

Mob clashes with police in market

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A 500-strong mob besieged policemen and enforcement branch officials when they raided a market in Kidderpore on Saturday.

The eight-member EB team had gone to Vijaya Market in search of counterfeit electronic goods and smuggled items. They nabbed Md Shakeel Ahmed Khan, secretary of the Vijaya Market Association and detained 10 others from whose shops 642 fake calculators, worth Rs 96,000, were seized.

But a mob surrounded them and demanded that Khan be released. When police refused, a scuffle ensued and the accused were whisked away by the mob. Reinforcements were rushed in from Watunge police station to rescue the EB officers.

"Police could have seized more items had they not met

with resistance. For the last few months, we have repeatedly filed FIRs about fake calculators being sold in Kolkata markets. A large number of calculators were seized from the Mehta Building in Burrabazar and shops around Esplanade earlier," said an official of Casio, which had filed an FIR naming Khan.

A senior EB official said:

"There is bound to be resistance during such raids, but no

one was injured."

For long, Casio has been demanding raids on outlets selling counterfeits and smuggled gadgets. The raid on Mehta Building, considered the largest, led to the seizure of 5,000 fake calculators. Such markets supply stuff to shops in Kolkata and the districts. Sources say the city is turning into a hub for the supply of such items to other states as well.

FAKE GADGET RAID GOES BUST