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# Weekly Development Focus



Point of Interest (9 to 15 September 2007):

- Coasts evacuated on tsunami alert
- Ensure accountability of donor agencies
- Expand safety net to help ultra poor cross poverty line

## Democracy and governance:

- ♦ [Elections 2008: Power to the people](#) (The Daily Star, 13 Sep 2007)

The article suggested that it is through a creative re-evaluation of what the ultimate objective of the reform process is, that will help to fix priorities towards a long-term solution to the problems that have plagued Bangladesh for a millennium.

## Development Issue:

- ♦ [Seminar on 'Aid effectiveness and role of civil societies'](#) (The Daily Star, 10 Sep 2007)

Development experts at the seminar called for ensuring accountability of the donor agencies and cutting their dominance over the developing nations to enhance effectiveness of foreign aid in promoting development and ensuring human rights. It was revealed that relations between the donors and the recipient countries must be cooperative and not dominating because developments will not occur until the local contexts are considered while designing any development strategies.

## Poverty Reduction:

- ♦ [Seminar on "Dynamics of Food and Cash Transfers: Policy Discussion on the Results of Food and Cash Efficacy Study"](#) (The Daily Star, 10 Sep 2007)

The seminar revealed that there is need for expansion of social safety-net programmes and creation of short-term employment opportunities to help ultra-poor people cross poverty line. The pockets of poverty like monga-hit areas in North Bengal should be identified before initiating any programme, while the nutrition issue of the pre-school children need to be incorporated in poverty reduction strategies.

## Energy and climate change:

- ♦ [Expert says climate change will spread global disease](#) (AFP, 11 Sep 2007)

Climate change will have an overwhelmingly negative impact on health with possibly one billion more people at risk from dengue fever within 80 years. Water supplies would be an increasingly serious concern, with the percentage of the world's land area suffering drought increasing perhaps tenfold by the end of the century.

- ♦ [Seminar on "Energy for MDGs"](#) (The Daily Star, 12 Sep 2007)

The importance of the role of energy in attaining the MDGs was highlighted in the seminar. It was also revealed that Bangladesh needs \$16 billion investment to ensure electricity for all by 2020 and with the present economic growth rate, the country has the ability to invest the amount in local energy sector.

## Disaster Response and Management:

- ♦ [BANGLADESH: Second wave of flooding raises fears for rice harvest](#) (Reuters, 12 Sep 2007)

Less than a month after above average monsoon rains battered the country, a second wave of flooding is again badly affecting parts of Bangladesh. Government officials said the overall death toll from flooding since July had risen to 840, most of whom had drowned, especially children, while others had died of snakebites.

- ♦ [Coasts evacuated on tsunami alert](#) (The Daily Star, 13 Sep 2007)

Thousands of people ran for safety evacuating beaches and areas near seashore after the authorities (12th September evening) issued a tsunami warning, for the first time in the country, following a massive earthquake that hit Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing 10 people.