

Drug store vandalised

Owner, 2 newsmen beaten up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of hoodlums ransacked a drug store near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and attacked its owner and employee and two journalists yesterday.

The incident took place at around 2.30pm about 100 yards away from the DMCH police camp.

About 20 hoodlums armed with hockey sticks attacked the Madina Pharmacy and beat up Mashirul Rahman Liton, brother of the owner, employee Alamgir and Shahin Molla, the DMCH correspondent of The Daily Star, and Baki Billah of the Daily Sangbad.

The two journalists went to the shop after Liton called them to inform them about two youths who threatened to kill him earlier.

Liton said the two youths identifying themselves as students of Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University came to his

shop at around 12.45pm yesterday and asked for an antiseptic cream.

"When the two youths were about to leave the place without paying, I asked them to pay the price but they got furious and threw away the cream," Liton said.

"They also asked me to keep the shutters down and threatened to kill me before leaving the shop," he added.

Liton informed Mamun, a Jatiyatobadi Chatra Dal leader of Shahidullah Hall, about the incident but he told Liton not to worry about it.

The gang launched the attack after Liton reopened his shop at around 2.30pm.

They also warned Liton of dire consequences if he files any case.

Liton and Baki Billah were admitted to the DMCH with severe injuries.



The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding direct election to the women's seats in parliament.

3 brothers get life for killing businessman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna has sentenced three brothers to life imprisonment for killing a businessman of Icegati union under Rupsha upazila.

The convicts are Saifur Rahman, Saidur Rahman and Shamsher Rahman, sons of Sheikh Bazlur Rahman.

The three were also fined Tk 3,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more rigorous imprisonment.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Didar Ali Fakir handed down the verdict on Thursday.

According to the prosecution story, businessman Sheikh Mujibar Rahman came under attack at Senerbazar on December 7, 2000 and succumbed to his injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital the same day.

His elder brother lodged a FIR naming six people as accused.

Investigation Officer Syed Iqbal Hossain pressed charges against them on April 10, 2001.

Slum dwellers protest land grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slum dwellers yesterday protested illegal grabbing of land at Jahury Maholla slum in Mohammadpur in the city.

At a meeting at Muktagan, they also urged the government to take steps for their rehabilitation.

The slum dwellers said 50 families have been living there for the last 30 years although a local ward commissioner tried to grab the slum twice with the help of the criminals.

They said the people in the slum are living an inhuman life under the open sky after the criminals burnt the slum on March 3.

Organised by Slum Unity Forum, the meeting was chaired by General Secretary of Mohammadpur Thana Committee Sirajul Islam.

Extortionists stab trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six extortionists stabbed a trader and his manager at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday.

The gang armed with pistol, knives and machetes attacked Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan, owner of New Paltan Lamination, and manager Arif Khan at around 3.00pm.

"They demanded toll about two weeks ago but we refused them," said Arif.

"The extortionist came to the shop and closed the door from inside before stabbing us," he added.

They were now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Betel leaf grower killed in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A betel leaf grower of Debipur village under Rupsha thana was shot and slaughtered by the outlaws on Thursday night.

Police recovered the body of Robin Kumar Das, 40, from the bank of Atherobaki river at 7.30am yesterday.

According to his wife Dipika Rani Das, Robin was killed for not paying a toll of Tk 5 lakh demanded earlier by the armed cadres of M-L faction of outlawed PBCP.

She told the police that two armed young men called her husband out of the house at 8:30pm on the pretext of personal discussion.