



# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON  
THE ENERGY SECTOR BY  
The Daily Star

DHAKA, TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 2015

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## Can homegrown biodiesel make a difference?

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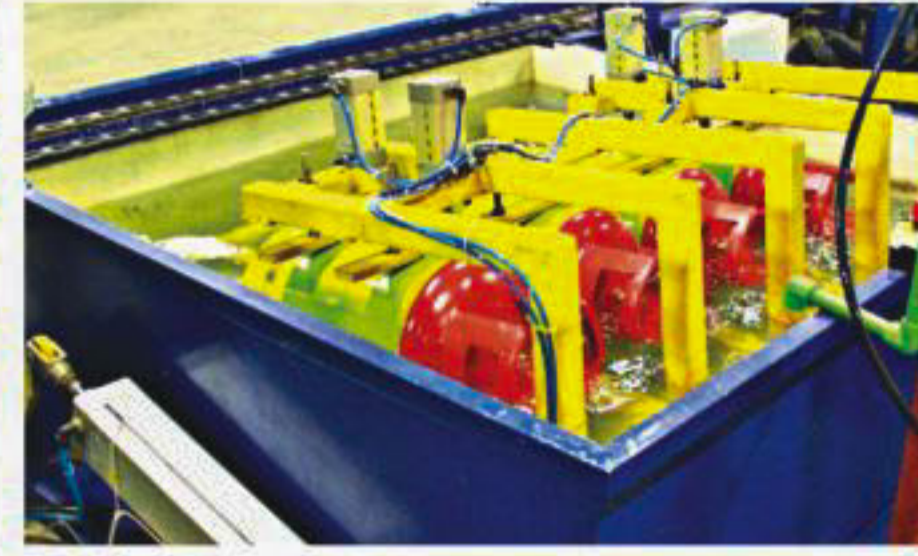
Like every 3rd world country, Bangladesh is heavily dependent on fossil fuel. The transportation, agricultural, and power sector are primary consumer of this fossil fuel. They create a negative impact on the economy of this country because government needs to import most of it from abroad. Homegrown biodiesel might be a solution to this problem. Biodiesel is biodegradable, renewable and most importantly- non-toxic. It's basically fatty acid methyl ester which is used as an alternative fuel for diesel engines. It is produced by chemically reacting a vegetable oil or animal fat with an alcohol such as methanol.

Recently a handful studies were done by local and international researchers assessing the potential of biodiesel from feed-stocks, production procedure, performance of these biodiesel in conventional diesel engine, impact on the environment, financial feasibility etc. Most of the outcomes of the studies were optimistic. Researchers concluded that mustard, Jatropha curcas, rapeseed, sesame, castor, cottonseed, neem, algae, coconut, groundnut are some of the potential biodiesel feedstock. Bangladesh has arable lands that can be used to produce that biofuel feedstock. A study shows that, by using the available rail and road sides of Bangladesh, 2.4 million tonnes of non-edible oil seeds can be produced every year which will supply 1.3 tonnes of oil of which at least 1 million ton can be transformed into biodiesel.

Seeing this unique and untapped industry, Honda Denki Co., a multi-billion dollar Japanese company, already expressed their interest to invest up to US\$1 billion in Bangladesh's biofuels and sugar sectors in 2007. If the production of biodiesel is done commercially then studies show that the cost per liter of biodiesel will be less than Tk. 120/- per liter (USD 1.5 /Liter). Compared to that, the current market diesel price per liter is Tk. 68/- . So homegrown biodiesel is viable and should be considered as an alternate source of energy. However, production of biodiesel is a bit challenging. Availability of affordable feedstock, high QC standards, expensive infrastructures etc. are some of the issues that are restricting the growth of homegrown biodiesel industry in Bangladesh. Both government & public corporations should come forward to develop the policies which in long term will make production of biodiesel cost-effective.



The largest LP Gas complex in Bangladesh and own cylinder manufacturing factory



International Standard Transportation System



Omera Princess



## A revolutionary start for Omera LP Gas

To cater to growing customer demands, Omera Petroleum Ltd. (OPL) launched Omera LP Gas (LPG) in Bangladesh in March 2015. And in just three months, the LPG products have gained around nine percent market share. Omera now envisions being number one in the LPG market within the next three years. To help achieve this goal, Omera has recruited the industry's best and brightest. This brilliant team is now working relentlessly to make Omera LPG the market leader.

To ensure product quality and safety, Omera has built a state-of-the-art cylinder manufacturing plant. Operating as Omera Cylinders Limited in Habiganj, this production facility is maintained with some stellar QC Standards. These cylinders are made using world class Forming Machines, Automated Welding Line, Heat Treatment, Hydrostatic Leak Testing Unit, Zinc & Electrostatic Powder Coating. So the cylinders are great in terms quality, longevity, safety and accuracy.

It has also achieved DOT4BA 240 and DOT4BW 240 certifications, which are



approved by Bangladesh government's Department of Explosives. Taking into consideration feedback from customers, the cylinders come in three different sizes: 5.5 kg, 12 kg and 35 kg; and are available in two different colours: Glossy Lemon Yellow and Glossy Window Grey.

To ensure uninterrupted distribution throughout the country, OPL has invested heavily in European standard bottling and storage facilities in Mongla, Ghorashal, Bogura and Mirsarai. These facilities have a total capacity of 1 lakh

metric ton, making them the largest bottling & storage complex in Bangladesh. OPL has also built a LPG carrying Barge called Omera Princess as second line of distribution, which is rare in this industry.

Since its inception, Omera has marketed and branded its LPG product line immensely. From press coverage to thematic TVCs to cricket tournament sponsorships, Omera has done it all. With a strong network retailers and distributors, Omera is on its way to become the market leader within a short span of time.

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গ্যাসের কথা ভেবে আর পরিবারের কারো আবদার অপূর্ণ থাকবে না।  
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