to intensify, the COP30 Presidency is urging countries to move from placeholders to real decisions. The next phase will determine whether Belém becomes a turning point for implementation or another summit marked by deferred ambition.

## Negotiations Stall as Protests Erupt Outside

UN climate negotiations are in full swing in Belém, Brazil. The 12-day summit opened last Monday, and nearly a week later, countries remain deeply divided on key issues — raising doubts about whether a unified agreement is achievable.

Outside the venue, protests are gaining strength. Indigenous groups from across Brazil have staged peaceful demonstrations against corporations



and development projects they accuse of destroying forests and destabilizing the climate. On Friday, the Mundurucu people, who occupy about 24,000 square kilometers in northern Brazil, held a sit-in at the summit's main entrance, demanding a meeting with COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago. Organizers agreed to the request.

"We are the protectors of the climate. We cannot allow the Amazon to be destroyed any further for corporate profit," the Mundurucu said in a statement.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has repeatedly emphasized Indigenous leadership at COP30. However, Indigenous representatives questioned why they were brought to Belém without meaningful roles in negotiations. Environment Minister Marina Silva responded that many of their concerns target domestic policies and must be resolved within Brazil.

Below is a summary of major developments, what draft texts reveal, which side-events shaped the political debate, and how the Presidency is framing the work ahead.

### 1) What's Come Out of Negotiations

- Draft texts circulated: Over recent days, negotiators have produced "zero-draft" and options texts across multiple tracks — mitigation and fossil fuels, Article 6 carbon markets, adaptation and Loss and Damage, and the post-

2025 finance goal. These texts clarify fault lines but remain fully bracketed.

- Fossil fuel language remains the core divide: Vulnerable and developing nations demand explicit "phase-out" language, while several major emitters and fossil fuel producers prefer "phasedown" or softer language tied to carbon capture and technological solutions.
- Finance is the master issue: Options range from several hundred billion to over a trillion dollars annually. Disagreements center on the balance of grants vs. loans, public vs. private flows, and how historical responsibility should shape the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG).

### 2) What the Draft Texts Actually Say

- Mitigation / MWP: The text calls for accelerated action but remains split on "phase-out" versus "phasedown," the definition of "unabated" fossil fuels, and the role of carbon capture. Key sections on timelines and sectoral commitments remain in brackets.
- Article 6 (carbon markets): Informal notes push for stricter integrity rules, transparency, and controls to prevent double counting — but deep disagreements persist over offset quality and flexibility.

- Adaptation & Loss and Damage: Operational rules for the Loss and Damage Fund continue to be debated; vulnerable countries warn that without real capital, the Fund risks being symbolic. The adaptation text adds measurable indicators, but financing arrangements remain unresolved.
- NCQG / Finance: Options include pathways ranging from roughly \$600 billion to more than \$1.3 trillion per year in combined public and private finance. Developing countries are calling for predictable, grant-based public finance and debt relief tools.

### 3) Side-Events that Shifted the Debate

- Climate Finance Reset Dialogues: Discussions on debt relief, new levies (e.g., shipping, aviation, fossil windfall profits), and the role of grants vs. loans placed finance at the center of the political debate, strengthening Global South demands for systemic reform.
- Amazon & Indigenous Forums: Indigenous leaders pushed for stronger recognition of rights and increased finance for forest protection, expanding pressure for Brazil's proposed Tropical Forests Forever Fund.
- Cities, Youth, and Civil Society Events: Subnational leaders

showcased implementation pathways, while youth groups staged actions demanding stronger fossil fuel phase-out language and real adaptation financing.

#### U.S. Absence Leaves a Leadership Void, China Steps in

For the first time in three decades, the United States is missing from the UN's annual climate summit, creating a diplomatic vacuum that China has quickly moved to fill.

At COP30 in Belm, China's expansive and centrally located pavilion dominates the venue entrance. Executives from major Chinese renewable energy firms are presenting their visions for a green future, while Chinese diplomats play an active behind-the-scenes role in steering constructive negotiations. This influence was previously associated with Washington, but the center of gravity appears to have shifted.

Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), described China's rise succinctly: "Where there is a vacuum, water flows. Diplomacy works in much the same way." He added that China's global leadership in renewables and electric vehicles has strengthened its diplomatic standing.

Last year, China's pavilion was modest and primarily academic. This year, its expanded presence alongside Brazil's signals a clear bid for global climate leadership. Speaking at the pavilion, CATL Vice President Meng Xiangfeng urged nations to "advance climate cooperation and build a cleaner, more beautiful world together."

#### 4) COP Presidency: Tone and Public Messaging

COP30 President Andr Corra do Lago has stressed the need to move from rhetoric to delivery, calling for political engagement to close remaining gaps. The Presidency plans to convene ministerial consultations and release consolidated text iterations this week to force political choices.

"We now move from exploration to negotiation. Drafts are on the table. The political choices cannot be delayed any longer," the Presidency stated.

#### 5) What this Means for the Final Phase

- Technical drafts are ready; the battle is political. The next 48–72 hours will determine whether ministers can convert bracketed text into a coherent package.



Meanwhile, the geopolitical environment surrounding the talks has shifted dramatically. With the United States absent from the summit for the first time in three decades, China has stepped into the leadership vacuum, projecting influence through high-level diplomacy and showcasing its dominance in renewable energy. This shift has reshaped negotiations and underscored the broader global transition now playing out in Belm.

- Finance and fossil fuels will shape the outcome. Agreement on a credible, grant-heavy NCQG and a political mandate for a fossil-fuel roadmap could make COP30 a turning point. Failure risks a weak, procedural outcome and further

loss of trust.

- Civil society and Indigenous pressure are significant. Their presence has shaped the narrative and may influence ministerial-level decisions in the coming days.

#### Fossil Fuel Lobbyists Spark Controversy at COP30

A record number of fossil fuel lobbyists, more than 1,600, have registered for COP30, triggering widespread concern. According to the coalition Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO), fossil lobbyists now outnumber nearly every national delegation except Brazil's.

One in every 25 participants at COP30 represents fossil interests, a 12% increase over last year.

KBPO reports that lobbyists received nearly two-thirds more badges than the 10 most climate-vulnerable nations combined. The International Emissions Trading Association alone sent 60 delegates, including staff from ExxonMobil, BP, and TotalEnergies.

Civil society warns that such disproportionate representation risks overshadowing communities most affected by climate impacts.

Brazil has touted COP30 as a turning point for Paris Agreement implementation, but advocates fear the heavy corporate presence could obstruct progress.

#### Concerns over the Summit's Ambition

Brazil has emphasized that COP30 should focus on implementation rather than new pledges. To avoid early conflict, Corra do Lago separated several contentious items, including climate finance and national climate plan gaps, into parallel tracks.

Under the official agenda, negotiators from 195 countries are working to advance adaptation frameworks, measure climate impacts, and strengthen support for vulnerable countries.

Still, several delegates warn that outcomes may fall short of what the moment demands — or that negotiations could collapse.

Andrew Wilson, Deputy Secretary-General for Policy at the International Chamber of Commerce, cautioned, "If we continue at this pace, the outcome will be very weak."

Brazil and others seek to reaffirm COP28's call to transition away from fossil fuels and strengthen that commitment. Whether COP30 can turn that aspiration into implementation remains uncertain. **EP**

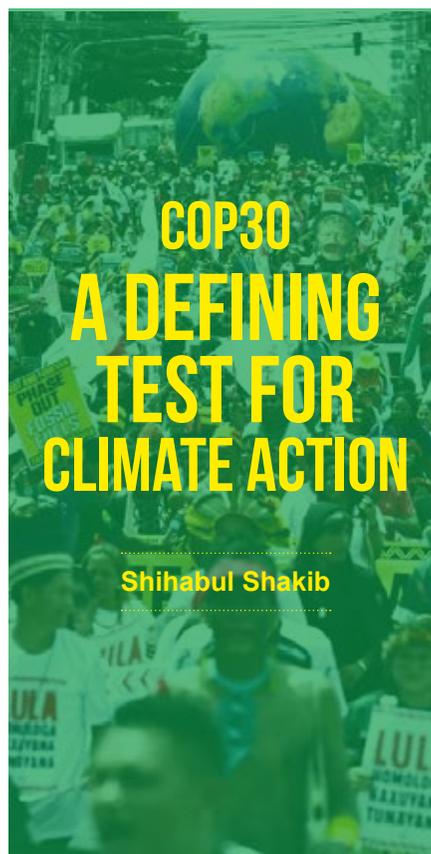


Another Conference of the Parties (COP) is underway—this time in Belém, Brazil. For two weeks, policymakers from around the world will negotiate greenhouse gas mitigation measures to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach. Developing countries are expected to press for the finance they urgently need for both adaptation and mitigation. Expectations are high that developed nations will announce expanded climate-finance commitments, raising the current USD 300 billion pledge agreed at the last COP. There is also hope that a larger share of this finance will come in the form of grants and low-cost loans.

The scale of financing required is immense: an estimated USD 1.3 trillion per year. Yet developed countries have committed to only USD 300 billion annually beginning in 2035 – a promise that falls far short of the immediate needs. The gap between what developing countries expect and what has been promised is wide, and these countries need support now, not years down the line.

Their demands are grounded in reality. Developing nations are already experiencing the harshest climate impacts, with rising temperatures, extreme weather, and economic disruptions accelerating far faster than expected. Globally, time is running out. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has warned that the world is on track to \*temporarily breach\* the 1.5°C limit, meaning even greater efforts will be required to realign with the Paris Agreement.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the backbone of the Paris Agreement, continue to fall short. According to the latest UNFCCC analysis, the updated NDCs (NDC 3.0) submitted by 64 countries remain far off the



trajectory needed to achieve the 1.5°C goal.

