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ENERGY & POWER

EDITORIAL

The world cannot afford another climate summit dominated by ambitious declarations and inadequate delivery. As COP31 approaches, the widening gap between climate commitments and concrete action has become a serious test of international cooperation. Climate finance remains central to this challenge. Developing countries, which have contributed relatively little to historical greenhouse gas emissions, face disproportionate climate risks while struggling to mobilize resources for adaptation, mitigation and recovery. The new collective quantified goal on climate finance represents progress, but its effectiveness will depend on the availability, accessibility and quality of funding. Loans that deepen debt burdens cannot substitute for grants, particularly for the least developed countries and small island developing states. For Bangladesh, the stakes are particularly high. Coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, flooding, cyclones and heat stress threaten livelihoods, infrastructure, food security and economic stability. Effective adaptation requires predictable financing, stronger climate-resilient infrastructure, improved early-warning systems and investment in vulnerable communities. Equally important is fair support for loss and damage, alongside technology transfer and a just transition that safeguards energy security and economic development.

COP31 must therefore move beyond negotiating new promises towards establishing credible mechanisms for implementation, accountability and transparent reporting. Developed countries should demonstrate leadership by fulfilling their financial commitments, while all parties should strengthen nationally determined contributions and accelerate practical climate action. Ultimately, the success should not be measured by the language of its final declaration but by the resources mobilized, commitments honored, and lives protected. For Bangladesh and other vulnerable nations, climate diplomacy must deliver tangible results.

highlights


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The gap between GHG emission reduction plans and their implementation remains enormous. Efforts by the Global South countries to implement the plans alone will not deliver a major breakthrough. Historically high-emitting countries appear reluctant to take ambitious action. As a result, limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C by this century will be extremely difficult... Shaikh Faridul Islam MP tells EP


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Regulatory enforcement currently consists of visits by the DoE once or twice a year. Most inspections are announced beforehand, though unannounced visits occur following public complaints. When non-compliance is identified, the DoE issues administrative Show Cause Notices, summons management to formal hearings, and imposes fines or corrective action plans.--- More In Special Article

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The 31st UN Climate Change Conference will confront a widening gap between countries' climate commitments and the resources and action required to fulfill them. With global warming threatening to exceed the 1.5°C threshold, negotiators face mounting pressure to move beyond declarations and demonstrate measurable progress. For Bangladesh and other climate-vulnerable developing countries, the stakes extend far beyond diplomatic pledges.

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

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Green page

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

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IEA Sees Little Chance of Oil Market Normalization in 2027



International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Birol sees little prospect of a return to normal oil market conditions in 2027 as the ongoing Middle East war continues to disrupt supplies and keep prices elevated.

"I personally don't see any credible pathway that 2027 will be a year of normalization," Birol told a conference organized by the Financial Times, referring to Gulf supply disruptions following US and Israeli attacks on Iran in February. The conflict has pushed oil prices above $100 per barrel from less than $70 before hostilities began. Damage to Gulf refineries has also contributed to record-high diesel prices.

To ease supply pressures, the IEA has coordinated the release of up to 400 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves held by member countries. Birol said further releases remained an option if the situation deteriorated.

He warned that renewed tensions in the Middle East could prompt governments to consider additional measures. Concerns over Iran's threats to control tanker movements through the Strait of Hormuz have also increased shipping insurance costs, despite reports that oil flows have recently recovered to prewar levels.

Tokyo Gas Eyes Floating LNG Expansion in Southeast Asia



Japan's Tokyo Gas plans to expand the use of floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals across Southeast Asia, targeting countries facing declining domestic gas production.

The initiative would help emerging LNG-importing markets develop infrastructure to secure gas supplies while expanding Tokyo Gas's regional business beyond its traditional focus on supplying gas to households in Japan.

Floating LNG terminals can provide a flexible alternative to onshore facilities, potentially enabling countries to begin importing LNG with lower upfront infrastructure requirements.

Tokyo Gas's strategy reflects its broader shift towards international energy infrastructure and business opportunities as Southeast Asia seeks to address declining output from mature gas fields.

Half of India's Coal Plants Face Critical Fuel Shortages



Nearly half of India's coal-fired power plants are facing critically low fuel stocks as electricity demand surges amid hotter-than-usual weather linked to El Niño, according to government data.

Of the country's 191 coal-fired power plants, 96 had enough coal to generate electricity for fewer than three days as of October 19, up from 60 in mid-September, data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed.

Coal stocks at power stations have declined by around 5% since the beginning of October, despite the Coal Ministry's reported efforts to increase supplies.

India's peak electricity demand has been 45–50 gigawatts higher than a year earlier, partly due to weaker monsoon rains that reduced hydropower generation and increased dependence on thermal power.

The demand-supply gap widened to 560 million kilowatt-hours in September, the highest since August 2023. Coal-fired generation rose 13.3% year-on-year, while hydropower output fell 20%.

Trump Announces $8b Fuel Aid for US Farmers



The Trump administration has announced $8 billion in fuel relief for US farmers facing surging diesel prices during the harvest season.

The proposed assistance aims to ease rising fuel costs that are increasing farmers' production and harvesting expenses. Payments will be calculated based on acreage and production costs, according to the announcement.

The support comes as higher diesel prices put additional pressure on agricultural operations, where fuel is essential for running tractors, harvesters and other farm machinery.

The relief package is intended to help farmers manage seasonal expenses and sustain agricultural production amid rising energy costs.

Bangladesh Spends $4.12b on Energy Subsidies in Eight Months



The government spent $4.12 billion in energy subsidies over the past eight months, Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the prime minister's adviser on finance and planning, said recently.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Dashboard at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) office in Dhaka, Titumir highlighted the economic challenges facing the country, including a fragile economy, high inflation and a shortage of jobs for educated young people.

He said the government was working to boost investment in manufacturing, increase domestic revenue without raising taxes, and expand public spending on education and healthcare.

Titumir also expressed confidence that Bangladesh could reduce poverty through effective social protection programs, including the Family Card initiative.

Bangladesh and Algeria Explore LNG and LPG Cooperation



Bangladesh and Algeria are exploring opportunities to strengthen bilateral energy cooperation, with potential memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) among the key areas of discussion.

Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Iqbal Hassan Mahmood met Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Abdelouahab Saïdani at the Ministry's office recently to discuss the proposed cooperation and preparations for the minister's upcoming visit to Algeria.

The meeting reaffirmed the two countries' commitment to strengthening their longstanding relations, promoting mutual interests and expanding cooperation in the energy sector.

Rooppur NPP Records First Nuclear Reaction



The country's first incidence of nuclear reaction took place at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna recently, confirmed Science and Technology Secretary Anwar Hossain.

The nuclear chain reaction or the "first criticality stage" was achieved at the first unit of the power plant, Anwar Hossain said, adding all the parameters were within acceptable limits.

To be sure, the nuclear chain reaction does not mean nuclear power production, which requires two further tests, and a final set of regulatory approvals.

Rather, the nuclear chain reaction simply means that the reactor has reached a state where nuclear fission produces enough neutrons to sustain further fission reactions without relying on an external neutron source.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) gave the approval for the first nuclear reaction at the plant.

Bangladesh, China Exim Bank Discuss Financing for Power Projects, Grid Upgrades



Bangladesh and China Exim Bank have discussed financing for key power sector projects, including the expansion of the Payra Thermal Power Plant and upgrades to the national power grid and Dhaka Power Distribution Company network.
A delegation from China Exim Bank, led by its President, Wang Chunying, met Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood at the Bangladesh Secretariat recently to discuss bilateral cooperation and financing opportunities.

The meeting reviewed the Payra Thermal Power Plant project, the Power Grid Network Strengthening Project under the government-to-government (G2G) framework, and the Expansion and Strengthening of the Power Network in the DPDC area, also under the G2G arrangement. The two sides also discussed potential financing for future power sector projects.

The minister said a stable power and energy supply was essential for national development. He urged the bank to expedite financing for Payra's expansion, modernization of national grid control systems and smart grid development, and strengthening of the DPDC network.

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Offshore Bid Round Deadline Extended to March 31, 2027



The deadline for submission of bids under the Offshore Bidding Round 2026 has been extended by four months to March 31, 2027, from the earlier date of November 30, 2026.

The data sales package for the bidding round has also been made more accessible, officials said.

The decisions were taken following recent discussions with several renowned international oil companies (IOCs) and on their request, according to a statement.

It is expected that the extension of time and easier availability of the data package will increase interest and participation of IOCs in the bidding round, it added.

The Offshore Bidding Round 2026 was announced to attract foreign investment in exploration of oil and gas in Bangladesh's offshore blocks in the Bay of Bengal.

Nepal Restarts 40MW Power Exports to Bangladesh



Nepal has resumed exporting 40 megawatts of electricity to Bangladesh through India's transmission network after flood damage disrupted supplies from two hydropower plants in August.

Exports resumed following approval from India's Central Electricity Authority to use electricity generated by Nepal's Solu Khola and Kabeli B1 hydropower plants for Bangladesh.

The earlier supply arrangement was disrupted when the August 26 Bhotekoshi flood damaged the Trishuli and Chilime hydropower plants.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Managing Director Dirghayu Kumar Shrestha said the resumption was an important step for Nepal's cross-border electricity trade.

The renewed exports will also help Nepal sell surplus electricity generated during the monsoon season.

Bangladesh May See Power Surplus Next Year: Chief Whip



Bangladesh may have a surplus of electricity next year, Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip and Barguna-2 lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni said recently.

Speaking at a meeting at the Betagi Upazila Parishad conference room in Barguna, Moni criticized the previous government's power plant projects, alleging that some plants lacked the necessary machinery and had been established to embezzle public funds.

He said the government had limited scope to reduce electricity bills because of the existing power-sector situation.

Moni also stressed communal harmony, saying all citizens of Bangladesh enjoyed equal rights regardless of religious identity.

Bangladesh to Procure Six LNG Cargoes from BP, QatarEnergy



The government has recommended approval to procure six liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from BP Singapore Pte Limited and Qatar Energy Trading LLC to meet domestic gas demand.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP), chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, recently recommended approval of two proposals at its 51st meeting of 2026, held virtually.

Under the first proposal, Bangladesh will purchase five LNG cargoes from BP Singapore through direct procurement at a price of JKM minus $0.17 per million British thermal units (MMBtu).

The proposal also allows additional purchases if required, subject to mutual agreement.

The second proposal covers one additional cargo from Qatar Energy Trading under the existing government-to-government long-term contract.

Special Issue on COP31

Closing The Trust Gap

Mollah Amzad Hossain with
Afroza Akther Pervin





COP31, scheduled for November 9–20 in Antalya, Türkiye, will test the credibility of global climate commitments amid rising temperatures, inadequate climate finance and growing geopolitical tensions. For climate-vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh, the summit must deliver affordable adaptation finance, grants, support for loss and damage, technology transfer and a just energy transition. Developing nations are pressing for stronger implementation of existing pledges, particularly the new climate finance goal. The outcome will reveal whether multilateral cooperation can translate ambitious promises into meaningful protection for vulnerable communities.



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The world is approaching another climate summit as scientific warnings grow more urgent, climate finance remains inadequate, and geopolitical tensions test international cooperation. The 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), scheduled for November 9–20 in Antalya, Türkiye, will confront a widening gap between countries' climate commitments and the resources and action required to fulfill them. With global warming threatening to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C threshold, negotiators face mounting pressure to move beyond declarations and demonstrate measurable progress.

For Bangladesh and other climate-vulnerable developing countries, the stakes extend far beyond diplomatic pledges. Access to affordable adaptation finance, grants for vulnerable communities, support for loss and damage, technology transfer, and a just energy transition will help determine whether climate commitments translate into tangible protection for people already experiencing the consequences of global warming. Antalya will therefore test not only the ambition of international climate policy but also the credibility of the multilateral system itself.

Emissions Gap Raises the Stakes

The release of the 'UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return' has sharpened the challenge facing negotiators.

Published in October, the report finds that the opportunity to limit global warming to below 1.5°C above preindustrial levels with no or limited overshoot has passed. Nevertheless, it argues that countries can still limit the magnitude and duration of the overshoot if they rapidly strengthen emissions reductions and return warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century.

Under the report's lowest-overshoot scenario, global greenhouse gas emissions would need to fall by 18% by 2030, 45% by 2035 and 69% by 2040, compared with 2025 levels. By contrast, full implementation of current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) would reduce emissions by only 5–8% by 2030 and 11–15% by 2035 against the same baseline.

If current policies continue, global warming could reach 2.8°C this century. Full implementation of NDCs would limit the projected increase to approximately 2.6°C, although substantial parts of their implementation are conditional on receiving international support. Even a more optimistic scenario incorporating additional net-zero targets would result in warming of around 2.1°C.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the findings should not be interpreted as a reason to abandon the temperature goal.

"Overshoot is not surrender," he said, adding that the world could still minimize the overshoot and bring temperatures back below 1.5°C by the end of the century.

The report presents a difficult political test for COP31. Developing countries are expected to press major emitters, particularly the G20 countries, which account for almost 80% of global emissions, to strengthen mitigation efforts, with developed countries taking the lead. At the same time, they will insist that more ambitious climate commitments must be accompanied by adequate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support.

For countries with limited fiscal resources, including Bangladesh, the issue is particularly important. Stronger mitigation commitments without adequate financial and technological support could leave vulnerable economies facing rising climate damage while struggling to finance their own transitions to low-emission development.

The challenge for negotiators will therefore be to connect scientific urgency with a credible implementation framework that includes clear milestones, accountability, and support for developing countries.

Climate Finance: From Commitments to Delivery

Climate finance is expected to be one of the most contentious issues at COP31.

At COP29 in Baku, countries agreed on a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) calling for climate finance for developing countries to be scaled up to at least $1.3 trillion annually by 2035 from all sources. Within this broader ambition, developed countries are expected to take the lead in mobilizing at least $300 billion annually by 2035.

The agreement was intended to establish a new framework following the previous goal of providing $100 billion in annual climate finance. However, developing countries continue to question whether the new target is sufficiently ambitious, how much funding will come from public sources, and whether the money will reach vulnerable countries on affordable terms.

The distinction between the two figures is crucial. The $1.3 trillion ambition covers finance from multiple sources, including public resources and private investment by various actors. The $300 billion goal places developed countries in a leading role in mobilizing finance from a range of sources. Developing countries argue that neither figure should be treated as equivalent to grants or direct public support unless the composition and terms of the financing are clearly established.

The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to $1.3 trillion has sought to identify ways to scale up resources through multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, public finance and private investment. COP31 will face pressure to move this work from broad ambition toward practical delivery, with greater transparency regarding funding sources, recipients, financial instruments and timelines.

