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October 1, 2025

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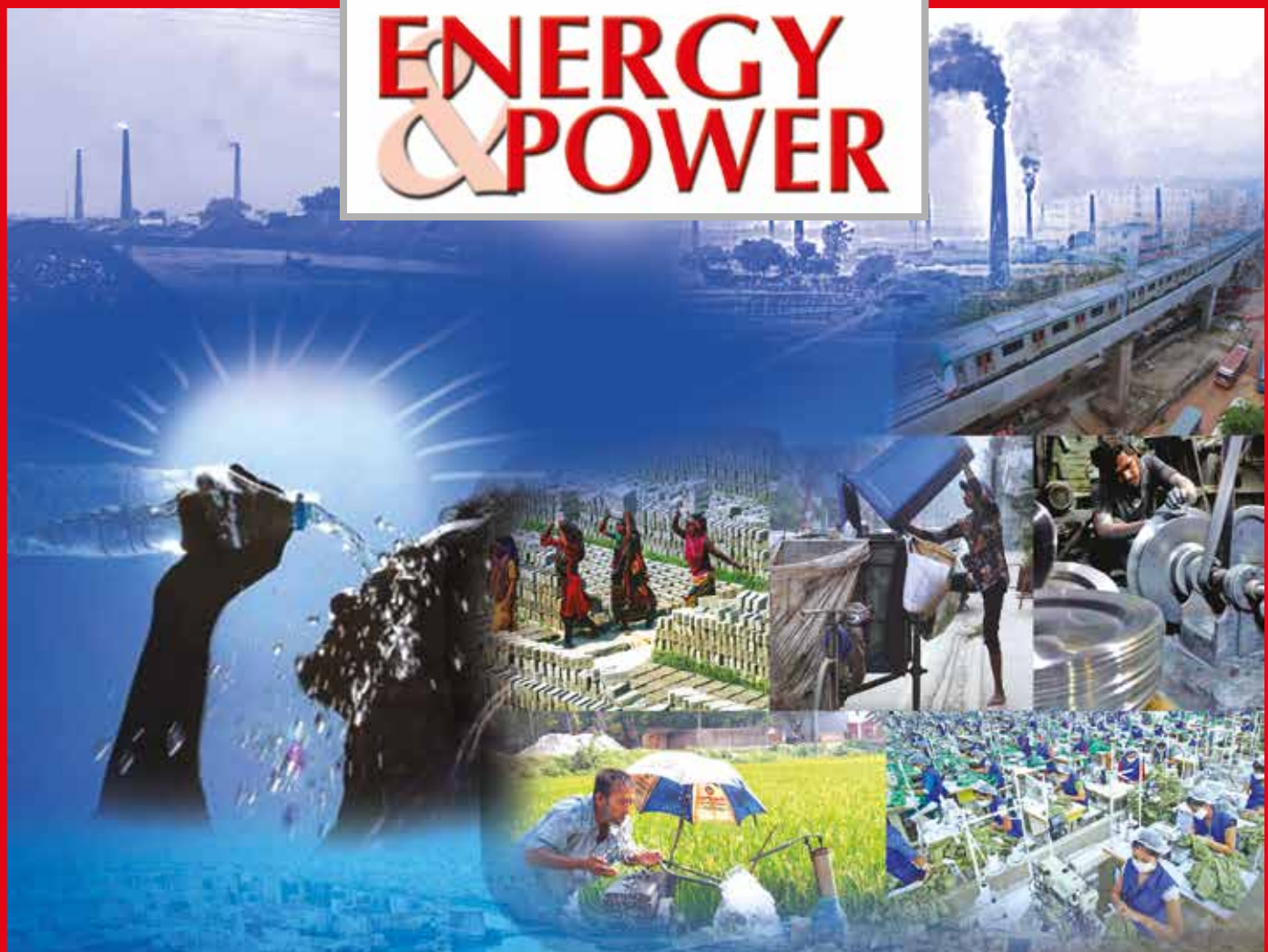

Heat Stress Hurts Economy

- Can COP30 Avoid The Brutality Of Inaction?
- Buildings Across Bangladesh Turn Into Heat Boxes
- Bhola Gas May Give Partial Relief To Chronic Gas Crisis

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About JERA

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Upstream Development Fuel Procurement

- Upstream Investment **6 Projects**
- LNG Procurement from **15 Countries**
- LNG Fleet Carriers **22 carriers**

LNG Receiving & Storage Terminals

- LNG Tank Capacity in Japan **6.65 million kL**
- Equivalent to **Approx. 30%** of LNG tank capacity in Japan
- LNG Receiving Terminals in Japan **11 terminals**

Domestic Power Generation

- Thermal Power Station **26 stations**
- Power Generation Capacity **Approx. 61GW** Largest in Japan
- Power Generation Output **Approx. 235 TWh**
  Equivalent to approx. 33% of power generation in Japan

Overseas Power Generation

- Number of projects **In more than 10 Countries**
  Approx. 30 Projects
- Power Generation Capacity **Approx. 13.7GW**
  (Output Corresponding to Equity)
- Renewables Development Capacity **Approx. 3.5 GW**
  (Included in the Power Generation Capacity)

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ENERGY & POWER

EDITORIAL

Step outside in Dhaka today, and the city feels less like a home and more like an oven. What was once dismissed as "just the weather" is now an economic and social crisis. A new World Bank report puts a number on the damage: Bangladesh loses about Tk 2.1 trillion every year to rising heat, with 250 million workdays gone in 2024 alone. Behind those figures are workers too sick to show up and families struggling with medical bills. This isn't just about global climate change; it's about how we build and govern our cities. Unplanned construction, disappearing wetlands, and air thick with pollution are turning Dhaka into a heat chamber. Buildings designed like sealed boxes trap heat inside, forcing residents to use more air conditioners, which only adds to the problem by raising energy demand and carbon emissions. What makes this worse is that Bangladesh has the policies and commitments on paper. It has even been praised internationally for climate action. But implementation is weak, and political will is lacking. The solutions are clear: cleaner fuels, better waste management, protecting green spaces, and enforcing urban planning laws. What's missing is urgency. As elections approach, citizens must demand that leaders take heat and air pollution seriously.

Dhaka's temperature has risen sharply, worsened by vanishing wetlands and reckless development. Experts warn that weak governance and a lack of enforcement of environmental policies are deepening the crisis. Without urgent action, heat stress and air pollution will severely hinder Bangladesh's progress.

highlights

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For more than four decades, unplanned urbanization has continued in Dhaka and across the country. Wetlands and reservoirs have been filled in, trees cut down, and buildings constructed without any consideration for the environment or ecosystem. As a result, air pollution in Bangladesh has broken all previous records, contributing to rising temperatures… Professor Dr. Abdus Salam tells EP


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Three of these mandated events on climate finance (CF) were held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome from September 6–11, 2025. I had the privilege of attending the first event, held on September 6–7, focused on Article 2.1c of the PA, which addresses aligning finance flows with pathways toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development (LCCRD)..... More in Road To Belem


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The discussion that Dhaka is fast turning into a "heat chamber" is nothing new. But experts argue that this is not only due to global climate change—it is the result of unplanned urbanization. Urban planners and environmentalists have been warning about this for years, but their concerns have mostly gone unheeded. They suggested urgent action to address the crisis.

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Green page

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.


Green page

Prof Yunus Urges Swift Shift to Clean, Affordable Energy

IDCOL Organizes Two-Day Training to Promote Rooftop Solar

Contents

Contents

Japan's Top Energy Giant in Talks over Alaska LNG Pipeline

Top Japanese power generation company JERA said recently it had signed an initial agreement aimed at buying liquified natural gas from a huge pipeline project in Alaska, after Tokyo agreed to increase US purchases as part of a trade deal.

The firm said it had signed a letter of intent with its US project developer Glenfarne "to advance discussions about liquefied natural gas offtake from the Alaska LNG Project".

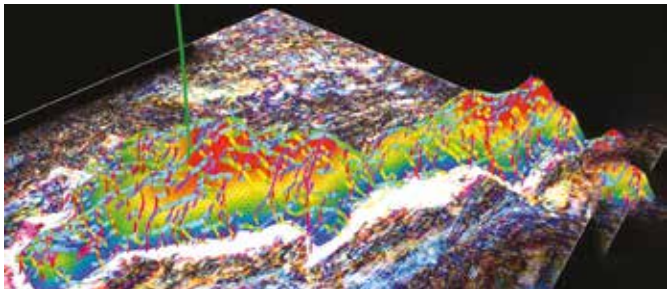
Glenfarne, which is driving the pipeline, said in a statement that the letter detailed the "the sale of one million tonnes per annum of liquified natural gas from the Alaska LNG Project over a 20-year term".

US President Donald Trump has touted the 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) pipeline that will produce LNG to be shipped to Asia on tankers.

However, the long-stalled $44-billion project – which must overcome various complex technical obstacles – is not expected to be operational before 2030 at the earliest.

A joint statement between the two countries said Tokyo was committed to "stable and long-term incremental purchases of US energy" including "exploring a new Alaskan offtake agreement" for LNG.

PETRONAS Carigali Adding Geoteric AI Software to E&P Operations



Geoteric will supply its AI software to help PETRONAS Carigali firm up new exploration prospects, with the duo also planning to collaborate on new AI-based technology developments.

Geoteric, a developer of AI-driven software, has signed an agreement to strengthen its partnership with PETRONAS Carigali.

It would involve use of AI to identify new hydrocarbon prospects more quickly, increase the company's drilling success rate and speed up its exploration activities in general.

Geoteric claims that its service, for integration into existing geoscience workflow, has helped deliver reductions in cycle times of up to 90%, helping geoscientists take faster, better informed decisions, and ultimately providing quicker payback on seismic data investments.

ABB to Power FSRU Offshore Singapore

Hanwha Ocean has commissioned ABB to provide an electric power and propulsion package for Singapore's first floating storage and regasification unit.

The vessel, with a storage capacity of 200,000 cu m of LNG, is due to be delivered to owner Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) in 2027 for a long-term charter by Singapore LNG Corp.

It will be moored at Jurong Port and connected to the nation's gas network in 2030, under MOL's management.

ABB's integrated electrical system, the company said in a news release of September 16, will comprise a medium-voltage generator, 6.6-kV switchboards for cargo and regasification, and a motor, transformer and drive for propulsion. In addition, the company will supply a remote control and remote diagnostics system a power protection system.

PTTEP Lets Offshore Sabah Expansion Contract

PTTEP Sabah Oil Ltd. (PTTEP) has let a offshore subsea contract to McDermott for the Block H gas field expansion project, offshore Sabah in East Malaysia.

The contract, valued by the service company at $50-250 million, covers Alum, Bemban, and Permai deepwater fields. McDermott will deliver engineering, procurement, construction, and installation (EPCI) services for a carbon steel pipeline, along with transportation and installation of key subsea umbilicals, risers, and flowlines (SURF) components.

The infrastructure is part of a broader system to deliver additional feed gas to the Petronas Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Dua (PFLNG DUA) vessel which has been producing from Block H's Rotan and Buluh fields since 2021.

PTTEP is operator at Block H with partners Petronas Carigali and PT Pertamina Malaysia Exploration Production.

IDCOL and SME Foundation Host Stakeholder Consultation

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), in partnership with SME Foundation, organized a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) titled "Unlocking CMSME Potential: Bridging the Gaps."

The session brought together entrepreneurs, financial institutions, regulators, and development partners to deliberate on the challenges and solutions for Bangladesh's cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs).

Welcoming the participants, IDCOL CEO Alamgir Morshed stressed that CMSMEs contribute 25 percent of GDP and employ more than 34 million people, yet face a financing gap of over USD 73 billion (approximately BDT 9 lakh crore), constraining their potential.

"CMSMEs are the backbone of our economy and crucial for resilience and job creation," Mr. Morshed remarked.

"IDCOL has been working for over two decades to promote sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and inclusive finance. Building on this track record, we now want to ensure that CMSMEs also benefit from affordable credit, capacity building, and stronger market linkages."

The consultation was attended by entrepreneurs, banks, NBFIs, MFIs, PKSF, Bangladesh Bank, SME Foundation, the Ministry of Industries, the Microcredit Regulatory Authority, BSCIC, and development partners, who shared their perspectives on the way forward.

Govt to Procure 50,000 Tonnes Gasoline

The government on 23 September approved a proposal in principle for procuring some 50,000 tonnes of gasoline to meet the growing demand for energy.

The approvals came from the 38th meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase held at the Cabinet Division conference room at the secretariat with Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Following a proposal from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, the meeting approved a proposal in principle for importing 50,000 tonnes of Gasoline 95 Unleaded (Octane) during July to December 2025 from PT Bumi Siak Pusako Zapin (BSP), Indonesia at a cost of Tk413.44 crore.

Fire Damages Transformer at Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant

A fire broke out at the Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant in Polash upazila of Narsingdi recently, damaging a transformer and disrupting power supply for several hours.

A senior station officer of Polash Fire Service said that the fire originated in the 132/33 KV transformer. Two fire service units reached the spot and doused the flames after nearly an hour of efforts.

'The transformer was completely burnt,' Shahid said, adding that the fire might have been caused by a short circuit. The exact cause will be ascertained after an investigation.

Following the fire, electricity supply remained suspended in Polash upazila and neighboring Kaliganj. Power was later restored in different areas.