As climate impacts worsen, COP30 must deliver results rather than another round of lofty promises. Since the Paris Agreement was signed, nearly every COP has ended with pledges to enhance ambition on mitigation, adaptation, and finance. COP30, widely considered the “implementation COP,” must now translate those commitments into concrete action, particularly from developed countries whose support is

essential for developing nations.

Unfortunately, recent COPs have repeatedly disappointed. Some delegates from developing countries warn that public confidence in the COP process may erode unless tangible progress becomes visible. While renewable energy deployment is accelerating and energy-efficiency improvements offer hope, the scale of action remains far below what is required. The COP30 Presidency has outlined a six-point action agenda covering adaptation, mitigation, forest protection, and finance, offering a clear roadmap. Despite pushback from some countries, the debate over transitioning away from fossil fuels continues, first introduced at COP28 in Dubai. Whether it involves “phaseout” or “phasedown,” a concrete pathway is essential, and COP30 could be the moment to secure one.

Yet history offers reason for cautious optimism. The 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, often seen as a landmark moment in global environmental governance, established the UNFCCC and paved the way for today’s climate negotiations. More than 30 years later, COP30 in the Amazon may once again become a turning point, helping the world confront climate reality and agree on actionable, Paris-aligned measures.

There is also hope in the Paris Agreement itself. Without it, discussions about breaching 1.5°C or the magnitude of necessary finance would not even be possible. The Agreement lays out the global path forward and has guided analyses showing both the scale of investment required and the critical need for support to developing countries. Whether COP30 can mobilize that support and transform commitments into action will determine whether the world can still meet its climate goals. **EP**

# BRASIL COP30 AMAZONIA

BELEM 2025



## Belém's Call For Climate Justice, Global Finance Reset

Afroza Akther Pervin

The summit delivered a clear call: without a fundamental reset in climate finance and stronger commitments from the world's wealthiest economies, the Paris Agreement's core ambition will remain out of reach.

As climate impacts intensify and global politics grow increasingly fractured, leaders gathered in Belém with a single message: the world is running out of time. What was meant to be a moment of shared ambition quickly became a sobering reminder of the widening gulf between scientific reality and political will.

Hosted just days before COP30, the Belém Leaders' Summit sought to revive momentum for climate justice, overhaul the global finance system, and rally support behind the 1.5°C goal. Yet the meeting unfolded under the shadow of absent major emitters and years of unfulfilled financial promises, leaving attendees torn between urgency and frustration.

Even so, the summit delivered a clear call: without a fundamental reset in climate finance and stronger commitments from the world's wealthiest economies, the Paris Agreement's core ambition will remain out of reach.

The Belém Leaders' Summit brought together heads of state, ministers, and global institutions in an urgent appeal for climate justice, financial transformation, and a renewed commitment to the 1.5°C goal. Against the backdrop of rising emissions



**President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil)**

"The Amazon is not a warehouse of resources — it is a temple of life. Protecting it is not Brazil's responsibility alone; it is humanity's responsibility."

"Belém must be remembered as the moment when leaders chose courage over comfort, and solidarity over selfishness."

"If the world wants the Amazon standing, the world must also stand with the Amazon."



The Belém Leaders' Summit brought together heads of state, ministers, and global institutions in an urgent appeal for climate justice, financial transformation, and a renewed commitment to the 1.5°C goal.

and growing geopolitical fragmentation, leaders warned that the future of the Paris Agreement depends on fixing the world's broken climate finance system.

#### **A Summit Framed by Crisis and Opportunity**

Opening the summit, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva called Belém “a turning point for fairness,” urging nations to resist climate denialism and political paralysis.

“The Amazon is not just a forest — it is a warning. Either we act together now or we will fail together,” Lula declared.

Leaders from the Global South pressed wealthy nations to finally deliver long-promised financing. The summit's central theme — a global climate finance reset — dominated discussions, linking mitigation, adaptation, and loss & damage to a broader agenda for debt relief and systemic reform.

#### **Key Financial Announcements and Pledges**

1. Brazil and G20 Proposal for a Global Climate Finance Compact



#### **António Guterres — UN Secretary-General**

“We are living through climate collapse in real time. The world cannot negotiate with physics — we must negotiate with each other.”

“The pathway to 1.5°C is narrowing rapidly, but it is still open if leaders choose action over delay, and cooperation over confrontation.”

“At Belém, we need a breakthrough in finance, ambition, and trust. Without all three, there will be no credible climate future.”



### Ursula von der Leyen — President, European Commission

“Europe came to Belīm to rebuild trust and raise ambition. Climate neutrality is not just an EU vision — it must be a global commitment.”

“We cannot close the ambition gap without closing the finance gap. The European Union is ready to accelerate finance, partnerships, and clean energy investments to keep 1.5°C within reach.”

Supported by France, Kenya, and Barbados, Brazil announced backing for a proposal to:

- Triple multilateral development bank (MDB) climate lending by 2030
- Mobilize USD 500 billion annually in public finance
- Introduce global climate solidarity levies, including aviation and shipping taxes

#### 2. European Union Pledge

The EU committed an additional €8 billion over five years for adaptation and loss & damage, stressing that “public finance must multiply, and private finance must not replace responsibility.”

#### 3. African Leaders’ Demands for Debt Relief

Several African heads of state called for cancellation of “unpayable debt,” arguing that interest payments are choking climate investment and trapping vulnerable economies.

4. Small Island States (AOSIS) Statement  
AOSIS demanded a stand-alone Loss & Damage Fund replenishment mechanism, noting that “current pledges cover less than 1% of the real need.”

#### 5. Latin America Coalition for Forest Protection

Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Congo committed to a joint Amazon–Congo rainforest pact and urged donors to establish a USD 20 billion per year funding window for forests and nature.

### Climate Finance Reset Dialogue: A Central Pillar of the Summit

During the high-level dialogue, leaders

described the global finance system as “structurally failing” and “disconnected from climate reality.”

Economists highlighted that developing countries need USD 3.0 trillion annually by 2030 — far beyond what current commitments provide.

UN Secretary-General Antynio Guterres issued a stark warning: “Delay is death. The planet cannot afford another decade of excuses. Wealthier nations must pay their fair share.”

### Political Significance: High Expectations, Deep Divisions

Despite powerful rhetoric, disagreements over fossil-fuel phaseout timelines, conditional finance, and carbon market rules prevented a unified outcome.

Still, negotiators say the Belīm Leaders’ Summit achieved the following:

- Restored some trust after the collapse of ambition at COP29
- Put finance, justice, and systemic reform at the center of COP30
- Increased pressure to deliver a meaningful New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

Yet it remains unclear whether these signals will translate into binding commitments before the closing plenary.

### Conclusion

Days before COP30 began, Brazil broke with convention by organizing a Leaders’ Summit to galvanize high-level political guidance and secure stronger climate finance commitments, especially to support the 1.5°C goal and mobilize new



### Xie Zhenhua / Senior Chinese Climate Envoy

“China supports a fair global transition where development needs are respected and historical responsibility is acknowledged.”

“Climate action must be cooperative, not coercive. Let Belīm become the place where trust is rebuilt and ambition is shared by all.”



### Carl XVI Gustaf — King of Sweden

“Humanity’s bond with nature is older than any nation. Protecting forests, oceans, and the climate is our moral responsibility to future generations.”

“Science has spoken clearly. Our actions — or inaction — will decide the fate of the planet’s stability.”

contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund. Brazil also sought backing for its USD 10 billion “Tropical Forests Forever Fund (TFFF),” ultimately securing USD 5.6 billion in pledges. However, no new commitments were made for the Loss and Damage Fund.

The absence of heads of state from major global emitters — including the United States, China, Russia, and India, which together account for half of global emissions — cast a deep shadow over the proceedings. Leaders from the Global South stressed that more climate finance is essential to confront escalating impacts, but leaders from the Global North largely pointed to their domestic transition plans without offering new international funding.

Experts say the summit leaned heavily on political messaging while sidelining scientific urgency. Despite repeated IPCC warnings, major historical and emerging emitters continue slow-walking emissions cuts, putting the world off track for net-zero by 2050. Civil society groups underscored these concerns, though wealthy nations paid little heed.

While Brazil invested heavily in climate diplomacy throughout the year, the outcomes of the Leaders’ Summit suggest that this effort has not yet convinced the Global North to meaningfully scale up climate action. As COP30’s negotiations begin, they do so under the long shadow of unmet expectations from Belīm. Whether COP30 can turn political signals into real action will only become clear once the negotiations conclude. **EP**



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# How Sand Mining Is Devouring Bangladesh

Md. Mosharraf Hossain

**A**cross Bangladesh, rivers that once nourished entire communities are now being gouged and gutted for sand. What began as a source of raw construction material has spiralled into an environmental and social disaster. From the banks of the Padma to the Brahmaputra's shifting channels, sand mining – much of it illegal and politically protected – has become one of the country's most destructive industries.

Driven by the construction boom, thousands of dredgers work day and night, tearing into riverbeds and floodplains. The result is not just the deepening of rivers but the deepening of despair. Riverbanks are collapsing, homes are being swallowed, and ecosystems are vanishing. Despite clear laws under the Balu Mohal O Mati Bebosthapona Ain (Sand Fields and Soil Management Act) of 2010, amended in 2023, illegal sand extraction continues unchecked. Weak enforcement, political patronage, and profit-driven greed have made the law more of a formality than a safeguard.

