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## Orphanage case goes to trial

Court accepts graft charges against Khaleda, Tarique, 4 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance the charges against former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and four others in a case for embezzlement of Tk 2.10 crore by forming Zia Orphanage Trust.

After hearing both the prosecution and defence, Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took the decision in presence of Khaleda and two other accused, and fixed October 25 for next hearing of the case.

The court issued arrest warrants against former principal secretary DR Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Khaleda's nephew Mominur Rahman as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

The court also said proceedings of the case against Tarique would continue in his absence since he had earlier gone to London for treatment with permission from the Supreme Court (SC).

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Iftar being prepared in an enclosure next to an open drain in Dilkusha of downtown Dhaka. Traders of the locality claimed the enclosure was built by the Dhaka City Corporation for people to dump garbage.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## JS sits amid opposition boycott

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament went into third session yesterday with the BNP-led opposition lawmakers continuing abstention from the House.

Speaker Abdul Hamid in his inaugural speech urged the opposition lawmakers to join the House and assured them of due facilities.

However, the opposition lawmakers, abstaining from the House since the last budget session, might not join the current session as BNP policymakers are against joining parliament, hinted a number of party leaders yesterday.

Prior to the session's start, the Business Advisory Committee at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan decided to continue the session till September 15 with seven working days.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia waves as she enters a Dhaka court yesterday.

## OSD pool includes 10 secys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-one government officials, including 20 secretaries and additional secretaries, are still kept as officers on special duty (OSD) for various reasons.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday told the parliament that government officials are made OSD usually for promotion, posting and different other reasons.

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## Admin swamped with promotion

494 mostly 'overlooked' officials promoted; major reshuffle to follow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted 494 senior civil servants and asked them to join as officers on special duty (OSD) at the establishment ministry since it does not have enough number of posts for them.

These officials were mostly overlooked in the last seven years and this large-scale promotion is part of a major reshuffle plan to run the administration properly in the near future.

This instance of the largest number of civil servants being promoted since the Awami League-led government assumed

power eight months ago, an expert said, it could do more harm than good.

Of the total, 60 joint secretaries have been promoted to the position of additional secretaries, 163 deputy secretaries to joint secretaries and 271 senior assistant secretaries to deputy secretaries, said separate gazette notifications of the establishment ministry.

With the promotions, the number of additional secretaries stood at 186 against a total of 108 posts while the number of joint secretaries reached 498 against 430 posts. The number of deputy secretaries was already more than the government

had posts for, 1,317 against 855. At least 271 senior assistant secretaries were made deputy secretaries yesterday.

The promoted officials have been asked to join as officers on special duty (OSD) at the establishment ministry.

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) had earlier finalised names of the officers to be promoted and sent a list to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for approval.

Sources in the Bangladesh Secretariat, the administrative hub, said the number of OSDs would shoot up, as the government would find it very difficult to give

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Govt to go for pearl culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) has planned to begin a five-year project for pearl culture in the country. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas told parliament yesterday.

He said if the project is approved it will be possible to produce pearls on commercial basis.

In reply to a query of Awami

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Land survey in hills starts on Oct 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Commission has decided to start the work of land survey in three hill districts from October 15.

The land survey will start with surveying the land of those who returned home from India as registered refugees in the light of CHT Peace Accord.

Chairman of the Land Commission Md Khademul Islam Chowdhury, a retired judge, told this to journalists after its second meeting held at Rangamati Circuit House yesterday noon.

He said the survey would be completed in six months. If the survey cannot be completed in the scheduled time, the commission would extend the deadline, he added.

Commission member Chittagong Additional Divisional Commissioner Md Nurul Islam, commission member Rangamati district council representative Aung Su Prue Chowdhury, Rangamati Deputy Commissioner

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Meherpur AL leader held for 'outlaw link'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an Awami League leader of Meherpur district from Dhaka on Sunday for his alleged patronisation of and involvement in outlaw activities.

