

ENERGY & POWER

RUNNING OUT

The race to secure
Bangladesh's energy future

- Energy Security: Renewables Are Key
- NBR-Issued SROs Risk Green Energy Future
- Existing Industries Risk Closure - No New Investment Without Reliable Gas, Power

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PRODUCT NOTE

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Technical information

Output	7.5 kW - 1300kW; 2,4 and 6 poles
Motor type	M2BAX & M3BP series
Shaft heights	from 160 up to 450
Efficiency class	IE5 as per IEC 60034-30-1
Voltage	230 - 690 V
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Supply	DOL and VSD
Mounting	B3, B5, B35
Protection	IP55 (IP56/65/66 on request)



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EDITORIAL

Bangladesh has reached a defining moment in its energy journey. What was once viewed as a temporary gas shortage has evolved into a structural crisis that threatens industrial growth, export competitiveness, and long-term economic stability. The country's increasing dependence on imported energy, combined with declining domestic gas production and an uncertain geopolitical environment, has left little room for complacency. The warning signs are unmistakable. Domestic gas output continues to fall while demand keeps rising. Existing LNG infrastructure is operating near its limits, yet new import facilities remain years away. At the same time, industries are paying higher energy prices without receiving reliable gas or electricity, eroding productivity and discouraging investment. Bangladesh cannot afford a fragmented approach to energy policy. Expanding LNG imports is necessary, but it cannot become the only strategy. Accelerating onshore exploration, encouraging offshore investment, developing stranded gas discoveries such as Bhola, and strengthening the institutions responsible for energy planning must become national priorities. Delays in infrastructure development only increase future costs and deepen supply risks. Investors need policy certainty, while energy institutions require greater technical capacity and operational autonomy to execute complex projects efficiently.

The country's economic ambitions depend on secure, affordable, and reliable energy. Without it, Bangladesh risks losing competitiveness at a time when regional rivals are investing aggressively in energy infrastructure. The energy challenge is no longer simply about producing more gas or importing more LNG. It is about building a resilient energy system capable of supporting development for decades to come.

h i g h l i g h t s

COVER



Reliable supplies of natural gas and electricity are critical to sustaining Bangladesh's industrial growth and attracting new investment. Without a clear long-term energy roadmap, industrial production will continue to decline, existing factories may shut down, and new investment will remain elusive. The government must immediately launch a wartime-scale program to accelerate domestic gas and coal exploration... Mohammad Khorshed Alam tells EP



Bangladesh faces a critical challenge in securing a sustainable supply of primary energy. Proven domestic natural gas reserves are rapidly depleting, while discovering and developing new resources in the short term is extremely difficult. At the same time, the country lacks sufficient infrastructure to increase LNG imports substantially..... More in Analysis



Bangladesh's energy crisis is no longer a temporary supply disruption—it is becoming a structural threat to economic stability. As domestic gas production declines, LNG infrastructure expansion stalls, and geopolitical tensions unsettle global fuel markets, dependence on imported energy is exposing critical vulnerabilities. Without urgent action, the country risks entering a prolonged period of industrial slowdown and heightened economic uncertainty.



Greenpage

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

Contents



- 35** Govt Backs Pvt Sector to Drive 10,000MW Solar Power by 2030
- 35** Reliable Power Supply Vital for Bangladesh's EV Growth, Says BEPRC Chairman
- 36** Strong Political Commitment Vital to Accelerate RE Transition: Info Minister
- 37** Renewables Now Generate Over 30% of Global Electricity
- 37** Adani Achieves Milestone of 20,000MW in RE Generation

Contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 WORLD WATCH
Latest Development In World 6 SNAPSHOT
Latest Development 9 COVER
RUNNING OUT: The race to secure Bangladesh's energy future 15 COVER ARTICLE
Gas Crisis Likely To Persist Until 2030 19 SPECIAL ARTICLE
NBR-Issued SROs Risk Green Energy Future 21 ANALYSIS
Comprehensive Plan For Sustainable Energy Security 25 ARTICLE
Fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Why Behavior Change And Clean Energy Matter For Bangladesh 28 SPECIAL REPORT
Iran Conflict Reshapes Asia's Energy Strategy, Raising Concerns over Climate Commitments 29 ROAD TO ANTALYA
TOBB To Drive Private Sector Engagement In The COP31 Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 REPORT
JICA Chief Highlights Matarbari Project's Role in Bangladesh's Energy Security 31 Sovereign Guarantees Tie Govt's Hands on Private Power Deals: Minister 32 Govt to Gradually Reduce Fuel Prices: State Minister 33 Power Division Meeting Reviews High Electricity Bill Complaints 34 LNG Accounts for 45% of EU Gas Imports in 2025 38 CLIMATE
PM Launches Environment Fair, National Tree Plantation Campaign 39 PM Orders Plan to Cut Emissions, Expand Carbon Credit Potential 40 Bangladesh, ICIMOD Strengthen Partnership on Climate 41 Europe Heatwave Claims Over 1,300 Lives 43 INTERVIEW
Mohammad Khorshed Alam, President of the Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry 47 COLUMN
Energy Security: Renewables Are Key |
|---|---|

UAE Oil Output Reaches Record 4.1m bpd after OPEC Exit

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased its crude oil production to a record 4.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, marking its highest-ever monthly output following its withdrawal from OPEC earlier this year.



According to a report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the June production exceeded the country's previous record of 4.0 million bpd set in 2020 and was significantly higher than its average output of 3.5 million bpd in 2025.

The production increase reflects the UAE's strategy to maximize output after leaving the Saudi-led OPEC

alliance in May, ending years of production constraints aimed at supporting global oil prices.

Despite concerns over tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, the UAE has maintained steady exports through its Abu Dhabi-Fujairah pipeline, which bypasses the strategic waterway and provides an alternative route for crude shipments.

Attack on Qatari LNG Carrier Raises Fresh Security Concerns in Strait of Hormuz

A Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier was struck while transiting the Strait of Hormuz recently, escalating concerns over maritime security despite a recent U.S.-Iran agreement aimed at reducing attacks in the strategic waterway.



The LNG vessel, owned by Qatar's state-run shipping company Nakilat, was reportedly hit while exiting the Strait, forcing its crew to abandon the ship.

A Saudi crude oil tanker also sustained damage in a separate incident, while a third attack was reported by a UK maritime security agency.

The incidents prompted a rise in global energy prices, with crude oil gaining up to 3% and European natural gas futures climbing as much as 6%. Shipping companies are reassessing transit risks through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil and LNG exports.

The attacks underscore continuing uncertainty over maritime security in the Gulf, even as diplomatic efforts continue to stabilize the region and restore normal shipping operations.

Saudi Aramco Helicopter Crash Kills 14

A helicopter belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco 2222.SE crashed recently in Ras Tanura on Saudi Arabia's eastern coast west of the Strait of Hormuz, killing 14 nationals, the state news agency reported, adding that the cause was unknown.



helicopter crash," the state news agency added.

Aramco had resumed crude oil loadings at its Ras Tanura terminal in the Gulf after they were halted for nearly four months.

"Investigations are under way, with the participation of relevant authorities, to determine the causes of the

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has joined a rush to move cargoes after Middle East producers ramped up oil and gas output and exports ahead of an interim deal to halt the war between the United States and Iran.

Chevron Signs 5-Year Gas Supply Deal with Alinta Energy



Chevron Australia has signed a new five-year agreement to supply 46 petajoules (PJ) of natural gas to Alinta Energy, strengthening energy security for homes, businesses and industries across Western Australia.

The new contract will commence in July 2027, with gas sourced from Chevron's Gorgon, Wheatstone and North West Shelf projects. It extends a long-standing partnership between the two companies that spans more than four decades.

Chevron Australia President Balaji Krishnamurthy said the Gorgon and Wheatstone

projects have become key pillars of Western Australia's energy security, together supplying around 40% of the state's domestic gas demand.

The agreement follows an earlier seven-year deal signed in 2020, under which Chevron supplied 20 petajoules of gas annually to Alinta from the Wheatstone project.

The latest deal comes as Chevron and Woodside Energy continue to finalize an asset swap aimed at aligning ownership interests with project operatorships across several major gas developments in Western Australia.

ITFC to Provide \$3.3b for Energy, Fertilizer in FY27

The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) has raised its trade finance facility for Bangladesh to \$3.3 billion for fiscal year 2026-27 to support imports of fuel oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fertilizer.



The financing marks a sharp rise from \$2.23 billion provided in the previous fiscal year.

A financing agreement was signed in Jeddah recently to that end, said a senior official at the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky and ITFC Chief

Executive Officer Adeeb Yousuf Al Aama signed the agreement.

According to ERD officials, the package includes \$2.5 billion for the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to import fuel oil, \$600 million for LNG imports and the rest is for fertilizer imports.

Cabinet Body Clears Procurement of 2 LNG Cargoes



The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) recently approved the procurement of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from the spot market at a total cost of Tk 1,437.55 crore to help meet the country's energy demand.

The approval came at a meeting of the CCGP chaired by Finance Minister Amir

Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury. The proposal was placed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division under Rule 105(3)(a) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025, through the international quotation method.

Under the proposal, one LNG cargo will be procured from BP Singapore Pte Ltd, while another from TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd, UK.

Energypac Delegation Pays Courtesy Call on State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Delegates of Energypac Engineering Ltd. recently paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Aninda Islam Amit.



The delegation comprised Md. Rabiul Alam, Director & CEO; Humayun Rashid, Director; and Engr. Pramiti Anasuya Alam, Director.

The meeting provided an opportunity for a constructive exchange of views on the future of Bangladesh's power and energy sector, highlighting engineering excellence, industry challenges, emerging opportunities, and the country's expanding capabilities in the global power engineering landscape.

With a proven track record in delivering substations, transformers, switchgear, and turnkey power infrastructure solutions, Energypac Engineering Ltd. has established a strong international presence, successfully exporting Bangladeshi engineering expertise to markets including Nepal, India, Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, Malaysia, Italy, and the MENA region.

BGDCL Holds Stakeholder Meeting on Gas Distribution



The Bakhrrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited held a stakeholder meeting on gas distribution system and customer service at Homna in Cumilla recently.

Consumers, journalists and public representatives from the Homna upazila under BGDCL's Gauripur zone attended the meeting, said a press release.

BGDCL managing director, current charge, Engineer Md

Md Emam Uddin attended as chief guest at the meeting, which was presided over by general manager, engineering services, Engineer Md Solaiman.

During the session, Emam Uddin addressed consumer and media complaints regarding gas shortages and low pressure. General manager, marketing, Engineer Mortuza Rahman Khan resolved queries on customer service.



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Furnace Oil Price Cut by Tk4.44 per Liter



The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has reduced the retail price of furnace oil by Tk4.44 per liter while keeping the prices of diesel and kerosene unchanged for July.

According to a BERC notification issued on 30 June, the retail price of

furnace oil has been lowered to Tk109.10 per liter from Tk113.54 per liter.

The revised price will come into effect from 12pm today, the notification reads. BERC last revised fuel prices on 18 May, when it set the retail price of furnace oil at Tk113.54 per liter.

Govt Keeps Fuel Prices Unchanged for July



Bangladesh government has kept the retail prices of diesel, kerosene, octane and petrol unchanged for July 2026.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division issued a notification in this regard recently.

The ministry said the prices, which were last fixed through a notification issued on May 31, 2026, would remain in

force throughout July.

Diesel will continue to sell at Tk 115 per liter, kerosene at Tk 135 per liter, petrol at Tk 140 per liter and octane at Tk 145 per liter.

The notification was issued by the Operation-1 Branch of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division following a proposal from the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

Bangladesh-Bound Crude Oil Tanker Resumes Voyage After 115-Day Hormuz Delay



A crude oil tanker carrying 100,000 tonnes of Saudi crude oil for Bangladesh has resumed its journey to Chattogram after safely crossing the Strait of Hormuz, ending a 115-day delay caused by regional conflict.

The foreign-flagged tanker Nordic Pollux had loaded the cargo at Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura Port on March

1 but was stranded after the strategic waterway was disrupted during the US-Israel conflict with Iran.

Following the partial reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the vessel resumed its voyage and is now bound for Chattogram Port, where the crude will be delivered to Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) for processing and nationwide distribution.

BERC Cuts Jet Fuel Prices for Domestic and International Airlines



The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has reduced the price of Jet A-1 aviation fuel for both domestic and international airlines, lowering costs by Tk 19.22 per liter for domestic carriers and US\$0.1252 per liter for international operators.

Under the revised pricing, the retail price of Jet A-1 fuel for domestic airlines has been reduced to Tk 130.99 per liter, down from Tk 150.21 per liter. For international

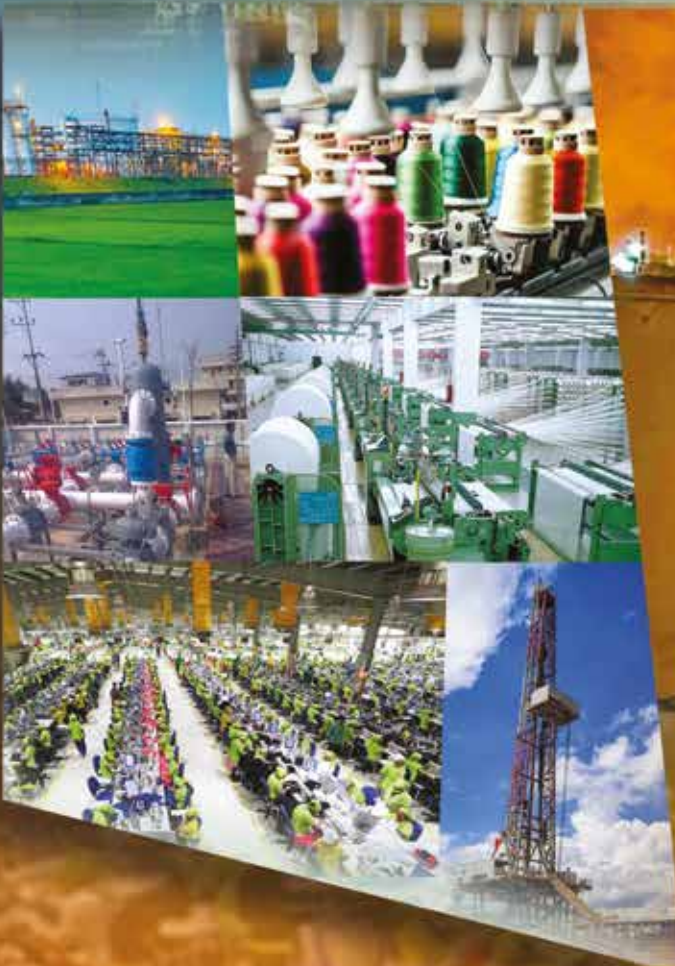
airlines, the price has been cut to US\$0.8556 per liter from US\$0.9808 per liter. According to BERC, the latest adjustment was made based on the average Platts benchmark price for the period between June 5 and July 4, 2026.

