

BCS test scam Opposition demands JS probe, govt denies pushing PSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday said it did not influence the Public Service Commission (PSC) into cancelling the civil service exams, questions of which were leaked.

The question leakage was also not discussed in Monday's cabinet meeting, several senior ministers told the parliament last night.

The denials came following opposition lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta's observation that the PSC cancelled the Bangladesh Civil Service preliminary test only after a decision in the cabinet.

The opposition demanded immediate formation of a parliamentary committee headed by the Speaker to probe the leakage.

The opposition lawmakers deplored that the PSC chairman continued to deny leakage even after the cancellation of the test taken on Thursday.

Industries Minister MK Anwar vouched that neither the prime minister nor any of the cabinet members had discussed the issue in Monday's cabinet meeting.

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Al-Hiqma leader goes 'scot-free' in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A leader of the banned Shahadat-e Al-Hiqma Sayed Kawsar Hussain is reportedly moving freely in the city and different northern towns.

After he escaped arrest in an arms case on February 15, he was seen frequently in some city areas including Naodapara, Horogram and Mohisbathan. But he has so far managed to avoid arrest for mysterious reasons, alleged a source in the detective branch.

In a letter sent to several local journalists recently, Kawsar refuted home minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury's statement given in the parliament on February 9 banning his organisation.

In his letter, Kawsar claimed that the home minister provided wrong information about his organisation.

Kawsar, held and detained in April last year following allegations of creating panic and cheating people through an NGO in the city, is reorganising the party after being freed on bail in August.

He was implicated and wanted in an arms case filed on February 15 when Shamim Uddin, one of Kawsar's associates, was caught with firearms and ammunitions in the city.

Dengue to become doubly dangerous

Experts warn as 3 cases reported in city last week; DCC indifferent to looming threat



Star file photo of an Aedes mosquito.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts have warned about a two-fold rise in the number of dengue patients in the coming rainy season in the city if spraying of larvaicide does not start soon.

Three people were reportedly diagnosed with dengue fever last week, all from the Mohammadpur and Rayerbazar areas of the city.

Although blood tests were not done, doctors say the patients bore dengue symptoms such as pains in the joints, high fever and dizziness.

In the last season, about 3,000 people were hospitalised across the country with dengue infection while about 150 others had died of

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No enquiry yet into BCS test scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has not yet initiated an enquiry into the leakage of question papers for the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary examinations.

And that might allow the real culprits to go unpunished, sources said.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) still sticks to its position that there was nothing wrong with the test held last Friday and, therefore, it took no follow up measures.

But overwhelming evidence of question paper leakage had forced the government to intervene and ask the PSC to cancel the test. The

move, however, undermined the position of the PSC, a constitutional body, observed a former PSC chairman and some academicians.

The PSC till yesterday did not want to see the 'hand-written copy' of the leaked question paper, that the officer-in-charge of Ramna police station, Mahbubur Rahman received from a Dhaka University student at least 90 minutes before the test.

"Though I did not inform the PSC of the incident, I informed the high police officials", he said. "It is the job of concerned authorities to investigate the matter. If the government wanted an investigation, the police could interrogate the students, who got the hand-written

questions before the test, to unearth the root of the scandal."

Mahbubur Rahman received a copy of the leaked questions, and out of the 75 questions in the copy, 72 appeared in the question paper given at the exam hall.

The question papers are secured in a vault in the PSC office building till the examinations are taken. The key to this vault is restricted to a designated PSC member and the controller of examinations. However, this time this key was not

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Bomb attack kills 19 at Philippines airport

AFP, Davao

At least 19 people were killed and more than 100 others injured yesterday in a bomb attack at a key airport in the rebellion-torn southern Philippines, officials and reports said.

The blast struck a shed outside the Davao airport terminal amid the backdrop of increased Muslim guerrilla activity in the region ahead of a planned deployment of US anti-terror troops.

Another bomb exploded at a bus depot in Davao city but no one was injured while three others were wounded in a blast at a city health office in the nearby city of Tagana shortly after the airport attack.

The authorities shut down Davao airport as a precaution.

The relatively peaceful Davao has 1.2 million people and is the largest city of the southern Philippines.

