

ENERGY & POWER

RE Goals: Ambitious But Achievable

- Solar, Storage Reshape Bangladesh's Energy Future
- Ensuring A Self-Sustainable Energy Landscape
- Difficult Times: Wishing Good Luck To Govt



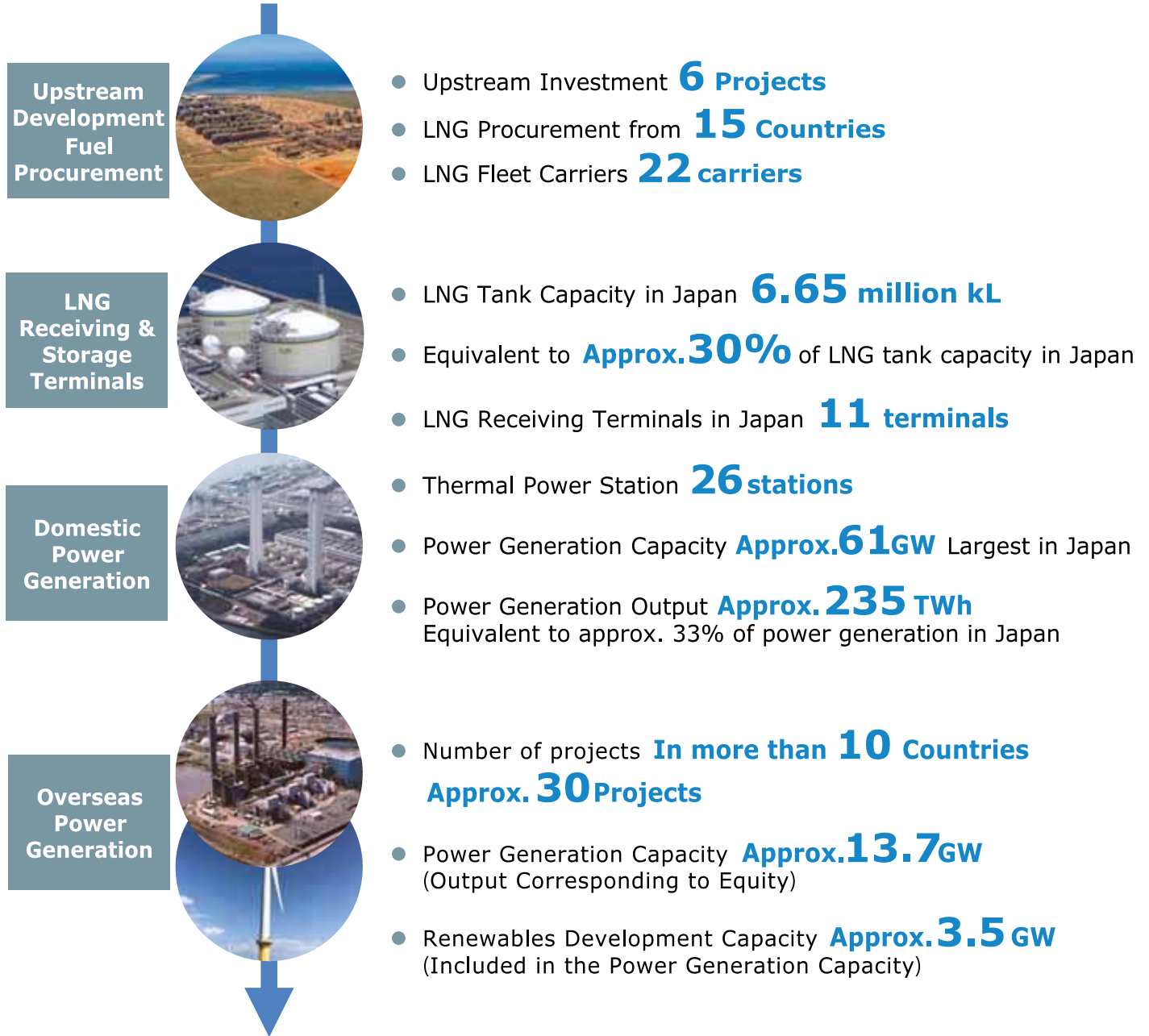
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About JERA

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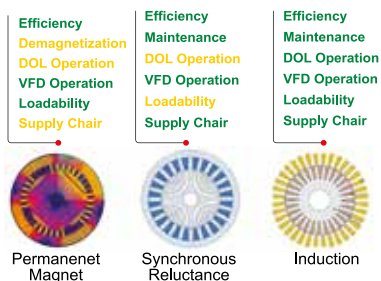
Technical information	
Output	45 kW - 1300 kW; 2, 4 and 6 poles
Motor type	M3BP
Shaft heights	280-500
Efficiency class	IE5
Voltage	230 - 690 V
Frequency	50/60 Hz
Supply	DOL and VSD
Mounting	B3, B5, B35
Design code	R
Voltage codes	D, E**
Protection	IP55 as standard
Availability	Production orders (Finland & India)

*Alternative voltage codes, such as U, Y, and S, are available for a specific range of products



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IE5 technologies Comparison & Benefit



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 EFFICIENT
 AVAILABLE**

INDUCTION TECHNOLOGY





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EDITORIAL

Bangladesh's decision to pursue 10,000MW of renewable energy by 2030 marks one of the most ambitious energy policy shifts in the country's history. At a time when rising global fuel prices, foreign exchange pressures, and supply disruptions continue to expose the risks of heavy import dependence, the move reflects a growing realization that energy security can no longer rely on imported fossil fuels. The target is undoubtedly ambitious. The country currently generates only a small share of its electricity from renewable sources. The cancellation of several previously approved renewable projects created uncertainty among investors. Restoring that confidence will be essential. However, the opportunity is equally significant. Bangladesh possesses strong potential in rooftop solar, particularly in the garment and industrial sectors. International buyers are increasingly demanding cleaner supply chains, creating economic as well as environmental incentives for industries. If supported by practical policies, rooftop solar alone could become a major source of future electricity generation. Achieving the target will require more than announcements. The government must ensure bankable power purchase agreements, payment guarantees, rapid net-metering approvals, and rational wheeling charges for merchant power projects. Duty-free imports of solar equipment and battery storage systems could also accelerate investment. At the same time, transmission infrastructure and grid modernization must advance alongside renewable expansion.

Bangladesh may still be behind many neighboring countries in renewable energy development. But with consistent policies and effective implementation, the 10,000MW target could become a turning point toward greater energy security, lower import dependence, and a more sustainable economic future.

h i g h l i g h t s

COVER



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In Bangladesh, where rising fuel import costs and recurring power shortages continue to strain the economy, the global energy transition presents both an opportunity and a necessity. With abundant sunlight, a growing industrial base, and ambitious renewable energy targets, the country has strong potential to expand solar power across factories, commercial buildings, and households... Will Yu tells EP.



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Bangladesh is shifting towards a 'Greener Future' by focusing on rooftop solar energy. This is becoming more practical as prices drop and new rules begin. However, high taxes and quality concerns are still major problems. By using rooftops instead of farmland, the country can grow its solar energy capacity without creating land disputes More In Analysis



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Bangladesh has embarked on an ambitious transition toward renewable energy as part of its broader effort to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and accelerate green energy development. The BNP-led government announced a new target to install 10,000MW of renewable capacity by 2030. Experts have welcomed the move, although many describe the target as highly ambitious.



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Greenpage

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

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Saudi Aramco Says Net Profit Up 25% in Q1



Saudi oil giant Aramco said recently its net profit rose by more than 25 percent in the first quarter of the year compared to the same period in 2025, driven by an increase in the volume of crude oil sold and higher prices.

The group, majority-owned by the state, said in a statement published on the Saudi stock exchange website that “total revenue

for the first quarter of 2026 was 433.10 billion Saudi riyals (\$115.49 billion), compared to 405.65 billion riyals (\$108.17 billion) for the same quarter in 2025”.

“The increase in revenue was mainly due to higher prices and volumes sold of refined and chemical products as well as higher crude oil volumes sold and higher crude oil prices,” it said.

Sri Lanka Raises Electricity Tariffs amid Energy Supply Crisis

Sri Lanka will increase electricity tariffs by up to 18 percent as rising fuel costs and energy supply disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict continue to pressure the country's power sector.



According to the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, the higher tariff will apply mainly to industries, hotels, businesses, government institutions, and consumers using more than 180 kilowatt hours of electricity per month.

Lower-income household users consuming below that level will remain unaffected.

The latest adjustment follows a 40 percent electricity

tariff hike introduced last month, alongside fuel price increases and fuel rationing measures. Rising energy costs have pushed inflation in Sri Lanka to 5.4 percent in April.

Sri Lanka is still recovering from its 2022 economic crisis and is implementing reforms under a \$2.9 billion bailout program from the International Monetary Fund.

Shell Reports Higher Profits amid Iran Conflict Oil Surge

Shell has reported a sharp rise in quarterly profits as global oil prices increased during the Iran conflict.



The company earned \$6.92 billion in the first three months of the year, up from \$5.58 billion a year earlier and above market expectations.

The rise came as oil prices surged following disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy supply route.

Shell said stronger oil trading and refining operations

boosted earnings, although its oil and gas production fell by 4% due to the conflict. The company's LNG operations in Qatar have also been affected.

Shell CEO Wael Sawan said the company delivered strong results despite major disruption in global energy markets.

BP Reports Sharp Rise in Profits in Q1

British energy giant BP recently reported a sharp rise in net profit for the first quarter as crude oil prices soared over the Middle East war.

Profit after tax jumped to \$3.8 billion for the January-March period, compared with \$687 million in the first quarter of 2025, BP said in an earnings statement.

Rosatom Installs Automated Control System at Rooppur Unit-1

Rosatom has completed the delivery and installation of the full automated process control system (APCS) for Unit-1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, marking a major milestone in Bangladesh's first nuclear power project.



The system was supplied by Rosatom Automated Control Systems (RASU) and includes 22 subsystems for process automation and radiation monitoring for the VVER-1200 reactor unit. According to project officials, the systems will monitor equipment performance, electricity generation, and

operational safety during both commissioning and commercial operation.

Gleb Murashov said all APCS equipment for Unit-1 has now been delivered and commissioned at the construction site, adding that several technological improvements were introduced, including compact radiation monitoring systems.

Rosatom DG Alexey Likhachev Meets PM

Director General of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom Alexey Likhachev met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman recently.



The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in the Secretaria, said a PMO release.

Bangladesh seeks information integrity, inclusive global communication at UN.

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, Science and Technology and Posts,

Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Fakir Mahabub Anam Swapan, and Prime Minister's Adviser on the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Rehan Asif Asad were present.

Fuel Prices to Remain Unchanged for May

The government has decided to keep fuel prices unchanged for May, according to a notification issued recently by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

Under the latest rates effective from May 1, diesel will remain at Tk 115 per litre, kerosene at Tk 130, octane at Tk 140, and petrol at Tk 135 throughout the month.

The prices were last revised on April 18, when the

government increased rates: diesel rose by Tk 15, octane by Tk 20, petrol by Tk 19, and kerosene by Tk 18.

Domestic fuel prices are reviewed monthly, considering international market trends, import costs, and supply conditions, said the notification.

The notification mentioned that the decision to retain current rates was made after assessing the global market situation and supply outlook.

Zahed Takes Charge as MD of Wärtsilä Bangladesh

Global technology leader Wärtsilä Corporation, Finland, has appointed Mostafa Zahed Hossain as Managing Director of Wärtsilä Bangladesh, effective May 1, 2026.



He will continue to serve as Head of Operations alongside his new role. Zahed has built a long and successful career with

Wärtsilä, making significant contributions to the company's operations over the years.

Prime Bank Secures \$30m OPEC Fund

Prime Bank PLC recently signed a 30 million dollars term loan agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development to strengthen its trade finance capacity, particularly for SMEs, agriculture and corporate clients.



The collaboration is aimed at enhancing the bank's ability to meet growing trade finance needs across Bangladesh's key economic sectors, said a press release.

The facility, structured as a term loan, will be provided by the OPEC Fund to Prime Bank's Offshore Banking Unit.

It carries an initial tenor of

one year, with a provision for extension up to three years.

The financing is expected to reinforce the bank's trade finance portfolio, offering stability to businesses amid global economic uncertainties.

Chief executive officer of Prime Bank, Faisal Rahman and president of OPEC Fund Abdulhamid Alkhalifa signed the agreement on behalf of their organization.

Rampal Power Plant Delivers Strong Output

The Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (Rampal), a joint venture between Bangladesh and India, played a crucial role in supporting the national grid during peak electricity demand in April 2026.



The plant generated more than 760 million units (kWh) of electricity during the month, operating at an average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of around 80%.

During the first week of April—when extreme heat drove electricity demand sharply higher—it achieved an impressive PLF of 97%.

Overall, Rampal contributed over 9% of Bangladesh's

total electricity generation for the month. This marks the fifth time the Rampal plant has exceeded 700 million units of monthly generation, underscoring its operational consistency and reliability.

With rising temperatures across the country increasing pressure on the power system, the plant maintained high availability and efficiency, helping ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.



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Govt to Provide LPG Cards for Women alongside Family Cards: PM



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman recently said the government will introduce LPG cards for women alongside the existing family card program to ease their cooking-related hardship.

“Our mothers and sisters face difficulty every day. They have to struggle daily in managing food for the family. They also have to cook, and for that they need gas or firewood.

This creates problems,” he said while addressing a public rally at the Jashore

Central Eidgah Ground arranged by the district BNP. Considering this hardship, the Prime Minister said the government took a plan two days ago to introduce LPG cards for women.

“We have taken a plan that, Inshallah, just like we have provided family cards for mothers, we will also provide LPG cards across Bangladesh so that they do not have to suffer in cooking and can prepare meals without worry. Gradually, we will implement this plan as well,” he said.

Jet Fuel Price Cut after 3 Months of Rise

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has cut the price of jet fuel from \$1.48 a litre to \$1.34 for the international flight operators.



For the domestic flight operators, the price of jet fuel has been cut from Tk 227.08 a litre to Tk 205.45, said a press release issued by the Energy Division.

The downward revision of the jet fuel, to be effective from today, came after upward revision of the item in the past three months.

Aviation operators had

expressed dismay over the previous price hike, calling the decision unjustified and business-unfriendly.

For the international flights, the revised rate will be applicable to Shah Amanat International Airport, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Osmani International Airport and Cox's Bazar Airport for both local and foreign buyers.

Chinese Firms Win Tk 945cr Deals to Drill 3 Gas, Oil Wells



The government has selected two Chinese companies to drill three wells at different locations across the country at a cost of Tk 945 crore.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the firms for key energy exploration projects at its 19th meeting, held recently and chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

The projects aim to strengthen the country's gas and oil reserves.

Under a BAPEX project, two exploratory wells -- Srikail

Deep-1 and Mobarakpur Deep-1 -- will be drilled as part of a three-well program.

The contract for these two wells was awarded to CNPC Chuanqing Drilling Engineering Company Limited at a cost of Tk 713 crore.

The committee also approved the drilling of the Sylhet-12 oil well under a separate project.

The contract was awarded to Sinopec International Petroleum Service Corporation (SIPSC) at a cost of Tk 232 crore, covering drilling and related works.

Price of 12kg LPG Cylinder Remains Unchanged

The price of a 12kg cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remains unchanged at Tk 1,940 for May.



The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) announced the decision recently. The LPG prices were adjusted twice last month.

On April 2, the price of the 12kg cylinder was raised by Tk 387 to Tk 1,728. Later, on April 19, BERC hiked the price by Tk 212, setting it at Tk 1,940.

The private sector can sell LPG in various cylinder sizes- 5.5kg, 12.5kg, 15kg, 16kg, 18kg, 20kg, 22kg, 25kg, 30kg, 35kg and 45kg-to consumers

at proportional price in May.

The price of LPG supplied through a reticulated system or centralized storage system also remains unchanged at Tk 351 per cubic meter for May.