Seven Burnt in Mohakhali Petrol Pump Explosion

Seven people suffered burns in an explosion at Gulshan Petrol Pump in Mohakhali Amtali area of Dhaka recently.

Of them, Swapan Molla, 24, Kabir, 18, Rubel, 28, and Khairul, 28, are employees of the Gulshan Clean and Care company, while Masudur Rahman, 44, is another company owner, and Almagir Hossain, 40, and Sojib, 31, are his employees.

Gulshan Clean and Care staff member Swapan said they were taken to the petrol pump to clean an underground tank. Once the fuel had been removed, they entered the tank to clean it and used an electric fan to remove the remaining gas inside.

"At one point, when we went to switch off the electric fan, the explosion occurred inside and all seven of us who were nearby suffered burns…," he said.

Locals who rushed them to National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery said the fire was extinguished immediately after the explosion.

Doctors at the burn institute said the injured were kept under observation.

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EXCELERATE ENERGY

Fuel Crisis Hits 5 Northern Dists as Rangpur Depots Run Dry

A prolonged shortage of fuel has hit filling stations across five northern districts, with depots in Rangpur running nearly empty due to disrupted rail supplies from Chattogram.

Officials at the Padma, Meghna and Jamuna depots said the crisis has dragged on for about five months, severely straining the supply chain.

Against a monthly demand of roughly 2.5 crore liters for the region, only about 30 lakh liters were delivered in August.

Fuel from the Rangpur depots normally serves Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Nilphamari.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) sources and depot officials blamed the railway's shortage of locomotives for the persistent disruption.

Titas Cuts Illegal Gas Connections in Narayanganj

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited conducted a mobile court drive in Narayanganj recently and severed illegal gas connections to curb unauthorized use and safeguard government revenue.

The operation was carried out at Langalbandh under Bandar Thana where 6,655 cubic feet of gas wastage was prevented, valued at around Taka 18,100 per day and Taka 506,000 per month.

During the drive, 320 feet of illegal pipelines spread across a two-kilometer area were removed, leading to the disconnection of 300 residential burners, nine commercial burners and one oven.

The mobile court also imposed a fine of Taka one lakh on an accused for using illegal gas connections.

Fire at Satkhira Grid Station Cuts Power for 3 hrs

A fire has broken out at the main power grid station in Satkhira Sadar Upazila recently, plunging the entire district into a three-hour blackout.

The incident occurred when a transformer at the 132/33 kV power grid station in Binapota area exploded, according to Russell Islam, the official in charge of the Satkhira grid line.

The Fire Service said the flames suddenly erupted following the explosion of a transformer. Two firefighting units rushed to the scene and managed to bring the fire under control after about an hour. No casualties were reported.

Nurul Islam, a warehouse inspector with the Satkhira Fire Service, said preliminary assessments suggested the fire may have been triggered by overheating of the transformer or an electrical short circuit.

Power Crisis Grips Sylhet Causing Severe Suffering

The residents of Sylhet city are facing a severe electricity crisis as frequent load -shedding has caused immense suffering recently amid sweltering heat.

Large parts of the city plunged into darkness, leaving residents struggling to cope with.

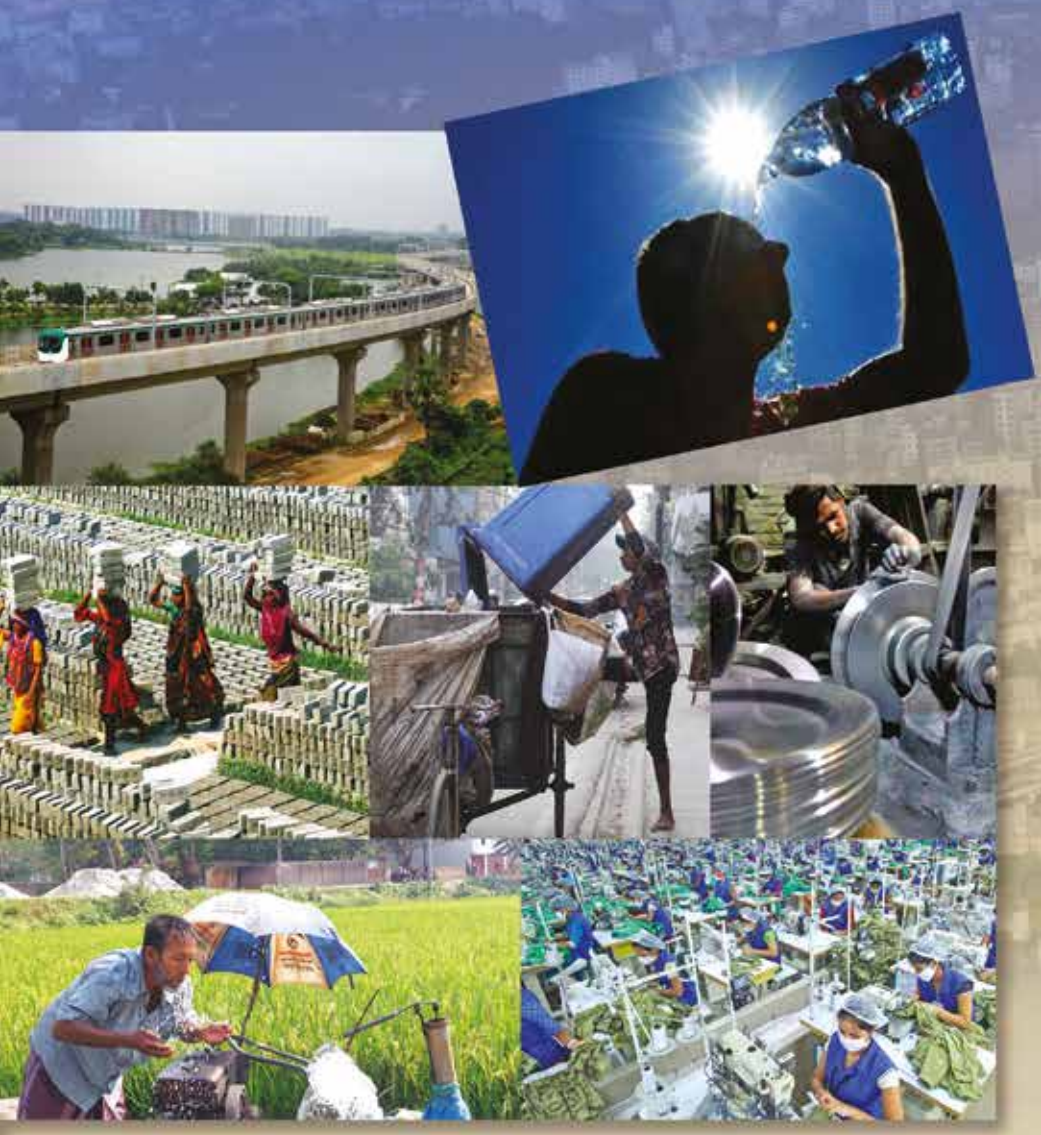
The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in Sylhet said the country is experiencing power cuts due to several major plants going off suddenly because of mechanical failures.

BPDB officials, however, expressed the hope that the situation may improve within two to three days.

Officials in Sylhet said multiple outages are being carried out both during the day and night owing to a shortage in the national grid. The crisis could ease if supply from the grid increases.

Heat Stress Hurts Economy

Afroza Akther Pervin



Bangladesh is facing mounting economic and health risks from rising temperatures, driven by unplanned urbanization and pollution. A World Bank report estimates annual losses of Tk 2.1 trillion from lost productivity and illness, with 250 million workdays lost in 2024 alone. Dhaka's temperature has risen sharply, worsened by vanishing wetlands and reckless development. Experts warn that weak governance and a lack of enforcement of environmental policies are deepening the crisis. They say solutions are within reach, but these require political will. Civil society and citizens must demand accountability, especially in the run-up to national elections.

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The discussion that Dhaka is fast turning into a "heat chamber" is nothing new. But experts argue that this is not only due to global climate change—it is largely the result of unplanned urbanization. Urban planners and environmentalists have been warning about this for years, but their concerns have mostly gone unheeded.

A recent World Bank report has revealed even more alarming facts—enough to cause real concern. According to the report, Bangladesh suffers an annual financial loss of around Tk 2.1 trillion due to rising temperatures. Meanwhile, a scientific study on European countries recently reported that heat-related deaths there reached 16,500. The World Bank highlighted Bangladesh's financial losses caused by lost work hours and health problems, but it did not focus on heat-related deaths. To date, no central study in Bangladesh has examined this issue either.

The World Bank's analysis shows that since 1980, Bangladesh's maximum temperature has risen by 1.1°C, while the "felt heat" has increased by 4.5°C. In Dhaka, the rise is even greater—1.4°C, which is 65% higher than the national average. As a result, diseases such as diarrhea, chronic cough, respiratory problems, and extreme fatigue have increased. By heat impact, Bangladesh now ranks second in the world. In 2024 alone, around 250 million workdays were lost due to heat.

Dhaka University professor Dr. Abdus Salam, through several studies, has shown a link between rising temperatures and pollution. He points to harmful gases—particularly black carbon, carbon dioxide, and methane—as major contributors to Dhaka's heating. Speaking to Energy & Power, he noted that Bangladesh could follow Beijing's example, where black carbon was once a major contributor to air pollution. With proper planning and implementation, Beijing managed to reduce black carbon levels to 2–12 µg/m , while in Dhaka, the levels remain between 40–50 µg/m . Simply shifting to higher-quality fuel could substantially reduce black carbon pollution. Similarly, proper waste management initiatives could help curb methane emissions. Yet, the government has avoided such measures under various pretexts. If adopted, these actions could slow the pace of rising temperatures in Dhaka.

World Bank Senior Operations Officer and co-author of the report, Iffat Mahmud, explained: "Our analysis shows that extreme heat increases health risks, and at the same time, directly reduces productivity. Like many other countries, Bangladesh faces real risks of losing both human capital and productivity."

Meanwhile, Zakir Hossain Khan, CEO of Change Initiative, highlighted findings from their recent study "Dhaka: Without Nature." Speaking to Energy & Power, he stated that over the past 40 years, Dhaka's temperature has risen by 4.5°C. As a result, Dhaka has already become nearly uninhabitable. He blamed the destruction of green belts, filling of water bodies, and building practices that block natural airflow—all driven by reckless urban development. Yet, politicians, bureaucrats, and civil society remain inactive in addressing the crisis.

Productivity Loss and Seasonal Impacts

The World Bank survey found that, due to physical illness, people on average lose workdays every year. During summer, the loss is 1.4 days, while in winter it is 1.2 days. Workdays lost due to mental health issues are even higher—1.9 days in winter and 2.3 days in summer. The survey did not find significant differences between urban and rural areas.

Men Lose More Work Hours

On average, men lost more workdays than women due to physical and mental health problems. Among different age groups, people aged 36–49 were the most affected, losing 1.7 days in summer and 1.4 days in winter due to physical illness. They also lost 2.5 days in summer and 2 days in winter due to mental health problems.

For people aged 50 and above, seasonal variation was less significant. By contrast, those aged 16–35 lost an average of 1.1 days in summer due to physical illness and 2.2 days due to mental health issues—much higher than in winter.

The World Bank's analysis shows that since 1980, Bangladesh's maximum temperature has risen by 1.1°C, while the "felt heat" has increased by 4.5°C. In Dhaka, the rise is even greater—1.4°C, which is 65% higher than the national average. As a result, diseases such as diarrhea, chronic cough, respiratory problems, and extreme fatigue have increased. By heat impact, Bangladesh now ranks second in the world. In 2024 alone, around 250 million workdays were lost due to heat.

Hardship for the Working Poor

The survey also revealed differences in lost work hours by income group. The lowest-income workers lost an average of 1.7 days in summer and 1.5 days in winter, while wealthier people lost 1.1 days in summer and 0.8 days in winter.

For mental health-related work loss, summer rates were nearly the same across all income groups, but in winter, wealthier people were less affected compared to the poor.

Work Loss by Type of Occupation

Analysis shows that unskilled workers suffered the most work loss due to physical illness, 1.8 days in summer and 1.7 days in winter. Skilled workers lost the most workdays due to mental health issues in summer (2.9 days), while office employees experienced the least loss (2.2 days).

Causes of Rising Temperature

The main reasons behind rising temperatures are unplanned and rapid urbanization and pollution. With the growing population, Bangladesh is urbanizing quickly, but with no sign of planning. Professor Abdus Salam argues that the core drivers of rising temperatures are precisely this unplanned urbanization and pollution. The picture is the same in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country.

In particular, building designs in the capital rarely take advantage of natural cooling opportunities. As a result, once completed, the buildings become "heat boxes." To cool them down, air conditioning is used, which in turn contributes to higher outside temperatures.

Citing Professor Syed Abdul Hamid of Dhaka University's Health Economics Unit, a Prothom Alo report notes that the World Bank's study is highly significant as it highlights a new dimension of the impacts of rising heat. Illness caused by heat already reduces work hours. Beyond that, people without electric fans buy them, and those without air conditioners buy AC units. While this may show up as a positive impact on GDP, in the long run, the negative impact is greater. This is because far more work hours are lost due to illness and fatigue. And this is true not just for laborers, but across all professions.