The commission also considered the prevailing US dollar exchange rate used by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in settling Letters of Credit (LCs) for fuel imports.

RUNNING OUT

The race to secure Bangladesh's energy future

Mollah Amzad Hossain



Bangladesh's worsening energy crisis is rapidly becoming a structural threat to economic growth rather than a temporary supply disruption. Declining domestic gas production, delayed LNG infrastructure, and heightened geopolitical risks are widening the energy deficit while undermining industrial competitiveness. Although exploration programs and import plans continue, they are unlikely to reverse the trend before 2030. Without decisive action to expand domestic gas production, accelerate LNG infrastructure, and reform energy governance, Bangladesh faces prolonged supply shortages, slower investment, and mounting pressure on its broader economy.



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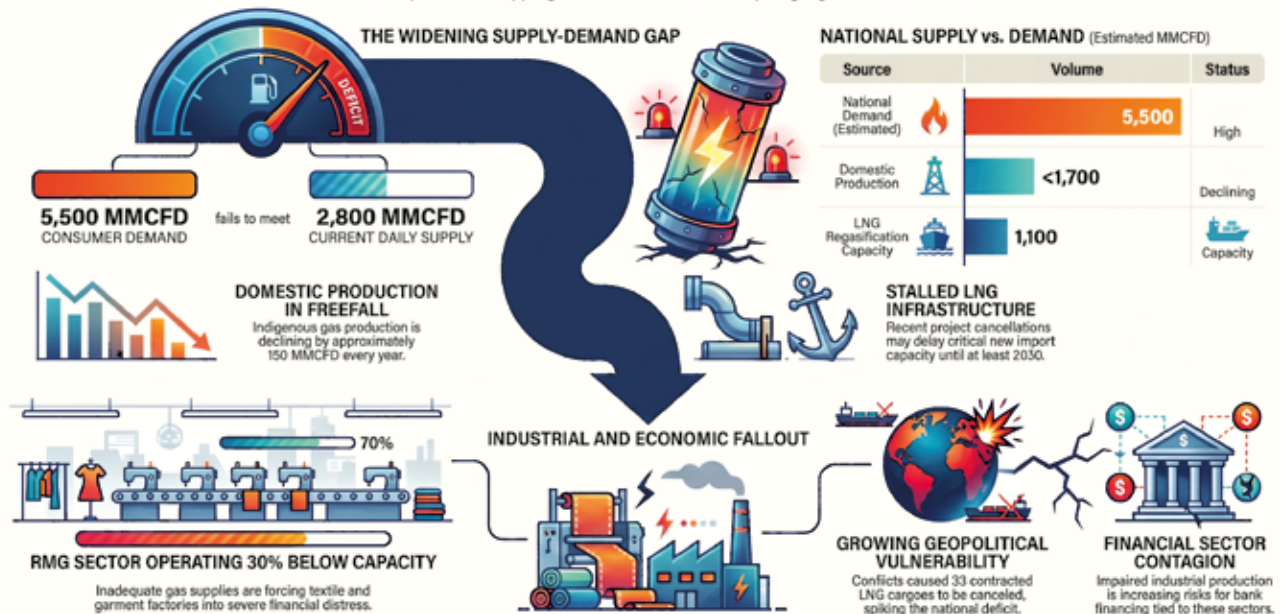
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Running Out: Bangladesh's Looming Energy Collapse

Bangladesh is facing a structural energy crisis driven by a 50% natural gas deficit and declining domestic production, crippling the industrial sector and requiring urgent national effort.



AI-assisted infographic

Together, they are rapidly becoming the country's biggest obstacle to ensuring reliable energy supplies. Bangladesh currently imports about 62.5 percent of its primary energy, leaving the economy highly exposed to volatile global markets.

Bangladesh's energy crisis is no longer a temporary supply disruption—it is becoming a structural threat to economic stability. As domestic gas production declines, LNG infrastructure expansion stalls, and geopolitical tensions unsettle global fuel markets, the country's dependence on imported energy is exposing critical vulnerabilities. Without urgent action to expand gas supplies and strengthen energy infrastructure, Bangladesh risks entering a prolonged period of industrial slowdown, weaker competitiveness, and heightened economic uncertainty.

Geopolitics and energy security have become two of the defining issues shaping the global economy. Ironically, the vast energy resources of producing nations have become sources of strategic vulnerability as geopolitical competition for control over them intensifies. The resulting instability is exposing economies around the world to growing risks.

International organizations, including the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have warned that the ongoing energy crisis could place unprecedented pressure on the global economy. Import-dependent countries are expected to

bear the greatest burden as energy security becomes increasingly fragile.

For Bangladesh, already struggling with significant macroeconomic challenges, rising energy prices and supply uncertainties have created multiple layers of pressure. Together, they are rapidly becoming the country's biggest obstacle to ensuring reliable energy supplies. Bangladesh currently imports about 62.5 percent of its primary energy, leaving the economy highly exposed to volatile global markets. Despite rising import costs, the country continues to face acute natural gas shortages that are disrupting industrial production and discouraging new investment.

Natural gas remains the backbone of Bangladesh's commercial energy system. Although the government continues to meet demand through a combination of domestic production and LNG imports, the country is currently facing a supply deficit exceeding 30 percent. Private-sector estimates suggest the shortfall has already surpassed 40 percent.

Based on data compiled by gas distribution companies, several media reports estimate that consumers connected to the national gas network

now require around 5,500 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD), while maximum daily supply stands at only about 2,800 MMCFD—a deficit approaching 50 percent. Petrobangla, however, officially estimates national gas demand at approximately 3,800 MMCFD.

Energy experts believe that even if the government's current initiatives continue, Bangladesh's gas crisis will become substantially more severe by 2030. Unless effective measures are taken to significantly expand supply, the situation is likely to deteriorate further in the years that follow.

At the same time, unless Bangladesh can strike a better balance between developing domestic energy resources and expanding LNG imports, dependence on imported fuel will continue to increase. Such reliance would expose the country to greater geopolitical risks and volatile international energy prices, making it increasingly difficult for Bangladeshi industries to remain globally competitive.

The challenge extends well beyond supply shortages. During the past four years, gas tariffs have risen substantially under several pricing adjustments. The previous Awami League government argued that industries would receive uninterrupted gas supplies in return for accepting higher tariffs. In practice, however, that commitment was never fully realized.

Instead, Bangladesh's textile and ready-made garment (RMG) industries have faced a double blow: paying significantly higher energy costs while continuing to endure unreliable gas and electricity supplies. As a result, production capacity across the sector has declined by an estimated 25 to 30 percent, pushing many factories into financial distress.

Many industries are now financially distressed—or at risk of becoming so—because of inadequate gas supplies and poor-quality electricity. Consequently, a significant volume of bank financing tied to productive industries has effectively become impaired, increasing risks within the country's financial sector.

Bangladesh's domestic gas production peaked at nearly 2,800 MMCFD in 2018 before entering a steady decline. To

At the same time, unless Bangladesh can strike a better balance between developing domestic energy resources and expanding LNG imports, dependence on imported fuel will continue to increase.

offset the shortfall, the government commissioned its first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) later that year, enabling LNG imports.

Today, Bangladesh's two operational FSRUs provide a combined regasification capacity of approximately 1,100 MMCFD, while domestic gas production has fallen below 1,700 MMCFD. According to Petrobangla, indigenous production is expected to decline by another 150 MMCFD each year.

Recognizing this trend, the previous government signed an agreement with Summit Group to develop a third FSRU. Negotiations with U.S.-based Exceleerate Energy for a fourth FSRU had also reached an advanced stage. In addition, Bangladesh was close to finalizing two agreements to import regasified LNG (RLNG) from India.

However, after assuming office, the interim government canceled the agreement for the third FSRU along with the three pending negotiations.

Together, these projects would have added approximately 1,400 MMCFD of LNG import capacity between 2027 and 2029, increasing Bangladesh's total RLNG import capacity to roughly 2,400–2,600 MMCFD.

Meanwhile, development of a land-based LNG terminal with a planned import capacity of 1,000 MMCFD had also been progressing. Because of delays during the interim administration, industry observers now believe the facility is unlikely to become operational before 2032.

Although the interim government canceled several LNG infrastructure projects, it did not initiate any replacements. Since winning the February election, the BNP-led government has yet to approve any major project aimed at expanding LNG import capacity. Even the timeline for launching new FSRU projects remains uncertain.

Likewise, the process of selecting a private-sector partner under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework for the proposed land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari has effectively stalled. As a result, energy experts question whether Bangladesh will be able to expand its LNG import capacity before 2030.

A senior Energy Division official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government has not yet decided whether future FSRUs will be developed through government-to-government (G2G) arrangements or international competitive bidding. The ministry is evaluating both options before making a final decision.

The official added that the proposed land-based LNG terminal will be developed under the PPP model and that consultants are currently being appointed to carry out the project's feasibility study.

A senior Petrobangla official, who also requested anonymity, said several companies have expressed interest in developing another FSRU, but no agreement has yet been finalized. According to the official, if a contract is signed this year, Bangladesh could commission its third FSRU by 2029. Until then, however, no firm timeline can be confirmed.

Turning to LNG procurement, Bangladesh imported 109 LNG cargoes in 2025. For 2026, the government initially planned to import 115 cargoes but later revised the target downward by three, bringing the total to 112 cargoes.

Bangladesh currently has long-term LNG supply agreements with six suppliers. Qatar is committed to supplying 52 cargoes annually; three agreements with Oman provide another 32 cargoes; Excelerate Energy supplies 14 cargoes; and Aramco provides five. Altogether, Bangladesh is contracted to receive 103 LNG cargoes each year. If these commitments were fully honored, the country would have limited exposure to the volatile spot LNG market.

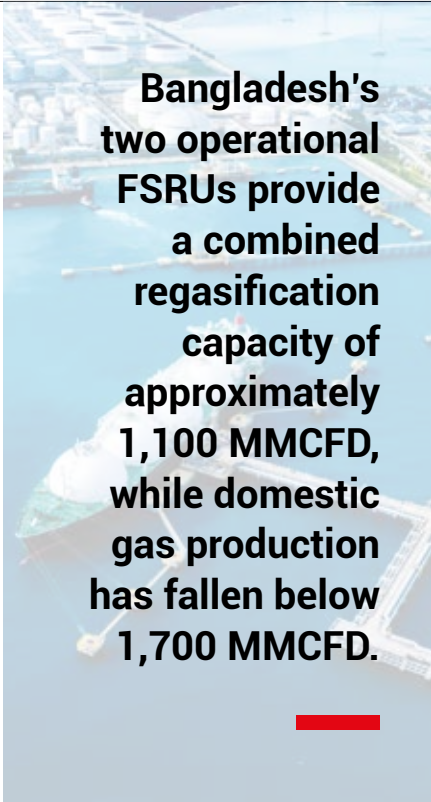
However, following U.S. military strikes on Iran and the subsequent escalation of conflict in the Middle East, damage to LNG infrastructure and disruptions caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz prompted suppliers to invoke force majeure clauses. Bangladesh was informed that 33 contracted cargoes would not be delivered. With regional tensions rising once again, concerns are growing that long-term LNG supplies could decline even further.

The regional conflict has also forced Bangladesh to purchase additional LNG on the spot market at significantly higher prices. Consequently, Petrobangla's financial deficit for FY2025–26 increased from Tk 90 billion to Tk 146 billion, requiring additional subsidy support from the Ministry of Finance.

Domestic gas production deserves equal attention. As noted earlier, indigenous production has fallen below 1,700 MMCFD. The country's largest gas field, Bibiyana, now produces around 760 MMCFD compared with approximately 1,200 MMCFD only a few years ago. Production is expected to continue declining.

According to the Energy Division, domestic gas production is falling by about 150 MMCFD annually. Bangladesh therefore has little choice but to increase LNG imports. The problem is that the country lacks sufficient infrastructure to accommodate larger import volumes, while the completion timeline for new facilities remains uncertain.

To maintain domestic production at



Bangladesh's two operational FSRUs provide a combined regasification capacity of approximately 1,100 MMCFD, while domestic gas production has fallen below 1,700 MMCFD.

around 2,000–2,100 MMCFD, the government launched an ambitious 50-well exploration and development program in 2022, originally scheduled for completion in 2024. A separate 100-well drilling initiative followed in 2025, and the two have since been combined into a single 150-well program.

So far, 29 wells—including nine exploration wells—have been completed. They have increased gross production by approximately 270 MMCFD, although only about 140 MMCFD has actually been added to the national gas grid. Officials estimate that completing the remaining work, including 61 additional exploration wells, could increase domestic production by 1,400–1,500 MMCFD by 2030. Even so, it remains uncertain whether these gains will simply offset natural declines in existing fields or result in a meaningful net increase in supply.

Professor Dr. Ijaz Hossain, former Dean of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), remains skeptical that all planned wells can be completed by 2030. Even if they are, he questioned whether the program would be sufficient to maintain domestic production at current levels.

Energy expert Khondkar Abdus Saleque believes production from the Bibiyana gas field will continue to decline over the next three years and doubts that domestic exploration alone can compensate for the loss. As an alternative, he recommends immediately constructing a pipeline to connect the Bhola gas field to the national gas grid.

A senior Energy Division official, however, said no final decision has yet been made on whether Bhola's gas will be transported by pipeline, converted into LNG, or used to support industrial development on the island.

Former BAPEX Managing Director Murtuza Ahmed Faruque argued that Bangladesh has yet to undertake any initiative capable of fundamentally resolving the gas crisis. Without urgent intervention, he warned, the situation will continue to deteriorate. He suggested accelerating exploration drilling in Chatak and pursuing exploration in the Chittagong Hill Tracts through partnerships with international oil companies—or direct foreign participation—which could produce encouraging results within two years. By contrast, even if international companies invest in offshore exploration through the current bidding rounds, commercial production is unlikely to begin for another seven to ten years.

The overall outlook is increasingly concerning. Bangladesh's gas supply deficit is expected to widen as domestic production continues to decline, while there is no assurance that major new LNG import infrastructure will become operational before 2030. Consequently, shortages are likely to intensify across the power, industrial, commercial, and residential sectors.

