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RAWHIDE PRICES

Tanners profit, traders lose

SUMAN SAHA

Tanners are delaying purchase of rawhide this year forcing small and seasonal traders to release their stock at lower prices.

"The tanners have taken such a stance to maximise profits," said Tipu Sultan, general secretary of Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association.

Cowhide prices have already been set at Tk 70-Tk 75 per square foot in the capital and Tk 60-Tk 65 elsewhere in the country, a 24 percent decline from those last year.

Tanners brought down the prices claiming that the demand for Bangladeshi leather has declined in the international market.

But traders say just the opposite. "There is a huge demand for Bangladeshi leather in the global market due to its quality. The tannery owners want us to accept their prices to make higher profits," said a trader, preferring not to be named.

Md Saiful Islam, senior vice-president of Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh, also echoed the same: "It (delaying purchase) is a strategy of the tanners."

If the tanners delay purchase, small traders would be compelled to sell cowhide at low rates as they do not have the capacity to preserve those, he said.

Islam, also the managing director of Picard Bangladesh, said rawhide price is lower in Bangladesh than that in India, which may fuel smuggling into the neighbouring country.

Rawhide is now selling at around \$1.20 per sft in India, while the rate is nearly \$1 in Bangladesh, he said.

"So I fear hides would be smuggled into India, which may create a negative impact on the overall leather industry of Bangladesh."

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Tanners are busy preserving leather collected from different areas after the Eid-ul-Azha at Muradpur in Chittagong.

EID HOLIDAYS

Accidents kill 25 in four days

STAR REPORT

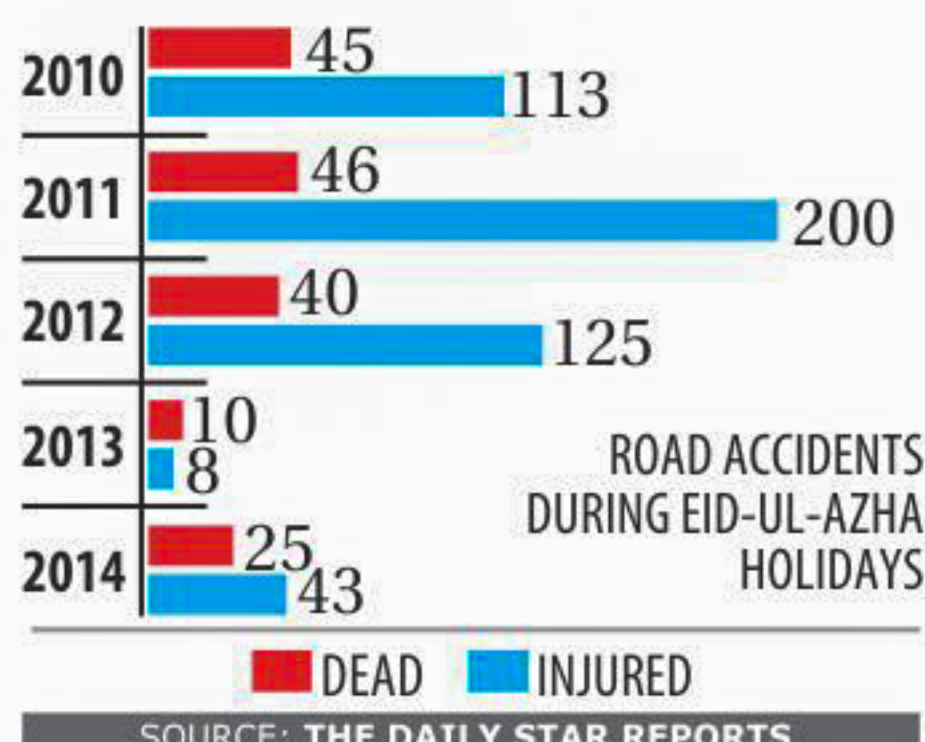
At least 25 people were killed and 43 injured in road accidents across the country during the three days of Eid holidays and yesterday.

Most of the people were killed in head-on collisions between buses, minibuses, human hauliers, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and motorcycles.

Besides, a number of casualties occurred as vehicles at speed fell into roadside ditches, report our correspondents.

