

PRIMARY EXAMS 2012

English exam held amid allegation of question leak

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THE primary students took the English terminal examination on Monday amid allegations of question paper leakage.

Guardians alleged that at least seven questions out of 12 of the English question paper were leaked. The seven leaked questions carry 65 out of 100 marks.

The hand written 'questions' that New Age found from Narsingdi district on Sunday night also found the seven questions in common with those in the original

question paper.

Primary and mass education ministry and direc-

torate of primary education officials dismissed the

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English exam held

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reports of question leakage as 'rumours' and said that suggestions of some coaching centres were found similar to the questions in the English paper.

Some guardians of the students taking primary examination from Radhanagar Government Primary School on Sunday night told New Age that they had found a 'hand written English question paper'.

The hand written paper asked students to write a passage on 'a visit to zoo', 'a dialogue on a ghost story', the poem Cloud or Little Pussy, a paragraph on 'your friend' and 'a letter to your friend about your country', one of the guardians told New Age.

They said that hand written 'question paper' was sold between Tk 200 and Tk 2,000.

The original paper asked the examinees to read a passage printed in the paper on 'a visit to zoo' and answer three questions - one containing 10 multiple choice questions,

five fill in the blanks with correct words and five short questions - all three carrying a total of 25 marks.

Question 4 asked the students to write a poem 'Cloud' or first eight line of 'Little Pussy' carrying 10 marks; question 9 asked them to make a dialogue on a ghost story using 'would' or 'could' that carries 10 marks; question 11 asked them to write a paragraph on 'your friend' that carries 10 marks and question 12 asked students to write a letter to a pen friend about 'your country' carrying 10 marks.

Director general of the directorate of primary education, Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, told New Age, 'There was no question leakage rather we found similarity between some questions in the paper and suggestions made by coaching centres.'

He said that they had found similarity of questions related to the poem, passage and letter.

'It is a practice that questions of immediate past year is not repeated in the following year's exams so it is easy to make a suggestion on poems and letters as the syllabus was small containing five poems and a few letters,' he said.

Primary and mass education secretary MM Neazuddin told New Age that the English question paper was not leaked. He said that they had heard rumours that the questions had been leaked and sent officials to different areas to check it.

Meanwhile, Neazuddin confirmed that the Bengali examination of the primary exams would not be cancelled as the government-formed committee to investigate the alleged leakage of the paper found that there were no question leaks.

The primary and mass education ministry on November 22 formed the three-member probe committee headed by its joint secretary Gias Uddin Ahmed following allegations of leakage of the question paper for Bengali exam held on the day.

The committee submitted the report on Sunday and Gias Uddin Ahmed told New Age that the investiga-

tion had found that 50 per cent questions provided in suggestions of some coaching centres were in common with original questions.

'Someone, involved with the process of framing, printing or preserving the question paper, might have memorised some of the questions which somehow spread,' he added.

Gias Uddin said the committee had recommended two sets of question papers and increasing intelligence activities before and during public exams to check such question leaks.

The Primary and the Ibtedayi Completion examinations 2012 began on November 21.

This year 29,69,393 students - 26,41,067 from primary schools and 3,28,326 from madrassahs - are taking the terminal examinations that will end on November 29.