

Dutch-Bangla Bank distributes blankets

Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd. has taken up a programme to distribute 20,000 blankets worth Tk 44 lakh among the poor and needy villagers in Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Pabna districts,

says a press release.

Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of the bank, visited the remote villages and border belt areas of the northern region recently and distributed blan-

kets with the help of the government agencies.

Dr Mozammel Hossain Khan, administrator of the bank, accompanied him.

Myanmar gas sale to India Arakan body urges PM not to allow pipeline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Arakan Muslim Community Development Foundation of Myanmar has urged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia not to allow construction of Myanmar-to-India gas pipeline through Bangladesh.

In a letter sent to the PM recently, Foundation President Mohammad Zahir Gaffari said the Arakanese are against export of gas to India by the



Second death anniversary of Simi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Simi Banu, a student of Narayanganj Charukala Institute, who killed herself at her Khilgaon Sipahibagh residence after she was tormented by a gang of hoodlums.

A vivacious daughter of a dotting mother, Simi was an aspiring artist. But all her aspiration and vivacity came to an end on this day two years ago.

She tried to seek peace in death being unable to bear the taunts of Ripon, Dolon, Khalil and Mofazzal.

However, her bereaved mother feels that Simi's soul still could not attain peace as the criminals responsible for her death are roaming scot-free.

Even Sub-Inspector Abul Bashar of Khilgaon Police station who rebuked her when she asked for help is now on bail.

Though Simi's death sparked a nationwide protest and criticism, her mother Zerina Begum claimed she still has not received justice. "I leave the justice to Allah," she sobbed.

A milad mahfil will be held at Simi's residence on December 25. Her mother requested relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the milad.

ruling junta in Myanmar.

He said residents of Arakan province in Myanmar have been agitating against the export of gas to India as the gas sale would not benefit them. Export of natural gas to India has been kept a secret to the people of the state, he added.

Gaffari said the international oil companies will start producing natural gas from block (A-1) of the Arakan coast, but the public has no idea about what to expect from the major oil exploration.

Similarly, he said, the people of Arakan do not know that the project has already been sold to India by the junta and production will commence shortly by an international consortium led by Indian Oil Company Kugos, according to a statement by Indian gas companies.

The gas will be fed through a pipeline from Kyauktaw-Platwa in northern Arakan via Tripura and Mizoram in India to Assam, Gaffari said in his letter to the PM.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Mokbul Hossain, a retired traffic officer of BIWTC, died of old-age complications at his residence in Barisal yesterday at 70.

Mokbul, father of Mustak Hossain, staff correspondent of The Daily Star, left behind his wife, three sons and four daughters.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held at A Kader School ground and second one at Barisal Muslim graveyard where he was buried.

His qukhwani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his residence.

Amirul Haque



Md Amirul Haque, a social worker and sports organiser, died of a cardiac arrest on Sunday at 65, says a press release.

Popularly known as Jhlu, he is survived by his wife and eight children.

His qukhwani will be held at his Gulshan residence, House # 6, Road # 77, Gulshan # 2, after Asr prayers on December 25.

A milad mahfil will also be held at the Begum Bazaar Community Centre after Asr prayers on December 26.

ASA to bring 20 lakh more under micro-credit network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Association for Social Advancement (ASA) will establish 500 more branches across the country to bring another 20 lakh people under its micro-credit network.

This was disclosed by ASA Managing Director Mohammad Shafiqul Hoque Chowdhury while inaugurating a three-day workers' convention at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

"The new branches will be established in the remote areas where people are deprived of banking facilities and facing problems of other social amenities like electricity and proper communication network," he added.

Shafiqul Hoque said committees incorporating civil society members will be formed in every district to strengthen micro-credit activities and ensure

good governance in the society.

Currently, ASA is providing micro-credit facilities to 23 lakh poor people across the country through 1,261 branches.

On the first day of the convention, 674 branch managers, cell managers and internal auditors were present.



A three-day workers' convention of the Association for Social Advancement began at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.