

ENERGY & POWER

2026: The Power Test

- ❑ Political Decisions Urgent To Build Investor Confidence In Energy Sector
- ❑ Energy Cooperation Anchors Russia–Bangladesh Relations
- ❑ A Tribute To Begum Khaleda Zia

Year-Beginning Special



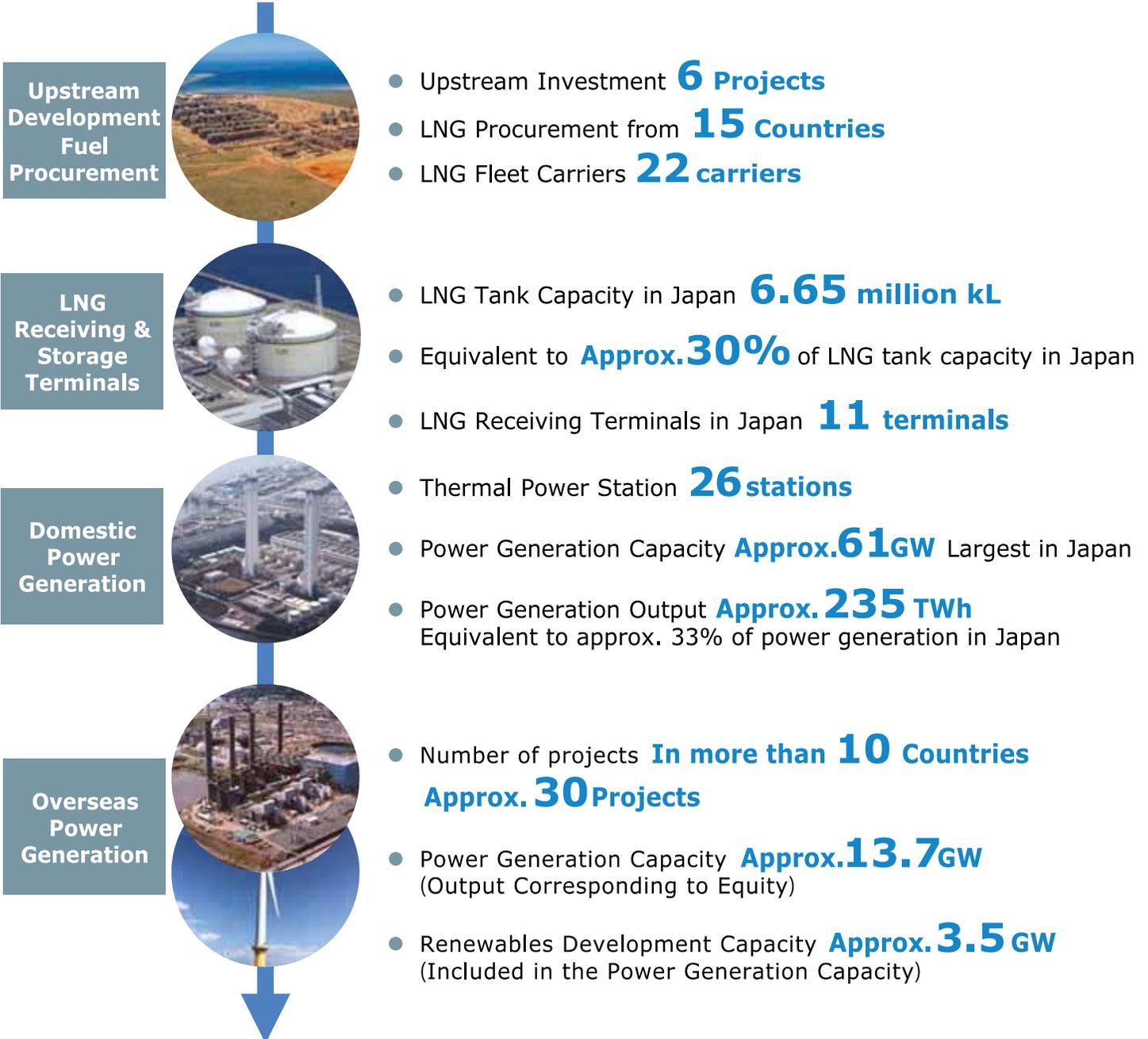
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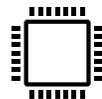
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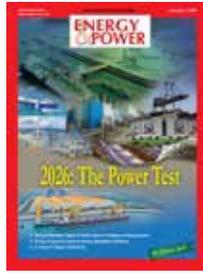
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EDITORIAL

The past 16 months have underscored a hard truth: Bangladesh's power and energy crisis is not the product of a single government or moment, but the cumulative result of long-standing policy distortions and delayed decisions. The interim government deserves credit for restoring regulatory authority, repealing controversial emergency laws, and sharply reducing outstanding sectoral arrears. These steps brought temporary stability to a system that was on the brink of financial collapse. Yet stabilization is not reform. By cancelling LNG expansion plans, solar project approvals, and fuel import agreements without clear alternatives, the interim administration created new uncertainties at a time when investor confidence was already fragile. Gas shortages remain severe, import dependence has climbed to unsustainable levels, and subsidy pressures continue to strain public finances. These unresolved issues now form a heavy inheritance for the next elected government. The challenge ahead is fundamentally political as much as technical. Ensuring energy security will require difficult choices—reviving domestic gas exploration, taking a long-delayed decision on coal extraction, accelerating renewable deployment, and expanding LNG infrastructure despite fiscal and environmental constraints. None of these options is risk-free, but inaction carries the greatest cost.

Above all, governance must improve. Transparent contracting, empowered regulation, and insulation of energy policy from political cycles are essential to restoring credibility. Without decisive early action, energy shortages will once again undermine industrial growth, employment, and export competitiveness. The next government's success may well be judged not by new promises, but by how quickly it confronts the sector's inconvenient realities.

Happy New Year. Wishing everyone a year of progress and possibility.

h i g h l i g h t s

COVER



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From the perspective of energy security, Bangladesh is now facing one of its most serious risks. To overcome this crisis, the next government must make clear political decisions to promote domestic oil and gas exploration, coal extraction, and renewable energy development. Failure to do so will only deepen the crisis, pushing the country toward a state of energy famine... Professor Dr. M. Tamim tells EP



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A further impartial move is to make competition rather than negotiation the default method for selecting new projects. For large solar parks, wind farms, and even flexible gas-fired plants, experience from many countries shows that well-designed auctions can attract a wide field of bidders and push prices down over time..... More in Analysis



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A review looks beyond the headlines of reform and controversy to assess what has actually changed in the power and energy sector over the past 16 months. By examining developments, it seeks to identify the immediate challenges that will confront the next government from day one, when decisions delayed today will begin to exact their full economic and political cost.

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A Tribute to Begum Khaleda Zia

TotalEnergies, PTTEP Sign Partnership Deal for Malaysia Shallow-Water Block

TotalEnergies closed a deal to divest to PTTEP a 9.998% indirect interest in the SK408 block in Malaysia.

TotalEnergies has closed a deal to divest to PTT Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd. (PTTEP) a 9.998% indirect interest in the SK408 block in Malaysia off the Sarawak coast. A deal value was not disclosed.

PTTEP SG Holding Pte. Ltd., a subsidiary of PTTEP, acquired a 49.99% interest in AzurVista Resources Pte. Ltd., a subsidiary of TotalEnergies, which holds a 20%



participating interest in the SK408 block. TotalEnergies keeps a 30.002% interest in block SK408. SK408 is a natural gas and condensate producing field in Malaysia shallow water. It currently produces about 750 MMscfd of natural gas and 15,000 b/d of condensate, PTTEP said in its release Dec. 16.

Chevron: The Only Foreign Oil Company Left in Venezuela

The US oil company Chevron is walking a tightrope amid tensions between Washington and Caracas to retain its fragile position as the only foreign company allowed to exploit Venezuela's oil reserves – the largest in the world. Washington's total blockade of oil tankers, added last week to punishing US sanctions, has put Chevron and its presence in Venezuela back in the spotlight.



The Venezuelan Gulf Oil Company, Chevron's predecessor in Venezuela, was founded in April 1923 and

began operating its first well in August 1924. Initially operating near Lake Maracaibo, it then moved on to new deposits such as Urumaco and Boscan. Most reserves are now in the Orinoco Belt.

Gulf Oil merged with Standard Oil of California in 1984, forming the giant now known as Chevron.

Russian Air Strikes Cut Power Across Ukraine

Russia hammered Ukraine with missiles and drones in a new air attack recently, authorities said, killing at least three people including a child and triggering emergency power cuts across the country as Ukrainians gear up to celebrate Christmas.



local officials said at least five were also wounded.

"This Russian strike sends an extremely clear signal about Russia's priorities," President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on X, adding that it involved more than 30 missiles and 650 drones across at least 13 regions. "An attack ahead of Christmas, when people simply want to be with their families, at home, and safe." Ukraine's grid operator said most regions were experiencing emergency power outages as a result of the attack.

Moscow's latest combined strike hit energy facilities in western regions the hardest, said Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, and came days after another round of US-led peace talks to end the nearly four-year-old war.

The attack killed two people including a four-year-old in the central Zhytomyr region and one person outside the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, where

Woodside Granted Extension to Begin LNG Exports from Louisiana Plant

Woodside Energy has been granted additional time by the US Energy Department to begin exports from the Woodside Louisiana LNG project under construction in Calcasieu Parish, La.



Woodside Energy has been granted additional time by the US Energy Department to begin exports from the Woodside Louisiana LNG project under construction in Calcasieu Parish, La., to non-free trade agreement countries.

US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright signed an amendment order granting an additional 44 months, to end-2029.

The request was made in May, on the heels of the operator's April sanctioning of the project's first development phase, comprised of three trains for a total capacity of 16.5 million tonnes/year (tpy) of LNG.

The Louisiana LNG development has expansion capacity for two additional LNG trains and is fully permitted for a total capacity of 27.6 million tpy.

Power Deal with Adani Group Can't be Scrapped: TIB

Transparency International Bangladesh executive director Iftekharuzzaman recently said that the interim government could not scrap many previous power purchase agreements, including the most controversial one of the Adani Group of India.



purpose, he said, noting most of the deals made by Awami League between 2010 and 2024 were to promote crony capitalism. 'These controversial deals have been made between government-to-government and state-to-state,' added Iftekharuzzaman.

'The government cannot simply dump those if it wants,' said the TIB executive director at the launching of a report titled 'Generating Power from Renewable Energy in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Forward' at its office in the capital.

Calling the international arbitration was a lengthy process iftekharuzman said that chance of winning in such arbitration was also slim.

The international arbitration should be sought for the

Bashundhara LP Gas Wins 'Best Brand Award' for 6th Year



Bashundhara LP Gas has clinched the prestigious "Best Brand Award" for the sixth consecutive year.

Qutubul Alam, Md Abdullah, Joint Chief Engineer and Brand Manager Masum Billah, and Assistant Engineer Md Munjurul Hossain Safi attended the event.

The brand earned this accolade in the LP Gas category at the 17th Best Brand Award, organized by the Bangladesh Brand Forum at a city hotel recently.

Following the achievement, Sanvir Bashundhara Group Chairman Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir said in a message, "I dedicate this honour to every member of Bashundhara LP Gas and our consumers. We remain committed to providing safe, reliable, and high-quality LPG services in the future."

Bashundhara LP Gas Head of Sales and Marketing Md Redoanur Rahman, Chief Financial Officer Belal Hossain, AGM Sales Md Ataur Rahman, AGM Sales Noor

BGFCL Starts Drilling of Titas-28 Well



This drilling operation is part of the 'Drilling of four appraisal-cum-development wells in Titas and Kamta fields' project. The project involves drilling four key wells -- Titas-28, Titas-29, Titas-30, and Kamta-2 -- in the Titas and Kamta gas fields, says a press statement.

CNPC Chuanqing Drilling Engineering Company Ltd. (CCDC), a Chinese company, will conduct the drilling operations. Following

the completion of rig foundation construction and mobilisation of drilling equipment and materials, the spud-in ceremony for Titas-28 well was in the Titas Gas Field.

Engineer Md. Faruk Hossain, Managing Director of BGFCL, presided over the event, while Engineer Md. Shoab, Director (PSC) of Petrobangla, was present as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the drilling operation.

Baraka Power's Future Limpers after Contract Expiry: Auditor

The auditor has raised concerns over Baraka Power's ability to continue operations after all of its power-supply contracts with the government expired more than a year ago.

According to a disclosure, the company's 51-megawatt power plant has remained shut since October last year following the expiry of its contract with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Since the expiry of the contracts, the company has generated no revenue from its own operations and has been surviving solely on income from its sister concerns.

There has been no confirmation of a contract renewal.

The auditor flagged the issue in Baraka Power's recently published financial statements for FY25, warning that the current situation is unsustainable and poses risks to investors.

"This uncertainty casts significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern on a stand-alone basis," the auditor said. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) disclosed the information to shareholders and investors recently.



Doreen Power Generations and Systems Ltd.



Doreen Power House and Technologies Ltd.



Dhaka Northern Power Generations Ltd.

HFO fired power plant
Manikganj (55MW)



Dhaka Southern Power Generations Ltd.

HFO fired power plant
Nababganj (55MW)



Banco Energy Generation Limited

HFO fired power plant
Munshiganj (53.972MW)



Manikganj Power Generations Ltd.

HFO fired power plant
Manikganj (162MW)



Chandpur Power Generations Limited

HFO fired power plant
Chandpur (115MW)



Asian-Entech Power Corporation Ltd.



Extensive Public Awareness Campaign Ahead of Fuel Loading at RNPP

As the first unit of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) prepares for nuclear fuel loading, Russian state corporation Rosatom and the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) are jointly conducting an extensive public awareness campaign across the project region.



The objective of the campaign is to address questions, misconceptions, concerns, and curiosity among local residents by providing accurate, clear, and essential information about the project. Throughout the campaign, representatives from Rosatom and BAEC are directly engaging with

the public, responding to queries, and fostering open dialogue.

The month-long campaign includes a series of activities such as Science Festivals, traditional Gambhira performances, and Uthan Baithaks (courtyard meetings) across different upazilas of Pabna district.

Titas Approves 2.0pc Cash Dividend



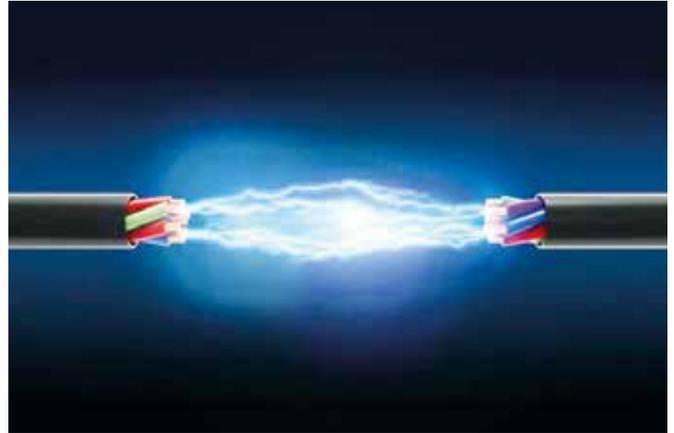
The 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC) has approved a 2.0 percent cash dividend per share for the fiscal year 2024-25, officials said.

The TGTDC also held its 5th Special General Meeting on

a digital platform, according to a press release.

Board Chairman and Secretary to the Chief Adviser's Office Md Saifullah Panna presided over the meeting, while members of the company's board of directors, senior officials of Petrobangla and Titas, and shareholders attended.

Man Electrocuted to Death in Gaibandha



A man died from electrocution while painting iron rods on the rooftop of a house at College Para in Gaibandha recently.

The deceased was Rakib Miah, son of Mahabub Hossain, a resident of Purba Komornoi area under sadar upazila of the district. The police said that Rakib, along

with several other paint labourers, was painting iron rods at the house of Sohel Rana at College Para.

At one stage, Rakib climbed onto the rooftop to continue painting and came into contact with a live electric wire and got electrocuted immediately. He died on the spot.

Amir Masud Appointed Acting MD of Jamuna Oil

The government has appointed Engineer Md Amir Masud as the acting managing director of Jamuna Oil Company Limited (JOCL), a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, according to an official order issued on 18 December.

The appointment will remain effective until further notice, the order said. Masud is currently serving as a general manager of Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) on deputation to BPC as general manager (planning and development).

