

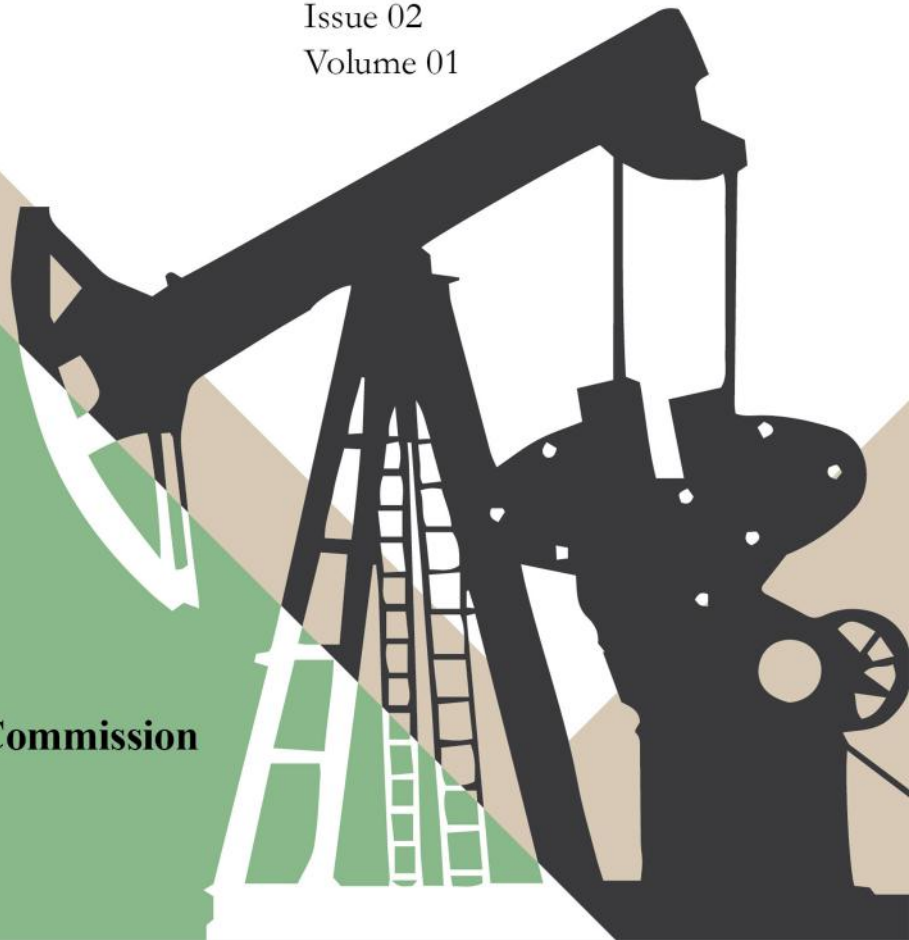


BERC BULLETIN

January 2026

Issue 02

Volume 01



Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

Editorial Committee



Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia

Chairman, Editorial Committee
and Member (Petroleum), BERC
Email: mpetro@berc.org.bd



Dr. Md. Didarul Alam

Executive Editor, Editorial Committee
and Director (Petroleum), BERC
Email: dirpetro@berc.org.bd



Md. Nazrul Islam Sarker

Member, Editorial Committee
and Secretary, BERC
Email: secy@berc.org.bd



Kamruzzaman

Member, Editorial Committee
and Deputy Director (Tariff), BERC
Email: ddtariff@berc.org.bd



Md. Shariful Islam Shaheen

Member, Editorial Committee
and Deputy Director (Finance & Accounts), BERC
Email: ddfinance@berc.org.bd



Hasan Mohammad Shoaib

Member, Editorial Committee
and Deputy Director (Admin), BERC
Email: ddadmin@berc.org.bd



Md. Rezaul Hoque

Member, Editorial Committee
and Assistant Director (Petroleum-1), BERC
Email: adpetro1@berc.org.bd

BERC Bulletin, January 2026, Issue 2, Volume 01

Published by:

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission
6th floor, IEB Building, Ramna, Dhaka
www.berc.org.bd

Cover Photo Description:

1. Gas Processing Plant at Habiganj Gas Field (Front Cover)
2. Rooftop Solar Panel of Kenpark Limited (1.3 MW) (Back Cover)

Designed By
Mainul Hasan Seam
Adiba Zaman

From the Desk of

Chairman of Editorial Committee

Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia

Chairman, Editorial Committee and
Member (Petroleum), BERC



As we publish the second issue of the BERC Bulletin, the current full Commission at the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission completes one year in office. This is an opportune moment to pause and reflect on how far we have come and the key milestones achieved along the way.

One of our longstanding priorities was securing approval for an upgraded organogram, an institutional framework originally formed nearly two decades ago. Over the years, the scope and complexity of regulatory work have expanded significantly, making structural reform essential. The approval of the revised organogram this quarter marks a critical institutional milestone. It will strengthen BERC's capacity to address evolving regulatory demands, enhance efficiency, and better serve stakeholders across the energy sector.

Another milestone reached in this quarter has been setting the gas price for fertilizer production. The objective was twofold: ensuring sustained domestic fertilizer output and supporting national food security. The tariff structure set by BERC carefully balances competing priorities. It aims to ensure an uninterrupted gas supply to Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) factories, supporting an annual urea production target of roughly 1.8 million tonnes, while avoiding an increase in agricultural subsidies. By enabling the operation of the BCIC factories, the tariff helps save foreign reserves while ensuring better utilization of fixed costs that would otherwise have to be borne even when fertilizers are imported.

Capacity building and knowledge exchange have remained a strong focus of the commission. This quarter, BERC hosted several high-impact seminars featuring internationally acclaimed experts. Among them were Professor Rafiqul Gani of the Technical University of Denmark and Professor M Iqbal Mujtaba, Associate Dean at the University of Bradford. Their presentations covered cutting-edge topics in energy systems, sustainability, and regulatory innovation, contributing to the Commission's ongoing efforts to remain aligned with global best practices.

The Commission also undertook several field visits during the quarter, including tours of major energy and fertilizer installations. These visits provided valuable firsthand insights into operational realities, energy utilization, and strengthened engagement between regulators and industry operators.

On the outreach front, the Chairman of BERC actively participated in national seminars, roundtable discussions, webinars, and policy dialogues dealing with energy security and sustainability. Members of the Commission have also stayed actively engaged, both nationally and internationally, delivering keynote addresses, academic lectures, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders. These engagements have further enhanced BERC's visibility and strengthened its thought leadership.

