

# Flawed logic for quota

SC observations not binding on the govt, say legal experts

"It will not be a contempt of court if an observation is not abided by [any party to the case]."

LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has been referring to a Supreme Court "order" on the reservation of 30 percent quota for the children of freedom fighters for the last few days, arguing that it cannot be changed.

But the fact is it was a mere observation of the court and the government has no obligation to abide by it, legal experts have said.

In a verdict in 2015, the Appellate Division of the SC said, "The High Court Division observed that the reservation of 30 percent quota for the children of freedom fighters shall be followed strictly."

Judges, jurists and scholars all over the world have long ago concluded that observations, also known as remarks or opinions of judges, in a verdict are not binding upon any parties to a case.

Law Minister Anisul Huq and other legal experts have said that this well-settled principle is being followed in our judicial system for long.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, however, thinks otherwise.

He termed the SC's observation an "order" and claimed that it was binding on the government.

He came up with this interpretation at a press conference on Wednesday, and strongly opposed any change in the existing 30 percent quota for freedom fighters' children

FF OFFICIALS' BENEFITS  
Govt yet to implement HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters who won a legal battle six years ago are yet to get their retirement benefits for public service as the government has not implemented the court's verdict.

The High Court in 2012 directed the government to give service benefits to its retiree freedom fighter officials and employees by increasing their retirement

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Committee for quota review may seek 90 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee formed on July 2 to "review, reform or cancel" the quota system for civil service may seek 90 more working days as it has not finished collecting information and reviewing reports about the system, sources said.

The committee, led by Cabinet Secretary M Shafiu Alam, was asked to submit a report within 15 working days, the deadline of

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Risking his life, a passenger slips between two buses to get into one at Shahbagh intersection in the capital around 4:00pm yesterday. Only a couple of hours ago, a man was knocked down and killed when he was between two buses there. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CPB, 7 other parties form new alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA), a newly formed platform of eight left-leaning parties, yesterday demanded that the present parliament be dissolved before the schedule for the next general election is announced.

The alliance was floated yesterday through a press conference at Mukti Bhaban -- headquarters of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

In the briefing, the LDA also demanded formation of a neutral election-time government and reorganisation of the Election Commission after discussions with all political parties and different groups of people. According to the alliance, the entire election

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## All gold kept in BB vault secure

Claims state minister, backs BB statement on 'clerical mistake'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan yesterday claimed that all gold kept in the Bangladesh Bank's vault is secure.

"If anyone has any doubt, he can check it ... The door of Bangladesh Bank is open," Mannan told reporters after a meeting with the BB governor and senior customs officials at his secretariat office.

The issue of adulterated gold in the highly secure BB vault came to the fore after Bangla daily Prothom Alo ran a report on Tuesday saying mixed metals were found in one of the gold bars kept in the vault, and the percentage of gold in it was found at 46 percent instead of 80 percent.

The report, based on the findings of a probe by the

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**Bay Footwear Ltd.** has been awarded with **National Export Trophy (Gold)** for the year of 2014-15 for its tremendous contribution in country's export earnings in Footwear sector. Honorable Chairman of Bay Footwear Ltd., **Md. Shamsur Rahman** has received the award from **Mr. Tofail Ahmed, MP, Honorable Minister**, Ministry of Commerce on 15th July 2018 at ceremonial event.

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### REPORT ON EXTORTION Rejoinder, our reply

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity has sent a rejoinder to a report headlined "Extortion rampant in transport sector" published in The Daily Star on its front page yesterday.

Signed by Mahbubur Rahman, vice-president of the road transport owners' platform, the rejoinder said the statements attributed to the president and the secretary general were not their speeches.

It said the speeches of the president and the general secretary are as follows:

We sat with Bangladesh

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111/1/A, Distillery Road, Gandaria (Beside Dhupkhola Playground), Dhaka-1204  
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