

Muggers active near Sheraton intersection

IMRUL HASAN

The Sakura market corner near the Sheraton intersection and adjoining areas have turned notorious for mugging lately with incidents reported almost everyday.

Local residents complained that just after sunset, the miscreants come out on the streets in small groups and start mugging passengers of auto-rickshaws and taxicabs around the busy intersection. Sometimes ornaments and wristwatches are snatched away from passengers sitting on the window side of buses.

"One evening while I was waiting for the signal to turn green near the Sakura market, two muggers forced their way from both sides into the autorickshaw I was travelling in and held sharp knives to my body. Then they snatched all my valuables and fled," said Iqbal Hossain, a resident of

Residents complained that after dusk, small groups of miscreants come out on the streets and mug passengers in auto-rickshaws and taxicabs at the busy intersection. Ornaments and wristwatches are snatched from passengers sitting by the bus windows.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Iqbal added that he had thought of filing a general diary at first but then decided against it as he had little faith in police.

"Few victims of mugging come to the police station. Most of the times we are totally in the dark about the sufferers from such incidents,"

admitted an on-duty police officer of Ramna police station.

When contacted Abul Hai Baki, the second officer of Ramna police station claimed that they regularly patrol that area but muggers take the opportunity when policemen are not there.

"Besides, we can not arrest them without specific complaints. A case has to be filed first," he added.

Businessmen of the area however said that police patrol was irregular.

"It was the pedestrians and not the police, who caught a mugger red-handed after he had snatched a gold chain from a female passengers of a bus a few months ago. They then handed him over to the police. Surprisingly, the police did not want to take him in. These culprits feel rather secure when they are near the police," claimed local fruit-seller Mitul.

"Most people just watch the incident and do not act. They do not even shout for the police. As a result, miscreants flee easily. The general public should be more conscious about helping us to catch the criminals," said Rafiq Ahmed, another police officer.



The busy Dhaka Sheraton intersection where passengers and passers-by fall prey to muggers.

STAR PHOTO

6x3

4x2

13x3

7x3

9x2