

TEACHER RECRUITMENT 3 more held for leaking questions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police on Friday arrested three locals on charge of leaking recruitment test question papers for government primary school assistant teachers.

Mahedi Hasan, 20, of Patuakhali College Hostel, Shawn Islam Sumon, 23, of Dashmina upazila and Atiqur Rahman Rubel, 27, of Bauphal upazila were arrested in different areas of Patuakhali district.

Police filed a case with Patuakhali Police Station on Friday accusing 38 named and 40-50 unnamed suspects, said Inspector Mostafizur Rahman of the station.

A court has sent 36 arrestees to jail since the case was filed, he added.

Of the arrested suspects, Sheikh Habibur Rahman is an assistant teacher at Pakdal Primary School in Bauphal, Mohsin Mridha is a field officer at a fisheries office, Saddam Hossain and Mamun Reza Munshi are medical promotion officers at two pharmaceutical companies, Moynul Islam works at an aluminum company and Khalid Hossain Mridha is a lawyer, the inspector said.

Police on Friday arrested 45 suspects, including 10 women, in different areas of Patuakhali district. Of the arrestees, 12, including two employees of Patuakhali DC Office, had been convicted by a mobile court.

Ocasio-Cortez back behind the bar in minimum wage push

AFP, New York

American congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez returned to her restaurant roots on Friday, donning an apron and serving drinks in Manhattan in a push to raise the country's minimum wage.

The 29-year-old New Yorker and rising political star, who describes herself as a socialist, worked as a bartender and waitress in a restaurant in her hometown before entering Congress last year.

"I was nervous that I may have lost my touch - still got it! That muscle memory doesn't quit," she wrote on Twitter after an hour taking orders and swinging a cocktail shaker at a restaurant in her Queens constituency.

Ocasio-Cortez was promoting of the "One Fair Wage" campaign, which is calling for a raise to the federal hourly minimum wage to \$15 for service workers.

"The federal tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour. That is unacceptable. Any job that pays \$2.13 an hour is not a job. It's indentured servitude," she said behind the bar.

"All labor has dignity, and the way that we give labor dignity is by paying people the respect and value that they are worth."

Bronx-born Ocasio-Cortez, who has become a favorite target of Donald Trump supporters, owes part of her aura to her magnetic social media presence and her bold, progressive political platform.

2 'drug dealers'

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Keruntali area.

Lt Col Mohammad Faisal Hasan Khan, commanding officer of BGB Teknaf-2, claimed they conducted a raid on Teknaf's Kayokkhali canal on information that a group of drug traders were about to smuggle a large consignment of yaba there.

Around 3:00am, BGB men signaled a boat to stop on the canal but the boat did not pay any heed. Instead, the criminals opened fire on BGB men from the boat, forcing them to retaliate, he added.

During the "gunfight", Gafur and Sadek sustained bullet injuries while their cohorts managed to flee the scene, the BGB official further added.

They claimed to have recovered one lakh yaba pills from the spot.

Two BGB soldiers -- Al Imran and Abdul Awal -- were also injured during the "gunfight", said BGB sources.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify any of BGB's claims.

ANOTHER CONSIGNMENT OF 5.40 LAKH YABA PILLS RECOVERED

Another team of BGB recovered 5.40 lakh yaba pills from a deserted boat during a separate drive on the Damdamia river in Teknaf yesterday.

Around 12:15am, a BGB team raided the area on information.

Sensing their presence, yaba peddlers deserted their boat on the river and fled the scene. Later, BGB officials recovered the yaba pills from the boat, said Lt Col Faisal.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, poses for a photo with the leaders of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation member states at the 14th OIC Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit at Safa Palace in Makkah.

Help take Rohingya case to int'l court

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equality, and justice -- as demonstrated by Rasul-E-Kareem [SA]."

Regarding the recent terror attacks in New Zealand and Sri Lanka, Hasina extended sympathies and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families of the Christchurch attacks. She also condemned the terror attacks in Sri Lanka which saw the death of one of her grandchildren -- eight-year-old Sheikh Zayan.

"We share the pain and agony of helpless people of Palestine, Syria, and elsewhere getting mercilessly

murdered every day. Let this Summit set the course under your Majesty's stewardship to turn the tide. Let there be a beginning of an end to the Muslim indignity and misery," she said.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud hosted the conference of the OIC, comprising 57 member states, with a view to developing a unified stance of Muslim leaders on rising tensions in the Gulf.

Mentioning that the OIC was conceived to get back the land and sovereign rights of the Palestinian

brothers and sisters, safeguard dignity and rights of the Muslim Ummah, and strengthen solidarity and cooperation amongst the peoples of the Muslim world, Hasina said the Palestine question still persists, and the Muslim nations and communities still stand divided.

