

Malek Ukil's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Abdul Malek Ukil, a former president of Awami League, organiser of the Liberation War and renowned politician, says a press release.

A close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he was also a speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

In separate statements, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the memory of Malek Ukil.

"Malek dedicated his life to building the nation. He played an important role in mobilising world opinion in favour of the Liberation War," the president said.

In a separate message, Hasina said Abdul Malek took the leadership of Awami League after the death of Bangabandhu and revived and reorganised the party.

He suffered imprisonment several times during his struggle to establish democracy and the rights of the people, Hasina added.

Abdul Malek, who got involved in politics from his student life, was also a leader of the opposition in the then East Pakistan provincial council.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, a milad Mahfil will be held at his village home in Noakhali and a discussion will be held at the Awami League central office in Dhaka.

Private power plant at Fenchuganj starts operation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The 51 megawatt Barakatullah Electro Dynamics Limited (BEDL), a private power plant at Fenchuganj, would start its commercial operation today.

Superintending Engineer of PDB Md Jafar Ullah Bhuiyan, also project director of the private plant, told The Daily Star yesterday that commercial operation on the plant would begin if nothing intervenes.

With adding extra 51MW electricity to the national grid, the situation would improve a

little in the greater Sylhet region, he added.

The plant has been on test generation since October 10 and there has been no major trouble yet, said Managing Director of BEDL Golam Rabbani Chowdhury.

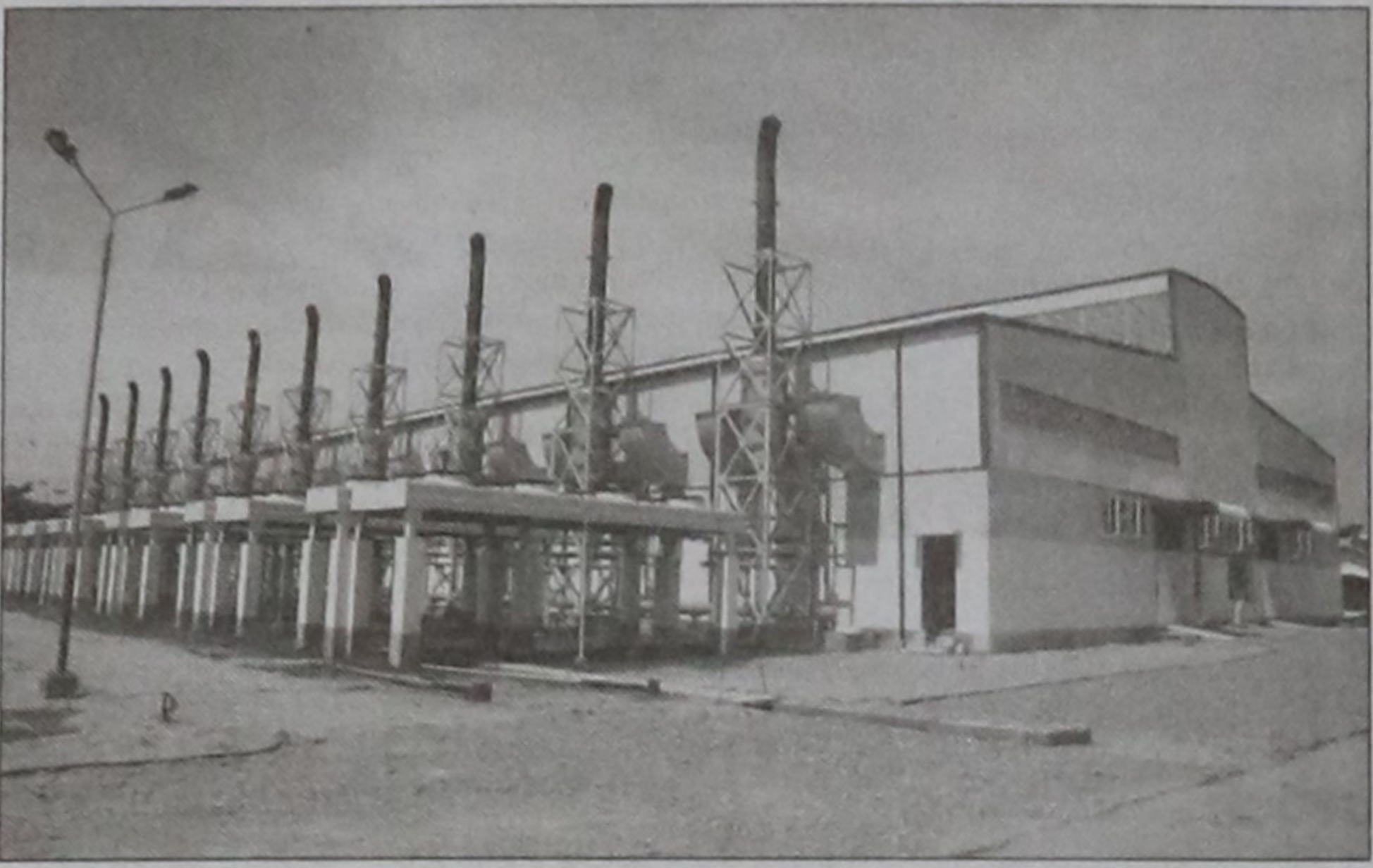
He said, "We are already producing 52MW to 54MW power since the test operation starts," adding: "If allowed and contracted, we would be able to add 50MW more within six to seven months."