COP31 President-designate Murat Kurum has made finance a central theme of the Turkish presidency. Speaking at the Istanbul Climate Finance Summit in September, he described the gap between climate-finance needs and current investment as a "chasm" that must be closed.

He also argued that climate finance should be treated as a strategic security priority rather than simply a cost. The presidency has promoted initiatives

intended to connect national climate plans with investment-ready projects and mobilize capital for clean energy, electrification, resilient cities, and green industry.

The concern for developing countries is that mobilizing more finance does not necessarily mean providing more affordable finance. Loans can increase debt burdens, while commercial investment often favors projects capable of generating predictable financial returns. Adaptation, coastal protection, disaster preparedness, and support for vulnerable communities frequently require public or concessional resources because their benefits cannot always be captured as commercial revenue.



Consequently, developing countries are likely to seek clearer pathways toward the $1.3 trillion ambition, predictable delivery of the $300 billion goal, improved access to multilateral climate funds and a greater share of grant-based support.

Grants, Adaptation and the Debt Challenge

The quality of climate finance is as important as its volume. Many developing countries argue that loans, even when offered on concessional terms, are not an adequate substitute for grants when financing the impacts of climate change, which these countries did relatively little to cause.

This concern is particularly acute for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and countries highly exposed to floods, cyclones, droughts, sea-level rise and extreme heat.

Adaptation investments often generate public benefits rather than direct financial returns. Coastal embankments, climate-resilient agriculture, early-warning systems, urban drainage and community-based disaster preparedness may protect millions of people but are difficult to finance through commercial borrowing alone.

Particularly vulnerable developing countries are therefore expected to press for substantially greater public and grant-based adaptation finance, more predictable replenishment of climate funds, and simplified application and approval procedures.

The LDC Group's ministerial declaration, adopted in Dili, Timor-Leste, in September, called for NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to be implemented with adequate means of implementation, including scaled-up, predictable, accessible and grant-based climate finance. It also urged progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation and the provision of resources to address loss and damage.

The Group's position reflects a broader concern that vulnerable countries cannot be expected to implement increasingly ambitious climate plans while relying on uncertain funding and accumulating debt.

The G77 and China, the main negotiating coalition representing developing countries, is also expected to emphasize equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities under the UN climate framework. The coalition's broader 2026 ministerial position calls for finance to scale up to $1.3 trillion annually by 2035, greater access to concessional resources and stronger support for adaptation.

For these countries, COP31 must demonstrate that the new climate-finance goal can produce tangible improvements in access, affordability and delivery—not simply a larger headline figure.

Given the substantial shortfall in current climate-finance flows relative to the growing needs of vulnerable countries, countries with the financial capacity to do so are also expected to face calls to make additional voluntary contributions to the global effort.

Loss and Damage: Making Support Reach Victims

Loss and damage will be another major test of international cooperation.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was established to assist developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change in addressing economic and non-economic losses. However, its ability to meet the scale of need remains a concern, given the enormous costs of climate-related disasters and the limited resources available to the fund.

Loss and damage includes destruction caused by cyclones, floods, droughts and other extreme events, as well as slow-onset impacts such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion and ecosystem degradation. Non-economic losses can include damage to cultural heritage, community identity, livelihoods and places that cannot readily be restored through financial compensation.

For Bangladesh, these issues are closely linked to coastal vulnerability, river erosion, displacement, agricultural losses and the growing cost of protecting settlements and infrastructure.

At COP31, vulnerable countries are likely

to seek stronger and more predictable contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund, faster access to resources, simplified procedures and support that reaches affected communities without excessive administrative barriers.

The distinction between pledges and delivered finance remains important. Announcements of contributions do not automatically translate into money available for projects or affected households. Developing countries will therefore seek greater clarity on contribution schedules, disbursement arrangements and the scale of support available.

The fund's governing arrangements and implementation progress will be considered through the formal COP31 agenda. The outcome will matter not only for countries recovering from disasters but also for communities facing irreversible damage that adaptation measures can no longer prevent.

Bangladesh is expected to argue that loss and damage support should be additional to existing development and adaptation assistance, rather than financed by diverting resources from programs designed to reduce future vulnerability.

LDCs and G77 and China: Equity and Implementation

The LDC Group is expected to pursue a negotiating agenda centered on climate justice, ambitious emissions reductions by major emitters, and the provision of finance and technology to enable poorer countries to implement their climate plans.

Its priorities include predictable, grant-based finance, stronger adaptation support, effective implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund, and progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation. The Group also wants just-transition policies to recognize the development needs of countries where energy access, industrialization, employment and poverty reduction remain pressing priorities.

A just transition should extend across all economic sectors while supporting climate-resilient, low-carbon development. For developing countries, this requires policies that reconcile emissions reductions with economic growth, employment generation, affordable energy and social protection.

LDCs are particularly concerned about the practical difficulties of accessing international climate funds. Complex project-preparation requirements, limited institutional capacity, accreditation procedures and lengthy approval processes can prevent vulnerable countries from obtaining support even when their needs are urgent.

The G77 and China are expected to emphasize the broader financial architecture, including the responsibilities of developed countries, access to concessional finance and the need to avoid transferring an excessive financial burden to developing economies.

China is also highlighting the relationship between climate action and international trade. Ahead of COP31, Chinese officials signaled that they would challenge protectionist measures affecting clean-technology exports, arguing that restrictions on solar panels, batteries, wind equipment and electric vehicles could complicate international cooperation.

This introduces an additional dimension to the negotiations. The global energy transition depends on affordable access to clean technologies, but countries differ over industrial policy, trade measures and the distribution of economic benefits. The challenge will be to address these disagreements without allowing them to undermine cooperation on emissions reductions and climate finance.

Small Island States Put 1.5°C and Ocean Protection First

Small island developing states enter COP31 with an urgent message: limiting warming to 1.5°C is essential for their long-term survival.

For Pacific island countries, climate change threatens coastlines, freshwater supplies, food security, infrastructure, marine ecosystems and, in some cases, the habitability of entire communities. Their priorities extend beyond emissions reductions to include ocean protection, adaptation, early-warning systems, resilient infrastructure and direct access to climate finance.

The Pacific Pre-COP meeting, held in Fiji from October 5–8 alongside a leaders' gathering in Tuvalu on October 5–6, placed these concerns at the center of preparations for Antalya.

The Taku Pakasoa Declaration, adopted on October 6, highlighted international cooperation, the 1.5°C goal, climate finance, resilience and ocean protection. It reinforced the Pacific's call for climate action that responds to the immediate needs of communities on the front lines of climate impacts.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell told the official Pre-COP opening that limiting warming to 1.5°C was "demanded by science, agreed by nations, and essential for the survival of small islands."

He acknowledged that an overshoot of 1.5°C had become inevitable but stressed that the world must keep the breach as short and as small as possible. He also emphasized that climate-finance commitments must be delivered and that both access and quality must improve.

Pacific representatives want COP31 to strengthen adaptation and resilience, scale up support for loss and damage, protect ocean ecosystems and ensure that funding reaches frontline communities. They are also likely to press for stronger recognition of the relationship between ocean health, climate stability and national development.

Their demands carry broader significance for Bangladesh and other low-lying coastal countries, where sea-level rise, salinity, storm surges and coastal erosion threaten livelihoods and infrastructure.

Pre-COP Recommendations and the Leaders' Summit

The Pacific Pre-COP helped establish a political direction for Antalya by bringing together ministers and representatives from more than 50 countries.

Discussions focused on keeping 1.5°C within reach, accelerating the clean-energy transition, strengthening the ocean-climate agenda and unlocking finance for vulnerable countries.

The Taku Pakasoa Declaration provides a political signal rather than a binding negotiating outcome. Its significance will depend on whether governments translate its recommendations into formal decisions, financial commitments and practical implementation measures at COP31.

The World Leaders' Summit is scheduled for November 11–12, providing an opportunity for heads of state and government to set the political tone before negotiations enter their most difficult phase.

The summit is expected to focus on climate ambition, finance, resilience and implementation. Leaders will face pressure to demonstrate that their governments can deliver on existing commitments while strengthening national climate plans and supporting vulnerable countries.

Türkiye's presidency has promoted a climate Action Agenda alongside the formal negotiations. Its priorities include electrification, circular-economy measures, resilient cities and infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and food systems, green industrial transformation, and climate finance. One headline initiative aims to increase electricity's share of global final energy demand to 35% by 2035.

These initiatives could help accelerate investment and implementation, but they will not replace the need for formal agreements on finance, adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage. The success of COP31 will depend on whether the two tracks reinforce each other.

Bangladesh's COP31 Position and Preparations

Bangladesh is preparing to use COP31 to advance climate justice, predictable climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage support, and a just transition.

At a meeting on October 15, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam highlighted climate justice, accountability, effective implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund, just transition, and green economic growth as priorities for climate-vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh.

The government has also been coordinating preparations through a technical committee and three subcommittees established by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in August. Their work includes preparing a national position paper, organizing the Bangladesh Pavilion and arranging logistical support for the delegation.

A September review emphasized the need to coordinate with the LDC Group, developing countries, and like-minded nations. Bangladesh is also examining opportunities to develop common positions with Nepal and Bhutan on shared regional interests.

The planned Bangladesh Pavilion will showcase the country's climate vulnerabilities, adaptation experience, NDC 3.0, National Adaptation Plan, climate-finance requirements, loss and damage concerns, renewable energy, carbon markets, nature-based solutions and community-led initiatives.

Technical policy briefs are also being prepared on just transition, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), regional cooperation and early-warning systems. These issues are important as Bangladesh seeks to protect its export competitiveness while pursuing a lower-carbon development pathway.

A central priority will be financing the implementation of NDC 3.0. Bangladesh's climate commitments require investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, resilient infrastructure and adaptation, while the country must continue to address development, employment and energy-security needs.

The government is likely to seek greater international support for implementing its climate plans, including concessional and grant-based resources, technology transfer and capacity-building. It will also have an interest in ensuring that international climate finance is accessible to countries with high vulnerability and limited fiscal space.

For Bangladesh, the challenge is not simply securing new pledges. It is ensuring that announced resources are delivered on time, remain affordable, and can be used for priority projects without imposing unsustainable debt burdens.

A Defining Test for Climate Multilateralism

COP31 will take place at a moment when scientific warnings are becoming more urgent while international cooperation faces political and economic pressures.

The Emissions Gap Report has underscored the need for faster emissions reductions, while the continuing debate over climate finance highlights the gap between the resources required and the support available to developing countries.

For LDCs, small island states and vulnerable developing economies, a successful outcome must combine stronger mitigation by major emitters with practical support for adaptation, loss and damage, and the implementation of national climate plans.

The negotiations will also need to address the quality of finance, the role of grants, the burden of climate-related debt and the barriers that prevent vulnerable countries from accessing existing funds.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed, the possibility of returning global warming to 1.5°C has not disappeared, but the window for action is narrowing. COP31 will be judged by whether governments respond to that warning with stronger commitments and credible delivery.

For Bangladesh, the priority is clear: climate ambition must be matched by predictable finance, effective implementation and support that reaches the people and communities most exposed to climate impacts. Antalya offers an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation, but the real measure of success will be whether commitments made at the conference translate into resources, stronger resilience and reduced risks on the ground. EP



Prof. Mizan R Khan

A Decision At COP31 Can Have An Immediate Impact On Global Warming

Turkiye, as host of the COP31 Presidency, has set a target to raise global final energy consumption from its current 23% to 35% from clean electricity across buildings, transport, and industry (35x35). This is part of a wider package of non-negotiated Action Agenda initiatives. In support of this target, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released a special report on global electrification on 22nd of September 2026. Commissioned by the COP31 dual presidency, Türkiye and Australia, the report presents a realistic roadmap to achieving the "35x35" target.

The COP28 decision in Dubai to triple renewable energy by 2030 was the first time a COP summit produced a concrete, quantified global energy target, and it was embedded within the broader Global Stocktake that also called for "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems." The COP29 then set a target to mobilize at least $300 billion a year by 2035 to enable actions in the developing world. In a world where wars have repeatedly demonstrated the price of remaining hostage to fossil fuel geopolitics, delivering on that pledge offers a rare alignment of climate necessity, economic self-interest and geopolitical security.

Renewable energy is inherently a domestic and distributed resource. Sunlight and wind cannot be embargoed, and once solar panels, wind turbines, and storage batteries are installed, their marginal cost of generation is close to zero and immune to the price volatility that plagues internationally traded fuels. Every gigawatt of renewable capacity added is, in effect, a gigawatt of energy security purchased in advance. European governments that accelerated renewable deployment and efficiency programs in the wake of the Ukraine war did so explicitly to reduce dependence on Russian gas, not merely to cut emissions. This experience offers a template: energy security and climate mitigation, often treated as competing priorities, converge decisively around renewable capacity expansion.

However, this tripling target is an extraordinarily steep trajectory. The record on implementation, however, has been uneven. An analysis by the energy think tank Ember found that two years after COP28, aggregated national





targets for 2030 had risen by only about 2%, bringing the collective global ambition to roughly 7.4 terawatts, still 3.7 terawatts short of the 11,000 GW goal. In other words, most governments are currently planning for something closer to a doubling of renewable capacity than a tripling.

The share of renewables in global power generation in 2025 – over a third that overtook coal for the first time. China, the world's dominant builder of solar and wind capacity, is on track to come closest to the pledge's spirit, while the European Union, Latin America, and many developing economies face a steeper climb, partly because their pledges also count hydropower capacity that has limited room to expand further.

Crucially, the IEA and independent analysts have concluded that the target is technically and economically achievable. Solar photovoltaics and wind are now the cheapest sources of electricity generation in most markets. What is missing is not technology but political will, grid investment, and, critically, finance for the Global South, where the cost of capital for renewable projects can be several times higher than in wealthy economies.

Closing the gap between ambition and delivery will require several concurrent efforts. Governments must raise their NDC targets to reflect the goal. Grid infrastructure and permitting reforms deserve as much attention as generation capacity. Multilateral development banks and public finance institutions need to substantially lower the cost of capital for renewable projects in the Global South, where the tripling goal will otherwise remain out of reach regardless of political will. All wealthy economies experiencing fossil fuel price shocks should treat renewable acceleration as core to energy security policy, not an optional climate add-on.