Link between Temperature and Productivity Loss

Research shows that extreme temperatures directly reduce human work capacity. In the 30 days before the survey, when temperatures ranged between 35°C and 37°C, people lost an extra 0.8 workdays due to physical and mental illness. When temperatures rose above 37°C, work loss increased further—an additional 1.4 days lost compared to days below 30°C.

Older People Lose More Workdays

The study found variation in work loss across age groups. People aged 36–49 reported losing an average of 2.5 days, while those aged 50–64 lost 2.1 days. This is much higher than the rate among people aged 16–25. Although there were no major gender differences, productivity loss was much greater among people with disabilities, who, on average, lost an additional 6.3 workdays.

Non-Communicable Diseases Add to Work Loss

Non-communicable diseases also emerged as a major cause of lost work. Heart patients lost an average of 4.7 days, while those with chronic lung disease lost 3.9 days. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney problems lost an additional 1.9, 2.5, and 1.9 days, respectively.

On the other hand, people who spent more time indoors lost an average of 0.12 fewer days compared to those who spent more time outdoors.

Less Educated Workers Face More Problems

Education level is also linked to productivity loss. People with education beyond secondary school lost an average of 3.8 fewer days than those with no formal education. Clear differences were also observed by income and occupation. Compared to lower-income groups, middle-income people lost 1.6 fewer days, and higher-income groups lost 2.9 fewer days. Workers in higher-skilled professions lost 3.1 fewer days than low-skilled wage laborers.

Urban residents were more affected than rural residents. On average, city dwellers lost 1.4 more days due to physical or mental health problems.

Green Disappearing, Dhaka Facing Disaster

In the capital, surface temperatures rose by more than 9°C on average over three decades (1990–2020). However, in areas where wetlands still exist, the rate of

temperature rise has been relatively lower. During the same period, Dhaka lost 69% of its wetlands. If the current pace of decline continues, 90% of wetlands will vanish by 2050, pushing the city's temperature even higher.

This picture emerges from a study on surface temperatures, wetland conditions, and area-specific temperature trends in Dhaka over the past three decades. The study, titled "Development at the Cost of Unsustainable Degradation of Wetlands: Unravelling the Dynamics (Historic and Future) of Wetlands in the Megacity Dhaka," was published in March in the journal World Development Sustainability. The research was conducted by a team from the University of Glasgow (UK) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University.

Why is this happening?

It is not only temperature rise or air pollution—Bangladesh actually has very good and commendable policies in almost every sector. But over the past four decades, proper implementation of these policies has rarely been seen. Instead, a culture of bypassing laws and policies has become stronger. Civil society and environmental groups have spoken about these issues, but they have failed to build enough public support to pressure the government. As a result, unplanned urbanization in defiance of regulations has become the norm.

Those profiting from destroying the environment and ecosystem have never been stopped by the state or government. At times, networks of politicians, bureaucrats, and businessmen have even worked to serve their own interests. As a result, despite heavy investment in projects to reduce air pollution, curb temperature rise, or promote sustainable urbanization, no real benefits are visible.

Each year, institutions like the World Bank publish studies about Bangladesh. These generate media discussion for a few days, but in reality, they fail to shake policymakers into action. As Professor Dr. Salam has analyzed, we have turned every city, including Dhaka, into a greenhouse, and then rely on cooling systems to keep them livable. But in truth, these systems contribute to air pollution and further temperature rise. On top of this, there is no doubt that global warming is also playing a role. As mentioned earlier, rising temperatures in Europe have already caused the deaths of 16,500 people. No survey has been conducted to determine the toll in Bangladesh, but there is no doubt that environmental pollution and rising temperatures here are also causing premature deaths.

Conclusion

On the issue of global warming, Bangladesh bears no responsibility. Nor does it have any binding obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, the country has submitted its finalized NDC 3.0 (Nationally Determined Contribution) to the UNFCCC, pledging both conditional and unconditional targets. Bangladesh has announced that by 2035 it will invest $116 billion to reduce about 85 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

Bangladesh has already earned international recognition for its climate actions through domestic investment. Under NDC 2.0, it had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6.73% through its own investment, but it has achieved nearly 9%. Bangladesh has also done well in contributing to the global target of doubling energy efficiency—over the past three years, it has saved about 3% energy annually through efficient use, while the target was 1.5% per year.

The crisis, however, lies in governance. Due to poor governance, Bangladesh has failed to succeed in curbing temperature rise, reducing air pollution, and related issues. From 1980 until now, the country's temperature has increased by 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius. According to a recent World Bank study, this results in an annual loss of about Tk 21,000 crore. These losses come from reduced work hours, health risks, and other impacts. Globally, Bangladesh ranks second in terms of heat-related impacts. The World Bank also reports that the country loses about 250 million workdays annually due to heat stress.

Their study further shows that between 1990 and 2020, Dhaka's surface temperature rose by 9°C, while wetlands decreased by 69%. If this trend continues, 90% of wetlands will disappear by 2050, accelerating the temperature rise even further.

But that is not the end of the problem. Rising temperatures increase the demand for cooling, which in turn raises electricity consumption. This leads to greater use of fuels. Currently, 98% of Bangladesh's electricity is still generated from fossil fuels. Increased generation means more fossil fuel use, which raises carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to air pollution. Alongside this, greenhouse gases, fine particulate matter, and black carbon in the air are also rising—further fueling temperature increase. Experts believe that in Bangladesh, rising temperatures and air pollution are closely linked and must be addressed together. The Department of Environment currently has air pollution control projects underway, but greater coordination is needed.

Experts also note that unplanned urbanization is the single largest contributor to rising temperatures in Bangladesh. Yet, there are already adequate laws and policies to stop it, along with authorities empowered to enforce them. What is lacking is the necessary political commitment to take action. Therefore, without political will, there is no alternative for controlling air pollution and curbing rising temperatures.

It is crucial to build pressure on politicians. Ahead of the upcoming national election, every citizen must take responsibility to hold political parties accountable. Civil society and environmental groups must lead in mobilizing citizens. Protecting the environment and ecosystem is essential to safeguarding lives and livelihoods, and taking action to curb temperature rise is part of that responsibility. For Bangladesh's survival, there is no alternative but to act. Otherwise, the silent killers of "rising temperature and polluted air" will become the biggest barriers to the nation's progress.

Therefore, without wasting another day, Bangladesh needs an immediate, unified national initiative to begin comprehensive planning and implementation. EP

Afroza Akther Pervin

Managing Editor, Energy & Power, and Editor, Rang Berang

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Bhola Gas May Give Partial Relief To Chronic Gas Crisis

Saleque Sufi

The government should immediately move to develop Bhola's gas prospects through a professional reserve assessment. If an international tender for constructing a 24-inch cross-country pipeline on an EPC basis is floated by June 2026, Bhola gas could begin supplying the Barishal and Khulna regions by 2030.

Bangladesh's gas supply chain has been struggling with a chronic deficit for the past four to five years. The coincident peak demand of connected end users is estimated at 4,200–4,300 MMCFD. However, according to Petrobangla's daily production report, supply during 24 hours between September 28 and 29 was only 2,809.20 MMCFD. This figure includes 1,041 MMCFD of imported RLNG, while production from the rapidly depleting domestic fields connected to the national grid stood at 1,768.20 MMCFD.

Additionally, the Shabazpur gas field, which is not linked to the grid, currently produces 72 MMCFD for local use in Bhola. Gas reserves at Bhola, discovered by BAPEX in the mid-1990s, remain stranded due to the absence of a transmission pipeline connecting them to the national grid. The Bhola reserves have also not been professionally assessed.

In the late 1990s, US energy giant UNOCAL, under its proposed Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP), declared its plan to develop Bhola's gas prospects at its own risk. The project included building a 20-inch, 120-kilometer cross-country pipeline from Shabazpur in Bhola to Digholia in Khulna, along with power plants of 60 MW in Bhola, 100 MW in Barishal, and 300 MW in Khulna. Petrobangla and UNOCAL negotiated agreements covering PSC, GPSA, GTA, and IA. The teams jointly surveyed a pipeline route that crossed three major tidal rivers and multiple waterways, and the right-of-way (ROW) was finalized. The project's estimated cost was $700 million.

Had the government approved the project in 1999, Bhola's gas could have provided supply security to the Barishal and Khulna regions by 2005. Many industries in Jashore and Khulna could have survived, and new agro-based industries could have developed. Moreover, the construction of a controversial imported coal-fired power plant near the Sundarbans mangrove forest could have been avoided. Unfortunately, the government withdrew at the final stage of negotiations, leaving Bhola's gas stranded.

Although a transmission pipeline was later built from Ishwardi to Khulna via Kushtia and Jashore, it remains largely unutilized. The Awami League government (2009–2024) attempted several initiatives to evacuate Bhola's gas but failed due to a lack of clarity and commitment from Petrobangla and the EMRD. A controversial decision to convert Bhola gas to CNG for industries in Dhaka also failed to meet its objectives.

There were hopes that the interim government, free from political ambitions, would make a firm decision on connecting Bhola gas to the grid. Instead, it hesitated, weighing the costly option of a transmission pipeline against setting up an LNG plant at Bhola to transport LNG to demand centers. Typically, LNG plants are built at stranded onshore or offshore gas resources only when building a transmission pipeline is technologically infeasible. LNG projects require at least 3–4 TCF of proven reserves to justify the $2–3 billion investment. In contrast, a transmission pipeline connected to the grid can serve throughout its operational life.

From nearly 50 years of hands-on experience as a pipeline engineer in South Asia, Central Asia, and Australia—

BAPEX and IOCs should be allowed to conduct extensive exploration in Barishal and Khulna to identify additional resources. Policymakers must rely on experienced professionals, not opportunists or fortune-seekers. Enough time has already been wasted. Bangladesh cannot afford to let Bhola gas remain stranded while the national grid struggles for supply.

and from direct involvement in WRIP—I can confidently state that a pipeline from Shabazpur to Khulna via Barishal is entirely feasible. Even today, there is a ready market for 150–200 MMCFD of gas in the greater Khulna and Barishal regions. Yes, crossing large tidal rivers like the Tetulia and Meghna is challenging, but at least a dozen reputable US and European companies could build the 120-km, 24-inch pipeline along a clear ROW within two years. Furthermore, the existence of such a pipeline would encourage IOCs to explore nearby gas blocks, knowing they could evacuate any discovered gas.

By contrast, an LNG plant would require proven reserves of 3–4 TCF and substantial risk-sharing by investors across resource, construction, and marketing fronts. While additional reserves may exist in the region, this must first be verified through professional assessment. The previous government's interest in LNG was partly influenced by a US company, Excelerate, which proposed supplying RLNG from a floating LNG facility 70 km off Kuakata. In reality, this project would pose even greater challenges than building a pipeline from Bhola. Bangladesh's experience with LNG since 2018 has already been bitter. If pipeline gas is available, Bangladesh should limit its dependence on LNG.

Recommendation

The government should immediately move to develop Bhola's gas prospects through a professional reserve assessment. It should also revisit the earlier pipeline route from Shabazpur to Digholia and secure the ROW. If an international tender for constructing a 24-inch cross-country pipeline on an EPC basis is floated by June 2026, Bhola gas could begin supplying the Barishal and Khulna regions by 2030.

At the same time, BAPEX and IOCs should be allowed to conduct extensive exploration in Barishal and Khulna to identify additional resources. Policymakers must rely on experienced professionals, not opportunists or fortune-seekers. Enough time has already been wasted. Bangladesh cannot afford to let Bhola gas remain stranded while the national grid struggles for supply.

For perspective, Gazprom built thousands of kilometers of the Nord Stream pipeline from Russia to Germany, including large sections under the seabed. A pipeline from Bhola to the national grid, while technically demanding, is feasible with lay barges and swamp buggies—technologies local contractors have not yet used but are readily available internationally.