In many cases, sand is extracted from unauthorized sites or in violation of lease terms for designated "Balumohal" (sand estates). Unscientific, aggressive methods like using "Bangla pump dredgers" worsen the ecological damage.

Sand mining is being practiced in Bangladesh, turning the river flow with very bad consequences. Excessive removal of sand may significantly distort the natural equilibrium of a stream channel. By removing sediment from the active channel bed, in-stream sand mines interrupt the continuity of sediment transport through

the river system, disrupting the sediment mass balance in the river downstream and inducing channel adjustments (usually incision) extending considerable distances beyond the extraction site itself. The major effects of sand mining are listed below:

- a) Extraction of bed material in excess of replenishment by transport from upstream causes the bed to lower (degrade) upstream and downstream of the site of removal.
- b) Bed degradation can undermine bridge supports, pipelines, or other structures.
- c) Degradation may change the morphology of the river bed, which constitutes one aspect of the aquatic habitat.
- d) Degradation can deplete the entire depth of bed material, exposing other substrata, which could in turn affect the quality of aquatic habitat.
- e) If a floodplain aquifer drains to the stream, groundwater levels can be lowered as a result of bed degradation.
- f) Lowering of the water table can destroy riparian vegetation.
- g) Flooding is reduced as bed elevations and flood heights decrease, reducing hazard for human occupancy of floodplains and the possibility of damage to engineering works.
- h) The supply of overbank sediments to floodplains is reduced as flood heights decrease.
- i) Rapid bed degradation may induce bank collapse and erosion by increasing the height of banks.
- j) In rivers in which sediments are accumulating on the bed (aggrading) in undisturbed conditions, sand extraction can slow or stop aggradation, thereby

maintaining the channel's capacity to convey flood waters.

- k) The reduction in size or height of bars can cause adjacent banks to erode more rapidly or to stabilize, depending on the amount of sand removed, the distribution of removal, and the geometry of the particular bend.
- l) Removal of sand from bars may cause downstream bars to erode if they subsequently receive less bed material than is carried downstream from them by fluvial transport.

Demand from Bangladesh's construction industry for sand has led to a boom in unregulated and illegal mining from rivers. An estimated 60-70% of the mined sand in the country is assumed to be illegally mined, extracted from rivers nationwide without any environmental or hydrological considerations. Excessive sand mining is destroying the ecology of river systems as well as their biodiversity, and increasing the risk of river erosion. A 2010 law meant to keep sand mining in check has instead allowed the illegal industry to thrive, critics say, thanks to weak punishment, lax enforcement, and the involvement of politically connected players in the business.

As the country's cities and towns grow on the back of solid economic growth over the past three decades, the construction industry has resorted to extracting sand from rivers nationwide. This sand flows into the country year-round through 57 transboundary rivers from India and Myanmar. In all, these waterways carry around 2.4 billion metric tons of sediment, including sand, clay, and silt.

Hotspots of illegal sand mining include districts in the Ganges River Basin and the Meghna River Basin. As a result of the unregulated extraction of sand, Bangladesh's floodplains are sinking deeper, raising the probability of worsening floods and flood damage. And by altering the pattern of riverbeds and coastal areas, sand mining is responsible for causing harm to several species of flora and fauna.

Alongside natural causes, unplanned sand mining is one of the major causes of river erosion in Bangladesh. Extreme mining of sand causes the degradation of rivers and their channels. The mining process creates holes in the bed, which leads to riverbank erosion. In recent years, CEGIS has been monitoring erosion caused by three major rivers in Bangladesh: the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. In 2019, it recorded 725 hectares (1,792 acres) of land swallowed by the Brahmaputra and 1,240 hectares (3,064 acres) lost to the Ganges (the lower stretch of which is known in Bangladesh as the Padma). In 2020, more land was lost to these rain-swollen rivers: 1,120 hectares (2,768 acres) to the Brahmaputra and 1,265 hectares (3,126 acres) to the Ganges. Roads, arable land, schools, health facilities, government and nongovernment establishments stood on this land that had been eroded.

The law permits local governments to declare a particular area a "sand quarry" based on the suggestions of a committee, without specifying the criteria for identifying a quarry. The law also doesn't require miners to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before starting extraction activities. In neighboring India, the government has long required an EIA to be carried out for sand mining, and in 2016 extended that requirement to projects in areas smaller than 5 hectares (12 acres).

Because of the poor legal framework and the massive profits involved, influential people with political connections are increasingly getting into the sand mining business. Their presence makes it difficult and dangerous to speak out, environmental activists say.

Local government officials have been physically assaulted when trying to inspect allegations of illegal mining, as have journalists investigating the issue, according to local media. In 2012, three people were detained in a fabricated lawsuit filed by a sand mining company, according to a report by the Asian Human Rights Commission.

To get rid of the vicious circle of the continued unholy alliances in the sand mining industry, a new procedure for sand mining in Bangladesh should be evolved, replacing the present mafia-oriented, inefficient system. Sand is a substance consisting of different minerals

and transformed to the present status after a long and arduous riverine journey from the places of origin to the rivers in Bangladesh. Sand is a mineral-oriented subject, and globally, it's regulated under the mining regulations. In Bangladesh, mining of sand has been a subject under the mining-related department, but sometimes back in the past, the issues have been taken over by the district administration. It has been an unfortunate decision because with the involvement of the regulatory persons not accustomed to the technical aspects of the sand deposits, its characteristics, and other inherent properties, the opportunist's quarters can easily deceive the regulatory agencies and take advantage of the loopholes and go scot-free even after violating the set rules for sand mining, causing immense losses to the country. The present *modus operandi* of awarding sand blocks as Balu Mahal, along with auto-selecting local goons for mining sand with impoverished manpower, boats, dredgers, bulkheads, and associated unscientific equipment, needs to be abolished, and a new mechanism for sand mining needs to be established.

Mining is a controlled subject globally. In Bangladesh, also, special provisions are applied while awarding any block of land for mineral exploration and its subsequent development. Petrobangla is the State-Owned Enterprise that is legally responsible for any mining activity in the country. Petro Bangla has been conducting mining operations for Peat, Limestone, Coal, China Clay, White Clay, Silica Sand, Granite, etc. for a long and they have adequately trained Geologists, Mining and other related engineers and technicians, as well as established MoUs for foreign collaboration for conducting exploration and development of minerals in Bangladesh. Now, as it is being recommended that the mining operation for riverine sand in the rivers in Bangladesh be conducted by a specialized agency other than the incumbents, it is strongly recommended that Petrobangla should be selected as the Mining Operator for sand mining in Bangladesh.

Petrobangla should have a separate Sand Mining Division in the establishment which would be solely responsible for sand mining operation using the Placer Mining process and equip itself with necessary educated, trained and experienced manpower with the specialized machinery and equipment to conduct operations in the riverine atmosphere of Bangladesh as well as organize on land storage and distribution of sand at the consumers level at different locations of the country. Petrobangla may have foreign collaboration with any sources that have strong placer mining experiences

so that the best utilization of the resources in the country is ensured.

At the same time, the Geological survey of Bangladesh along with Bureau of Minerals Development need to be more attentive to the subject of deposition of sand in Bangladesh and organize a Specialists Center to work with the water and river experts in Bangladesh especially with the relevant departments in Inland Water Transport Authority, River Research Institute, Institute of Water Management and BUET so that the trend and behavior of riverine water flow with special reference to sedimentation of sand in Bangladesh are closely monitored and location of sand deposits are carefully observed with a view to identify the new sand blocks which could be mined in future.

Not only are the rivers and their ecosystems damaged due to illegal sand mining, but thousands of people also lose their land and homes due to river erosion every year. This process of killing the rivers and pauperizing the rural population, while supplying sand for housing and infrastructure construction for the urban people, must be stopped immediately. It is not enough to seize the dredger machines and fine the sand lifters through occasional mobile court drives. Those who extract sand illegally and their political patronizers must be punished as well. If sand is mined illegally from any river, officials of the concerned local administration should be accountable.

To curb illegal sand mining in Bangladesh, suggestions include strengthening laws and enforcement, eliminating political influence, promoting sustainable alternatives, increasing public awareness, and improving monitoring and accountability. A combination of these strategies is needed to address the issue effectively.

Amendments to the Mines and Minerals Rules and the Sand Basin and Soil Management Act could address loopholes, such as vague criteria for identifying quarries and a lack of environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Stricter regulations on licensed miners are also needed to prevent extraction outside of designated areas.

Illegal sand extraction has emerged as one of the gravest forms of environmental plunder in recent years, and recent reports reveal the sheer scale of this destructive trade. This reflects deep-rooted collusion and a failure of governance and reveals not isolated lawlessness but an entrenched and lucrative black economy sustained by political muscle and administrative compromise. These practices must be stopped earliest. **EP**

**Md. Mosharraf Hossain**  
Former Chairman, BERC



# Powering The Promise | Energy Pledges For Political Parties

Saleque Sufi

**A clear vision is needed for harnessing the country's own fuel resources using modern, environmentally sound technologies. A diversified and affordable fuel mix should guide the nation's transition toward clean energy. Given Bangladesh's current realities, the transition to renewables must be gradual and pragmatic.**

The race to Bangladesh's next general election has already begun, with political parties gearing up for February 2026. As campaign promises take shape, one issue stands out as critical to the nation's future – energy security. Bangladesh's long-term economic growth and development goals are now under serious threat from an increasingly fragile energy supply chain. Misguided policies, bureaucratic inefficiency, and short-sighted strategies have left the country facing power overcapacity, a severe fuel shortage, and heavy dependence on expensive imports.