The textile and ready-made garment industry is already operating at 25–30 percent below capacity because of inadequate gas supplies. Unless alternative energy sources and reliable fuel supplies become available, production losses are likely to deepen. Given the scale of the challenge, Bangladesh has little choice but to pursue a wartime-scale national effort to accelerate domestic gas exploration while simultaneously expanding LNG import infrastructure. So far, however, such an urgent and coordinated response has yet to emerge. ■

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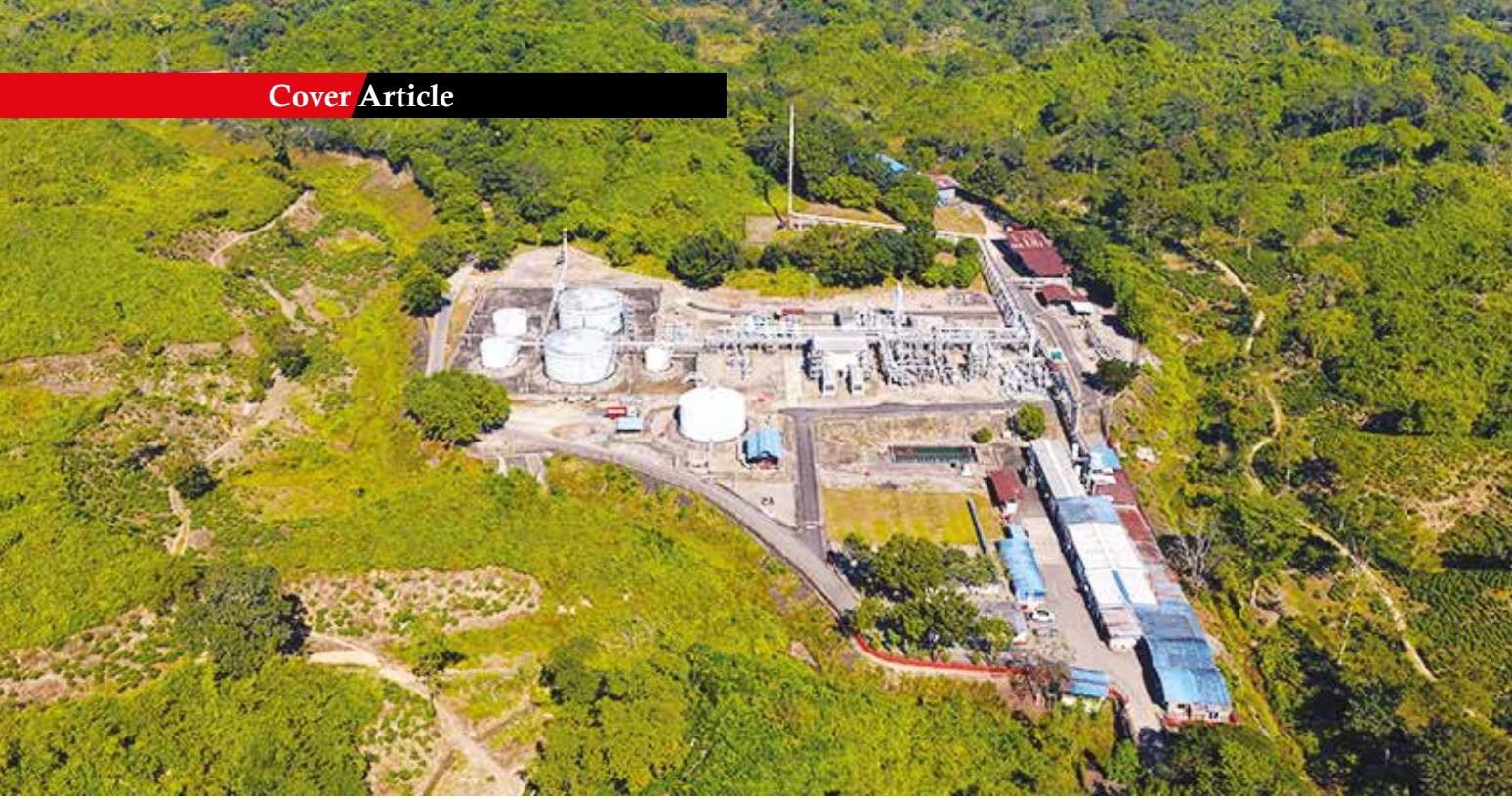
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Gas Crisis Likely To Persist Until 2030

Engr. Khondkar Abdus Saleque

The current gas supply crisis, coupled with the rapid depletion of proven recoverable reserves in Bangladesh's producing gas fields, indicates that the country's energy challenges will continue to deepen over the remainder of the decade. At the current pace, neither BAPEX's exploration activities nor Petrobangla's initiatives to expand LNG import infrastructure are likely to deliver significant additional gas supplies before 2030.

Domestic gas production, which once peaked at 2,750 MMCFD, has now fallen below 1,750 MMCFD. Meanwhile, two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) anchored offshore near Moheshkhali supply between 1,050 and 1,100 MMCFD of regasified LNG (RLNG). Total gas supply currently ranges between 2,750 and 2,800 MMCFD against a coincident peak demand of 4,000–4,200 MMCFD, leaving a widening supply deficit of 1,000–1,200 MMCFD.



This chronic gas shortage has severely affected every major consumer category, including power generation, fertilizer production, industries, CNG stations, and residential users. Petrobangla's 50-well and 100-well drilling programs have so far failed to produce the expected results. Although exploration activities on Bhola Island led to several gas discoveries, Petrobangla has been unable to connect these reserves to the national gas grid for more than three decades. Gas was first discovered in Bhola in 1994.

Bangladesh made a timely decision in 2010 to begin importing LNG, and RLNG has been supplied to the national grid since 2018. However, despite growing demand, Petrobangla has yet to launch any major new initiative to expand



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RLNG imports through additional FSRUs or accelerate the development of the proposed land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari.

The interim government led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus canceled the contract with Summit Energy for a third FSRU without fully assessing its long-term implications. Had the project proceeded as planned, the facility could have been in an advanced stage of development and capable of supplying an additional 500 MMCFD of RLNG by mid-2027.

The interim government also discontinued negotiations with Excelebrate Energy for a deepwater floating LNG terminal off the coast of Kuakata. In addition, two advanced proposals to import RLNG from India through cross-border pipelines were abandoned.

As a result, Bangladesh's downstream gas supply chain—which is already under severe strain—faces an even

greater risk of crisis between 2027 and 2029. The situation demands the highest national priority, requiring an aggressive program of onshore and offshore gas exploration alongside immediate efforts to establish at least two additional FSRUs by 2029. Expanding the gas transmission network will also be essential to accommodate additional RLNG imports.

Present Situation of the Gas Supply Chain

According to Petrobangla's daily gas intake and offtake report for 24 hours in mid-July 2026, the total gas supply stood at 2,690 MMCFD. Domestic gas fields contributed 1,626 MMCFD, while RLNG imports added 1,044 MMCFD.

Bangladesh's own gas production once reached 2,750 MMCFD, with the prolific Bibiyana gas field alone producing around 1,200 MMCFD. Today, Bibiyana's output has declined to approximately 750 MMCFD. Wellhead pressure in several producing wells is showing alarming signs of depletion despite the installation of wellhead compressors.



Meanwhile, two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) anchored offshore near Moheshkhali supply between 1,050 and 1,100 MMCFD of regasified LNG (RLNG).

Experts predict that Bibiyana's production could decline below 500 MMCFD by 2030. Surprisingly, Petrobangla has yet to implement adequate contingency measures to prepare for this eventuality. At the same time, the gas reserves discovered on Bhola Island remain stranded because of the absence of a transmission pipeline connecting the island to the national gas grid.

The same Petrobangla report showed that gas supply to power plants was only 1,096 MMCFD against a demand of 2,525 MMCFD.

Fertilizer factories received just 120 MMCFD compared with a demand of 329 MMCFD. Consequently, nearly 48% of gas-fired power generation capacity remained idle, while only two of the country's seven fertilizer factories were able to operate.

Industries—including export-oriented textile, ready-made garment (RMG), and ceramic manufacturers—continue

to suffer from severe gas shortages throughout the national gas distribution network. Many small and medium-sized enterprises have already closed, while several large industries have been forced to reduce production.

The outlook beyond 2026 is even more concerning. Domestic gas production is expected to decline further through 2030, while neither major new gas discoveries nor substantial additional RLNG imports are likely to materialize before then.

What Can Be the Remedies?

Years of inadequate planning and delayed decision-making by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) and Petrobangla have created a situation that is unlikely to improve significantly before 2030, even if emergency measures are implemented immediately.

The immediate priority should be to sustain domestic gas production at no less than 1,800 MMCFD while reducing



system losses, theft, and pilferage to save at least 200 MMCFD of gas across the national distribution network.

In an emergency, gas supplies to fertilizer factories could be temporarily curtailed so that the saved gas can be redirected to industries, where the economic returns are significantly higher. The government should immediately invite tenders to construct a gas transmission pipeline connecting Bhola to the national gas grid through Khulna, abandoning impractical proposals to convert Bhola gas into LNG or CNG before transportation.

Every effort should also be made to commission the full 2x1,200 MW capacity of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant by the end of 2027 to reduce dependence on natural gas for electricity generation.

Petrobangla should deploy drilling rigs to Chhatak and Tengratila while accelerating exploration at Patharia, Patiya, Sitapahar, and Kashalong in the Chittagong Hill Tracts through experienced international drilling contractors.

The government should also launch a new production-sharing contract (PSC) bidding round for onshore exploration. If, by the end of 2027, at least 10 exploration rigs—including five operated by BAPEX—can work simultaneously, Bangladesh could potentially discover an additional 3–5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas reserves by 2030.

The government should also reconsider the canceled contract for the third FSRU and simultaneously initiate bidding for a fourth FSRU. Every effort must be made to expedite the construction of the land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari.

These initiatives will require major expansion of GTCL's transmission network. Our assessment indicates that a parallel gas transmission pipeline from Feni to Bakhrabad should be completed by 2030 to evacuate additional RLNG from two new FSRUs.

Before the land-based LNG terminal becomes operational, however, a third pipeline from Moheshkhali to Faujdharhat will be essential.

A substantial portion of this pipeline should be constructed underwater to bypass the highly congested Anwara and North Patenga areas, where acquiring land for a new pipeline would be extremely difficult.

Conclusion

In the national interest, the recommended contingency measures should be treated as the country's highest energy priority. A dedicated task force of experienced energy professionals should be empowered to implement these initiatives with the authority, resources, and incentives necessary to achieve measurable results.

The conventional bureaucratic approach will not be sufficient to address the magnitude of Bangladesh's gas crisis. Only decisive leadership, accelerated project execution, and coordinated institutional reforms can prevent the country's energy security from deteriorating further before 2030. 

Engr. Khondkar Abdus Saleque, Former Director (Operation), GTCL

NBR-Issued SROs Risk Green Energy Future

Colonel (retd) Engr. A R Mohammad Parvez Mazumder

Bangladesh is facing a challenge in its fight for energy independence. For decades, the country relied on its own natural gas to produce over 60% of its electricity. Now, those local reserves are rapidly running out. To make up for the shortage, Bangladesh has fallen into a trap of spending millions of dollars importing expensive and unpredictable foreign fuel like Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), coal and oil. This massive spending is draining the country's foreign currency reserves and hurting the economy. To truly protect its independence, Bangladesh must shift away from imports and build a domestic energy system powered by local renewable energy sources.

Bangladesh's Climate Prosperity Plan aims for a bold 40% clean energy share by 2041, but red tape is blocking progress. At first, the proposed National Budget for FY 2026-27 brought hope by removing import duties, value-added tax (VAT), and advance income tax (AIT) on solar equipment. However, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) quietly weakened this plan. Just three days before the budget announcement on 11 June 2026, the NBR issued Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) with strict conditions that directly undermine the government's green goals.

The SROs implement contrasting tax policies, scaling back broad fiscal support for fossil fuels while offering a significant, phased income tax holiday to encourage utility-scale clean energy generation. The comparative table below outlines the primary tax and incentive structures by the NBR:

Rules	Fossil Fuel (Coal, Gas, Oil)	Renewable Energy (Solar, Wind, etc.)
Tax Status	Plants pay standard corporate taxes; NBR previously removed tax benefits for coal-based independent power producers (IPPs)	Projects get a 15-year phased tax exemption; includes 100% exemption for 10 years, 50% for 3 years and 25% for 2 years
Eligible Entities	Applies to traditional IPPs and gas or oil companies under standard agreements	Utility-scale power producers with commercial production between 01 July 2025 and 30 June 2035; limited benefits apply to VAT-registered Renewable Energy Service Companies under Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)
Duty Waivers	Companies pay all standard duties (customs, regulatory, and supplementary) on fuel imports and grid infrastructure	Selected solar equipment enjoys 0% tax and duty waivers; however, smaller parts like mounting structure, cables, etc., lack long-term tariff benefits
Conditions	Governed by standard capacity payments and power generation frameworks	Secure duty waivers and tax holidays; developers must get a project-specific No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Power Division



Stakeholder groups criticize current NBR policies. Groups like the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) point out restrictive eligibility. They argue these tax waivers mainly benefit large corporations instead of residential rooftop users or small farmers.

Analyzing the above table, NBR SROs act as a barrier to energy independence by creating an unfair market. It grants duty and tax waivers only to VAT-registered Renewable Energy Service Companies that generate electricity under a PPA. Instead of encouraging a widespread solar boom across households and villages, the policy limits tax and duty benefits almost entirely to large commercial operations and utility-scale projects. The SROs potentially exclude everyday residents, small-scale farmers and rural entrepreneurs, who are completely excluded from tax incentives. As a result, while a massive industrial conglomerate can import solar components duty-free to cut costs, an ordinary citizen trying to install a modest 02 kW solar system on a village roof must pay heavy import duties.

By shutting out everyday consumers, the SROs are choking the massive potential of decentralized clean energy. Bangladesh has the technical capacity to generate over 100,000 MWp from advanced rooftop solar alone. To unlock this, the public must be empowered to become active energy producers. When financial policies create barriers for the average household, it stunts the growth of the clean energy grid and slow down job creation. While the national budget aims to create over half a million generic jobs, civil society groups point out that a fully unlocked renewable energy sector could independently create over one million green jobs. Unfortunately, this economic potential is currently stalled by bureaucratic red tape.

This regulatory barrier may reveal a deeper conflict in the state's economic strategy. Its old attachment to fossil fuels is undermining its new climate goals. Even though official statements celebrate a green transition, Government funding continues to back dirty energy. This keeps fossil fuels artificially cheap and slows down the shift to clean energy.

The contrast between fossil fuel incentives and renewable energy support in the current National Budget (FY 2026-27) could be examined as follows:

Sector	Present Status and Allocation	Impact on Energy Independence
Renewable Energy Allocation	Only 2.20% (Tk 379.24 crore) of the total Tk 17,193 crore power development budget	Severely inadequate to fund the Tk 21,750 crore annual investment required for a green transition
Fossil Fuel Subsidies	15% VAT and 2% advance income tax waivers remain active for LNG imports	Artificially lowers fossil fuel costs and prolongs dependence on imported energy
Coal Project Expansion	Active funding for domestic coal mining (like Barapukuria), where extraction costs (USD170/tonne) exceed global prices (USD 90-120/tonne)	Wastes national funds that could otherwise support solar energy development

Ultimately, setting clean energy goals means nothing without the right regulations to back them up. To escape the expensive trap of importing fuel before its own gas reserves run out, Bangladesh must align its tax policies with its long-term vision. Resolving this crisis requires immediately canceling or majorly revising the restrictive NBR-issued SROs so that everyone gets equal tax benefits. True energy independence cannot be achieved by only favoring big corporations. Instead, the country needs an open, inclusive framework that empowers every household, farm and community to contribute to a green energy future. 

