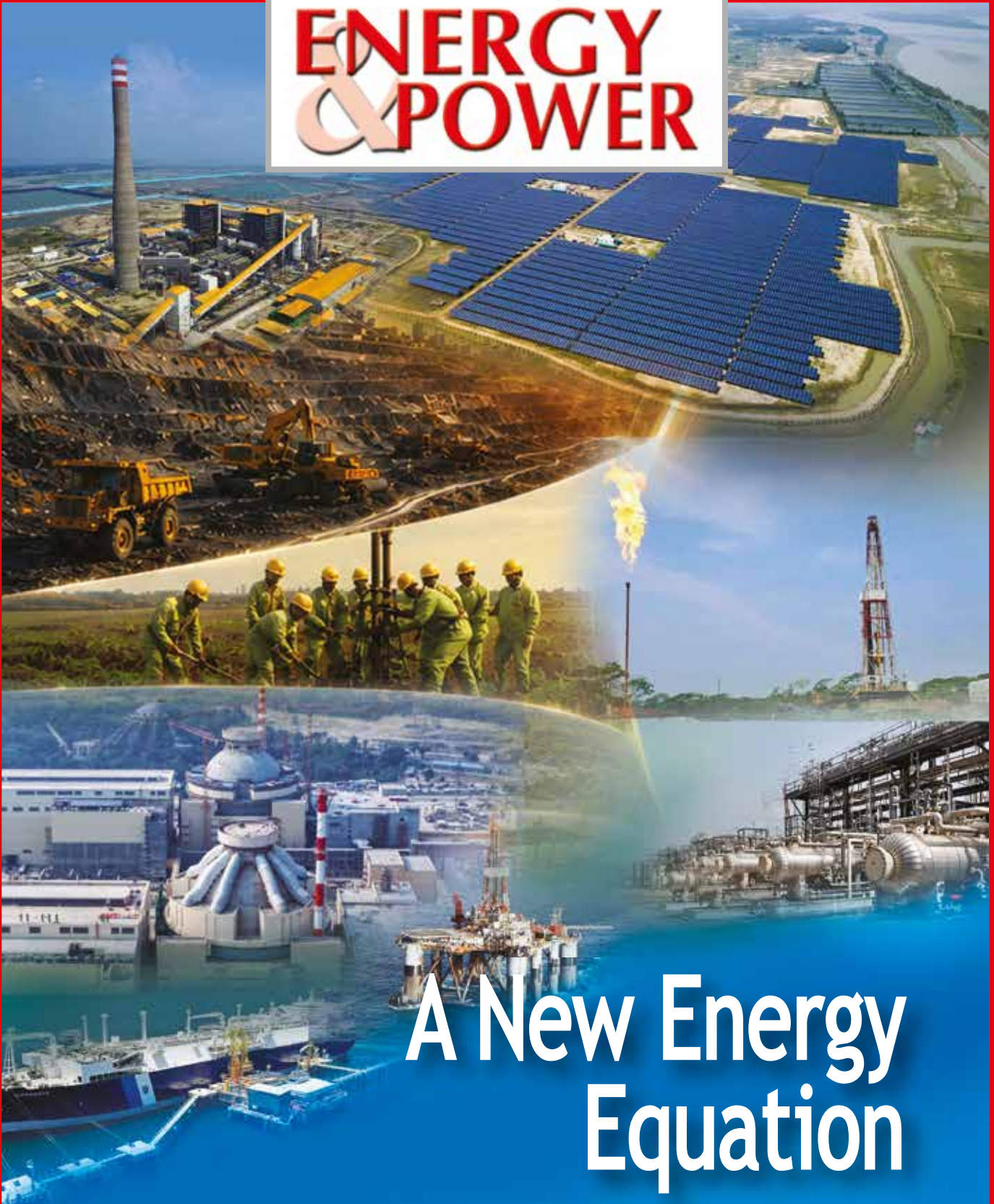


ENERGY & POWER



A New Energy Equation

- ❑ Energy Crises Brook No Delay
- ❑ If Open Access Is Too Expensive, Is It Really Open?
- ❑ Fuel Crisis Cuts Textile, Apparel Orders By One-Third

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ACS180 drives have improved reliability in harsh conditions. Coated circuit boards and minimized airflow through the electronics combined with advanced ground fault protection guarantee reliable operation and maximized uptime. The drives are designed for 50 °C ambient temperature without derating (in heavy duty) and up to 60 °C with derating.

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The ACS180 drive offers excellent performance and quality at its price level with all essential machinery application features embedded. Meanwhile, the built-in EMC filter and STO bring savings in cabinet size and cost. Heavy-duty use and light-duty use are rated in one drive, this will help users choose the optimal drive for each application.

Ease of use

Installation and commissioning are quick and easy thanks to the ACS180's intuitive graphical user interface, simple parameter structure and spring control terminals.

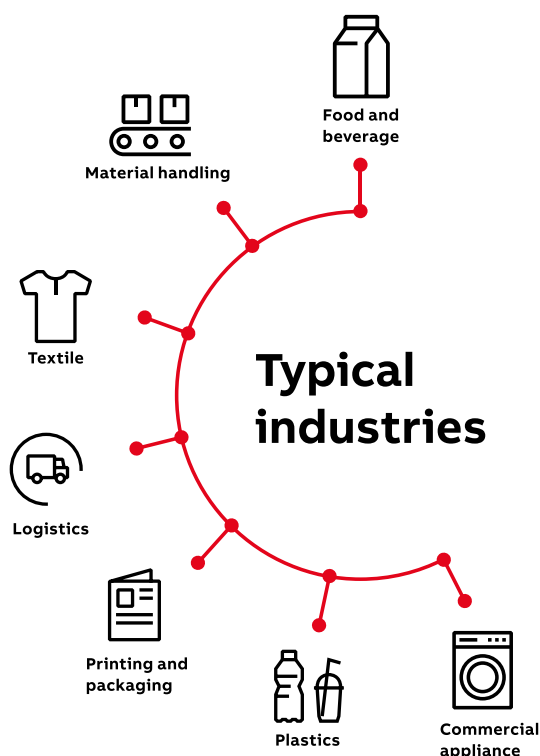
A compact drive size and the possibility of side-by-side installation help reduce the cabinet size.

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Existing industries could become increasingly vulnerable and eventually shut down, resulting in job losses rather than new employment opportunities. Energy uncertainty has already severely undermined buyers' confidence. As a result, export orders for the next season in the textile and apparel sector have fallen by nearly one-third, creating fresh concerns among entrepreneurs ... Mohammad Hatem tells EP



EDITORIAL

Bangladesh's energy crisis has made one fact unmistakably clear: energy security cannot be built on imports alone. Recent disruptions to LNG supplies exposed how quickly a problem at a single terminal can ripple through power generation, industry, transport and households. The government's proposed 10-year energy security plan is therefore timely. Its reported focus on domestic gas exploration, LNG infrastructure, renewable energy, energy efficiency and greater use of domestic resources reflects the breadth of the challenge. The plan is expected to be placed before the upcoming session of Parliament. But the country has no shortage of plans. The real deficit has been implementation. The new strategy must begin with a realistic assessment of what each energy source can deliver, at what cost and within what timeframe. Domestic gas exploration deserves urgent priority because declining production is already undermining industries and power generation. LNG will remain necessary, but excessive investment in import infrastructure could deepen the country's exposure to volatile global markets. Recent analysis has similarly warned that expanding LNG dependence could create long-term energy-security and financial risks. Renewables must be accelerated, but targets alone will not produce megawatts. Grid constraints, financing, land, storage and institutional capacity must be addressed simultaneously. The strategy should be guided by national interest rather than by technology preferences or short-term commercial pressures.

The proposed plan should therefore be treated as a binding national energy roadmap—with clear priorities, deadlines, accountability and measurable outcomes. Bangladesh cannot afford another decade of policy without delivery.

h i g h l i g h t s

COVER



Bangladesh had installed 418.1 megawatts (MW) of rooftop solar capacity by June 2026. However, IEEFA estimates that rooftop solar capacity has already reached 667MW across 239 industrial establishments and business groups. If smaller installations below 0.15MW are included, total rooftop solar capacity could already be approaching 1,000MW..... More in Special Report



Bangladesh is moving toward a 10-year energy security strategy amid vulnerabilities in its energy system. The proposed strategy is expected to place greater emphasis on domestic gas and coal resources, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and expanded LNG infrastructure. The urgency has been underscored by the recent energy crisis. The challenge now is to build a more sustainable energy system.



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Greenpage

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

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Iran Sold \$18bn in Oil During War and Ceasefire

Iran's Oil Ministry said it sold about \$18 billion worth of crude oil during the war with the United States and the subsequent ceasefire, despite severe disruptions to its energy exports.

According to the ministry, Iran sold \$11.5 billion of oil during the war and a further \$6.5 billion during the ceasefire.

The ministry said the revenue represented more than 60 percent of the oil income projected in the country's annual budget.

The statement contrasts with an earlier claim by Iranian

parliament speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf that Iran had been unable to export oil during the US blockade of its ports.

The conflict began on February 28 following US-Israeli strikes on Iran. A ceasefire in April largely halted the fighting, but hostilities resumed in July amid renewed tensions over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil shippers.



PTTEP Completes First Wellhead Platform Reuse in Thailand

Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) has completed the country's first full reuse and relocation of a decommissioned offshore wellhead platform, cutting development time and costs while reducing carbon emissions.

The company relocated the Jakrawan K platform from the Funan Field and reinstalled it at another location within the G1/61 gas development in the Gulf of Thailand. The facility is now operational.

The relocation and installation of the platform's topside, jacket and selected pile sections took about six months, compared with around 20 months required to develop a



new wellhead platform. PTTEP estimates the reuse reduced construction costs by 35-50% and avoided approximately 3,270 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions.

PTTEP CEO Montri Rawanchaikul said structurally sound platforms can be reused after field depletion to maximize their value and extend their service life.

The company plans to reuse around 10 additional wellhead platforms between 2027 and 2029, subject to structural integrity and safety assessments.

BP to Take Full Control of Trinidad's Calypso Gas Project

BP has agreed to acquire Woodside Energy's 70% interest in the Calypso deepwater gas project in Trinidad and Tobago, giving BP full ownership and operatorship.



Located about 220 km offshore in waters around 2,100 meters deep, Calypso comprises several gas discoveries in Blocks 23(a) and TTDA 14. The project is at an early development stage and is close to existing LNG and downstream infrastructure.

BP, already Trinidad and Tobago's largest domestic

gas supplier and a 45% shareholder in Atlantic LNG, said the acquisition could help unlock new production and support long-term regional growth.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2026, subject to government and regulatory approvals. The sale will also mark Woodside's exit from Trinidad and Tobago.

USEA Forum Highlights Energy Security as Key to AI, National Competitiveness

The United States Energy Association (USEA) has hosted a high-level forum examining the growing link between energy infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), national security and economic resilience.

The forum, titled "Navigating the Nexus: Pax Silica, AI Infrastructure, National Security, and Economic Resilience," brought together government officials, energy executives and international policymakers to discuss the massive electricity demand required to support AI,



semiconductor production and next-generation digital infrastructure.

USEA President and CEO Mark Menezes said the world has entered the era of "Pax Silica," where geopolitical stability and economic competitiveness increasingly depend on secure semiconductor supply chains and reliable energy systems.

Bangladesh, US Discuss Expanding Energy Cooperation



Bangladesh and the United States recently discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, including LNG, LPG, business engagement and government-to-government collaboration.

The issues came up when Eric Geelan, Political and Economic Counsellor at the US Embassy in Dhaka, called on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister

Iqbal Hassan Mahmood at the ministry. Geelan was accompanied by US Embassy Economic Officer Joseph Boski.

The two sides reviewed opportunities to expand energy cooperation, including the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize collaboration and identify priority areas of mutual interest.

BERC Raises LPG Prices for August

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has increased the retail price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for August, raising the price of the widely used 12kg cylinder by Tk 70 following a sharp reduction in July.



Under the new pricing, consumers will have to pay Tk 1,598 for a 12kg LPG cylinder, up from Tk 1,528, according to a BERC notification.

BERC fixed the retail price of privately marketed LPG at Tk 133.15 per kilogram, including VAT, compared with Tk 127.30 per kilogram in July, reflecting an increase of Tk 5.85 per kg.

The commission also revised prices for other cylinder sizes.

A 5.5kg cylinder will now cost Tk 732, while prices have been set at Tk 1,664 for 12.5kg, Tk 1,997 for 15kg, Tk 2,130 for 16kg, Tk 2,397 for 18kg, Tk 2,663 for 20kg, Tk 2,929 for 22kg, Tk 3,329 for 25kg, Tk 3,995 for 30kg, Tk 4,394 for 33kg, Tk 4,660 for 35kg and Tk 5,992 for a 45kg cylinder.

The price of autogas used in vehicles has also been increased by Tk 3.27 per liter, from Tk 70.40 to Tk 73.67 per liter.

Md. Ziaul Haque Appointed Secretary of Energy and Mineral Resources Division

The government has appointed Md. Ziaul Haque, currently an Additional Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD), as the new Secretary of the division following his promotion.



The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification to this effect recently. Md. Ziaul Haque will succeed Mohammad Saiful Islam, who has served as Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division since October 7, 2024.

In a separate notification, the government transferred Mohammad Saiful Islam to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, where he will take up his new assignment.

Power Division Urges Public Not to Spread Misinformation over Electricity Bills



The Power Division has strongly refuted what it described as misleading propaganda by certain individuals or groups regarding allegations of excessive electricity bills. In a statement issued recently, the division said that all complaints relating to unusually high electricity bills received so far have already been reviewed and resolved by the Power Division and the respective electricity distribution companies.

The Power Division said

there is therefore no basis for spreading misinformation or creating unnecessary public confusion over the issue.

