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## Den of terrorists, abductors? DU demolishes shops near ZH Hall

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday demolished shops at Polashi, adjacent to Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall following two alleged kidnapping incidents on the campus.

The demolition was carried out at around 10am in presence of the university officials and a huge contingent of police personnel.

At least six business establishments including a telephone and fax centre, a hair-cutting saloon, a courier service centre, a restaurant and some tea stalls were raged to the ground during the three-hour swoop. A bull dodger of Dhaka City Corporation was used for the drive.

Earlier in the morning, police asked the shop owners to remove their equipment and

furniture.

According to sources, the shops were the meeting place for outsiders, terrorists and armed cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ruling Awami League.

"There was also a warehouse behind a shop which was notoriously known as 'torture room', where they used to torture hostages," said one source.

The shops were built in 1987 and Kawser Mollah, former literature and social welfare secretary of DUCSU, took the shops on a one-year lease in 1988.

As per the contact, Kawser was supposed to pay Tk 100 per month as rent, but he stopped paying rent in June 1990. DU

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officials said.

The university authorities also evicted few of the shops recently following a clash between BCL leaders Shamim Ahmed and Mainuddin Ahmed Babu few months back.

According to the sources, Shamim, better known as 'Picchi Shamim' had an office here and he conducted his business from the office.

Talking to The Daily Star, Vice-chancellor of the university Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury said, "All illegal structures and shops on the campus would be evicted shortly (and) we will never allow any structure that shelters terrorists."

"The photocopy centres at the main gate of Arts Building (Kala Bhaban), Lecture Theatre and the Campus Shadow, a snacks shop at the car parking shade, will also be removed after providing photocopy machines under supervision of the university authorities", he added.

Meanwhile, Ansar Ali and Md. Nazrul Islam, two suspected kidnappers, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court later sent them to jail.

They were arrested from the Palashi intersection Tuesday evening in connection with the alleged kidnapping incidents.