



QUOTA IN GOVT JOBS Sought reform, got abolition

PM's announcement catches demonstrators off guard; students to decide today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced scrapping of the quota system in public service recruitments, and asked students to return to classes ending demonstrations over the demand for quota reforms.

"The quota system stands scrapped to stop repeated sufferings [of people] and avoid hassles of tackling movement time and again. This is clear," she said in parliament in response to a supplementary question.

"For the last several days, classes and studies have been suspended at all universities. There was an attack on the residence of the VC [of Dhaka University]. There is traffic jam on roads... people are suffering. Why will general people suffer repeatedly?"

"If we go for reforms [of the quota system], another group will come up after a few days and say 'we want further

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Hundreds of people walk in the scorching heat as vehicles remain stuck on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Farmgate for hours yesterday afternoon. After idling for a long time, an overheated car engine stalls.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TRANSPORT SYSTEM COLLAPSES

People left to suffer

STAR REPORT

Transport system in the capital and other parts of the country collapsed yesterday as thousands of students demonstrating for reforms in the civil service quota system blocked key points in the capital and major highways.

Commuters remained stuck for several

hours in their vehicles on city roads and highways amid sweltering heat.

Protestors barricaded Dhaka-Mymensingh rail line in Mymensingh for over six hours and blocked the railway track of Chittagong University's shuttle train for hours, snapping rail communication on those routes.

The capital remained cut off from the

rest of the country as major highways connecting the capital with other parts were blocked by the students to press home their demand.

In different parts of the capital, patients struggled to reach hospitals even in ambulances. Parents stuck on roads were

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RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 5, 16

PLANE CRASH IN ALGERIA All 257 people on board killed

Most of the dead are army personnel, their families

AFP, Boufarik

Algeria suffered its deadliest ever air catastrophe yesterday when a military plane crashed near the capital, killing 257 people on board, mostly army personnel and their family members, officials said.

An AFP photographer at the scene saw the charred wreckage of the plane after it caught fire in a field near the Boufarik airbase, 30 kilometres south of Algiers, from where it had taken off.

Hundreds of ambulances and dozens of fire trucks with sirens wailing rushed to the scene of the crash, in an uninhabited area where one person was injured on the ground by debris.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze and security forces set up a cordon to prevent journalists and onlookers from approaching.

The defence ministry said in a statement that 247 passengers and 10 crew were killed without mentioning any survivors. Most of

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Rescuers around the wreckage of an Algerian army plane that crashed near Boufarik airbase yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dettol **দাঙ্গের ঢাকা** **পাওয়ার্ড বাই**
সংশোধিত বাই

তারিখ: ১৩ এপ্রিল (বাংলা ১৪২৪ সন)
স্থান: নগর ভবন (ঢাকা দক্ষিণ)
সপট রেজিট্রেশনের সময় শুরু: সকাল ৭ টা

বাংলা বছরের শেষ দিনে, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের
মেয়র সাঈদ খোকন
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যার মাধ্যমে আমরা একটি রেকর্ড গড়ার চেষ্টা করবো।
আমাদের এই আয়োজনে যোগদান করে
আপনিও হয়ে যান এই মহৎ উদ্যোগের অংশীদার

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