

PSC forced to cancel leaked test



PHOTO: STAR

Students demonstrate against the leakage of the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test questions on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday forced the Public Service Commission (PSC) to cancel the preliminary civil service examinations following widespread protest over leakage of question papers.

The cabinet yesterday made the move after discussion the test scam.

The PSC then called an emergency meeting and scrapped the tests taken on February 28 to recruit officers in different cadre services.

This is the first time that a civil service exam was cancelled. Over 1.20 lakh candidates appeared in the test against 4,450 posts.

"Although there was no evidence of leakage of questions, the PSC decided to cancel the test to remove any confusion and controversy," said a PSC press release last night.

The PSC Chairperson Prof. ZN Tahmid Begum was not available for comments.

The PSC got embroiled in a controversy after multiple choice questions of the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service exams were leaked, copies of which were freely sold at between Tk 100 and Tk 10,000 per set.

A Dhaka University student took

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BNP lawmaker demands removal of CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ruling party lawmaker yesterday demanded in the Jatiya Sangsad removal of Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed.

The Speaker then gave a ruling suggesting the lawmaker to take recourse to law.

Rising on a point of order, Shahidul Haq Jamal of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sought the parliament's protection in view of the CEC's reported comment that bothered the legislator.

He read out a news item published yesterday in daily Dainik Dinkal which quoted the CEC as telling one of his colleagues (a

former judge) why he (the former judge) did not "hang" Jamal (the MP), who was accused in five cases earlier. The case was tried in the judge's court.

The Chair noted that asking any judge or magistrate for capital punishment to any MP does not come under the jurisdiction of a CEC. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar found the CEC's remark anti-constitutional. To inform the House, the Chair read out the constitutional provisions on functions of the Election Commission (EC).

He referred to Articles 118, 119, 123, 139(1), 96 (3) 46(5) of the Constitution which deal with

formation of the EC, its function, tenure, removal of its members, formation of supreme judicial council and so on.

The Chair explained that the President can form a supreme judicial council to investigate the CEC's conduct and if the probe is positive in terms of mental or physical disorder or moral turpitude, then only the President can remove him.

The Speaker said, "Although we usually do not take newspaper report into cognisance, but as you raised the issue, we look into the provisions."

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A 90 per cent hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaked questions of the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations match with over 90 per cent of the original test questions.

The Daily Star obtained a set of leaked questions. The first one is "What is the name of the aborigines of New Zealand?" The same appeared as the second question of the set No. 3 of the BCS preliminary examinations.

The second question of the leaked paper is: "Which country has Black Cat commandos?" It was the number 11 question in the exams.

The leaked paper also contained questions like "Who is the builder of Paharpur Buddhist temple? Who is the author of *Kashboner Konya*? Who is the author of *Shashyato Banga*? Or what is the atomic number of arsenic?"

And they all matched with the original questions.

The leaked paper contains questions on English grammar, mathematics, geography, history, general knowledge and geometry.

'Govt did not demolish lawyers' podium'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told the parliament yesterday that the government did not demolish the podium erected on the Supreme Court premises by lawyers for their sit-in.

Police demolished the podium raised in front of the Chief Justice's office building upon a general diary (GD) filed with the Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) by the Supreme Court registrar, he said.

The law minister noted that in the 1972 Constitution, there was a

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SHAZNEEN CASE

Hearing adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of the Shazneen case has been adjourned till March 9.

Kazi Rahamat Ullah, Judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday adjourned the hearing following time petitions by the prosecution and the defence lawyers.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted the two petitions and fixed the date.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lankan opener Marvan Atapattu scoops one over the slips on his way to a magnificent 124 off 128 balls against South Africa at Kingsmead yesterday. It was his ninth one-day hundred.

Atapattu anchors Sri Lanka

AFP, Durban

Sri Lankan opening batsman Marvan Atapattu hit a flawless century as he and veteran Aravinda de Silva caned the South African bowling attack in a crucial World Cup Pool B match at Kingsmead on Monday.

Atapattu (124) and De Silva (73) shared a 152-run fourth wicket stand to lift Sri Lanka to 268 for nine from 50 overs after winning the toss in the day-night match.

South Africa, needing to win to stay in the tournament, dropped veteran fast bowler Allan Donald but the gamble did not pay off as Monde Zondeki, 20, his replacement, conceded 35 runs off six overs.

Zondeki was not alone in being expensive, however, as Atapattu and De Silva gave a display of classic batting.

South Africa were left requiring the highest target reached in day-night matches at Kingsmead, one more than Australia chased successfully against South Africa last season.

Atapattu was in majestic form almost from the start, driving South African captain Shaun Pollock for three fours in the third

over of the innings.

He went to his ninth one-day international century off 112 balls and scored his 124 off 128 balls with 18 fours, many the result of immaculate timing as he bisected fielders patrolling the boundary.

De Silva, 37, started slowly before unleashing some powerful shots, including pulled sixes off Makhaya Ntini and Andrew Hall. He also hit six fours in a 78-ball innings.

Atapattu and De Silva were both caught playing forcing shots within the space of three deliveries after putting on 152 off 143 balls.

Four more wickets fell as South Africa were able to restrict the Lankans to 25 runs off the last five overs.

Jacques Kallis was easily South

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TODAY'S MATCHES

Pakistan vs Zimbabwe

Venue: Bulawayo

Live on BTV at 1:45 pm

West Indies vs Kenya

Venue: Kimberley

Time: 1:45 pm