

Agony of an acid victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An acid burnt woman has been passing her days amid fear and despair as some unknown people are threatening her to throw acid on her school going daughter if the case filed against them is not withdrawn.

Doctors said the face, neck, chest, arms and one leg of Rahima Khatun Mukta, 35, a stage actress, were burnt seriously.

She has already spent Tk 35,000 for her treatment and needs more money which her husband Khalilur Rahman, a worker, cannot afford.

"Many people come to see me and express sympathy but none gives us any money for treatment," Mukta said helplessly lying on a bed at burn and plastic surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Mukta, her husband and daughter have appealed to generous people to save their family.

Mithu, son of Golap, the founder of Golap Theatre at Badda in the city, threw acid on Mukta on July 5 for refusing to act in two plays of the group, Mukta told The Daily Star.

"I made two agreements with the Golap Theatre about four months back to act as main female character in two plays," she said.

"But after attending some rehearsal sessions I found the environment uncomfortable and decided not to continue with the group," Mukta added.

After that Golap, her son Mithu and some other people of the group insisted her on joining the rehearsal but she refused.

On July 5, Mithu along with two friends went to her residence at Arseen Colony at Jurayeen with liquid acid in cans of a soft drink.

"Suddenly they threw acid on my face and other parts of my body and fled away," Mukta said.

She filed a case with Shyampur Police Station against six persons including Mithu, Golap, Sujan and three other unknown persons in this regard.

Police arrested Golap, Sujan and one Showkat in this connection.

Since then some unknown people have been threatening her to withdraw the case otherwise they will throw acid on her daughter.



PHOTO: STAR
Winners of a contest entitled 'Letter to Ma' pose with Chairperson of Etcetera Bangladesh Yasmeen Murshed and other guests at the prize giving ceremony at STM Hall at Scholastica Senior Section in the city yesterday. ETC organised the competition for the schoolchildren on the occasion of International Mother's Day.

COP ATROCITIES ON DU FEMALE STUDENTS 4th anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University (DU) will commemorate the fourth anniversary of police atrocities on women students at Shamsunnahar Hall with protest programmes today.

On this day in 2002, the police stormed into the hall at dead of night, dragged students from the beds, verbally abused and assaulted them, leaving more than 50 students injured.

The police swooped on them as they were protesting against illegal stay of some Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders at the hall.

The police action had sparked massive protests by students over the next several days, leading to the closure of the university for 67 days.

A one-member judicial committee, headed by Justice Tafazzal Islam, was also formed to investigate the incident. The committee submitted its report with recommendations in September 2002, but no action has yet been taken against the persons responsible.

To mark the day, students of the hall will take out a silent procession on the campus at 10:00am.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the main opposition Awami League, will form a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla at 10:00am. A photo exhibition and a discussion will also be held at Bat Tala, in front of the Arts Building.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will paint pictures on a boundary wall of Shamsunnahar Hall at 11:00am today in protest against the police atrocities.

In the evening, it will take out a candlelight procession on the campus. Two documentary films will also be screened at the hall gate.

The JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League will observe the day as a 'Black Day'.

The Progressive Students' Alliance, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree and some other cultural organisations have also drawn up various programmes to mark the day.