

BR reschedules time-table for western zone

Bangladesh railway has rescheduled its time-table for the winter season in the western zone, which will be effective from November 1, reports UNB.

The decision was taken considering demand of the passengers and enhance Western zone railway's income.

According to new schedule, Dhaka-bound Teesta from Dinajpur will leave at 5:10 am instead of 6:05 am while the Ekota start at 4:40 pm instead of 5:40 pm.

However, the departure time of the Teesta and the Ekota from Dhaka will remain unchanged. Dhaka-bound Padma will start from Rajshahi at 6:15 am instead of 6:30 am while Rajshahi-bound Padma will start from Dhaka at 8:40 am as usual.

As per the new schedule, Jamuna that runs between Rajshahi and Goalondo, will start from Rajshahi at 7:30 am instead of 6 am while it will start from Goalondo at 2 pm instead of 12:30 pm.

Rajshahi to Khulna-bound train - Kopoakho will start from Rajshahi at 2:45 pm instead of 7 am and from Khulna it will start 6:30 am instead of 2 pm.

Titumir will run between Rajshahi and Nilphamari from November 1. The train will start from Rajshahi at 7 am and from Nilphamari at 1:30 pm.

Kopoakho which runs between Rajshahi and Khulna, will be connected with Jamuna at Poradho station. Ticket for new destination will be available from here.

Rescheduled time for other trains including inter-district, mail, express and local trains will be available in local railway stations, says a press release yesterday.

Bentrans Night celebrated

Bentrans (Pvt) Ltd, one of the leading sea and air freight organization of the country, celebrated Bentrans Night on Saturday at Panda Garden Restaurant in the city, says a press release.

The Bentrans Night relates to their participation in the BATEXPO '96 in association with their counterparts Trident International of UK and M+R Forwarding of Switzerland.

British experts observe Innovative design a must to dominate global apparel trade

By Staff Correspondent

In order to beat competitors in the global trade, Bangladeshi exporters should stress more on innovative fashion designs of its apparel and achieve a top-of-the-class quality.

This was observed by British experts at a seminar on 'British Design and Quality Management' yesterday. This also noted that quality and design management of products as per the GATT standard would also help maximise profit for the manufacturers.

They said the market was now more focused on higher quality and well designed commodity. Bangladesh should also adopt its export strategy accordingly or it would lag behind others in the global market.

The seminar organised by the South Asia Advisory Group in the city was participated by

garments and other exporters. Inaugurated by Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, it was also addressed by British Deputy High Commissioner Miriam McIntosh, President of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB) Mahbubur Rahman and Treasurer of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Sirajul Haq.

Fashion design is a very important factor for export market. As the economy of the world is integrating it is no longer possible to design and make separately, Tofael said. My own feeling is that we have not given professional attention to marketing and design in apparel industry to provide support to our own industry, he said, calling for the industry to remain the main stream

of global trade. He added that Bangladesh has taken a very liberal policy on investment and trade.

Mahbubur Rahman of ICCB observed that Bangladesh enjoyed a net balance of trade with UK to the tune of 130 million US dollars in 1994-95 and it sharply rose by 339.42 million dollars in favour of Bangladesh during July-December period of 1995.

Professor of Fashion and Textiles and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design of the Nottingham Trent University Edward Newton said the apparel industry needs to take full advantage of its major asset design. It should fully utilise this asset by allowing design to make a major contribution to company strategy and corporate culture.

He observed that the apparel

industry has become a world-wide business, design and fashion transcends national frontiers and cultural barriers.

Edward Newton suggested that the importance of design should be recognised at the board level of a company and a director with the responsibility of developing designs should be a member of the board. Design can then make a major contribution to the corporate culture, he added.

Nigel Wright of BSI Quality Assurance pointed out that obtaining the ISO 9000 certificate should not be seen as a 'licence to export', but it should be adopted as a quality management system to meet exporters requirements. The exporters have to improve this system continuously for increasing benefits, he said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seen addressing a meeting with a group of US investors at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York on Friday. — AFP/UNB photo



Nizamuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Karnaphuli Insurance Co Ltd, addressing the 9th Annual General Meeting of the company at its head office in the city recently.