However, it encouraged any customer who believes they have received an excessive electricity bill to submit a formal complaint, along with supporting evidence, to the relevant authority. The statement assured consumers that any genuine complaint would be investigated and addressed promptly through appropriate action.



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Meghna Petroleum Appoints M Tamim as Chairman

State-owned fuel distributor Meghna Petroleum has appointed retired professor M Tamim as its chairman.

The appointment was approved at the company's board meeting, according to a disclosure issued by the petroleum marketing company recently.



Tamim is one of Bangladesh's leading energy experts, with decades of experience in petroleum engineering, energy policy and public administration. He served as

special assistant overseeing the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources during the 2008 caretaker government.

Cold Storage Owners Seek Rebate on Power Bills



The Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA) has urged the government to provide a 20% rebate on electricity bills and raise the potato export incentive to 30% from the existing 10% to help the sector overcome a severe crisis caused by falling potato prices.

At a press briefing, BCSA President Mostafa Azad Babu also called for keeping the existing cold storage charge at Tk 6.75 per kg, warning that any increase would further burden farmers and storage operators. The association said commercial electricity tariffs for cold storage facilities increased by 18% from June 1, 2026, while labour, ammonia

gas, lubricants, spare parts and maintenance costs have also risen significantly.

It urged the government to recognize cold storage as an agro-based industry and establish a Tk 60-80 billion refinancing or business support fund through Bangladesh Bank. The fund would allow operators to access loans at 4-5% interest.

The BCSA also proposed converting quarterly loan repayments into annual instalments to reflect the seasonal nature of the business and called for potato growers to be included in the government's Farmers Card program.

Shu Xiong Appointed as President and MD of Chevron Bangladesh

Shu Xiong has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Chevron Bangladesh, commencing her position on August 1, 2026. Shu succeeds Eric M. Walker, who served Chevron Bangladesh for the last 6 (six) years.



Shu most recently served as Managing Director of Chevron's China Business Unit, where she led the company's upstream business and energy value-chain activities and built strong partnerships across multiple joint venture operations.

Since joining Chevron in 2007, Shu has held senior leadership roles across strategy, forecasting, trading, operations and planning, advising executives, supporting investment

decisions, developing commercial opportunities and managing key partner and market relationships.

Shu holds an MBA from Stanford University and a BBA in Finance from the University of Houston.

Commenting on her appointment, Shu said: "I am excited to join the Bangladesh team, and I look forward to building on our 30-year partnership with the Government of Bangladesh and Petrobangla."

BPC Chairman Rezanur Attached to Public Admin Ministry

The government has attached Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation chairman (additional secretary) Md Rezanur Rahman to the Ministry of Public Administration.

A gazette notification issued recently said that Rezanur Rahman had been transferred and attached to the ministry.



Rezanur was appointed BPC chairman through a notification issued on February 2 and formally

assumed office on February 5.

Before joining BPC, he served as chairman of Petrobangla.

A New Energy Equation

Mollah Amzad Hossain

Bangladesh is rethinking how to secure affordable, reliable, and resilient energy in an increasingly uncertain world. The country is preparing a 10-year energy security strategy as declining domestic gas production, LNG disruptions, volatile fuel prices, and rising import dependence expose deep vulnerabilities in the energy system. The proposed roadmap is expected to prioritize renewable energy, domestic gas exploration, LNG infrastructure, coal, and energy efficiency. Its success, however, will depend less on ambitious targets than on timely execution of the plan.





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Bangladesh is moving toward a 10-year energy security strategy as prolonged gas shortages, disruptions to LNG supplies, volatile global fuel prices, and rising import dependence expose vulnerabilities in the country's energy system. The proposed strategy is expected to place greater emphasis on domestic gas and coal resources, renewable energy, energy efficiency and expanded LNG infrastructure.

The urgency has been underscored by the recent energy crisis, which disrupted power generation, industrial production, transportation and household energy supplies. The challenge now is not simply to restore supply, but to build a more diversified, resilient and economically sustainable energy system capable of withstanding future global shocks.

Gas Shortage Hits Industry and Power Generation

Bangladesh's gas crisis, however, predates the recent geopolitical turmoil. The country has been experiencing persistent gas shortages for around five years, while domestic production has continued to decline.

Domestic gas production has now fallen below 1,700 MMCFD. Under relatively normal conditions, Bangladesh could receive around 1,000 MMCFD of LNG, against estimated demand of around 4,000 MMCFD, leaving a deficit of approximately 1,300 MMCFD.

As a result, industries were already receiving around 30% less gas than their requirements.

Over the past month, however, LNG supply has fallen to around 600 MMCFD, pushing the industrial gas shortfall to roughly 50% of demand.

Gas supplied to gas-fired power plants has also fallen to around one-third of their requirements. As a result, only around 30–40% of Bangladesh's 12,472MW gas-fired power generation capacity can reportedly be operated.

Although coal-fired power plants are being operated at high utilization levels, the shortage has increased

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury recently indicated that the government was considering open-pit coal mining at Phulbari, saying there was no alternative.

dependence on furnace oil-based generation. However, large unpaid bills owed to the private power sector have also limited the government's ability to fully utilize this generation capacity.

Fertilizer, Transport and Households under Pressure

The gas supply situation has also severely affected the fertilizer sector. Gas allocation to fertilizer plants has been reduced to a minimum, with only two fertilizer factories currently operating.

The resulting decline in domestic fertilizer production is increasing import dependence, while reports of seasonal fertilizer shortages have already emerged.

The transport sector has also faced CNG supply constraints for nearly a month. The situation is even more difficult for households dependent on piped gas for cooking, forcing consumers to use alternative fuels despite continuing to pay for piped gas services.

A major concern is that Petrobangla and the Energy and Mineral Resources Division have yet to provide a clear timeframe for restoring LNG supplies to previous levels.

The summer peak electricity demand is expected to continue until September. Even if LNG supplies recover soon,

there is still uncertainty over how much load-shedding can be reduced.

Government Moves Toward a Long-Term Strategy

Amid the crisis, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been consulting leaders of various industrial organizations on possible solutions to the country's energy and power shortages and seeking their recommendations.

Under his direction, a renewable energy development strategy has also been finalized with a target of adding 10,450MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

According to the strategy, Bangladesh's total electricity demand is projected to reach around 135,000 GWh annually by 2030, of which approximately 27,000 GWh, or 20%, would come from renewable sources.

The Prime Minister has also called for the formulation of a 10-year energy security plan following his visit to the Matarbari coal-fired power plant.

Relevant government agencies have already started working on the plan. Once the draft is finalized, it is expected to be placed before Parliament for approval. The plan will reportedly provide a framework for short-, medium- and long-term actions in the energy sector.

Renewable Energy Expansion

Since taking office, the BNP-led government has placed strong emphasis on rapidly increasing renewable energy capacity. The government initially announced plans to add around 10,000MW of renewable generation capacity by 2030, which has subsequently been reflected in the broader strategy targeting 10,450MW.

As an initial measure, the FY2026–27 budget introduced duty-free import facilities for solar panels, batteries and related equipment.

However, questions were raised over the initial scope of the tax benefits, prompting the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to introduce amendments.

Industry stakeholders nevertheless allege that renewable energy entrepreneurs are still not receiving the benefits announced in the budget. They reportedly continue to face a 2% advance income tax and 15% VAT on certain imports.

Solar panels and associated equipment for industrial installations had previously enjoyed duty-free import facilities, but businesses now reportedly face additional duties and VAT.

Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood has told business representatives that the government is prepared to resolve the issue if specific cases are brought to its attention.

Energy Security Requires a Shift in Strategy

The ongoing crisis has exposed Bangladesh's vulnerability to excessive dependence on imported primary energy. LNG, coal and petroleum imports are increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions, volatile international prices and supply-chain problems.

The proposed 10-year energy security plan is therefore expected to focus on diversifying the energy mix, increasing domestic gas and coal production, accelerating renewable energy deployment, improving energy efficiency and strengthening fuel import infrastructure.

Reducing import dependence will ultimately require greater use of Bangladesh's own energy resources alongside renewable energy and nuclear power, while ensuring that environmental and economic considerations are incorporated into investment decisions.

For Bangladesh, the immediate challenge is to restore reliable gas and electricity supplies. The longer-term challenge is to build an energy system that is more diversified, domestically anchored, financially sustainable and resilient to international shocks.

Renewable Energy, Domestic Gas and LNG Infrastructure Key to Bangladesh's 10-Year Energy Strategy

Bangladesh is preparing a 10-year

energy plan that is expected to prioritize renewable energy, efficient use of energy, domestic gas exploration and expansion of LNG import infrastructure to strengthen energy security and reduce dependence on imported fuels.

The plan is expected to incorporate a strategy to accelerate renewable energy development, with a target of significantly expanding clean power generation by 2030.

Bangladesh Engineer Shafiqul Alam, Lead Energy Analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said the renewable energy target is ambitious but achievable.

"However, SREDA's institutional capacity must be strengthened, and the policy incentives already announced must be made accessible to private investors," he said.

Dr. Masrur Reaz, Chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, stressed that restoring investor confidence is essential for developing the renewable energy sector. He said the government should review the 37 Letters of Intent (LoIs) cancelled during the interim government's tenure.

He noted that although the Energy Minister had promised to review the cancellations, no such review had been carried out over the past six months.

Monirul Islam, acting Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), said residential rooftop solar combined with battery storage could significantly reduce pressure on the national grid.

"We have already started working on this. A pilot project for 3–5 kWp rooftop solar systems with storage is expected to begin soon," he said.

Industry experts believe the expansion of solar power could reduce pressure on grid electricity, lower fuel import requirements and make a significant contribution to Bangladesh's energy transition. Renewable energy development and energy efficiency are therefore expected to become major pillars of the 10-year strategy.

Focus on Domestic Gas

Bangladesh's industrial and commercial sectors remain heavily dependent on natural gas. Petrobangla estimates peak gas demand at around 4,000 MMCFD, although sector experts question the accuracy of this figure.

An analysis of gas demand submitted by Petrobangla companies during tariff adjustment proposals suggests that connected demand may be as high as 5,300 MMCFD.

Domestic gas production currently stands at slightly above 1,600 MMCFD and is declining by around 150 MMCFD annually. More concerning is the country's heavy dependence on the Bibiyana gas field, which accounts for about 45% of current domestic gas supply and is experiencing declining production.

Analysts attribute the current gas shortage partly to inadequate exploration over the past 15 years.

A drilling program involving 50 wells plus another 100 wells has been underway since 2022, with 29 wells completed so far. Although the program has increased production capacity by around 274 MMCFD, only about 140 MMCFD has been added to the national grid. Experts say this has not been sufficient to offset the decline in existing fields.

There is also no guarantee that domestic production will reach 2,000 MMCFD even after the full drilling program is completed.

Petrobangla sources said development work at the Chhatak gas field has been stalled because of a dispute related to the Niko case. Authorities are considering drilling an exploratory well and conducting a 3D seismic survey.

Former BAPEX Managing Director Murtaza Ahmed Faruque said Petrobangla should drill three to four exploration wells at Chhatak within the next six months, arguing that the field has strong prospects for early gas production.

Meanwhile, offshore bidding has already been invited, while preparations are underway to finalize onshore production-sharing contracts (PSCs)

and invite bids within a short period. Domestic exploration is expected to receive priority under the 10-year plan.

The government is also considering connecting gas from Bhola to the national grid through a pipeline. Although no final decision has yet been taken, the project is expected to receive priority under the long-term energy strategy, as Bhola is increasingly being viewed as a potential alternative to Bibiyana.

Bhola currently has 10 development wells, with five more under development and another five included in future plans.

LNG Infrastructure Expansion

Energy sector stakeholders believe Bangladesh will need to increase LNG import infrastructure capacity to at least 2,500 MMCFD by 2030 and 3,500 MMCFD by 2035. Current capacity is around 1,100 MMCFD.

Negotiations are underway with Chinese company CNEC to establish another floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU). The negotiations are expected to conclude in August, with a possible agreement in September. Construction and installation would then require at least two years.

Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood has said the government is considering three additional FSRUs beyond the existing two, along with a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari. A pipeline from Maheshkhali to Dhaka is also under consideration and could be incorporated into the long-term plan.

Government officials say expanding LNG import infrastructure is essential to ensuring a reliable energy supply.

According to Petrobangla sources, the process of appointing a consultant for the proposed land-based LNG terminal is nearing completion. However, the terminal is unlikely to become operational before 2032.

Officials believe that, if the government moves quickly, a fourth and fifth FSRU could potentially be added by 2030.

Bangladesh currently has long-term LNG supply agreements with five

Energy sector stakeholders believe Bangladesh will need to increase LNG import infrastructure capacity to at least 2,500 MMCFD by 2030 and 3,500 MMCFD by 2035. Current capacity is around 1,100 MMCFD.

companies from three countries, while efforts are underway to diversify suppliers and increase the number of long-term contracts.

Energy Shortages Could Constrain Industrial Growth

Energy sector analysts warn that gas shortages could continue to worsen until new exploration projects and LNG infrastructure become operational. This could put existing industries under increasing pressure while discouraging new industrial investment.

Moynul Islam, President of the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Chairman of Monno Ceramic, said the previous government's decision to cancel Summit Group's FSRU agreement was a mistake. Had the agreement remained in place, the terminal could have started supplying gas by now, he argued.

Economist Dr. Masrur Reaz also called for the government to reconsider the canceled Summit FSRU agreement as part of efforts to resolve the energy crisis quickly. He also urged the authorities to revive negotiations on RLNG imports and another FSRU project that had previously been canceled.

Without accelerating these initiatives, he warned, the government's target of resolving the energy crisis within two years may not be achievable.

The emerging 10-year energy strategy is therefore expected to combine renewable energy expansion, domestic gas exploration, LNG infrastructure development and energy efficiency. Experts say timely implementation, institutional reform and stronger investor confidence will be critical to ensuring that the strategy translates into greater energy security and sustained industrial growth.