Australia, holding the negotiation leadership at COP31, can steer this priority under the energy transition away from fossil fuels. This author has been a climate negotiator since 2001 under the UNFCCC process, and together with other like-minded groups - the EU, LDCs, and SIDS- can push for some decision text reflecting this target of electricity expansion of 35x35. Such a move at COP31 will have the highest impact on global warming in the coming years. EP

Prof. Mizan R Khan, Technical Lead, LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), LDC Group



Engineer A R Mohammad Parvez Mazumder

BANGLADESH OUTLOOK

Emissions Of Air Pollutants From Industrial Sources

Air pollution presents a serious environmental and public health challenge in Bangladesh. According to global health reports, Bangladesh ranks among the most air-polluted countries, with particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10) concentrations exceeding World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. While brick kilns, vehicle traffic, and construction dust contribute significantly to poor air quality, the industrial and agricultural sectors are also sources of carbon dioxide (CO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate emissions. Additionally, unregulated factory operations and chemical discharges release toxic fumes into the atmosphere. Meaningful reductions in air pollution require addressing the regulatory, technological, operational, and financial challenges those industrial facilities face. Here, Bangladesh like other developing nations face a dilemma of country's need for cheap, reliable energy to grow its economies vis-a-vis to reduce emissions to protect its environment.

Comparative Air Pollutant Profiles (by IQAir World Air Quality Reports between 2022 and 2024) of several capitals are shown below. (Table 1)

Table 1

City	PM2.5 Annual Average (µg/m³)	CO2 Status	SO2 Status	NOx Status
Dhaka	69-78	Rapid emissions from industry boom	Elevated: brick kilns and transboundary	Increasing: vehicle emissions
Delhi	90-100+	Massive: vehicle and industry	High: nearby coal power utilities	High: heavy traffic and transport
Islamabad	40-50	Elevated: agricultural and vehicle expansion	Moderate-high: pockets of industries	Rising: risk after PM2.5
Kathmandu	45-50	Low emissions: valley entrapment	Low: regional transboundary risk	Moderate: seen in traffic bottlenecks
Colombo	15-20	Lowest in South Asia	Moderate: coastal shipping activities	High: along major traffic corridors
Beijing	30-35	High: decoupled from peak air smog	Reduced by industrial coal controls	Moderate: through electric vehicles
Tokyo	9-11	Net-zero reduction trajectories	Negligible: advanced industrial scrubbers	Low: regulated carefully
WHO Guideline	5	Global climate target (net zero by 2050)	20 µg/m³ (24-hour mean)	25 µg/m³ (24-hour mean)

Developed countries (USA, European nations, China, Brazil, etc.) bear the highest cumulative responsibility for emissions over time because they began burning fossil fuels for industrialization much earlier. USA alone is responsible for roughly 25% of all historical CO2 emissions since 1751. The Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) for 2022-24 shows a comparative state of annual national emissions of air pollutants of the countries (in metric kiloton (kt) or million metric tonnes (Mt) per year (yr); 1 Mt = 1,000 kt = 10,00,000 metric tons). (Table 2)

Table 2

Country	CO2 (Mt/yr)	SO2 (kt/yr)	NOx (kt/yr)	PM2.5 (kt/yr)	PM10 (kt/yr)
China	12,100-12,600	7,500-9,200	15,500-17,200	7,800-8,500	12,100-13,500
USA	4,700-5,000	1,800-2,200	7,200-8,100	4,200-4,800	14,000-15,500
India	2,700-3,100	10,200-11,500	8,900-9,800	5,100-5,800	9,200-10,100
Brazil	480-520	1,200-1,500	2,800-3,200	1,400-1,800	2,600-3,100
Vietnam	320-360	750-880	820-950	410-480	620-710
Bangladesh	100-120	380-450	410-490	310-360	520-600

Officially, Bangladesh does not have statistics on the daily national total mass (tonnage) of air pollutant emissions. However, the Country's average daily fine PM2.5 concentration reaches a hazardous level of around 66.1 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³), which is 4 times above the WHO daily target (15 µg/m³). This concentration surge during dry months (November-March) is 3.5-5 times higher than summer monsoon levels. Air pollution causes an estimated 242 premature deaths every day across Bangladesh's major urban areas due to high PM2.5 exposure.

The transport sector is one of the drivers of urban air pollution in Bangladesh, accounting for roughly 28% of NOx emissions. Brick kilns contribute 18-27% of nationwide PM2.5 concentrations and up to 30-50% of ambient PM2.5 in the greater Dhaka region during the dry season. Construction dust is another leading local contributor to air pollution in urban areas, responsible for 8-30% of total particulate emissions depending on city, zone, and season. Heavy metal processing and blast furnaces of steel and metallurgical plants release very high levels of CO2, NOx, SO2, and fine dust. In cement manufacturing, the chemical calcination of limestone combined with fuel combustion in kilns produces CO2 and particulates. While public attention focuses on brick kilns and vehicles, intensive livestock farming is also a major, less-visible source of both local air pollution and greenhouse gases (GHGs), with the emission of CO2, NOx, Ammonia (NH3), Methane (CH4), particulate matter, etc. Similarly, the textile and ready-made garment (RMG) industries have substantial scope and a record of emitting air pollutants.

Per capita fossil CO2 emission in Bangladesh remains at 0.7 tons per person annually, and total nationwide CO2 emission is within 108-124 Mt/yr. Ambient Air Concentration Levels of particulate matters, Nox and SO2 in Bangladesh comparing Bangladesh National Ambient Air Quality Standards (BNAAQS) are stated below. (Table 3)

Table 3

Pollutant	Annual Ambient Concentration	BNAAQS Annual Mean
PM2.5	65-80 µg/m³ (Nationwide average), >250 µg/m³ in winter	15 µg/m³
PM10	120-150 µg/m³ (Nationwide average)	50 µg/m³
NOx	30-45 µg/m³ (Nationwide average)	100 µg/m³ (0.053 ppm)
SO2	5-10 µg/m³ (Nationwide average)	80 µg/m³ (0.03 ppm)
CO2	425-427 parts per million (ppm)	-

Producing 1 MWh (1 MW running for 1 hour) of electricity in Bangladesh results in varying levels of GHGs and local air pollutants depending on whether coal, Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), or natural gas is used. Comparative Emission Estimates per 1 MWh of electricity of the power plant are as follows (Table 4)

Table 4

Pollutant	Coal-fired Plant	HFO-fired Plant	Gas-fired Plant
CO2	900 kg	843 kg	566 kg
SO2	1.5-3.5 kg	2.0-4.5 kg	Negligible/Trace
NOx	1.2-2.5 kg	1.0-2.0 kg	0.4-0.8 kg
Particulate Matters	Moderate (Controlled by Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP))	Moderate-High	Low/Negligible

The regulatory framework governing emissions in Bangladesh includes the National Air Quality Management Plan (2024-30), the Air Pollution Control Rules 2022, and environmental standards set under the Environmental Conservation Rules. Following these, the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) acts as the primary driver of capital investments and plant/industry setup decisions. Conducting compulsory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and adhering to standard stack height rules influence initial plant design, location selection, and upfront spending. However, many existing environmental rules seem to function primarily as administrative formalities rather than ongoing drivers of qualitative change. Activities like manual yearly stack testing, ambient air quality sampling, and annual clearance renewals are routinely completed to fulfill legal requirements. However, the Air Pollution Control Rules and the National Air Quality Management Plan have limited impact on daily operations due to under-resourced enforcement mechanisms at the Department of Environment (DoE) and a lack of binding sector-specific emissions targets.

The Air Quality Management Plan and the Air Pollution Control Rules serve as Bangladesh's core legislative and strategic framework to curb air pollution. The core objective of the National Air Quality Management Plan is to target a nationwide drop in PM2.5 concentrations to meet the WHO Interim Target (i.e., 35 μg/m³), controlling emissions from moving (vehicles), stationary (factories/ chimneys), outdoor, and indoor sources. The Rules identify specific polluting activities by industrial production, vehicle movement, construction, and waste burning. The rules set emission standards and compliance plans with administrative enforcement.

The technical ability of the DoE to trace and monitor pollutant emissions from major sources- such as industries, power plants, brick kilns, etc. has a mix of rapidly advancing digital infrastructure and persistent operational gaps. While the DoE has established advanced macro-level tracking platforms, it lacks the enforcement data loops and micro-level oversight to reliably track individual polluters in real time. The tracking abilities of the DoE at present are as follows (Table 5)

Table 5

Sector	Capability	Limitations
Power Plants and Industries	Moderate: Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) and mandatory EIA; reliant on manual, periodic audits and stack-gas testing kits.	Lack of automated real-time telemetry; emissions are rarely fed directly into a central automated enforcement server, relying on historical data/self-reporting.
Brick Kilns	Low-Moderate: Regulated under the Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act; utilizes satellite imagery and GIS mapping to locate clusters and damage.	Field tracking limitations: tracking actual plume emissions day-to-day is impossible due to a lack of portable sniffers and manpower shortages.
Ambient Air Quality	High: 16 Continuous Air Monitoring Stations (CAMS); real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) platform launched in 2026.	CAMS tracks six criteria that measure air quality; it cannot pinpoint a specific factory or kiln leaking pollutants.

The DoE has modernized its high-level climate bookkeeping with the Climate Change MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) Platform and online clearance system for environmental reviews of industries to align with international climate goals.

A major gap in environmental management involves continuous emissions monitoring systems, which could allow regulators to track pollution levels in real time. Functional monitoring systems are currently installed in less than 30% of total power plant capacity, primarily within newer coal and combined-cycle gas facilities. The adoption and effectiveness of these continuous monitoring systems face several operational barriers. Real-time data is used internally by operators for maintenance. But it is rarely linked to a central monitoring database at the DoE or integrated into live operational dispatch decisions by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). Additionally, installing continuous gas analyzers requires importing expensive equipment, which leads to very high capital costs and ongoing operational expenses. Operating sensors in heavy flue-gas environments requires frequent calibration. Bangladesh also lacks accredited local calibration laboratories and certified environmental technicians. Consequently, compliance relies on annual manual stack tests conducted by third-party laboratories, which encourage temporary equipment tuning before testing, but fail to drive continuous, long-term pollution control.

Industry bodies like the Bangladesh Independent Power Producers' Association (BIPPA) collect electricity generation, fuel usage, and financial data from members, in general. The Association does not independently monitor or verify continuous emissions logs, as this is beyond the Articles of Association. However, the power plants are efficient and reliable abiding by the national regulatory compliances of the conservation of environment keeping in view of the international obligatory of controlling emissions of air pollutants. It is mandatory to submit the technical and environmental conservation clearance reports to the international financial institutions (World Bank (WB), Export Credit Association (ECA) for insurance coverage, Commerce Bank of Germany, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), etc.) before approval and receiving



foreign financial support. The matter is similar for local bank loans, where EIA is a mandatory requirement to identify, predict, and evaluate environmental impacts before a project is approved or implemented. During operations, the power plants maintain real-time data as per the prescribed charts and preserve these as per the regulations. The DoE inspects and checks each power plant physically once a year and, as necessary, through a framework of regulations, visits sites, monitors operations, and finally provides ECC to the plant.

The suitability of emissions reduction technologies varies depending on fuel type usage. Gas-fired facilities typically use low-NOx burners, coal plants rely on ESP, and HFO facilities utilize modern mechanical gasifiers. These standard technologies generally meet baseline regulations; still, technological gaps may remain for tracing pollutants and heavy oil emissions. Installing advanced control technologies, such as Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) systems for existing HFO-fired plants presents technical and financial challenges. These advanced retrofits cost a 10-15% increase in plant construction costs. Advanced systems also require large physical footprints for complex water treatment units and a high auxiliary power system, making it difficult to retrofit within tight space. New coal-fired mega-projects like Matarbari Power Plant and Rampal Power Station are built using ultra-supercritical technology equipped with advanced FGD and SCR systems to curb SO2 and NOx emissions. Historically, national environmental guidelines for smaller liquid fuel-burning reciprocating engines have been significantly more lenient compared to large-scale coal complexes. To address regulatory oversight during renewal processes, select power plants adopt solutions such as low-NOx burner modifications and fuel additive dosing systems. Operators also ensure HFO quality through choosing carefully before procurement and conducting batch test for low sulfur content (as much low), density and moisture at accredited facilities like SGS (Société Générale de Surveillance: Swiss-based testing, inspection and certification company) or Eastern Refinery Limited before offloading fuel deliveries.

Financial and operational structures pose the main obstacles to wider technology adoption. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) feature fixed tariff structures that do not allow independent power producers (IPPs) to pass non-revenue-generating retrofit costs on to buyers. Long payment cycles from the BPDB and foreign exchange liquidity shortages further restrict available cash flow. Concessional facilities, such as Bangladesh Bank's Green Transformation Fund, are underutilized due to complex eligibility rules, administrative delays, short repayment windows, and high collateral demands. Commercial bank loans carry high interest rates, and private/foreign lenders are often unwilling to fund compliance equipment without sovereign guarantees. Meanwhile, public and development finance sources involve lengthy approval processes and strict environmental, social, and governance compliance burdens that medium-sized operators struggle to process. These cannot justify the investment in the most modern pollution control retrofits.

Regulatory enforcement currently consists of visits by the DoE once or twice a year. Most inspections are announced beforehand, though unannounced visits occur following public complaints. When non-compliance is identified, the DoE issues administrative Show Cause Notices, summons management to formal hearings, and imposes fines or corrective action plans. Severe consequences include temporary withholding of clearance certificate renewals, grid disconnections, or plant shutdown instructions.

Providing targeted tax incentives and duty exemptions for all industrial and agricultural sectors would make clean-technology retrofits economically viable. Countries (China, India, South Africa, Germany, and the USA) use tax incentives and duty exemptions on clean thermal fuel energy and heating technologies to lower upfront costs. Easy access to concessional green funds and accredited local technical support facilities would also lower the operational costs of continuous monitoring and advanced pollution control hardware. Now, Bangladesh needs to balance between 'cheap, reliable power sustains the Bangladesh economy and clean power shields the earth'. EP

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



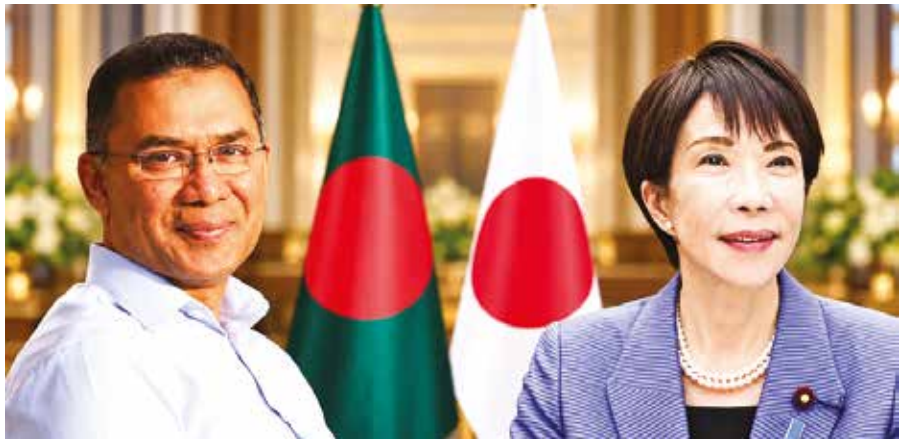
PM Tarique's Japan Visit Opens New Energy, Infrastructure Investment Prospects

EP Report

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has concluded his four-day official visit to Japan, opening up new prospects for cooperation in energy security, liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply, infrastructure development, and private investment.