The regular activities of the Commission, including licensing, monthly tariff determination, and dispute settlement, have become smoother and more efficient over the year, leading to improved service for stakeholders.

Together, these initiatives reflect a year of steady progress in strengthening institutional capacity, advancing balanced regulatory decisions, and expanding engagement with both national and global communities. As we move forward, the Commission remains committed to transparent, evidence-based regulation that supports energy security, sustainability, and the broader public interest.

Editorial Note

Dr. Md. Didarul Alam

Executive Editor and Director (Petroleum), BERC



It is with great pleasure that we present the second issue of the BERC Bulletin, a publication that continues to evolve in scope, depth, and institutional relevance. Building upon the encouraging response to the inaugural issue, this edition has been enriched with extended contents, particularly accommodating two of the core and defining activities of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), namely Commission Meetings and Court Activities.

Commission meetings constitute the principal decision-making framework of BERC, as explicitly structured under the BERC Act. Through these meetings, regulatory policies are deliberated, evaluated, and adopted in a transparent and accountable manner, reflecting the Commission's commitment to evidence-based regulation and institutional integrity. Complementing this function, BERC's court activities represent the signature role of the Commission as a quasi-judicial entity, where justice is administered impartially among energy operators, service providers, and consumers. In discharging this responsibility, BERC upholds its core values of fairness, due process, and regulatory balance, thereby reinforcing public trust in the energy regulatory regime.

During the October–December quarter, BERC's institutional focus was largely directed toward internal consolidation and capacity enhancement. A major milestone in this regard was the strengthening of the Commission's organogram, with the inclusion of 65 additional professional manpower. This strategic expansion reflects BERC's firm commitment to delivering quality, proactive, and future-ready regulatory services to the nation, in line with the growing complexity and dynamism of the energy sector. In parallel with organizational strengthening, BERC remained actively engaged in intellectual and policy discourse. A series of seminars on contemporary energy issues were arranged on a regular basis, featuring world-class keynote speakers. These events were designed not merely as formal gatherings, but as platforms to provoke critical thinking, stimulate innovation, and encourage meaningful engagement among a diverse audience comprising policymakers, academics, industry professionals, and other energy stakeholders.

The BERC Bulletin aspires to position itself as a trustworthy and authoritative mouthpiece of the Commission, documenting institutional activities, disseminating regulatory insights, and fostering informed dialogue on energy governance. Through this publication, BERC seeks to enhance transparency, institutional memory, and stakeholder awareness, while also reflecting the Commission's evolving role in steering the energy sector toward sustainability, efficiency, and equity. We sincerely hope that this issue will serve as a valuable reference for readers and stakeholders alike, and we welcome constructive feedback to further enrich future editions of the Bulletin.

Chairman in this Quarter

During the period from October to December 2025, Jalal Ahmed, Chairman of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission actively engaged in a range of stakeholder consultations and public engagements that enhanced the Commission's visibility and institutional outreach. He held meetings with representatives from Teesta Power, the Lubricants Importers Association, and the PRAN-RFL Group. He also participated in stakeholder discussions with senior industry representatives, including the Managing Director of Jamuna Bank and Summit Power.



The Chairman attended a policy conclave titled “LPG in Bangladesh: Economics, Environment and Safety” as Special Guest of Honour on 11 October 2025. The event was organized by Bonik Barta and sponsored by the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh, and held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. On 16 October 2025, accompanied by the Member (Gas) and Member (Petroleum), he visited Ghorashal Polash Fertilizer PLC to receive a briefing on newly installed machinery and review the fertilizer production processes. He also attended a workshop on 18 October 2025 titled “Sustainability Governance of China’s Energy Investments in Bangladesh,” organized under the SGAIN project, where he participated as a Special Guest.

On 14 November, the Chairman visited the Shahbazpur Gas Field and later toured the BSCIC industrial zone in Bhola, Barishal. On 18 November, he attended an event marking the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh–China diplomatic relations. Later, on 29 November, he joined a seminar organized by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry titled “Bangladesh Industrial Energy Efficiency Policy: A Draft for Sustainable Progress,” where he attended as a special guest.

On 8 December 2025, he participated in the Bangladesh Energy Conference held at the Bangladesh Military Museum, Dhaka. During the same month, he attended a Senior Staff Course and a photo exhibition of a Basic Training Course at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Savar, where he also delivered a lecture in the ACAD course.



Commission Members' Activities

Member Petroleum Delivered Seminar on Petroleum Product Safety at EMRD

Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia delivered a seminar at the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) on 18 November 2025 titled "Petroleum Product Safety (Including LPG): Insights on Risks, Regulations, and Best Practices." The session focused on key safety risks across the petroleum value chain, regulatory frameworks, and practical measures to enhance safe handling, storage, and distribution, with particular emphasis on LPG safety and incident prevention. The seminar was chaired by EMRD Secretary Saiful Islam Chowdhury. Around 20 officers attended in person, while more than 50 additional participants from various EMRD-affiliated utilities and companies joined virtually, facilitating a broad exchange of views on strengthening safety practices across the sector.



Member Gas Delivered Lecture at EMRD & Hydrocarbon Unit

Member (Gas), Md. Mijanur Rahman, delivered a seminar at the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) on 6 November 2025 titled "Exploration and Production including offshore prospects and challenges" The session focused on exploration activities in Bangladesh, high pressure control, deep drilling and offshore prospects. The session was presided over by Saiful Islam Chowdhury, Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD).

Subsequently, on 25th December 2025, he delivered speech at Seminar held at Hydrocarbon Unit titled "Drilling, Drill Stem Testing & Reserve Estimation." The participants asked how high pressure controlled while drilling. Keynote speaker explained the procedure of formation evaluation, out put of drill stem testing and reserve estimation techniques.



