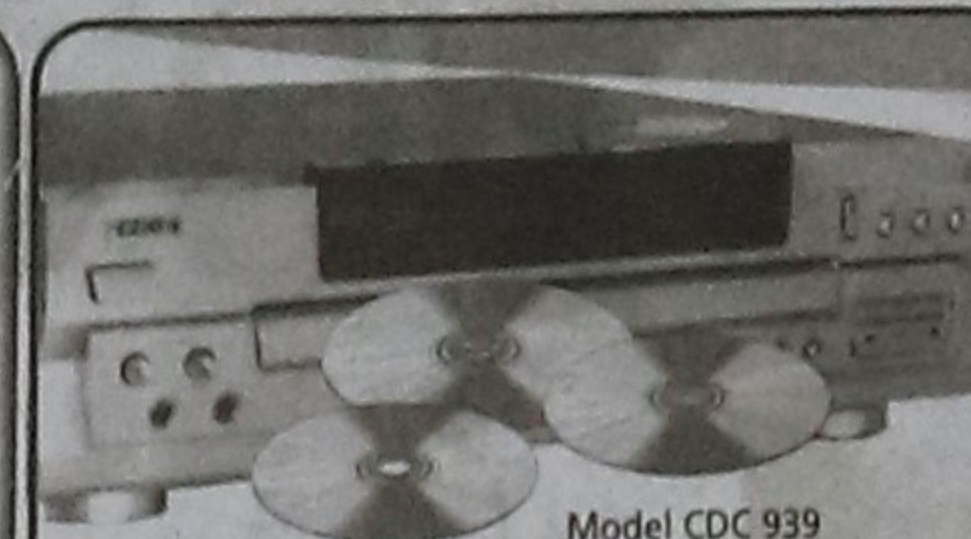


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## Bus-truck collision kills 18 in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 14: At least 18 people were killed and 40 others injured in a bus-truck collision at Satmille on Pabna-Iswardi road today.

Police and witnesses said the Pabna bound local bus with about 70 passengers on board collided with a truck coming from opposite direction when it tried to overtake another bus.

Thirteen passengers of the bus died on the spot while five others succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital.

Of the dead, seven were identified as Wahid, 25, driver of the bus, Shamim, 32, Santona, 6, Anu, 32, Nantu, 30, Hajera Khatun, 32, and Ashiya, 30. Identity of the rest could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to Pabna General Hospital. Of them, condition of eight were stated to be critical.

All the bodies were sent to general hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was registered with Pabna sadar thana. Police

seized both the vehicles. UNB adds: Two factory workers were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Kashimpur near Dhaka EPZ on Wednesday night.

The victims — Haider, 21, and Blakis, 20 — were coming from a local ceramic factory by a bus which collided head-on with a truck at about 10:30 pm.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital. The bodies were also sent to the same hospital for autopsy.

## Young man chopped to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

Miscreants chopped to death a young man at Lal Mohan Saha Street in Sutrapur in the city yesterday noon, police and hospital sources said.

The victim Mohamud

See page 11 col 7



Demolition time

Shantinagar Club, one of the oldest sports outfits in the country, was bulldozed yesterday as Rajuk continued its drive to demolish illegal structure along the Bijoy Nagar road.

- Star photo

## Hospitals short on IV saline

Lone manufacturing plant meets only one-fourth of total demand

By Naimul Haq

Most of the government hospitals in the country are facing a serious crisis of intravenous saline (IV Fluid) as a public sector plant manufacturing it is meeting only one-fourth the requirement.

Official sources said the annual demand for five categories of IV fluid manufactured at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) plant — the only one in public sector — is about 60 lakh bags while its production capacity is 15 lakh bags.

"We are not able to produce more than this," Superintendent of the plant Aminul Haq said. "The plant uses age old technology. With this, it is not possible to raise production."

More than 70 government hospitals including district level ones and also 300 thana health complexes have been facing the crisis for the last two years. Dhaka Medical College Hospital gets only about one third of its needs, a senior official of the

health directorate said.

Director of DMCH Brigadier Badrul Munir told The Daily Star recently, "We have to buy most of the IV fluid bags from outside. The plant meets around 30 per cent of our demand and this has been going on for quite a long time."

