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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 jobs1226 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 Division1232 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 301243 to 90 minutes on 2 July 20241244 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–Aricka highway1248 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 Road1257 – a famous avenue at the university campus.1258

- **Barishal University** (Barishal City) students protested at the main gate of the university on 1 July 20241259 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 20241262 and on 3 July 2024, when they halted a commuter train for an hour. 1263

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