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3rd Millennium

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Load shedding was 350 MW yesterday

By Staff Correspondent

Shortage of power continued for the third day yesterday as the country experienced nearly 350 MW of load shedding although the day was a weekly holiday.

PDB yesterday generated 2322 MW of power against the countrywide requirement of more than 2650 MW.

Many parts of the city yesterday faced frequent power disruption throughout the day. DESA control room said load shedding in areas under DESA, including the metropolis, was nearly 140 MW.

Due to tripping of a circuit in the Ashuganj-Ghorasal 230-KV grid line Wednesday, areas under Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal divisions went without power for several hours followed by more than 450 MW of load shedding on Thursday.

Meanwhile, PDB yesterday suspended four of its staff for negligence of duty in connection with the Ashuganj-Ghorasal 230-KV grid failure on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, 12 out of country's 63 power generating units, including two 210 MW units in Ghorasal, remained shut yesterday. They are: Sylhet Gas, Shahibazar-3, Fenchuganj GT 1.2 and Steam, Khulna Barge Mounted Power Plant-1, Khulna 110 MW, Haripur Gas Turbine GT-3, Siddhurganj 50 MW, Ghorasal-3 and 6 and West Mont-1 in Baghabari.

Alleged activist of Harkatul Jihad handed over to police in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 15: Hafez Abul Hossain Shikder, 45, a teacher of Pather Bazar Secondary School under Digholia upazila of Khulna district was handed over to police on Thursday morning by some local youngmen branding him as an activist of Harkatul Jihad.

Earlier, he was sought up by the youngmen for speaking in favour of Mufti Abdul Hanan, an accused in Kotalpara bomb planting case.

Hafez Abul Hossain was produced in court at noon after filing a general diary with Digholia thana.

He was sent to district jail with severe injuries in the afternoon.

We have no evidence that Hafez Abul Hossain is an activist of Harkatul Jihad, said a

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200 ULFA guerillas surrender

GUWAHATI, India, Sept 15: Two hundred guerillas fighting Indian rule in the northeastern state of Assam surrendered to the government today, a government spokesman said, reports Reuters.

The guerillas were all members of the United Liberation Front of Assam which has been fighting for an independent homeland.

They gave up arms following differences with the ULFA leadership, government spokesman Manoj Kumar Deb told Reuters from the eastern town of Nagaon where the surrender took place.

Inside Today

Article

Democracy, Autocracy and PM's Statement in UN

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents By M M Rezaul Karim

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Supplement

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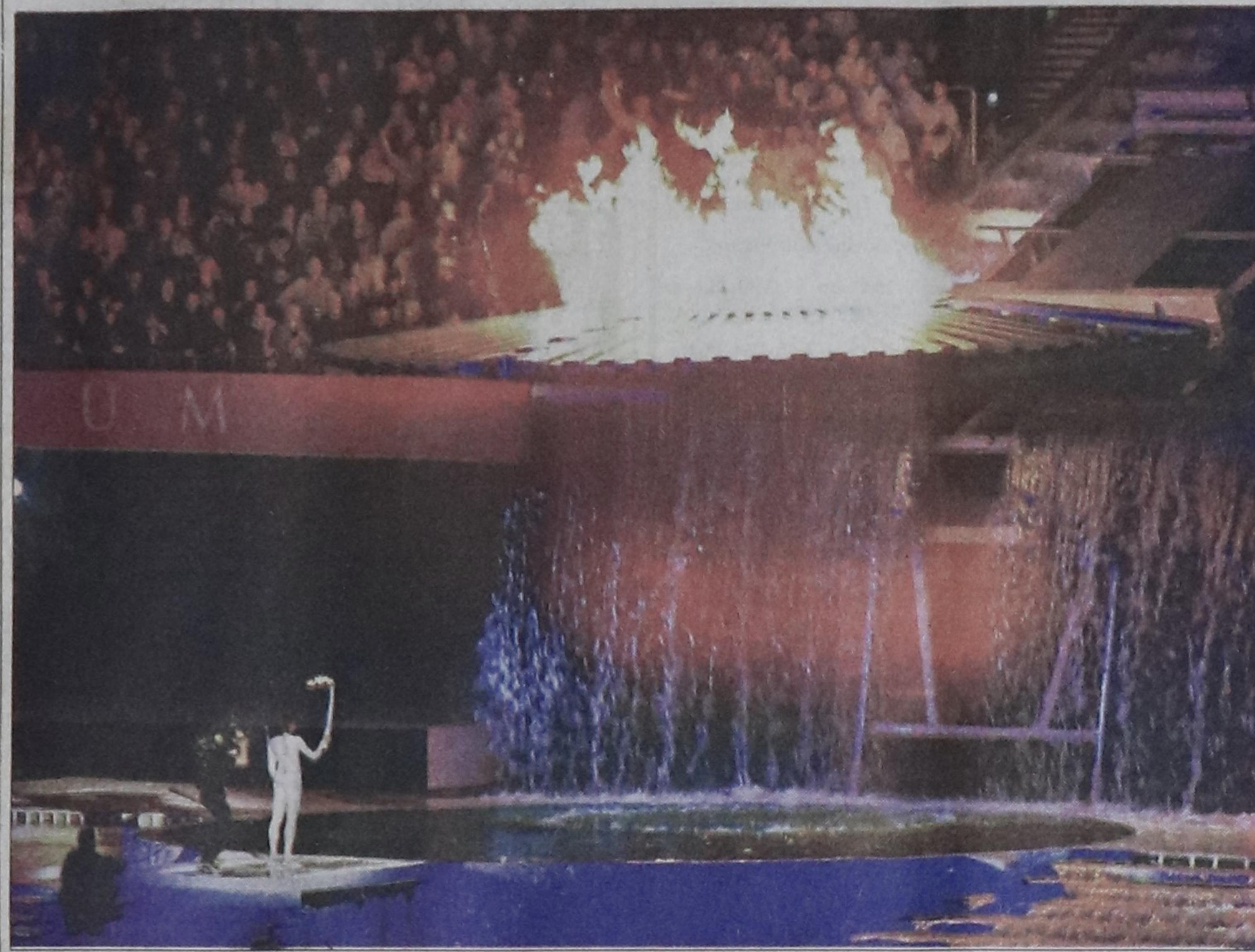
Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 16	6:01 pm
Sept 17	5:46 am