Under the new arrangement, he was released from his duties at BPC and was scheduled to join Jamuna Oil Company as managing



director (current charge) this afternoon.

Upon joining, he will take over routine responsibilities from Md Masudul Islam, who had been performing the duties of the post, the office order added.

2026: The Power Test

Mollah Amzad Hossain
& Afroza Akther Pervin



Bangladesh's power and energy sector faces deep structural challenges shaped by years of policy imbalance, rising import dependence, and financial strain. While the interim government restored regulatory oversight and reduced massive arrears, it also cancelled key LNG and renewable initiatives, unsettling investors. Gas shortages, excess power capacity, mounting subsidies, and stalled exploration now threaten energy security. The next elected government must act swiftly to restore confidence, expand domestic fuel sources, and implement long-delayed reforms to avoid worsening economic and industrial disruptions.



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Few sectors reveal the strengths and weaknesses of governance as starkly as the power and energy sector. Over the past year, Bangladesh's energy sector has undergone a rare moment of transition, marked by political upheaval, fiscal stress, and an urgent need to stabilize a system that has been stretched beyond its limits for a long time. While load-shedding has eased compared with the crisis peaks of 2022–23, the underlying pressures like gas shortages, rising import dependence, subsidy burdens, and investor uncertainty remain firmly in place.

The past 12–16 months have therefore been less about dramatic breakthroughs and more about difficult trade-offs. The interim government inherited a sector burdened by excess capacity, unpaid bills, controversial contracts, and policy distortions accumulated over more than a decade. Its task was not to build anew, but to stop the bleeding—restore regulatory order, clear arrears, and buy time before the next elected government takes over.

This review looks beyond the headlines of reform and controversy to assess what has actually changed in the power and energy sector during this transitional period—and, more importantly, what has not. By examining developments over the past 16 months, it seeks to identify the immediate challenges that will confront the next government from day one, when decisions delayed today will begin to exact their full economic and political cost.

Assessing success and failure by analyzing time is never easy. Determining future priorities based on such assessments is even more difficult. Yet, year-end reviews remain a long-standing media practice. In that spirit, this article attempts to highlight both past developments and future challenges in the power and energy sector.

However, instead of limiting the assessment to the past 12 months, it is essential to consider the last 16 months. During this period, the responsibility of

governing the country has rested with an administration formed through a student-led mass uprising, commonly referred to as the interim government. This government assumed office in August 2024 and is scheduled to conclude its mandate by organizing a national election and referendum on 12 February 2026, followed by the transfer of power to the elected party or coalition.

During its tenure, the interim government has undertaken various reforms and policy decisions. Not all of these fall within the scope of this discussion; the focus here is limited strictly to the power and energy sector.

From 2009 to 2024, the now-ousted Awami League government managed and developed the power and energy sector under a particular set of policies and strategies. However, it must be acknowledged that development during these 16 years was not well-coordinated. In particular, the energy sector—more precisely, the supply



of primary fuel—was not planned in tandem with expanding power generation capacity.

Although domestic coal and gas exploration and utilization were widely discussed during this period, no effective strategies were adopted or implemented to achieve these goals. Despite having the opportunity to make political decisions regarding coal exploration and extraction, the Awami League government refrained from doing so. Instead, it established coal-fired power plants that relied entirely on imported coal. Similarly, gas-based power plants continued to be built even as gas shortages intensified. Although LNG imports began in 2018, they failed to deliver meaningful relief from the gas deficit.

By the end of 2019, initiatives were taken to revive domestic gas exploration. While the full benefits of these efforts have yet to materialize, work remains ongoing. Meanwhile, LNG imports increased, power imports from India expanded, and coal imports for domestic power plants rose sharply. As a result, import dependence in the power and energy sector climbed from 14 percent in 2018 to 56 percent today.

Another critical issue has been the continuous increase in electricity and fuel prices. Despite repeated price hikes over the past 16 years, the power and gas sectors remain loss-making. The impact of imports on prices has been far greater than anticipated, particularly due to a more than 40 percent depreciation of the taka against the US dollar over the past five years.

This significantly raised electricity and gas prices in local currency terms.

Following the COVID-19 period, global energy prices surged sharply. At the same time, the failure to adopt timely austerity measures in the power sector caused outstanding liabilities to rise rapidly. These liabilities continued to accumulate until the fall of the Awami League government, which exited office without settling them.

A major contributor to this financial burden was excess power generation capacity relative to demand. Although the country's highest-ever power generation stood at 16,477 MW, installed capacity exceeded 26,000 MW at the time and has since increased to around 29,000 MW. Over 15 years of Awami League rule, public and private power plants received a capacity charge totaling BDT 115,000 crore.

According to the report of the White Paper Committee formed after the government's fall, at least BDT 40,000 crore of the capacity charges paid in the power sector were unnecessary. The report noted that some oil-based power plants never generated more than 5 percent of their installed capacity. It further estimated that at least 10 percent of total investment in the power and energy sector over 16 years involved irregularities, corruption, or waste. The committee recommended that the interim government identify responsibility for these issues with specificity.

The continuation of the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy

Supply (Special Act) until the final day of Awami League rule drew intense criticism. Equally controversial was the transfer of tariff-setting authority from BERC to the ministry, effectively weakening the regulator. The most heavily criticized decision, however, was the agreement with Adani to import coal-fired power from India.

Against this backdrop, the interim government assumed responsibility for the power and energy sector. Upon taking office, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus appointed Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan as Adviser to the Ministry of Power and Energy. At the time, Dr. Khan was engaged in teaching and research and had previously served as Power Secretary during the military-backed caretaker government.

On his very first day in office, the energy adviser announced to the media that the controversial Special Act would be repealed and that authority over electricity and gas pricing would be returned to BERC. He fulfilled both commitments within a short period. However, the government decided to continue implementing projects that had already been executed or contractually committed under the Special Act.

Toward the end of its tenure, the Awami League government finalized 37 solar power projects with a combined capacity of 3,500 MW and issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) for their implementation. The interim government, disregarding the opinions of various stakeholders, cancelled these LoIs. This decision created a sense of distrust among foreign investors, which continues to persist. Although the policy framework was later amended and new tenders were invited for solar projects, eight proposals have since been finalized with lower tariffs than before. However, questions remain as to whether these projects will ultimately secure financing and be implemented.

Under the Special Act, contracts for the third FSRU and one LNG supply agreement—all signed with the Summit Group—were cancelled. Summit challenged the government's decision in court, resulting in a stay order



against the cancellation, and the case remains pending. In addition, three LNG import negotiations conducted under the Special Act were cancelled. These included two negotiations for importing RLNG from India and negotiations for establishing an FSRU at Kuakata.

The interim government formed several committees to review power plant contracts and related matters. Based on committee recommendations, the government decided to appoint international consultants to review several contracts, including those with Adani, with a view to possible cancellation. While the government announced plans to initiate negotiations to reduce power tariffs, tariff revisions were carried out only for public sector-owned plants, including the Matarbari coal-fired power plant and eight power plants operated by BR Powergen and RPCL. Although initiatives were later taken to renegotiate tariffs of joint venture companies, progress has stalled due to various complexities. No formal initiative has yet been taken to renegotiate tariffs with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

At the time the Awami League was removed from power, outstanding

dues in the power and energy sectors stood at nearly USD 8.0 billion. Through special initiatives, the interim government reduced this amount to below USD 1 billion. While payments for fuel oil imports, LNG imports, and dues to the International Oil Companies (IOCs) are currently being made on a regular basis, outstanding liabilities in the power sector have again risen to approximately BDT 300 billion. Of this, BDT 100 billion is owed to public sector companies and BDT 200 billion to IPPs. Reducing these arrears remains one of the interim government's most significant achievements.

Although initiatives taken by the previous government to expand LNG import capacity and implement renewable power projects were cancelled, ongoing offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration tenders, as well as domestically funded exploration projects, were continued. However, on 10 December last year, no company submitted bids for offshore exploration in the Bay of Bengal. Subsequently, Petrobangla updated both the offshore and onshore Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) based on advice from consulting firms and submitted them to the ministry for



approval. Recently, the Energy Division formed a committee headed by Professor Dr. M. Tamim, Vice-Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, to review the two PSCs. The committee has been asked to submit its report by 15 January.

The previous government's 50-well and 100-well drilling programs have been continued. However, the 50-well program was delayed due to the cancellation of selection for several contractors selected under the Special Act. Once completed, this program is expected to increase domestic gas production capacity by 618 MMCFD. To ensure timely completion, BAPEX and contractors engaged by Petrobangla's companies are working in parallel. The plan was later revised to include 50 wells, including 18 exploration wells, with an expected production increase of 648 MMCFD if targets are met.

So far, 19 wells have been completed under this program. According to Petrobangla, this has increased domestic gas production capacity by 210 MMCFD, though only 90 MMCFD has been connected to the national gas grid due to isolation constraints. Drilling of seven additional wells under the 50-well plan is ongoing and expected to be completed by January. Of the remaining 23 wells, seven will be drilled by BAPEX and 16 by contractors. Under

the 100-well program, which includes 52 exploration wells, project approval has been granted on a priority basis for 20 wells, with drilling scheduled to begin in July 2026. The entire program is expected to be completed by 2030.

Toward the end of its tenure, the government also undertook a project to construct a third gas transmission pipeline from Moheshkhali to the LNG growth center. With an investment of BDT 243.2 billion, the 46-inch pipeline from Moheshkhali to Bakhrabad is expected to take five years to complete. Without this pipeline, even if the fourth FSRU is installed and the land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari is completed, LNG cannot be transported to the national grid.

In the last fiscal year, the government provided approximately BDT 70,000 crore in subsidies, including BDT 62,000 crore for the power sector alone. Although the subsidy allocation has been reduced in the current budget, there are doubts about whether this reduction can be sustained. Consequently, the biggest challenge for the next government will be to reduce subsidies without increasing gas and electricity prices. At the same time, pressure from development partners is increasing to reduce subsidies and make power and energy pricing more market-based.

Although the interim government succeeded in reducing arrears in the power and energy sectors, outstanding dues have once again begun to rise. Once the elected government assumes office, it must urgently settle these arrears. Failure to do so will make it impossible to restore investor confidence.

Gas is Bangladesh's primary source of energy. To keep the economy running, an uninterrupted gas supply must be ensured through a combination of domestic production and imports. At present, gas demand stands at around 4,200 MMCFD, while the maximum supply, including LNG, is only about 2,800 MMCFD. Even if ongoing domestic exploration initiatives prove successful, it will not be possible to maintain the current domestic production of around 1,800 MMCFD in the long term.

Therefore, the new government must take responsibility for ensuring foreign investment alongside domestic exploration efforts and initiate oil and gas exploration in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and the Bay of Bengal. On the other hand, during the Awami League government's tenure, plans were in place to add at least 1,000 MMCFD of additional LNG import capacity from 2027 onward. However, these initiatives were cancelled by the interim government. Unless the new



government reviews these contracts and resumes work or renegotiations, the gas deficit will worsen further.

At the same time, steps must be taken to rapidly implement the fourth FSRU, and efforts to establish a land-based LNG terminal should be accelerated so that it can become operational by 2030. The isolated island of Bhola must be connected to the national gas grid. This is crucial because production from Bibiyana, the country's largest gas field, is expected to decline to its lowest level by 2030. Connecting Bhola to the grid must therefore be treated as an urgent priority to help address the impending supply gap. Additionally, the long-pending dispute with Niko must be resolved swiftly to obtain a verdict and begin exploration activities in the Chhatak gas field without delay.

Restoring confidence among foreign investors is particularly important to ensure oil and gas exploration and LNG import infrastructure development. Many believe that establishing an Energy Diplomacy Cell under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be an effective step toward this goal.

Coal is undoubtedly a controversial energy source. Bangladesh has added around 7,000 MW of power generation capacity, all of which relies on imported coal. This is despite the fact that the country possesses substantial reserves of high-quality coal.

Therefore, upon assuming office, the elected government must make a political decision to begin domestic coal extraction. If this is done, the existing

proposal for developing the Phulbari coal mine could be evaluated by neutral experts and implemented, enabling coal supply from the mine within three years. Decisions regarding other coal fields should then be taken in phases.

However, securing investment for coal exploration and development remains a major challenge at present. As a result, the government must initiate partnership arrangements with companies. Experts believe that if coal-based power plants can be operated using domestically extracted coal, power generation costs could be reduced by 30–40 percent.

The interim government has finalized the National Renewable Energy Policy 2025, which sets targets of sourcing 20 percent of power generation capacity from renewables by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040. However, the existing policy framework and strategies for renewable energy development must be comprehensively restructured to make them investment-friendly. There is no alternative to adopting targeted strategies to attract both domestic and foreign investment to ensure sectoral growth.

The greatest challenge for the elected government will be restoring good governance in the power and energy sector. The primary objective must be to build a corruption-free, transparent, and people-oriented sector. Investment security must be ensured for investors regardless of political considerations. Public sector companies must be freed from excessive bureaucracy and subjected to effective reforms. To this end, BERC must be further

empowered to ensure accountability at every stage—from project approval to implementation.

In conclusion, alongside preparing for elections, the country's major political parties must finalize their power and energy sector plans and implementation strategies, and highlight their key commitments in their election manifestos. Once elected and in government, work on these plans must begin immediately. Institutions must be strengthened with skilled and competent human resources. Currently, around 56 percent of Bangladesh's power and energy supply is import-dependent. While it may not be possible to eliminate this dependence, it must be curtailed.

This requires coordinated action on domestic gas exploration, coal development, and renewable energy expansion. At the same time, a climate of confidence must be created to attract both capable local investors and foreign investment. Successful regional examples should be followed. Above all, the country's largest project—the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant—must be given the highest state priority to bring it into commercial operation as quickly as possible. Nuclear power is a non-carbon energy source, and based on the experience of Rooppur, new initiatives should be taken to expand nuclear power capacity.

As the country moves toward elections, political parties must clearly articulate their power and energy strategies. Once elected, implementation must begin immediately. Import dependence, now at 56 percent, must be reduced through coordinated action on gas, coal, renewables, and nuclear power.

Above all, the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant must be commissioned without delay and treated as a national priority. Failure to act decisively from day one will stall industrial growth, weaken employment, and undermine economic stability. The power and energy sector must therefore stand above all other reforms, guided by sound policy, political courage, and institutional discipline. **EP**

Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor, Energy & Power and **Afroza Akther Pervin**, Managing Editor, Energy & Power



Begum Khaleda Zia
(1946-2025)

BIPPA expresses deep sorrow at the death of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

The Bangladesh Independent Power Producers Association (BIPPA) has expressed profound grief and sorrow at the death of Begum Khaleda Zia, former three-time Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the country's first female Prime Minister.

In a condolence message, the President of BIPPA prayed for the forgiveness of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In the message, the President said:

“Begum Khaleda Zia’s contribution to the country’s development and the journey of democracy is unforgettable. Her uncompromising leadership and patriotism will remain a unique source of inspiration in shaping the future of Bangladesh. Today, the nation has lost a leader whose wisdom and farsighted leadership were unparalleled. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased Jannatul Ferdous and to give her family the strength to bear this irreparable loss.”

On behalf of all members and the Board of Directors of BIPPA, prayers have been offered for eternal peace of the departed soul.





Energy Cooperation Anchors Russia-Bangladesh Relations



Alexander Khozin

Energy cooperation has always been the backbone of economic relations between Russia and Bangladesh. Back in the 1970s, the Soviet Union provided financial and technical assistance in the construction of Ghorashal and Siddhirganj power plants, which was an important contribution to the revitalization of Bangladesh's economy after the Liberation War. The facilities are still operational and supply more than 1000 MW to the national grid. Historically, Russian contractors provided technical support and operational assistance and contributed to modernization efforts.

Nowadays, our energy cooperation is centered on the construction of Bangladesh's first nuclear energy facility – Rooppur nuclear power plant. This flagship development project is ran by “Rosatom” State Corporation and its engineering division ASE. The contractor utilizes the most advanced engineering solutions, following the most stringent safety standards and environmental requirements.

Once commissioned, the Rooppur

NPP will contribute to the stability of national energy security, providing additional 2,400 MW to the grid. Nuclear power is low cost and environmentally friendly since NPPs produce nearly zero greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, it will create an entire hi-tech industry for the benefit of Bangladesh's agriculture, health sector, and engineering.

