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# Hides sold at low prices

**STAR REPORT**

Poor flow of funds, non-operation of tanneries, and high salt prices resulted in people having to sell the hides of their sacrificial animals at low prices this Eid.

Prices of rawhides dropped more than 30 percent compared to that of the previous Eid-ul-Azha, said people who sacrificed animals.

A medium sized rawhide of a cow was sold between Tk 600 and Tk 800 this Eid but the same was sold between Tk 1,200 and Tk 1,300 during last year's Eid, they said.

Rawhide traders at Posta, country's largest rawhide market, said this year they bought 20 percent less rawhides than last year due mostly to financial constraints and floods.

About five percent of the rawhide had turned bad for not being treated with chemicals and salt timely, said Mohammad Ali, a trader at Posta.

Seventy percent of the rawhides of sacrificial animals of Dhaka are traded in Posta, the remaining go to Hazaribagh, he said.

Although, the tanners have already moved their machinery to Savar leather estate, rawhides were still being taken to Hazaribagh so that salt could be applied to them, Ali said.

Ali also blamed foreign buyers for lower prices of rawhides as they do not offer higher prices for quality leather goods for which the prices of rawhides dropped a few years ago.

"We could sell a large rawhide to tanners for Tk 3,500 last year but this year they will pay Tk 2,200 a piece," he said.

He said, "Many traders have lost interest in rawhide trade due to the declining trend of rawhide prices."

Traders said a 75kg bag of salt was between Tk 800 and Tk 900 last year but this year it was between Tk 1,400 and Tk 1,500 and many small traders failed to use the salt timely, leading to the hides going bad.

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Workers at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate treat rawhides with salt yesterday morning. Activities at the estate have picked up pace as animal hides began to arrive after Eid.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## ROHINGYA ISSUE

### Indonesia FM arrives today to hold talks

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi is coming to Dhaka today to convey her country's gesture to stand beside Bangladesh, which has already been helping hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas from previous spasms of violence in Myanmar.

Diplomatic sources say Marsudi upon her arrival would hold intensive discussions with the government high-ups including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina apparently to mobilise international support to help stop violence against the Rohingyas.

Around 90,000 Rohingyas have been forced to escape to Bangladesh in the face of mass killing as well as rape, brutal torture, arson and forced disappearance by the Myanmar security forces since August 25.

The Indonesian minister is coming to Dhaka after meeting Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi and

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## Woman gang raped on Eid day

**STAR REPORT**

An 18-year-old woman was raped by four men on Eid day at Milghar area of Pataukhali's Bauphal upazila.

Police arrested one of the suspects, Kabir Sharif.

Others accused in the case filed by the woman are Zafar Gazi, 28, Mizan Sarder, 26, and Siddik Mir, 22.

The woman was returning home to Dashtina upazila from Pataukhali Sadar when the incident took place, said Azam Khani Faruque, officer-in-charge of Bauphal Police Station.

The woman had paid Kabir to take her to Dashtina in his motorcycle, which is a popular mode of transport in the area.

He stopped the motorcycle at Milghar area and gang raped the woman at a nearby garden with the three others accused in the case, he said.

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## Road accidents claim 29 lives in three days

**STAR REPORT**

Road accidents claimed the lives of at least 29 people and left dozens others injured during the three-day Eid vacation till Sunday.

Besides, nine people were killed in road accidents across the country yesterday.

Of the dead, six were killed in Chittagong, four in Sirajganj, three each in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Laxmipur, Rangpur, Bagerhat and Comilla, and two each in Tangail, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Madaripur and Sherpur, reported our correspondents in the districts.

At least six of the 20 accidents took place when buses and trucks hit slow-moving vehicles - auto-rickshaws run by CNG and batteries - on highways where they are banned.

Seven of the accidents happened as the drivers lost control and the vehicles overtook.

Besides, one Latifa Banu, 47, was killed after being crushed under the wheels of a train in Kadamtali in Chittagong early yesterday.

### CASUALTIES DURING 3-DAY EID VACATION

YEAR	DEAD
2016	29
2017	32
2015	30
2014	26

terday.