Bangladesh Weighs Domestic Coal as Key to Future Energy Security

Bangladesh is reassessing the role of domestic coal in its long-term energy security strategy as rising import dependence, gas shortages and growing electricity demand put increasing pressure on the country's energy sector.

The country currently has around 7,312MW of coal-fired power generation capacity. Except for the 525MW Barapukuria power plant, which uses domestic coal, the other coal-fired plants depend on imported coal. The government has spent around US\$1.4 billion on coal imports for these plants.

Although Barapukuria uses locally produced coal, its production costs remain high because of inefficient mining practices. The mine was originally planned to produce 64 million tonnes of coal over 64 years, but only around 15 million tonnes have been extracted so far. Given the mine's current condition, experts estimate that no more than another four million tonnes may be recoverable.

Bangladesh has five identified coalfields with substantial reserves. These include Jamalganj, Phulbari, Khalaspir, Dighipara and Barapukuria. The estimated reserves are around 7.8 billion tonnes, with Jamalganj alone accounting for approximately 5.45 billion tonnes.

Among the major undeveloped coalfields, Phulbari has remained at the center of debate. A detailed feasibility study and Scheme of Development have already been submitted to the government, but the proposal has remained undecided for nearly two decades. The field has the potential to produce around 15 million tonnes of coal

annually, which could meet a significant portion of the coal requirement for power generation in Bangladesh.

Professor M Tamim, Vice-Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, said there was no fundamental economic or technological barrier to developing domestic coal resources. “I see no obstacle to extracting coal from an economic assessment perspective. The technology is available. What is needed is a political decision,” he said.

He suggested that the Phulbari development proposal could be independently evaluated before a final decision is taken. Alongside renewable energy, he said Bangladesh would need to consider coal and nuclear power to meet future electricity demand.

Mining engineer Dr. Mushfiqur Rahman, speaking to Energy & Power, said developing a coal mine would be difficult for the private sector to undertake alone under the current circumstances.

“The government needs to become a partner. After completing the overall planning, land acquisition and project development would have to proceed simultaneously, which would be extremely difficult for the private sector to undertake independently,” he said.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury recently indicated that the government was considering open-pit coal mining at Phulbari, saying there was no alternative.

Government sources said domestic coal production and utilization are being considered as important components of the proposed 10-year energy security plan. Once the plan is approved by Parliament, work on developing domestic coal resources could begin, with Phulbari likely to receive priority. The development potential of Barapukuria, Khalaspir and Dighipara would also be reviewed.

The Energy Division is reportedly preparing a 10-year framework covering the country's primary energy supply, including domestic coal and gas, exploration and utilization, expansion of LNG import infrastructure, renewable

energy, financing requirements and private-sector investment.

The plan is expected to provide the basis for a detailed roadmap and implementation strategy.

Professor Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said the energy sector was in critical condition and required a clear long-term policy direction.

He said the government should develop a 10-year strategy to transform the energy sector into an efficient and service-oriented sector capable of ensuring national energy security.

Professor Tamim also called for electricity and gas demand to be determined through sector-specific assessments rather than simply as a ratio of GDP. He said the government should clearly define priorities for gas use and avoid developing additional grid-connected gas-fired power plants except for peaking capacity. He recommended prioritizing utility-scale solar projects where government land and grid evacuation facilities are available, while allowing rooftop solar expansion to be driven primarily by the private sector.

He said Bangladesh would need to finalize a balanced future energy mix in which renewable energy is complemented by coal and nuclear power to ensure reliable electricity supply while reducing carbon emissions. Experts also stressed the importance of energy efficiency and conservation to reduce future demand.

Conclusion

A comprehensive 10-year energy plan, they said, should assess domestic gas and coal resources, exploration potential, import requirements and renewable energy development, followed by a clear implementation mechanism.

Bangladesh has previously responded to energy challenges through major policy and investment initiatives, including offshore oil and gas exploration, private-sector participation in power generation, private investment in LPG distribution and the expansion of solar

home systems in rural areas.

The current crisis, however, is more complex because of the country's high dependence on imported energy.

Experts believe expanding rooftop solar could reduce pressure on the national grid, while greater investment in exploration and development of existing domestic gas fields could help increase production in the short term. New technologies should also be considered to maximize recovery from existing fields.

Investment and diplomatic efforts will be needed to attract international participation in offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration.

At the same time, a political decision on domestic coal development could allow preparations to begin without further delay. According to sector experts, Bangladesh could potentially start reducing its dependence on imported coal by using domestic resources within the next four years if appropriate decisions are taken promptly.

Reducing dependence on captive power generation in industries will also be critical to easing pressure on gas supplies. This will require reliable and quality grid electricity for industrial consumers, supported by dedicated investment plans for industrial areas under the Rural Electrification Board.

Industry stakeholders believe that, with proper planning and implementation, uninterrupted grid electricity supply to industrial areas could be significantly improved within two years.

Ultimately, experts stressed that institutional reform and strengthening technical capacity within the power and energy sector must be given high priority. Efficient management of limited domestic resources, reduction of wastage and consistent implementation of long-term policies will be essential.

Bangladesh's energy security strategy, they said, must be driven by a clear national vision, with strong political leadership and accountability at the highest level. 



Saleque Sufi

Lessons From The Shock And Awe Of Gas

The recent unprecedented energy crisis, triggered by a technical failure at a floating LNG terminal, has starkly exposed the fragility of Bangladesh's energy security. A sudden loss of 450–500 MMCFD of gas sent shock waves through the country, disrupting the power supply chain, intensifying load-shedding during the hot, humid summer, crippling gas-dependent industries, bringing CNG-fueled vehicular traffic close to a standstill, and causing immense hardship for households dependent on natural gas for cooking.

According to Petrobangla, gas supply fell from 2,550 MMCFD to around 2,050–2,100 MMCFD as RLNG supplies dropped from approximately 1,050 MMCFD to only 450 MMCFD. The gas supply chain was already suffering from a deficit of more than 1,000 MMCFD even with both FSRUs operating. The severity of the crisis when one FSRU was forced offline demonstrated just how vulnerable the system has become.

With the Excelerate Energy-operated

FSRU now back in service, Petrobangla must undertake a comprehensive risk assessment of the fragile gas supply chain and develop effective risk-management options. There is no guarantee that a similar disruption will not occur again sooner or later.

The latest crisis should serve as a lesson. Bangladesh urgently needs appropriate contingency plans and short-, medium-, and long-term measures to achieve sustainable energy security. A nation cannot remain hostage to the consequences of flawed planning and strategies shaped by vested interests under previous regimes.

The present government, inheriting a troubled power and energy supply system, has announced several contingency measures and short- and long-term initiatives. These include a plan to achieve 10,500 MW of renewable energy by 2030, exploring LNG imports using ISO tankers from Malaysia, and revisiting the possibility of importing gas from Myanmar. These initiatives are in addition to efforts to accelerate

The latest crisis should serve as a lesson. Bangladesh urgently needs appropriate contingency plans and short-, medium-, and long-term measures to achieve sustainable energy security. A nation cannot remain hostage to the consequences of flawed planning and strategies shaped by vested interests under previous regimes.

Deep drilling at Titas Gas Field by CCDC.

petroleum exploration both onshore and offshore and review gas-utilization priorities.

The government has also announced plans to add another FSRU and expedite implementation of a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari. This article examines the prospects and opportunities while also considering energy conservation, efficiency, and the optimization of fuel use.

Rational Utilization of Gas

We must recognize that the gas supply situation cannot be transformed in the shortest possible time. Regardless of what measures are taken, there is unlikely to be any significant improvement before 2030. Until then, the situation must be managed through smarter fuel utilization and some difficult but necessary decisions.

Despite a gas supply shortage exceeding 1,000 MMCFD, Petrobangla, through rationing gas supplies to fertilizer plants and CNG stations, attempted to maintain 950–1,000 MMCFD for power generation. However, the FSRU technical failure forced Petrobangla to reduce supplies to the power sector to 690–700 MMCFD.

The power system managed to keep the supply chain functioning through demand-side management and enforced load-shedding. Gas-based power generation fell to around 5,500–6,000 MW. For a short period, people endured the hardship. But to avoid a recurrence, the government must ensure that the power system addresses such disruptions through appropriate diversification of its fuel mix.

Coal, nuclear power, imported electricity, and renewable energy must be developed so that by 2030, the contribution of gas to power generation can be reduced to a manageable level. We may also suggest reviewing the possibility of phasing out gas supplies for CNG and household cooking over three to four years and replacing them with alternative fuels. Around 13 percent of gas is consumed for cooking and about 5 percent for CNG. Households can shift to LPG and electric cookers, while CNG vehicles can gradually be converted to autogas or other suitable alternatives.

The energy supply system must recognize how gas shortages have affected gas-intensive industries, particularly export-oriented manufacturers. The government should do everything possible to ensure a reliable supply of quality electricity from the national grid to industries. This would reduce their dependence on captive gas-fired generation, allowing gas saved in the process to be redirected to industrial users.

An Affordable Fuel Mix

As a way forward, Bangladesh urgently needs to develop a feasible and affordable fuel mix for energy generation.

We must recognize that Bangladesh possesses significant untapped reserves of high-quality coal—high in calorific value and low in ash and sulfur—at mineable depths. Proven, commercially available technologies exist for mining these resources and using them for power generation and other purposes while addressing environmental and social concerns.

Exploration and exploitation of domestic coal resources should not be restricted in the name of energy transition. Given Bangladesh's present circumstances and the global energy environment, domestic coal should be considered a priority fuel for the medium to long term, particularly as proven natural gas reserves continue to decline at an alarming rate.

Regardless of how sophisticated the plans may be, it is highly unlikely that Bangladesh can add significant new domestic gas reserves or substantial





Summit FSRU

additional LNG import capacity before 2030.

On the other hand, if the present government makes the necessary political decision to develop coal mining using appropriate technology, Bangladesh could have up to 5,000 MW of mine-mouth coal-fired generation by 2031. Meanwhile, through an accelerated and well-coordinated petroleum exploration campaign and simultaneous development of LNG import infrastructure—including FSRUs and a land-based terminal—Bangladesh could establish a more feasible, reliable, and affordable fuel mix by 2032.

An appropriate fuel mix from 2032 should be:

- Domestic and imported coal: 40%
- Domestic gas and imported LNG: 30%
- Imported electricity: 10%
- Clean energy (renewables and nuclear): 20%

Contingency Action Plans

Bangladesh must immediately launch the necessary initiatives to unlock the stranded gas reserves of Bhola Island. If appropriate action begins by early 2027, a gas transmission system connecting the Bhola gas fields to the national gas

grid at Khulna via Barishal could be operational by 2032.

This would not only help revive the gas-starved economy of the southern region, particularly Greater Barishal and Khulna, but also facilitate the revival of many distressed and suspended industries in Khulna and Jessore. Significant anchor loads already exist to support such a gas transmission system. The discovered gas reserves in Bhola justify construction of the pipeline. Its presence would also encourage investors to explore potential gas resources in adjacent onshore and offshore areas.

Another priority should be relocating drilling rigs to Chattak and Tengratilla and launching further exploration at identified petroleum structures in Potiya, Jholdi, Kashalong, and Sitapahar. There is a reasonable prospect of discovering gas and possibly oil in these structures. Another advantage is that any discoveries could be evacuated relatively easily because the national gas grid is nearby.

Alongside vigorous offshore exploration, Bangladesh should launch a new PSC bidding round for onshore exploration to engage international oil companies alongside BAPEX.

We also recommend extensive 2D and 3D seismic surveys across onshore areas to identify new petroleum resources. Most of the easily accessible resources may already have been identified, but the world's largest river delta could still contain significant unexplored petroleum resources, including in onshore frontier areas.

Bangladesh should leave no stone unturned in surveying areas that remain unexplored by 2032. There is no justification for concluding that the country has run out of gas without making a professional and comprehensive effort to find it.

LNG Import Initiatives

Bangladesh must also recognize that it will need to continue and expand LNG imports to keep its economy functioning. FSRUs are essentially contingency measures for addressing immediate supply requirements. Bangladesh should engage competent investors and experienced LNG terminal operators to develop at least two additional FSRUs and bring them into operation by 2030.

At the same time, gas transmission infrastructure must be expanded to evacuate additional RLNG to major demand centers across the gas supply

chain. Work on the land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari should also be expedited with the aim of bringing it into operation by 2032.

We have noted proposals to import LNG using ISO tankers. Such an initiative should undergo a proper feasibility study. In the present context of Bangladesh's fuel supply chain, importing LNG through ISO tankers appears unrealistic on a large scale. However, Bangladesh could eventually consider a mother-daughter LNG distribution model for supplying areas outside the national gas transmission network.

Bangladesh must also diversify its sources of LNG. Wars and conflicts in major LNG-producing regions have disrupted global supply chains. Bangladesh is already dependent on LNG imports from the United States, but it should diversify its sources to include other regions.

By 2035, Bangladesh may need to import as much as 5,000 MMCFD of LNG to fuel its economy. Long-term government-to-government agreements with Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, and Canada could be considered. Bangladesh could also engage major LNG-importing countries such as Japan, China, South Korea, and India in developing a consortium or cooperative platform among LNG-importing nations.

We would recommend sourcing around 80 percent of LNG imports through long-term contracts and the remaining 20 percent from the spot market. Bangladesh should also develop LNG storage facilities alongside land-based terminals.

Gas Import Possibility from Myanmar

In 2005, importing gas through a proposed tri-nation gas pipeline from Myanmar to India, with Bangladesh serving as a transit country, appeared to be a feasible and mutually beneficial option for all three countries.

This writer, as an integral member of the negotiating team, helped develop a draft memorandum of understanding for an open-access pipeline originating in Myanmar, entering Bangladesh at Teknaf, and traversing the country to India.

The proposal included provision for Bangladesh to import up to 500 MMCFD of natural gas at a highly competitive price of around \$2.00 per MMBtu.