The October 26–29 visit, at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, resulted in a proposed 1.0 trillion yen ($6.3 billion) private investment program over five years, a 50 billion yen emergency loan initiative to support energy security, an agreement to explore LNG cooperation between JERA and Petrobangla, and renewed commitments to develop the Matarbari-Maheshkhali region as an energy, industrial and logistics hub.

The two countries also signed six bilateral cooperation instruments, secured commitments for two additional yen-loan projects worth 46.56 billion yen, and witnessed the signing of 17 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between private-sector entities, according to official statements.



Energy Security and LNG Cooperation

Energy cooperation emerged as one of the most important areas of the visit, as Bangladesh faces rising fuel import costs, persistent gas shortages and growing demand for reliable electricity supplies.

At the October 27 summit in Tokyo, Tarique and Takaichi discussed a proposed 50 billion yen, equivalent to around $317 million, emergency support loan to strengthen Bangladesh's economic resilience and ensure a stable energy supply. The loan is the first yen-loan project under Japan's Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWERR Asia) initiative.

The initiative reflects growing concern over volatility in international energy markets and the need for stronger cooperation between energy-producing and energy-consuming countries. The two leaders also emphasized the importance of strengthening oil stockpiles and coordinating responses to energy supply disruptions.

A significant development came on October 28, when Japanese energy company JERA Co., Inc. and Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding to explore potential cooperation in LNG supply and related infrastructure.

Under the MoU, the parties will examine opportunities for collaboration, drawing

on JERA's international experience in LNG procurement, transportation, infrastructure and power generation. Any concrete projects or supply arrangements will depend on the outcome of further discussions and studies.

Prime Minister Tarique also visited JERA's onshore LNG terminal and power plant in Futtsu, Chiba Prefecture, during the visit. The tour provided an opportunity to observe Japan's energy infrastructure and operational capabilities.

The proposed cooperation could help Bangladesh explore additional LNG sourcing options and infrastructure development. However, the MoU does not constitute a binding LNG supply contract or confirm a specific investment commitment.

$6.3 Billion Investment Prospect

The summit also focused on attracting Japanese private investment in Bangladesh's energy, infrastructure, and information and communication technology sectors.

Japan projects that private-sector investment in Bangladesh could reach 1 trillion yen, or approximately $6.3 billion, over the next five years, with the potential to generate around 200,000 jobs. The two governments agreed to work towards advancing the investment plan, including through the proposed dispatch of a Japanese team to Bangladesh.

The investment projection is separate from the emergency energy-support loan and the other development financing commitments announced during the visit.

Tarique invited Japanese companies to invest in priority sectors including energy, automotive manufacturing, technology and space, high-speed rail and logistics, and agro-processing. He also proposed establishing a Bangladesh-Japan Tech Park and pledged government support and reforms to improve the business environment.

The prime minister addressed the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum Dialogue at the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) headquarters on October 28, encouraging Japanese companies to expand their presence in Bangladesh through investment, technology transfer, industrial development and skills training.

Matarbari-Maheshkhali Energy and Industrial Hub

Infrastructure development featured prominently in the joint statement issued after the summit. The two leaders agreed to advance the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt initiative under the framework titled "BIG-B for Shared Prosperity."

The initiative aims to develop the Matarbari-Maheshkhali area into a major regional hub for logistics, energy and industry, centered on the Matarbari Deep Sea Port.

For Bangladesh, the initiative has strategic significance. Improved port capacity and integrated energy infrastructure could support LNG and other fuel imports, industrial expansion and more efficient supply chains. The development could also strengthen Bangladesh's role in regional connectivity and trade.

The two governments also agreed to advance preparatory work for the early operationalization of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and expressed their intention to move forward with the early construction of Dhaka metro rail lines. They also discussed future cooperation in the operation and management of Matarbari Deep Sea Port.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Akihiko Tanaka reaffirmed Japan's interest in supporting economic infrastructure, including the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative, as well as Dhaka's mass rapid transit system and improvements to the investment climate.

Development Loans and Cooperation Agreements

During the visit, Bangladesh and Japan signed six bilateral cooperation instruments covering economic relations and the business environment, agriculture, skills development, fisheries and livestock, and climate change cooperation. Japan also agreed to provide grant assistance of up to 2.12 billion yen, approximately $13.4 million, for a patrol-vessel project to strengthen Bangladesh's maritime and coastal security capabilities.

Separately, Japan pledged two yen-loan projects worth a combined 46.56 billion yen, or around $295.5 million. These include 15.88 billion yen for the Investment Climate Improvement Project and 30.68 billion yen for the second phase of the Upazila Governance and Development Project.

The agreements are intended to improve the business environment, strengthen local governance and support Bangladesh's wider development priorities.

The two leaders also stressed the importance of bringing the Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement, signed in February 2026, into force at an early date. Effective implementation of the EPA is expected to strengthen trade and investment ties and expand opportunities for Bangladeshi products in the Japanese market.

From Commitments to Implementation

The visit has strengthened the framework for Bangladesh-Japan cooperation, particularly in energy security, LNG infrastructure, industrial development and connectivity. Japan's proposed private investment program and energy-related financing could provide important support as Bangladesh seeks to diversify its energy sources and reduce supply vulnerabilities.

However, the investment projection, the proposed projects and the non-binding JERA-Petrobangla MoU represent different stages of cooperation. Their economic impact will depend on subsequent feasibility studies, financing arrangements, project agreements and implementation.

The immediate challenge for Bangladesh will be to translate the diplomatic outcomes into concrete investments, reliable energy supplies and infrastructure projects that deliver measurable benefits.

With energy security becoming increasingly important to economic growth, the follow-up to Tarique Rahman's Japan visit could play a significant role in shaping Bangladesh's future energy and infrastructure development.



Saleque Sufi

BANGLADESH'S LNG DEPENDENCE

Rising Costs, Security Risks And The Need For A Balanced Energy Strategy

Bangladesh, a developing country with limited domestic primary energy resources—many of which remain underexplored or untapped—must develop a prudent fuel-mix strategy, improve energy efficiency and optimize fuel utilization to achieve sustainable energy security. Increasing dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) without strengthening domestic energy production could expose the country to greater economic and geopolitical risks.

For decades, Bangladesh relied predominantly on its domestic natural gas reserves. However, as gas demand increased and domestic production began to decline, successive governments failed to make sufficient progress in exploring the country's petroleum resources and developing its discovered coal reserves. In 2010, the government began importing LNG and coal to address the widening gap between energy demand and domestic supply. Bangladesh also expanded imported electricity and continued to depend heavily on imported crude oil and petroleum products.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia–Ukraine war and subsequent geopolitical conflicts, including the Iran-related regional crisis, have exposed the vulnerability of this import-dependent energy model. By September 2026, Bangladesh was facing severe gas and electricity supply constraints, placing additional pressure on industries, households and the wider economy.

There is no quick fix. Restoring a sustainable balance between energy demand and supply could take three to five years, requiring a carefully planned fuel mix, improved utilisation of available resources and stronger energy conservation measures. In the short and medium term, Bangladesh must pursue a balanced and affordable combination of domestic and imported fuels rather than continuing to increase its dependence on imported LNG, coal and liquid fuels.

Domestic natural gas and coal resources deserve renewed national attention, while renewable energy should be expanded through technically feasible

and commercially viable projects. An excessive dependence on imported LNG would increase subsidy requirements, put pressure on foreign-exchange reserves and leave the economy vulnerable to international price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

Domestic Gas Decline and Growing LNG Dependence

Bangladesh's declining domestic gas production and increasing reliance on imported LNG illustrate the growing challenge.

According to the figures provided for this analysis, the country's daily domestic gas supply fell from 2,447 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) on October 1, 2020, to 1,620 MMCFD on October 1, 2026. During the same period, LNG supply increased from 702 MMCFD to 1,003 MMCFD.

The six-year comparison is presented below. (Table)

Depletion of Own Gas Supply and Increase of LNG Contribution

Year (Considering 1 October)	Own Gas MMCFD	LNG MMCFD	Total Supply MMCFD
2020	2447	702	3149
2021	2336	894	3230
2022	2274	484	2758
2023	2106	796	2102
2024	2002	530	2532
2025	1784	969	2753
2026	1620	1003	2623

The 2023 total has been calculated by adding the reported domestic gas and LNG figures; the original draft contained an inconsistent total.

The figures indicate that domestic gas supply declined by 827 MMCFD, or approximately 34%, over six years. LNG supply, meanwhile, increased by 301 MMCFD, or nearly 43%.

This shift highlights a fundamental concern: Bangladesh is increasingly using imported LNG to compensate for declining domestic production, but imports cannot guarantee energy security when international markets become volatile or supply routes are disrupted.

Unless significant new domestic gas reserves are discovered and brought into production, Bangladesh could become even more dependent on imported LNG. The proportion of LNG in the national gas supply could rise substantially, potentially reaching 60–70% under some scenarios.

The critical question is whether Bangladesh's economy and foreign-exchange reserves can sustain the financial burden of such dependence, particularly when LNG prices rise sharply in international markets.

Geopolitical Risks and the Cost of Imported LNG

Bangladesh currently imports LNG under long-term agreements with Qatar and Oman and supplements these supplies through spot-market purchases. While long-term contracts can provide greater predictability, spot-market procurement exposes the country to sudden price increases.

Regional conflicts have demonstrated that even established suppliers may face difficulties when production facilities are damaged, or strategic shipping routes are disrupted. The Strait of Hormuz is particularly important to global energy trade, and any prolonged disruption can affect LNG availability, shipping costs and prices.

During periods of heightened geopolitical tension, spot LNG prices can rise sharply, increasing the cost of power generation, industrial production and gas supply. Bangladesh must also compete with other importing countries for available cargoes.

To reduce these risks, the government should diversify its sources of LNG through a combination of long-term contracts and carefully managed spot purchases. Potential suppliers could include Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and selected African producers, subject to commercial viability, available export capacity, shipping economics and contractual terms. Other potential suppliers should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The author recommends securing approximately 80% of future LNG requirements through long-term contracts. Such a target could reduce exposure to spot-market volatility, although contracts should include appropriate pricing formulas, supply flexibility and safeguards against excessive take-or-pay obligations.

Diversification alone, however, will not eliminate geopolitical risk. Bangladesh must also reduce its overall dependence on imported LNG by developing domestic resources, expanding renewables and improving energy efficiency.

Setting a Sustainable Limit on LNG Imports

Bangladesh must assess how much LNG it can realistically afford to import over the long term. The author argues that the country cannot sustainably increase LNG imports beyond approximately 5,000 MMCFD given the likely financial burden.

This figure should be treated as a proposed policy benchmark rather than an established technical limit. Any decision on future import volumes must be based on demand projections, foreign-exchange availability, contract prices, infrastructure capacity and the relative cost of alternative energy sources.

Bangladesh currently operates two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs). The government may consider developing two additional FSRUs by 2035, alongside land-based LNG terminals at suitable locations. However, new infrastructure should be approved only after a comprehensive assessment of demand, utilization rates, costs and long-term financial risks.

The country should also establish strategic reserves of LNG and liquid fuels to strengthen its ability to respond to emergencies. The author proposes maintaining supplies equivalent to two months of consumption. Achieving this would require a detailed assessment of storage technology, costs, infrastructure requirements and the different characteristics of LNG and liquid fuels.

Bangladesh should avoid pursuing technically or economically questionable proposals, including transporting large volumes of LNG in ISO containers from Bhola or

overseas sources without a thorough feasibility assessment. Such proposals must be evaluated against pipeline transportation, conventional LNG shipping and other alternatives.

Similarly, potential locations for additional FSRUs or land-based terminals should be selected through rigorous technical, environmental and economic studies rather than political or commercial preferences.

Strengthening LNG Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation

Alongside plans for additional LNG import capacity, Bangladesh must ensure that regasified gas can be transported efficiently to consumers. The author recommends that Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) construct a third parallel transmission pipeline from Maheshkhali to an appropriate connection point in the national gas grid.

Any such investment should be supported by updated gas-flow modelling, demand forecasts and an assessment of existing pipeline capacity. Expanding terminal capacity without adequate transmission infrastructure could create bottlenecks and reduce the value of new investments.

Bangladesh should also explore cooperation with major Asian LNG importers, including Japan, China, South Korea and India. A structured LNG purchasing arrangement or importers' consortium could strengthen negotiating power, improve information-sharing and facilitate the reallocation or resale of cargoes when demand changes.

Such cooperation would require careful consideration of competition rules, commercial confidentiality, contract restrictions and the differing energy requirements of participating countries. Nevertheless, greater coordination among importers could improve procurement flexibility and reduce exposure to sudden market disruptions.

Domestic Resources and Renewable Energy Must Take Priority

Bangladesh cannot achieve lasting energy security through LNG imports alone. Reversing the decline in domestic gas production must become a national priority.

The government should accelerate exploration in prospective onshore and offshore areas, improve seismic surveys, expedite the development of commercially viable discoveries and rehabilitate existing fields where additional production is possible. Transparent procurement, competitive exploration terms and access to modern technology would help attract investment.

The country's discovered coal resources also require a transparent, evidence-based assessment. Decisions on their development should consider energy security, economic viability, environmental impacts, water use, land acquisition and climate commitments.

Renewable energy must play a larger role in reducing pressure on imported fuels. Rooftop solar, utility-scale solar, wind power where viable, battery storage and grid modernization can diversify the electricity mix. However, renewable energy targets must be supported by realistic assessments of land availability, financing, grid integration, storage requirements and system reliability.

Energy efficiency and conservation should receive equal attention. Reducing unnecessary consumption in power generation, industry, buildings and transport can limit the need for expensive new fuel imports. Better demand forecasting and improved power-plant efficiency would also help reduce overall system costs.

