

SCHOOLTEACHER RECRUITMENT

100 candidates miss test for bad weather

Six held for 'leaking' question papers

STAR REPORT
At least 100 candidates missed the recruitment tests for primary schoolteachers at a centre in Barishal yesterday due to adverse weather.

A chaos occurred outside the Barishal Government College as the candidates were barred from entering the examination centre by law enforcers for being late.

Ishrat Jahan, a candidate, said police blocked her way as she was late by about half an hour for the exam scheduled at 10:00am. "We reached late due to heavy rain. We could not sit for the examination as police did not let us in," she told this paper.

According to witnesses, police charged baton on the candidates as they started to chant slogans at one stage.

"Police were following the order of the magistrate deployed at the centre. He had ordered us not to let anyone enter the hall after 10:00am," said Barishal Metropolitan Police Commissioner (South) Moazzem Hossain. He rejected the claim that police charged batons.

In Jhenidah, six men were held for leaking question papers of the recruitment tests for primary school teachers.

Police had caught them from near the Arappur Bus Stand following a tip-off, said Jahangir Hossain, officer-in-charge of the Detective Branch of Police in the district.

The arrestees are Proshanta Kumar Das, Abdul Mojid, Al Mamun, Tainur Alam, Hasan Iqbal, and Ripon Hossain. Police found Tk 60,000 on them.

"They were selling each question paper for Tk 20,000," the police officer added.

Jhenidah District Statistics Office checked the question papers afterwards. No question from the seized papers appeared in the actual test," said the district's Deputy Collector Khairul Islam.

(Our correspondents in Barishal and Jhenidah contributed to this report.)



Candidates demonstrate outside Barishal Government College yesterday demanding that the authorities allow them to take the primary schoolteacher requirement test. The authorities barred at least 100 jobseekers from entering the exam centre as they reached there after the start of the exam at 10:00am. Some candidates said they were late due to bad weather.

PHOTO: STAR

MALAYSIA-BOUND REFUGEES

Mahathir vows to help Rohingyas

Calls for steps to stop oppression of the stateless minority group

AFP, Bangkok

Malaysia's prime minister yesterday vowed to help Rohingya Muslims seeking refuge in Malaysia, reiterating the call for Southeast Asian leaders to "stop the oppression" of the stateless minority group expelled from Myanmar.

Last year Mahathir Mohamad castigated Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) meet in Singapore for defending the military's crackdown on the Rohingyas.

His direct condemnation of Suu Kyi was a departure from the usually staid meetings of the 10-country regional bloc, whose members normally avoid confrontation.

But the crisis has spun out across the region, with desperate Rohingyas taking to boats bound for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In recent weeks scores of Rohingyas have boarded vessels for Malaysia -- a Muslim-majority country believed to be more sympathetic to their plight -- raising fears of a renewed trafficking route.

Mahathir yesterday, the eve of the Asean summit, vowed to continue helping the Rohingyas attempting to reach his shores.

"They are refugees. As much as we can do for them, we will," the 93-year-old premier told reporters

on the sidelines of a business forum in Bangkok.

"We hope something can be done to stop the oppression of the Rohingyas," he said when asked by AFP.

A deal for the Rohingyas to return to Myanmar has largely stalled as virtually no Rohingyas have chosen to return due to security fears.

Still an Asean-commissioned report leaked earlier this month to AFP predicted repatriation efforts would be complete in two years.

Mahathir also cast doubts over the timeline.

"If we can do it in two years, we will," he said, though he was "not so sure" about whether conditions on the ground remain favourable for group's repatriation.

More than 740,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar since August 2017, flooding into neighbouring Bangladesh with accounts of rape, mass killings and the razing of villages.

Myanmar refuses to grant them citizenship or basic rights, and refers to them as "Bengali", inferring that the Rohingyas are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

UN investigators have called for Myanmar's top generals to be tried for genocide, but Suu Kyi has defended the military's crackdown as necessary to flush out militants in Rakhine state.

