

# Bangladesh buys more power from India

Lifts fuel oil use as electricity demand rises

REUTERS, Singapore/Dhaka

Bangladesh is boosting power imports from India and output from fuel oil-fired power plants in a scramble to meet rising electricity demand as it grapples with constraints on gas supply and coal plant maintenance, industry officials and analysts say.

Power imports, mainly from an Adani Power-run coal-fired plant in eastern India, rose 70 percent in the seven months through July and helped satisfy most of the rising demand, government data showed.

Natural gas accounted for about two-thirds of Bangladesh's power demand in the decade that ended in 2020, but the country has been boosting power imports and local coal-fired generation due to gas infrastructure challenges and to cut costs.

"It's about cost effectiveness, and gas is required for the fertiliser industry, whereas cheap electricity

can be received from other sources, including fuel oil," said Adeeba Aziz Khan, director of Bangladesh's Summit Power.

Her firm runs a dozen power plants using gas and fuel oil.

"There is a shortage of gas for electricity generation and evacuation problems," Khan said on the sidelines of the APPEC conference, adding that it was difficult to see a resurgence in gas-fired generation in the "foreseeable future".

A senior official of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) said many gas-fired plants were not running at capacity because of pressure-related technical problems, while coal-fired power output was lower due to maintenance outages.

"The government didn't have many choices. To avoid blackouts, they turned to imports, and Adani's power was available in large volume," said the official, who sought anonymity as he was not authorised to speak on the matter.

BPDB did not respond to requests

seeking comment.

The share of imports during the first seven months of this year jumped to 15.4 percent from 9.5 percent and that of fuel oil-fired power rose to 12.6 percent from 11.9 percent annually, government data showed.

"When power demand started increasing since March, they had to increase imports and fuel oil-based power generation," said Shafiqul Alam, a Bangladesh-based analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

The share of natural gas in power generation slipped to 43.9 percent from 46.8 percent, while the share of domestic coal-fired output fell to 26.2 percent from 30.1 percent.

The South Asian country increased imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by 24 percent in the seven months through July, data from analytics firm Kpler showed. Still, gas-fired power generation fell 1.2 percent, according to government data.



A Zeekr 001 model is displayed during the 21st Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai. Global automakers need Chinese technology to leapfrog development hurdles and launch new EVs quickly.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## How Chinese EV tech is reshaping global auto design

REUTERS, Shanghai/Milan

When Audi executives first saw the Zeekr 001 in 2021, a long-range electric vehicle with European aesthetics, it was a wake up call for the premium German auto brand - if it wanted to compete with the Chinese, it needed their technology.

"The Zeekr 001 back then shocked quite everyone," said Stefan Poetzl, president of SAIC Audi Sales and Marketing. "We needed to do something about it."

To boost its EV lineup for Chinese consumers, Audi built the AUDI E5 Sportback in just 18 months using technology provided by Chinese partner SAIC, including batteries, electric powertrain, infotainment software and advanced driving assisted systems.

Audi expects to start delivering the \$33,000 EV to customers in China this month and its global rivals are now also looking to use Chinese intellectual property to roll out new models rapidly. Toyota and Volkswagen have joint development plans for China-dedicated models with technology from Chinese partners GAC and Xpeng, respectively.

Renault and Ford want to go one step further and develop global models on Chinese EV platforms, sources said. Renault did not respond to a request for comment. Ford declined to comment.

Such licensing deals make up relatively small but growing revenue streams for Chinese EV makers and, for now, offer a new quid pro quo.

Global automakers need Chinese technology to leapfrog development hurdles and launch new EVs quickly. Meanwhile, Chinese companies desperately need additional revenue amid a bruising price war at home and intensifying trade war abroad.

"It is a very smart, win-win solution," said Will Wang, General Manager of Shanghai-based consulting firm Autodat, which

provides teardown reports of best-selling EV models.

This new strategy resembles the "Intel Inside" campaign of the 1990s - where US chipmaker Intel used state-of-the-art components to transform computers into premium products.