A Rab-1 team in Dhaka nabbed Meherpur AL organising secretary Mokhesur Rahman Mukul, 45, from Mirpur area in the morning. He was produced before a Meherpur court yesterday and later sent to jail.

Sources said with the arrest of Mukul, law enforcers seem to have started a manhunt against the outlaw 'godfathers' in the extremist-infested southwest region.

When contacted, a high Rab official in Khulna division told this correspondent over phone that lists of so-called 'political godfathers' are being prepared and 'we will bring them to book'.

Wishing anonymity, the Rab official said a good number of outlaw godfathers hold posts of different political parties in the region.

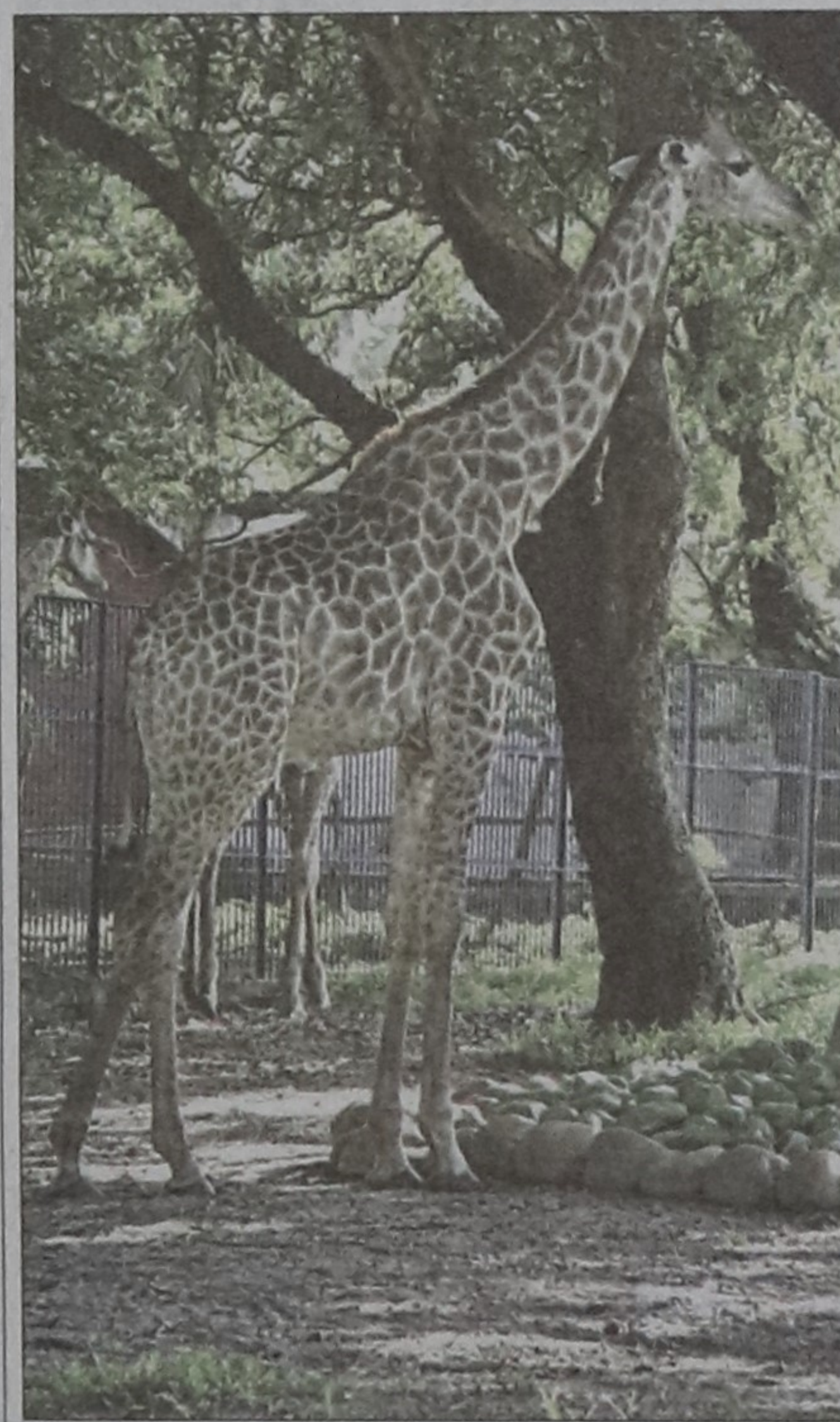
Upon Mukul's arrest, Rab maintained top secrecy to take him to its headquarters. After interrogation, he was handed over to Gangni police in Meherpur.