PAYRA POWER PLANT

500 sued for killing Chinese national

Another 500 booked for vandalism

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 1,000 unidentified people have been sued in two cases filed with Patuakhali's Kalapara Police Station over the death of a Chinese engineer and vandalism at Payra power plant.

Wang Le Jhing, security director of Payra power plant, filed the cases on Thursday night accusing 500 to 600 unidentified people in each, Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalapara police station, confirmed.

A clash broke out between the Bangladeshi and Chinese workers in the power plant as Swabindra Das, 32, a Bangladeshi worker, lost his life after falling from the plant's terrace on Wednesday.

The agitating Bangladeshi workers attacked the Chinese workers and vandalised the power plant as rumors spread that Chinese workers mistakenly killed Swabindra and were trying to hide his body.

During the clash, seven workers, including five Chinese, were seriously injured.

Of the five Chinese workers, Zang Jon Seng, 26, an electrician at the power plant, died at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital on

Thursday.

Meanwhile, police arrested 16 people in connection with the two cases.

Of the 16, four -- Sujon Talukder, Sajib Sharif, Abdul Jalil, Mamun Talukder -- were arrested in Modhuper village Thursday night in connection with the case filed over vandalism in the power plant.

They were sent to jail yesterday after the law enforcers placed them before court.

Twelve other arrestees are Nasir Uddin, Sujon, Abdul Latif, Atiqur Rahman, Imam Hasan, Mehedi Hasan, Rasel Ali, Shamim Mia, Mamun, Iub Ali, Faruq and Bellal Hossain. They were all accused in the Zang Jon Seng murder case and arrested by Dakshin Karaniganj Police Station in Dhaka.

Police also claimed to have recovered four laptops from the arrestees that were snatched from Chinese workers during the attack.

Mozammel Haq, sub-inspector of Kalapara Police Station, was investigating the murder case while Shawkat Jahan, another SI of the same police station, was investigating case filed over vandalism.

Three banks hit by cyberattacks

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million between May 1 and 3 from cash machines in Cyprus, Russia and Ukraine. Hackers used credit cards and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) of the DBBL to steal the money.

The DBBL came to know about the fraud when Visa, a global payment solution provider, asked it to settle payments for transactions made by the bank's "clients" in Cyprus.

Initially, the bank refused to pay as its server didn't show any of the transactions. Then Visa came up with "solid proof", and the bank was compelled to pay, said sources in the DBBL.

The DBBL reported the matter to the BB which held two meetings with the heads of IT, retail banking and card divisions of all banks in the middle of last month to discuss the issue.

Around a couple of weeks later, the DBBL's nine ATMs fell prey to an international hacker group that stole around Tk 16 lakh on May 31. Law enforcers later arrested six Ukrainians in connection with the theft.

A senior BB official, who attended the meetings last month, said the latest incident of cyberattack is a matter of concern for all banks as it exposed vulnerabilities in their cybersecurity controls.

"It can happen to any bank if it doesn't protect its IT system with updated software and anti-virus," the official told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Contacted, DBBL Managing

Director Abul Kashem Md Shirin declined to comment.

But the other two banks that faced cyberattacks admitted that their cybersecurity systems were compromised.

"Somebody tried to break into our security system recently, but failed. We didn't incur any financial losses," said NCC Bank Managing Director Mosleh Uddin Ahmed.

After the hacking attempt, the bank suspended payments through the automated cheque processing system for a few days, he added.

Prime Bank Managing Director Rahel Ahmed said they had faced a hacking attempt but was able to avert financial losses.

However, multiple sources confirmed to this newspaper that the two banks lost money. The amounts, however, were not that big.

Voicing concern over the latest cyberattack, a number of experts have criticised banks for their lax attitude towards strengthening their IT systems, and said this left them vulnerable to fraud.

