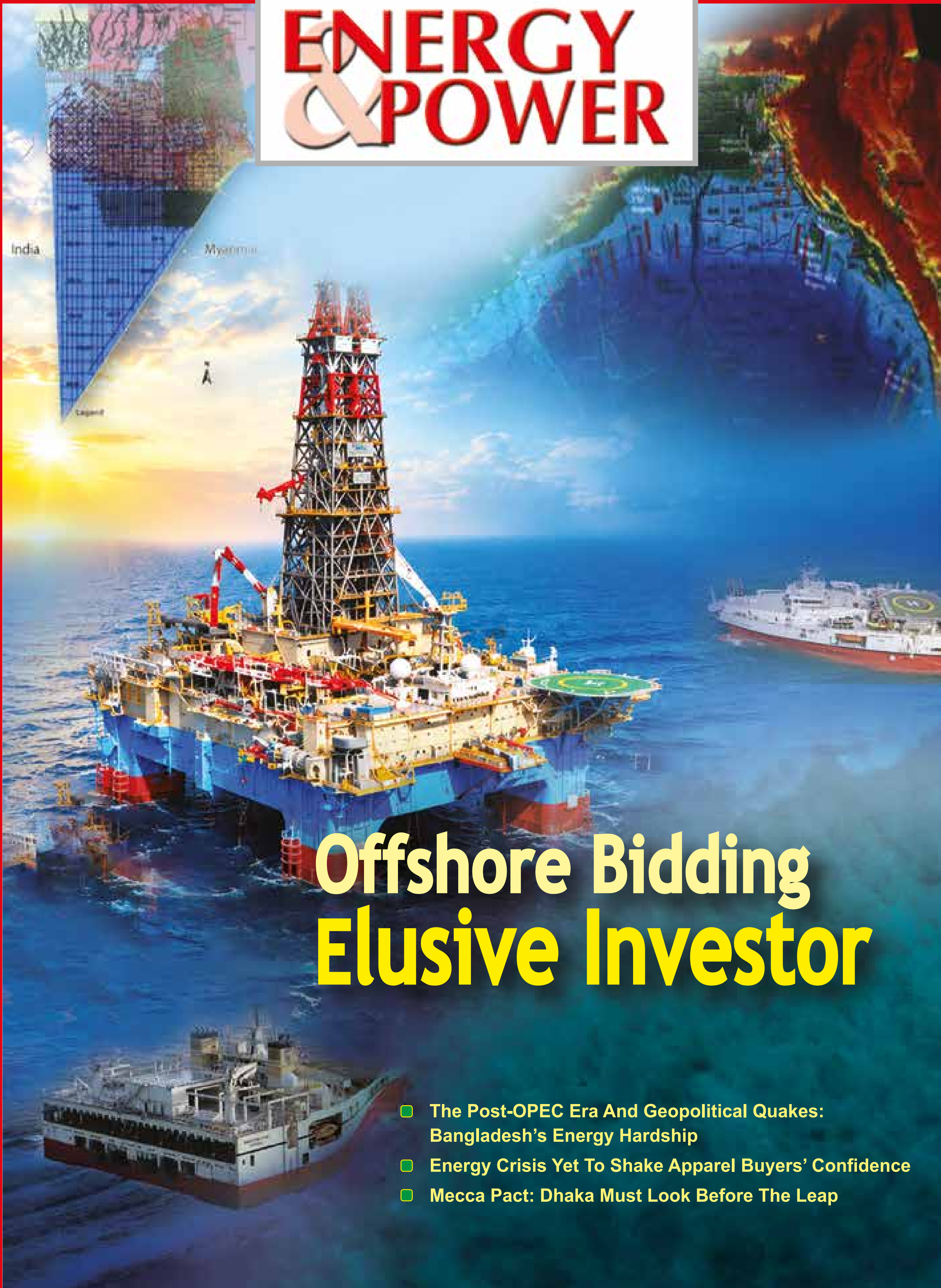
www.ep-bd.com
daily update on the web

Country's First & Only

September 1, 2026

ENERGY & POWER



Offshore Bidding Elusive Investor

- The Post-OPEC Era And Geopolitical Quakes: Bangladesh's Energy Hardship
- Energy Crisis Yet To Shake Apparel Buyers' Confidence
- Mecca Pact: Dhaka Must Look Before The Leap

WORLD'S BEST
AirAsia
WORLD'S BEST
LOW-COST AIRLINE
FOR 16 YEARS RUNNING
Fly directly from DHAKA to
MALAYSIA
&
Beyond
DHAKA - KUALA LUMPUR - LANGKAWI - BANGKOK - PHUKET - KRABI - CHIANG MAI - TOKYO - MELBOURNE
SYDNEY - PERTH - SINGAPORE - HONG KONG - BALI - BRUNEI - PNOM PENH - HO CHI MINH - MANILA - HANOI
CALL TO ENQUIRE
+88 01984 555 888
+88 09678 742 752
General Sales Agent:
tas
Total Air Services Limited

DISTRIBUTION SOLUTIONS

PrimeGear ZX0

Greener is smarter.
Smarter is greener.

Buy genuine ABB products To ensure electrical safety in your system, choose only genuine & authentic ABB products.

For any kind of your requirement please reach us:
ABB Limited, The Glass House (12th Floor)
38 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212
Tel. +8802 226601860, +8802 226601870
Mobile: +88 01755-642051, +88 01714-110493, +88 01755-642053
Email:info@bd.abb.com
Web: new.abb.com/bd

new.abb.com/medium-voltage/primegearZX0

Designed for you: a sustainable, intelligent, medium-voltage primary gas-insulated switchgear. Now you can work greener and smarter.

Our efficient, robust and safe switchgear contains SF_6-free gas with a global warming potential of less than one. And it incorporates remote monitoring and diagnostics features, providing real time information, wherever you are. The low-pressure design maximizes protection and uptime.

PrimeGear™ ZX0 is better for your business and better for our environment.

the human energy company
Chevron

supporting Bangladesh's energy security for 30 years

Chevron is the largest producer of natural gas in Bangladesh. We produce over 60% of the country's natural gas demand and over 80% of condensate in the country. We are proud to work with Petrobangla and the Government of Bangladesh to support the country's energy security.

Learn more at https://bangladesh.chevron.com

Editor
Mollah M Amzad Hossain

Advisory Editor
Anwarul Islam Tarek
Mortuza Ahmad Faruque
Saiful Amin

International Editor
Dr. Nafis Ahmed

Contributing Editor
Saleque Sufi

Online Editor
GSM Shamsuzzoha (Nasim)

Managing Editor
Afroza Akther Pervin

North America Correspondent
Arunima Hossain

Editor - Digital Content
Aditya Hossain

Manager A & A
Md. Ariful Islam

Cover
Md. Monirul Islam

Graphic Design
Md Shahjahan Sheikh

Photography
Bulbul Ahmed

Production
Mufazzal Hossain Joy

Circulation Assistant
Tanvir Hayder

Editorial, News & Commercial
Room 509, Eastern Trade Center
56 Inner Circular Road (VIP Road)
Naya Paltan. GPO Box : 677
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel & Fax : 88-02-58314532
Email: ep@dhaka.net
energypower@gmail.com
Website: www.ep-bd.com

Price
Bangladesh: Tk 100, SAARC: US$ 9, Asia: US$ 12, Europe: US$ 15, North America, Africa & Australia: US$ 21

Fortnightly Magazine, Vol 24, Issue 6, September 1, 2026

ENERGY & POWER

EDITORIAL

Bangladesh's renewed effort to attract foreign investment in offshore oil and gas exploration is both necessary and overdue. With domestic gas production declining, LNG imports becoming more expensive and industries facing persistent energy shortages, the country can no longer afford to leave its offshore potential largely unexplored. The revised Model Offshore PSC 2026 appears to address several concerns raised by international investors. More competitive gas pricing, improved cost recovery, longer exploration periods, reduced data costs and greater operational flexibility could make the latest bidding round more attractive. The government's decision to organize roadshows in major energy centers is also a welcome step. Yet better contractual terms alone will not guarantee success. The failure of the previous bidding round should serve as a reminder that investors assess more than the financial provisions of a contract. They also consider political stability, regulatory predictability, institutional efficiency, decision-making transparency and the government's ability to honor long-term commitments. Petrobangla and the relevant ministries need to maintain sustained engagement with potential investors, provide reliable geological information and ensure that approvals and negotiations are handled efficiently. The delay in finalizing the onshore PSC also sends an undesirable signal.

The offshore bidding round is an important opportunity, but it should not be treated as a single event. Attracting credible investors requires a consistent policy framework and institutional preparedness. If Bangladesh can build that confidence, offshore exploration could strengthen energy security and reduce import dependence. If it fails again, the country's energy crisis—and investors' doubts—will only deepen.

highlights

41

The country must gradually move out of the energy crisis through a combination of domestic resources, imports and efficient management. The energy crisis has not yet significantly affected the confidence of apparel buyers. However, if the situation persists for a prolonged period, it could eventually create a crisis of confidence among international buyers... Md. Fazlul Hoque tells EP

19

Bangladesh's current 30-to-45-day storage capacity leaves the country vulnerable during major geopolitical escalations. Fast-tracking the Eastern Refinery Unit-2 modernizations and developing specialized underground storage facilities are essential to build a minimum 90-day strategic reserve. This buffer would allow the state to absorb maritime supply disruptions without imposing immediate rationing on the domestic economy .... More In Special Article

COVER

9

Bangladesh is seeking fresh investment in oil and gas exploration while offering revised contractual terms and a more active international promotional campaign. The challenge is not simply to attract bids. Bangladesh must also convince international oil companies that its investment environment is stable, its institutions are capable, and its offshore opportunities justify the risks of long-term exploration.

Individual's opinion does not necessarily reflect editorial policy of Energy & Power

Published by the Editor from 187 Elephant Road (Raj Complex), Dhaka 1205 & Printed at Ananda Printers, 166 Arambagh, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

Greenpage

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

Contents

Contents

Ukraine Strikes Russian Oil Refinery Deep Inside Russia

Ukraine's military struck a Russian oil refinery in Perm overnight, more than 1,600km from the Ukrainian border, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Zelensky also reported a strike on the Marinovka military air base in Russia's Volgograd region.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Energy Minister Denys Shmyhal said Russian attacks had damaged or destroyed more than 300 gas filling stations in Ukraine over the past six months, causing significant economic losses.

Ukraine's Infrastructure Ministry said Russia attacked 52 civilian vessels in July and the first half of August, including ships carrying food and other cargo to and from Ukrainian ports.

In Russia, authorities arrested eight people accused of planning an attack on a defense enterprise in the Moscow region using explosive-laden drones, while another foreign national was detained on suspicion of scouting government buildings and strategic infrastructure, Russian state media reported.

Iran Announces Discovery of New Gas Field

Iran said recently it had discovered more than 200 billion cubic meters of natural gas, months into the Middle East war that has hit the country's energy infrastructure and production.

'New gas reserves were discovered in the south of Fars province,' petroleum minister Mohsen Paknejad told state television, adding that over 160 billion cubic meters could be extracted from the field. He described it as sweet natural gas, which has very little of the toxic gas hydrogen sulfide, resulting in lower operating and development costs.

Iran's energy sector has taken a hit since joint US-Israeli strikes on the Islamic republic launched the Middle East war in late February.

The countries have struck Iran's energy infrastructure such as gas production facilities or oil depots, as well as transport routes.

India Sets Targets for Oil Companies to Boost Cooking Gas Output

India has set a maximum daily cooking gas production target of 63,810 metric tons for state-run and private refineries to ensure domestic supplies and build buffers after US-Israeli war against Iran disrupted supplies of the essential fuel, according to an August 13 government order.

Companies are required to maintain adequate infrastructure for storing and transporting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), either directly or through railways and road tankers, to meet specified quantities.

The federal government will update the targets every January and July to reflect new production and additional output from existing refineries. India was buying about 90 percent of its cooking gas imports from the Middle East before the war on Iran disrupted supplies from March due to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

India has set production targets for individual refiners with Reliance Industries Ltd's domestic-market-focused refinery tasked to produce 18,000 tons a day of LPG.

Fugro to Support ONGC Deepwater Drilling Campaign Offshore India

Fugro will provide subsea support for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)'s deepwater drilling campaign offshore India under a three-year contract awarded by Vantage International Management Co.

Fugro will deploy its FCV3000 remotely operated vehicle (ROV) aboard Vantage's Platinum Explorer drillship to support drilling and completion operations in water depths of up to 3,000 meters.

The services will cover subsea installation and intervention, drilling and completion support, blowout preventer and well-control monitoring, cementing observation and seabed inspection.

ONGC chartered the Platinum Explorer earlier this year for a three-year offshore drilling campaign, with options for extension.

The program is part of the company's efforts to expand deepwater exploration, boost domestic oil and gas production and strengthen India's energy security.

Will Extend Support to Bangladesh in Ensuring Energy Security: Qatari PM

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani recently assured that Qatar would extend all possible support to Bangladesh in ensuring energy security, particularly under the current challenging circumstances.

He described Bangladesh as a brotherly country when Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman called on the Qatari Prime Minister at his office in Doha.

During the meeting, Dr Khalilur Rahman conveyed the greetings of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the Qatari leadership.

He expressed Bangladesh's solidarity with Qatar and commended its constructive and responsible role in promoting peace, security and stability in the region, which is important for the wider region and beyond, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Two Years Needed to Address Energy Crisis: Commerce Minister

Commerce, Industry, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir has said Bangladesh needs sufficient time to overcome the ongoing energy crisis by developing the necessary infrastructure and expanding supply capacity.

"The challenges posed by the energy crisis are clear. We need to be given the time required to build the infrastructure and overcome the situation," he said.

The minister said increasing the capacity of LNG terminals and drilling new gas wells would help strengthen the country's energy self-sufficiency. "It will take around two years to make significant progress in this regard," he added.

He made the remarks recently while speaking as the chief guest at a district workshop in Sylhet on preparing the annual work plan for fiscal year 2026-27 and evaluating the implementation of the previous year's activities under a modern technology-based agricultural development project for the Sylhet region.

Bangladesh to Procure 14 LNG Cargoes to Stabilize Gas Supply

The government has decided to purchase 14 LNG cargoes from seven companies without inviting open tenders to maintain normal gas supply and meet urgent energy needs.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval to the proposal recently, with two cargoes to be purchased from each company under applicable public procurement rules.

Separately, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase recommended approval to procure one LNG cargo from Aramco Trading Singapore Pte Ltd at $23.93 per MMBtu through an international quotation process. The cargo is scheduled for delivery on September 1-2.

The government also recommended extending technical assistance from Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries for another year to help ensure uninterrupted production at the Ghorashal-Palash Fertilizer Factory.

BB Allows S Alam's SS Power-1 to Import on Full Credit

Bangladesh Bank has allowed SS Power-1 Ltd, a power plant owned by S Alam Group, to import goods entirely on credit until December 2027, exempting the company from a relevant provision of the Bank Company Act.

Under the approval, state-owned Rupali Bank can provide a 100% margin facility, allowing the Chattogram-based coal-fired power producer to open letters of credit without making upfront payments.

Bangladesh Bank approved the facility following a request from Rupali Bank, which is the power plant's banking partner. The central bank's circular said Section 27 Ka (3) of the Bank Company Act would not apply to SS Power-1 until the end of 2027.

The provision generally restricts banks from providing loan facilities to defaulting borrowers, although Bangladesh Bank can grant exemptions under certain circumstances.