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



Comprehensive Plan For Sustainable Energy Security

Saleque Sufi

For the new government, deciding on mining the country's discovered coal reserves is politically difficult without a broad national consensus. The administration has rightly placed greater emphasis on expanding clean energy, particularly renewable and nuclear power.

The BNP alliance government, led by Tarique Rahman, has already encountered significant challenges during its first four months in office. Beyond a fragile economy and complex geopolitical pressures, one of its greatest tests is achieving sustainable energy security—an essential prerequisite for long-term economic growth and development.

Bangladesh faces a critical challenge in securing a sustainable supply of primary energy. Proven domestic natural gas reserves are rapidly depleting, while discovering and developing new resources in the short term is extremely difficult. At the same time, the country lacks sufficient infrastructure to increase LNG imports substantially. The shortage of foreign currency has further complicated LNG procurement from a global market made increasingly volatile by wars and geopolitical conflicts.

For the new government, deciding on mining the country's discovered coal reserves is politically difficult without a broad national consensus. The

administration has rightly placed greater emphasis on expanding clean energy, particularly renewable and nuclear power. However, these sectors also face considerable technical, financial, and institutional challenges.

Nevertheless, energy experts agree that the sector deserves the government's highest priority if Bangladesh is to restore economic stability. The ongoing energy crisis has severely disrupted electricity generation and industrial production. Many small industries have shut down, while numerous large export-oriented factories have become financially distressed. Job losses have mounted, and both domestic and foreign investment continue to decline.

Because of fuel shortages, the power system struggles to generate even 15,000MW despite having more than 29,000MW of grid-connected installed capacity. The gas situation is even more alarming. Between July 6 and 7, 2026, total gas supply stood at only 2,537 MMCFD against a coincident peak demand of around 4,000 MMCFD.

Around 900 MMCFD comes from imported RLNG through two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) anchored off the coast. During the monsoon season, rough seas frequently disrupt LNG carrier operations and reduce the reliability of gas supply.

The present government inherited these challenges from the previous administration and is making determined efforts to stabilize the situation. Petrobangla and BAPEX are intensifying exploration and development drilling to increase domestic gas production. However, the supply deficit is so large that these efforts alone are unlikely to be sufficient.

The Bibiyana gas field, which contributes nearly 40% of Bangladesh's domestic gas production, is declining rapidly. Unless significant new gas reserves are discovered and developed within the next three to four years, Bangladesh could face a severe gas shortage by 2030.

At the same time, the government must make an early decision on exploiting domestic coal resources. It should also undertake long-overdue regulatory reforms to accelerate renewable energy development. Although the government has outlined ambitious plans, successful implementation will require competent institutions and capable leadership.

Power Supply Chain

The previous Awami League government deserves credit for rescuing Bangladesh's power sector from the severe electricity shortages of 2008–09, when daily load-shedding often lasted 10 to 12 hours. Its private-sector power generation policy significantly expanded installed generation capacity.

However, the overall development of the power supply chain remained unbalanced. Generation capacity increased rapidly, but corresponding investments in primary fuel supply, transmission infrastructure, and distribution network modernization lagged far behind.

Many power purchase agreements included capacity payment provisions, leaving the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) responsible for substantial financial obligations even when plants remained underutilized.

The previous government also failed to prioritize exploration and development of domestic energy resources, opting instead to increase dependence on imported fuels and electricity without fully assessing the risks associated with volatile international energy markets.

As a result, despite having more than 29,000MW of installed generation capacity, Bangladesh struggles to produce even 15,000MW consistently. During peak summer demand, generation shortfalls of 2,500–3,000MW continue to cause widespread load-shedding.

Another major weakness is the lack of coordination between BPDB and Petrobangla. Several gas-fired power plants were constructed in areas where adequate gas transmission infrastructure was unavailable. Consequently, around 4,500–5,000MW of generation capacity remains idle because of insufficient gas supply.

Generation Scenario

A. PUBLIC SECTOR		
Public Sector	Plants	Generation Capacity MW
BPDB	40	6461 MW
APSCL	05	1394 MW
EGCB	04	1032 MW
NWPGCL	07	1401 MW
B-R Power Gen	03	0472 MW
RPCL	04	0392 MW
CPGCBL	01	1150 MW
Sub Total	64	12,302 MW (41%)

B. JOINT VENTURE		
BCPCL (JV of NWPGCL & CMC China)	01	1244 MW
BIFCL (JV of BPDB and NTPC India)	01	1234 MW
RNPL (JV of RPCL and Norinco)	01	1244 MW
Subtotal	03	3722MW (13%)

C. PRIVATE SECTOR		
IPPs	65	10,602 MW
SIPPs (BPDB)	00	000 MW
SIPPs(REB)	03	130 MW
15 year rental	00	000 MW
3/5 year rental	00	000 MW
Rental (No Electricity no payment)	02	141 MW
Sub Total	70	10,873 MW (37%)

D. POWER IMPORT		
Bheramara HVDC		1000 MW
Tripura		0160 MW
Jharkhand India, Adani Power		1496 MW
Import Nepal		0040 MW
Sub Total		2696 MW
Total:	137	29,593 MW

Adding Captive Generation and Off-grid RE and HFO Grand Total: 33,092 MW

Maximum Demand Served: 17,208 MW during evening peak hours of 20/05/2026

Bangladesh, therefore, has surplus installed generation capacity. The real constraints lie in fuel shortages, transmission bottlenecks, distribution limitations, and seasonal demand fluctuations. The country's fuel mix clearly demonstrates these structural weaknesses.

Another strategic mistake was abandoning the highly successful Solar Home System program while expanding the national grid across the country. This approach placed

enormous financial pressure on the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and the Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs). Given Bangladesh's geography, distributed generation, mini-grids, and microgrids could have provided a more efficient solution for rural and remote communities.

Fuel Mix on the Basis of Installed Capacity

Fuel	Total Generation MW	% of Total
Natural Gas and LNG	12,472 MW	42.15%
Furnace Oil	05641 MW	19.06%
Coal	06927 MW	23.41%
Import	02696 MW	09.11%
Renewable	00859 MW	02.90%
Diesel	00768 MW	02.60%
Hydro	00230 MW	0.78%
	29,593 MW	

Under current conditions, domestic natural gas can supply only about 1,050 MMCFD, enough to generate roughly 7,000–7,500 MW, even if BPDB dispatches plants strictly according to the merit order. Except for the three units at Barapukuria, all coal-fired power plants depend on imported coal, and import disruptions frequently limit coal generation to less than 5,000 MW.

Bangladesh also imports around 2,000 MW of electricity, although supply is occasionally affected by operational issues involving Adani Power. Consequently, the system continues to rely heavily on expensive liquid-fuel-based power plants during periods of peak demand.

The government should gradually reduce dependence on liquid fuels by accelerating investment in solar and other renewable energy sources.

For a successful renewable energy transition, the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) must be strengthened institutionally, restructured as an autonomous body, and empowered to work closely with capable private-sector companies.

With proper planning, supportive policies, and appropriate fiscal incentives, Bangladesh should target increasing renewable energy's contribution to at least 10% by 2030. Rooftop solar, floating solar, hybrid solar systems, and utility-scale grid-connected solar projects can collectively help achieve this objective.

By 2027, the full 2,400 MW capacity of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant should be connected to the national grid. The government should also begin negotiations with interested countries for a second nuclear power plant, targeting completion around 2035.

Natural Gas Scenario

Years of inadequate planning prevented Bangladesh from replacing rapidly declining natural gas reserves through new onshore and offshore discoveries. The previous government's policy of relying almost exclusively on BAPLEX for exploration

during much of its tenure contributed significantly to today's gas shortage.

Its failure to engage major international oil companies (IOCs) after resolving maritime boundary disputes with neighboring countries represented a major missed opportunity. The government also failed to establish land-based LNG terminals, which could have eased the country's growing gas deficit.

Addressing today's gas crisis requires an emergency national action plan focused on accelerated exploration and development.

Energy experts believe that if BAPLEX and international oil companies jointly deploy around 10 exploration rigs, Bangladesh could discover as much as 5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of new gas reserves over the next five years.

The government should also expedite the construction of at least two additional FSRUs and a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari.

To achieve these objectives, Petrobangla must be strengthened, professionally restructured, and allowed to operate independently under the regulatory oversight of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

Gas Production Scenario

Companies	Gas Fields / FSRU	Capacity MMCFD	Present Supply (6-7 July 2026) MMCFD	Remarks
BGFCL	05 gas fields	851.00	477.50	Present Capacity must be mentioned
SGFL	04 gas fields	143.00	140.00	There exist opportunities for exploration and development
BAPLEX	08 gas fields	145.00	092.00	Bhola gas fields not connected to the gas grid
IOCs, Chevron and Tullow	Chevron 3 + Tullow 1	1615.00	917.50	Present depleted capacity must be mentioned.
RPGL	2 FSRUs operated by private sector companies	1100.00	907.10	FSRUs during monsoon struggle to get connected with LNG vessels for rough sea
Total:	21 gas fields	3854 MMCFD	2534.00	and 2 FSRUs



As part of this restructuring, BAPEX, BGFL, and SGFL should be merged into a single integrated exploration and production company similar to Petronas, Pertamina, Petrobras, ONGC, or CNPC. The new organization could also assume responsibility for production-sharing contracts, reservoir studies, and reservoir management.

The government should prioritize skill development within BAPEX and transform it into Bangladesh's flagship upstream energy company.

All ongoing exploration and development projects should receive the highest priority. The government should also establish a policy framework allowing private companies to partner with BAPEX in exploration activities.

Priority exploration targets should include Tengratila and Chhatak, structures in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Surma Basin, and northern Bangladesh.

Upskilling GTCL and Gas Distribution Companies

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), as the country's midstream gas operator, must strengthen system management. Its SCADA system should become fully operational, with every unit of gas accurately measured through modern metering technology. Compressor station operations should also be optimized.

As offshore gas development progresses, GTCL will eventually need to manage subsea pipeline construction and operation. Engineers should

therefore receive specialized training well in advance.

Priority should also be given to constructing the Bhola-Barishal-Khulna gas transmission pipeline and the third parallel pipeline linking Matarbari to the national gas grid.

Gas distribution companies require digital network mapping, GIS integration, telemetry systems, and modern operational controls.

The operations of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC) should be comprehensively reviewed. If necessary, its franchise area could be divided into three independent operating companies covering:

- Dhaka Metropolitan area and Manikganj;
- Narayanganj and Narsingdi; and
- Gazipur, Tangail, and Greater Mymensingh.

LNG Infrastructure Development

The government should immediately engage qualified developers to establish at least two additional FSRUs and a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari. By 2030, Bangladesh is likely to require an additional 1,000 MMCFD of LNG imports to meet growing demand.

Conclusion

The government must recognize that planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the power and energy sector are highly technical undertakings. Success depends on qualified, experienced, and motivated professionals capable of

managing increasingly sophisticated technologies. The right people must be appointed to the right positions based on competence rather than political considerations.

The entire power supply chain should operate under an integrated SCADA system, with the National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC) coordinating all distribution companies. Smart grids and advanced metering infrastructure should be introduced to improve monitoring, efficiency, and reliability.

BAPEX should receive the highest priority for accelerating onshore exploration while effectively supervising IOC activities offshore. GTCL must modernize gas grid operations using state-of-the-art technologies and develop expertise in managing future offshore pipeline infrastructure. Gas distribution companies should similarly upgrade their capabilities in metering, monitoring, and system control. Achieving sustainable energy security will require comprehensive planning, institutional reform, and disciplined implementation.

Bangladesh must fully utilize its domestic energy resources—including natural gas, coal, wind, and solar—to build a balanced and resilient energy mix.

Finally, the roles of BPI and BPMI should be reviewed, and consideration should be given to integrating their functions to strengthen capacity building across the country's power and energy sector. 

Saleque Sufi, Energy Expert, Former Director of Operations, GTCL



Engr. Md. Ashrafuzzaman Khan

Fuel Crisis and Climate Change

Why Behavior Change And Clean Energy Matter For Bangladesh

Bangladesh stands at a crucial crossroads where three interconnected challenges—fuel crisis, unsustainable energy consumption and climate change are joining with increasing intensity. The current fuel shortages, long queues at petrol pumps, rising electricity costs and frequent load shedding are not isolated events; they are symptoms of a deeper structural issue rooted in fossil fuel dependence and inefficient energy use. At the same time, Bangladesh remains one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. This dual challenge demands urgent attention, not only through policy and technology but most importantly, through a transformation in human behavior.

The Fuel Crisis: A Wake-Up Call

The ongoing fuel crisis in Bangladesh has been exacerbated by global geopolitical tensions, including conflicts affecting major oil-producing regions. As a country that relies heavily on imported fossil fuels such as oil, coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG), Bangladesh is highly exposed to global market volatility. Any disruption in supply chains or increase in international prices directly impacts the national economy.

In recent months, the situation has become increasingly visible. Long lines at petrol pumps, increased fuel prices and widespread electricity shortages have affected daily life. Industries are struggling to maintain production, agricultural activities are being disrupted and households are facing uncertainty due to frequent power outages.

This crisis highlights a fundamental truth: fossil fuels are finite, expensive and unreliable in the long term. Continuing on this path will only deepen economic vulnerability and energy insecurity.

Climate Change: The Bigger Picture

While the fuel crisis is immediate, climate change represents a long-term and existential threat. Bangladesh is already experiencing the impacts—rising sea levels, more intense cyclones, salinity intrusion, heatwaves and unpredictable weather patterns. These changes affect agriculture, water resources, livelihoods and overall human security.

Unluckily, the same fossil fuels that are driving the current energy crisis are also major contributors to climate change.



Burning coal, oil and gas releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere which leading to global warming. Thus, the fuel crisis and climate crisis are closely linked.

Addressing one without considering the other would be incomplete. A sustainable solution must reduce dependence on fossil fuels while promoting cleaner, renewable energy sources.

Behavior Change: The Missing Link

While policy reforms and technological advancements are essential, they often take time and require significant investment. In contrast, behavior change is immediate, cost-effective and highly impactful. Unfortunately, it remains the most neglected aspect of energy management. Behavior change in energy use goes beyond simple awareness—it requires a shift in daily habits, social norms and decision-making processes.

