

1-3 July 2024: Initial protests

Students at public universities across the country launched simultaneous protests under the banner 'Anti-Discrimination Student Movement'.[1225](#) They protested the High Court's decision to reinstate the quota for civil service jobs[1226](#) and brought forward a four-point demand, including:

1. cancelling the High Court order reinstating the quota;
2. upholding the 2018 government notice abolishing the quota;
3. ensuring merit-based recruitment for public jobs;
4. appointing qualified candidates if there are no eligible candidates among quotas for 'marginalised communities'.[1227](#)

Most student protests started on 1 July 2024,[1228](#) as the student movement's ultimatum to cancel the quota had expired the day before.[1229](#) The initial protest programme took place over the course of three days,[1230](#) until 3 July 2024, which was the day before a scheduled Supreme Court verdict on the quota.[1231](#) Local media reported on students of various universities joining the protests, including universities in Dhaka Division[1232](#) and in other parts of the country.[1233](#) The student protests took place in parallel to a teachers' strike at 35 public universities,[1234](#) during which all academic and administrative activities were suspended indefinitely to protest changes in the teachers' pension scheme.[1235](#)

The initial student protests reportedly took place at university campuses,[1236](#) although some marches moved outside the campus areas.[1237](#) Some protest actions included blocking major roads, in particular on the second and third day of protests (2 July 2024 and 3 July 2024).[1238](#) Some protests included the following:

- **Dhaka University:** students held protests at the university campus on 1-3 July 2024, and repeated a daily procession where they marched from the university's central library to the Raju Memorial Sculpture.[1239](#) On 1 July 2024, they continued protests in front of the proctor's office to demand the continuation of some student services during the teachers' strike.[1240](#) On 2 and 3 July 2024, they continued protests by blocking Shahbagh intersection,[1241](#) which is a major intersection in Dhaka City.[1242](#) There are discrepancies in media reports on the duration of the blockade, ranging from 30[1243](#) to 90 minutes on 2 July 2024[1244](#) and reportedly 60 minutes on 3 July 2024,[1245](#) as well as its scale with the Daily Star reporting on 'hundreds' of students from Dhaka University participating in the

blockade on 3 July 2024,[1246](#) while another local media source, Dhaka Tribune, reported on 'several thousand students' participating from several universities and colleges.[1247](#)

- **Jahangirnagar University** (Dhaka Division): students marched on the university campus on 1 July 2024, and then blocked the Dhaka-Arckha highway[1248](#) for about ten minutes. [1249](#) This is one of the busiest highways in the country.[1250](#) Students blocked the highway again on 2 and 3 July 2024,[1251](#) but expanded the blockade to 30 minutes on 2 July 2024, according to local media New Age,[1252](#) and to two hours on 3 July 2024, according to Dhaka Tribune.[1253](#)
- **Jagannath University** (Dhaka Division): students marched on the university campus on 1-3 July 2024,[1254](#) but also moved through areas outside campus, including Raisaheb Bazaar and Bahadur Shah Park (also known as Victoria Park).[1255](#) On 3 July 2024, students reportedly also blocked a road at Taantibazar intersection for about an hour.[1256](#)
- **Rajshahi University** (Rajshahi City): students reportedly started protesting already on 30 June 2024 and protested during three consecutive days (30 June-2 July 2024) by forming a human chain at Paris Road[1257](#) – a famous avenue at the university campus.[1258](#)
- **Barishal University** (Barishal City) students protested at the main gate of the university on 1 July 2024[1259](#) and according to local media outlet Barta24, they also marched on the Dhaka-Barishal highway in the afternoon.[1260](#) Protests were repeated on 2-3 July 2024, with students blocking the highway.[1261](#)
- **Bangladesh Agricultural University** (Mymensingh City): students reportedly protested on 1 July 2024[1262](#) and on 3 July 2024, when they halted a commuter train for an hour.[1263](#)

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