



# BERC BULLETIN

October 2025

Issue 01

Volume 01



**Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission**

**BERC Bulletin**

October 2025

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**Cover Photo Description**

1. Eastern Refinery Limited, Chattogram (*Front Cover*)
2. Bijoy-10 Rig, Jamalpur Well Drilling Project (*Back Cover*)

**Designed by**  
Mainul Hasan Seam  
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**Jalal Ahmed**

Chairman  
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

It is with great pleasure we present the first edition of the BERC Bulletin, a comprehensive reflection of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission's ongoing efforts, progress and commitment in ensuring transparency, efficiency and innovation in the country's energy sector.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) was established as an independent, neutral, and quasi-judicial statutory body under the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act, 2003 to create a competitive energy market, ensure proper management and control, transparent tariff setting, and establish a consumer and investment friendly environment in the energy sector.

This bulletin encapsulates a period of dynamic change and development highlighting notable achievements such as the onboarding of interns across key departments, active consultations with stakeholders for improved safety standards, the initiation of new systems such as automation of BERC for enhanced service and the relocation of BERC's headquarters to a modern facility at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) building. These steps demonstrate BERC's proactive approach to not only regulating but also advancing Bangladesh's energy landscape. We have taken steps to prepare a research guideline to invest in research projects from the research fund of the Commission.

Additionally, significant initiatives like the introduction of a Uniform Accounting System for the gas sector, the signing of an MoU with Texas A&M University and various tariff determinations specially Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel) reaffirm our commitment to global best practices and informed policymaking. Our dedication to stakeholder engagement and international collaboration ensures that Bangladesh remains on a forward trajectory in addressing the challenges and opportunities in the energy domain.

I extend sincere thanks to all stakeholders, contributors, and officials who have played a role in shaping the outcomes featured in this bulletin. Your continued dedication is the cornerstone of our progress.

We hope this edition serves as a valuable insight into BERC's work and inspires further collaboration toward a secure, sustainable, and inclusive energy future for Bangladesh.

## **Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia**

Chairman, Editorial Committee and  
Member (Petroleum)  
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission



Welcome to the first issue of the BERC Bulletin, a new platform to share the Commission's activities, insights, and initiatives with our stakeholders and the wider energy community.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), established in 2003 and operational since 2004, was entrusted with a significant responsibility to ensure transparency, growth, and fairness in the country's energy sector. Yet for much of its journey, BERC remained less visible to the broader public, its work often understated despite its far-reaching impact.

The new Commission, formed in the spirit of the July Revolution, has set out to change that narrative-to carry forward the legacy of reform and renewal. Keeping this vision in mind, BERC has embraced two guiding principles as its motto: "Proactive" and "Enabling Environment." To realize its proactive approach, BERC has undertaken a series of initiatives and continues to explore new opportunities to strengthen its regulatory mandate and institutional capacity. To foster an enabling environment, the commission emphasizes awareness-building, knowledge-sharing, and stakeholder engagement across the energy value chain to facilitate the regulators, operators, and consumers move together toward shared goals. In line with these goals, BERC decided to publish a quarterly bulletin in an early 2025 commission meeting.

Through this bulletin, we hope to keep our stakeholders informed, connected, and inspired by the progress being made. The BERC Bulletin is not just a record of activities; it is a reflection of our commitment to openness, innovation, and shared growth in the nation's energy journey.

I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the Editorial Committee and all contributors for their dedication and support in bringing out this publication. A special note of thanks goes to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission for his leadership and to the Respected Members for encouragement in making this publication possible.

Coming from an academic background, I take great pride in serving as the Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the inaugural issue of the BERC Bulletin. This first edition marks the beginning of an exciting journey. We look forward to exploring the future of energy in Bangladesh together.

# Editorial Note

## Towards a Proactive BERC for Sustainable Energy



**Dr. Md. Didarul Alam**

Executive Editor and Director (Petroleum)  
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

It is with great enthusiasm that we present the first issue of the BERC Bulletin, a new initiative of the present Commission aimed at transforming the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) into a proactive, transparent, and knowledge-driven regulator. This publication marks a step forward in our journey to ensure sustainability and energy security through effective regulation, stakeholder engagement, and informed policy actions.

Established under the BERC Act, 2003, the Commission serves as an independent and impartial regulatory body committed to four guiding principles — encouraging private and public investment, ensuring transparency, protecting consumer interests, and fostering competition in the energy market. Over the years, BERC has evolved with a solid legal and institutional framework, upholding its mandate to regulate electricity, gas, and petroleum businesses under Section 27 of the Act. The Commission comprises a chairman, four Members, and an executive team supported by professional staff, now expanding from 81 to a proposed 146 to enhance operational efficiency.