In Bangladesh, a large portion of energy waste comes from everyday practices that are driven more by habit

than necessity. In offices, meetings and training sessions, it is common to see lights turned on during the daytime while curtains block natural sunlight. Similarly, air conditioners are used excessively, often set at very low temperatures (18–20°C), not because it is required, but because cooler is perceived as better. Even when natural ventilation or fans could provide adequate comfort, energy-intensive cooling is preferred.

In households, similar patterns exist. Lights, fans and televisions are often left running in empty rooms. Gas stoves are sometimes used unnecessarily—for instance, to dry clothes or kept on longer than needed. Water is frequently wasted during bathing, washing or car cleaning, even though water supply and treatment also consume energy. These practices may seem minor individually but collectively they result in significant energy loss.

Beyond homes and offices, commercial and social behavior also contributes to the problem. Brightly lit signboards, shopping malls and decorative lighting

in events or celebrations are often maintained for long hours for visibility or prestige, even during times of energy shortage. Such practices reflect a culture where higher energy use is associated with comfort, status or convenience.

Changing these behaviors does not require advanced technology or large investments. It requires awareness, responsibility and a collective shift in mindset—from careless consumption to conscious and efficient use. For example, offices can adopt policies to maximize natural light and set standard AC temperatures, households can ensure appliances are switched off when not in use and communities can promote energy-smart events with minimal lighting. Schools, media and institutions can further reinforce these practices by making energy conservation a shared social value.

Ultimately, behavior change is about recognizing that small individual actions, when multiplied across millions of users, can create a significant national impact. In the face of a fuel crisis and growing climate risks, responsible energy use



is not just a personal choice—it is a collective responsibility.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

To address both the fuel crisis and climate change, Bangladesh must accelerate efforts in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as these two approaches work hand in hand. Energy efficiency reduces overall demand, while renewable energy provides a cleaner and more sustainable supply.

Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same tasks. This can be achieved by using energy-rated appliances such as LED lights and inverter ACs, improving building design with better ventilation and natural lighting and enhancing industrial processes through efficient machinery and energy audits. These measures can significantly reduce electricity consumption without affecting comfort or productivity.

At the same time, renewable energy offers a long-term solution to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Bangladesh has strong potential in solar energy, especially through rooftop

solar systems in urban areas and solar solutions in rural communities. Expanding renewables not only improves energy security but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

However, both efficiency and renewable energy depend on proper behavior. Using efficient appliances carelessly still wastes energy, and renewable systems like solar require mindful use and maintenance. Therefore, technology must be supported by responsible behaviour to achieve real impact.

A Call for Collective Action

The challenges of fuel crisis and climate change are too large to be addressed by any single actor—they require a united and collective response from government, institutions, communities and individuals. This is not only an energy issue; it is a shared national responsibility that demands immediate and coordinated action. Policies and technologies can set the direction but real change will only happen when people adopt responsible behaviors in their daily lives.

At this critical moment, priority must

be given to raising awareness about energy conservation, promoting efficient and mindful consumption and discouraging non-essential and luxury energy use—especially during peak crisis periods. At the same time, efforts to expand renewable energy and adopt energy-efficient technologies must be strengthened and supported at all levels. Ensuring fair and equitable access to energy is equally important, so that no group suffers disproportionately due to the actions of others.

Educational institutions, media, religious leaders and community organizations have a vital role in shaping public attitudes and influencing behavior. By promoting a culture of responsibility, moderation and sustainability, they can help transform how energy is perceived and used in society.

Ultimately, the path forward depends on collective awareness and action. Every small step — switching off unnecessary lights, reducing excessive cooling, avoiding waste — adds up to a larger national impact. In a time of crisis, responsible energy use is not just a personal choice; it is a duty to the country and to future generations.

In conclusion, Bangladesh is at a defining moment. The fuel crisis has exposed the fragility of a fossil fuel-dependent system, while climate change continues to intensify risks to livelihoods and development. Addressing these challenges requires more than infrastructure and policy—it demands a shift in mindset. Behavior change, supported by energy efficiency and renewable energy, offers a practical and immediate pathway forward.

Every small action matters. When multiplied across millions of people, these actions can significantly reduce energy demand, ease the pressure on fuel resources, and contribute to climate resilience. The path to energy security and sustainability lies in collective awareness and shared responsibility. The choices we make today will shape the future of Bangladesh—making it more resilient, equitable and sustainable for generations to come. 🇬🇧

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Iran Conflict Reshapes Asia's Energy Strategy, Raising Concerns over Climate Commitments

The ongoing Iran conflict is prompting many Asian countries to rethink their energy strategies, with governments placing greater emphasis on energy security through diversified fuel supplies—even if it means extending the use of fossil fuels and slowing climate action.

According to an Associated Press (AP) report, the sharp rise in oil and gas prices, and supply disruptions caused by the conflict have accelerated policy shifts across East and Southeast Asia.

While countries continue to expand renewable energy and explore nuclear power, many are also increasing investments in coal-fired generation to ensure reliable electricity supplies during periods of geopolitical uncertainty.

Energy analysts say the latest crisis has reinforced a familiar reality: energy security often takes precedence over climate commitments during periods of global instability.

"At the end of the day, energy security triumphs any other climate considerations," said Sandeep Pai, a researcher at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability.

Coal Regains Strategic Importance

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict disrupted oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies to Asia, prompting countries including Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines to rely more heavily on coal to maintain electricity generation.

Analysts believe what began as an emergency response is now influencing longer-term energy policy, giving coal a renewed role in regional energy security.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects global coal investment will reach US\$180 billion in 2026, the highest level since 2012, reflecting growing concerns over fuel supply security.

Renewables Continue to Expand

Despite the renewed interest in fossil fuels, renewable energy development



continues across the region.

Indonesia, the world's largest exporter of thermal coal, plans to expand rooftop solar capacity dramatically, targeting 100 GW by 2034, compared with approximately 1.3 GW today.

"Indonesia's obviously tied to coal in so many ways, but it's seen beyond that," said Dave Jones of energy think tank Ember.

Vietnam is also expanding coal generation while pursuing ambitious rooftop solar deployment, aiming to install solar systems on 10% of public buildings and homes by 2030.

In the Philippines, coal use increased after the conflict began, although the government maintained its moratorium on approving new coal-fired power plants. Meanwhile, rooftop solar installations have continued to grow rapidly.

"This really doesn't cancel out any of the green energy gains, but it does show that the energy transition is non-linear and contested," said Brenda Valerio of New Energy Nexus Philippines.

Nuclear Power Returns to the Spotlight

The energy crisis has also renewed interest in nuclear power.

South Korea has delayed the retirement of several coal-fired power plants while

increasing output from existing nuclear reactors to offset fuel shortages.

Japan has accelerated efforts to restart nuclear plants that were shut down following the 2011 Fukushima disaster as part of its strategy to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

India, meanwhile, plans to invest US\$3.9 billion in technologies that convert coal into industrial fuels and chemicals, reducing reliance on imported energy products while maintaining domestic coal demand.

Climate Goals Face Fresh Challenges

Experts warn that repeated geopolitical shocks—including Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the current Iran conflict—are complicating global decarbonization efforts.

"We see that they are easily distracted," said Luke Holt, Asia-Pacific Director of Energy at consultancy Ramboll. "We've had a number of shocks to the decarbonization plan."

While governments continue to invest in renewable energy, the AP report concludes that ensuring secure and affordable energy supplies has become the immediate priority for many Asian economies, highlighting the difficult balance policymakers face between energy security and long-term climate commitments. ■



TOBB To Drive Private Sector Engagement In The COP31 Process

EP DESK

The “COP31 Business Forum - Turkish Business Community Consultation Meeting” was held in Ankara recently, chaired by COP31 President-Designate and Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Murat Kurum, alongside the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu.

Highlighting landmark projects such as the domestic automobile and the Zero Waste Movement at the forum—organized by TOBB, which has been designated the “COP31 Private Sector Envoy”—Minister Kurum called for deep cooperation from sector representatives throughout the COP31 cycle.

“Let us broadcast this vision to the entire world and collectively revitalize Türkiye's

success stories,” Kurum urged.

“In the run-up to COP31, let us work together to outline the green transition commitments, best practice models, and the necessary financial and policy instruments required by the Turkish private sector—the crown jewel of our economy. In the run-up to COP31, let us deliver a collaborative framework that makes the tangible contributions of our private sector visible, establishes Türkiye as a global brand in this field through its participation, workflows, and overarching vision, and reflects the stance, attitude, and vision of our business community.”

Emphasizing that the ministry will work hand-in-hand with the business community throughout the COP31 process, Minister Kurum stated:

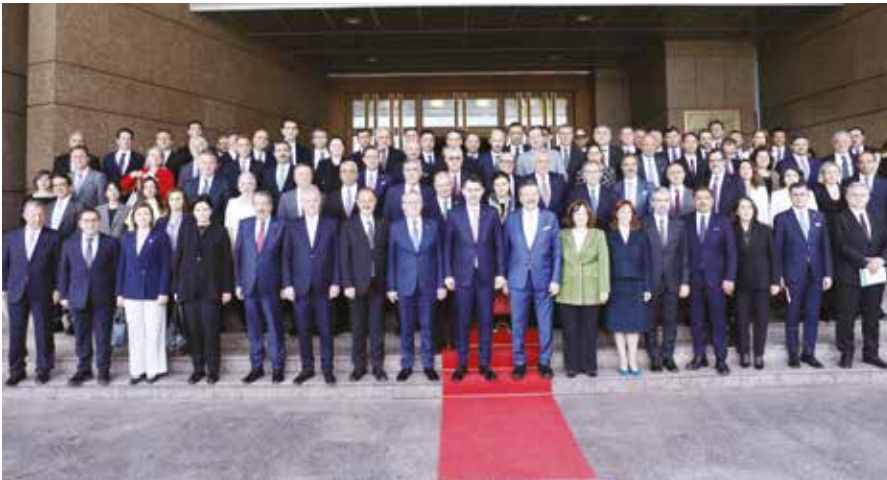
“Today, we are elevating our strong cooperation to an entirely new level as we roll up our sleeves to leave the private sector's stamp on COP31. Throughout this process, TOBB will drive broad participation by defining the priorities of our business community and establishing a robust national stakeholder base.”

Minister Kurum outlined Türkiye's COP31 vision to business leaders, which is built on the paradigm of the “COP of the Future: COP of Implementation.”

Addressing the green transition in the industrial sector, Minister Kurum stated: “In today's world, global trade rules that have been shaped since the Industrial Revolution are being rewritten around the axis of the ‘Green Transition.’ The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is becoming a prerequisite for our exports, market share, and global competitiveness.”

Stressing that the COP31 process represents a major opportunity for all stakeholders, Minister Kurum said: “COP31 must not be viewed merely as a bureaucratic exercise run by governments. Instead, you must see it as a climate and development mobilization with our business community leading the charge.”

Minister Kurum concluded his address with a call to the business delegates: “Let us broadcast this vision to the entire world and collectively revitalize



Türkiye's success stories. In the run-up to COP31, let us work together to outline the green transition commitments, best practice models, and the necessary financial and policy instruments required by the Turkish private sector—the crown jewel of our economy."

In his opening remarks, TOBB President Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu noted that under Minister Kurum's directive, TOBB has been tasked as the "COP31 Private

Sector Envoy" to coordinate the global business community.

Underscoring that Türkiye aims to lead the way in the green transition, Hisarcıklioğlu said: "The climate struggle is no longer purely an environmental issue; it is the industrial and competitive arena of the 21st century. Whoever dictates the factories, supply chains, and technology standards of the green transition will command the industrial hierarchy of this century.

Speaking at the forum, the Director of Climate Change, Prof. Halil Hasar, addressed technical inquiries from delegates regarding verification and reporting frameworks.

The forum was widely attended by business executives, representatives of non-governmental organization, presidents of various chambers and commodity exchanges, and numerous invited guests. ■

Director of Climate Change Hasar Holds High-Level Talks in Istanbul



Attending the opening program of the three-day festival at Istanbul Atatürk Airport recently, Director Hasar held a bilateral meeting with Lottie Cantle, Deputy Director at the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The high-level talks focused on expanding collaborative opportunities ahead of COP31, specifically targeting methane emission reductions, the

zero-waste movement, and the circular economy agenda.

The two officials also discussed upcoming high-level events at London Climate Action Week and strategic alignment under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

During the meeting, Hasar emphasized that Zero Waste, the circular economy, and methane mitigation will be featured

as standalone thematic pillars at COP31.

He noted that Türkiye is actively implementing frameworks to curb methane emissions from the waste sector, stressing the importance of sustained Ankara-London cooperation on methane reduction throughout the COP31 cycle.

In addition, the UK delegation formally requested Türkiye's high-level participation in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition as a full member, alongside a high-level Turkish presence at the upcoming Super Pollutants Reception during London Climate Action Week.

Lottie Cantle, Deputy Director at the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, underscored the vital importance of the UK and Türkiye working in close alignment, expressing her satisfaction with the highly productive nature of the talks with Director of Climate Change Hasar.

Describing London Climate Action Week as an international platform that grows larger every year, Cantle briefed Director Hasar on the Energy Day and Electrification Summit scheduled to take place during the event.

She emphasized that high-level representation from Türkiye at the UK-hosted Super Pollutants Reception carries immense weight, reiterating the UK's strong commitment to partnering closely with Türkiye throughout the COP31 presidency. ■

JICA Chief Highlights Matarbari Project's Role in Bangladesh's Energy Security

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Tanaka Akihiko has reaffirmed Japan's long-term commitment to Bangladesh, describing the Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative as a key project for strengthening the country's energy security and trade connectivity.



During his five-day visit to Bangladesh, Tanaka inspected the Matarbari power plant and deep-sea port, saying the project would play a vital role in supporting Bangladesh's economic growth while advancing Japan's "Updated

Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision.

He also met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and senior government ministers to discuss progress on major Japanese-backed infrastructure projects, including the Dhaka Metro Rail, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's third terminal, the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone, and regional energy cooperation under the POWER Asia initiative.

Gas Output Gains Lag Despite 150-Well Drilling Drive as Domestic Production Declines

Bangladesh's flagship 150-well drilling program has achieved only about one-third of its targeted increase in natural gas production after four years, as declining output from ageing gas fields continues to outweigh new production, increasing the country's dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).



Over the same four-year period, however, natural gas production from state-owned fields has declined by 140 MMCFD, with output falling to 709 MMCFD as of July 7, 2026, from 849 MMCFD recorded on July 6, 2022, according to Petrobangla.

According to official data and a recent presentation submitted to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD), the program has added only 126 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of gas to the national grid, representing just 35.6 percent of its Development Project Proposal (DPP) target of 353 MMCFD.

The program was designed to substantially boost domestic gas production and reduce Bangladesh's dependence on imported LNG, but production declines at mature gas fields have continued to erode much of the gains achieved through new drilling.

Sovereign Guarantees Tie Govt's Hands on Private Power Deals: Minister

The government cannot cancel contracts signed with private power companies at will because they are backed by sovereign guarantees, making the process of termination lengthy and complex, Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmud said recently.