The consequences are already visible: industries are struggling to operate, foreign and local investment has slowed to a crawl, and many small and medium enterprises have shut down. Unemployment is rising, export earnings are shrinking, and confidence in the country's economic resilience is waning. Any political party hoping to lead the nation must present a credible, realistic, and time-bound energy policy that can restore stability and growth.

### **Energy and Power Must Be Treated as Strategic Sectors**

For a developing economy like Bangladesh, energy and power are not just utility services—they are strategic assets. All political parties must commit to a unified and transparent master plan for the energy and power sectors, complete

with an implementation roadmap that ensures consistency and investor confidence.

A clear vision is needed for harnessing the country's own fuel resources using modern, environmentally sound technologies. A diversified and affordable fuel mix should guide the nation's transition toward clean energy. Given Bangladesh's current realities, the transition to renewables must be gradual and pragmatic. The country can continue to use natural gas and coal responsibly while progressively investing in renewable and cleaner energy alternatives.

### **Urgent Priority: Harness Domestic Fuel Resources**

It is alarming that despite an ongoing energy crisis, Bangladesh has yet to make a decisive move to utilize its known coal reserves. While there are genuine concerns about environmental and social impacts, modern technologies exist to manage these challenges effectively. The next government must make a political decision early in its tenure to begin mining coal and setting up domestic coal-based power plants.

At the same time, exploration for petroleum resources must accelerate. The government should launch production sharing contract (PSC) bidding for offshore and onshore blocks within six months of taking office. Swift action is also needed



**Bangladesh is at a crossroads. Between 2026 and 2030, the nation could face an even deeper energy crisis if decisive actions are not taken now. There are no quick fixes—but there is a way forward. Energy efficiency, transparency, and responsible resource management must become national priorities.**

to evacuate gas from Bhola Island to the national grid and resume exploration at Tengratilla and Chattak. Drilling in the Chittagong Hill Tracts should also begin by 2026, with at least 10 exploration rigs from BAPEX and international oil companies in operation by that time.

On the renewable front, Bangladesh must take bold steps. A dedicated agency—akin to Petrobangla or BPDB—should be tasked with implementing large-scale solar programs. Rooftop solar alone could add 2,000–3,000 MW within three years if properly managed. With transparent policies and incentives, grid-connected solar and battery systems could realistically contribute up to 5,000 MW by 2030.

#### **Stop Wasting Time on Political Witch Hunts**

Future governments must avoid wasting energy on revisiting or canceling past contracts. Agreements signed by sovereign governments cannot be undone at will. While it may be appropriate to renegotiate tariffs or capacity charges where necessary, the focus should be on structural reform—especially transitioning away from the BPDB’s single-buyer model.

New power plants should have the option to sell directly to end-users, paying transmission and distribution tolls

to the relevant utilities. This shift would bring competition, efficiency, and much-needed transparency to the sector.

#### **Reassess Power Demand and Complete Ongoing Projects**

It remains unclear why Bangladesh needed to expand power generation capacity to over 30,000 MW when actual peak demand never exceeded 16,000 MW. Overestimation has led to massive capacity payments despite fuel shortages limiting actual generation. The next government must take difficult but necessary steps: decommission inefficient power plants, supply gas only to fuel-efficient ones, and phase out domestic gas connections, replacing them with LPG.

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project must be completed without delay, and imported coal-based plants at Payra, Rampal, Matarbari, and Anwara must ensure an uninterrupted coal supply. The government must also fast-track contracts for new Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs), resolve pending disputes (including with Summit Group) amicably, and accelerate work on the Matarbari land-based LNG terminal.

#### **Reform Governance and Strengthen Institutions**

The governance of the power and energy sectors requires a paradigm shift. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division

(EMRD) and Power Division should focus solely on policymaking and oversight, leaving operations to state-owned enterprises (SOEs) under the independent regulation of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

These institutions must be managed by professionals with the right expertise. SOEs should have the autonomy provided under company law, free from bureaucratic and political interference. Bangladesh must also take steps to retain its skilled engineers and energy professionals through better incentives and career opportunities, especially as the global energy landscape moves toward AI, blockchain, and smart technologies. **EP**

**Conclusion**

Bangladesh is at a crossroads. Between 2026 and 2030, the nation could face an even deeper energy crisis if decisive actions are not taken now. There are no quick fixes—but there is a way forward. Energy efficiency, transparency, and responsible resource management must become national priorities.

The next government must act boldly to eliminate theft and pilferage disguised as “system loss,” enforce accountability, and optimize every unit of energy produced. Energy is not just an economic issue – it is a national security concern. Bangladesh cannot afford another decade of policy paralysis.

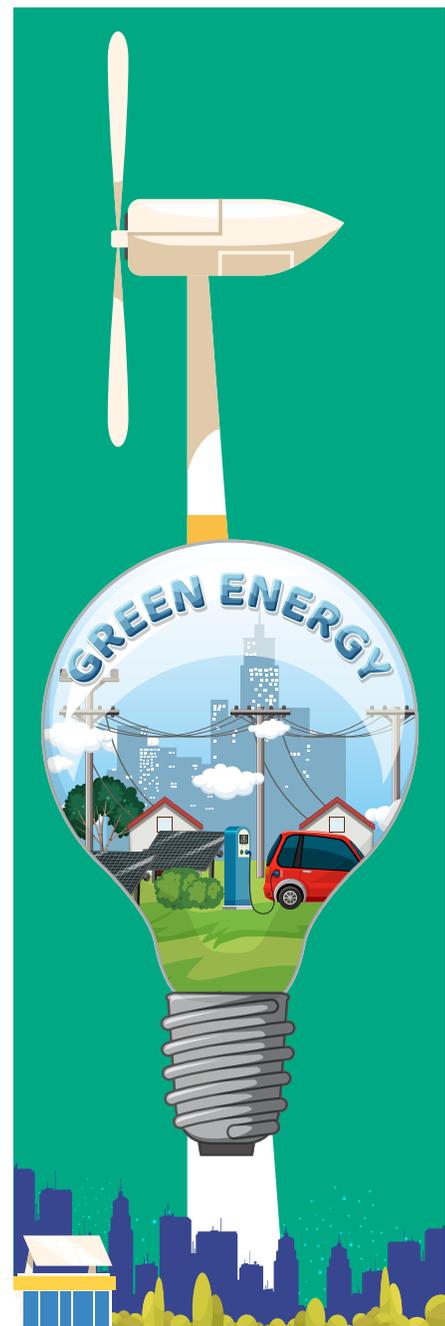
**Key Priorities for the Next Government:**

- Follow the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) with discipline.
- Launch PSC bidding for onshore and offshore petroleum exploration.



- Strongly support BAPEX’s exploration and development of 50–100 new wells.
- Expedite gas evacuation from Bhola to the national grid and start drilling in CHT, Chattak, and Tengratilla.
- Complete the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant on schedule.
- Ensure imported coal-based plants have an uninterrupted coal supply.
- Establish a state-owned agency dedicated to renewable energy development.
- Allow BERC to function independently, free from interference.
- Finally, make domestic coal mining a top national priority.

If these steps are taken decisively, Bangladesh can move toward true energy independence – fueling its industries, empowering its people, and securing a sustainable future.



**BREAKING  
BOUNDARIES**

# TOUCHING THE LIVES OF MILLIONS

# Mgi

*Meghna Group of Industries*



**Fresh**



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**Actifit**





# Green page

## BRAC Bank, IDCOL Finance \$67m Syndicated Loan to BCRECL for Solar Power Plant

BRAC Bank PLC and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) have jointly financed a landmark renewable energy initiative, a 64.55 MW solar power plant, operated by Bangladesh China Renewable Energy Company Limited (BCRECL).



A ceremony was held on November 6 in Dhaka to celebrate the financial closure of the USD 67 million Syndicated Term Loan Facility for the project.

BRAC Bank PLC and IDCOL contributed USD 22 million and USD 45 million respectively in debt financing, underscoring their commitment to driving Bangladesh's clean energy transition.

The large-scale solar plant, located in Pabna, has already commenced supplying clean electricity to the national grid, helping the country make a stride toward transition to renewable energy for sustainable growth.

Bangladesh China Renewable Energy Company Limited is a joint venture between North-West Power Generation Company Limited (NWPGL) and China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation (CMC). BCRECL operates a number of solar power plants in Bangladesh.

## Green, Sustainable Financing Down in Q2 of 2025

Bangladesh's banks and finance companies (FCs) witnessed a notable slowdown in both green-and sustainable-finance disbursements during the April-June 2025 period, reflecting weaker momentum in environment-friendly and socially responsible lending compared to the previous quarter.



According to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank (BB), the total distribution in green finance by banks and FCs stood at Tk 78.49 billion in this period, down from Tk 87.63 billion in the January-March quarter, marking a decrease of 10.43 per cent.

Similarly, the total disbursement in sustainable finance by banks and FCs reached Tk 1.41 trillion in the said period, down from Tk 1.50 trillion in the preceding quarter, witnessing a decline of 6.0 per cent.

A total of 43 banks out of 61 and 10 FCs out of 34 had exposure in green finance in the reporting quarter.

## 220MW Sonagazi Solar Plant to Get Tk 2.46b Cost Cut Ahead of Approval

The cost of the proposed 220-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant in Sonagazi, Feni, is set to be reduced by Tk 2.46 billion before final approval, following recommendations from a recent meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) of the Planning Commission, officials said.

The Power Division has revised the project proposal, lowering the estimated cost to Tk 18.88 billion from the earlier projection of Tk 21.34 billion, mainly after reassessing global market prices of PV modules and inverters.