At the moment, the work is focused on commissioning of Unit No.1 of Rooppur NPP, which is at the final stage of readiness: final construction, start-up and adjustment works, mandatory checks and inspections, as well as execution of authorization documents from regulatory authorities are underway.

Successful and timely implementation of the project is the result of the well-coordinated work of the whole team. Prompt feedback and efficient interaction with the Bangladeshi side allow the contractor to effectively solve arising problems and move towards the achievement of the target.

As early as next year, Rosatom plans to start supplying the first megawatts of



electricity to the power grid system of Bangladesh. This will be a milestone in the implementation of the project. The Russian side is making all necessary efforts to commission the facility as soon as possible.

The Russian and Bangladeshi sides solve arising problems based on compromise and mutual benefit. For instance, in July of this year, the parties agreed to adjust the repayment schedule for the main loan obligation. Specifically, in view of the extension of the Intergovernmental Credit Agreement (IGCA), the commencement of the main debt repayment has been deferred by 1.5 years. According to the amended Protocol to the aforementioned Agreement, approved by the Ministries of Finance of Russia and Bangladesh, the first installment of the loan repayment is now scheduled for September 15, 2028.

Extension of the IGCA, as well as the Letter of Credit, indicates renewal of the state export credit provision to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for financing the construction of Rooppur NPP. This decision ensured that financial operations for the project would continue smoothly. We have

several other projects, no less important in terms of their impact on people's lives and the country's economic prosperity. Another aspect of our bilateral cooperation is gas production. Since 2012, the Russian company "Gazprom International" has designed and built about 20 wells, including 7 on Bhola Island. A significant amount of natural gas has been discovered there. The Russian company has accumulated vast expertise on the tricky geological structure of Bangladesh with its specific features. Gazprom stands ready to continue its operations in Bangladesh by participating in drilling, seismic survey, and gas transportation projects. The company's proposals for gas evacuation and exploration of new fields are under consideration.

In addition, Russian exporters of LNG and crude oil discuss the prospects of supplying fuel on a long-term basis, which would mitigate the shortage of energy resources required for the rapidly developing economy and daily communal activities.

Besides, Russian companies engaged in the sphere of renewable energy are ready to share their expertise with the Bangladeshi partners, as

well as to invest in this sector and open joint ventures. For example, the Russian company "Unigreen Energy" is interested in developing solar plant projects in Bangladesh.

In conclusion, from the earliest days of the existence of independent Bangladesh, energy cooperation with Russia has remained a pillar of bilateral relations. The Soviet Union's support in establishing foundational power infrastructure laid the groundwork for long-term economic growth, while today's collaboration on the Rooppur NPP represents a new chapter defined by advanced technology, high safety standards, and environmental sustainability. Alongside nuclear energy, there are also such promising fields of cooperation as gas exploration, fuel supply, and renewable energy. Built on mutual trust, compromise, and shared benefit, Russia-Bangladesh energy cooperation continues to evolve, contributing not only to a stable power supply but also to industrial development, technological progress, and improved quality of life for the people of Bangladesh. 

H.E. Alexander Khozin
Ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh



BETWEEN FLICKERS & FUTURES

Bangladesh's Energy Transition And The Next Elected Government

Dr. Shahi Md. Tanvir Alam

This dual reality – apparent abundance and lived scarcity – is unfolding in a country that is widely recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable in the world.

On a humid evening in Dhaka, when the ceiling fan slows and the lights flicker, the energy transition stops being an abstract policy debate and becomes much more personal. For millions of households and small businesses across Bangladesh, the discussion about renewables, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and coal is really a discussion about whether refrigerators keep running, whether sewing machines in a small garment workshop can stay on through the night, and whether schoolchildren can study under a light bulb instead of a candle. The country is in the middle of a political and economic turning point, and its energy system sits right at the center of that story. Over the last decade, Bangladesh has expanded electricity access to almost every household, helped by more than six million off-grid solar home systems and continued grid expansion into rural areas, according to World Bank-supported program assessments and national renewable energy statistics. Yet the day-to-day experience of power supply remains fragile in many places, reminding citizens that the promise of development still depends on

something as simple as whether the lights stay on.

Over roughly the same period, the power system has grown very large on paper. A quarterly brief published in 2025 by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) notes that during January–March 2025, the installed generation capacity, including on-grid and off-grid plants, reached about 30,889 megawatts, while peak power generation in that quarter reached only 14,918 megawatts. In other words, even at maximum demand, roughly half of the installed capacity was not being used. That gap reflects a combination of overbuilding, fuel constraints, technical derating, and the reality that some plants exist more in planning documents than in day-to-day dispatch. Officially, the government can claim a comfortable reserve margin; in practice, people still endure load-shedding, particularly when gas supply is tight, or imported fuel becomes too expensive.

This dual reality – apparent abundance and lived scarcity – is unfolding in a country that is widely recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable in



the world. Bangladesh faces a mix of riverine floods, coastal cyclones, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion that directly threaten lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Policy documents such as the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan link future prosperity to a cleaner and more resilient energy system, suggesting that renewable energy could reach around 30 percent of the power mix by 2030 and about 40 percent by 2040, provided that sufficient domestic reforms and international support are in place. In this vision, moving from fossil fuels towards renewables is not just about cutting emissions; it is also about reducing exposure to volatile fuel markets and building an economy that is less at the mercy of global shocks.

If we look at the current structure of the power mix, the scale of the challenge becomes clearer. According to the Bangladesh country profile in BloombergNEF's Climatescope database, natural gas remains the backbone of the system, with about 11.95 gigawatts of gas-fired capacity and roughly 45.7 terawatt-hours of gas-based generation in 2024. Oil-fired plants play a smaller role in terms of electricity output but an outsized role in cost: analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) shows that between July 2023 and May 2024, oil-based generation contributed only around one-tenth of total electricity, yet accounted for nearly one-third of fuel costs because of the high price of imported liquid fuels. Coal has become a second pillar of the system, with new domestic coal plants joining large imported-coal projects and long-term contracts for coal-fired power imported from India. IEEFA's assessment of the sector notes that by the end of 2024, the reserve margin – the difference between installed capacity and peak demand – was likely to exceed 60 percent, far above what would normally be needed for reliability in a country with limited renewable energy.

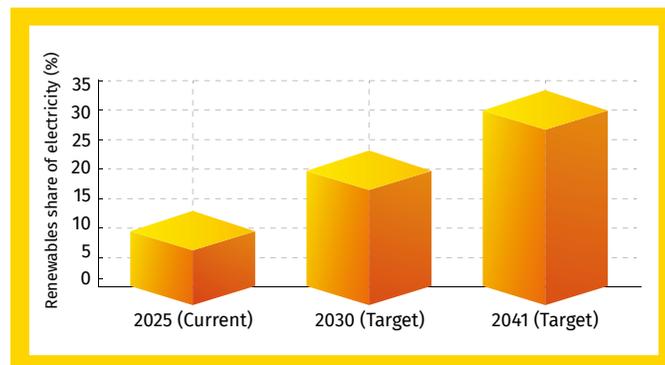
Against this heavy fossil backdrop, the renewable base remains modest. The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority's 2025 investment brief on renewable energy reports that the country had around 1,559 megawatts of installed renewable capacity, representing roughly five to six percent of total installed power capacity. Solar dominates that mix with about 1,265 megawatts, or 81 percent of the renewable total, followed by 230 megawatts of hydro and 63 megawatts of wind. The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) maintains a National Database of Renewable Energy; its records for 1 November 2025 show a very similar picture, with 1,546.9 megawatts of renewable capacity in operation, including 1,253.85 megawatts of solar, 230 megawatts of hydro, 62 megawatts of wind, and a small amount of biogas-to-electricity. When we shift from installed capacity to electricity actually generated over a year, the renewable share is also still in the single digits, at around five to six percent of total power supply.

The government's own targets are much more ambitious than this baseline. In 2025, a new Renewable Energy Policy was approved, which sets a goal of producing 20 percent of Bangladesh's electricity from renewables by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040. Translated into capacity terms, the policy aims for about 6,145 megawatts of renewables by 2030 and 17,470 megawatts by 2040. At the same time, the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan and

the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan describe broader trajectories in which “clean energy” – a term that includes renewables, gas with lower emissions, and eventually nuclear power – gradually replaces high-emitting fuels. According to an IEEFA study on catalyzing renewable energy finance in Bangladesh, meeting the 2030 and 2040 capacity goals in the master plan would require a cumulative renewable capacity of roughly 5,800 megawatts by 2030 and 16,500 megawatts by 2040, compared to around 1,559 megawatts of capacity today. The numbers make clear that if the country wants to meet its own targets, it must move from pilots and scattered projects to a sustained, large-scale roll-out of renewables.

The simple bar chart (Fig. 1) that accompanies this discussion tries to capture that leap at one glance. The first bar represents the situation around 2025, with renewables providing just over five percent of total capacity and a similar share of power generation. The second bar shows the 20 percent target for 2030, and the third shows the 30 percent target for 2041, mirroring the new Renewable Energy Policy. Even without a detailed year-by-year pathway, the direction is obvious: Bangladesh is proposing to roughly quadruple the renewable share of its power system over the next decade and a half. Each step on that climb corresponds to real decisions: which power plants will be built and where, which parts of the grid must be reinforced, which investors will be trusted with public-private partnerships, and how local communities will be consulted and compensated when land is needed.

Fig. 1: Analytical comparison of Bangladesh's current renewable capacity of around 1550 MW (about 5–6% of total installed capacity) and the Government of Bangladesh's Renewable Energy Policy 2025 targets of 20% renewables by 2030 (≈6,145 MW) and 30% by 2040 (≈17,470 MW)



Source: Author's illustration based on data from BIDA, SREDA, and Government of Bangladesh policy documents.



The interim government launched a National Rooftop Solar Program in 2025 that aims to add on the order of 3,000 megawatts of rooftop capacity by December 2025, focusing on public buildings such as schools, hospitals, and government offices. According to press reports and policy notes, private developers are expected to finance and install the systems

Some of the most interesting movements are happening not in giant solar parks but on rooftops and in villages. Bangladesh's off-grid solar home system program is one of the largest in the world. According to SREDA and development partner summaries, more than six million solar home systems have been installed over the last decade, bringing electric light and small-scale power to an estimated 20 million people who previously relied on kerosene lamps or had no reliable access at all. On the grid-connected side, however, solar deployment has been slower. IEEFA's 2025 briefing on rooftop solar notes that by June 2025, there were only about 245 megawatts of rooftop solar installed across the country, despite more than fifteen years of policy discussion.

Recognizing this gap, the interim government launched a National Rooftop Solar Program in 2025 that aims to add on the order of 3,000 megawatts of rooftop capacity by December 2025, focusing on public buildings such as schools, hospitals, and government offices. According to press reports and policy notes, private developers are expected to finance and install the systems, while public institutions provide rooftop space and benefit from

lower electricity bills and the possibility of rental income. At the same time, net-metering rules have been revised to allow consumers to offset up to 100 percent of their sanctioned load with rooftop generation, and smaller single-phase customers have been brought into the scheme for the first time. These changes are still new and uneven in their implementation, but they point towards a future in which generation is more widely distributed and dependence on a handful of large fossil plants is gradually reduced.

Even as these green shots appear, the weight of existing commitments to gas and coal continues to define the present. Domestic gas fields are ageing, and output has been declining. To bridge the gap, Bangladesh has turned increasingly to imported LNG, purchased through a combination of long-term contracts and spot cargoes. When global gas prices surged after the pandemic and the start of the war in Ukraine, spot LNG became prohibitively expensive. The government cancelled cargoes, industries faced energy rationing, and households experienced longer hours of load-shedding. On the coal side, Bangladesh has both domestic coal-fired plants and long-term import contracts. One of the highest-profile

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examples is the 1,600 megawatt Godda power plant in India's Jharkhand state, owned by Adani Power, which exports all of its electricity to Bangladesh under a 25-year power purchase agreement. By May 2025, Indian business papers were reporting that Bangladesh owed around 900 million US dollars in unpaid bills to Adani Power, on total billings of about 2 billion dollars since commercial operation began. International news agencies have also reported that at various times Bangladesh has halved imports from Godda or reduced purchases from other Indian suppliers when foreign-exchange shortages and payment disputes became acute.

These arrangements were originally justified as ways to secure reliable electricity for a fast-growing economy. They did help add megawatts quickly. But they have also created long-term financial obligations that limit today's room for maneuvering. The cost of imported fuels, combined with capacity payments for under-utilized plants, has put significant pressure on the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). According to IEEFA's 2024 report on fixing the power sector, between fiscal years 2019-20 and 2023-24, BPDB's total annual expenditure increased

about 2.6 times, while revenue grew only 1.8 times. Over that period, the government allocated roughly 1,267 billion taka in subsidies – more than 10.6 billion US dollars at prevailing exchange rates – to keep the system afloat. Despite this, BPDB still accumulated cumulative losses of about 236 billion taka. In the 2023-24 fiscal year alone, power subsidies are estimated to have reached around 383 billion taka. As fuel costs and subsidies have risen, average retail electricity tariffs have also gone up; Climatescope data suggest that the average price paid by consumers increased from roughly 84 US dollars per megawatt-hour in 2023 to about 96 dollars per megawatt-hour in 2024.

All of this is unfolding against a shifting political backdrop. Mass protests, led in part by students and young people, forced the previous government from power and opened the way for a caretaker administration. That interim government has announced a national election for February 2026, giving voters the chance to choose a new leadership at a moment when the energy system is under unusual strain. Whoever emerges from that election with a governing mandate will find the power and energy portfolio waiting at

the top of the in-tray. The new leaders will have to decide whether to continue with the current pattern of incremental, sometimes hesitant change; to slow down the transition in the name of short-term affordability; or to lean more decisively into reform and accept the political risks that come with raising tariffs, revising contracts, and shifting investment priorities.

In this context, the idea of an impartial role for the next elected government takes on specific meaning. It does not mean being neutral between fossil fuels and renewables; the long-term direction of travel has already been set by Bangladesh's own climate and energy commitments. Rather, it means treating the energy transition as a shared national project instead of a partisan trophy. An impartial government would begin by asking a different set of questions about every major decision: Is this project the least-cost over its lifetime, once fuel and environmental costs are included? Does it increase or reduce exposure to volatile international fuel prices and foreign-exchange risks? Does it help deliver on Bangladesh's climate and development pledges? How are the costs and benefits distributed between

cities and rural areas, between richer and poorer households, and between today's voters and future generations?

One of the first tasks for such a government would be an honest stocktake of where the sector stands. That means mapping the existing portfolio of power plants and fuel supply contracts, including their capacity, their actual utilization, their fuel costs, and the payments that will fall due over the next twenty years. It also means revisiting the main policy documents – the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan, the Renewable Energy Policy, the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, and the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution – to identify where targets reinforce each other and where they quietly contradict. Without this shared baseline, debates about the energy transition risk collapsing into slogans and blame games.

From that stocktake, the next impartial step is transparency. Publishing the core terms of large power-purchase agreements and fuel supply contracts, subject to reasonable commercial safeguards, would help citizens and parliamentarians understand who pays what, and for which services. This is not about embarrassing any particular company or former administration. It is about rebuilding trust in a sector that has too often been associated with rumors of favoritism and opaque decision-making. When the public can see why certain projects were chosen, how much they cost, and how they compare to alternatives such as utility-scale solar or wind, disagreements about policy choices can at least be grounded in fact.

A further impartial move is to make competition rather than negotiation the default method for selecting new projects. For large solar parks, wind farms, and even flexible gas-fired plants, experience from many countries shows that well-designed auctions can attract a wide field of bidders and push prices down over time. Bangladesh has already announced tenders for more than five gigawatts of grid-tied solar capacity under various schemes, but many of these projects are delayed, and the pipeline is not yet organized into a



predictable, rolling auction schedule. Establishing such a schedule, with clear rules, standardized power-purchase agreements, and credible timelines, would give investors greater confidence while helping to keep costs in check. In this framework, the government's role is not to pick winners project by project, but to set and enforce fair rules for all.

At the same time, any responsible government will have to confront the politically sensitive issue of subsidies. The large gap between the cost of imported fuels and the prices charged to consumers has been bridged by public money for years. As fuel prices and the volume of imported energy have risen, that bridge has become more and more expensive. An impartial government cannot pretend that this can continue indefinitely, but it also cannot withdraw support overnight and expect ordinary families to bear the full shock. The realistic path lies somewhere in between: a gradual repricing of energy over several years, combined with targeted assistance for low-income households and small businesses, and a visible commitment to using part of the savings to strengthen the grid and to invest in cleaner generation.