POWERING BANGLADESH'S
ENERGY SECURITY
Stretching capacity with 600 million cubic feet LNG supply per day (mmcfd)
Excelerate Energy is committed to delivering reliable energy solutions in Bangladesh. Our 15-year LNG supply agreement, which began in January 2026, reflects that ongoing partnership.
EE
LISTED
NYSE
excelerateenergy.com
EXCELERATE
ENERGY

BKMEA Urges 12-Month Payment Facility for RMG Utility Bills

The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has urged the government to allow export-oriented garment factories to pay their July-August gas and electricity bills in 12 equal monthly instalments.

In a letter to Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood, BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem said severe gas and power shortages had disrupted production and created a serious liquidity crunch for manufacturers.

He said factories were forced to purchase costly alternative fuels such as diesel and LPG to keep production running, sharply increasing operating costs.

BKMEA said the proposed payment facility would help factories maintain exports, protect foreign exchange earnings and safeguard employment.

The association urged the government to instruct utility distribution companies to allow the July and August bills to be paid over 12 months.

Power Utilities Seek Police Protection amid Load-Shedding

Bangladesh's power distribution agencies have sought police protection for substations and offices amid growing public anger over prolonged load-shedding.

The Bangladesh Palli Bidyut Association urged the police to strengthen security at all 80 Palli Bidyut Samities, warning that some facilities have already faced attacks and vandalism.

It said demand in rural areas stands at 8,000-9,000MW against allocations of 5,000-6,000MW, resulting in eight to 12 hours of daily load-shedding in many areas.

Meanwhile, West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited has sought police protection for its facilities in Gopalganj, where residents are facing eight to 10 hours of power cuts a day.

Shops, Markets to Close Earlier Amid Power Crisis

The government has shortened the operating hours of shops, markets and commercial establishments to 11am-8pm amid the ongoing electricity crisis and severe load-shedding.

The Power Division said the new schedule will take effect immediately, replacing the previous 9am-9pm hours.

Under the directive, illuminated billboards, signs and shop lighting must be switched off by 7pm. City corporations, municipalities and district administrations have been asked to enforce the restrictions.

The measures come as load-shedding exceeded 3,000MW in recent days amid shortages of gas and LNG, putting further pressure on power generation.

The restrictions will not apply to fairs, religious programs, cultural events and other activities requiring extended hours.

BIDA, BEZA and PPPA Merge to Form Invest Bangladesh

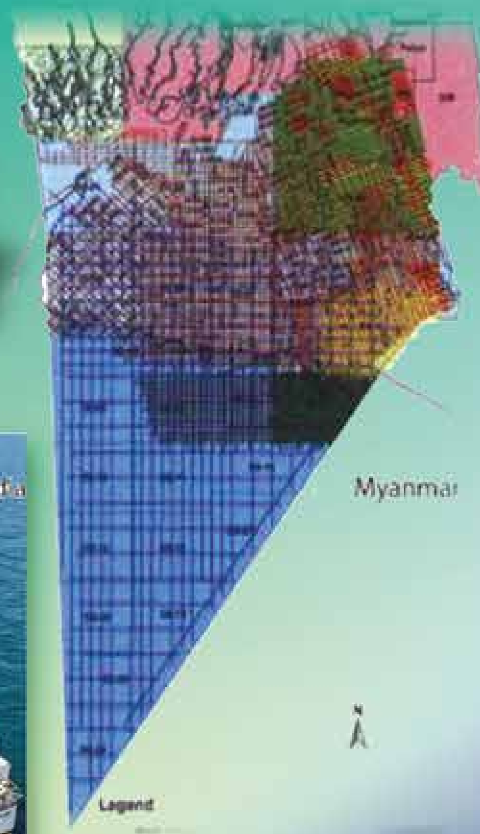
Bangladesh has formally launched the Invest Bangladesh Authority, bringing the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) under a single institutional framework.

The government made the Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026 effective through a gazette notification on August 20. The new authority will function under the Prime Minister's Office as the country's apex investment development agency.

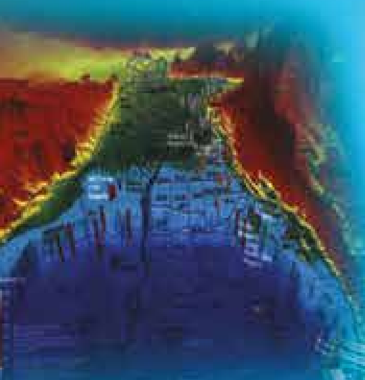
The merger aims to provide investors with faster and more coordinated services by bringing investment promotion, economic zone development and public-private partnership activities under one roof. It will also introduce a unified digital platform for investment-related approvals, licenses and clearances.

Invest Bangladesh will focus on attracting domestic and foreign investment, identifying investment opportunities, removing regulatory barriers and coordinating with relevant government agencies. The authority will also facilitate industrial zone development and PPP projects.

Offshore Bidding Elusive Investor



Mollah Amzad Hossain



Bangladesh is seeking fresh foreign investment in offshore oil and gas exploration as worsening gas shortages increase pressure on energy security. The government has revised its Model Offshore PSC 2026, opened 26 blocks for bidding, and planned international roadshows to attract credible investors. However, uncertainty over the investment environment, institutional capacity and previous failed initiatives remains a concern. The success of the latest bidding round will depend not only on improved contractual terms but also on the country's ability to build investor confidence.

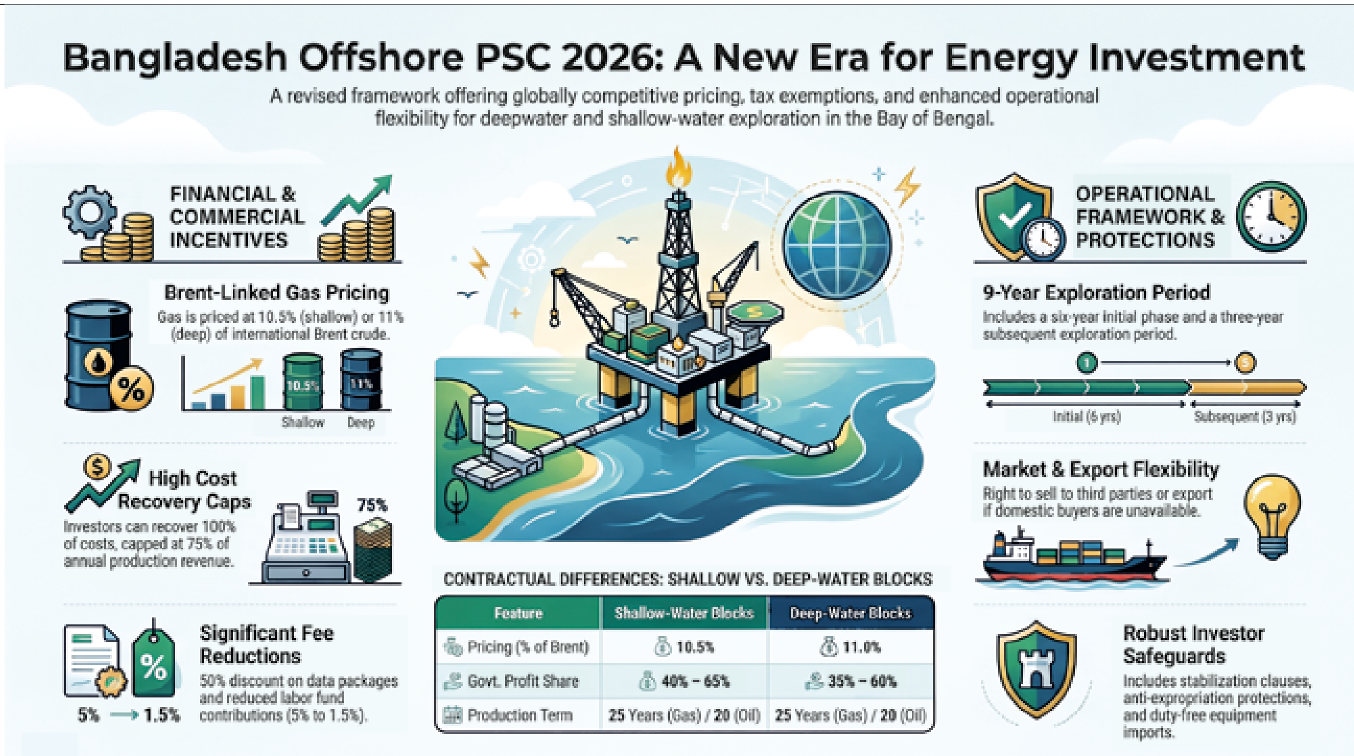
Summit Power International is transforming Bangladesh's infrastructure with innovative solutions across sectors. Backed by global partnerships and foreign investments, we set new standards in development. At Summit, we empower communities and build a stronger, more prosperous future.

Empowering Communities
Sustainable Progress
Innovation

SUMMIT

www.summitpowerinternational.com

summitpowerintl
summitpowerintl
Summit Power International
Summit Power International



Bangladesh's latest offshore bidding round has become a test of whether the country can turn its largely unexplored maritime territory into a meaningful source of energy security. With gas shortages deepening and LNG imports placing increasing pressure on the economy, the government is seeking fresh investment in oil and gas exploration while offering revised contractual terms and a more active international promotional campaign.

The challenge is not simply to attract bids. Bangladesh must also convince international oil companies that its investment environment is stable, its institutions are capable, and its offshore opportunities justify the risks of long-term exploration. The outcome of the 2026 bidding round could therefore shape the country's energy strategy for years to come.

Petrobangla and the Energy Division are particularly hopeful about the ongoing offshore bidding round, which is scheduled to close on November 30. However, stakeholders remain cautious because the previous bidding round, which ended in December 2024, failed to receive a single investment proposal despite considerable expectations.

Investment analysts and economists believe that foreign investors were reluctant to make long-term investments such as offshore oil and gas exploration during the tenure of the interim government. They preferred to wait until an elected government took office. In addition, some concerns remained over the terms of the Model Offshore PSC.

New PSC and 26 Offshore Blocks

Following the failure of the 2024 bidding round, the government formed a committee to identify the reasons behind the lack of bids. Based on the committee's recommendations, the Model Offshore PSC was updated to the 2026 version.

An international bidding process based on the revised PSC was launched on May 24, offering a total of 26 offshore blocks—15 in deepwater areas and 11 in shallow-water areas.

So far, Türkiye's Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) have purchased bidding documents. According to Petrobangla sources, British Petroleum (bp), ExxonMobil and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) have also been maintaining regular communication and are expected to purchase bidding documents.

Asked about the prospects, Petrobangla Director (PSC) Engineer Md. Shoaeb said, "We are optimistic about receiving investment proposals from international companies this time."

Investment Environment Remains Crucial

Energy and investment analysts say Petrobangla failed to take adequate and well-planned initiatives to attract investment in offshore oil and gas exploration during the 1990s. They believe the revised Model Offshore PSC 2026 now offers substantial economic and technical incentives to international oil companies.

Representatives of international oil companies have also acknowledged that the new PSC has become more attractive. However, analysts stress that favorable contractual terms alone are not enough. The overall investment environment is equally important for foreign investors.

With an elected government now in office, some of the uncertainty surrounding Bangladesh's investment environment has eased. However, no comprehensive campaign to continuously attract investors to the country's offshore oil and gas sector had been launched until recently. Analysts have particularly pointed to the absence of a full-time chairman at Petrobangla for nearly six months, saying the situation could affect sustained efforts to attract international investment, as Petrobangla is the focal point for offshore exploration.

Government Steps Up Investment Promotion

Officials of the Energy Division, however, reject allegations that the government has been unprepared to promote the offshore bidding round. They said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called for investment in Bangladesh's oil and gas exploration sector during his visits to Malaysia and China. The Foreign Minister also sought investment during visits to various countries. Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood and State Minister Anindya Islam Amit have also urged international companies to invest in oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh during their overseas engagements.

Bangladesh missions in North America and Europe have also been asked to convey investment opportunities to potential companies. At the same time, Petrobangla has invited companies from different countries with expertise in offshore exploration to participate in the bidding process.

Three International Roadshows Planned

The government has also adopted a planned international promotional strategy to attract investment in Bangladesh's offshore oil and gas sector. Petrobangla's consultant Wood Mackenzie, which was involved in preparing the draft Model Offshore PSC, has also been appointed as a consultant for the investment promotion campaign. Three promotional events are planned in London, Houston and Singapore.

As part of the campaign, a Petrobangla delegation will make a special presentation at the World Energy Summit in London on September 29–30. A large number of global energy companies are expected to attend the upstream-focused event. A dedicated session will present Bangladesh's offshore bidding opportunities to potential investors, followed by meetings between interested companies and officials from the Energy Division and Petrobangla. The delegation will be led by State Minister for Energy Anindya Islam Amit and Invest Bangladesh Executive Chairman Ashik Chowdhury.

Petrobangla's second roadshow will be held in Houston, the United States, on October 5–7. Sources said around 40 international oil and gas companies are expected to participate. Following the formal presentation, one-on-one meetings will be held with interested companies.

The final roadshow is scheduled to take place in Singapore on October 15–16. Bangladesh will participate in a special session at an oil and gas sector conference to highlight investment opportunities in the Bay of Bengal. Petrobangla and Energy Division officials will subsequently hold one-on-one meetings with interested companies.

What the Model Offshore PSC 2026 Offers

The international tender for exploring and producing oil and gas from 15 deepwater and 11 shallow-water blocks was floated on May 24, with bids to be submitted by November 30. The price of the bidding document has been set at US$7,000.

The previous offshore bidding round was launched in March 2024. Seven internationally renowned companies, including US-based ExxonMobil, purchased bidding documents, while two companies also purchased data from Petrobangla. However, amid the political situation and other uncertainties, none of the companies ultimately submitted bids. As a result, the 2024 offshore bidding round was eventually declared abandoned.

The government now hopes that the revised PSC, improved investment climate and international promotional campaigns will help attract credible international investors to Bangladesh's largely unexplored offshore resources and open a new chapter in the country's oil and gas exploration.

Offshore Model PSC 2026 Offers More Attractive Terms for Global Energy Investors

Officials from Petrobangla and the Energy Division say the Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) 2026 incorporates policies and practices followed by leading energy-producing countries, making Bangladesh's offshore investment framework more attractive from both technical and commercial perspectives.