Out of 58 banks in the country, only three -- Eastern Bank Limited, City Bank and Mutual Trust Bank Limited -- have got certification for complying with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) set by Visa, MasterCard, Discover Financial Services, JCB International and American Express.

The only other local firm that has

the certification is IT Consultants which runs Q-Cash, a payment processing consortium.

The DBBL has the largest network of cash machines and the highest number of debit cards in circulation, but it does not have the PCI DSS certification.

Banks are not making enough investments to strengthen their IT security and human resources, and this is one of the key reasons for vulnerabilities in their cybersecurity systems, said the head of the IT department of a leading private bank.

"Many banks use below par and pirated software, which is very vulnerable to fraud," the official told this newspaper on the condition of anonymity.

Another senior banker blamed a lack of awareness among boards of directors and top management of banks for poor investment in IT security.

In a study last year, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) found 28 percent of the banks had no preparation to tackle a largescale cyberattack.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahbubur Rahman Alam, associate professor of the BIBM, said banks in Bangladesh got automated without adequate preparation.

"Many banks went for automation without sufficient IT infrastructure. The time has come to address these crucial issues. The banks should hire skilled IT professionals," he added.

Undaunted after loss

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down to brass tacks, their chances of making the semifinal have become slim after the 48-run defeat against Australia the previous day. However,

after chasing 322 with 51 balls to spare against West Indies and scoring a spirited 333 for eight against five-time champions Australia, the Tigers have suddenly gone from underdogs to a team to watch, if not currently as genuine contenders then certainly for their entertainment value.

For the first three matches, casual fans would have known about Shakib Al Hasan, who topped the run charts at that stage with a century against England. But from West Indies, they knew about Shakib and Liton Das, and against Australia, they would have taken notice of centurion Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad, whose acceleration near the end of the innings briefly raised hopes of a heist.

Adulation from locals notwithstanding, Bangladesh do have a tough road ahead. They have to win their three remaining matches against Afghanistan in Southampton, India in Birmingham and Pakistan in London to stay in contention for a semifinal place. But it was also a measure of the Tigers' growing confidence that they did not seem worried on the morning after a match that reduced their chances considerably. Just as Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur did not lose belief that Australia's 381 could be conquered even after being reduced to 175 for four in the 30th

over, the rest of the squad, most smiling as they left the hotel, also seemed to believe that they were not out of it as long as there were matches to be played.

Bangladesh reached Southampton at around six in the evening yesterday, and they will take part in an optional practice session today. Still at fifth in the 10-team table, Bangladesh will take on Afghanistan on Monday, before heading to Birmingham to play India on July 2.

Earlier, the Bangladeshis refused to return to Bangladesh or even go to Tunisia, but wanted to go to Europe. A foreign ministry official told The Daily Star that they were trying to convince the other migrants to return to Bangladesh.

According to IOM officials, the migrants must be brought back home on a voluntary basis. The foreign ministry official, requesting anonymity, said if the rest of the migrants did not return home, it would be difficult for them to get help from Tunisia in future.

"Relatives of the migrants should help convince them to return home," the official said.

Since the civil war began in Libya after the fall of the country's leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, the North African country has become a major route of human trafficking or smuggling to Europe.

On May 9, a boat carrying around 65 migrants, including 40 Bangladeshis, capsized in the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Tunisia.

According to Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, some Bangladeshis among other nationalities were also rescued from boats in the sea on their way to Europe in recent weeks.

The process for their repatriation was underway, said ASM Ashrafur Islam, labour counsellor of the embassy.

17 migrants

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25km off the coast on June 18, only after Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya Sheikh Sekander Ali convinced them to come ashore.

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For the good of the community

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And it helped the Rohingyas in a big way.

"Last year when I was providing monsoon preparedness message, people of my block were becoming scared. But this year they seem quite confident to face any calamities ... Now people are cautious and confident," said Jaheda.