The project, to be implemented by the Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB), will receive Tk 16.24 billion in loan support from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).



Of the total cost, the government will provide Tk 1.48 billion, while Tk 1.17 billion will come from EGCB's own funds, according to the proposal.

"We have received the new proposal with a lower cost from the Power Division and will assess it to accelerate the approval process," said a senior official of the Industry and Energy Division of the Planning Commission.

## Akij Renewable Energy and Automobiles Exhibit EV, Clean Energy Solutions at BEVMX 2025



Akij Renewable Energy and Automobiles, the automotive strategic business unit of Akij Venture Group, participated at the Bangladesh Electric Vehicle & Mobility Exhibition 2025 (BEVMX, 2nd Edition), on November 6–8 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

The company's exhibit featured a comprehensive lineup of sustainable mobility and energy technologies that highlight Bangladesh's growing role in the global clean-tech landscape.

Akij presented advanced lithium battery

systems, electric four-wheelers and commercial trucks, smart charging and battery swapping stations, electric three-wheeler trucks and Mishuks, two-wheeler EVs, home energy storage systems, and solar-powered solutions, including solar blinds, solar glass, and solar panels

From roads to rooftops, Akij aims to empower every journey and home with intelligent, sustainable energy. By integrating renewable power with next-generation mobility, the company envisions a future that is clean, efficient, and proudly engineered in Bangladesh.

## Record 36 Factories Earn LEED Certification in a Year

Major Solar Power Plant to Replace Coal-Based One at Matarbari

A major 430-megawatt grid-tied solar-power plant is being established at Matarbari in Cox's Bazar instead of planned coal-fired facilities at the seaside transport-economic hub.

Officials say Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL) has decided to conduct detailed feasibility study, including environmental-and social-impact assessment for the proposed power project.

The site land was once selected for setting up coal-fired power plants and later the government rescinded the plan. Now the land will be used for generation of clean energy in line with government efforts to enhance green power's share



in the country's energy mix.

Under the Renewable Energy Policy 2025, the government has set a target to meet 20 per cent of the total electricity demand of the country from renewable sources by 2030 and 30 per cent by 2040.

Officials say around 1,200 to 1,300 acres of land will be needed to set up the power plant, which the CPGCBL already possesses in the area.



## Walton Installs 1MW Floating Solar Power Plant in Gazipur

Aligning with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), country's superbrand and tech-giant Walton has emphasized on initiating sustainable green and renewable energy initiatives.

As a part of its green initiatives, Walton installed one megawatt capacity's country's largest floating solar power plant at its headquarters at Chandra in Gazipur, says a press release.



Walton has marked a new milestone for a greener tomorrow through sustainable and renewable energy in the country's industrial sector.

Mostafizur Rahman Razu, head of Walton's Environment, Health and Safety Department, said, Walton's floating solar power plant has set an example in ensuring sustainable industrial development.

Through implementing floating solar project, Walton is not only generating electricity but also marking a remarkable contribution in fish farming, land conservation, reduced water evaporation and environment protection.

After the electricity consumption at Walton factory, the excess electricity generated from floating solar plant are added to the national grid through net metering system.

## IDCOL, ABA Group Join Forces for Sustainable Manufacturing in Bangladesh

In a significant move towards fostering sustainable industrial growth, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) and ABA Group have formed a strategic partnership to boost energy efficiency, water management, and environmental standards within ABA Group's manufacturing operations.



The collaboration, celebrated at a ceremony at the Sheraton Dhaka and attended by senior leadership from both entities, builds upon their successful history of engagement through IDCOL's Energy Efficiency window and Biogas Program. This enhanced alliance is dedicated to expediting the adoption of advanced energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy solutions, particularly within the ready-made garments (RMG) sector.

Known for pioneering sustainable apparel manufacturing by establishing Bangladesh's first LEED Platinum factory, ABA Group now operates multiple LEED-certified facilities and has implemented cutting-edge systems for water reuse, wastewater treatment, and energy optimization.

With tailored financing and advisory support from IDCOL, the Group is poised to further diminish its carbon footprint and establish new benchmarks for responsible manufacturing.

## Atlas Bangladesh Launches 4 Types of Electric Scooters



Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan has said the eco-friendly Atlas Electric Scooter represents a commitment to building green, clean, and sustainable cities.

He noted that these scooters would play a significant role in providing affordable and convenient transportation for young people and the commoners.

"This innovation will reduce our dependence on fuel, save foreign currency, and help protect the environment by cutting carbon

emissions," he added.

The Industries Adviser made these remarks recently while inaugurating the marketing program of Atlas Electric Motorcycles at the factory premises of Atlas Bangladesh Ltd in Tongi, Gazipur.

Industries Secretary Md. Obaidur Rahman, BSEC Chairman Md. Anwarul Alam and Professor Mohammad Ridwanul Haque were present, among others, said an Industries Ministry press release.



## ADB, Partners Sign Deal to Build Landmark Solar with Battery Power Plants in Uzbekistan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), together with ACWA Power Company, Sumitomo Corporation, Chubu Electric Power Co. Inc., and Shikoku Electric Power Co. Inc., has signed a landmark financing package to build two utility-scale solar power plants with battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Uzbekistan.

The Samarkand 1 and 2 Solar PV and BESS Projects will be developed across the Samarkand and Bukhara regions of the country.



"ADB is pleased to support Uzbekistan in advancing one of the most significant renewable energy initiatives in Central Asia," said ADB President Masato Kanda.

The projects will add 1,000 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity and about 1,336 megawatt-hours (MWh) of BESS. They will also include transmission lines and two new substations to strengthen grid stability and connectivity.

Once operational, the projects are expected to supply clean electricity to around 600,000 households and offset about 1.3 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

ADB arranged a \$140 million financing package, comprising \$70 million from its ordinary capital resources, \$10 million from the ADB-administered Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2 (LEAP 2), and \$60 million in syndicated loans with ADB as the lender of record.



# পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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

## মানসম্পন্ন বিদ্যুৎ নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে দেশের সকল মানুষের নিকট পৌঁছে দেয়াই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

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



## Body Flags Irregularities in AL-Era Power Deals



Power, energy and mineral resources adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan recently said that the national review committee found 'massive irregularities' in deals including ones with foreign companies by the past regime under Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010.

'Although the law was intended as a temporary measure, it became a recurring mechanism, opening the door to repeated misuse and lack of transparency,' he told reporters after receiving the report of the National Review Committee headed by a retired High Court judge.

The adviser added that the interim government decided in 2024 not to use this act any further due to growing concerns over irregularities.

Retired High Court Division judge Moinul Islam Chowdhury, who led the committee, said that they submitted the 'interim report' to the adviser and expected to submit the final report in January.

He said the committee found 'massive governance failure and massive corruption' in energy sector while there were gross irregularities in particularly signing the quick rental deals.

## Summit Meghnaghat Repays \$190m in Foreign Loans Repaid

Summit Meghnaghat Power Company Limited (SMPCL), a subsidiary of Summit Power International, has successfully repaid its entire syndicated foreign project loan of \$190 million to a consortium of international lenders.



The full repayment, completed by 15 October, without any delay since the plant's commissioning, has been hailed by Summit as a major milestone that enhances Bangladesh's reputation as a reliable global partner in infrastructure finance.

The syndicated long-term loan was financed by a group of leading international Development Finance

Institutions (DFIs), including Standard Chartered Bank (UK), DEG (Germany), FMO (Netherlands), OPEC Fund for International Development (Austria), and British International Investment (UK), along with Bangladesh's Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL).

The facility was contracted at interest rates ranging from 7.28% to 7.58%.

## Sinopec Set to Drill Five New Gas Wells in Bhola

China's state-owned oil- and gas-exploration-company Sinopec is poised to secure a contract to drill five new gas wells on gas-rich Bhola island, as Bangladesh moves to ramp up domestic production of the fuel amid mounting energy demand.



Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (BAPEX), a subsidiary of Petrobangla, has selected the company following competitive bidding, and the official signing is expected soon, a senior Petrobangla official said.

Under the agreement, Sinopec will carry out drilling works worth around Tk 11 billion, to be completed within 600 days

of signing. The project includes four development wells -- Shahbazpur-5, Shahbazpur-7, Bhola North-3, and Bhola North-4 -- and one exploratory well, Shahbazpur North-East-1.

These wells will be drilled to depths of 3,500-3,600 meters, according to project documents. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has already approved the five-well-drilling initiative as part of the government's broader effort to boost local gas output and meet rising national energy demand.

## ACC to launch full audit into Adani power deal 'irregularities'



The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is set to carry out a full audit of the power import deal with India's Adani Group, alongside its ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the contract.

A new three-member committee has been formed to examine both the audit and the inquiry.

The team is led by ACC Deputy Director Al Amin, with Deputy Director Muhammad Zainul Abedin and Assistant

Director Mahmudul Hasan as members.

The national anti-graft agency's spokesperson Md Akhtarul Islam confirmed the formation of the committee.

During the tenure of the now-ousted Awami League government, Adani Group reportedly benefited from duty and tax exemptions, resulting in alleged revenue losses amounting to Tk 45 billion.

An earlier ACC team had already been investigating the claims.

## Power Grid Trims Losses by 54pc on Higher Revenue, stable forex

Power Grid has shown signs of recovery, with year-on-year losses falling by as much as 54 per cent to Tk 2.10 billion in FY25, supported by higher revenue and favorable foreign exchange rates.

Consequently, the power transmission company cut its losses to Tk 2.30 per share in FY25, compared to a loss of Tk 6.69 (restated) per share in the previous year, according to price-sensitive information published recently.