Karnaphuli Insurance declares 15 pc dividend

Karnaphuli Insurance Company Ltd has declared 15 per cent dividend for its shareholders for the year 1995, says a press release.

The dividend was declared at the 9th Annual General Meeting of the company held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city recently.

Presided over by the Chairman of the Company, Nizamuddin Ahmed, the meeting was attended by the Directors and a large number of shareholders.

The following Directors from the public shareholders were elected.

Ahsan-Bin-Kabir, Anwara Begum, Jamaluddin Ahmed, Riazuddin Ahmed, Zobaida Parveen, Nurul Hoque and Mottur Rahman.

Emirates starts service to KL via Dhaka

The inaugural flight of Emirates — the international airline of the UAE — to Kuala Lumpur, via Dhaka, landed at the Zia International Airport yesterday, on a one-hour transit, says a press release.

The new service opens new options for travel from Bangladesh to destinations in the Far East and Australia.

On board Emirates' inaugural flight, EK062, were Maurice Flanagan, Group Managing Director, who led the airline's delegation comprising GKK Nair, Emirates Company Secretary and Mohammed Alkhalifa, Director of Operations.

Mohammed Ghanim Al Ghaith, Director of Civil Aviation of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, was the invited VIP from Dubai.

They were received by the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Air Commodore Efran Uddin, Emirates Manager Bangladesh, Salem Obaidalla and Senior officials of the CAAB and Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Also present was the Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dato Mahayuddin bin Abdul Rahman, who joined Emirates' flight from Dhaka to Kuala Lumpur.

The occasion also marked Emirates' 10th anniversary of online operations to Dhaka.

Massive BRDB programme for assetless people

Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (RPAP) of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) financed entirely by Bangladesh government has launched a massive programme in 145 thanas under 23 districts for undertaking various income generating activities for self-employment of assetless rural people, reports BSS.

During 1996-97, Taka 15 crore credit would be distributed among the distressed group members. Moreover Taka 10 crore credit will also be disbursed from realised loan money benefiting 74,000 assetless families, says a BRDB press release.

Up to June this year, an amount of Taka 27 crore credit has been distributed which is being regularly repaid on weekly installment basis. The percentage of recovery of loan is 100 per cent up to June 96, 4159 informal pre-cooperative groups have been formed comprising 78,998 assetless families of greater Comilla, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Patuakhali, Rangpur and Tangal districts which include 23 new districts for their socio-economic uplift.

Under the project, the beneficiaries are not required to form co-operatives to get loan and services. Revolving loan fund is available at their

doorsteps that are managed and disbursed by the thana level functionaries. The beneficiaries will get loan quickly and utilise properly and can repay loan in time under the programme.

Apart from group formation and credit operation, the project has completed a comprehensive training programme which includes human resource development training for 7,925 members and awareness raising courses for 36,549 group members. The training programme initiated under Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme focuses on human resources development and environmental aspects.

The project period is for 5 years to be completed in 1998. The overall target of the project includes formation of 4350 assetless groups consisting of 87,000 members, disbursement of 41 crore up to Taka 41 crore 20 lakh under ADP, providing skill development training to 27,000 members and human resource development training to 13,500 members and awareness raising to 30,000 group members.

The total cost of the project is Taka 6867.08 lakh. The project will create a sustainable revolving loan fund of Taka 51.00 crore at the end of the project.

Compaq holds 5-day training

Compaq Computer Corporation, World's No 1 PC vendor, recently organised a 5-day long training on 'Compaq Technical Certification' and 'Compaq Corporate Sales Product' at a local hotel in the city recently.

The technical certification course was attended by 14 computer engineers of Flora Limited and three computer engineers of Desktop Computer Connections Ltd, says a press release.

The reason to organise such a major training in Bangladesh, which normally would have taken place in countries like Singapore, was due to Compaq's realisation that Bangladesh has been a fastly growing Compaq market.

Rupali Bank confce held

The branch managers' conference of Chittagong East, West and Cox's Bazar Zones of Rupali Bank Ltd was held at the bank's head office in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

Rafiqul Karim Chowdhury, Managing Director, General Managers, concerned DGMs of head office, zonal heads and AGM of Development, Planning Research Division were present on the occasion.