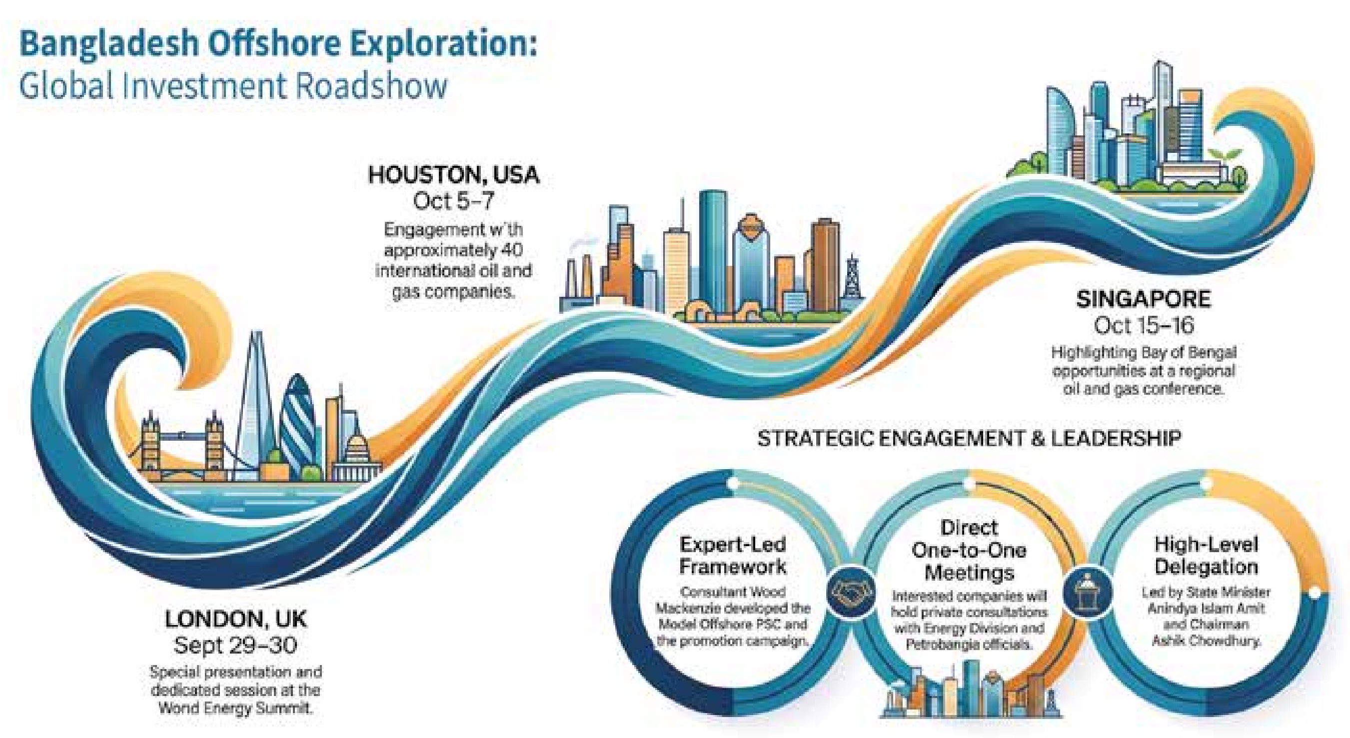
Under the new PSC, natural gas prices will be linked to international Brent crude oil prices. Gas will be priced at 10.5 percent of the Brent crude price for shallow-water offshore blocks and 11 percent for deepwater blocks. Floor and ceiling price mechanisms have also been introduced to protect both investors and the government from excessive market volatility.

A new provision has been included for deepwater pipeline transportation. If gas is discovered in shallow- or deepwater blocks, high-pressure subsea pipelines may be required to transport processed gas to onshore facilities. Petrobangla will be able to pay tariffs for petroleum transportation through privately constructed pipelines, allowing investors to earn a reasonable return on their investment.

The Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015 have also been amended to reduce the Workers' Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) contribution for fully foreign-owned energy companies from 5 percent to 1.5 percent.

To encourage international oil company (IOC) participation, new geological and geophysical data packages have been prepared. The cost of purchasing these packages has been reduced by 50 percent.

The total exploration period under the PSC will be nine years, comprising an initial six-year exploration period and a subsequent three-year period. The



Bangladesh is seeking fresh foreign investment in offshore oil and gas exploration as worsening gas shortages increase pressure on energy security. The government has revised its Model Offshore PSC 2026, opened 26 blocks for bidding, and planned international roadshows to attract credible investors. However, uncertainty over the investment environment, institutional capacity and previous failed initiatives remains a concern.

initial period includes four years for geological, geophysical and seismic surveys and two years for drilling. Under the mandatory work program, seismic surveys will be compulsory, while additional 2D/3D seismic surveys and drilling commitments will be determined through the bid work program.

The PSC requires bank guarantees of US$3 million for four years of geological and geophysical work, US$20 million for the two-year drilling phase, and US$20 million for the subsequent three-year exploration period.

Investors will be allowed to recover 100 percent of exploration and development costs in both shallow- and deepwater blocks, although annual cost recovery will be capped at 75 percent of production revenue. The government's profit-sharing entitlement will range from 40–65 percent in shallow-water blocks and 35–60 percent in deepwater blocks. A mandatory 10 percent carried interest for BAPEX will apply to shallow-water blocks.

The PSC also provides tax benefits, including duty-free imports of equipment and materials used in exploration and development activities. Petrobangla will bear the contractor's corporate income tax obligations.

If oil is discovered, its price will be determined based on prevailing fair market prices in South and Southeast Asia. Contractors will be allowed to sell their share of gas to third parties in the domestic market, subject to Petrobangla's right of first refusal. If no domestic buyer is available, contractors will have the right to export the gas.

Investor protection provisions include stabilization and anti-expropriation clauses.

The PSC sets a commercial discovery bonus of US$3 million, while production bonuses range from US$500,000 to US$6 million for gas and US$500,000 to US$4 million for oil.

Contractors will also contribute US$0.10 per barrel of profit oil and US$0.004 per MCF of profit gas for research and development activities.

Annual contract service fees will be US$200,000 during the exploration and development phase and US$300,000 during the production phase. Annual training contributions will be US$150,000 during exploration and development and US$200,000 during production.

The production period will be 25 years for gas fields and 20 years for oil fields. These terms may be extended by an additional 10 years if commercial production continues.

Officials believe the revised Offshore Model PSC 2026 will strengthen investor confidence and help attract international energy companies to explore the Bay of Bengal's untapped oil and gas resources, supporting Bangladesh's long-term energy security.

Onshore PSC Also Awaiting Final Approval

Alongside the Model Offshore PSC 2026, Petrobangla has also finalized a draft Model Onshore PSC. However, due to various objections raised by the Law Ministry, the Energy Division has not yet been able to finalize the document and send it to the Cabinet for approval.

Under the proposed Onshore PSC, gas prices will be linked to oil prices. The price of onshore gas has been proposed at 8 percent of the Brent crude price per unit, while other incentives and provisions have largely been modeled on the offshore PSC.

Experts believe that if the Onshore PSC could be finalized before the upcoming international roadshows, it could also have been presented to potential investors. This would have allowed Bangladesh to begin promotional activities for onshore investment ahead of launching the bidding round. They also stressed the need to urgently update the onshore block map and open the blocks for investment alongside finalizing the PSC.

Vast Offshore Potential Remains Untapped

Following the settlement of maritime boundary disputes with Myanmar in 2012 and India in 2014 through international courts, Bangladesh established its sovereign rights over more than 118,813 square kilometers of maritime territory.

However, successive governments have failed to make effective use of this promising offshore area for oil and gas exploration. The interim government also followed a similar path, leaving the country's offshore potential largely unexplored.

Myanmar has been producing gas for years from fields located on its side of the maritime area adjacent to Bangladesh, raising expectations that Bangladesh could also have significant hydrocarbon resources in its offshore territory.

Previous Offshore Exploration Efforts

In 2008, Bangladesh signed contracts with US-based ConocoPhillips for offshore blocks DS-10 and DS-11. The company later sought amendments to some terms, including an increase in the gas price. When Bangladesh did not accept its proposals, ConocoPhillips withdrew from the projects in 2014.

Under the 2012 offshore bidding round, Petrobangla signed agreements with ONGC Videsh Limited for blocks SS-4 and SS-9. In 2017, Petrobangla awarded block SS-12 to international oil company POSCO Daewoo. The company subsequently relinquished the block in 2020.

Before the 2024 bidding round, Bangladesh's previous offshore tender had been invited in 2016. Although the PSC was updated in 2019, no fresh bidding round was launched. It took the Awami League government several years to update the Production Sharing Contract before finally inviting the 2024 tender.

Gas Crisis Deepens

Bangladesh's long-growing gas crisis has now become more severe. Last July, the failure of one of the country's two Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) caused gas supply to fall to around half of demand. Although the FSRU subsequently resumed operations, LNG supply has yet to return to normal because of continuing disruptions. At the same time, the cost of LNG imports has increased significantly.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East is also reducing the availability of LNG under long-term contracts, increasing pressure on Bangladesh to purchase more LNG from the spot market.

Energy Shortages Hit Industry

A recent Bangladesh Business Climate Survey by Policy Exchange Bangladesh and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry found significant gaps between gas demand and supply across various sectors. According to the survey, gas supply is 42 to 80 percent below demand in different sectors.

Industrial areas are also experiencing an average of six hours of load-shedding every day. Energy and power shortages are disrupting industrial production by between 25 and 50 percent, depending on the region.

Overall, Bangladesh's dependence on imported energy and electricity has reached 62.5 percent, with imports continuing to grow and the annual import bill rising steadily.

Offshore Bidding Round 2026 Crucial for Energy Security

Given the changing global and regional energy landscape, experts say Bangladesh urgently needs to develop and utilize its own energy resources. Oil and gas exploration onshore is continuing through domestic investment, but the pace has fallen short of expectations.

Although Bangladesh was among the first countries in the region to initiate offshore oil and gas exploration, it has now fallen considerably behind its neighbors. None of the initiatives taken over the past two decades has produced the expected results.

Against this backdrop, the Offshore Bidding Round 2026 has become particularly important for Bangladesh. Experts warn that failure to attract investors this time could once again leave exploration in the Bay of Bengal uncertain.

They believe that without long-term success in developing the country's offshore resources, Bangladesh's energy crisis could become more acute, further increasing dependence on imported energy and putting additional pressure on the economy. EP

Saleque Sufi

A Road Map For A Smarter Energy Sector

Bangladesh is passing through one of the most critical periods in its fuel and energy supply chain. An acute shortage of 1,200–1,300 MMCFD of natural gas, against coincident peak demand of around 4,000 MMCFD, has put power generation, fertilizer production, industrial operations, CNG supplies and household gas use under severe pressure. The crisis was dramatically exposed when a fire at an FSRU sharply reduced RLNG supplies, while the simultaneous disruption of two FSRUs pushed the energy system close to the edge.

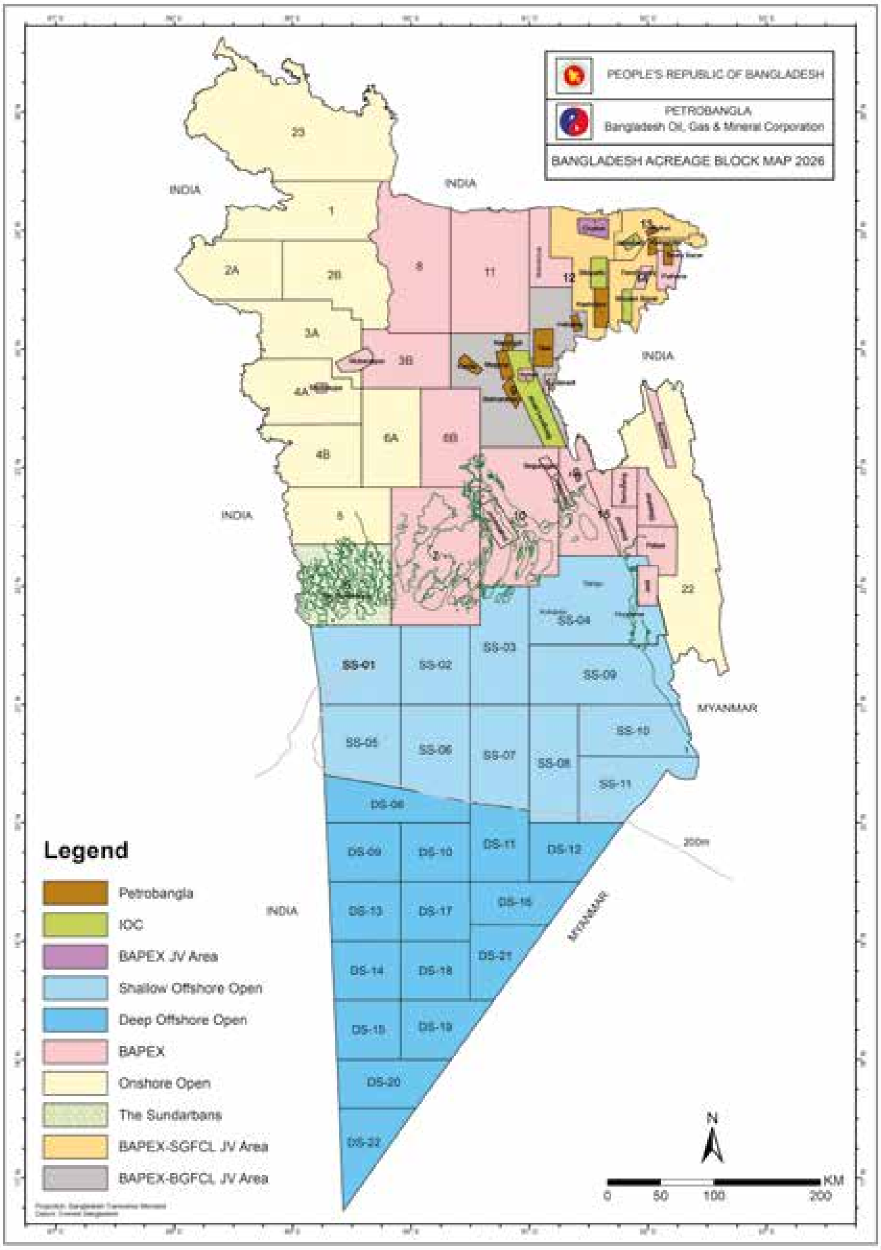
The shortage has widened since 2000 as the country's proven gas resources have been depleted. The government sought to manage the deficit by setting up large imported-coal-based power plants at Payra, Patuakhali; Rampal, Bagerhat; Matarbari, Cox's Bazar; and Anwara, Chattogram. The government also allowed private-sector companies to set up two Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) at Maheshkhali.

The two FSRUs, operating in tandem, supplied 1,000–1,050 MMCFD of RLNG to the national gas grid operated by GTCL and Petrobangla. On July 21, 2026, a reported accident-causing fire at the FSRU operated by US company Excelerate led to a reduction in RLNG supply from 1,050 MMCFD to about 450 MMCFD.

The consequent massive impact on gas supplies caused an alarming power supply crunch, virtual suspension of gas supplies to CNG stations, domestic gas burners going dry, and severe disruption to industries and factories relying on gas supplies. Despite all-out efforts to repair the damage, it took at least three weeks to bring the FSRU back into operation.

The situation suffered a further blow when an LNG-laden vessel failed to supply LNG to the Summit Energy-operated FSRU. The simultaneous suspension of operations of two FSRUs took the situation beyond control.

The country experienced its worst-ever power load-shedding, exceeding 3,775 MW across the power supply network. Districts outside Dhaka and rural areas were plunged into darkness, with 10–12 hours of major load-shedding in some areas. Long queues were observed in



front of CNG filling stations. Industries, including export-oriented industries, were forced to reduce operations from three shifts to a single shift, while many industries pulled down their shutters. People who could afford it started buying food from restaurants or using other fuels for cooking.

The BNP alliance-led government, inheriting a crisis-prone energy and power sector, almost ran out of options. There were no other alternatives but to manage demand by limiting power use, including enforcing the closure of shopping malls and restricting extravagant lighting after 8 p.m.

Visiting the gas system SCADA and Power System NLDC, this writer observed the gas and electricity load curves during the crunch period. Questions remained unanswered: What led to the fire incident? Did Excelerate address the emergency promptly and efficiently? People also asked why the LNG supplied in a standard vessel by Saudi Aramco was not accepted.