The sooner the government makes a decision, the better. People in the greater Khulna and Barishal regions must not be deprived of the benefits of Bhola's pipeline gas any longer. EP

Saleque Sufi
Energy Expert

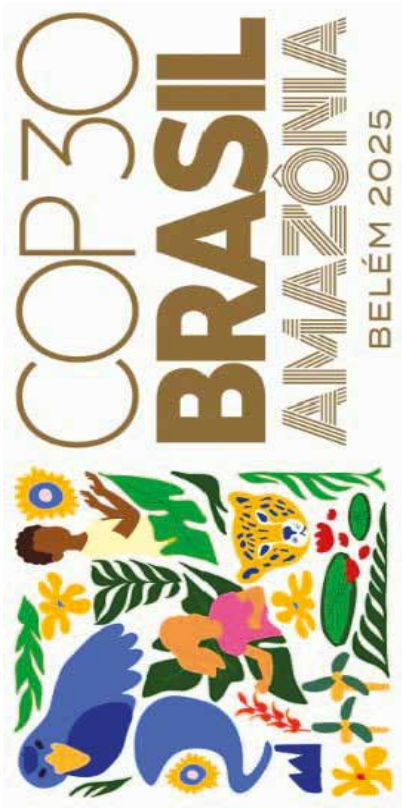
Recent USA Tax Base, EU Renewable Competitiveness, And Developing Nations Converge On The Road To COP30

Dr. Shahi Md. Tanvir Alam

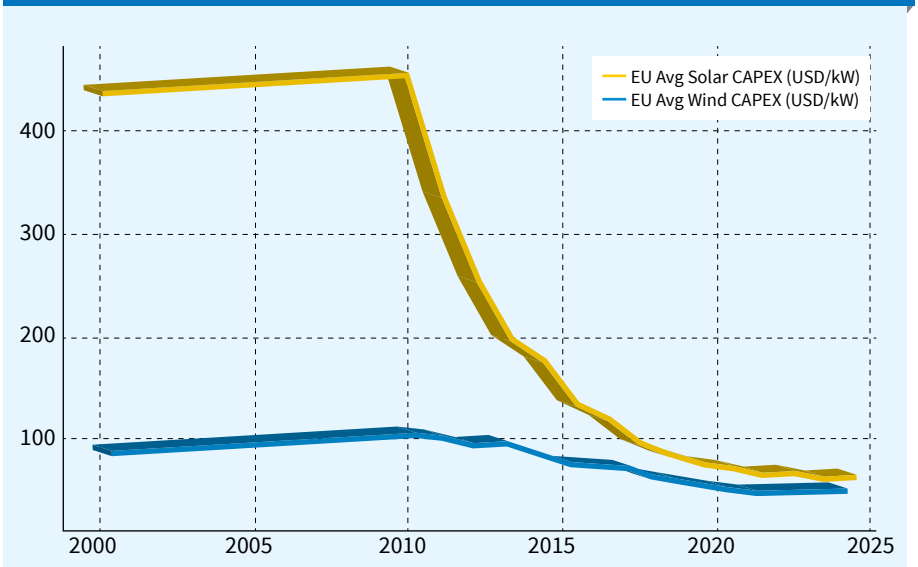
The global clean energy transition is unfolding at a breathtaking pace, shaped by technological breakthroughs, shifting investment landscapes, and ambitious climate policies. Yet, it is also influenced by fiscal and tax reforms in major economies, which send signals across borders and alter capital flows in subtle but impactful ways. The introduction of a new tax base by the United States is one such reform, which, though designed to meet domestic fiscal objectives, has raised important questions for energy professionals worldwide. One pressing concern is whether this shift in American taxation could slow down the acquisition of renewable energy in the European Union, at a time when the EU is experiencing a steady decline in the technology cost index for both solar and wind power. The implications extend beyond the transatlantic relationship. It also touches the developing countries such as Bangladesh, which find themselves navigating financing bottlenecks, dependency on global markets, and the urgent need for affordable renewable technologies.

The U.S. tax reform has three potential channels of influence on renewable energy markets, I think. First, the redirection of capital is inevitable when taxation structures shift, leading global investors to prioritize domestic opportunities in the U.S. over overseas projects. Second, the restructuring of taxation in ways that favor domestic supply chains can create a ripple effect, making American projects more attractive relative to those in Europe. Third, the broader signal effect of U.S. tax policy is significant: it communicates that America is prioritizing its domestic clean energy industry and reshaping investor expectations accordingly. For Europe, which has long been dependent not only on domestic financing but also on flows of international capital, these changes create uncertainties that could translate into temporary slowdowns in renewable project acquisition.

Yet the European Union's own data tells a story of resilience and cost competitiveness. The technology cost index, calculated from average capital expenditures for solar and wind projects across 27 member states between 2000 and 2024, reveals a decisive downward trend. In the early 2000s, solar power was prohibitively expensive, with costs averaging more than 450 USD per kilowatt, while wind stood near 110 USD per kilowatt. Over two decades, however, solar experienced the steepest decline, benefiting from rapid learning curves,



EU AVERAGE SOLAR VS WIND CAPEX (2000-2024)



economies of scale, and improved global supply chains. Wind followed a steadier but significant path of cost reduction. The convergence of these technologies by the 2020s reflects a diversified and increasingly competitive renewable portfolio for the EU. This trajectory provides Europe with a critical buffer: even if global capital temporarily shifts toward U.S. projects, the steadily falling costs of renewable technologies make European acquisition structurally viable in the long run. The chart below illustrates this downward trajectory of capital expenditures for solar and wind in the EU from 2000 to 2024, underscoring the steady decline that underpins the resilience of the European market.

As the world prepares for COP30, these dynamics take on added significance, since the summit will play a decisive role in shaping climate finance commitments and technology transfer frameworks. In my point of view, this evidence also aligns with the expectations for COP30, where discussions on technology cost-sharing and equitable access will directly relate to such downward cost trajectories.

The evidence from the chart is clear. Solar, which began as the more expensive option, has seen the most dramatic reductions in capital expenditure. This has transformed it from a niche, high-cost option into a mainstream, scalable technology that is now on par with wind in terms of competitiveness. Wind, though beginning at a lower base, has also steadily declined in cost, further diversifying Europe's energy options. For energy professionals, these dynamics mean that despite potential financial frictions caused by U.S. taxation policies, the EU's renewable momentum is unlikely to be fundamentally derailed. Policy frameworks such as the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 packages only reinforce this trend by ensuring long-term commitment and stability for investors.

These dynamics take on added significance, since the summit will play a decisive role in shaping climate finance commitments and technology transfer frameworks.

However, the implications of these developments extend far beyond Europe. Developing countries like Bangladesh are directly affected by the shifts in global taxation and technology cost structures. Bangladesh faces unique challenges: financing constraints, dependency on imported technology, policy inconsistencies, and weak grid infrastructure. Its renewable ambitions are ambitious but often undermined by a lack of affordable capital and reliable technology access. If global capital is redirected toward U.S. projects due to tax incentives, Bangladesh may find itself facing an even narrower window for concessional financing. Moreover, reliance on imported solar modules and wind components exposes the country to volatility in global supply chains, which are themselves influenced by policy choices in Washington and Brussels.

At the same time, there are opportunities as well. The steady decline of solar and wind costs in Europe suggests that these benefits will eventually spill over to emerging markets. As technology matures and becomes cheaper to manufacture, developing countries stand to benefit from lower entry costs. For Bangladesh, this means that while financing may remain a hurdle, the relative affordability of renewable technologies could ease the burden of capital-intensive deployment. The key lies in strategic responses: adopting blended finance models that combine public, private, and concessional funds; fostering regional electricity cooperation with Nepal, and Bhutan; and creating local ecosystems for assembling or manufacturing renewable components to reduce dependency on imports.

The triangular relationship between the U.S., the EU, and developing countries such as Bangladesh underscores the interconnectedness of the renewable energy transition. Decisions taken in Washington have ripple effects in Brussels, and their consequences are felt in Dhaka. If U.S. tax reforms concentrate capital domestically, the EU's cost competitiveness offers a counterweight that ensures global supply of affordable renewable technologies continues to grow. Bangladesh, for its part, must leverage these global trends strategically, turning potential vulnerabilities into pathways for resilience.

Looking ahead to COP30, where global cooperation on climate finance and technology transfer will be central to the negotiations, it becomes even more crucial to recognize these dynamics. In conclusion, I believe that the new U.S. tax base may create short-term frictions in financing and investment flows, but the broader trajectory of renewable acquisition in the EU remains robust due to steadily declining technology costs. Developing countries like Bangladesh face challenges, but they also have opportunities to harness the benefits of cheaper technologies and innovative financing strategies. For energy professionals, the lesson is clear: global renewable energy dynamics are deeply interlinked, and resilience will depend not only on domestic policies but also on the ability to navigate and capitalize on the ripple effects of decisions made far beyond national borders. EP

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Can Bangladesh Meet Its Renewable Goals?

S M Saify Iqbal

After almost 17 years, Bangladesh has unveiled a revised version of its Renewable Energy Policy that aims to ensure that at least 20 percent of the country's total electricity supply comes from renewable energy by 2030 and at least 30 percent by 2040. The policy promises many lucrative incentives, including ten years of corporate tax exemptions for both government and private renewable energy producers, followed by five years of half-exemption, and a waiver of import duty on solar equipment. It also allows consumers from all segments (domestic, industrial, and commercial) to install renewable energy systems and sell surplus electricity to the government or individual players under the Net Metering Guidelines 2018.

At a broader level, its vision is to decarbonize the energy sector, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and create an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy by scaling out technology solutions such as solar, wind, biomass, waste-to-energy, biofuels, geothermal, tidal, hydro, and green hydrogen. The policy additionally encourages innovative solutions such as peer-to-peer energy trading, floating solar projects, solar irrigation, EV charging infrastructure, and Battery Energy Storage Systems for improving grid integration and stability to meet its 6,145 MW renewable capacity target by 2030 and 17,470 MW renewable capacity target by 2041. Despite this renewed ambition, certain issues and gaps exist within the policy design.

The biggest challenge in meeting the renewables target is the financing. According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), this will cost Bangladesh USD 933–980 million/yr until 2030 and USD 1.37–1.46 billion/yr till 2040. The energy sector had received only 3.6 percent of the funds it needed by 2023, while banks and non-banking financial institutions financed only BDT 742 crore in renewable projects, in contrast to an estimated requirement of BDT 20,500 crore, as per a study by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).

Given the funding shortfall, we need substantial private and foreign investments. Some support exists, like 350 million Euro loans from the European Investment Bank and 45 million Euro from EU grants, but that is still far away from the annual requirement. In the policy, a fund has been proposed named Sustainable Energy Development Fund (SEDF), but it neither specifies its governance structure nor the funding sources, which further decreases investors' confidence.

Provisions such as incentives that the government "may" provide or duty exemptions it "might" grant, which

are often unclear, create uncertainty for investors. Such phrasing completely casts doubt on the true motivation. Uncertainty about implementation and potential support might cause investors and industry players to sit on the sidelines. Investor confidence has also been rattled by the suspension of 31 utility-scale renewables projects for which Letters of Intent were issued through a non-competitive bidding process.

These challenges are compounded by institutional fragility beyond finances and investor confidence. In the policy, the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) has been assigned the nodal role in developing the roadmap, establishing standards, and monitoring projects. However, as we realize that without deadlines, milestones, and accountability mechanisms, the commitment to achieving the renewable target risks becoming a mere piece of paper.

Adding to this, land scarcity presents another barrier. While the policy suggests Khas land, fallow fields, water bodies, agrivoltaics, and floating solar, these are often stalled by bureaucracy, vested interests, and local resistance. For example, wind projects in Cox's Bazar might face conflicts with the fisher communities. Such projects are even more at risk of conflict if they are not consulted and compensated adequately.

The policy encourages rooftop solar. The interim government aims for a 3,000 MW rooftop solar target by December 2025, but it is ambitious in view of systemic constraints such as low standards, weak enforcement, high tariffs on imports, capacity limitations, and funding hurdles. The shortcomings become even clearer when compared regionally. Out of the 1,616 MW of renewable capacity in Bangladesh, only 245 MW comes from rooftop solar (0.8 percent). Sri Lanka, on the other hand, produces 1,347 MW of rooftop solar energy, comprising 23 percent of its renewable mix. With approximately 25 percent of its renewables coming from rooftop capacity, Pakistan performs even better, with 15,000 MW of rooftop solar. Moreover, import duties remain a persistent barrier. We know that inverter duty has now been reduced to 1.0 percent from June 2025, but taxes on Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) walkways and Direct Current (DC) cables remain high.

In terms of inclusion, this policy does not recognize the agency of women and youth. Women in rural Bangladesh, who manage most household energy and often lead microgrid or rooftop solar projects, are not mentioned anywhere in the policy and receive no recognition or role as stakeholders. Even youth, whose potential for sustainable innovation will be critical for a country with two-thirds of the population under the age of 35, are also ignored.

Another major concern is that there is still no Just Transition framework in the policy. This framework, which is also the backbone of global climate policy, ensures that the transition to renewables is fair and will not leave workers and communities behind. Without it, the transition may risk marginalising vulnerable groups and deepening existing social and economic inequalities.

To overcome the challenges, a combination of strategic, institutional, and public interventions is required. Strengthening SREDA needs to be prioritized, which requires more resources, skilled officials, and, more importantly, accountability. The policy also needs to have a clear, time-bound trajectory with milestones, performance indicators, and responsible agents to address the past gaps. It is essential to set up a coordination framework across relevant ministries; otherwise, ministries may carry out their own plans without being on the same page.

A financing and investment plan should be carefully designed to integrate public funds, private capital, foreign direct investment, and climate finance. Timely and transparent land acquisition, fair compensation, and a mechanism for conflict resolution are critical in reducing local resistance. The policy should incorporate Just Transition principles, protect workers, and prioritize women and youth as change drivers. Finally, all vague language and obscurity need to be replaced with binding commitments, clear incentives, and strong governance mechanisms. EP

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(This opinion is entirely the author's and does not reflect the views of his organization.)

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
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মানসম্পন্ন বিদ্যুৎ নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে দেশের সকল মানুষের নিকট পৌঁছে দেয়াই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

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

Can COP30 Avoid The Brutality Of Inaction?

Mizan R Khan

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is fast approaching. Preparations are underway by the incoming COP30 Presidency of Brazil, which has been issuing a series of letters aimed at encouraging all stakeholders, including UNFCCC parties, to effectively implement the Paris Agreement (PA). In one such letter, the Presidency expressed hope to avoid the "brutality of inaction" that has characterized many past COPs. Following the subsidiary bodies' meetings in Bonn last June (SB62), the UNFCCC also held several online consultations with parties and stakeholders, alongside other mandated events in the run-up to COP30, which takes place in just seven weeks.

