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The anti-quota protest is a nonpolitical agitation. But BNP and their collaborators are trying to turn the movement into an antigovernment agitation and they are instigating the movement making statements and comments.

OBAIDUL QUADER Road Transport and



Anyone can file a lawsuit if aggrieved. If the investigation reveals no merit to the case, it can be automatically cancelled, regardless of whether it takes **24 hours or 24** days.

> ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL Home Minister



It's a "sub judice" issue and the ongoing protests lack justification. The government has always been sympathetic towards students, which

is why the quota system was abolished. However, many problems have arisen following that.

HASAN MAHMUD Foreign Minister



The government cannot do anything on the quota reform issue until the **Supreme Court** process is totally completed. There is no chance to change the High Court order by protesting on the streets.

> MOHAMMAD ALI ARAFAT State Minister for Information



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17 JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45



A playful moment suddenly takes a dangerous turn, as while trying to throw something at his friend, a student trips over and falls onto a busy road. An accident could have occurred with a bus rapidly approaching him, but the driver managed to break just in time, narrowly averting a tragedy. A moment of carelessness on the road can turn tragic if footpaths or nearby foot-bridges are not used. The photo was taken in the capital's Science Lab area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Restore 5 percent indigenous quota **Demands Adivasi Quota**

Sangrakkhan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people yesterday demanded reinstating the five percent indigenous quota in first and second-class government jobs.

The protestors against quota systems are creating inequality through their movement, said Alik Mree, convener of Adivasi Quota Sangrakkhan Parishad, during a press conference held on After the

cancellation of

the number of

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the quota in 2018,

indigenous people

Dhaka University premises. "Our living standard is completely different from others. We have had to grow up fighting adversity from birth. So, we think our demand for the restoration of the five percent quota is completely logical and we want to see its implementation as soon as possible," he said.

"The constitution provides special opportunities for the

backward people of the country. After the cancellation of the quota in 2018, the number of indigenous people of the hills and plains entering government jobs has fallen drastically," he also said.

'Quota is a constitutional right. Various policies and laws of the state could not play an effective role in protecting the living standard and developing the rights of indigenous people. Rather, it has increased oppression and deprivation of indigenous people," he said.

DELAYED MONSOON

Dengue may spike in Aug or Sept

Fear experts, call for central action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dengue cases might start to increase during August September, as this year's outbreak will get delayed due to the monsoon starting late, said experts at a programme yesterday.

However, they said, the outbreak may not be as intense this year compared to last year.

They made the remarks at a discussion, titled "Reasons for failure to control dengue and what to be done", organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba).

At the discussion, Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of Directorate General of Health Services, said local government and the health department must work together to control dengue. Suggesting the launch of a mosquito-borne disease, he said

Dengue death toll 48 Total number of patients 4,566 **383** still undergoing treatment Number of recovered patients 4,135 155 more hospitalised yesterday

national strategy to control the

SOURCE: **DGHS**

such a strategy was prepared a few days ago. But it needs to be updated, he added.

Kabirul Bashar, professor Zoology at Jahangirnagar University, said, "Dengue may be prevalent in the country in August or September. This year's dengue outbreak may not be the same as last year.'

Rumana Huque, teacher of economics at Dhaka University, financial pressure also increases for a dengue patient, as both dengue tests and treatments cost quite a lot of money.

If a dengue patient takes treatment at a government hospital, it may cost them Tk 35,000 to Tk 40,000, and it may cost Tk 60,000 to Tk 65,000 on average at a private hospital.

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DB arrests mastermind of certificate forgery gang

UNB, Dhaka

The Detective Branch of police arrested the mastermind of a criminal gang who used to sell forged academic certificates.

The arrestee is Abu Zafar, 31. He sold the fake certificates of two private

Cyber and Special Crime Department (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted a drive on Friday and arrested Zafar, said DMP additional commissioner Harun-or-Rashid yesterday.

Harun, also the DB chief, said IT experts, a former teacher and an office assistant of a private university may have been involved in this racket.

On May 26, a case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard.

HC questions legality of 40pc quota for children of BR employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a provision to keep 40 percent quota for the children of Bangladesh Railways employees in BR.

The court issued a rule asking the government to show causes why the section 3(1) and (2) of the Bangladesh Railway Non-Cadre Recruitment Rules, 2020 that contains the provision should not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Rokonuzzaman.

He submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on May 26 to the HC saying that the Bangladesh Railway has purposefully framed the rules by fixing the 40 percent quota for the children of its employees for their own benefits which is contradictory to the circular issued by the Ministry of Public Administration in 2018 regarding cancellation of quotas and articles 27, 29 and 31 of the constitution.

Due to preservation of 40 percent quota for jobs in 14th to 20 grades in the railways, there will be discrimination against others, the petitioner said.

Rokonuzzaman himself moved the petition while DAG Tushar Kanti Roy represented the state.

VACCINE FOR LIVESTOCK JS body to look into tender graft

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a threemember sub-committee to investigate alleged corruption in the tender process to purchase vaccines for the fisheries and livestock department. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries

and Livestock Ministry formed the sub-committee at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

SM Rezaul Karim, an Awami League lawmaker and chief of the parliamentary watchdog, presided over the meeting. MP BM Kabirul Haque was made convener of the sub-committee. The other members are AL MP Nur Uddin Chowdhury Noyon and independent MP Moshiur Rahman Mollah Shajal.

The investigation committee was asked to submit its report before the main committee within 15 working days, BM Kabirul Haque told The Daily Star. "Today was our first meeting. We are yet to go through all the documents related to the alleged corruption in the tender process," he said.

Kabirul said, "What we have heard is that there were some irregularities in the tender process as the due procedure was not followed during the tender floating."

The committee also recommended the ministry to suspend the Department of Livestock's ongoing recruitment process, as the decision regarding the quota system in government jobs is pending before the

In the meeting, the committee was briefed about the activities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and its subordinate agencies and institutions.



Posters, advertising for hostels or coaching centres, remain nailed or pasted on trees along Mirpur Road in the capital. This blatant disregard for nature not only damages the trees but also is an eyesore. Later, these plastics end up in city drains, further adding to the waterlogging woes. The photo was taken near Dhaka City College recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN