



**Saudi-bound migrant workers in a bind**

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**Did we have to pay such a heavy price for this verdict?**

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SC VERDICT ON GOVT JOBS

## 93pc on merit, 7pc from quota

Govt to implement SC recommendations, circular likely tomorrow, says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered major reforms to the quota system in jobs at government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, curtailing quotas to only seven percent from the existing 56 percent.

According to the SC order, 93 percent jobs in civil service will be merit-based.

The apex court also scrapped a High Court judgment that reinstated quotas in government jobs.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed five percent quota for children of freedom fighters, martyred freedom fighters and Biranganas. One percent quota has been reserved for ethnic minorities and another one percent for

5pc for children of living and martyred freedom fighters and Biranganas

1pc for ethnic minorities

1pc for physically challenged, third gender

persons with disability and people of third gender.

In the short verdict, the top court made no mention of the grandchildren of freedom fighters.

If qualified candidates are not available from the fixed quotas, the vacant posts will be filled from the general merit list. But despite the court order, the government may cancel, amend or reform the quota system if necessary, considering the overall situation, it said.

This has been done to “ensure the principle of equality and representation of backward section of people in the republic’s jobs,” the SC order said, citing articles 19, 27, 28 (4) and 29 (3) of the constitution.

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Army personnel stand guard in front of the main entrance to the Supreme Court around noon yesterday. Security was beefed up in and around the court as the Appellate Division during curfew hours held a hearing on a case regarding quotas in government jobs.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

‘Shutdown paused for 48 hours’

Say 3 protest leaders including Nahid; others say they’ll press on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three organisers of the quota reform protests yesterday suspended the “complete shutdown” programme for 48 hours while others said they would continue with it.

At a press briefing at the Gonoshasthaya Hospital last night, the three – Nahid Islam, Sarjis Alam, and Hasnat Abdullah – also issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet four demands – withdrawal of the curfew, reopening of all universities and their residential halls, restoration of internet services, and security of all coordinators of the protests.

Nahid said they suspended the shutdown and issued the ultimatum since there is a curfew and

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DEATHS OF STUDENTS

## Judicial body to unearth reasons, take legal steps

Hopes apex court in its observation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday hoped that the students would call off their demonstrations for quota reforms following its verdict in a quota-related case and return to their educational institutions.

The deaths of many people during the demonstrations were “unexpected”, observed the apex court while delivering the verdict.

It said it expects the judicial probe commission, led by a High Court judge, to unearth the reasons behind the deaths of the students and the government to take necessary legal steps against those responsible as per the recommendations of the commission.

The seven-member bench, led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, requested the government to ensure necessary support to the commission so that it can perform its duty.

It also asked the government to help establish a favourable environment at educational institutions immediately.

According to the verdict, 93 percent government jobs would be based on merit while the remaining seven percent

recruitments would be on quotas.

The court said the 2018 government circular cancelling quotas in government jobs was reinstated when the Supreme Court issued a status quo on the High Court’s verdict on July 10.

Earlier, the High Court had declared the circular illegal.

“But our students could not properly realise the actual meaning of our order, resulting in different unwanted incidents and many deaths, which is in no way desirable,” it said.

The chief justice said they have asked the protesters to place their points before the court through their lawyers but they did not. However, two students, on the behalf of general students, appeared before the court seeking the scrapping of the HC verdict, he said.

The court asked the students to return to their educational institutions immediately and get ready to take on the great responsibility of the state in future.

It asked the chiefs of all universities, colleges, schools, and madrasas to immediately take necessary measures so that students can return to their institutions.

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### TIMELINE

JUNE 5

High Court rules the 2018 government circular, which abolished the quota system, illegal, resulting in its reinstatement.

JUNE 9

The government challenges the HC rule with the Supreme Court.

JULY 4

SC rejects government’s appeal to stay the HC verdict.

JULY 9

Two Dhaka University students file petition, seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

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At least 7 killed, on 2nd day of curfew

Six others injured in previous days’ clashes die in hospitals

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and dozens wounded in the capital and two other districts in sporadic clashes between law enforcers and agitators on the second day of nationwide curfew yesterday.

Meanwhile, six more people, who were injured in earlier clashes, died yesterday, police and hospital authorities said.

Most of the victims were hit by bullets.

On Saturday night,

the government extended the nationwide curfew till further notice to tackle the ongoing violence centring the quota protest.

The curfew was declared and army personnel were deployed on Friday to assist the civil administration in ensuring national security and protecting lives and public properties.

For the second day, members of the armed forces were seen patrolling different points in Dhaka and other districts yesterday.

Of the seven killed, five were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Sign Board, Chittagong Road and Dhania areas of the city, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in charge of DMCH police outpost.

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3hr break in curfew from 2pm today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing nationwide curfew will remain in force until further notice with a three-hour break from 2:00pm today.

From now on, the home ministry will decide about curfew in Dhaka city, Dhaka district, Narayanganj city, Narayanganj district, Gazipur city, and Gazipur and Narsingdi districts.

Considering the situation, district magistrates and police commissioners of the metropolitan areas will make decisions whether the curfew will remain in force in their respective areas.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said this during a press briefing after a meeting with the representatives of the law enforcement agencies at his Dhanmondi residence last night.

He hoped that the law

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US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

## Biden quits race amid criticism

Endorses Kamala Harris to replace him

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden has withdrawn from the presidential race amid growing calls by his Democratic peers, reports BBC.

He said he would speak to the nation later this week in detail about his decision. He has backed his running mate Kamala Harris, the vice president, to replace him.

Biden faced growing calls to quit the race after a devastating debate earlier this month where he struggled to find words to reply to Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Though he tried to remain defiant, in recent days, a growing number of heavyweight Democrats, including former House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative Adam Schiff, joined the call.

According to a White House source, Pelosi reportedly told Biden he cannot win the Nov 5 election.

Schiff said in a statement on Wednesday that he has “serious concerns” about whether Biden can defeat Trump, the first Democrat to come out after the Saturday assassination attempt against the former president.

In a post on X, formerly known as



Twitter, Biden said, “My fellow Democrats, I have decided not to accept the nomination and to focus all my energies on my duties as president for the remainder of my term. My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my vice president... Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats - it’s time to come together and beat Trump. Let’s do this.”

In another statement issued by Biden, he said, “It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your president. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interests of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term.”

Picked up early Saturday, Nahid returns battered

ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU and  
SAIM BIN MUJIB

Nahid Islam, a key organiser of quota reform movement, alleged he was “tortured physically” until he was unconscious.



In the early hours Saturday, he was picked up allegedly by law enforcers from a house in the capital’s Sabujbagh.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nahid said, “After taking me into a room, they interrogated me over the student movement. They tortured me mentally and physically. At one point, I lost consciousness.”

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A father wails as he carries his bullet-hit son to a hospital in the capital’s Matuail yesterday afternoon.