Meanwhile, the consumer-level price of autogas has been slightly increased by 2 paise for May, setting the new price at Tk 89.52 per liter, including value added tax (VAT).

RE Goals: Ambitious But Achievable

Mollah Amzad Hossain



Bangladesh has set an ambitious target to generate 10,000MW of renewable energy by 2030 as part of its effort to reduce dependence on imported fuel and accelerate a green energy transition. Although experts describe the goal as challenging, they believe it remains achievable through investment-friendly policies, stronger private sector participation, duty-free imports of solar equipment, and reliable payment guarantees. Rooftop solar, merchant power projects, and grid modernization are expected to play critical roles in meeting the target and improving the country's long-term energy security.



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

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



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Bangladesh has embarked on an ambitious transition toward renewable energy as part of its broader effort to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and accelerate green energy development. Less than three months after taking office, the BNP-led government announced a new target to install 10,000MW of renewable capacity by 2030.

The decision was approved in April at a cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Officials expect the initiative to help reduce the country's growing dependence on imported energy while supporting

Bangladesh's installed renewable energy capacity currently stands at around 1,745MW, including 1,452MW from solar, 230MW from hydropower, 62MW from wind, and small contributions from biomass and biogas. Of this, around 1,367MW is connected to the national grid, with solar contributing the largest share at 1,075MW. Another 26 renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of 1,174MW are currently under implementation.

According to the Power Division, an additional 810MW of solar power is expected to be added to the grid by 2028, while authorities believe

Despite the ambitious target, the sector continues to face major investment and policy challenges. During the final phase of the previous Awami League government, 37 independent power projects with a combined capacity of 5,800MW were approved under special legislation, but later cancelled by the interim administration over allegations of irregularities.

Subsequently, tenders were floated for 55 solar projects totaling 5,238MW, but the investors' response remained weak due to changes in power purchase agreements and the absence of payment guarantees. Eventually, agreements were signed for only 918MW of projects.

At a recent event organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said the government had ordered a review of previously cancelled projects and may reconsider some of them to restore investor confidence.

When his attention was drawn to the matter, Mostafa Al Mahmud, President of the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, said that Bangladesh had been moving forward strongly in renewable energy development when the interim government cancelled the projects, slowing the momentum. He said that if the current government reviews the cancelled projects and reapproves some of them, it would help restore the confidence of investors in the renewable energy sector.

Industry stakeholders argue that achieving the 2030 target will require a comprehensive action plan, including both grid-connected and rooftop solar systems. Experts suggest the government may need to add more than 2,000MW of renewable energy capacity annually to reach the target — a significant challenge under current conditions.

low-carbon development and a green energy transition.

Energy and environmental experts have welcomed the move, although many describe the target as highly ambitious. They believe the goal remains achievable if the government adopts investment-friendly policies, removes import duties on renewable energy equipment, and implements effective strategies to attract private investment.

While renewable energy accounts for around 33.8 percent of global electricity generation, Bangladesh currently generates only about 2.3 percent of its electricity from renewables. The country remains heavily dependent on imported energy, more than 65 percent.

total renewable capacity could reach 5,000MW by 2029.

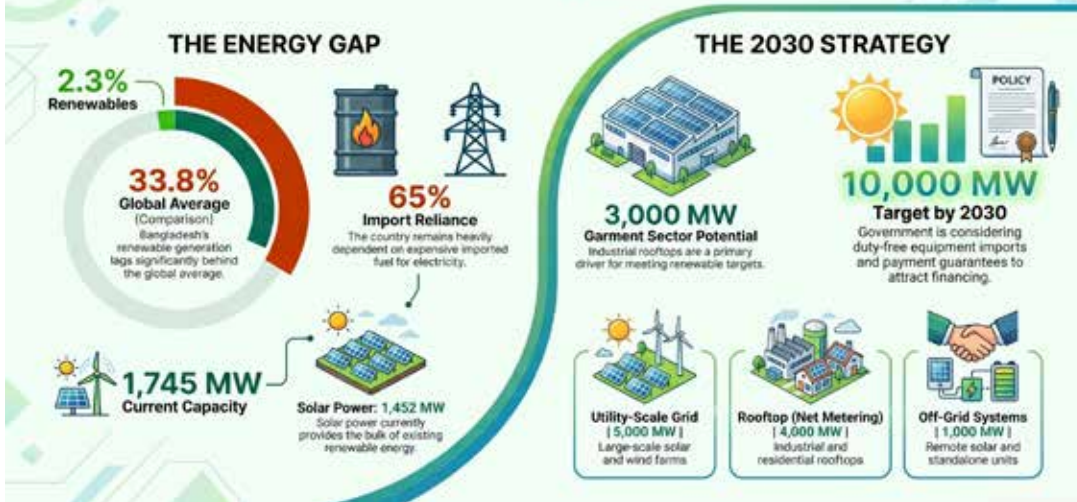
Under the net metering policy implemented by SREDA, around 4,775 projects with a combined peak capacity of 262MW have already been installed. However, media reports suggest rooftop solar installations in industrial facilities alone may already exceed 800MW.

The government is also working on plans to expand rooftop solar systems in residential buildings across urban areas. Industry experts believe Bangladesh's garment sector could add nearly 3,000MW of rooftop solar capacity by 2030, partly driven by European buyers' requirements for increased use of renewable energy in manufacturing.

Bangladesh's Green Leap: The 10,000 MW Renewable Energy Roadmap



Bangladesh's Green Leap: The 10,000MW Renewable Roadmap



To achieve the government's 10,000MW target, experts say at least half of the capacity must come from rooftop solar. It is estimated that up to 4,000MW could be added through net metering systems by 2030, while another 1,000MW to 1,500MW could come from off-grid rooftop solar systems.

They also stress the importance of removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, ensuring bankable power purchase agreements, resolving land shortages, and introducing payment guarantee mechanisms to attract local and international financing.

The government has recently indicated that it is preparing an investment-friendly renewable energy policy and considering duty-free imports of solar equipment and storage batteries. Authorities are also identifying land for future solar projects under public-private partnership arrangements.

Experts believe that if these policy reforms are implemented effectively, Bangladesh could make significant progress toward its renewable energy transition and reduce its long-term dependence on imported fuel.

Bangladesh's history of implementing public-private partnership (PPP) projects has not always been encouraging, with many projects facing lengthy delays. Responding to concerns over whether renewable energy projects under the PPP model might suffer the same fate, a senior official of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), speaking on condition of anonymity, said that although these initiatives are being labeled as PPP projects, they will effectively be implemented as Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects under BPDB oversight.

According to the official, government agencies such as the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) will provide land for solar projects and receive lease payments or equity participation. However, the responsibility for financing, implementation, and operation will remain entirely with private developers under Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed with BPDB. Public sector power companies will also be allowed to participate as project sponsors.

Former Senior Secretary Siddique Zobair told Energy & Power that Bangladesh has failed to make significant progress in renewable energy compared to neighboring countries. He said the 37 renewable energy projects approved during the final phase of the previous government could have marked a turning point had they not been cancelled. He emphasized that Bangladesh must reduce the cost of solar power generation by adopting strategies similar to those used in countries such as India.

In his view, if Bangladesh wants to achieve the target of adding 10,000MW of renewable energy capacity, the government must first identify and develop land, establish transmission infrastructure, and then invite private investment through auction to set benchmark tariffs and fixed implementation timelines. He believes that with proper planning, Bangladesh could reduce solar electricity prices to below 6 US cents per unit. However, he stressed that guarantees for electricity purchases and payment security must be ensured.

Bangladesh has already introduced the Merchant Power Plant Policy, allowing solar power plants to sell electricity directly to private buyers, especially industrial consumers. Under this framework, two companies have already signed memorandums



of understanding to develop projects targeting the garment sector.

However, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has yet to finalize wheeling charges and open access fees. The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) and distribution utilities have proposed a charge of Tk.2.75 per unit, which developers and experts consider unrealistic. Industry stakeholders believe these charges must be rationalized if merchant solar projects are to succeed.

Experts argue that 1,000MW to 2,000MW of renewable capacity could come from merchant power projects alone, especially as Bangladesh's garment industry faces growing pressure from European buyers to use at least 25 percent renewable energy by 2030.

To achieve the government's 10,000MW target, experts say at least half of the capacity must come from rooftop solar. It is estimated that up to 4,000MW could be added through net metering systems by 2030, while another 1,000MW to 1,500MW could come from off-grid rooftop solar systems.

An official involved with the net metering program noted that Pakistan has achieved far greater success because rooftop solar connections there are

approved within seven working days. In contrast, some projects in Bangladesh reportedly take more than a year to receive grid connectivity approval. He suggested that Bangladesh should introduce a rule requiring net metering approvals within 15 working days.

Discussing the government's renewable energy strategy, energy analyst Shafiqul Alam of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) described the 10,000MW target as highly ambitious but achievable.

He said the government must urgently finalize a detailed action plan outlining how much renewable capacity will come from grid-connected solar, rooftop solar under net metering, and off-grid systems. According to his proposal, 5,000MW should come from utility-scale grid-connected projects, 4,000MW from rooftop solar under net metering, and the remaining 1,000MW from off-grid systems.


Shafiqul Alam also emphasized the need for policy reforms to restore investor confidence, including guarantees for electricity purchases and payments, as well as duty-free import facilities for solar equipment.

He added that although investments are already being made to modernize

the national grid, Bangladesh must also start integrating battery storage systems into both utility-scale and rooftop solar projects to support future renewable energy expansion.

A high-level committee led by Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood is currently working on policy support measures to achieve the renewable energy targets. The committee has already held two meetings to review issues related to tax exemptions, incentives, and payment guarantees.

Committee member and BPDB Chairman Md Rezaul Karim said the government is finalizing strategies to achieve 20 percent renewable electricity generation by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040 under the national renewable energy policy. Discussions are ongoing regarding duty-free imports of solar equipment, tax holidays, and mechanisms to guarantee power purchases and payments under PPAs.

Bangladesh remains significantly behind many neighboring countries in renewable energy development. However, experts believe that if the government adopts the right policies and implementation strategies, the 10,000MW renewable energy target could mark a major turning point in the country's green energy transition. 

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From Targets to Turbines: Can Bangladesh Really Reach 10,000 MW Of RE By 2030?

Dr. Shahi Md. Tanvir Alam

Bangladesh enters 2026 with a power-sector contradiction that is becoming harder to ignore. The country still depends significantly on imported fuels, remains exposed to global commodity shocks, and continues to carry the economic memory of tariff pressure and periodic load shedding. At the same time, the government has announced an ambitious new direction: securing 10,000 megawatts of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

At first glance, the announcement sounds like a conventional policy target. But it is more consequential than that. It reflects a growing recognition that the old electricity model, while useful in an earlier phase of development, is becoming costlier, riskier, and less compatible with the next stage of Bangladesh's economic ambitions.

The country's previous power strategy was built around urgency. Demand was rising rapidly. Factories needed electricity. Cities were expanding. Households expected better service. In that context, quick additions through gas generation, rental plants, liquid-fuel units, imported LNG, and coal projects were understandable responses to

genuine shortages. That approach helped Bangladesh reduce blackouts and support industrial growth.

But what solved yesterday's supply problem has increasingly created today's affordability and vulnerability problem.

Recent global energy disruptions have clearly exposed those weaknesses. Oil prices surged. LNG markets became volatile. Shipping costs rose. Exchange-rate pressure intensified. Subsidy burdens expanded. Businesses struggled with cost uncertainty. Consumers faced higher tariffs directly or indirectly. Even when the immediate stress eased, one structural lesson remained: a growing economy cannot indefinitely rely on expensive, externally priced fuels as the backbone of energy security.

That is why the renewable target matters. It is not merely a climate promise or diplomatic slogan. It is an economic strategy.

Still, announcements alone do not generate power. Targets do not install turbines. Policy statements do not build substations, secure land, attract investors, or modernize transmission systems.

So, the central question must be asked honestly: Can Bangladesh really reach 10,000 MW by 2030? The realistic answer is yes, but only under conditions of unusual administrative seriousness. If 2026 and 2027 become years of disciplined execution, Bangladesh can move surprisingly far. If they become years of speeches, committees, and procedural delays, the target will slowly fade into symbolism.

Why is the old energy model under pressure?

Bangladesh's traditional power strategy relied on a combination of domestic gas, emergency generation, and, later, imported fuels. That model had practical logic. Domestic gas was once relatively cheap. Rental plants added capacity quickly. LNG imports were expected to supplement declining gas fields. Imported coal was considered a source of baseload power. But over time, five structural weaknesses became harder to ignore:

1. Dependence on external fuel prices—When global oil or gas prices rise sharply, Bangladesh's generation cost also rises.
2. Pressure on foreign exchange

reserves–Fuel imports require dollars. During reserve stress, power security becomes linked to macroeconomic management.

3. Tariff and subsidy tension–Higher costs must eventually be borne by consumers, taxpayers, or both.
4. Supply Vulnerability–Wars, shipping disruptions, or commodity shocks abroad can create stress at home.
5. Industrial competitiveness risk–Manufacturing economies require reliable and reasonably priced electricity. Uncertain costs weaken competitiveness over time.

Renewable energy cannot eliminate every challenge. But solar and wind plants do not require continuous import of fuel oil once commissioned. Their long-term economics depend more on capital cost, financing conditions, and system integration than on volatile commodity prices. For Bangladesh, renewables are therefore no longer only an environmental preference. They are increasingly an economic stabilization tool.

Why does 10,000 MW matter now?

Some targets are symbolic. This one is strategic. If implemented seriously, 10,000 MW of renewable electricity could help Bangladesh:

- reduce dependence on imported liquid fuel generation
- diversify the national power mix

- lower long-term exposure to commodity shocks
- improve reserve management by reducing fuel import demand
- attract green finance and development support
- strengthen export competitiveness through cleaner supply chains
- create domestic technical employment

There is also an important trade dimension. Global buyers increasingly examine carbon footprints, sustainability metrics, and energy sourcing practices. For Bangladesh’s export industries, especially garments and manufacturing, access to cleaner power may gradually become a commercial advantage. That means renewable energy policy is not only about climate. It is also about industrial strategy.

Where does Bangladesh stand today?

Bangladesh has made renewable progress, but not a renewable transformation. The country gained international recognition for solar home systems that expanded off-grid energy access. Rooftop solar has gradually grown under net metering rules. Some utility-scale solar plants have been commissioned. Pilot wind initiatives have emerged. Waste-to-energy discussions continue. Yet compared with total national electricity demand, renewable capacity remains modest.

This means Bangladesh must now move

from pilot-scale renewable policy to mass-scale renewable execution. If the effective renewable base remains limited relative to the 10,000 MW target, then the country may need to add approximately 8,000 to 9,000 MW of new renewable capacity within less than five years.

That is ambitious by any measure. But ambition alone is not the problem. Delivery speed is the problem. Many countries have achieved rapid scaling when the policy environment was right. The question is not a physical possibility. It is institutional readiness.

Is the target realistic?

Yes, but not under business-as-usual conditions. Bangladesh has repeatedly shown that when infrastructure becomes a national priority, projects can move. Major bridges, roads, ports, and generation assets demonstrate that state capacity exists when political commitment aligns with administration. So, the issue is not whether Bangladesh can build things. The issue is whether renewable deployment will receive the same seriousness as given to conventional power expansion.