Through investigation, it appeared that, for reasons best known to the authorities, the Director (Operations and Mines) was made an Officer on Special Duty after objecting to an alleged syndicate demanding LNG supplies from the spot market.

We are aware that Qatar Gas, due to war and conflict in the Persian Gulf and Arab countries, announced force majeure on long-term LNG supplies. With the closure of the critical Strait of Hormuz, LNG supplies from another source, Oman, were also disrupted.

The government had no option but to import LNG from the spot market. RPGCL usually imports LNG from a short-listed group of reputed suppliers. There existed a process for purchasing some cargoes from the spot market by evaluating unsolicited offers in urgent situations, provided the supply met quality and other specified requirements.

The trade contract concluded between Bangladesh and the United States also restricted Bangladesh from procuring LNG from countries and sources considered unfriendly to the United States.

It has been reported that the government failed to secure the required minimum LNG cargoes for the next couple of months. In such a situation, an FSRU may run out of LNG supplies for certain periods. In summary, it would not be wrong to say that Petrobangla is not managing LNG procurement and supply professionally.

We are aware that power and energy demand reaches its peak during the summer, from the end of May through October. Power demand reaches 17,500–18,000 MW. But because of gas supply constraints, Petrobangla cannot supply more than 950–1,000 MMCFD for power generation.

The Awami League-led government, while diversifying the fuel supply, set up half a dozen large imported-coal-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 6,927 MW and started importing power from India and Nepal. Several liquid-fuel-based power plants with a total capacity of about 7,000 MW were also established.

Because of challenges arising from fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate and volatility in global fuel prices, successive governments could not fully utilize the fuel capacity of coal-fired and liquid-fuel-based power plants.

The present challenge is sustainable

fuel supply. The success of the 50- and 100-well drilling programs may not provide much comfort in the short term, even after they are completed.

The only possibility of adding significant gas resources may be through deeper drilling at the Titas, Bakhrabad and Srikail gas fields. These fields are adjacent to the gas grid and require little or no additional gas evacuation infrastructure.

Experts have suggested expediting construction of a gas transmission pipeline from the stranded gas fields at Bhola to the nearest gas transmission grid. Experts have also suggested drilling wells at Chhatak and Tengratila and at five prospective gas structures—Potiya, Kashalong, Sitapahar, Jhaldi and Sitakunda.

On the other hand, experts have suggested reviewing the contract with Summit Energy for construction of a third FSRU and finalizing the contract for a fourth FSRU. Work on the land-based terminal at Matarbari must also be expedited.

On the other hand, experts have suggested reviewing the contract with Summit Energy for construction of a third FSRU and finalizing the contract for a fourth FSRU. Work on the land-based terminal at Matarbari must also be expedited.

Third Parallel Gas Transmission Pipeline From Maheshkhali to the Gas Transmission Hub

Construction of a third FSRU in phases will be essential to evacuate additional imported LNG from Matarbari and Maheshkhali. GTCL has worked out the requirements for constructing the Feni–Bakhrabad segment of the third parallel pipeline on a top-priority basis.

The provisions of the Gas Safety Act necessitate separation of the two transmission pipelines by a safe distance. As such, expeditious action is essential for acquisition of a new right of way (ROW), followed by procurement of line pipes and other materials.

It will take at least three years to complete the pipeline. We have heard of ridiculous suggestions for constructing the pipeline within the existing ROW. It is a strange idea even to consider installing a 42-inch outside-diameter, heavy-wall pipeline—and, in some places, a concrete-coated pipeline—within the existing ROW alongside a high-pressure pipeline already in operation.

The idea of entrusting construction of the pipeline to the armed forces should also not be entertained. GTCL must remain the sole specialized company responsible for managing gas pipeline construction.

Short-Term Contingency Action and Mid-Term Plans

The government must ensure that coal-fired and liquid-fuel-based power plants can operate at or near full capacity. It may be possible to generate up to 13,000 MW from these power plants. Another 2,000 MW may also be imported from India and Nepal.

If this can be done consistently through the end of October, pressure on gas resources can be reduced significantly. The gas saved in the process can be diverted to industries.

The government must also scrutinize the gas used for domestic cooking and CNG. There are options for using alternative fuels, including LPG for cooking and Autogas for automobiles. We would suggest limiting the price of LPG to keep it competitive with pipeline gas for domestic consumers.

Phasing out pipeline gas supplies to domestic consumers would assist in diverting about 13–15% of gas to industries. This would also eliminate the massive gas losses from dilapidated gas distribution pipelines.

However, extensive safety alerts and stakeholder engagement must be undertaken to ensure the safe use of LPG.

The supply of gas to automobiles as CNG must also be phased out. The primary transportation fuel may be Autogas. But appropriate incentives must be provided for electric vehicles (EVs) and green EV charging stations.

The two units of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant must also be commissioned in phases by the end of 2027. A visit to NLDC and PGCB has indicated that the power grid is now ready to safely evacuate the first 1,200 MW of nuclear power from the first unit in phases.

However, as spinning reserve, the gas saved as a consequence of full utilization of coal-fired and liquid-fuel-based generation may be used during the winter period (November to February). Once evacuated and stabilized, at least 600 MW of nuclear power may be available by March 2027.

Long-Term Planning

We have noticed less-than-required engagement with major potential international oil companies for investment in offshore exploration. The hue and cry over gas and electricity shortages and poor management in the concerned ministries are acting as negative incentives.

There may even be a situation in which there is no response to a PSC bidding round. The government must be ready to negotiate PSCs with one or more leading IOCs based on unsolicited offers.

Gas from offshore exploration may take until 2035 to become available. We would also suggest launching a PSC bidding round for land blocks outside areas reserved within the BAPEX ring-fenced area.

The government may work toward having 10 exploration rigs, including BAPEX and IOC-operated rigs, working onshore from 2028. At the same time, a vigorous drive must be launched for 2D and 3D seismic surveys across the entire land surface for resource identification.

We would also suggest taking a political decision to exploit discovered coal resources. If coal exploration and construction of 7,000–10,000 MW of domestic coal-based power plants are initiated simultaneously by 2031–32, Bangladesh will be in a more comfortable position in terms of power and energy.

Bangladesh must also engage proactively with India, Nepal and Bhutan to establish the BBIN power grid for regional power trading.

We have observed that power demand during winter declines from about 18,000 MW to 10,000 MW. The development of a regional power grid would facilitate power trading through win-win power sharing among the countries.

Reforms and Restructuring

We would strongly recommend essential reforms and restructuring of Petrobangla and its companies. The status of Petrobangla should also be upgraded to the top category.

The post of chairman should be upgraded to the rank of full secretary. Line professionals with the required hands-on experience should be engaged as chairman and in other senior positions.

The boards of directors of Petrobangla and its companies must also be reconstituted with professionals and researchers. Recruitment of fresh, qualified executives and appropriate training for capacity building must also be undertaken.

Modern energy industries need experts educated in artificial intelligence, blockchain and cybersecurity to embrace automation and modern technologies.

Recommendations

1. Launch planned demand-side management measures to save gas used for power generation and divert the gas saved to industries.
2. Phase out gas supplies for domestic cooking and CNG and replace them with safe and affordable supplies of LPG and Autogas.
3. Consider the utilization of SNG (synthetic natural gas) for industries.
4. Promote extensive use of battery-backed rooftop solar for industries to reduce reliance on grid power.
5. Expedite action to evacuate stranded gas from Bhola to the national grid.
6. Take stronger action to aggressively engage potential IOCs for offshore exploration. Launch a PSC bidding round for additional onshore blocks and undertake more intensive 2D and 3D seismic surveys across the land surface.
7. Launch initiatives for institutional reform and capacity building to develop a smarter energy sector. EP

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

GSM Shamsuzzoha (Nasim)

The Post-OPEC Era And Geopolitical Quakes: Bangladesh's Energy Hardship

Four months have passed since May 1, 2026—the historic date when the United Arab Emirates (UAE) formally severed its decades-long membership in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). What some quarters initially saw as a calculated bluff or an isolated institutional dispute has now crystallized into the most disruptive structural transformation of the international energy architecture in half a century.

Today, five months into this post-OPEC era, the global oil landscape has entered uncharted territory. The confluence of Abu Dhabi's unilateral production drive, an entrenched regional war involving the United States and Iran, and protracted maritime disruptions across the Strait of Hormuz has permanently dissolved the illusion of cheap, centrally stabilized fuel. For import-reliant emerging economies like Bangladesh, the past 123 days have confirmed our worst apprehensions: the global buffer has broken, and the cost of war is exacting an unbearable toll on the national balance of payments.

The Fractured Cartel

When Abu Dhabi walked away from OPEC, the primary objective of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) was clear: unfreeze billions of dollars in upstream capital and monetize its 5 million barrels per day (mbpd) production capacity before global decarbonization accelerates. Four months on, the structural consequences of that exit are fully visible:

The Fall of the Market Balancer: For over sixty years, OPEC functioned as a de facto central bank of oil, adjusting quotas to smooth out demand and supply shocks. With the UAE charting an independent course, supply coordination has fundamentally fragmented.

Prevalence of National Revenue Priorities: Individual producers in the Gulf and beyond have increasingly abandoned collective price stabilization in favor of maximizing sovereign revenues while benchmark prices remain elevated.

Unanchored Volatility: Free from quota discipline, oil pricing is no longer cushioned by coordinated market intervention; instead, it swings wildly at the mercy of geopolitical rivalries, shipping chokepoints, and algorithmic speculation in international financial hubs.

Saudi Arabia's ability to enforce discipline across remaining members has significantly diminished. As Abu Dhabi demonstrates the fiscal viability of bilateral, sovereign-to-sovereign dealmaking, other key producers are facing growing domestic pressure to question Riyadh's quota mandates. The era of coordinated market defense is effectively over.

The Strait of Hormuz

The structural divorce inside OPEC has been amplified by the ongoing conflict involving the US and Iran, turning the Persian Gulf into a high-risk maritime arena.

Although the UAE gained the freedom to produce outside OPEC bounds, it could not bypass regional geography. While Abu Dhabi's Habshan–Fujairah pipeline carries crude directly to the Indian Ocean, its throughput remains physically constrained and cannot substitute for the broader maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

With maritime blockades and exorbitant war-risk insurance premiums continually choking shipping corridors, over 10 million barrels per day remain vulnerable to sustained transit disruptions. Brent crude has consequently cemented its position above the $110–$111 per barrel threshold. The initial hope that an unconstrained UAE would rapidly cool international spot markets has been neutralized by the physical realities of maritime warfare.

Bangladesh's Compounding Crisis

For Bangladesh, the past four months have translated global supply fragmentation into tangible domestic economic stress. With the national budget previously predicated on crude oil trading in the $70–$80 corridor, persistent prices above $110 per barrel have triggered cascading shocks across every major economic pillar.

1. Fiscal Strain and Balance-of-Payments Pressure:

The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) faces daily shortfalls in the hundreds of millions of Taka as it attempts to cushion domestic consumers from international market parity.

Table-1:

Economic Domain	Mechanism of Shock	Real-Economy Impact
Balance of Payments	Enormous increase in the monthly fuel import bills for BPC.	Foreign exchange depletion and acute pressure on commercial LC openings.
Power Sector	Unaffordable spot LNG, furnace oil, and diesel.	Forced generation curtailment and industrial load shedding.
RMG & Industry	Gas shortages and expensive captive diesel backup.	Rising unit production costs and threatened export competitiveness.
Agriculture & Food	Elevated diesel costs for 1.2M+ irrigation pumps.	Escalating production costs for Boro crops and downstream food inflation.

Passing these import costs entirely onto the market risks fueling broad-based inflation, while subsidizing them drains the national treasury and rapidly depletes hard-won foreign currency reserves. Commercial lenders in Dhaka continue to face hurdles in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for raw materials, compounding difficulties across the wider manufacturing supply chain.

2. The Power and Industrial Chokehold:

The national electricity grid, structurally dependent on liquid-fuel-fired plants for peak capacity, has been forced into operational cutbacks. Industrial zones across Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Chattogram face scheduled power rationing. Ready-Made Garment (RMG) exporters—already operating on thin margins—have seen production overheads soar due to constant reliance on expensive diesel generator backup, jeopardizing delivery schedules in sensitive Western markets.

3. Agricultural Costs and the Food Security Nexus

In the rural heartlands, oil pricing directly governs the agricultural calendar. Diesel remains the core fuel powering the nation's mechanized irrigation network and farm-to-market haulage. The sustained price shock has translated into steep increases in production expenses for seasonal staples, driving an inflationary cycle that disproportionately burdens lower- and fixed-income households.

Strategic Imperatives: Breaking the Dependency Trap

The events of the past four months prove that relying on traditional Middle Eastern supply channels and short-term spot purchases is an unsustainable long-term strategy. The Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) must move from emergency rationing to an aggressive, multi-pronged energy resilience plan.

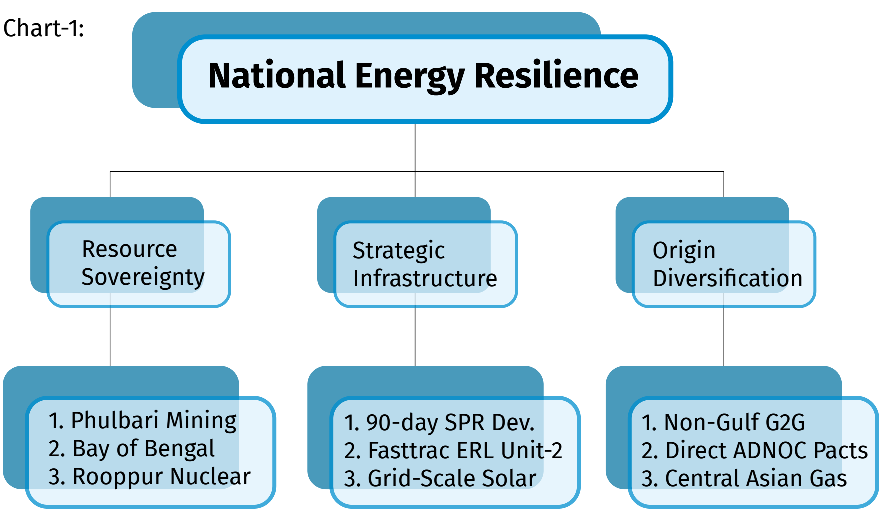
1. Unlocking Domestic Coal Sovereignty with Modern Safeguards

The ongoing foreign exchange drain necessitates an immediate re-evaluation of untapped indigenous reserves. The high-grade bituminous coal deposits at the Phulbari Coal Mine represent a substantial domestic asset capable of generating reliable, low-cost baseload power. Utilizing this domestic reserve with modern, eco-friendly mining technology and comprehensive water management systems would provide a vital baseload alternative. Tapping into indigenous coal provides an immediate structural hedge against $110+ crude, insulating the industrial economy while preserving critical foreign exchange reserves.

2. Direct Bilateral Energy Diplomacy

Because the UAE is now independent of OPEC quotas, Dhaka must pursue direct, multi-year Government-to-Government (G2G) supply frameworks with ADNOC. Offering guaranteed offtake agreements in exchange for fixed-discount pricing

Chart-1:



can protect Bangladesh from open-market price surges. Simultaneously, Dhaka must broaden import origins to include Central Asian and transatlantic suppliers whose routes do not navigate the vulnerable Hormuz chokepoint.