During the three-day holidays of last Eid-ul-Azha, road accidents had taken 32 lives. This year the number has been 29 while it was 30 in 2015, 26 in 2014, 10 in 2013 and 40 in 2012.

In five separate accidents in the last four days, seven people, including a couple, were killed in Chittagong.

On Friday, a bus overturned in Nayakhali Mukh around 10:00am, leaving Gazi Uddin, 28, a resident of Sankaria municipality, and his wife Nur Nahar Akter Nuri, 23, dead on the spot and nine other passengers injured.

The injured were taken to a local hospital while one of them Azizul Islam, 55, a resident of Bangladesh area in the upazila, died of his injuries on the way.

Earlier in the day, two young men - Sohel, son of Nurul Abbas of Purba Rahadabad area in Fatikchahi upazila, and Bashir, son of Abu Taher of Bhola Sadar

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## Three-member DNCC mayor panel formed

**ANISUL STILL IN HOSPITAL**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government yesterday formed a three-member panel to discharge the duties of Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Anisul Htq in his absence.

Anisul, who has been suffering from cerebral vasculitis, is now under treatment at a hospital in London.

The mayor panel was formed as per the Local Government (City Corporation) Amendment Act 2009.

The panel members include ward-21 councillor Osman Gani, ward-4 councillor Mohammad Amal Mostofa and councillor of reserved seat of ward-31, 32 and 34 Aleya Sarwar Daisi.

Osman would discharge

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## Underwater ruins of lost Roman city found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A vast 1,700 year old Roman settlement has been discovered off the coast of Tunisia after several years of archaeological exploration in search of the ancient city of Neapolis.

Neapolis is believed to have been submerged after a tsunami in the 4th century AD destroyed most of it, as recorded by Roman soldier and historian Ammian Marcellin. The natural disaster also badly damaged Alexandria in modern Egypt and the Greek island of Crete.

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## EX-BCL man beaten to death over drug deal

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A former Chhattr League leader was beaten to death allegedly by his rivals over drug dealing in the capital's Adabar area Sunday night.

Moshiur Rahman Mashu, 25, was expelled from the post of environmental affairs secretary of Adabar thana unit of BCL, pro-union Awami League's student body.

His father Julhas Bepari alleged that his rivals,

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## Cambodian paper closes in tax row

**REUTERS, Phnom Penh**

One of Cambodia's most stridently independent newspapers, the Cambodia Daily, published its last edition yesterday with the headline "Descent Into Outright Dictatorship" as it closed amid a crackdown on critics of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The English-language paper had been given a deadline of one month to pay \$6.3 million for years of back taxes, which the publication disputed and described as "arbitrary".

Its final front page led with the arrest on Sunday of Cambodia's main opposition leader, Kem Sokha, who was accused of treason in a significant escalation of the campaign against Hun Sen's opponents. The paper also reported on its own closure.

"We have been in a hurr in Hun Sen's side for the entire time that we have been operating," said the Cambodia Daily's American editor-in-chief, Jodie DeLange.

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People have started returning to the capital after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon at Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Modi reshuffles cabinet with eye on 2019 polls

**Nine new ministers inducted; four junior ministers elevated to cabinet rank**  
**AGENCIES**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi elevated four junior ministers to cabinet rank and inducted additional nine Members of Parliament to his council of ministers on Sunday as part of efforts to accelerate policy implementation before national polls in 2019.

Junior ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal, Nirmala Sitharaman and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi were promoted to cabinet ministers. Sitharaman was made the country's new Defence Minister, while Goyal, the former energy minister, was assigned the railways portfolio, overseeing 1.3 million employees.

Sitharaman's appointment will ease the burden on Arun Jaitley, who had been juggling the finance and defence portfolios throughout a months-long impasse with China over a strategic Himalayan plateau, reported AP.

Goyal's elevation came as Modi dropped Suresh Prabhu as Railways Minister, less than a week after he offered to resign following a train accident in August that killed 10. Prabhu is now Commerce Minister, whereas Goyal will also handle the Coal Ministry.

Pradhan, who was the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, was given the dual role of Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Naqvi got the Minister of Minority Affairs portfolio.

There was no change in the portfolios of the Home and External Affairs Ministries, which remain with Rajnath

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