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41ST BCS POLICE CADRE

# 100 candidates facing fresh verification

SB to recheck their backgrounds, political affiliations, 'potential links to militancy'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The interim government is re-verifying the background of 100 individuals who passed the 41st Bangladesh Civil Service examinations and were recommended for police cadre jobs.

The second verification process will be conducted to reexamine the candidates' political affiliations and whether they have links to militancy, according to police officers with knowledge of the development.

The reassessment will determine whether these individuals would be recruited.

These candidates' backgrounds had already been checked in a process known as "police verification". Following that, Bangladesh Public Service Commission recommended that they be recruited as police officers.

They have been waiting for a year-long basic training at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah, Rajshahi.

The interim government has recently been facing criticisms for abruptly postponing a passing-out parade for 62 assistant superintendents of



The colony playground next to the Mohammadpur Town Hall kitchen market in the capital is cluttered with vehicles, logs, empty containers and other equipment of the Dhaka North City Corporation. Children have been unable to play at this ground for over a decade as it remains occupied. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

- The candidates are now awaiting one-year basic training at Police Academy
- 62 ASPs recruited through 40th BCS exams will also go through reverification
- Fresh background checks of 7 officers recruited through earlier BCS exams
- SB to complete the process of reverification at the earliest possible time

police (ASPs) just before the ceremony was about to begin on October 19.

On October 20, the Special Branch (SB) of Police took the initiative to reverify 100 candidates' backgrounds on orders from the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

The SB is also examining the background of seven other candidates of the 28th, 35th, 36th, and 37th BCS batches. The previous administration let them go, and the interim government reappointed them.

The reverification will also be done for 62 ASPs recruited through the 40th BCS.

The Daily Star has seen a copy of the order.

SB's verification wing will investigate their political affiliations and look into their records at schools, colleges, universities, dormitories, and whether they had links to militant organisations, according to the sources.

The report must include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of two friends from each candidate or officer's college or university.

The order states that evaluation reports about the candidates should be collected from people like journalists, public representatives, and police stations.

Information about their birthday, NID number, mobile number, email, Facebook ID, taxpayer identification number, passport number, names of their parents and their professions should also be collected, the sources said.

The verification process should be conducted by an officer not below the rank of ASP.

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BREACH OF DISCIPLINE

## 59 more SIs given show cause notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Police Academy in Rajshahi's Sardah has issued show cause notices to 59 more trainee sub-inspectors (SIs) of the 40th cadet batch, asking them to explain why they should not be dismissed for "breaching discipline".

Notices were sent to 49 cadets on October 24 while 10 others were notified on October 21 over creating chaos by sitting randomly in the training classes. They were asked to respond within three days of receiving the show-cause notices.

The issuance of these notices has spread fear among the trainees, as 252 others of the same batch were dismissed on Monday after being served such show-cause notices for "breaching discipline".

Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, principal of the academy, yesterday confirmed the issuance of the fresh notices.

Replying to a query, he said if the

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Star INTERVIEW

## 'They got capacity charges for 16yrs. Not anymore'

Says Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan about power plants

BAHARAM KHAN and ASIFUR RAHMAN

A retired bureaucrat, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan has been tasked with heading three significant ministries for the economy: power, energy and mineral resources; road transport and bridges; and railways.

The Daily Star sat down with him for a comprehensive interview on his plans for the three ministries, which are mired in allegations of mismanagement



and by the previous Awami League-led government.

The Daily Star: What has your experience been so far?

Adviser: People have heard stories

of development over the years – that the per capita income has soared, the GDP growth is high, the economy has grown and so on. But people could not relate themselves to those big numbers – their way of life was contrary to the numbers.

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GOVT JOB ENTRY

## Experts welcome decision to raise age limit to 32

BAHARAM KHAN

Experts have welcomed the decision to raise the age limit for entry into government jobs by two years to 32 as a positive move.

They believe the review committee's proposal to raise the bar to 35 years for men and 37 for women was not well thought out. Thus, not implementing the recommendation was a balanced decision, the experts said.

Some experts think that the increased age limit may still not be appropriate for lower-grade jobs.

Talking to this newspaper, former cabinet secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the decision to raise the maximum age to 32 years was "better" than the panel's proposal, which was "quite disappointing".

"From my experience in government service and training sessions, I noticed older candidates tend not to perform well in competitive exams. Even when they pass, they usually lag behind

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## Salehuddin, Mansur face surprise US judicial order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US court on Thursday issued "bench warrants for the arrest" of Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed and central bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur whom a power company wants to testify, as it seeks to enforce a collective \$31.9 million in arbitration awards against Bangladesh.

The move prompted an immediate appeal from the Bangladesh government, Law360, a New York-based legal news publisher, reported.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

As no trains left or entered Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital for almost eight hours after Panchagarh Express derailed in the vicinity late at night on Thursday, travellers, many of them women and children, had to spend a long time on the platform, waiting for their trains.

## Harris, Obama push early voting in tight race

REUTERS, Clarkston

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris basked in the support of rock legend Bruce Springsteen, entertainer Tyler Perry and former president Barack Obama on Thursday at a rally that drew thousands in the battleground state of Georgia.

Seeking to excite supporters in a state that could help determine the winner of the 2024 election, the US vice president and her high-profile endorsers urged the crowd to take advantage of early voting, and to reject her Republican opponent, former President Donald Trump.



"We here understand we have an opportunity before us to turn the page on the fear and divisiveness that have characterized our politics for a decade because of Donald Trump," Harris said. "Please vote early."

Obama, who has been campaigning in multiple swing states for Harris, made his case against Trump, arguing the former president thought about no one but himself.

He implied that Trump was acting like a doddering old man and, in a reference to Trump's recent event at a McDonald's, noted that Harris had actually worked at the fast food chain earlier in her life.

"She worked at McDonald's when she was in college

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