Three of these mandated events on climate finance (CF) were held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome from September 6–11, 2025. I had the privilege of attending the first event, held on September 6–7, focused on Article 2.1c of the PA, which addresses aligning finance flows with pathways toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development (LCCRD). The event also explored its complementarity with Article 9, which deals with climate finance obligations. This was the sixth, and apparently final, workshop on the issue. Yet the core debates remain unresolved, particularly regarding the interpretation and scope of Article 2.1c. This workshop emphasized stocktaking of both domestic and international actions on CF, as well as reflections on progress since the workshops began in 2023.

Earlier workshops generated ideas on the scope of Article 2.1c, its operationalization, and its relation to Article 9. But consensus remains elusive. Some contours of the debate are clear, but the real test for the COP30 Presidency will be how it initiates the operationalization of Article 2.1c.

Article 2.1c articulates the aspirational goal of achieving LCCRD and can be seen as the outcome of the climate regime. Its scope is broader than Article 9, which is specifically about developed countries providing CF and mobilizing resources through public and private channels, including bilateral and multilateral agencies.

Article 2.1c, by contrast, covers broader objectives of achieving LCCRD through sustainable development and poverty reduction. Article 9, therefore, can be viewed as a mechanism for delivering public support and mobilizing additional CF sources—including private finance—to help implement Article 2.1c. In this sense, Article 9 is a subset of the broader finance flows envisioned for LCCRD. Both articles rest on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, tailored to national circumstances and respective capacities. The Co-Chairs of this agenda will prepare a final report for consideration

Earlier workshops generated ideas on the scope of Article 2.1c, its operationalization, and its relation to Article 9. But consensus remains elusive. Some contours of the debate are clear, but the real test for the COP30 Presidency will be how it initiates the operationalization of Article 2.1c.

at COP30 and CMA 7 of the PA.

Achieving LCCRD involves every sector of the economy and financial systems at both global and national levels. Article 2.1c thus encompasses public and private finance, as well as international and domestic initiatives. From my participation in four of these workshops, I observed that developed countries often try to shift the burden of mobilization from international to domestic financial systems. This underscores the need to build the capacity of national regulators and private sector actors. While capacity building is necessary, domestic finance can only complement—not replace—international support, especially in low-income and least developed countries.

When discussing climate change, we cannot overlook its origins: historical emissions from developed countries. While developing countries, including China, now lead in current emissions, this reality should not justify shifting responsibilities from international to domestic and private financial systems. Moreover, robust monitoring and tracking of CF is needed under both articles. Yet without a common definition of climate finance—still absent after more than 25 years of debate—effective tracking remains impossible. Such deadlocks only deepen mistrust between developed and developing countries.

The seventh letter from the COP30 Presidency highlights the role of the private sector and the profitable investment opportunities in addressing climate change. The private sector is indeed critical for mobilizing CF, particularly given shifting geopolitics, geoeconomics, and shrinking global aid budgets. However, its contributions to CF remain far smaller than those of the public sector. With its strong advocacy of global norms and values, the progressive Brazilian Presidency faces the challenge of ensuring that this COP avoids the "brutality of inaction." Success will depend on its ability to unite parties and non-parties in providing and mobilizing climate finance to operationalize a roadmap for achieving LCCRD. EP

MIzan R Khan
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Govt Procuring LNG after Comparing Int'l Price: Finance Adviser

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has said the interim government is importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from various sources, not from a single country, by comparing international prices and assessing demand.

"No, we are not importing LNG from a single source. We verify the international market. We are comparing all the markets, be it America, Saudi Arabia, China, or Singapore. It is not that easy to just give it to the US," he told reporters on 16 September.

Dr Salehuddin was speaking after chairing meetings of the Advisory Council Committee on Economic Affairs and the Advisory Council Committee on Government Procurement at the Secretariat.

Asked about the outcomes of the current visit of the USTR delegation to Bangladesh, he said the issue lies with the Commerce Ministry, especially as emphasis is being given to minimizing the existing trade gap between Bangladesh and the USA by importing more items from the USA.

Nuclear Power could be a $10tr Industry

Nuclear energy represents a $10 trillion potential market opportunity that could hold "the answer to the world's power shortages," according to a new report from Bank of America.

To meet the growing demand for global electrification stoked by energy-intensive projects like the data centers underpinning the AI arms race, global nuclear capacity will have to triple by 2050, the firm estimated. Investment is expected to reach more than $3 trillion in the next 25 years.

"This potential [for nuclear energy] has more momentum than before," Timothy Fox, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, said. "Data centers are looking for firm, dispatchable, and clean generation, and nuclear power can cover that."

Rising demand, combined with strong support from the Trump administration and a public narrative turning positive after years of a dour outlook on the sector, has given a share price boost to companies operating throughout the nuclear sector supply chain in 2025.

Purchase Body Recommends Repair Works at Bibiyana Power Plant

The Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase (ACCGP) recently recommended approval of a proposal for repair works at the Bibiyana South 400 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant under the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting held at the Secretariat.

According to the Power Division's proposal, the repair works will cost Tk901.85 crore.

The contract will be implemented by the consortium of Siemens Energy Global GmbH & Co KG, Germany, and Siemens Energy Bangladesh Limited.

The Power Division is the sponsoring ministry, while BPDB will execute the project.

The Bibiyana South 400 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant is a gas-fired power project in Sylhet, Bangladesh, that commenced commercial operation in 2023.

It is also referred to as the Bibiyana-III project and was developed by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

The project is designed to operate as a combined-cycle power plant using natural gas as its fuel source.

BPC Posts Consistent Monthly Profits

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has reported consistent monthly profits since the introduction of the automatic fuel pricing formula in March 2024, driven by regular price adjustments and margins on petrol, octane, and diesel sales.

State-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has been making profits every month since the introduction of the automatic fuel pricing formula last year.

"We are making a profit as petroleum products are being sold at higher rates than the cost prices," said a senior official at BPC.

He said the corporation has been consistently profitable since March 2024, when the government first introduced the automated pricing system.

BPC currently earns up to 2.0 per cent profit on diesel sales and as much as 10 per cent on octane and petrol sales.

Benefiting from regular adjustments under the new mechanism, BPC recorded profits of around Tk 20.50 billion in the fiscal year 2024-25, according to Ministry of Finance data.

Purchase Committee Cancels Tender for SPM Project's Operations Contractor

The Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase (ACCGP) on 16 September cancelled the tender for appointing an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contractor for the Single Point Mooring (SPM) project.

The committee approved the cancellation when the Energy and Mineral Resources Division placed the proposal at the meeting chaired by Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed at the Secretariat.

Earlier, on 21 November 2024, the government had approved in principle the appointment of China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company Ltd (CPPEC) as the O&M contractor on a government-to-government (G2G) basis.

The approval was given in a meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Economic Affairs (ACCEA).

The CPPEC had been working as the contractor for the SPM project, and BPC selected the firm for the O&M job without any competitive bidding process.

The proposal was moved to ACCEA by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division under the Speedy Increase of Power and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010.

But a few days after the approval, the government repealed the Speedy Increase of Power and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010 on 1 December, following an order from the High Court that removed the scope for signing the contract with the Chinese firm.

Global Energy Giants Vying for Deal to Build FSRU in Bangladesh

Half a dozen international firms are vying for a contract to construct a new floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali island as Bangladesh opts for enhancing LNG-handling capacity amid falling domestic gas reserves against rising demand.

Sources say they have submitted proposals either to state-run Petrobangla, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, or both, in the hope of securing a new contract to develop the facility near the country's two existing FSRUs that treat the imported liquefied natural gas or LNG.

Oman's OQ Trading International, Saudi Arabia's Aramco Trading, Azerbaijan's Socar, US-based Excelerate Energy, and Russia's Novatek are among the global players interested in setting up the FSRU or related infrastructure used for degasifying imported LNG to feed into the national grid, according to market insiders.

"We have received proposals from a good number of international firms showing interest in developing a new FSRU," said a senior official.

He notes that the government may award the contract, considering the growing need for ramping up the LNG-regasification capacity in the wake of depleting domestic reserves.

The project could be awarded either through an international tender or via government-to-government negotiations, with emphasis on securing lower costs than those of previous projects, he adds.

Jet Fuel Supply through Pipeline to Ctg Airport Starts

Transportation of jet fuel from Patenga to Chittagong airport through a pipeline began recently.

The project has been implemented at a cost of Tk 170 million to supply fuel oil to aircraft in a modern, environmentally friendly, time- and cost-saving manner. Previously, the cost of transporting jet fuel through tank lorries was Tk 80 million per year.

Under the pipeline, 140 cubic meters of fuel will be transported per hour through an 8-inch diameter underground pipeline.

Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Department, Mohammad Saiful Islam, inaugurated the

'Jet A-1 Pipeline from the main installation at Patenga to Shah Amanat International Airport' in the port city on Tuesday morning.

Jet fuel will now be transported through a 5.77-kilometre pipeline from Padma Oil's main facility in the Guptakhal area of Patenga.

Previously, jet fuel was supplied to the airport by tanker from Patenga, which was eight kilometers away.

Global Oil Supply Hit Record High in August: IEA

Global oil supply hit a record high in August as OPEC+ and other countries ramped up production, with a looming surplus keeping prices in check, the International Energy Agency said recently.

Eight key members of the OPEC+ group, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, have been gradually increasing production since April after restricting output in recent years.

The cartel announced another production hike recently.

Non-OPEC+ nations have also been raising their output, with the IEA saying production from the United States, Brazil, Canada, Guyana, and Argentina was 'at or near all-time highs'.

While demand also rose slightly in August, the Paris-based agency is projecting a surplus for 2025.

'Investor sentiment towards oil remained strongly bearish, as the prospect of looming oversupply dampened any positive price impetus,' the IEA said in its monthly oil market report.

The price of Brent oil, the benchmark international contract, reached $67 on average in August, $2 lower than the previous month.

Global oil supply 'inched up' to a record 106.9 million barrels per day or mbd in August, said the IEA, which advises mostly developed nations on energy policy.

Communities Draw the Line on Matarbari Coal Plant 2 Revival

Affected farming and fishing communities held a protest yesterday at the site of the proposed Matarbari coal plant Phase 2, demanding that the Bangladesh government abandon plans to revive the controversial project.

The action was part of Draw the Line, a global week of mobilization (September 19-21) to demand urgent climate action, building momentum towards the UN climate talks COP30.

In 2022, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) withdrew funding from Matarbari Phase 2 due to environmental concerns, after sustained pressure from international and local civil society organizations.

Bangladesh officials recently indicated intentions to seek alternative funding sources to proceed with the 1,200 MW coal plant, to the dismay of climate group 350.org Bangladesh.

"The world is moving away from coal, yet Bangladesh continues to burden its people with expensive, polluting projects that will lock us into decades of environmental destruction and debt," said Amanullah Porag, 350.org South Asia Mobilizations Coordinator.

According to the International Energy Agency, after reaching a new high in 2024, global demand for coal is set to decline in the coming years, as renewable energy costs plummet.

Over 40 countries have committed to phasing out coal power, and major financiers worldwide are divesting from coal projects.

Woodside Signs LNG Supply Deal with Malaysia

Woodside Energy and Petronas have formalized a 15-year LNG supply agreement, which may include volumes from the recently sanctioned Louisiana LNG project.

Woodside Energy Trading Singapore Pte Ltd (Woodside) and Petronas LNG Ltd. (PLL), a subsidiary of Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas), have finalized a fully termed sale and purchase agreement (SPA) for the supply of 1 million tonnes/year (tpy) of LNG to Malaysia from 2028 for a period of 15 years.

This finalized sale converts the non-binding heads of agreement (HOA) signed in June 2025 into a binding commitment, which will see Woodside supply LNG from its global portfolio, which may include volumes from the three-train, 16.5 million tpy Louisiana LNG project in the US, sanctioned earlier this year, the company said in a release Sept. 10.

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

Lack of Transition Roadmap may Prolong Energy Crisis in Bangladesh: Experts

Energy experts are worried about Bangladesh not having an energy transition roadmap yet, warning that the acute energy crisis is likely to persist.

The experts, however, had different views about what constituted an energy transition. Some of them are in favor of switching to renewable energy, while others believe it could be adopting nuclear energy or any other alternative source of energy.

They shared the observation at a seminar titled 'Energy Transition: Is Bangladesh on the Right Track?' organized by the Cosmos Foundation at the Cosmos Centre in Dhaka recently.

Concerned by endless corruption in the fossil fuel sector, the energy experts viewed the energy transition as an opportunity to ensure

accountability and energy efficiency with the end goal of establishing energy and consumer justice.

"Energy transition should ideally begin with ensuring energy justice and consumer rights," said M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser, Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

He was surprised by the fact that the Anti-Corruption Commission had yet to bring corruption charges against anyone in the energy sector since the interim government assumed power, promising change and transparency.

IAEA, Rosatom to Work Jointly for Better Participation of Women and Youth in Nuclear Industry

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Autonomous Rosatom Corporate Academy will implement a series of joint initiatives, educational programs, seminars, and strategic sessions to promote increased participation of women and youth in the nuclear industry.

An agreement to this effect, for a period of two years, was signed on the sidelines of the 69th General Conference of the IAEA, held recently in Vienna.

Mikhail Chudakov, Deputy Director General of the IAEA, and Yulia Uzhakina, Director General of the Rosatom Corporate Academy, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. Tatyana Terentieva, Deputy Director General for Human Resources at Rosatom, was also present.