The target becomes realistic if:

- approvals become time-bound
- land is prepared in advance
- payment security reassures investors
- grid expansion runs in parallel
- rooftop solar scales quickly
- financing channels are mobilized
- institutions coordinate effectively

The target becomes unrealistic if:

- files move slowly
- land disputes stall projects
- utilities delay payments
- transmission lags behind generation
- policy signals remain mixed
- 2026 and 2027 are wasted

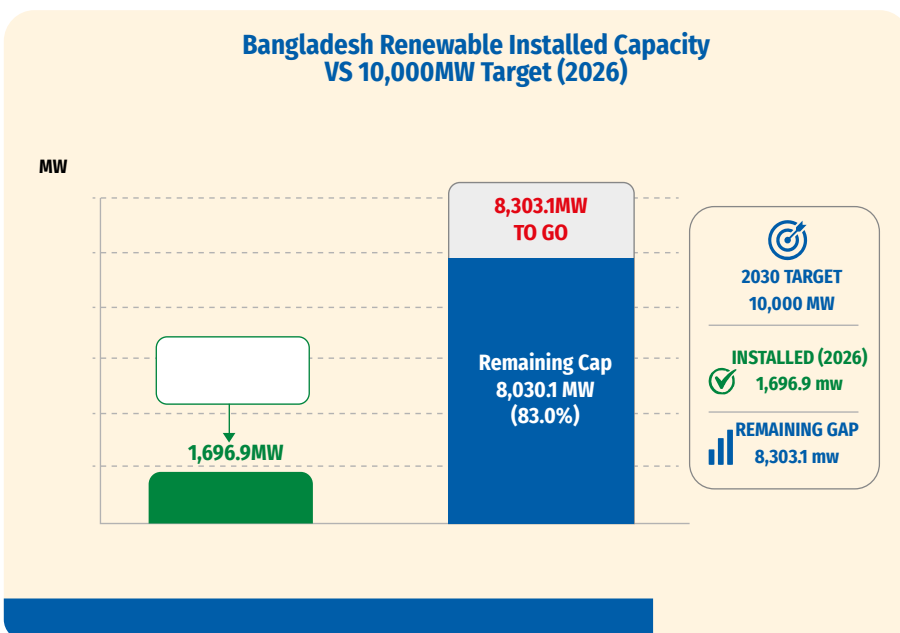
In short, 10,000 MW is a governance challenge disguised as an energy target.

Where can the 10,000 MW come from?

A diversified pathway is more realistic than dependence on one technology.

This portfolio spreads risk using different land types and broadens participation.

Bangladesh Renewable Installed Capacity VS 10,000MW Target (2026)



Rooftop solar may be the fastest route

If speed matters, rooftops matter. Large utility projects often require land acquisition, environmental clearance, relocation concerns, and long transmission links. Rooftop systems avoid many of these barriers. Bangladesh has significant unused roof space across:

- garment factories
- warehouses
- universities
- hospitals
- shopping complexes
- apartment towers
- public offices
- airports
- railway stations

Source	Possible MW by 2030
Utility-scale solar parks	4,000
Rooftop solar	2,000
Industrial captive/hybrid solar	1,500
Coastal wind	1,000
Floating solar	1,000
Waste-to-energy / biomass/biogas	500
Total	10,000

If net metering becomes simpler, approvals digital, and financing accessible, rooftop solar can scale rapidly. For export industries, rooftop systems offer another advantage. International buyers increasingly prefer lower-carbon supply chains. Renewable sourcing can improve commercial positioning. Rooftop solar should therefore be treated not as a side policy, but as an industrial competitiveness strategy.

Rooftops alone cannot deliver 10,000 MW. Bangladesh still needs large projects capable of supplying bulk power at a relatively low unit cost. The challenge is land.

A practical land strategy should prioritize:

- low-productivity land where feasible
- brownfield industrial areas
- reclaimed land after technical review
- reservoir-adjacent zones
- dual-use models combining agriculture and solar where viable

The debate should not become food versus energy. It should become efficient land use rather than poor land planning.

Floating solar deserves serious consideration

Land scarcity makes floating solar strategically attractive. Bangladesh has reservoirs, ponds, and water facilities where appropriately designed projects may be viable.

Benefits include:

- reduced land conflict
- faster deployment in selected sites
- diversification of project geography
- useful supplemental capacity

Floating solar will not replace ground-mounted solar, but it can complement it meaningfully.

Wind: selective but useful

Bangladesh is unlikely to become a wind giant. But that does not mean wind has no role. Selected coastal corridors may support viable projects. Even moderate wind additions can help diversify output patterns and complement solar generation. Wind should be pursued pragmatically, where economics justify it.

The grid challenge nobody can ignore

Many countries discovered that renewable bottlenecks are often transmission bottlenecks. Generation projects receive attention, but substations, evacuation lines, dispatch software, and forecasting systems determine whether renewable power can actually be used efficiently. Bangladesh must therefore treat grid modernization as equal in importance to generation procurement. Necessary priorities include:

- renewable transmission corridors
- modern substations near solar zones
- improved load forecasting
- flexible dispatch systems
- digital monitoring tools

Without this, new capacity may be underutilized.

Storage and system flexibility

A common criticism of renewables is intermittency. Solar output varies by time of day. Wind output varies by weather. This concern is real but manageable. Modern power systems use combinations of:

- battery storage
- demand response
- flexible gas peakers
- diversified geography
- stronger transmission networks
- forecasting technology

Bangladesh does not need 100 percent renewable power by 2030. It needs a smarter mixed system with a larger renewable share. That is a planning challenge, not a reason for paralysis.

Financing the transition

Even when renewable power is cost-effective over time, upfront capital is substantial. That means financing structure matters enormously. Bangladesh should actively pursue:

1. **Green bonds**—Domestic or sovereign green bonds can channel capital into bankable projects.
2. **Concessional climate finance**—Development partners are increasingly willing to support clean infrastructure.
3. **Blended finance**—Public risk-sharing can unlock private investment.
4. **Local bank participation**—Domestic banks should treat renewables as productive infrastructure, not niche lending.
5. **Currency risk mitigation**—Foreign investors need comfort on exchange-rate exposure.

If financing costs remain too high, even cheap technologies become expensive.

What the government must do in 2026–27

These two years will determine whether the target remains alive.

- Step 1: Publish annual milestones—Do not manage only toward 2030. Publish yearly targets.
- Step 2: Launch competitive auctions—Ready projects should enter transparent bidding immediately.
- Step 3: Reform rooftop net metering—Applications should be digital, simple, and time-bound.
- Step 4: Solarize public assets—Schools, hospitals, ministries, stations, and airports should become visible early adopters.
- Step 5: Create a renewable land bank—Pre-cleared sites can save years.
- Step 6: Build skills pipelines—Technicians, EPC firms, and engineers must scale with demand.
- Step 7: Publish monthly dashboards—Show MW awarded, under construction, and commissioned. Transparency creates pressure. Pressure improves delivery.

What can Bangladesh learn from others?

India demonstrated that competitive auctions reduced solar tariffs dramatically when scale and policy confidence aligned.

Vietnam showed that strong incentives rapidly unlocked rooftop growth, though later policy correction was needed.

Pakistan's recent distributed solar growth suggests consumers move quickly when economics are favorable.

Bangladesh does not need to copy any particular model. But it should be learned selectively and pragmatically.

What happens if Bangladesh fails?

Failure would carry costs beyond embarrassment. It would likely mean:

- continued import dependence
- higher long-run tariffs
- repeated subsidy pressure
- missed green investment flows
- slower industrial decarbonization
- weaker competitiveness for exporters
- delayed energy security

In other words, failure would preserve yesterday's risks.

What happens if Bangladesh succeeds?



Success would not mean perfection. But it would mean a structural turning point. Bangladesh would gain:

- a more diversified power system
- lower fuel vulnerability
- stronger investor confidence
- greener export branding
- new domestic industries and jobs
- better long-run affordability prospects

Most importantly, success would prove that Bangladesh can execute a modern energy transition at scale.

The political economy nobody likes to discuss

Every energy transition creates winners and losers. Renewables may challenge interests linked to:

- imported fuel supply chains
- legacy procurement models
- slow approval cultures
- institutional inertia

That is why leadership matters.

The transition should be framed not as ideology, but as:

- lower long-run electricity cost
- lower import dependence
- stronger reserves
- cleaner cities
- better jobs
- stronger export competitiveness

When framed economically, resistance weakens.

Final verdict: dream or deliverable?

The 10,000 MW target is not a night

dream. But it is also not self-executing. Bangladesh still has enough time—but not enough time to waste. As of early 2026, a realistic scorecard says the following real picture:

Political ambition: **High**

Technical feasibility: **Moderate to high**

Institutional readiness: **Moderate**

Financing potential: **High if structured well**

Probability under business-as-usual: **Low to moderate**

Probability with urgent reforms: **Strongly achievable**

If 2026 becomes the year of land mobilization, auction launches, rooftop acceleration, grid investment, financing reform, and monthly accountability, then 2030 can mark the beginning of a more secure and modern energy era.

If 2026 becomes another year of speeches, committees, and delayed files, the target will quietly age into irrelevance. The next chapter of Bangladesh's power story will not be written by targets alone. It will be written by turbines, panels, substations, batteries, and the discipline to deliver them. The countdown has already begun!!!!

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Engineer A R Mohammad Parvez Mazumder

Navigating Rooftop Solar Energy for Public Health and Comfort: Bangladesh Perspective

1. Preamble

The global shift towards renewable energy is fast-tracking. However, the traditional model of large-scale solar production is often hindered by limited land availability. Bangladesh is also facing similar challenges in its quest for sustainable energy, as a land-scarce country branded by dense populace nation. Here, rooftop solar could become the best strategy and viable for the country's energy transition. This approach effectively transforms existing buildings (vertical infrastructure) into a source of power.

Bangladesh can learn from effective and successful international rooftop solar models to improve its energy strategy. For example, China follows a state-led 'Whole-county' program, while Vietnam experiences an incentive-driven 'Solar Rush'. These examples help Bangladesh to move ahead from its humble beginning. This can grow from a small trend into a basic lifestyle upgrade. The change can do successfully through new laws, net metering, and lower import taxes. The ultimate benefits of rooftop solar could be cooler, healthier, and more prosperous future for the citizen.

2. Present Outlook and Market Scope

Bangladesh is in the beginning stage of new energy transition. The country is moving away from its world-famous

Solar Energy System (SHS) in rural areas. Now, it is switching to large-scale rooftop solar systems in all big cities (like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Cumilla, Sylhet, Rangpur, Bogura etc). This changeover marks a new stage in the country's renewable energy growth.

As of April 2026, Bangladesh's solar capacity has reached approximately 1,409.98 MWp (megawatt-peak, rated peak capacity in optimal condition), according to the statistics of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA). This is about 80-83% of the total renewable energy capacity and consists of about 1,027 MWp on-grid and 383 MWp off-grid. Within this, the rooftop solar capacity has crossed the 500 MWp milestone, driven by industrial adoption and net-metering. Here, installation price varies based on panel type (mono/bifacial), inverter brand, and structural requirements.

2.1 Key Drivers and Challenges

Bangladesh is shifting towards a 'Greener Future' by focusing on rooftop solar energy. This is becoming more practical as prices drop and new rules begin. However, high taxes and quality concerns are still major problems. By using rooftops instead of farmland, the country can grow its solar energy capacity without creating land disputes, as stated in Table: 01.

Driver	Related Information	Value-driven Change
Regulations	Government Orders 2024 dictate solar for new residential and industrial buildings wef July 2025	Capacity needs to match building's exact electricity use
Cost-effectiveness	Cost ranges from Tk 80,000-1,70,000 per killo-watt (kW) in urban areas	Reduced solar panel price makes more affordable
Land-energy Trade-off	Uses vertical space rather than agricultural land	Skips land-grabbing conflicts for large solar projects
Challenges	Slow progress due to high import duties and lack of quality control	Aims to generate 3,000 MWp of electricity from rooftop by 2030 (out of total solar generation of 10,000 MWp)

3. Environmental and Comfort Aspects

Rooftop solar provides benefits beyond electricity; it deeply changes the building and urban environment.

3.1 Building Integrated Shield Effect (BISE)

Every kW of solar power lessens the need for fossil fuel-based electricity. This is critical for Bangladesh, where approximately US\$ 11 billion are spent on fossil fuel imports in recent years. By shifting to solar energy, the country reduces carbon-di-oxide (CO2) emissions and local air pollution. The biggest challenge is to manage high heat for people living directly under a roof. Because, concrete or metal roofs absorb heat all day, and releases into the home at night. Vis-a-vis, the solar panels at the rooftop act as a shield, helping to keep the rooms directly below much cooler.

- **Shading Effect:** Solar panels act as a physical shield. These seize the sun's energy before it reaches the building top and form a 'shading effect' that prevents the roof from overheating.
- **Ventilation for Cooling:** Panels are typically installed with a small gap between the modules and the roof. These gaps allow natural ventilation, through which moving air carries away trapped heat.
- **Temperature Reduction:** The rooftop solar setup can lower the temperature of the ceiling by 3-5 degree C (Celsius) in Bangladesh tropical urban setting. A cooler roof keeps the rooms below colder. It helps protect elderly people and children from heat exhaustion.

This also reduces the need for air conditioning (AC) by approximately 11.85%.

- **Reduce Urban Heat Island (UHI):** In a suburb, solar-equipped buildings get relatively cool naturally. Thus, it reduces the dependence on heavy air conditioning. Traditional AC system dumps waste heat outside and into the streets. Therefore, less use of AC helps lower the overall outdoor temperature of the neighborhood.

■ Benefits of BISE at a Glance

The BISE achieved by rooftop solar system has advantages, ranging from individual household comfort to national economic stability (Table: 02).

3.2 Public Health: Clean Urban Atmosphere and Acoustic Welbeing

Rooftop solar helps city dwellers breathe healthier air by reducing local pollution.

- **Improving Survival Rates:** Data from China shows that placing solar panels in crowded urban areas is more effective than placing those on large farms in the countryside. By lowering air pollution (fine particulate matter), installing rooftop solar panels in cities can stop thousands of early deaths from heart and lung disease every year.
- **Reducing Household Pollutants:** Reliable rooftop solar power with battery storage eliminates the need for diesel generators during power outages. This prevents toxic carbon monoxide and soot inside the home, leading to cleaner indoor air.

Category	Benefits	Impact Details
National Economy	Reduces Fossil Fuel Dependence	Reduces need for imported fossil fuels; Critical for Bangladesh spends US\$ 11 billion on imports recently
Ecological	Decreases Emission	Lowers CO2 emissions and reduces local air pollution
Heat Management	Shading Effect	Panels act as a physical shield; Seizes sun energy before it reaches the structure to prevent overheating
Thermodynamics	Ventilation Cooling	Gaps between panels and roof allow natural air movement to carry away trapped heat
Indoor Comfort	Reduces Temperature	Lowers ceiling temperatures by 3-5 degree C; Protects elderly and children from heat exhaustion
Energy Efficiency	Lowers AC Demand	Reduces need for AC by approximately 11.85%
Urban Environment	UHI Mitigation	Reduces UHI effect by lowering 'waste heat' dumped into streets by AC units

- **Noise Reduction:** The dense layers of glass and silicon in solar panels act as a sound barrier. In cities and countrysides, the panels dampen the loud noise of rain on metal roofs in rainy season. This creates a quitter home and helps sleep better.
- **Economic Relief:** In Vietnam, the surge in rooftop solar has reached closely 7 GWp. This reduces electricity bills and provides economic comfort. Families can afford to run fans and cooling systems without financial stress. The redirected income could be spent for better nutrition and healthcare, indirectly improving the family's overall health.
- **Psychological Security:** A personal, reliable energy source gives resident power and security. It reduces anxiety about blackouts, particularly in rural areas.

4. Individual Financial Benefits

Rooftop solar is no longer just a 'Green Choice' for a homeowner or business; it is a profitable investment.

- **Net Metering:** Bangladesh's Net Metering Policy allows individuals to sell excess electricity back to the national grid. Accordingly, the extra energy produced during the day is credited to the owner's electricity bill.
- **Lower Electricity Bills:** Switching to solar helps users save money. The levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) for rooftop solar is approximately Tk 5.00-5.50 per kWh, offers savings against high-use residential electricity presently costs between Tk 9.94-11.46 per kWh and industrial/commercial grid tariffs between Tk 8.45-10.55 per kWh. Residential systems can achieve cost recovery within 20 years (considering life cycle of solar panel), with costs potentially dropping further through green financing.
- **Payback Period:** In Bangladesh, residential rooftop solar systems usually pay for themselves in

8-10 years through lower bills and net-metering. After that, the system lasts for 20 years lifecycle, providing over a decade of

substantially reduced energy cost.