1 News & Events

Page 06-08

- | BERC's New Organogram Marks Major Step in Institutional Reform
- | Two IT professionals Join BERC to Support Digital Transformation
- | Publication of the First Issue of BERC Bulletin Celebrated
- | Jahangirnagar University Students Visit BERC
- | BERC Annual Staff Picnic Held at Heritage Resort, Narsingdi

2 Activities

Page 09-17

- | Commission Meetings
- | Tariff Determination
 - LPG
 - Natural Gas
 - Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel)
- | Licenses issued in Power, Gas and Petroleum Sector
- | BERC Court Activities and Dispute Settlement
- | Redressing consumers' Grievances
- | Inspection of Energy Installations
- | Seminars and Workshops

3 International

Page 18-20

- | Chairman Joins the SAFIR Conference
- | Member (Petroleum) Visits OPCW in The Hague and Participates in International Meetings Online
- | Director (Petroleum) Visits UTM Malaysia

4 Articles

Page 21-24

- | History of Gas Exploration, Current Crisis and Future Prospects in Bangladesh
- | Adulteration of Lubricating Oils in Bangladesh: An Investigative Study

5 Photo Gallery

Page 25-30

BERC's New Organogram Marks Major Step in Institutional Reform

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has entered a new phase of institutional strengthening following the government's approval of a revised organogram. The reform represents a significant step in the Commission's ongoing efforts to become a more proactive, efficient, and forward-looking energy regulator.

The approved structure introduces 65 additional positions, along with necessary logistical support, aimed at enhancing BERC's overall regulatory and adjudicatory capacity. Key functional wings including Tariff, Power, Licensing, Compliance, and Law have been reinforced to better address the growing complexity of the energy sector. The restructuring includes new senior and mid-level positions, as

well as expanded technical and operational support staff, enabling stronger oversight of tariff determination, regulatory formulation, dispute resolution, and compliance monitoring. Dedicated enhancements to legal, financial, audit, and IT functions are expected to improve analytical depth and procedural efficiency.

Beyond strengthening institutional capacity, the revised organogram also creates clearer career progression pathways for officials, contributing to improved staff morale and productivity. Overall, the reform is expected to support more timely, transparent, and evidence-based regulatory decisions, reinforcing BERC's commitment to accountable, people-centric energy governance in Bangladesh.

Two IT Professionals Join BERC to Support Digital Transformation

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has recruited two IT professionals as consultants to strengthen its digital transformation initiatives and enhance ease of doing business in the energy sector.

IT consultant Mr. Mohammad Arfe Elahi aims to transform fragmented legacy processes into a high-efficiency, fully integrated digital ecosystem focused on value-driven service delivery. The integrated platform will include e-License with e-Payment, Complaint Management, Dispute Regulation, HR management, case hearing and order management, a knowledge base, AI-driven data backbone, finance and accounts, tariff management, research project management, and other cross-functional operations of BERC.

Junior IT Consultant Mr. Chowdhury Md. Mohaimenur Rahman continuously monitors and troubleshoots firewalls, switches, routers, and other IT equipment to ensure a resilient and efficient organizational digital platform. He also plays a key role in BERC's digital transformation by conducting technical assessments for integrated software systems. In addition, he coordinates with vendors of equipment suppliers to ensure uninterrupted IT operations and provides daily user support, oversees IT operations during seminars and hearings, and assists in digital asset management.



Photo: IT Consultant and Junior IT Consultant.

The engagement of these professionals reflects BERC's commitment to becoming a more technology-driven, efficient, and transparent regulator. Their contributions are expected to accelerate digital reforms, streamline regulatory processes, and improve service delivery to stakeholders.

Publication of the First Issue of BERC Bulletin Celebrated

The publication ceremony of the first issue of the BERC Bulletin was held on 15 October 2025 at the BERC Conference Room, marked by a ceremonial unveiling of the bulletin's cover.

The event was presided over by Chairman of BERC, Jalal Ahmed, and attended by Members of the Commission, Secretary, Directors, officers and staff of BERC, as well as leading energy journalists of the country.



The publication ceremony of the first issue of the BERC Bulletin was held on 15 October 2025 at the BERC Conference Room, marked by a ceremonial unveiling of the bulletin's cover.

The event was presided over by the Chairman of BERC, Jalal Ahmed, and attended by Members of the Commission, Secretary, Directors, officers, and staff of BERC, as well as leading energy journalists of the country.

In his address, the Chairman expressed his satisfaction and appreciation for the successful publication of the inaugural issue and thanked the Editorial Board for their dedicated and commendable efforts. He emphasized the importance of the Bulletin as an institutional platform for documenting BERC's regulatory activities, perspectives, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The Executive Editor Dr. Md. Didarul Alam, highlighted the technical and structural aspects of the Bulletin, while the Chair of the Editorial Board Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia elaborated on its thematic focus and editorial vision. Members of the Commission also shared their valuable suggestions aimed at further enhancing the quality and relevance of future issues.

Jahangirnagar University Students Visit BERC

Students of the Department of Public Administration, Jahangirnagar University, visited the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on 27 November 2026 as part of their academic exposure program. The visit aimed to provide students with a practical understanding of the role, functions, and regulatory framework of the Commission.

During the visit, the students received a comprehensive briefing on BERC's mandate, core activities, and its role in energy regulation and governance in Bangladesh. The Chairman of BERC addressed the students, highlighting the importance of sound energy governance for sustainable national development. Dr. Jebunnessa, Professor of the Public Administration Department of Jahangirnagar University, and senior officials of BERC were present during the session. The visit concluded with the formal handover of a souvenir to the student delegation.



BERC Annual Staff Picnic Held at Heritage Resort, Narsingdi

The Annual Staff Picnic of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) was held on 18 December 2025 at the Heritage Resort, Narsingdi, in a joyful and festive atmosphere. BERC officials and staff members, along with their spouses and family members, participated enthusiastically in the event, making it a memorable occasion of social interaction and organizational bonding.

The Honorable Chairman, Members of the Commission, Secretary, Directors, officers, and staff from all wings of BERC attended the program.

The day-long program unfolded with morning refreshments, followed by a variety of games and sports events for participants of all ages. A delightful lunch was served, after which a vibrant cultural program added color and entertainment to the Poush day celebration. The event concluded with prize and souvenir distribution, evening snacks, and informal interactions. All enjoyed the event in an atmosphere of utmost joy and happiness.