Prayer Timings

September 16		
	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

Millennium Games open



The blazing cauldron slowly ascends a ramp leading to its final position high above the stadium yesterday. Australia's 27-year-old sporting icon Cathy Freeman (L) as the final bearer of the Olympic torch, ignited the 27th Olympiad of the modern era, and the first of the new millennium.

SYDNEY, Sept 15: Sydney launched the Millennium Games today with a moving gesture of national reconciliation, picking Aboriginal running star Cathy Freeman to light the Olympic flame, reports Reuters.

It was the emotional climax of a spectacular opening ceremony that bid "G Day" to the world at the first Olympics of the 21st century.

Freeman, the world 400 metres champion, 1996 Olympic silver medallist and Australia's sporting heroine, lit the cauldron in the heart of a cascading waterfall.

The flame rose on a giant pedestal that encircled the athlete, who so forcefully embodies Australia's battle to bury the ghosts of the past.

It then rose slowly to the top of the stadium like a giant flying saucer as fireworks erupted over the harbour city.

"G Day Sydney, G Day Australia. Yes, the Olympic Games are back Down Under," Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch told 110,000 cheering spectators at the four-hour ceremony.

He called Australia a "great country" and paid a special tribute to its Aborigines, fighting for equal rights in a land still haunted by its legacy of white injustice.

Freeman was clearly moved at being given the ultimate honour of lighting the flame.

She was the last of six Australian Olympic heroines to carry the torch in the stadium at the end of its journey across Australia. The choices were a tribute to the 100th anniversary of women's participation in the modern Olympics.

The Sydney Games, staged at a cost of A\$ 2.6 billion (\$1.4 billion), were officially opened by Australian Governor-General Sir William Deane.

Their opening gave Australia a chance to heal its divisions and showcase its diversity.

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Hasina meddled in Pakistan's internal affairs: Musharraf

Bangladesh's leader Sheikh Hasina's speech she gave to the UN refused to meet Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN because she had meddled in the country's internal affairs, reports AFP.

"There was no point in meeting her in such an atmosphere," she said, adding she did not mention Pakistan by name.

Musharraf described his visit to the UN summit, his first major diplomatic foray since seizing power in October last year, as highly successful.

The military ruler is under pressure from the West to hold national elections to promote an early return to civilian rule.

In May, the country's Supreme Court validated the military takeover and gave Musharraf until October 12, 2002 to complete his reform agenda and hold elections, a timeframe he has promised to honour.

Sheikh Hasina, whose father was killed in a military coup in 1975, has said that her speech

'Police attack' on APSU procession in Ctg: Hartal called tomorrow

CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district on Sunday protesting police attack on its procession in the city today, reports UNB.

Police resorted to baton charge to disperse the processionists, demanding release of arrested leaders of opposition alliance, including Mufti Ezhar.

The procession was brought out from Andarkilla Jami Masjid after Juma prayers.

Witnesses said the processionists went on the rampage, damaging 20-30 vehicles, including rickshaws and auto-rickshaws. They also pelted bricks at the police. About a dozen people were injured.

Earlier, APSU held a meeting at the north gate of the mosque. It was presided over by Islami Chhatra Samaj leader Atikur Rahman.

JU fines nine students, warns 10 others

By JU Correspondent
Jahangirnagar University authorities have fined nine students Tk 18 thousand and warned another 10 for beating a student in front of his father in April this year.

The Syndicate at a meeting on September 9 took the decision on the basis of the Disciplinary Board's recommendation.

All those involved in the incident are activists of the ruling party's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League and resident students of Meer Moshar.

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Akhter expelled: BNP to ask Speaker to declare his seat vacant

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has expelled its dissentient lawmaker Maj (Retd) Akhteruzzaman from the party as his reply to the show cause notice issued on him for violating party discipline was not "satisfactory and acceptable".

A BNP press release said yesterday Akhter was expelled with retrospective effect from September 14 as per a directive from party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, now on a 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

The party served the show cause notice on September 11 asking Akhter to explain within three days why he should not be expelled from the party for anti-party activities.

Earlier on September 5, the main opposition party's Standing Committee at an emergency meeting suspended his primary membership of the party for making statement against the party position on the issue of joining parliament session.

But ignoring the suspension and a show-cause notice issued on him on that day, the dissentient BNP legislator joined the Just concluded parliament session.

Akhter defended his joining the parliament session and urged Khaleda Zia to withdraw the suspension order on him.

He also wrote a letter to the party chief earlier suggesting that BNP should return to parliament.

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