Deputy Director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital Dr Matinur Rashid Chowdhury, when contacted, said, "Our monthly demand for all categories of IV fluid is about 15,000 bags and IPH supplies us one third of that. We buy another 20 per cent from our yearly budget for MSR."

Authorities of at least six city hospitals and 10 more including Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Faridpur and Barisal medical college hospitals said they have not been getting adequate quantity of saline bags.

Doctors said unless saline is given in time, many patients

could die. "Saline is life saving when you use it," a senior doctor at DMCH said.

When contacted, Director of IPH Dr Zafar Ali said, "In view of the problem, we have proposed BMRE (balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion) of the plant, about 25 years old. For this we have proposed allocation of Tk 20 crore in the operation plan in the five-year national health project (HPSPP)."

Dr Ali also said, "To keep a balance, we are now rationing the supply. The hospitals located at distance get supply at a time while those located near are requested to collect bags more than once depending on stock position."

The plant manufactures five types of IV fluid — peritoneal dialysis saline (about one lakh bags per year), normal or sodium chloride saline (about 0.5 lakh bags), aqua saline or 5 per

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## Exercise tolerance for peace, development: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people, irrespective of political opinions, to exercise utmost tolerance for peace and development, reports UNB.

"Let us all come together, show tolerance and ensure progress in the path of democracy," she said in her concluding speech before Parliament was prorogued yesterday afternoon.

Hasina however suggested the Pakistan-lovers, who were annoyed at her recent statement in the Security Council, should go and live in that country.

"Why the Pakistan lovers live in Bangladesh? Why are they creating chaos? They have no right to stay here. They should go to that country and let us live in peace," she said referring to the opposition alliance leaders, without naming anyone.

Referring to the justice Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report, Hasina said it gave a harrowing picture of genocide in Bangladesh during the liberation war. Even the saner elements of Pakistan were appalled at crimes committed by the occupation army and felt the urgency of trial of the culprits.

"Pakistan must apologise for the crime it committed. War criminals must be brought to trial," she reiterated the demand, as the press continued publishing the supplementary report of the probe being leaked from the wraps nearly three decades after the war.

A calm and composed Hasina in her 60-minute speech wondered why Gen Musharraf was hurt at her stand against

military rule and took it personally. He should have known that my views against martial law is not new and that I always stood for democracy — overthrowing elected government by the military is never acceptable to us."

Hasina informed the House that her proposal to US President Bill Clinton for debt relief to Bangladesh had been accepted. The proposal for continuation of GSP facility to Bangladesh was now under

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## PM apprises President of her NY visit

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Banglhaban yesterday evening and apprised him of the outcome of her visit to New York for attending the UN Millennium Summit, reports UNB.

She told the President that she addressed the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member of the UNSC where she alluded to a famous saying about democratic governance to underpin her observations against usurpation of power.

In the Security Council meeting 14 member countries, out of 15, either by heads of state or government representatives presented their deliberations.

Hasina also apprised the President of her talks with

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## Power plight continues

Supply deficit reaches 450 megawatt

By Staff Correspondent

The miseries of the people continued for the second day as the country yesterday suffered power shortage of nearly 450 MW.

Most parts of the capital again experienced frequent power disruption yesterday with some areas going without power for hours on end.

DESA sources said the metropolis and its adjacent areas yesterday suffered a load shedding of more than 200 MW.

DESA control room said last night that PDB allocation for DESA yesterday was about 850 MW while PDB control room claimed that it was 1021 MW. The demand of power in the DESA command areas remains between 1050 MW and 1100 MW during peak hours.

PDB yesterday generated less than 2300 MW of power against the countrywide requirement of more than 2700 MW, sources said.

PDB's power generation target of 2359 MW yesterday could not be reached due to sudden shutdown of three power generating units in Ashuganj at about 5:30 p.m. yesterday, sources said.

Besides, 12 other units, including two major 210 MW units at Ghorasal, remained shut yesterday. They are: Sylhet Gas, Shahjibajar-3, Fenchuganj GT-1.2 and Steam, Khulna Barge Mounted Power Plant-1, Khulna 60 MW, Khulna 110 MW, Haripur Gas Turbine GT-3, Siddhirganj 50 MW, Ghorasal-3 and 6.

Earlier on Wednesday the districts under Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions went without power for several hours when the 230-KV Ashuganj-Ghorasal grid line tripped in the morning.

