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REGD. No. DA 781 | VOL. XXIX No. 248 | ASHWIN 13, 1426 BS | MUHARRAM 28, 1441 HJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE : Tk12.00

Murders in a distant land

Bangladeshis killing their compatriots in South Africa over various rivalries; 352 bodies of such victims repatriated since 2015

PORIMOL PALMA

Mohammad Enamul had gone to South Africa 16 years back. After one year of hard work, he started a grocery shop with his savings and additional capital from home in Comilla.

Over the years, he turned the shop into a super store and set up a café. His monthly income was quite good -- Tk three to five lakh.

All was well until March 7 when he came under a gun attack.

"My father was talking over the mobile phone in front of his super store in Port Elizabeth when some South African youths shot him dead," Enamul's son Mohammad Manik told The Daily Star by phone on September 13.

He said he had no idea why his father was murdered, but he got an impression from the Bangladeshi community in Port Elizabeth that some Bangladeshis were behind it.

"Maybe my father was doing good business making other people jealous," said Manik.

Officials from the Bangladesh High Commission in South Africa and the foreign ministry in Dhaka say such killings of Bangladeshis in South Africa are quite common.

Until September 17 this year, 88 bodies of Bangladeshis were repatriated from South Africa. The number was 106 in 2018; 80 in 2017; 89 in 2016, and 95 in 2015, according to the Bangladesh mission.

"These are the numbers of bodies brought back," Shabbir

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New York yesterday on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly.

PHOTO: PID

WORLD NEWS DAY

REAL NEWS MATTERS

World News Day (<http://worldnewsday.org/>) celebrates the work of professional news organisations and the impact they make on the communities they serve. In an age of fake news and misinformation, World News Day aims to raise public awareness of the critical role that newsrooms and journalists play in providing the public with credible and reliable news and views, to help people make sense of – and improve – the rapidly changing world around them.

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MORE ON PAGE 7

Keep your eyes on tomorrow's special issue on

WORLD HEART DAY 2019

Present status of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) treatment facilities in Bangladesh, heart-healthy lifestyle changes

MAKE A HEART PROMISE

Cattle antibiotics entering food chain

Rampant use of such drugs on animals pose serious health risk; shortage of veterinaries, farmers' lack of knowledge to blame

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Indiscriminate use of antibiotics by farmers in treating cattle diseases is posing a public health risk as the medicines enter the food chain through various avenues.

Amid lax monitoring by the authorities and a lack of veterinaries at upazila and union levels, rural farmers opt for antibiotics because of their easy availability in pharmacies and ability to yield quick results.

Traditional farmers have very little knowledge about the antibiotics, said Prof Md Nurul Islam of dairy science department at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

"Every antibiotic has its withdrawal period. If milk is collected after the withdrawal period, there is very little chance of finding antibiotics in milk. But in some cases, antibiotics can be found in milk even after that," he told The Daily Star recently.

Studies have found that residues of antibiotics -- medicines which treat infections caused by bacteria, protozoa, parasites and fungi -- accumulate in cattle milk.

"We have to check the residue level through lab tests. If the residue exceeds the permissible level, then it is harmful," said Prof Nurul Islam.

The presence of high-concentration antibiotics above acceptable limit in dairy products may accelerate development of antibiotic resistance in human bodies. It also makes consumers vulnerable to bacterial diseases, says Mohidus Samad Khan, associate professor at Buet's chemical engineering department.

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority allows 100 micrograms of antibiotics in milk per kg.

Already, experts say, some bacteria have developed full or partial resistance to various antibiotics. It is well-documented that antibiotic-resistant bacteria can transmit through air, water and soil, and enter human bodies from animals through consumption of meat.

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Khaled formed armed gangs to run casinos

Rab tells court; the ex-Jubo League leader on 10-day remand; Lokman also placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan made crores of Taka running "casinos" at sporting clubs and through illegal drug trade, extortion and tender manipulation, Rab told a Dhaka court yesterday.

Khaled, now under arrest, even has an armed group and a huge stash of illegal firearms to carry out the unlawful activities, which are threat to public security, Rab Assistant Superintendent of Police Belayet Hossain said in a forwarding letter to the court.

In the letter, Rab also sought 20-day fresh remand for Khaled in two cases, which were filed under the Arms Act and Narcotics Control Act on completion of his seven-day police remand yesterday.

Hearing arguments from both prosecution and defence, the court placed Khaled on 10-day remand -- five day in each case.

On September 18, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Khaled, organising secretary of Jubo League's Dhaka South unit, at his home in the capital's Gulshan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bangladesh need not worry about NRC

Modi tells Hasina as they meet on sidelines of UN General Assembly

UNB, New York

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday assured his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in India would have no impact on Bangladesh and there was no need to be worried about it.

He gave the assurance at a meeting with Hasina at Lotte New York Palace hotel on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the talks were held in a very cordial and friendly environment.

He said bilateral concerns like the issues of NRC and water-sharing of the common rivers, including the Teesta, came up for discussion at the meeting.

Raising the NRC issue, Hasina said it has become a matter of great concern for Bangladesh.

In reply, the Indian PM said issues like the NRC and water-sharing could be taken care of very easily as the relations between Bangladesh and India are very good.

In this regard, Modi assured Hasina that Indian officials will work to resolve the issues and said Bangladesh need not worry about it.

Foreign Minister Momen said there had been no detailed discussion at the meeting as the two leaders are going to have a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on October 5.

'STAY WITH US FOR PROSPERITY'

Speaking at a luncheon roundtable on Thursday, Prime Minister Hasina urged US entrepreneurs to stay with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Three 'drug dealers' killed in 'gunfights'

Two Rohingyas among them

STAR REPORT

Three alleged drug peddlers were killed in "gunfights" with BGB and police in Cox's Bazar and Mymensingh early yesterday.

In Cox's Bazar, two Rohingya yaba smugglers were killed in a "shootout" with BGB members in Hnila union of Teknaf upazila around 4:00am, said Lt Col Foyzal Hasan Khan, commanding officer of BGB-2 Battalion in Teknaf.

The dead are Dosto Mohammad, 18, and Dil Mohammad, 17, from Maungdaw in Myanmar, said BGB.

A BGB team on patrol in Jaliapara village found that some four to five drug peddlers were entering Bangladesh territory after crossing the Naf river by a boat, the BGB official said.

When the criminals were asked to stop, they started firing, prompting them to retaliate.

During the "gun battle",

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WHO CARES ABOUT PEDESTRIANS?



Blocking the access of pedestrians to a nearby footbridge, not in picture, a trader has set up a shop on a pick-up at the intersection before Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital. Such occupation of pavements often forces pedestrians to walk on roads, putting their life at risk.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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