Key activities reflect BERC's growing role in energy governance:



To strengthen its proactive stance, BERC is pursuing reforms on multiple fronts — legal updates to include emerging energy domains like renewables and hydrogen; structural expansion including a testing institute; digital transformation through e-licensing and mobile apps; financial reforms with reduced license fees; and behavioral initiatives through workshops, internships, and international collaboration, including an MoU with Texas A&M University.

The BERC Bulletin will continue to capture and communicate these developments quarterly, serving as a bridge between the Commission and its stakeholders. Through this platform, we reaffirm our mission — to make BERC not just a regulator, but a catalyst for sustainable, equitable, and secure energy for Bangladesh.

# Meet the Commission

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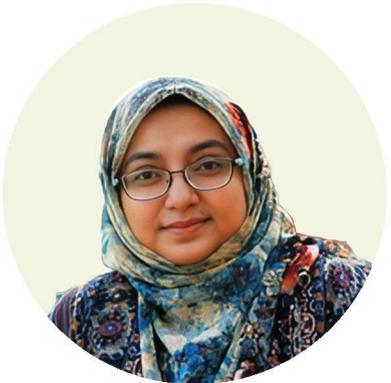
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## History of Gas Exploration and Future Plans

Natural gas is highlighted as a strategically important resource crucial for economic growth, industrialization, and public stability, serving as the main source for power generation and playing a dominant role in various sectors including industry, commerce, and households. Despite its importance, the country faces a significant supply deficit; current daily demand exceeds 3,800 mmscf, while the total supply is only about 2,850 mmscf (1,800 mmscf domestic and 1,050 mmscf imported LNG), leading to 1000 mmscf shortfall that hampers the production sector and reduces industrial and power generation output.

The historical overview reveals that gas exploration began over a hundred years ago during the British colonial period. The first well was drilled in the Sitakundo structure in 1910, though without commercial success.

Only 6 wells were drilled between 1910 and 1947. Post-Partition and pre-independence (1947-1971), 21 exploration wells led to the discovery of 8 gas fields, including the first one at Haripur, Sylhet, in 1955 by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and the country's largest, Titas, discovered in 1962 by Pakistan Shell Oil Company (PSOC). Since independence (1971), 73 exploration wells have been drilled (21 offshore and 52 onshore), resulting in the discovery of 22 gas fields, including notable ones like Bibiyana (1998), the last large discovery, which occurred over two decades ago. Small fields have been found recently, but their reserves are deemed insufficient for future energy security.



Author:  
**Md. Mijanur Rahman**  
Member, BERC



*New rigs for the drilling of 10X of Sylhet Gas Field*

Sylhet Gas Field Limited (SGFL) was established to manage gas fields like Sylhet/Haripur, Chatak, Rashidpur, Kailashtila, and Beanibazar. Key field summaries include:

Sylhet/Haripur Gas-Plant	Chatak Gas-Plant	Rashidpur Gas-Plant	Kailashtila Gas-Plant	Beanibazar Gas-Plant
<p>Discovered in 1955. Wells Sylhet-1 and Sylhet-4 suffered blow outs. The field also contains the Haripur oil field, declared in 1986. Currently, 4 wells produce about 13 mmscf and 103 barrels of condensate, with 156 BCF remaining reserves. Future plans include drilling Sylhet-11, Sylhet 10X, and Sylhet-12 wells based on recent 3D seismic surveys.</p>	<p>Discovered in 1959. Extracted 27 BCF before abandonment in 1985. A joint venture with Niko led to the catastrophic blow-outs of the Chatak-2 and Chatak-2/A wells in 2004, an incident for which ICSID ruled in favor of Bangladesh, though financial compensation is still pending.</p>	<p>Discovered in 1960. Currently, 7 wells produce about 62 mmscf and 32 barrels of condensate, with 547 BCF remaining reserves. Two new exploration wells are planned based on re-evaluated 3D data.</p>	<p>Discovered in 1962. Currently, 4 wells produce about 47 mmscf and 657 barrels of condensate, with 72 BCF remaining reserves. Two new wells, Kailashtila-9 and Kailashtila-10, are planned.</p>	<p>Discovered in 1981. Currently, 2 wells produce about 13 mmscf and 199 barrels of condensate, with 115 BCF remaining reserves. Multiple new wells are planned following recent 3D surveys.</p>

On the whole SGFL is contributing 140 mmscf through national grid. SGFL is also expanding its exploration into new areas like Atgram, Dupitila, Batchia, and Hararganj (Block-12, -13, -14 areas), with

plans to drill multiple new exploration wells (Dupitila-1, Batchia-1, Hararganj-1) based on ongoing 3D seismic surveys. The document concludes by realizing the necessity of a coordinated approach to natural gas exploration and production to address the acute energy crisis.

