

# star BUSINESS



## Tk 4,000cr gas lost in FY25

### Enough for 30 lakh families to cook for a year

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Enough gas to keep 30 lakh kitchen burners alight for an entire year went up in smoke as system losses in fiscal year 2024-25.

In FY25, the country wasted around 1,796 million cubic metres (mcm) of gas, equivalent to Tk 4,107 crore based on the current average retail price.

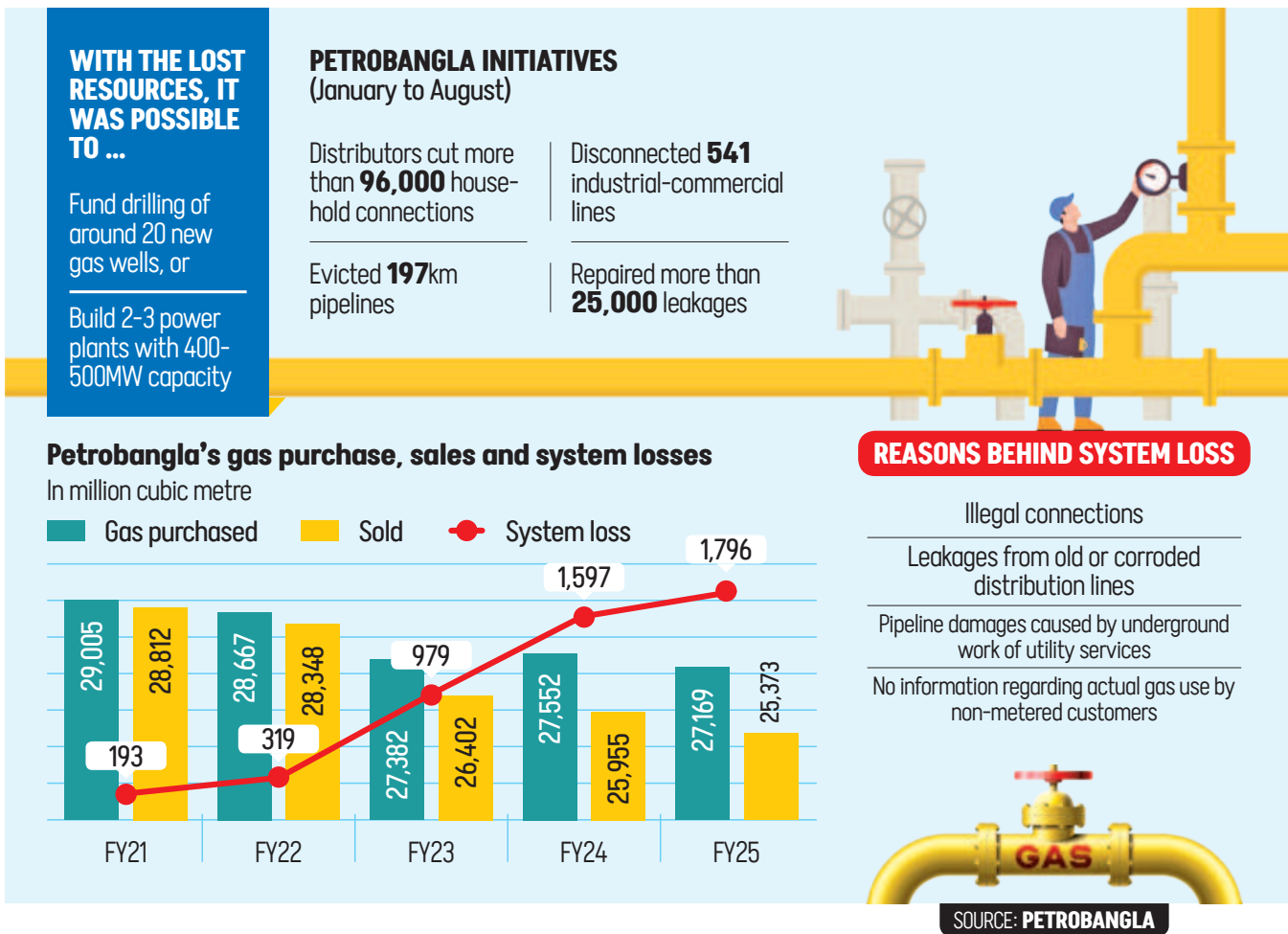
In Bangladesh, system loss in gas distribution refers to theft and illegal connections, leaks from old pipelines, damage during maintenance, metering errors, and mismanagement.

The scale of loss in FY25 alone could fund the drilling of nearly 20 new gas wells or the construction of two to three power plants with a combined capacity of 400 to 500 megawatts.

The authorities have taken several measures to reduce these losses, yet official data since FY21 show a rising curve.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) allows a maximum system loss of 2 percent, but it stood at around 7 percent of the average daily supply of 2,526 million cubic feet (mmcf) in FY25.