The board of directors, however, declared no dividend for the year as retained earnings remained negative.

Favorable foreign exchange rates, due to relative stability in the forex market over the previous year, helped the company narrow its losses, said Power Grid in its earnings note.

Foreign exchange fluctuations had previously caused substantial losses for the company.



Power Grid has a significant amount of foreign loans taken for various development projects, which must be repaid in US dollars.

The profit or loss has been calculated based on the exchange rates of the US dollar and the euro on the last day of the quarter or financial year.

Although Power Grid's term loans rose 10 per cent year-on-year to Tk 548 billion, its long-term interest-bearing debts fell by 50 per cent to Tk 3.48 billion in the nine months through March this year.

## Exchange Rate Adjustment Pushes RNPP Cost Up by Tk13,386cr



The depreciation of taka against the US dollar has pushed the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project's cost up by Tk13,386 crore (11.84%), raising the total to Tk126,479 crore, the first revised proposal shows.

The initial 2016 proposal had an estimated cost of Tk113,093 crore.

Although the \$11.38 billion Russian loan for the project

remains unchanged in dollar terms, its value in Bangladeshi taka has risen to Tk104,004 crore from Tk91,040 crore in the original plan, an increase of Tk12,964 crore due solely to exchange rate adjustments.

According to the revised proposal, \$8.29 billion of the project allocation has been utilised up to June 2025 at an exchange rate of \$1 = Tk80. The remaining \$3.09 billion for the next three years is estimated at \$1 = Tk122, as declared by the Bangladesh Bank on 12 October 2025.

Meanwhile, the government's contribution in the original proposal was Tk22,053 crore, which has now increased slightly to Tk22,475 crore in the revised plan.

## 340 Eco-Friendly Buses for BRTC Soon: Moinuddin



Sheik Moinuddin, special assistant to the chief adviser, said that the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation was preparing to commence the procurement process for 340 new single decker CNG-powered air-conditioned buses soon.

This project aims to mitigate the transportation crisis within Dhaka city and across the country while promoting eco-friendly transportation.

The initiative involves a

project cost of approximately Tk 1,133.46 crore. Funding is derived from two key sources, the government of Bangladesh, contributing Tk 304.83 crore, and a loan from the economic development cooperation fund of South Korea, covering Tk 828.63 crore.

BRTC officials anticipated that an international tender would be called within one month, with the entire procurement scheduled for completion by December 2027.

## 9 LNG Cargos Received in Oct to Meet Growing Energy Demand



The government has received nine cargoes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) having around 2.88 crore MMBTU in October to meet the growing energy demand in the country, an official said.

"We are importing LNG regularly under long-term, short-term agreements as well as from spot markets to meet the increasing energy demand," said General Manager (LNG) of Rupantarita

Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL) Engineer Md Shah Alam.

He said the government received 10 cargoes of LNG having 3.20 crore MMBTU in September and 11 cargoes with around 3.65 crore MMBTU in August to ensure the country's energy security.

On average, each cargo contained around 32 lakh MMBTU of LNG, Alam added.

## GTCL Brings Gas System Loss Less Than 1.25pc in 2025

With relentless efforts, the state run Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) has brought down gas system loss to below 1.25 percent from 2.03 percent.

“In the fiscal year 2022–2023, the GTCL’s system loss/technical discrepancy was approximately 3.00 percent, which has now come down to below 1.25 percent,” said a Petrobangla official.

He said with effective measures to reduce technical difference between gas intake and off take in GTCL’s transmission lines, the system loss/technical difference has stood at 0.83 percent and 1.25 percent in July and August



respectively this year.

According to GTCL, the gas transmission company carried out calibration and configuration of metering systems, which was installed at intake and off take points and verified their accuracy with connecting EVCs to turbine meters.

## Massive Russian Attack Hits Ukraine Energy infrastructure: Kyiv



A massive Russian attack hit Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, prompting power cuts in several regions, Kyiv’s energy minister said recently.

Moscow has in recent months escalated its attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine, damaging natural gas facilities which produce the main fuel for heating in the country.

Experts have said Ukraine risks heating outages ahead of

the winter months.

“The enemy is massively attacking Ukraine’s energy infrastructure again. Because of this, emergency power outages have been introduced in a number of regions of Ukraine,” minister Svitlana Grynychuk wrote on social media, without specifying where.

“Emergency power outages will be canceled after the situation in the energy system stabilizes,” she said.

## WEC Announces Chair for World Energy Congress 2026

With under one year until the 27th World Energy Congress, the World Energy Council is pleased to announce that Dr Naif Alabbadi has been elected to the Council’s Board as the Chair for World Energy Congress 2026.



Dr Alabbadi is a senior representative in the Saudi Ministry of Energy, currently serving as Advisor for Electricity Affairs to the Minister of Energy, His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud.

With more than 30 years of expertise in the energy sector and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Iowa, Dr. Alabbadi, in his capacity as Chair, will represent the World Energy Council and the Ministry of Energy of Saudi

Arabia as co-hosts of this milestone global event.

Taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 12-15 October 2026, World Energy Congress 2026 will bring together over 18,000 international leaders, CEOs and innovators and more than 100 ministers to bridge geographies and generations, sectors and societies, in what is the only truly global energy event in the world, with a focus on accelerating practical solutions for a future of more secure, sustainable and equitable energy for all.

## EnDev Bangladesh Marks 16 Years of Advancing Energy Access

The Energising Development (EnDev) program, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, recently hosted a “Knowledge Dissemination Workshop on EnDev’s 16-Year Journey”.

The event brought together government officials, private sector representatives, development partners, NGOs, and academia to celebrate EnDev Bangladesh’s long-standing contribution to expanding access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy.

Since its inception in



2009, EnDev Bangladesh, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR), has reached over four million people across the country with modern energy solutions.

The program’s interventions have improved energy access for rural, peri-urban, and underserved communities, contributing significantly to Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy.

## UN Officials Visit Climate-Affected Communities in Khulna



Ahead of the upcoming Climate Conference COP30, UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller and UNDP Bangladesh's Goodwill Ambassador Jaya Ahsan visited Dacope, Khulna recently to witness firsthand how climate change is transforming lives in Bangladesh's coastal regions.

The visit aimed to understand the real impacts of climate change and highlight how local communities are rebuilding their lives through adaptive livelihood practices and community-led resilience initiatives.

The message of the visit was clear, the world must act urgently to protect the most

vulnerable and strengthen adaptation measures in climate-affected countries like Bangladesh, said an UNDP press release today.

During the visit, the delegation observed the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) project, implemented by UNDP and UNCDF with support from the Government of Bangladesh, Sweden, and Denmark.

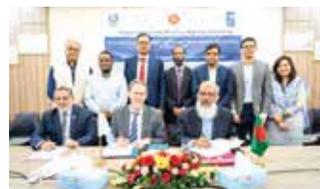
The project plays a vital role in enhancing the resilience of climate-vulnerable populations, especially women by strengthening local governance and supporting community-driven adaptation actions.

## Govt, UNDP Team Up for Low-Carbon Urban Dev

The government of Bangladesh, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, launched a new project recently to promote low-carbon urban development in Dhaka, Chattogram, and other major cities.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the initiative aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainable urban growth through greater investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste-to-energy solutions.

The five-year initiative titled 'Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban



Development in Bangladesh' will be executed by the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, said a press release. Launched ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, the signing ceremony took place at the Economic Relations Division conference room in Dhaka.

## South Asia Must Unite for Climate Resilience: Rizwana

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has called upon South Asian nations to rebuild trust, strengthen regional connectivity and pursue joint action as global disorder becomes the new reality.



She stressed that the region must act collectively to confront shared crises such as air and plastic pollution, water insecurity and escalating climate disasters.

The Environment Adviser made the call while addressing the opening plenary titled 'Sustainable Development in the Emerging World Disorder' as guest of honor at the

SDPI Annual Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan recently, said a release.

"Environmental protection and development are not alternatives. Sustainability must be at the heart of our future," she said, urging regional cooperation on river governance, equitable water-sharing, and plastic waste management.

## NGOs Warn 28 'Carbon Bomb' Projects Launched Since 2021



Some 28 so-called carbon bomb fossil fuel extraction projects have begun operating since 2021 despite their catastrophic climate impact, a group of NGOs warned recently.

Carbon bombs were defined in a 2022 research article as oil, gas or coal facilities capable of generating more than a billion tons of CO2 each over their lifetime. The authors at the time counted 425 of these projects worldwide.

The year 2021 is significant because that is when the International Energy Agency said launching new oil and

gas projects was incompatible with reaching climate targets set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Two years later at COP28, countries around the world agreed to begin a phase-out of fossil fuels.

The NGOs making the latest count are Lingo, Data for Good, Reclaim Finance, and Eclaircies.

They say some 365 projects are still producing more than one billion tonnes, with the different count due to operations that have either cut their output or been re-evaluated.

## Embezzlement of Tk2,000cr from Climate Fund

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftikharuzzaman has said more than 50 per cent of losses in projects under the government's climate change fund involve political connections.

The nature and scale of irregularities in this sector show it has emerged as a specialized area of corruption facilitated by political collusion.

Various stakeholders, including the chairman and members of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) board, politically influential groups, some implementing officials, and contractors or executing agencies, have abused power and engaged in illegal transactions, taking corruption to new heights.

Over Tk2,000 crore has been embezzled through irregularities and corruption in this fund, said Dr Iftikharuzzaman.



He made the remarks at a recent press conference in Dhaka. TIB's Advisor and Executive Management Professor Dr Sumaiya Khair and Research and Policy Department Director Muhammad Badiuzzaman attended the event.

