

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Senior US official arrives in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Geoffrey R Pyatt, arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

During his first trip to Bangladesh, Pyatt will meet with senior government officials, politicians, and leading representatives of business and civil society groups, according to an announcement of the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Pyatt will pay visits to the Parliament Bhaban, Grameen Bank, and US Trade Show 2011 at Sheraton hotel organised by the American Chamber of Commerce.

### War crimes trial necessary for justice: Morten

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Morten Bergsmo, co-ordinator of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Legal Tools Project and director of Case Matrix Network (CMN), yesterday said it is necessary to hold trials of war crimes taken place in the country 40 years back for ensuring justice in the society.

"It is not only possible but also necessary to hold trials," he said.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said Morten Bergsmo is here to increase the knowledge of the prosecutors with their system.

Ilia Utmelidze, deputy director of CMN and legal adviser to Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, was also present in the meeting.

### Sabbir murder: hearing deferred till Feb 20

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing of the Humayun Kabir Sabbir murder case till February 20 against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam's son Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, and four others.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The other accused are Sanvir's bodyguards Khairul Hassan Uzzal and Shamsuddin Ahmed, two guards Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir.

### Obituary

METRO DESK



Sufia Begum, wife of Abdur Rashid, former deputy commissioner of taxes, passed away on February 7 at a city hospital at the age of 57, says a press release.

Her family members mourn the death and prayed that the departed soul is rested in eternal peace. Sufia was residing in the house 1164/A, Khilgaon, Provatibagh, Dhaka.

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### Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Md Azmal Kabir, joint secretary of Dhaka Officers Club, will be held at Khelagar Hall of the club after Asr prayers today.

### Shaheda Moti Quadir

METRO DESK



The namaz-e-janaja of late Shaheda Moti Quadir will be held at Agargaon Taltala Mosque after Juma prayers today. Later, she will be buried at Banani Graveyard after Asr prayers.

Shaheda Quadir, wife of late AHM Quadir, died around 9:45pm Wednesday while under treatment at the Shomorita Hospital in the city. She was 65.

Shaheda Quadir left behind her only daughter journalist Rahat Fahmida Mustafa, son-in-law Sabir Mustafa, a host of relatives and well-wishers. Qulkhwani will be held tomorrow at 9/4 Shyamolibag, Road No 2, Shyamoli.

### GRAFT OF DESHBANDHU MILL

## Owner blamed for undermining JS body authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tofail Ahmed, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on industries ministry, yesterday accused owner of Deshbandhu Sugar Mill of undermining the committee's authority to investigate the company's corruption in exporting sugar.

Taking floor on a point of order in the House, the ruling Awami League lawmaker also sought permission to submit a notice seeking remedy for the violation of the committee's privileges.

Deputy Speaker Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, who was presiding over the sitting, advised him to submit the notice.

Referring to an advertisement published in a national Bangla daily yesterday, Tofail said the owner distorted facts in the advertisement and accused the parliamentary body of holding discussion on a sub judice matter.

He said the company bought 6,000 tonnes of sugar from the state-run Bangladesh Sugar Corporation, during the last caretaker government's rule, to export to Europe.

Instead of exporting, the company sold the sugar in the domestic market at twice the price. The company bought sugar at Tk 33 per kg.

### JSD slams AL for disunity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtrantik Dal (JSD) president Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday blamed Awami League (AL) for making the grand alliance inactive and urged AL policymakers to strengthen the alliance rule in the country properly next three years.

Inu made the remark while speaking at a press conference at his party office in the city to evaluate the two year's of the grand alliance government.

Reading out a written statement, party general secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia presented an evaluation of the government's success and failure in its last two years.

### Mufti Izharul on two-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, president of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), on two days' fresh remand in a case filed for abducting homeopathic physician Azizur Rahman in

September 2003.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mostafa Shahriar granted the remand when Fazlul Kabir, CID's assistant superintendent of police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced him before it with a seven-day remand prayer.

## Dipu Moni meets Nepalese PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday met newly elected Nepalese Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal at the latter's residence in

Kathmandu.

Dipu Moni greeted Khanal and expressed Bangladesh's willingness to work in close cooperation with Nepal. She also discussed with him other bilateral matters.



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