"Today, we are signing a landmark agreement that opens a new chapter in our long-standing and fruitful cooperation with Rosatom. This is the first step of the Corporate Academy towards obtaining the prestigious status of the IAEA Cooperation Center, and we see great potential in this," Mikhail Chudakov said.

"As part of the partnership, we pay attention to strategically important areas, primarily working with talented youth, supporting and developing the leadership potential of women professionals in the nuclear industry."

Petrobangla Scraps Summit LNG Supply Deal

Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) has cancelled its long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply contract with Summit Group, almost a year after scrapping the company's second floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) project.

Bangladesh had signed four long-term LNG supply deals effective from 2026 – with Qatar Energy Trading LLC, Oman's OQ Trading Ltd, US-based Excelerate Gas Marketing Limited Partnership, and Summit Oil and Shipping Company Ltd.

Summit Oil and Shipping Company Limited (SOSCL), a subsidiary of Summit Group, was notified about the cancellation on 1 September this year, according to official sources.

Under a 15-year Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) signed on 30 March 2024, SOSCL was to supply 1.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG, about 24 cargoes annually, at $10.428 per million British thermal units (mmbtu) starting in October 2026.

Earlier, on 7 October last year, Petrobangla cancelled the second Summit FSRU deal, citing failure to deposit the performance bond within 90 days as stipulated in the agreement.

Petrobangla said the supply deal was tied directly to the commissioning of Summit's second FSRU, for which the Terminal Usage Agreement (TUA) and Implementation Agreement (IA) were cancelled last year over failure to deposit the performance bond.

"Since the TUA and IA with the second Summit FSRU have been cancelled, Article 3.3 of the LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement is no longer binding," it stated.

IEA Says More Oil, Gas Investment to be Required

New oil and gas projects may be necessary to maintain current production levels, the IEA said recently, as it is in a public feud with the Trump administration over its forecasts for lower demand.

The International Energy Agency said in a report that its analysis of 15,000 oil and gas fields showed that output was declining more rapidly than in the past, which has "implications for markets and energy security".

The Paris-based agency produces annual reports about energy trends and has forecasted that oil demand will peak by the end of the decade, which would have considerable implications for investment in further oil production.

The forecast, along with its implications for pledges by some governments to reach carbon neutrality, has drawn ire from the oil and gas industry.

The agency has also faced criticism over the past months from the administration of US President Donald Trump, with Energy Secretary Chris Wright threatening in July to pull out of the IEA if it did not reform how it operates.

Excelerate Launches Tree Plantation Drive in Moheshkhali

Excelerate Energy Bangladesh Limited (EEBL) has expanded its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts with the launch of its Tree Plantation Program 2025, held at the Excelerate HOPE Hospital in Moheshkhali.

The initiative is part of EEBL's broader commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and environmental protection in Bangladesh.

The program, inaugurated on September 3, 2025, was attended by senior officials, including Ambassador (ret.) Peter Haas, Strategic Advisor of Excelerate Energy; Mr. Habib Bhuiyan, Country Manager of EEBL; Mr. Atiq Islam, Finance Director; Capt. Harunur Rashid, Terminal Manager, and representatives from Shakti Foundation and Hope Foundation.

During the event, several indigenous and eco-friendly species such as Kishnochura, Bokul, Hasnahena, Neem, Palm, Debdaru, Mango, and Jackfruit were planted within the hospital premises to enhance greenery and community well-being.

Speaking at the program, Ambassador (ret.) Peter Haas emphasized the company's long-term vision: "The planting of indigenous and eco-friendly species is symbolic. It demonstrates Excelerate Energy's commitment to put down local roots and to operate in an environmentally responsible manner."

A Fresh Move to Build FSRU at Moheshkhali

The government will conduct a feasibility study for building a new floating-storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali island in the Bay of Bengal with a capacity of 4.50 million tonnes per year (MTPA).

"The state-owned Petrobangla has already decided to engage the state-run Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Company (IIFC) to carry out the feasibility study within the shortest possible time," said a senior Petrobangla official.

The IIFC, an enterprise of the Economic Relations Division under the Ministry of Finance, is expected to complete the feasibility study within the next couple of months, he said.

Several international companies, along with their local partners, have already submitted proposals to Petrobangla as well as the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) for building the proposed FSRU on Moheshkhali island near the two existing and operational FSRUs.

According to officials, the interim government has taken a fresh move to build a new FSRU on Moheshkhali island after scrapping a deal with the Summit Group to build a similar terminal at the same place, said sources.

Last year, the EMRD instructed Petrobangla to take steps in this regard.

EU Seeks 'Face-Saving' Deal on UN Climate Target

EU countries have sought to settle on an emissions-cutting plan to bring to a key UN conference in Brazil, as divisions on the bloc's green agenda threaten its global leadership on climate.

Environment ministers for the 27-nation bloc gathered recently in Brussels with the clock ticking down on a United Nations deadline to produce plans to fight global warming by 2035.

One of the world's biggest greenhouse-gas emitters behind China, the United States, and India, the EU has to date been the most committed to climate action, by some margin.

As such, the bloc was hoping to pull ahead and derive its submission to November's COP30 climate conference from a more ambitious 2040 goal.

But that is yet to be agreed by member states, leaving Brussels scrambling for a last-minute solution.

Denmark, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, has suggested submitting to the UN a "statement of intent", rather than a hard target.

That would include a pledge to cut emissions between 66.3 percent and 72.5 percent compared to 1990 levels -- with the range expected to be narrowed down at a later stage.

Kazakhstan to Invest $24b in Energy Modernization

Kazakhstan has launched a National Project to modernize its energy and utility sectors for the period 2025-2029, with planned investments of 13 trillion tenge (over $24 billion). The initiative aims to upgrade existing infrastructure and construct new power generation, transmission, and water supply systems.

Deputy Prime Minister Kanat Bozumbayev announced the preliminary cost estimate during the "National Project for the Modernization of the Energy and Utility Sectors: Opportunities for Kazakh Business" conference.

According to Bozumbayev, the funds will support the repair and construction of 86,000 kilometers of utility networks and add 7.3 GW in new generation capacity.

"Today, we have established the necessary regulatory framework to ensure long-term and affordable financing from financial institutions. We have now moved to the practical stage of the National Project. This year, pilot investments of around 144 billion tenge ($266 million) have been raised for 48 natural monopoly entities," Bozumbayev stated.

Financing will be sourced both domestically and internationally. The Kazakhstan Housing Company has already purchased bonds worth 22.5 billion tenge ($41 million) from local administrations in the Karaganda, Pavlodar, West Kazakhstan, and North Kazakhstan regions.

The Development Bank of Kazakhstan is also finalizing assessments for selected projects.

ABB Invests Over $500m in US Facilities to Support Growing Demand in Energy, Data Sectors

Swiss-based global energy technology firm ABB Inc. is upping its greatly expanded investment in U.S. manufacturing by another $110 million this year to strengthen research and development around advanced electrification for the commercial and industrial sectors.

The latest manufacturing investment follows ABB's $170 million commitment to its U.S. facilities two years ago. Those include projects around motor drives in Wisconsin and manufacturing, robotics, and other services in New Mexico, Georgia, Tennessee, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

This month's investment expansion could create nearly 200 new jobs in products serving growth industries such as data centers and the power grid. The International Energy Agency and other forecasters, such as Goldman Sachs, are predicting significant demand growth driven by artificial intelligence and cloud-based computing, as well as industrial and transportation electrification.

The $110 million new investment will help create a new production line in Mississippi for ABB's Emax3 circuit breakers. The capital will also be spent to double the footprint of ABB's power quality and protection equipment manufacturing in Richmond, Virginia, which is opening later this year.

Wind Turbine Market to Hit $325.6b by 2034

The global wind turbine market was valued at USD 151.8 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.4% from 2025 to 2034, as reported in the latest study by Global Market Insights, Inc.

Wind turbines are essential devices that convert the kinetic energy of wind into mechanical energy, which is then used to generate electricity. This renewable energy source is crucial in reducing reliance on fossil fuels and addressing the challenges of climate change.

The increasing integration of wind energy with storage solutions and the rising focus on sustainability by corporations are key drivers of market growth. Wind energy is becoming a cornerstone of global decarbonization strategies as countries implement ambitious renewable energy targets.

Developers are prioritizing environmentally sustainable wind projects, adopting certifications and best practices to promote eco-friendly construction and operations, further boosting the adoption of wind turbines.

By axis type, horizontal axis wind turbines (HAWTs) are expected to dominate, with USD 303 billion by 2034. Their efficiency, scalability, and adaptability across various applications contribute to this growth.

Japan's JERA in Talks to Buy $1.7b of US Shale Gas Assets

Japan's top power generator JERA is in advanced talks to buy natural gas production assets in the U.S. for around $1.7 billion, people familiar with the matter said, the latest example of the Asian nation investing in America's energy sector.

JERA emerged as the top bidder for the assets owned by GEP Haynesville II, a joint venture between Blackstone-backed (BX.N), opens new tab GeoSouthern Energy and pipeline operator Williams Companies (WMB.N), opens new tab, after banks solicited offers in recent weeks, the people said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private.

The deal would mark JERA's first foray into shale gas production, and give one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) buyers more control of its supply chain as Japan prepares for a surge in power demand from data centers critical to the artificial intelligence boom.

The Japanese firm topped other bidders, including multiple US-based energy companies, according to the sources, who cautioned that a deal is not guaranteed and GEP could still turn to other bidders, or scrap the sale altogether.

As a heavy importer of oil and gas due to its lack of domestic production, Japan has sought increased supplies from foreign allies since Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted energy markets.

RE is Key to Reducing Import Dependency: Speakers

Speakers at a recent seminar stressed that renewable energy is the only sustainable way to reduce the country's heavy reliance on imports.

They urged collective efforts driven by patriotism, particularly from the young generation, to foster domestic production and create employment opportunities.

Organized by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), the seminar was held at Khulna Press Club with Energy Adviser of CAB Professor M. Shamsul Alam as the keynote speaker.

Speakers highlighted that about 85 percent of Bangladesh's current energy supply is import-dependent. However, the country has the potential to generate 3,000 megawatts of electricity from rooftops alone, in addition to wind and hydro power opportunities in coastal areas.

They emphasized that energy is central to the nation's development, but tackling corruption is equally essential for sustainable progress.

French-German Duo Wins Mega Offshore Wind Energy Project

French energy multinational TotalEnergies and German energy group RWE have won a contract to build a large offshore wind energy project with a potential to supply the equivalent of one million households with electricity, the French government said recently.

The project, called 'Centre Manche 2', will be France's largest-ever renewable energy installation.

TotalEnergies in a separate statement put the overall investment at 4.5 billion euros ($5.3 billion), making the deal the company's biggest French contract in three decades.

The offshore farm is to go onstream in 2033, and will take France's total wind energy production, either already in operation or in development, to 7.8 gigawatts, the energy ministry said.

France's four currently operational wind farms each produce under 500 megawatts, the same output level as the two wind farms currently being built.

France hopes to generate 45 gigawatts in offshore wind energy by 2050.

BYD Unveils 14.5 MWh Storage System

China's EV giant has unveiled the 14.5 MWh DC "Haohan" single-unit DC block with record-breaking capacity to challenge next-generation energy storage market.

BYD has unveiled a new DC energy storage system with the world's largest single-unit capacity of 14.5 MWh, intensifying competition in the fast-growing utility-scale storage market. The "Haohan" system was launched on September 18 at the International Digital Energy Expo in Shenzhen.

The company said Haohan's minimum unit capacity of 14. 5MWh is more than double the industry norm of 6–7 MWh. When configured within a standard 20-foot container, the system delivers 10 MWh and achieves a volumetric energy density of 233 kWh per cubic meter, a 51% increase on the industry average. For a 1 GWh storage plant, Haohan would cut the number of required units by more than half, reduce land use by one-third, and trim cell count by 76%.

Green page

Prof Yunus Urges Swift Shift to Clean, Affordable Energy

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has underscored the urgent need for Bangladesh to transition towards cleaner, safer, and more affordable energy solutions as the country navigates a new path toward sustainable economic development.

Speaking during a recent virtual conference with Carl Page, Chairman of the Anthropocene Institute, and his colleagues, Professor Yunus said Bangladesh—one of the world's most densely populated and climate-vulnerable nations—cannot afford prolonged reliance on fossil fuels.

"It is time for Bangladesh to seriously consider clean energy alternatives, including large-scale solar deployment," Professor Yunus said. Carl Page, brother of Google co-founder Larry Page, highlighted recent advancements in next-generation nuclear technologies and hybrid systems that offer reliable, zero-carbon power.

He emphasized that barge-mounted nuclear reactors are cost-effective, low-maintenance, and capable of powering Bangladesh's growing industrial sector for decades.

Nuclear power is no longer a taboo topic among major development financiers like the World Bank, Page said, adding that countries such as Indonesia are already adopting these technologies to meet their rising energy demands.

BIDA, DESCO Sign MoU to Install 150kWp Rooftop Solar System at Biniyog Bhaban

The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) Limited recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to install, operate, and maintain a 150 kilowatt-peak (kWp) rooftop solar power system at BIDA's headquarters at Agargaon in the city.

