



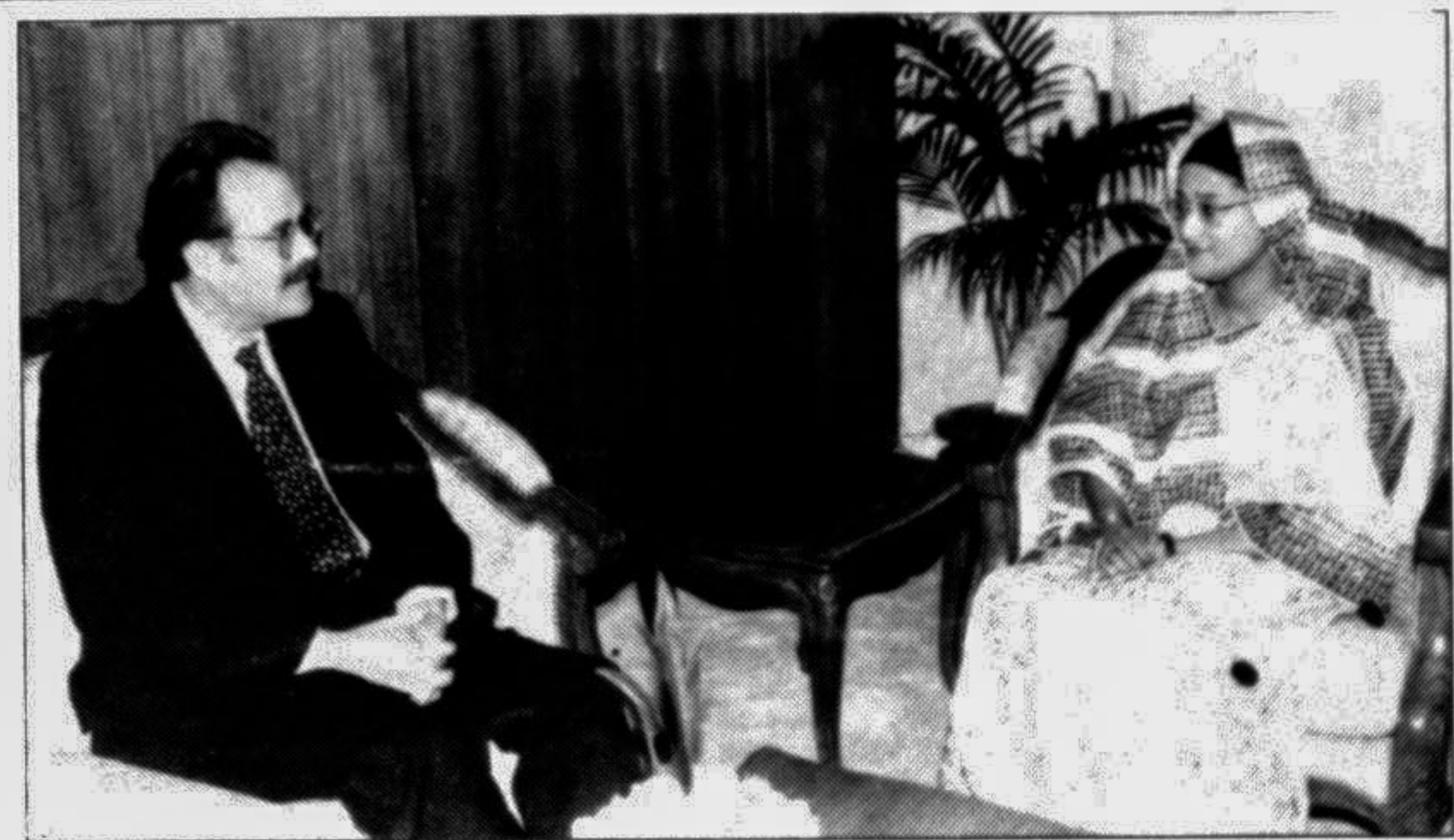
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Outgoing Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh John J. Scott called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. —PID photo

CTBT: India won't bow to int'l pressure

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has vowed not to give in to international pressure to agree to a global nuclear test ban treaty that New Delhi finds discriminatory, a government spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

"Attempts are being made to put pressure on us to agree to this discrimination despite its obvious negative implications for our national security. We have made it clear that we shall not allow such efforts to succeed," the spokesman quoted Deve Gowda as saying late on Friday.

"The reluctance of the nuclear weapons powers to give up their arsenals is fresh proof of their discriminatory attitude on this issue of vital global importance," he said.

India has vetoed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) being negotiated in Geneva and has sworn to oppose further any attempts to send the draft treaty to the United Nations General Assembly.

