

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.

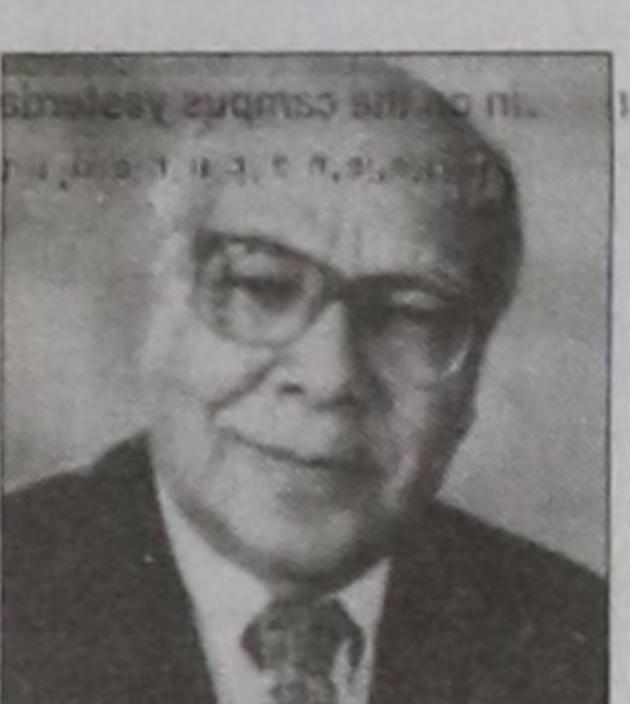
"Malek dedicated his life to building the nation. He played an important role in mobilising world opinion in favour of the Liberation War," the president said.

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.



MA Samad
METRO DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC), says a press release.

Born at Kulaura in Moulvibazar in 1923, Samad was associated with the insurance industry since 1946. He established BGIC after his retirement as managing director of Bima Corporation.

An honours graduate from Presidency College in Kolkata with a brilliant academic career all through, Samad was also the founder director of Bangladesh Insurance Academy, an institution established by the government for professional training.

He wrote two books in Bengali, one on life insurance and another on general insurance, and two more English textbooks on life insurance, which received high appreciation from renowned insurance organisations abroad.

Samad was enlisted as an international expert in the Technical Assistance Programme on Trade and Development of the United Nations. He was also a former chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, the country's apex insurance entity.

His family members and BGIC family have requested all friends, well-wishers and relatives to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Quazi Golam Dastgir

METRO DESK

The first death anniversary of former ambassador Maj Gen Quazi Golam 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 Asr prayers.

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

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.

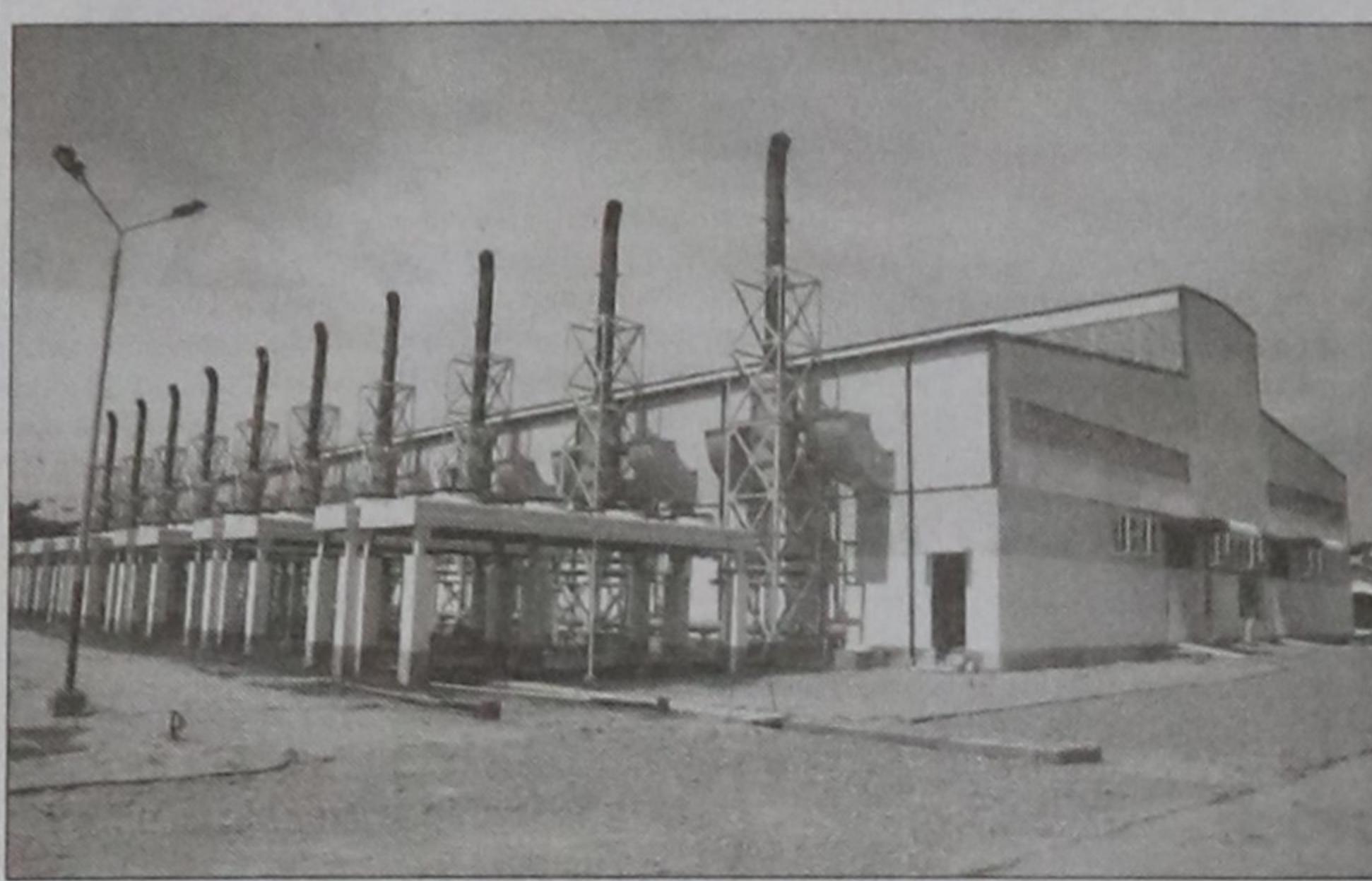
He said, "We are already producing 52MW to 54MW power since the test operation starts," adding: "If allowed and contracted, we would be able to add 50MW more within six to seven months."

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.



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5 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in the city, Chittagong, Brahmanbaria and Dinajpur. 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 Saturia 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 Hujur 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'daria adds: One person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Mohotullahpur 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 Tipu, 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

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

Mohotullahpur village under Brahmanbaria sadar upazila.

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The body was sent to Madaripur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police recovered a body of a youth tied with a tree at Guagachia village under Shibchar upazila in Madaripur yesterday.

Police said his hands, legs and throat of the body were tied with the tree. The local people noticed the body first and then informed the police.

Police said the victim might be driver of a pickup van kept beside the tree.

The body was sent to Madaripur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

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Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowsers 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 Jessor 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 |
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