- **Comparison of Bangladesh Reality with Global State:** Shown in Table: 03.

Issue	Global State	Bangladesh Reality
Grid Cost	High, Rising	Lower, Subsidized
Payback Time	05-07 Years	08-10 Years
Maintenance	Low	Higher, Dust and Pollution Requires Cleaning
Net-metering	Common	Available, Requires specific DPDC/DESCO Approval

5. Case Studies

Case Study 1: China (The Industrial Leader)

China has initiated the 'Whole-county' rooftop solar model and is the global leader in adding total output of 200 GW in 2023 alone, as shown in Table: 04.

Parameters	Details
Scale and Scope	By early 2026, China leads the world in distributed solar energy. The urban growth is driven by Government rules requiring solar panels on a set percentage of roofs include government building, school, homes and hospitals.
Public Health Impact	China prioritizes rooftop solar system in cities to get health benefits. Putting panels in crowded areas reduces air pollution and prevents respiratory illnesses. Data shows that city-based solar power saves 20,000 lives annually by replacing coal use.
Installation Cost	China controls the global supply chain, which makes installation cost the lowest in the world.
Strategy	Local Governments are working with developers to install solar panels on all available roof in villages or districts.
Outcome	Clean energy drove 40% of China's economic GDP growth in 2023. They lowered costs for everyone by using rooftops as national resource to achieve large-scale production.

Case Study 2: Vietnam (The Incentive Boom)

Vietnam is recognized as one of the most competitive solar markets outside

of China. She saw a massive 'Solar Rush' between 2019-21, having a 25-fold increases in solar capacity within a decade, as shown in Table: 05.

Features	Details
Scale and Scope	Vietnam employs aggressive Feed-in Tariffs (FiT) to encourage citizens to install solar. By 2025, rooftop capacity reached approximately 7 GW.
Public Health Impact	In cities like Ha Noi, Ho Chi Min, Ha Nam etc, solar power helps solve 'Energy Poverty'. Savings from solar energy allow middle-income families to run cooling systems during heatwaves. This reduces indoor temperatures in urban homes by 3-5 degree C ensuring comfort to the elders and children.
Installation Cost	Vietnam has become a major manufacturing hub, reducing its reliance on imports and keeping local costs competitive.
Strategy	Government offers FiT (US Cents 8.40-9.40 per kWh) for 20 years to anyone for installing solar panels.
Outcome	By 2025, Vietnam reached 17 GW of solar capacity by 2025, including 46% from rooftop installations. This quick growth overloaded their power grid. Bangladesh can learn that infrastructure upgrades must happen simultaneously with solar incentives.



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Case Study 3: Jolshiri Abashon Prokolpo (JAP), Narayangonj

Implementing rooftop solar at JAP at Rupganj Narayangonj, G+8 structured buildings offer a huge opportunity for energy independence. With nearly half the township dedicated to open green space, the project is perfectly positioned to become a ‘Green Township’.

Project Potential

- Total Area: 2,133 acres (where, 48% vast open spaces) with 6,000

residential plots (each 5-katha).

- Solar Capacity Calculation: For a 2,535 square feet (sq ft) rooftop for each G+8 building, assuming 60% (70% as per BPDB calculation) of the area is usable (accounting space for water tanks, lift rooms, and walking paths), it has roughly 1,521 sq ft of effective rooftop space. As per Dhaka Electric Supply Company’s (DESCO) assessment, modern high efficiency panels produce 1 kWp electricity per 70 sq ft solar panel. This results approximately 21 kWp electricity per building. The

conservative approach could be 17.5 kWp per building.

- Collective Impact: Collectively, this creates a 105 MWp ‘Virtual Power Plant’ at JAP that could support the national grid and local substations.
- Strategic Planning: Building heights must be managed to prevent shading (one building blocking another’s sunlight) to maintain yield.
- Benefits for Residents at JAP (Table: 06)

Category	Benefits	How Does it Work (for G+8 Buildings)
Financial	Lesser Monthly Bills	Offsets costs for elevators, water pumps, and area lighting
“	Net Metering	Sell extra daytime power back to the grid and earn credits for night use
“	Price Protection	Locks in energy costs for 20 years, avoiding frequent 5-10% tariff hike
“	Higher Property Value	‘Green Buildings’ attract higher rent and resale value in Dhaka
Comfort	Cooler Top Floors	Panels act as a ‘second skin’, dropping top-floor heat by 3-5 degree C
“	Less Air Conditioning	Lesser building temperatures mean ACs don’t have to work as hard for long
“	Power Backup	Provides clean, silent backup power for lights and Wi-Fi during outages
Health	Cleaner Air	Reduces the need for diesel generators, lowering harmful smoke and dust
“	Quiet Living	Solar systems are silent, unlike loud generators or old backup batteries
“	Better Well-being	Living in a sustainable community reduces stress and promotes ‘Green Living’

Here, Bio-solar is recommended for JAP, as the project emphasizes 'Green Township'. This combines solar panels with rooftop gardens. The plants help cool the solar panels (making those more efficient), while the panels provide shade for specific plant species, creating a perfect urban ecosystem.

5.1 Comparative Study: Rooftop Solar in Bangladesh, China, and Vietnam (2026)

Table: 07 compares the current status, policy frameworks, and success drivers of rooftop solar energy across the three nations as discussed above.


Feature	Bangladesh (Emerging)	China (Industrial Leader)	Vietnam (Incentive Model)
Installed Capacity	Rooftop: Approximately 370 MW+	Total: 1000 GW+; Rooftop: 400+ GW	Total: 17-20 GW; Rooftop: 9 GW
Policy	Net Metering, Credits for Excess Power; 2025 Mandate	'Whole-County' Program: State-led Mass Installation	Fixed 'FIT': Market Guaranteed Prices for 20 years
Main Growth Driver	High Retail Tariffs and Demand for Thermal Cooling in UHI	State Planning and Dominance in Global PV Manufacturing	Time-bound 'Solar Rush' Incentives Triggered Massive Private Investment
Economic Incentive	Energy Savings and Protection Against Fuel Import Costs	Clean Energy as Primary Driver of National GDP and Manufacturing	Rapid Industrialization and Avoid Power Shortages
Component Costs	Highest due to Import Duties on Inverters and Specific Parts	Lowest in the world and Internal Production	Highly Competitive; World's Leading PV Hub Outside China
Goal	3,000 MWp by End of 2025; 5 GW by 2030 (SREDA Targets)	1 TW by 2026	Sustaining Growth and Modernizing National Grid
Primary Impact	Public Health: Reduction in Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	Economic Comfort: Resident Sell Excess Power to Grid, Reduce 'Energy Poverty'	Energy Security: Reduce Grid Pressure and Achieve Self-reliance
Manufacturing	Import Dependent: Affected by Global Supply Chain; Local Assembly is Growing	Controls the World's Solar Supply Chain; Lowest Costs Globally	Local Hub: Global Manufacturing Center, Very Low Local Prices
Urban Temperature	Shading Effect on Structure	Nascent Benefit: Currently Felt Mostly in Industrial and Large Commercial Sectors	Direct Relief: Reduction of Indoor Temperatures by 3-5 degree C

6. Core Insights of Rooftop Solar in Bangladesh

Rooftop solar in Bangladesh is more than just a source of power; it is a strategic tool for financial and personal comfort. The following insights (Table: 08) highlight how economic shifts and smart cooling benefits are driving this change.

7. Conclusion

The scope for rooftop solar in Bangladesh is enormous. High costs and import taxes on inverters are still hurdles.

However, the combination of tax incentives, cooling technology, and new installation laws makes using rooftop solar system a smart move. Bangladesh can secure its energy future by following China's organized rollout and Vietnam's incentive models. This approach will keep cities cooler and save citizens money ensuring public health and comforts. 

Insights	Details
Cost Versus Incentive	China and Vietnam use large subsidies to keep solar costs low. On the contrary, Bangladesh uses a different approach of switching to solar power to avoid expensive electricity from the national grid. Here, rooftop solar power has become a tool for businesses and homes, when grid prices are rising and reaching as high as Tk 11.46 per kWh. It helps protect finances against rising costs and inflation.
The 'Duty Paradox'	Vietnam and China have made solar energy easy to adopt by lowering barriers; but Bangladesh still charges high taxes on certain solar parts., The time needed to earn back the investment could drop from 5-7 years to less than 4 years, if these taxes are reduced to the suggested 10-15% range.
Urban Utility	Residents in Dhaka, Chattogram or big cities get a special benefit from rooftop solar; it helps keep their homes cool. This thermal comfort is a unique advantage that isn't usually the main focus in China's large industrial solar projects. Therefore, installing solar panels is not just a way to save money, but also a way to improve a person's quality of life.

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

ENSURING A SELF-SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LANDSCAPE

Saleque Sufi

At the same time, the world has realized that uncontrolled use of fossil fuels has caused severe environmental damage through greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

The global energy crisis triggered by the devastating conflicts in the Middle East and Persian Gulf has once again demonstrated a hard reality: no country can ensure affordable and reliable energy security without a strong degree of energy independence. Sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction depend heavily on access to fuel and electricity at affordable prices, whether sourced domestically or imported. At the same time, environmental protection and energy transition have become equally important, as countries seek to balance economic growth with climate responsibilities.

Many nations possess significant primary energy resources but lack the technology, expertise, or financial capacity to develop them efficiently. In many cases, global powers and multinational interests exploit these weaknesses. Wars and geopolitical conflicts are often deeply connected to control over energy resources. On the other hand, countries lacking sufficient resources rely heavily on imported fuel and electricity, leaving them vulnerable to price shocks and supply-chain disruptions caused by wars, sanctions, or trade restrictions. The recent

disruption of the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world's most critical energy shipping routes—has exposed these vulnerabilities once again.

For example, Venezuela, despite being a major oil exporter, has long faced sanctions and geopolitical pressure linked to its energy resources. Similarly, conflicts and embargoes involving Russia, Iran, and several Middle Eastern countries have intensified volatility in global fuel markets. As a result, net energy-importing countries are struggling to ensure affordable fuel and electricity supplies for their citizens.

At the same time, the world has realized that uncontrolled use of fossil fuels has caused severe environmental damage through greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Consequently, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and wave energy, along with cleaner energy options like hydro and nuclear power, are receiving greater attention. Countries around the world are adopting energy-transition roadmaps and pursuing smarter energy systems. However, most developing nations still require international support in technology, financing, and expertise to achieve these goals.



Ultimately, the core challenge remains the same: ensuring an affordable and reliable energy supply.

Bangladesh presents a particularly complex case. The country has limited primary energy resources, largely untapped renewable potential, and rapidly growing demand from a population of nearly 180 million people living in a relatively small land area. Due to inadequate long-term planning, weak implementation strategies, and institutional limitations in operating modern energy infrastructure efficiently, Bangladesh faces severe shortages in fuel supply for power generation and industry.

The country's institutions also lack sufficient capacity for large-scale exploration and development of onshore and offshore energy resources. As a result of flawed policies, Bangladesh has become increasingly dependent on imported fuel, exposing the economy to global price volatility and supply disruptions. Domestic fuel and electricity prices remain below economic cost, forcing the government to provide large subsidies. Policies and master plans are often poorly implemented, leaving governments trapped in a cycle of crisis management

instead of long-term planning.

Bangladesh urgently requires a comprehensive and realistic power and energy master plan supported by a practical implementation strategy, a balanced fuel mix, transparent pricing policies, and a clear roadmap for energy transition.

Resources and Supply Chain

Bangladesh, the world's largest river delta, has discovered significant natural gas reserves, mostly onshore. Natural gas remains the dominant fuel for power generation, fertilizer production, industries, transport, and household cooking. However, since 2000, inadequate exploration—caused by policy hesitation and lack of foresight—has pushed proven gas reserves close to depletion.

To address growing shortages, Bangladesh began importing LNG in 2018 through two Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs). Combined domestic gas and imported LNG now supply around 2,800 MMCFD against demand exceeding 4,000 MMCFD. The growing gap has created severe fuel shortages affecting power generation, fertilizer production, and industrial operations.

Current exploration efforts by BAPEX are insufficient to meet future demand. Bangladesh urgently needs greater participation from international oil companies under Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) for both offshore and onshore exploration. However, even accelerated exploration campaigns are unlikely to produce major results within the next five to six years.

Similarly, LNG import capacity cannot be expanded quickly. Additional FSRUs require at least 24–30 months to become operational, while land-based LNG terminals may take even longer. As a result, gas supply is expected to remain a major concern between 2027 and 2030.

Bangladesh also possesses significant reserves of high-quality coal in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur regions. Currently, coal from the Barapukuria mine supports three mine-mouth power plants with a combined capacity of 525 MW. However, these plants often fail to operate consistently.

Studies suggest that Barapukuria and Phulbari are highly suitable for open-pit mining under strict environmental safeguards. Despite multiple feasibility studies and development plans, successive governments have failed to

make political decisions on large-scale coal mining. Yet these coal reserves could potentially support 10,000 MW of electricity generation for decades.

Instead of developing domestic coal resources, Bangladesh invested heavily in imported coal-based power plants with nearly 7,000 MW capacity. Except for plants at Matarbari and Anwara, many face logistical difficulties transporting coal. BPDB, as the sole buyer of electricity, often fails to make timely payments, preventing these plants from operating at full capacity.

Bangladesh also imports electricity from India and Nepal. A major portion comes from the Adani power plant in Jharkhand, although supply disruptions frequently occur because of unpaid bills.

The country also relies on a large fleet of liquid-fuel-based Independent Power Producers (IPPs), mostly owned by domestic private companies. These expensive and highly polluting plants were originally intended as temporary emergency solutions, but continue operating because of fuel shortages elsewhere in the system. Many are underutilized, yet BPDB must still pay substantial capacity charges.

A breakthrough could come from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. The original plan aimed to commission both 1,200 MW units by the end of 2026. Nuclear energy could significantly stabilize the power grid while reducing reliance on expensive liquid fuels and imported fossil fuels. Fuel loading has finally begun, and the first 1,200 MW unit is now expected to start generation between early and mid-2027.

Despite ambitious plans, Bangladesh has made limited progress in renewable energy development. Recently, however, momentum has started building, especially in rooftop solar projects within industries. The government has announced a target of generating 10,000 MW from renewable sources by 2030.

Still, renewable energy development in Bangladesh faces several obstacles, including land shortages, grid evacuation constraints, tariff uncertainties, and high import taxes

on solar equipment. The government is currently reviewing 37 grid-connected solar projects previously stalled during the caretaker administration.

To accelerate progress, the government could acquire land and lease it to private investors, while also encouraging the manufacturing of solar panels, batteries, and inverters within Special Economic Zones. Such initiatives could significantly reduce solar generation costs.

Not all renewable energy needs to feed directly into the national grid. Distributed solar generation in major demand centers such as Chattogram, Khulna, Cumilla, Dinajpur, Bogura, Barishal, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, and Gazipur could ease pressure on the transmission system.

Rooftop solar also holds major potential. Industrial facilities, government buildings, hospitals, and educational institutions could benefit from net-metering systems. However, high import duties, financing difficulties, and a lack of a streamlined approval process remain major barriers. SREDA's institutional capacity must also be strengthened to ensure quality control and regulatory oversight.

Bangladesh also has opportunities in floating solar projects and hybrid renewable systems. Coastal regions offer significant wind-energy potential. A previously proposed joint venture between Danish and Bangladeshi companies to explore offshore wind development deserves reconsideration.

Bangladesh must pursue every possible avenue to achieve greater energy independence and sustainable energy security. By 2035, the country should target a fuel mix of 75% domestic resources and 25% imports, increasing to 80:20 by 2040.

The proposed long-term transition mix could include: 40% gas and LNG, 40% clean energy (nuclear and renewables), 15% imported electricity, and 5% liquid fuel.