The signing ceremony, held at the Investment Building's conference room, was presided over by BIDA Executive Chairman (State Minister) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, said a press release. DESCO Managing Director Brigadier General Shamim Ahmed ndc, PSC (retd) attended the event as special guest.

On behalf of BIDA, the MoU was signed by Director Md. Maruful Alam, while DESCO's Company Secretary Engineer Mohammad Kamruzzaman signed on behalf of the power distributor.

According to the agreement, DESCO will implement, operate, and maintain the system on a 9,105-square-foot rooftop area.

The 20-year project involves an installation cost of around Tk 8.9 million, with an additional Tk 8.7 million earmarked for maintenance and replacement during the project's lifespan.

The solar system is expected to generate about 2.85 million kilowatt-hours of electricity over 20 years, worth approximately Tk 29.9 million.

IDCOL Organizes Two-Day Training to Promote Rooftop Solar

IDCOL has organized a comprehensive two-day training program aimed at accelerating the adoption of rooftop solar energy among industries in Bangladesh.

The training focused on the opportunities and financing mechanisms available to promote renewable energy in the industrial sector, aligning with the nation's goal of generating 40% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

The event started with the opening remarks by Mr. Alamgir Morshed, Executive Director & CEO of IDCOL who emphasized the importance of industrial-scale rooftop solar in supporting the country's clean energy future.

The program also featured a session of gratitude from Deputy CEO & CFO of IDCOL, S. M. Monirul Islam, who expressed appreciation to all participants and stakeholders for their commitment to Bangladesh's green transformation.

Expert insights into technical and engineering considerations were provided by Dr. M. Rezwan Khan, Director of IDCOL and Professor Emeritus at the United International University (UIU).

Key training sessions were led by Md. Enamul Karim Pavel, Head of Renewable Energy at IDCOL, focusing on the technical and operational aspects of rooftop solar projects.

Bangladesh Revises Net Metering Rules to Expand Solar

Bangladesh has updated its net metering framework for solar. The new rules aim to expand access and raise self-consumption among prosumers.

The government of Bangladesh has approved new net metering guidelines for 2025 to support rooftop solar and allow every power user to become a power producer.

"This progressive policy makes rooftop solar easier, smarter, and more rewarding for households and businesses," the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) said in a notification.

Under the new guidelines, 100% of the sanctioned load is now allowed for net-metered rooftop solar, compared with 70% in the past.

The sanctioned load is the maximum amount of power that an electricity provider authorizes a consumer to use at any given time. The new provisions encourage PV system owners to increase self-consumption levels.

The guidelines also allow single-phase consumers to produce power under net metering. Under the previous rules, only three-phase consumers were eligible.

Producers under net metering will receive direct payment in Bangladeshi taka into their bank or mobile banking accounts for electricity supplied to the grid.

The new framework also introduces an online application system for net metering and authorizes consumers with prepaid or smart meters to participate in the scheme. In the past, this was limited to consumers with postpaid meters.

Omera to Generate Solar Power in Unused Land Near Padma Bridge

Omera Renewable will generate 6MW of solar power within the next six months by using the unused spaces of the Padma Bridge service areas.

An agreement on this was signed between Bangladesh Bridge Authority and Omera Renewable Energy Ltd recently.

According to a media statement, Bridge Authority Chief Engineer Quazi Ferdous and Omera Renewable Energy CEO Masudur Rahman signed the contract.

The statement said the contract was signed under the directives of Fouzul Kabir Khan, advisor to the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry. At his instruction, an IDCOL team carried out a feasibility study on the potential for rooftop solar power generation at the Padma Bridge service areas.

The study report found that Service Area-1 has the capacity to generate 1,966KW, Service Area-2 2,948KW, and Service Area-3 around 1,119KW, making a total of 6,033KW.

The contract with Omera Renewable is worth Tk 230 million.

The project is scheduled to be completed within six months, by Mar 14, 2026.

Green page

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World's Largest Vertical Rooftop Solar Installation Deployed in Norway

Vertical solar specialist Over Easy Solar has broke its own record for the world's largest rooftop vertical solar array with a 320 kW system in the north Norwegian city of Tromsш.

Norwegian startup Over Easy Solar has deployed what it claims to be the world's largest rooftop installation of vertical solar panels in Tromsш, northern Norway.

The 320 kW solar array features 6,400 vertical solar panels installed on the top of the logistics terminal Tromsшterminalen. It was mounted by three people in four days, according to the company.

Over Easy Solar says vertical solar panels are beneficial in northern latitudes such as Tromsш, which is located within the Arctic Circle, as they capture more energy from the low-angle sunlight common in the north, can generate more electricity in the morning and afternoon, and stay clear of snow accumulation, helping to improve year-round performance.

"Vertical solar panels are very well suited for northern latitudes and snowy regions, so we hope this becomes a model project for others who want to invest in sustainable power production from flat rooftops in the north," commented Over Easy Solar CEO Trygve Mongstad.

"As far as I know, this is now the city's largest solar system, and the world's largest vertical rooftop installation."

Govt Mulls Over Awarding a Dozen Solar Projects

The government is planning to award around a dozen solar-based power-plant projects as it has received lower tariff rates in tenders compared to all such previous facilities.

"We got better tariff rates in the tenders and are expecting to award those as soon as possible," Adviser for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Fouzul Kabir Khan said recently.

He said the tenders to implement solar power plants across the country were floated to cut prices from the previous ones.

"These plants will help ease the growing dependency on fossil fuels to generate electricity," said Mr Khan, adding, "They would also help diversify the country's energy sources." "Solar-based projects are now our priority," he added.

After taking office, the interim government held up around three dozen solar projects which were initiated during the previous Awami League regime and awaited the final nod from the authorities.

Green page

SE Asia's Electricity Demand Surges, Driving Need for RE: IEA

Southeast Asia has the potential to tap into abundant renewable resources to satisfy its rapidly increasing electricity demand, according to a new report of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

In 2024, electricity consumption in the region surged by over 7%, nearly twice the global average, and is projected to double again by 2050. This surge is fuelled by swift urbanization, industrial expansion, and improving living standards.

Southeast Asia has an estimated 20TW of untapped solar and wind potential.

The report suggests that even a fraction of this could significantly contribute to meeting the soaring demand while enhancing energy security.

Currently, many countries in the region are heavily reliant on imported fuels, making them vulnerable to global market volatility and supply disruptions.

With eight of ten Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states setting net-zero emissions targets, policy instruments such as competitive auctions and direct power purchase agreements are being employed to foster renewable adoption.

According to the IEA report, the challenges associated with integrating variable renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are manageable.

Yunus Urges Carbon-Neutral Future for Olympics

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, who played a key role in transforming the Paris 2024 Olympics into one of the largest social business events in history, has emphasized the importance of making all future Olympics, including the upcoming Los Angeles Olympics, carbon neutral.

He made the remarks when Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo called on him at his hotel in New York recently.

During their meeting, the two leaders discussed a range of pressing issues, said Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

Yunus also extended an invitation to Mayor Hidalgo to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Rizwana for Stronger Enforcement, End to Faulty Environmental Clearances

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan recently stressed stronger enforcement, institutional capacity, transparency, and accountability in environmental regulation, along with an end to faulty clearances.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar, Rizwana, also Adviser of the Ministry of Water Resources, urged officials of the Department of Environment (DoE) to act creatively and fearlessly.

"Enforcement is not just about fines. It must include transparency, alternatives, and community empowerment," she said.

The World Bank organized the seminar titled "Strengthening Environmental Regulatory and Enforcement Capacity for a Sustainable Bangladesh" in Sreepur upazila of the district,

said a ministry press release.

On enforcement priorities, the Adviser called for targeting hotspots such as dyeing industries, cement factories, and brick kilns.

"We must focus on the worst polluters with proper budgeting and planning. Publish the names of polluters online. With information accessible, citizens will support enforcement against political pressure," she stressed.

NDC 3.0 to Reduce 84.92mt of CO2eq Emission: Rizwana

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has said that Bangladesh will require a total of USD 116.8 billion to implement its newly prepared NDC 3.0 (Third Nationally Determined Contribution) plan aimed at reducing climate risks.

Of this, USD 25.95 billion is estimated for unconditional investment, while USD 90.23 billion will be needed under conditional investment scenarios.

She informed that the plan has set a target to reduce a total of 84.92 million tonnes of CO_2eq emissions by 2035. This includes 26.7 million tonnes (6.39%) unconditionally and 58.2 million tonnes (13.91%) conditionally.

Today, the Environment Adviser made these remarks while addressing as the Chief Guest at the "Validation Workshop on the Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)" held at the Department of Environment in Agargaon, Dhaka.

She said, "NDC 3.0 is not only a plan for emission reduction, but also a pledge to build an inclusive and just future." She stressed prioritizing the participation of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and climate migrants, while also calling for climate actions to be rights-based so that no one is left behind.

Highlighting the importance of youth engagement, she said that through renewable energy projects, green entrepreneurship, research, and awareness programs, the youth can play a transformative role in building a climate-resilient Bangladesh for future generations.

Youth for NDCs, Partners Hand Over Climate Action Recommendations to Environment Adviser

Youth for NDCs and its partners recently handed over a document titled "NDC 3.0 for COP30 - Stakeholder Recommendations" to Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan at a ceremony held at Pani Bhaban in the capital.

The recommendations, prepared ahead of Bangladesh's submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC, set out 14 actionable proposals in four priority areas: energy, agriculture, forestry and urbanization.

Receiving the recommendations, Rizwana Hasan said the young generation can feel the urgency

of the climate crisis more strongly than others and will face the greatest impacts in the years to come.

She emphasized values, honesty, and long-term thinking in addressing climate change. "Governments often become comfortable in their own policy processes. That's why initiatives emerging from society, especially youth are so important," she noted.

China Makes Landmark Pledge to Cut Its Climate Emissions

China, the world's biggest source of planet-warming gases, has for the first time committed to an absolute target to cut its emissions.

In a video statement to the UN in New York, President Xi Jinping said that China would reduce its greenhouse gas emissions across the economy by 7-10% by 2035, while "striving to do better".

The announcement comes at a time when the US is rolling back on its commitments, with President Donald Trump recently calling climate change a "con job".

But some critics said China's plan did not go as far as hoped to keep global climate goals in reach.

"Even for those with tempered expectations, what's presented today still falls short," said Yao Zhe, global policy adviser at Greenpeace East Asia.

While the year's big gathering of global leaders will be at COP30 in Brazil in November, the UN meeting in New York has extra relevance because countries are running out of time to submit their new climate plans.

These pledges - submitted every five years - are a key part of the Paris climate agreement, the landmark deal in which nearly 200 countries agreed steps to try to limit global warming.

The original deadline for these new commitments, covering emissions cuts by 2035, was back in February, but countries are now scrambling to present them by the end of September.

Speaking before the meeting, UN Secretary-General Antynio Guterres said the pledges were critical to keep the long-term rise in global temperatures under 1.5C, as agreed in Paris.

Estimated 16,500 Climate Change Deaths During Europe Summer: Study

People refresh themselves in the cool water of a fountain in front of the Cathedral at the Lustgarten park on Museum Island in Berlin on July 2, 2025, as temperatures were predicted to reach up to 37 degrees Celsius.

Scientists estimated that rising temperatures from human-caused climate change were responsible for roughly 16,500 deaths in European cities this summer, using modelling to project the toll before official data is released.

The rapidly-produced study is the latest effort by climate and health researchers to quickly link the death toll during heatwaves to global warming -- without waiting months or years to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The estimated deaths were not actually recorded in the European cities, but instead were a projection based on methods such as modelling used in previously peer-reviewed studies.

Death tolls during heatwaves are thought to be vastly underestimated because the causes of death recorded in hospitals are normally heart, breathing, or other health problems that particularly affect the elderly when the mercury soars.

Bank Fossil Fuel Financing Twice That for Alternatives: Study

Some of the world's leading banks provided more than twice as much finance for fossil fuels between 2021 and 2024 as for sustainable alternatives, a new study said recently.

The study by Reclaim Finance and partners such as WWF, Urgewald, and Rainforest Action Network said "the biggest 65 banks are not on track when it comes to financing the energy transition."

Top global banks such as HSBC, JP Morgan, and Santander had between 2021 and 2024 allocated only $1,368 billion "for sustainable power such as solar, wind, and related infrastructure ... while $3,285 billion was allocated to fossil fuels," it said.

"This.. means for each dollar allocated to fossil fuels, just 42 cents went to sustainable alternatives," it said.

The study said US and Canadian banks provide four times more financing for fossil fuels than for sustainable alternatives. Institutions in Asia and Europe were better, but still "well below" levels needed for the energy transition.

The study quoted UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres as saying this year that "the (energy) transition is not yet fast enough or fair enough."

Climate Change Causing Havoc with Global Water Cycle: UN

Climate change is spurring increasingly erratic and extreme swings between deluge and drought across the world, the United Nations warned recently.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization said in a report that the world's water cycle was becoming ever more unpredictable, with shrinking glaciers, droughts, unbalanced river basins and severe floods wreaking havoc.

"The world's water resources are under growing pressure and -- at the same time -- more extreme water-related hazards are having an increasing impact on lives and livelihoods," WMO chief Celeste Saulo cautioned in a statement released with the annual State of Global Water Resources report.

Last year was the hottest on record, leading to prolonged droughts in northern parts of South America, the Amazon Basin and southern Africa.