## BERC Relocates Office to IEB Building

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has relocated its office from the TCB Building to the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Building, Ramna. In its 15/2024 meeting held on 24 December 2024, the Commission reviewed a proposal highlighting the severe space limitations at the TCB Building amid BERC's expanding responsibilities. After evaluating several options in Agargaon, Tejgaon, and Ramna, a 36,000 sq. ft. space at the IEB Building was selected as suitable for accommodating 146 personnel. An official relocation notice was published on 22 June 2025 on the Commission's website and in national newspapers. From the same date, all services are being delivered in full swing from the new office premises.



*New office of BERC at IEB Building*

## LPG Safety Campaign



A consultation meeting on the LPG Safety Campaign was held on 19 March 2025 between BERC and the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB). The consultation focused on promoting LPG safety, exploring Synthetic Natural LPG (SNG) potential, and addressing industry challenges. Key decisions included to start a nationwide BERC-LOAB Joint Awareness Campaign, explore the potential of Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), and address the policy and industry challenges. It was also decided to review the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) to ensure inclusion of BERC's Draft LPG Codes and Standards, 2024, and relevant Codes and Standards for safer installation of LPG systems in buildings. These decisions underscore BERC's commitment to strengthening LPG safety awareness, fostering innovation through SNG, and ensuring compliance with safety standards in the energy sector.

## BERC Welcomes First Batch of Interns



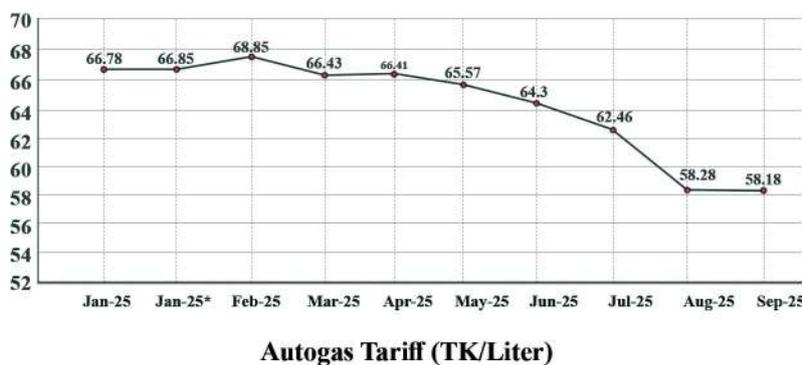
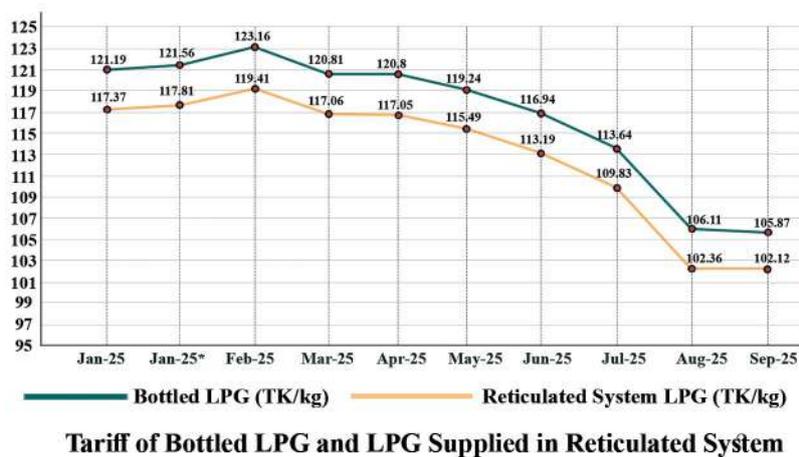
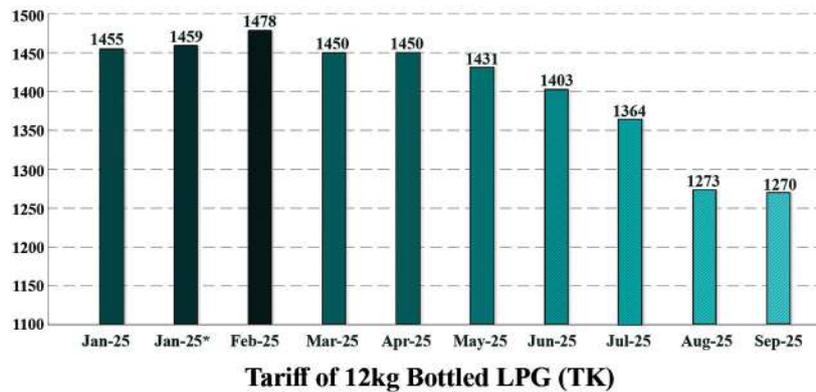
*First batch of interns of BERC*

BERC has welcomed 10 interns across six branches to support its activities and provide graduates with practical exposure to the energy sector. In its 2/2025th meeting on 28 January 2025, the Commission approved a broader internship program covering electricity, gas, tariffs, laws and regulations, finance, and accounting. The initiative aims to enhance professional development opportunities for university graduates while assisting BERC officers in managing their diverse responsibilities. Following this decision, 10 interns officially joined the Commission on 27 April 2025.