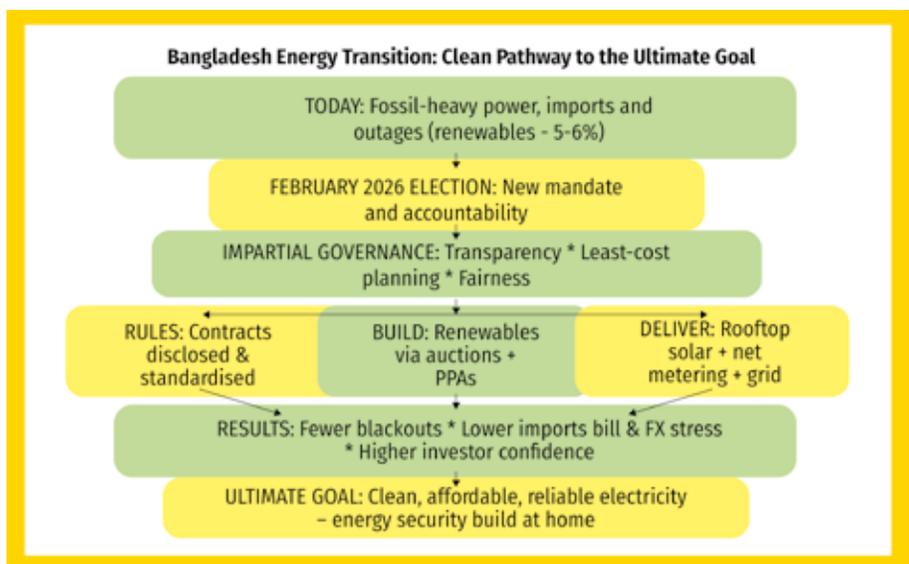
Rooftop solar and distributed generation offer a particularly attractive way to square some of these circles. When a school in a small town installs panels and reduces its electricity bill, the benefit is felt immediately in the local budget. When a cluster of garment

factories in an export processing zone invests in rooftop solar and energy efficiency, the entire system gains breathing space during peak hours. The government's task is to make such decisions straightforward. That means keeping net-metering rules simple and stable, ensuring that distribution companies are fairly compensated so they do not see rooftop systems purely as a threat to their revenue, and working with banks and development partners to provide affordable finance for small and medium-sized projects.

A credible energy transition will also require investment in the grid itself. Bangladesh's transmission and distribution networks were not originally designed to handle large amounts of variable renewable energy or thousands of small generators feeding power back into the system. IEEFA's analysis suggests that technical and non-technical losses in transmission and distribution still hover at around ten percent, higher than the global average. Its proposed roadmap calls for reducing those losses to about eight percent by 2030, shifting at least 1,500 megawatts of industrial captive demand onto the grid, and cutting load-shedding to a small fraction of its current level. These goals may sound technical, but they translate into very tangible outcomes: fewer blackouts for households, more predictable power for factories, a lower subsidy bill for taxpayers, and a grid that can integrate the solar and wind capacity envisaged in national plans.

Balancing the fossil portfolio is perhaps the hardest part of the story. Gas and coal plants provide electricity at times when the sun is not shining, and the wind is still; they also employ workers and anchor industrial clusters. An impartial government does not deny these realities. Instead, it sets out a medium-term path that recognizes the current role of these plants but gradually reduces their dominance as renewables, storage, and efficiency expand. IEEFA's modelling suggests, for example, that Bangladesh could phase out around 3,500 megawatts of oil-fired capacity between 2025 and 2030 while adding roughly 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of renewables and still maintain a healthy reserve margin. At the same time, domestic policy documents emphasize the importance of energy efficiency, with goals such as improving efficiency by around 1.5 percent per year and reducing primary energy intensity by 20 percent by 2030 compared to 2015. If these measures are pursued seriously, the need for new fossil capacity will diminish over time, and existing gas and coal plants can be run more strategically.

Underlying all of these technical and financial choices is a social question: who gains and who loses from the transition? IEEFA's breakdown of electricity consumption shows that households account for more than half of grid-supplied electricity, industry for roughly a quarter to a third, and commerce for most of the rest. If reforms are perceived as benefiting only urban elites, large industrialists, or foreign investors, they will not be politically durable. A government, therefore, needs to weave social protection into the fabric of energy policy. That might mean using part of any climate finance and development support to fund retraining programs for workers in fuel-oil plants and coal logistics, or to provide grants and concessional loans for poor households to acquire efficient appliances and small solar systems. It also means involving local communities early in the planning of new projects, rather than presenting them with decisions after everything has been decided. When people can see not only the transmission tower on the horizon but also the jobs, services, and resilience benefits that accompany it, they are more likely to support change.



Source: Author's illustration

By the time the next government has been in office for five years, the success or failure of its impartial approach to energy transition will be visible in everyday life. If things go well, there will still be occasional outages and political arguments about tariffs, but the pattern of crisis and firefighting will have eased. More of the country's electricity will come from the sun and, over time, from wind and other renewable sources. The cash drain caused by imported fossil fuels will be smaller than it might otherwise have been, freeing up resources for health, education, and climate adaptation. People living in villages and city slums may not use the term "energy transition", but they will notice that the power cuts are less frequent and that their children can study under lights that work.

If things go badly, on the other hand, the warning signs will be familiar: headlines about unpaid bills to foreign power suppliers, sudden tariff hikes, factories closing early because of load-shedding, and a growing sense that the big promises of policy documents have little to do with reality. In that scenario, energy once again becomes a political football, with each side blaming the other for shortages and high prices, and long-term planning gives way to short-term survival. The opportunity presented by the February 2026 election would then have been missed.

The choice between these futures is not predetermined. Bangladesh has shown in other areas – from community-based disaster management to health and women's empowerment – that it can make steady, patient progress when there is a clear goal and a shared sense of purpose. The energy transition is more complex and capital-intensive than many previous challenges, but it is not beyond reach. The key test for the upcoming elected government will be whether it can rise above the temptation to treat the sector as a tool of patronage and instead see it as the backbone of the country's next phase of development. In the end, an impartial role in Bangladesh's energy transition means something straightforward: governing in a way that gives future governments, and future generations, more room to maneuver rather than less. It means signing contracts that do not mortgage the next thirty years to yesterday's technologies, building institutions that can withstand political change, and listening carefully to the people who live with the consequences of energy decisions every day. The election in February 2026 will determine who sits around the cabinet table, but the responsibility to steer the country towards a cleaner, fairer, and more resilient energy system will belong to whoever wins.

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From Crisis To Growth

The Transformation of Global LNG Markets

Engr Md Quamruzzaman

Introduction

The global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry is undergoing rapid change, with Asia, the Middle East, and the United States driving major shifts in supply and demand. In 2022, LNG trade reached a record 400 million tonnes, boosted by post-pandemic energy recovery and Europe's urgent need to replace Russian pipeline gas. Europe's LNG imports surged 60–73%, pulling spot cargoes away from Asia and pushing spot prices to historic highs. As a result, buyers such as China and India reduced spot purchases and relied more on coal and alternative fuels.

Meanwhile, U.S. shale gas expansion made the United States the world's top LNG exporter in 2022. Qatar and the broader

Middle East reinforced their position as reliable, long-term suppliers. This article provides a comprehensive review of the LNG value chain—upstream, midstream, and downstream—covering current market trends, infrastructure development, pricing shifts, and projections through 2030–2040.

Regional Analyses

Asia: The Largest LNG Demand Center

Asia remains the largest LNG-importing region. After a decline in 2022 due to high spot prices and China's lockdowns, demand rebounded strongly. In 2023, China became the world's top LNG importer at 70–72 million tonnes, supported by coal-to-gas switching and the rapid expansion of pipelines and import terminals.



Imports may reach 80 million tonnes in 2024, surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

Japan and South Korea, traditionally the top buyers, are showing stable or declining demand due to nuclear restarts and growing renewables. Still, Northeast Asia (Japan, Korea, China, and Taiwan) consistently accounts for over half of global LNG imports.

South Asia and Southeast Asia are now major growth areas. The IEA projects India's LNG needs could double by 2030 to about 48 million tonnes as gas demand rises and domestic production falls behind. Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, and the Philippines are also turning to long-term contracts and new terminals, including FSRUs, to ensure supply security.

Spot prices fell sharply from above \$70/MMBtu in 2022 to about \$18 in 2023, encouraging Asian buyers to sign long-term deals with Qatar and the U.S. Asia is diversifying price formulas, increasingly mixing oil-indexation with Henry Hub-linked LNG to strengthen energy security.

Middle East: Expanding Export Capacity

The Middle East remains a cornerstone of global LNG supply. Qatar, one of the

world's largest exporters, is expanding its North Field through major projects that will increase capacity from 77 to 126 MTPA by 2027. Multi-decade supply deals with China and Europe show Qatar's strategy to secure long-term markets.

Other exporters are also growing. Oman maintains around 10–11 MTPA, and the UAE plans to lift output from 6 to about 15 MTPA by 2027 through its new Ruwais LNG plant, designed to be one of the lowest-carbon LNG facilities using nuclear and solar energy.

Although a few countries, such as Kuwait and Dubai, import LNG to cover seasonal demand, Middle Eastern exporters collectively supply about one-third of global LNG. The region's low-cost gas reserves, new LNG carrier orders, and investment in low-carbon technologies will keep it central to global LNG supply through the 2030s.

United States: Shale Gas Driving Rapid Growth

The U.S. has grown from zero LNG exports a decade ago to the world's largest LNG exporter, with 15.4 Bcf/day (~112 MTPA) of liquefaction capacity. Exports increased 16% in 2022, with 65% of U.S. cargoes heading to Europe amid the energy crisis.

Shale gas production continues to rise, keeping prices relatively low and supporting LNG competitiveness. The U.S. is now constructing the world's largest pipeline of new LNG projects. Facilities such as Golden Pass, Plaquemines LNG, Corpus Christi Stage III, Port Arthur LNG, and Rio Grande LNG are expected to nearly double U.S. capacity to ~230 MTPA by 2030. Infrastructure constraints—especially pipelines linking shale fields to the Gulf Coast—remain a risk, but developers are expanding networks. Long-term contracts with Asian buyers are increasing, as China, South Korea, and India secure flexible Henry Hub-linked supply. The U.S. has become a strategic energy partner for both Europe and Asia.

Industry Segment Breakdown Upstream – Exploration & Production

Upstream activity has accelerated following the high prices of 2021–2022. Over 100 MTPA of new LNG supply has reached FID since the energy crisis. Qatar's North Field is the most significant source of low-cost expansion. In the U.S., shale basins such as the Marcellus, Permian, and Haynesville are producing record gas volumes.

Other regions—including Australia, East Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean—

are also contributing to future LNG growth. By 2030, an estimated 300 bcm/year of new LNG export capacity will be available globally.

A key upstream shift is decarbonization. Projects are increasingly adopting carbon capture, electrified compressors, and reduced methane leakage. U.S. producers are introducing “certified low-methane” gas, while Qatar and the UAE are building carbon-capture infrastructure into new LNG trains.

Midstream – Liquefaction, Shipping & Storage

Global liquefaction capacity was about 476 MTPA at the end of 2022 and could reach ~700 MTPA by 2030. This new supply is expected to ease the tight markets seen during the 2022 crisis, though some temporary oversupply is possible after 2026.

The LNG shipping fleet is undergoing massive expansion. In 2022, shipyards received 163 new LNG carrier orders, and the global fleet is expected to exceed 1,000 vessels by 2026. New ships feature more efficient propulsion and larger tanks.

FSRUs have become essential for rapid deployment, especially in Europe and Asia. Around 50 FSRUs are operational or on order. Storage expansions at key terminals are improving flexibility and resilience.

Pipelines still influence LNG dynamics—China’s rising pipeline imports from Russia and Central Asia can offset some LNG demand—but LNG’s flexibility remains a major advantage.

Downstream – Regasification & Consumption

There are now 200+ regasification terminals worldwide, led by Japan, China, and India. Global regas capacity is expected to exceed 1,000 MTPA by 2027, preventing infrastructure bottlenecks.

LNG consumption spans multiple sectors:

- Power generation – especially in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and is rapidly growing in China and India.



- Industry and chemicals – including steel, glass, ceramics, and fertilizer production.
- Residential and commercial – city gas networks in Japan and China rely on LNG.
- Transportation – LNG trucking in China and LNG bunkering for ships are growing niches.

Decarbonization is increasingly important. Some countries are testing hydrogen or ammonia blending, carbon-neutral LNG cargoes, and CCS at power plants. While Europe and Japan expect long-term declines in gas use, developing Asia and the Middle East will drive most LNG demand growth through the 2030s.

Future Outlook (2030–2040)

Global LNG demand is forecast to rise to 625–685 million tonnes by 2040, about 50% above 2022 levels. Asia will account for around 75% of this growth, led by China, India, and Southeast Asia. As domestic gas fields decline in Pakistan, Thailand, and Malaysia, LNG will play a larger role.

On the supply side, the U.S. and Qatar dominate new capacity additions. A possible oversupply around 2027–2028 could lower prices, but underinvestment afterward risks another supply crunch in the 2030s.

Japan and South Korea may gradually

reduce LNG use due to nuclear restarts and net-zero strategies, but emerging Asia will absorb most available supply. The Middle East will consolidate its role as a long-term, low-cost supplier, with Qatar potentially expanding beyond 126 MTPA in the 2030s.

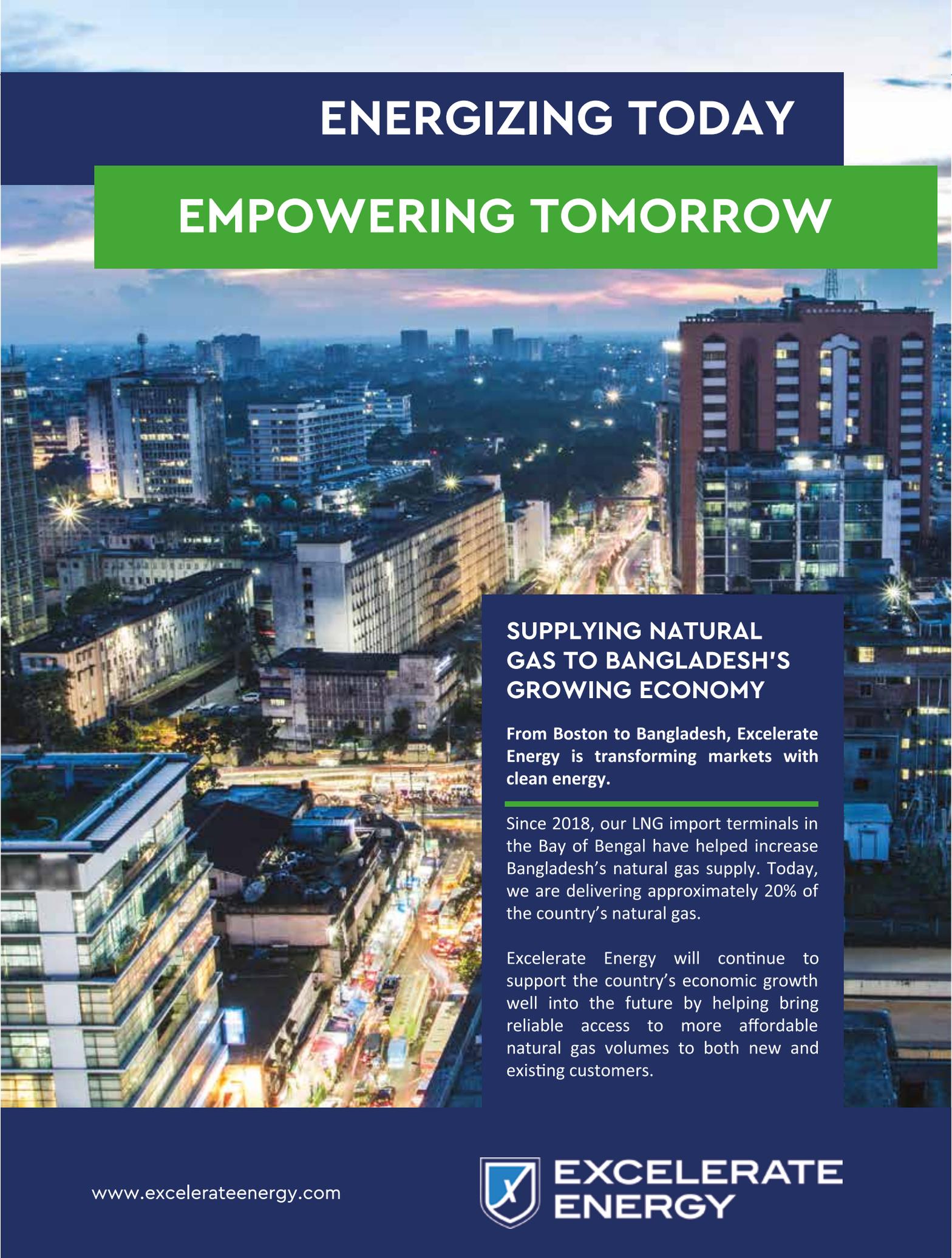
The market will become more flexible, with more destination-free contracts and growing spot trade. Carbon policies will increasingly shape LNG’s future, pushing producers toward CCS, methane reduction, and potentially hydrogen-ready infrastructure.

