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SATIRE

Increased age limit allows candidates to complete PhD before sitting for BCS exams

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"The moment I heard the news of the age limit extension for the BCS exam, I called my father from the US to let him know that I could still fulfil his dream," said Shadman Sakib, an engineering student currently pursuing his PhD at MIT. "That was the first time my father spoke to me in four years! I'd like to thank the Ministry for giving letdowns like us another opportunity to make our parents proud."

The Ministry of Public Administration recently increased the age limit for BCS exams to 32 years, thus encouraging an even older group of people to use their brain cells for memorising irrelevant information.

"As a PhD student here at MIT, I'm the biggest failure of my family," explained Shadman, "All of my siblings have either cracked the BCS exam or spent their 20s trying to crack it. But when I told my father about my dreams of pursuing a PhD rather than preparing for BCS, the first thing he asked was, 'Will you be able to come back and sit for the BCS preliminary in time?'"

"My family members and relatives from all around the country came to counsel me and talk some sense into me," continued Shadman, "My father disowned me because he was too ashamed to tell people that his son wasn't preparing for BCS. Even when I was packing for my flight, my mother tried to sneak in a few guidebooks for

BCS, hoping that I'd prepare for BCS while working on my research—potentially solving global warming."

Shadman's father was willing to accept his son back after he completed his PhD and enrolled in a BCS coaching centre. "During his university entrance exams, I pushed him to get into the best engineering university in the country," said Shadman's father, "But never in my wildest nightmares had I imagined that my own son would want to do something as shameless as pursuing a career in his university major! My family has had graduates from medical colleges and engineering universities. Even the unambitious and clueless ones made it to BBA. But no one dared pursue further studies in their majors. In our family, BCS is like the gutter where dreams from all branches of education come to suffocate and die."

Mr Baharul Pasha, the branch manager of the Roshunbhora Branch of BCS Purists, explained how increasing the age limit for BCS is an effective way of implementing reverse brain drain. "Postgraduate students from MIT, Harvard, and Ivy League universities are already coming back to the country as life has given them a second chance to apply for the BCS exams. This has brought thousands of underpaid researchers back to the path they were born to pursue—BCS."

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■ NOT SATIRE ■ REQUIREMENTS TO SIT FOR THE BCS

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

To be eligible to apply for the BCS exam, a candidate must have at least a bachelor's degree. After completing higher secondary school, a candidate can apply for the BCS exam even if they have completed a 4-year honours course.

If a candidate receives second class or equivalent in any two of the exams from SSC to bachelor's level, and a third class or equivalent in one exam, that candidate will not be eligible to sit for the BCS exam.

AGE

If a candidate's age is less than 21 years or more than 32 years on the first of the month in which the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) publishes the BCS advertisement, the candidate will not be eligible to participate in the BCS exam.

HEALTH

Candidates who pass the written and oral exams are required to undergo a medical test.

During the medical test, the candidate's height, weight, and chest measurement are taken, vision is tested, and a urine test is conducted.

HEIGHT, WEIGHT, AND CHEST MEASUREMENT

Male applicants must be at least 5 feet tall, weigh a minimum of 49.99 kilograms. However, police and ansar cadres must be at least 5 feet 4 inches tall and weigh a minimum of 54.54 kilograms. Female applicants must be at least 4 feet 10 inches tall and weigh a minimum of 43.54 kilograms. Police and ansar cadres must be at least 5 feet tall and weigh a minimum of 45.45 kilograms.



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