Police said Mukul is accused in six cases filed with different police stations in Meherpur and Jessore.

Of the cases, high court granted him bails in four cases and the two remain pending with Meherpur and Jessore courts which issued separate arrest warrants against him in connection with a sensational seven-murder case and a cheating case in 2003 and 2005 respectively.

Rab and police sources said Mukul is one of the top political leaders in southwest region who has been patronising outlawed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



One of the four remaining giraffes at the Dhaka Zoo, in Mirpur. A total of 19 animals died in the zoo in one year.

PHOTO: STAR

## Young giraffe dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female giraffe of Dhaka Zoo died yesterday.

"The giraffe died at 2:00pm after suffering from absolute dehydration," Dr Aminur Rahman, curator of the zoo, said.

The two years and 10 months old giraffe was suffering from dehydration as it stopped taking food and water since September 1, the zoo authorities said.

Dr Rahman said that as the giraffe was found sick, they formed a medical board on September 3 and it was under treatment according to the board's advice.

It was among five giraffes brought from South Africa in June last year.

With this, a total of 19 rare animals died at the zoo in a year.

A total of five giraffe were brought to the zoo from South Africa on June 27 last year.

Earlier, a sambar deer died in the first week of May. In March, a baboon, a wildebeest and the last member of Malayan tapir died. One Royal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



আপনার স্বপ্ন নীড়কে করুন সত্যি, আমাদের হোম লোন নিয়ে।

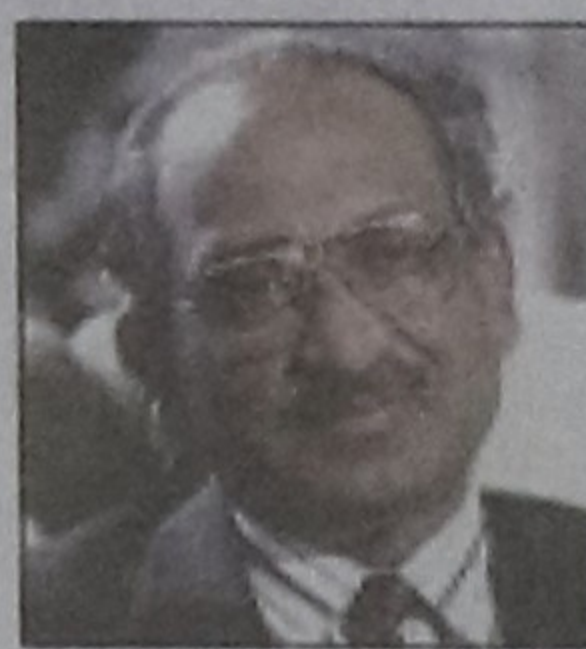
আপনার স্বপ্ন নীড়কে সত্যি করতে প্রাইম ব্যাংক দিচ্ছে সহজ শর্তে হোম লোন। যা নিয়ে আপনার সুবিধামত সময়ে স্বপ্ন পরিশোধের সহজ উপায়। তাহলে আজই আসুন আমাদের যেকোন শাখায়। শুরু হোক আপনার দীর্ঘদিনের স্বপ্ন নীড়ের সার্থক রূপায়ন।

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(Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Elaihe Rajeun)

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and extend our cordial sympathy to his bereaved family.

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