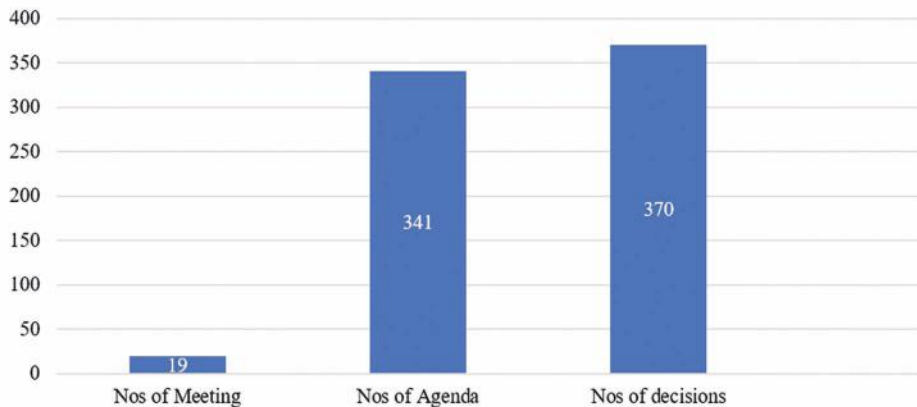
Commission Meetings

Commission meetings are the primary forum for regulatory and policy decision-making by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, in accordance with Section 12 of the BEREC Act, 2003. At present, three types of meetings are held presided over by the Chairman. These include regular Commission Meetings, usually held twice a month, for regulatory and policy decisions; Monthly Coordination Meetings, held once a month, to review activities across different wings and ensure coordination; and Special Commission Meetings, convened as needed to address urgent matters.

During the October-December 2025 period, the Commission demonstrated strong regulatory efficiency and proactive governance by conducting a total of 19 meetings across these formats. These included 6 Commission Meetings, 10 Special Commission Meetings, and 3 Coordination Meetings, ensuring continuous policy oversight and effective inter-departmental coordination.

Across these meetings, 341 agenda items were thoroughly reviewed, resulting in 370 well-considered decisions, reflecting the Commission's commitment to timely and impactful decision-making.

Commission Meetings



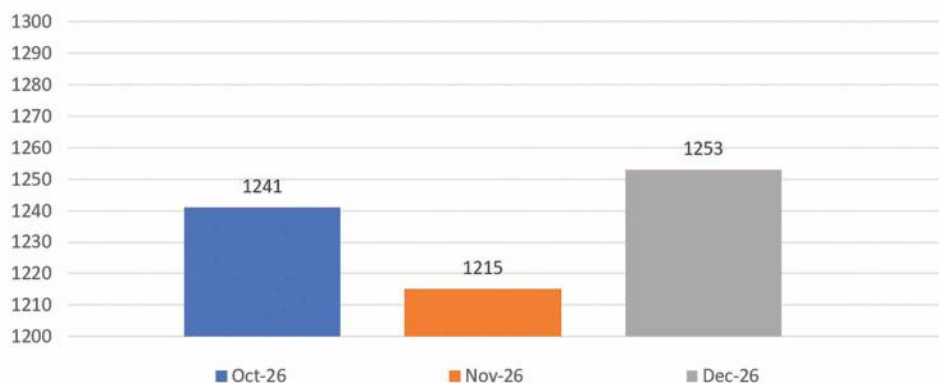
Tariff Determination

LPG

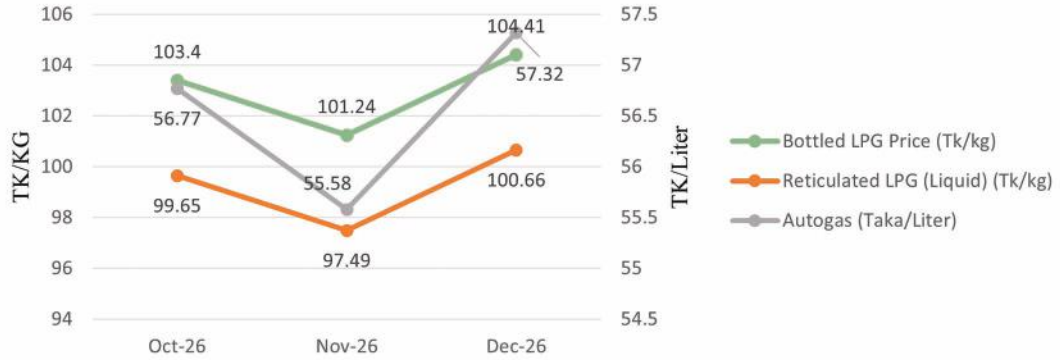
Since April 2021, in line with a High Court Order (Writ Petition No. 13683/2016) and Sections 22(b) and 34 of the BEREC Act, 2003, the Commission has been determining tariff of LPG and Autogas based on the Saudi Contract Price (Saudi CP).

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

Tariff of 12KG Bottled LPG (Taka)



Tariff of Bottled LPG Supplied in Reticulated System and Autogas



Natural Gas



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 Order No. 2025/07 on 23 November 2025, revising gas tariffs for Fertilizer. According to that order tariff for the fertilizer class consumers was revised to 29.25 Taka/Cubic Meter. The Commission directed the gas distribution companies to prepare and implement a time-bound roadmap for the installation of pre-paid or post-paid meters for all domestic consumers. Petrobangla was directed to regularly monitor the system loss reduction roadmap of the gas distribution companies and submit monthly reports to the Commission. Petrobangla was further directed to ensure gas supply to BCIC's four fertilizer factories at a minimum level of 70% of the approved load (average 140 MMCFD for at least 330 days per year), with allocation priority based on factory efficiency, and to determine a supply schedule in consultation with BCIC while keeping the Commission informed. Additionally, Petrobangla was directed to execute a framework agreement with BCIC, and the concerned gas distribution companies were directed to execute gas sales agreements with fertilizer class consumers at the earliest.

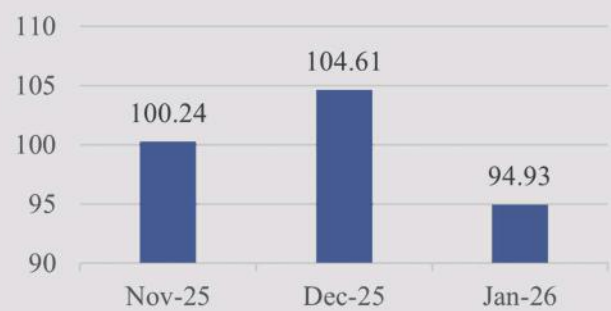
Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel)

Since May 2025, in accordance with Sections 34(4) and 34(6) of the BERC Act, 2003, the Commission has been determining the tariff of Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel). The Commission adjusts Jet A-1 (Aviation Fuel) tariff on a monthly basis based on Platts rates, dollar exchange rates, and transport cost variations. As per tariff orders, the monthly tariff of Jet A-1 has been adjusted by the Commission as follows:

Tariff for International Flights (USD/Liter)



Tariff for Domestic Flights (BDT/Liter)



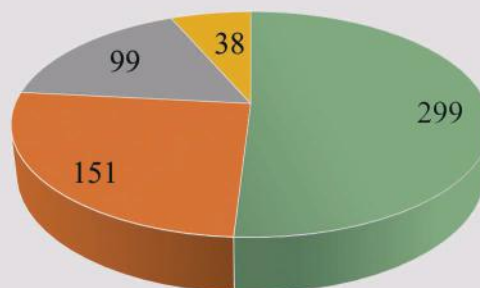
Licenses Issued

During the last quarter of 2025, the Power Wing of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission issued 450 licenses, including new issuances, amendments, and renewals across various categories. Over the full year, the Wing issued a total of 1,374 licenses in categories such as LWC, CPP, IPP, SPP, CoPP, RPP, and Government Utilities.