New Delhi says the treaty is discriminatory because it fails to commit existing nuclear powers to disarm within a specified time frame and allows them to refine arsenals through computerised testing while barring other nations

KMC students protest transfer of principal

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Aug 17: The Students of the Khulna Medical College (KMC) abstained from classes today to protest the transfer of principal Dr. Zubair Hossain.

Later at a rally, they threatened to start an indefinite strike if the transfer order was not withdrawn immediately.

UNB adds: The government, in a notification issued on August 12, ordered the principal to hand over charges to a senior professor and then join the Dinapur Medical College as a professor of Gynaecology by today.

Otherwise, the notification said his services would stand terminated automatically.

BOI

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other incentives that might attract investment, rather, it is an 'industrial' base which will help get foreign investment in this country," he said, adding 'Bangladesh is building this base.'

But foreign investors yet feel uncomfortable to come here, one source pointed out. "Your paper work is a very lengthy procedure," said a foreign investor in his office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban in the city on Monday. Requesting anonymity, the investor, who has invested huge amount of money in European and Asian countries to produce construction materials, said he had been trying for the last four years to get lands for his setup.

The investor said, the bureaucratic red tapism was the main obstacle to foreign direct investment in this country. "I have been contacting officials for buying some lands but one official is sending me to another and none is doing the business," he said.

Another textile sector investor at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone told this correspondent that his work was slowing down due to bureaucratic tangles. "The services of utilities are bad," he said, adding it was increasing the cost of production in his factory excessively.

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FM starts Kuwait, Iran tour today

Foreign Minister Sheikh Samad Azad leaves Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber, reports UNB.

Azad will also visit Iran from August 21-25 at the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

This will be the first foreign visit by Azad after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government took over last June. The Foreign Minister's visit was officially announced at a press conference at the Foreign Office in the city yesterday evening.

Asked why he preferred to visit two Muslim countries first, the Foreign Minister said he had just accepted the invitation from those countries.

He said Bangladesh has traditionally close links with the Gulf countries in view of historical, religious and cultural affinities.

Azad recalled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, had laid the foundation of our relations with Kuwait during his state visit to that country in 1974.

Kuwait had undertaken a special mission at that time to negotiate between Bangladesh and Pakistan which ultimately led to mutual recognition, paving the way for Bangladesh's participation in the 1974 Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore.

"Kuwait is our friend in need and development partner," Azad said adding that Bangladesh had been consistently by the side of Kuwait when it became a victim of aggression and illegal occupation in 1990.

Bangladesh has contributed some changes in foreign postings

By Staff Correspondent
Additional Foreign Secretary Khairul Anam is being appointed ambassador to Belgium while Rezaul Islam, Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is going to the Philippines as the chief of mission, according to sources concerned.

Hasan Ahmed now Ambassador in Brussels, is due to retire on September 6. Earlier, the CDA in Manila, Major (rtd) Khairuzzaman, was recalled.

Brig Mustafizur Rahman has been appointed Defence Adviser in Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad in place of Brig Ahsan Nazmul Amin. The Brig Nasiruddin Sarwar has been appointed Defence Attaché in Yangon, in place of Brig Jahangir Khan, according to the sources. The changes have been made after the expiry of their normal tenure.



Indonesian President Suharto hands over a replica of the red and white national flag to model students, before it was hoisted in front of the presidential palace during Independence Day celebrations in Jakarta yesterday. —AFP/UNB photo

FM: Water issue with Delhi

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"There is a consensus among all major political parties in India on improving relations and solve the water problem," he noted.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary, during the same visit, had also met West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who too had assured that he would do everything to bring about a resolution of the problem.

Basu also expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh sometime in October, Samad Azad said.

Responding to a question, he said that the water-sharing problem is not linked with other issues.

"Water and transit issues are delinked," the foreign minister said, but he added that all issues could be discussed during the coming visit of the Indian External Affairs Minister.

He said that the experts' committee on flood forecasting would be reactivated immediately and experts from India would be visiting Bangladesh early next month. Similarly, the experts' committee on embankments pile-up would visit India shortly.

The Indian foreign secretary had agreed to the request of his Bangladesh counterpart to provide at the earliest data showing the total availability of the Ganges water at Farakka for the last six years.

Samad Azad said the Bangladesh had handed over to India a list of 50 exportable

to the defence of Kuwait, both under bilateral arrangement and under the UNIKOM.

During the visit to Kuwait Azad will pay courtesy calls on Kuwaiti Ameer Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

He will also hold formal talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah.