Rationalizing Gas Use and Protecting Industrial Competitiveness

Bangladesh must review its gas-allocation policy to ensure that scarce domestic and imported supplies are used where they create the greatest economic and social value.

Natural gas should not be supplied indiscriminately to sectors where more efficient or commercially viable alternatives are available. Priority should be given to efficient power generation, fertilizer production and industries where gas is an essential input and where reliable supplies support productivity, employment and export earnings.

At the same time, allocation decisions must be based on transparent criteria rather than administrative discretion. Industries should be encouraged to improve efficiency, adopt alternative fuels where feasible and invest in renewable energy.

Bangladesh should also exercise caution in adopting market-based or cost-plus gas pricing under present economic conditions. Rapidly passing the full cost of imported LNG on to consumers could increase production costs, weaken the competitiveness of export-oriented industries and place additional pressure on households.

This does not mean that pricing reforms should be abandoned. Instead, they should be introduced gradually and accompanied by targeted support for vulnerable consumers, transparent subsidy accounting and measures to improve the efficiency of energy supply.

The government should also review its fuel-import commitments, including those involving the United States, to ensure that procurement arrangements preserve Bangladesh's ability to source LNG and liquid fuels competitively from multiple countries. Diversification should be pursued in accordance with contractual obligations and applicable trade rules.

Conclusion: Energy Security Requires a Balanced Strategy

Global conflicts and geopolitical tensions may continue to disrupt energy markets for the foreseeable future. Bangladesh must therefore prepare for a period in which imported LNG remains exposed to price volatility, supply interruptions and uncertainty over shipping routes.

Expanding LNG infrastructure may help address supply shortages, but it cannot substitute for a comprehensive energy strategy. Excessive dependence on imported gas would expose the economy to higher subsidies, foreign-exchange pressures and external shocks. EP

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

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BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT FACES ITS DEFINING TEST

Mollah Amzad Hossain

The UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP17) concluded in Armenia with nearly 50 decisions and a new Yerevan Pathway intended to accelerate implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Yet the outcome also exposed a central challenge: countries have agreed on a global plan to protect nature, but collective action remains insufficient to achieve its 23 targets by 2030.

Held from October 19 to 30, the conference brought together parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. The first global review of progress under the KMGBF, informed by the State of Biodiversity Action report, found that the world remains off track on most targets.

The Yerevan Pathway is the conference's negotiated response to that assessment. It identifies priorities for the remaining years to 2030, including reforming incentives harmful to nature, increasing financial and technical support for developing countries, integrating biodiversity into national budgets and economic decisions, and strengthening implementation, monitoring and accountability.

COP17 President Hambardzum Matevosyan said the pathway demonstrated that "differences can be bridged, commitments can become decisions and cooperation can deliver." He described it as a framework for collective action, from implementing national plans and mobilizing finance to strengthening science and participation across society.

CBD Executive Secretary Astrid Schomaker, however, emphasized that the real test would come after delegates returned home. "We cannot protect nature while continuing to finance its destruction," she said, calling for resources to reach countries and communities in need and for biodiversity to become part of everyday economic decisions.

Finance and implementation at the center of negotiations

Biodiversity finance remained one of the most politically sensitive issues throughout the two-week negotiations. Developing countries stressed that ambitious targets cannot be achieved without predictable, accessible and adequate funding, alongside technology transfer, scientific cooperation and capacity-building.

The conference announced nearly US$2 billion in new biodiversity-related funding and initiatives, including US$560 million through the Global Environment Facility's ninth replenishment and its Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, US$500 million through the Species Recovery Alliance, and more than US$330 million through the Value Nature Fund.

Other initiatives included a biodiversity bond and investment incubator launched by the Asian Development Bank, a Presidency-led effort to reform



harmful incentives, a proposed model framework law on forests, and new indicators and metrics to improve biodiversity monitoring.

But the announcements did not resolve broader questions over the scale, sources and distribution of finance. Civil society organizations argued that the financing gap is not only about how much money is mobilized, but also who controls it, who can access it and whether it reaches communities protecting biodiversity on the ground.

The ICCA Consortium said the finance challenge was "equally a question of where the finance goes, who can access it and how, who decides how it is used," highlighting the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities as biodiversity custodians.

Rights, participation and the risks of biodiversity markets

The role of Indigenous peoples and local communities emerged as another major focus. After intensive negotiations, parties agreed on the operating rules for the new permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j), officially named the Sevan Guidelines. The outcome marks a step towards strengthening the participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity policy and action.

However, Indigenous, Afro-descendant and civil society representatives urged governments not to weaken existing rights-based safeguards. Their concerns included recognition of customary territories, free, prior and informed consent, women's rights, direct access to conservation finance and meaningful participation in decision-making.

At a press conference on October 21, organizations called on parties to preserve safeguards and ensure that communities are recognized as rights-holders and decision-makers, rather than merely beneficiaries of conservation projects.

Debate also intensified over biodiversity credits, offsets and other market-based mechanisms proposed as ways to mobilize private finance. Indigenous representatives and environmental organizations warned that such schemes could commodify nature, undermine community rights or allow companies to offset environmental damage without addressing its causes.

The Global Forest Coalition called for public finance and community-led conservation, while rejecting biodiversity markets, offsets and credits that it said risked turning nature into a commodity and distracting from structural drivers of biodiversity loss.

Civil society: progress, but insufficient ambition

Civil society reactions to the final outcome were mixed. Some welcomed the new funding announcements, stronger recognition of community participation and movement towards reforming harmful subsidies. Others said the decisions did not match the urgency of the biodiversity crisis.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) welcomed progress on finance and harmful incentives but warned that action remained too slow. IIED researcher Nicola Sorsby said only around 2% of biodiversity-finance project descriptions mentioned Indigenous peoples, arguing that funding must reach communities whose knowledge and stewardship are essential to conservation.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) was more critical of the overall level of ambition. Its Vice President for International Policy, Dr Susan Lieberman, said the conference had provided a clearer picture of the crisis but had not delivered the ambition needed to reverse nature loss.

"Timidity will not save nature—we need strong outcomes for wildlife and wild places, not only outputs and great speeches," she said, calling for political will and financing to protect ecological integrity, respect Indigenous and community leadership, and reduce the drivers of biodiversity decline.

From Yerevan to national action

Alongside the pathway, COP17 adopted decisions on protected areas and forest biodiversity, sustainable wildlife management, invasive alien species, marine and coastal biodiversity, synthetic biology, biodiversity mainstreaming and biosafety.

UN Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen said the conference had helped turn global commitments into decisions. "In Yerevan, we saw environmental multilateralism prevail once again," she said, adding that the agreements could support progress for people and the planet.

The conference's significance will ultimately depend on whether governments reform harmful subsidies, align economic policies with biodiversity goals, deliver promised resources and strengthen national implementation. Civil society groups have also called for transparent monitoring and accountability, with communities involved in shaping and evaluating conservation programs.

With four years remaining to meet the 2030 targets, the Yerevan Pathway offers a shared direction—but not a guarantee of success. The next CBD Conference of the Parties, COP18, is scheduled for 2028 in Ecuador, leaving governments with a narrowing window to demonstrate that global biodiversity commitments can produce measurable results for nature and people. EP



THE SUN IS RISING ON BANGLADESH.

Is Our Policy Ready?

Bangladesh has the sunshine, the farmland and the proven community models to power a green revolution. What it lacks is a single plan, patient money and a grid built for the future.

Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam

A nation running on borrowed fuel

Every time a tanker of liquefied natural gas docks at Moheshkhali, Bangladesh pays for its electricity twice: once in dollars, and again in vulnerability. Gas, oil and coal still generate nearly all of our electricity. Oil is almost wholly imported, and domestic gas reserves are steadily declining. Renewables, by contrast, account for barely 5% of generating capacity.

This is not only an economic risk. Bangladesh ranks among the most climate-exposed nations on earth, battered by cyclones, rising seas and salinity. The Renewable Energy Policy 2025 aims to meet 20% of electricity demand from renewables by 2030, and the country's latest climate pledge (NDC 3.0) commits to 25% by 2035. With barely four years left, the gap between promise and progress is wide, and widening.

My doctoral research at the Indian Institute of Business Management & Studies, Mumbai, set out to ask a simple question: what is genuinely stopping Bangladesh from going green, and what would it take to change course? Drawing on a nationwide household survey, interviews with policymakers, investors and community leaders, and benchmarking against regional peers, the answer is clear. The obstacles are not technical. They are institutional, financial and, above all, fixable.

We have already proven we can do it

Bangladesh is not starting from zero. The Solar Home System program, led by IDCOL, has placed more than four million solar home systems on rural rooftops, one of the greatest decentralized clean-energy efforts anywhere in the world. It lit homes the national grid had not reached and showed that villagers will adopt new

technology when it is affordable and locally supported.

Our natural endowments are generous too. High solar irradiation makes rooftop and utility-scale solar our strongest card. Abundant agricultural residue offers biomass power and rural jobs. Coastal belts hold modest wind potential, and regional hydropower is already flowing. Nepal began exporting 40 MW to Bangladesh through India in November 2024.

Yet the regional scoreboard is sobering. India crossed 200 GW of renewable capacity in 2024, while Bangladesh has only about 1.7 GW. The village solar story has not yet grown into a national grid story.

Four walls standing in the way

Too many cooks, no single recipe. Responsibility for renewables is scattered across ministries, regulators and agencies with overlapping mandates. Investors face shifting rules and slow approvals, and policies change faster than projects can be built.

An estimated USD 12 billion financing gap. Commercial banks see solar and wind as long-term, high-risk bets and lend reluctantly. Currency volatility makes foreign investors wary of revenue earned in taka, and so capital waits on the sidelines.

A grid built for yesterday. Without smart grids and battery storage, intermittent solar and wind power cannot be absorbed reliably. Even willing investors hit a hard ceiling at the point of connection.

An awareness gap at home. The survey found that household income, education and, crucially, awareness of government policy are the strongest predictors of whether a family adopts solar. Incentives that people do not know about simply do not work.

Two Bangladeshes in 2030

The study modelled where the country could stand by 2030 under different policy choices. The gap between the reform path and the stalled path is striking: twice the private investment, more than double the solar adoption, and electricity for millions more rural citizens.



2030 projection	Stalled	As usual	Bold reforms
Solar adoption	28%	35%	60%
Rural electrification	82%	85%	95%
Wind capacity	180 MW	220 MW	400 MW
Private investment	$500m	$600m	$1.2bn

Source: scenario modelling in the author's doctoral study.

Five moves that would change the trajectory

1. One authority, one rulebook. Create a Unified Renewable Energy Authority with a clear mandate, a one-stop approval window and a policy horizon of at least ten years. Investors do not fear ambition; they fear uncertainty.

2. Make green money flow. Issue sovereign green bonds, use blended finance in which development partners absorb first losses, and offer currency-risk guarantees. Public-private partnerships can turn a USD 12 billion gap into a USD 12 billion pipeline.

3. Build the grid of tomorrow. Prioritize smart-grid upgrades, battery storage and digital energy platforms, so that every megawatt generated can be delivered.

4. Put communities in the ownership seat. Scale up the solar home success through cooperatives, village micro-grids and local ownership models. Pair them with a national awareness drive, because the evidence shows knowledge drives adoption.

5. Think regionally. Deepen cross-border power trade and technology partnerships with India, Nepal and Bhutan, turning neighbors' hydropower and experience into our advantage.

The choice is ours

The green energy revolution is often framed as an environmental duty. For Bangladesh, it is something more urgent: a matter of economic sovereignty. Every unit of power generated from our own sun, fields and wind is a unit we no longer buy with scarce dollars, and a shield against the next global price shock.

The village rooftops have already shown what Bangladeshis can achieve. The task now is to give that spirit a national architecture: coherent policy, patient capital, a modern grid and genuine community ownership. Get these right, and Bangladesh will not merely meet its 2030 target. It could become South Asia's model of a climate-vulnerable nation that turned its greatest risk into its greatest opportunity.

Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam, *Energy Sector Professional.*



Renewable Energy Fest Ends With 12-Point Declaration For Just Energy Transition

Afroza Hossain

The declaration urged the government to enact a dedicated Renewable Energy Act, accelerate solar power deployment, promote agrivoltaics, modernize the national electricity grid and expand battery energy storage. It also called for stronger green financing through concessional loans, green bonds and public-private partnerships.

Bangladesh's second Renewable Energy Fest 2026 concluded at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on 28 October, with a 12-point declaration calling for stronger renewable energy policies, increased investment, modern power infrastructure, and effective social and environmental safeguards to accelerate a just, inclusive, and green energy transition.

ActionAid Bangladesh, BUET, the Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh (JETnet-BD), and BUET's Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) jointly organized the three-day festival, held at BUET's Central Field from October 26 to 28. It brought together policymakers, researchers, investors, renewable energy companies, development partners, civil society representatives and young innovators to develop practical pathways for expanding clean energy in Bangladesh.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood inaugurated the Renewable Energy Fest 2026 and announced that the government had set a target of generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Addressing the opening session at BUET on October 27, the minister said, "Our excessive dependence on fossil fuels has exposed us to global market volatility and the impacts of the conflict in the Middle East. To ensure future energy security, we are developing a Special Renewable Energy Law that will facilitate decisions and activities during 2026–2030." He also highlighted government initiatives to remove duties on solar power technologies and equipment, promote rooftop solar installations and provide incentives for renewable electricity. Acknowledging challenges in integrating electricity from nuclear, fossil-fuel and renewable sources, he said efforts were underway to modernize Bangladesh's power grid.

The declaration urged the government to enact a dedicated Renewable Energy Act, accelerate solar power deployment, promote agrivoltaics, modernize the national electricity grid and expand battery energy storage. It also called for stronger green financing through concessional loans, green bonds and public-private partnerships.

The recommendations reflect growing concerns over Bangladesh's

dependence on fossil fuels and imported energy, as well as the need to mobilize investment and strengthen domestic technological capacity to meet the country's renewable energy ambitions.

Policy Reform and Investment Priorities

Discussions on the final day focused on four major areas: energy policy and governance, renewable energy finance and investment, technology and infrastructure, and social and environmental safeguards.

Participants stressed that ambitious renewable energy targets must be supported by clear policies, predictable regulations, appropriate tariff structures and coordinated action among government agencies, financial institutions, researchers and the private sector.

A panel discussion titled Renewable Energy Finance and Investment in Bangladesh featured a keynote presentation by Zakir Hossain Khan, executive director of Change Initiative. The session was moderated by Kazi Morshad Alam, head of program and engagement at ActionAid Bangladesh.

