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From left: Relatives mourn the death of slain Nazirhat College Principal Gopal Krishna Muhmi (inset), protesters demonstrate in front of the car carrying Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah AL Noman in front of the victim's residence at Jamal Khan in the port city and residents of the area agitate protesting the killing.

Titas Gas has two lakh illegal domestic lines

RAZIUR RAHMAN

Nearly two lakh illegal domestic connections are contributing to over 10 per cent system loss of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, its officials said.

At least one third of the domestic users are illegally using double burner gas ovens though official records show they are paying bills for single burners, they said.

Titas Gas has 7.6 lakh domestic consumers who are using more than 25 per cent of the total gas supplied by the company.

The rest is used by bulk customers like state owned power plants, fertilizer factories and other industrial concerns in private and public sectors.

Of the domestic consumers, 3,91,262 (about 52 per cent) use double burners and the rest use single burners as per official record.

"But only 10 to 15 per cent of the domestic consum-

ers abide by records and the rest are illegally using double burners", said an official.

A single burner gas oven consumes at least 56 cm (cubic metre) gas per month and a double burner 86 cm. Revenue for a single burner is Tk 210 per month and that for a double burner is Tk 330 per.

Sources in Titas Gas said corruption by a section of its employees and lack of proper supervision are the major causes for the system loss. Absence of scientific marketing strategy and proper management methodology is also responsible for this.

Officials however said whenever they get any information about illegal connection, Titas team snaps it. Illegal connections of two factories including a biscuit factory at Lalbagh which were consuming gas worth about Tk 10.80 lakh per year were snapped in

S e p t e m b e r .

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Ramadan begins

BSS, UNB, Dhaka

The holy month of Ramadan begins today as the new moon was sighted in the country yesterday, an Islamic Foundation press release said last night.

The holy Shab-e-Qadr will be observed on December 12 (Wednesday), the press release added.

The decisions came from a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan in the chair.

The committee took the decisions after reviewing reports received from different district administrations, the head office of Islamic Foundation and its divisional and district offices, SPARRSO and Meteorological Department.

President AQM Badruddoza
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College principal murder in Ctg sparks violent protests

Home minister faces agitation, govt given 7-day deadline to arrest culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Principal of Nazirhat College in Chittagong, Gopal Krishna Muhuri, was gunned down at his residence at Jamal Khan Road in the city yesterday morning.

Four gunmen entered the house at around 7 am posing as Detective Branch police, shot point blank in his head killing the 60-year-old former freedom fighter on the spot and whisked away in the autrickshaw they came.

Police sources said they suspect Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres for the killing. Other sources said Shibir activists could not do politics in the college as the principal banned student politics on the campus.

The killing sparked violent protests. As the news spread, angry people came out on the streets. They raised barricades on busy Jamal Khan Road in the city

centre and brought out processions throughout the day demanding immediate arrest and exemplary of the killers.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain also faced demonstrations when he rushed to the victim's residence along with Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah AL Noman and IGP Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury. The home minister was in the port city to hold a meeting on law and order situation.

Vehicles went off the road and business establishments and offices in the area remained closed. Security was tightened as tension mounted.

A protest rally in front Chittagong Press Club in the afternoon gave the government a seven-day deadline for arrest of the killers and announced an agitation programme. The week-long programme includes hoist
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Kandahar heavily bombed, Kunduz still besieged

AFP, Kabul

US warplanes heavily bombed the Taliban bastion of Kandahar yesterday while an Afghan opposition general gave a blunt 'surrender or die' ultimatum to thousands of militia surrounded in the northern city of Kunduz.

The war against Taliban and Osama bin Laden ran into holy month of Ramadan yesterday.

The two cities, at opposite ends of Afghanistan, are the last major Taliban footholds as it battles to remain a recognised force in the country following a week of withdrawals and defeats.

Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said fierce US bombing of Kandahar in

the south on Thursday night and Friday destroyed the militia's foreign ministry building and a mosque.

The attacks killed 11 civilians and injured more than 25 others, according to AIP.

There was no independent verification of the report. But US air strikes that started on October 7 to flush out accused terrorist leader Osama bin Laden have especially targeted Kandahar, the headquarters of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Pashtun tribes were reported to have started an uprising against the Taliban in Kandahar province and taken the provincial capital's airport.

But an anti-Taliban leader told AFP the Islamic militia remained in

control of the city.

Hamid Karzai, a former Afghan deputy foreign minister who has been trying to convince the militia to surrender the city, told AFP. "There is no report of any fighting in Kandahar this morning. The Taliban are still in control of Kandahar."

But he said the Taliban had relinquished neighbouring Uruzgan, Mullah Omar's native province, after negotiations yesterday. "Uruzgan province has been totally liberated from the Taliban," said Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader who has the support of the United States.

"The Taliban were in some districts for the past two or three days but they have now come under our control along with the capital,

Tirin Kot."

Karzai returned from exile and has been in Afghanistan for more than a month trying to organise an uprising against the Taliban among Pashtun tribes in the south.

The Taliban face a more desperate challenge in Kunduz, about 600 kilometers to the north, where the opposition says it has surrounded some 30,000 Taliban, including more than 10,000 foreign fighters.

A Northern Alliance general said talks were being held to try to persuade the Taliban to give up. "There are talks going on for the Taliban surrender. Those who refuse will be

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Morshed Khan made FM

STAR REPORT

Leading industrialist M Morshed Khan has been made the foreign minister. Earlier on Wednesday, he was sworn in as a minister.

Cabinet Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan informed The Daily last night he has been allocated the foreign portfolio. However, there was no government notification regarding the appointment till yesterday.

Morshed Khan succeeds Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury as the foreign minister after the latter became the president of the republic.

Morshed Khan became a mem
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Assess gas reserve, then go for nat'l consensus on export

Kibria defends state of economy during AL rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday said a decision on gas export must come through a national consensus upon assessment of the recoverable gas reserve in the country.

"The government should first assess our recoverable gas reserve and then make a decision on gas export through a national consensus," suggested Kibria, now an opposition lawmaker, while speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The press conference was convened to rebut the government's criticism about the past Awami League government's performance in the economic sector.

Armed with stacks of fact sheets and data on key economic indicators, the former finance minister tried to defend the state of economy during the tenure of the Awami League government and refuted the

allegation of macroeconomic imbalances during the AL period.

Kibria accused his successor M Saifur Rahman of making sweeping remarks about the records of the previous government. He was also critical of Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia and immediate-past President Shahabuddin Ahmed for making remarks depicting a gloomy picture of economy "that were nothing but a travesty of truth".

He, however, acknowledged fall
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2 Pepsi

City Cell

ACI
Iftar

Mosquito

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
1	17		5-20
2	18	4-46	5-19
3	19	4-47	5-19

Zimbabwe declare at 542 for 7 Bangladesh 57 for one

HASAN MASOOD, From Chittagong

Bangladesh made a watchful start in reply to Zimbabwe's mammoth first innings 542 for seven on the second day of the final Test of the Coca-Cola Series at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh recovered from an early loss to reach 57 for one at stumps after Zimbabwe captain Stuart Carlisle declared 50 minutes after tea.

The home side will have to negotiate with the four-prong pace attack today and score another 286 runs to avoid follow-on.

Opener Javed Omar became the hosts' lone victim on the day when he unnecessarily chased a Heath Streak out-swing to edge into the safe
h a n d s
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Pepsi
Match report