"We should make the best use of OIC institutions like the Islamic Development Bank by synchronising their policies and practices with OIC agenda under a programme."

She said the Islamic world needs to turn incubation of ideas

and innovations into marketable products and services. She invited all to participate in turning the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), which Bangladesh is hosting, into a centre of excellence.

The PM sought support of the OIC members for Bangladesh candidate Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque for the post of deputy director general of the International Organisation for Migration.

The OIC first met a month after an arson attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on August 21, 1969.

PHOTO: PID

Will conditions favour Tigers in opener?

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rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, who was suffering from a stiff back, also bowled in practice yesterday.

Bangladesh's last experience of playing South Africa was not a happy one as the Tigers were clinically outplayed 3-0 in an ODI series on tour in South Africa in October 2017. Before that, in 2015, Bangladesh won a three-match series 2-1 at home. There may be a sliver of hope for the Tigers as conditions at The Oval, while expected to be batting-friendly, may end up favouring them. The pitch will be the same one as that used in the World Cup opener between South Africa and hosts England, which the latter won handsomely by bundling the Proteas out for 207 in 39.1 overs. More importantly, the pitch held

some assistance for the spinners -- Bangladesh's strength and South African batsmen's weakness -- and England skipper Eoin Morgan said after the match that it played a little slow.

"We are playing on a used wicket, and on the Oval wicket, England scored more than 300 so we know it will be batting-friendly," Mashrafe said. "Since it's a used wicket, we have to see what role the spinners can play. We are hoping that it will be a flat wicket."

"We saw that the ball was gripping on the surface [in the opener], and if that happens that will be a positive for us," said Mashrafe. "I believe that will keep most of our pacers in the game as well as our spinners."

With cutter-specialist Mustafizur Rahman in Bangladesh's bowling

ranks, as well as Mashrafe who is adept at rolling his fingers over the seamers to keep the batsmen guessing, the pitch may well play to their favour if it continues behaving like it did on Thursday. Specialist spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz would also be interested as South Africa were troubled by England off-spinner Moeen Ali, who had the Proteas in two minds about which ones would turn and the ones that went straight on.

As far as team composition goes, it would seem that Saifuddin will be fit to play and perform his role as a death-overs specialist. Batsman Mahmudullah Riyad, who usually doubles as a useful part-time off-spinner, is still unable to bowl because of a lingering shoulder injury, according to Mashrafe and

that may open the door for Mosaddek Hossain to play at number seven instead of Sabbir Rahman as the former also excelled in the tri-series final, hitting a 24-ball 52 to overhaul a challenging total.

For South Africa, there is doubt over whether Hashim Amla, who suffered a blow to the head on Thursday from England fast bowler Jofra Archer, will play today. Pace supremo Dale Steyn may miss his second match in a row as he did not bowl during practice yesterday. However, South Africa's bench strength means that these would not be major setbacks. As their captain prescribed Bangladesh will have to forget the pressure associated with a World Cup game and treat this as just another match and hope that the conditions break their way.



A railway employee drives people off the roof of a carriage at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. Many try to travel this way during the Eid rush risking their lives.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

UN asks Sudan to resume power transfer talks

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday called on Sudan's military rulers and protest groups to go back to the negotiating table and quickly reach a deal on handing over power to a civilian-led government.

Guterres said in a statement that the sides must "conclude the negotiations over the transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional authority as soon as possible."

Negotiations between protesters and the military council have broken down over whether a planned transitional body would be headed by a civilian or a military figure.

The deadlock has raised fears that the military will seek to tighten its grip on power, crushing hopes of a democratic process in Sudan.

On Friday, hundreds of people rallied in support of Sudan's military rulers in Khartoum.

The military council has ruled the country since the ouster of president Omar al-Bashir on April 11, after months of protests against his authoritarian rule.

Boris Johnson would make 'excellent' PM

Says Trump as he heads to United Kingdom

AFP, London

US President Donald Trump has said British former foreign minister Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" prime minister to replace Theresa May.

Trump was speaking ahead of the start of a state visit to Britain tomorrow, during which he will meet May.

She is set to resign on June 7 over her failure to deliver a deal to bring Britain out of the European Union.

Asked by the British tabloid newspaper The Sun for his opinion on the 12 candidates to replace her, Trump said, "I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent."

"I have always liked him. I don't know that he is going to be chosen, but I think he is a very good guy, a very talented person."

He added that several candidates in the Conservative leadership race had asked for his support, without revealing who.

A key leave campaigner in the Brexit referendum, Johnson has said he is prepared to take Britain out of the European Union, "deal or no deal".

In the interview, Trump also repeated his criticism of how May has handled Brexit negotiations, saying



Donald Trump



Boris Johnson

Britain had allowed the EU to "have all the cards".