Currently, about 174 mmcf of gas is being lost every day. The waste comes at a time when households struggle to cook three meals a day and industries face reduced production due to scant gas supply.



## BB to evaluate major banks twice a year

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Like a full health checkup, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) will now evaluate the stability of systemically important banks, lenders whose collapse could severely harm the country's financial system and economy, twice a year.

Besides, weaker banks that fall under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework will be reviewed once a year. The PCA is a set of measures that allows the central bank to step in when a bank shows signs of financial trouble.

The Bank Resolution Department (BRD) of the BB will conduct these assessments and, if necessary, suggest mergers or closures, according to a new regulation published yesterday.

The regulation, titled "Regulations for Bank Resolution, 2025" and framed under the "Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025", also says that an immediate review of the banks alongside the regular ones will be conducted whenever any major change takes place.

According to the regulations, the central bank will examine several aspects, including how easily key operations can be separated from the rest of the business.

Besides, the availability of funds that can absorb losses,

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the adequacy of data for quick valuation and recovery, the continuity of essential services, and reliance on third-party providers will also be reviewed.

The regulations say that when applying resolution tools to Islamic banks, the BRD will follow shariah principles. In the event of a merger, both institutions must be shariah-compliant, have a clear legal basis, and hold proper licences.

Unless the BRD decides to take direct control of a troubled bank, it will appoint an administrator under Section 16(1)(ka) and Section 20(1) of the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025.

The administrator will ensure that when subordinated debt is used as a loss-absorbing measure, Islamic banks employ shariah-based financial instruments.

Similarly, any increase in capital under Section 27 of the ordinance, which mentions capital increase by

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The volume of unaccounted gas was 1,597 mcm in FY24, while it was 979 mcm in FY23. Each year, the losses translate into thousands of crores of taka in wasted national resources.

At a recent event, Fouzul Kabir Khan,

adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, expressed frustration over the government's efforts to reduce system losses.

"Illegal gas lines are being set up immediately after the drives end and pipelines are evicted," he said at a programme at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka.

Of the six state-owned gas distributors, Titas Gas reported the highest system loss in terms of volume, reaching 9.47 percent

in FY25 compared with 7.67 percent a year earlier, according to preliminary data from Petrobangla.

Titas, which supplies gas to Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions, lost an estimated Tk 3,000 crore to system loss last fiscal year.

Titas officials said illegal connections are rampant in Dhaka and in industrial belts across Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur

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## ILO ratification major step, but enforcement key: rights groups



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's ratification of three key conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is seen as a major step towards improving labour rights and workplace safety, but experts say it also brings new responsibilities for the government and employers to ensure proper enforcement and legal reforms.

The government on Wednesday ratified ILO Conventions 155, 187, and 190, committing to comprehensive reforms in occupational safety, health, and protection from workplace violence and harassment.

While labour leaders and rights groups have welcomed the move as a long-overdue response to workers' demands, experts warn that without timely legal alignment and effective enforcement, the ratification could remain a symbolic gesture.

The move comes amid renewed pressure from trade unions and international partners—particularly from the EU and US—for Bangladesh to improve labour conditions in the wake of repeated industrial disasters and continued rights violations.

The newly ratified conventions now require the government to introduce policy reforms, strengthen regulation, and submit regular progress reports to the ILO. Failure to comply could draw heightened global scrutiny and impact trade negotiations.

ILO Convention 155 sets out a national framework to prevent workplace accidents by reducing hazards and defining safety responsibilities for employers and workers.

Convention 187 promotes a continuous national system to improve occupational safety and health through prevention, cooperation, and social dialogue.

Convention 190—the first of its kind—recognises the right of every worker to a workplace free from violence and harassment, including gender-based abuse.

The move comes amid growing calls from trade unions, labour rights bodies, and Western countries, including those in Europe and the United

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## HC bars trade groups from Ctg chamber's polls

STAR BUSINESS REPORT, Chattogram

The High Court on Wednesday issued an order restraining trade group and town association representatives from taking part in the upcoming biennial election of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

The order came just a week before the Chittagong Chamber's election, which will be held on November 1 to elect 24 directors in four categories.

In the election, three directors each were scheduled to be elected from the trade group and town association groups, and six in total were set to be elected uncontested as there were no additional candidates for those posts.

In the polls, 12 other directors will be elected from the ordinary member group and six from the associate member group.

The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Md Ashif Hasan issued the HC order after hearing a writ petition filed by Mohammed Belal, managing director of Harbis Converting Limited, petitioner's lawyer Md Ramzan Ali Sikder told The Daily Star.

The writ was filed challenging the commerce ministry's decision to allow 'controversial' and 'inactive' trade group and town associations to participate in the chamber polls, said Sikder.

Earlier, on July 15 and August 20 respectively, investigation reports from the Chittagong Chamber and the Trade Organization Wing of the commerce ministry recommended barring the trade group and town associations from the election.

However, on September 4, the Trade Organization

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