## Tariff Updates

### LPG

Since April 2021, in line with a High Court Order (Writ Petition No. 13683/2016) and Sections 22(b) and 34 of the BERC Act, 2003, the Commission has been determining tariff of LPG and Autogas based on the Saudi Contract Price (Saudi CP).



These three graphs present tariff of 12 KG Bottled LPG, bottled LPG and LPG supplied in Reticulated System, and Autogas from January to September 2025, respectively.

Separately, on 31 December 2024, LP Gas Limited (LPG), a government LPG bottling licensee, proposed

raising consumer-level tariff considering the refinery costs and operational expenses. After reviewing LPG purchase cost at ERL/RPGCL level, administrative costs, and cylinder maintenance cost, the Commission determined the consumer-level tariff of a 12.5 kg cylinder of government LPG at BDT 825, effective from 4 May 2025.

## Natural Gas



Press briefing for Natural Gas Tariff announcement

Under Section 34(6) of the BERC Act, 2003, and following a public hearing on proposals from Petrobangla and gas distribution companies, the Commission issued gas Order No. 2025/07 on 13 April 2025 revising gas tariffs for industrial and captive power consumers. For existing consumers, current tariffs remain unchanged up to the approved load, while promiscuous industrial and captive consumers will enjoy existing tariffs up to 50% of their approved load.

However, for new consumers, promiscuous consumers exceeding consumption 50% of approved load, and existing consumers using beyond their approved load, the tariff has been determined at Tk. 40.00 per cubic meter for industrial consumers and Tk. 42.00 per cubic meter for captive power consumers. The Commission also directed distribution companies with system loss above 5% to reduce it below this level within one year.

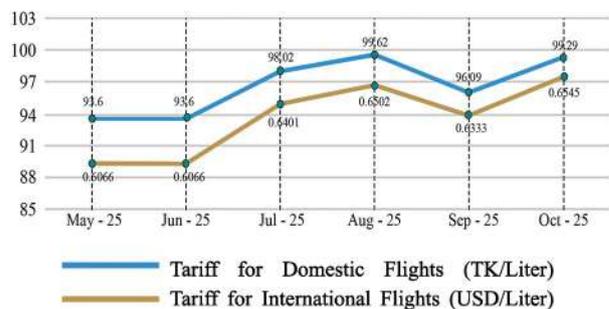
## Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel)

In accordance with Sections 34(4) and 34(6) of the BERC Act, 2003, and after a public hearing on proposals from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), the Commission determined Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel) tariff at BDT 93.57 per liter for domestic flights (inclusive of duties and VAT) and USD 0.6066 per liter for international flights (exclusive of duties and VAT) for the first time. The storage and supply charge of BPC has been determined at BDT 4.04 per liter, and POCL's marketing charge at BDT 0.88 per liter.

Tariff will be adjusted monthly based on Platts rates, dollar exchange rates, and transport cost variations. The Commission also issued directives to BPC and POCL, including preparing a regulatory guideline for the Fuel Sector Development Fund, to review permissible ocean loss rates, to report benefits of project, to avoid surcharge and demurrage, to reduce receivables, and to assess local refinery sourcing. As per tariff order the monthly tariff of Jet A-1 has been adjusted by the commission as follows:



Public Hearing for Jet A-1 Tariff



Tariff of Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel)

## Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

In response to the growing use of electric vehicles (EVs) across the country, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has taken steps to establish an appropriate tariff structure for EV charging stations. Following the 2020 tariff order that introduced the MT-7 consumer category for medium-tension (MT) electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, the Commission carried out a detailed review and arranged public hearings to determine an appropriate and updated tariff framework. Following the public hearing, BERC issued Order No. 2024/08 on 30 June 2024, setting the service/station charge at Tk. 5.68 per kWh and determining consumer-level tariffs at Tk. 16.24/kWh (flat), Tk. 15.21/kWh (off-peak), Tk. 14.22/kWh (super off-peak), and Tk. 18.97/kWh (peak) for EV charging stations connected at the medium-tension level. This initiative aims to support the emerging EV ecosystem and ensure a transparent and sustainable tariff framework for the sector.



