

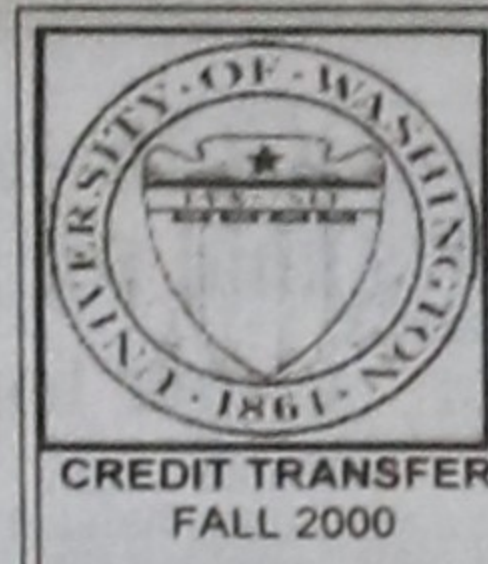
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# The Daily Star

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Today's issue  
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## Gas to KAFCO at subsidised rate again?

Star Report

According to all indications, the government has once again decided to subsidise gas sales to the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd. (KAFCO) until the year 2013.

But the government handout following the meeting did not mention anything about the gas pricing. Officials who attended the meeting also remained tight-lipped about it.

The IFC, the private sector lending window of the World Bank, had recommended that the government sell per thousand cubic feet (one unit) of gas to KAFCO at US\$ 0.75 till 2005. From May 2005, the gas price would be 1.05 dollar per unit for one year. Afterwards, a price increase by 3.5 per cent every year would be implemented making it 1.2 dollar in 2010. In 2013, the price would be increased by 4 per cent to 1.35 dollar per unit.

The domestic bulk rate of gas, sold by Petrobangla to the state-owned power plants and fertiliser plants, is now US 1.1 dollar per unit.

Petrobangla and its subsidiaries purchase 20 per cent of the total gas supplied from international oil companies under an international formula, making the purchase as costly as 1.4 dollar to 3 dollar per unit.



Dutch swimmer Inge de Bruijn jubilates after winning the gold medal and setting a new world record in 56.61 in her 100m butterfly final yesterday at Sydney International Aquatic Centre during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Slovakian Martina Moravcova won silver medal and Dara Torres of US the bronze. - AFP photo

## Tk 50 lakh 'extra' expenses for 'guests'?

By Staff Correspondent

The government is to pay nearly Tk 50 lakh for inclusion of extra members in a Speaker-led delegation and upgrading facilities for some others in the team due to visit UK.

A five-member delegation headed by Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury has been invited to attend the 10-day conference of Commonwealth Parliament Association (CPA) scheduled to begin on September 20.

The CPA is sponsoring the trip for only five including the Speaker, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and PM's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta. Eight others - two ruling party lawmakers, secretary and public relations director of parliament and personal staff of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker - were included in the team later.

According to parliament sources, CPA will bear plane fare and expenses for food and accommodation of the five. Besides expanding the team by eight members, travel and accommodation of the five.

## APSU enforces hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: The dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the All Party Students Unity (APSU) here today passed off peacefully.

APSU called the hartal protesting police action on its rally on Friday and demanding release of its activists and IOJ leader Mufti Ezzarul Islam.

Police and witnesses said, a rickshaw was burnt by pickets at 10 am. A maxi was damaged when pickets stoned at them at about 8 am, they said. Police arrested one person from Bakalia.

Meanwhile, all kinds of vehicles except rickshaws stayed off the roads. As a result, road communications between Chittagong and other parts of the country remained snapped.