China reports sharp rise in trade with Arabs

ABU DHABI, Oct 27: Trade between China and Arab states more than doubled over the past few years as the Asian giant pushed ahead with a worldwide export blitz, a Chinese diplomat said yesterday, reports AFP.

From around two billion dollars in 1989, two-way trade between China and the 22-member Arab League jumped to 5.1 billion dollars in 1995, said Hui Li Ming, Chinese Ambassador in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Agrani Bank's new GM

M Ziaul Haq joined Agrani Bank as General Manager on promotion, says a press release.

Prior to his present assignment, he was the Deputy General Manager of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.

Poverty overrepresented among women & children: Study

Poverty is overrepresented among women and children, particularly of the female-headed households in city slums crammed with migrating women from villages, as their access to resources is restricted, reports UNB.

"A poor settlement is characterized by greater number of women and children and female-headed households com-

pared to other areas," says a study report.

Apart from other compounded problems, according to the survey, the problem of housing is worsening day by day due to the increasing migration of rural women to urban areas. About 95 per cent of garment workers are migrants and they are facing acute problem of housing.

The study paper was presented by Dr Rita Afsar, a researcher of BIDS (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies), at the National Convention on Women and Poverty here yesterday.

The onus of poverty on women in the poorer settlements of the city with demographic and socio-economic correlates, labour market functioning, and lack of supportive policies for women were depicted in the paper.

"Urban poor households are marked by predominance of children (45 per cent) in the overall population and subsequently higher dependency ratio (82.5 per cent) than the non-poor households (70 per cent)," it said.

Household's dependency ratio is often used to measure poverty and the incidence of poverty is the greatest in households with the highest dependence rates.

"Disadvantages suffered by women are multi-dimensional and widespread," the paper said and pointed out its demographic factors like family composition, age, marital sta-

tus and labour market discrimination.

It said girls have smaller share of family resources than boys — less education, less property and assets — but they have greater burden of domestic works that restrict their opportunity in the labour market and the scope of upward mobility.