Senior Research Fellow Md Mahfuzul Haq and Research Associate Md Sahidul Islam presented a research report titled "Challenges and solutions for governance in climate finance in Bangladesh", moderated by Outreach and Communication Department Director Mohammad Touhidul Islam.

## UN Says Refugees Stuck in Vicious Cycle of Conflict and Climate

Millions of refugees are trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict and climate extremes, the United Nations said recently, urging the COP30 summit to provide financing for the most vulnerable.

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said that within 15 years, the places currently hosting nearly half the world's refugees could be facing extreme exposure to climate-related shocks.

"Climate change is not only amplifying existing vulnerabilities -- it is also fuelling displacement trends, creating complex and compounding risks for refugees... leaving many with no escape from its impacts," it said in a report.

It said climate shocks were increasing humanitarian



needs and amplifying the risks of repeated displacement.

UNHCR said that by mid-2025, 117 million people had been displaced by war, violence and persecution.

Of those, three in four are living in countries facing high-to-extreme exposure to climate-related hazards, it said.

It added that over the past 10 years, weather-related disasters had caused around 250 million internal displacements within countries.

## Denmark Inaugurates Rare Low-Carbon Hydrogen Plant



Denmark inaugurated one of Europe's few low-carbon hydrogen plants recently, a sector touted as a key to cleaner energy but plagued with challenges.

Using eight electrolyzers powered by solar and wind energy, the HySynergy project will produce around eight tonnes of hydrogen a day in its first phase, to be transported to a nearby refinery and to Germany.

Hydrogen has been touted

as a potential energy game-changer that could decarbonize industry and heavy transport.

Unlike fossil fuels, which emit planet-warming carbon, hydrogen simply produces water vapor when burned.

But producing so-called "green hydrogen" remains a challenge, and the sector is still struggling to take off in Europe, with a multitude of projects abandoned or delayed.

## New NDCs Narrow Emissions Gap, But Gap Remains Large: UNEP Report

The Emissions Gap Report 2025 finds that global warming projections over this century are 2.3-2.5°C, down from 2.6-2.8°C last year.

The report argues action and leadership by the Group of 20 (G20) will be pivotal in narrowing the emissions gap.

Ahead of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30), the UN Environment Program (UNEP) published its annual report that tracks the gap between the actual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and where they ought to be to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The Emissions Gap Report 2025 finds that global warming projections over



this century are 2.3-2.5°C, down from 2.6-2.8°C last year. Implementation of current policies only would translate to 2.8°C of warming, compared to 3.1°C last year.

The report is titled, 'Off Target: Continued Collective Inaction Puts Global Temperature Goal at Risk.' It highlights that while ambition and implementation continue to fall short of what is needed, every fraction of a degree matters.

## Oxfam Launches Loss and Damage Dashboard to Highlight Climate Impacts

Oxfam has launched a Loss and Damage Dashboard, an interactive digital platform that enables communities to report climate-related losses.

Piloted across 19 districts between June 2023 and March 2024, the Dashboard recorded 11,579 climate change-induced loss and damage cases amounting to Taka 1.35 billion (US\$11 million) in total losses—an average of Taka 117,000 (US\$954) per affected person, equivalent to around fifteen months of income for the average Bangladeshi worker.

Building on these insights and data, Oxfam in Bangladesh, in collaboration with Oxfam Australia and Novib, with



support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), published a report, “From Ground to Global: The Loss and Damage Dashboard for Climate Equity,” at an event in Dhaka today.

Loss and damage from climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges. Despite minimal contribution to global emissions, countries in the Global South face escalating climate disasters.

## Rizwana for Launching Jt Campaign to Curb Air Pollution



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has instructed the relevant agencies to take joint action to control air pollution across the country.

All relevant organizations, including the Department of Environment, City Corporation, BRTA and RAJUK, will participate in the campaign to prevent air pollution in Dhaka, she said while addressing an emergency meeting at Pani Bhaban in Dhaka.

Rizwana, also Water Resources Adviser, said that no illegal brick kiln will be

allowed to operate in the Savar area, which has been declared a degraded air shed to prevent air pollution in Dhaka.

The relevant officials have been instructed to take necessary measures in this regard, he added.

She said that construction or repair work of buildings should be done under cover, otherwise action will be taken as per the law. Burning of fallen leaves and waste in various parks should be stopped.

Strict action will be taken against those who pollute the air by burning garbage, she added.

## Fakir Technologies Launches ‘ZERO’ Energy Storage



Fakir Technologies Limited, a concern of the Fakir Fashion family, has officially launched Bangladesh's first multi-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), marking a significant leap toward a smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable energy future.

With a commitment to transforming Bangladesh's energy landscape, Fakir Technologies has successfully deployed three scalable BESS solutions under the ZERO

brand.

These systems are designed to meet the diverse power needs of industries, commercial establishments, and households by integrating seamlessly with both solar and grid power sources.

ZERO ensures uninterrupted and cost-effective electricity supply, significantly reducing dependency on diesel generators, carbon emissions, noise pollution, and maintenance expenses.

## Rizwana Calls for Integrated Efforts to Restore Chalan Beel's Lost Glory



“Our existence and emotions are linked to the Chalan Beel. A specific action plan must be formulated to protect it. Harmful structures should be identified and removed, and pesticide use must be reduced,” he said.

She was speaking as the chief guest at the inception workshop of a project titled “Integrated Management of Land and Water Resources and Feasibility Study on Quality of Life for the Restoration of Chalan Beel”, at Pani Bhaban in the capital recently.

The Adviser said agriculture, livelihood of people, and ecosystem in the region are deeply interconnected.

Adviser of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Syeda Rizwana Hasan has underscored the urgent need for integrated land and water management to protect the Chalan Beel, one of country's largest water bodies.

# Expecting Climate Finance Breakthroughs in Belém Is Unrealistic

The world may once again express political support in Belém for keeping the 1.5°C goal alive. Still, it would be unrealistic to expect any global consensus on the actions and financing required to achieve it. At the same time, major developed and emerging economies continue to rely on fossil fuels while increasing investments in technologies to reduce emissions, delaying the energy transition.

Advocate Hafij Khan made these remarks during a conversation with Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor of Energy & Power. Advocate Khan is a climate finance expert and Founder & Director Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B), member of multiple global working groups, including the SCF-SDF, GCF-CE, and the Advisory Group to the Executive Director of the Loss & Damage Fund under the World Bank.

**COP30 negotiations on various climate agenda items are ongoing. The first week of technical-level discussions is coming to an end. How much progress has been made?**

Look, COP negotiations follow a continuous process. In that sequence, during the first week in Belém, deliberations moved forward on climate finance, the mitigation work program, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), transparency frameworks, and more. The number of indicators for the adaptation framework has been brought down below 100, which is positive.

But it would be wrong to say that there has been any breakthrough. There remains a considerable gap between the expectations of developing-country negotiators and the positions of developed countries. Now the unresolved issues are moving to ministerial-level negotiations. I don't want to be pessimistic; certainly, we may see progress in some areas.

**Usually, negotiators receive political direction from the Leaders' Summit at the beginning of a COP. What was achieved this time?**

Normally, the Leaders' Summit takes place

in the first few days of the COP, but this year it was scheduled at the last moment for 6–7 November. The Summit produced a declaration emphasizing the protection of multilateralism in climate action. Leaders from both the Global South and North reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the 1.5°C goal within reach.

However, they offered no commitments on the financing needed, whether for the climate funds or for adopting ambitious NDCs. One pledge came for USD 5.6 billion for Brazil's proposed Tropical Forests Forever Fund. But no country offered new commitments to the Loss and Damage Fund, which is disappointing.

Leaders from the US, Russia, China, and India—countries responsible for around 50% of global emissions—were absent. How is this affecting negotiations?

You are absolutely right. The absence of heads of state or government from these major emitters created frustration at the Summit. This frustration is reflected in the declaration as well.

We know that political signals from leaders help negotiators move forward. This year, such direction was missing, resulting in a somewhat disoriented first week of negotiations. Leaders from 134 Global South countries demanded a tripling of grant-based adaptation finance and increasing public-sector contributions to climate funds. However, the Global North offered no meaningful response.

**Brazil invested heavily in climate diplomacy this year. How effectively is the COP Presidency steering negotiations on issues like finance and the 1.5°C goal?**

Yes, Brazil has engaged extensively in climate diplomacy. But it would be an exaggeration to say the Presidency is strongly driving COP30 towards turning commitments into action. They are more active than Azerbaijan but weaker than the UAE's presidency last year.

However, it appears the Troika may try to deliver two roadmaps in the final week: The Baku–Belém Roadmap for USD 1.3 trillion, and a political declaration to keep 1.5°C alive.



**Advocate Hafij Khan**

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**The Loss & Damage Fund has so far received no new commitments at COP30. Yet the Fund has called for proposals for disbursing USD 250 million. How prepared is the L&D Board to deliver finance quickly?**

Under the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM), the L&D Fund has issued a call for proposals to affected countries. Each country now has up to six months to submit its project proposals based on its specific loss and damage contexts. Funding decisions will be made quickly once proposals are reviewed under BIM.

As far as I know, Bangladesh has already begun preparing its proposal and is expected to submit within the deadline.

**One of the biggest items is the Baku-to-Belġm Roadmap for USD 1.3 trillion. Negotiations aim to determine how, and from which sources, this annual finance can be mobilized by 2035. How is this progressing?**

Look, despite good progress in the negotiation text, many issues still remain unresolved — meaning they are placed within brackets. In Baku, countries agreed that from 2026, the global community would provide \$300 billion annually to the climate fund. The LDC Group is strongly pushing for a strategy to ensure this commitment is delivered. At the same time, they have demanded the unpaid portion of the previously committed \$100 billion per year. But on this issue, the gap between negotiators from developed countries and developing countries remains very wide.