In this case, Chinese automakers sell EV technology in a box: the underpinnings for ready-to-build, white label battery-powered cars suitable even for low-volume manufacturers with small budgets.

Leapmotor has partnered with Stellantis to sell its EVs outside China and is talking to other brands to license its technology, CEO Zhu Jiangming told Reuters.

**Using a ready-made Chinese EV chassis and software could save billions of dollars and years of development time and help traditional automakers catch up with Chinese rivals, auto industry experts say**

Using a ready-made Chinese EV chassis and software could save billions of dollars and years of development time and help traditional automakers catch up with Chinese rivals, auto industry experts say.

Renault was an early adopter, building the low-cost Dacia Spring EV on a platform from China's Dongfeng for sale in Europe starting in 2021.

Renault has gone one step further with the new electric Twingo under development at its research centre in Shanghai, with a Chinese EV engineering firm Launch Design providing technical support in developing an EV platform, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Launch did not respond to requests for comment.

Other "China Inside" models could be coming soon. Ford is seeking a Chinese partner to provide EV platform technologies, said two people with knowledge of the matter. CEO Jim Farley has frequently tested Chinese EVs and recently praised Xiaomi's SU7 electric sedan.

Volkswagen has expanded plans to develop China-dedicated models of all fuel types based on platforms co-developed with Xpeng, using the latter's layout designs of electronics and software.

Analysts say legacy automakers typically struggle to develop agile EV systems that can be rapidly updated, due to complicated organisational structures.

That is why Volkswagen wants to see if Xpeng's EV technologies can complement or replace Volkswagen's own, said Yale Zhang, managing director at Shanghai-based consultancy AutoForesight. If it works in China, Volkswagen could apply the strategy globally, Zhang added.

A Volkswagen China spokesperson told Reuters its collaboration with Xpeng was focused on China for now.

Xpeng's He Xiaopeng has said the two automakers want to expand their partnership beyond China. That would boost Xpeng's revenue without building plants overseas, said Autodat's Wang.

Oliver Wyman analyst Marco Santino said traditional automakers could use "firepower" of fierce Chinese EV competition to jump ahead of the development curve.

"You get a much more quality-proof product in the market in a shorter timeframe," Santino said.

Inspired by Tesla, China's EV makers have developed modular platforms that cut costs and accelerate development and lower barriers of entry. "They are quick learners from Tesla," said Forest Tu, a former executive at Chinese battery giant CATL who founded consulting firm Mapview Technology.

## Bangladesh had 9 lakh unemployed graduates

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But alongside that, there are other issues. "Yes, GDP has grown, but that's misleading, because one of the main drivers of growth is investment - private and foreign investment. And that hasn't increased."

She questioned how employment can grow without investment.

And in the past year, there has not been the expected investment.

"Many other economic activities have also been disrupted in various ways.

Some factories have come under attack, some have shut down. As a result, production has been hampered. That's why we see that GDP projections are now lower; GDP growth has slowed," she said.

"At this point, we're stuck in a kind of low-level equilibrium: GDP growth is down, inflation is gradually declining, but investment isn't increasing. Even though they say it's rising slightly, it was already extremely low before, so that tiny increase doesn't

mean anything," Khatun said.

On top of that, the law-and-order situation has deteriorated, the cost of doing business remains high due to infrastructure weaknesses, high energy and fuel prices, and persistent corruption - all of this hasn't improved.

"Because inflation is high, the government and Bangladesh Bank are sticking to contractionary monetary policy, which has pushed interest rates up."

## Gold edges lower after record peak

REUTERS

Gold prices edged lower on Thursday, hovering near record highs, as investors awaited US consumer inflation data due later in the day following weaker-than-expected producer price figures that reinforced expectations of a rate cut next week.

Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$3,632.48 per ounce, as of 0621 GMT. Bullion hit a record high of \$3,673.95 on Tuesday.

US gold futures for December delivery fell 0.3 percent to \$3,669.80.

"Gold seems to be consolidating recent gains as markets wait for US Consumer Price Index data and what it'll mean for Fed rate cut expectations," said Ilya Spivak, head of global macro at TastyLive.

