



Titas Gas sinks further in red on system loss

New MD pledges to bring down gas leakages

ASIFUR RAHMAN

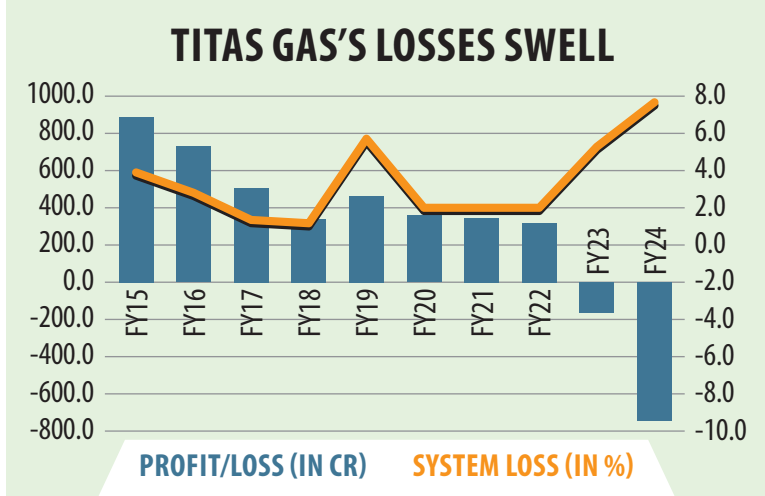
Titas Gas's system loss hit a decade high of 1,204 million cubic meters in fiscal 2023-24 -- enough to meet a month's import bill of high-priced liquified natural gas (LNG).

Gas unaccounted for because of illegal connections, leakages from old or corroded distribution lines, pipeline damages caused by underground work of utility services, lack of information regarding actual gas use by non-metered customers, and measurement errors in intake points are counted as system loss.

Last fiscal year, Titas, the country's largest piped gas distributor, saw a system loss of 7.67 percent -- way past the acceptable 2 percent mark, according to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

This was worth about Tk 2,945 crore, which is enough to meet a month's LNG import bill.

Subsequently, the once-profitable company's losses more than trebled



from a year earlier to Tk 744.08 crore in fiscal 2023-24, according to its latest annual report.

"Our first priority is to bring down the system loss," said Shahnewaz Parvez, managing director of Titas Gas since September 10 last year.

System loss can be brought down in two ways: removing illegal connections and replacing the old distribution pipelines.

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A family reunites with overwhelming joy and relief at the gate of Dhaka Central Jail as 168 former members of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles were released from different prisons after 16 long years yesterday. They were accused under the Explosive Substances Act following the 2009 BDR carnage. PHOTO: COLLECTED

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RELEASE OF EX-BDR MEN From jail to loving embrace of family

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

For the first time in her 17-year-old life, Juena Jamal Oishee yesterday truly saw her father Jamal Uddin Khan, a former sepoy of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), now the Border Guard Bangladesh.

"I was just one year old when my father was imprisoned. For the last 17 long years, I have only known him through stories," Oishee said.

Standing outside Kashimpur Central Jail-2, she said, "I can finally see my father... Words cannot describe this feeling."

Yesterday, 168 members of formerly BDR were released from various prisons across Dhaka and Gazipur. They have been in jail for 16 years in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act related to the 2009 Pilkhana carnage.

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Polls likely by year end or early 2026

Says EC Masud

UNB, Patuakhali

Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud has said the parliamentary polls are expected to be held by late 2025 or early 2026.

"We are fully concentrating on the national election now."



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GOVT'S NEUTRALITY Uprising leaders, BNP at odds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some key July uprising student leaders, including two interim government advisers, yesterday reacted strongly to BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam's remarks that a "neutral government" will be required to hold the polls if the current interim administration fails to remain impartial.

Nahid Islam, information and broadcasting adviser, in a Facebook post said the BNP secretary general's comment essentially hints at formation of another 1/11-like government of 2007.

"It was from the settlement of 1/11 that the Awami

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