

Bangladeshi shot dead in BSF firing

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Nov 22: The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi businessman in Hatatganj of the Indian state of West Bengal on late Sunday night, according to reports received here.

The man, killed in the BSF firing, was identified as Jakat Ali, 35, of Agardari Bedepota village of Satkhira district.

According to family sources, Jakat Ali had crossed the border on Sunday to purchase cattlehead at the Hatatganj cattle market of Sharupnagar thana in Calcutta district. On way back near the cattle market the BSF men challenged Ali and shot him dead on the spot.

The body was not returned till filing of this report.

Govt official killed in road accident, 5 others injured

GAIBANDHA, Nov 22: A government official was killed and five others were injured seriously when their Pajero jeep turned turtle on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Katakhali Sunday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as S M Karmaker, Chief Assistant, Planning Commission.

Injured Mostafa, Senior Photographer, and Helal, Assistant Photographer of Bangladesh Television, Shawkat Ali, Shahidur Rahman and Saleem, driver of the jeep, were rushed to Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra.

They were returning with State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan from Dalia after visiting the Teesta barrage. The minister was in another car.

Police said the jeep fell flat when one of its back tyres punctured at about 8:30 pm.

A case was filed with Gobindaganj thana.

Housewife beaten to death in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 22: A housewife, Sabita Rani, 27, wife of Nitai Sarkar of village Balapota under Kaliganj thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband recently.

It is reported that following family trouble, the husband beat his wife mercilessly last week killing his wife on the spot.

Later Nitai Sarkar tried to suppress the murder by pouring liquid insecticide into the victim's mouth to convince a suicide case.

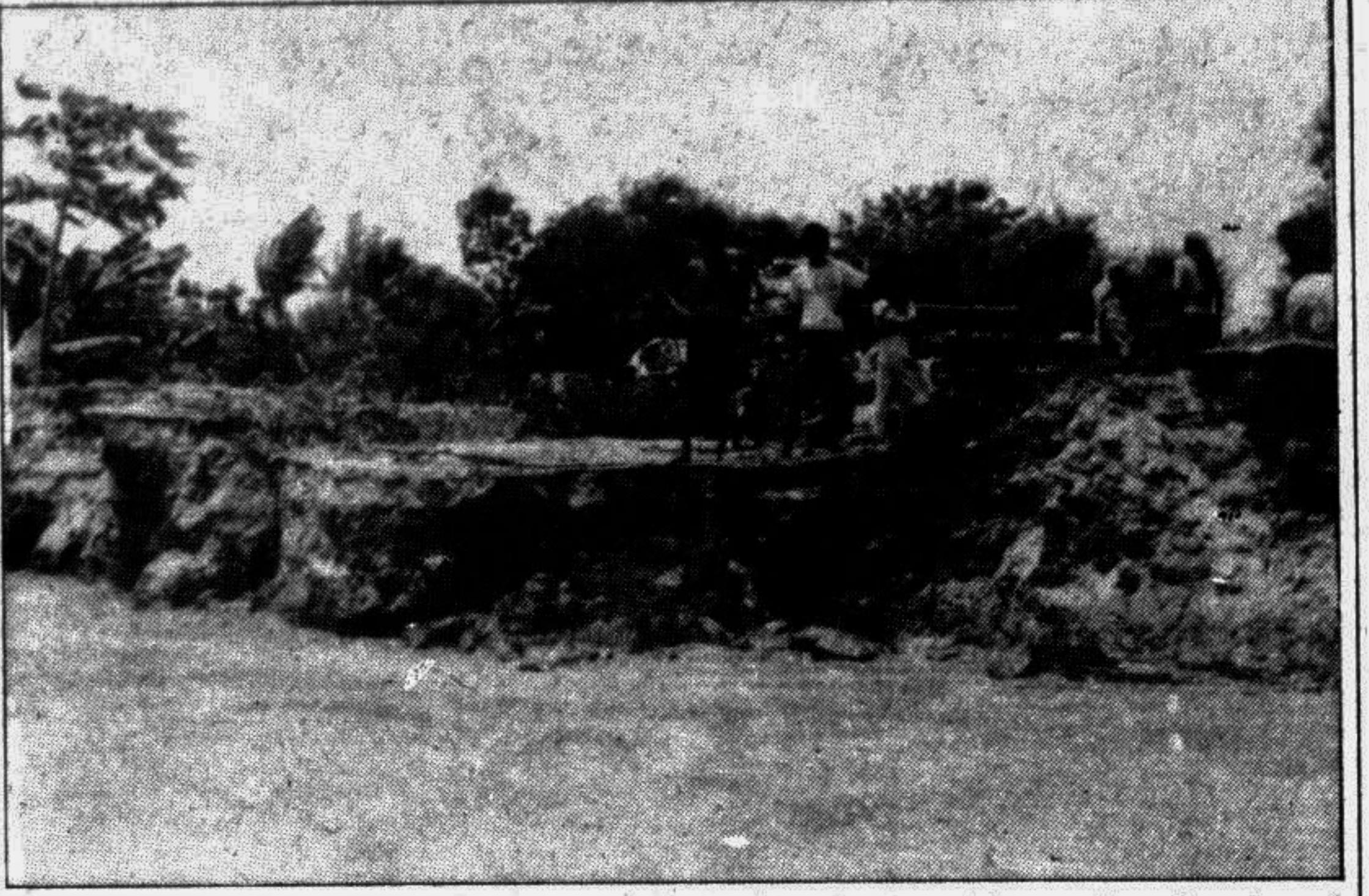
After receiving the information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Satkhira hospital for autopsy.