Panelists included Tanzina Dilshad, representing the European Union in Bangladesh; Nure Alam, chief executive officer of Greener Garments Initiative; and A K M Nurun Nabi, director of the Sustainable Finance Department at Bangladesh Bank.

The discussion highlighted the importance of mobilizing affordable financing for renewable energy projects, expanding public-private partnerships, increasing research funding and strengthening domestic technical expertise. Speakers also emphasized technology transfer and the need for coordinated action to translate policy commitments into bankable projects.

The festival's technology and infrastructure sessions called for greater investment in grid modernization, energy storage and innovative renewable energy solutions to improve the reliability of clean power supplies.

Youth, Innovation and Green Jobs

Youth participation was a central feature of the festival. A youth-led dialogue, titled From Commitment to Community: Advancing a Just Energy Transition through Bangladesh NDC 3.0, called for stronger action to reduce air pollution and dust and wider adoption of innovative solutions, including solar-powered irrigation and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.

Participants also called for an effective roadmap within the next 12 months to strengthen young people's skills, encourage green entrepreneurship and expand youth engagement in the energy transition.

The declaration underscored the importance of developing domestic renewable energy industries, creating green jobs and building the technical skills needed to support the expansion of clean energy.

An innovation and technology fair showcased locally developed renewable energy ideas alongside commercially available technologies and services. The exhibition provided a platform for innovators, businesses and potential investors to explore opportunities for collaboration and the commercialization of clean energy solutions.

The Felite Project won first prize in the innovation competition, followed by Carbon Credit BD Project in second place and IUB Formula-E Project in third. The winning teams received certificates of recognition and seed funding. Students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), BUET and East West University also received recognition for the three best academic posters.

Safeguards for an Inclusive Transition

The declaration placed particular emphasis on ensuring that the shift towards renewable energy does not deepen existing social and economic inequalities.

It called for meaningful participation by women, Indigenous peoples, workers and marginalized communities in energy transition planning and implementation. It also stressed transparency and accountability in climate finance, worker protection, and independent monitoring of environmental and social impacts.

Participants highlighted the importance of ensuring that renewable energy projects deliver benefits to local communities while protecting livelihoods and the environment. Regional cooperation and technology transfer, including between Bangladesh and Australia, were also identified as important areas for strengthening renewable energy capacity.

A puppet theatre performance by Kaktarua Puppet Theatre presented the opportunities and benefits of a just energy future, adding a public engagement and cultural dimension to the event.

Call for Actio

The closing ceremony was attended by Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, a member of parliament and chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as chief guest. Ibrahim Khalil Al-Zayad, board chair of ActionAid International Bangladesh Society, attended as a special guest.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, delivered the closing remarks. Professor M A A Shoukat Choudhury of BUET and Abul Kalam Azad, ActionAid Bangladesh's manager for just energy transition and member secretary of JETnet-BD, delivered the vote of thanks.

The declaration provides a policy and investment agenda for advancing Bangladesh's renewable energy transition. Its effectiveness, however, will depend on translating the recommendations into concrete government action, financing commitments, technological development and inclusive implementation.

For Bangladesh, the challenge is no longer simply to expand renewable energy capacity, but to build an energy system that is affordable, reliable, environmentally sustainable and accessible to all.

Afroza Hossain, *Editor, Rang Berang & Managing Editor, Energy & Power*



Wärtsilä Highlights Role Of Flexible Power In Bangladesh's Energy Transition

EP Report

The forum opened with Göran Richardsson, Energy Business Director, South Asia, Wärtsilä Energy, presenting Wärtsilä's global energy expertise and its long-standing presence in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is entering the next phase of its energy transition with substantial power generating capacity and a diversified fuel mix. The country has close to 30 GW of grid-connected capacity, compared with an all-time peak generation of over 17 GW recorded in May 2026. The power system utilizes a range of fuels, including natural gas, coal, oil, imports, and a growing share of renewable energy resources, providing greater operational flexibility and reducing reliance on any single energy source. However, ensuring efficient use of existing capacity, fuel security, and financial sustainability remains a key challenge for the sector.

Technology group Wärtsilä hosted the Bangladesh Energy Transition Forum in Dhaka on 15 October 2026. The event brought together approximately 70 senior representatives from government, utilities, independent power producers, and industry, to discuss how flexible generation, sustainable fuels, and grid-supporting solutions can complement renewable energy and strengthen the long-term resilience of Bangladesh's power system.

The forum opened with Göran Richardsson, Energy Business Director, South Asia, Wärtsilä Energy, presenting Wärtsilä's global energy expertise and its long-standing presence in Bangladesh.

'Bangladesh has a strong foundation for the next phase of its energy transition, with substantial generating capacity and a diversified fuel mix,' said Göran Richardsson. 'This creates an opportunity to accelerate renewable energy deployment while using flexible power plants to maintain system reliability. By operating these assets according to the needs of the power system, Bangladesh can make more efficient use of its available fuel resources and support reliable, affordable electricity."

Patrik Farkas, General Manager, Growth and Development, Middle East and Asia, Wärtsilä Energy, outlined global energy transition trends and the growing need for flexible, dispatchable capacity. He also shared operational experience from balancing power plants in power systems with high shares of renewable energy. One example was the 211 MW Barker Inlet Power Station in South Australia, where variable renewables supplied 78% of electricity in the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

Farkas also discussed the role of flexible engine power plants in supporting the rapidly growing electricity needs of data centers in markets where grid connections are constrained or face long lead times. On-site engine power plants can provide data centers with reliable power while supporting their long-term transition towards sustainable fuels. In the United States, Wärtsilä has booked seven data center-related orders, bringing the total power capacity to more than 3 GW.

Ulrik Friis, Senior Product Manager, Sustainable Fuels and Performance Upgrades, Wärtsilä Energy Services, presented practical pathways for converting existing liquid-fuel power plants to liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and discussed the future role of sustainable fuels, such as hydrogen.

A central theme of the forum was how Bangladesh can make the most of its existing power generation assets while preparing for future electricity demand. Speakers highlighted three priorities for the next phase: accelerating the deployment of variable renewable energy to help meet growing electricity demand and reduce exposure to fuel costs, operating existing flexible power plants in a flexible way so that available fuel is used where it delivers greatest value, and preparing these plants to run on low-carbon and, over time, carbon-free fuels.

Mostafa Zahed Hossain, Managing Director, Wärtsilä Bangladesh Ltd., said: 'Wärtsilä has supported Bangladesh's power sector for about three decades. We have stood alongside our customers and stakeholders through challenging times and as the sector has evolved, and the engine power plants we have delivered continue to support the grid every day. Over the years, we have also built strong local competence, and our Bangladesh team now supports Wärtsilä's network and power plants around the world. As the country adds more renewables, we are ready to help our customers balance variable renewable output, improve fuel efficiency, and prepare their plants for sustainable fuels."





UN Climate Technology Body Advances Plans to Support Developing Countries

EP DESK



The UN Climate Change Technology Executive Committee (TEC) has advanced plans to accelerate climate technology development and deployment in developing countries, focusing on artificial intelligence, early warning systems, industrial decarbonization and stronger international partnerships.

At its 33rd meeting in Bonn, the TEC progressed policy briefs and knowledge products on climate technology incubators and accelerators, digital technologies, and industrial decarbonization.

It also agreed on key messages and policy recommendations for countries under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, covering technology incubators, community-based early warning systems, and buildings and infrastructure.

The committee agreed to invite submissions from governments, observers, international organizations and other stakeholders to help shape its next rolling workplan. The call for submissions is expected to be published ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP31, in November 2026.

The TEC also emphasized stronger engagement with National Designated Entities to ensure that its future activities reflect countries' technology priorities and improve the uptake of its knowledge products.

It began discussions with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) on the Technology Mechanism's next joint work program, aiming to improve coordination between policy development and practical implementation.

The first global dialogue under the Belém Technology Implementation Program will examine how developing countries can overcome barriers to climate technology deployment through stronger institutions, technical capacity, financing and partnerships. The dialogue is expected to take place alongside the UNFCCC June Climate Meetings in 2027. EP



Bangladesh to Promote Jute as Plastic Alternative at COP31



Bangladesh plans to showcase its traditional jute and jute-made products at the country's pavilion during the UN climate conference COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20, to promote eco-friendly alternatives to plastic and explore new export opportunities.

A special exhibition is being planned to present a range of products, including jute bags, home décor items and handicrafts, to international buyers, investors and policymakers.

Preparations are underway, with a display already set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At a meeting on October 15, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam highlighted the commercial potential of Bangladesh's jute industry during discussions on COP31 preparations with climate experts and relevant stakeholders.

As a natural, renewable and biodegradable fiber, jute offers an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional plastic products.

Stakeholders believe rising global concern over plastic pollution could create opportunities to expand international markets for Bangladeshi jute goods.

The initiative is expected to highlight the diverse applications of the country's "golden fibre", attract foreign buyers and investors, and strengthen Bangladesh's position in the global market for sustainable products. EP

Istanbul to Screen 20 Climate Documentaries Ahead of COP31

Twenty documentaries exploring the human and environmental impacts of climate change will be screened in Istanbul ahead of the UN climate summit COP31, scheduled to take place in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20.

Organized under the COP ART initiative, the free screenings will be held at Atlas 1948 Cinema on October 27–28 and October 31–November 1. The program features nine feature-length and 11 short documentaries recognized at international film festivals, including Sundance, Cannes and Berlin.

The films explore a wide range of issues, including biodiversity loss, Indigenous rights, food and water security, ecosystem restoration, land protection and climate policy. Their stories span the Amazon rainforest, Siberia, drought-hit Kenya, Palestinian olive groves and Türkiye's Lake Salda.

Featured films include Raoni: Amazon Warrior, about efforts to protect the Amazon; Wilding, which examines ecological restoration in the United Kingdom; and The Battle for Laikipia, which explores conflicts over scarce water and grazing resources in Kenya. The program also includes The White House Effect, examining political influences on climate policy.

Anadolu Agency's documentary Salda: A Bridge to the Red Planet explores the scientific significance of Lake Salda and its potential relevance to Mars research, while highlighting the importance of protecting the lake's natural environment.

Following the Istanbul screenings, COP31 Documentary Days will continue at Antalya Science Center in Dokumapark from November 9 to 12, using documentary films to raise awareness of climate challenges and possible responses. EP



UN Adaptation Forum Urges More Finance, Stronger Implementation

Countries need stronger financing, institutional capacity and monitoring systems to translate climate adaptation plans into effective action, according to discussions at the 2026 Adaptation Forum convened by the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan, on September 9–10.

Theforumbroughttogethergovernments, international organizations, climate funds, development banks, researchers and civil society representatives to explore practical approaches to scaling up adaptation and achieving the global goal on adaptation.

The Adaptation Committee reported that 88 of the 198 Parties covered had submitted national adaptation plans, while 128 had reported other national adaptation plans or strategies.

However, participants stressed that translating these plans into action requires adequate funding, technical expertise and stronger coordination between national institutions and local communities.

Country experiences highlighted practical solutions. Azerbaijan shared measures to improve the climate resilience of healthcare facilities, while Kenya presented a financing program supporting locally led climate action. The World Health Organization highlighted heat-health action plans linking early warning systems with measures to protect vulnerable people.

Participants emphasized the need for predictable climate finance and sustained technical support, particularly for vulnerable communities. The Asian Development Bank presented its 10-year Glaciers to Farms program, which connects glacier monitoring, water management and agriculture across nine countries through partnerships with climate funds and other financing sources.

Monitoring and evaluation also emerged as priorities. According to the Adaptation Committee, 31% of Parties reported having monitoring, evaluation and learning systems in place, while another 32% were establishing them. Participants said stronger systems were essential to assess adaptation outcomes, identify gaps and improve future investments.

The forum also explored dynamic risk assessments, multi-hazard early warning systems, scenario planning and artificial intelligence to anticipate evolving climate threats. Participants stressed that these tools must complement local knowledge and institutional decision-making.

The discussions will inform the Adaptation Committee's ongoing work to improve coordination, assess adaptation progress and help countries turn climate plans into effective action under the Paris Agreement. EP

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Bangladesh Expects Energy and Economic Stability by Second Year: Khosru



Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has expressed confidence that Bangladesh's economy, including the energy sector, will stabilize by the second year of the government's tenure, paving the way for stronger economic growth in subsequent years.

"By the end of the second year, everything should be stabilized, including the energy sector. The third year should be about to take off, and the fourth and fifth years will be the take-off period," he said.

The minister made the remarks at a high-level luncheon meeting titled "Sustainable Power and Energy: Driving Investment in Bangladesh," organized by the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in Dhaka recently.

Acknowledging the economic challenges facing the country, Khosru said the government had confronted a major energy crisis within a week of taking office following the outbreak of war in the Middle East. The crisis came on top of inherited financial liabilities and longstanding structural weaknesses.

Summit LNG Marks Major Operational Milestone with 300th Ship-to-Ship Transfer



Summit LNG Terminal Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. ("SLNG") celebrates the milestone completion of its 300th Ship-to-Ship (STS) operation, achieved with consistent commitment to world-class safety and operational excellence.

During the 2025–2026 financial year alone, the terminal has supplied approximately 18% of the country's total gas demand, playing an indispensable role in ensuring Bangladesh's energy security.

Since its commissioning in April 2019, SLNG has received 41,853,294 m^3 of LNG and supplied approximately 945,337,306 MMBTU of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to the national gas grid.

SLNG conveys its sincere appreciation to Excelerate Energy LP and PSA Marine, Singapore for their exemplary contributions in maintaining safe, efficient, and uninterrupted STS and terminal operations.

The company is equally proud to celebrate this milestone alongside its engineering and classification partners: MacGregor, Geocean, Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Bureau Veritas (BV), and Shelf Subsea.

Energy Roadmap Sets Direction, Implementation Key: ICCB

Bangladesh's emerging energy roadmap provides a direction for strengthening energy security, but its success will depend on effective implementation, predictable policies and investment-ready projects, the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB) has said.



"The roadmap has set the direction. The task now is implementation," ICCB said in the editorial of its July–September 2026 News Bulletin, released recently.

It stressed that reliable energy supplies are essential not only to prevent shortages but also to boost industrial competitiveness, attract investment and sustain economic growth.

Bangladesh's installed power generation capacity stood at 32,688 megawatts (MW) as of September 15, 2026, including captive and renewable power, while its highest recorded generation was 17,201 MW on May 20.

The ICCB said the gap highlights that energy security depends on reliable fuel supplies, efficient transmission and distribution, and financial sustainability—not installed capacity alone.

Central Asia Proposes $5b Gas Ring to Boost Energy Security



Five Central Asian countries are considering a $5 billion regional gas network to strengthen energy security, improve cross-border supply and meet rising winter demand.

