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## No Eid cheer for seasonal rawhide traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government could not stop the rampant waste of rawhide this year too despite fixing a higher price for the animal skins and allowing the export of wet blue for the first time in 30 years.

The squandering of the leather industry's raw material was less this time than in the previous two Eid-ul-Azha, which saw wholesale dumping of the sacrificial animals' skins.

This year, the government fixed Tk 40-45 for per square foot of salt-applied rawhide of cows in Dhaka and Tk 33-37 elsewhere. The prices of salt-applied rawhide of goat would be Tk 14-17 per square foot and female goat skins Tk 12-14.

In Bangladesh, a cow or buffalo's skin is 20 to 25 square feet and a goat's is 4 to 5 square feet. The hide of a cow, the sacrificial animal of choice in Bangladesh, is supposed to fetch at least Tk 800 and the goat's at least Tk 50 this time.

In reality, cows' skins are sold at Tk 200-300 apiece and goats' skins Tk 10-15.

And yet, many seasonal traders and orphanages could not sell the rawhides, with sights of the sacrificial animals' skins being chucked out became all too common in places such as Moulvibazar and Bogura.

As is custom, the amount raised by selling the rawhide of sacrificial cattle during Eid-ul-Azha is distributed among the poor, so the dumping meant the poor were deprived of alms.

Despite his best intentions, Rafikul Islam Sweet, a college teacher in Pabna, found no takers for the rawhide of the bull he bought for Tk 1 lakh.

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Noor Jahan Begum, 75, lies on a gurney as her family members help load her into an ambulance in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's corona unit yesterday. Infected with Covid-19, Noor Jahan's oxygen levels began plummeting and with no ICU beds available at DMCH, her family decided to shift her to a private hospital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



SIMON DRING 1945-2021

## Adieu, true friend of Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Renowned British journalist and former Ekushey TV Managing Director Simon Dring died on July 16 while undergoing an abdominal surgery at a hospital in Romania.

Simon Dring's partner Fiona McPherson confirmed the noted journalist's demise in a statement.

"It is with crushing sorrow that I confirm the sudden and unexpected passing of my beloved partner of 26 years, and the father of our blessed twins, Simon Dring," she said in the statement.

"Simon died in recovery" SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Khaleda recovers from side effects of Covid vaccine

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has recovered from fever and body pain that she experienced as side effects after taking the first dose of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine.

"Madam [Khaleda Zia] was suffering from mild fever and body pain as side effects of the first dose of the Covid vaccine. But her fever and pain have already subsided," the BNP chief's personal physician, Dr Al Mamun, told UNB yesterday.

He, however, said Khaleda was still suffering from heart, lung, and some other problems.

The 76-year-old BNP chief, who recovered from Covid-19 over two months back, has now been receiving treatment at her Gulshan house for those problems.

Khaleda received the first SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Osmani says 20,000 Pakistani troops killed

JULY 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### FOREIGNERS GIVEN WARNING IN DHAKA

Foreigners in Dhaka were warned this week to avoid Chinese restaurants, which apparently became the latest targets for Bangladeshi guerrillas.

The Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra reported this week that two West Pakistani officers were killed by Mukti Bahini members who threw a bomb into a Chinese restaurant in Dhaka.

During the last two weeks, bombs or grenades had been exploded every night in Dhaka. Today, an army truck hit a mine in a Dhaka suburb. The Pakistan army quickly imposed a curfew on the neighbourhood.

The guerrillas said movie theaters in East Pakistan would be attacked. Bangalee guerrillas sought to disrupt the government's examinations early this week throwing several grenades at exam venues. Only about a quarter of the registered applicants showed up to sit for the examination.

Foreigners and others had been warned to be careful when travelling to East Pakistan, especially by road. Drivers were advised to set out in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## PADMA BRIDGE 20 hurt as ferry hits a pillar

STAR REPORT

At least 20 passengers were injured after a ro-ro ferry hit a pillar of Padma Bridge while going to Shimulia ghat of Munshiganj from Banglabazar ghat of Madaripur.

Ferry Shah Jalal hit pillar no-17 around 9:30am yesterday in Louhajang area on the river, reports our Munshiganj correspondent quoting Jahangir Alam Khan, senior information officer of shipping ministry. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has formed a four-member probe committee to investigate the incident.

The committee led by SM Ashiquzzaman, general manager (commerce) of BIWTC, was asked to submit its report within three days.

BIWTC issued an order in this regard yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## SAVAR TANNERY ESTATE CETP incomplete even after 9 yrs

Tk 500cr spent; deadline extended several times for joint venture company



REFAWET ULLAH MIRDHA

Despite nine years of work and expenditure of nearly Tk 500 crore, the construction of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant in the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate (STIE) has not been completed.

A Bangladeshi and Chinese joint venture company was awarded the construction work of the CETP through a bidding process in 2012 and the deadline for completion was 2017, but the deadline was extended several times.

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## PEGASUS SPYWARE Outrage spreads over 'snooping'

Hungary, Israel, Algeria launch probe; KSA, UAE, Kazakhstan deny using it

AGENCIES

Global outrage mounted and multiple countries began probing the allegations that Israeli-made spyware was used on journalists, rights activists and heads of state, as French leader Emmanuel Macron ordered tighter security and changed his phone over espionage concerns.

The NSO Group's Pegasus software -- able to switch on a phone's camera or microphone and snoop its data -- is at the centre of a growing storm after a list of about 50,000 potential surveillance targets was leaked to rights groups.

Amnesty International and French media nonprofit Forbidden Stories collaborated with a clutch of media companies, including the Washington Post, the Guardian and Le Monde, to analyse and publish the list.

The widening scandal is drawing in countries from Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates to Morocco, India, Kazakhstan and a host of other mostly emerging economies.

President Macron -- whose name was SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Army and police personnel inspect city dwellers who have ventured out near the capital's Bangshal yesterday. On the first day of a "strict lockdown" to curb the spread of Covid-19, law enforcers all over the capital were making sure that none were leaving home without valid reasons.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Over half of Europeans vaccinated

Says EU as Delta variant drives surge in Covid cases in US

AGENCIES

More than half of all European adults are now fully vaccinated, the EU said, as countries across Europe and Asia battled fresh outbreaks blamed on the fast-spreading Delta variant.

The European Central Bank said uncertainty over the wave of infections meant it was keeping the cash taps open to ensure the nascent economic recovery isn't snuffed out.

Despite successful vaccination drives, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said cases in her country were rising "exponentially" as the government officials warned that the US is "at another pivotal moment in this pandemic".

The spotlight, meanwhile, once again turned on the origins of the virus after the WHO called for an audit of the Chinese lab at the heart of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## PRAYER TIMING JULY 24



Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-15
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**স্মরণ**

এনসিসি ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক ও সাবেক ডাইরেক্টর চেয়ারম্যান জনাব কে জেড মাহমুদ-এর ১ম মৃত্যুবর্ষিকী ২০ জুলাই ২০২১।

আমরা তাঁকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করছি এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

**এনসিসি ব্যাংক**