

# A genocide day set to pass off 'silently'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Today is April 27, the tragic Kaliganj genocide day. On this day in 1971, the Pakistani occupation army massacred 300 innocent people at Kaliganj village in Jaldhaka upazila when they were crossing the border for a safe shelter in India. But no political party has taken up any programme to commemorate the event. Kaliganj is 30 kms from Nilphamari district town and nine kms northwest of Jaldhaka upazila headquarter. On that day, about 1500 people including women, children and elders from Kathali, Balagram, Golna, Jaldhaka and adjoining villages were walking towards the border to save themselves from

Pakistani army. They were proceeding towards bordering Ambaria village in Domar upazila. When they reached Kaliganj village, then all on a sudden, Pakistani troops on board several vehicles appeared there and ordered them to stop. The troops then separated young men, young girls and women and elders in three groups. They ordered the young men, numbering about 300, to stand in a line and shoot them all in front of others. The troops also charged beyond on some of them. Before leaving the spot, the troops picked up some young girls. One of the survivors, Amar Krishna, 56, now a schoolteacher at Balagram village narrated his experience to this correspondent. He said he was then a young

man of 19. The troops' bullets missed him. He fell on the ground and lost sense. "When I get back sense, I realised that there are many dead bodies around me". "I somehow stood up and hid myself in a bamboo cluster". Amar Krishna lost his father and two brothers on that day. Former Union Parishad member Monsad Ali, 60, of Kiliganj village expressed his resentment that no government did anything to keep the memory alive for the future generation. Even local units of political parties do not observe the day, he lamented. The local people built a Shahid Minar (memorial) at the spot. Some local organisations remember this day by placing flowers at the Shaheed Minar.



The small monument built by local people in Kaliganj village in Jaldhaka in memory of the massacre in 1971 by Pakistani occupation army.

PHOTO: STAR

## Monument with martyred FFs' names being built in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A long felt demand of the people of Satkhira is going to be fulfilled. The government has finally initiated a project to construct a monument on which names of all martyred freedom fighters in the district will be engraved. Hundreds of people including freedom fighters joined its foundation laying ceremony, held yesterday on the collectorate building premises. State Minister for Labour and Employment Aman Ullah Aman was the chief guest at the function, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Md Ilias. It was addressed by, among others, Satkhira district commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Shahidul Islam and its member secretary Hasauzzaman. Lawmakers Habibul Islam Habib, Maulana Abdul Khaleq Mondal, Maulana Riasat Ali, Kazi Alauddin and Gazi Nazrul Islam were also present at the function. Speaking on the occasion Aman said freedom fighters are the best sons of the country for all times and it is the duty of the nation to honour. To honour the freedom fighter is to honour the nation, he added. The name plate is being erected so that people can remember them. Fulfilling an election pledge, the BNP government has created a separate ministry for welfare of freedom fighters and increased their monthly allowance to Tk 4500 from Tk 300, he said.

## 22 get life for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Twenty persons were sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court here on Monday in Shirjan Sheikh Murder Case in Bagha upazila. The convicts are Asgar Shikdar, Osman, Mohammad, Khaleque, Fulchand, Zabbar Biswas, Fazal Hossain Amin, Komor Ali, Gafur, Jhor, Sobdul, Liakat, Tanu, Monu, Sobdul-2, Anwar, Akсед, Khoaz and Salam. Among them, Amin, Komor Ali, Gafur, Jhor, Sobdul, Liakat, Tanu, Monu, Sobdul-2, Anwar, Akсед, Khoaz and Salam have been absconding. The Third Additional District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahi, Zebun Nesa declared the judgment 18 years after filing of the case. Shirjan Sheikh was killed over land dispute on July 22, 1987.

## Religious leaders join workshop on environment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A day-long workshop on "Environment and its Conservation" for religious leaders was held at the Islamic Foundation here yesterday. It was presided over by Md Abdul Maleke, Deputy Director of local unit of Islamic Foundation. The keynote paper on Environment and its Conservation as per the Quran and the Sunnah was presented by The Daily Star Correspondent Sheikh Md Shahidul Islam, also vice-president of Brlahmanbaria Press Club. The discussants included Prof Md Mohibur Rahim, Prof AKM Aminul Islam, religious leaders Md Musharraf Hossain, Md Mizanur Rahman, Md Abdur Rahman, Md Mohi Uddin, Md Habibur Rahman, Md Sakib Mulla, Ali Hossain, Md Zahangir Alam, BM Hossain, Habibur Rahman, Md Sarf Uddin Khan, Md Younus, Kari Md Hossain, Md Nazrul Islam, Md Abu Saleh, Md Abdul Aziz, Md Saiful Islam and Md Nurul Amin. About 60 teachers of madrassas and Imams of mosques attended the workshop, that discussed air pollution, environment pollution, sound pollution and water pollution.