Conclusion

The LNG industry is expanding across every part of the value chain. Asia’s strong and diverse demand, combined with major supply growth from the Middle East and the United States, will define the global LNG landscape through 2040. Although price volatility and geopolitical risks remain, new capacity and infrastructure are improving market stability.

At the same time, decarbonization is becoming essential for LNG’s long-term role. Investments in low-carbon LNG production, carbon capture, and future hydrogen readiness will shape the industry’s competitiveness. Despite challenges, LNG is set to remain a key component of the global energy mix for decades, providing flexibility, energy security, and a cleaner alternative to coal and oil. 

Engr Md Quamruzzaman
Former Director Petrobangla, Former Managing Director RPGCL



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Living Safely With Gas

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque

Natural gas has become an inseparable part of modern household life, powering our kitchens, heating our water, and supporting everyday comfort with remarkable efficiency and convenience. From piped natural gas to LPG cylinders, these fuels keep homes running smoothly across the country. Yet the same energy source that makes daily life easier can turn dangerous in an instant if safety is neglected. Gas leaks, faulty appliances, or improper handling can quickly lead to fires, explosions, and the tragic loss of life and property.

This is why gas safety awareness is not optional; it is essential. Understanding how to use gas appliances correctly, how to maintain pipelines and connections, and how to detect early warning signs of leaks can dramatically reduce risks. Simple preventive steps, such as routine inspections, proper ventilation, and safe storage practices, can make the difference between a secure home and a preventable disaster. Building a culture of gas safety protects families, safeguards communities, and ultimately saves lives.

Gas Explosion Incidents: A Growing Concern

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has witnessed a rise in burn injuries and fatalities caused by gas leaks and stove-related fires. Ten years ago, such incidents were far less common. For families who lose loved ones in fire-related accidents, the trauma is permanent, even though public attention may fade over time. Many of these tragedies could be prevented if gas lines, electrical wiring, and other hazardous installations were inspected regularly and properly certified. Greater vigilance is essential, and residents should willingly and routinely check gas lines in their homes to prevent disasters.

The situation has become so severe that Dhaka can be described as being “on the verge of imploding” due to the unplanned and poorly coordinated layout of underground utility lines. Many gas pipelines operated by Titas Gas are 50 to 60 years old and show leakages at multiple points. These aging lines are inadequately maintained and monitored, significantly increasing the



risk of fire accidents. Compounding the problem is the lack of proper mapping of underground sewerage, gas, and electricity lines. In many cases, it is unclear whether these systems overlap. Comprehensive mapping of underground utilities would provide critical insight into their condition and help identify preventive measures to avert deadly accidents.

Tragic Consequences

Several tragic incidents have underscored the devastating consequences of gas-related accidents. Investigations into the June 2021 explosion in a building at Maghbazar in Dhaka revealed that the blast was caused by gas accumulation from a disconnected Titas Gas pipeline. Similar causes were suspected in subsequent explosions at the Science Laboratory intersection and in a building at Siddique Bazar. Together, these incidents claimed 39 lives.

A similar tragedy occurred in Narayanganj, where an explosion at a mosque on September 4, 2021, killed 34 people. The fire was caused by gas leaking from a pipeline beneath the mosque. Following the incident, Titas Gas reported that it had identified 1,622 leaks in its gas supply network, which were subsequently repaired.

Fire hazards caused by leaks in gas connections and distribution lines pose serious threats to life, property, and the environment. However, by adopting appropriate precautions, modern technologies, and preventive safety measures, the risks associated with gas-related fires and explosions can be significantly reduced.

Adoption of Modern Safety Technologies

Fire hazards associated with gas use can be effectively reduced through the adoption of modern safety technologies. These include smart gas leak detectors with alarm and alert systems, automatic gas shut-off valves that stop gas flow in the event of leaks or pressure abnormalities, flame-failure protection devices in cooking appliances, and smart or prepaid gas meters capable of detecting abnormal consumption patterns.

In addition, the use of improved regulators with overpressure protection, LPG cylinders equipped with built-in safety valves, and fire-resistant hoses and fittings further enhances overall safety. When combined with proper installation, regular maintenance, and increased user awareness, these technologies significantly reduce the risk of fires and explosions in both domestic and commercial settings.

Potential Gas Hazards and Risks

Gas safety is a pressing concern for households across Bangladesh, and awareness of potential hazards is the first step toward prevention. Gas leaks and explosions can occur for various reasons, including leaks from gas risers, house lines, and connection points. Such leaks may go undetected for extended periods, allowing gas to accumulate in enclosed spaces and creating a serious risk of explosion.

Faulty appliances and poor ventilation further increase fire hazards, putting lives and property at risk. Even a minor spark can ignite accumulated gas, leading to devastating fires or explosions. The consequences are often catastrophic, resulting in loss of life, severe injuries, and extensive property damage.

Understanding these risks is essential for prevention. Regular inspections of gas connections, house lines, and appliances can help identify leaks and faults early. Ensuring adequate kitchen ventilation and installing gas detectors can also significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents. By adopting these preventive measures, households can safely benefit from gas while minimizing its inherent dangers.



Consumer Awareness Gap

Many consumers unknowingly expose themselves to risk due to a lack of awareness about gas leak detection, allowing leaks to go unnoticed and increasing the likelihood of explosions. Improper handling of appliances, neglect of routine maintenance, and the use of low-quality cooking stoves, house-line pipes, and connection materials further exacerbate these risks. When consumers are unaware of warning signs such as the smell of gas or hissing sounds, they may fail to take immediate action. Similarly, incorrect use of appliances or deferred maintenance can result in equipment failure, heightening the risk of fires and explosions. The use of substandard materials in gas installations also contributes significantly to leaks and accidents.

Raising consumer awareness about safe practices, early leak detection, and the importance of using quality appliances and materials can substantially reduce these risks. Regular maintenance and periodic safety checks can help identify potential problems before they escalate into serious hazards.

Staying Safe

By following recommended safety practices, the risk of gas-related accidents can be significantly reduced. Ensuring

adequate ventilation in areas where gas is used helps prevent the buildup of hazardous gases. In addition, checking for any gas odor before operating appliances allows for early detection of leaks and timely preventive action.

Simple habits—such as turning off the gas supply when it is not in use and using certified appliances and fittings—can go a long way toward preventing accidents. It is also crucial to use gas appliances only for their intended purposes and avoid using gas stoves to heat rooms or dry clothes.

Periodically checking and operating the gas isolation valve near the stove helps ensure it is functioning properly and can prevent potential leaks. By incorporating these practices into daily routines, consumers can significantly reduce the risks associated with gas use and create a safer environment for themselves and their loved ones.

Keeping Gas Systems Safe

Regular maintenance and inspection are essential for ensuring household gas safety. Scheduling routine inspections of house lines, gas stoves, and gas connections—including regulators and fittings for LPG cylinders—helps identify potential problems before they become serious hazards.

Old or damaged components, such as faulty or low-quality gas regulators, connectors, and fittings at the gas riser, should be replaced immediately to prevent leaks and accidents. Keeping gas appliances in good working condition also involves cleaning burners and vents regularly and replacing defective stoves when necessary.

Simple checks, such as the soap-water test, can help detect leaks at various points along the gas riser, house line, and gas stove, allowing for prompt corrective action. Where prepaid meters are installed, performing a leak test at the riser point with all stoves turned off can help identify leaks if the meter continues to register usage. This proactive approach to maintenance and inspection significantly reduces the risk of gas-related accidents.

Gas Leak Emergency: What to Do

Detecting a gas leak is the first and most critical step in preventing a dangerous situation. Leaks can usually be identified through three main signs: a distinct rotten-egg smell (from the odorant added to natural gas), a hissing or whistling sound near a gas line or stove, or an alert from a gas detector installed in the kitchen. Any of these warning signs should prompt immediate action.

If a leak is suspected, take the following steps without delay. First, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to circulate and disperse the gas. Next, turn off the gas supply valve near the stove, and then shut off the main gas supply valve to the house. These actions help contain the leak and reduce the risk of ignition.

Avoid all potential sources of sparks. Do not turn electrical switches or appliances on or off, and do not light matches or lighters. Even a small spark can ignite accumulated gas and cause a serious explosion.

After the immediate danger has been addressed, proper repair is essential. If the leak originates from a stove, have it repaired or replaced. For leaks in house lines, repairs must be carried out by a qualified and certified technician to ensure safety and compliance with standards.

In emergencies, keep the contact numbers of your gas supplier and the fire service readily available. Promptly notifying these authorities ensures professional assistance and helps prevent further hazards. By following this sequence—early detection, immediate action, avoiding sparks, proper maintenance, and seeking emergency support—households can protect lives and property from the dangers of gas leaks.

Raising Awareness: Gas Safety Campaigns

Raising public awareness about gas safety is essential for preventing accidents and saving lives. Effective strategies include launching awareness campaigns through multiple channels—such as television, print media, radio, and social media—to reach a broad audience. These campaigns can deliver vital information on gas leak

After the immediate danger has been addressed, proper repair is essential. If the leak originates from a stove, have it repaired or replaced.

detection, emergency response, and safe usage practices.

Distributing safety leaflets and posters in public spaces, schools, and community centers can further strengthen outreach efforts. Such materials provide simple tips and clear guidelines on gas safety, serving as constant reminders of the importance of precautionary measures. Collective action in awareness-building can significantly reduce gas-related accidents and help create a safer environment for all.

Television channels in Bangladesh can play an especially important role in promoting gas safety awareness as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Broadcasting gas safety messages during prime-time slots would help ensure maximum visibility and reinforce safe practices among end-users.

LPG Safety Challenges

The domestic LPG sector in Bangladesh faces serious safety challenges, largely due to the widespread use of substandard equipment, including regulators and hoses that do not meet required safety standards. Unsafe placement of LPG cylinders near heat sources—often caused by space constraints and lack of awareness—further increases the risk of fires and explosions. Poor storage practices, particularly in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces, can also lead to gas accumulation and severe accidents.

The commercial LPG sector encounters similar risks, including the use of unauthorized or low-quality equipment, improper handling and storage of cylinders, and inadequate system maintenance. Limited awareness of safe LPG practices among commercial users further exacerbates these hazards.

Addressing these issues requires stronger safety awareness, strict enforcement of regulations, regular inspection and maintenance, and mandatory use of certified LPG equipment across both domestic and commercial sectors.

Ensuring Gas Safety: Authorities' Responsibility

Authorities play a pivotal role in safeguarding public welfare through





effective gas safety oversight. Regulatory bodies must enforce strict safety standards and certification requirements for all gas appliances and installations to ensure compliance with established quality and safety benchmarks.

Authorities should also require that all gas products include clear, easy-to-understand user instructions covering proper installation, operation, and maintenance. This empowers consumers to use equipment safely and recognize potential risks.

In addition, dedicated hotlines for reporting gas leaks and emergencies should be established and widely publicized. Easy access to emergency reporting can significantly reduce response times and help prevent accidents through timely professional intervention.

Smart Gas Safety: Technological Advances

Technology plays an increasingly important role in enhancing gas safety and improving emergency response. Smart gas detectors and alarm systems provide continuous monitoring of gas levels and issue immediate audible or visual alerts when leaks are detected, enabling quick action to prevent accidents.

Many consumers unknowingly expose themselves to risk due to a lack of awareness about gas leak detection, allowing leaks to go unnoticed and increasing the likelihood of explosions. Improper handling of appliances, neglect of routine maintenance.

Mobile applications focused on gas safety allow users to report leaks, receive real-time alerts, and access emergency contact information directly

from their smartphones, making response efforts faster and more coordinated.

QR codes printed on gas appliances can link users to detailed safety guides, maintenance instructions, and troubleshooting resources online, ensuring easy access to essential information for safe operation and upkeep of equipment.

Remarks

Ensuring the safe use of gas is a collective responsibility that extends beyond consumers alone. Manufacturers, regulators, service providers, and users all have critical roles to play. By strengthening public awareness through targeted campaigns, practical education, and easy access to safety information—and by encouraging everyday habits such as regular maintenance and prompt emergency response—we can significantly reduce the risks associated with gas use. A coordinated, proactive approach will not only protect lives and property but also foster a culture of safety that benefits the entire community. 

Mortuza Ahmad Faruque
Energy Expert & Former Managing Director,
BAPEX



বিশ্বায়ের বুননে শিরোনাম বাংলাদেশ

বছরে ৩৯ বিলিয়ন ডলারের আয়, বাংলাদেশের গর্ব পোশাক খাত
দেশের ৮১% রপ্তানি আয়ের গর্বিত অংশীদার
প্রায় ৪০ লক্ষ কর্মসংস্থান, যার ৬০% নারী
প্রায় ৪ কোটি মানুষ যুক্ত এই শিল্পের সাথে
২৬৮ টি সবুজ কারখানা, ১১৪ টি প্লাটিনাম রেটেড
৬৮ টি বিশ্বসেরা কারখানা বাংলাদেশে
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ENERGY SECURITY

The Upcoming Government's Toughest Test

Saleque Sufi

Over the past two decades, insufficient efforts have been made to explore and develop onshore and offshore petroleum resources. Renewable energy expansion has also remained negligible due to weak implementation strategies.

When the next government assumes office after winning the people's mandate in the scheduled general election in February 2026, disciplining the energy and power sector will rank among its most formidable challenges. Maintaining law and order and ensuring overall good governance may rank higher, but sustainable and reliable energy security will ultimately determine the pace of economic recovery and long-term development.

Years of chronic fuel supply shortages – driven largely by mismanagement, weak planning, and corruption – have severely disrupted power generation, industrial operations, and investment confidence. Many industries have shut down, Bangladeshi exports have lost competitiveness, thousands of workers have lost their jobs, and GDP growth has slipped from above 6% to below 4%.

Despite suffering from persistent fuel shortages, Bangladesh continues to leave substantial domestic coal

resources untapped due to a lack of political resolve. Over the past two decades, insufficient efforts have been made to explore and develop onshore and offshore petroleum resources. Renewable energy expansion has also remained negligible due to weak implementation strategies. State-owned enterprises (SOEs) paid little attention to human resource development, creating confusion and inefficiency across the sector. Reversing this situation will not be easy. This article identifies key areas of concern and outlines a possible way forward.

Need for a Comprehensive Energy and Power Sector Master Plan

Bangladesh urgently needs a comprehensive, integrated energy and power sector master plan developed with strong input from local professionals, academics, and researchers. Although a plan was prepared with JICA assistance, its assumptions do not adequately reflect Bangladesh's domestic resource



As a result, generation costs remain high, and SOEs such as BPDB and Petrobangla face mounting payment arrears to power producers and fuel suppliers. Even rising government subsidies have failed to stabilize the situation.

endowment, technological capacity, affordability, or environmental realities.

Within six months of taking office, the upcoming government should engage all stakeholders and agree on an implementable master plan covering short-, medium-, and long-term electricity and fuel demand forecasts. The plan must include a clear exploration strategy for coal and gas, a realistic renewable energy roadmap, and an affordable fuel-mix policy.

Greater reliance on domestic primary fuel will lower generation costs and help reduce subsidies, which must be phased down progressively. Pricing reform, efficiency improvement, and energy conservation should be core pillars. The government must also rationalize the number of SOEs, set performance benchmarks, and ensure competent staffing. A transparent implementation strategy is essential for pulling the sector out of its current crisis.