3. **Expanding Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)**

Bangladesh's current 30-to-45-day storage capacity leaves the country vulnerable during major geopolitical escalations. Fast-tracking the Eastern Refinery Unit-2 (ERL-2) modernizations and developing specialized underground storage facilities are essential to build a minimum 90-day strategic reserve. This buffer would allow the state to absorb maritime supply disruptions without imposing immediate rationing on the domestic economy.

4. **Accelerating Domestic Gas Exploration and Clean Transitions**

Relying indefinitely on volatile spot LNG markets is no longer feasible. The government must update Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) to incentivize top-tier international oil companies to explore untapped offshore blocks in the Bay of Bengal. Domestically, fast-tracking the full commissioning of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and offering targeted tax holidays for industrial rooftop solar installations will systematically substitute expensive imported hydrocarbons with secure domestic generation.

Navigating the New Normal

The structural realignment triggered on May 1 was not a passing market fluctuation. Four months later, the fracturing of OPEC, the normalization of $110+ oil, and persistent volatility across Gulf shipping routes have established a new baseline for the global economy.

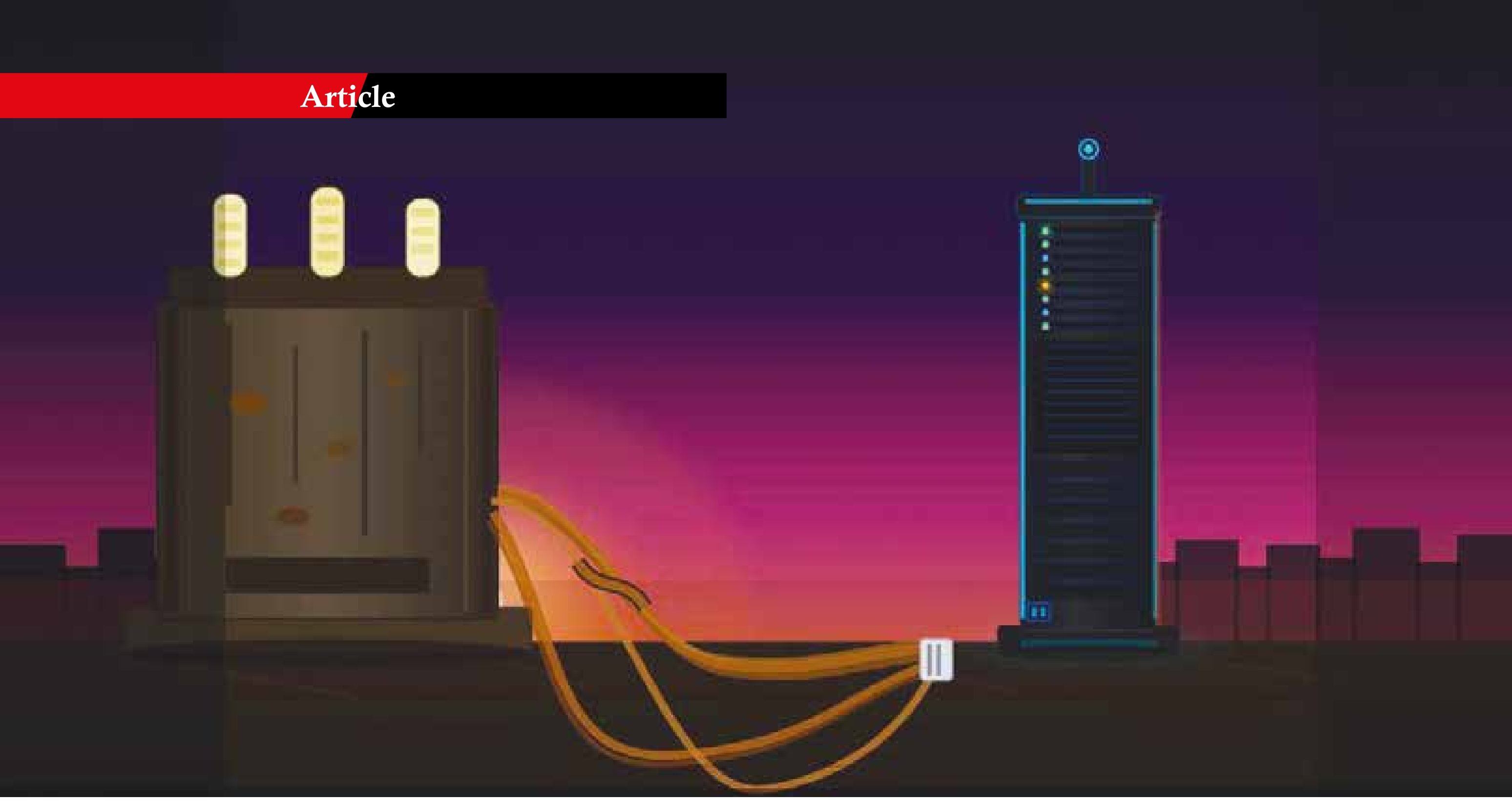
For Bangladesh, the lesson is unequivocal: reliance on external market stability is a strategy fraught with risk. Surviving this new energy order demands decisive policy shifts, prioritizing indigenous resource development, diversifying supply routes, and building strategic reserves. The choices made in Dhaka over the coming months will determine whether the country faces protracted economic vulnerability or builds a resilient, self-reliant foundation capable of weathering future global shocks. EP

Committed to Power, Dedicated to the Nation.

Nutan Bidyut (Bangladesh) Ltd.
An ISO Certified Company

220 MW Gas-based CCPP
Reliable Energy Supply
Sustainable Future

Powering Progress Energizing Tomorrow



The Illusion Of Electricity Generation Without Primary Energy

Engr. Arnab Tanvir Shamsuzzoha

Is it possible to generate electricity without input of primary energy? The answer is no. According to the 'law of conservation of energy', energy can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only be converted from one state to another [1].

We use this principle every day to generate electricity. Solar panels convert energy from sunlight into electricity. Power plants convert heat into electricity. Coal, diesel, LNG, and uranium contain energy that can eventually be converted into electrical energy. Hydropower uses the energy of flowing or falling water, while wind turbines use the energy of moving air.

One thing is common in all these methods, which is: there has to be an external energy input. Furthermore, all the input energy cannot be converted into electricity. Some energy is always lost to the environment, commonly as heat, sound, friction, and vibration.

Recently, a news report with a heading along the lines of "Possibility of electricity generation without fuel using Flywheel Technology". The report appeared in well-known media outlets, including Shomoy TV, Dhaka Post, and Kaler Kantho [2], [3], [4]. Some presentation of the said news may leave an ordinary viewer with the impression that a flywheel can continuously generate electricity without oil, gas, sunlight, or other external energy source. That would be a misunderstanding of what this technology actually is. Let's discuss this technology with a bit more depth.

What exactly is a Flywheel? Think of the water tank on your roof

A pump using electricity (energy) moves water into the tank on your roof. Once the tank is full, you can switch off the pump. Water continues to flow out of your shower. As long as enough water remains in the tank, you continue getting water. But once the tank is empty, water no longer flows out of the shower.

A flywheel works like the water tank. Physically, it is a heavy wheel. It stores rotational energy and releases in a continuous rate [5]. An external source, such as a motor or engine, makes the flywheel spin. The spinning wheel, due to its weight, stores a substantial amount of energy which can be later transferred to a generator to produce electricity. Similar to a water tank, as energy is drawn from the flywheel, its rotational speed decreases. Eventually, the flywheel will run out of energy, gradually coming to a stop at the end. Just like a water tank, it must be refilled using an external source to get constant output [5], [6].

Therefore, a flywheel should be understood primarily as an energy storage and management device, not

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF
MILLIONS

MGI
Meghna Group of Industries

Fresh
No.1 NUMBER 1
SUPER PurE
Actifit
GEAR

as an independent source of energy [6].

Why do we use a flywheel?

The above discussion doesn't imply that a flywheel is useless. It is one of the fundamental technologies of mechanics. One of their major advantages is their ability to store energy and release it quickly when required [7]. Flywheels have been used in different forms in engine equipment, vehicles, machinery, and industrial systems for a very long time [8]. Modern flywheel energy-storage systems can also support electrical grids [9].

In most mechanical systems, the flywheel is used as an energy buffer that smooths out fluctuations in rotational energy supply (like a capacitor in electronics). Engines or motors normally generate fluctuating power. A flywheel absorbs this fluctuating supply and releases it constantly, helping the system run smoothly [8].

After understanding the basics of a flywheel, let's get back to the topic in discussion:

The Researchers May Not Be Making the "Free Energy" Claim

This is perhaps the most important part of the discussion.

The news reports identified Dr. Manirul Islam, Addl. Director of Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura, as one of the researchers of this technology. After looking into this matter, I came across an article by him published in Grain Feen & Milling Magazine titled "Flywheel-based Green Power: New Potential of Indigenous Technology in Bangladesh's Energy Security" [10].

Interestingly, the article gives a much clearer picture of the technology than the impression someone might receive from a headline about "electricity without fuel." The article describes the process where the energy is supplied by an electric motor, and the rotational energy is stored in the flywheel and turns a permanent magnet generator and supplies electricity when needed. It also indicates that the intended purpose of this technology is to provide backup power for adverse situations such as sudden high load demand, voltage and frequency fluctuation, and short-term power shortage or load shedding. So, the system perfectly complies with the theory of conservation of energy; the flywheel can provide only the energy that was initially supplied to it through the motor.

The article also mentions that similar technology is already in operation at 20MW in the USA, 30MW capacity in China, and another system in Ireland installed for the same purpose, which is backup power.

The technology deserves research. Also, the public deserves clarity

Bangladesh should encourage its scientists, engineers and researchers to develop new technologies. If locally developed flywheel technology can reduce our dependence on diesel backup generators, stabilize renewable-energy systems, support irrigation, hospitals and industries, or help manage short-term power shortages, that could be extremely valuable for the country. The researchers themselves acknowledge that further pilot testing and independent verification are necessary. That is exactly how science should progress.

At the same time, a promising development should not accidentally be presented to the public as a false miracle. No technology can bypass the basic law of conservation of energy. A flywheel can store energy and release energy very quickly, smooth an uneven energy supply, improve grid stability, and provide short-term backup [5], [7], [9]. But it cannot create energy from nothing.

Therefore, I believe there may have been a misunderstanding or oversimplification somewhere between the scientific work and the way some of the news was presented to the public. The technology itself may deserve serious attention. The researchers deserve the opportunity to complete their testing and independently verify their results. EP

Engr. Arnab Tanvir Shamsuzzoha, *B.E. (Mechanical)*

References

1. Y. A. . Çengel, M. A. . Boles, and Mehmet. Kanoğlu, "Thermodynamics : an engineering approach," p. 948, 2024.
2. Kaler Kantho, "দেশীয় প্রযুক্তিতে সাশ্রয়ী বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনের নতুন সম্ভাবনা বগুড়ায়। Local Technology | Energy Sector - YouTube," Kaler Kantho, Kaler Kantho, Aug. 17, 2026. Accessed: Aug. 19, 2026. [Online]. Available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1olFgelltc
3. A. Momin and N. Arabi, "জ্বালানি ছাড়াই বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন, বগুড়ায় ফ্লাইহুইল প্রযুক্তির নতুন সম্ভাবনা। Dhaka Post News - YouTube," Dhaka Post, Aug. 31, 2026. Accessed: Aug. 19, 2026. [Online]. Available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KXLmoBCN3Y&t=1s
4. A. Awal, "জ্বালানি ছাড়াই বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনের সম্ভাবনা দেখাচ্ছে বগুড়ার ফ্লাই-হুইল প্রযুক্তি। Flywheel Technology - YouTube," Shomoy TV, Aug. 17, 2026. Accessed: Aug. 19, 2026. [Online]. Available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yrc2jlNVRF8
5. R. Sebastián and R. Peña Alzola, "Flywheel energy storage systems: Review and simulation for an isolated wind power system," Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, vol. 16, no. 9, pp. 6803–6813, Dec. 2012, doi: 10.1016/J.RSER.2012.08.008.
6. M. E. Amiryar and K. R. Pullen, "A Review of Flywheel Energy Storage System Technologies and Their Applications," Applied Sciences 2017, Vol. 7, Page 286, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 286, Mar. 2017, doi: 10.3390/APP7030286.
7. X. Li and A. Palazzolo, "A review of flywheel energy storage systems: state of the art and opportunities," J. Energy Storage, vol. 46, p. 103576, Feb. 2022, doi: 10.1016/J.EST.2021.103576.
8. B. Bolund, H. Bernhoff, and M. Leijon, "Flywheel energy and power storage systems," Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 235–258, Feb. 2007, doi: 10.1016/J.RSER.2005.01.004.
9. A. A. K. Arani, H. Karami, G. B. Gharehpetian, and M. S. A. Hejazi, "Review of Flywheel Energy Storage Systems structures and applications in power systems and microgrids," Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, vol. 69, pp. 9–18, Mar. 2017, doi: 10.1016/J.RSER.2016.11.166.
10. M. Islam, "Flywheel Green Power & Energy Security in Bangladesh | GFM," Grain Feed & Milling Magazine, Bogura, Jul. 28, 2026. Accessed: Aug. 19, 2026. [Online]. Available: https://gfmdhaka.com/news/flywheel-based-green-power-new-potential-of-indigenous-technology-in-bangladeshs-energy-security.

JAMUNA GAS

নিরাপত্তার সাথে চলে দীর্ঘদিন

নিরাপদ ও সাশ্রয়ী জ্বালানি যমুনা এলপি গ্যাস

সারা দেশ জুড়ে এলপি গ্যাস এর প্রয়োজনে
আমরা আছি আপনার পাশে

আমাদের সেবা সমূহ

- কুকিং গ্যাস
- বাসাবাড়িতে রেটিকুলেশন সিস্টেম
- ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল গ্যাস
- কমার্শিয়াল গ্যাস
- অটো গ্যাস

Certification:

Corporate Office:

Jamuna Spacetech Joint Venture Limited
99,Rupayan Golden Age (2nd Floor), Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212
Call: +880222281598 | +88 01769-969493
www.jamunagas.com | corporate@jamunagas.com

JSJVL™
Jamuna Gas
Since 2000

Türkiye Pledges Action-Focused COP31 in Antalya

EP DESK

Türkiye's presidency of COP31 will focus on translating climate commitments into concrete action, according to Kasım Yenigün, director general of the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Yenigün said Türkiye is preparing an ambitious agenda for COP31, scheduled to take place in Antalya in November. He described 2026 as a "triple COP year," with UN conferences on desertification, biodiversity and climate change taking place consecutively.

Türkiye is working with Australia on negotiations while developing a broader action agenda covering electrification, zero waste, climate bridges, oceans and seas, and cooperation among the three Rio Conventions.

A key priority is "Rio synergy", aimed at connecting commitments under the UN climate, biodiversity and desertification conventions and moving them from pledges to implementation.

Yenigün said Türkiye's relevant government agencies are working together to develop projects and practices that could provide international examples of integrated environmental action. He added that Türkiye's COP31 presidency has generated strong interest among governments, international organizations, civil society groups and academics attending COP17, with many expressing interest in participating in the Antalya conference. EP

PM Tarique Rahman to Attend COP31 in Türkiye

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will visit Türkiye in November to attend the 2026 UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said recently.

He disclosed the information during a meeting with Türkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister Musa Kulaklıkaya on the sidelines of the 23rd Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah.

