

Record number of BCS exam candidates this year

By Sohel Manzur

The number of applicants for the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination has increased significantly in the last few years.

This year's participation in the BCS examination has broken all previous records.

A total of 31,381 applicants applied for the 13th BCS examination for only 1134 posts.

The number of candidates in 1990 were 30,677 for 1228 posts while the numbers in 1989, 1988, 1986, 1985 and 1984 were 28,419, 37,348, 33,504, 24,272 and 14,272 for 1247, 1629, 2498, 4263 and 1597 posts respectively.

The number of candidates for one post this year is 34 while the numbers in 1990, 1989, 1988, 1986, 1985 and 1984 were 25, 23, 23, 15, 6 and 9 respectively for the same number of posts.

The numbers of posts recommended by the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the 13th BCS is the lowest in the last seven years while the number of applicants is the highest within the same time-limit.

Observers feel that the recent extension of the age-limit for government jobs from 28 years to 30 years announced by the government may have caused the increased participation in the BCS examination.

It may be mentioned that 922 persons elected in the 10th BCS examination have

still not been appointed by the concerned ministry and the final results of 11th BCS examination is yet to be published.

The last date for submitting application forms for the 13th BCS examination was July 31 and the BCS preliminary examination is likely to be held in September this year.

Meanwhile, a number of BCS candidates alleged that the fees for appearing this examination was too high in comparison with the earlier ones, which has kept many of the poor students from appearing the examination.

The previous fees was Taka 100 which was increased two years ago to Taka 250.

AHM Nooruddin, Secretary of PSC, when asked about the matter said the enhancement of the examination fees was not his concern.

BCU memorandum to Acting President to root out terrorism

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), the student wing of CPB, submitted a memorandum to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed demanding re-opening of all closed educational institutions.

The BCU also sought his personal initiative to root out terrorism from the educational institutions.

Earlier BCU held a rally in front of the National Press Club, which was addressed by Nasiruddoza, Abdullah Al-Kafi and Rahim Hossain Prince.

Speakers at the rally accused some of the student organisations for unleashing terrorism throughout the country and called upon the concerned political parties to rein in their student forces.

The rally also held the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for the existing situation.

Select Committee on judiciary given two more months

By Staff Correspondent

The parliamentary Select Committee on the Constitution Amendment Bill for ensuring the independence of the judiciary was on Tuesday given another two months' time to complete its report.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking at the inaugural function of the cultivation programme of high yielding variety of cotton of the Central Cotton Research, Training and Seed Multiplication farm at Sreepur, Gazipur. — PID photo

JCD-called strike paralyses CU

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: No classes were held in Chittagong University today as a half-day strike called by Jattiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was observed in the campus.

JCD called the strike in protest against Sunday's clashes in which about 30 students were injured. JCD held Islamic Chhatra Shibir responsible for the clashes.

Campus sources said the strike disrupted the university's normal functioning as students, teachers and employees from the city could not reach the campus due to the strike that affected the traffic movement also.

The campus situation was tense as the supporters of the rival student organisations held rallies and brought out processions calling for bringing those involved in Sunday's incident to book.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued in Dhaka, General Secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir AZM Obaidullah protested the remarks of BNP

Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder, published in the national dailies on Monday.

The Shibir leader said Talukder's statement was provocative. He claimed that the clash between JCD and Shibir on the Chittagong University campus was not as serious as described by the BNP secretary general.

The Shibir leader demanded withdrawal of Talukder's statement and said the BNP Secretary General was silent over the clashes between the supporters of JCD and Awami League-backed Chhatra League all over the country.

Satyajit Ray hospitalised

CALCUTTA, Aug 13: Satyajit Ray has been hospitalised with breathing problems. Doctors attending on the noted film director today said his condition was little better than it was when he got admitted to the hospital Sunday, reports PTI.

Ecological balance

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Rashid and Chief Conservator MNA Katebi spoke on the occasion, among others.

Begum Zia reiterated her call to the 11 crore people of the country to plant at least one tree each. She also called upon the members of the cabinet, members of Parliament and government officials to plant at least one sapling each at remote places whenever they visit there on official purpose.

She also urged the leaders of political parties, members of Parliament and other public representatives to organise people for tree plantation.

The Prime Minister called upon the media men to extend their cooperation in popularising the tree plantation programmes among the people.

Begum Zia said besides giving national priority to the overall increase of forest resources the present government was contemplating to implement the programme of creating green belt in the coastal areas as a measure against cyclone and tidal bore.