Responding to a supplementary question from reserved seat MP Mardia Mumtaz in the parliament, the minister said the previous "fascist government" had handed over several power plants to private companies.

"In those agreements, sovereign guarantees were given, meaning the state itself guaranteed the contracts. Canceling such

guarantees is a lengthy process. We are trying to negotiate with them on several issues, particularly late payment fees, which we are refusing to pay. Hopefully, these discussions will be fruitful," he said.

He added that once a power plant enters production, the system cannot be patched or run through ad hoc negotiations.

UNDP Urges End to Fossil Fuel Subsidies as Global Support could Hit \$1.1tn in 2026

Governments worldwide are projected to spend US\$1.1 trillion supporting the fossil fuel industry this year, with the figure potentially rising to US\$1.43 trillion if global oil prices climb to US\$110 per barrel, according to a new report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



The findings were released as climate campaign group 350.org, Fuel Poverty Action and other coalition partners staged a demonstration outside the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, protesting rising energy costs and calling for stronger measures to accelerate the transition to clean energy.

The UNDP report, Military Escalation in the Middle

East: Cushioning the Global Shock, says governments have responded to conflict-driven increases in oil prices by expanding fossil fuel subsidies, introducing fuel price caps and offering tax rebates to cushion consumers from rising energy costs.

While these measures provide short-term relief, the report warns they are placing a growing strain on public finances and diverting resources from long-term investments in education, healthcare, renewable energy and climate resilience.

Govt to Gradually Reduce Fuel Prices: State Minister

The government will gradually reduce fuel prices whenever there is an opportunity to do so, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit said on 3 July.

Referring to the latest reduction in LPG cylinder prices, he said the government immediately lowered the price in line with changes in the global situation and will continue making similar adjustments whenever conditions allow.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with officials of the Palli Bidyut Samity and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) at the Jessore Circuit House, Amit said 98% of the country's LPG is imported



and that the sector is entirely dependent on the private sector.

He said fuel prices had increased due to the conflict in the Middle East, making it difficult for many households to manage their expenses. However, as global conditions improved, the government adjusted LPG prices to provide some relief, he added.

All 5 Kaptai Plant Units Resume Production as Water Level Rises

All five units of the Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Power Station in Kaptai have resumed operation following a rise in the water level of the Kaptai Lake due to several days of heavy rainfall.



The five units have been operating simultaneously, producing a total of 144 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

Confirming the development, plant Manager Engineer Mahmood Hasan said continuous rainfall and increased rush from upstream significantly raised the water level of the

Kaptai Lake, enabling the authorities to operate all five units.

Of the total output, Units 1 and 2 are each generating 32 MW, Unit 3 is producing 30 MW, while Units 4 and 5 are each generating 25 MW, bringing total production to 144 MW.

The plant has an installed generation capacity of 230 MW.

Bangladesh, Türkiye Discuss Expanding Energy Partnership

Bangladesh and Türkiye have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, with a particular focus on investment, LNG supply and government-to-government (G2G) collaboration.



The commitment was reiterated during a courtesy meeting between Türkiye's Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ramis Şen, and Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmud, MP, at the minister's office in the Bangladesh Secretariat recently.

The Turkish delegation included Bilal Belyurt, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Türkiye, and Harun Ortaç, Chief Executive

Officer of United Aygaz LPG Ltd.

During the meeting, Ambassador Şen congratulated the minister on assuming office and conveyed the continued goodwill of the Government of Türkiye towards Bangladesh. He also briefed the minister on the current state of bilateral relations and outlined Turkish plans to expand trade and investment in Bangladesh.

Govt Inherited Tk 56,000cr Power Sector Liabilities, Says Energy Minister

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmud has said the interim government inherited nearly Tk 56,000 crore in unpaid liabilities in the country's power sector from the previous administration, creating a heavy financial burden that continues to affect the sector.



Speaking as the chief guest at a citizens' dialogue on the National Renewable Energy Development Strategy (2026–2030) at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) recently, Iqbal said the government is simultaneously clearing past dues while meeting current financial obligations, requiring substantial

monthly subsidies to keep the sector operational.

The dialogue was organized by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), where energy expert Prof Dr. M. Shamsul Alam presented the keynote paper.

Power Division Meeting Reviews High Electricity Bill Complaints



The Power Division recently held a nationwide virtual meeting to assess complaints of unusually high electricity bills issued in June and the prevailing load shedding across the country.

The meeting, conducted via Zoom, was chaired by Power Division Secretary Mirana Mahrukh and attended by senior ministry officials, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners (DCs) from across the country, and representatives of electricity distribution

utilities and companies. During the meeting, officials sought to identify the reasons behind complaints of abnormally high electricity bills and gathered field-level feedback on load shedding. The latest progress on the installation of net meters under rooftop solar systems was also reviewed.

Officials noted that a significant number of electricity consumers complained through the media and social media about receiving unusually high bills for June.

Factories Count Losses as Power Cuts Intensify in Gazipur

Load-shedding has reached alarming levels across Gazipur city and other parts of the district amid the ongoing intense heat.

Frequent power cuts, often lasting for hours during both the day and night, have disrupted daily life and caused severe hardship for residents. Repeated outages are also hampering industrial production, inflicting significant losses on factories and businesses.

Areas including Tongi, Gazipur Sadar, Joydebpur, Chandana Chowrasta, Board Bazar, Konabari, Kashimpur, Gacha, and Pubail are experiencing power cuts everyone to one and a half hours.



In some places, electricity remains unavailable for one hour, while in others, outages last up to two hours.

Residents of Kapasia, Sreepur, Kaliganj, and Kaliakair have complained that electricity remains unavailable for as long as 10 to 12 hours a day. According to locals, power outages occur four to five times daily, severely affecting industrial activities.

Govt Moves Ahead with Tk 11.22b Gas Exploration, Production Projects

The government has advanced two major natural gas exploration and production projects worth Tk 11.22 billion to boost domestic gas output, reduce dependence on costly LNG imports and strengthen Bangladesh's long-term energy security.

The projects, undertaken by Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX), were recently reviewed by the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) of the Planning Commission.

Under the Tk 6.32 billion BGFCL project, two appraisal-cum-development wells—Titas-32 and Titas-33—will be drilled at the Titas Gas



Field in Brahmanbaria by December 2028. The project is expected to add 60 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) to the national grid and includes construction of a two-kilometer gas gathering pipeline.

Meanwhile, BAPEX will implement a Tk 4.90 billion program to drill nine wells, including appraisal and exploration wells in Chattogram and Noakhali, to discover new gas reserves and enhance production from existing fields.

Force Majeure Disrupts LNG Supply, Bangladesh Turns to Costly Spot Market

Bangladesh has significantly increased its purchases of expensive spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) after three key suppliers suspended contracted deliveries by invoking force majeure amid the recent Middle East conflict.



According to energy sector sources, QatarEnergy, OQ Trading International of Oman and Excelerate Energy of the United States have temporarily halted LNG shipments under five sales and purchase agreements (SPAs), citing disruptions linked to the Iran-Israel conflict and the Strait of Hormuz.

The suppliers have reportedly extended their

force majeure notices through mid-July, forcing state-owned Petrobangla to rely heavily on the volatile spot market to maintain domestic gas supplies.

Officials said Bangladesh has purchased 33 spot LNG cargoes so far in 2026, including 31 cargoes after the Middle East conflict began, with a record seven spot cargoes imported in each of April, May, June and July.

LNG Accounts for 45% of EU Gas Imports in 2025



Liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplied 45% of the European Union's gas imports in 2025, highlighting the bloc's continued shift away from pipeline gas, according to the European Commission's latest gas market report.

The EU imported 131 billion cubic meters (BCM) of LNG last year, with the United States remaining the largest supplier, providing 76 BCM, or nearly 58% of total LNG imports.

Russia ranked second with 18 BCM, followed by Qatar with 11 BCM. Algeria and Nigeria each supplied about 7 BCM.

The report said the EU expanded its LNG regasification capacity by 8% to nearly 215 BCM in 2025, supported by new infrastructure in Belgium, Germany, Italy and Poland.

Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands remained the bloc's largest LNG import hubs.

IEA Expects Global Natural Gas Demand to Decline in 2026

Global natural gas demand is projected to decline by 0.5% in 2026 as tighter supplies and higher prices curb consumption across major markets, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest Gas Market Report.



The IEA said global gas consumption is on track to contract for the third time in seven years, driven by weaker demand from the power and industrial sectors.

The downturn follows disruptions to LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route that previously handled about 20% of global LNG trade.

Although LNG tanker traffic has gradually resumed following a temporary ceasefire between the United States and Iran, volumes remain below pre-conflict levels, while gas prices in Asia and Europe continue to stay well above 2025 averages.

The report notes that LNG production from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates fell by nearly 80% during March-June compared with the same period last year.

US Approves Arizona Critical Minerals Project to Strengthen Domestic Supply



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the final Record of Decision for the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project in Arizona, advancing the Trump administration's strategy to boost domestic production of critical minerals and reduce reliance on foreign imports.

The \$3.3 billion project, proposed by Australia-based South32 Hermosa Inc., will develop mining and processing operations in Santa Cruz County near

the U.S.-Mexico border. The project is expected to create up to 900 direct jobs and thousands of additional indirect employment opportunities, with a target of hiring 80% of its workforce locally.

According to the USDA, the Hermosa project contains one of the world's largest undeveloped zinc resources, along with manganese and other minerals essential for steel manufacturing, large-scale batteries and modern energy technologies.

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Faces Political and Economic Hurdles, Says Expert

Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy and clean transport is a widely supported policy goal, but achieving it is far more complex than many assume, according to a new analysis by Ronald Steenblik, Senior Technical Advisor at the Quaker United Nations Office.

The analysis notes that despite nearly two decades of international commitments to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, progress has remained slow due to political, economic and social challenges.

While many governments and international organizations advocate shifting these



subsidies to renewable energy, there are no binding global rules requiring countries to allocate savings from subsidy reforms to clean energy investments.

The report highlights that, based on the methodology used for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12.c.1), global fossil fuel subsidies averaged about USD 1.1 trillion annually between 2021 and 2024.



Greenpage

Govt Backs Pvt Sector to Drive 10,000MW Solar Power by 2030

Power and energy minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood recently said the government was prioritizing private investment to achieve its target of generating 10,000 megawatts of solar electricity by 2030.

He said that they were also accelerating new gas exploration onshore and offshore to address the country's long-standing gas shortage.

Speaking during the general discussion on the proposed national budget for the financial year 2026-27 at the budget session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad, the minister said that the international bidding process for new exploration blocks was expected to be completed by November this year.

Iqbal Hasan said that the government



had introduced tax exemptions and customs duty waivers on solar equipment and batteries, along with tax holidays until 2031, to attract both domestic and foreign investments in the renewable energy sector.

He said that alongside solar power, investments would also be encouraged in wind energy and waste-to-energy projects.

UGC Plans Large-Scale Rooftop Solar Program to Cut Energy Costs at Public Universities

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a major initiative to expand rooftop solar power generation across Bangladesh's public universities, aiming to reduce electricity costs and promote clean energy through private sector investment.

According to a UGC press release, the initiative was discussed at a review meeting on rooftop solar power installations held at the Commission recently.

Under the first phase of the program, around 60 MW of rooftop solar capacity is planned for 31 public universities through an Operational Expenditure



(OPEX) model, under which private investors will finance, install, operate and maintain the solar systems.

UGC said feasibility studies have already been completed at 47 public universities and one international university.

Reliable Power Supply Vital for Bangladesh's EV Growth, Says BEPRC Chairman

Uninterrupted electricity supply is the most critical requirement for the successful development of Bangladesh's electric vehicle (EV) sector, Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) Chairman Mohammad Wahid Hossain said recently.



Speaking at a seminar titled "The Electric Vehicle (EV): Challenges and Prospects in Bangladesh," jointly organized by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA), Wahid stressed the need for stronger public-private collaboration to accelerate EV adoption.

He proposed establishing a dedicated coordination cell involving all relevant government agencies to streamline policy implementation.

Strong Political Commitment Vital to Accelerate RE Transition: Info Minister

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon has stressed the need for strong political commitment and long-term policy support to accelerate the expansion of renewable energy in Bangladesh and strengthen the country's energy security.

He made the remarks while addressing a policy dialogue organized by the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban recently.

The minister said energy security is not limited to ensuring an uninterrupted electricity supply but is also closely linked to Bangladesh's economic independence and sustainable development.

He emphasized that achieving a successful energy transition would require consistent political commitment, strategic planning and sustained investment in renewable energy.



A study presented by BWGED at the dialogue highlighted the economic benefits of solar energy, estimating that every kilowatt of installed solar capacity could save around Tk 30,000 annually in imported fuel costs.

Over the estimated 20-year lifespan of a solar power system, the cumulative savings could reach approximately Tk 550,000.



Stakeholders Urge Gender-Inclusive RE Policies for Bangladesh

Renewable energy policies in Bangladesh must go beyond electricity generation and ensure the meaningful participation of women and marginalized communities, speakers said at a recent policy dialogue, calling for stronger gender equality and social inclusion in the country's emerging clean energy framework.

The dialogue, titled “Strengthening Renewable Energy Governance: Review of Energy Policy Related Instruments for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion,” was organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) under its Women's Empowerment and Energy (WEE) project.



The discussion reviewed two key draft policy instruments—the National Renewable Energy Development Strategy (2026–2030) and the Rooftop Solar Operation and Maintenance Guidelines—to assess how effectively they address gender equality and social inclusion.

Speaking at the event, Banasree Mitra Neogi, Director of Rights and Governance Programs at MJF, said the draft documents do not adequately recognize the role of women entrepreneurs and marginalized communities in Bangladesh's renewable energy transition.

She emphasized that while policies provide strategic direction, a stronger legal framework is needed to ensure compliance.

Bangladesh, Germany Launch Joint Initiative to Build RE Workforce



Bangladesh and Germany have taken a significant step towards strengthening cooperation in renewable energy and technical education with the signing of an implementation agreement to develop a skilled workforce for the country's growing sustainable energy sector.

The Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED) under the Ministry of Education and GIZ Bangladesh signed the agreement to formally launch the Vocational Training in the Field of

Renewable Energy (TVET4RE) project.

The signing ceremony was held in Dhaka in the presence of senior government officials, representatives of the German government and development partners.

The agreement follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and GIZ on June 11, 2026, paving the way for the project's implementation.

Renewables Now Generate Over 30% of Global Electricity

Renewable energy now accounts for more than 30% of global electricity generation, but progress toward achieving universal access to affordable, reliable and clean energy by 2030 remains too slow, according to the 2026 Energy Progress Report.