"It is very hard to play well when one side has all the advantage," he said. "I had mentioned to Theresa that you have got to build up your ammunition."

May concluded a divorce agreement with the EU in November but her deal was rejected three times by the British parliament, forcing her to seek a delay in leaving the bloc, now scheduled for October 31.

'NASTY' MEGHAN

Commenting on Britain's domestic politics and opining on ruling-party leadership choices at a

sensitive time would normally be an unusual move for a US president -- but not for Trump, a former reality-TV star who often speaks his mind.

It could however add to tensions during Trump's three-day visit to Britain.

Trump is to be received in Buckingham Palace tomorrow by Queen Elizabeth II.

He will then have a discussion with Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne who is known for speaking out against global warming -- an issue Trump is dismissive of. The president has decided to pull the US out of the Paris climate change agreement that seeks to curb carbon emissions.

A meeting with Meghan, the former US actress who married Charles's second son Prince Harry, is not on the agenda for Trump, whom she criticised during his 2016 campaign to be America's leader.

"What can I say? I didn't know that she was nasty," Trump said of Meghan, though he also said he was "sure she will do excellently" as a princess.

As for protests that are expected to dog Trump's state visit, the president insisted "I think I am really -- I hope -- I am really loved in the UK".

US preparing antitrust probe into Google

AFP, San Francisco

The US Department of Justice is preparing an antitrust investigation of Internet titan Google, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

The Journal cited unnamed sources close to the matter as saying the department would look into Google practices related to web search and other businesses.

Justice department officials share antitrust oversight with the Federal Trade Commission, which conducted a wide-ranging investigation of its own into Alphabet-owned Google that ended in 2013 with no action taken.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A new investigation would come as backlash grows against major tech companies that dominate key segments of the online economy.

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has argued that big firms such as Facebook, Google and Apple should be broken up through antitrust enforcement.

Alphabet's profit in the first three months of this year sagged under the weight of a hefty antitrust fine in the European Union.

Alphabet said profit in the first-quarter fell 29 percent to \$6.7 billion on revenue that climbed 17 percent to \$36.3 billion.

The earnings took a hit from a European Commission fine that amounted to \$1.7 billion at the end of March, according to the quarterly update.

Google's lucrative advertising platform remained the largest revenue driver for Alphabet, delivering more than \$30 billion in revenue, but costs rose sharply as well.

But Google continues to face pressure around the world from regulators, notably in Europe amid multiple investigations over alleged abuse of its dominance in internet search, advertising and its mobile system.

The latest fine imposed by Brussels cited Google's AdSense advertising service, saying it illegally restricted client websites from displaying messages from ad service rivals.

Warner fires

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In the day's earlier game, Henry returned figures of 3-29 and combined with fellow paceman Lockie Ferguson who also took three wickets to bowl out Sri Lanka for 136 in 29.2 overs in Cardiff.

Martin Gupthill and Colin Munro then struck unbeaten half-centuries to make short work of their modest target. The Kiwis cruised home in 16.1 overs to register their third win in a World Cup game by 10 wickets.

The right-left batting combination of Gupthill, who hit 73, and Munro, who scored 58, had little trouble in smashing the Sri Lankan bowlers to all parts of the ground.

Gupthill hammered eight fours and two sixes including one hit that sailed out of the ground.

But it was Henry's spell of seven straight overs that opened the gates for New Zealand's domination against the 1996 champions.

Henry stood out in the absence of senior paceman Tim Southee, who missed the game due to a calf injury, with his incisive pace and swing.

He struck with the second delivery of the game to send Lahiru Thirimanne trudging back to the pavilion after the left-handed opener had hit a boundary from the first ball.

Thirimanne was initially ruled not out by the on-field umpire, but the Kiwis successfully reviewed the lbw call in their favour after replays suggested the ball pitched on line and would have hit the batsman's leg stump.

The left-handed Karunaratne, who has returned to the one-day side after a gap of four years, then put on 42 runs for the second wicket with Kusal Perera.

But Williamson kept Henry on for the bowler's fifth over and the move paid off as he got Perera for 29 and Kusal Mendis without scoring on successive deliveries.

Dhananjaya de Silva played the hat-trick ball with a glorious off drive, but soon fell to the pace of Lockie Ferguson after being trapped lbw.

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne stood out amid the ruins with his unbeaten 52 including a 52-run stand with Thisara Perera, who made 27 off 23 balls, to give his team's total some respect.

The rest of the batting showed little promise with three scores of nought in the innings including from former captain Angelo Mathews.

Karunaratne registered his third ODI fifty in 81 balls as he ran out of partners after Lasith Malinga was bowled by Ferguson for an one.

Pacemen Colin de Grandhomme, James Neesham, Trent Boult and the team's only spinner in the XI Mitchell Santner claimed a wicket each.