During his visit to Iran, Azad will call on Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and have official talks with his counterpart Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

Alleged mugger jumps from roof, dies

By Staff Correspondent
An alleged mugger who sustained fatal injuries when he reportedly jumped from a building to escape arrest died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Identified as Akbar Hossain, 21, he jumped from the rooftop of a three-storey building at about 11:30 pm on Friday as he tried to flee the scene after seeing a vehicle of police near Gauderia rail gate under Sutrapur thana.

Fatally injured Akbar was immediately rushed to the DMCH where he died, police said.

A case has been filed with Sutrapur thana.

New Australian envoy

Charles Hamilton Stuart, a senior officer of the Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been appointed Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh. The government of Australia appointed Charles H Stuart as the country's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, it was officially announced yesterday, reports UNB.

Mir Shawkat's bail extended

An Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court yesterday extended the ad-interim bail of BNP leader Mir Shawkat Ali for the third time in a murder case, reports UNB.

Mir Shawkat, a former minister, is facing trial in the Ward Commission. Shahabuddin murder case. He was allowed ad-interim bail on June 3 on surrender.

After hearing both sides, ACMM Mohammad Habibur Rahman allowed the extension of bail till the filing of charge-sheet.



Illegal arms factory found in city : 2 held

By Staff Correspondent
Police unearthed an illegal arms manufacturing factory at Kadamtola in Shabubagh thana area in the city and arrested two persons in this connection early yesterday.

A Detective Branch (DB) team found the factory on the ground floor of a three-storey building, Sajal and Fakhrul Alam were arrested from the spot, police said.

During the raid, police recovered a revolver, two walkie-talkies, 172 bullets and different tools used in manufacturing firearms.

In another raid, DB police arrested five alleged dacoits from Sayedabad under Demra thana Friday night. The arrested were identified as Khokon, Hafiz, Kamal, Jahangir and Babul, police said. The DB team also seized two revolvers, three wireless sets and huge ammunition.

Besides, Shabubagh police arrested Zakir Hossain and Monir Hossain from Malibagh Chowdhurypara with illegal arms in their possession.

Mother Teresa Home in Ctg opens

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: Nobel laureate Mother Teresa cancelled her visit to this port city today as she fell sick, officials here said.

All preparations were taken here to welcome Teresa who was scheduled to inaugurate her home for the destitute and orphans at Pahartoli St Xavier School premises at 10 am.

The inaugural function of this newly built hill-top orphanage named 'Mother Teresa's home for destitute and orphans' was, however, attended by Vatican Ambassador and representative of Pope John Paul-II Andriani Bornordin, Arch Bishop of Dhaka Michael Rosario, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury and elite of the city.

The Vatican ambassador, in his speech, lauded Teresa's service to humanity.

Mohiuddin announced that the maternity ward in city corporation hospital would now be named after Mother Teresa.



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Protest against bread price-hike in Jordan

AMMAN, Aug 17: Despite an appeal for restraint from King Hussein, stone-throwing demonstrators clashed with police and set buildings alight for a second day today to protest the doubling of bread prices, reports AP.

Witnesses said there were violent confrontations in the southern towns of Kerak and Maan when police attempted to break up demonstrations. Both cities had similar protests Friday following mid-day prayers.

In Kerak, where about 1,000 protesters gathered, many threw stones at police, who responded with tear gas to disperse the crowds.

A witness, who declined to be identified, said protesters set fire to two government buildings and a private bank in Kerak, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Amman.

In Maan, 100 kilometers (60 miles) further south, an eyewitness said police patrols fired tear gas at 300 protesters chanting anti-government slogans.

The renewed protests came only hours after King Hussein urged calm.

"The homeland needs you all and needs your vigilance, determination and solidarity to eradicate sedition," the monarch said during a televised speech in which he blamed the protests on outside agitators.

Begum Zia

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Begum Zia will fly to Jessore on August 20 and from there she will go to Khulna and Bagerhat by road. After addressing public meetings there she will return to the capital by air on August 21.

On August 22, the BNP chief will leave Dhaka for Rangpur by air and go to Kurigram the next day. She will then go to Bogra on August 24. After addressing election rallies at two constituencies in Bogra, Begum Zia will return to the capital on August 27. She will tour Laxmipur, Feni and Mirersharai from August 28 to 31.

The BNP chief will then have a day's election campaign in Shariatpur.

The BNP chief will also visit the Sylhet-4, Sirajganj-1, Pirojpur-2 and Chittagong-13 constituencies to campaign for her party candidates in the by-polls. The schedule will be announced later.