However, the plant had its initial target to start power generation from January 1 this

year. Import of plant machinery and other complexities would lead to the delay, he mentioned.

The company officials signed a 15-year agreement on April 28, 2008 for setting up the power generation plant on a six-acre area at Kachubahar of Fenchuganj, very close to the 90MW combined cycle power plant of PDB.

BEDL, launched by a group of some non-resident Bangladeshis and local entrepreneurs in 2007, has a plan to establish its second plant nearby.



The 51 megawatt Barakatullah Electro Dynamics Limited, a private power plant at Fenchuganj in Sylhet, goes into commercial operation today.

5 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in the city. Chittagong, Brahmanbaria and Dinajpur were the worst hit.

Staff correspondent reports: A traffic constable was killed when a speeding passenger bus hit him near National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Awal, 52. His village is Satura under Rajapur upazila in Jhalakati.

Police said on duty Awal was hit by the bus at around 2:00pm and later was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead at around 2:30pm.

Police seized the bus. Staff correspondent in Ctg reports: A minor boy and an unidentified pedestrian were killed in separate road accidents in Chittagong yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Kawsar, 10, son of Shahidul Islam of Hujurer Colony at Roufabad.

Police said Kawsar was killed when a speeding dump truck of Chittagong City Corporation knocked him at Roufabad around 10:30am.

Seriously injured Kawsar was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on duty doctors declared him dead.

In another accident, an undefined pedestrian aged about 22 years was killed when a speeding truck ran over him near GEC intersection in the

port city.

Our correspondent in B'baria adds: One person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Budumuri village under Brahmanbaria sadar upazila on Thursday.

Quoting witnesses police said the accident occurred when a microbus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control. The dead was identified as Md Tipo, 25, a passenger of the microbus.

Our correspondent in Dinajpur adds: A woman was killed in a road accident at Phulbari upazila in Dinajpur on Thursday.

The dead was identified as Sarmin Akter, 20, wife of Kamal Hossain of

Mohottallahpur village under Dinajpur sadar upazila.

Police quoting witnesses said the accident occurred when she slipped from the back seat of motorbike. She was returning home with her husband.

Journos' role in poverty cut stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The participants at an orientation programme for journalists observed that skilled role of mass media could help in removing regional disparity and eliminating poverty.

The programme was organised at Barisal BDS auditorium yesterday with a view to equip media men in playing effective role for successful implementation of development budget of government and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the programme titled 'Journalists orientation on millennium development goals and budgetary implications' with the support of United Nations Millennium Campaign.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, at the programme stressed the need for establishing an effective professional linkage among journalists and government and non-government organisations working for achieving the MDGs.

The participants said that Barisal is the most vulnerable coastal division and its population will suffer much by the climate change. The region also needs special attention to achieve MDGs, they said.

