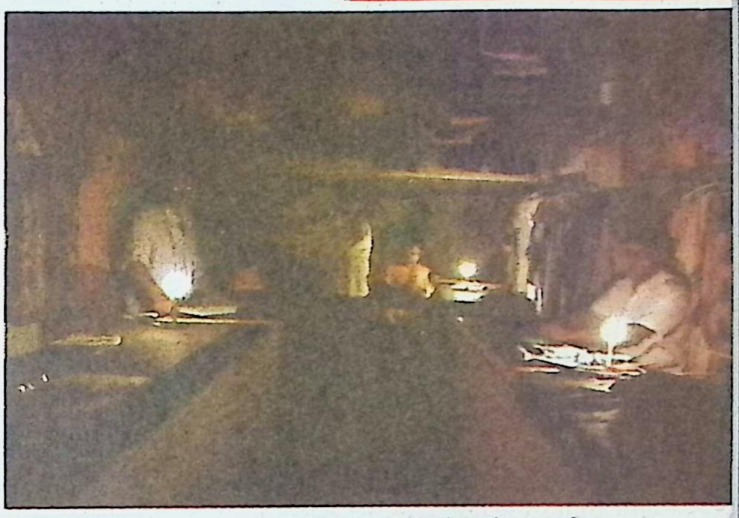




A tailoring shop has to use candles during the long hours of loadshedding.



Generators have become the most sought after devices these days.

It was not long before the bleak truth reared its ugly head. Petrobangla opposed it and a national committee on gas utilisation in 2002 predicted a bleak utture for Bangladesh from 2011. Now, even with the ilbiyana field pumping 500 million cubic feet per day mmcfd) gas to the domestic market-- the country is not nly reeling in a severe gas crisis, it does not see any end o the gas crisis in the future. Ever.

Natural gas lies at the centre of the country's energy sage. Once thought to be abundant, 90 per cent of the ountry's power plants were built using gas as the energy source for generating power. This gas also happens to be used for manufacturing fertiliser. A large number of domestic, commercial and industrial users also rely on gas. And with the introduction of the CNG system five years ago, the country's road transportation sector has become so dependent on using gas that it is saving the country more than 800 million dollars worth of imported oil.

The country's power demand amounts to only 5500 megawatt unofficially, and 4600 mw officially. But the power plants under the Power Development Board (PDB) can generate only around 3600 mw. Now with the gas crisis, the PDB cannot generate around 500 to 800 mw power. Earlier this month, the PDB had all the gas supply it needed, and it could generate a record 4200 mw power--just for one day.

The crises in the power and gas sector are largely attributed to the past BNP led alliance government's inaction, mismanagement and flawed policy in the