

Change in BCS preliminary test format

Duration now 2 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, the preliminary examination of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) will be of 200 marks while the duration will be two hours instead of the hour-long 100-mark test.

The public administration ministry issued a gazette notification to this end yesterday following amendment to the Bangladesh Civil Service (Age, Qualification and Examination for Direct Recruitment) Rules, 1982.

The new rule will come into effect from the 35th BCS examinations.

A candidate with less than 30 percent marks in the written examination will be considered to have got no number against the existing rule of 25 percent, according to the rule.

The pass mark under the new system would be 50 percent of the 200-mark viva voce. It was 40 percent earlier.

The examination fee has also been increased to Tk 700 from Tk 500.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday prior to leaving for New York to attend the UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: PID

Focus on global peace

FROM PAGE 1

empowering women. She will also reflect on Bangladesh's progress in achieving millennium development goals (MDGs), and her government's steps to alleviate poverty and face the challenges posed by climate change, said sources at the foreign ministry.

She will draw the international community's attention to the interests of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the rights of migrant workers. Her speech will also incorporate her government's initiatives to combat adverse impacts of climate change and Bangladesh's position on post-2015 sustainable development goals.

During her seven-day stay in New York, the prime minister will participate in a number of UN meetings and side events, most significantly a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On the sidelines, she will also meet Prime Minister of Belarus Mikhail V Myasnikovich, Ameer of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hasmad Al-Thani and Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, among others.

She will leave the US on September 29 on a US Air flight and will have a stopover in London on September 30.

She will depart London on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight on October 1 and is expected to arrive in Dhaka on the morning of October 2.

Hasina's delegation comprises six ministers, one state minister, two advi-

ers, three members of parliamentary standing committee on foreign ministry, 18 eminent personalities, 15 officials from the Prime Minister's Office, eight from the foreign ministry, 11 from other ministries, 20 security personnel, 10 media personalities, 13 of the PM's media team, 75 prominent businessmen, the Bangladesh Ambassador to US and the Permanent Representative to UN.

The ministers and advisers are: Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandaker Moshraraf Hossain, Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain, Food Minister Kamrul Islam; Prime Minister's Political Adviser HT Imam, Economic Affairs Adviser Mashur Rahman; and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

Former foreign minister Dipu Moni and industries minister Dilip Barua have also been included in the delegation.

Nazmul Haq Prodhan, Prime Minister's Information Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of Daily Janakantha MA Khan Masud, and central and local leaders of Awami League, Workers Party, Ganotantri Party, Gano Azadi League, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, among others, have been incorporated in the delegation as eminent citizens.

Fire at high-rise

FROM PAGE 16

The fire started shortly after midnight. Thirteen fire fighting units doused the flames within an hour, said officials at the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters.

The blaze spread quickly to several floors and black smoke engulfed the entire building, Morshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Though all offices in the building were closed at that time, some office employees were asleep on different floors, said locals.



BB seeks account

FROM PAGE 1

President of Dhaka South Ismail Hossain Chowdhury, former environment minister Shahjahan Siraj, former BNP lawmaker and ex finance minister Saifur Rahman's son M Naser Rahman, former lawmaker MAH Selim and Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers & Dealers Association President Habib Ullah Dawn.

Jabbar was behind killing

FROM PAGE 16

Shontosh had received training on combat in the Sundarbans area under sub-sector commander of Sector-9 Maj Zia Uddin and secretly came to visit his house at Angulkata village in Pirojpur that day.

The witness said he had woken up around 11:30pm the same day by the sound of whistles blown by Razakars.

"They looted jewellery, money and valuables and tied me and my father Surendra Nath Mitra with a piece of rope," he said, adding, Razakars detained them at the instructions of Jabbar.

"Eight families used to live in our house and the intruders detained all the men," Shontosh said.

As many as 37 people were detained and taken to the municipality office of Mathbaria. Of them, seven including the victim's cousin Monindra Master were released and the rest were taken near the sluice gate of Surjamoni village.

He said the elders had begun to cry when the Razakars prepared to kill them. "The Razakars hit many of them with the rifle butt," he added.

"One after another, the detainees were taken beside the canal and shot dead from behind. My brother Foni Mitra and I were tied to each other

SONALI BANK SCAM

ACC to charge 10 people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday approved the charge-sheet in a case filed over misappropriation of over Tk 1.32 crore in depositors' money from Sonali Bank by two of its employees along with eight others.

Suspended manager Akkas Ali and ex senior officer Fazlul Haque of Savar branch of Sonali Bank in collusion with eight account holders of the bank worked out the scam between February 2007 and June 2008, said ACC Deputy Director Reva Halder who carried out the investigation.

Reva said Akkas and Fazlul prepared 43 fake documents of Telegraphic Transfer (TT) of money showing that they received these TTs from different branches of the bank including those of Mymensingh, Magura, Sathkhira and Narail.

Then they transferred the money to the accounts of the eight other accused at the same branch. They used the bank accounts to draw the money, she added.

Sonali Bank authorities lodged the misappropriation case with Savar police station in 2013, which later ACC investigated.

The other accused are Reaz Uddin, owner of North-South Bricks at Kaliakoir in Gazipur; Mozammel Haque, owner of Bhai-Bone Store in Savar; Wahidul Islam, a resident in Munshiganj; Meher Uddin, owner of Mitu Enterprise in Savar; Enamul Haque, owner of Zahir General Store in Savar; Abdul Alim Khan, owner of Ekota Bricks of Mirzapur in Tangail; and SKM Rabiul Islam, owner of Nabi Enterprise of Savar.

ACC sources said the approved charge sheet may be submitted to the court in a day or two.