COP31 is scheduled to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20, 2026.

The two sides discussed regional developments and expressed their readiness to strengthen cooperation on issues of mutual interest. EP

Triple COP 2026 Offers New Business Opportunities for Green Growth

The 2026 “triple COP” year presents businesses with a major opportunity to strengthen resilience, unlock green investment and accelerate action on climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, according to senior UN officials.

The three UN environmental conferences — the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17 in Mongolia in August, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP17 in Armenia in October and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP31 in Türkiye in November — will bring together governments, businesses, investors and civil society to advance coordinated action.

UN officials Yasmine Fouad, Astrid Schomaker and Simon Stiell said climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation are increasingly affecting businesses through damaged assets, rising input and insurance costs, supply-chain disruptions and declining worker productivity.

Land degradation, desertification and drought are estimated to cost the global economy $878 billion annually, while climate-related disasters have caused about $3.6 trillion in damage this century. Pollinator loss also puts around $577 billion in annual crop production at risk.

The officials said businesses have a critical role in addressing these challenges by scaling clean technologies, mobilizing capital, strengthening supply chains and creating jobs.

The global green economy already exceeds $5 trillion annually and could surpass $7 trillion by 2030, with green revenues growing faster than conventional revenues.

Potential growth areas include agroforestry, battery recycling, industrial water management, nature-based solutions, sustainable rangeland management, drought-resilient agriculture and carbon markets.

However, investment in nature-positive activities remains far below investment in nature-negative activities. In 2023, private-sector financing for nature-negative activities was estimated at $4.9 trillion, compared with only $23 billion for nature-based solutions.

The UN officials urged governments to provide clearer policies, stronger investment signals and market incentives, while encouraging companies to make climate, biodiversity and land issues a core business priority rather than leaving them solely to sustainability departments. EP

Finance Tools Could Accelerate Fashion Industry Decarbonization

New reports from the UN Climate Change’s Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action have highlighted innovative financing and market-based solutions to help reduce emissions across the global fashion industry.

The reports — Carbon Market Solutions for Decarbonizing Fashion and Financing Mechanisms to Support Decarbonization within the Fashion Sector — examine ways to channel capital into emissions reduction, particularly among upstream manufacturers in major production countries.

The studies highlight tools including internal carbon pricing, carbon insetting, mitigation contributions, carbon removals, green and sustainability-linked loans and bonds, grants, blended finance and energy performance contracts.

A key finding is that small and medium-sized upstream suppliers often struggle to access affordable financing, despite much of the industry’s emissions being concentrated in these parts of the supply chain.

Fragmented production networks, limited data, short-term purchasing practices and perceived investment risks remain major barriers.

The reports call for stronger collaboration among fashion brands, suppliers, financial institutions and policymakers. Pooled financing, collective power purchase agreements, shared verification systems and supplier-focused decarbonization programs could help reduce costs and accelerate the adoption of clean technologies.

The findings are intended to help the fashion sector advance its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, while improving supply-chain resilience and competitiveness. EP

Govt Plans More Coal Power to Ease Industrial Gas Crisis

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has directed the power and energy authorities to increase coal-fired power generation to free up more gas for industries and strengthen energy security.

The government also plans to ensure timely LNG imports through Bangladesh's existing two floating terminals while avoiding direct procurement, following recent disruptions in LNG deliveries.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said the industrial gas situation is expected to improve by winter, with significant progress in gas and electricity supplies expected by next summer.

The government aims to turn Bangladesh into a major manufacturing hub by 2029. It plans to increase domestic gas supply by 1,750 MMCFD through drilling and re-drilling around 150 wells and connect newly discovered Bhola gas reserves to the national grid through a pipeline costing about Tk500 crore.

Bangladesh Spends 43pc of Annual LNG Subsidy in Six Weeks

Bangladesh has already spent nearly 43% of its annual LNG import subsidy within the first one and a half months of the current fiscal year amid soaring global gas prices and supply disruptions.

The Finance Division has disbursed around Tk 4,700 crore, or 42.73% of the FY27 allocation of Tk 11,000 crore, for LNG imports—more than nine times the Tk 500 crore released during the same period last fiscal year.

The sharp increase follows rising LNG prices and disruptions to global supply routes amid conflict in the Middle East. Spot LNG prices recently approached $22 per MMBtu, while the government approved a

spot-market cargo at $23.93 per MMBtu.

The government allocated Tk 11,000 crore for LNG subsidies in FY27, compared with Tk 6,000 crore in FY26. However, actual LNG subsidy spending last fiscal year reached around Tk 16,600 crore.

Officials warned that continued instability in the Middle East could further increase LNG import costs and pressure government finances.

Energy Crisis Drains Bangladesh Industry by Up to Tk 2,387 Crore a Day

Bangladesh's energy crisis is costing the industrial sector up to Tk 2,387 crore a day in lost output, according to an estimate by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed said even if factories operate at 55% capacity, daily losses could reach around Tk 1,074 crore as gas shortages and power disruptions continue.

Bangladesh currently supplies around 2,420 MMCFD of gas against demand of about 3,800 MMCFD, leaving a shortfall of roughly 36%. Industries are also facing low gas pressure despite around 800 MMCFD of LNG being supplied to the grid.

The crisis has forced factories to reduce production and rely on costly diesel generators, while disrupting export orders and discouraging new investment. Around 1,857 investment applications worth Tk 35,000 crore have reportedly stalled due to the suspension of new industrial gas connections.

World Bank Set to Double LNG Loan Guarantee for Bangladesh

Bangladesh is expected to secure an additional US$350 million World Bank loan guarantee to support LNG imports amid declining domestic gas production and volatile global energy markets.

The additional guarantee, likely to be finalized in October, would raise the World Bank's total commitment to US$700 million and help state-run Petrobangla secure commercial financing for LNG imports in 2027.

Petrobangla officials said the International Development Association (IDA) guarantee could help mobilize up to US$2.1 billion in private financing over seven years.

The facility would support standby letters of credit and short-term credit lines through eight selected commercial banks, including international lenders.

The additional guarantee is expected to allow Petrobangla to open vital SBLCs by November 2026 for LNG supplies under long-term contracts, reducing the need for large upfront cash margins and lowering borrowing costs.

10,000MW Solar Target Could Ease Industrial Power Crisis: Muktadir

Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir has said achieving the government's 10,000MW solar power target could significantly ease the electricity crisis facing Bangladesh's industrial sector.

Speaking to journalists after inaugurating a new BSCIC exhibition and sales center at Osmani International Airport, he said the government was prioritizing small-scale, low-investment businesses and environmentally friendly technologies amid the ongoing energy crisis.

The minister said solar power could be utilized for around 3.5-4 hours a day and, with battery storage, could help meet evening peak demand and reduce load-shedding.

He said the government was also preparing plans to use gas and alternative fuels, including rice husk and coal, in industrial areas.

Muktadir said the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector currently contributes around 34% to the economy, with the government targeting an increase to 50%.

At Least Two Years Needed to Resolve Electricity, Gas Crisis: Finance Minister

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury recently said Bangladesh has inherited significant challenges in infrastructure, and power and gas shortages cannot be addressed overnight.

A minimum of two years might be required to fully address the issue, he added.

"However, I can assure you that we are trying to do everything in the fastest possible time. We are not wasting a single moment on this matter," he said.

The economy cannot move forward without electricity and gas, he said. He made these remarks at an event of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh at InterContinental Dhaka.

"Everyone has spoken about electricity and gas. We are struggling with this problem. We are in the midst of it. I must admit that this too is something inherited from the past," he said.

"As for gas -- everything regarding floating LNG terminals and onshore storage facilities is being finalized, which you will learn about within the next few days," he said.

LNG Supply Recovery Pushes Bangladesh's Gas Supply to 2,425 MMCFD

Bangladesh's LNG supply to the national gas grid rose to 810 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) recently, taking total gas supply to 2,425 MMCFD, the highest level since the disruption at Excelerate Energy's FSRU on July 21.

According to Petrobangla data, Excelerate's FSRU supplied 300 MMCFD and Summit's FSRU 510 mmcfd, while domestic sources provided 1,615 mmcfd.

The recovery has improved imported gas availability after the Excelerate terminal disruption sharply reduced LNG supplies and contributed to gas shortages and pressure on power generation.

Meanwhile, Petrobangla plans to increase gas allocation to the power sector to as much as 960 MMCFD, depending on overall supply and system requirements, to support electricity generation and ease load-shedding.

Bangladesh's two operational FSRUs have a combined regasification capacity of about 1,100 MMCFD. However, total gas supply remains well below the country's official demand of around 3,854 MMCFD.

Govt Plans Three More FSRUs by 2029: Minister

The government plans to establish three additional floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) at Payra, Mongla, and Hiron Point by 2029 to expand Bangladesh's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import capacity, says Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood.

The government had already ordered one new FSRU and was conducting feasibility studies for the three proposed terminals while seeking investors, he said recently while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion.

Titled "Navigating Bangladesh's Energy Crisis: Immediate Priorities and the Path to a Sustainable Energy Future", the event was organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in the capital.

"We are studying these locations -- Payra, then Mongla and Hiron Point -- and we are inviting investors," Mahmood said. The minister said the recent fire at one of Bangladesh's two existing FSRUs had exposed the risks of depending on limited LNG infrastructure.

BPC Seeks Tk18,699 Crore Subsidy amid Rising Fuel Import Costs

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has sought Tk18,699 crore in emergency government subsidy to cover losses incurred from soaring international oil prices amid the Middle East conflict.

BPC said it suffered the losses between March and June after keeping domestic fuel prices unchanged despite sharply higher import costs. The state-run agency imported 72 fuel consignments during the period.

BPC formally requested the Energy and Mineral Resources Division to provide the funds, warning that its financial position has weakened significantly.

Bangladesh introduced an automatic fuel pricing formula in March 2024, allowing domestic prices to be adjusted monthly in line with global market rates.

However, the government kept prices unchanged to protect consumers amid the recent surge in international oil prices.

Bangladesh's Fuel Oil Import Bill Hits Record $10.63b

Bangladesh's fuel oil import bill reached a record $10.63 billion in the 2025-26 fiscal year, more than doubling from $5.14 billion a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

The 107% year-on-year increase means fuel oil accounted for 14.13% of the country's total merchandise import bill of $75.24 billion in FY26.

Crude petroleum imports rose 92% to $1.20 billion, while imports of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) surged 109.1% to $9.44 billion.

Experts attributed the sharp rise mainly to higher global oil prices and growing domestic demand. Bangladesh's fuel imports also increased, with 5.74 million tonnes imported during July-March of FY26, compared with 5.005 million tonnes in the same period a year earlier.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation estimates annual fuel demand at around 7.4 million tonnes.

Southeast Asia Faces Major Shortfall in Planned Gas-Fired Power Capacity

Southeast Asia is expected to deliver less than one-third of its planned gas-fired power capacity by 2030, as turbine shortages, financing difficulties, LNG infrastructure constraints and volatile fuel prices slow project development, according to Wood Mackenzie.

Governments across six major regional power markets have targeted around 53 GW of new gas-fired capacity by 2030. However, Wood Mackenzie expects only 14.9 GW to become operational this decade.

Only about 11 GW of the planned gas-to-power pipeline has secured gas turbines, while projects without confirmed equipment could face delivery lead times of at least five years.

The region's electricity demand is projected to grow 2.4-fold by 2050, driven by industrial expansion, manufacturing diversification, semiconductor and electronics investment, and the rapid growth of large-scale data centers. Gas demand from the power sector is expected to more than double between 2026 and 2050.

Experts Urge Bangladesh to Diversify Energy Sources for Greater Energy Security

Bangladesh must diversify its energy mix, reduce fuel wastage, improve energy efficiency and adopt modern technologies to ensure long-term energy security, experts said recently.

They made the remarks at a seminar titled "Energy Security in Bangladesh: Understanding the Challenges and Shaping the Way Forward", organized by the Young Engineers Chapter of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at its headquarters.

Presenting the keynote paper, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) member Professor Dr Engineer Syeda Sultana Razia said a reliable and affordable energy supply is essential for Bangladesh's economic growth, industrialization and everyday life.

She identified declining domestic gas reserves, growing dependence on imported fuels, volatile international energy prices, pressure on foreign exchange reserves, and constraints in power generation and supply as major challenges to the country's energy security.

Experts Urge Bangladesh to Scrap Unfair Energy Deals

Experts at a recent policy roundtable called for scrapping unfair energy agreements, making greater use of domestic resources and reducing Bangladesh's dependence on imported fuel to overcome the country's energy crisis.

They also stressed expanding renewable energy, strengthening energy sovereignty and ensuring transparency and accountability in the energy sector.

The views came at a roundtable titled "Navigating the Energy Transition: Foreign Policy Alignment and Geopolitical Resilience" held at Hotel InterContinental Dhaka.

The Institute of Policy, Governance and Advocacy for Development (IPGAD) organized the event, moderated by its Executive Director Mostafa Hossain.

Professor Mushtaq Khan, an economist at SOAS University of London, said the current energy crisis should be viewed from two perspectives — short-term problems in energy supply and long-term structural and production-related problems.

Chevron, AUW Celebrate Completion of 2026 Math and Science Summer School

The Asian University for Women (AUW) recently hosted the closing ceremony of its 2026 Math and Science Summer School, supported by Chevron Bangladesh.

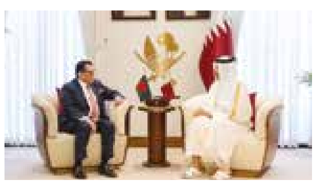
The four-week program concluded with certificates being awarded to 104 college students from across Bangladesh.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Md. Ziauddin, Divisional Commissioner, Chattogram, as the chief guest. Among the special guests were Ashiq Rahman, Director of Operations, Chevron Bangladesh, and Dee Bourbon, Lead Advisor, Community Partnerships, Chevron.

Dr. Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury, Director of the Summer School at AUW, thanked the participating students and faculty for their commitment and hard work.

He said the program continues to create valuable opportunities for young women interested in science, technology and related fields. Ashiq Rahman said Chevron Bangladesh has been proud to support the Math and Science Summer School since 2019.

Qatar Pledges Support to Bangladesh for Energy Security



Qatar has assured Bangladesh of all possible support to strengthen its energy security as the two countries discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation during a high-level meeting in Doha.

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman met Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani at his office in Doha, according to Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry.

The Qatari Prime Minister described Bangladesh as a "brotherly country" and assured Dhaka of Qatar's support in ensuring energy security, particularly amid the current challenging global circumstances.

Khalilur Rahman conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the Qatari leadership and expressed Bangladesh's solidarity with Qatar. He also praised Qatar's role in promoting peace, security and stability in the region.

Sheikh Mohammed congratulated Khalilur Rahman on his election as President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly and pledged Qatar's cooperation in helping him successfully discharge his responsibilities.

Coal Flexibility Could Unlock Up to 34 GW of RE in India: CSE

India needs to better integrate its rapidly expanding renewable energy sector with its coal-based power fleet to achieve a smooth and cost-effective energy transition, according to a new study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The study, Flex to Fix: Deciphering India's Coal Flexibilization Challenge for RE Integration, finds that making coal-fired power plants more flexible could create an additional 18–34 GW of space for renewable energy on the grid and reduce power-sector emissions by an estimated 7.66–8.37%, equivalent to around 92–101 million tonnes of CO_2 annually.