The Prime Minister said instruction had already been given to strictly implement the laws for preserving forest resources and prohibition of the

use of firewood in brick fields.

She said indiscriminate deforestation and falling of trees were bringing dire consequences for the nation. She said the calamities like drought, excessive rain, desertification and flooding were taking place in the country because of deforestation and indiscriminate falling of trees.

The loss of life and property in recent cyclone in the coastal areas was greater as a result of deforestation and falling of trees, she said.

The Prime Minister said, "as a free nation we cannot allow this process to continue which lacked foresightedness." She called upon all to take a vow to regain the eroding forest resources and build a green and self-reliant Bangladesh for our future generation to lead a safe and beautiful life.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al Noman underscored the need for direct participation of the people for making the National Tree Plantation Drive a success. He said we want to make Jhe programme people oriented one.

Later the Prime Minister planted a sapling and inaugurated the programme.

National budget passed

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after 11 pm after passing six demands for grants totalling Taka 87,22,63,000.

Earlier, our Staff Correspondent reports, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the National Budget was formulated on the basis of the commitments made by the BNP government to the people.

The economic reforms, suggested in the budget, were not based on prescriptions made by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said.

Winding up a two-month discussion on the National Budget of 1990-91 in Parliament, the Finance Minister defended the Value Added Tax (VAT) terming it as a progressive and uniform tax system. But he made some concessions by withdrawing VAT from a number of items which included bakery bread and foundry items.

In his one hour 20-minute speech, the Finance Minister said that the budget was framed with the objective of realising the vision of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

He said transparency, accountability, better management of public enterprises and discipline in the country's banking sector figured prominently in identifying the priorities of the sectors in the budgetary allocations.

The Finance Minister said that his government had come to power at a time when there was widespread mismanagement in the country's financial sector.

A catastrophic cyclone hit the coastal belt resulting in unprecedented damages to both life and property. Of late, the Gulf war hit the country's economy very hard. The fallen Ershad regime made the economy crumble in its totality, he said.

Rahman said that the budget reflected Bangladeshi nationalism and did not fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the Opposition parties.

Nullifying the claims of some Opposition members that the budget is without a sense of direction, the Minister said that the budget has spoken of harnessing local resources and making the best use of all resources. He said that the development budget had been raised by Taka 450

crore over the previous year's.

Answering to Opposition's claim that the budget is dependent on foreign aid, the Minister said that mobilisation of country's resources is constrained by many factors.

"On the one side, you are not prepared to pay taxes and on the other, you are asking for the construction of schools and colleges and more subsidies. If we don't take donors' assistance, from where are we to get the money", he asked.

The Minister said that the fallen Ershad regime made the budget 100 per cent aid-dependent, but his government was trying to make it less dependent on foreign aid as far as possible.

Referring to the Indian economy, the Minister said that the Delhi government was now asking for more money from the World Bank and the IMF and there is no reason why we should not be taking loans from them.

Even the Soviet Union and China, in a bid to enforce a market economy in their own countries, have applied for membership of the World Bank, he said.

Highlighting the government's move for a deregulated economy, the Minister said that the private sector must be given incentives to bolster the economic performances of all sectors.

On VAT, the Minister admitted that there was no sufficient preparations before imposing it but said that the people had accepted it as the reports from the districts suggested.

He said that prices of essentials did not rise on account of VAT. The rises were essentially the inflationary trend, which he said, was normal.

Replying to a member's remarks that politics is not an arena of morale, the Minister said it was not fair to 'divorce' morality from politics.

Adamjee clash

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of the supporters of Raihan group near Bazu Colony of the mill.

About 100 cocktails were exploded during the clash and both the groups used lethal weapons.

The clash spread to Shapla Chattar, Shimul Para and Teddy Gate areas and continued for about an hour.

The workers damaged atleast 25 vehicle in front of the mill, passengers alleged. Some of the area were also damaged. Two were injured in the clash, police said.

Jute Association calls off strike

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Bangladesh Jute Association and Bangladesh Paat Sangram Committee have withdrawn their proposed strike from August 21, an official source said in Dhaka on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

The announcement of the withdrawal of strike was made following assurance of the State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to solve their problems at a meeting with the members of the Jute Association and Paat Sangram Committee.

Habib Bank

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In 1987, reports AP.

Arshad Pervez, a Canadian who was convicted in Philadelphia of trying to export the metals in 1987 told Canadian Press the Habib European Bank put out 170,000 dollars to finance the purchase of specialty metals used to make nuclear weapons.