Achieving such a balance would lower energy costs, reduce subsidy burdens, and shield Bangladesh from global fuel-

price shocks and supply disruptions.

Recommendations

- Launch immediate PSC bidding for onshore and offshore petroleum exploration.
- Reassess open-pit coal mining at Phulbari and Barapukuria alongside mine-mouth power generation.
- Consider establishing a second nuclear power plant near Rooppur.
- Expand gas exploration in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, Chatak, and Tengratila.
- Construct a gas transmission pipeline from Bhola to Khulna via Barishal.
- Expedite the third FSRU project and LNG/LPG terminals at Matarbari.
- Exempt solar equipment from import duties and taxes for at least five years.
- Promote distributed solar microgrids in major urban centers.
- Encourage manufacturing of solar equipment and EVs in Special Economic Zones.
- Allow BERC to independently determine fuel and electricity pricing.
- Introduce market-based or cost-plus pricing gradually over five years while protecting vulnerable groups through subsidies.
- Modernize Bangladesh's power and fuel supply systems using SCADA, smart grids, AI, and GIS technologies.

Ultimately, Bangladesh's growing economy cannot continue absorbing the shocks of volatile global energy markets. Nor can it afford repeated disruptions in fuel supply chains. Long-term energy security will depend on realistic planning, diversified resources, institutional reforms, and decisive political commitment. **EP**

Saleque Sufi, Energy Expert



POWERTEK

HARIPUR POWER LIMITED (“HPL”)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (“RFEOI”)

Haripur Power Limited (“HPL”) is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Haripur, Narayangonj, Bangladesh. HPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of **PEL**, a joint venture between **Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia** and **Aljomaih Energy and Water Co., Saudi Arabia**, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

HPL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating in the tender (the “Tender”) as stated below

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-HPL-2026-001	Tender: tender for the purchase of a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Bangladesh comprising 1 x Gas Turbine (Mitsubishi, M701F) + 1 x Steam Turbine (Fuji, K1E69050G1) + 1 x HRSG (Hyundai, HRSG-H-40-65) and all its auxiliaries, in the form of an asset sale.

Prospective applicants interested in participating in the Tender are required to send their Expression of Interest (“EOI”) on company letterhead stating their interest and providing the information stated below via email to **hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy** by **12th June 2026**.

Information to accompany the EOI:

- 1. Name of applicant (company name)**
- 2. Country of incorporation**
- 3. Authorized contact person with contact details**
- 4. Company Profile**

The EOI along with the information provided therein will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. HPL will issue invitations via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to:
hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy



Bangladesh Pushes Climate Agenda Ahead of COP31

EP DESK

As climate risks intensify across the globe, countries are increasingly turning their attention to building resilient cities and securing stronger international cooperation ahead of the next UN climate summit.

For climate-vulnerable nations like Bangladesh, the stakes are particularly high as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and rapid urbanization continue to threaten livelihoods, infrastructure, and economic stability.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh sought to amplify its voice on climate financing, resilience, and global responsibility at an international conference in Türkiye ahead of COP31.

Environment Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo used the platform to call for stronger support for vulnerable countries while also exploring new partnerships on climate adaptation, urban resilience, and environmental cooperation.

He participated in the international conference titled “Türkiye’s Road to COP31: Resilient Cities,” held in Antalya, Türkiye, on May 8–9, ahead of the United Nations Climate Conference, COP31, scheduled for November this year.

The two-day conference focused on building resilient and sustainable cities in response to the growing impacts of climate change. Ministers,



policy-makers, development partners, and international organizations from several countries attended the event.

In the opening session, Türkiye’s Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Murat Kurum, welcomed delegates and emphasized the importance of developing disaster-resilient and sustainable urban systems to address increasing climate risks.

Later, Mintoo held a bilateral meeting with Murat Kurum. The Turkish minister sought Bangladesh’s views and recommendations regarding COP31 and the proposed Hatay Declaration, describing Bangladesh as a close and valued partner in the international community.

He also invited Bangladesh to actively participate in COP31 and expressed Türkiye’s interest in strengthening cooperation on environmental protection and climate resilience.

Thanking the Turkish government for the

invitation, Mintoo said deforestation, rapid urbanization, and rising sea levels continue to threaten the country’s environment and livelihoods.

He added that Bangladesh will present a special agenda at COP31 seeking stronger international cooperation and increased climate financing for vulnerable countries. He also said Bangladesh plans to appoint focal persons ahead of the conference to more effectively present the country’s climate vulnerabilities, priorities, and support requirements.

He stressed the need for developed countries to take greater responsibility and called for fair and timely climate financing for affected nations.

Later, Mintoo joined a panel discussion alongside ministers and representatives from The Gambia, Syria, and the World Bank where he highlighted the need for financing climate-resilient infrastructure, strengthening technical

cooperation, promoting technology transfer, and building institutional capacity.

On the sidelines of the conference, Bangladesh and the Maldives held a bilateral meeting to strengthen cooperation in environment, climate change, and energy. Maldives Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Energy Ali Shareef sought Bangladesh's support for a plan to plant five million trees in the Maldives, including assistance with nursery development, sapling production, and technical expertise.

In response, Mintoo said Bangladesh



has launched a priority program to plant 250 million trees over the next five years and invited the Maldivian minister to visit Bangladesh to observe the country's nursery operations and plantation management practices.

On the final day of the conference, Kosovo's Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Fitore Pacolli,

paid a courtesy call on Mintoo and sought Bangladesh's support for Kosovo's inclusion in the COP process.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding on environmental and climate cooperation during COP31.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Hatay Declaration and a high-level roundtable discussion focusing on climate risk reduction, resilient urban development, sustainable infrastructure, and stronger international cooperation. **EP**

IEA, Türkiye Seek Clean Energy Agenda Ahead of COP31

Amid a deepening global energy crisis, representatives from around 50 governments discussed energy security, electrification, clean cooking in Africa, and other key issues ahead of the COP31 climate summit.

The Presidency of COP31 on Thursday named the International Energy Agency (IEA) as a strategic partner for the international climate conference scheduled to take place in Antalya, Türkiye, in November.

The partnership was announced by COP31 President-Designate Murat Kurum and IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol at the opening of a jointly hosted High-Level Energy Transition Dialogue at the IEA headquarters in Paris.

The high-level dialogue brought together ministers, ambassadors, and senior government officials representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population, alongside a broad group of stakeholders that included leaders from four previous COP presidencies, private sector executives, and civil society representatives.

The event was also organized in partnership with Australia, which is leading the COP31 negotiations in close cooperation with Pacific nations. Fiji

and Tuvalu are expected to host pre-COP events in October.

Building on the role previous high-level dialogue series played in shaping COP outcomes, the meeting provided an opportunity for President-Designate Kurum — who also serves as Türkiye's Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change — to outline the COP31 Presidency's strategic vision and priorities, while allowing participating countries to share their perspectives.

President-Designate Kurum said the strategic partnership with the IEA would involve using the agency's data, analysis, and policy recommendations across several critical areas, including the emissions impact of zero-waste strategies, expanding access to clean cooking, and accelerating industrial electrification.

"As the world faces an unprecedented energy security threat due to disruptions to oil and gas supplies from the Middle East, I am encouraged by the positive discussions today on the urgent need to scale up secure, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions that benefit everyone, especially those who lack access to modern energy services," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, also welcomed the partnership, saying COP31 would draw global attention to the climate threats facing Pacific nations while highlighting practical clean energy solutions.

"The current global fuel crisis only strengthens the case for clean, sovereign energy and global climate action," Bowen said. "Conflicts can't stop the sun, and the wind doesn't depend on shipping."

During the dialogue, participants agreed on the urgent need to accelerate efforts to expand access to electricity and clean cooking worldwide.

They noted that the upcoming IEA Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa in July — co-chaired with the governments of Kenya, Norway, and the United States — would serve as an important platform to build momentum ahead of COP31, where clean cooking is expected to become a major focus area.

In line with previous high-level dialogue series ahead of earlier COP summits, the COP31 Presidency and the IEA are expected to hold additional meetings and consultations between now and November. **EP**

Bangladesh's Fossil Fuel Imports Rise by 14.8% in Four Years

EP REPORT

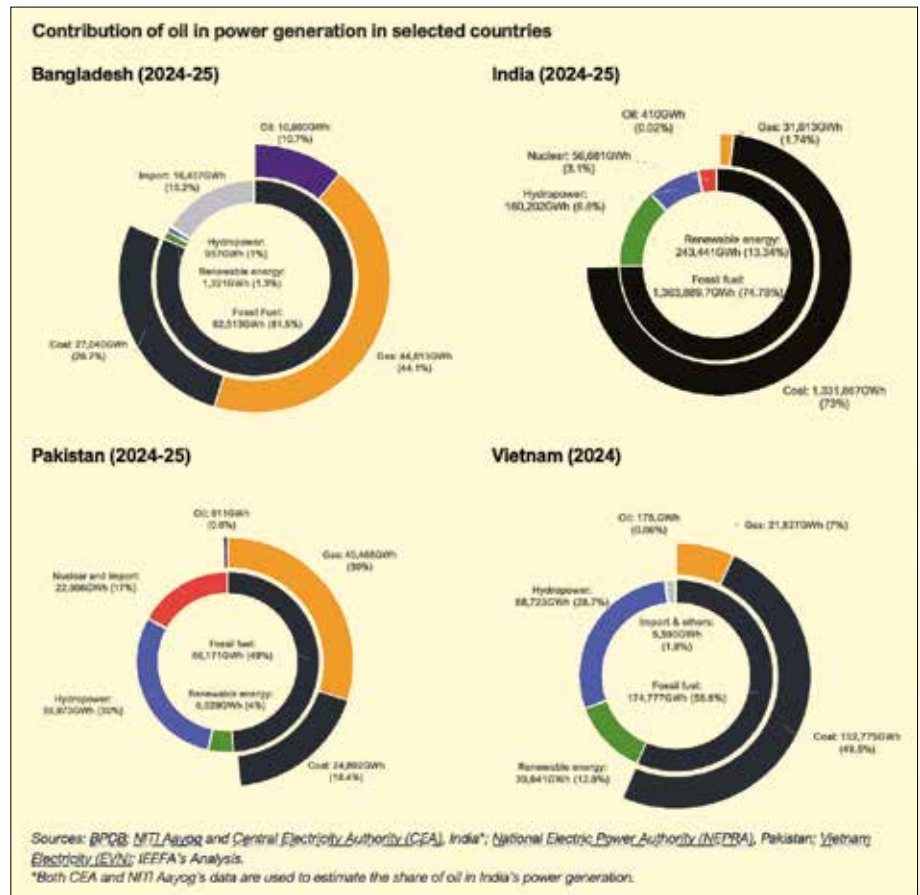
Bangladesh's primary energy imports rose from 47.7% to 62.5% in four years, exposing its vulnerability to the volatile international fossil fuel market and raising the power generation cost by 83%.

Apart from expensive fossil fuels and depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) against the United States Dollar (USD), large capacity payments from low demand growth significantly influenced the rising power costs, according to 'Fostering Bangladesh's energy transition', a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

Analyzing data from FY2020-21 to FY2024-25, the report finds that a surge in the average coal price by 290% between FY2020-21 and FY2022-23, along with an expensive oil price for a brief period and a sharp currency depreciation, drastically increased Bangladesh's power generation cost. However, despite 59.7% fall in coal prices as compared to FY2022-23, and oil prices remaining low during the time, the generation cost did not reduce in FY2024-25.

"The average capacity payments of approximately BDT9.5/Kilowatt hour (kWh) (USD0.077/kWh) and BDT5.9/kWh (USD0.048/kWh) paid to private oil- and coal-fired plants, respectively, in FY2024-25 raised overall generation costs," said Shafiqul Alam, the report's author and lead energy analyst at IEEFA.

"Further, gas supply shortage increased



cost—plants with load factor under 25% generated power at BDT16.85/kWh (USD0.137/kWh) while plants operating at around 75% load factor did so at a cost of BDT6/kWh (USD0.049/kWh)."

In addition, declining domestic gas production means that Bangladesh needs to import expensive liquefied natural

gas (LNG). The report estimates that the country could pay a subsidy of USD1.07 billion (BDT131.34 billion) on account of LNG imports from April to June 2026.

This estimate is based on the import trend from April to June 2025 and the current import price of about USD20 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), excluding

regasification and terminal costs.

Additionally, the share of renewable energy remains just 2.3% of grid-based power generation, far below the global average of around 33.8%, limiting its ability to hedge against the volatile prices in international fossil fuel markets.

Currently, however, high import duties are levied on distributed renewable energy (DRE) systems. The report estimates that a combined rooftop solar capacity of 100 megawatts (MW) will save more than 30 times the one-off import duties by reducing furnace oil imports over the lifecycle.

Hence, it calls on the government to offer a duty waiver.

“The solutions to Bangladesh’s persistent problems lie closer to home, such as in expanding domestic renewable energy at scale while limiting fossil fuel-based plants to contain overcapacity. Given the requirement of spinning reserve and grid balancing, the government may consider retaining part of the operational oil-fired plants in its ownership to avoid the hefty capacity payments once their contracts expire,” said Alam.

The report also seeks to draw policymakers’

attention towards the need to keep the open access cost of renewable energy projects under Corporate Power Purchase Agreements (CPPAs) at a minimum.

This would enable the apparel sector and corporates to decarbonize their operations as part of their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) targets.

While power utilities fear loss of revenue due to such projects under the CPPA, the analysis by IEEFA shows that electricity consumption in industries increased by 4.8% in FY2024-25. [EP](#)

Installed BESS Capacity in Spain Grows by 589% Since 2025 Blackout

One year after the blackout on April 28 in 2025, technical analyses and regulatory responses have reshaped the concept of security of supply in Spain’s electricity system, which has been undergoing rapid transformation since 2018 due to high levels of renewable penetration.

Far from being an isolated incident, expert reports – including those from the committee appointed by the Spanish government, Red Eléctrica, and ENTSO-E – conclude that the blackout resulted from a combination of operational and structural factors that exposed vulnerabilities in a system increasingly dominated by renewable technologies. The event began with the sudden loss of approximately 15 GW of generation within seconds, triggering a cascading failure that led to a nationwide blackout. The sequence involved voltage deviations, frequency instability, and automatic shutdowns, underscoring the critical importance of real-time system control.

Among the main causes identified was insufficient voltage control capacity, linked to the reduced presence of synchronous generation.

In a system with high shares of non-synchronous renewables such as solar PV and wind, the provision of ancillary services – including inertia, frequency regulation, and reactive

power – becomes more complex, limiting the system’s ability to absorb disturbances.

This was compounded by the limited deployment of energy storage – around 28 MW of batteries at the time – which constrained rapid-response capabilities, as well as low levels of interconnection with neighboring systems, thereby restricting external support.

The overall diagnosis points to a systemic failure rather than a single cause: a chain of conditions and events that exceeded the system’s resilience. This understanding has informed subsequent measures aimed at strengthening both operational management and long-term system planning.

Although installed battery storage capacity has grown by more than 500% since the blackout, Spain still ranks near the bottom in Europe, far behind countries such as Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

According to Red Eléctrica, Spain had just 28 MW of installed battery capacity in April 2025. By April 2026, this had increased to 193 MW – representing year-on-year growth of 589%. At the same time, the pipeline of BESS projects expanded sharply, with project processing rising by 464% year-on-year.

Demand for storage in the self-consumption segment also surged. In 2025, capacity grew from 155 MWh to 339 MWh, a 119% increase, according to APPA Renovables. Residential installations rose by 155%, while commercial and industrial deployments increased by 95%, compared with virtually no capacity in this segment in 2023.

Outstanding challenges

Despite progress in renewable deployment, more than 70% of Spain’s total energy consumption still depends on fossil fuels. According to the Renewable Energy Foundation, imports of gas and oil alone cost more than €51 billion last year. Reducing reliance on gas and accelerating electrification across transport, industry, and heating remains a critical priority.

