



## Quota protests on; govt looks to SC for a way out

### STAR REPORT

For the second consecutive day, students demonstrating against the quota system for government jobs occupied key city intersections, bringing traffic to a halt for hours.

They also blocked rail lines and major highways at places across the country.

The students' "Bangla Blockade" had a cascading effect on traffic on other streets. Thousands were stuck in gridlocks on city streets and thoroughfares for hours on end since 4:00pm.

The protesters, however, decided not to enforce any blockades today. Instead, they would continue their boycott of classes and exams.

"We will coordinate with students across the country tomorrow [today] to launch a tougher demonstration on Wednesday," said Nahid Islam, a Dhaka University student and an organiser of the movement.

"We have not called off the blockade. Instead, we are preparing for a large-scale blockade," he said.

Students of different public universities and colleges and jobseekers have been demonstrating for the last seven days demanding reinstatement of a 2018 circular that abolished the quota system in government jobs.

The Supreme Court on June 4 upheld a High Court verdict that declared the government circular illegal.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said his office would take the next steps after receiving the full text of the HC verdict.

He said the government's petition against the HC verdict was scheduled to come up before the Appellate Division on Thursday.

He said the students should have patience and avoid public demonstrations since the matter was pending with the Supreme Court. "I don't know why they are carrying out the movement," he said.

Meanwhile, three ministers and two state ministers discussed the students' movement in a closed-door meeting yesterday at the Awami League president's political office in Dhanmondi.

- » People suffer on 2nd day of "Bangla Blockade"
- » Protesters will not enforce blockades today
- » Students to continue boycott of classes, exams
- » Students preparing for "large-scale blockade"
- » Ministers meet to discuss anti-quota protests
- » "Govt sympathetic towards demonstrators"

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Students demonstrate blocking the Shahbagh intersection in the capital around 4:30pm yesterday as part of their "Bangla Blockade" programme demanding scrapping of the quota system in government jobs.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

### 'LOAN FRAUD'

## ACC seeks info on 14 firms from BB, Islami Bank

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has written to Bangladesh Bank and Islami Bank seeking information on 14 companies, including 11 of Nabil Group, regarding embezzlement of crores of taka from the Shariah-based bank through alleged loan fraud.

The central bank and the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) have been asked to provide the information within seven

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### QUESTION LEAK

## Six PSC officials, 11 others arrested

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 people, including six officials of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission, have been arrested by the CID for their alleged involvement in leaking questions of government job exams.

Six PSC officials are deputy directors Abu Jafar and Jahangir Alam, Assistant Director Alamgir Kabir, Office Assistant Sajedul Islam, Auditor Priyonath

Roy, office staff Khalilur Rahman, and former PSC driver Syed Abed Ali, according to the Criminal Investigation Department.

The other arrestees are Abu Solaiman Md Sohel, former Chhatra League leader and trader; Shahadat Hossain, a security guard of the Narayanganj passport office; Niamun Hasan, medical technician of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Sakhawati

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## Hasina in Beijing on 4-day visit

Will hold talks with Xi Jinping, Li Qiang tomorrow



BSS, Beijing

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Beijing yesterday on a four-day bilateral visit to China at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Li Qiang.

A special Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, carrying the prime minister and her entourage members, touched down at Beijing Capital International Airport at 6:00pm (local time).

During her stay in Beijing, Hasina will have a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. She will also hold a delegation-level bilateral meeting with the Chinese prime minister tomorrow.

Bangladesh and China are likely to sign 20 to 22 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the premier's visit, said Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud.

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