However, negotiations are progressing positively on the roadmap for mobilizing \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 from public, private, and innovative sources. The COP Presidency is also trying to move this agenda forward.

Civil society organizations around the world are pressuring COP30 to finalize the Belġm Mechanism for Just Transition. They are demanding that a Just Transition roadmap be finalized within the next three years, starting from here. Is this issue on the negotiation table?

Look, all climate impact-related work is linked to Just Transition. Although there are differing views, discussions are progressing positively. However, there is no sign that the civil society demand for a Belġm Just Transition Roadmap will see any meaningful advancement in the negotiations.

**COP Belġm is expected to adopt the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).**

“

Therefore, the world must adopt much more ambitious NDCs. But the countries responsible for 50% of global emissions are not showing a strong willingness. The Mitigation Work Program must also be significantly strengthened. And all this requires huge investments, which must come from developed countries. But there is no assurance of that.

”

**How far have negotiations progressed on finalizing the indicators—whether keeping them at 100 or reducing them? And what direction is the discussion taking regarding increasing adaptation finance, especially the demand that 50% of climate finance be allocated to adaptation?**

You are right. Work on this has been ongoing for a long time. The indicators for adopting the GGA are now close to finalization. Based on these, national adaptation plans will need to be revised. This means that institutional and human capacity, as well as technological support, must be strengthened as part of the means of implementation. This will require substantial financing.

Beyond the long-standing demand for allocating 50% of climate finance to adaptation, the LDC Group is now demanding that adaptation finance be tripled and made grant-based.

Even if COP30 adopts the GGA, it is unrealistic to expect significant progress on securing the required financing for its implementation.

**World leaders believe there is no alternative to keeping the 1.5°C goal alive to avoid a climate catastrophe. This is tied to emission reduction plans or NDCs, which require massive investment. How successful do you think COP30 will be in keeping the goal alive?**

The Troika’s core message is a very short sentence: “Keep 1.5°C alive.” But achieving it is monumental. The IPCC has

already warned that global temperature is on track to reach 2.7°C in the early part of this century.

At Glasgow, the world agreed to keep 1.5°C alive and adopted the phase-down of coal decision. But momentum faded at Sharm El-Sheikh. In Dubai, the decision to transition away from fossil fuels revived hope. However, now several major polluting countries are arguing not for reducing fossil fuel use, but for using technologies to reduce emissions.

Meanwhile, the world has fallen behind the Dubai goals of tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030. To achieve net zero, greenhouse gas emissions must fall by 60% by 2035 — but the world is far off track.

The NDC Synthesis Report shows that even if all 64 updated NDCs are fully implemented, emissions would fall by only 17% by 2035 compared to 2019 — far below what is needed.

Therefore, the world must adopt much more ambitious NDCs. But the countries responsible for 50% of global emissions are not showing a strong willingness. The Mitigation Work Program must also be significantly strengthened. And all this requires huge investments, which must come from developed countries. But there is no assurance of that.

It seems likely that the Belġm Declaration will once again reaffirm the commitment to keep 1.5°C alive. But how it will be achieved — that remains a big unanswered question. ■■

# BANGLADESH NEEDS A LOUDER VOICE AT COP30 IN BELEM

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

As the climate summit (COP30) at Belem, Brazil entered a crucial second week of negotiations the rich nations must fulfill their responsibilities to the poor nations which are most vulnerable to climate change. Bangladesh is one of them. With a history of cyclones, floods, drought, climate-induced losses, debt pressures and frequent disasters Bangladesh has urged the rich nations to come forward with the promised financing for adaptation. Bangladesh delegates at the summit have warned against any delay in arriving at an agreement on climate finance, particularly on whether Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement should be taken up as a dedicated agenda item.

According to report published in The Business Standard Article 9.1 obligates developed countries to provide financial resources to developing nations for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The report quoted Navid Shafiullah, additional secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Deputy Head of Bangladesh's delegation, as telling a media briefing in Belem that the lack of progress is causing growing frustration among developing countries.

"Parties have not reached consensus on even placing Article 9.1 as a standalone agenda item," he said, describing the hesitation as part of broader attempts to dilute the financial responsibilities of developed countries.

In the second half of the conference Bangladesh will press for its core priorities at the COP30 summit: demanding accessible, grant-based climate finance for adaptation, mitigation, and addressing loss and damage. As one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, its agenda focused on survival and climate justice, not merely abstract policy.

The Bangladesh delegation at the summit is focusing on the key priorities. These are operationalizing the loss and damage fund, scaling up adaptation finance, ensuring fair, accessible climate finance, advancing the just transition agenda, promotion of green technology transfer and recognition of climate migration.

Bangladesh has been strongly advocating for the immediate and full operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring direct, unconditional, and fast-tracked access to grant-based (not loan-based) finance for the most affected communities.

A central demand was to significantly increase the allocation of global climate finance for adaptation, pushing for at least 50% of all climate finance to be directed toward vulnerable nations' adaptation needs. This includes doubling adaptation funding by 2025 and tripling it to at least \$120 billion annually by 2030.

Bangladesh has called for a new global climate finance goal (New Collective Quantified Goal) that is ambitious, needs-based, predictable, and easily accessible. The country also seeks to retain access to key financial mechanisms after it graduates from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, arguing that vulnerability, not income classification, should be the key determinant for support.

Dhaka presented a "Just Transition" agenda to ensure that the shift to a green economy is fair and inclusive, protecting workers' rights, creating green jobs, and providing social protection as industries decarbonize.

The government sought partnerships and support to scale up renewable energy projects (solar, wind) as part of its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), aiming for 40% renewable power by 2040.

Bangladesh urged international recognition of climate-induced displacement as a humanitarian issue requiring a coordinated global response.

Bangladesh's position aimed to leverage its experience in community-led adaptation and resilience as a powerful case for climate justice and to ensure that global negotiations deliver tangible outcomes for frontline communities.

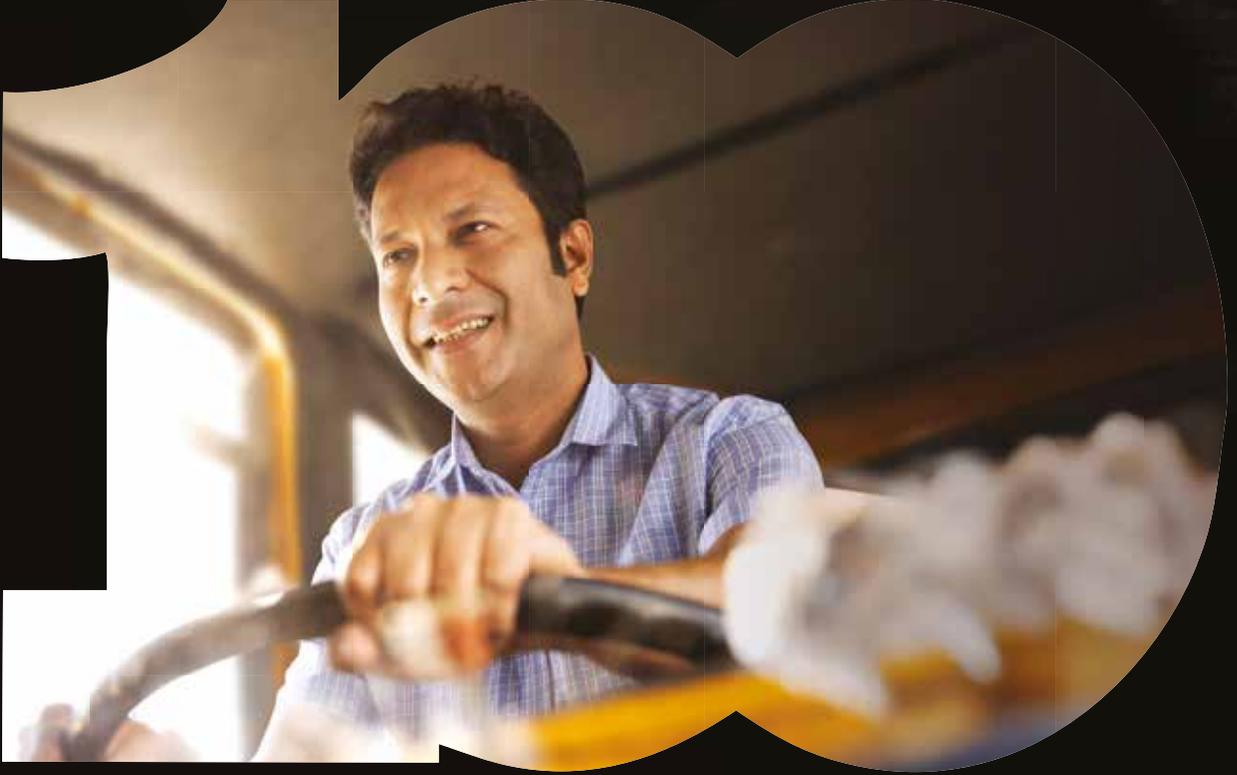
This time Bangladesh has sent a ministerial delegation to the summit, a scale down from its previous levels. Considering the importance of Bangladesh and the role it has to play for its own survival and the interests of the other climate-vulnerable nations the Bangladesh delegation should have been elevated to a higher level.

Bangladesh has many issues to present at such crucial summit and these have to be told boldly in a louder voice. **EP**



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