In addition, Bangladesh would have earned revenue from leasing land for the pipeline right-of-way, while GTCL would have earned wheeling charges for every unit of gas transported through the system.

However, the initiative did not bear fruit because the relevant governments failed to reach an agreement. The available gas was subsequently exported to China.

We are uncertain whether a renewed initiative would be feasible today. The region continues to suffer from war and conflict, while the Myanmar government has lost control over large areas of the country. Nevertheless, the possibility deserves a fresh assessment.

Energy Transition

Everywhere in Bangladesh today, one hears discussion of energy transition, renewable energy, and solar power. Bangladesh, as a developing country, does not face the same emissions-reduction obligations as many advanced economies. Yet, as a nation highly vulnerable to climate disasters, it must remain smart and efficient in how it generates and consumes energy.

That does not mean ignoring or abandoning domestic fossil fuels. At the same time, Bangladesh must do everything possible to exploit its renewable and clean energy potential.

The country is on the brink of entering the nuclear power era. By the end of 2027 or early 2028, the planned 2,400 MW of nuclear generation is expected to be integrated into the national grid as baseload power. We hope all necessary work will be completed to ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of nuclear electricity.

Based on operational experience and growing institutional capacity, Bangladesh should also consider initiating plans for a second nuclear power plant adjacent to the existing Rooppur facility.

The present government has announced a program and is developing a roadmap to add 10,500 MW of renewable energy by 2030. At present, this appears somewhat ambitious. However, the target could become achievable if the government effectively integrates private-sector companies with state-owned enterprises through appropriate policy and regulatory reforms.

For this to happen, SREDA must be strengthened with skilled technical and managerial personnel, while extensive fiscal and financial incentives must be introduced. The power transmission grid must also be given sufficient flexibility to absorb variable renewable energy.

The government must avoid opening a Pandora's box. This opportunity should not be exploited in the manner of past rental power plant controversies or excessive and poorly planned procurement. Even solar projects with battery storage could become vulnerable to manipulation if the government is not vigilant and careful.

Conclusion

The nation must have experienced a profound shock from the recent gas crisis. Bangladesh's fragile energy security is now balanced on the sharp edge of a two-sided sword.

Unless the government remains focused on implementing essential reforms in state-owned enterprises and placing skilled, dedicated, and committed professionals in key positions, the country will struggle to escape the legacy of vested interests and weak management that has poisoned the power and energy supply chain.

The latest crisis should be treated as a warning—and an opportunity. Bangladesh must learn from the shock, diversify its fuel mix, strengthen its supply infrastructure, manage demand intelligently, and pursue every viable domestic and international source of energy.

Only then can the country move from managing one crisis to building genuine, sustainable energy security. ■

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



Ranadev Dasgupta

If Open Access Is Too Expensive, Is It Really Open?

On 20 August, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the tariff and commercial arrangements for renewable energy-based Merchant Power Plants.

The subjects on the table go beyond the Open Access Tariff. The Commission will also consider transmission and distribution losses, Energy Management and Accounting Charges, operational procedures, billing arrangements and energy settlement.

These sound like technical details. They are anything but. Together, they will determine what it costs for a renewable generator to use the grid to

sell electricity to an eligible industrial consumer. And that number may decide whether Bangladesh's new merchant-power market gets off the ground.

There is already reason for the scrutiny. Energy & Power has recently referred to proposed wheeling and compensation charges of Tk 2.75 per unit. Whether that figure appears in exactly the same form at the hearing remains to be seen. But if the overall charge is indeed around that level, the first question should not simply be whether Tk 2.75 is "high" or "low". The better question is what exactly we are paying Tk 2.75 for.

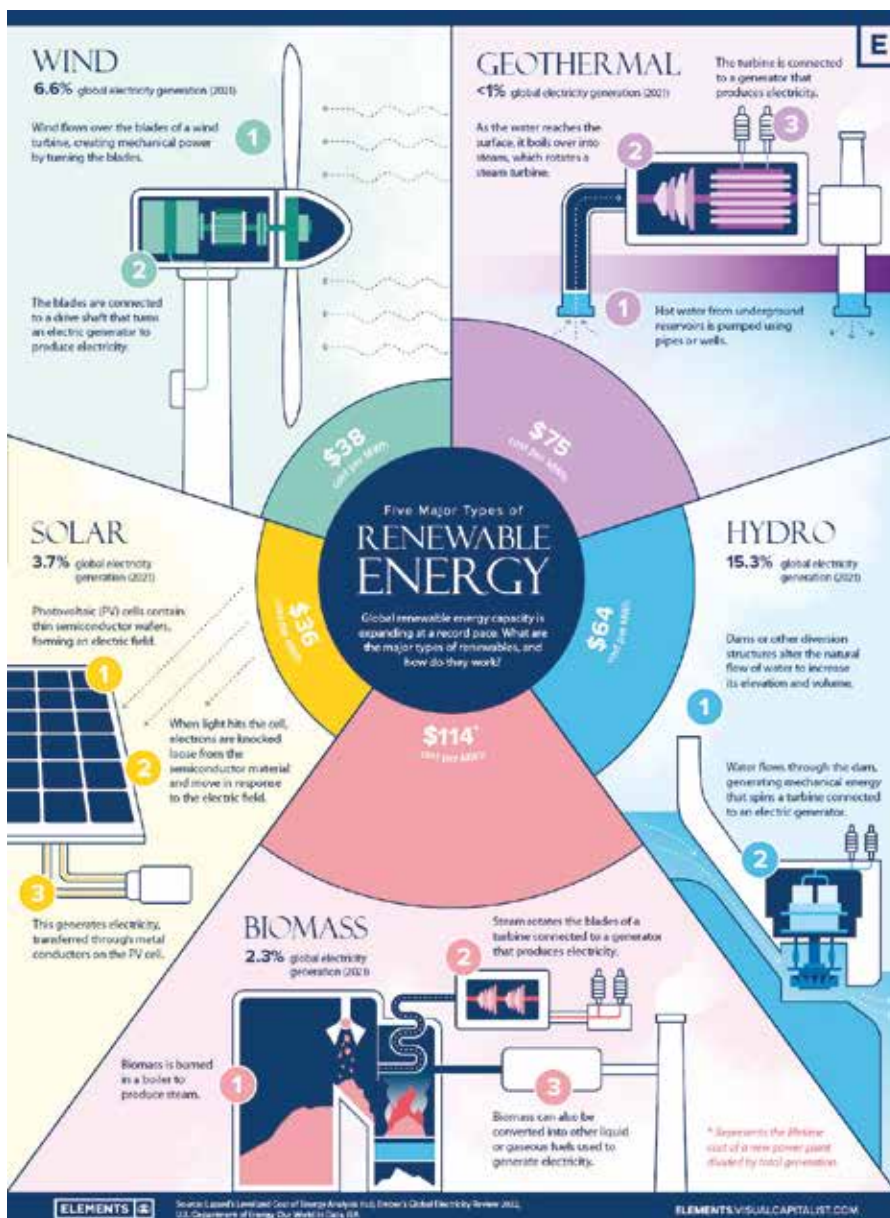
A Cost-Reflective Open Access Framework

Nobody is arguing that Merchant Power Plants should use the national grid free of charge. Power Grid and the distribution utilities operate infrastructure that is essential to the transaction. They maintain lines and substations, run distribution networks, meter electricity, manage data, settle energy flows and maintain system reliability.

These are real services. They have real costs, and the utilities should recover those costs.

But an equally important principle must apply on the other side: an open-access customer should pay for the network and services it actually uses. It should not automatically become responsible for every financial burden carried by the utility.





A factory connected at 33 kV does not necessarily use all those network layers.

The distinction matters because the 2025 Merchant Power Plant Policy changes the nature of the transaction. An eligible Large Consumer or Bulk Power Consumer can contract directly with a renewable Merchant Power Plant, while Power Grid and, where necessary, a distribution utility provide the network on a non-discriminatory basis.

The grid remains indispensable. But for the electricity purchased from the MPP, the utility increasingly becomes a provider of network and system services rather than the sole seller of energy.

That means the Open Access Tariff

should begin with the cost of providing those services. It should not begin with the question: "How much revenue will the utility lose if this customer buys electricity somewhere else?"

Follow the Cost

There is already a useful benchmark. Following BERC's June 2026 tariff revision, Power Grid's transmission wheeling charges were reported at about Tk 0.38–0.39 per kWh, depending on voltage level.

That does not mean the total Open Access charge should be Tk 0.39. Distribution, metering, scheduling and settlement may create legitimate additional costs.

But the Power Grid tariff gives us a sensible starting point. From there, every material addition should be explainable.

How much is transmission? How much is distribution? How much is metering and energy accounting? Is there a standby component? An imbalance charge? A contribution towards a wider financial obligation of the utility?

If the final number is around Tk 2.75, the Commission and the market should be able to see clearly how we moved from a transmission benchmark of about Tk 0.39 to the total open-access cost. The difference may be justified. But it should be demonstrated, not assumed.

This is particularly important on the distribution side. A distribution company operates an entire system that may include 33 kV networks, 11 kV feeders, low-voltage lines, distribution transformers, residential connections and rural networks.

A factory connected at 33 kV does not necessarily use all those network layers.

Should that factory pay its proper share of the infrastructure used to transport its merchant electricity? Of course. But should it automatically pay the average cost of the utility's entire distribution system? That is much harder to defend.

The MPP Policy itself differentiates eligible consumers by voltage level. A

132 kV consumer, a 33 kV factory and an 11 kV customer use the network differently. Open-access pricing should recognize the same physical reality.

Put simply, the deeper a customer uses the network, the more of the network it should pay for. That is ordinary cost allocation, not a concession to renewable generators.

The All-In Cost Matters

There is another reason not to focus only on the headline Open Access Tariff. BERC's hearing notice also covers network losses, Energy Management and Accounting Charges, billing and settlement methodology. A reasonable-looking wheeling tariff can therefore become considerably more expensive once everything else is added, and what matters to an industrial buyer is the all-in delivered cost.

This is why BERC should publish a simple worked example with its final decision. Take one representative MPP and one 33 kV industrial consumer. Start with 1,000 kWh injected by the MPP. Then show the deductions and charges: transmission loss, distribution loss, Power Grid charge, distribution charge, energy-management cost, imbalance treatment, and backup supply. At the end, show how many units are credited to the buyer and the total network-related cost.

Losses are another area where precision matters. Technical electrical losses are unavoidable, and an open-access transaction should bear its appropriate share.

But technical loss and commercial loss are not the same thing. Electricity theft, collection inefficiency, non-payment or other commercial problems elsewhere in the system are not created by an MPP sending electricity to an identified industrial consumer. The open-access loss factor should therefore reflect technically attributable losses as far as practicable.

The same logic should apply to standby power. A factory buying solar electricity from an MPP may still need the grid when generation falls short, or the plant is unavailable. Keeping supply capacity available has value.

But if the service is standby capacity, price standby capacity transparently. Similarly, if an MPP deviates from schedule and creates additional balancing requirements, there can be a transparent mechanism for settling that deviation. Identify the service and charge for that service.

Lost Revenue and the Transition Question

Perhaps the hardest part of the debate concerns lost utility revenue. If large industrial consumers begin buying part of their electricity directly from Merchant Power Plants, distribution companies may lose some electricity-sales revenue. That concern is real.

But lost retail revenue is not automatically a network cost.

If policymakers conclude that open access creates genuine stranded costs or threatens an existing cross-subsidy arrangement, let us discuss that openly. There may even be an argument for a temporary transition mechanism, but it should be called what it is.

If it is a transition charge, identify it separately. Explain how it was calculated. Put a timeframe on it. Review it as the market develops. Do not permanently convert a wider power-sector revenue problem into the supposed cost of physically wheeling electricity.

A new supplier cannot meaningfully compete if the price of entering the network is designed primarily to reproduce the incumbent supplier's foregone retail margin.

Building a Market That Works

None of this means the Commission should favor developers at the expense of utilities. A tariff that is too low is not sustainable. Utilities must recover the efficient costs associated with open-access transactions. But a tariff that is too high creates a different problem: an industrial consumer considering a long-term Merchant Power Purchase Agreement will accept contractual obligations, payment-security requirements, settlement procedures and regulatory risks. There must be a meaningful commercial reason for the buyer to make that commitment.

If network charges absorb most of the benefit, the buyer will not sign the MPPA. Without the MPPA, the developer cannot finance the project. Without financing, there is no Merchant Power Plant. And without Merchant Power Plants, there is no new electricity to wheel and no new open-access revenue for the utilities.

The objective should therefore not be to maximize the charge per unit. It should be to build a market in which the grid is fairly compensated, and enough transactions actually take place.

Open access can also create a long-term opportunity for the utilities. As the electricity sector evolves, the grid becomes the platform linking generators, consumers, storage systems and new energy services. Utilities can earn regulated revenue for enabling those transactions rather than relying entirely on buying and reselling every unit of electricity.

Bangladesh has already taken the policy decision to allow renewable Merchant Power Plants. Now comes the harder part: putting an economic framework around that decision.

BERC does not need to decide whether it is "for" the utilities or "for" renewable developers. It only needs to insist that the numbers answer a straightforward question: what service is being provided, and what does that service reasonably cost?

If that exercise produces a low Open Access Tariff, it should not be regarded as a subsidy to merchant power. If it produces a higher tariff, the evidence should show why.

The grid should be paid. But before deciding how much, Bangladesh should be very clear about what it is being paid for.

Because an electricity market cannot really be called open if the economics make access practically unusable. ■

Ranadev Dasgupta is a Renewable Energy Consultant working on renewable-energy project development, power-sector policy and project finance in Bangladesh. The views expressed in this article are personal.

Call For Swift, Multi-Pronged Action To Tackle Energy Crisis



Bangladesh has around 30,000MW of power generation capacity, but inadequate fuel supplies are preventing power plants from operating at full capacity.