Present Situation

Uncoordinated expansion of power generation without corresponding energy sector planning has resulted in excessive reserve margins. Installed generation capacity now exceeds 30,000 MW, while peak demand rarely crosses 16,000 MW. Even this demand cannot be met consistently due to fuel shortages and transmission

and distribution constraints.

High-quality coal reserves remain buried, and proven gas reserves are nearing depletion with no meaningful replenishment efforts underway. There is no coherent exploration plan or depletion strategy. Fuel diversification through imported coal and LNG has introduced new vulnerabilities, including infrastructure gaps and exposure to volatile global prices.

As a result, generation costs remain high, and SOEs such as BPDB and Petrobangla face mounting payment arrears to power producers and fuel suppliers. Even rising government subsidies have failed to stabilize the situation.

The upcoming government must review fuel utilization policies and take difficult but necessary decisions, such as prioritizing gas use for high-value industries and efficient power and fertilizer plants. Unauthorized gas and electricity use must be tackled firmly. Governance reforms are also essential, as excessive reliance on bureaucratic management has resulted in poorly planned mega projects that now burden the system. Local experts must be engaged to improve SOE performance.

Need to Strengthen Regulatory Institutions

The role of Petrobangla should be reviewed, as its companies are legally autonomous under the Companies Act and licensed by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC). Regulatory overlap involving BMD, GSB, and HCU also needs reassessment.

BERC must be strengthened with experienced professionals and empowered to set performance benchmarks, audit licensees, and conduct pricing and regulatory research.

Exploration Planning and Depletion Strategy

Despite being located in one of the world's largest river deltas, Bangladesh lacks a comprehensive exploration and depletion strategy. Early gas fields such as Bakhrabad and Shangu were depleted prematurely due to poor reservoir management. The entire landmass should have been covered by at least 2D seismic surveys by now, but it has not.

Bangladesh must urgently develop a structured exploration plan and depletion strategy, including primary, secondary, and tertiary recovery methods. Without immediate action, the country risks exhausting its discovered gas reserves by 2030.

New PSC for Onshore and Offshore Exploration

While BAPEX has performed commendably under constraints, it cannot restore balance alone. The upcoming government must finalize updated model Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and launch fresh bidding rounds for onshore and offshore exploration by June 2026.

LNG Imports and Gas from Bhola

A clear LNG import strategy is essential. Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) are only interim solutions. Bangladesh cannot rely exclusively on imported LNG, yet at least two additional FSRUs and one land-based terminal at Matarbari must be operational by 2030. Gas from Bhola fields must also be integrated into the national grid.

Regional Energy Cooperation

The upcoming government must proactively ease tensions with India to strengthen regional energy cooperation. Power imports from India, Nepal, and Bhutan will remain uncertain unless diplomatic misunderstandings are resolved.

Clean and Renewable Energy

Bangladesh neither needs nor can realistically achieve net zero by 2050. Its carbon footprint is minimal. The country can continue using fossil fuels while adopting cleaner technologies. At the same time, renewable energy must be developed professionally.

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant should be commissioned by 2026. Grid-connected solar, rooftop solar, battery storage, floating solar, wind, hybrid systems, and waste-to-energy options should be pursued strategically. Local manufacturing of solar panels, inverters, and batteries must be encouraged. The roles of SREDA and IDCOL should also be reviewed.

Human Resource Development

Competent human resources are vital for project management and operations. Skills in AI, automation, and digital systems are now essential. Talented Bangladeshis must be incentivized to contribute domestically.

Training institutions such as BPI and BPMI need objective evaluation, and collaboration with international HR development agencies and universities should be strengthened.

Conclusion

Resolving the energy crisis will be impossible without placing capable professionals in leadership roles and listening to expert advice. The upcoming government must act decisively, without bias, to restructure the energy and power sector. Success in restoring energy security will be critical not only for economic recovery but also for the stability and credibility of the government's tenure. **EP**

Saleque Sufi

Energy & Climate Analyst



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ENERGY & POWER

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Nat'l Grid to Get Rooppur Nuclear Electricity Soon

Bangladesh could begin receiving electricity from its maiden nuclear power plant early next year, says Russia's ambassador, setting a milestone in one of the country's most ambitious infrastructure projects.



Plant into Bangladesh's national grid.

The upcoming commencement of nuclear power feeding into the national grid also manifests the deepening of Moscow's longstanding energy and economic ties with Bangladesh.

Speaking at a recent press briefing, Alexander Khozin, the Russian Ambassador in Dhaka, said preparations were under way to deliver the first megawatts of electricity from the Russian-built Rooppur Nuclear Power

"This will be an important milestone in the implementation of the project and will confirm its readiness for full-scale operation," Khozin said. "We are making all necessary efforts and systematic progress towards commissioning of the facility."

According to the envoy, work is currently focused on Unit No 1 of the Rooppur plant, which he says has reached the final stage of readiness.

Japan Prepares to Restart World's Biggest Nuclear Plant

The Japanese region of Niigata is expected to endorse a decision to restart the world's largest nuclear power plant recently, a watershed moment in the country's pivot back to nuclear since the 2011 Fukushima disaster.



as it tries to wean itself off imported fossil fuels.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, located about 220 km (136 miles) northwest of Tokyo, was among 54 reactors shut after a massive earthquake and tsunami crippled the Fukushima Daiichi plant in the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. Since then, Japan has restarted 14 of the 33 that remain operable,

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa will be the first operated by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) 9501.T, which ran the doomed Fukushima plant. "We remain firmly committed to never repeating such an accident and ensuring Niigata residents never experience anything similar," said TEPCO spokesperson Masakatsu Takata.

PDB Posts Record Losses

In the 2024-25 financial year, the Power Development Board (PDB) slid deeper into the red than ever before, its losses swelling to levels unseen since the country's modern power sector took shape.



For energy economists, the figures are not a sudden shock but the latest chapter in a long-running crisis – one rooted in political choices, costly contracts and an enduring reluctance to confront structural flaws.

According to data released by the state-owned utility, which plans and manages Bangladesh's electricity system, the PDB's losses at the end of the last financial year exceeded Tk 170 billion, almost double the Tk 87 billion recorded in the financial year 2023-24.

The figures, detailed in the PDB's Auditor's Report, come alongside an interim government subsidy bill exceeding Tk 386 billion – slightly higher than the previous year.

Bangladesh's power sector has long been under financial strain, battered by overcapacity, inefficient consumption patterns, high production costs and heavy dependence on imported fuel.

Long-Standing ERL 2nd Unit Project Approved



A meeting of the executive committee of the National Economic Council on 23 December approved 22 projects, including the construction of the second unit of Eastern Refinery Limited at Tk 35,465.14 crore in the next five years.

The overall cost of the 22 projects has been estimated at Tk 46,419.66 crore at the meeting, presided over by chief adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the Planning Commission in

the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area in the capital Dhaka. Of the approved projects, a long-standing project titled 'Modernisation and Expansion of Eastern Refinery Limited' has finally been cleared.

Conceived in early 2010, the proposed second unit of the ERL at Patenga in Chattogram had been delayed over the years for a shortage of funds. Initiatives for implementing the proposed project with foreign financing brought no positive outcome.

Jamuna Oil, Meghna Petroleum See Billions Stuck in Cash-Strapped Banks



State-run Jamuna oil and Meghna Petroleum are at 'high credit risk' as their investments in fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) equivalent to Tk 16.95 billion are stuck with banks facing acute liquidity crises.

The banks are Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, National Bank, Padma Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank.

Of them, the first four banks are undergoing a merger process, while National Bank,

Padma Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank have been enduring losses due to high non-performing loans.

Both companies have written to those banks for encashment of the investment instruments, but have not received any response, said the auditors of the firms in qualified opinions published recently.

Meghna Petroleum holds FDRs worth Tk 5.48 billion in First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and Padma Bank.

Excelerate Energy to Start LNG Supply from Early January

US-based Excelerate Energy is set to begin supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Bangladesh from early January under a long-term contract, providing a fresh boost to the country's strained natural gas-supply system. "We will start purchasing LNG from the US company from January under a sales and purchase agreement (SPA) signed a couple of years ago," a senior Petrobangla official said.

Under the SPA, signed in November 2023, Excelerate Energy will supply up to

1.0 million tonnes per year (MTPA) of LNG to state-run Petrobangla, the official said.

Bangladesh will import LNG from Excelerate Energy for 15 years from 2026 onward, with deliveries structured in phases. The US firm will supply 0.85 MTPA from January 2026 to December 2027, followed by 1.0 MTPA annually from January 2028 to December 2040. This translates into 12 LNG cargoes each in 2026 and 2027, and 16 cargoes per year from 2028 through 2040, according to Petrobangla.

Chevron Supported "Restoring Mobility: Artificial Limb Support" Initiative Concludes in Sylhet



The SMILE project, in collaboration with the Jalalabad Disabled Rehab Center and Hospital (JDRCH), celebrated the closing ceremony of the Restoring Mobility: Artificial Limb Support intervention, held at Grand Sylhet.

The event marked the successful provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices to 60 beneficiaries from Sylhet and Nabiganj upazilas, many of whom have lived with physical disabilities for years without access to affordable rehabilitation services.

The closing ceremony was graced by distinguished

guests, including the Secretary, Coordination & Monitoring, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as Chief Guest.

Their presence underscored the shared commitment to inclusive development and the transformative power of collaboration in building resilient communities.

Representatives from Chevron Bangladesh, Swisscontact, JDRCH, Rotary Club of Jalalabad, and beneficiaries of the initiative also attended, reflecting a united effort toward meaningful social impact.

Uncertainty Looms over Offshore Oil, Gas Prospects

Even more than a decade after winning its maritime boundary, Bangladesh has failed to achieve any notable success in oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal.



While neighboring India, Pakistan and Myanmar have moved ahead in discovering offshore energy resources, Bangladesh has remained stuck in a cycle of failure for nearly fifteen years.

The most recent evidence came from the latest offshore oil and gas exploration

tender, where although seven foreign multinational companies purchased tender documents, none ultimately submitted bids.

As a result, the prospects for offshore oil and gas have become uncertain due to the lack of interest from multinational companies.

Winter Slump Cuts Power Generation Sharply

Electricity generation across Bangladesh has fallen to nearly one-third of installed capacity as winter sets in and demand drops sharply.



While the seasonal slump has eased the chronic supply pressures typically seen during summer, it has also exposed the financial burden of maintaining surplus generation capacity.

With a large number of power plants lying idle, the government remains liable for substantial capacity payments under existing contracts.

The situation highlights a structural imbalance between installed capacity and actual demand, raising questions about planning efficiency in the power sector, sector insiders said.

Data from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) show that the decline in generation has not led to load-shedding so far, indicating that industrial and agricultural activity has yet to rebound strongly enough to absorb the excess capacity.

Electricity generation during day peak hours on December 17 stood at 9,810 megawatts, only 34.37 per cent of the total installed capacity of 28,539 MW. During the evening peak, generation rose to 11,055 MW, equivalent to 38.73 per cent of capacity, BPDB data showed.

Global Coal Demand Expected to Hit Record in 2025: IEA

Global coal consumption is expected to hit a record in 2025, the IEA said recently, thanks in part to policy measures introduced by the Trump administration to boost the industry.



In its annual report on the coal industry, the International Energy Agency said demand was on course to rise by 0.5 percent this year to hit a record 8.85 billion tonnes, although demand is expected to decline over the rest of the decade as rival generation options multiply.

China and India are usually the main drivers of growth

in coal consumption as the two emerging economies race to meet rising demand for electricity. But demand for coal, which is the main contributor of climate warming carbon dioxide emissions from human sources, held steady in China and fell in India.

The IEA sees demand in China, the top coal consuming nation, decreasing somewhat over the next five years.

Asia's Imports of US Energy Drop in 2025

Asia's imports of US crude oil, coal and liquefied natural gas are on track to decline this year despite President Donald Trump's efforts to boost shipments as part of his trade and tariff policies.



The decline in imports from the United States is largely driven by China, the world's biggest buyer of commodities, which pulled back on purchases after Trump ramped up tariffs on US imports of Chinese goods, with the current average rate around 47.5 percent.

Asia's imports of US crude oil are expected to reach 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2025, down from 1.56 million bpd in 2024 and the record 1.65 million bpd in 2023, according to data compiled

by commodity analysts Kpler. The biggest importer is South Korea, one of the countries that committed to buying more US energy as part of a trade deal with the Trump administration.

However, South Korea's imports of US crude oil are likely to show a tiny increase in 2025 to 470,000 bpd from 465,000 bpd last year.

Japan, which also agreed to boost imports of US energy, did show a significant increase in imports of crude oil, with 84,500 bpd arriving in 2025, up from 34,000 bpd in 2024.

Bangladesh to Boost LNG Imports on Lower Global Prices

Bangladesh is preparing to ramp up its liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports as global spot prices soften and local gas output continues to fall behind the domestic demand.



For the current fiscal year 2025-26, the government initially planned to import 115 cargoes of LNG through a mix of long-term contracts and spot purchases. That is already higher than the 94 cargoes bought in the previous year.

Now, the authorities are considering importing even

more as international prices have remained subdued amid weak demand from major buyers such as China and Japan. "LNG prices reduced significantly. So, I am going to suggest the energy ministry to import more," said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

"I hope LNG imports this year will be higher compared to the initial plan," he added.

Govt Renegotiating Rampal, Payra Tariffs Using Matarbari Benchmark

Using the tariff of the Matarbari coal-fired power plant as a benchmark, the interim government has begun renegotiating electricity prices



from the Rampal and Payra coal plants, which officials and experts say were set excessively high under the previous administration to favour power producers at the state's expense.

In April this year, the tariff for the 1,200MW Matarbari power plant was fixed at Tk8.45 per unit. By comparison, electricity from the 1,320MW Rampal plant costs Tk13.57 per unit, while

power from the 1,320MW Payra plant is priced at Tk12 per unit. To narrow this gap, the government is reassessing major cost components of the Rampal and Payra projects, including imported coal prices, fuel handling and logistics, maintenance costs, plant efficiency, capacity payments, debt servicing, and grid-connection charges, Power Division sources said.

BPC Profit Increases by 9.46pc in FY25

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) recorded a 9.46-percent rise in profit in the last fiscal year (FY 2024-25), driven by the automatic fuel-pricing formula introduced in March 2024. The state-run organization posted earnings of Tk 42.16 billion, up from Tk 39.43 billion in the previous fiscal year (FY 2023-24).



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PETROLEUM
CORPORATION**

Tax payments to the government rose at the same pace, with BPC contributing Tk 16.07 billion to the exchequer in FY25, compared with Tk 14.68 billion a year earlier.

Officials attribute the improved performance to the pricing mechanism that allows domestic fuel prices to adjust

in line with international market movements.

BPC has also continued to generate profits during the first five months of the current fiscal year, benefiting from the stable margins ensured under the formula.

Govt Mulls Converting Bhola Island Gas to LNG



The government mulls converting around 30 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of unutilised natural gas of gas-rich Bhola island to LNG and carrying it to gas-starved industries in the mainland for consumption, said sources. The volume of converted LNG to be processed from Bhola gas will be only 2.72 per cent of the country's existing LNG re-gasification capacity of 1,100 mmcf.

The LNG to be processed from Bhola, located around 130 km off the coast from Dhaka, will

be carried through river, with storage facilities of around 150 mmcf each on both banks, a recent meeting of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) decided recently.

State-run Petrobangla has taken the initiative to bring untapped gas from Bhola island as natural gas demand there is not increasing significantly, while industries in mainland have been facing scarcity for long," said a senior Petrobangla official.

Power Division Seeks Extra Fund in Revised Budget

Additional budgetary allocations have been sought for public entities under different ministries to enable them to pay off electricity-bill arrears as they owe a hefty amount to the power-distribution companies.



Sources say the Power Division has requested the Ministry of Finance to make additional allocations in favor of the ministries and divisions concerned to bail out the bill defaulters.

According to Power Division data available until August this year, the public entities under the ministries/divisions owe some Tk 24.30

billion to the electricity-distribution companies.

"Due to the non-payment of bills the power-distribution companies have been incurring financial losses alongside facing disruptions to the upgrading of their distribution system," reads a recent letter sent by the Power Division to the ministries and divisions concerned.