The report, jointly prepared by the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), UN DESA, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO), highlights significant advances in renewable power while warning of persistent regional disparities and slowing improvements in energy efficiency.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the biggest challenge, with more than 560 million people still lacking electricity and 970 million without access to clean cooking. The report estimates



that the region's electrification rate must triple to achieve universal energy access by 2030.

Although renewable electricity continues to expand rapidly, the report notes that the use of renewables in the heating and transport sectors remains limited. It also finds that global energy efficiency improvements slowed to 1.5% in 2023, down from 2.4% in 2022, raising concerns about meeting climate and energy targets.

Adani Achieves Milestone of 20,000MW in RE Generation

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has surpassed 20,000 megawatts of renewable power generation capacity. The company, which has achieved this milestone in India's energy sector, reached this capacity within just a decade of commissioning its first project.

Powering over 9 million households, the company currently generates more than 52 billion units of electricity annually, which is nearly 3 percent of India's total electricity consumption.

This amount of electricity could meet the demand of New York City for an entire year, or almost fully cover the combined electricity demand of Mumbai and New Delhi.

According to data as of May 31 this year, this generation capacity represents about 14 percent of India's



utility-scale solar installations and around 12 percent of the combined capacity of solar and wind power.

AGEL's current generation capacity includes approximately 14,200 megawatts of solar power, 2,700 megawatts of wind power, and 3,300 megawatts of hybrid power. In the 2025-26 fiscal year alone, the company added 5,051 megawatts of new capacity, the highest single-year addition by any company outside China.



Australia's Rooftop Solar Installations Reach 322MW in June

Australia's rooftop solar market remained resilient in June, with new installations totaling 322MW, despite recording a second consecutive monthly decline, according to the latest Small-scale Technology Certificate (STC) market data released by SunWiz.

The June figure was 4 percent lower than May and 26 percent below the record 435MW installed in April. However, SunWiz said it was still the strongest June on record and that solar



installations during the first six months of 2026 were running about 41 percent ahead of the same period last year.

The slowdown has been attributed largely to reduced demand for battery systems following changes to the Australian government's Cheaper Home Batteries Program rebate scheme that took effect on May 1.

The 10–15kW system category remained the largest market segment, accounting for about 118 MW, with strong growth in New South Wales and Queensland. Meanwhile, larger system categories, particularly 20–30kW and 15–20kW, recorded notable month-on-month declines after driving April's record performance.

PM Launches Environment Fair, National Tree Plantation Campaign

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman recently inaugurated the World Environment Day and Environment Fair-2026 and the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair-2026, reaffirming the government's commitment to environmental protection, afforestation and climate resilience.



Tree Plantation Award-2025. He also distributed dividend cheques among beneficiaries of the country's social forestry programme.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Dhaka under the theme, "Let's Beautify the Country Through Tree Plantation, Bangladesh Comes First." During the program, the Prime Minister presented the National Environment Award-2025, National Wildlife Conservation Award-2026 and National

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo chaired the programme. Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Environment, Forest and Climate Affairs Dr. Md. Saimum Parvez and State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shaikh Faridul Islam addressed the function as special guests.

Development and Nature Must Advance Together : Mintoo

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has said Bangladesh's development must go hand in hand with environmental conservation, emphasizing that economic growth, ecological protection and public well-being should advance together.



Speaking as the chief guest at the Dwijen Sharma Environment Award 2025 ceremony at Bangla Academy recently, the minister said sustainable development can only be achieved by ensuring harmony between development and nature.

The award ceremony, jointly organized by BRAC

Bank and Tarupallab, honoured individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

"Protecting nature is no longer an option—it is a national responsibility," the minister said, adding that the award recipients have demonstrated how individual commitment and innovation can create lasting positive impacts on the environment and inspire wider public participation.

Bangladesh Moves to Build EV Manufacturing Hub with New Industry Policy

The Ministry of Industries, in collaboration with GIZ Bangladesh, has launched a stakeholder consultation to formulate the Electric Vehicle (EV) Industry Development Policy 2026, aiming to establish a comprehensive roadmap for the country's fast-growing electric mobility sector.



Abdun Naser Khan, according to a press release issued by GIZ Bangladesh. Addressing the event, Khan said Bangladesh must act now to secure its place in the global EV value chain.

The consultation workshop, held at a hotel in Dhaka recently, focused on developing a supportive industrial and regulatory framework to help Bangladesh achieve its target of ensuring that 30 percent of all transport vehicles are electric by 2030.

The workshop was chaired by Industries Secretary

"If we fail to prepare adequately today, we risk missing not only a promising industrial opportunity but also falling behind in the global value chain," he said. "Our goal is not merely to import electric vehicles, but to establish Bangladesh as an EV manufacturing nation."

WB Drops Climate Finance Targets in New Plan

The World Bank recently extended its climate change policy framework indefinitely, but dropped its targets for the percentage of financing that must have climate-related impacts, according to a statement.



"We will complete our shift from inputs to outcomes to maximize development impact," said a World Bank Group statement.

"We will retire the 45-percent climate co-benefits target and the 35-percent target in the (Climate Change Action Plan)," it said.

The United States, the World Bank's largest shareholder, has abruptly changed policy on climate change under President Donald Trump, who has called it a "hoax"

and ramped up spending on fossil fuels.

In April, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called for the Bank to drop its climate finance targets, saying it "breeds inefficiency, distorts economic decision making, and moves the Bank away from its core mission."

The World Bank statement said that further work on climate change outcomes would be driven by demand from client countries.

PM Orders Plan to Cut Emissions, Expand Carbon Credit Potential

Prime Minister Tareque Rahman has directed the authorities concerned to prepare a comprehensive national action plan to reduce carbon emissions and maximize Bangladesh's carbon credit potential, aiming to position the country as a stronger participant in the rapidly growing global carbon market.



The directive came during a climate change meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office in the Cabinet Division at the Bangladesh Secretariat recently, according to Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasized

accelerating the expansion of renewable energy, promoting environmentally friendly technologies in industries, improving energy efficiency, conserving forests, and implementing large-scale tree plantation programmes to enhance the country's carbon absorption capacity.

Bangladesh to Redesign Cities for Climate Resilience



The government is moving towards a new urban planning policy that will ensure Bangladesh's cities are designed to coexist with rain, water and the realities of climate change, State Minister for Planning Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki has said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the exhibition "Dialogues in Coexistence: Shaping Inclusive Public Spaces in the Bengal Delta" at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhaka, Saki said future urban development would focus on making

public spaces, architecture and city planning more responsive to Bangladesh's geographical and environmental conditions. "Cities must be designed to coexist with rain, water and climate realities, instead of treating them as disruptions," he said.

The minister said the government is giving priority to preparing comprehensive master plans for Dhaka and all divisional cities, with similar planning initiatives to be gradually extended to district and upazila towns.

BETF Launches Climate Finance Platform to Boost Green Infrastructure

The Bangladesh Energy Transition Fund (BETF) has launched a dedicated climate finance platform aimed at accelerating investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient water treatment projects across Bangladesh.



The new initiative is designed to bridge the financing gap for sustainable infrastructure by mobilising both public and private capital and connecting investors with commercially viable green projects.

The fund seeks to strengthen Bangladesh's energy security, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, and support the country's long-term climate and emissions reduction goals.

According to BETF, the platform will initially focus on three strategic sectors:

- **Renewable Energy:** Financing solar, wind and decentralized clean energy projects to diversify Bangladesh's energy mix.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Supporting industrial energy-saving initiatives, particularly in energy-intensive sectors such as textiles and manufacturing.
- **Water Treatment:** Investing in climate-resilient water purification and treatment facilities to improve water security in vulnerable communities.

BETF Co-founder Edgare Kerkwijk said the platform is intended to transform Bangladesh's climate priorities into bankable investment opportunities.

Bali Residents File Landmark Climate Lawsuit Over Floods and Fossil Fuel Projects

Ten residents of Indonesia's Bali island have filed the region's first climate lawsuit, accusing the government of failing to prevent climate-related disasters and calling for an immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel projects.

Filed in the Denpasar District Court, the lawsuit links the devastating floods of September 2025—which killed 18 people, affected more than 6,000 households and caused an estimated US\$1.6 million in economic losses—to years of climate inaction, environmental mismanagement and poor land-use planning. The plaintiffs, backed by the

PULIHKAN Bali Coalition and 350.org Indonesia, argue that Bali's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions is undermined by continued plans to expand fossil fuel infrastructure.

They are seeking a freeze on new fossil fuel developments and stronger policies to accelerate the transition to renewable energy. The case names 14 state institutions, including Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, alleging violations of citizens' constitutional rights to a healthy environment, personal safety and protection from climate-related disasters.

Global Conference Calls for Faster Delivery of Integrated Climate and SDG Action

The Seventh Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda has called for accelerating integrated action on climate change and sustainable development, urging governments to move from commitments to implementation.

Held in Bangkok, Thailand, under the theme "From Commitment to Delivery: Scaling Integrated Action in a Volatile World," the conference brought together ministers, UN leaders, climate negotiators and development experts to explore ways of aligning climate policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Participants emphasized that integrating climate action with national development plans could make public spending up to 40% more effective, while improving resilience and sustainable growth. Discussions focused on climate justice, energy resilience, sustainable cities, nature-based solutions, just transition policies and stronger international cooperation, with particular attention to implementation challenges across Asia and the Pacific.

Bangladesh Calls for Greater Blue Carbon Finance to Boost Delta Economy

Bangladesh has called for stronger regional cooperation and increased blue carbon financing to protect vulnerable coastal communities, strengthen climate resilience and support sustainable economic growth in delta regions.



and the Landscape Alliance at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok recently.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo made the call while addressing the international session titled "Accelerating Integrated Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific: Regional Cooperation for Blue Carbon Finance," jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

In his keynote address, the minister urged the international community to recognise blue carbon ecosystems as vital climate, community and development assets, stressing that mangrove forests and coastal wetlands are critical national infrastructure for climate resilience in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, ICIMOD Strengthen Partnership on Climate

Bangladesh and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation on climate resilience, transboundary water management and environmental governance.



The commitment was reiterated during a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh's Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Abdul Awal Mintoo, and ICIMOD Director General Pema Gyamtsho in Bangkok.

During the meeting, Gyamtsho appreciated Bangladesh's continued engagement with

ICIMOD and stressed the importance of greater regional collaboration to address transboundary environmental challenges, particularly those involving glacier-fed river systems.

He called for a coordinated regional action plan for the sustainable management of shared water resources and sought Bangladesh's support for ICIMOD's medium-term evaluation and strategic planning process.

Global Climate Lawsuits Top 3,600 as Courts Strengthen Legal Duty on Climate Action

Climate-related litigation continues to expand worldwide, with courts increasingly treating climate action as a legal obligation rather than a political choice, according to the "Global Trends in Climate Change Litigation: 2026 Snapshot" released by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change.



The report shows that 249 new climate cases were filed globally in 2025, bringing the total number of climate lawsuits since 1986 to more than 3,600 across 62 countries.

The United States remains the most active jurisdiction,

accounting for 151 new cases in 2025 and more than 2,000 cases overall.

The study notes that international courts, including the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), have reinforced the view that governments have legal responsibilities to address climate change.

El Niño Could Boost India's Fossil Fuel Power Generation by Nearly 18 TWh: CREA

India may need an additional 17.7 terawatt-hours (TWh) of fossil fuel-based electricity generation between July 2026 and June 2027 as the anticipated El Niño weather pattern drives up electricity demand while reducing wind and hydropower output, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The report projects that hotter temperatures associated with El Niño will significantly increase electricity consumption for air conditioning, while weaker winds and lower rainfall are expected to reduce renewable power generation.



Additional cooling demand alone could reach 10 TWh over the one-year period.

CREA estimates that meeting the resulting electricity shortfall through coal-fired generation could add about 17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In a more severe El Niño scenario, additional coal-based generation could rise to 24 TWh.

Dr. Fahmida Assumes Charge as Acting Secretary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry

Dr. Fahmida Khanam has assumed charge as the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



Her appointment was made through a notification issued by the Ministry of Public Administration on 6 July 2026, assigning the Ministry's Additional Secretary, Dr. Fahmida Khanam, to serve as Acting Secretary.

Dr. Fahmida is a distinguished public administrator, environmental expert, and policy strategist.

A member of the 17th Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Cadre, she has served with distinction in a

wide range of key government institutions throughout her career, including the field administration, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Defence, the Economic Relations Division (ERD), and the Department of Environment.

Prior to assuming her current responsibilities, she served as the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

OPEC Fund Unveils \$1.5b Digital Plan, Climate Finance Initiative

The OPEC Fund for International Development has launched a \$1.5 billion Digital Transformation Action Plan and a new Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact aimed at expanding climate finance for vulnerable economies during its 2026 Development Forum.



The Digital Transformation Action Plan will support investments in digital infrastructure, skills and innovation across developing countries through 2030, making digital transformation the Fund's third strategic priority alongside climate action and food security.

The V2V Compact, launched in partnership with the Government of Barbados,

seeks to improve access to affordable, long-term development finance for 74 climate-vulnerable countries. The initiative will initially focus on water security, education and healthcare.

During the forum, the OPEC Fund also announced more than \$2.8 billion in new financing, partnerships and development programs, including over \$450 million in fresh commitments for infrastructure, private sector development and economic resilience across partner countries.

Europe Heatwave Claims Over 1,300 Lives

More than 1,300 excess deaths have been recorded across Europe since June 21 as an unprecedented heatwave continues to grip the continent, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to warn of growing health risks linked to climate change.



Millions of people across Europe endured another weekend of extreme temperatures, with several countries reporting rising fatalities and mounting pressure on healthcare services. In France alone, health authorities reported around 1,000 excess deaths since Wednesday, underscoring the severity of the ongoing heat crisis. WHO Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said over 1,300 excess deaths had been linked to the heatwave since June 21.

"Heat stress is often called the 'silent killer' — and European homes, workplaces and schools were not built for these temperatures," Tedros wrote on X. According to forecasts, at least 191 million people were expected to experience temperatures of 35 degrees Celsius or higher on Sunday, with Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland among the hardest-hit countries.

Japan Climate Fund Launched to Support Community-led Agrivoltaics and Clean Energy Transition



A new Japan Climate Fund has been launched to support community-led agrivoltaic projects aimed at strengthening climate resilience, promoting renewable energy and improving the livelihoods of farming communities across Japan.

The fund, established under the Public Resource Foundation, begins operations with an initial contribution of ¥20 million (approximately US\$130,000) from the Singapore-based Tara Climate Foundation, which supports clean energy transition initiatives across Asia.

The inaugural funding program, titled "Solar Sharing Grant Program: Connecting Agriculture and the Future," officially opened applications on July 6.

The initiative seeks to promote agrivoltaics—also known as solar sharing—a system that allows agricultural land to be used simultaneously for crop production and solar power generation.

The approach is expected to provide farmers with more stable incomes while contributing to Japan's renewable energy expansion and climate goals.

