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## EID CATTLE MARKETS

# Sales go up, prices higher

HELEMUL ALAM

The cattle markets in the capital witnessed moderate sales yesterday, although the trading of sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha is yet to gain momentum.

The traders who could sell one-third of their sacrificial animals are hoping for a boost in sales from today, two days before the holy festival.

Many customers, however, complained that the traders were demanding higher prices for the cattle than they were last year, while many others said it was reasonable.

"I have purchased a bull with Tk 55,000 which is at least Tk 10,000 higher than that of the last year's price," said Abul Kasem, a resident of Keraniganj who came to the cattle market at Agargaon.

Mamunur Rahman, a resident of Taltola, who bought a middle size bull with Tk 40,000, said the same size bull cost him Tk 35,000 last year. He, however, pointed out that the price was reasonable considering the per kilogram meat price at the market.

Meanwhile, the traders seemed happy with the sale as they were getting a little higher price for their cattle this year

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**THE MAD RUSH AGAIN:** By any means they have to get on the train -- many even are jumping from the roof of the station onto the roof of the train. It was as if they have to go home, no matter how grave the risk is.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Govt must sit with BNP

Fakhrul reiterates party's dialogue call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League will have to pay a heavy price if talks with the BNP for an immediate inclusive national election do not take place, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has threatened.

"A dialogue must be held. Otherwise, confrontation will take place and people will be the hostages," the BNP acting secretary general told a press conference yesterday.

The press conference was

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PRAYER TIMING			October 4
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fazr	4-45	5-20	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-15	4-30	
Maghrib	5-53	5-56	
Esha	7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Tanners cut rawhide price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanners have cut the minimum purchase prices of rawhides for what they said were a lack of demand from international buyers, a weakening dollar and a huge stock from the previous year.

They will buy cowhides at Tk 70-75 per square foot in the capital and Tk 60-65 elsewhere in the country.

M Abu Taher, president of Bangladesh Finished Leather and Footwear Exporters Association, announced the rates at a press conference in the capital. Leaders of Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) and Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BHSMA) were present.

Tannery owners last year had bought salted cowhides at Tk 85-95 per sft in Dhaka city and Tk 75-80 elsewhere.

This year, the price of goat hide has been set at Tk 30-35

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## Bangla too difficult!

69pc fail to get pass marks in Bangla in DU admission test

WASIM BIN HABIB and PROTIK CHAKRABORTY

Students aspiring to enrol at Dhaka University have been persistently performing poorly in Bangla, let alone in English, as results of this year's admission tests give a glaring example of such performance.

Around 69 percent of 40,565 students in 'Kha' unit have failed to get pass mark in Bangla. The failure rate in English in this unit under the Arts Faculty is 54 percent.

The DU authorities hold a 120-mark admission test for 'Kha' and four other units. The question for 'Kha' unit has three sections -- Bangla (30 marks), English (30 marks) and general knowledge (60 marks).

In order to pass the test, each student needs to

obtain minimum 48 marks with at least eight in English and Bangla, and 17 in general knowledge.

However, the students who took the tests under 'Ga' and 'Gha' units under the Business Studies and the Social Science faculties respectively have comparatively performed better in Bangla. Around 27 and 28 percent admission seekers have failed to secure pass marks in these units this year.

But, performance in English in three units -- Kha, Ga and Gha -- is abysmal. Around 58 percent of 175,824 applicants have failed to secure pass marks in English.

Most shocking was the news that only two out of 1,364 students in 'Kha' unit have been qualified to enrol at English department, which offers 150 seats.

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## CLASHES IN HONG KONG

# Protesters call off talks with govt

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong student leaders yesterday called off talks with the government aimed at bringing an end to mass pro-democracy demonstrations that have paralysed the city, after violent clashes broke out with pro-Beijing crowds at their protest camps.

The Hong Kong Federation of Students made the announcement after pro-government crowds descended on two of their camps yesterday, tearing down their tents and barricades in what activists said was orchestrated violence by paid thugs from "triad" criminal gangs.

"There is no other option but to call off talks," the students said in a statement.

"Everybody saw what happened today," they added. "The government and police turned a blind eye to violent acts by the triads targeting peaceful

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Hindus gather at Durga temple of Shajahanpur Railway Colony in the capital yesterday as the Sharadiya Utsav ended with the celebration of Maha Navami and Bijaya Dashami.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## RARE ALLIANCE

# Shias join Sunnis to defend Iraqi towns

REUTERS, Baghdad

When ISIS fighters tried to storm the Tigris River town of Dhuluiya north of Baghdad this week, they were repelled by a rare coalition of Sunni tribal fighters inside the town and Shias in its sister city Balad on the opposite bank.

The assault, which began late on Tuesday ran into Thursday, was one of several major battles in recent days in which Sunni tribes joined pro-government forces against the militants, in what Baghdad and Washington hope is a sign of increasing cooperation across sectarian lines to save the country.

Further north, another powerful Sunni tribe fought alongside Kurdish forces to drive Islamic State fighters from Rabia, a town controlling one of the main border

checkpoints used by fighters pouring in from Syria.

In western Iraq, Sunni tribes have fought alongside government troops in Hit, which was captured by Islamic State fighters on Thursday, and in Haditha, site of a strategic dam on the Euphrates.

Such local alliances are still rare: in most Sunni areas of Iraq, tribes have shown little sign of turning against militants as they did when they were recruited by US troops in 2006-07. Many of the leaders of that Sunni "Awakening" movement were later arrested by Baghdad, in what Sunnis see as a betrayal.

Sectarian and ethnic animosity runs deep after a decade of civil war that has touched nearly every family, making it difficult for Sunnis, Shias and Kurds to trust each other.

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## Kids' language skills linked to physical fitness

MAIL ONLINE

You might think a trip to the library would help improve your child's reading. But a trip to a tennis court or the swimming pool might be just as good.

That's because exercise improves a child's reading, a new study suggests.

Children who are physically fit have faster brain responses when reading



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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain that politics in the country has now turned into a profession where politicians use it to make quick bucks?



TOTAL VOTES: 130

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government should immediately find out the flaws in the entire education system and improve the quality of education?

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