

125

Two teenagers held hostage at DU hall

By DU Correspondent

Two teenage boys were allegedly kidnapped from the city's Elephant Road by a group of Dhaka College students, and held hostage for about two hours in Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

The victims were Anis Al Rajib, a HSC first year student of Lalmatia Oriental College, and his friend Tanveer Hossain.

Dhaka University authorities, following the allegations, yesterday formed a three-member probe committee led by Dr. Md. Khairul Hossain, provost of the hall, to investigate the incident.

According to sources, the kidnappers, led by one Sujon, a Dhaka College student, allegedly kidnapped Rajib and Tanveer from Elephant Road at about 3 pm. The boys were taken at gun point to Mohsin Hall with the help of some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists, it was learnt.

The abductors first beat up the victims on the terrace of the hall building and later held them hostage in two separate rooms. They then telephoned Rajib's mother and demanded ransom.

Rajib's mother took back the two boys at around 5 pm from the guest room of the hall, sources said.

When contacted over telephone, the traumatised mother declined to disclose any details about she got the two boys freed. "We are happy to get back our only child and are not interested in pursuing any legal actions against anyone," she said.

Sources preferring anonymity told The Daily Star that the kidnappers including Adnan and Palash of Dhaka College is backed by the BCL hall unit president Shafiq. Some outsider 'terrorists', including Munna and Wadud, who have been sheltered at the hall, were also involved in the incident, they alleged.

Two rooms -- 212 and 331 -- of Mohsin Hall, are notoriously known as 'remand rooms' and are used regularly for the purpose of torturing, the sources added.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury said, "The authorities will take stern action against those involved in the incident and I have already formed a probe committee."