"It's a very powerful bomb. The waiting shed literally exploded," Davao Vice Mayor Luis Bongoyan said of the airport blast.

"We have suspects and we are

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Meherpur killing: 24 arrested

UNB, Meherpur

Police arrested 24 people from different parts of Gangni upazila in connection with the killing of two leaders of Awami League and BNP.

Awami League leader and former UP chairman Bazlu Bishwas and BNP leader and businessman Amirul Islam Bakul were killed in a brushfire by the outlaws at Gangni Bazaar here on Sunday.

IGP Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury and DIG of Khulna Range AKM Enayetullah Dewan visited the spot yesterday.

They were accompanied by the deputy commissioner and police superintendent.

All business establishments and shops at the bazaar remained closed yesterday protesting the killing.

CEC for army to oversee Barisal, Sylhet polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed would seek army deployment in the coming Barisal and Sylhet city corporation polls.

The CEC told his decision to journalists at the Election Commission (EC) yesterday in the reaction to the Awami League's (AL) demand for troops.

The issue would be discussed at an EC meeting on March 8.

An AL delegation led by Abdus Samad Azad met the CEC Monday and demanded army deployment.

Four policemen suspended for assaulting journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen were put under suspension as they assaulted and injured five journalists at a police camp at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday for protesting release of three persons after taking bribe.

They are Sergeant Shahdat, Havilder Abdul Mannan and constables Raybul Islam and Benu, police said last night.

Journalist Monir Hossain of daily Dainik Sangram, while on professional work at the DMCH emergency, challenged three persons when they falsely identified themselves as journalists. They were moving around suspiciously.

The three were Sheikh Mahbub Rahman, Assistant Accountant of Rajuk, Munjur Hossain, a contractor and Mosharraf Hossain, a trader.

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Zimbabwe ride on rain

AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe qualified for the Super Sixes of the World Cup after their match against Pakistan was rained off yesterday, knocking England out of the tournament.

Pakistan were 73 for three in 14 overs after electing to take first strike when rain hit the Queens Sports Club and forced play to be halted three times before being called off for the day.

The two points earned from the match took Zimbabwe's tally to 14, two more than England, and lifted the co-hosts to the next round from Group A behind Australia and India.

Zimbabwe had the last laugh over England after Nasser Hussain's men boycotted their game in Harare on February 13 due to security and moral concerns.

Pakistan, meanwhile, will return home with just 10 points, their worst World Cup display ever after winning the title in 1992 and finishing runners-up to Australia four years ago in England.

"We played poor cricket throughout the World Cup and don't deserve to be there in the next round," captain Waqar Younis said.

"We will sit down and work out where we lacked. There is a lot of cricket coming up so that we have to study our failings quickly."

Pakistan are scheduled to play in the Sharjah Cup against Sri Lanka and South Africa from April 1-10.

Premier batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq's miserable tournament continued when he was caught by Guy Whittall at deep mid-wicket off Sean Ervine for three.

Inzamam finished the tournament with just 19 runs from six innings.

When play started 75 minutes late, Saleem Elahi was trapped leg-

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PHOTO: AFP

TAKE SIX! Zimbabwean superstar Andy Fowler signs the number six in Bulawayo yesterday after his team qualified for the Cricket World Cup 2003 Super Six when their match against Pakistan was rained off.

Super Sixes from Friday

AFP, Johannesburg

Reigning champions Australia will launch the second stage of the World Cup at Centurion on Friday when they take on Sri Lanka in the first match of the Super Sixes.

The Australians, who swept through unbeaten in the preliminary league to top Group A, face a key clash against New Zealand at the Wanderers here on March 11 before taking on Kenya in their final match at Durban on March 15.

The three Group A qualifiers --

Australia, India and Zimbabwe -- will play their Group B rivals -- Sri Lanka, Kenya and New Zealand -- in the nine-match Super Sixes round.

The six teams carry forward four points earned through wins against fellow qualifiers from their respective groups and one point for wins against the non-qualifiers and half-a-point for tied or abandoned matches.

Australia are comfortably placed with 12 maximum points, but the surprise packet of the Super Sixes is

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