

BCS exams postponed

Question papers said to have been leaked

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WRITTEN tests of the 33rd Bangladesh Civil Service examinations, scheduled for today, were postponed over the reported leak of question papers.

The Public Service Commission's controller of examinations, AYM Nesar Uddin, on Saturday evening told *New Age* that the written tests in compulsory subjects for the general cadre, scheduled for October 7-October

8, were postponed because of unavoidable circumstances.

Nesar Uddin said that fresh dates for the exams that were postponed would be announced later.

The commission has postponed the exams amid

the reported leak of question papers that have been rumoured for three to four days. The commission earlier brushed aside the allegation saying that it was a rumour.

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Nesar Uddin on October 4 said, 'There was no way that question papers could be leaked as there are several versions of the question papers and the versions for the exams are selected only 15 minutes before the exams.' He also requested examinees not to pay attention to the rumours.

The PSC on June 28 published the preliminary test results, with 28,917 candidates qualifying for written tests. Around 193,000 job-seekers took the preliminary test on June 1.

The commission on February 29 advertised for 4,206 vacant positions in public service.

Commission member

Kazi Nasirul Islam told *New Age* that although the rumours of question leak was not proved, the commission postponed the tests to head off any controversy.

A large numbers of examinees expressed dissatisfaction about the question leak and examination postponement. 'What is wrong with PSC? It cannot guard even a question paper,' said a former Dhaka University social welfare student.

'This is irritating. We now need to wait for some days and make preparations again,' said a former DU history student.

A group of students and syndicate are, meanwhile, reported to have made a

huge amount of money by selling the question papers said to have been leaked in different areas of the capital. 'Some copies were even sold for Tk 3-5 lakh,' a resident of Salimullah Hall in Dhaka University said.

Dhaka University students alleged that some leaders of the ruling Awami League-backed Chhatra League, and some coaching centres were involved in the question leak.

'BCL leaders from the Zahurul Haque Hall and the Jagannath Hall are mainly involved in the matter,' a central BCL leader said.

When contacted, the Dhaka University unit Chhatra League president, Mehdi Hasan, brushed

aside their being involved in the leak of the question papers.

'It might be a conspiracy with the government to tarnish its image by making such allegations,' he said.

'BCL activists said that they could provide the written test question papers before the exams for Tk 3-5 lakh each,' a DU student of the Muhsin Hall said.

The law enforcement agencies earlier said that they increased surveillance amid rumours to check against question paper leak.

The law enforcers in an interview with a news agency on Friday said that they were keeping an eye on the coaching centres in the wake of the rumour.