*EV Charging Station in Bangladesh*

## New Licenses Issued in Power, Gas and Petroleum Sector

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) continued its licensing activities across petroleum, gas, and power sectors during FY 2024-25. In the petroleum sector, 47 new licenses were issued, compared to 90 in the previous year. The gas sector granted 16 new licenses, marking a decrease from 40 in FY 2023-24. In the power sector, 220 new licenses were

issued, following 310 in the previous year. Over the past five years, the Commission has consistently facilitated licensing, issuing 419, 210 and 861 new licenses from Petroleum, Gas and Power department respectively between FY 2020-21 to 2024-25. From July to September 2025, Petroleum, Gas and Power department issued 11, 1 and 64 new licenses respectively.

## Dispute Settlement

From January to September 2025, BERC received 65 dispute settlement applications, most involving illegal connections, excessive electricity bills, meter tampering, minimum bill impositions, pulse-missing issues, surcharges, meter malfunctions, and Liquidated Damages related to excess fuel consumption and outages. Of these, 5 were CNG-related, 26 electricity-related, and 34 industrial gas-related. During this period, the Commission resolved 52 disputes and issued awards, of which 8 were CNG-related, 13 were electricity-related, and 31 were industrial gas-related cases.



*Dispute resolution, a quasi-judiciary function of BERC*

## Scheme Approval for Licensees, a Regulatory Approach for Energy Sector Expansion

At its 7th Commission meeting of 2025 held on 22 April, the BERC reviewed the legal requirement for licensees to obtain prior approval for schemes under their overall plans, following a Power Division query regarding the Levelized Tariff for the BPDB–EGCB PPA for the Sonagazi solar project in Feni. Although the 50 MW (later revised to 75 MW) plant began commercial operation without prior BERC approval, the Commission allowed its continuation considering its renewable energy significance.

The commission reaffirmed that under Section 22(d) of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act, 2003, and Regulation 19 of the BERC License Regulations, 2006, approval is mandatory for licensees before adopting new schemes. The Commission further directed to all relevant government licensees, reiterating this requirement, and that licensees must submit the necessary information within 30 days as per prescribed format.

## BERC to Strengthen Verification of Licensees' Financial Reports

On 22 April 2025, the BERC discussed the verification of audited financial reports submitted by electricity, gas, and petroleum licensees. Under the BERC Act, 2003, audited financial data is crucial for ensuring cost-reflective tariffs, consumer protection, and sectoral investment. Currently, BERC reviews the past three years of audited reports but faces challenges in detailed verification due to time

constraints. To address this, the Commission decided that licensees must submit both summaries and full reports covering assets, liabilities, income, expenses, and system losses. BERC also set to periodically engage independent auditing firms for deeper review of the financial reports of the licensees.

## BERC Launches Auto Messaging System for Licensees

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has launched an Auto Messaging System under its E-Licensing platform to improve communication with licensees in the electricity, gas, and petroleum sectors. Developed by TechnoVista Limited, the system automates SMS and email alerts for new applications, renewals, amendments, extensions, and cancellations. Key features

include reminders of 30 and 7 days before license expiry, simultaneous SMS and email notifications, and reporting modules for undelivered messages. Following approval at the Commission's 8th meeting of 2025, BERC issued a work order to TechnoVista, and the system has been fully operational since 13 July 2025.

## BERC Introduced Uniform Accounting System for Energy Sector

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has introduced a Uniform System of Accounts for electricity sector entities as part of its mandate to standardize financial reporting across licensees. Through Order No. 2024/07 issued on 30 June 2024, BERC directed BPDB, PGCB, REB, DPDC, DESCO, WZPDCL, and

NESCO to implement the system from 1 July 2024. This follows the Commission's earlier initiative in the gas sector, where a uniform accounting system was established under Order No. 2018/01 and supported by Commission-funded web-based software to ensure transparent and consistent reporting.

## BERC Organizes Extensive Training Programs and Workshops for Capacity Building

From January to September 2025, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) organized a series of training programs for its officers and staffs covering technical, regulatory, and administrative areas. The sessions included topics such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), offshore exploration, drilling and hydrocarbon testing, electricity distribution, metering and billing system, customized ERP solution, grid integration, SABRE+ budget reporting software, and risk management of LPG, CNG, and petroleum products. Other trainings focused on the Conduct Rules 1979, Discipline and Appeal Rules 2018, Public Procurement Act and Rules, workplace ethics and efficiency enhancement, Income Tax Return Submission,



*In house training on Secretariat Instruction 2024*

Secretariat Instructions, D-nothi, Review of BERC Act-2003, Office Management etc. A total of 92 participants attended these programs, reflecting BERC's strong emphasis on capacity building and professional development. Different representatives from BPDB, PGB PLC and BUET were present.