2 US companies

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In Block 15, the Cairn is also expected to drill two wells — one in Semutang and the other in Haldia. The source said that the Cairn did not go to the Semutang area in the last eight months because the government did not confirm security measures. Now the government has confirmed security.

The drilling of the Semutang well is expected to begin in the first week of September, the sources said.

The discovery of gas by Cairn has generated a lot of enthusiasm among oil companies. A number of leading companies have expressed their keenness to work with Cairn as investment as well as technical partners.

The Cairn is already being assisted by a renowned company, the Brown and Root. The Exxon Esso, one of the world's leading oil companies, sent a four member delegation last month to review prospects in hydrocarbon exploration in Bangladesh as well as to work with the Cairn. Two other companies — Unocal and Mobil are also interested in working with the Cairn and explore hydrocarbon reserves.

The two chiefs of Cairn and Brown Roots will visit Bangladesh to formally apprise the Energy Minister and high officials concerned of the development of the Sangu well and other issues.

Meanwhile, general managers of both the Cairn and the Occidental in Bangladesh have been 'removed' from Bangladesh and new GMs are expected to join the companies in Dhaka soon, the sources said. The Petrobangla had earlier expressed 'dissatisfaction' at the performance of the two general managers, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the British

Subedar stabbed in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: Subedar Nurul Islam of the Detective Branch was stabbed during a clash with some miscreants, at Miakhannagar under Chandaga thana this evening. The victim was admitted to the Chittagong medical college hospital.

These devious and deceptive elements are the remains of some who belong to parties operating outside Jordan in terms of ideology and belief," he said without elaborating.

Official sources said the monarch was referring to Iraq, Jordan's eastern neighbor and one-time ally. Relations have soured in the past year and the king has become an increasingly harsh critic of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Jordan's government this past week more than doubled the price of bread, the staple food in Jordan. A kilo (2.2 pounds) now costs the equivalent of 26 US cents, up from 12 cents.

Tareq untraced

From page 1
his house and took him for a dinner in a Chinese restaurant, according to police and Tareq's relatives.

Parents of Tareq alleged that their son was murdered at Meghna Ghat under Gazaria police station. They lodge a case with Gazaria thana in this connection.

Meanwhile, Gazaria police Thursday arrested three youngmen who were reportedly friends of Tareq. They were taken on three days' remand for interrogation.

Police sources here said that Gazaria police and senior officials of Munshiganj district police were investigating the incident. Besides, Dhaka Metropolitan Police questioned several persons of the restaurant under Gulshan thana in the city where they took dinner Wednesday night.

Police said that Tareq had not exchange of words with some of his friends in the restaurant. One of his friends then took him to the airport area. Later, they took Tareq to Meghna Ghat, police and family sources said adding that the exchange of words was over one of their girlfriends, Lubna.

Some of Tareq's friends including Lubna are now absconding.

Family member of Tareq, carried out a titling campaign around the Meghna Ghat area seeking information about the youth's whereabouts. However, family members, talking to The Daily Star, expressed deep concern that no elaborate search and rescue operation was conducted by the law enforcing agencies and felt that the brigade and naval divers should be engaged to trace the body. They also felt that the case should be transferred to the CID.

2 US companies

From page 1
company, Midland Power Company and ANZ Greenlays Bank has submitted a pre-feasibility report on setting up a power plant in Haripur. The Midland now awaits government approval to conduct a complete feasibility study at the site.

The Midland now specifically proposes to set up a 150 MW power plant with six units. The signing of final agreement. This plant would be expandable to 300 MW. Initially, Midland had proposed to set up a 110 MW plant within 15 months of agreement.

Tofael

From page 1
they are distributing fertiliser correctly."

He said this year's production of urea fertiliser has been set at 21 lakh metric tons, but the government will build a buffer stock by importing two lakh tons.

He also assured that there would be no shortage of sugar, salt and pulses as the government is taking steps to import the items.

The minister said the ruling Awami League will not conduct the government from a party viewpoint since politicisation can mar the good efforts of the government.

He said the government will simplify the rules and regulations so the businessmen do not stumble at every step through controlling measures.

He said new laws are underway to allow foreign and local investors to set up their own Export Processing Zone (EPZ). "We will try to finalise the law in the current session of the parliament," said Tofael.

He said periodic meetings of some vital organisations like the Board of Investments (BOI) and BEPZA will be regularised. The seventh meeting of BOI was held recently three years after the sixth meeting," pointed out the minister. "It was supposed to be held quarterly."

Tofael said the shortage of power will ease to some extent by September 1997 with the addition of 200 megawatt of power generation capacity in May and another 210 megawatt by September.

"We are attaching priority to power sector since it will dictate investment in the country," said Tofael.