Bangladesh needs urgent and coordinated measures to address its worsening energy crisis, with greater emphasis on domestic gas exploration, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sector reforms and private investment, experts said at a seminar in Dhaka recently.

They also called for reducing dependence on imported fuels, developing neglected gas fields and creating a predictable regulatory and investment environment for private-sector participation.

The observations came at a seminar titled “Energy Sector Crisis: Prospects and Way Forward”, organized by the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) at Dhaka Club.

In his keynote paper, former Dean of Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Ijaz Hossain said Bangladesh must

accelerate gas exploration to assess its remaining reserves and reduce its growing dependence on imported LNG.

Domestic gas production has fallen to around 1,700 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) from a peak of 2,786 MMCFD in 2017, he said. Maintaining even 2,000 MMCFD of domestic production would require drilling at least 10 wells annually, according to his presentation.

Bangladesh has already consumed around 15 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas, while only around 2 TCF has been added since the discovery of Bibiyana in 1997. The country now has less than 8 TCF in remaining reserves, he said.

Without accelerated exploration, these reserves could be nearly exhausted by 2030, Prof Ijaz warned.

He called for the rapid development of Bhola’s gas resources, deepwater offshore exploration and the revival

of idle fields such as Kutubdia. He also stressed the need for improved reservoir management and timely workovers.

According to Prof Ijaz, LNG imports and additional terminals are necessary to address the immediate crisis but cannot provide a sustainable long-term solution.

He projected that gas demand could reach around 4,600 MMCFD by 2030, requiring domestic production of about 2,000 MMCFD and LNG imports of around 2,600 MMCFD. This would require existing LNG terminals to operate at full capacity and two additional FSRUs to be added.

However, he cautioned that LNG imports would depend heavily on the availability of foreign currency. "Without the ability to purchase LNG, regasification capacity will be useless," he said.

Prof Ijaz proposed an eight-point approach to energy security, including greater use of coal, energy conservation and efficiency, and increased use of renewable technologies in cooking and transportation.

Former BUET professor and Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, M Tamim said there was no single solution to the country's energy crisis.

Bangladesh needs to increase domestic gas production, import fuel where necessary, maximize coal-fired power generation and rapidly add 2,000-3,000MW of solar power, he said.

He also called for reconsidering the country's dependence on BAPEX for exploration and suggested bringing international companies into the sector to address gaps in technology, expertise and investment.

M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, called for a "revolutionary change" in the power and energy sector. He identified irrational pricing as one of the major challenges and urged the government to establish clear benchmark prices

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and predictable investment conditions for power generation.

Power and Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku said the government was taking steps to expand rooftop solar generation, with a target of 10,000MW.

The government plans to encourage private investment in cluster-based rooftop solar projects under an OPEX model, with incentives including a five-year tax holiday. Under the model, third-party developers would finance, install, own and maintain solar systems on consumers' rooftops.

Regarding private-sector participation in fuel imports and marketing, the minister said the proposed policy would allow companies to compete on an equal footing rather than favoring any particular business.

He said the government hopes to cooperate with Malaysia's state-owned Petronas in developing Bhola's gas resources and plans to invite international companies to participate in offshore exploration.

A Bangladeshi delegation has already discussed the issue with Petronas officials in Malaysia, while the minister plans to visit Houston to hold discussions with major international

oil and gas companies on offshore exploration.

The minister acknowledged that inadequate gas pressure was severely affecting businesses, disrupting cash flow and increasing the risk of loan defaults.

"I don't want any businessman's name to appear in the banks' red ledger because of us," he said, adding that the government would arrange a meeting involving the Prime Minister, industrialists and experts to discuss the industrial crisis.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Anindya Islam Amit apologized to consumers for the ongoing gas crisis and said the government was working to address the situation.

Bangladesh has around 30,000MW of power generation capacity, but inadequate fuel supplies are preventing power plants from operating at full capacity, he said. "If we could run the gas-fired power plants at full capacity, people would not have to suffer the current power crisis," Amit said.

He noted that immediately increasing LNG imports was not possible because of inadequate infrastructure, even if sufficient funds were available. The government is seeking to bring a third FSRU into operation within less than two years, while work is also underway on a fourth FSRU and a land-based LNG terminal, he said.

Updating the seminar on the Excelerate Energy-operated FSRU, Amit said one boiler was undergoing repairs while the other remained out of operation.

He said restarting the second boiler would require the operating boiler to be shut down for at least 72 hours, potentially causing another temporary disruption to gas supplies.

"The biggest challenge now is deciding when people's suffering will be the least and when we can operate this FSRU at full capacity," he said.

FERB Chairman M Azizur Rahman chaired the seminar. ■

Bangladesh's Rooftop Solar Capacity Surges As Distributed Energy Gains Momentum: IEEFA

Bangladesh's distributed energy resource (DER) sector is beginning to emerge as a key pillar of the country's energy transition, driven primarily by rapid growth in industrial rooftop solar installations, according to a new analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

The briefing note, "Role of Distributed Resources in Energy Transition: A Multi-country Perspective," compares the experiences of Bangladesh, Australia and India, concluding that rooftop solar has become the dominant driver of distributed energy growth while reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based electricity.

Although Bangladesh's power system remains largely dependent on centralized generation and transmission, IEEFA says distributed energy technologies—including rooftop solar, solar-powered irrigation, battery storage and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) systems—are increasingly demonstrating their ability to provide affordable, clean and reliable electricity.



According to government data, Bangladesh had installed 418.1 megawatts (MW) of rooftop solar capacity by June 2026. However, IEEFA estimates that rooftop solar capacity has already reached 667MW across 239 industrial establishments and business groups. If smaller installations below 0.15MW are included, total rooftop solar capacity could already be approaching 1,000MW.

The report says the rapid expansion of rooftop solar has already contributed to a modest decline in daytime electricity demand, based on comparisons between power demand during April 16-June 11, 2024 and the same period in 2026.

"Compared with the country's grid-scale variable renewable energy capacity of 859MW as of June 2026, the rapid expansion of rooftop solar sends a highly encouraging signal for Bangladesh's power sector," said Shafiqul Alam, Lead Analyst for Bangladesh Energy at IEEFA South Asia and co-author of the report.

He noted that the rooftop solar market is expected to expand further, with engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) companies currently holding a project pipeline exceeding 500MW.

"Bangladesh, however, must accelerate efforts to unlock the several thousand megawatts of rooftop solar potential available in the country's industrial sector," Alam said. The report notes that the government's renewable energy strategy targets the installation of 10,450MW of new renewable energy capacity between 2026 and 2030, with rooftop solar expected to account for more than half, or approximately 5,500MW, of that expansion.

Beyond rooftop solar, Bangladesh's diesel-dependent irrigation sector represents another major opportunity for distributed renewable energy. According to IEEFA, converting one-third of diesel-powered irrigation pumps to solar energy could reduce the country's annual diesel import bill by approximately US\$244 million (around Tk 30 billion).

While Bangladesh has introduced net metering regulations and concessional financing to encourage rooftop solar, rising electricity tariffs have become one of the strongest economic drivers for businesses to invest in solar systems. Similarly, higher diesel prices are encouraging farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs to adopt solar-powered irrigation. However, the report identifies import duties as one of the principal barriers to faster deployment.

Although the government has recently revised the duty structure for rooftop solar equipment, IEEFA says the changes do not fully address long-standing concerns. Small rural solar projects may struggle to qualify for duty concessions because of restrictive eligibility requirements, while industrial rooftop solar projects now face an effective import duty of around 17%, compared with 1% under the previous capital machinery provisions.

Drawing lessons from Australia and India, the report argues that fiscal incentives such as capital subsidies and broader duty exemptions have played a critical role in accelerating distributed energy deployment. IEEFA recommends that Bangladesh introduce a full exemption from import duties on rooftop solar systems to reduce project costs and help achieve its renewable energy targets.

The study also highlights administrative challenges, noting that despite regulations requiring approval of net metering applications within 10 to 15 days, both rooftop solar and solar irrigation projects continue to experience significant delays in obtaining grid connections.

To address these bottlenecks, IEEFA recommends that the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources closely monitor online net metering applications and ensure timely approvals.

The report further recommends integrating battery energy storage systems with distributed renewable energy projects and gradually deploying smart electricity meters to improve grid management as rooftop solar penetration increases. 



UN Climate Change, China Launch Partnership To Strengthen Climate Transparency Capacity

EP DESK

UN Climate Change and China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment have launched a new partnership to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for climate transparency in developing countries, with a focus on implementing the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

the beginning of practical cooperation through South-South collaboration, training and peer learning.

The 2026 Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) workshop brought together 27 experts from 24 developing countries, along with resource persons from the CGE, UN Climate Change, the Capacity-

good practices and lessons learned in implementing the ETF through country presentations, panel discussions, technical sessions, interactive exercises and peer-to-peer exchanges.

The training focused on practical aspects of preparing Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), participating in Technical Expert Reviews and the Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP), applying the ETF's Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines, using flexibility provisions, planning continuous improvements and strengthening institutional arrangements.

The program also included visits to Chery New Energy, the Wuhu Shipyard Research Institute and the Yangtze Riverside Protection initiative, providing participants with practical examples of climate action, technological innovation and green development.

Opening the workshop, Xuehong Wang, Director of Transparency at UN Climate Change, said implementation of the ETF has entered a new phase.

The partnership's first joint activity was a hands-on training workshop for Asia, the Pacific and Eastern Europe, held in Wuhu from July 20 to 23. The workshop followed a Letter of Intent signed by the two sides at COP30 and marked

building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Program (CBIT-GSP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Participants shared national experiences,

"As of July 2026, 134 Parties have submitted their Biennial Transparency Reports, 86 have completed Technical Expert Reviews and 49 have participated in the Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress," Wang said. 



New Global Climate Action Agenda Sets Five-Year Framework to Accelerate Climate Solutions



The Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action have launched a new annual Work Program aimed at accelerating climate action and turning existing commitments into practical results over the coming year.

The program marks the first year of implementation under the Global Climate Action Agenda's 2026–2030 five-year vision, with a focus on delivering tangible benefits for people and communities, including cleaner air, greater energy security and stronger climate resilience.

The Work Program builds on the renewed Action Agenda launched at COP30, which shifted the emphasis from making new commitments to implementing existing ones more rapidly and at greater scale.

It seeks to strengthen coordination among governments, businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society while translating the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake into practical action aligned with countries' climate and adaptation plans.

Climate High-Level Champions Dan Ioschpe for COP30 and Samed Ağırbaş for COP31 said the central objective is to ensure that climate solutions reach people on the ground, particularly communities most exposed to climate impacts. They stressed that the agenda should support socioeconomic development through a fair, accessible and inclusive approach.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said climate action is now firmly focused on implementation.

He said the Marrakech Partnership Work Program provides a framework for bringing together governments, businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society to accelerate solutions and support countries in implementing their climate plans. ■■

Loss & Damage Must Take Centre Stage in Bangladesh's COP31 Advocacy

Loss and damage must remain a central priority in Bangladesh's climate advocacy ahead of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), with stronger mechanisms needed to ensure climate finance reaches vulnerable countries and affected communities, civil society representatives said.

The call was made at a coordination and planning meeting of the Climate Justice Forum held at a city hotel on Thursday.

Chaired and moderated by Dr Kazi Maruf Islam, Chair of the Climate Justice Forum National Committee, the meeting brought together Forum members, civil society representatives, climate experts and development practitioners to review recent developments in global climate negotiations and identify priorities for Bangladesh's civil society ahead of COP31.



Forum Member Secretary Roufa Khanum presented an overview of the Forum's recent activities, highlighting its growing engagement at national and sub-national levels and efforts to strengthen coordination and collective advocacy on climate justice.

Md Salah Uddin, Team Lead–Knowledge Management at AOSD, delivered a keynote presentation titled "SB64 Highlights, Key Negotiation Outcomes and Major Areas of Disagreement among Parties Leading towards COP31."

The presentation reviewed major developments from the SB64 climate negotiations in Bonn, areas of continuing disagreement among Parties and their potential implications for negotiations at COP31.

In addition, the Forum intends to present its climate risk architecture at relevant discussions and engagements during COP31, strengthening efforts to ensure that the concerns and priorities of vulnerable communities are reflected in global climate decision-making. ■■

PM Seeks Malaysia's Support to Ease Gas Crisis

Bangladesh has sought Malaysia's assistance to ease the country's ongoing gas crisis following the shutdown of a floating LNG terminal in Moheshkhali.



State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman wrote to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and spoke with him by phone, seeking both immediate and long-term cooperation in addressing the gas supply shortage.

Anwar assured Bangladesh that Malaysia would explore possible avenues of support, Amit said.

The crisis began after a technical failure at an Excelerate Energy-operated FSRU off Moheshkhali disrupted around 500–600 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of regasification capacity, affecting households, industries, power plants and CNG stations.

Amit said Excelerate officials and local and international experts are working to restore the facility.

Furnace Oil Use Surges, Pushing Up Power Generation Costs

Bangladesh's power generation costs have risen sharply as the outage of an LNG terminal in Cox's Bazar has reduced gas supplies and forced greater reliance on expensive furnace oil.



according to a Power Division estimate.

According to Power Grid Bangladesh data, furnace oil accounted for 15.87% of the power mix, up from just 5.95% on July 18—an increase of about 167%. Gas generation fell to 27.22% from 38.27% over the same period.

Gas-fired power costs about Tk7.10 per unit, compared with Tk13.81 for coal and Tk27.36 for furnace oil,

As a result, the estimated daily generation cost rose to Tk270 crore on Sunday from Tk211 crore on July 18, despite only a modest increase in electricity output.

The gas shortage began after an FSRU at the Moheshkhali LNG terminal went out of service, cutting around 450 million cubic feet per day of regasified LNG supply.