Grid constraints also remain a major issue. While 2025 saw strong renewable generation, it also highlighted saturation problems that forced curtailment. On average, 3.11% of renewable electricity could not be integrated into the grid, with peaks exceeding 10% in July. In total, 5,414 GWh of renewable electricity was curtailed.

At the same time, Spain recorded a new high in negative electricity prices, with 397 hours of negative pricing in the first quarter. [EP](#)

Grid Costs may Shape Factories' Shift to Renewables

Bangladesh's factories have turned to rooftop solar to cut emissions and power costs, but limited roof space can only meet a fraction of their needs, so they are looking further afield, including buying renewable power from off-site plants.



Meanwhile, Bangladesh's energy regulatory commission is working on the key details of how its own open-access system will work, including the charges that consumers would have to pay to use the grid.

Bangladesh last year began allowing private companies to sell power directly to large consumers, with electricity from the "merchant power plants" carried over the grid and users paying charges to grid and distribution companies.

Energy analysts said the viability of open-access power purchase deals partly depends on open-access grid charges and additional surcharges, which will be key to balancing the interests of businesses, households and farmers.

India has long allowed open-access power purchases, while Pakistan is working toward a competitive bilateral market, but has faced disputes over use-of-system charges.

Bangladesh Seeks Greater ADB Support amid Rising Energy Costs

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has called for expanded support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), saying global geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions have increased Bangladesh's energy-related expenditures by nearly \$3 billion.



instruments if global risks worsen. The minister also sought greater concessional climate financing to help Bangladesh address climate vulnerability, strengthen resilient infrastructure, and expand renewable energy.

Speaking at the 59th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors in Samarkand, the finance minister said rising energy import costs linked to the Middle East crisis had intensified pressure on Bangladesh's economy and external financing needs.

He reiterated Bangladesh's target to generate 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and called for ADB support in renewable energy, regional connectivity, digital transformation, and energy security initiatives.

He requested continued budget support and access to countercyclical financing

Bangladesh Launches AGC to Bolster Grid Stability Ahead of Rooppur Grid Integration

Bangladesh has activated Automatic Generation Control (AGC), the secondary frequency regulation mechanism for the national power grid, alongside the already-operational Free Governor Mode of Operation (FGMO), in a significant step towards ensuring grid stability ahead of the eventual integration of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.



PLC, with support from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and participation of the connected power stations.

Power Grid Bangladesh PLC disclosed this information recently.

Twelve power plants have been brought under the AGC framework, which functions as the secondary control layer. The FGMO, which serves as the primary control mechanism, had earlier been installed across 30 power stations under the same project.

The initiative was carried out on April 28 and 29 under the supervision of the National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC), operated by Power Grid Bangladesh

ADNOC Announces \$55b Investment Plan After UAE Exits OPEC

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has announced plans to invest \$55 billion in new energy projects between 2026 and 2028, shortly after the United Arab Emirates officially withdrew from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.



The company said the investment will support upstream and downstream oil and gas projects, expand manufacturing capacity, and strengthen industrial resilience. The UAE aims to raise its oil production capacity to 5 million barrels

per day by 2027. The UAE's exit from OPEC allows the country greater flexibility in setting its own production levels after decades of operating under OPEC quota restrictions.

The decision comes amid heightened regional tensions and disruptions to global energy exports linked to the conflict involving Iran and the Strait of Hormuz.

United Power Q3 Profit Drops 35% on Lower Sales, Higher Costs

United Power Generation & Distribution Company reported a 35 percent year-on-year decline in profit in the January–March quarter of FY26, mainly due to lower electricity sales and rising finance costs.



The company's consolidated profit fell to Tk 2.76 billion from Tk 4.24 billion a year earlier, while revenue dropped 30 percent to Tk 6.74 billion.

United Power said the decline was caused by lower production and the absence of one-time supplemental revenue linked to previous gas price adjustments.

During the first nine months of FY26, profit declined 24 percent to Tk 8.66 billion,

while finance costs surged sharply because of higher interest payments on bank borrowings.

Delayed payments from the Bangladesh Power Development Board also weakened cash flow.

Despite the earnings pressure, analysts say the company remains financially stable due to its long-term power purchase agreements and diversified customer base.

Battery-Run Rickshaws Increasing Pressure on Power Grid

The rapid and largely unregulated expansion of battery-run rickshaws and vans is placing growing pressure on Bangladesh's electricity system, raising concerns over energy security, subsidies, and grid stability.



Experts estimate that more than 10 million battery-powered vehicles are currently operating across the country, most of them unregistered. With each vehicle consuming around 4–6 units of electricity daily, the sector is estimated to use nearly 40–50 million units of electricity every day, costing over Tk10,000 crore annually.

Energy analysts say a large portion of this power consumption remains outside official monitoring, as many vehicles are charged through residential connections or illegal power hookups.

In Dhaka alone, authorities estimate that thousands of unauthorized charging points are operating, contributing to system losses, transformer overloads, voltage drops, and localized blackouts.

Energy Costs in 2026 to Hit Highest Since Ukraine Invasion: WB

The World Bank said recently that war in the Middle East is expected to push energy costs this year to their highest since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, while fertilizer affordability also plunges.



'The war is hitting the global economy in cumulative waves: first through higher energy prices, then higher food prices, and finally, higher inflation,' said World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill, as the organization releases its latest commodity markets outlook.

Energy costs have rocketed after US-Israeli strikes targeting Iran from February 28. Tehran retaliated by

virtually blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas normally transits.

Its near-total closure has hit global supplies of other important commodities, including fertilizers.

Energy costs are projected to make a 24-per cent surge this year, hitting their highest level since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the World Bank said Tuesday.

Bangladesh, Bhutan Eye Stronger Ties in Energy, Trade

Bangladesh and Bhutan have expressed keen interest in deepening bilateral cooperation, particularly in renewable energy and trade, to unlock the untapped economic potential of the South Asian region.



The matter came to the fore during a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir and Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dasho Karma Hamu Dorji at the Secretariat on 28 April, said a press release.

During the meeting, the commerce minister stressed

the need to enhance intra-regional trade, noting that despite significant economic potential, South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions globally in terms of trade.

He observed that intra-regional trade accounts for only a small fraction of total trade in the region, underscoring the urgency of strengthening economic ties among neighboring countries.

Fahmida Calls for Targeted Fuel Subsidies, Greater Energy Transparency

Fahmida Khatun has urged the government to phase out universal fuel subsidies and instead provide targeted support for farmers, irrigation, and public transport.



Speaking at a debate program organized by Debate for Democracy in Dhaka recently, the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue said the state lacks the capacity to continue universal subsidies and stressed the need for transparency in fuel pricing.

She alleged that despite monthly price adjustments under IMF conditions, authorities often retained profits instead of reducing fuel prices in line with global

market declines. Fahmida also called for reducing corruption, increasing investment in energy infrastructure, expanding fuel storage capacity, and accelerating domestic gas exploration.

Highlighting broader economic concerns, she warned that declining exports, weak private investment, and low foreign direct investment were slowing job creation and weakening economic stability.

Global LNG Tanker Orders Gain Pace

Global orders to build liquefied natural gas carriers (LNGC) are set to rebound this year after a 2025 slump as growing LNG output and vessel fuel efficiency drive demand, industry executives and analysts say.



The rise in orders is offsetting concerns that supply disruptions from the US-Iran war may reduce near-term shipping demand and pressure freight rates.

Since late last year, shipbuilders in South Korea and China have received more orders, with 35 new LNGC builds contracted in the first quarter, according to consultancies Poten & Partners and Drewry.

By comparison, 37 LNGCs were

ordered in all of 2025, with a record 171 orders placed in 2022, Drewry data shows. Each tanker costs \$250 million-\$260 million, and takes over three years to build.

Upcoming LNG production in the US, Africa, Canada and Argentina will generate tanker demand, a long with a push towards fuel efficiency and accelerated vessel demolitions, said Pratiksha Negi, Drewry's lead analyst for LNG shipping, with steam turbine and diesel-electric carriers expected to be phased out.

Bangladesh's First "Made in Bangladesh" EV Unveiled by BAIL

The country's first "Made in Bangladesh" electric vehicle (EV) has been unveiled by Bangladesh Auto Industries Limited (BAIL), at an auto show in Dhaka. At the exhibition, BAIL introduced three indigenous EV brands: MEV (four-wheel passenger and cargo vehicles), Glyder (motorbikes) and Otomax (three-wheelers). Multiple prototype models of each brand were displayed.



The company said it aims to offer affordable, environment-friendly, internationally standard locally manufactured EVs with a five-year warranty. It also claimed that fuel and maintenance costs for consumers could be

reduced by up to 80 percent through its EVs.

BAIL further stated that it will provide dedicated after-sales service and spare parts support to ensure a strong user experience. Product delivery is expected within three months, with pre-booking to start soon.

The company also expressed expectations that the upcoming national budget for 2026-27 would have a positive impact on locally manufactured vehicle pricing.

Tk 1.35b Unpaid Power Bills Deepen Energy Strain

A severe electricity crisis marked by "acute" load shedding has left consumers frustrated across the Cumilla region, while authorities grapple with a mounting backlog of unpaid bills across six districts, reports bdnews24.com.

Chandpur municipality alone leads the list with Tk 190 million in unpaid bills, followed by Cumilla City Corporation with Tk 70 million.

Officials said the combined outstanding dues of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and the Rural Electrification Board in the Cumilla zone stand at Tk 1.35 billion.

Of that, Tk 580 million is



current monthly arrears and Tk 770 million is long-term dues.

Much of the longstanding debt is owed by state-run public service institutions.

Chief Engineer of PDB Cumilla distribution zone Sheikh Firoz Kabir said the region covers Cumilla, Noakhali, Feni, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Lakshimpur, with around 590,000 postpaid customers.

Planners Call for Reduced Use of Fossil Fuel Vehicles to Improve Energy Efficiency

Urban planners recently urged reduced use of fossil fuel-run cars and motorcycles to ensure energy efficiency and sustainable transport in Bangladesh.



At a press conference organized by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners in the capital, experts emphasized the need for improved infrastructure for walking, cycling, non-motorized transport, and electric public buses.

They also stressed the importance of an integrated multimodal transport system combining roads, railways, and waterways.

Presenting the keynote

paper, Professor Md. Musleh Uddin Hasan said that the transport sector consumed 63 percent of the country's reserved petroleum in FY2024-25, while also contributing significantly to carbon emissions.

He proposed expanding bus rapid transit systems, introducing cycle-sharing projects, limiting the number of private cars and motorcycles, and creating a national urban transport fund.

ADB Launches New Financing Facility to Boost Critical Minerals Supply Chains in Asia-Pacific

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently launched a new financing facility to help countries in Asia and the Pacific develop critical minerals supply chains needed for clean energy, batteries, electric vehicles, and digital technology.



jobs, technology, and value these minerals provide," he said.

"Critical minerals will shape the next industrial era," said ADB President Masato Kanda at ADB's 59th Annual Meeting.

"Asia and the Pacific should be more than a source of raw materials. The region should also capture the

The ADB President added, "This facility is about urgency and fairness: building responsible supply chains now, so our developing member countries can compete in advanced manufacturing and create opportunities at home."

UAE Withdraws from OPEC, OPEC+

In a statement posted on its X page recently, which was translated from Arabic, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced that the country has made a decision to withdraw from OPEC and OPEC+, effective May 1.



review of the United Arab Emirates' production policy and its current and future capabilities, and in light of what national interests require and the state's commitment to contributing effectively to meeting the market's pressing needs, while geopolitical fluctuations continue in the near term through disruptions in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, which affect supply dynamics, as fundamental trends point to the continued growth of global energy demand in the medium and long term," it added.

"This decision aligns with the United Arab Emirates' long-term strategic and economic vision and the evolution of its energy sector, including accelerating investment in domestic energy production, while reinforcing its commitment to its role as a responsible and reliable producer looking ahead to the future of global energy markets," the statement noted.

"This decision comes following a thorough

Coal Overtakes Gas in Power Generation

Bangladesh's coal-fired power plants have, for the first time, outpaced gas-based generation, marking a major shift in the country's power mix amid declining domestic gas supply and stagnant LNG imports.



Natural gas has historically been the largest primary fuel source for electricity. But falling output from local fields, limited imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), and rising use of imported coal have changed the picture.

According to Power Development Board (PDB) data, coal-fired plants supplied the highest share of electricity in a recent daytime peak at 12:00pm, reaching 5,185MW by 3:00pm.

Gas-based plants produced 4,915MW at that time. Total generation stood at 13,109MW before dropping during evening peak hours due to lower demand amid rain.

Bangladesh's installed power generation capacity currently stands at 28,494MW, of which 12,194MW (43%) is from gas and 7,629MW (27%) from coal. However, shortages in gas, coal, and furnace oil mean many plants remain underutilized.

Energy Trap Threatens Bangladesh's Growth, Experts Tell Roundtable

Bangladesh is not merely facing an energy crisis; it has become trapped in an energy lock-in driven by continued dependence on imported fuel and power, speakers said at a recent seminar.



They warned that unless the country uses its own energy resources in a planned way and adopts the right strategy for the energy transition, its efforts to achieve middle-income status could be put at risk.

The comments came at a seminar titled "Future of Energy in Bangladesh: Security, Sustainability and Investment Opportunities" organized by the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI).

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) Executive Chairman and former caretaker

government adviser Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman said Bangladesh has many good energy policies, but the real challenge is to focus clearly on what the country wants to achieve. He said the private sector must raise its voice to help the country break out of the energy trap, and public-private partnership must be strengthened to ensure proper monitoring and implementation of decisions.

BCI President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez said the government has formed a Tk 40,000 crore fund to restart closed industries, but such initiatives will not work unless energy supply to industry is secured.

Eastern Refinery Resumes Operations after 26-Day Shutdown

Eastern Refinery Limited has resumed production after a 26-day shutdown caused by a shortage of crude oil reserves, officials confirmed recently.

The refinery's main plant restarted operations at 8:00 am following the arrival of a fresh crude oil shipment, according to Managing Director Sharif Hasnat.

The refinery had suspended operations on April 12 after crude stocks were exhausted amid disruptions linked to escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The previous shipment had

arrived on February 18. Production resumed after the arrival of the vessel MT Ninemia, which delivered 100,000 tonnes of crude oil through the Kutubdia Channel, bypassing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Due to the vessel's large size, the crude oil is being transferred to smaller tankers through lightering operations before being transported to the refinery in Patenga.

Officials also said another tanker, MT Fossil, has been sent to load an additional 100,000 tonnes of crude oil from Fujairah. The vessel is expected to arrive on May 9.

Adani Power's Profit Surges 64% in Q4

India's largest private thermal power producer, Adani Power Limited, has achieved significant financial success despite challenging power demand conditions.



The company's consolidated net profit increased by 64 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter ending March 31, 2026.

Simultaneously, the company generated a record 105 billion units of electricity during FY 2025-26, marking the highest production in the organization's history.

Annual revenue growth, improved operational efficiency, and significantly

reduced tax expenses served as the key drivers of this success. The company announced this information on Wednesday (29 April).

The two units of Adani Power's 1,600 MW power plant located in Jharkhand, India, are also playing a crucial role in maintaining stability in Bangladesh's national grid.

Adani supplies 10 percent of Bangladesh's total electricity nationally.

Bangladesh Moves to Raise Power Tariffs After 26 Months

Bangladesh is set to increase electricity prices for the first time in 26 months, with proposals to raise bulk, retail, and transmission tariffs amid rising fuel import costs and mounting subsidy pressure.



According to sources at the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, public hearings on the proposed tariff adjustments are likely to be held on May 20 and 21. If approved, the revised rates could take effect from June.

The move comes in the wake of rising global energy prices, driven in part by geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran.

On April 18, the government adjusted fuel prices, but losses persist—particularly in diesel, where the loss is estimated at Tk 89 per liter despite a retail price of Tk 115.

