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# QUOTA IN GOVT JOBS New system applicable for all grades

Following SC order, govt circular says 93pc jobs to be given on merit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major reform to the quota system in public jobs, the government yesterday issued a circular, taking merit-based recruitment in civil service to 93 percent from the existing 44 percent. The rest seven percent will come from various quotas.

The new quota system, which came in line with Sunday's Supreme Court order, will come into effect immediately and will be applicable to all grades of the government, semi-government, autonomous, semi-autonomous, statutory bodies and corporations in case of direct recruitment through exams, according to the circular.

There are 20 grades in government jobs. Direct appointments are usually done in 9th-20th grade. However, such direct appointments are also done in case of a handful of posts in some top grades like 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades, according to public administration ministry officials.

As per the circular, there will be five percent quota for the children of freedom fighters, martyred freedom fighters and Biranganas. One percent quota has been reserved for ethnic minorities and another one percent for persons with disability and people of third gender.

If enough candidates are not available from the quotas, the vacant posts will be filled up from the merit list.

"We have implemented the apex court's verdict as is... It was mainly a movement to reform the quota and we have done it. The students should now return to their classrooms," Law Minister Anisul Huq told a press briefing, announcing the circular.

Four key organisers of the quota reform protest rejected the circular, saying there should have been a discussion with the stakeholders before issuing the circular.

"Our movement will continue until justice is done about those killed and injured," said Nahid Islam, one of the organisers, about two hours after the law minister's announcement.

The circular came in the wake of an unprecedented violence centring on student protests for quota reforms.

According to The Daily Star's count, at least 150 people have been killed and several thousand wounded in clashes with law enforcers, joined in by alleged ruling party activists, since Tuesday.

The overall death toll may rise, as The Daily Star could not reach many hospitals in Dhaka and elsewhere where many critically injured were taken for treatment. Also, many friends and families reportedly took the bodies of their loved ones from the scene and this newspaper could not contact them. The Daily Star's count of the death toll is based solely on hospital and police sources.

The massive unrest also saw dozens of public and private

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## QUOTA: WHO GETS WHAT

- ➔ 5pc for children of freedom fighters, Biranganas
- ➔ 1pc for ethnic minorities
- ➔ 1pc for persons with disability & people of third gender
- ➔ No quota for women
- ➔ No quota for grandchildren of freedom fighters
- ➔ Vacant posts to be filled up from merit list

## 4 organisers of quota reform demonstration reject circular

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four key organisers of the quota reform demonstration have said the protests would continue after they rejected yesterday's government circular announcing the new quota allocation in government jobs.

"Before issuing the circular, the authorities should have held a dialogue with students and other stakeholders. We'll not accept the circular as the final resolution," Nahid Islam, a key coordinator, told a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

The statement came two hours after Law Minister Anisul Huq briefed reporters on the circular at his residence around 3:30pm.

As per the government decision, 93 percent of the recruitment at government, semi-government and autonomous bodies will be based on merit.

There will be a five percent quota for children of freedom fighters, martyred freedom fighters, and Biranganas. One percent quota has been reserved

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## A welcome move

The public administration ministry yesterday published a circular in line with the Supreme Court verdict on the quota system in government jobs. Following the circular, The Daily Star's Baharam Khan spoke to experts who expressed hope that the circular would bring about significant changes to the government recruitment process.



M MUSHARRAF HOSSAIN BHUIYAN  
Former cabinet secretary

I think the issuance of the government circular on the reforms to the quota system is the right move for this moment as it will play a role in normalising the situation. However, I am in favour of quota for women. Not many countries in the world have quota for females in parliament, but we have reserve seats for women in our parliament. So, there can be quota for

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FIROZ MIA  
Former additional secretary

The circular rightly reflects the Supreme Court judgment and is expected to bring about significant changes in the government recruitment process as it will reduce bureaucratic tangles drastically. However, the public administration ministry and some other relevant authorities have to clarify the new circular from time to time.

G O V E R N M E N T  
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ABUL KASHEM MD MOHIUDDIN  
Secretary, IMED

We got an epoch-making decision on the quota system. This decision will eliminate complications in government recruitment. From now on, meritorious candidates will also get better opportunities in government jobs.

Those who are involved in the government recruitment process used to face a lot of difficulties in dealing with the quota system.

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## Carry out fair probe, punish those responsible

Demand Editors' Council, Noab about recent violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council and Noab yesterday demanded impartial and fair investigations into the loss of life, vandalism, arson and destruction amid the recent violence.

They also demanded punishment of those responsible.

The Editors' Council and Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh issued a joint statement after holding a meeting.

The parties involved, including the state, should play responsible roles to avoid such untoward incidents, said the statement signed by Mahfuz Anam, president of Editors Council, and AK Azad, president of Noab.

They demanded immediate restoration of the internet, which has

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## Another 1,100 arrested in police raids

At least 133 cases filed over violence centring on quota protests

STAR REPORT

Over 1,100 more people were arrested in the capital and other districts in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday, as law enforcers continue their crackdown on those suspected to be linked to the recent violence across the country.

So far, at least 133 cases over violence

At least 2,657 people have been arrested in the capital and elsewhere over the last four days.

have been filed with different police stations in the capital.

According to an analysis of 29 of them, 499 named and 74,055 unnamed people have been made accused in the cases lodged with 17 police stations on charges of attacking law enforcers, damaging and torching state properties.

In 24 cases, the numbers of the

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Staffers of the toll booth on the Mayor Hanif Flyover were collecting tolls manually yesterday, as the booth was burned down on the night of July 17 amid the recent series of arson attack across the country.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 7-hour curfew break in Dhaka, 3 other districts

Govt offices to stay open from 11am to 3pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to continue the ongoing nationwide curfew until further notice.

The curfew will remain in force in Dhaka, Narsingdi, Narayanganj and Gazipur with a seven-hour break from 10:00am to 5:00pm today and tomorrow.

It also decided to keep all government, semi-government and autonomous offices open from 11:00am to 3:00pm today after the three-day general holiday, according to public administration ministry officials.

In Dinajpur, curfew will be relaxed between 8:00am and 5:00pm, said Shakil Ahmed, deputy commissioner of the district.

In Chattogram, curfew will be relaxed from 9:00am to 6:00pm, said Chattogram DC Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan has instructed that the judicial functions of all the courts across the country, including the Appellate and

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