

JCD men, interns ransack hospital canteen in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Activists of ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and a section of intern doctors belonging to the party ransacked and looted the doctors' canteen at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) yesterday morning.

But the attackers and the canteen owner made conflicting claims about the cause of the incident.

Munsur Ali, owner of the canteen claimed that JCD men Tomal, a student of 34 th batch and Tuli and Zia, students of 35th batch, had demanded toll from him. They also threatened him as he refused to pay them toll.

At about 9-30 yesterday, Tamal, Tuli, Zia took breakfast in the canteen. When the canteen owner asked them to pay bills along with some arrears, they refused.

An altercation ensued. At one stage, JCD cadres including some intern doctors belonging to the party started ransacking and looting the canteen on the plea of unusual price hike of food items, the canteen owner alleged.

They broke crockery and furniture, threw away food items and snatched cash and mobile phone, he alleged.

As the news spread, leaders of Barisal Hotel and Sweet Meat Owners Association along with Dr. Aziz Rahim, Barisal district president of Doctors Association of Bangladesh and other DAB leaders rushed to the spot and cooled down the JCD men.

Later, leaders of the Hotel and Sweet Meat Owners Association demanded punishment to the JCD cadres and intern doctors involved in the incident.

Dr. Shah Alam, Director-in-Charge of SBMCH, when contacted later, regretted the incident and said action will be taken against JCD men involved in the incident.

Sheikh Zillur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge of Barisal Kotwali police station, said a police team was sent to SBMCH campus to maintain order. No case was lodged when the report was filed in the evening.



PHOTO: STAR

The ransacked doctors' canteen at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

5X3

7X3

Mirzapur AL to besiege election office today

Lawmaker dropped from voter list

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Awami League (AL) will hold a rally and besiege Mirzapur upazila election office today in protest against dropping of the name of local AL lawmaker Ekabbar Hossain from the draft voter list published on Wednesday.

Mirzapur AL announced the programme on Friday.

Earlier, Ekabbar Hossain alleged in parliament on Thursday that his name was dropped from the draft voter list, "which is erroneous and full of fake voters".

When contacted over cell phone yesterday, Ekabbar Hossain told the Daily Star, "I filled up the voter form and myself submitted it at the local election office but I did not find my

name on the draft voter list.

"Names of a large number of Awami League leaders, activists and supporters in Mirzapur including former lawmaker from Mirzapur and Tangail AL president Fazlur Rahman Faruque have been dropped from the draft voter list", Ekabbar Hossain said.

On the other hand, local election office sources claimed that their men went to lawmaker Ekabbar Hossain several times but he did not enlist his name in the draft voter list.

The draft list contains names of 2,79,176 in Mirzapur, which was 2,32,196 on the list prepared in 2001, showing an increase of 47,000 in the constituency.

AL lawmaker Noor, wife not on voter list

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The name of Awami League (AL) lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor has been dropped from the draft voter list published by the Election Commission (EC) recently.

On contact, Noor who is also publicity secretary of Awami League said his name was dropped from the list intentionally.

"Names of many leaders and activists of the opposition parties including those of Awami League and members of the Hindu community were excluded from the list intentionally," he said.

When contacted, district election officer (DEO) Faridul Islam said, "We are investigating the matter because as a lawmaker his name must be enlisted".

Sources said the name of Noor's wife is also not on the voter list.

They claimed that about 30 per cent of eligible voters in the district are still out of the draft list.

As per draft, the total number of voters in all four constituencies in the district is 11,10,061.

In the last parliamentary election,



the number of voters was 9,31,899.

However, the number of voters increased abnormally in Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury's Nilphamari-3 constituency comprising Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj (partial). In the constituency, the number of voters is 2,00,559 whereas it was 1,65,417 in the last list.

In Nilphamari-2 constituency of Asaduzzaman Noor, the number of voters is 2,68,897. It was 2,27,777 in the previous voter list.

TAMABIL LAND PORT Coal importers protest private land acquisition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Coal Importers Group, Sylhet yesterday urged the government not to acquire private lands to establish Tamabil land port and threatened agitation including suspension of coal import for non-compliance.

Leaders of the group at a press conference at a city restaurant said the government has started a process to acquire 15 acres of private land near Tamabil custom station where there are vast fallow government lands.

The Building infrastructures on government land will be less time consuming. Acquisition of private lands will involve more time, they said.

The press conference was addressed by secretary of the group Kolondar Ali.

30 pc more voters in Altaf's constituency

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The number of voters in the draft list has increased by 30.51 per cent in Mirzaganj constituency of former commerce minister Altaf's Hossain Chowdhury.

In the draft list, 18.26 per cent voters have been increased in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, 13.38 pc increased in Dumki, 14 pc in Baufal, 19.99 pc in Dasmina, 13.27 pc in Galachipa and 14.50 pc in Kalapara upazila.

As many as 1,68,601 new voters have been enlisted in the draft list.

'Altaf Hossain Chowdhury has enlisted his close men forcibly in the voter list by appointing his party men as information collectors aiming at winning the next Jatiya Sangsad election, said AKM Jahangir Hossain MP, of Patuakhali-2 (Galachipa, Dashmina) constituency.

Bus strike in S-W dists passes fifth day

Talks offer refused again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The strike by private bus owners that began in 13 south-western districts on Wednesday demanding withdrawal of BRTC bus service in the area continued for the fourth day yesterday, causing sufferings to passengers.

The striking transport workers tried to create obstacles to plying of microbus, autorickshaw and other mechanised transports on different routes in the region. But no major incident was reported from any where, sources said.

They brought out a procession in Barisal city and held a rally at Rupatali bus terminal at about 11 am, vowing to continue the strike till BRTC service is withdrawn.

Their leaders, including those belonging to ruling BNP, yesterday refused again to sit for talks with BRTC authorities.

On the other hand, BRTC Workers Association and Bus Passengers Welfare Association jointly brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the indefinite strike.



PHOTO: STAR

A workshop on 'Democracy, electoral system and role of citizens', organised by IED, an NGO, was held at Gaibandha Public Library auditorium yesterday.

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7X3

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