Energy Crisis Emerges as Biggest Hurdle to Bangladesh's \$100bn Export Goal by 2030

Bangladesh's business community has identified the ongoing energy crisis as the biggest obstacle to achieving the government's target of raising annual exports to \$100 billion by 2030, up from \$48 billion in the last fiscal year.



At a consultation meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka recently, business leaders called for reliable energy supplies, a better investment climate, simplified regulations and reforms in the tax system.

The prime minister assured them that the government is working on both short- and long-term measures to address the crisis.

He said plans are underway to install a dedicated FSRU for industrial users within two years, in addition to the country's existing two floating LNG terminals.

The government has identified 10 priority sectors—including garments, pharmaceuticals, electronics, auto parts, man-made fibres, ceramics and leather—to drive export growth.

Closed FSRU Resumes Operations, Easing Bangladesh's Gas Crisis

Bangladesh received some relief from its severe gas shortage after a damaged floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali resumed operations, following a recent two-week shutdown.



The FSRU restarted on August 6 after one of its two boilers was repaired. It initially began regasifying around 115 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of LNG, according to Petrobangla.

With the restart, combined LNG regasification from Bangladesh's two FSRUs rose to around 620 MMCFD, from 490 MMCFD the previous day.

Output from the repaired FSRU is expected to exceed

250 MMCFD, while total regasification could reach around 800 MMCFD after another LNG cargo is transferred to the terminal.

Petrobangla officials said full-scale operation could take another week. Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmud said gas supply across the country could return to normal within two to three days as transmission pressure gradually improves.

Bangladesh to Place 10-Year Integrated Energy Plan before Parliament

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said the government will present a 10-year plan for the power and energy sectors before the Jatiya Sangsad to ensure reliable electricity and gas supplies for industries, households, transport and essential public services.



Speaking at a program in Chattogram on August 10, the prime minister stressed the need to diversify energy sources and give priority to economic viability, environmental impacts and long-term public interests in power and energy projects.

During a visit to the Matarbari deep-sea port area in Cox's Bazar, Tarique also inspected the 1,200MW Matarbari Ultra-Supercritical Coal-Fired Power Plant and called for efficient use and regular maintenance of existing energy infrastructure, alongside greater transparency and accountability in project management.

Govt Moves to Open Fuel Import and Retail Market to Private Firms

The Bangladesh government is moving to allow private companies to import, store, distribute and sell refined petroleum products, potentially ending the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's (BPC) near-monopoly in the fuel market.



The Energy and Mineral Resources Division has directed BPC to prepare a draft "Private-Sector Refined Fuel Import, Storage, Transportation, Distribution and Marketing Policy, 2026" as part of efforts to introduce greater competition and diversify fuel supplies.

The move follows a

proposal by Bashundhara Oil and Gas Company to import up to 3.35 million tonnes of refined fuel annually, including diesel, petrol, octane and furnace oil. Bangladesh's annual fuel demand is around 7.4 million tonnes.

Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said private companies would be allowed to compete with BPC to reduce dependence on a single supplier and strengthen energy security

CCCI Seeks Three-Month Relief for Industries Hit by Energy Crisis

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has urged the government to provide a three-month financial relief package for businesses affected by prolonged gas and electricity shortages.



In separate letters to the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, the chamber sought a three-month waiver of bank interest and deferment of loan instalments, along with a 90-day moratorium on gas and electricity bill payments without penalties.

CCCI President Mohammad Amirul Haque said persistent energy disruptions had severely affected garment and textile factories,

plastics manufacturers and other industrial units, with some forced to suspend production or implement layoffs.

The chamber said lower and irregular energy supplies had caused sharp declines in production, exports and sales, leaving businesses struggling to pay wages, bank interest, utility bills and other operating costs.

Gas Crisis Cripples Plastic and Ceramic Industries

Bangladesh's worsening gas and electricity shortages are severely disrupting energy-intensive industries, with plastic and ceramic manufacturers reporting sharp production declines, rising costs and growing risks to exports.



Industry leaders said many factories are operating at less than half of their capacity, while some have temporarily suspended production.

The crisis has intensified following a technical failure at a floating LNG terminal, which reduced national gas supplies by around 450 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD).

The plastic industry has been particularly affected because injection molding, blow molding and extrusion require uninterrupted power and gas.

According to the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, around 300 plastic factories have suspended production, mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, while many others are operating at only 30-40% capacity.

Bangladesh Proposes Pipeline Gas Imports from Myanmar

Bangladesh has proposed importing natural gas from Myanmar through a cross-border pipeline as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral energy cooperation and diversify the country's gas supply sources.



The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood and Myanmar's Ambassador to Bangladesh, U Kyaw Soe Moe, at the Secretariat recently.

During the meeting, the energy minister said Bangladesh is facing a growing demand for natural gas and is keen to explore

the possibility of importing gas from Myanmar through a dedicated pipeline.

He emphasized that closer energy cooperation between the two neighboring countries could contribute to regional energy security and economic development.

Responding to the proposal, the Myanmar ambassador welcomed the initiative and expressed interest in further discussions.

Bangladesh, US Explore MoU to Strengthen Energy Cooperation

Bangladesh and the United States have discussed signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, particularly in LNG and LPG, as Dhaka seeks to strengthen long-term energy security.



The issue was discussed at a meeting between Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood and senior US Embassy officials in Dhaka, including Political and Economic Counsellor Eric Geelan. The two sides explored opportunities to increase US investment and business participation in Bangladesh's energy sector and expand government-to-government cooperation.

They also discussed existing challenges to bilateral energy cooperation and possible measures to establish a roadmap for closer collaboration.

The proposed MoU could provide a formal framework for identifying priority areas and expanding future energy partnerships. The discussions also took place ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's planned visit to the United States, with both sides highlighting the potential for stronger energy cooperation.

PM Outlines Immediate, Long-Term Measures to Resolve Energy Crisis

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said his government is pursuing both immediate and long-term measures to overcome Bangladesh's ongoing gas and electricity crisis, acknowledging the hardships facing households and industries due to fuel shortages.



Speaking at a discussion in Dhaka recently, the Prime Minister said the government is fully aware of the country's energy challenges and is working to restore stability in the sector.

"We are not trying to make excuses. The problems exist, and we are working continuously to resolve

them through both short-term and long-term initiatives," he said.

Tarique Rahman said the government has initiated discussions with Myanmar on importing natural gas and is also negotiating with Malaysia's state-owned energy company, Petronas, to secure LNG supplies through a container-based transportation system.

Gas Crisis Cuts Garment Production by Up to 40%: BGMEA

Bangladesh's garment industry has suffered a 30-40% decline in production capacity over the past two weeks due to worsening gas shortages, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Mahmud Hasan Khan said.



Speaking in Dhaka, he said gas supply to the national grid had fallen to around 2.65-2.7 billion cubic feet per day, well below demand.

The crisis intensified after an Excelerate Energy-operated floating LNG terminal in Moheshkhali was shut following a fire on July 21, reducing gas supplies by around 450-500 million cubic feet per day.

Mahmud said the production losses were significant, but maintaining the confidence of international buyers was an even greater concern. The government has indicated that gas supplies could improve from August 8-9, he added.

Garment exports stood at \$3.89 billion in July, about 2% lower than the same month a year earlier. Mahmud said the sector remained resilient but warned that prolonged energy shortages could affect export performance.

Intraco Resumes Industrial Gas Supply after 9-Month Halt

Intraco Refueling Station has resumed compressed natural gas (CNG) supplies to industrial areas in Dhaka, Gazipur



and nearby regions after a nearly nine-month disruption, following regulatory clearance for its gas transportation vehicles.

The Department of Explosives approved Intraco's tube-trailer and cascade-cylinder vehicles after inspections confirmed their technical fitness.

The approval allows the company to restart gas transportation from Bhola

to industries outside the national pipeline network.

Intraco had suspended most of its operations in November 2025 after withdrawing 35 unlicensed vehicles following regulatory instructions.

The authority subsequently licensed 18 tube-trailer trucks and recently granted six-month permission for another 20 cascade-cylinder trailers.

India Approves \$8.8bn Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Plan

India has approved an \$8.8 billion plan to support offshore oil and gas exploration as the country seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on imported energy.



The cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the ambitious program to explore offshore areas under Indian jurisdiction for new oil and gas reserves.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said successful exploration could significantly increase domestic production. India currently meets only

about 10% of its crude oil demand through domestic production.

The move follows disruptions to global energy supplies linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. India has responded by expanding its crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries, while increasing purchases from Russia and African producers.

Rooppur Unit-1 Power Generation Delayed Pending Regulatory Approval

Power generation from Unit-1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has been delayed as the project awaits final regulatory clearance from the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA).



Fuel loading and around 90 major commissioning tests have been completed under a B1 license. However, the plant must obtain a B2 commissioning license before reaching criticality and beginning power generation.

Officials had earlier expected Unit-1 to supply around 300MW to the national grid by August, but the target is now unlikely to be met.

Nuclear Power Plant Company of Bangladesh Managing Director Dr Md Zahedul Hasan said the project is ready for the next stage once BAERA completes its final inspection and grants the license.

He added that even after achieving criticality, another four to six weeks would be required before electricity generation begins.

No More Unplanned Power Projects: Amit

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit has warned against undertaking unplanned and unnecessary power projects, stressing that public funds must be used only for initiatives that deliver clear benefits.



At a recent meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat, Amit directed officials to assess proposed projects based on necessity, economic feasibility and long-term public interest before seeking approval. He also called for a comprehensive, integrated mapping of Bangladesh's mineral resources to support better planning and coordination among government agencies.

At another meeting on improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the energy sector, the state minister ordered officials to prepare zone-wise assessments of energy demand and supply and identify infrastructure constraints.

He stressed the need for efficient use of domestic resources and faster measures to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of the power and energy sector.

PM Calls for Efficient Use of Existing Infrastructure to Boost Energy Security

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has called for the maximum and efficient use of existing power and energy infrastructure to strengthen Bangladesh's energy security, alongside greater transparency, accountability, regular maintenance and long-term integrated planning.



During his visit to the 1,200MW Matarbari Ultra-Supercritical Coal-Fired Power Plant on August 9, the Prime Minister stressed the need to diversify energy sources while giving priority to economic viability, environmental impacts and the long-term interests of the people.

He also emphasized integrated development of the Matarbari power and

energy facilities, deep-sea port and related industrial infrastructure, saying their efficient use could accelerate industrialization and wider economic activity.

Officials briefed the Prime Minister on the plant's operations, generation capacity, fuel supply, maintenance, safety and future expansion plans. The facility comprises two 600MW units and uses ultra-supercritical technology, with JICA providing loan assistance for the project.

Bangladesh Puts 13-Year US LNG Deal on Hold over High Price

Bangladesh has put a proposed 13-year LNG supply agreement with US-based Gunvor USA LLC on hold after the company quoted a price considered too high by the government.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the proposed government-to-government deal on July 28, but the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase did not approve it on August 7. As a result, signing of the supply purchase agreement remains suspended.

Under the proposal, Gunvor would supply five LNG cargoes in 2026, six in 2027

and three in 2028, priced against the Asian JKM benchmark.

From 2029 to 2038, it would supply 10 cargoes annually under a Henry Hub-linked formula of 121% of Henry Hub plus \$5.20/MMBtu.

Officials said Gunvor initially offered the 2026-28 LNG at JKM plus \$0.10/MMBtu but later raised the premium to \$0.875/MMBtu, citing tight global LNG supplies.

Chinese Firm to Build Floating LNG Terminal in Moheshkhali

A Chinese firm is set to construct a floating LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal at Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently gave in-principle approval to process a proposal submitted by China National Energy Engineering and Construction Company Limited for setting up the LNG storage and regasification terminal under a government-to-government (G2G) arrangement.

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury chaired the meeting held at the Secretariat.

According to a Finance

Ministry statement, the proposal will be processed under the G2G method in accordance with Section 68 of the Public Procurement Act, 2006, and Rules 99(2) and 107(2) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025.

At the same meeting, the committee also gave in-principle approval to a proposal for importing LNG on both a short- and long-term basis from US-based Gunvor USA LLC under a G2G framework.

ABB Invests in LevelTen Energy to Expand Clean Energy Procurement

ABB has formed a strategic partnership with and made a minority investment in LevelTen Energy, aiming to strengthen clean energy procurement services for industrial and commercial customers.



LevelTen, described by ABB as the world's largest clean energy marketplace, has facilitated more than 20 GW of clean energy transactions across more than 35 markets in North America and Europe. Its platform supports transactions including power purchase agreements (PPAs) and environmental attribute certificates.

The partnership will combine LevelTen's clean energy procurement

platform with ABB's expertise in electrification, digital solutions and energy management.

ABB said the collaboration will expand its energy and carbon advisory services, helping customers secure affordable, long-term renewable power while managing energy costs and emissions.

ABB said the partnership is particularly relevant as companies face growing pressure to demonstrate when and where clean electricity is generated and consumed.

BREAKING
BOUNDARIES

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF
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Rampal Set to Host Bangladesh's Largest Solar Power Plant

Bangladesh is planning to build its largest-ever solar power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat, on land originally earmarked for a coal-fired project, signaling a major shift towards renewable energy.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has proposed a 442MW (peak DC) grid-connected solar PV plant at an estimated cost of Tk2,502 crore. The project, subject to approval, is expected to be completed by December 2029.

The plant will occupy about 685 acres of already developed BPDB-owned land at Rampal, avoiding the need for new land acquisition.



It will connect to the national grid through a new 230kV transmission system linked to the nearby Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company substation.

The project is intended to reduce Bangladesh's dependence on imported gas, oil and coal, lower carbon emissions and strengthen long-term energy security.

Titumir Calls for Social Movement to Accelerate RE Transition

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning, Prof. Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, has called for transforming renewable energy adoption into a nationwide social movement, alongside expanding local manufacturing of solar technologies to strengthen Bangladesh's energy security.



