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Three newspapermen held for publishing 'leaked' questions

Examination held despite leakage of question paper

By Staff Correspondent

Three newspapermen were arrested in Chittagong and Comilla for publishing 'leaked' question papers of the SSC examinations.

Police Sunday night arrested the publisher and the Joint News Editor of a Chittagong daily. The Editor of a Comilla daily was arrested yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong adds: Publisher of the Daily Karnafuli Absar Uddin Chowdhury and Joint News Editor Mamunur Rashid were arrested on charge of 'leaking official secrecy.'

They were, however, released on bail yesterday.

Police said both of them

were arrested in connection with a case filed by the Secretary of Chittagong Education Board for publishing a report on 'leakage of question paper' (English second part) along with the said question paper on the day of the examination on April 18.

Police said charges were also brought against two other staff of the daily— Editor Al Mahmud and Reporter Abul Hasnat— for violating Official Secrecy Act of Public Examination, 1980.

They could not be arrested, police added.

Both Absar Uddin and Mamunur Rashid were produced before the CMM Court yesterday

afternoon. They were granted bail in the evening.

Police said, if the charges proved true, the accused would face a four-year imprisonment or fines or both.

Staff of the Daily Karnafuli informed this correspondent that some plainclothes policemen came to their office at 11 Sunday night and took the publisher Absar Uddin and Joint News Editor Mamun on the pretext of having a talk with the Assistant Commissioner of Police.

They were later interrogated and arrested at midnight, the staff of the daily said.

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CHITTAGONG, Apr 20: The SSC examination in Bangla second paper was held in the district as per schedule today, although all the three sets of question papers leaked out earlier, reports UNB.

Different dailies, including Dainik Azadi, published the hand-written copies of the question papers of Bangla second paper. The authority took the examination through Ka set.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner K M Habibullah admitted the leakage of Ka, Kha and Ga sets of the question pa-

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3 newspapermen held

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When contacted, Secretary of Chittagong Education Board Nur Hossain said this correspondent over telephone that two separate probe committees have been formed to investigate the question paper leakage.

The daily Karnafuli has published question papers of the previous three day's SSC examinations in advance which is punishable under the Secrecy Act, according to UNB.

Board Chairman Prof Ahisan Ullah told the agency that it was the duty of the daily to inform the matter of leakage of the question papers to the Board authority maintaining secrecy, but instead of doing so, it encouraged the students to follow those by publishing question papers.

Meanwhile, Chittagong city Jamaat-e-Islami held a protest rally and submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner yesterday demanding unconditional release of Absar Uddin Chowdhury, who is the

Nayeb-e-Amir of the unit.

Chittagong Journalists' Union in a statement also expressed concern over the arrest and called upon all journalists to play a responsible role by showing respect to law.

In Comilla, Kotwali police yesterday arrested the Editor and publisher of a local newspaper for publishing a 'leaked' question paper.

Prof Mofizur Rahman, the Editor and publisher of daily Comilla Barta, was produced before the magistrate court which ordered to sent him to jail.

Police said the Comilla Barta Editor and publisher was arrested upon the warrant issued after the Controller of the Comilla Education Board, Prof Abdur Rahim Sarkar, filed a case against him under section 4 of the Official Secrecy Act of Public Examination 1980.

The Comilla Barta published the 'leaked' questions of Bengali first paper in its issue on Sunday.