Cow kills butcher

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 22: A butcher lost his life when a cow suddenly jumped on him while attempting to slaughter in Sankarpur under Shinganj thana of Bogra district recently.

On November 13 the butchers, Tamjiduddin bought a cow to sell meat in the local market. The victim with some other companions suddenly fell down beside the cow while they attempted to slaughter the cow. suddenly the animal jumped up and set one of its foot on the chest of Tamjiduddin.



PABNA: Photo shows Jamuna erosion grabbing land on the river side near Nagarbari ghat.

National

Two killed in separate incidents in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 22: A day labourer and a woman were killed in two separate accidents in the district on Monday, says UNB.

Police said, an unidentified day labourer, 37, was killed when a Dhaka-bound truck coming from Bogra hit him from behind on Bogra-Gorbari road in Raiganj thana.

In another incident, a Chapainawabganj bound mail train ran over Anjumanara Khatun, 30, at Kalia Haripur station of the district, railway police said.

Witnesses said, the woman jumped in front of the train when it reached at the station. She died on the spot. The train was coming from Sirajganj bazar.

A case has been lodged with the local railway police.

DISTRICT NOTES

Housewife stabbed to death in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Nov 22: Rowshan Ara, 25, a housewife of village Santiram of Sunderganj thana was stabbed to death by her husband recently, reports our correspondent in the district.

On the night of November 4 husband, Abdul Majid, asked his wife, Rowshan Ara to go out with him to visit his sister's house located nearby. On way armed miscreants as well as the husband attacked Rowshan Ara stabbing her seriously. She was taken to her house in critical condition where she died.

According to the family source, accused, Majid had an illicit relation with one widow, Sharitan Begum of the same village which Majid's wife could not tolerate and tried to resist the unfair relation of her husband. At this the husband became furious and chalked out a plan for murdering his wife.

A case was filed with Sunderganj thana. Police in a drive arrested Majid and his lover Sharitan Begum.

Another report says: Rangpur Sugar Mills Ltd, Mohimaganj went into operation recently.

This year the mills will produce 13,440 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,50,000 tons of sugar cane. This year extraction of sugar content rate was fixed at 8.40 per cent. The mills will work for 120 days to reach its production target. All precautionary measures were taken to run the mills smoothly.