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Law Minister Shafique Ahmed speaks at a discussion organised by Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association at Teacher-Student Centre yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

INT'L POVERTY ALLEVIATION DAY TODAY

People not benefited from social safety net

Observes Governance Coalition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Governance Coalition, a platform of 43 non-government organisations, has observed that people are not getting benefits from social safety net programmes due to inadequate allocation, lack of transparency and absence of proper monitoring.

The Coalition disclosed its observation at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

"All ultra-poor people must be brought under safety net programmes and people's participation should be expanded for successful

implementation of poverty alleviation programmes," said Coalition Coordinator Mohsin Ali.

He also announced a three-day campaign on the occasion of the International Poverty Alleviation Day which is being observed today.

According to the campaign programmes, public hearing started in different areas of the country yesterday while the organisation will form human chain and submit memorandum today. A seminar will be held at Cirdap auditorium tomorrow.

Speaking on the occasion Justice Golam Rabbani said none of us is against poverty

alleviation but the poverty reduction projects are very much bureaucratic and people's participation should be ensured in these programmes.

Ratan Sarkar said food for all should be ensured immediately to eliminate poverty permanently.

Reducing poverty by half won't be impossible if multi-lateral assistance are enhanced across the world, he added.

Muhammad Hilaluddin said food security should be ensured first and no excuses from the rich countries should be accepted in this regard.

Monisha Biswas was present on the occasion.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Commemorative stamps released

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday released four commemorative postage stamps and a first day cover marking the World Food Day 2009.

Hasina released the four stamps of Tk 3 denomination each and the first day cover of Tk 6 denomination at a simple ceremony at her official residence Jamuna yesterday evening. A special canceller was used on the occasion.

The sale of the postage stamps and the first day cover has begun at the Philatelic Bureau of Dhaka GPO.

Both the postage stamps and the first day cover will soon be sold from all GPOs and post offices across the country.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, FAO country representative Ad Spijkers, DG of Postal Department Mobasherur Rahman and PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present at the function.

The World Food Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere around the globe with the theme of 'Achieving food security in times of crisis.'

Bus strike in Madaripur

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

The Bus and Minibus Owners' Association of Madaripur district yesterday began a strike for an indefinite period causing immense sufferings to passengers.

A member of the association said they took a decision to start the buses of Vurghata and Sreenadi routes from the old terminal with a view to reducing traffic jam at the central bus terminal.

But some labourers, local shop owners and bus conductors jointly set up blockade at the new bus terminal at noon and stopped the movement of vehicles.

Following the untoward incident, the association leaders decided to observe the strike until actions are taken against the miscreants, he added.

But no initiative from the district administration has been taken to resolve the problem till filing of this report last night.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Abdus Shahid Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and vice president of Madhabpur upazila unit of Awami League, passed away due to kidney ailment at his village home on Thursday.

He left behind his widow, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard.

Small-scale hydro power plant to be installed in Bandarban

BSS, Dhaka

Bandarban hill district council is planning to install small-scale hydro power plants at its most remote Thanchi upazila which is still out of power net.

The district council has already developed a model plant and it is planning to install two such proto type small-scale hydro power plants with the capacity of two megawatt electricity generation capacity at Thanchi, Council Chairman Kashoyla told BSS while contacted him from here.

The model was designed and installed by a local expert Aungthui Khoye Marma of Monjoypara at his own initiative, he said.

He said, area basis, small scale hydro power plants will be very effective for this hill

district as there are many hard to reach places including Thanchi where bringing of national gridline is very expensive and difficult.

"We have plans to demonstrate our model hydro power plant in front of the experts and donor agencies next month," he said, adding "we have already talked with UNDP to fund the project." He said, as per their initial estimate the total cost of each plant might be only around Tk 10 lakh which can supply electricity to around 3000 local people.

The hydro power plants in Thanchi are expecting to ease electricity crisis in the district in large scale as presently the district is getting three megawatt power daily against its demand of six to seven megawatt power. "We have also plan to

install such kind of hydro power plant across the district aiming at bringing all its 3.7 lakh aboriginals and Bengalis inhabitants under power supply," he said.