The Petroleum Wing issued a total of 99 licenses—covering new issuances, amendments, and renewals—during the October–December 2025 period. For the entire year, the Wing issued 314 licenses.

Similarly, the Gas Wing issued 38 licenses in the final quarter of 2025. Over the course of the year, the Wing issued a total of 210 licenses, including new issuances, renewals, and amendments.

Licenses Issued by Power, Gas and Petroleum, October to December 2025



- License Waiver Certificate (LWC)
- CPP, IPP, SPP, CoPP, RPP, Government Utilities
- Petroleum
- Gas

The pie chart illustrates the number distribution of licenses issued by the three technical wings between October and December 2025. The highest figure is observed in the Power Wing, which issued 299 license waiver certificates during this period. Additionally, 151 regular licenses were issued by the same wing within the mentioned timeframe. In comparison, the Petroleum Wing issued 99 regular licenses, while the Gas Wing issued 38 regular licenses during the same period.

BERC Court Activities and Dispute Settlement



Under the powers conferred by Section 40 of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act, 2003, the Commission plays a pivotal role in resolving disputes arising between licensees in the energy sector, as well as between licensees and consumers. It is pertinent to note that although the relevant Act refers to this process as 'Arbitration,' in practice, the Commission holds the Original Jurisdiction for resolving such disputes. Awards/ orders hence declared by the commission shall have to be effective in such a way that it is declared by a competent civil court as mentioned in Section 40(6), BERC Act, 2003.

To ensure dynamism and expedite judicial proceedings, the Commission currently conducts regular dispute resolution hearings two days a week. However, considering the

significance and urgency of specific matters, special provisions are in place to hold additional hearings on any working day of the week.

During the last three months (October – December 2025), a total of 25 dispute resolution applications were filed during the reporting period. Additionally, 12 review petitions were submitted for reconsideration. The authority conducted 278 hearings, demonstrating a high level of adjudicatory activity. Out of the applications received, 59 cases were successfully resolved with awards or formal orders declared. However, 21 applications were dismissed due to lack of legal merit. In terms of review proceedings, 12 review petitions were resolved. Furthermore, 7 review petitions were dismissed after being found non-maintainable.

Redressing Consumers' Grievances

Section 54 of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for redressing consumers' grievances. In accordance with Subsection 54(5), if a utility fails to resolve a consumer complaint within the prescribed timeframe and in compliance with due legal procedures, the aggrieved consumer may submit the grievance directly to the Commission for adjudication.

During the last quarter of 2025:

Total cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases under hearing	Cases Under process for disposal
12	6	1	5

The Commission remains committed to ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely resolution of consumer grievances in the energy sector. Continuous monitoring and procedural diligence are being maintained to safeguard consumer rights and strengthen regulatory compliance among utilities.

Inspections of Energy Installations and Compliance Monitoring

Ensuring safety and regulatory compliance remains a key priority of the Commission in the licensing process. During the reporting period, different wings of BERC conducted field inspections to assess safety standards, technical compliance, and operational readiness of licensed and applicant facilities.

Power wing:

Power plants are inspected to assess critical safety parameters, including earthing systems, protection systems, fire safety arrangements, and fuel supply systems. Inspection teams also review cogeneration/trigeneration configurations, as-laid drawings, and layout plans of the facilities. During the fourth quarter of 2025 (October–December), a total of 63 power plants were physically inspected, and the reports were submitted to the Commission for approval and subsequent licensing actions.



Visit of the DD and AD (petroleum) to United Payra Power Limited at Patuakhali.

Gas wing:

LPG storage and bottling plants, as well as CNG stations, are inspected to verify technical compliance and safety measures, including fire safety systems and fuel handling arrangements. Inspection teams also examine as-laid drawings and layout plans of the facilities. During the fourth quarter of 2025, 6 LPG storage and bottling plants and CNG stations were physically inspected, and the reports were submitted to the Commission for approval and licensing.

Petroleum wing:

Petroleum storage facilities are inspected to ensure compliance with safety and operational standards, including storage capacity, security systems, fire safety arrangements, installation accuracy as per approved design, and safety conditions within the immediate surrounding area. During the fourth quarter of 2025, a total of 24 petroleum storage facilities were physically inspected, and the reports were submitted to the Commission for approval and subsequent issuance of licenses.

Seminars and Workshops

During this quarter, BEREC organized a series of seminars and workshops to promote knowledge exchange, technical dialogue, and stakeholder engagement across the energy sector. These events brought together international experts, policymakers, academics, industry representatives, and practitioners to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in energy efficiency, sustainability, and resource management.

Seminar 1

A seminar titled “Energy Auditing: Assessment and Enhancement of Energy Efficiency in Power Plants, including Captive Power Plants” was held on 9 October 2025, chaired by Jalal Ahmed, Chairman, BEREC. Members of the Commission were present. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Md. Zohurul Haque, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET. Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman (Electrical Engineering, BUET) and Dr. Md. Aman Uddin (Mechanical Engineering, BUET) served as discussants.



The seminar brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the Power Division, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, universities, research organizations, power utilities, gas utilities, SREDA, industry associations, and industrial entities operating captive power plants.

Activities



Seminar 2

A seminar titled “**Opportunities within the Energy–Water–Environment–Health–Food Nexus**” was held on 27 November 2025, chaired by the Chairman of BEREC. The keynote speaker, Dr. Rafiqul Gani, CEO of PSE for SPEED Company Ltd., Denmark, and former Professor at the Technical University of Denmark, discussed integrated approaches to addressing interlinked challenges across energy, water, environment, health, and food systems in the context of Bangladesh’s growing population.

