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Govt staff involved in question leak

Police find shady business over recruitment of high school teachers; 2 govt employees suspended; probe body formed

RAFIQUE SARKER from Rangpur, and WASIM BIN HABIB

A section of government employees had leaked questions of the written test for assistant teacher recruitment at public high schools, revealed primary investigation.

Some staff of Bangladesh Government (BG) Press, an assistant education officer and nephew of a former Public Service Commission member were involved in the leak in Rangpur, which led the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to cancel the examination on Thursday.

They used an innovative method to supply question papers to the candidates they had an agreement with, said police sources.

Over 1.32 lakh people were supposed to sit the exam yesterday for 1,968 posts across the country.

The education ministry has formed a five-member committee headed by additional secretary (administration) SM Golam Faruk to probe the leak.

The committee will submit its report by July 19, said a ministry official.

Meanwhile, the government has suspended ATM Mostafa, compositor of BG Press, and Hamidul Islam, binder of Government Printing Press, on allegation of links to the incident, said an official handout last night.

The two are among the 167 people arrested by police on charges of leaking questions on Thursday.

They were brought before the newsmen at the SP office in Rangpur yesterday evening.

Mostafa said they bought the question paper from Anisul Islam of BG Press for Tk 25 lakh. Atiqul made all arrangements to sell the questions.

Mostafa also admitted they have been

doing this for a long time.

Saleh Mohammad Tanvir, superintendent of Rangpur police, said a syndicate in Dhaka might have been behind the leak.

The law enforcers have so far identified nine persons as suppliers of the leaked questions, he added.

Of them, seven are being quizzed on remand. They are Mostafa, Hamidul, Abul Bashar, assistant education officer of Patuakhali district, Mahfuzur Rahman, principal of Jaldhaka Women College in Nilphamari, Firadul Haque, social welfare officer, and Taslimul Islam and Firoz Ahmed of Dhaka.

The remaining two--Ariful Islam of Gangachhara and his brother-in-law Atiqul Islam, who is also nephew of PSC member Dr Mahfuzur Rahman--are still at large, added the police super.

Police made the arrests, raiding a

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Khaleda still resents role of Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the BNP standing committee decided to consider restoration of the party's expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's membership in the organisation if he or anyone on his behalf appeals for it, the party chairperson's resentment towards him is yet to be ameliorated.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia still thinks Bhuiyan, who served her party for 11 years as the secretary general, is responsible for the predicament she and her two sons find themselves in since the immediate past military backed caretaker government's ascension to power.

"You all know everything."

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Teams up for 'little final'

Germany-Uruguay face-off today

AGENCIES

Germany and Uruguay will look to rouse themselves for one last game on Saturday when they face off in the play-off for third place at Port Elizabeth's Nelson Mandela Bay stadium.

Both sides are downcast after missing out on a place in Sunday's World Cup final at Soccer City but have a chance to finish their sojourn in South Africa on a high note.

Germany will find it particularly difficult to motivate themselves after Wednesday's 1-0 defeat to European champions Spain consigned the Mannschaft to a second World Cup semifinal defeat in succession.

However, while the 3-1 victory over Portugal in Stuttgart four years ago was viewed as a celebration by the home fans, this time around the atmosphere around what the Germans call the "little final" is more funereal.

Unlike in 2006, there will be no parade in Berlin when the tournament ends. Team captain Philipp Lahm said a potential

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AL MP sued for assaulting policeman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police filed a case against Awami League legislator Ilias Uddin Mollah of Dhaka-15 constituency in connection with assaulting a policeman on June 30.

This unprecedented incident of police filing a case against a ruling party lawmaker happened on Thursday night.

Savar Police Outpost Traffic Sergeant Shariful Islam filed the case with Ashulia Police Station accusing Ilias of beating him up severely while he was on duty at Ashulia on June 30 afternoon.

Sources said after a preliminary enquiry conducted by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP-headquarters)

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The trees the forest department marked to be chopped down are left alone while the thriving ones that would fetch better price are felled at Khasia Forest in Sreemangal. PHOTO: STAR

A forest in ruins

Forest dept marked old, decayed trees, but contractor felled unmarked young trees in Sreemangal for profit

TAWFIQUE ALI, back from Nahar Khasia Punji, Sreemangal

A timber trader, with a forest department permit and a High Court order allowing him to harvest trees in a Sreemangal tea garden, has admitted to local police that he chopped down hundreds of trees not marked for felling during March and April this year, records and interviews show.

The wholesale felling of the trees, with the forest department's convenient oblivion and the tea garden authorities' silent complicity, has caused massive damage to the livelihood of local ethnic Khasia people.

The affected Khasias depend on the hilly trees for paan

joom (betel leaf cultivation), and make a living by picking and selling the leaves.