He informed that a delegation of the council led by him visited Nepal last month to attend a workshop on hydro power.

"During our visit we have seen the technology and realise that hydro electricity can be produced in the district where we can find source of water flow and pouch of stagnated water," he added.

Executive Engineer of Bandarban Electricity Distribution Department Jaynal Abedin said, presently the electricity subscriber numbers in the district are 15,000 which cover around 70,000 people.

No BNP committee

FROM PAGE 16

Though the BNP chairperson announced the reorganisation process of the party would be completed by December, the activities in Manikganj are yet to be started.

Most local leaders blamed party secretary general for that saying "The duty of solving problems in other district units kept him too busy to think about his own district."

They also alleged even the central leaders do not want to interfere in the matter and the party could not be united there due to long conflicts between Delwar and Munnun but these leaders have no headache about the organisation," another leader told The Daily Star seeking

and that he had retired from active politics.

Local leaders said Delwar established supremacy over the leadership after taking charge of the party's secretary general that kept most of his rival leaders silent.

Abdul Baten, president of Hariampur upazila BNP, said district committee was not formed till date due to Delwar. "As a second man of the party, he can form the committee anytime."

"The party chairperson expressed her annoyance over the conflict between Delwar and Munnun but these leaders have no headache about the organisation," another leader told The Daily Star seeking

anonymity.

Afroza Khan Rita, who was BNP candidate for Manikganj-2 constituency, said she also doesn't know the reason of the delay in forming the district committee.

BNP announced convening committee for 71 organisational districts out of 75 by June. Later the Sunamganj district committee was announced. Three more units, Manikganj, Dhaka district and Dhaka city committee, were yet to be announced.

Khaleda Zia is working on Dhaka city and district committee but no efforts have been made yet by the secretary general for his own unit - Manikganj district.

KCC suspends drive for fund crunch

FROM PAGE 16

Tapan hasn't shown any reason for planning a new project by discontinuing the previous drive that was praised by city dwellers who are the worst victims of waterlogging problem.

Khaleque said that a move is underway to take up a new project to modernise the drainage system aiming at solving the waterlogging problem.

Sources said the KCC will ask for an allocation of fund from the government to implement the new project aiming at modernising the drainage system as well as freeing the canals in consultation with encroachers.

The mayor also did not clarify why he now needs consultation to free the remaining canals from the grip of encroachers. Of the total 50 city canals, the KCC evicted illegal grabbers from 25 canals until October 1 while the rest of the canals are still under the clutches of encroachers.

A reliable source of KCC said most of the remaining 25 city canals are under the occupation of ruling party men and some influential businessmen of Khulna city.

Denying this allegation, the mayor said that the drive had been suspended to make

room for a long-term project for permanent solution of the city's waterlogging problem.

"No one would be spared as I am committed to free the canals from encroachers irrespective of political affiliation," Khaleque said.

He further said that at least Tk 20 crore would be needed to implement the new project. KCC has no such fund of its own to implement the new project.

The planned new long-term project includes re-excavation of canals after freeing those from illegal grabbers, interconnections of re-excavated canals with rivers and modernisation of

drainage system, he said.

The mayor could not say when fund for implementation of the new project would be available for resuming the drive against encroachers of canals.

Discontinuation of the drive against encroachers has created sharp reaction among the city dwellers.

Human Resource Management Officer Sazzadur Rahim Pantho of NGO Christian Service Society (CSS) said that slum dwellers are worst victims of waterlogging in rainy season. Because the slum areas of the city do not have any drainage system, he said.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one two places in Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over southern part of the country, Met Office said.

It also said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at 6:58am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.2 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	25.4	83	77
Chittagong	29.1	24.8	86	93
Rajshahi	31.8	24.4	88	85
Khulna	32.2	24.5	73	86
Barisal	30.6	22.8	90	92
Sylhet	31.9	23.6	85	86
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.4	77	81



Dastgir will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at his residence at House 36 (New), Road 11 (New), Dhanmandi R/A, after Asar prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.