The presentation highlighted sustainable solutions, including carbon capture from multiple sectors and integrated system design for CO₂ management. Members of the Commission attended the seminar. Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak and Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia served as discussants. Participants included representatives from Power Division, Energy & Mineral Resources Division, BUET, Dhaka University, Petrobangla (Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation), BEPRC, SREDA, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), Hydrocarbon Unit, Bangladesh Petroleum Institute, Eastern Refinery Ltd.



Seminar 3

The seminar “Energy Auditing in Captive Power: Practical Approaches and Case Studies” was held on 4 December 2025, chaired by the Chairman of BERC. Members of the Commission were present. The keynote presentation was delivered by Md. Rezaul Karim Khan, Director, BERC. Dr. Md. Zohurul Haque (BUET) and Jakir Ali Mahmud, a SREDA-certified Energy Auditor, participated as discussants. The seminar was attended by stakeholders, including representation from Power Division, Energy & Mineral Resources Division, BUET, Dhaka University, BEPRC, SREDA, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), Electricity Transmission & Distribution utilities, Petrobangla, Gas Distribution Utilities, FBCCI, BGMEA, BKMEA, BTMA, Energy Auditors & Industry with Captive Power Plant.



Activities

Seminar 4

A seminar titled **“Waste-to-Energy and Renewable Energies: Meeting Energy Demand in Bangladesh Sustainably”** was held on 18 December 2025 under the chairmanship of the Chairman of BERC. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Iqbal M. Mujtaba (FREng), Associate Dean and Professor of Computational Process Engineering at the University of Bradford, United Kingdom. Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak and Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia served as discussants.

The keynote highlighted global and local applications of renewable energy sources, including biomass, wind, tidal, geothermal, and solar. The speaker noted that while solar and hydropower have seen some development in Bangladesh, other renewable sources remain largely untapped despite significant potential. He emphasized the importance of private sector participation and supportive regulatory incentives to accelerate renewable energy deployment.



The seminar was attended by representatives from Power Division, Energy & Mineral Resources Division, BUET, Dhaka University, Petrobangla (Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation), BEPRC, SREDA, Bangladesh Power

Development Board (BPDB), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), Hydrocarbon Unit, Bangladesh Petroleum Institute, Eastern Refinery Ltd.

Workshop

A workshop titled **“Presentation and Discussion with Members of the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) on Gas Exploration and Application of Drill Stem Test (DST) Method”** was held on 22 December 2025, chaired by Honourable Chairman of BERC. Respected Members of the Commission were present. The keynote presentation was delivered by Mr. Md. Mijanur Rahman, Member (Gas), BERC, with Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak serving as discussant.

The keynote speaker explained the procedure of Drill Stem Testing (DST), a method used to evaluate reservoir performance in hydrocarbon-bearing zones. He highlighted that DST determines gas flow rates, reservoir potentiality and reservoir pressure.





Training



From October to December 2025, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) organized a series of training programs for its officers and staff covering technical, regulatory, and administrative areas.

The first internal training session included topics covering etiquette, personal behaviors and professionalism, leadership, and motivation. The other sessions covered topics such as work-life balance and workplace improvement. Technical sessions for using D-nothi software efficiently and file management of dispute application were also held in the last quarter of this year, 2025.

Chairman Joins in SAFIR Conference

Chairman of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), Jalal Ahmed, participated in the 31st Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) held on 23 October 2025. He also attended the SAFIR Annual Conference on 24 October 2025, themed “Strengthening Infrastructure Regulation in South Asia: Resilience, Innovation and Regional Cooperation.”

The activities of SAFIR are guided by a Steering Committee comprising all member institutions, while an Executive Committee with representatives from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka provides strategic direction. SAFIR brings together regulatory bodies, including energy regulators, across the South Asian region.

The Steering Committee Meeting reviewed ongoing SAFIR activities and discussed future programs aimed at enhancing regulatory capacity, strengthening regional cooperation, and promoting knowledge sharing. The Annual Conference provided a platform for regional regulators and stakeholders to exchange views on emerging regulatory challenges, resilience building, innovation, and collaborative approaches in infrastructure regulation.

The participation of the Hon’ble Chairman underscores BERC’s continued engagement in regional regulatory forums and its commitment to promoting best practices in energy and infrastructure regulation in South Asia.



Member (Petroleum) Visits OPCW in The Hague and Participates in International Meetings Online

Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia (Member, Petroleum) attended the Technical Meeting of Experts to Establish a Global Academic Network in Support of the Chemical Weapons Convention (4-6 November 2025), held at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. The invited, closed-door meeting brought together 20 experts from around the world to initiate a Global Academic Network aimed at advancing the responsible practice of science and technology, including support for the Chemical Weapons Convention. Dr. Razia participated in the expert deliberations and finalized the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the proposed network based on consensus among the participants.

Director (Petroleum) Visits UTM Malaysia

Dr. Md. Didarul Alam, Director joined as Team Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation of joint-secretaries in an attachment program of the Senior Staff Course at the University of Technology Malaysia (UTM) from 3 to 12 November 2025. The program offered valuable exposure to Malaysia's academic excellence, governance philosophy, and innovation-driven development model.

A key learning from the program was the governance philosophy of Malaysia MADANI, which operates through a top-down yet integrated framework, linking policy formulation with ground-level implementation. The seamless coordination among public administration, academia, and industry creates a strong motivational ecosystem, resulting in social order, economic discipline, and innovation-led growth. Universities

like UTM play a pivotal role in translating national vision into research, technology, and skilled human capital.

Malaysia's identity as a constitutional federal monarchy is complemented by a harmonious multicultural society. Islam is deeply respected and institutionally reflected, while inclusively coexisting with other religions and ethnicities. It is presented as a wisdom-based, scholarly tradition, visible in public life, rituals, and architectural aesthetics, contributing to social cohesion and ethical governance.

Overall, the attachment program was highly enriching and offers important lessons for Bangladesh in strengthening governance-academia-industry linkages and pursuing a values-based, inclusive development pathway.