The death toll was from 16 accidents in four days, between Sunday and yesterday. As many as 90 people were

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Rab man held over 7-murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayan

Rab-11 man Ruhul Amin was allegedly the one who knocked the seven abductees out cold in Narayanjanj in late April using a special spray and ensured their deaths by wrapping their heads with polythene bags.

Mamunur Rashid, investigating officer of the sensational seven murder case, stated this before a Narayanjanj court yesterday while producing Ruhul Amin before the court with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

India, Pakistan trade gunfire in Kashmir

5 more civilians killed; death toll rises to 17; both sides accuse each other of violating border truce

REUTERS, Sialkot

Five civilians were killed and thousands took refuge in camps in the disputed region of Kashmir yesterday after some of the most intense fighting between nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and India in a decade.

A total of nine Pakistani and eight Indian civilians have been killed since fighting erupted more than a week ago in the mostly Muslim Himalayan region. Kashmir is claimed by both countries and has been a major focus of tension in South Asia.

Each side has accused the other of targeting civil-

ians and unprovoked violations of a border truce that has largely held since 2003.

While exchanges of sporadic fire are common along the de facto border dividing the region, civilian deaths are unusual. Three Pakistani and two Indian civilians were killed yesterday.

"We are all concerned and want an early solution to it (the fighting)," India's Air Chief Arup Raha told reporters. "We don't want to let the issue become serious."

A senior border security force official said Indian forces had retaliated to machine gun and mortar

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Shahbagh intersection in the capital almost devoid of vehicles yesterday, the first work day after the Eid holidays. Usually, the streets leading to the intersection are packed with vehicles waiting their turn to cross it.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Cattle markets near hospitals annoy Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim has demanded removal of the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) administrator for having allowed traders to set up cattle markets adjacent to the hospitals in the capital's Agargaon despite repeated requests from the health ministry.

"He is a criminal. What interests did he have in doing so? Such a person cannot be in the administration...I request the LGRD ministry to take action against the administrator," the minister said.

Like previous years, the DNCC leased out an open space beside the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital to a bidder for setting up cattle markets ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

The National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Dhaka Shishu Hospital and National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital were also just a few yards from the market.

As a huge number of cattle are put on sale in this market every year, blocking roads that make it difficult for patients to reach the hospitals, the health minister in a letter written

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The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think the government should hold dialogue with BNP to end the political crisis centring on the controversial January 5 election?
Yes (75%)
No (25%)
TOTAL VOTES: 525
TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with Health Minister Mohammad Nasim that the LGED ministry should take legal action against the DNCC administrator for leasing open space for cattle market in front of four hospitals at Agargaon in Dhaka?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING October 9
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

Protests rage in Turkey

Army imposes curfew after 18 killed in air strikes

AGENCIES

Turkey's military yesterday imposed a curfew in parts of the southeast after at least 18 people were killed in pro-Kurdish protests over the government's failure to act against jihadists attacking the Syrian border city of Kobane.

Meanwhile, aircraft of the international coalition yesterday carried out two new air strikes against Islamic State (ISIS) targets around the Syrian border town of Kobane, an AFP corre-

spondent reported.

They were the first air strikes witnessed after a flurry of strikes Tuesday which some sources said had helped Kurdish fighters of the People's Protection Units (YPG) push back the IS militants.

Ankara has parliamentary authorisation to use the military in Syria but says it will only send in troops if there is a coordinated international effort to oust President Bashar al-Assad.

The disturbances were the worst outbreak of such pro-Kurdish violence in

years and risked derailing Turkey's own fragile peace process with the Kurds.

In a move unprecedented since the deadliest days of the Kurdish insurgency in the 1990s, the army was deployed to impose a curfew in several cities in the east.

The violence was concentrated in the mainly Kurdish southeast but also flared in Istanbul, Ankara and other cities, with empty buses firebombed and protesters hurling stones at police.

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Chimpanzees to get human rights!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A US court is set to decide if a chimpanzee is entitled to the same rights as humans this week.

In what experts say is the first case of its kind, lawyers will argue that a chimpanzee called Tommy is being "unlawfully imprisoned" in a shed in upstate New York, and he is entitled to "legal personhood," meaning the animal would be capable of having legal rights.

Tommy is a 26-year-old chimpanzee living in what Steven Wise, the lawyer behind the case, has described

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