## Inside Today

### Article

**Hasina versus the Judiciary: A Political Analysis**

By M Rashiduzzaman  
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G7 to warn OPEC over prices

DSE, CSE price quotations  
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### Supplement

One page special supplement on 'launching of KAL-PMB Facade Technology Ltd' Page 9

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 18		5.59 pm
Sept 19	5.46 am	

Prayer Timings September 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-08	6-13
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## A principled speech deserving support

By Mahfuz Anam

It is understandable, though not acceptable, the way Gen. Musharraf, the CEO of Pakistan, reacted to our Prime Minister's speech at the UN Millennium Summit. His unexplained 'no show' for the appointment with Sheikh Hasina, made at his request, and his subsequent press statements were all designed to please the constituency upon which his future depends - the Pakistani army. After all he had to defend his usurpation of power, removal of a democratically elected government and military takeover of Pakistan. His countering of any statement seen to be critical of his action, even if it does

not mention him or his country by name are the natural reactions of a man who has to defend the indefensible.

What is however not understandable is the reaction of some of our own leaders accusing Sheikh Hasina of essentially doing India's bidding by her UN speech and unnecessarily antagonising Pakistan. We beg to defer. We consider her speech to be a principled one, deserving of support not so much to punish the power hungry generals who have already grabbed power but more so to prevent the ones waiting in the wings.

If the UN takes a collective

position against military take-overs, and some sort of sanction, however ineffectual, is made automatic then obviously the future military adventurists will have some reasons to think twice. We understand the value of such measures because we have suffered too much in the hands of military dictators.

In judging the PM's UN speech we must remember the occasion. It was UN's Millennium Summit which brought together most of the world's Heads of States and of governments including the most powerful and charismatic leaders of the world. It was an occasion to

## 5 more gruesome murders

By Staff Correspondent

Five people aged between 18 and 40 years were murdered in separate incidents in the city within 16 hours ending at 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

Some unidentified assailants gunned down a teenager in Mohakhali at about 11 p.m. on Saturday. In another incident, police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from inside a disposal system at South Muga at about 6:45 a.m. yesterday.

Mugger stabbed to death a grocer, 25, near Satrasta crossing in Tejaona area at about 6 a.m. yesterday. In yet another incident, an alleged mugger was beaten to death by

a mob at Damik Bangla intersection at noon yesterday while Cantonment police recovered another body of an unidentified young man from Baunia embankment yesterday morning.

Mohammad Nayan, 18, son of Abu Musa and a resident of TB gate at Mohakhali, was killed Saturday night while he was going to visit his sister in Badda, hospital sources said. They added that some unidentified gunmen suddenly appeared before Nayan, a restaurateur by profession, and shot him in the head.

## Double murder: Main accused still at large, Sutrapur OC closed

By Staff Correspondent



The sealed Gandaria Rifle Club where the murder of two teenaged boys allegedly took place on Saturday (bottom) and the arrested including Navid (extreme left) and Nadim (extreme right) who was nabbed yesterday. - Star photo

## Budget for Kaptai plants slashed

It's still almost double the maximum cost, observe experts

By Sharier Khan

The government has cut the cost of the proposed Kaptai 6 and 7 power plants project down to Tk 580 crore from its original Tk 719 crore in the face of criticism that the project is overpriced, sources said.

Having received green signal from the prime minister, the Energy Ministry has now asked the Power Development Board (PDB) to speed up the appointment of a consultant and the loan agreement negotiations for the project on an 'urgent basis'.

However, experts said the project is still very costly. Installation of the two units of Kaptai power project should cost Tk 200 crore at the maximum, they observed and pointed to the 100 MW Baghabari power project that only cost Tk 123 crore to set up.

It has been estimated that the Kaptai dam would be modified at a cost of Tk 237 crore. That would mean that the revised budget of Tk 580 crore is actually over-priced by at least Tk 143 crore, observed an expert of the Power Development Board.

Co-financed by the Japan Bank of Investment Corporation (JBIC) and the government, the project would require the Kaptai dam to be raised by at least 14 feet to make the two 50 MW hydro-power units financially viable.

By discouraging competitive bidding, the government has already decided to sign the contract with Japanese company Marubeni on a 'One Package Direct Contract' basis to set up the power plant and with Tapesco for the consultancy.

Both Marubeni and Tapesco were contractors and consultants respectively of the Kaptai 4 and 5 units built in the '80s.

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