Parts of central Africa Europe and Asia, meanwhile, were dealing with wetter weather than usual, being hit with devastating floods or deadly storms, the report pointed out.

At a global level, WMO said last year was the sixth consecutive year where there had been a "clear imbalance" in the world's river basins.

Single-Use Plastics Banned at Secretariat from Oct 2

The government has taken several decisions to make the Bangladesh Secretariat free from single-use plastics from October 2 under a pilot initiative.

The decision would be implemented by putting in place a strict checking system at all the secretariat entrances to prevent the entry of identified single-use plastic items, said a recent press release from the environment, forest and climate change ministry.

Each ministry will appoint a focal person and form a monitoring committee, while the ministries and departments located outside the secretariat premises will also implement the decision.

If this pilot program succeeds, it will serve as a model to scale across the country, as per the release.

The government's first initiative in this regard came in August last year just after the interim government's takeover when single-use plastic bottles were banned on the Chief Adviser's Office premises.

Low Bar, High Hopes: China Unveils New Climate Goals

China has announced a new climate action plan at a UN meeting -- its first pledge to include absolute targets for cutting planet-warming gases -- setting a goal of reducing emissions by 7-10 percent by 2035.

China is the world's second biggest economy, and since 2006, the largest polluter, now accounting for nearly 30 percent of global emissions.

Paradoxically, it is also a clean energy powerhouse, rapidly shifting to renewable energy while selling the world its solar panels, batteries, and electric cars.

Beijing's trajectory will be crucial to whether the world can limit end-of-century warming to 1.5C, the threshold UN scientists say is needed to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate disruption.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries must update their "Nationally Determined Contributions" every five years. With the year's main climate summit in Brazil fast approaching in November, expectations were running high for President Xi Jinping's announcement recently at the United Nations.

African Union Climate Summit Says Forming Mining Coalition

The African Union has announced plans to form a coalition of mineral-producing nations to manage the global rush for critical minerals after holding a climate summit.

Africa holds vast mineral wealth — from the rare earths in conflict-hit Democratic Republic of Congo to oil-rich Nigeria — but has struggled to capitalize on its resources after decades of colonial plunder, and subsequent mismanagement and corruption.

The 54-nation African Union met this week for a climate summit in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

In a statement published recently, it said it would 'explore and support the establishment of a coalition of critical mineral-producing countries of Africa to promote strategic and sustainable regional cooperation'.

Labelling the move 'Africa's Green Minerals Strategy', the AU said it would be a 'vehicle for harnessing Africa's vast mineral wealth for climate-resilient development'.

The move comes as Washington looks to secure a supply of strategic minerals from the DR Congo, in an attempt to challenge China's near-monopoly on the lucrative sector.

UN head Antonio Guterres said in August that Africa could become a 'renewable superpower' as it taps the raw materials needed for green technology around the world.

New Analysis Shows Renewables at the Heart of National Climate Targets

As governments prepare to meet at the UN Secretary-General's Special High-Level Event on Climate Action, new analysis conducted by 350.org and Zero Carbon Analytics shows that renewable energy is fast becoming the backbone of national climate strategies.

A new analysis of the first 36 NDC 3.0 submissions (countries' updated Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement) finds that about 70% either set new renewable energy targets or already have ambitious expansion plans and a high percentage of clean energy domestically.

These pledges extend to 2035 and are the first since the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake, which called for stronger sectoral action. The report comes after hundreds of thousands of people filled streets around the world to draw the line on climate inaction.

The findings also show broad alignment with the COP28 commitment to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, signaling real momentum ahead of COP30 negotiations.

Buildings Across Bangladesh Turn Into Heat Boxes

Professor Dr. Abdus Salam

Ahead of the upcoming February elections, political parties must make clear declarations in their manifestos about reducing air pollution and preventing rising temperatures to ensure sustainable urbanization. But this should not be just words—they must also outline concrete action plans for how they intend to implement these promises. That way, once they come to power, they can immediately begin work on these issues.

Although global warming is a factor behind the continuous rise in temperature in Bangladesh, the domestic causes are far greater. For more than four decades, unplanned urbanization has continued in Dhaka and across the country. Wetlands and reservoirs have been filled in, trees cut down, and buildings constructed without any consideration for the environment or ecosystem. As a result, air pollution in Bangladesh has broken all previous records, contributing to rising temperatures. While there are policies to address this, their implementation has been deeply disappointing.

These were the remarks of Professor and researcher Dr. Abdus Salam of the Department of Chemistry, and Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka, in a conversation with Energy & Power Editor ***Mollah Amzad Hossain***.

The World Bank recently released a study, saying that Bangladesh annually loses Tk 21,000 per capita due to rising temperatures. What is your view of this study?

Look, the bigger issue is not the exact financial loss, but rather that the World Bank has presented data on temperature rise and its impacts. That is commendable. The more such studies and research are conducted, the more they will help create awareness and drive action. The World Bank is Bangladesh's biggest partner in efforts to reduce temperature rise and curb air pollution. For example, three projects—AQMP, TASE, and BEST—have been implemented for this purpose. This study should have highlighted how successful those projects were in achieving their goals. At the same time, it should have included policy-level and implementation-level recommendations on what actions are needed.

Data shows that since 1980, temperatures in Bangladesh have risen alarmingly. The situation in Dhaka is even worse. Does this mean Bangladesh has not taken any initiatives during this long period to prevent it?

In practice, no effective initiatives were taken for a long time to curb rising temperatures. In fact, Bangladesh has gone in the opposite direction. Activities such as blocking water bodies, cutting down greenery, and pursuing unplanned urbanization have continued. As a result, during this period, temperatures have increased by 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius.

In Dhaka, the effects of rising temperatures are much greater in areas like Motijheel and Tejgaon compared to Ramna or the Cantonment. Sustainable urbanization was never implemented in the capital according to proper regulations. Dhaka's reservoirs have gradually disappeared, canals have vanished, and low-lying wetlands around the city have been filled to build housing. As a result, the very features that could have helped reduce temperatures have been systematically destroyed—and this continues.

Although policies for sustainable urbanization have been framed at different times in isolation, weak implementation has meant they have achieved no results. Despite repeated research highlighting these issues, policymakers have not paid attention. As a result, the destruction of the environment and ecosystem continues across Dhaka and the country.

To what extent do you think global warming is responsible for Bangladesh's rising temperatures, compared to internal causes?

Both play a role. Let me start with global warming. Bangladesh has virtually no contribution to global warming, yet it is suffering its consequences to the fullest. This is causing massive financial losses across sectors such as agriculture, health, and labor productivity.

However, Bangladesh's current situation owes more to internal mismanagement than to global causes. Air pollution here is far worse than in many other countries. Carbon dioxide and black carbon are major contributors to rising temperatures, and methane also plays a role. In Bangladesh, black carbon is generated from the use of low-quality fuels and waste burning. This could be reduced by using higher-quality fuels.

It should be noted that government action to phase out two-stroke engines significantly reduced black carbon pollution, especially in Dhaka. Currently, the concentration of black carbon in the air is 40–50 micrograms per cubic meter. Beijing in China once faced similarly severe black carbon pollution, but through coordinated action, they were able to reduce it to just 2–12 micrograms per cubic meter.

Various studies have said that Bangladesh's unplanned urbanization, especially the destruction of wetlands and greenery, has led to today's situation. What is your view?

Unplanned urbanization is continuing across the country. In Dhaka and other cities, filling up wetlands to construct buildings, cutting down trees, and encroaching on surrounding water bodies have become a daily phenomenon. This trend, which has existed in the past, is still ongoing. Although laws exist against it, there is no initiative to enforce them.

Especially to save the capital, it must be made mandatory to comply with all regulations before constructing new buildings. The

precondition for establishing residential areas is that they must include lakes and water bodies, as well as open spaces and playgrounds. If that can be ensured, it will be possible to control the trend of rising temperatures.

Urban planners argue that Dhaka lacks building codes that allow for natural cooling. As a result, buildings have become "heat boxes." The widespread use of air conditioners to cool them is contributing to the temperature rise. What do you say?

The buildings being constructed today, in Dhaka and across the country, are not environmentally friendly. Their designs do not ensure natural airflow. Like in other countries, glass is being used extensively in building facades, but this is not environmentally appropriate at all. As a result, these buildings have turned into "greenhouses"—essentially heat boxes. To cool them down, artificial cooling systems are used. While they make the inside cooler, they release heat into the outside air, thereby contributing to the rising temperatures in Dhaka and other cities.

If you go back 40 years, the use of air conditioning in the country was very rare. But now, most commercial and residential buildings use air conditioning extensively. And people have little choice, since buildings are not designed to allow natural ventilation. This, in turn, contributes to rising temperatures.

To generate the extra electricity required for this cooling, greenhouse gas emissions are increasing as well. If strong measures are not taken to curb this trend in future construction, the situation will only get worse.

In several studies, you have shown that the failure to take consistent and appropriate steps to control air pollution has played a major role in the temperature rise. Can you explain this?

Look, those of us engaged in research conduct surveys to reveal the real situation. Our studies show why this is happening and recommend ways out. But the responsibility to implement those recommendations lies with the state. In other words, politicians who are in government must take this responsibility. They need to formulate necessary policies and, more importantly, ensure their implementation.

The problem is not that the country lacks good policies. There are good policies, and projects are taken under them. But implementation is very disappointing. Despite huge spending, there has been no success in reducing air pollution or temperature rise. As I've said before, if Bangladesh were to use fuel to international standards, black carbon pollution could be reduced effectively. But whenever this issue comes up, we hear that the Eastern Refinery cannot supply such fuel. Then why is ERL not being made capable of doing so?

We must remember: there is no alternative to reducing air pollution and curbing rising temperatures to protect people. So we need to adopt policies following the good examples set by the world. But policies alone are not enough—their implementation must also be ensured. That is Bangladesh's greatest challenge.

Everyone knows that if no action is taken now, cities will soon become unlivable. What initiatives should the state take? With the national elections coming up, what kind of commitments should political parties make in their manifestos regarding protection from rising temperatures?

You are right. Civil society must play its role by building public opinion and creating pressure. Each citizen must also commit to refraining from activities that increase pollution. But the main responsibility lies with politicians, those who will govern and work for public welfare.

That is why, ahead of the upcoming February elections, political parties must make clear declarations in their manifestos about reducing air pollution and preventing rising temperatures to ensure sustainable urbanization. But this should not be just words—they must also outline concrete action plans for how they intend to implement these promises. That way, once they come to power, they can immediately begin work on these issues. EP

WITH POLLS NOT FAR OFF, CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUND

Reverse Swing

Farid Hossain

Once again, conspiracy theories are thriving in Bangladesh. It has spiraled since the chief adviser's firm announcement that the next national election will be held by the first half of February next year. No force on earth can compel the interim government to change its election resolve, vow several government leaders. Yet again, another set of government leaders warns against any plot to foil the election plan. The main political stakeholders of the election are also issuing warnings against anti-election conspiracies being hatched by forces at home and abroad.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has been in charge of governing the country since August last year, following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government. From day one, he has made three promises: reforms, trials, and elections. He emphasizes reforms in the constitution, judiciary, and the Election Commission to make the next polls as free and fair as possible. He has also set in motion the trial of former Awami League ministers, including Sheikh Hasina, on charges of murdering protesters during last year's student-led mass upsurge. Former police officials of her administration have also been brought to the dock of the International Crimes Tribunal to answer charges of mass murder. Prosecutors expect the trial to be completed with verdicts in some of the high-level cases, especially those against Hasina, who is now living in India.

Some progress in the process of trial has been visible, but not so in the efforts at reaching a political consensus on reforming the constitution and the election system. While there has been a general agreement on having an Upper House of the legislature, key political actors – BNP, Jamaat, and NCP – disagree on how it will be elected. BNP stands firm against Jamaat's stand of getting the Upper House elected through proportional representation (PR) of the votes gained by different political parties. Jamaat is campaigning for the introduction of a PR system in electing the lower and upper houses of the legislature.

The consensus commission formed to thrash out the differences is struggling to get its act together. Without any consensus on this issue, the next election seems to be in trouble. To press for its demands, Jamaat and several other parties have taken to the streets. Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party (NCP), widely seen as a party close to Prof Yunus, is about to get its registration with the Election Commission, but it has vowed protests unless it gets Shapla (water lily) as its chosen election symbol. It has become a matter of concern as the EC has turned down NCP's plea, saying Shapla is not even in the EC list of election symbols.

> Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has been in charge of governing the country since August last year, following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government. From day one, he has made three promises: reforms, trials, and elections.

The law and order situation is another major concern for the government and other stakeholders of the election. Mob violence is yet to abate. Extortion continues unabated. Political murders have always been an issue in Bangladesh, and it is likely to rise as the election coming closer to the voters' doorsteps.

By an executive order, the interim government has banned all activities of the fallen Awami League and its front or associated bodies. The party's registration with the EC has been suspended along with its election symbol, Boat. Despite the ban, activists of AL could manage to bring out lightning processions on the streets and Dhaka and some other cities. Hundreds of arrests have been made in an attempt to stem such protests amid stern warnings from the law-enforcing agencies. Will AL be allowed to take part in the February elections? If not, what happens with the supporters/voters of the disgraced party?

These and other issues need to be dealt with through politically correct steps from the current administration. No conspiracy theories will work. EP

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