## Boat rally held on Meghna to stop Jatka netting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A boat rally was held on the Meghna on Monday to create awareness against netting of Jatka (Hilsha fry). High government officials and leaders of professional groups, socio-cultural bodies, NGOs and fishermen's associations on board launches, trawlers, fishing boats and speedboats took part in the colourful rally. Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP inaugurated it at Barisal port on the Kirtankhola river. It terminated at Hizla Bandar on the Meghna, covering about 35 kilometre waterway. It was organised by the Fisheries Directorate.

# Brahmaputra erosion takes serious turn in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With the sudden swelling of the Brahmaputra, erosion has turned serious along the western bank of the river in Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchari and Shaghata upazilas. Besides vast croplands, at least 400 dwelling houses were devoured by the river in last four days, rendering over 100 people homeless. The erosion victims have taken shelter on the nearby flood control embankment. Another over 200 houses have been shifted to safer places, local people told this correspondent during a visit to the areas yesterday and the day before. The badly affected areas are Bhashherpara, Sayedpur, Kanchipara, Balashi, Fazlupur, Char Krishnamani, Gajaria and Ratanpur in Fulchari upazila; Hasilkandi, Kumarpura, Chinirpota and Haldia in Shaghata upazila; and Moller Char, Karaibari, Chithulia, Hashdara, Baguria in the Sadar upazila. More lands in the areas are now threatened with erosion. The Brahmaputra is gradually approaching Gaibandha town due to erosion. The river is only about four kilometres from the town now, which was about 10 kilometres away fifteen years ago. The river will come closer to the town in few years if steps are not taken to check the erosion, said Akbar Hossain, Chairman of Kanchipara Union Parishad. Last year, the Water Development Board (WDB) allocated Tk 43 crore to check erosion at Kamarjani and Fulchari Sadar. But implementation of the river bank protection project is going on at a slow pace, local people alleged. They are afraid that in view of the slow implementation of the project, vast areas might be devoured by the mighty Brahmaputra in the coming wet season. Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations are demanding quick implementation of the WDB project to protect the areas. The local unit of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) on Monday brought out a procession and held a rally in Malibari demanding immediate steps to check the erosion and alleged irregularities by a section of WDB officials. BSD will hold demonstrations tomorrow and submit a memorandum to Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner to press their demand. When contacted, the WDB Executive engineer said erosion is taking place in some particular areas due to sudden increase in the water level. The situation will improve in few days, he claimed. About the allegations, he said the bank protection work will be completed before the monsoon.



The Brahmaputra devouring lands in Bhashherpara in Fulchari Upazila in Gaibandha.

PHOTO: STAR

## Students ransack Barisal medical college rooms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A group of unruly students, allegedly backed by the ruling party, ransacked some rooms at three departments in Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (BSBMC) on Monday demanding some extra facilities. They were among the students who were recently promoted to third year after they had failed in two terms. Claiming seniority, they declined to sit with regular students and were demanding extra classes in separate rooms. They also demanded that their third year course be completed in eight months instead of 12 months to avoid session loss. But heads of Pharmacology, Microbiology and Forensic departments declined to accept the illogical demands. This angered them. At about 11 am on Monday, they ransacked rooms and damaged widows and doors in the three departments. Their teachers however controlled the situation. It was also alleged that the unruly students belonged to ruling BNP's student wing JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) and were instigated by its leaders at BSBMC. Prof. Dr. Golam Mahmud Selim, principal-in-charge and the three departmental heads— Prof. Dr. Jamaluddin of Pharmacology, Prof. Dr. Jahangir Hossain of Microbiology and Prof. Dr. M A Berek of Forensic— acknowledged the incident but ruled out any possibility of separate classrooms for the irregular students and curtailing the course period. The number of irregular students is only seven against 147 regular students.

