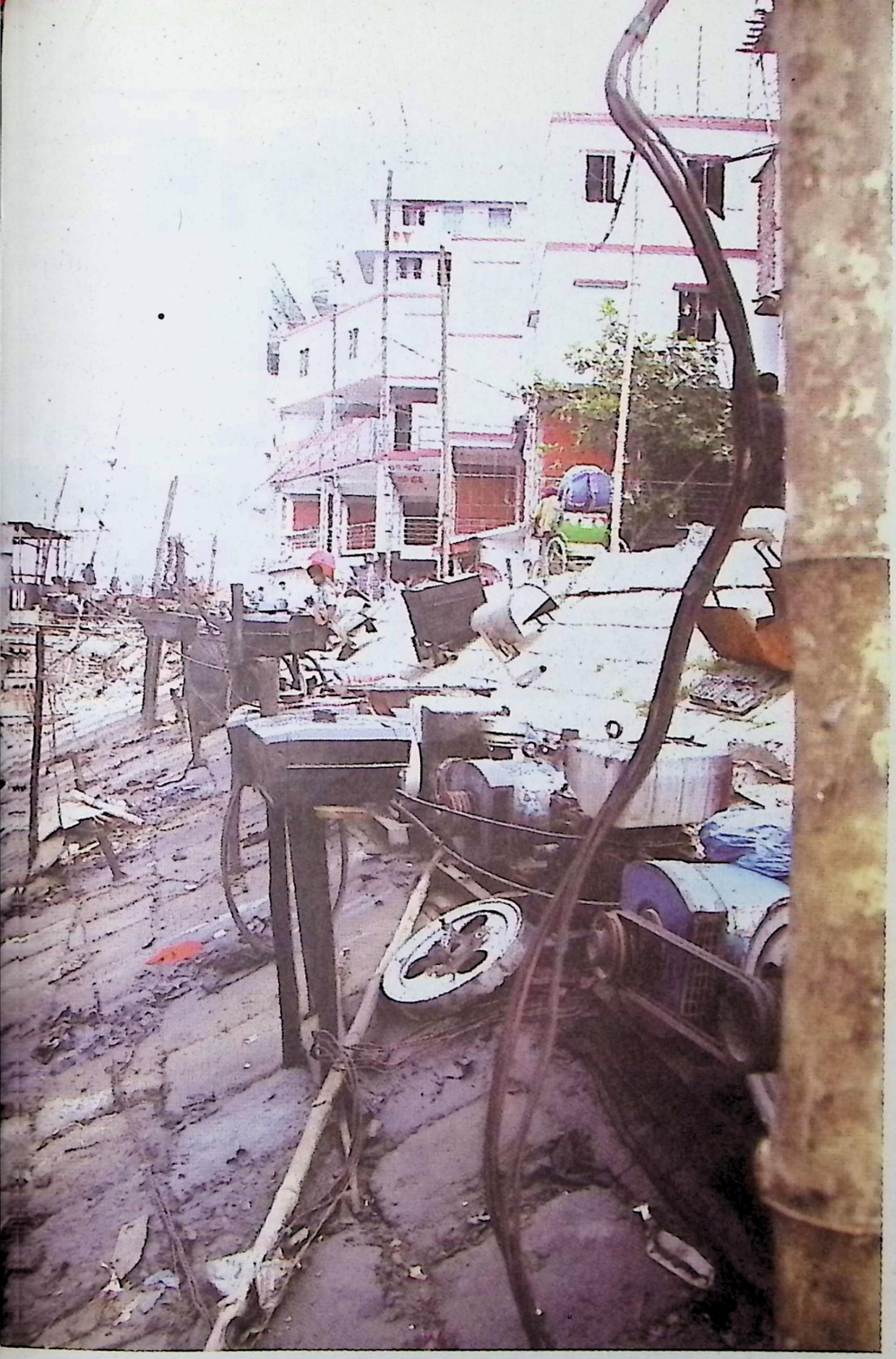


Keraniganj is heavily dependent on generators for its power needs.

Petrobangla has already declined confirmation of gas supplies to a number of upcoming power projects. This means, the government cannot go ahead with its planned power projects without reconfiguring how these will run.

power projects "duel-fuel" instead of making them gas-fired only. Duel fuel implies that the plant will be both gas-fired and oil-fired. This idea will keep the future plants working when the gas crisis becomes more severe. The second idea is to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) along with the floating terminal that carries it, have the terminal docked at the Sangu offshore platform and use the Sangu gas pipeline to transport the LNG to the national grid. This idea will keep the existing gas consuming industry running.

Nuclear Power

Going nuclear has also been a much talked about alternative. Earlier this month the government had discussions with Russia for two 1000-megawatt nuclear power projects. The memorandum of understanding for these plants will be signed by the end of this month. Nuclear power is also very capital-intensive, while fuel costs are relatively much more significant for systems based on fossil fuels. Development of nuclear power could provide work for local industries, which build the plant and also minimise long-term commitments to buying fuels abroad. Overseas purchases over the lifetime of a new coal-fired plant in Japan, for example, may be subject to price rises which could be a more serious drain on foreign currency reserves than less costly uranium.