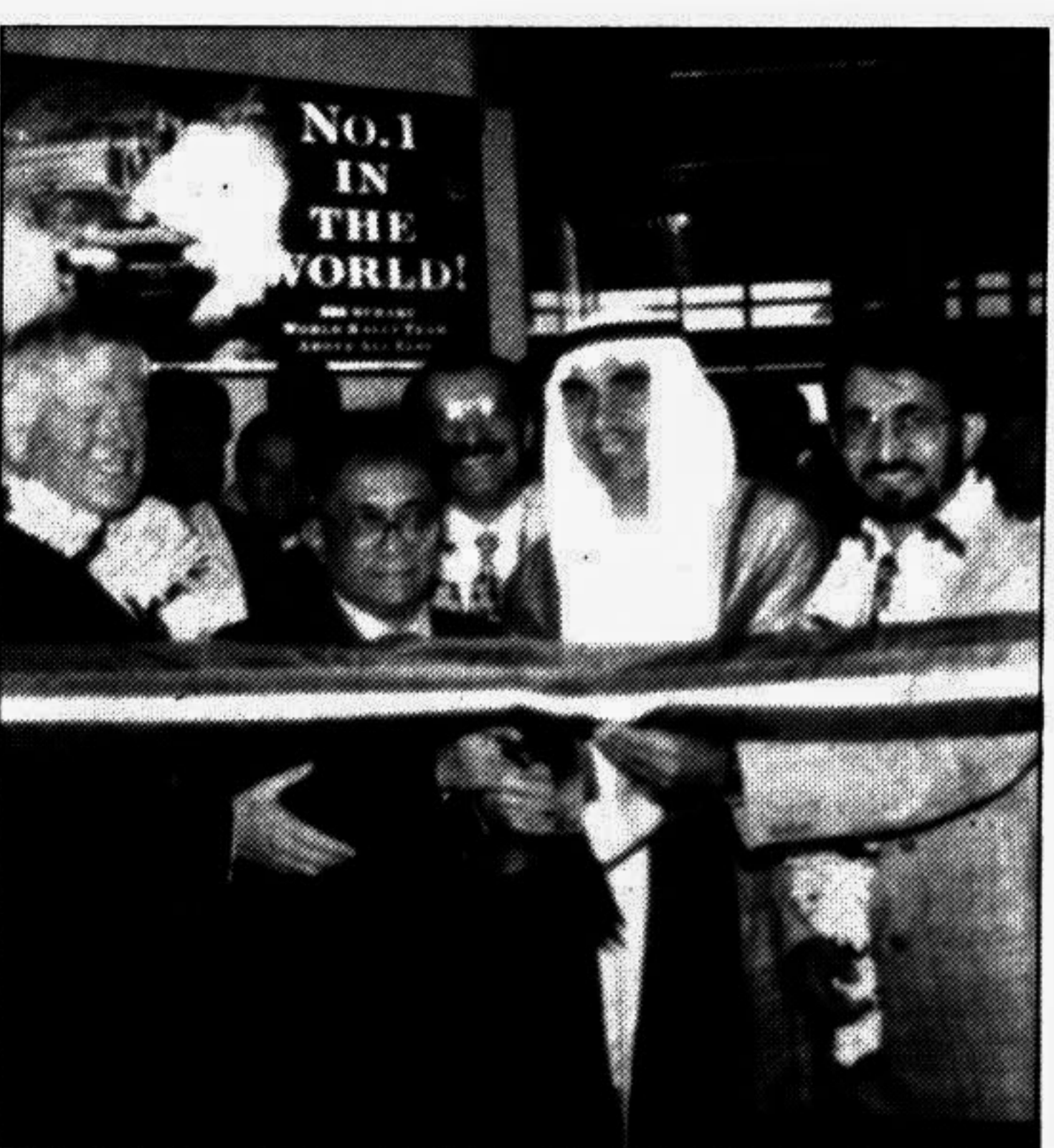
The paper shows that education level of the poor women is less than that of the male. Illiteracy rate among five plus male population in the slum areas is 64 per cent while it is 70 per cent among the female.

Women-headed families are also deprived of their wages and income. Monthly average income of a male-headed household is Tk 3,785, while it is only 3,188 in a female-headed household, the study further revealed.

The study found women's mobility in the labour market also restricted due to lack of housing or hostel facilities for low-paid women workers, particularly garment workers. Poor public transportation system is another barrier.

Women are more susceptible to health hazards than men because poor living and environmental condition falls on them. Women often have to spend more time and energy to collect water from informal sources, the researcher said quoting an ADB study.

Indebtedness is higher among female heads (60 per cent) than male-headed households (50 per cent) in poorer communities.



Malaysian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Dato Mahayuddin bin Abdul Rahman, Emirates' Group Managing Director Maurice Flanagan and Charge d'Affaires of UAE in Bangladesh Abdul Razzak Hadi join hands to cut the ribbon at Zia International Airport to inaugurate Emirates flights to Kuala Lumpur.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue ETAC Data Computerisation Project Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Re-Tender Notice

Sealed Tender is being invited again for purchase of 02 (two) units Laptop computers for the ETAC Data Computerisation Project financed by IDA Credit No 2393-BD.

- Tender schedule may be purchased from the office of the under-signed up to 10.11.96. No Tender schedule can be purchased/ sold on the last day of tender submission. Tender schedule can be purchased on submission of a non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft amounting to Fifty Taka payable to the "Project Director, ETAC", National Board of Revenue, Dhaka.
- Tenders may be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the office chamber of the under-signed from 03.11.96 to 11.11.96 before 1000 hrs. BST during office hours. Tenders will be opened at 1005 hrs. BST on 11.11.96 in front of the tenderers present, if any.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5 per cent of the bid value.
- The National Board of Revenue, Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the bidders and without any obligation to inform the bidders any ground(s) for such a action.