CSE Director General Sunita Narain said India's challenge is not simply to choose between coal and renewables, but to integrate the two while gradually reducing coal dependence.

Greater flexibility in the existing coal fleet could help balance fluctuations in solar and wind generation and improve grid stability.

India reached 50% non-fossil-based installed power capacity in 2025, five years ahead of its original 2030 target.

BERC for Tk 6.48 Per Kwh Tariff on Renewable Power

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has proposed a Tk 6.48 per kilowatt-hour benchmark tariff for renewable electricity to be procured from merchant power plants, drawing sharp opposition from consumer rights activists have who called the rate unacceptable and unreasonable.

The commission's technical evaluation committee recommended the tariff at a public hearing held at the International Mother Language Institute auditorium in the capital's Segunbagicha recently.

Questioning the proposed tariff, Consumers Association of Bangladesh energy adviser M Shamsul Alam said the rate was significantly higher than tariffs for solar power in neighbouring countries.

'If we take the current exchange rate of Tk 123 to the US dollar, the solar power tariff is Tk 3.80 in India and Tk 3.90 in Pakistan,' he said, adding that the BERC technical committee had set the tariff at Tk 6.48.

Germany Urges Inclusive Approach to Bangladesh's Low-Carbon Future

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Rüdiger Lotz has called for a whole-of-society approach to Bangladesh's long-term low-carbon and climate-resilient development, urging the government, businesses, communities and young people to work together.

He made the remarks at the "University Dialogue on People-led LT-LEDS: Bangladesh's Low Carbon Future" recently at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Dr Lotz said Bangladesh's growing economy would significantly increase energy demand and highlighted the need to reduce vulnerability to external energy shocks. He also noted the growing importance of rooftop solar in the country's energy transition.

The ambassador stressed that young people must play a central role in shaping Bangladesh's climate future, with climate education and capacity building beginning at schools and local levels.

NBR Clarifies Tax Benefits for Commercial Solar Equipment Importers

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has clarified tax and customs provisions for solar equipment imports, removing confusion over concessional treatment for commercial importers and facilitating faster clearance at ports.

The NBR instructed customs offices to apply uniform procedures for photovoltaic modules, panels, inverters and other solar equipment under the government's renewable energy tax incentive scheme.

The clarification follows confusion over overlapping notifications carrying the same HS code for solar modules and panels. The NBR also corrected a clerical error in the HS code for solar inverters, saying eligible importers would not lose the benefit because of the mistake. The Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, however, urged the government to consider waiving the existing 15% VAT to further reduce the cost of solar equipment and accelerate renewable energy deployment.

Runner Set to Manufacture BYD Cars in Bangladesh

Runner Automobiles PLC is set to manufacture cars of Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD in Bangladesh, marking a strategic shift for the company beyond its traditional two- and three-wheeler business.

Runner has completed a technical agreement with BYD following a feasibility study, paving the way for local production of BYD electric cars.

The company will invest in factory expansion and machinery for electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing, according to a disclosure on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange recently.

The move comes as Runner's financial performance is recovering from a sharp downturn. Standalone revenue rose 28 percent to Tk 563 crore in FY2024-25, while operating profit increased to Tk 110 crore. Net profit recovered to Tk 7 crore from a loss of Tk 70 crore in FY2022-23.

However, high financial expenses continue to weigh on earnings, making the EV investment both a growth opportunity and a financial challenge.

Gunze United Commissions 424kWp Rooftop Solar Plant at DEPZ

Gunze United Limited has commissioned a 424 kWp rooftop solar PV project at its manufacturing facility in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), Savar, marking another step toward cleaner and more sustainable industrial energy use.

The project comprises 722 solar panels and is now fully operational, supplying renewable electricity to the facility.

It is expected to reduce the company's dependence on conventional energy sources while supporting more efficient and environmentally responsible production.

Gunze United is a joint venture between Japanese silk thread manufacturer Gunze Ltd and Bangladeshi conglomerate United Group. The company manufactures high-value threads at its DEPZ facility.

Khondaker Zayed Ahsan, director of United Group; Khandker Sayeedul Islam, group executive director of United Group; and Hitoshi Mori, managing director of Gunze United Limited, attended the commissioning ceremony.

Green page

Chinese Solar Companies Seek Larger Role in Bangladesh's RE Drive

Chinese solar technology companies are seeking to strengthen their presence in Bangladesh as the country prepares for a major expansion of solar power through utility-scale projects, rooftop systems and solar irrigation.

Against this backdrop, global photovoltaic manufacturer Astronergy organized its Astronergy World Tour 2026 – Bangladesh Roadshow in Dhaka, bringing together local industrial groups, renewable energy companies, distributors, strategic partners and other stakeholders.

A key highlight was the launch of Astronergy's latest ASTRO N7 Pro solar module in Bangladesh.

The module uses upgraded TOPCon 5.0+ cell technology, quarter-cut design and 20BB technology. It offers a maximum output of 670 watts and efficiency of up to 24.8%, according to the company.

The initiative comes as Bangladesh seeks to diversify its energy mix, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and meet growing electricity demand.

EV Solar Module Market Set to Quadruple by 2034

The global electric vehicle (EV) solar modules market is projected to expand more than fourfold over the next eight years, driven by growing interest in solar-integrated vehicles, fleet cost savings and advanced energy-management technologies.

According to Polaris Market Research, the market was valued at approximately US$728.71 million in 2026 and is expected to reach US$3.09 billion by 2034, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 19.73%.

The emerging technology is increasingly being viewed not simply as a way to add driving range, but as a means of reducing EV dependence on grid charging.

Solar modules integrated into vehicle roofs, hoods and other surfaces can help power auxiliary systems, reduce standby energy consumption and support short-distance driving.

For commercial fleets, even modest solar-assisted charging could reduce charging frequency and operating costs, particularly for high-utilization vans, buses and utility vehicles.

Automakers, meanwhile, are exploring integrated solar technology as a potential product differentiator.

Huawei Launches Grid-Forming Inverter, Large-Scale BESS

Huawei recently launched what it described as Bangladesh's first grid-forming smart string inverter and large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS), as the country seeks to expand renewable power while dealing with challenges in maintaining grid stability.

The Chinese technology company unveiled the SUN2000-506KTL-H3 grid-forming smart string inverter and LUTERRA-6261-25 battery energy storage system at an event titled "Grid-forming technology powering a greener future" at Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka.

The event brought together government officials, power-sector stakeholders, independent power producers, investors, technical consultants, and engineering, procurement and construction contractors.

Will Yu, managing director of Huawei South Asia Digital Power Department, said combining solar power with battery storage is becoming increasingly important as countries shift towards renewable energy.

Greenpage

Canada Unveils $50b Clean Energy Investment Plan

Canada has announced a proposed C$70 billion ($50.5 billion) clean energy investment plan to expand wind and hydropower generation in the country's east.

The agreement between Prime Minister Mark Carney's government, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador includes upgrading the Churchill Falls generating station and developing a new hydroelectric project at Gull Island in Labrador.

Part of the additional electricity would be transmitted to Quebec, whose utility Hydro-Québec supplies power to markets in the northeastern United States.

Carney said the projects could generate enough electricity to power the homes of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver combined.

The Canadian Climate Institute welcomed the initiative, saying greater domestic clean-energy supply could strengthen energy security and improve affordability amid volatile global energy prices.

Accelleron

Accelleron has been a global leader in turbocharging, fuel injection and digital solutions

Global service network

100+ service locations

Wide range of turbochargers

180,000+ Accelleron turbochargers are in operation around the globe

Original manufacturer

110+ years of turbocharging heritage

accelleron.com

Bangladesh Calls for Community Engagement in Sustainable Rangeland and Land Management

Bangladesh has called for greater involvement of local communities in protecting rangelands and promoting sustainable land management.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo He made the call at a ministerial dialogue titled "Restoration of Rangelands and the Well-being of Pastoralist Communities" at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar recently.

The minister stressed the need to protect public and community-owned lands while strengthening the economic capacity of rural communities. He said Bangladesh does not have vast rangelands in the conventional sense, but livestock plays an important role in the rural economy and livelihoods.

Agricultural fields after harvest, fallow land, chars, wetlands and roadside areas are commonly used for livestock grazing.

UNEP Report Calls for Stronger Action on Health-Related Climate Loss and Damage

National climate policies are increasingly recognising the health impacts of climate change, but many countries still lack clear measures to address health-related loss and damage, according to a new report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre.

Titled "Loss and Damage Beyond Economics: Exploring Health as a Non-economic Loss in National Climate Planning," the report examines how Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs) address climate-related impacts on health.

The analysis covers physical and mental health, health systems and services, as well as urban health, vulnerability and climate-induced displacement.

Govt Working to Resolve Gas Crisis: PM

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said the government is working to resolve the country's ongoing gas crisis and urged the opposition to submit a three-month plan outlining how the situation could be addressed.

He made the remarks recently while speaking at a program in the capital to distribute donations among underprivileged people marking the 82nd birth anniversary of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

At the event, held at the T&T ground in Mohakhali's Korail area, the prime minister said some political parties were attempting to create disorder over the electricity situation through what he described as irresponsible actions.

"Technical problems have been reduced, and the country will soon be free from the electricity crisis," he said.

Criticizing the opposition, Tarique called on them to come up with concrete plans within three months to address the country's gas and power-related problems.

Regional Cooperation Essential to Address South Asia's Shared Climate Risks

Environment, Forest and Climate Change State Minister Sheikh Faridul Islam has stressed the need to strengthen regional cooperation to address the shared climate risks facing South Asia.

He made the remarks at a meeting of the South Asia Regional Climate Cooperation (SARCC) held at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka recently.

The state minister said the government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, is implementing a range of initiatives to address climate risks. Alongside a campaign to plant 250 million trees, various measures are being taken to control pollution, he said.

A master plan has also been prepared to clean up the rivers surrounding Dhaka, including the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag and Balu. Initiatives are being taken to prevent polluted wastewater and other contaminants from entering the rivers, he added.

Bangladesh Introduces EPR Guidelines to Strengthen Plastic Waste Management

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines for Plastic Waste Management, 2026, aimed at reducing plastic pollution and strengthening sustainable waste management in Bangladesh.

The guidelines, published in the Bangladesh Gazette on August 13 under Section 13 of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, will apply to manufacturers, importers and brand owners of recyclable and non-recyclable plastic products produced or used in the country.

Export-oriented industries producing goods exclusively against export orders will remain outside the scope of the guidelines. Under the new framework, plastic products have been classified into five categories: rigid plastics, flexible plastics, styrofoam/EPS, non-banned single-use plastics, and other products such as sanitary napkins, diapers and cigarette filters.

Bangladesh, UNICEF Strengthen Cooperation to Protect Children from Climate Risks

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo and UNICEF Bangladesh Acting Representative Gillian Mellsop have discussed strengthening cooperation to protect children and adolescents from the impacts of climate change and make essential social services more climate-resilient.

Mellsop met the minister at his office on Wednesday. The discussions focused on climate-resilient education, healthcare, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as broader measures to protect children from climate-related hazards.

The minister said children and young people are central to building a climate-resilient Bangladesh and should therefore be given priority in national climate action plans.

"Children and young people are the architects of a climate-resilient Bangladesh, both today and in the future," he said, adding that the ministry is working to implement relevant plans in line with the Prime Minister's special directives.

Peking University and Sunway University Sign Five-Year Partnership on Planetary Health

The Peking University Institute for Global Health and Development and Sunway University have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation in research, education and policy development on planetary health.

The agreement was signed during the International Planetary Health High-Level Forum in Beijing, hosted by the Peking University Institute for Global Health and Development.

Under the MOU, the two universities will collaborate on joint research projects, co-authored publications, policy briefs and funding proposals focusing on climate and health, health-system resilience and environmental governance.

The partnership will also facilitate regular conferences, seminars and policy dialogues aimed at translating scientific research into practical policy solutions.

Govt Eyes Global Standards for Shipbuilding, Recycling Sectors

The government has taken an initiative to transform Bangladesh's shipbuilding and ship-recycling industries into safer, environmentally sustainable and globally competitive sectors.

Separate meetings were held at the Secretariat on Thursday to review existing laws, regulations and policies governing the two industries, assess their challenges and formulate recommendations for their sustainable development, according to a handout issued by the Press Information Department recently.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo chaired the meetings at his ministry's conference room. Industries Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir and State Minister for Shipping Razib Ahsan attended as special guests.

The meetings focused on several key areas, including environmental protection, workers' safety, compliance with international standards, technological modernisation, skilled manpower development and expansion of financing facilities.

Coordinated Action Needed to Curb Buriganga-Turag Pollution: Environment Minister

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has called for coordinated and effective action by all relevant government agencies, industries and stakeholders to control pollution in the Buriganga and Turag rivers and their connected canals around Dhaka.

He made the call at a recent stakeholder consultation held at the Department of Environment's conference room in Agargaon to discuss measures to control pollution caused by industrial effluent, sewage and other waste discharged into the Buriganga, Turag and their connected canals.

Oil and Gas Companies Remain Major CCUS Investors

Oil and gas companies continue to play a leading role in carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) projects, particularly where the technology supports core operations such as LNG, refining, hydrogen production and upstream activities, according to GlobalData.

GlobalData said that as of June 2026, more than 70% of operational and upcoming carbon capture facilities, based on facility count, were linked to energy assets.

The company noted that the sector remains a major participant in CCUS despite scaling back some broader low-carbon investments.

GlobalData's report "Carbon Capture and Storage" highlights projects including Eni's Ravenna cluster, ExxonMobil's Gulf Coast CO_2 transport and storage network, and Northern Lights in Norway, jointly owned by Equinor, Shell and TotalEnergies.

3 Rolling Mills Fined Over Air Pollution

The upazila administration has fined three rolling mills a total of Tk 1.4 lakh for allegedly causing air pollution in Fatullah, Narayanganj.

The drive was conducted recently in Nandalalpur area of Kutubpur union, said SM Foyez Uddin, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

He said the administration took immediate action after receiving complaints about air pollution in the area.

The fined establishments included Akhtar Ispat Rolling Mill and Al Baraka Steel Re-Rolling Mills. They were penalised under Rule 8 (f) of the Air Pollution (Control) Rules, 2022.

Japan's Nuclear Restart Faces Waste and Licensing Challenges

Japan's efforts to restart its nuclear reactors are gaining momentum as the country seeks reliable low-carbon baseload power, greater energy security and relief from rising electricity costs.

However, waste management, public opposition and lengthy licensing procedures could slow the process, according to GlobalData.

GlobalData's latest report projects Japan's nuclear power generation to rise from 101.0 TWh in 2025 to 123.3 TWh by 2035.

Nuclear capacity is expected to remain largely flat through 2029 before modest growth begins in 2030–31.

The company said existing reactors are undergoing safety upgrades and requalification, but unresolved nuclear waste storage issues, lengthy safety reviews and public concerns remain major barriers.

Portugal to Retain Gas Power as Renewables Expand: GlobalData

Portugal's rapid expansion of renewable energy is reducing its reliance on fossil fuels, but gas-fired power plants are expected to remain important for maintaining grid stability, according to GlobalData.

GlobalData's latest report projects Portugal's electricity demand to rise from 53 TWh in 2025 to around 57.3 TWh by 2030, while solar, wind and hydropower capacity continues to grow.

The company said gas-fired plants will increasingly serve as flexible backup during periods of low wind and solar generation or hydropower shortages, although their overall utilization is expected to decline.