But Moqbool Ahmed Soomro, President of Pakistan's state-owned Habib Bank said his bank was never involved in the financing scheme nor had he ever heard of Habib European Bank.

He said Pakistan's Habib family started a second bank, this time in Zurich, after their Pakistani bank was nationalised in the 1970s. But Soomro said the Zurich-based bank is called the Habib bank International AG. It also has a branch in Pakistan.

Soomro vowed to delve deeper into the accusation but said "so far we are unaware of the bank's involvement in any such deal".

Omar Khan, the chief executive of the Canadian operations of the scandal-tainted Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) said BCCI was named as an intermediary in the deal, but only because the Pakistani bank lacked a Canadian office.

Anwar Querishi, Assistant Vice-President, Public Relation, for Habib Bank in Karachi, said the deal was supposedly made in the United States "so why would a Canadian bank be used as an intermediary for a deal in the United States?"

The Pakistani bank has two branches in New York City.

Pervez was convicted in a Philadelphia court of conspiracy to file false documents to get an export licence to ship maraging 350 steel to Pakistan, of filing three false documents and of attempting to export beryllium.

Maraging 350 steel is a strategic steel alloy needed to produce weapons-grade uranium. Beryllium is a metal used to boost the intensity of nuclear explosions.

Pakistan routinely denies it is making a nuclear weapon, although Washington suspended a 573 million dollars aid programme believing Islamabad had already crossed the nuclear arms threshold.

The Midnight File

Abu Dhabi team comes soon to talk takeover of BCCI

ABU DHABI, Aug 13: Abu Dhabi will send a team to Bangladesh to discuss a takeover of four branches of the troubled Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), closed since early July, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman said, reports AFP.

Civil war drags Y'slav economy on brink of collapse

BELGRADE, Aug 13: Haunted by the specter of civil war and disintegration, Yugoslavia's economy faces collapse. Federal officials in what was once Eastern Europe's most prosperous and reform-minded country have warned that inflation could hit record highs and the government may have to halt payments on the foreign debt, reports AP.

Cossiga in Albanian capital

BARI (Italy) Aug 13: Italian President Francesco Cossiga flew to Tirana today to meet with Albanian leaders to discuss a flood of 17,000 Albanian refugees flocking to southern Italian ports to escape economic hardship in their homeland, reports AFP.

Police, students clash in Comilla: 60 hurt

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Aug 13: Sixty persons including one magistrate and six police personnel were injured in a clash between the police and college students at Comilla railway station on Tuesday.

Three students were admitted into Comilla General Hospital.

The clash began when a mobile court arrested 135 ticketless passengers including some college students.

Saifuddin, Assistant General Secretary of Jattiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JSD) was beaten by police, witnesses alleged.

The students attacked the station. Police lobbed four rounds of tear gas.

The students demanded withdrawal of NDC Mubhoob Jamil.

JCD, BCL clash leaves 25 wounded in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Aug 13: At least 25 persons were injured and a number of business establishments including a guest house was damaged at Mohanganj Upazila about 22 kms from here, following a series of street battles between two rival student groups during last 48 hours ending 6 pm today, reports BSS.

According to reports reaching here from Mohanganj, the street battles ensued from hot exchange of words between the activists of two student groups BCL and JCD. Both the groups used lethal weapons like daggers and billhooks.

Two seriously injured persons were transferred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital today, while rest of them were being treated at Mohanganj Health Complex.

About five contingents of police were deployed in different parts of the town to maintain peace and order situation, the reports said.

Hasina: Unholy forces

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Bangabandhu's killers".

Sheikh Hasina mentioned that the opposition had cooperated with the ruling party BNP to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill for switching over to parliamentary system.

"We did it with the aim to bring political stability," she said expressing hope that the ruling party would also cooperate in the same way for passing the Indemnity Repeal Bill.

"The ruling party should fulfil all the commitments made by the three alliances", she added.

Awami League chief said the parliamentary system was essential for peoples' interest and the establishment of the system was the election pledge of her party.

"We have fulfilled our commitment to the nation and we will also fulfil other commitments made by us", she said.

"I want trial of the killers of Bangabandhu", said Hasina adding, "the politics of killing, coup and conspiracy must come to an end."

Bangabandhu in 1975, Sheikh Hasina said that it would have been difficult for the killers to touch Bangabandhu if there was no conspiracy by an ambitious minister of his cabinet. She said that the killers were made immune and it was incorporated in the Constitution. "How the indemnity for the killers can be a provision of the Constitution?" asked Hasina.