Green page

Energy Efficiency Saved \$3.3b in FY24

Bangladesh saved an estimated \$3.3 billion in energy costs in a single year by using electricity and fuel more efficiently across homes, factories and the power system, according to a report.

Besides, the savings reflect reduced fossil fuel consumption and avoided energy imports equivalent to 7 million tonnes of oil in fiscal year 2023-24, said the report published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) recently.

In that period, the country faced higher global fuel prices, spiked rates for liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries and a severe dollar crisis. The report said the savings were achieved through efficiency improvements across major consuming sectors, allowing the economy to deliver the same level of output while using less fuel.



In the report, IEEFA, a United States-based nonprofit organization that promotes the transition to cleaner energy, said that the country's effort to improve energy efficiency by adopting a national master plan in 2016 is now paying off.

IEEFA clarified that the \$3.3 billion figure represents avoided fuel import costs rather than direct budgetary savings and does not appear as a line item in government accounts.

Denmark Eyes 500MW Offshore Wind Project in Bay of Bengal

Denmark is preparing to support Bangladesh in establishing the country's first-ever offshore wind energy farm. "We are preparing for Bangladesh, and perhaps even South Asia's first-ever offshore wind energy farm. A 500-megawatt park of wind turbines in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Cox's Bazar," said Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh Christian Brix Møller.

Speaking at a dialogue titled "Climate Adaptation and Impact Investment," organized by Care Bangladesh on 17 December, the envoy emphasized that climate action must remain at the top of the global agenda despite competing international conflicts. He added that despite climate change potentially slipping down the global priority list due to conflicts and geopolitical tensions, the green energy transition remains urgent and economically viable.

Citing a recent UN report, the ambassador pointed out that solar and wind are now the least expensive options for new energy generation. "Over 90% of newly commissioned renewable projects are cheaper than the cheapest new fossil fuel-fired alternatives, and also cheaper than nuclear energy," he added.

Cancellation of 31 Renewable Power Projects Hurts Investor Confidence: TIB



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep concern over the interim government's decision to cancel 31 unsolicited renewable energy projects involving an estimated investment of around \$6 billion, warning that the move could undermine investor confidence at a critical time for Bangladesh's clean energy transition.

At a press conference on 'Power Generation from Renewable Energy: Challenges in Good Governance and the Way Forward' held at the TIB office in Dhaka on 24 December, speakers said the cancellation has sent a "shocking and negative signal" to foreign investors when the country urgently needs stable and predictable investment to expand renewable power generation. TIB Energy Governance Coordinator Md Newazul Moula and Assistant Coordinator Ashna Islam presented the organization's findings, while TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman also addressed the event.

IDCOL Recognizes Academic Excellence Through Scholarship



Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, recognized the academic excellence of 10 meritorious students at a scholarship award ceremony held at the NEC Auditorium on 22 December.

The program was organized in collaboration with the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

The scholarship recipients, who are children of ERD employees, demonstrated outstanding academic performance in their SSC and HSC examinations. The initiative aims to

encourage scholastic excellence and support the educational aspirations of talented students.

The event was graced by Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Chairman, IDCOL, as the Chief Guest.

He formally awarded certificates and scholarship funds to the selected students. In his remarks, Mr. Siddiky expressed his appreciation to IDCOL for undertaking this meaningful initiative and underscored the importance of investing in education as a foundation for national development.

Effective Persuasion Underway for Energy Transition: SREDA



Bangladesh is vigorously pursuing its planned energy transition replacing fossil fuels with clean energy like solar and wind power, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) chief said here recently.

“We are actively pursuing an energy transition towards renewable energy, especially solar, which would contribute for achieving climate goals (Net Zero by 2050),” SREDA Chairman Muzaffar Ahmed said.

He said Bangladesh is rapidly expanding solar and other renewables like wind, hydro, biomass/biogas and as part of the initiative a campaign was underway to introduce solar power at homes, rooftops and parks and promote its use for irrigation. Ahmed said the government was supporting individuals and organizations through various facilities to install solar panels and other renewable power plants for energy transition and achieve the target of the net zero.



PowerChina Launches 31 GW Solar Procurement

PowerChina has launched its 2026 centralized equipment procurement program, issuing tenders covering 97 GW of renewable and grid equipment to secure supply-chain stability through framework agreements.

The program includes 35 GW of wind turbines, 31 GW of solar modules and 31 GW of solar inverters for 2026 projects, with bids due by Dec. 24, 2025.

The solar module tender is split into n-type TOPCon at 24 GW, HJT at 3 GW and BC technologies at 4 GW, all requiring bifacial compatibility and cell sizes of 182 millimeters and above.



The inverter tender covers integrated cabinet inverters above 3.125 MW at 8 GW, string inverters above 300 kW at 20 GW and smaller string inverters from 10 kW to 150 kW at 3 GW. PowerChina said procurement will be conducted through framework shortlists, with suppliers selected via secondary competitive processes.

Three Gorges Group has released the results of its 2026 solar procurement, shortlisting six module suppliers across a 2.5 GW tender, including JinkoSolar, Tongwei, Longi, Astronergy and JA Solar, with bid prices ranging from CNY 0.75 (\$0.11)/W to CNY 0.763/W.

Saudi Arabia Connects 7.8 GWh Battery Storage Project to Grid

Saudi Electricity Co. has completed a massive storage project across three sites, enhancing grid stability and renewable integration. Once fully operational, the installation will become the world's largest battery energy storage system (BESS). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has officially completed grid connection of its landmark battery energy storage project, with a nameplate capacity of 7.8 GWh.



The project spans three sites located in the Kingdom's southwestern regions – Najran, Khamis Mushait, and Madaya. Each site has a capacity of 2.6 GWh and connected to the transmission network

at 380 kV. The project is owned by the Saudi Electricity Co., with National Grid SA acting as the offtaker. Algihaz Holding delivered the project under a full turnkey engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract, including operations and maintenance (O&M) as well as the supply and integration of the high-voltage transformer equipment.

BYD Announces 1.5m Residential Systems Installed Worldwide



BYD Energy Storage says it has passed 1.5 million installed residential energy storage systems worldwide via its BatteryBox brand, a milestone the company first announced on Dec. 18.

BYD said the milestone reflected ten years of effort in the residential and small commercial energy storage market, and claimed to be one of the most widely adopted distributed

energy storage solutions globally.

BYD didn't break down which regions its BatteryBox systems were most sold into. The figure follows BYD's announcement at The Smarter E conference in Germany in June 2024 that it had then reached one million installed BatteryBox systems, meaning 500,000 new systems installed in around 18 months.



Europe Forecasts €240b for Hydrogen Grids to 2040

The European Commission said €1.2 trillion will be needed in EU electricity grids through 2040, including €240 billion for hydrogen networks, as it launched its European Grids Package.

The package outlines plans to strengthen cross-border infrastructure planning, accelerate permitting, improve cost- and benefit-sharing, and bolster resilience and security.



In addition, the commission announced streamlined approval for 100 hydrogen and electrolyzer projects across Europe. Separately, the commission also approved a €1.5 billion Italian State aid scheme to expand clean-technology manufacturing capacity, including support for industrial decarbonization through electrification, energy efficiency, and renewable or electricity-based hydrogen.

"This can happen through electrification, energy efficiency, and the switch to the use of renewable and electricity-based hydrogen, which complies with certain conditions, with expanded possibilities to support the decarbonization of industrial processes switching to hydrogen-derived fuels," said the European executive body.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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

মানসম্পন্ন বিদ্যুৎ নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে দেশের সকল মানুষের নিকট পৌঁছে দেয়াই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

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



Compensate Nations Affected by Climate Change



Two advisers of the interim government recently accused the Global North of failing to ensure climate justice and urged wealthy countries to provide proper compensation to climate change-affected nations like Bangladesh.

The Global North refers to industrialized and wealthier countries, mainly in North America, Europe, and parts of East Asia, which historically account for the largest share of global emissions.

The advisers made the remarks at the inauguration of the two-day Climate Justice Assembly 2025 at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

The assembly was organized by the climate and environmental citizens' platform Dhoritri Rokkhay Amra-Dhora, and was attended by hundreds of local and international activists, researchers, experts, and representatives of climate-affected communities.

Worsening Pollution Fuels Air Purifier Market

Amid the deteriorating air quality in Bangladesh, especially in the capital, businesses are identifying a growing opportunity in the sale of air purifiers.

Consumer adoption of this appliance is currently at a nascent stage, but it is likely to accelerate as public health awareness rises, say businesses.

An air purifier is an electrical device that resembles room heaters or air conditioners and is designed to clean and improve indoor air quality by removing



airborne pollutants and contaminants from rooms.

The equipment is mostly used by research laboratories while its residential use is gradually increasing in the capital, says Abdus Sobhan, a salesperson of an electronics outlet at the Stadium Market.

United Power's Green Steam Cuts Carbon for Ctg's Garment Sector

As global manufacturing leans towards low-carbon methods, a quiet shift is emerging in Chattogram, where United Power Generation



and Distribution Company Limited is supplying a "green steam" system that turns waste heat from its power plant into usable industrial steam for export-oriented factories.

The system aims to reduce carbon emissions, cut production costs, and support a sustainable supply chain. United Power claims that it saves 20%-50% of the costs of users.

At the heart of this transformation is the company's 72MW natural gas-based power plant in Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

Instead of allowing excess heat from electricity generation to escape into the atmosphere, United Power captures this waste heat and converts it into high-pressure steam.

Every day, around 3,50,000kg of steam are supplied to six apparel and dyeing factories, including Pacific Attires, Pacific Jeans, and others.

According to internal estimates, the initiative prevents the emission of 160kg of carbon dioxide per tonne of steam every hour, amounting to a substantial reduction in greenhouse gases for the region.

IFAD Approves \$51.4m for Climate-Resilient Project in Bangladesh

The executive board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development has approved \$51.4 million in financing as IFAD's contribution to the \$211.7 in Bangladesh. This new investment will enhance climate resilience, strengthen food security, and promote rural entrepreneurship for approximately 1.1 million people living in some of the country's most climate-vulnerable regions.

The growth for climate Resilient and Environmental

Entrepreneurship and Nutrition (GREEN) project will be implemented over six years, from 2026 to 2031, in the Haor wetlands, Coastal Belt, High Barind, and River Char regions.

By supporting smallholder farmers, rural microenterprises, and young entrepreneurs, the project will foster adaptive capacities to climate change, stimulate diversified and resilient livelihoods, and accelerate the development of sustainable rural enterprises.

Nearly 4.96m People Displaced by Natural Disasters in Bangladesh: IOM

Nearly 4.96 million are currently internally displaced persons (IDPs) caused by natural disasters in Bangladesh, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which released its first comprehensive nationwide estimate.



with 1.21 million, followed by Dhaka with 0.79 million and Rajshahi with 0.66 million, it said.

The report highlights how floods, cyclones, river erosion, and other hazards continue to disrupt lives across the country.

Four districts -- Chattogram, Sirajganj, Bhola, and Noakhali -- account for a quarter of all displaced persons. Most IDPs, about 85 percent, live in rural union areas, the report reads.

Chattogram division hosts the largest share of IDPs

2025 on Target to be UK's Hottest Year on Record: Met Office



This year may have been Britain's hottest on record, with an average temperature above 10 degrees Celsius, the national weather service said recently.

If the data is confirmed, it will mean that four of the past five years will be among the hottest ever recorded in the country since records began in 1884.

Definitive figures for 2025 will be released next January 2, but as of the final week of this year, the average temperature has been 10.05C. The previous high was 10.03C in 2022, the Met Office said.

The hottest 10 years have all occurred during the past two decades.

"In terms of our climate, we are living in extraordinary times," said senior Met Office scientist Mike Kendon.

Japan Govt Sued Over 'Unconstitutional' Climate Inaction

Hundreds of people across Japan sued the central government recently, seeking damages for "unconstitutional" inaction on climate change in the country's first such litigation.



The landmark lawsuit criticizes Japan's "grossly inadequate" fight against the climate crisis, saying it jeopardizes the health and livelihoods of the approximately 450 plaintiffs.

team to work slower, causing "huge losses" to his business. There have also been cases where "people collapse out in the field, or have dropped dead after they return home", the 57-year-old said.

"We just submitted our complaint and evidence to the court and our lawsuit has been officially accepted," lead lawyer Akihiro Shima said. Plaintiff Kiichi Akiyama, a construction worker, said that relentless heat forced his

In the past, five climate-related lawsuits have been filed with Japanese courts, including against coal-fired power plants, said Kyoto University assistant professor Masako Ichihara.

Trump Admin Plans to Dismantle Leading Climate Center

The Trump administration intends to dismantle one of the world's leading climate research institutions over what it said recently were concerns of "climate alarmism," despite opposition to the plan.



The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), established in 1960 as a federally funded research and education hub in Boulder, Colorado, will be broken up, White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought said on social media platform X.

largest sources of climate alarmism in the country," Vought said. Moves to dismantle NCAR will begin immediately, USA Today reported, adding that the plan was to "fully close the center's Mesa Laboratory."

Any of its operations deemed "vital" will be moved "to another entity or location," he said.

Kevin Trenberth, a distinguished NCAR scholar, told the Washington Post said breaking up the laboratory would result in a major loss of scientific research.

"This facility is one of the

Adani Power Recognized for Outstanding ESG Performance

Adani Power Limited, India's largest private sector power generator, recently said that NSE Sustainability Ratings and Analytics Limited, a subsidiary of NSE Indices Limited and part of the National Stock Exchange of India group, appraised it based on publicly available information and awarded a score of '65', placing the company in "Aspiring" category.



to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles and its strategic focus on sustainable growth with responsible business practices.

Adani Power has been ranked higher than all other major thermal, mixed fuel, and integrated energy companies in the similar appraisal, reflecting its unwavering commitment

Adani Power's continuous focus on a wide range of ESG initiatives and its operational excellence is benchmarked against best industry standards.

Environment Adviser Seeks Strong Action on Honking Noise

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has said that Bangladesh Police sergeants and other designated officials are now empowered to take direct action to control noise pollution, marking a significant step forward in addressing the problem.



She stressed that the mere existence of laws is not enough; effective enforcement is essential to achieve desired results, and the active role of police at the field level is crucial.

The Adviser made these remarks at a directive meeting held on 14 December at the Department of Environment, organized to brief stakeholders on the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules, 2025, including the granting of law enforcement

authority to Bangladesh Police. Calling for coordinated efforts among all relevant agencies, she said that along with imposing fines, raising public awareness is equally important.

She noted that noise pollution is no longer a minor issue, as it seriously affects public health, children's mental development, and the overall livability of urban life. She emphasized the need for strict monitoring of noise from transport, construction activities, loudspeakers, and electronic devices.

China Files WTO Complaint against Indian Solar Subsidies



China has lodged a case with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against India over the country's subsidies for its photovoltaic sector, the Chinese commerce ministry has confirmed.

The ministry says a request for consultations to India was submitted at the WTO on 19 December and relates to both the country's solar subsidies and its tariff measures on information and communication products.

The Chinese ministry claims the measures violate several WTO obligations, including

binding tariffs and national treatment, and constitute import substitution subsidies, which are prohibited by the WTO.

The ministry added this gives India's domestic industries an unfair competitive advantage and harms China's interests.

"This is another firm step by China to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of its domestic industries, following its lawsuit against India's electric vehicle and battery subsidies," a statement from the ministry adds.

Pakistan Unveils New Net Metering Rules for Rooftop PV

Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has initiated a public consultation on proposed revisions to solar net-metering regulations.



A key change under consideration is a reduction in the tariff for surplus solar power, which could be cut by half from PKR 26 (\$0.093) per kWh to PKR 13 per kWh.

Pakistan's NEPRA has launched a public consultation on new rules it intends to apply to PV systems up to 1 MW operating under the country's net metering regime.

The Prosumer Regulations 2025 are intended to replace the Net Metering Regulations issued in 2015. Under the new rules, the sale of surplus power to the grid will be made through a new net billing arrangement, with PV system owners being credited based on a nationally determined average energy purchase price rather than full one-to-one net credits.