## BERC Engages Energy Journalists in Workshop on Well Drilling and Safety

To promote informed and accurate reporting on the energy sector, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) organized a workshop on "Well Drilling, Gas Zone Identification Testing (DST), Reserve Estimation, and Safety Management" for energy and power sector journalists on July 15, 2025, at the Commission's premises. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Hon'ble Chairman of BERC, who attended as the Chief Guest and emphasized the importance of precise and responsible journalism in communicating complex technical issues related to gas exploration and safety.



Key presentations were delivered by Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia (Member, Petroleum) and Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman (Member, Gas), highlighting technical aspects of well drilling, gas zone identification, reserve estimation, and operational safety. About forty journalists participated in

the program. Members of the Commission, including Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak and Brigadier General Mohammad Shahid Sarwar (Retd.), along with the Secretary and senior officials of BERC, were also present. The workshop served as an effective platform for dialogue

between regulators and the media, enhancing journalists' understanding of petroleum operations while reinforcing BERC's commitment to transparency, safety, and efficiency in energy resource management.

## BERC Holds Workshop on Aviation Fuel Tariff

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has recently assumed the authority to determine the tariff of jet fuel, a responsibility previously held by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). This new mandate follows the abolition of the provision allowing the executive branch to set energy prices through a gazette notification issued on August 27, 2024. The amendment restored BERC's exclusive authority to set energy tariffs, including aviation fuel. BERC began setting the jet fuel tariff in May 2025, marking a significant step toward greater transparency and regulatory consistency in the energy pricing framework. The Commission now makes monthly tariff adjustments based on international Platts rates, exchange rate variations, and other relevant market factors. To aware and engage stakeholders, BERC organized a workshop titled "Aviation Fuel Pricing in Bangladesh" on August 10, 2025, at its office premises. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Hon'ble Chairman of BERC, as the Chief Guest. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Md. Didarul Alam, Director (Petroleum). Panelists included Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia (Member, Petroleum), Mr. A.T.M. Selim (Senior GM, BPC), Gp. Capt. (Retd.) Mofizur Rahman (President,



AOB and CEO, Novoair) and Mr. S.M. Liaquat Hossain (DGM, Biman Bangladesh) Bangladesh). The session was moderated by Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Sarkar, Secretary of the Commission, and attended by BERC Members Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak, Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, and Brig. Gen. Mohammad Shahid Sarwar (Retd.), along with senior officials.

The workshop discussed the legal framework, tariff components, and implications of aviation fuel pricing at the consumer level, fostering dialogue among regulators, industry stakeholders, and aviation operators.

## BERC Holds Workshop on Establishing Testing Institute for Energy Efficiency and Quality Control

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) organized a stakeholder workshop on "Establishment/Involvement of Testing Institute" on September 18, 2025, at its office premises. The event aimed to advance BERC's mandate under Section 22(a) of the BERC Act, which includes assessing energy efficiency, verifying fuel consumption, and ensuring the quality of

energy-related equipments through regular audits and testing.

Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Hon'ble Chairman of BERC, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Didarul Alam, Director (Petroleum), delivered the keynote presentation emphasizing the need for a dedicated Testing Institute to strengthen energy efficiency and quality assurance.

Members of the Commission, Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia (Petroleum), Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman (Gas), and Brigadier General Mohammad Shahid Sarwar (Retd., Power) led the technical discussions. The session was moderated by Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Finance and Accounts). Representatives from BUET, BCSIR, BSTI, BPDB, Eastern Refinery Limited, Standard Asiatic Oil Company Limited, and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited participated in the workshop.



In his remarks, the Chairman stated that the Government has allocated land for the establishment of the Commission’s Testing Institute. A committee has been formed to draft operational guidelines for the institute, develop quality control procedures, and initiate research

on energy loss and fuel efficiency. In the meantime, BERC will collaborate with national organizations to utilize existing testing facilities in support of its energy efficiency and conservation objectives.

## BERC and ERC Philippines Exchange Best Practices in Energy Regulation

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) held a bilateral online meeting with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Philippines, on 6 February 2025 to exchange experiences and best practices in the fields of energy generation, distribution, transmission and regulation.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia, Member, BERC while the Philippine delegation was led by Nancy Aurora Q. Fajardo, Executive Director, ERC, Philippines. Other attendees included Atty. Maria Corazon C. Gines, Director ERC,

Gines, Director ERC, Philippines and two of her colleagues; M. M. Julker Naim Dhrobo, representative of the Bangladesh Embassy in Manila; and from BERC, Dr. Didarul Alam, Director, and Mr. Md. Rezaul Haque, Assistant Director.

