

## Tk12 lakh recovered, 6 muggers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested six members of an organised gang of muggers in a series of raids in the city from Friday afternoon to yesterday morning.

The members of the Criminal Intelligence and Detective Unit of Police also recovered Tk 12.6 lakh, out of Tk 17 lakh that the gang members snatched from the manager of Bulbul Textile Mills Ltd from in front of the head office of Islami Bank at Dilkhusha on Thursday.

The arrestees are Abdul Hannan, Jashim Mollah, Babu, Noor Ali, Billal and Dulal.

Police said the victim identified the snatchers from the footage captured earlier in the CCTV of Dutch Bangla Bank at Motijheel.

They also said the arrestees used to snatch money from their targets from in front of different city banks.

## Fakhruddin hailed as new CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday welcomed Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed for assuming the office of the chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government and hoped that the new interim government will take all necessary steps to hold a fair election with participation of all political parties.

Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam in a statement hoped that politicians would prove their wisdom and patriotism so that people can choose their representatives to meet their democratic aspiration.

Meanwhile, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) termed President Iajuddin Ahmed's resignation from the post of chief adviser to the caretaker government as victory of people's movement.

At a rally at Muktangan in the city, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said implementation of CPB's 53-point reform proposal, including freeing the Election Commission and administration from the partisan influence and stopping use of black money and muscle power in the election can relieve people.

"Implementation of these demands however does not necessarily require declaration of state of emergency and imposing restrictions on the media," he said, adding that the new caretaker government must take steps to reduce price hike of essentials and improve law and order situation besides holding a fair election.

## IUBAT signs MoU with Bangkok varsity

Prof M Alimullah Mian, founder and vice chancellor, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) and Dr Thanu Kulachol, president, Bangkok University (BU), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on academic and research collaboration recently, says a press release.

The goal of the agreement is exchange of researchers, faculty and students, transfer of students, joint research, development of policy proposals, technical assistance/training, exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials.

## Shakil made Hasina's dy press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahbubul Haque Shakil, assistant secretary for research and information sub-committee of Awami League (AL), has been appointed Deputy Press Secretary of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina yesterday approved the appointment of Shakil, former organising secretary of AL's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The AL chief also appointed former BCL leaders Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Saifuzzaman Shekhor as her personal aides.



Police intercept a procession of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) protesting communalism, imperialism and plunder at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

# Dowry victim cries for justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arafat Nahar Swapna, a 20-year-old housewife, who fell victim to dowry-related violence sought justice yesterday and demanded exemplary punishment to her husband and his family members.

She had often been tortured by her husband Mujibur Rahman, a yarn supplier, since her marriage in September 2005, Swapna said at a press conference in Dhaka.

Swapna has been living in her parent's house at Morkun in Tongi since her marriage as Majibur's

parents did not accept their marriage. Her husband also stayed in her house, but not regularly.

Swapna, who has completed the diploma course on nursing from Dhaka Diploma Medical Institute, and her distant cousin Mujibur, eldest son of Mobarak Master of Majhigachha in Kachua, Chandpur, got married by a notary public in Dhaka without the consent of their parents.

"The severity of torture increased after I became pregnant," she said, her eyes filled with tears.

Mujibur also demanded Tk 5 lakh

from her father Alamgir Hossain Pradhan, she added.

A few months later, Mujibur left her house and did not maintain any contact with her.

After the birth of their child on November 5, 2006, Swapna had tried to contact her husband several times, but to no avail. Later, Mujibur himself called her to deny paternity of the child and he even denied their marriage, Swapna said.

As a last resort, she along with her two-month-old son went to Mujibur's home in Chandpur on December 30, 2006, but his parents severely tortured her. Even the child was not spared.

She, however, managed to escape with the help of neighbours and filed a case with a Chandpur court on January 4.

At the press conference, she showed the signs of torture marks of injuries in the body of her son.

Swapna said her husband's family is now threatening over cell phone to kill her son and her only brother who is studying at Kachua Polytechnic Institute in Chandpur.

Her mother Monwara Alam was also present at the press conference.

When contacted over phone, Mujibur denied all the allegations.



Arafat Nahar Swapna with her two-month-old son at a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association office in the city yesterday.

## Hotel staffer shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hotel staff was hit by bullet in the city yesterday.

The incident took place at Jhinuk International Residential Hotel at east Rampura.

A gang of hoodlums stormed into the hotel and sprayed bullet indiscriminately failing to find out the hotel owner at 8:30am.

Ilias Hussain, 35, a hotel employee who was sitting at the cash counter, received bullet in his left leg during the incident.

He was later admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Police said the attack might have carried out following a rivalry over the hotel ownership.

# Restore economy, hold polls at earliest

## Trade bodies urge new caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different trade bodies yesterday hailed President Iajuddin Ahmed for declaring the state of emergency and Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed for taking over the charge of the chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government (CG).

The business bodies hoped that economic activities of the country will soon be vibrant, and a free and fair election with the participation of all political parties will be held at the earliest possible time.

In a press release, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and

Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Fazlul Huq said, "We hope under the leadership of the new CA, dynamism will return to export business and the image of the country will be recovered."

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) President Abdul Hai Sarker said his association feels that the steps taken by the President is timely and bold enough to ease the volatile political situation and improve the overall trade and commercial activities.

Congratulating both the President and the CA, Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters

Association (BFFEA), at a board meeting, called for taking extensive and long-term economic rehabilitation programme to recover the damaged economy.

The meeting also urged the new CA to reduce public holiday from two days to one day, exempt bank interest on the export-oriented industries, defer payment of loan instalment for next two years and reschedule the loans and liabilities and disbursement of cash subsidy on the exports through interest-free banking channel and ban blockade and hartal permanently.

It also requested declaring all service organisations as emergency service to gear up economic activities.

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association Chairman Sabbir Yusuf said they believe the damage done to trade and commerce will soon be compensated as normalcy is expected to return following the state of emergency.

"We hope the new CG and leaders of all political parties will prove their highest patriotism and good sense to create a congenial environment in the country," he said in a press release.



Five-Left Party takes out a procession from Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding establishment of an independent electoral system.