Dr Rafiqul Islam
Project Director
ETAC Data Computerisation Project
National Board of Revenue
Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
DFP-24012-23/10
G-1354

BCIC International Re-Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অধগতির প্রতীক

General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (16th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka invites sealed quotation under 2(two) envelope system against Tender Enquiry No. Pur-3.1422/96-97 dated 5.10.96 for one set Double Disc Refiner on C&F(C) Chittagong basis under Cash Foreign Exchange. Offers shall be received up to 11.00 AM on 11.11.96 and be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 750.00 only per set (non-refundable) from (i) Controller of Accounts (2nd floor), BCIC, Dhaka and (ii) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.

Earnest money is 1% of the total quoted C&F(C) value. No Tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening and no late offer shall be accepted. The buyer reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

BCIC 1056/7/10/96
DFP-227408-10
G-1351 For General Manager (Purchase)

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অধগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Rangadia, Chittagong, Bangladesh invites sealed bid under Two Envelope System for supply of (i) Gear Motor and induction Motor and (ii) Ballast for Mercury Lamp and Switch Photo Eye on C&F(C) Chittagong basis under reference No. (i) CUFL/PUR(F)-31/OS-529 and (ii) CUFL/PUR(F)-306/OS-548 respectively. Bids with a bid bond for 1% of the total quoted value will be received in the office of the General Manager (Commercial), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. up to 11-00 am on 3.12.1996 and the technical bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bid documents may be collected BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka; BCIC, Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and CUFL, Rangadia, Chittagong on payment (i) and (ii) Tk. 50.00 per set. No tender document will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

BCIC 1086-16/10/96
DFP-23711-19/10
G-1352 For Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat
Old Airport Building, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

No. BPSCS/R-3/P.E.-6/94/4496 Dated: 15-10-1996 Eng.
30-06-1403 Beng

Advertisement

Subject: Senior Scale Promotion Examination for the Bangladesh Civil Service Cadre Officers to be held in February, 1997.

In pursuance of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Examination for Promotion) Rules, 1986 the next Senior Scale Promotion Examination for Bangladesh Civil Service Cadre Officers will be held on 1st, 2nd & 3rd February, 1997. Programme of the Examination will be published in daily newspapers in due time. Applications of the Officers willing to take part in this examination must reach the Public Service Commission Secretariat, Dhaka through the cadre controlling Ministries/Divisions on or before the 15th December, 1996/1st Paus, 1403. The cadre controlling Ministries/Divisions will kindly furnish the applications in the prescribed "Proforma" alongwith a consolidated list of all eligible candidates to the Commission Secretariat, Dhaka, latest by 15th December, 1996/1st Paus, 1403. Applications received by the Commission after that date, whatever may be the reasons, shall straightway stand rejected.

- Eligibility: Under the provisions of rule-5 of the above rules, officers will be eligible to take part in the examination in accordance with the following conditions:
 - An officer who has been confirmed and has completed at least four years of service on 1st February, 1997 in the cadre to which he/she belongs;
 - An officer may sit for all the three subjects at a time or for any less number of subjects in the examination;
 - No officer shall be allowed to take part in more than one examination in a calendar year;
 - No officer shall be allowed to take part in the examination after completion of fourteen years of service in the cadre.
- No candidate shall be allowed to sit for the examination to be held in August, 1997 unless his/her application for withdrawal of the candidature, for the examination of February, 1997, is forwarded to the Commission through the cadre controlling Ministry on or before January 7, 1997.

- Subjects of Examinations:
 - First Paper: Bangladesh and Current Affairs.
 - Second Paper: Laws, Rules and Regulations applicable to all Government Officers.
 - Third Paper: Matters relating to the functions of the members in their respective Cadres.
- Full marks for each paper is 100 and the pass mark is 50. Duration of the examination for each paper is 3 hours. For BCS Telecom Cadre the full marks for 3rd paper in written and practical examinations are 60 and 40 respectively and the pass mark is 50%, i.e. 30 and 20 respectively. Duration of written examination in this paper is 2 hours and practical-1 hour.

Prescribed application forms for the examination will be available in the concerned Ministries/ divisions, offices of the Deputy Commissioners and the Zonal Offices of the Commission Secretariat at Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. The candidates must apply in the prescribed application forms supplied by the Commission.

DFP-23780-20/10
G-1347 G M Rahman Secretary