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Torture room found Shops on DU campus demolished

Varsity Correspondent

Dhaka University authorities demolished some alleged torture rooms cum small shops at Plessey on the university campus on Wednesday following a series of abductions that took place on the campus last week.

Earlier, on Tuesday police de-
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Campus shops

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tected a torture-room reportedly established by a section of terrorists. Police also arrested two youths from one of those shops on charge of their suspected involvement in the latest abduction. The abduction took place on September 18.

"Detection of torture room by the police only after a couple of days of a sensational abduction on the campus compelled the university authorities to initiate the drive", high ranking university officials said while giving their comment on the move.

Two sensational abductions took place on the university campus only within a week. The abductors in both the operations succeed in realizing handsome ransom.

The establishments that came under the demolition drive on Wednesday included a Phone-Fax shop, Photocopy shop, Computer composing center, Restaurant and a tea stall. Many of the shops were also known as the "den of terrorists", local people said.

A Dhaka City Corporation bulldozer led by Assistant Proctor Rafiqullah Khan and Estate Manager of the university Abdul Mannan conducted the demolition drive at about half past 10 in the morning. Two platoons of police helped the demolition team at this time.

Some police intelligence admitted that a good number of terrorists and drug addicts had been using the shops as "den for illegal activities and taking ransom". The intelligence men suspected that the abducted schoolboy was taken there after he was picked up from the campus. A ninth grade student of Sun Beam Tutorial was abducted by a group of miscreants on September 18.

According to the shopkeepers, the shops were established by the university itself in 1987 and leased them out to erstwhile cultural secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) Kawsar Mollah in the following year.

The university authorities had been realizing Taka 100 against each shop a month till June 1990. The shop owners stopped paying the rent after June 1990 for unknown reason.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AK Azad Chowdhury while talking to the Bangladesh Observer on Wednesday afternoon said that he would not compromise with any sort of unlawful activities in the campus. "All terrorists and their agents will be dealt with iron hand," he added and referred to the Wednesday's demolition drive as an instance.