Dr. Razia emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to promote efficient, transparent, and consumer-focused energy regulation across Asia. Both sides discussed their respective regulatory frameworks, administrative structures, and ongoing reforms. Following information was shared by the ERC, Philippines. The ERC, Philippines, operates with a seven-year term for its Commission, where the Chairman must be a lawyer and at least one member an accountant. A new proposal has been placed to include engineers and economists in the Commission to enhance its technical and analytical capacity. The Philippines' power generation facilities are mostly privately owned, leading to higher retail tariffs. The country has a total generation capacity of 25,291 MW,



against a demand of 17,331 MW. Its energy mix comprises: Coal: 44%, Oil: 14%, Natural Gas: 18%, Hydro: 8%, Geothermal: 7%, Solar: 5%, Biogas: 2% and Wind: 2%. About 76% of total power generation still depends on fossil fuels, while 24% comes from renewable sources. The Philippines aims to raise its renewable share to 35% by 2030, including 15 GW of offshore wind power. Licensees of ERC, Philippines are issued Certificates of Compliance (COC), renewed every five years for generation and four years for distribution. Around 300 inspectors, primarily engineers, conduct facility inspections some via live-streaming platforms due to the country's geographic spread of over 7,600 islands.

Dr. Razia proposed organizing a joint webinar to further exchange regulatory and technical insights between BERC and ERC. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to foster cooperation for a more efficient and sustainable energy future.

## BERC Engages in Regional Collaboration through SAFIR

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) continues to play an active role in promoting regional collaboration through its participation in the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR), a regional coalition of regulatory commissions working to advance infrastructure regulation across South Asia.

Established in 1999, SAFIR has been instrumental in promoting high-quality capacity building, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices among infrastructure and energy regulators in the region. As an active member, BERC regularly contributes to SAFIR's programs and events, including Executive and Steering Committee Meetings, training courses, conferences, workshops, and webinars.

During 2024 and 2025, BERC representatives participated in several significant SAFIR activities. These included the SAFIR Joint Working Group Meeting held on 8 January 2024, the Annual Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation in Energy Infrastructure on 1–2 March 2024, and the 22nd SAFIR Core Course on 10–12 March 2024. BERC also took part in the SAFIR Webinar on Incentivizing Green Energy through Regulation on 27 March 2024. Continuing its engagement, BERC joined the 26th Executive Committee Meeting on 15 April 2024, followed by the 27th Executive Committee Meeting, the 30th Steering Committee Meeting, and the SAFIR Regional Regulatory Dialogue, all held on 12 December 2024.

In 2025, BERC attended the 28th Executive Committee Meeting on 17 July.

Through such consistent participation, BERC continues to strengthen its collaboration with regional regulatory bodies and contribute to SAFIR's mission of advancing regulatory governance, energy market integration, and sustainable infrastructure development across South Asia.

*Hon'ble Chairman of the BERC, along with other distinguished guests in the inaugural session of the SAFIR Regional Regulatory Dialogue on 12 December 2024.*



## BERC Member Delivered Keynote at the 48th Brazilian Chemical Congress

Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia, Member of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) and Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), delivered a keynote at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society (48th RASBQ), held from June 8–11, 2025, at Expo Dom Pedro, Campinas-SP, Brazil. Dr. Razia was invited by Prof. Dr. Elisa Souza Orth, General Secretary of the Brazilian Chemical Society (SBQ) and Professor at the Federal University of Paraná. The SBQ Annual Meeting is one of the most prominent scientific gatherings in Latin America, attracting around 2,000 participants annually from academia, industry, and government institutions.

The 2025 conference, themed “Climate Emergencies? Chemistry Acts and Reacts,” focused on the role of chemical science and policy in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges. Dr. Razia delivered her keynote presentation on “Integrating Safety, Security, and Sustainability Principles into Chemical Policy and Best Practices.”

Her talk highlighted how these three dimensions, safety, security, and sustainability, form the foundation for effective energy and chemical sector regulation. Drawing on her experience at BERC, she emphasized the need for science-informed policy frameworks that balance industrial growth with risk management, environmental protection, and public welfare. Her participation, supported by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and SBQ, highlighted



*Keynote speaker Dr. Razia with Elisa Souza Orth, President of organizing committee 48 RASBQ*

Bangladesh's growing leadership in promoting safe, secure, and sustainable energy policy.

The event brought together more than 40 international speakers and over 30 scientific sessions, facilitating global dialogue on sustainable chemistry, innovation, and regulatory best practices.