Taking part in the discussion, Prof Kabir Chowdhury urged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to come forward to pass the Indemnity Repeal Bill.

"It is not BNP, but the Freedom Party would be benefited if the bill is not passed", said Prof Chowdhury. He suggested that passports of certain persons should be seized so that they cannot go out of the country.

Prof Chowdhury said that he did not believe that the late President Ziaur Rahman was involved with the killing of Bangabandhu.

State religion

Justice KM Sobhan observed that the Indemnity Ordinance deprived the nation from the rule of law. "Democracy cannot move without rule of law" he said and added that the parliamentary democracy would not flourish if the provision of state religion which was incorporated in the Constitution through 8th amendment remains.

Begum Sufia Kamal said the people would try the killers of Bangabandhu. She said that there is no security of the people after the killing of Mujib and others in 1975. She demanded release of freedom fighter Kader Siddiky.

The meeting was also addressed by Sardar Fazlul Karim, Santosh Gupta, Golam Akbar Chowdhury, Dr SA Malek and others.

Zahid

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patriotic defence forces and the people resisted the November 7 attempt, he added.

The statement said that the August 15 changeover was a historic necessity.

There was no other way to free democracy and uphold the entity of the nation except by the means adopted by the armed forces and the people, he added.

The statement further said that those who could not tolerate the existence of Bangladesh as an independent country were now conspiring to move the people away from the spirit of the historic events of August 15 and November 7.

This was reflected in the introduction of the Indemnity (repeal) Bill in Parliament by the Awami League, the statement further said. In the other sense, the bill was introduced by the party which could not muster majority support in the February 27 parliamentary polls.

Death letter to AG

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ishment for his obstinacy.

The letter written by the "Attorney General Assassination Committee" asserted "One bullet will be used to give the reply to the obstinacy of the Attorney General".

The letter went on, "Within just one month your wife will become a widow and your son an orphan".

The letter addressed to the Attorney General further said "Please book your last resting place destiny at the Banani Graveyard. Your source of power is 'Putul' (Khaleda Zia) who will not be able to protect you anymore and you will have to embrace the fate of the Judge in Pakistan, recently killed. Allah Hafiz".

Giving an instant reaction to this letter the Attorney General said "This is all for creating a sensation".

He said, "these are all normal professional hazards and I am not afraid of being killed".

Earlier the prosecution produced the recovered money in the court. After counting the money Judge Mohammad Ali Khan found that one key of the trunk was missing and ordered the purchase of another lock for the trunk.

Judge Mohammad Ali Khan himself saw the bundles of notes most of which were of the Tk 500 denomination and put his initials on the bundles. He locked and sealed the trunk, to be deposited in the Treasury.

A total of Taka 1,90,81,565 was found in the trunk.

Attorney General Aminul Haque produced five more witnesses yesterday. They were: First Class Magistrate Zulfikar Ali Khan, Abdul Motlab Shah, Senior Principal Officer of Janata Bank now deposited to the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, Ayub Ali Mridha, Senior Principal Officer of Agrani Bank also on deposition to the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, MI Khan, Director of the Bureau of the Anti-

Corruption and Matur Rahman, Senior Assistant Police Super, now deputed in the Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

When the trunk of money was being opened the keys were with Matur Rahman. But later it was seen that one key was lost. Judge Mohammad Ali Khan immediately gave an order to discard the lock and put on a new one in its place.

Earlier, on hearing a petition of the Defence, the Special Judge passed an order on the Attorney General to take necessary measures so that the defence lawyers could meet Ershad for consultations.

Later, Defence Lawyer Yousuf Hossain Humayun made another petition to the Judge to allow deposed President Ershad operate a bank account so that he could deposit his money being received from the government as pension and his remuneration as a member of Parliament.

But Judge Mohammad Ali Khan said that it was not in his jurisdiction to issue orders regarding operations of bank accounts.

The unusual incidents like the threat-letter to the Attorney General and the losing of a key in the court room have raised many questions among the persons observing the proceeding.

The prosecution was led by Attorney General Aminul Haque and assisted by Deputy Attorney Generals Hasan Arif, Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, SPP Abdur Razzak Khan, and special PP Fariduddin Ahmed.

The Defence was yesterday represented by Yousuf Hossain Humayun, assisted by Mosharrar Hossain Kazal, Mofazzur Rahman Mazumdar, Af Mollah and Sudhir Kumar Hazra.

Chief Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque did not attend the Court yesterday.

A total of 34 prosecution witnesses deposed before the Court till yesterday. Of them two will be recalled for further examination. The court was adjourned till August 18.