

# Govt guns for giant projects, lacks gas

## Myanmar team due to talk supply of gas to a dozen future power plants

**SHARIEF KHAN**  
The past BNP-led alliance government's failure in power and gas sectors has pushed the caretaker government to an enormous challenge of handling a dozen major schemes for generation of

3,570 MW gas-based power and ensuring huge gas for them. These power projects exclude the small and rental power projects having a total capacity of more than 400 MW, tenders for which are now at a very advanced stage. Most of these small and

rental projects will also be gas-based. As the country may not be able to fully meet the gas demand of these new power projects, the government is seriously considering gas import from Myanmar. A delegation of the Myanmar gov-

ernment will visit Dhaka soon to discuss the matter, sources said. Foreign oil companies are already supplying half of the country's total gas consumption of 1,700 million cubic feet per day (mmcf).  
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## Moeen says polls by 2008-end

**UNB, Rangpur**

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday asserted that the election would be held by December next year and urged the people not to sell out their vote anymore. "Vote has to be given to such persons who will take care of you through five years. Don't sell your vote and don't allow others to do that," he said while addressing the government officials, local elite and journalists at Rangpur Circuit House. Gen Moeen said work on voter list is going on. And national identity (ID) card, being prepared  
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## Employment fell 4.4pc during 2000-05

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The overall employment rate has declined by 4.4 percent during the years 2000 to 2005, turning the employment situation in the country for the worse. A study conducted during the period by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) also found that the lowest income group, with per capita income of Tk 2,119 in 2005, has been hit the hardest as the employment rate for

this group has declined by 8.1 percent. Income growth rate of the lowest 50 percent households was lower than that of the country's consumer price index (CPI) during the same period, the survey said. The study examined the growth of household income, employment and real wage over the period of 2000 to 2005 based on data from Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)  
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## SC extends stay on Hasina's bail

**Hears govt appeals again Aug 26**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned the hearing on government's appeals against detained former premier Sheikh Hasina till August 26. A six-member full bench of the SC appellate division, headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rulul Amin, yesterday pronounced the adjournment of hearing on government's appeals against Hasina's bail granted by the High Court (HC) in two separate extortion cases and HC's stay on operation of an Anti Corruption Commission (ACC)  
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## Ctg EPZ office ransacked over RMG workers' assault

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

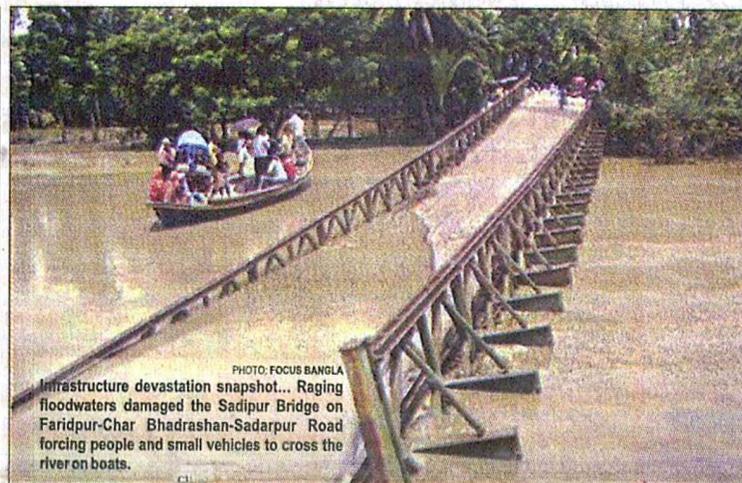
Workers of a readymade garment factory ransacked Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) office protesting assault of two workers yesterday morning. Over one thousand workers of Uro Mode Fashions Ltd, a Korean factory at sector-6 of CEPZ, also stopped plying of vehicles inside the CEPZ till 12:30pm. Earlier in the morning, factory workers Bishu and Sattar went to a senior official of the garment factory to discuss the matter of several temporary workers who were allegedly sacked without showing  
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## 2 YEARS OF AUG 17 BOMBINGS JMB masterminds yet to be identified

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK**

Although two years have passed since the Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) launched a countrywide bomb attack, the government has not yet found out the true masterminds behind that group. The mystery about the masterminds remains shrouded especially because the six militant leaders who were hanged on March 29 this year were not allowed to speak out before the media before their death. Questions that remain unanswered include those about the

foreign links and funding that kept JMB operations alive for years. Meantime, quoting high police officials, the press reported that JMB leader Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai's killing mission of 2004 was launched upon the green signal of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her all-powerful son Tarique Rahman and the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar. But till date, the law enforcement authorities have not made any official move to initiate an investigation in this regard. The press also reported that out  
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**PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA**  
Infrastructure devastation snapshot... Raging floodwaters damaged the Sadipur Bridge on Faridpur-Char Bhadrashan-Sadarpur Road forcing people and small vehicles to cross the river on boats.

## Rivers swell again with fresh rains

**Threaten flooding; 35 more die**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Rise of the three major rivers Padma, Jamuna and Meghna water at many points and several rivers in the northeastern region following heavy rains in the upstream is threatening a fresh flooding in the country. Meanwhile, the number of diarrhoea patients continued to rise with 4,174 admitted to government hospitals across the country and 711 to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) in the capital as of yesterday evening. A total of 35 people died in 24

hours till yesterday noon due to flood-related reasons raising the death toll to 516 since July 30, according to the control room of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). "Flood situation in Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Chandpur and Dohar and Nawabganj upazilas of Dhaka is likely to improve further at a lower rate in the next 24 hours and then, the prevailing flood situation is likely to remain static or deteriorate slightly," the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.  
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