

ADMISSION TEST RESULTS LEAK

Teacher-coaching centre nexus found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong district administration has found involvement of two coaching centres and a section of teachers and office staff of Chittagong Collegiate School in the leaking of admission test results of the school.

A case was filed with Sadarghat Police Station on Sunday in this connection accusing six persons and the computer operator of the school had already been suspended, said Zillur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Chittagong.

Marjina Akter, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed the filing of the case, saying that investigation was underway and they were yet to arrest anyone in this connection.

The admission test for fifth grade was held on December 19. The next day, the results of the test flooded the social media around 11:35pm. The official results were published at 12:30am on December 21.

Soon after the district administration took notice of the result leak incident, it launched an investigation and found involvement of the six accused, said sources.

The test results were stored in a computer of Chittagong Collegiate School. A section of teachers and staff of the school made printouts of the results and handed those over to Babla Dey, director of Babla Sir Coaching Centre, said DC Zillur Rahman. "...computer operator Ridwanul Haque, upper division clerk Faruk Ahmed, and assistant teachers Anwar Hossain and Anis Faruk of the school were involved in the [results leak] incident."

"It was also found that Babla collected various information about the admission test via Mohammad Mamun -- a director of Mamun Coaching Centre," said Zillur.



At first sight this might appear to be an under construction road. But in reality, this is a fully constructed road connecting Osmani International Airport, Badaghat and Kumargaon in Sylhet. Around Tk 27.5 crore was spent to complete the six-kilometre-long road seven years ago under a priority project of the local lawmaker. But before it could be inaugurated officially, asphalt layers from most parts of the road have dissipated. The photo was taken from Baish Tila area yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Three including one with bullet wounds held after 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three suspected muggers including one with bullet wounds were arrested following a "gunfight" between them and police in the capital's Jatrabari area early yesterday.

Mazharul Islam Nayan, 26, with injuries in the left knee, was receiving treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation under police custody.

The two other arrestees are Russell and Himu.

Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jatrabari Police Station, claimed that the "gunfight" took place at around 2:30am after a police team had rushed to Dhalpur area on information that some "criminals" attempted to mug people.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the "criminal" then opened fire on police, forcing the latter to open fire in retaliation, which left Nayan injured, claimed the OC.

Police captured two others from the spot, he added. The OC said the arrestees used to mug people and sometimes commit robbery at houses and goods-laden vehicles.

Meanwhile, police caught red-handed two suspected muggers from Dhanmondi Lake Park in the capital on Sunday night while robbing a pedestrian of his valuables, reports UNB.

The arrestees are Sajib Hossain and Ashique.

Police said one Sohel was walking through Road-15 along the Lake Park around 11:30pm when they tried to snatch his valuables. Hearing hue and cry for help, locals and patrol police rushed in and caught the two muggers, said Deputy Commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Masudur Rahman yesterday.

Farmland under threat

Top soil being dug up indiscriminately, sold to brick kilns in Mirzapur of Tangail



An excavator loading a tractor trailer with earth in Chandulia area of Mirzapur.

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

After the end of the monsoon last year, some traders started excavating large pits on the riverside croplands of Chandulia village in Mirzapur. Each of the pits was five to ten feet deep, and the huge amounts of soil dug up from them were being sent to brick kilns, leaving the adjoining lands vulnerable to erosion and affecting their fertility.

The villagers who themselves sold the earth to the traders only knew about the consequences this monsoon, when they found that top soil from nearby croplands was being washed down into the nearby Louhajang River.

This year the earth traders started doing the same around one month back after buying top soil from the land owners, but villagers are worried that such indiscriminate excavations may expose their land to further threats of erosion.

The villagers, however, do not dare speak out against the traders because the "traders have political influence."

A farmer of the village, Abdul Latif, said he cultivated mustard on 106 decimals and jackfruit on 46 decimals of the riverside land. These lands are facing the threat of erosion as traders are digging nearby, he said.

Another resident, Azim Uddin, has

already become a victim of last year's excavations -- earth from his land was eroded away due to the nearby pits. So, this year, he sold soil from 13 decimals of his land to the traders.

Abdul Latif, the operator of an excavator deployed at the spot, said trader Alhaj Shikder of neighbouring Deohata village, along with his two relatives, was digging up the top soil and selling it to brick kilns. Shikder rented the excavator and eight trucks from a local brick kiln owner, he added.

When asked, Alhaj Shikder said they bought the earth because the land owners sold it to them. He buys the soil of each decimal of land at Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000.

Momin Miah, a truck driver, said he transported 12 to 15 trucks of earth to local brick kilns every day on an average, each truck carrying 200 cubic feet of soil. According to truck drivers and villagers, 100 to 120 truckloads are being dug up from the area every day.

Although there is no guideline from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) on whether it was illegal to sell top soil of farmland, an agricultural officer said removal of the top layer of soil was harmful for the land.

"It destroys organic matter of the land, hence its fertility," said Abu Adnan, additional deputy director of DAE in Tangail.

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31 workers saved from Shyampur factory fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire fighters rescued 31 workers of a textile mill in the capital's Shyampur area yesterday after a fire broke out on the second floor of the factory's six-storey building.

Most of the workers, 26 in total, were rescued from the rooftop while five others were brought out through windows of different floors of the factory building, said fire service officials.

Around 9:00am, seven fire fighting units doused the blaze that erupted around 4:30am at Lucky Dyeing Mills Ltd, Rasel Shikder, duty officer at Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters, told The Daily Star.

There had been no casualties, he said, adding that the fire originated on the second floor where the warehouse of the factory is located and they are still investigating the cause of the fire.

The fire service personnel contained the fire on that floor in time before it could reach other floors of the factory, he also said.

Around 150 workers were working the night shift while many others were asleep inside the building. Most of them were able to climb down the stairs after the fire was detected, fire service officials said.

Boost glorious tradition of communal harmony: Hamid

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday called upon all to play an effective role from their respective position in strengthening the glorious tradition of communal harmony in Bangladesh.

"People of all religions are tied with mutual love and harmony. All have to play an effective role to strengthen our glorious tradition," he said while exchanging greetings with members of the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas Day at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Noting that the country has a long illustrious communal harmony, the President urged all to work together for building a happy, prosperous and non-communal Bangladesh.

Abdul Hamid said Christmas is being celebrated in Bangladesh this year with festivity as Pope Francis, the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, visited Bangladesh last month and exchanged views with the people.

"His official visit to Bangladesh would help uphold the image of the communal harmony prevailing in the country," the president hoped.

Referring to the plight of the displaced Rohingyas, he said Bangladesh has shown humanity across the globe by sheltering the Rohingyas, who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state being victims of military atrocities.

Abdul Hamid greeted the people of

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CHRISTMAS RECEPTION



Christians attend the Christmas morning Mass at the church of Japmala Rani in Pathorkata area of Chittagong city on the occasion of Christmas Day yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

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