It was a branch of a tree that caused the power disaster affecting most of the country, primary investigation by the PDB revealed.

## BNP enforces hartal in Sylhet div

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 14: Normal life in four districts of Sylhet division was paralysed today as opposition BNP enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal protesting charge sheet against Khaleda Zia, Saifur Rahman and others in Airbus Purchase Case.

Hartal was called jointly by four district units of BNP as part of its week-long agitation programmes.

All modes of transports remained off the roads while commercial establishments kept their shutters down. Attendance in both government and private offices was thin and no classes were held in the educational institutions during the hartal.

The commercial banks did not operate. Train service was

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According to sources the branch of the tree fell on the wires between towers no: 49 and 50 of Ashuganj-Ghorasal grid line at a village under Raipura thana under Narsingdi district.

Four teams of PDB officials and technicians examined all the 122 towers of the Ashuganj-Ghorasal 230-KV grid line and found the branch of the rain tree hanging from the wires between the two towers.

The incident took place when a resident of village Adiabad under Raipura thana was cutting a branch of a rain tree Wednesday morning. The branch fell on the wires, resulting in short-circuit and subsequently one of the two circuits of the grid line tripped. The other circuit of the grid also tripped soon due to overload.

State Minister for Energy Rafiqul Islam in a statement before the parliament yesterday regretted the sufferings of the people caused by the power failure.

He said steps have been taken for punitive measures against the employees who were on duty in the area where the circuit tripped.

Meanwhile, one of the two circuits of the Ashuganj-Ghorasal 230-KV grid line which had been out of order since the failure of the national grid, was restored in the early hours of yesterday. The other circuit was restored Wednesday afternoon.

## Gunman to be brought to Dhaka for interrogation

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 14: A joint team of DGFI, NSI, SB and police has interrogated Abul Kalam Azad who kept 14 people including the DC, SP of Khagrachhari and three army officers hostage for 25 hours till 5:30 pm on Tuesday inside the DC's office.

Police said he would be taken to Dhaka for further interrogation.

However, police last night raided his rented house at Matiranga under Khagrachhari hill district and recovered some

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## 22 TUs threaten 4-hour strike at Ctg port Sept 19

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 14: Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Parishad, a forum of 22 TUs (Trade Union bodies) working at Chittagong Port will enforce a 4-hour work abstention from 8 am on September 19 if the process of SSA proposed private port and terminal installation contract is not cancelled by September 18.

The parishad announced the programme at a meeting this morning at Bandar Bhaban with Hazi Md. Yunus in the chair.

They warned against conspiracy by the vested quarter and called for immediate construction of New Mooring container terminal by CPA.

They protested imposition of 40 per cent corporate tax on the port and called for keeping the port income tax-free.

## PHA 2000 begins in city on Dec 4

Nobel laureates Mandela, Amartya, Rigoberta expected to attend

By Staff Correspondent

A four-day international conference titled Peoples Health Assembly 2000 (PHA-2000) will begin in the city on December 4 with an aim to improve the seriously jeopardised state of people's health in developing countries.

Over 1000 people from about 100 countries, from grass-root level health workers to scientists, researchers and ministers of a few countries, will attend the conference.

Nobel laureates Nelson Mandela, Amartya Sen and Rigoberta Menchu are expected to participate in the conference, said Dr. Morshed Chowdhury, coordinator of PHA 2000, Bangladesh chapter, yesterday at a Press Conference at the Press Club auditorium.

The assembly will be held in Gonoshasthya Kendra premises at Savar, Bangladesh, as the host country of the conference, will hold six preparatory divisional workshops from October 7 to October 15, said Dr. Qasem Chowdhury, operational coordinator of PHA 2000.

PHA 2000 is a global initiative that aims to exchange health related experiences of people's movements from countries like Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Nepal, Palestine, Chile, India, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden etc. and adopt a global Health Charter for all.

"It would also focus on issues like safe motherhood, problems of sex workers, arsenic-affected people, women survivors of acid burn, the handicapped, slum-dwellers and health problems of children," Dr. Morshed Chowdhury said.

The stories narrated by grass-roots level people from different corners of the world will be translated into at least five major languages of the world.

A total of 75 workshops conducted in five languages will be held during the Conference, JK Boral, Director of Health, Water

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 15		6-03 pm
Sept 16	5-45 am	

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

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