Speaking at a seminar titled "Distributed Renewable Energy: The Future Solar Solution for Bangladesh" at the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) in Dhaka recently, Titumir said public awareness and citizen participation are essential for accelerating the country's clean energy transition.

He stressed that creating public demand for renewable energy would encourage market expansion, while greater use of household solar systems could reduce dependence on imported fuels, including LPG, lower energy costs and improve energy security.

Payment Guarantee Restored to Boost RE Investment

Bangladesh has restored the payment guarantee provision for renewable energy projects, nearly two years after it was removed, in a move aimed at attracting local and foreign investment and improving access to project financing.

The absence of a government payment guarantee had discouraged local banks, international lenders and multilateral institutions from financing renewable power projects, resulting in weak participation in several tenders.

The Power Division has recently instructed the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to include payment guarantees in future tender documents for renewable energy projects.

BPDB Director Golam Mortuza said the measure was a longstanding demand from private investors and would help attract investment in the sector.

Renewable energy developers said payment security is a key requirement for international lenders and that restoring the guarantee would improve the bankability of utility-scale solar projects and facilitate long-term financing.

ACI Renewable Energy Launches Home Power Backup Solutions

ACI Renewable Energy, a business division of ACI Motors Limited, and GoodWe Technologies Co, Limited jointly launched GoodWe EO G2 Series Off-Grid Inverter and Lynx A G4 Series Battery at Le Méridien Dhaka on July 29, said a press release.



The new products are designed primarily as dependable home power backup solutions, addressing the growing need for uninterrupted electricity in households across Bangladesh.

The EO G2 Series Off-Grid Inverter and Lynx A G4 Series Battery work together as an integrated energy storage solution, helping homeowners keep essential appliances, lighting, communication devices, and other

household equipment operational during power outages. The solution is expected to offer households a cleaner, quieter, and more convenient alternative to conventional fuel-powered backup systems.

With efficient energy management, reliable battery storage, and seamless backup support, the products aim to provide homeowners with greater comfort, security, and energy independence.

Bangladesh Invites Bids for 220MW Sonagazi Solar Power Project

State-owned Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) has invited international bids for the design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a 220 MW solar power project in Sonagazi, Feni district.



Interested firms have been asked to submit their bids by September 15, while a pre-bid meeting will be held on August 19.

Under the tender, the selected contractor will be responsible for the engineering, procurement, construction, testing and commissioning of the project and must complete the work within 18 months of contract signing.

According to the bidding requirements, participating companies must

have achieved an average annual construction turnover of at least US\$130 million over the past three years.

Bidding documents are available for a non-refundable fee of BDT 36,000 (US\$300), and each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of BDT 310 million (US\$2.5 million).

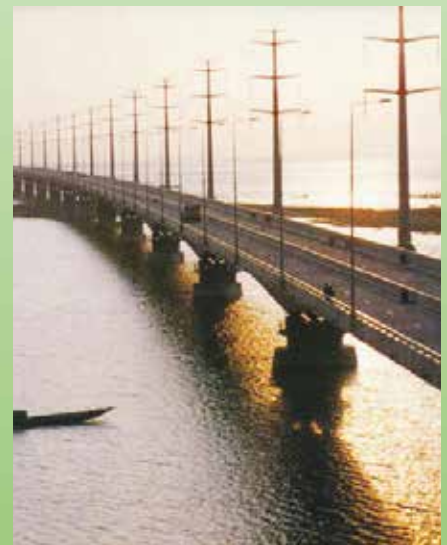
The Sonagazi solar project received approval in December last year with financial backing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).



Bridge Authority Approves 120 Acres Land for 55MW Solar Plant at Jamuna Bridge Site

The Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has approved a proposal to lease 120 acres of land to North-West Power Generation Company Limited for the construction of a 55-megawatt solar power plant at the Jamuna Bridge site.

The decision was taken at the 117th board meeting of the BBA held at Setu Bhaban in Dhaka recently, chaired by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam, also the chairman of the BBA board, according to a press release.



The board included the solar panel installation proposal as part of the government's green employment initiative and approved a proposal to prepare a master plan for the project, said the release.

The board also decided to revise the existing rehabilitation policy governing flat allocations at a rehabilitation village for families affected by the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project, aiming to better protect the rights of affected families.

Middle East War Drives Electric Car Sales Higher: IEA

Rising fuel prices and supply concerns triggered by the Middle East conflict have sharply boosted electric vehicle (EV) sales, with global sales rising 35% in the second quarter of 2026, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

EV sales reached record levels in 50 countries during the April-June period as oil price volatility renewed concerns over energy security. Crude prices surged from around \$60 a barrel at the beginning of the year to nearly \$120 following disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

The IEA said the crisis has highlighted EVs as a way for oil-importing countries to reduce dependence on imported fuels while protecting consumers and businesses from fuel-price volatility.



Several Southeast Asian countries affected by high fuel costs introduced temporary tax incentives to encourage EV purchases. Government support in Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America is also expected to sustain demand.

The IEA forecasts global EV sales will grow by around 10% in 2026, reaching about 29% of total car sales, despite an expected decline in the overall automobile market.

India Approves \$2.5b Scheme to Scale Up Biogas

India's Union Cabinet has approved a ₹23,731 crore (about \$2.5 billion) national scheme to accelerate compressed biogas (CBG) production and turn agricultural and organic waste into clean energy, organic fertilizer and rural income.

The 10-year GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme will support the use of agricultural residues, cattle dung, press mud, municipal organic waste and other biomass resources for CBG production.

The program will provide assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and access to finance to strengthen the



CBG value chain. The government expects the scheme to drive nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production.

India currently imports a significant share of its natural gas requirements. Expanding domestic CBG production is therefore expected to strengthen energy security, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and create new economic opportunities for farmers, rural entrepreneurs and private investors.



Offshore Wind could Reshape Türkiye's RE Mix: GlobalData

Türkiye's first offshore wind YEKA tender could accelerate renewable energy investment and reduce the country's dependence on thermal power, according to GlobalData.

Türkiye aims to achieve 120 GW of combined solar and wind capacity by 2035, including 5 GW of offshore wind. However, GlobalData forecasts only around 1.3 GW of offshore wind capacity will be operational by 2035, generating about 2.7 TWh annually.



The government has identified four potential offshore wind zones—Saros Bay, Gökçeada, Bozcaada and Edremit—and proposed a 1 GW YEKA tender with an electricity price range of \$0.07–\$0.11 per kWh.

GlobalData says complex permitting, grid infrastructure requirements, high financing costs, currency volatility, supply-chain disruptions and environmental challenges could slow development.

The company recommends faster permitting, early grid and port planning, financial-risk protection, transparent auction rules and phased projects to attract investment.

Integrated Action Needed to Tackle Pollution, Protect Environment: Fakhru

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir recently stressed the need for coordinated efforts among ministries, government agencies and local bodies to ensure sustainable pollution control, effective waste management and environmental protection.



He also called for stronger efforts to reduce the use of harmful polythene bags and promote eco-friendly alternatives.

Speaking at a ministerial meeting on waste management and pollution control at the Secretariat, Fakhru said rapid urbanisation, poor waste management, indiscriminate dumping of waste into rivers and the widespread use of single-use plastics and polythene bags have intensified environmental challenges.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo, who attended the meeting, outlined his ministry's ongoing conservation initiatives and stressed greater coordination among government institutions alongside enhanced public awareness to safeguard the environment.

Coordinated Efforts Key to Building Effective Carbon Market

Environment Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all relevant ministries, divisions and stakeholders to establish a transparent, accountable and effective carbon market that safeguards Bangladesh's national interests.



opportunities for Bangladesh in climate finance, technology transfer and environmentally sustainable investment.

He made the remarks at an inter ministerial meeting on the "Bangladesh Carbon Market Framework" held at the conference room of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the Bangladesh Secretariat recently. The meeting was chaired by the ministry's Secretary, Dr Fahmida Khanom.

The environment minister said the international carbon market could create new

However, he stressed that environmental integrity, transparency and accountability must be ensured in carbon market activities, while guaranteeing fair benefits for local communities and other relevant stakeholders. He said the carbon market could play an important role in implementing Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Climate Change to Deepen Global Heat Inequality as Poor Countries Struggle to Access Cooling: Report

Climate change is projected to widen global inequality by driving greater air-conditioning (AC) adoption in wealthy countries while causing sharply higher heat-related deaths in poorer nations that lack access to affordable electricity, according to a new report by the Climate Impact Lab.



The report warns that rising temperatures could contribute to an additional 430,000 heat-related deaths every year by 2050, with low- and lower-middle-income countries accounting for nearly 10 times more deaths

than wealthier nations.

Researchers say access to reliable and affordable electricity for cooling will determine how effectively countries can adapt to worsening heat. However, many of the regions expected to experience the most extreme temperatures are also those least able to expand electricity access.

Extreme Heat Costs Bangladesh \$1.8bn and 465,000 Jobs Annually: WB

Extreme heat is causing significant economic and employment losses in Bangladesh, with heat-related productivity losses estimated at



up to \$1.8 billion in 2024, while around 465,000 full-time jobs in Dhaka are effectively lost each year, according to a World Bank report.

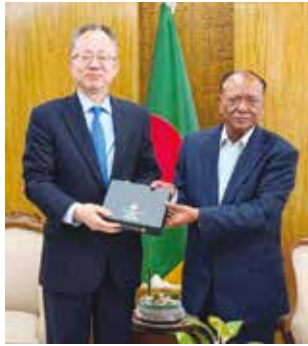
The report, A Livable Future: Protecting Jobs and Growth from Extreme Heat in South Asia's Cities, warned that rising temperatures could increasingly threaten Bangladesh's jobs, exports and economic growth without urgent adaptation

measures. Heat stress currently makes about 3% of annual working hours in Dhaka unworkable. Without effective adaptation, the figure could rise to 7.4% by 2080, equivalent to nearly 1.65 million full-time jobs.

Low-income workers in construction, manufacturing, transport, agriculture and informal services are particularly vulnerable.

Environment Minister, ADB Discuss Stronger Cooperation on Climate Resilience, Clean Energy

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo held a meeting with Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President for South, Central and West Asia Yingming Yang on Monday to discuss strengthening development cooperation, climate action and sustainable development in Bangladesh.



During the meeting at the minister's office, the two sides reviewed Bangladesh's long-standing partnership with ADB and discussed opportunities to expand cooperation in climate adaptation and mitigation, climate finance, forest and biodiversity conservation, air and plastic

pollution control, renewable energy and environmentally sustainable urban and infrastructure development.

They also discussed increasing ADB's technical and financial support for vulnerable communities affected by climate change and for developing climate-resilient infrastructure.

World Bank Urges Asia-Pacific Shipping to Accelerate Clean Fuel Transition

The World Bank has called for faster investment in efficient ports, modern fleets and low-carbon marine fuels to help East Asia and the Pacific shipping sector cut emissions and strengthen energy security.



Its latest report, Ports, Ships and Fuels: Maritime Efficiency, Safety and Sustainability in East Asia and Pacific, says operational improvements, digital port systems and Just-In-Time vessel arrivals could significantly reduce fuel use, congestion and emissions.

The report highlights more than 99% of global marine

fuel consumption still comes from fossil fuels.

The World Bank estimates that upgrading ports between 2025 and 2040 will require about \$180 billion, while fleet replacement could require more than \$280 billion. Additional investment of around \$310 billion for green ammonia, \$81 billion for green methanol and \$42 billion for renewable LNG will also be needed.

UN Carbon Market Opens Door to Renewable Power Projects

The UN-backed carbon market has expanded to the renewable power sector, allowing eligible grid-connected renewable electricity projects to generate carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's Crediting Mechanism.

The Article 6.4 Supervisory Body adopted a new methodology setting rules for project eligibility, emissions reduction measurement and verification.

The move is aimed at helping renewable energy projects overcome financing barriers while ensuring credits represent real and additional emission reductions.



UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said the mechanism could help unlock finance for clean-power projects that might otherwise not move forward, enabling countries to accelerate renewable energy deployment and progress toward their climate targets.

The decision comes as countries seek to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and increase electrification across transport, buildings and industry.

El Niño, Heatwaves Threaten Crops and Food Security Worldwide

Record temperatures and a strong El Niño are worsening drought conditions across several regions, threatening crop



production, increasing food prices and raising concerns over food security, climate campaigners have warned.

Climate advocacy group 350.org urged governments to act quickly to protect farmers and vulnerable communities and mobilize funding through higher taxes on fossil-fuel profits.

The warning comes as the world's major oil and gas companies reportedly

earned about \$93 billion in combined second-quarter profits, while the United Nations has warned that around 50 million people could face acute hunger amid an exceptionally strong El Niño intensified by climate change.

The Caribbean is experiencing moderate to severe drought in many areas, with conditions expected to persist into early 2027.

Bangladesh Urged to Take Global Lead in Environmental Conservation

BRAC University Vice-Chancellor Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar has urged Bangladesh to take a leadership role in environmental conservation, highlighting the country's unique ecological assets, including the world's largest mangrove forest, the largest delta, the longest natural sea beach and the world's largest deep-sea submarine fan.

"Bangladesh is the world's largest delta. We are home to the world's largest mangrove forest, the longest sea beach and the largest deep-sea submarine fan. Therefore, Bangladesh should also take a leadership role in global environmental and biodiversity conservation," he said.



Professor Anwar made the remarks while inaugurating a two-day programme marking World Environment Day and World Nature Conservation Day 2026 at BRAC University's Merul Badda campus on August 8.

The programme was organized by the university's Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), with support from Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB).

Sustained Tree Care Key to Achieving 27% Green Cover by 2035: Mintoo

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has urged people to continue planting and caring for trees after the National Tree Fair 2026, stressing that the real work begins after the fair.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the fair at the Forest Bhaban in Agargaon recently, he said every sapling purchased from the fair should be properly planted and regularly maintained.

