

Three bullet-hit at Shyamoli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local goons sprayed bullets at a store of their rival at Shyamoli in the city's Adabar yesterday that left three people wounded. The victims are Abdur Rob Talukdar Milon and his younger brother Abdur Rob Talukdar Sujon, who are nephews of Mohammadpur thana unit BCL vice president Jadu, and rickshaw puller Siraj Mia.

Milon with bullets in his chest and mouth was rushed to the Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali while Sujon and Siraj

to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Quoting witnesses police said a gang of three armed cadres all of a sudden opened fire at Simanta Store, a confectionery shop, on Golden Street around 12:30 pm and left the scene running.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Shahidul Haque of Adabar Police Station told The Daily Star that a few hours before the incident took place, unidentified criminals looked for Jadu Mia at the shop but he was not available there.

"Jadu and his men ran cable

TV business in the area that created rivalry with Nabi gang and Shaheen gang," he said adding, the rivalry might have caused yesterday's attack.

However, he could not ascertain which gang carried out the attack.

He said Nabi is now on the run in a neighbouring country but his gang members are still active in the area realising tolls.

Some locals seeking anonymity said cadres of Jadu also realise extortion in the area and added that the gangs have been involved in turf war for extortion purpose.

Efficient use of fund vital to fight HIV/AIDS: Dr Nafis Sadik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Special Envoy to the UN Secretary General for HIV/AIDS Dr Nafis Sadik yesterday said funds to combat HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh is increasing but the efficient use of that fund is

important.

Young people should be involved in the policies and programmes to control HIV/AIDS, she added.

Dr Nafis said this at a special lecture on 'AIDS in Asia and the vulnerability of young people in Bangladesh' at Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhavan at Dhaka University. "New resources are flowing to the HIV and AIDS control programmes in Bangladesh. But you should know about your epidemic and spent in those places where the epidemic is. Use of the fund is very important," she said.

Dr Nafis, who had served UNFPA earlier as executive director, further said that treatment alone cannot control HIV and AIDS, successful policies and actions are needed.

Women are amongst the most vulnerable population in Asia and they are not responsible for their vulnerability, rather it is because of men's behaviour and attitude to

them, she noted.

She reiterated that a cultural change is needed to empower women in decision-making in their sexual life and change of men's attitude and behaviour towards women.

About the vulnerability of young people, Dr Nafis said youths are most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS but they don't have proper knowledge about the disease.

A study showed that only one out of five young people know how to prevent the disease, she said, urging the young people to speak up and make the policy-makers hear their voices as well as needs.

"It is a matter of health care, not morality and it is a matter of human rights. AIDS should be seen as a disease which be treated properly," she said.

Earlier, speaking as the special guest at the lecture session UNFPA Country Representative Arthur Erken said Bangladesh is a low prevalence but high at-risk coun-

try. Awareness level among people, including students, is still very poor, he said, adding that proper information and knowledge are not given to the youths, though they are at high at-risk.

Dhaka University Vice

Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Dr Salil Panakadan, country director of UNAIDS, also spoke at the session.

After the programme, a film festival on AIDS was also organised at the same venue.



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CONDOLENCE



We are deeply shocked at the sudden death of Mr Mir Zahir Hossain (64), one of our Executive Committee Members and Managing Director of Mir Cement Limited, on 7th Nov. 2009 in USA.

We express our heartfelt and deepest condolence for the departed soul to his family.

Bangladesh Cement Industry has really lost a pioneer business leader, as well as an Icon. May Almighty Allah grant his soul eternal peace in heaven.

On behalf of-
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