According to the organizers, farming communities across Japan are increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change through declining yields, unpredictable weather patterns and growing financial uncertainty.

The new fund aims to strengthen locally driven solutions that combine sustainable agriculture with clean energy development.

Sachiko Kishimoto, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of the Public Resource Foundation, said the fund is designed to support climate solutions developed by local communities.

She noted that agrivoltaic projects can create significant benefits when designed around farmers' needs, helping strengthen rural economies while advancing Japan's clean energy transition.

The Japan Climate Fund is intended to serve as a catalytic financing mechanism, with its founders inviting additional philanthropic organizations and donors across Asia to contribute and expand the program in the coming years.

Junichi Sato, Program Director for East Asia at Tara Climate Foundation, said community-based initiatives are essential for achieving an inclusive energy transition.

He expressed hope that the fund would help Japanese organizations and local communities develop agrivoltaic projects that deliver lasting environmental and economic benefits for farmers.

Under its first grant program, the fund will support initiatives that improve

farmers' resilience to climate change, strengthen regional agricultural economies and expand the use of renewable energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Eligible projects include developing partnerships among local governments, businesses and farming communities; providing technical assistance and training for farmers interested in agrivoltaic systems; documenting successful projects for wider dissemination; creating local renewable electricity markets; and preparing environmental and community-based guidelines for agrivoltaic development.

Project proposals must demonstrate both climate adaptation benefits for farming communities and measurable contributions to greenhouse gas emission reductions through renewable energy deployment.

Applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of experts based on technical merit, community impact and alignment with the program's climate and sustainable development objectives.

The launch of the Japan Climate Fund reflects growing efforts across Asia to promote innovative financing mechanisms that integrate climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy development through locally led initiatives. 

Existing Industries Risk Closure

No New Investment Without Reliable Gas, Power

Reliable supplies of natural gas and electricity are critical to sustaining Bangladesh's industrial growth and attracting new investment. Without a clear long-term energy roadmap, industrial production will continue to decline, existing factories may shut down, and new investment will remain elusive.

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of energy, particularly natural gas. As a result, industries have been facing persistent gas shortages for the past four years, and the situation has now reached a critical stage.

Many textile and garment factories have already suspended operations, while those still in

production are receiving only a fraction of the gas they require. At the same time, industries dependent on grid electricity are experiencing six to eight hours of load-shedding every day.

Because reliable public energy infrastructure was not available, industries invested heavily in captive power generation and other energy facilities. Today, however, those investments cannot be fully utilized because adequate gas is unavailable. More importantly, the government has yet to provide industries with any clear indication of when normal gas supplies will be restored.

The prolonged uncertainty has discouraged factory expansion and made entrepreneurs increasingly reluctant to undertake new investments.

You mentioned the smaller electricity-dependent textile factories. What is the situation facing those industries today?

These small textile factories are the backbone of Bangladesh's labor-intensive manufacturing sector. They are concentrated in industrial clusters such as Narsingdi, Sirajganj, and several other regions across the country.

Daily power outages lasting six to eight hours are causing severe financial losses. Many of these factories have become financially distressed, while others have already been forced to suspend operations.



Mohammad Khorshed Alam

Countries that prioritize industrial development and employment generally provide businesses with a long-term energy policy outlining both supply availability and pricing. The government should now publish a clear long-term energy roadmap outlining expected gas availability and pricing over the next ten years. Without that level of policy certainty, industries cannot make informed investment decisions, and it will be increasingly difficult to prevent further decline in the country's manufacturing sector.

Mohammad Khorshed Alam, President of the Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCCI), believes the government must immediately launch a wartime-scale program to accelerate domestic gas and coal exploration while rapidly expanding LNG import infrastructure. In an interview with Energy & Power Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain, he discusses the country's worsening energy crisis, its impact on the textile and ready-made garment (RMG) industry, and the policy measures needed to restore investor confidence.

Bangladesh's textile and ready-made garment (RMG) industry is under tremendous pressure. The sector is operating well below its production capacity, many factories have become financially distressed or have shut down, and Bangladesh is gradually losing competitiveness in the global market. What has brought the industry to this point?

Bangladesh's garment and textile industry began its remarkable journey during the 1980s under the leadership of the late President Ziaur Rahman. At that time, the country had abundant natural gas resources, and energy prices were highly competitive. Those advantages played a crucial role in the sector's rapid expansion.

Although industrialization continued over the following decades, successive governments failed to develop a long-term strategy to ensure a reliable supply

The impact extends beyond factory owners. Most workers in these industries are employed on contract or piece-rate arrangements. When production stops because of power shortages, workers immediately lose income. Many are being forced to leave their jobs altogether, resulting in rising unemployment.

Unless uninterrupted and reliable electricity can be ensured, this labor-intensive sector will face an even deeper crisis.

Bangladesh is currently facing a gas supply deficit of around 1,500-1,600 MMCFD. Industry experts believe the shortfall will

widen further by 2030 because domestic production is declining and LNG import infrastructure is not expanding quickly enough. As an entrepreneur, how are you preparing for this situation?

Based on the information available to us, the gas crisis is expected to become even more severe by 2030. If the implementation of planned projects continues to be delayed, the crisis could persist well beyond that period.

Unfortunately, neither Petrobangla nor the gas distribution companies have formally informed industrial consumers about the future outlook for gas supply. Had such information been made available, industries could have begun preparing alternative strategies.

As you know, Bangladesh's textile and garment industry is heavily dependent on natural gas. Because the national grid has not been able to provide reliable electricity, industries invested hundreds of crores of taka in captive power generation.

Today, inadequate gas supplies are already reducing industrial production by around 25 percent. Unless the situation improves, production losses will increase further, and many factories may eventually be forced to close.

Such an outcome would not only damage the manufacturing sector but also expose the banking industry to significant financial risks, given its substantial lending to industrial enterprises.

What kind of policy direction do you expect from the government regarding future gas supply and pricing?

Countries that prioritize industrial development and employment generally provide businesses with a long-term energy policy outlining both supply availability and pricing.

Unfortunately, Bangladesh has no such roadmap. Businesses often wake up to discover that gas tariffs have doubled overnight—for example, increasing from Tk 16 to Tk 32 per cubic meter. Such abrupt decisions make long-term investment planning extremely difficult.

The government should now publish a clear long-term energy roadmap outlining expected gas availability and pricing over the next ten years. Without

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that level of policy certainty, industries cannot make informed investment decisions, and it will be increasingly difficult to prevent further decline in the country's manufacturing sector.

The ruling BNP pledged in its election manifesto to create 10 million new jobs within five years. Achieving that target will require substantial industrialization. Are you seeing any new investment? Are existing investors expanding their businesses?

Sustainable employment depends on sustained industrialization. While the BNP has pledged to create 10 million new jobs over the next five years, that objective cannot be achieved unless industries receive uninterrupted supplies of quality gas and electricity.

The reality is that even existing industries are struggling to secure the energy they need to maintain production. Instead of creating new employment opportunities, many factories are reducing operations, resulting in fewer jobs.

In my view, the government's employment target cannot be achieved without first ensuring energy security. Unless reliable gas and electricity supplies are guaranteed, new investment will remain limited, industrial expansion will stall, and many existing factories could eventually be forced to close.

The current blended cost of natural gas is Tk 31.65 per cubic meter, while the average selling price is Tk 23.63. Although industries pay higher-than-average tariffs, the current domestic gas-to-LNG supply ratio is about 70:30. With domestic gas production declining, LNG is expected to account for nearly 70 percent of total gas supply by 2030, significantly increasing the overall cost of gas. Can industries absorb such price increases?

The government's priority should be to determine the country's actual natural gas potential through systematic exploration of both onshore and offshore resources. It must also take a policy decision on exploring and developing Bangladesh's own coal resources. Greater utilization of indigenous energy resources could delay the country's growing dependence on imported fuels.

At the same time, LNG import infrastructure must be expanded without delay to bridge the widening supply gap. Equally important is ensuring transparent and competitive LNG procurement by eliminating inefficiencies and unnecessary costs throughout the import process.

If industries receive uninterrupted gas supplies through LNG imports, we can then assess whether we can remain competitive despite higher energy prices. However, if reliable gas cannot be ensured, industries will have little choice but to accelerate the use of alternative fuels such as LPG, coal and solar energy.

What is the biggest obstacle preventing industries from shifting from gas-fired captive power generation to grid electricity? Do you believe the power sector will be able to provide uninterrupted, quality electricity within the next one or two years?

Industries invested hundreds of crores of taka in captive power plants because the national grid could not provide reliable, high-quality electricity. Those investments were made out of necessity rather than choice.

If the power utilities can now guarantee uninterrupted and quality electricity at competitive tariffs, industries would be willing to write off those investments and shift to grid power.

However, industries should not be expected to bear the cost of inefficiencies in the public power sector. The government must ensure that reliable grid electricity is supplied at internationally competitive prices.

If gas shortages continue—or become even more severe—can the textile and ready-made garment industry remain competitive by switching to alternative fuels such as LPG, coal or solar power?

Many industries have already begun investing in alternative energy solutions to maintain production. We have installed solar power systems, and in my own factory we replaced conventional motors with high-efficiency magnetic motors, reducing electricity consumption by around 17 percent.

However, these technologies require significant capital investment. To encourage wider adoption, the government should introduce supportive policies, reduce import duties on energy-efficient equipment, and provide long-term, low-interest financing for green energy investments.

Reliable energy and electricity are essential both for attracting new investment and sustaining existing industries. Have business associations proposed any recommendations to the government for addressing the current energy crisis?

Representatives of the textile and industrial sectors have requested a meeting with the Prime Minister. Once that meeting takes place, we will present a comprehensive set of recommendations covering both the energy crisis and other major challenges facing the manufacturing sector.

Our message will be straightforward: without reliable and uninterrupted supplies of gas and electricity, Bangladesh will struggle to attract either domestic or foreign investment. More importantly, even existing industries may eventually be forced to cease operations.

The textile and garment industry has invested heavily in energy efficiency and renewable

energy, and those investments are continuing. How much are these initiatives helping maintain competitiveness? What additional incentives should the government provide?

Traditionally, energy infrastructure accounts for around 13 percent of total industrial investment. Today, however,

At the same time, LNG import infrastructure must be expanded without delay to bridge the widening supply gap. Equally important is ensuring transparent and competitive LNG procurement by eliminating inefficiencies and unnecessary costs throughout the import process.

the situation is completely different.

Industries have had to invest in multiple energy systems simultaneously. We have obtained grid electricity connections, built gas-fired captive power plants, installed diesel generators

for emergency backup, invested in rooftop solar systems, and recently added battery energy storage. As a result, energy-related investment has increased to 30–32 percent of total project costs.

Dedicating nearly one-third of industrial investment to energy infrastructure is neither sustainable nor internationally competitive.

The textile and garment sector has already invested substantially in energy efficiency, and there remains considerable scope for further improvement through advanced technologies. However, industries no longer have sufficient financial capacity to undertake these investments on their own.

The government should therefore introduce grants, tax incentives, duty exemptions and low-interest financing to accelerate investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

It is important to remember that Bangladesh competes with countries where industries do not suffer from chronic energy shortages. Meanwhile, gas and electricity shortages are reducing production in Bangladesh's textile and garment sector by 25–30 percent. On top of that, industries continue to pay VAT on gas and electricity. Suspending these VAT payments for at least five years would significantly improve the sector's international competitiveness.

Due to volatility in global energy prices—particularly LNG—Petrobangla's annual financial deficit has reached approximately Tk 166 billion. To reduce this deficit, the company is considering increasing gas tariffs for CNG and grid-based power generation. What is your opinion?

Before considering another tariff increase, the government should first identify the actual extent of inefficiencies and system losses throughout the gas and power sectors. Those inefficiencies must be eliminated before consumers are asked to bear additional costs.

Increasing gas and electricity prices simply to offset financial deficits, without first addressing operational inefficiencies and waste, cannot be justified. Consumers and industries should not be expected to finance the shortcomings of the energy sector. ■■

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ENERGY SECURITY: RENEWABLES ARE KEY

The government aims to generate up to 10,000 MW of electricity under a new five-year (2026-2030) strategy on renewable energy. This contains in the of National Renewable Energy Development Strategy. The goal is to raise the share of the renewables –solar, hydro, and wind –to 20 percent in the country's energy bowl, up from the current share of 5.4 percent to 5.6 percent. Solar power currently dominates the renewable energy mix at 81 percent, followed by hydropower (15 percent) and wind which accounts for 4 percent only.

Renewable energy which is clean and cost effective has been on the discussion table for long in Bangladesh. With imports of fossil fuel –oil, LNG, LPG and coal – getting costlier mainly because of external factors like wars and conflicts Bangladesh's policy makers have long been campaigning for focusing the attention on the renewables. Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, the minister for power, energy and mineral resources, at a recent seminar has rightly underlined the need for raising the generation of renewable energy. This, he said, will reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil



Money comes from donors or by way of domestic bank loans. This mentality is one of the factors that saw huge cost escalation in implementing mega projects.

fuel and thus help save foreign currency much needed for building energy cost-saving energy infrastructure such as rooftop solar panels. The proposed strategy has prioritize the installation of solar panels on the rooftops. This will also save the consumers in paying less for energy bills and thus used the money saved to meet household necessities. A sizeable amount of money has to be invested in solar paneling the rooftops and to encourage the campaign the government of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has taken several significant steps in the national budget for FY 2026-27. Prospective investors have been offered tax benefits and policy support should they go for putting their capital in promoting solar energy. Installation

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

of floating solar energy panels is also being mulled as part of the proposed national strategy.

Installation of 10,000 MW of renewable energy in less than five years may look an ambitious goal. Energy experts, however, believe it is not impossible should the government remain true to its promise. Once the policy makers are convinced that clean renewables are the answers to the country's achieving the energy security things will fall in place. A corruption-free honest approach coupled with determination is the key to achieving the goal that at this point may appear difficult.

As energy expert M Shamsul Alam says the country's current energy crisis should not be seen only as a technological problem. "This is in fact a crisis of policy and good governance." He has rightly pointed out that building big power plants does not necessarily solve the problem. Small initiatives, decentralization of the system involving hundreds of small entrepreneurs have been suggested by some energy experts like him. These are welcome suggestions though. There are caveats though. In Bangladesh, the governments have shown tendencies for going for the big ignoring the small. The big projects mean big money. Huge corruption is possible only big investment is made. Policies are thus made in favour of big projects where huge capital is needed. Money comes from donors or by way of domestic bank loans. This mentality is one of the factors that saw huge cost escalation in implementing mega projects. Small projects mean small gain in corruption, while mega projects mean mega gains to the corrupt elements.

Transparency, accountability and integrity in project implementation are what Bangladesh has long been lacking. Promises are aplenty, but their fulfillment is in short supply. Long-term strategy with lofty goals are welcome, but execution with honor is what the country needs more than anything else. ■

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