Shattered Dreams

But the current process is mired in a lot of controversies. The PSC does not reveal any pass mark for the exam, the correct answers of the MCQ (Multiple Choice Questions) type questions are also not disclosed after the exam. The candidates have claimed that PSC has administered two separate pass marks for this BCS exam. The candidates with quota have passed securing 50+ marks but those without quota didn't pass even after securing 70+ marks. To make matters even more grievous, the students are highly disgruntled about the 30 percent freedom fighters quota and the 10 percent women quota. Joyonto Kumar Saha says, "I am the son of a Freedom Fighter but I can't agree with this 30 percent reservation for only 1 percent of the population." Kaniz Fatema another student says, "Women who are attending BCS are already quite privileged. What is the necessity of providing them with a quota?" Students are also tired of the corruption in this process. Quota shopping is the most common type of corruption. Candidates are producing false certificate to get included into the district quota. Producing false freedom fighter's certificate is a very common example.



Chhatra League, the student wing of Awami League flogged the protesters out.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Because of extreme corruption and an illogical policy, many meritorious students have to bid farewell their dream of getting a job in the civil service. Even they are noticing that their rightful demands are being maltreated and suppressed by government machinery. The students became furious after seeing an abusive comment on the anti-quota demonstration made by Bangladesh Online Activist Network (spokesman of once popular Gonojagoron Moncho). The Moncho later withdrew the indecent comment. Their resentment has also been fuelled by some harsh comments made by the Premier Sheikh Hasina recently.

Expert's Opinion

Former Adviser and renowned civil servant Akbar Ali Khan thinks the current quota system has major problems. He says that quota is a special provision for under privileged population, and that it's an exception. It can't be more than the merit provision. Quota must be less than 50 percent. It should be amended immediately. He recommended that the quota system must be time bound. That means the government must clearly declare the expiry year of a quota provision. Special provision can't be continued after its necessity expires. District quota is being administered according to population. Therefore a brilliant student of a small and less populated district is not getting selected whereas a student with poorer marks is getting selected because he lives in a more populated district which is totally illogical. The former advisor strongly suggests amending this weird policy.

Former chairman of the PSC Dr Sadat Hossain says that quota in BCS is a national problem. It must be addressed nationally. Parliamentarians, intellectuals, experienced civil servants must discuss on this issue officially to formulate a solution. The high ranking government officials should take concrete executive measure to solve this problem".

The BCS recruitment process is so bizarre and illogical that the amendment has now become a national claim. The recent steps taken by the government has made this issue uncertain which in turn can brew further trouble. So to avoid any unwanted situation and to ensure a brilliant and skilled workforce the government should take acceptable and rational steps to revise the BCS recruitment process.

Bangladesh civil service will be affected if the quota system forces the PSC to close its entrance to brilliant students like Ali Hosen. In a country dangerously divided like ours, we need to practice meritocracy, and the existing quota system stands as it violent adversary to that.