The proposed Central Asia Gas Ring would connect Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan through more than 3,000 kilometers of new and upgraded pipelines, with an estimated annual transportation capacity of 20 billion cubic meters (bcm).

Discussed at the second Central Asia Oil and Gas Forum in Tashkent, the project is estimated to require $2 billion for new pipelines and $3 billion for modernization and digitalization, according to its proponent, Kazakh energy expert Askar Ismailov.

The network could allow gas to flow more flexibly between countries, helping gas-importing nations meet seasonal demand while giving major producers, particularly Turkmenistan, access to additional regional markets.

Excelerate Suspends LNG Supplies to Bangladesh Until November

US-based Excelerate Energy has suspended liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries to Bangladesh since early March, citing force majeure following the escalation of the Middle East conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

The suspension has further complicated Bangladesh's efforts to manage a persistent natural gas shortage.

A senior Petrobangla official said the company last delivered LNG to Bangladesh in late February. Excelerate declared force majeure in the first week of March and has since extended the suspension, most recently until November.

Under a 15-year sales and purchase agreement signed with Petrobangla on November 8, 2023, Excelerate was scheduled to supply 850,000 tonnes of LNG annually in 2026 and 2027, increasing to one million tonnes per year from 2028 to 2040.

The agreement provides for 12 cargoes annually in the first two years and 16 cargoes per year thereafter.

Bangladesh Seeks Canadian Support for Energy Security, Clean Energy



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has sought Canadian cooperation in energy, including oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, renewable energy and climate financing, to strengthen Bangladesh's energy security and expand bilateral development partnerships.

The Prime Minister made the request during a meeting with a Canadian delegation led by Secretary of State for International Development Randeep Sarai at the Prime Minister's Office recently, according to the Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

During the meeting, the Canadian side expressed interest in supporting Bangladesh's energy supply, particularly oil and LNG, as well as exploring cooperation in renewable energy.

The discussions also covered climate financing, with Sarai highlighting Canada's plan to provide C$13 billion in global climate financing over the next five years. He said Bangladesh could benefit from the initiative.

Canada also expressed interest in supporting feasibility studies for development projects in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Seeks Saudi Support for Long-Term Energy Security

Bangladesh has sought comprehensive Saudi cooperation to ensure long-term energy security, including reliable LNG supplies, investment in renewable energy and the development of dedicated LNG infrastructure.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit made the request during high-level bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the 17th International Energy Forum (IEF-17) in Saudi Arabia recently, according to a ministry press release.

During a meeting with Saudi Assistant Minister of Energy Nasser bin Hadi Al-Qahtani, Amit called for stronger bilateral energy cooperation



to meet Bangladesh's growing energy demand.

He proposed long-term LNG supply arrangements, the establishment of a dedicated LNG terminal, and regular exchanges of delegations to strengthen cooperation in support of Bangladesh's Vision 2030 energy targets.

The Saudi side described Bangladesh as a brotherly nation and expressed optimism about expanding cooperation in energy and other development initiatives.

High LNG Prices Set to Boost Asia's Coal Imports



Asia's coal imports could surge in the final quarter of 2026 as high liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices make coal a significantly cheaper option for power generation ahead of the winter heating season.

Australian thermal coal prices are around $143 per tonne, equivalent to about $5.40 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), compared with approximately $25 per MMBtu for LNG delivered to Asia.

The wide price gap is encouraging utilities to favour coal over gas.

China, Japan and South Korea imported about 122 million tonnes of coal in the July–September quarter. Their combined imports could rise by around 20 million tonnes in the final quarter, based on seasonal trends, as utilities replenish stocks to meet higher heating demand.

Indonesia and Australia, the region's major coal suppliers, could benefit from increased orders.

Trump Announces Russia-Ukraine Energy Ceasefire



US President Donald Trump has announced that Russia and Ukraine have agreed to halt attacks on each other's energy infrastructure, although neither side had immediately confirmed the agreement.

"Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine. Both parties have agreed," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform recently, without providing further details.

Earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv was ready to stop striking Russian oil refineries if Moscow halted attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. He urged Washington to pressure Russia into serious negotiations to end the war.

The announcement came amid escalating attacks and tensions between Trump and Zelensky over US sanctions relief for Russian diesel exports. Zelensky argued that easing pressure on Moscow could encourage further Russian attacks on Ukrainian cities and energy facilities.

Iran War Pushes Qatar to Secure Long-Term US LNG Supplies



QatarEnergy has agreed to purchase 4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually from US exporter Cheniere Energy through 2054, highlighting how the Iran war is reshaping global gas markets and strengthening the position of American suppliers.

Under the long-term agreement, deliveries are expected to begin in the 2030s, with prices linked to the US Henry Hub benchmark plus a fixed fee.

Qatar, previously one of the world's largest LNG exporters, has suffered a major production setback since Iranian attacks damaged two production lines at its Ras Laffan facility in March, reducing its LNG export capacity by about 17%. Repairs are expected to take around three years.

Exports have also been severely disrupted by restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for Qatar's LNG shipments. Qatar has repeatedly declared force majeure on contracts since the attack.

World Bank, Japan Launch Energy Resilience Investment in Asia



The World Bank Group and Japan have launched their first joint investment under the Dynamic Response for Invigorating Value Chains and Energy Security (DRIVE) framework to strengthen energy security, improve supply-chain resilience and attract private investment across Asia.

The initiative complements Japan's $10 billion Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWERR Asia), launched in June 2026 to help countries withstand energy and supply-chain disruptions.

The first DRIVE project involves investment in the Emerging Asia Infrastructure Credit Fund, which aims to raise $750 million to finance cleaner energy, energy efficiency and industrial transformation projects across Southeast and South Asia.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private-sector arm, is investing up to $50 million in the fund alongside the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Qatar Warns Iran War Energy Shock Could Worsen



Qatar has warned that the global energy crisis triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran has yet to peak, cautioning that further disruptions to energy supplies and international trade could emerge in the coming months.

Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's deputy prime minister and minister of state for defence affairs, made the remarks at the Global Security Forum in Doha recently, highlighting continued risks to oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

"We haven't reached the peak with respect to energy," he said, warning of further repercussions in the coming days and months.

Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial complex, a major LNG hub, was damaged in Iranian strikes in March, with repairs expected to take several years.

Al Thani also rejected proposals to impose transit fees on vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, saying such charges would ultimately affect consumers worldwide.

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Confidence Power Seeks Tk400cr IPO for Solar Projects



Confidence Power and Energy PLC has held a roadshow for its proposed Tk400 crore initial public offering (IPO) under the book-building method to finance two 100MW solar power projects in Chattogram and Bagerhat.

The roadshow, held at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden on 18 October, presented the company's financial performance, proposed use of IPO proceeds and future expansion plans to eligible investors and capital market stakeholders.

Under the proposed fund utilization plan, Tk230 crore will be invested in a 100MW grid-connected solar project in North Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, while Tk102 crore will go towards another 100MW project in Mongla, Bagerhat, through Confidence and Doreen Power Limited, in which Confidence Power and Energy holds a 60% stake.

The company plans to use Tk60 crore to partially repay existing loans and Tk8 crore to cover IPO-related expenses.

Solar Projects Could Generate Tk 2,777cr in 20 Years



Proposed rooftop and floating solar projects at public universities, colleges and two local government areas could generate Tk 2,777 crore in electricity sales over 20 years, offering a major investment opportunity for the private sector, according to a study presented at a recent dialogue.

The proposed projects, covering 31 public universities, 150 colleges, Rajshahi City Corporation and Shailkupa Municipality, would have a combined capacity of 132.61 megawatt-peak (MWp).

The estimated investment requirement is Tk 731 crore, with projected electricity generation of 370.3 crore units over two decades.

Presented by Shihab Uddin, a lecturer in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Daffodil International University, the study estimated an average generation cost of Tk 4.10 per unit against a proposed selling price of Tk 7.50.

However, actual profitability would depend on project costs and other expenses.

Bangladesh's Special Solar Ordinance: A New Framework for Rooftop Solar Investment

Bangladesh has introduced a new legal framework to accelerate solar power deployment, facilitate private investment and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels through the Special Solar Power Installation Ordinance, 2026.



The ordinance was gazetted on October 19, following Cabinet approval of its draft, establishing specific provisions for solar installations of up to 5 megawatts (MW). It covers rooftops, courtyards, unused land, tea gardens, floating solar systems and agrivoltaic projects, while excluding large-scale ground-mounted solar power plants.

The government aims to install 3,000–4,000MW of rooftop solar capacity before next summer under its National Renewable Energy Development Strategy 2026–2030.

Bangladesh Plans Nationwide Biogas Expansion in Two Years



The Ministry of Youth and Sports plans to expand biogas technology to remote and marginalized communities across Bangladesh within the next two years to help address the country's energy crisis, State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque said.

He announced the plan at a biogas plant inauguration ceremony organized by the ministry in the Link Road area of Cox's Bazar recently, according to a press release.

The state minister said the initiative, currently limited in scope, would be expanded nationwide.

Two local farmers were each provided with loans of Tk 1.5 lakh to encourage the installation of biogas plants.

He also announced plans to publish and distribute an information booklet at the grassroots level to raise awareness about biogas technology and its benefits.

Walton Launches Solar Ecosystem with 32MW Capacity



Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has inaugurated Walton Solar Ecosystem at the company's corporate office in Bashundhara, Dhaka, highlighting the potential of solar energy to meet Bangladesh's growing electricity demand.

The integrated ecosystem combines solar power generation, energy storage, grid electricity supply and solar-powered household appliances.

Walton has installed rooftop and floating solar projects at its manufacturing facilities with a combined generation capacity of 32 megawatts (MW).

The company uses a substantial portion of the electricity generated to operate its factories and reduce energy costs. It also supplies around 1,150 megawatt-hours of solar electricity annually to the national grid through the net metering system.

After the inauguration, the minister inspected solar panels, energy storage inverters, batteries, solar-powered refrigerators, air conditioners, televisions and other electrical appliances displayed at the exhibition. Walton Hi-Tech Industries Chairman SM Shamsul Alam, Vice-Chairman SM Ashraful Alam, Managing Director SM Mahbubul Alam and other directors attended the event.

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Solar Power, Irrigation Top Bangladesh's Clean Energy Priorities

Bangladesh has prioritized expanding solar power and solar-powered irrigation to diversify energy supplies, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and strengthen environmental protection, State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shaikh Faridul Islam said recently.



Speaking at a meeting with the European Union Delegation and representatives of European countries in Dhaka, he highlighted rooftop solar installations in residential buildings, factories and government establishments, alongside solar irrigation in suitable areas, as key components of the government's clean energy agenda.

The meeting was organized under the EU's outreach program on clean energy, climate priorities and preparations for COP31. Faridul stressed the need for quality technology, adequate financing, skilled workers and regular maintenance to expand solar energy sustainably.

He also highlighted initiatives to promote electric vehicles, shut down polluting brick kilns, restore canals and plant 250 million trees.

The government is working to strengthen climate resilience against floods, cyclones, heatwaves and salinity, while developing a carbon credit framework to attract investment in emissions reduction and carbon removal.

US Wind and Solar Face Tighter Tax Credit Deadlines



The United States' renewable energy sector is entering a new phase as changes to federal tax credits impose tighter deadlines and stricter eligibility requirements for wind and solar projects, according to GlobalData.

GlobalData's report, North and South America Renewable Energy Policy Handbook 2026, says the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, enacted in July 2025, introduced termination provisions for the Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit for applicable wind and solar facilities placed in service after December 31, 2027, subject to statutory exceptions.

Mohammed Ziauddin, Power Analyst at GlobalData, said the closure of the initial transition window has made construction schedules, project completion dates and compliance with supply-chain rules increasingly important for developers.

The July 4, 2026 deadline for meeting the beginning-of-construction requirements under the statutory transition provisions has passed.

Mitsubishi Power Boosts Indonesia Geothermal Plant Capacity to 129 MW



Mitsubishi Power, a power solutions brand of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), has completed the retrofit of Unit 3 at Indonesia's Darajat Geothermal Power Plant, increasing its output by 8 MW to 129 MW and making it the country's largest single-unit geothermal generating facility.

Owned by Star Energy Geothermal Darajat II, Limited (SEG), the plant has commenced commercial operation following the upgrade.

The project exceeded guaranteed operational performance, was completed ahead of schedule and recorded no safety incidents.

The retrofit involved upgrading facilities equipped with steam turbines manufactured by MHI in Nagasaki.

Mitsubishi Power managed the design, manufacturing and installation support, while its Indonesian subsidiary carried out on-site work under a turnkey arrangement.

At a ceremony in Jakarta on October 14, Mitsubishi Power and SEG also signed a Technical Study and Cooperation Agreement to explore advanced maintenance technologies aimed at improving turbine output, plant reliability and availability.

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China Targets 15GW of Solar Thermal Power by 2030



China is accelerating the development of concentrated solar power (CSP), targeting around 15 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity by 2030 as it seeks to expand renewable energy options and improve electricity supply reliability.

The target is equivalent to the capacity of approximately 15 nuclear reactors rated at 1 GW each. The technology uses mirrors to concentrate sunlight and generate heat, which produces steam to drive turbines and generate electricity.

According to a report, China is pushing to establish solar thermal power as a complement to solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy. Unlike conventional solar panels, CSP plants can incorporate thermal energy storage, allowing electricity generation to continue after sunset.

China's National Development and Reform Commission and National Energy Administration outlined the 15GW target in a policy roadmap issued in December 2025.

The plan aims to expand project deployment, strengthen domestic technology and equipment manufacturing, and bring electricity costs closer to those of coal-fired power generation.

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PM Urges Officials to Go Beyond Duties to Protect Environment



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has urged government officials and people from all walks of life to go beyond their routine responsibilities and work collectively to protect the environment and forests for future generations.

He made the call at a meeting to review the progress of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, held at the ministry's conference room on 15 October.

The meeting decided to identify and conserve Bangladesh's mother trees within six months, ensure proper care and monitoring of planted saplings, and explore opportunities to expand afforestation in the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

Expressing concern over Dhaka's persistent air pollution, the Prime Minister described the situation as a matter of shame for the country and called for stronger public awareness and collective action.

Referring to the government's plan to plant 250 million trees, he stressed that successful implementation would benefit the entire population.

State Minister for Environment Stresses Green Finance, Technology

Bangladesh State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sheikh Faridul Islam has emphasised expanding green finance and environmentally friendly technologies to protect the environment and conserve ecosystems.