Property worth Tk 2 lakh gutted in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Nov 22: At least three houses were gutted and property worth about Tk 2 lakh were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire incident at Jagadishpur tea garden of the district recently, says our correspondent in the district.

Witnesses said, the fire originated from a burning Dupdhani in a shop belonging to Narayan Sukla Baidha of the tea garden.

The workers of the tea garden managed to extinguish the fire after some time, it was learnt. No one was injured, according to the last report received here.

Another report says: A woman was killed and another 30 persons were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at village Shilpuri in Lakhan thana of the district recently.

Five convicted for keeping smuggled goods

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 22: Five persons were awarded different terms of jail for keeping smuggled goods, says our correspondent in the district.

The judgement was delivered in the court of Shamsunnahar Begum, Assistant Session and Special Tribunal Judge of Kishoreganj in October.

The tried persons are -- Md Hossain, Akkas Ali, Hiron Miah, Fazlul Haque and Alamgir. Out of the five Md Hossain and Akkas Ali were sentenced to suffer RI for 7 years and to pay a fine of Tk 5000 each while others were sentenced to suffer RI for one year and to pay fine a Tk 200 each or in default to suffer another one month RI. The court also found one person not guilty.

According to the prosecution, in May 1988, a police party, led by the officer-in-charge of Katladi thana challenged a taxi driver near Katladi bus stand. The accused persons started running away leaving the taxi at Bariagao Bazar. Police later caught all of them and recovered 388 pieces of Indian sarees from the taxi.

A case was registered with Katladi police and charge-sheet was submitted against them.

Huge amount of aman paddy in Habiganj under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Nov 22: The standing aman paddy plants on vast areas of land are reportedly under pest attack in eight thanas of the district.

The pests are locally known as *mazra puka*, *lada puka*, *pamri puka*, *lalpuka* which have attacked the rupa-aman paddy fields in various parts of the district. The badly affected areas are Baniyachong, Ajmiriganj, Nabiganj, Lakhai, Chunerughat and Bahubal.

Affected farmers informed that the green paddy plants have turned yellowish.

It is alleged that, the staff of agriculture department prepared a report on the basis of the information supplied by the block supervisors who did not inform the concerned officials about the attack on the fields.

The farmers said that, the spray machines supplied by the Agriculture Extension Department have been lying inoperative for want of spares.

Experienced quarters ex-

pressed that, if the government do not take any effective measures immediately, the situation may go out of control.

The farmers of the affected areas cannot afford to purchase the required quantity of pesticides which are being sold in the local markets at an exorbitant price.

Confirming the extensive pest attack in eight thanas of the district the local agriculture extension department source said that, due to shortage of pesticides and spray machines, they are unable to stop the pest attack.

The farmers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to save the standing crops from destruction.

Our Correspondent From Kurigram says: The cultivation of local varieties of paddy is decreasing in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Gaibandha districts of greater Rangpur region, according to survey reports.

Some farmers of Kurigram sadar thana told this correspondent that local varieties of paddy could be cultivated without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities.

The farmers of the districts

grew different local varieties of paddy. These are *panisai binipakri*, *khirshabhog*, *kalijira dudukumor*, *dhypa*, *uknindhadasia*, *proangi*, *sada aus*, and *kalamanir* on their land. These varieties of crops grew abundantly. Following harvesting of the varieties of paddy the farmers procured sufficient straws which were used as fodder. There was no scarcity of fodder.

Owing to the sharp fall in the cultivation of local varieties of paddy many problems now prevails such as shortage of fodder. The production cost of IRI-boro is increasing too day by day with the increased prices of agricultural inputs. The prices of agricultural inputs have now gone beyond purchasing capacity of the farmers.

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Changing cultivation pattern can give big benefits

By Md Mozammel Haque

Farmers in general in Rajshahi region grow cotton after harvesting of broadcast aus and jute in the cotton growing areas. But recently some growers of Rajshahi zone have started cultivating cotton after harvesting of summer pulse in August. It is observed that if monsoon occurs to late sowing of cotton is delayed consequently affecting production.

