

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 25th death anniversary of poet Moniruddin Yousuf.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil was held yesterday after Jumma prayers at a mosque of his village at Boulai Shaheb Bari in Kishoreganj, said a press release.

Yousuf is renowned for Bengali translation of the Shahnama, a long epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Emanuel Haq Bhuiyan alias Haq Bahi, general secretary of Awami League Banasree unit-2, died of cardiac arrest at a city hospital Thursday night at the age of 48, says a press release.

He left behind two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest in the city's Banani Graveyard following his namaj-e-janaza at Banasree Baitul Quddus Jame Mosque after Juma prayers yesterday.



Human chain

Families United Against Road Accident (Fuara) will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Pink City Home Owners Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Ltd will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Convention

Voice will organise a national convention; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Muktochinta Forum will arrange a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 3:30pm.

Human chain

Gonotantik Bam Mocha will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Peshajibi Parishad will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

South Asian Fraternity (SAF) will arrange a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

Nagorik Forum will organise a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Sit-in

We are the 99 Percent will stage a sit-in; Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), Dhaka University; Time: 4:00pm.



Green Voice forms a human chain on Topekhana Road in the city yesterday, protesting move to install thermal power plant at Rampal adjacent to the Sundarbans.

PHOTO: STAR

POWER GENERATION

Use renewable energy to cut cost

Suggests Matia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should focus more on renewable energy for power generation, as dependence on imported petroleum products is proving costly amid dwindling gas reserves, the agriculture minister said yesterday.

"At this moment, we will not be able to extract coal, as we do not have scientific methods. Neither the gas reserve is sufficient", Matia Chowdhury said. So more focus should be on renewable energy, she added.

"...when we planned for rental power plants, the price of oil was about US\$82 a barrel. It is now over \$129 a barrel. The economy, thus, is under pressure to accommodate the increase", she said.

The minister made her observation and recommendation at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop organised for leading experts and chiefs of the various state-run energy related companies at Bidyut Bhaban in the city yesterday.

The two-day event, aimed at finding ways out to further improve the country's power and energy sectors, was organised by the power, energy, and mineral resources ministry.

Bangladesh has targeted to take its electricity generation capacity to 38,185 megawatts (MW) by 2030, anticipating that the demand would rise to 33,708MW.

The government, however, plans to produce only 111MW of electricity from renewable energy sources, which, according to the agriculture minister, is too low. Her comments also poured cold water on the Power

Development Board's (PDB) plan to produce 9,850MW of electricity from domestic coal.

Bangladesh has discovered five coal-mines, which have a combined reserve of about 2,797 million tonnes of high quality bituminous coal. But the country is failing to extract the natural resource due to indecision over extraction method.

The agriculture minister said she does not think that the common people would not be interested in setting up solar energy system.

Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, called for coordination among all stakeholders to implement the country's power vision by 2021, saying, "It will not be tough to achieve the target if everybody works in unison".

He said the government would have to work hard to construct the transmission line to take power to the people.

On average, Bangladesh produces 5,000MW of electricity, taking power to half of the population, according to the PDB.

Sheikh M Wahid-Uz-Zaman, principal secretary to the prime minister, said Bangladesh would have to spend \$48.5 billion to implement its power sector master plan.

The government has drawn up plans to improve the power situation, but implementation is the biggest challenge now, said Energy Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin said.

Muhammad Enamul Huq, state minister for power, and Abul Kalam Azad, power secretary, also spoke.

BID TO END VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

Oil fortification law next yr

UNB, Dhaka

In a bid to improve people's access to vitamin A through fortification, the government has planned to introduce mandatory oil fortification law by next year, according to sources at the industries ministry.

"The government is actively considering introducing a mandatory law to this end. It has also planned to roll out an awareness campaign to educate consumers about the benefit of vitamin A fortified oil," a senior official of the ministry told the news agency yesterday.

An estimated 22 percent of preschool age children in the country suffer from vitamin A deficiency, which is the leading cause of blindness in children, according to Unicef.

Fortification of oil requires very little modi-

fication of the processing operations and is relatively simple and the oil protects the vitamin A from oxidation during storage and facilitates absorption of vitamin, said Dr Ireen Akhter Chowdhury, nutrition officer of Unicef, Bangladesh.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said, "So far, everyone in Bangladesh takes about 20.51gm oil a day in their daily foods. That's why, Vitamin A fortified oil will obviously change the Vitamin A deficiency scenario in the country."

Meanwhile, the ministry with BSTI and oil refiners has already been implementing a project (Jan 2010-Dec 2012) titled "Fortification of Edible Oil in Bangladesh" to that end.

GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) is providing fund while Unicef giving technical assistance for the project.

BFJA election on Mar 30

UNB, Dhaka

Election to Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association (BFJA) will be held on March 30.

An election commission has been formed for conducting the polls. All the members have been requested to renew their membership by February 15-29, said a release.

Application for renewal membership and new member can be collected from the association's office at 34 Bijoy Nagar (3rd floor) and submitted from 4:00pm to 7:00pm during February 15-29.

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