## Tk 60 lakh trees gutted in Sundarbans fire

Probe body submits report today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-member official team visited the fire-damaged areas in Chandpai Range in eastern Sundarbans on Sunday and Monday. Headed by forest ministry Deputy Secretary Md Abdul Halim, the team included Assistant Conservator of Forests Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury and Assistant Director of Environment Directorate Hasan Zahid. Members of the team left Khulna on Monday for Dhaka. It will submit its report to the government today. According to a member of the team, Bonkhagraha and Keorha trees worth over Tk 60 lakh on four acres of forestland were burnt in fire that originated from lighted cigarettes or bidis thrown by fishermen. It is learnt from the team that the fire broke out on May 13 at Tulatala, which was brought under control on May 14 by local people. According to the Station Officer at Dhanshagar Forest Office, sixty wells had to be dug for arranging water to extinguish the fire. It is alleged that the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in the Eastern Wing of the Sundarbans had visited the spot on April 19, six days after fire had broken out. But he did not take appropriate step in time to put out the fire. The DFO could not be reached over phone despite several attempts on Monday. A staff at his office said he was in Bagerhat town.

# Criminals set fire to Hindu schoolteacher's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A gang of eight criminals on Monday set fire to a Hindu schoolteacher's house at village Hatra in Mohonpur upazila. Three rooms were gutted partially although none was hurt in the incident, according to police. The attackers have been torturing me both mentally and physically for the last two months because I demanded justice from the authorities concerned condemning their previous attacks on me', school-teacher Suronjeet told this correspondent quoting his mother Adori

Bala, a witness of the incident. Suronjeet told further the criminals assaulted him and his father Montu Sarkar in front of police at Kesharhat when they were returning home from Mohonpur Police Station (PS) after the fire incident. A case was filed against eight persons including Aminul Islam, a Roads and Highways Department (RHD) employee, a microbus owner at Kesharhat and his accomplices, Faruk, Uzzal and Alam. Initially, the feud developed between Suronjeet and Aminul over microbus fare on February 19. Suronjeet complained the matter to

police and local elite. From then on Aminul and his accomplices attacked Suronjeet on several occasions till March 25. At one stage police arrested Amin, Uzzal and Faruk. When they were freed on bail and threatened to kill Suronjeet if he does not withdraw the case against them. Suronjeet met the superintendent of police (SP) of Rajshahi Abdullah Al Mahmud on April 21. He visited the spot on Monday and told this correspondent that police had been trying best to nab the attackers. The SP denied allegations of police apathy to arrest the culprits.

# An institute with a vision

USTC produces good professionals

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, Back from Chittagong

The University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), one of the premier private universities in the country, provides standard education in science and technology, medicine and in different social science subjects. It has a commitment to produce good professionals and to provide medicare services to people, the poor in particular. The institute had started its journey as Institute of Applied Sciences in May 13, 1989 with 42 students. National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam is its founder Vice-chancellor. It was upgraded to USTC in 1992. It has now has 11 subjects in four faculties. Over 30 per cents of its students are from foreign countries including India, Nepal, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bhutan, Malaysia, Norway, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Palestine. Prof. Islam told a group of visiting journalists from Dhaka recently that they are going to construct a 500-bed 20-story hospital, a 16-story academic building, 8-story Zia International Institute of Business

Administration and a Ursing Institute. The work on the ambitious projects will begin this year. He said that more foreign students would come to study at the USTC if the country's political situation remains congenial. The USTC offers courses in BBA and MBA under its Faculty of Business Admission, B.Sc in CSE under the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology, MBBS under faculty of Medicine and B. Pharm under Faculty of Basic Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The USTC has a 350-bed Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital on the campus, comprising four full-fledged departments including Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry and Community Medicine, Laboratory, lecture rooms. It is equipped with modern medial and surgical equipment. Visiting journalist ASM A Khaleque, Associate Editor of Dhaka-based News Today, inaugurated the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the hospital on April 23. There are about 1,500 students including of 350 foreign students on roll at USTC now. This correspondent also talked

to some of the students. Farhad Tanjum, a 1st year MBBS student from Kashmir, India said the students enjoy all facilities at the university. Asked about teachers and teaching system, she said, "We have highly qualified teachers and friendly environment on the campus and at hostel. Abu Saleh Md Ali, a second year student of Pharmacy said teachers are very co-operative and the quality of teaching is satisfactory. They said they have good library facility and modern computer laboratories, qualified and full time teachers counseling. Tuition fees are affordable and medical facilities are provided free of cost. The students have expressed their optimism that the USTC would be turned into an ideal center for quality education and medicare services not only for Chittagong but also for the whole of Bangladesh in future. The USTC has two dormitories, one for male and the other for female students. Foreign female students have a separate dormitory.



Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital (BBMH) & academic block of the University of Science & Technology Chittagong (USTC).

PHOTO: USTC PROSPECTUS

9x4