"Indiscriminate felling of trees in Khasia paan joom is a destruction of livelihood of the ethnic community, and a violation of [residents'] right to life," said Sara Hossain, a Supreme Court lawyer who represents agitating environmentalists and the local Khasias.

Records show, police interviewed the timber trader, Salim Uddin Mohalder, after the Khasias filed a criminal complaint in March.

A police report, submitted to the Moulvibazar police superintendent in April, says that Mohalder confessed to

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Two pirates killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two pirates were killed in a "shootout" with a joint team of Coast Guard, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police on Thursday at Pathorghata upazila in Barguna.

The deceased were identified as Faruq, 28, Afjal Hossain, 35 of Tengra village of the upazila.

Both were the members of 'Julfiqar Bahini', a gang of pirates in the Sundarbans area, said Rab.

The joint team recovered 3 pipe guns, 10 rounds of bullets and 2 machetes from the spot. The bodies were handed over to Pathorghata police.

Maj Kazi Shamsheer Uddin, deputy director of Rab-8, said a joint team of Coast Guard, Rab and police was patrolling the Boleshwar River and its adjacent areas. Around 3:00am the team challenged a gang of pirates who were on a

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The slow pace of repair work of the road linking Jatrabari and Postagola bridge results in erosion in rainwater leaving the busy road in a dangerous state. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tahrir tried to create another mutiny

Arrested leader confessed during interrogation, claim cops; 4 more activists held

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Hizb-ut Tahrir tried to capitalise on the 2009 BDR mutiny and trigger an uprising in the army to make the situation more volatile.

Founder leader of Hizb-ut Tahrir Bangladesh Golam Maola during preliminary interrogation said he played a significant role in distributing provocative leaflets regarding the army at the BDR headquarters in Pilkhana just after the mutiny.

An intelligence agency had recovered such leaflets from Pilkhana and since then they had been trying to find the people behind it.

Prof Syed Golam Maola told interrogators that they tried to capitalise on the discontent among army personnel caused by the killing of 57 army officials in the hands of the paramilitary jawans during the mutiny.

Interrogators said Hizb-ut operatives distributed leaflets bearing the "Jaago Muslim Senabahini Jaago" (rise up the army of the Muslims) slogan in and around the Bangladesh

Rifles headquarters after the February 25-26 mutiny.

Interrogators said Hizb-ut Tahrir tried to create another mutiny in the army.

Detective Branch of police produced Golam Maola before a Dhaka court yesterday, which placed him on a three-day remand. He was arrested Thursday.

Maola, a lecturer of management department of Dhaka University, is accused in three cases filed with Uttara Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act, Deputy Commissioner Mahubur Rahman of DB said.

Mahubur claimed that Maola used to monitor all publications, literatures and write-ups of the banned Islamist organisation.

Assistant Commissioner of DB Solaiman said Maola after the mutiny held several seminars in the capital at which he delivered provocative speeches and distributed leaflets and other publications.

Maola during the interrogation said they

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No new judge till oath row is over

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is not appointing new judges to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court due to the controversy over the oath of newly appointed two High Court judges.

Five posts of the apex court judge remain vacant, as the same number of judges have retired in last year and this year. Around 5,000 cases are now pending with the Appellate Division, sources said.

Law Minister Shafiqe Ahmed on April 21

told The Daily Star that the government will take steps to appoint judges in the Appellate Division after settling the matter of oath-taking of two HC judges--Ruhul Quddus Babu and Md Khasruzzaman.

"We will gradually promote judges from the High Court Division to the Appellate Division after removal of the tangle over the oath of the High Court judges," said the minister.

The government should immediately promote judges from the HC Division to the

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Govt to import 50,000 MT sugar before Ramadan

UNB, Dhaka

The government is set to have a buffer stock of 100,000 tonnes of sugar through domestic and international procurement to meet additional demand and keep the sugar price stable during the holy month of Ramadan.

The state-owned Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has been given the responsibility to monitor that

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BNP to keep distance from Jamaat for now

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP will not stand by its key ally Jamaat-Islami over several issues as the main opposition party does not want to take the liabilities of Jamaat's activities which they committed before the formation of BNP.

Party insiders said Chairperson Khaleda Zia wants to maintain a visible distance with Jamaat over some specific issues, such as the trial of war criminals, although she is adamant to gradually

wage a greater movement keeping all with her.

Party leaders, however, said they would protest all sorts of political "repression" by the ruling Awami League led grand alliance government.

According to the party standing committee decision, BNP would announce fresh anti-government programmes, like mass sit-in and hunger strike, Sunday. The fresh programme is likely to be observed in the capital and other cities of the country on July 19.

"We will observe protest programme on our own. We will not involve with all the Jamaat's issues," Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahubur Rahman, member of the standing committee, yesterday told The Daily Star.

He said BNP would jointly observe only the programmes announced by the four-party alliance and Khaleda Zia would decide when the alliance should be reactive.

Party insiders said the leaders know

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