KEPZ 'failed to use land'

FROM PAGE 1
"You [KEPZ authorities] failed to use it. You have done nothing," he said.

Asked about a possibility that the company might go to an international tribunal over the issue, the minister said, "No ... they cannot do it. Of course, we can take back the land."

Rejecting Muhith's statement, KEPZ authorities said taking back the land would not be easy. The government has to follow legal procedures.

"We have already developed 850 acres of land where industries have been set up, while development of another 200 acres is underway. We have also constructed 22 buildings and 21 kilometres road inside the zone," said KEPZ Managing Director Mohammad Hasan Nasir, when asked about the finance minister's statement.

YoungOne also built seven shoe and garment factories creating jobs for 6,000 locals. Four more factories would start operations by December, he mentioned.

Nasir said the government had acquired the land and handed over it to the YoungOne in 1999. But the company did not get cooperation the government pledged.

"Unused land around KEPZ and in other areas of Chittagong can be developed and given to other investors. But KEPZ land has been targeted as it is now

very lucrative after development," he said.

The company will take measure once the government starts the procedure to take back land, added the managing director. Earlier, he said the KEPZ authorities would go to court and, if necessary, to an international tribunal for justice.

The row over the KEPZ land surfaces at a time when the government is inviting investors from Japan, China and India assuring them of special economic zones. Which land will be allocated to them is now under discussion, according to Muhith.

Asked whether the government has decided to allocate land to India, Muhith did not give a direct reply but said, "We invited India to come up with a bigger investment and they showed interest."

During the Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission meeting that ended in New Delhi on Saturday, Dhaka said it was ready to provide a location for a special economic zone where Indian businessmen can invest.

India, which has been requesting Bangladesh to permit a special economic zone for Indian investors, welcomed the Bangladeshi offer and sought necessary cooperation for interested Indian entrepreneurs.



The Shaheed Minar at Sherpur town is water-logged after incessant overnight rain yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Making babies

FROM PAGE 16
tears flowing.

"The babies' cries are intended to reach God and parents hope that their little ones will grow healthy and strong," explained Yoshimi Morita, a priest at the shrine, where screams and squawks filled the air.

"So if a baby doesn't cry at this event, sumo wrestlers try to make him or her cry on purpose, moving the baby up and down, while their parents watch with pounding hearts," he said.

"There is no victory nor defeat in this wrestling, and a match always ends with a chorus of 'Banzai raku!' which means 'Live long'."

The ceremony dates back some

400 years and is held at shrines nationwide. The rules vary from region to region -- in some versions the babies are raced against each other to see who will cry first, while in others the first crier is the loser.

Delighted mother Mae Shige said her son had performed well at the event.

"He's not a baby that cries much but today he cried a lot for us and we are very happy about it," Shige said.

Nibusuki, another mother at the shrine, said of her son: "He'll be one soon, and we wanted to come here so that we would have a memory of this event for when he grows up."

FROM PAGE 16
The candidates didn't speak at the palace ceremony and it remained uncertain when they would address the nation or when the unity agreement would be officially published.

"The Independent Election Commission declares Dr Ashraf Ghani as the president, and thus announces the end of election process," commission chief Ahmad Yousaf Nuristani later told reporters.

Nuristani gave no winning margin, turnout figure, or the number of fraudulent ballot papers thrown out in an intensive UN-supervised audit that checked every individual vote.

Ghani was widely acknowledged to be on the brink of the presidency after coming well ahead in preliminary

results before the audit began.

Under the constitution the president wields almost total control, and the new government structure will face a major test as the security and economic outlook worsens.

"I'm happy that our brothers Dr Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah struck an Afghani deal for the sake of goodness and prosperity of the country," outgoing President Hamid Karzai said in a short speech after the palace signing.

"I hope with their efforts this country gets long-lasting peace."

The ruling coalition between opposing camps is likely to be uneasy.

Abdullah, a former anti-Taliban resistance fighter and foreign minister, draws his support from Tajiks and other

northern ethnic groups. Ghani, an ex-World Bank economist, is backed by Pashtun tribes of the south and east.

"There will be two powers in the government, and it will be very difficult for them to work together," Sediq Mansoor Ansari, an analyst and director of the Civil Societies Federation, told AFP.

"I think the people of Afghanistan will wonder about their votes, and how their votes have been played with."

The future of Afghanistan's relationship with the US-led Nato alliance will also be high on the agenda after Karzai refused to sign a security pact with Washington to ensure a foreign military presence after this year.

The White House welcomed the power-sharing deal, which it said "helps

bring closure to Afghanistan's political crisis".

"We look forward to... the conclusion of the Bilateral Security Agreement," it added in a statement.

According to a copy of the unity government document seen by AFP, the CEO could become the official "executive prime minister" in two years' time -- a major change to the way Afghanistan has been ruled since 2001.

Dividing up other official posts could also create friction after the long and mercurial reign of Karzai, who built up a nationwide network of patronage.

The UN's country director Jan Kubis welcomed the breakthrough, but warned that "for the sake of the country, it is time to quickly implement the agreement".

Afghan rivals strike power sharing deal

results before the audit began.

Under the constitution the president wields almost total control, and the new government structure will face a major test as the security and economic outlook worsens.

"I'm happy that our brothers Dr Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah struck an Afghani deal for the sake of goodness and prosperity of the country," outgoing President Hamid Karzai said in a short speech after the palace signing.

"I hope with their efforts this country gets long-lasting peace."

The ruling coalition between opposing camps is likely to be uneasy.

Abdullah, a former anti-Taliban resistance fighter and foreign minister, draws his support from Tajiks and other