The minister said collective participation by families, educational institutions, youth groups and communities could help Bangladesh achieve its target of increasing tree



cover to 27 percent by 2035.

He said the tree fair was more than a platform for selling saplings, describing it as a nationwide initiative to promote environmental protection, greening and climate resilience.

The government has planned to plant 250 million trees over the next five years, alongside initiatives to create green jobs and expand nursery entrepreneurship.

GEF Council Selects Diego Mesa Puyo as Next CEO and Chairperson

The Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has selected Colombia's former Minister of Energy and Mines Diego Mesa Puyo as the next CEO and Chairperson of the GEF family of funds.



Mesa Puyo is expected to assume office in October 2026 for an initial four-year term, coinciding with the GEF's ninth replenishment cycle (GEF-9) and the final phase of efforts to achieve global environmental targets for 2030.

He will succeed former GEF CEO and Chairperson Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, who stepped down in December 2025.

Claude Gascon has served as interim CEO and Chairperson since then. The Council had initiated a formal selection process and planned to interview the final candidates before making the appointment.

Before his selection, Mesa Puyo served as Deputy Chief of the Climate Policy Division at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Bangladesh Moves to Scale Up Global Climate Finance Through Investment-Ready Projects

Bangladesh is stepping up efforts to mobilise global climate finance by strengthening climate literacy, developing investment-ready projects and expanding partnerships with international financial institutions, experts said at a high-level policy dialogue in Dhaka recently.

Participants stressed that climate finance should not be measured solely by the amount of money mobilised. Accessibility, transparency, accountability and the extent to which funds reach climate-vulnerable communities are equally important.



The dialogue, titled "Building Bangladesh as a Trillion-Dollar Climate-Resilient Economy: Accelerating Climate Finance Mobilisation Through Strategic and Investment-Ready Climate Project Designs," was organised by the International Climate Finance Cell (ICFC) of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) under the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership, with technical support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Fuel Crisis Cuts Textile, Apparel Orders By One-Third

Failure to ensure a reliable, uninterrupted energy supply will deter both domestic and foreign investment in Bangladesh's industrial sector. Existing industries could also become increasingly vulnerable and eventually shut down, resulting in job losses rather than new employment opportunities. Energy uncertainty has already severely undermined buyers' confidence. As a result, export orders for the next season in the textile and apparel sector have fallen by nearly one-third, creating fresh concerns among entrepreneurs.

Mohammad Hatem, President of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), made these observations in an interview with Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor, Energy & Power. The full interview follows:

How would you assess the current situation of Bangladesh's textile and readymade garment sector amid uncertainty, shortages and high prices of electricity and energy? As an entrepreneur, what alternatives are you considering to overcome the crisis?

We have always faced electricity and energy shortages. But in my 40 years in the industry, I have never witnessed such a severe crisis. The recent incident involving the fire at an FSRU also needs to be investigated thoroughly. It is important to determine whether it was simply an accident or whether there was any geopolitical sabotage, and the findings should be made public.

The gas crisis has continued for nearly four weeks, severely disrupting

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production. Some factories have been forced to suspend production altogether. This has created three major problems. First, industries are struggling to pay workers' salaries and repay bank loans. Second, production disruptions are making it difficult to meet shipment deadlines,

creating pressure for air freight. In some cases, air freight could cost as much as 50 percent of the total value of the products. Even if air shipments can be avoided, buyers are likely to demand discounts of at least 25–30 percent. The most serious long-term problem, however, is the loss of buyers' confidence. Because of the energy crisis, export orders for the next season have already fallen by up to one-third.

The government must formulate policies to help industries overcome the crisis. If sufficient gas cannot be supplied, industries should be allowed to consider alternative fuels, including coal, LPG, waste and other available energy sources.

The current government has completed six months in office. One of its election pledges was to create 10 million new jobs within five years. New industrialization will be essential to achieve that goal. How optimistic are you about new investment under the current circumstances?

New investment and employment generation will not be possible without ensuring a reliable supply of energy. A review of the trend over the past several years shows that successive governments have taken various positive measures to attract investment, but those initiatives have not produced



Mohammad Hatem

The initiatives to establish three more FSRUs and a land-based LNG terminal are the right steps. There is no alternative to expanding LNG infrastructure if Bangladesh is to address the ongoing gas shortage and meet growing demand. At the same time, domestic gas production capacity is declining every year. Therefore, ensuring adequate gas supplies for industries in the coming years will be essential. If the planned three additional FSRUs and the land-based terminal are not implemented, the gas crisis facing industries will become even more severe.

the expected results. The main reason is the lack of energy security. Without reliable energy supplies, foreign investment will not come. Existing domestic investments will also be exposed to risks, while new investment will be discouraged. Therefore, if we want to create employment through industrialization, ensuring reliable electricity and energy supplies must be the first priority.

Around 1,000 new industrial units have reportedly developed their infrastructure after receiving approval from different Petrobangla companies, but they are still waiting for gas connections. These entrepreneurs are under considerable pressure, and bank investments are also at risk. What do you expect from the Energy Division to resolve the situation?

There is no alternative to government policy support under the circumstances. These entrepreneurs invested after receiving government approval for access to gas. Therefore, it is now the government's responsibility to provide them with gas.

If gas cannot be supplied, the government should arrange alternative fuels for these industries. At the same time, measures should be taken to protect these investors from financial losses. For example, the government could order a temporary suspension of interest payments and loan instalments for affected businesses until the energy crisis is resolved.

Do you think gas connections to industries should resume?

There is simply not enough gas at present to meet even the demand of existing industries. Therefore, the government must increase domestic gas production and boost imports to meet current demand while also providing connections to new industries. If gas cannot be guaranteed for new investments, the government must clearly identify and facilitate alternative fuel supplies for those industries.

There is no overnight solution to the ongoing energy and power crisis, and

the government has also acknowledged this. The Prime Minister has initiated a 10-year plan to ensure the country's energy security. What should be the priorities of this plan in your view?

In my view, the first priority should be to increase production from Bangladesh's existing domestic gas reserves. At the same time, exploration for new gas reserves must be intensified.

To address the immediate shortfall, LNG imports should also be increased. Alongside expanding gas supplies, the government could consider developing dedicated pipeline networks for industrial zones. This could help ensure a more reliable and quality supply of gas to industries.

At the same time, Bangladesh should intensify exploration and extraction of its domestic coal resources so that coal can be used not only for power generation but also as an energy source for industries. Other alternative energy sources, including LPG and renewable energy, should also be expanded in a planned and effective manner.

In my view, the government's 10-year energy plan must clearly identify reliable sources of gas and electricity as well as alternative fuels for industries. The industrial sector should receive policy support to shift to alternative fuels, particularly where gas shortages make such a transition necessary. All these issues should be incorporated into the 10-year plan in an integrated manner.

Bangladesh currently has two operational FSRUs for LNG imports. Negotiations are underway to install a third, while the government has also announced plans for two more FSRUs. At the same time, work is progressing on a land-based LNG terminal. Is the government moving in the right direction?

Yes, the initiatives to establish three more FSRUs and a land-based LNG terminal are the right steps. There is no alternative to expanding LNG infrastructure if Bangladesh is to address the ongoing gas shortage and meet growing demand. At the same

time, domestic gas production capacity is declining every year. Therefore, ensuring adequate gas supplies for industries in the coming years will be essential. If the planned three additional FSRUs and the land-based terminal are not implemented, the gas crisis facing industries will become even more severe. The government's initiative is both timely and necessary.

Continued growth in LNG imports will inevitably increase the cost of gas supply. Can Bangladesh's textile and readymade garment sectors remain competitive under such circumstances?

Bangladesh's industrial sector is already facing challenges in terms of energy costs and competitiveness. On one hand, energy prices are relatively high, while on the other, supply shortages are disrupting industrial production. As a result, exports from sectors such as textiles and readymade garments are coming under pressure, while exports from countries such as Vietnam and India are increasing. Any further increase in energy prices will certainly put additional pressure on these industries.

However, the government needs to consider what policy support and incentives can be provided to these sectors so that they can maintain their export competitiveness despite higher energy costs. If we want industrialization and employment generation, there is no alternative to ensuring a reliable supply of energy—whether it comes from domestic sources or imports.

Some argue that the government should immediately take a political decision to explore, extract and use the country's own coal resources. Given the opposition to coal from environmental groups, they also say the government needs support from the business community on the coal issue. What is your view?

Bangladesh does not have abundant domestic energy resources. We have natural gas, coal and renewable energy. Our industrial sector cannot remain sustainable if it has to depend entirely on imported fuels and bear the risks associated with volatile international

energy prices. New investment will also be discouraged under such circumstances.

Therefore, alongside expanding domestic gas exploration, the government should take a decision on extracting the country's coal reserves. At the same time, the environmental, agricultural and resettlement risks associated with coal mining must be addressed with the highest priority.

Any decision on coal extraction should be taken after consultations with all stakeholders and on the basis of national consensus. We cannot simply avoid extracting our own coal resources on environmental grounds.

How sincere do you think public-sector power and energy utilities are in providing services to consumers? What needs to be done to make these utilities more consumer-friendly?

Public-sector utilities are not providing adequate services to consumers. Instead, they often dominate consumers and shift the blame for various problems onto them. There are also allegations of involvement by employees of these utilities in system losses and illegal energy use, and such practices must be stopped.

Above all, accountability and transparency must be ensured at every level of the power and energy sector. Only then can these institutions become genuinely consumer-oriented.

Many believe that, like LPG, LNG imports and marketing should also be opened up to the private sector. What is your view?

The import and marketing of primary fuels such as LNG should be opened to the private sector. This would allow consumers to access energy at more competitive prices. At the same time,

greater private-sector investment would help increase the overall supply of primary energy.

To continue exporting to the European market, the industry is expected to achieve a target of using 20 percent renewable energy by 2030. Is the industry prepared for this?

The industry cannot achieve this target on its own. The government needs to provide access to low-cost financing. For this, the policy governing Bangladesh Bank's green funds should be revised to make such financing more accessible to industries.

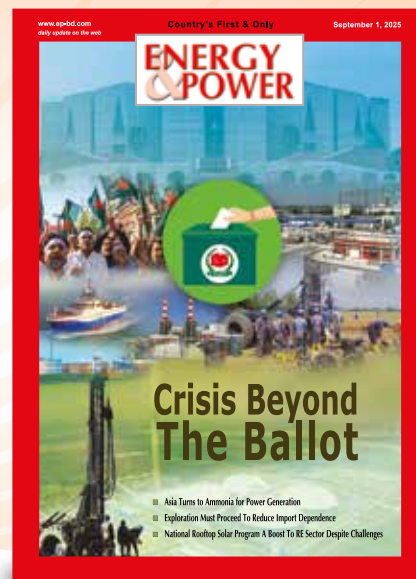
The government must also provide policy support to expand renewable energy capacity and ensure effective implementation of those policies. Without appropriate financial and policy support, it will be difficult for the industry to meet the renewable energy target. ■



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ENERGY CRISES BROOK NO DELAY

In my last column in this magazine I highlighted how the economy had been hit by energy crises. In two weeks since then there been no improvement in the situation. It has rather worsened. Policy makers and experts don't see a quick-fire solution to the problem. Long hours of load-shedding have hit the factories hard. Many industries have been forced to shut down for shortage of electricity, while many others are running at low capacity. Among the affected are those producing daily essentials leading to price hikes of the commodities. Small scale industries have long borne the brunt of the shortages of electricity and gas. Now concern is growing for the bigger factories which are running

out of diesel and assured supply of gas. The supply of gas for household cooking is going down and down, while load-shedding has started tormenting even the dwellers in the capital city despite government's efforts to spare them from the disruptions. The rural areas have been suffering from frequent power outages for several months with the authorities trying to hide the facts from the privileged townspeople. CNG-run three-wheelers are spending precious income hours in long queues before gas filling stations in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. The long wait gets longer. What they get is too little to their requirement. Stories about such sufferings are plenty on newspapers. TV



The impact of the disruptions has been huge and widespread.

The lesson: the import of LNG is not enough unless there is FSRUs to process the cargoes.

stations are covering the hardships with caution, while social media are going viral with tales of the torment. Memes are erupting embarrassing the government.

Bangladesh has the installed capacity to produce up to 28,000MW of electricity. Given the peak hour demand reaching up to 16,000MW we should not have any problem at all. This does not tell all sides of the story. We are unable to make an optimum use of our capacity for shortage of gas which is the most essential raw material for generation

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

of electricity. With Ashar-Srabon heat and humidity intensifying the need for electricity has increased so the well-to-do city dwellers can get comfort with the use of air-conditioners. During this time of the people the country usually witnesses a gap of 800 to 1,000MW of electricity between demand and supply. The gap increased to more than 3,000MW some days this past week.

The immediate cause had been the mechanical faults and weather-related disruptions in the two gas storage and regasification terminals off Maheshkhali coast in the Bay of Bengal. The platforms are known as FSRU, the short form of Floating Storage and Regasification Unit. FSRU is an offshore structure that is used to store liquefied natural gas (LNG) at certain temperatures and convert it back gaseous state so it can be pumped into onshore pipelines. In spite of the price volatility arising from on-going US-Israel-Iran conflicts and the war in Ukraine Bangladesh can afford to import LNG, but the cargoes can't be offloaded when the FSRUs shut down. The country has two FSRUs –one operated by Summit Power Limited and the other by Exceleerate Energy, a US company. Both suffered shutdowns – one for technical faults and another for rough weather – compounding the energy crises. The impact of the disruptions has been huge and widespread. The lesson: the import of LNG is not enough unless there is FSRUs to process the cargoes. This led Power and Energy Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmud to talk about a government plan to install three more FSRUs in the Bay so there is no shortage of storage and regasification facilities for imported LNG. That's the plan that can't be executed overnight or even in a year. The minister has mentioned 2029 as the timeframe. So until then what has to be done?

Let's put all sensible heads together to find a solution. A delay may turn deadly. 

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