Meanwhile, the cost of LNG imports has nearly doubled, prompting discussions on gas price adjustments as well. The Bangladesh Power Development Board has proposed increasing bulk electricity tariffs by Tk 1.20 to Tk 1.50 per unit, representing a rise of 17% to 21%.

BREAKING
BOUNDARIES

TOUCHING THE LIVES
OF MILLIONS

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Meghna Group of Industries



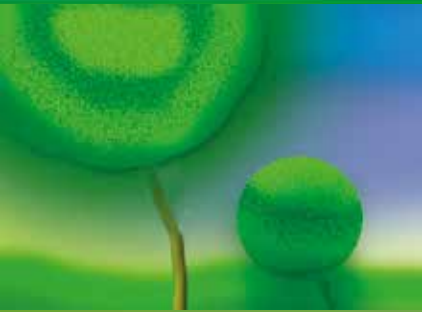
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RE Key to Building Sustainable Power Sector: Energy Minister

Power, energy and mineral resources minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood recently said that renewable energy had become indispensable for building a sustainable energy sector in Bangladesh.

‘We believe a sustainable, affordable and accountable energy system will be the foundation of Bangladesh’s future progress,’ he said while addressing a function organized by the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Solution Initiative at a city hotel.

The minister underscored the importance of long-term planning and transparency in the energy sector, noting that the entry of internationally reputed companies like Lesso Solar and Zero Technology was both timely and significant.



Speaking as a special guest, Jatiya Sangsad whip M Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu called for collective efforts to strengthen energy security and promote sustainable industrial growth in the country.

Lesso Solar and Zero Technology formally entered Bangladesh’s renewable energy market through Greenery Energy Solutions Limited, marking a new milestone in the country’s transition towards sustainable energy.

Cabinet Approves Tax Relief for Brand New Electric Vehicle Imports

The Cabinet has approved a set of tax measures for the import of completely new electric vehicles, including buses and trucks.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held recently in the Cabinet Room of the National Parliament, according to a statement from the Cabinet Division.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Under the decision, a notification will be issued to maintain the Value Added Tax (VAT) at 15 percent for



electric buses with a minimum of 17 seats, for use in sectors other than student transportation. At the same time, these imports will be exempted from customs duty (CD), regulatory duty (RD), supplementary duty (SD), advance tax (AT) and advance income tax (AIT), subject to certain conditions.

BPDB Invites Bids for 495MW Solar Projects

The Bangladesh Power Development Board has floated international tenders for 10 grid-connected solar power projects with a combined capacity of 495MW, aiming to accelerate renewable energy development after receiving a weak response to an earlier 5,238MW mega tender.

The new tender, issued on 27 April, includes projects ranging from 25MW to 100MW across multiple regions, including Tangail, Cox’s Bazar, Panchagarh, Kurigram, and Chattogram. The submission deadline has been set for 28 June 2026.



BPDB officials said the projects will operate under 20-year power purchase agreements, with the utility committing to purchase all electricity generated. However, unlike previous large-scale projects, the government will not provide sovereign guarantees — a key concern for many investors and lenders.

BPDB Chairman Md Rezaul Karim said the decision was taken to avoid the financial burden of capacity payments for idle power plants experienced in previous years.

Rancon Launches Country's First Solar-Powered Cold Storage in Chattogram

Rancon Infrastructure and Engineering Limited has launched Bangladesh's first solar-powered cold storage facility in Chattogram, marking a notable step toward wider use of renewable energy in the country's industrial sector.

The rooftop solar system, completed in about two months at a cost of nearly Tk 1.3 crore, began operation in April. It has a generation capacity of 296 kWp DC and 250 kW AC, with 482 solar panels installed across nearly 28,000 square feet of rooftop space.

Company officials said the cold storage requires around 2,200 kilowatt-hours of electricity a day to preserve up to 500 tonnes of fish.

On sunny days, the solar system can



meet almost all of its daytime power demand. Monthly electricity bills have reportedly fallen from around Tk 6.72 lakh to Tk 2.59 lakh, saving about Tk 4.13 lakh each month.

The project is also expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by around 210 tonnes a year. During periods of low consumption, surplus electricity is supplied back to the national grid.

Huawei Brings Advanced Solar Energy Storage in Bangladesh



Huawei has officially launched an advanced Energy Storage System (ESS), LUNA2000-241KWH-2S1 series, for the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) sector of Bangladesh.

The announcement has come in a launching event held in Dhaka recently with the presence of distinguished group of industry leaders; factory owners; Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firms, and delegates from key industry associations. As the industry faces increasing pressure to balance operational costs with energy stability, Huawei's new LUNA2000 series offers

a vital solution. Designed for the unique demands of the Bangladesh market, the system provides a robust, high-efficiency, and safe way for local factories to manage their energy consumption.

Jason Wu, President, Huawei South Asia Region & CEO, Huawei Bangladesh; He Lei, President, APAC Commercial & Industries (C&I) and Residential Business Dept., Huawei Digital Power; Will Yu, Managing Director of Huawei South Asia Digital Power; and Md. Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, Director, Center for Energy Research, UIU launched the product.



Bangladesh Expo Highlights Rising Demand for Solar, RE and Green Tech

The three-day 15th International Bangladesh Infrastructure Innovation and Development Expo and Dialogue 2026, along with the Dhaka Industrial Packaging Expo, concluded on a strong note, drawing wide attention to solar power, renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, green construction solutions and modern packaging innovations.



Held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Agargaon, Dhaka, the exhibition attracted more than 8,000 business visitors over the three days, including industrial entrepreneurs, technology suppliers, garment sector representatives, sustainable agriculture entrepreneurs and delegates from various commercial organizations.

Organizers said visitor interest was especially strong in solar power, rooftop solar, renewable energy, energy-saving generator technology, eco-friendly construction materials, modern infrastructure solutions and sustainable packaging. Garment sector entrepreneurs showed particular interest in solar and renewable energy applications.

At the opening ceremony, Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood said policy measures would be introduced within the month to support a target of 10,000 MW of solar power generation over the next five years.

LONGi Solar Introduces Back Contact PV Modules

World's largest solar panel manufacturer LONGi Solar introduced its back contact (BC) PV modules at an event in the capital recently.

The event, titled "LONGi High-Efficiency BC Techie Bangladesh Forum", served as a major platform for technology experts, industrial entrepreneurs and global business representatives – notably from China – to discuss the future of solar energy.

Representatives from Orion Group, Pran-RFL Group, Omera Solar, Teesta Solar, Flo Solar, Confidence Power, UCC, X-Index Group and Rahimafrooz attended the forum.

LONGi's Head of Central Asia and South Asia Region, Talisman Hua, Head of Central and South Asia (High Growth Market), Sandy Jia, and Senior Sales Manager for Central Asia, Ahsan



Huda, were present at the event held at a city hotel.

At the forum, LONGi officials introduced the "Hi-MO X10 Anti-Dust Pro" module, which represents a significant shift in how solar panels handle environmental soiling.

The accumulation of dust, sand and mud can reduce energy output by up to 30 per cent. LONGi said its anti-dust technology significantly helps minimise such losses. Trade Deal Analysis.

Three Central Asian Countries Jointly Building 2,000 MW Hydropower Plant

Three Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan – are set to launch a joint hydropower plant with a capacity of nearly 2,000 MW. The facility will be built on the Naryn River in Kyrgyzstan.

The critical importance of regional water-energy projects was emphasized by Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov at the Regional Ecological Summit (RES) in Astana on 23 April.

To understand the scale of the project, a capacity of 2,000 MW is significant, roughly equivalent to the output of two large nuclear reactor units or several thermal power stations. It is enough to power up to 1.5 million homes.

"Kambarata HPP-1, with a capacity of 1,880 MW, is considered a project of strategic importance. Negotiations are now actively under way to finalize an intergovernmental agreement, with support from the World Bank



and other financial institutions," said Japarov.

The next round of negotiations on the construction of the Kambarata hydropower plant-1 is scheduled for April 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Kyrgyzstan is also focusing on small hydropower plants as part of its renewable energy plans. In 2026, the country is set to bring 13 small hydropower plants into operation, with a combined capacity of more than 81 MW.



Large-Scale Heat Pumps Utilize Excess Heat from Microsoft Data Centers in Finland

Finnish state-owned energy company Fortum has commenced operations of two large-scale heat pump plants.

The plants are located in Kolabacken, within the Kirkkonummi municipality, and Hepokorpi, Espoo municipality, both within the Helsinki Metropolitan Area of southern Finland.

The two plants currently produce district heating via large industrial heat pumps, using ambient air as a heat source, and electric boilers.



Details on Fortum's website says the two plants encompass 40 air-to-water heat pumps, 72 water-to-water heat pumps, producing up to 180 MW of district heating, 200 MW of electric boiler capacity and 800 MWh of thermal storage.

Fortum explains that heat production will increase significantly once the plants begin to utilize excess heat from Microsoft's two data centers located on the Kolabacken and Hepokorpi industrial sites, following an agreement between the two companies to implement an excess heat off-taker solution.

Power, Gas Connections to 20 Factories Cut Off over Sitalakhya Pollution

The electricity and gas connections to 20 industrial factories operating without effluent treatment plants along the banks of the Sitalakhya River in Narayanganj have been disconnected following a High Court order.



The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority submitted a report to the High Court bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Md Asif Hasan recently after the step was taken to implement the court directive.

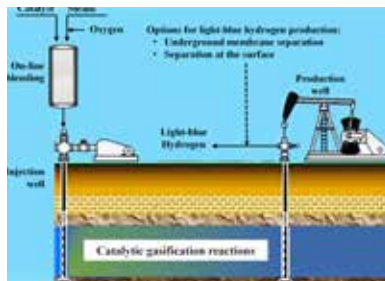
On March 5, the High Court

ordered the authorities to disconnect the electricity and gas connections to the 20 factories operating without ETPs after hearing a supplementary application filed by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, a rights organisation.

The court also asked the authorities to submit a compliance report.

Blue Hydrogen Growth Depends on Policy, Markets and Technology

Blue hydrogen, produced from natural gas with carbon capture, is emerging as a lower-carbon bridge between fossil fuels and a future hydrogen economy.



A new IDTechEx report says its growth will depend mainly on three factors: strong policy support, commercial demand and continued technological progress.

The report notes that blue hydrogen remains more expensive than grey hydrogen because of carbon capture and storage costs, making regulatory support essential.

Carbon pricing, tax credits, grants and other incentives are helping create a market

for low-carbon hydrogen in countries such as the US and across Europe.

Private sector investment is also accelerating, especially through industrial hydrogen hubs where companies can share infrastructure and reduce costs.

At the same time, new technologies in reformers, catalysts and carbon capture are improving efficiency and making blue hydrogen more scalable.

Second Meeting on 250m Tree Plantation Program Held

Bangladesh recently held the second meeting of a special government cell formed



to implement a nationwide programme to plant 250 million trees over the next five years. The meeting took place at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Dhaka.

Discussions focused on collecting saplings, selecting suitable tree species, identifying region-specific trees based on soil conditions, coordinating activities among ministries and agencies, and ensuring effective monitoring of the programme.

Cell Chairman and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister

Nazrul Islam Khan said the tree plantation initiative is one of the government's priority programmes under the directives of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and the ruling party's election manifesto.

He said public awareness campaigns would be strengthened to encourage greater public participation in the programme.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo said the government aims to plant 50 million trees in the first phase by 2026.

Cutting Methane Emissions could Unlock Gas Supply: IEA

Methane emissions from the global energy sector remained near record highs in 2025, with no clear signs of decline, according to the latest analysis by the International Energy Agency (IEA).



However, the report underscores that proven and cost-effective mitigation measures could significantly reduce emissions while improving energy security and increasing gas availability.

The findings come from the newly released Global Methane Tracker 2026, which draws on the latest satellite data and measurement campaigns to assess emissions trends and

evaluate abatement options and costs.

The report was launched at a high-level international event on methane action in Paris, organized under the G7 Presidency of France.

Despite growing commitments from governments and companies—now covering more than half of global oil and gas production—methane emissions have plateaued at high levels.

Climate-Induced Migration Must Be Central to National Policy: Swapon

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon has urged policymakers to treat climate-induced migration as a major public policy priority rather than merely a humanitarian concern.



“It is the need of the hour to integrate migration-related challenges into the country’s ongoing development process,” he said while addressing a workshop held at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka recently.

Speaking as chief guest, the minister noted that alongside natural disasters, political and economic factors are increasingly contributing to migration trends.

The workshop was organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

He said the government is committed to addressing these challenges through inclusive governance and development planning.

Global Talks Begin on Phasing Out Fossil Fuels amid Energy Crisis

More than 50 countries have gathered in Santa Marta for the world’s first international talks focused specifically on phasing out fossil fuels, against the backdrop of the ongoing Iran war and a tightening global energy supply.



The two-day conference brings together ministers and climate envoys aiming to revive momentum toward reducing dependence on fossil fuels—the main driver of global warming.

that countries appear more willing to engage constructively.

Hosted in one of Colombia’s key coal-exporting hubs, the meeting highlights both the urgency and complexity of transitioning away from fossil-based energy systems.

“There is a sense of urgency and willingness to tackle a complex challenge made more immediate by the current crisis,” she said.

Speaking ahead of the talks, UK Special Climate Envoy Rachel Kyte noted

The conference has drawn a diverse group from major producers such as Canada, Norway, and Australia to developing oil economies like Nigeria, Angola, and Brazil.

Tropical Forest Loss Eased in 2025 After Record Year: Researchers



The pace of tropical forest destruction slowed in 2025 after record losses the year before but remained at worrying levels equivalent to 11 football fields per minute, researchers said recently.

said researchers from the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the University of Maryland.

The world lost 4.3 million hectares (10.6 million acres) of tropical primary rainforest last year – down 36 percent from 2024,

But they also warned that fires fuelled by climate change have become a “dangerous new normal” which threatens to reverse the recent gains made by government efforts to tackle deforestation.

Bangladesh Pushes for Faster Implementation of WB-Backed Projects

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo held a meeting recently with World Bank Divisional Director Jean Prsme at his office in the ministry.



State Minister Sheikh Faridul Islam was also present during the discussion.

views on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology for monitoring air and water pollution.

The meeting focused on key issues including environmental protection and sustainable development in Bangladesh, pollution control, expansion of renewable energy use, progress of ongoing World Bank-supported projects, and capacity building of the Department of Environment.

Emphasizing stronger collaboration, both parties highlighted the importance of enhancing mutual cooperation to safeguard the environment.

Both sides also exchanged

The World Bank’s divisional director expressed optimism about the accelerated progress of the ongoing projects.

Experts Urge Policy Reforms to Achieve 10,000 MW Solar Target by 2030

Energy experts and civil society leaders have called on the government to undertake urgent policy reforms—including reducing import duties on solar equipment, streamlining investment procedures, and reallocating fossil-fuel subsidies—to help Bangladesh achieve its target of generating 10,000 megawatts of solar power by 2030.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club recently, participants described the target as ambitious but achievable.



However, they warned that bureaucratic delays, high tariffs, and insufficient grid modernization remain major barriers to a timely shift away from imported fossil fuels.

The event was jointly organized by ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) and Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh.

Renewables at the Core of Bangladesh's Energy Future

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood recently stated that renewable energy is no longer optional but essential for building a sustainable and resilient power sector in Bangladesh.



Speaking at an event organized by the Sustainable & Renewable Energy Solution Initiative at a city hotel, the minister highlighted the government's vision for a modern energy system.

"We believe a sustainable, affordable, and accountable energy system will be the foundation of Bangladesh's future progress," he said.

The minister stressed the

importance of long-term strategic planning and greater transparency in the energy sector. He noted that the entry of globally recognized companies such as Lesso Solar and Zero Technology comes at a critical moment for Bangladesh's energy transition.

Their involvement, he said, signals growing international confidence in the country's renewable energy market and its long-term potential.

Four More RMG Factories Achieve Top Sustainability Ratings

Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) sector continues to strengthen its global leadership in sustainable manufacturing, as four additional factories have earned prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

With these new recognitions, the country now boasts a total of 284 LEED-certified RMG factories, including 121 with Platinum ratings and 144 with Gold ratings.