History of Gas Exploration, Current Crisis, and Future Prospects in Bangladesh

The history of natural gas exploration in Bangladesh spans more than a century, beginning during the British colonial period and continuing through successive phases of development under both foreign and national organizations. Early exploration activities were led by international companies, while after independence in 1971, the sector came under national control. Bangladesh Oil and Gas Corporation (BOGC) established soon after independence and short named as ‘Petrobangla’. Later in 1985, it was reorganized as Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (BOGMC), commonly known as Petrobangla. Petrobangla is responsible for the exploration, production, transmission, and supply of oil and gas across the country and currently operates through 13 affiliated companies. Among these, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX), Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL), and Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL) play the principal role in upstream exploration and production activities.



BAPEX rig at Hobiganj#5 workover site

Gas Exploration and Production under BGFCL

BGFCL is one of the oldest and most significant gas-producing entities in Bangladesh. After independence, major gas fields such as Titas, Habiganj, and Bakhrabad, previously operated by Pakistan Shell Oil Company (PSOC), were transferred to Bangladesh Shell Oil Company (BSOC), which was later reorganized into BGFCL. In addition, Petrobangla assigned BGFCL the production responsibility of the Narsingdi, Meghna, and Kamta gas fields. These fields together form a substantial portion of Bangladesh’s onshore gas production.

Titas Gas Field, located in Brahmanbaria district, was discovered in 1962 through the drilling of Titas-1. Subsequent drilling confirmed commercial gas flows in all wells, establishing Titas as the largest gas field in the country. A 3D seismic survey covering 335 square kilometers was conducted in 2012 and later re-evaluated in 2020, leading to

new drilling programs. At present, 22 out of 27 wells are producing approximately 330 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas, along with condensate. Since production began in 1968, about 5.62 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas has been produced, while an estimated 1.72 TCF of recoverable reserves remains.

Habiganj Gas Field, discovered in 1963, has been another major contributor to national gas supply. Commercial production began in 1968, and six of the eleven drilled wells are currently producing about 90 MMCFD of gas. However, with cumulative production of approximately 2.79 TCF, most of its recoverable reserves have been produced. To explore remaining potential, BGFCL has initiated a new 3D seismic survey over the field.

Bakhrabad Gas Field, discovered in 1969 in Cumilla district, has been producing gas since 1984. Following a 3D seismic survey and data re-evaluation, a deep exploration well (Bakhrabad#11) has been planned. Currently, six producing wells supply around 25 MMSCFD of gas. Total cumulative production stands at about 899 billion cubic feet (BCF), with approximately 248 BCF of recoverable reserves remaining.

Smaller fields also play a supportive role in national supply. The Kamta Gas Field, discovered in 1982, ceased production in 1991 after producing about 21.10 BCF of gas. Recent seismic re-evaluation has identified prospects for renewed production through drilling of Kamta-2. The Narsingdi Gas Field, discovered in 1990, currently produces about 23 MMSCFD from two wells, with remaining recoverable reserves estimated at 83 BCF.

Current Crisis in the Gas Sector

Despite long-term production success, Bangladesh is presently facing a serious gas supply crisis. Many major gas fields are mature and experiencing natural decline, while energy demand continues to rise due to industrial growth,

Meghna Gas Field, discovered in 1997, produces around 6 MMSCFD and retains modest remaining reserves, with further exploration planned through new seismic surveys.

Overall, BGFCL currently contributes approximately 465 MMSCFD of gas to the national grid, while BAPEX adds around 106 MMSCF per day and SGFL produces 137 MMSCF per day.

urbanization, and power generation needs. The supply-demand gap has become increasingly evident, prompting urgent intervention from Petrobangla and the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD).

Future Prospects and Planned Initiatives

To mitigate the ongoing crisis, extensive exploration and development programs have been undertaken. Open areas near the Habiganj Gas Field under Exploration Blocks 9 and 12 have been allocated to BGFCL and BAPEX, with plans for seismic surveys and drilling of new exploration wells such as Laskarpur#1 and Banichang#1.

Simultaneously, Petrobangla and EMRD have launched ambitious drilling and workover programs involving 50-well and 100-well initiatives. So far, 20 wells have been completed, adding approximately 90 MMSCFD to the national grid, while another 110 MMSCFD awaits pipeline connectivity. By FY 2028–29, drilling of 19 high-priority

connectivity. By FY 2028–29, drilling of 19 high-priority wells is expected to add around 280 MMSCFD of gas. Completion of the full program, covering approximately 150 wells, is projected to contribute up to 1,400 MMSCFD to the national grid.

These initiatives are expected to substantially decline production in existing reservoirs, replenish gas supplies, and strengthen Bangladesh's energy security. With sustained investment, advanced seismic survey, and efficient development planning, domestic gas resources are likely to continue playing a crucial role in the country's energy mix in the coming decades.

Md. Mijanur Rahman,
Member, BERC



Adulteration of Lubricating Oils in Bangladesh: An Investigative Study

Lubricating oils play a vital role in reducing friction, wear, and heat in automotive and industrial machinery. To perform effectively, lubricants must meet strict quality standards. However, in Bangladesh, the lubricating oil market is increasingly threatened by the widespread presence of sub-standard and adulterated products. This article presents a short investigative study on lubricant adulteration in Bangladesh and evaluates methods for identifying such practices. This study was conducted over two years from 2018-2019 as thesis work for the partial fulfillment of the degree of Master of Engineering in Petroleum Engineering, BUET.

Used lubricating oil is commonly collected from vehicle workshops and sold through informal channels. Although government licensed re-refining plants exist, a significant portion of waste oil is diverted to illegal recycling facilities.

These facilities often use outdated acid-clay regeneration methods and minimal additives to produce low-quality base oil. The recycled oil is then sold either directly or mixed with branded lubricants and marketed at full price, deceiving consumers and harming engine performance.