"I was driven out from Myanmar forcibly by the military; I was always in pain. It has been a great experience for me ...

"I also keep an eye on my community households during heavy rain and if there is any cyclone forecast. I have provided monsoon preparedness messages to the Rohingya community. They have been benefited ... Now they understand the cyclone flag."

Heavy rain is a nightmare for people living in the hills, especially those in Cox's Bazar, where thousands of acres of rich vegetation had to be cleared to make room for the Rohingyas camps making the area prone to landslides.

With its long coastline and a landscape consisting of flat deltaic plains and sandy hills, Cox's Bazar is highly exposed to natural hazards and extreme weather, including cyclones, torrential rain, landslides, flash floods, storm surges and extreme temperatures.

Between May 11 and December 31 last year, a total of 55,057 people in the Rohingyas camps were affected by landslides and erosion, flash flood, storms and waterlogging, according to a report of UNDP.

Experts say Rohingyas do not want to leave even after disaster warnings are issued as they fear they might not get relief materials. So counselling of the Rohingya people and making them aware is the biggest challenge.

Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam told The Daily Star that the initiative was very good as the Rohingyas people are involved in making their own people aware on various issues.

"Communication is very important

to reach a community during crisis moments. When there is a crisis, the Rohingyas people will come forward to their fellow community members," he said.

In the camps of one of the world's most persecuted ethnic minorities, creating awareness is an effective way to avert natural disasters.

"We regularly develop messages assessing the needs of the community. We are now targeting to build a volunteer network of 6,500 people to reach all the households in the camp area," Shamim Iftekhar, team lead of Brae's communication for development programme, told The Daily Star.

Monira Begum, another community mobilisation volunteer, said when she campaigned, people asked her a lot of questions.

"People have curiosity regarding the symbol of signals and preparedness issues. I have already conducted more than 100 sessions with the community people on the signal system and preparation," she said.

Four killed in 'gunfights'

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On several occasions in the past, police had tried to arrest him but failed, he added.

In Gazipur, Babul Mia, 28, of Sreepur upazila's Jahangirpur village, was killed in a similar "gunfight" with Rab, reports our correspondent in the district.

According to Rab's Assistant Police Superintendent Kamruzzaman, Babul was accused in 24 cases, including narcotics and robbery cases.

He was killed in a "gunfight" when some Rab members were carrying out a raid in Dombari area of the upazila around 3:15am, he said.

After the "gunfight", Rab personnel found the body and recovered a pistol and 5,000 yaba pills from it, claimed the official.

However, Babul's father Afaz Uddin said that his son had been arrested by Rab from a hospital in the capital's Khilkhet area on Thursday noon.

Asked, Kamruzzaman rejected the allegation. "This is not true," he said.

In Meherpur, Enamul Haq, 42, was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of drug traders in Gangni upazila's Kazipur village in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off that two groups of drug peddlers were exchanging bullets in a bordering area of the upazila, a police team rushed to the spot around 3:00am. Later, they recovered the bullet-hit body from there, said Obaidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station.

The other criminals managed to flee, the OC claimed, adding that Enamul was wanted in six cases.

He also claimed to have recovered a pistol, two bullets, and one kilogramme of marijuana from the spot.

[Our correspondents in Chattogram, Gazipur and Kushtia contributed to this report]

Yaba trader killed by rivals

Police say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A yaba trader was killed in Cox's Bazar yesterday by his rivals, police said.

Two men barged the home of Md Ismail, 25, in West Pankhali village under Hnila union of Teknaf upazila around 7:00am, said the victim's brother Hafez Ibrahim.

"Abdur Rahman and Md Selim came from Shikdarpara by motorcycle. They stabbed Ismail indiscriminately and left," Ibrahim told this correspondent, adding that Ismail was pronounced dead after being taken to hospital.

Citing information gathered through primary investigation, Teknaf police OC Pradip Kumar Das said Ismail was killed because of enmity prevailing among yaba traders in the area.