Impressively, Bangladesh is home to 52 of the world's top 100 highest-rated LEED-certified factories—highlighting its significant progress in environmentally



responsible industrial practices.

Industry leaders have welcomed the new certifications, noting that they reflect Bangladesh's growing commitment to sustainability, energy efficiency, and environmentally responsible production.

The LEED certification, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, is widely regarded as a global benchmark for green building excellence.

China Calls for Deeper RE Cooperation with Bangladesh Under BRI

China has urged stronger collaboration with Bangladesh to expand renewable energy development, with a focus on building a model for green growth under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Speaking at the Fourth Bangladesh-China Renewable Energy Forum in Dhaka, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen emphasized the importance of joint efforts to achieve meaningful progress.



BRI," he said. The envoy highlighted the need for practical cooperation that benefits people, supports industries, and contributes to global climate action.

"With combined initiatives, China-Bangladesh cooperation in renewable energy can deliver tangible results and serve as an example of green development under the

He noted that the ongoing Middle East conflict has created uncertainty in global energy supplies, underscoring the urgency for Bangladesh to accelerate its transition to renewable energy.

Solar, Storage Reshape Bangladesh's Energy Future

For Bangladesh, where rising fuel import costs and recurring power shortages continue to strain the economy, the global energy transition presents both an opportunity and a necessity. With abundant sunlight, a growing industrial base, and ambitious renewable energy targets, the country has strong potential to expand solar power across factories, commercial buildings, and households. Combining solar energy with modern battery storage could not only reduce dependence on imported fuel but also help industries cut costs, improve energy reliability, and support Bangladesh's long-term energy security goals.

Will Yu, Huawei South Asia Managing Director of Digital Power Business Group, shared his thoughts in an exclusive interview with Energy & Power Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain.

Could you please share the current scenario of the global energy business?

Previously, coal and oil were the dominant sources of energy worldwide. In the energy sector, we often use the term LCOE — Levelized Cost of Energy. In the past, renewable energy, especially solar and wind, had a much higher cost per kilowatt-hour than coal or diesel because the technology was still developing and commercial applications were limited.

However, around 2017–2018, the LCOE of solar power dropped to a level comparable to coal and oil. As a result, solar installations began increasing rapidly across the world.

From 2022 onward, technology has advanced even further. Solar module efficiency has improved significantly, inverter performance has become more efficient, battery storage systems have advanced, and prices have continued to decline. As a result, the cost of solar combined with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is now approaching parity with coal and fossil fuel-based generation in many markets. With continued technological and commercial development, prices are expected to fall even further.

Now, our cost per kilowatt-hour is around 10 US cents, but if batteries are added,

the cost rises to nearly 16 cents. What is your observation?

The exact cost varies from country to country. Before answering directly, let me share an example. I previously worked in the Philippines, where one of the world's largest solar-plus-ESS projects is currently operating. The project includes 3.5 GW of solar generation and 4.5 GWh of ESS capacity. Depending on solar irradiation, it can provide nearly 13 hours of continuous power supply — from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Many countries are now developing large-scale solar-plus-ESS projects as major power sources. This is not limited to utility-scale generation; it is also increasingly important for commercial and industrial users.

In Bangladesh, for example, many RMG factories rely on diesel generators during load-shedding. Our calculations show that electricity generated from diesel costs around 30–35 cents per kilowatt-hour, whereas solar combined with ESS can reduce costs to below 20 cents. So, especially as a replacement for diesel generators, solar-plus-storage solutions are becoming highly commercial and economically viable.

Around 57% of electricity demand comes from households. IDCOL plans to install one million household solar systems requiring 1–5 kW capacity. Do you have solutions for that market?

Yes. Huawei has a wide portfolio of solutions ranging from residential systems to commercial and industrial (C&I) applications, as well as utility-scale projects.

Huawei mainly provides key components such as inverters, which convert DC electricity into AC power, and ESS solutions. In Bangladesh, we are currently focusing on the commercial, industrial, and utility sectors, while still assessing the residential market before launching household solutions locally.

Globally, however, we already offer residential inverters ranging from 5–6 kW and ESS solutions of around 7 kWh. These storage systems are modular, meaning users can combine multiple units. For



WILL YU

Absolutely. I believe renewable energy — especially solar, combined with ESS — is highly suitable for Bangladesh. The government has ambitious renewable energy targets, including 20% renewable generation by 2030 and 30% by 2040, alongside plans for 10 GW of installed solar capacity.

example, three units can be combined to provide up to 21 kWh of storage capacity.

Do you see ESS as suitable for Bangladesh?

Absolutely. I believe renewable energy — especially solar, combined with ESS — is highly suitable for Bangladesh. The government has ambitious renewable energy targets, including 20% renewable generation by 2030 and 30% by 2040, alongside plans for 20 GW of installed solar capacity. This is a logical strategy because it can reduce Bangladesh's dependence on imported coal and oil while utilizing solar energy, which is freely available. In this transition, ESS is extremely important because it can provide backup during cloudy weather or nighttime. ESS helps maintain a stable and continuous power supply.

Huawei has invested heavily in “Grid Forming” technology. Previously, most systems used “Grid Following” technology, which could not actively support the grid. Grid-forming ESS, however, can provide voltage support, frequency support, phase-angle control, and grid stability services.

When Huawei entered the digital power and solar business around 10 years ago, we already believed renewables would become a major global energy source. Since then, we have focused heavily on research aimed at making solar and wind reliable primary energy resources capable of supporting grids and industrial operations.

For example, during factory load-shedding, diesel generators usually require 5–10 seconds to restore power. During that period, the lights go out, and machines stop operating. By contrast, grid-forming ESS can restore power within 20 milliseconds, making the transition almost seamless.

In addition, ESS provides higher-quality electricity by controlling voltage fluctuations, frequency, and harmonics. This is extremely important for industries such as textiles and pharmaceuticals. Diesel-generated electricity often cannot maintain stable power quality and may eventually damage machinery.

So, I strongly believe solar and ESS are excellent solutions for Bangladesh — whether for utility-scale generation, industrial applications, or even residential use.

Many RMG factories have limited rooftop space and rely heavily on diesel generators. Besides, the initial investment in ESS is high. How can the sector ensure a good return on investment?

Solar-plus-ESS solutions are compatible with many different business models.

Even if rooftop space is limited, factories can still install sufficient ESS capacity and combine it with grid electricity to ensure stable and reliable power. Compared with diesel-generated electricity, ESS is far more cost-effective over the long term.

While the initial capital expenditure for ESS may appear high, diesel generators involve very high operating and maintenance costs over 15–20 years, especially as fuel prices continue to rise. In comparison, ESS systems have very low operating costs.

For example, if a factory experiences even two hours of load-shedding daily, the

return on investment for ESS can typically be achieved within three to five years.

There is also the environmental aspect. The textile industry increasingly requires carbon emission certifications. Diesel generators are considered a major environmental concern, while ESS solutions help reduce emissions significantly.

Can you mention some good examples from Asia or East Asia that Bangladesh can follow?

We already have a successful example here in Bangladesh.

Paragon Poultry installed a 1.5 MWh ESS system using Huawei technology. After operating the system for only a few months, company representatives told us their monthly fuel costs had fallen by nearly 80% — from around Tk 2.5 million to just Tk 500,000.

The ROI turned out to be even better than initially projected, and the company is now planning to expand ESS installations across all of its poultry facilities.

Bangladesh plans to produce 10,000 MW of renewable energy, including 8,000 MW from solar. But the grid is not yet smart enough and faces voltage instability. Without storage, only around 3,500–4,000 MW can be managed. What is your suggestion?

We need to understand that solar itself is not the problem. The issue is grid management and stability.

In the Philippines project I mentioned earlier, 3.5 GW of solar combined with 4.5 GWh of ESS can provide stable output for 13 hours, even though the substation capacity is only around 850 MW. Proper power management makes this possible.

However, ESS alone is not enough unless it includes grid-forming capability. Without grid-forming technology, ESS cannot actively support the grid.

Grid-forming ESS can regulate voltage, frequency, phase angle, harmonics, and even provide synthetic inertia to stabilize the system. This allows the grid to remain stronger and perform more reliably even with higher renewable penetration.

What are Huawei’s plans for Bangladesh’s RMG sector to encourage renewable energy adoption?

Huawei’s slogan is “In Bangladesh, For Bangladesh.” We strongly believe that customer success is our success.

Over the past few years, we have already delivered several projects in Bangladesh. However, renewable energy and smart energy solutions are still relatively new concepts for many industries here.

Our priority is therefore to engage more with industrial stakeholders and factory owners to improve understanding about the benefits, feasibility, and return on investment of solar and ESS solutions.

Secondly, we aim to provide cutting-edge smart technologies along with strong after-sales service. Our local Huawei team based in Gulshan will provide direct support to customers, while our spare-parts warehouse will help ensure quick responses to urgent operational requirements.

Why are Huawei’s products different from other products available in the market?

Many customers initially focus only on price. But when it comes to ESS, safety is actually the most important factor.

ESS systems are essentially very large batteries installed inside factories where people work every day. That is why Huawei places enormous emphasis on safety.


For example, we conduct extensive fire safety tests on battery cells at our laboratories in China. In some tests, we even expose batteries to petrol fires. If a battery cannot withstand those tests safely, we simply do not use it.

Huawei is also unique in using metal casing for battery packs. These metal covers can withstand temperatures of up to 1,400 degrees Celsius. In contrast, many other manufacturers use plastic casings that may tolerate only around 400 degrees.

Bangladesh is planning to move toward electric vehicles (EVs). What would be your suggestion?

Huawei’s ultra-fast EV charging solutions have already been widely deployed in China, Thailand, several other Asian countries, and parts of Europe.

I believe EV adoption is very positive for industries and the country as a whole because it contributes to a cleaner, greener economy. EV technology is also becoming increasingly competitive in terms of both price and performance.

It is encouraging that the Bangladesh government is seriously considering EV adoption. I believe large companies should also actively explore this transition. 

DIFFICULT TIMES: WISHING GOOD LUCK TO GOVT

Bangladesh has nearly 40.9 million electricity users and most of them brace for a fresh hike in electricity prices. The talk of hiking the electricity prices comes even as the consumers – mostly lower-income groups – are already paying higher prices for fuel, LPG and essential commodities. High commodity prices, including that of food, have pushed the rate of inflation above 9% and it is likely to go up amid price hike before the upcoming Eid-

of reining it. The government sees little option but to increase the electricity tariffs even if it knows quite well the hike will hard hit the people – especially the middle-and-lower-income groups. With global oil prices rising pushing up the amount of subsidies Bangladesh pays in fuel sector the government has been under pressure from lenders like International Monetary Fund to cut down the long-held practice of selling electricity at prices lower than the cost



ul-Azha-the Islamic festival of animal sacrifice – scheduled to be celebrated later this month.

Last month, effective from April 19, the government raised the retail prices of diesel, petrol, octane and kerosene even as the global oil prices jumped following the US-Israel war on Iran. The extra bucks have been passed on the consumers, motorists, passengers and goods transporters. Farmers dependent on diesel-run pumps for irrigation have been hardest-hit. The cost of both industrial and agricultural production has gone up and there is no guarantee

of production. The reserve of natural gas, which costs less than LPG and coal –has been going down. There have been some efforts at finding out new gas reserves, but more should have done. With Bangladesh's thirst for fuel rising amid industrial growth the government in the past had taken a policy of importing LNG to meet the shortage. This policy has now boomeranged as the ongoing Middle East war has escalated the prices of LNG and other varieties of energy. Bangladesh as a result is now facing a difficult situation in energy supply. It is forcing the newly elected BNP government to take a few

Reverse Swing




Farid Hossain

unpalatable decisions such as hiking fuel and possibly the electricity prices.

Hard times await the country and its people. Energy problem has hit the people at a time when the BNP government is preparing for presenting its first national budget since winning the 12th February elections. The budget for FY26-27 will be the first big test on how the new government tackles the economic and financial issues, many of those inherited from the previous administrations. It is caught between the dilemma of keeping the size of the national budget manageable and at the same time making more allocations for delivering on its election pledges. In delivering on its electoral pledges the government has started distributing different types of charity cards –such as family cards and farmers cards – triggering mixed reaction. The marginalized people have welcomed it as they will get the benefits. But the deliveries have come under the scrutiny of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from whom Bangladesh is borrowing money to tide over the financial hardships.

The Washington DC-based lender approved in 2023 a loan package of \$4.7 billion, the amount rising to \$5.5 billion with an \$800 million top-up. Bangladesh has yet to receive \$1.86 billion under the package as the IMF suspended the payment of further tranches, citing incomplete reforms in the revenue and banking sectors. The IMF deal was signed during the Awami League regime that collapsed on August 5, 2024. The current BNP government now says it may not be possible to fulfill all preconditions of the lender. Instead, it is seeking more money from the multi-lateral lenders like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank to weather the current difficulties.

Wishing good luck to the new government! 

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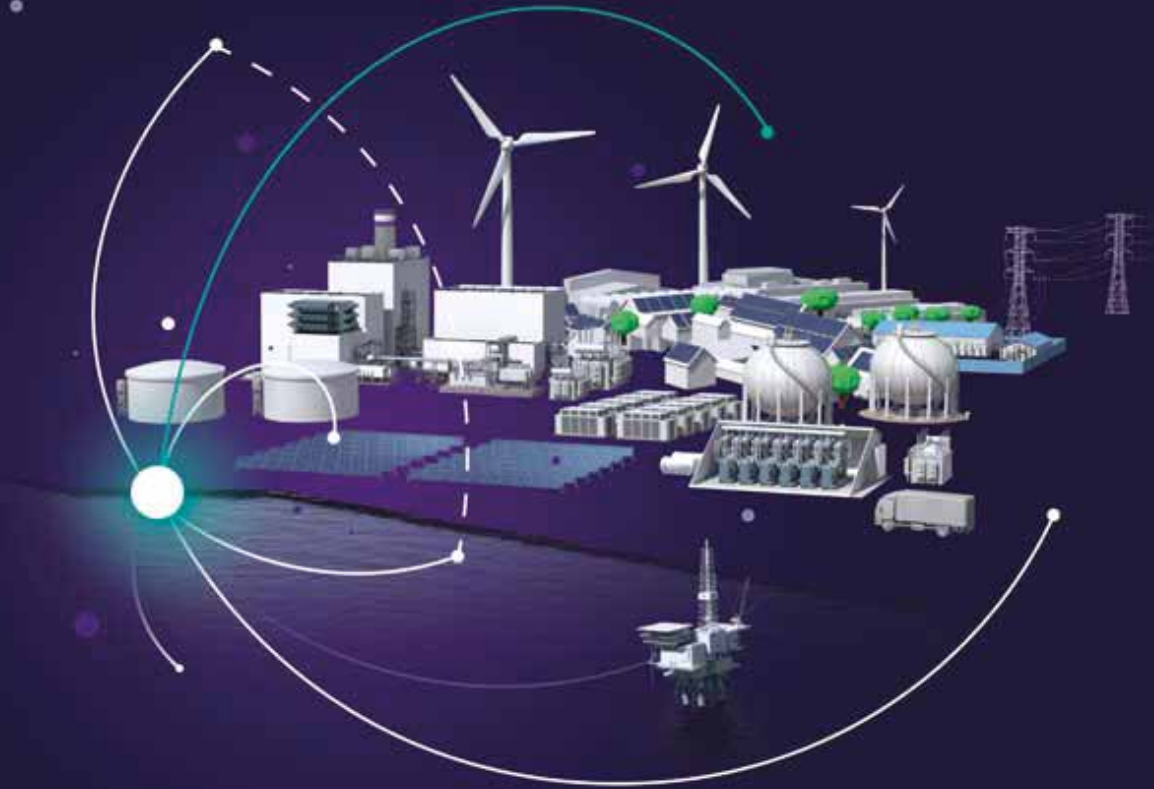


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