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## Lawmakers' bid to be adviser dashed again

House passes city corporation bill, rejects JS body's recommendation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed the local government (city corporations) bill rejecting a House body's recommendation for making MPs advisers to the city corporations from where they were elected.

The House also did not accept recommendation of the parliamentary body for creating posts of two deputy mayors in each city corporation.

The parliamentary standing committee on LGRD and cooperatives ministry in its scrutiny report on the bill made the recommendations.

Earlier on September 14, parliament passed the local government (municipality) bill rejecting the same House body's recommendation for making MPs advisers to the municipalities in their constituencies.

The government also mulls bringing amendment to the upazila parishad act to drop a provision that made MPs advisers to the parishads in their constituencies.

Making MPs advisers to different local government bodies triggered widespread criticism and annoyed the elected representatives to those bodies.

The newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen of upazila parishads have been

persistently criticising the government for making lawmakers advisers to the parishads which are yet to begin functioning properly. They also threatened to launch movement to force the government to amend the law.

Finally, government policymakers seem to have changed their stance and responded to the demand for freeing the local government bodies from the control of MPs.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday proposed passage of the local government (city corporation) bill.

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## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

## Bangladesh ranks slightly better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved two positions up to 146th place among 182 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking but still holds the last position among South Asian nations, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report said yesterday.

Human Development Report 2009, released worldwide yesterday, showed Bangladesh has been making progress in the category since 1980.

The report titled "Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development" was revealed at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the capital yesterday.

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## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

## SC starts to hear convicts' appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday started hearing the appeals of the five convicts, who challenged their death sentences in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzal Islam concluded the first day's hearing on the appeals yesterday and adjourned the proceedings till 9:30am today.

The five convicts -- dismissed army personnel Syed Farooqur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Bazlul Huda -- who are in jail now,

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## Huge river plan on cards

Govt to spend Tk 11,474 crore in 8 years, bring back navigability in 53 waterways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken an eight-year-long mega plan to bring back navigability in 53 important waterways by carrying out massive dredging with a cost of around Tk 11,474 crore. Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan informed the House yesterday.

The shipping ministry has sent a primary project proposal to the economic relations division on August 4. The plan-

ning commission has already approved the proposal in principle," the minister said.

Relying to a query of Awami League lawmaker Israfil Alam, the shipping minister also said the government has planned to dredge 3276 lakh cubic meters in 53 waterways.

In response to a query of AL lawmaker Noni Gopal Mandal, he said the government has planned to launch dredging in the rivers of Balu and Turag in the current

fiscal year at a cost of Tk 52 crore.

Shahjahan disclosed that the government is working on the proposals of investors to dredge the rivers, particularly those in and around the capital, to make water circular ways around the city and to ease the horrific traffic congestion.

"Investors have made proposals to the government that they would take away soil from the river bed through dredging.

"We are working on the proposals

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*Kalapara sees no evils, hears no evils, speaks no evils*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kalapara turns into the proverbial monkey, as no body wants to talk about the night of September 25.

From a rickshaw puller to a top politician, everybody in the locality knows about the events of September 25 when a schoolgirl was abducted and raped by a gang of ruling party supporters.

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## 'Justice' meted out in vigilante style

*Arbitration done by AL men in Kalapara*

MORSHEDE ALI KHAN and RAFIQUL ISLAM  
from Kalapara

The case of abduction and rape of a class VII schoolgirl in Kalapara on September 25 ended two days later at an arbitration conducted by local Awami League (AL) leaders with police looking on, according to an investigation.

Following the abduction and rape of the minor girl that created sensation in this remote

town, the local AL leaders decided to settle the matter through what they claimed "tough arbitration".

Ironically, local MP and State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman Talukder was present in Kalapara at that time.

Locals including a number of AL activists told The Daily Star correspondents the Kalapara police following the event were told to

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## Yet another giraffe dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of rare animals at Dhaka Zoo seems never ending due to poor management of the zoo.

Another giraffe died yesterday morning reducing the total number of giraffes at the zoo to two. This was the third consecutive death of giraffe after two others died on September 8 and 30 after suffering from "dehydration".

The zoo authorities formed several probe committees and transferred and sacked zoo officials following the death incidents but nothing could stop unnatural deaths of precious animals.

The giraffe had been suffering from illness since September 23 but the reason behind the death seemed a

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## City 'shootouts' kill three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged criminals were killed in separate 'shootouts' with the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the capital's Jatrabari and Mirpur while another died in a gunfight with police in Sutrapur yesterday.

Listed criminal Sayezuddin alias Sazu, 30, of Sutrapur died on the spot in a half an hour-long gun battle with Rab-10 members at Namapara slum near a CNG filling station under Jatrabari police station.

Rab sources said Sazu was a hired killer and engaged in drug

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Petitions filed to quash Zia orphanage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman for quashing the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case against them, which were earlier taken back from a High Court bench, were submitted yesterday to another HC bench for hearing.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain

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স্বপ্নকে নিয়ে এলো হাতের মুঠোয় প্রাইম ব্যাংক-এর কনজিউমার লোন

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Khaleda wants to know BNP's bearing

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Apparently disappointed with the slow pace of reorganising the party, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has asked party officials to inform her of the actual situation in the shortest possible time.

Following this, the main opposition party is now set to send letters to all its district unit convening committees

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## Seasonal sicknesses strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seasonal illnesses like viral fever, dengue, typhoid, respiratory tract infections and jaundice with sore throat and running nose have been spreading fast in different parts of the city for over a month.

The city's public and private hospitals are witnessing an increased number of dengue, typhoid, RTI and jaundice patients. Private practitioners are also getting a large number of such patients.

Medical experts said frequent changes in weather and taking contaminated water are main reasons for the occurrence

of such seasonal illnesses.

Some 319 people have been diagnosed

with dengue fever till yesterday, chief

entomologist of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Naseem-Us-Seraj told The Daily Star.

The patients with dengue fever, a viral

disease transmitted by Aedes mosquito,

could be increased now though it

reduces during this time (September-October), he said.

Residents of Dhanmondi, Kalabagan,

Central Road, Minto Road, Siddeswari,

Muhammadpur, Ganderia and Mirpur

areas are falling victim to dengue virus,

said the DCC official.

At least 37 patients from outside of

Dhaka got admitted to the city's different

hospitals in last week, he informed.

A total of 300 dengue patients have

been admitted to the city hospitals since

June to September, said the control room

of the directorate general of health services.

More than 80 percent of the child

patients at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital are

suffering from viral fever, dengue, RTI,

typhoid while others from diarrhoea, said

a resident physician of the hospital.

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