Speaking at an exchange meeting with expatriate Bangladeshis, business representatives and BNP leaders during his visit to Hong Kong recently, he said the government was committed to pollution control, forest conservation and renewable energy development through green financing, clean technologies and nature-based solutions.

The minister said around 35.4 million trees had already been planted under government initiatives, with continued monitoring to ensure their protection and survival.

Bangladesh Must Build Climate-Resilient Economy to Tackle Climate Impacts: Minister

Bangladesh must strengthen its economic resilience to cope with the growing impacts of climate change, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo said recently, warning that rising temperatures, floods, droughts and salinity are increasingly threatening agriculture, industry and livelihoods.



He made the remarks as the chief guest at a discussion titled "Green Dialogue: Climate Change and Economic Restructuring", organised by Bonik Barta in Dhaka.

Mintoo said climate change was no longer a future threat but a present economic challenge. Rising heat is reducing industrial workers' productivity, while increasing salinity in coastal areas is putting pressure on farmland and freshwater supplies.

Floods, excessive rainfall and droughts are also disrupting agricultural production and damaging roads and transport infrastructure, raising costs and threatening industrial output, exports and employment.

PKSF, IAB to Launch Climate-Resilient Rural Housing Design Contest



Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) will launch an open architectural competition to develop affordable, climate-resilient housing designs for vulnerable rural communities.

The initiative aims to promote safe, environmentally friendly and practical housing solutions suited to Bangladesh's diverse geographical conditions, including coastal areas, haors, wetlands, chars, floodplains, hilly regions and the Barind tract.

A memorandum of understanding was signed recently between the two organisations at PKSF Bhaban-1 in Agargaon, Dhaka.

PKSF Deputy Managing Director Md Hasan Khaled and IAB General Secretary Architect Dr Masud Ur Rashid signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

PKSF will select the 10 best designs from the competition for potential practical application in climate-vulnerable areas.

Bangladesh Urged to Implement National Lead Pollution Action Plan



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has called for effective implementation of Bangladesh's national strategy and action plan to eliminate lead pollution, stressing the need for coordinated efforts to protect children, workers and the environment.

Speaking at a high-level seminar in Dhaka recently, the minister urged government agencies, industries, development partners and other stakeholders to work together to implement the National Strategy and Multiyear Action Plan for a Lead-Free Bangladesh 2026–2035, approved by the Cabinet on August 17, 2026.

The seminar, organised by Pure Earth Bangladesh with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, marked International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2026.

The minister said implementation would require adequate financing, stronger laboratory capacity, environmental monitoring, remediation of contaminated sites and improved industrial management.

Change Initiative Launches Policy Platform to Advance Climate and Nature Finance



Change Initiative has launched the Nature and Governance Policy Platform (NGPP), an independent advisory platform aimed at strengthening evidence-based policies on climate finance, nature conservation and governance in Bangladesh.

The platform was launched at a national dialogue titled "From Paris to Antalya: A Reflection on Finance for Climate and Nature", organised by Change Initiative in collaboration with WaterAid Bangladesh and with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The event brought together policymakers, development partners, researchers, civil society representatives, youth and media ahead of COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye. The dialogue highlighted concerns over Bangladesh's reliance on climate loans, gaps in local-level financing and inadequate funding for the maintenance of essential services.

Research presented by Change Initiative showed that Bangladesh received approximately US$2.70 in climate loans for every US$1 in grants, while 58% of adaptation finance was provided as debt.

Shama Calls for Unified Bangladesh Position at COP31



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has urged civil society organisations and climate-focused NGOs to work with the government to present a strong, unified Bangladesh position at the upcoming UN climate conference, COP31. Speaking as chief guest at a meeting at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka to launch a civil society position paper for COP31, she stressed the importance of collective efforts to advance the country's demands in international climate negotiations.

Shama said Bangladesh contributes less than 0.5% of global carbon emissions but faces severe climate impacts, including rising sea levels, land loss and climate-induced displacement, with women and children among the most vulnerable.

She called for evidence-based advocacy using reliable data, research and community experiences.

Bangladesh Needs $116.18b to Implement NDC 3.0



Bangladesh will need an estimated US$116.18 billion to implement its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) for 2026–2035, including $90.23 billion in international support, a national dialogue was told recently.

The figures were presented at a dialogue titled "People-Led Policy: Bangladesh Position at COP31" at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka, organised by a coalition of 33 national and international organisations ahead of the UN climate conference in Antalya, Türkiye.

NDC 3.0 targets a 20.31% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, equivalent to 84.97 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan for 2023–2050 identifies 113 initiatives requiring around $230 billion.

Participants stressed the need for grant-based climate finance, industrial emission reductions, improved waste management and a just energy transition that protects workers.

They also called for stronger coordination among the government, civil society, youth and private sector to present a unified position at COP31.

1.5°C Goal Will Not Be Easy To Achieve

The gap between GHG emission plans, their implementation and actual needs remains enormous. Even if Global South countries adopt and implement ambitious greenhouse gas reduction plans, these efforts alone will not deliver a major global breakthrough. Historically high-emitting countries must take far more ambitious action, but they appear reluctant. As a result, limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of this century will be extremely difficult.

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State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shaikh Faridul Islam MP made these remarks in an interview with Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor of Energy & Power, ahead of the UN Climate Conference, COP31, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye.

Developed countries, particularly the Global North, are increasingly calling for private investment to address climate impacts. Such investment may be available for mitigation, but financing for adaptation and loss and damage remains a major challenge for the Global South. How will Bangladesh pursue climate finance at the international level?

The Global South is seeking public-sector financing, preferably in the form of grants, to address climate impacts. The position of the Global North is quite different. We argue that those responsible for pollution must acknowledge their responsibility and provide compensation for the damage caused.

We will continue working collectively in negotiations to strengthen this position. One of the biggest challenges, however, is the United States. Although it is among the world's largest historical emitters, it has shown little interest in supporting countries affected by climate change. It has also withdrawn from the COP process.

Nevertheless, many other countries remain interested in investing in climate action. Bangladesh, along with other affected countries, will present evidence of the damage caused by climate change and explain how different sectors are being affected.

The new government has also prepared for this process in consultation with stakeholders. Bangladesh has developed a position paper with the participation of experts, civil society representatives and academics. This will provide the foundation for our negotiations at COP31.

Ultimately, our expectations must be translated into outcomes through negotiations. We will therefore focus on making a strong case for climate finance, particularly grant-based support, from countries with high emissions.

The UN climate conference begins with a Leaders' Summit. Will Prime Minister Tarique Rahman participate? What commitments will Bangladesh present to the international community on climate action?

The international community wants to know what each country is doing to reduce climate risks and address climate-related damage. The new government has placed the highest priority on nature-based solutions.

Bangladesh has already planted 35.5 million trees, and we plan to plant another 20 million by December. These initiatives can make a significant contribution to reducing climate risks. The government's canal-digging program and efforts to expand renewable energy will also help address environmental challenges.

Alongside these initiatives, the Prime Minister will present Bangladesh's greenhouse gas reduction efforts to the international community. He will explain what Bangladesh is doing in line with its own responsibilities and seek support from developed countries.

In particular, Bangladesh will call on major polluters to provide investment support to vulnerable countries for climate adaptation and resilience. We will emphasize that such assistance should be grant-based rather than adding to the debt burden of climate-vulnerable countries.

The recently published Emissions Gap Report warns that, under current trends, global temperature rise could reach 2.7°C by the end of this century. It says emissions must be reduced by 18 percent



Shaikh Faridul Islam

The Global South is seeking public-sector financing, preferably in the form of grants, to address climate impacts. We argue that those responsible for pollution must acknowledge their responsibility and provide compensation for the damage caused. We will continue working collectively in negotiations to strengthen this position. One of the biggest challenges, however, is the United States. Although it is among the world's largest historical emitters, it has shown little interest in supporting countries affected by climate change.

by 2030, 45 percent by 2035 and 69 percent by 2040 to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach. Renewable energy capacity must also triple by 2035, while coal use falls by 75 percent, oil by 15 percent and gas by 5 percent. Are these targets achievable?

Based on the investment plans and actions currently being pursued by countries, particularly historically high-emitting countries and emerging economies, keeping global temperature rise within 1.5°C by the end of this century will not be easy.

Countries like Bangladesh may adopt ambitious plans to reduce emissions, but those efforts alone cannot deliver the required global outcome. Historically high-emitting countries, as well as newer major emitters, must adopt and implement much more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction plans.

However, the United States and other OECD countries do not appear sufficiently interested in taking such action. The Global South will therefore need to develop new strategies to increase pressure on them.

Young people around the world are already calling for greater investment to address climate impacts. We need to encourage young people, particularly those in major emitting countries, to put pressure on their own political leaders to adopt policies that support climate investment and emissions reduction.

The challenge is not simply to set targets. It is to ensure that countries implement them at the scale and speed required.

Bangladesh has adopted its NDC 3.0, which envisages US$116 billion in investment to reduce emissions by 2035, including US$90 billion from international sources. What strategy has Bangladesh adopted to mobilize this finance? Will you pursue bilateral discussions in Antalya alongside the formal COP negotiations?

We have already consulted stakeholders and organizations working on climate issues in Bangladesh. They have provided recommendations on strategies for accessing climate finance, and we will use those suggestions to pursue international investment for implementing our NDC.

Alongside the formal negotiations at COP31, Bangladesh will present its projects and programs to multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and other development partners. We want to continue discussions with them so that these proposals can lead to financing.

Ultimately, the decision to provide funding rests with the partners. Our responsibility is to present our needs and programs clearly and logically. I believe they will recognize the importance of our proposals and come forward with support.

The Global North appears to be prioritizing military expenditure over investment in climate action. Is the Global South working collectively to persuade them to redirect resources? What role do you expect international civil society organizations to play?

We need to look at these issues realistically. I recently visited China, where I saw industries operating in environmentally responsible ways. We must accurately demonstrate the progress we have made in reducing pollution and explain what further action is possible.

At the same time, developed countries are increasing military expenditure. However, their own citizens are not necessarily accepting this approach, and public concerns are increasingly reflected in national elections.

The Global South should take initiatives to help young people and civil society organizations in developed countries exert more effective pressure on their governments. People in those countries are showing growing interest in nature-based solutions, green development and environmentally friendly products.

These public preferences can gradually influence political leaders and encourage them to prioritize investment in climate action over military spending. Stronger cooperation between governments, civil society and young people will be important in building that pressure.

What is the government doing to generate carbon credits from emissions-reduction projects and other initiatives?

Carbon credit initiatives have previously been pursued in a fragmented manner. This time, the government has begun working systematically to identify which projects can generate carbon credits and how those credits can be obtained.

We are examining the carbon benefits of the tree-planting program currently underway. We are also expanding solar energy and assessing how these initiatives can generate carbon benefits.

The objective is to develop a more coordinated approach so that Bangladesh can identify and make effective use of the opportunities available through carbon markets.

Countries organize various activities at climate conferences to present their national priorities. What issues will Bangladesh highlight in Antalya?

We will highlight the government's work on nature-based solutions to address climate impacts. More broadly, Bangladesh will present the actions it is taking in keeping with its commitment to protecting the planet.

We want the international community to understand that Bangladesh is taking action despite its limited contribution to global emissions and its high vulnerability to climate impacts. We will also emphasize the need for international cooperation and support to help vulnerable countries strengthen their resilience.

Has Bangladesh planned meetings with international development partners on the sidelines of COP31?

The Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with the heads of the United Nations and other international organizations. During these discussions, Bangladesh will present its programs on alternative energy development and ongoing adaptation initiatives, and seek support for their implementation.

We will use these engagements to explain our priorities and explore opportunities for cooperation. Our objective is to secure the support needed to advance climate resilience, clean energy and sustainable development in Bangladesh.

HSC RESULTS DEBACLE: WHAT'S THE MESSAGE

Reverse Swing



Farid Hossain

The sweetmeat shops were ready with an additional production. Examinees spent a sleepless night in anticipation of the results. Guardians were restless. Then were published the results. This time there had hardly been any dance, songs, exchange of cheerful hugs. Nor there had been happy distribution of sweetmeats.

When one out of two students fails in crucial nationwide examinations, calling the results unsatisfactory is an understatement. The results in this year's HSC exams (with pass rates in nine education boards averaging at 51.62%) have been a debacle, the worst in the past 22 years. The last time the HSC pass rates dropped below this year's performance (47.74%) was in 2024. Coincidentally, that time too BNP was in the power. The number of students passing with GPA-5, the brightest of the results, has also declined significantly. However, cheers to those who have passed, especially with GPA-5

When nearly half the students flunk in nationwide exams such as the HSC it exposes many an ills in the entire education system. Cheers to those who have passed, especially with GPA-5. A preliminary review of the results sheets show that many of the examinees failed in the compulsory subject of English and some in the ICT. In both subjects the unsuccessful students will get one more month to reappear in the tests. That is expected to add more students to the list of the success.



Many of their families will go for their marriages than sending back to classes. For them there is no point in sending a failed student for a second try.

Hard questions and strict assessment standards are being cited as the reasons why the pass rates crashed this year. No grace marks have been added to those who flunked in one or two subjects falling short by one or two marks. The education ministry under the supervision of a minister known as a hard taskmaster refuses to comprise with the strict rules set to find what it says the best of the talents. The other factors that have led to the debacle are prolonged closure of classes due to Covid-19 pandemic, learning losses caused by student unrest, especially during the July upsurge, indiscipline in the entire education sector, the Yunus-led interim government's failure to bring the students back to classes from the streets, shortage of skilled teachers in the classrooms, financial constraints faced by the families and the rural-urban gap in the quality of education. Above all, the structural weaknesses in the education system are also blamed for low quality in education. The education system in Bangladesh has long been struggling with finding an answer to its chronic illness. The number of schools and colleges is increasing. Private institutions are outnumbering the government-run colleges. The number of skilled teachers in the classrooms has gradually been declining. Too many changes and experiments with the curricula are confusing both the students and the teachers. A big issue has been the gradual politicization of the education system.

The debacle has raised many a question. What is going to happen to the unsuccessful students? Will they be able to return to classes or be dropped out of schooling? How many of the families can send their children back to colleges to try for a second chance? The question is more pertinent for women students. Many of their families will go for their marriages than sending back to classes. For them there is no point in sending a failed student for a second try. What is going to happen with the seats available in the higher university education? While public institutions like the Dhaka University are expected to face lesser flow of admission-seeking students many of the private universities will have their seats vacant or half-filled. According to a Times of Bangladesh newspaper report 40% of the higher education seats may remain vacant because of the low HSC pass rates. This means the entire education system suffers. EP

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