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A singer from Bangladesh will
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And her ability to squander the goodwill
she came to office with
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Gilani disqualified as prime minister

Says Pak top court in its verdict, threatens early polls if govt fails to replace him; ruling party rushes to draw up battle plan

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's top court yesterday disqualified Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani from office in a stunning move likened to a "judicial coup" that threw the country into fresh turmoil.

The Supreme Court convicted Gilani of contempt on April 26 for refusing to ask Switzerland to reopen multi-million-dollar graft cases against President Asif Ali Zardari, the



culmination of a showdown between the judiciary and the government.

The move exacerbates uncertainty in a country that is increasingly trying US patience over al-Qaeda-linked havens, struggling with a Taliban insurgency and heading deeper towards a financial crisis that could force it back to the IMF.

It also dissolves the cabinet and

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HC questions factory closure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed two apex bodies of garment exporters to explain in four weeks why their decision to shut down around 300 factories in Ashulia should not be declared illegal.

Following a spate of violence by readymade garment workers demanding a pay hike, leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear

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Exporters stare into dark abyss

Losses pile up for garment owners as production on hold

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Owners of Ashulia-based garment factories will have to bear heavy loss of export, time and, worst of all, buyers as production in more than 300 units remains stalled since Sunday following a weeklong labour unrest.

Against this backdrop, apparel exporters now plan expensive air shipment, timely delivery of products being their next big worry.

Factory owners say they also fear for workers' shortages in the coming days since many workers left the industrial belt on the outskirts of the capital in search for job elsewhere.

After a weeklong spate of street violence by the workers in the area demanding a pay raise, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear

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No gas link for homes now

Energy adviser refutes report

STAR REPORT

The prime minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury yesterday ruled out the possibility of giving new gas connections to domestic consumers soon.

"We are not thinking to give new gas connections to domestic consumers for the time being," he said.

The government will rather focus on supplying gas to power stations, fertiliser plants and industrial units, he added.

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RMG crisis to end by Saturday

Says state minister for labour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crisis stemming from the garment workers' unrest in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital will end by Saturday, State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian said yesterday.

Around 300 factories in the industrial zone were shut down on Sunday for an indefinite period after a series of violence by readymade garment workers demanding a

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NEWS ANALYSIS Onus on CJ

2012 situation is different from that in 1993

SHAKHAWAT LITON

This time the situation is different from the one which happened in 1993. The wisdom of a High Court bench had prevented then Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali from issuing a ruling in June 1993. But this time, Speaker AbdulHamid has finally issued a ruling accusing a High Court judge of violating the constitution.

Nineteen years ago, the HC bench had called for a copy of parliamentary proceedings of a certain sitting. Through an order on June 17, 1993, it directed the secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad to send it a copy of the proceedings of Parliament session on May 11 of the same year.

It had sought the text of the proceedings in connection with a contempt petition filed against the then information minister over

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JUSTICE MANIK REMARKS Four top jurists hail Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four eminent jurists yesterday welcomed the Speaker's ruling on a High Court judge's remarks about parliament and the Speaker, leaving the matter with the chief justice.

Speaker Abdul Hamid on Monday told parliament that Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik had violated the constitution by making the "derogatory remarks".

Putting the onus on the chief justice, the Speaker said, "We will support whatever steps the chief justice may take with regard to such behaviour by a court. Hopefully, that will prevent a recurrence of such incidents."

Talking to The Daily Star on the Supreme Court premises, Dr Kamal Hossain said the Speaker's ruling is acceptable since he showed a way for resolving the problems created between the parliament and the judiciary.

The Speaker has brought an allegation before the chief justice about a judge, and he (CJ) will now

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DR KAMAL



AMIR-UL ISLAM



M ZAHIR



ZAINUL ABEDIN



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

This baby boy was born on St Martin's Island on June 13 after his mother along with father and two siblings had fled the sectarian violence at Akyab in Myanmar. The couple, unwilling to go back to trouble-torn Akyab, break down in tears before journalists after they are brought to the Shah Porir Dweep camp of the Coast Guard yesterday.

TRESPASS ON TEKNAF Newborn baby halts family's deportation

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Teknaf

A seven-day-old was among the 22 boat people in the custody of BGB and coast guard last night.

Of the 15 Rohingyas, who entered Teknaf by boat Monday night fleeing Maungdaw in Myanmar's Rakhine state, 11 were sent back yesterday evening. The

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