US producer prices unexpectedly fell in August due to lower trade services margins and modest increases in goods costs.

Investors are now focused on US CPI data, due at 1230 GMT, with a Reuters poll forecasting a 0.3 percent monthly increase in August following a 0.2 percent rise in July. CPI is expected to have grown 2.9 percent year-on-year, compared with 2.7 percent in July.

## US officials to arrive in Dhaka Sunday

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The Trump administration has imposed a 20 percent tariff on Vietnamese products, another key rival of Bangladesh in the global garment market. In Vietnam's case, the rate could rise to 40 percent if goods are shipped to the US through re-routing or transhipment.

Ahead of the tariff

decision, Bangladesh committed to importing more US goods, including aircraft, wheat and soybean products, in an effort to reduce the trade gap between the two countries.

Currently, Bangladesh exports goods worth more than \$8 billion to the US each year, while importing about \$2 billion, leaving a trade gap of \$6 billion.

The US is the single largest export destination for Bangladesh, and more than 90 percent of its exports to the American market are garments.

Bangladesh is the third-largest garment exporter to the US, after China and Vietnam, with a 9.3 percent share of the \$81 billion American apparel import.

## Property sales slump

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a significant drop in demand, as clients in these categories are taking more time to make purchase decisions."

Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, senior vice-president of the Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), said demand is

down to 30-40 percent of normal levels.

REHAB has 892 members nationwide, all involved in construction projects in major cities, including Dhaka.

"The market would not recover until the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) is practically implemented,"

he told The Daily Star.

He highlighted a shift towards mid-income buyers, with high-end interest fading due to a cautious "wait-and-see" mindset.

He said once the DAP is approved, new projects may launch and demand could pick up.

## Govt to split

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The revised ordinance paved the way for revenue officials to head the top and senior positions of the planned Revenue Policy Division.

In the original ordinance issued on May 12, there was ambiguity about whether officials from the tax and customs cadres would be given priority for the position of secretary, which was one of the major areas of contention among the protesting NBR officials.

The revised law will enable officials with experience working in the macroeconomy, trade policy, and planning to head the Revenue Policy Division.

Ahmed said secretaries will be appointed for the two divisions and positions of the existing members of the NBR will have to be determined before the implementation of the law.

As per the law, the Revenue Policy Division will be responsible for formulating tax policies, conducting research, and handling international agreements, while the Revenue Management Division will focus on field-level revenue collection, implementation of tax laws, and human resource management.

পরিচালক (প্ল্যানিং ও উন্নয়ন) এর কার্যালয়  
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
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**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication date	Online Tender Closing date
01	1146781 (KUET/P&D/3059(05)/2025 Date-11/09/2025	Package No.-RG-01 (Revenue)/2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Paper for KUET	11 September 2025	28 September 2025
02	1146782 (KUET/P&D/3060(05)/2025 Date-11/09/2025	Package No.-RG-02 (Revenue)/2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply Exam Ledger	11 September 2025	28 September 2025
03	1146785 (KUET/P&D/3061(05)/2025 Date-11/09/2025	Package No.-RG-03 (Revenue)/2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Lab Equipment for Chemical Engineering Department, KUET	11 September 2025	28 September 2025

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no online/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Ref. No. 46.207.000.01.09.3860.2025  
Date: 11/09/2025

**Re-eTender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, (Environment, Climate and Disaster Management Circle), Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date: 11-09-2025 BST: 17:00

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time
1	1150194 (Re-e-Tender)	Repair and development work Mirhajirbagh Pipe Road (ID 0551S-0113) from Mirhajirbagh Chowrasta to Gandaria New Road (ID 0551C-0231) in Ward 51 and development RCC drain with footpath work from Jatrabari Mor to Dholaipar Mor east side (BDR Hut) (ID 0550P-0019) in Ward No. 50 for removal of water logging under Dhaka South City Corporation (Zone-05, Ward 50 and 51)	28-09-2025 12:00	28-09-2025 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, register in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

DSCC/PRD/61/2025-2026

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