A TRIBUTE TO BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA

The death of Begum Khaleda Zia at 6 am on December 30 marked the end of her four decades of political career that saw her become the first woman prime minister of Muslim-majority Bangladesh. She died under treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital after a prolonged illness aged 80. Thrust into politics following the 1981 assassination of her husband, military general-turned President Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda will be remembered for her uncompromising fight for democracy against the autocratic ruler, General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, and then the authoritarian regime of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In her pro-democracy movement against Ershad, she and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were not alone. Hasina's Awami League and its allies were also in the battle for democracy. For about nine years, their mission was common: ouster of Ershad, paving the way for a free and fair election. After Ershad's downfall, they, however, parted their ways.

Khaleda's entrance into politics as a 36-year-old widow in 1982 followed Bangladesh's pattern of dynastic politics. She was the unlikely politician because of the death of her illustrious Husband, Ziaur Rahman, an independence war hero. Same had been the case with Sheikh Hasina, who took up the mantle of Awami League due to the 1975 tragedy that saw the assassination of her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with most members of his family.

In that sense, they both owed their political limelight to the tragedies in their families.

Khaleda, a soft-spoken woman with a strong-willed personality, had to prove her talent in a male-dominated



Begum Khaleda Zia's entrance into politics as a 36-year-old widow in 1982 followed Bangladesh's pattern of dynastic politics. She was the unlikely politician because of the death of her illustrious Husband, Ziaur Rahman, an independence war hero.

political landscape of Bangladesh. During the anti-Ershad movement, she endured house arrest, political harassment, and an arch-rivalry with Hasina that for years shaped the politics of Bangladesh. In the international media, they were better known as "battling Begums." When the general election was called under the so-called caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed after the fall of Ershad in 1991, political pundits, including the foreign correspondents covering the campaign, had predicted a win by Hasina-led Awami League.

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

Khaleda, who by that time had risen to fame as an uncompromising leader, defied the prediction to win the ballots, becoming the first female prime minister of the country. She had since then been elected PM for another full five-year term during 2001-2006 and a two-month stint as PM during February-March in 1996. The election Khaleda presided over on February 15, 1996, left a black spot on her otherwise brilliant political career. Since it was boycotted by most of the political parties in the wake of the movement for election-under-caretaker-government, the voter turnout was negligible. Even though Khaleda took the oath as PM for the second consecutive term, her tenure lasted only for two months. She lost in the fresh election held in 1996, only to return to power by winning the 2001 polls. Bangladesh politics plunged into tumult after Khaleda's term ended in 2006 amid controversy over who should head the caretaker administration to oversee the next vote. The chaos finally saw the intervention by the military, which backed a civilian caretaker administration led by Fakhruddin Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank. In the elections held under this administration, the BNP lost.

In her chequered political career, Khaleda had witnessed ups and downs, imprisonment, loss of her youngest son Arafat Rahman Koko, and the 17-year exile of her eldest son Tarique Rahman. On the way, she had won the hearts of the people of Bangladesh as a reward for her dedication to their well-being and love for the country. She was a politician who never lost an election, and in her death, she had left a legacy that can never be erased. To many of her supporters, she remains a loving guardian. It is now up to her son, Tarique Rahman, to carry on the legacy left by her illustrious mother. [EP](#)

Political Decisions Urgent To Build Investor Confidence In Energy Sector

From the perspective of energy security, Bangladesh is now facing one of its most serious risks. To overcome this crisis, the next government must make clear political decisions to promote domestic oil and gas exploration, coal extraction, and renewable energy development. The primary objective should be to create an enabling investment environment, restore investor confidence, and formulate policies that make projects bankable. Failure to do so will only deepen the crisis, pushing the country toward a state of energy famine.

Professor Dr. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, made these observations in an interview with Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor of Energy & Power.

Ensuring the primary energy supply has become the biggest challenge in Bangladesh. Many are describing the current situation as an “energy famine.” How do you see it?

To assess the primary energy supply situation, we must first look at domestic sources—what we can supply from our own resources. At one point, Bangladesh was entirely dependent on gas. The country’s only approved National Energy Policy of 1996 clearly stated that to reduce dependence on gas, coal reserves in the northern region must be developed and utilized. At that time, energy supply disparities between the eastern and western parts of the country were significant, and they still exist to some extent today.

However, this key policy recommendation has never been implemented. We are extracting coal only from Barapukuria. When coal development was recommended, environmental concerns were not as stringent as they are today. While environmental risks are a reality—both globally and in Bangladesh—we have nevertheless built 7,000 MW of coal-fired power plants entirely dependent

on imported coal.

We also know that proven domestic gas reserves are steadily declining, and efforts to maintain supply have not delivered the desired results. Beyond gas and coal, the remaining option is renewable energy. Although renewables have potential, they also face significant limitations. We need smart grids, battery storage, and other enabling technologies.

A wind power project is in operation, but its prospects are not promising. Satellite-based studies conducted in the United States once identified nine potential wind sites in Bangladesh, but in reality, these have not proven very effective. Solar rooftop systems, solar irrigation, and solar battery charging can help expand renewable use. However, the dense, high-quality energy required for industrial use cannot realistically be supplied through variable renewable energy alone.

Then what are our options for energy security? Is import dependence the only solution?

Broadly speaking, all three domestic energy sources—gas, coal, and renewables—have limitations at present. We must therefore assess the extent of our import dependence.

Oil is 100 percent imported. Our existing 7,000 MW of coal-fired power plants require around 70,000 tonnes of coal per day, and even that demand cannot always be fully met through imports. Moreover, these plants are not operating at full capacity. Two more coal-fired power plants are expected to come online, which will increase daily coal demand to 100,000 tonnes, meaning total reliance on imported coal.

We are also importing LNG, but the major constraint here is infrastructure. Under the current infrastructure, Bangladesh can import a maximum of 1,100 MMCFD of LNG, equivalent to about 108–109 LNG



Professor Dr. M. Tamim

We missed critical opportunities in the past. We failed to give gas exploration the priority it deserved. Now, we must move forward through a coordinated approach combining domestic and foreign initiatives. We have debated coal extraction for nearly three decades without making a decision. Political decisions are essential for both gas and coal. The third pillar is renewable energy. However, progress in renewables has long been hampered by a lack of political will and insufficient technical expertise—and these constraints persist.

cargoes per year. This allows us to inject at most 1,000 MMCFD of gas into the national grid.

Domestic gas supply is currently around 1,700 MMCFD, bringing total availability to about 2,700 MMCFD, while demand is close to 4,000 MMCFD. This means there is already a shortfall of 1,300–1,500 MMCFD.

The question is how we will address the worsening crisis ahead. This energy deficit cannot be solved by importing oil alone, as oil-based power generation is very expensive.

At present, Bangladesh has over 11,000 MW of gas-based power plants. Of these, the 800 MW Rupsha plant has never operated, and another 350 MW plant in Khulna remains idle due to gas shortages. With the available 1,000

MMCFD of gas, we can generate only 5,500–6,000 MW of electricity. As a result, plants built with massive investments remain idle, yet capacity payments must still be made.

Reducing gas use in other sectors could allow more gas to be diverted to power generation. Currently, 11 percent of gas (about 275 MMCFD) is used in the residential sector, 120–150 MMCFD is lost through gas theft, 5 percent is used in the CNG sector, and 18 percent is used for industrial process heat.

Under the current circumstances, there is no alternative option to any of the local sources except renewable solar energy. That is also time consuming but I believe if government facilitates, at least 4000 MW grid tied solar power can be added within two to three year period in addition to the rooftop solar expansion. This will reduce day time oil based power production. Full utilization of coal power will keep the production cost lower. Unfortunately, we may have to revert to oil based power production and import dependency cannot be reduced in the near future.

Can renewable actually help?

To overcome fuel price and supply constraints in power generation, we must place strong emphasis on expanding renewable energy, particularly solar. However, the level of investment, enabling investment climate, and policy support required for this expansion is still lacking. Another major constraint is land availability, which is why rooftop solar is currently being promoted.

Rooftop solar is more cost-effective than grid electricity, which has created strong interest in the industrial sector. Many industries are now investing in rooftop solar systems. However, a clear policy decision is urgently needed on whether these rooftop systems will be grid-connected or standalone, because if a large amount of capacity is added without proper planning, system operation could become difficult.

In discussions with PGCB, I have learned that the grid can currently absorb a maximum of 4,000 MW of renewable energy, though this too comes with several challenges. Renewable energy cannot meet evening peak demand without storage. If we consider 4,000 MW of renewables with battery storage,

the cost would be close to that of oil-based power generation, although it is expected to decline in the future.

You have outlined the challenges of renewable energy development. But within current gas usage, is there any scope to save gas and divert it to power generation?

As I mentioned earlier, about 5 percent of gas is used in the transport sector as CNG, which can be replaced with LPG. The main barrier is pricing. Currently, the import cost of LNG is about BDT 55 per cubic meter, while CNG is priced at BDT 43 per cubic meter. If CNG prices are adjusted to reflect import parity, it would become competitive with LPG.

It should be noted that LPG is the only fuel in Bangladesh that receives no subsidy. Its price is set monthly by BERC based on international market trends. Similarly, BERC could be assigned the responsibility of setting market-based prices for CNG.

Cooking gas supplied through meters is currently priced at BDT 18 per cubic meter. If residential gas prices are fully de-subsidized with meter, consumers would have the option to choose between natural gas and LPG. For many households, LPG would become more economical, as there are no supply constraints on LPG. By contrast, LNG imports are currently capped at around 1,100 MMCFD.

Therefore, to conserve natural gas, initiatives must be taken to increase LPG use in cooking, transport, and selected industries, while simultaneously prioritizing renewable energy wherever feasible.

You are suggesting LPG use in industries, but wouldn't industrial costs rise significantly compared to piped natural gas?

There is no alternative. Regardless of cost, the government cannot supply industries with the gas they require. The current gas shortfall in the industrial sector is around 700 MMCFD. If even 30 percent of this demand is replaced with LPG, that would amount to about 200 MMCFD.

In sectors such as ceramics, cement, and industrial boilers, LPG can be supplied via pipelines and used as Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG). At present, the government provides a subsidy of BDT 30 per cubic meter for industrial process gas. Expanding

LPG use would reduce this subsidy burden.

Ideally, supplying cheaper gas would be preferable. But when that is not possible—and when the crisis is likely to worsen in the coming years—LPG becomes a viable alternative. In such circumstances, price will not be the primary barrier. Market may push this transition but policy support is essential for industries to survive competition.

You have warned that the gas crisis will intensify. Does this mean that new gas import infrastructure cannot be built by 2030?

I believe the supply gap will widen further. Establishing a new FSRU would take at least three years, while a land-based LNG terminal would take even longer. Two FSRUs were expected to become operational by 2027–2028, but the interim government cancelled the contract for the third FSRU and another ongoing negotiation, losing that opportunity.

As a result, there is no scope to expand LNG import infrastructure before 2028 provided we find another provider by the first half of 2026. If the country enters an energy emergency, the only option will be to import large volumes of oil. Using oil as a substitute for gas in industries would require substantial investment, not only due to higher fuel costs but also for equipment conversion. By contrast, using LPG as a crisis-mitigation option would be far more economical.

Currently, 56 percent of industrial energy demand—including captive and process use—is gas-dependent. A sudden shortage would force factories to shut down. Even at higher prices, LPG can help maintain production continuity but it will definitely hamper production and may shut down several factories. High energy intensive plants will not be able to sustain LPG price.

The 50-well drilling program is ongoing, and plans are in place to begin a 100-well program from next July. Petrobangla claims these could add 1,200–1,400 MMCFD of gas. Will this yield results by 2028? Meanwhile, production at Bibiyana continues to decline.

Of the country's total domestic gas production of around 1,700 MMCFD, Bibiyana alone contributes about 1,000 MMCFD. Although Bibiyana still has approximately 1 TCF of reserves, reservoir pressure is

declining. It may be able to sustain current production for another three years.

From the wells drilled under Petrobangla's 50-well program so far, only about 70 MMCFD has been added to the grid, while overall production declined by about 200 MMCFD during the same period, resulting in a net decline of 130–150 MMCFD. Even if all wells are completed by 2028, I do not expect a breakthrough.

Consider this comparison: of the country's total recoverable reserves of roughly 7 TCF, about 1.5 TCF is in Bibiyana, Moulvibazar, and Jalalabad, from which Chevron produces 1,100–1,200 MMCFD. Meanwhile, Petrobangla's fields contain around 5 TCF, yet produce only 700 MMCFD. This clearly demonstrates the difference in technical expertise, operational efficiency, and investment capacity between international and domestic operators.

Petrobangla lacks the skills, technology, and financial capacity required for production optimization—a fact that has already been proven. Therefore, international companies can be engaged as third-party operators or consultants. With an investment of just USD 15–20 million for expert help, it would be possible to unlock billions of dollars' worth of gas, while simultaneously enhancing the experience and capacity of local professionals.

If we appoint contractors to increase exploration and production, the high-risk investment will have to come from domestic sources. However, in the long term, offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration must be opened to international companies under PSCs. This would ensure that if no new gas is discovered, the government would not have to bear the investment risk. At this moment, the country's biggest challenge is the gas shortage. As for coal, we are entirely dependent on imports.

You took initiatives in the past to start domestic coal mining, but those efforts did not succeed. Coal extraction is now even more challenging. However, it is said that all feasibility studies for the Phulbari coal mine are complete. If this mine is developed and domestic coal is used, power generation costs could be reduced by up to 40 percent. What is your view?

The biggest challenge for coal mining today is environmental concerns. Despite the investment risks, many companies worldwide are still willing

to invest in new coal mines. Our coal seams lie below the groundwater table, which means coal must be extracted by managing large volumes of water.

It has already been proven that the Barapukuria underground mine is largely a failed project. Only a small amount of coal is being extracted, while land subsidence continues. Contrary to claims that open-pit mining destroys more land, the underground mine has caused land to subside by 30–40 feet, rendering the land unusable.

In my assessment, land management in open-pit mining is far better than in underground mining. The key issue, however, is water management. According to the feasibility studies conducted by the developer, some of the extracted water would be discharged into rivers, some would be used for irrigation and drinking purposes, and part re-injected underground. Through open-pit mining, 90–95 percent of total coal reserves can be recovered, whereas underground mining typically allows recovery of only about 10 percent.

We have reviewed the proposal submitted by Asia Energy, but we have not independently assessed whether its water management plan is feasible. Although the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) conducted a local simulation, the findings have yet to be publicly disclosed. This is the right time to have the Phulbari development scheme reviewed by a neutral and independent institution. Such a review would clarify the environmental risks involved.

It must be remembered that all mega projects involve environmental risks—no project is entirely risk-free. The key question is whether the risks are manageable and economically acceptable.

Then why is coal mining being opposed without completing proper studies or verification?

Extracting coal is not politically viable, especially under the current trend of renewable transition and the devastating effect of greenhouse gas. We speak of coal from technical and economic perspectives, but opposition has been driven primarily by political considerations. In reality, we will be burning almost 100 thousand tons of imported coal daily causing emission for the next 25 years. Despite some opposition, the question that need to be

asked is whether we shall use imported coal or local coal?

Ironically, it is foreign investment in the gas sector that has kept us afloat. Therefore, if coal mining is to proceed, political parties or the government must take a clear political decision.

You recently stated in a presentation that import dependence in the power and energy sector is 65 percent, while official figures put it at 56 percent. Which is accurate?

The 65 percent figure applies specifically to the power sector. If we consider the country's total primary energy demand, I assess that import dependence would be even higher.

What would you recommend to reduce this dependence?

We missed critical opportunities in the past. We failed to give gas exploration the priority it deserved. Now, we must move forward through a coordinated approach combining domestic and foreign initiatives.

We have debated coal extraction for nearly three decades without making a decision. Political decisions are essential for both gas and coal. The third pillar is renewable energy. However, progress in renewables has long been hampered principally by a lack of political will and insufficient technical expertise—and these constraints persist.

I believe that if the government ensures land availability and grid evacuation facilities, it is possible to add 10,000 MW of solar power capacity within the next 10 years. This would attract investment, but investors must be given a guaranteed offtake of generated power through implementation agreements. Without such guarantees, investment will not materialize.

Large-scale onshore and offshore exploration must continue, combining domestic initiatives with foreign investment. However, falling global oil prices have reduced IOCs' interest in new investments. We must therefore develop strategies to attract investment under these conditions.

Achieving these objectives requires strong political decisions. It must be remembered that there is no alternative to foreign investment if we are to overcome the current crisis. The next government must ensure an enabling environment to make this possible. **EP**

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