

Fake certificate racket busted

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HYDERABAD: Task Force officials have arrested an eight-member gang, including some foreign nationals, for selling fake certificates in the city.

Acting on a tip off, police arrested Mohammed Tousif Raza, 36, Fayaq Ali, 28, Sameer Ahmed, 24, and Mohammed Mujtab Ali, 32, of

Santosh Nagar, Lataf Ali, 24, and Mirza Farhatullah Baig, 40, of Bandlagud, and two Sudanese nationals - Sabri, 29, of West Guref and Abdel Moniem, 39, of Amamlak city.

Police seized 500 fake certificates, five rubber stamps, two computers, two passports and a cell phone from their possession.

According to Task Force DCP Kamalasan Reddy, Tousif Raza is the coordinator of Moghal College Study Centre situated at Safa Arcade, Mehdiapatnam. Another accused Fayaq Ali had also once worked as a coordinator of the same college. Other accused are close associates of Tousif.

The Moghal College is affiliated to Sikkim Manipal University, Karnataka, and authorised to conduct various distance degree and PG courses.

As most of the candidates who took semester exams failed, Tousif through his conduits procured bogus educational certificates from University of Technology and Sciences (UTS), Raipur, VMRF deemed university, Salem, Vidyapeeth University, Udaypur, IASE University, Rajasthan, and Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.

"He used to supply the certificates to the candidates by charging Rs 30 to 35,000 for a degree course, Rs 50 to Rs 60,000 for a PG degree and Rs 70 to Rs 80,000 for an engineering degree," Kamalasan Reddy said.

He said that most of the students of Moghal College were from East African countries like Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Yemen. Sabri came to India in 2001 on a student visa. Though his visa had expired in 2004, he continued to stay in the country.

The DCP said that Sabri used to bring students from Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia to Tousif and charge Rs 3,000 per candidate as his fee.

Tousif established contacts with one Manoj Chouhan working in the examination branch of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, to answer the letters of various foreign embassy's regarding certificate verification. "Manoj Chauhan used to send fake letters to the embassies concerned stating that the certificates were genuine," Kamalasan Reddy said.

The accused were handed over to the Central Crime Station (CCS) for further investigation.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Fake-certificate-racket-busted/articleshow/3529134.cms>