BERC congratulates Dr. Razia for representing Bangladesh on this prestigious global platform.

## BERC Signs MoU with Texas A&M Energy Institute to Foster Research and Capacity Building

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Texas A&M Energy Institute (TAMEI) and Texas A&M University, USA, to promote collaborative research, innovation, and capacity development in the energy sector.

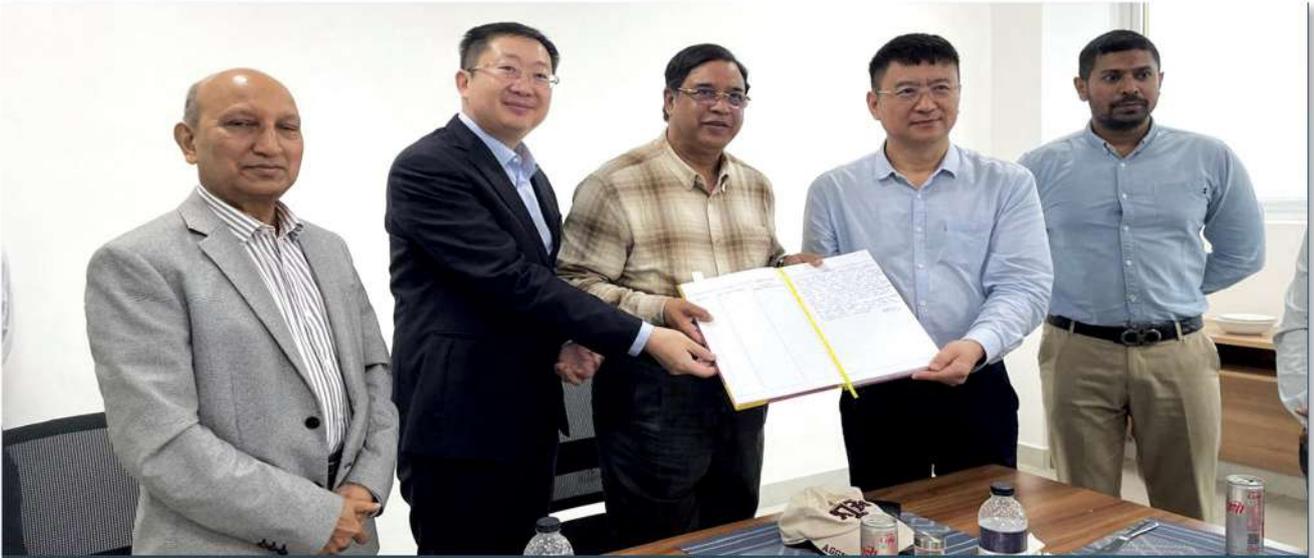
The MoU was signed by Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Honorable Chairman of BERC, and Dr. Stratos Pistikopoulos, Director of the Texas A&M Energy Institute, in the presence of representatives from both institutions. BERC Members Md. Mijanur Rahman and Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia joined the signing ceremony virtually.



The five-year understanding aims to facilitate joint research, exchange of faculty and researchers, and capacity building through degree programs, short courses, workshops, and conferences. It will also promote the exchange of technical information and collaborative initiatives between Bangladesh and the United States in energy regulation, process safety, and sustainable energy systems.

Representatives of Texas A&M were Dr. Faruque Hasan, Assistant Director for Decarbonization, and Dr. Faisal Khan, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Director of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center.

This partnership marks a significant step in BERC's ongoing efforts to build international collaboration for advancing energy policy, safety, and sustainability in Bangladesh.



Visit of the Chairman and Member (power) to S A Power plant at Bushkhali, Chattogram



Meeting with USAID (BADGE) Project Representatives



Visit of the Chairman to National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC)



Visit of the Chairman and Member (Gas) to the new rig being installed for the drilling of 10X of Sylhet Gas Fields



Annual Picnic Prize Giving Ceremony 2025



Tribute to the Martyrs of Language Movement



Professor Emeritus of the Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET, Dr. Iqbal Mahmud visited BERC



Visit of the Chairman, Member (Petroleum) and Member (Power) to Shonagazi 100 MWp Solar power plant of EGCB



Visit of Member (Admin, Finance and Law) to Solar Power Plant Project, Jamalpur



Visit of Member (Admin, Finance and Law) to United Jamalpur Power Limited



Visit of the Member (Admin, Finance and Law) and Member (Petroleum) to FSRU at Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar



Visit of the Member (Admin, Finance and Law) and Member (Petroleum) to FSRU at Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar



Visit of the Chairman and Member (Gas) to CRU plant at Rashidpur



Visit of the Chairman, Member (Gas) and Member (Petroleum) to Ghorashal Polash Fertilizer PLC





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