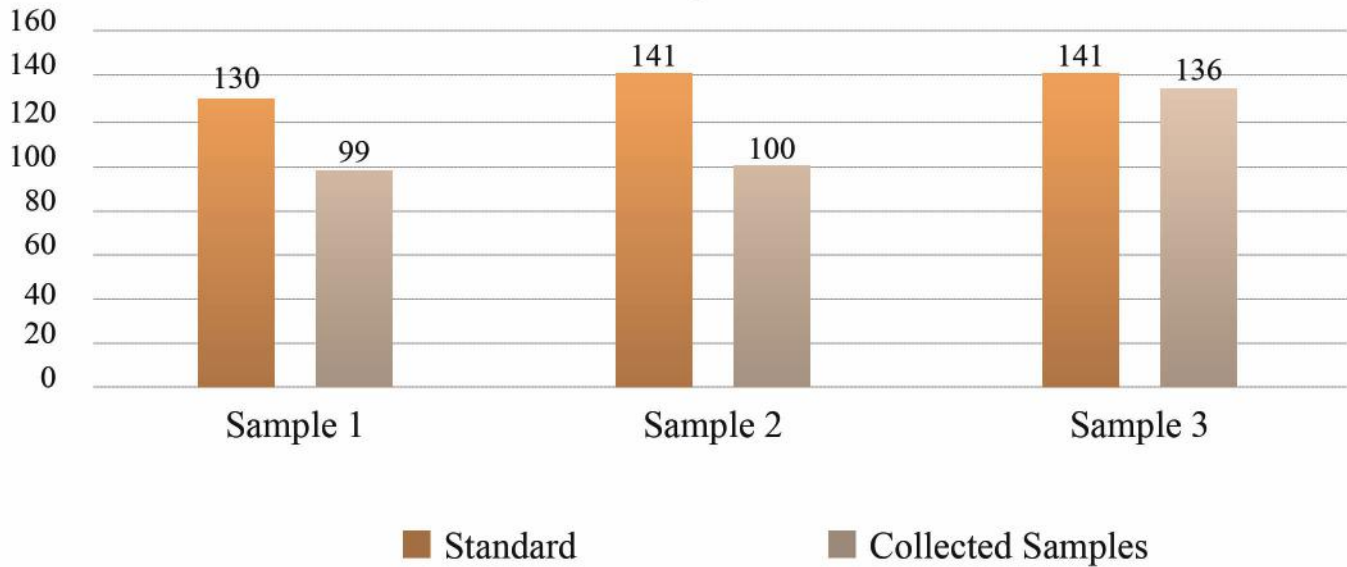
To investigate the extent of adulteration, market surveys were conducted in Dhaka areas including Jatrabari, Tikatuli, Banglamotor, and Amin Bazar. The survey revealed a well-organized network involving shopkeepers, drivers, and roadside workshops. Three lubricant samples of SAE 20W50 grade were collected at unusually low prices. These samples were compared with standard oils using four standard ASTM tests: viscosity at 40°C, viscosity at 100°C, viscosity index, and infrared (IR) spectroscopy. The sample oils were tested in order to note down their properties and the information for standard oils were obtained from specific manufacturers website.

Oil Name	Viscosity @40°C, cSt		Viscosity @100°C, cSt		Viscosity Index		Infra-red Spectrum
	Standard	Samples	Standard	Samples	Standard	Samples	
Sample 1 (Motor Cycle Oil grade SAE 20W50)	178.4	127.9	20.5	13.34	130	99	Samples Spectrum did not Match Standard
Sample 2 (Engine Oil grade SAE 20W50)	154.3	129.3	19	13.54	141	100	Samples Spectrum did not Match Standard
Sample 3 (Engine Oil unknown grade)	154.3	95.53	19	13.13	141	136	Samples Spectrum did not Match Standard

The results showed significant differences between standard and collected sample oils. Viscosity measurements at both temperatures clearly indicated adulteration, with deviations ranging from approximately 16% to 38%. These differences suggest dilution with inferior base oils or other substances such as kerosene, polypropylene, paraffin oil etc. However,

the viscosity index test was not consistently reliable because of minimal difference in values. One sample showed a viscosity index very close to that of standard oil, likely due to the addition of plastic polymers used to artificially enhance viscosity characteristics.

Viscosity Index



All tested samples showed IR spectra that did not match the original reference oil, confirming the presence of foreign or degraded compounds. This makes IR spectroscopy a powerful tool for identifying adulterated lubricants, even when conventional viscosity parameters appear acceptable. The study also highlights regulatory gaps. Currently, Bangladesh lacks adequate testing facilities at customs entry points, making it difficult to detect sub-standard or recycled oils during import.

In conclusion, lubricant adulteration in Bangladesh poses serious risks to engine performance, consumer finances, and environmental safety. Establishing a central quality control laboratory, strengthening customs testing facilities, and promoting environmentally sound re-refining technologies are essential steps. With proper regulation and incentives, waste oil recycling can become an eco-friendly solution rather than a source of market contamination.

Md. Rezaul Hoque
Assistant Director (Petroleum-1)



Photo Gallery



Public hearing for setting the gas tariff for fertilizer at the BIAM auditorium



Member (petroleum), along with the Assistant Director (Petroleum), visiting ERL



Member (gas), Chairman, and his spouse at the Victory Day 2025 celebration at Bangabhaban

Photo Gallery



Secretary of BERC received prize as captain of the winning football team



Member (gas) visited Drill Stem Testing (DST) of Hobiganj#5 Well



Chairman with his former colleagues from different ministries at the Victory Day 2025 celebration at Bangabhaban.

Photo Gallery



Professor Dr. Iqbal M. Mujtaba (FREngg), Associate Dean, Bradford University, UK, in a photoshoot after his keynote presentation.



Rapporteurs in a seminar titled 'Sustainable Energy Supplies in Bangladesh: Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sources'.

Photo Gallery



Professor Dr. Iqbal M. Mujtaba (FREngg), Associate Dean of Bradford University, UK, with the Commission



Md. Mijanur Rahman, Member (Gas), participated in a photo session following his seminar titled "Drilling, Drill Stem Testing & Reserve Estimation" at the Hydrocarbon Unit on 25 December 2025.



Member (petroleum) with Chemical Engineering graduates from BUET at the Closing ceremony of the National Workshop on Occupational Safety and Process Safety at CUET

Photo Gallery



Chairman of BERG delivered a speech as a special guest in a stakeholder workshop on 18 October 2025.



Football shooting event at Heritage Resort, Narsingdi.



Member Gas visited the Compressor unit at Titus location A

Photo Gallery



Brigadier General Brigadier General Mirza Baker Sarwar Ahmed, NDC, PSC (Retd) conducts a training session on "Etiquette, Personal Behaviors, and Professionalism, Leadership and Motivation" at the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission on 23 October 2025



The keynote presentation at the seminar titled "Energy Auditing in Captive Power: Practical Approaches and Case Studies," held on 4 December 2025, was delivered by Md. Rezaul Karim Khan, Director (Power), BERC.



On 23 October 2025, Officers and employees of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission participate in an internal training on "Etiquette, Personal Behaviors and Professionalism, Leadership and Motivation"



Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

📍 IEB Building (5th & 6th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka - 1000

✉ info@berc.org.bd

🌐 www.berc.org.bd