To overcome this problem, some of the farmers in Bagatipara and Chorghat thanas grew summer pulse and got 260-280 kg per acre yield. They sold pulse at the rate of Tk 17 per kg making Tk 3900 as net profit.

The table below shows the comparison.

Comparison

Crop	sowing time	period	cost of production per acre	Gross income per acre	Net profit per acre
Aus	March/April	100 days	1500.00	2800.00	1300.00
Summer pulse	-do-	70 days	650.00	4539.00	3889.00

Planting gradually. The vast plain along the river Boro, a tributary of the Padma, is very suitable for cotton cultivation because of its sandy loam soil and well drainage capacities. Broadcast aus in summer and

kg. The local sale price of is Tk 17 per kg.

Summer pulse gives three times higher return than aus crop. It was also reported by the growers after cultivation of aus cotton seeds are dibbled in August. It is observed that if monsoon occurs to late sowing of cotton is delayed consequently affecting production.

Another important point was mentioned by the growers that less fertile land produced good output of pulse.

This method of cotton crop rotation is gaining popularity owing to its advantages.

Initiative to popularise this method, like training, holding

seminars should be given more importance. This will pay an attractive financial return to growers and will also be a worthwhile step towards filling up shortage of pulse and raw cotton of the country.

They don't give up

The remote Rowmari thana in Kurigram district of northern Bangladesh is one of the worst affected by the current drought. Women members of the worst affected families are seen here engaged in a cash-for-work scheme repairing damaged road-cum-embankments in Rowmari thana. A total of 46,250 drought affected families are engaged in cash-for-work activities under the ongoing Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS)/ODA Drought Response Project taking place in six northern districts.



RDRS photos

Fire destroys property worth Tk 50 lakh in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Nov 22: A devastating fire charred goods worth about Tk 50 lakh at Madina Market in the district town Monday night, reports UNB.

Fire Service sources said, the fire originated from a grocery shop at about 9 pm and soon engulfed the adjacent areas and gutted 16 shops of the market.

The angry people attacked the fire fighters as they can late at the spot. Fifteen people were injured in the clash between the police and shopkeepers.

Local people alleged that the fire could be extinguished before the extensive damage of the valuables if the firemen turned up on time.

Dispute over buying of fish leaves 10 hurt in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 22: At least ten persons were injured in a clash between the fishermen and an influential person of village Nasti in Moheria thana of the district recently.

Local people said, a rich businessman, Anar Miah wanted to purchase Ruhit fish from Nasti fishery baor the fisherman however, protested. Anar Miah allegedly had quarrel and at one stage clash erupted between the followers of Anar Miah and the fisherman.

Journalists' training course concludes

GAIBANDHA, Nov 22: A one-day training-cum-seminar for journalists was held at local zila parishad auditorium recently under the auspices of bi-weekly Janasankalpa of Gaibandha. Fifty correspondents of different news papers of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Joypurhat and Jamalpur districts attended the seminar, says BSS.

Phase-II of Food for Edn starts in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 22: The second phase of the Food for Education Programme has begun in Sylhet district recently. Under the programme, one union has been selected in each thana.

An official source informed our staff correspondent that, the first phase of the programme was launched with a view to accelerating the compulsory Primary Education plan which began in October last year.

Eleven unions were taken up in eleven thanas under the programme in which each student is being provided with 15 kilograms of wheat. The source further informed that, the unions brought under the second phase programme are, Hathkhola of Sylhet Sadar thana, Islampur of Companyganj, Toakul of Gowainghat, Bagha of Golapganj, Fenchuganj, thana Dewanbazar of Balaganj, Khajahanigaon of Biswanath, Lakshminiprasad Purba of Kanaighat, Birasri of Jaiganj, Dubag of Beantibazar and Jaintapur of Jaintapur thana.

The source further informed that, there are 153 educational institutions in these selected unions of the district. These include, government primary school and madrasahs.

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