GlobalData Power Analyst Attaurrahman Ojindaram Saibasan said Portugal will need greater investment in energy storage, grid interconnections and flexible generation to prevent renewable growth from creating reliability challenges.

Grid congestion and lengthy permitting procedures are already delaying renewable projects.

Bangladesh Needs Long-Term Energy Strategy for a Low-Carbon: State Minister

Bangladesh needs an evidence-based, realistic and long-term energy strategy to ensure low-carbon and climate-resilient development, State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sheikh Faridul Islam said recently.

He made the remarks as the chief guest at a dialogue titled "University Dialogue on People-Led LT-LEDS: Bangladesh's Low-Carbon Future" at the RISE Auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

The dialogue, organised by Youth for NDCs under the theme "Energy System and Power Planning for Bangladesh's LT-LEDS," was supported by BUET's Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) and the German Embassy in Dhaka.

The state minister said Bangladesh's Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) should not be treated merely as another climate document.

IEA Cuts 2026 Global Oil Demand Forecast amid Supply Disruptions

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has lowered its forecast for global oil demand in 2026, citing prolonged disruptions to oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz and persistently high fuel prices.

In its latest Oil Market Report, the IEA projects global oil demand to decline by 1.6 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2026, a downward revision of 510,000 b/d from its previous forecast.

However, demand is expected to recover gradually and return to growth by November, with global consumption projected to increase by 2.4 million b/d in 2027.

Global oil supply rose by 2.4 million b/d in July to 101.5 million b/d but remained 6.3 million b/d below year-earlier levels. About 8.3 million b/d of production remains shut in across the Gulf region.

The IEA expects the global oil market to face a deficit of around 1.8 million b/d in the third quarter of 2026, more than double its previous estimate.

Prottoy Completes North Pole Expedition Aboard Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker

Malehul Salehin Prottoy, a Class Ten student of Rajshahi Cadet College, has returned to Murmansk, Russia, after successfully completing Rosatom's seventh International Scientific and Educational Expedition, "Icebreaker of Knowledge."

Prottoy spent more than 10 days aboard the nuclear-powered icebreaker 50 Let Pobedy, travelling with talented high school students from around the world along the route Murmansk–North Pole–Franz Josef Land–Murmansk.

The expedition marked a historic milestone as the 200th expedition by a surface vessel to reach the North Pole.

"From a dream to the top of the world, my journey aboard the Icebreaker of Knowledge was unforgettable," Prottoy said.

"I met people from 22 countries, experienced 22 different cultures and heard 22 languages. I also learned from experts in marine biology, nuclear physics, artificial intelligence and many other fields. The Arctic gave me knowledge, friendship and memories that I will cherish forever."

Energy Crisis Yet To Shake Apparel Buyers' Confidence

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH FULL INTERVIEW

Bangladesh needs to ensure the use of its own energy resources, including gas, coal and renewable energy, through medium- and long-term initiatives while developing the infrastructure needed for energy imports. The country must gradually move out of the energy crisis through a combination of domestic resources, imports and efficient management. At the same time, the energy crisis has not yet significantly affected buyers' confidence in the textile and readymade garment sectors. However, if the situation persists for a prolonged period, it could eventually create a crisis of confidence among international buyers.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Administrator and Plummy Fashions Managing Director Md Fazlul Hoque made the remarks in an interview with Energy & Power Editor Mollah Amzad Hossain.

How do you assess the current energy crisis and its impact on the industrial sector? What recommendations would you like to give the government on behalf of the FBCCI to overcome the crisis?

Energy is now one of Bangladesh's most pressing problems. Everyone, from industries to households, is being affected. I mean both electricity and fuel. The crisis is affecting both export-oriented and domestic industries. We have informally submitted some proposals to the government to help overcome the crisis, while the process of preparing formal recommendations is underway. There is no need to reiterate our concerns about the electricity and energy situation. Once the recommendations are finalized, we may share them with the media and the relevant ministries and agencies. We will also try to meet the Prime Minister to discuss the issues.

Everyone is aware of the crisis, so there is little scope for the FBCCI to offer any historically unprecedented advice. Nevertheless, as part of our regular responsibility, we are trying to highlight the concerns and challenges facing businesses.

Since assuming office, the Prime Minister has been working with business leaders to address energy and other crises. Is this part of the reason you are preparing your recommendations?

You are right. He began consulting with business leaders even before taking office as Prime Minister. There has been a major change since the elected government assumed responsibility, as businesses had largely been sidelined during the interim government's tenure. As part of this process, we have met ministers of different ministries and presented our proposals. We are now working to consolidate these proposals into more coordinated and comprehensive recommendations.

Recently, Policy Exchange Bangladesh and MCCI jointly published the Bangladesh Business Climate Index. It said that gas supply in different sectors is currently 42 to 80 percent below demand, while industries are facing up to six hours of load-shedding a day on average. At the event, business leaders said there is little scope for new investment amid the current energy crisis and that even sustaining existing investments is a challenge. What is your view?

I have some reservations about that particular presentation. Our primary responsibility now should be to keep existing industries operational by addressing their energy and other challenges. The government should prioritize keeping existing industries running. The reopening of closed industries and attracting new investment should be addressed later.

I do not disagree with the government's package for bringing closed factories back into production. If closed factories resume operations, new employment can be created with relatively little additional investment. My concern is about the timing. It would not be appropriate to reopen closed industries and expose them to new risks before energy supplies have returned to a reasonably normal level.

You are a major investor in the textile sector, have led BKMEA and are now the FBCCI administrator. How do you view the current industrial crisis? In particular, what are you doing to maintain the confidence of buyers in the readymade garment sector?

Md. Fazlul Hoque

I do not think a significant crisis of confidence has emerged yet. There were major disruptions in energy and electricity supplies throughout August. Despite this, exports of the textile and apparel sector grew by 13 percent during the month. As entrepreneurs in the sector, we managed to complete our work on time and deliver products despite many limitations. Therefore, I do not think buyers will lose confidence quickly.

I do not think a significant crisis of confidence has emerged yet. Many people are worried about the situation, but I am a positive person and do not want to become alarmed at this stage. There were major disruptions in energy and electricity supplies throughout August. Despite this, exports of the textile and apparel sector grew by 13 percent during the month. As entrepreneurs in the sector, we managed to complete our work on time and deliver products despite many limitations. Therefore, I do not think buyers will lose confidence quickly.

However, if the energy and electricity crisis continues for a prolonged period without a solution, and if we keep telling buyers that it will take a long time to resolve, their confidence could eventually be affected.

In today's world, no information can remain hidden. Many international buyers have offices in Dhaka, so they are fully aware of what is happening.

The finance minister and other ministers have said that it could take at least two years to overcome the current gas and electricity crisis. Indeed, a crisis that has developed over a long period cannot be resolved overnight. But could such statements by ministers create renewed uncertainty among buyers in the apparel sector?
Such statements have two sides. They may be trying to be transparent about the situation, indicating that the energy and electricity crisis may not be fully resolved within two years. This could also allow industries to prepare themselves accordingly.

The energy crisis is not a new issue in Bangladesh. It has been continuing for the past six or seven years and has gradually intensified. The current situation has become more severe due to the war situation and LNG supply constraints. If we do not present the issue in an excessively negative manner, I believe it will not create a crisis of confidence among buyers.

The government has initiated work on a 10-year plan to ensure energy security, with priority given to domestic coal extraction, gas exploration, and expansion of renewable energy. What initiatives should be taken to quickly implement the plans for developing and using domestic energy resources?
I do not think the government is rushing to formulate the 10-year energy security plan. The finance minister spoke about coal extraction at an AmCham event about 15 days ago. He also said that a new roadmap is being prepared and will be presented. The plan will prioritize solar and other renewable energy sources.

Coal has been a controversial issue for a long time. Environmentalists around the world oppose coal, and the situation is becoming increasingly complicated. At some point, it may become a global legal requirement to stop coal extraction and coal-based power generation. Therefore, Bangladesh should develop and utilize its domestic coal resources before such a situation arises.

However, as the Prime Minister has said, coal extraction and utilization must be carried out only after strictly ensuring all necessary measures, including resettlement of affected people, environmental protection, and proper water management.

Environmental groups in Bangladesh, as in many other countries, are strongly opposing coal extraction. If the government takes a political decision to extract coal, how will the business community support the initiative?
We, particularly myself, want to support any rational initiative. At a time when the country is facing an energy crisis, I believe taking steps to extract and utilize domestic coal is a rational approach. I may be proven wrong, but I believe we need to move in this direction.

At the same time, we need more planned and coordinated initiatives for the exploration and extraction of domestic gas resources. Power generation at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant should also begin as soon as possible. However, I understand that the start of generation may be delayed further due to problems related to valves. It may take more than another year for electricity from Rooppur to reach the grid at full capacity.

We should now consider whether additional nuclear power plants can be established to strengthen energy security. Therefore, the 10-year plan must ensure energy and electricity supplies through an integrated approach. Alongside domestic resources, imports must also be incorporated into the plan.

We should remember that many countries depend entirely on imported energy, yet they do not face energy crises. Therefore, we have to develop a plan that ensures there is no recurrence of such a crisis. This requires not only adequate supply but also efficient management.

During the interim government's tenure, the agreement for installing the third FSRU was cancelled. A long-term LNG supply agreement was also cancelled, while three negotiations for expanding LNG infrastructure were suspended. In addition, 37 Letters of Intent for renewable power projects were cancelled. There are allegations that these decisions by the interim government have put the BNP government under pressure. What is your view?
You are right. Bangladesh's energy crisis is not new. But instead of taking initiatives to address the crisis, the interim government cancelled agreements and negotiations. In other words, it moved away from possible solutions to the crisis.

Although it cancelled agreements for FSRUs and LNG procurement and also cancelled agreements for expanding renewable energy, it did not even initiate the necessary files for alternative arrangements. As a result, the current government has had to face greater pressure over the energy crisis than it otherwise would have.

The situation has also been compounded by the war in the Middle East. Therefore, I believe the current government should bear somewhat less responsibility for the existing energy and power crisis.

The country's energy crisis cannot be resolved very quickly. The Prime Minister is working with a target of creating 10 million new jobs by next year. You have said that new investment is difficult under the current energy and power situation. What should be the national strategy to address the crisis?
We have urged the government to take immediate steps that can produce results in addressing the crisis. For example, coal-fired power plants should be operated at full capacity by ensuring adequate coal supplies. At the same time, furnace oil-based power plants should also be made fully operational.

This may increase the cost of power generation to some extent, but now is not the time to focus on that issue. Instead, outstanding payments in the sector should be settled. If immediate payment is not possible, the government should discuss the matter with entrepreneurs and find alternative solutions.

Even those who are not directly affected by the energy crisis are becoming mentally crippled by the uncertainty. Therefore, if the crisis cannot be resolved, creating another 10 million jobs will be extremely difficult.

I believe that alongside investment in energy exploration, resource development and infrastructure expansion, Bangladesh should adopt a policy of promoting investment in low-energy-intensive sectors.

Whether the target of creating 10 million jobs can ultimately be achieved is not the only issue. What matters is whether the right initiatives are being taken to achieve that goal.

Around 1,857 new industrial investments are currently waiting for gas connections. Even after depositing the required demand-note payments, they have not received gas connections. What steps should the government take to protect these entrepreneurs?
The priority should be to ensure that these industries receive energy supplies as quickly as possible. If energy cannot be supplied, however, it is essential to protect their investments.

One option could be temporarily suspending their bank-loan instalment and interest payments, or introducing some other alternative mechanism to protect them until the energy supply situation improves. EP

MECCA PACT: DHAKA MUST LOOK BEFORE THE LEAP

Reverse Swing

Farid Hossain

To join or not to join? This question is on whether Bangladesh should join the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) jointly unveiled by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan last month. The collective defence pact, launched on August 7, came more than a year after Saudi Arabia signed a strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) on September 17. The significance of these developments should be measured in the context of the ongoing US-Israeli war against Iran. Already, the MJDA has earned a nickname as Islamic NATO as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan are all Muslim countries and the pact has a provision similar to NATO's article 5 that says an attack on any one of the country will be regarded as an attack on all the three countries. For example, if Saudi Arabia comes under military attack by any country outside the pact it will be seen as an attack on Turkey and Pakistan. In that case Turkey and Pakistan will have to respond in favour of Saudi Arabia. Whether it will happen is a different question. Details about the structure of the agreement and its objectives are yet to be divulged. But it has already triggered debates in Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country far from the Middle Eastern theatre. It started after government leaders, including Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, made several statements indicating Dhaka's willingness to join

Whether others are concerned or not, there are questions being by many foreign policy watchers in Bangladesh, a country which has never been into any military block since its independence in 1971.

the framework provided it gets a formal invitation from the pact. Answering a question in parliament Khalilur even played the Muslim card in explaining why Bangladesh should join the three-nation defence arrangement. The question came from Rumeen Farhana, an independent MP, who wanted to know about Bangladesh's position in regard to the pact. Khalilur said if the invitation comes from the signatories Dhaka will consider it positively. He called the pact as a self-defense mechanism for the Muslim world. Said he, "More importantly we have to keep in mind it is the world Muslim community's self-defense mechanism. And this is our family's, Muslim family's internal matter. So there is nothing for others to be concerned about."

Whether others are concerned or not, there are questions being by many foreign policy watchers in Bangladesh, a country which has never been into any military block since its independence in 1971. Bangladesh has been admired at home and abroad for pursuing a non-aligned policy under the motto, friendship to all and malice to none. Even the current government's Bangladesh First policy also upholds the national interests above any other consideration. Is joining the Mecca Pact good for Bangladesh's national interests? In which way this serves the national interests of Bangladesh?

The three signatories to the pact have their own compulsions in making the move. Saudi Arabia has taken the lead in forming the pact. It has the funds to finance defence projects and provide other financial assistance; Turkey has the power to supply technical assistance, while Pakistan can provide manpower at the front. Pakistan has long been providing training to Saudi military and its military cooperation with the oil-rich country is historic. It is unclear how Bangladesh, which exports civilian manpower to Saudi Arabia, fits into the arrangement. It seems a section of Bangladeshi analysts are misguided as the pact is named after Mecca, one of the holiest sites of the world's Muslims. There are more than 50 Muslim-majority countries in the world and only three of them have formed the latest pact. If others are ignoring the pact why should it be a headache for Bangladesh? A section of analysts find logic in Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's willingness to be part of the Mecca pact even though many others are sounding caution. They advise against hurrying into the pact, referring to the proverb: Look before you leap. EP


Mobil Delvac
MJL Bangladesh PLC.
মবিল ডেলভ্যাক
Modern
এখন MX- এর নতুন নাম
Mobil
Delvac
MODERN
15W-40
SUPER
DEFENSE
API CI-4
আপনার প্রিয় Mobil Delvac MX এখন নতুন রূপে
Mobil Delvac MODERN 15W-40 SUPER DEFENSE
16669
mjlbl.com

GLADCELL, a product of Energypac, represents the next generation of advanced Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), engineered for performance, reliability, and long-term resilience.

- Lithium-Ion battery (life Po4) 8000-10000 cycles
- Instantaneous power transfer
- ROI (2-4 years)
- Smart power management
- ECO Friendly
- renewable integration

Hotline: 09612100200

Energypac®

ENERGY & POWER FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE, REGD. NO. DA. 3048, VOL 24, ISSUE 06, SEPTEMBER 1-15, 2026, PRICE TK.100