

7-10 July 2024: The 'Bangla Blockade', and temporary suspension of the quota 108

Thousands of students from all major universities participated in the 'Bangla Blockade' initiative [1283](#) by boycotting classes [1284](#) and blocking key highways and roads across the country. [1285](#) Traffic was disrupted over the course of three days, [1286](#) with a one-day pause on 9 July 2024. [1287](#) In Dhaka, student protesters blocked Shahbagh intersection, and other roads across the capital, [1288](#) both on 7 July [1289](#) (which brought traffic in Dhaka City close to a 'standstill' [1290](#)) and on 8 July 2024. [1291](#) The blockades caused severe disruption to traffic in the capital for the fifth and sixth day since the protests started. [1292](#) On 10 July 2024, the 'Bangla Blockade' resumed with day-long blockades. [1293](#) Shabagh intersection was blocked, for about eight hours, [1294](#) as well as other roads across Dhaka City. [1295](#)

Student protesters also blocked major highways across the country, [1296](#) cutting of road traffic to and from Dhaka City. [1297](#) Including those connecting the capital to areas along westbound routes (such as Dhaka-Archipa, Dhaka-Pabna, [1298](#) and Dhaka-Rajshahi), [1299](#) eastbound routes (such as Dhaka-Mymensingh), [1300](#) southbound routes (such as Dhaka-Chattogram highway, [1301](#) Dhaka-Barishal, [1302](#) Dhaka-Kuakata, [1303](#) and Dhaka-Khulna) [1304](#) and northbound routes (such as Dhaka-Dinajpur, [1305](#) and Dhaka-Rangpur). [1306](#) Additionally protesters blocked highways connecting Sylhet to Sunamganj in the east, [1307](#) and Kushtia to Khulna in the southwest [1308](#) and Barishal-Kuakata, [1309](#) as well as roads in other areas. [1310](#)

Train traffic was also disrupted with students blocking the Dhaka-Mymensingh railroad on 7 July 2024, [1311](#) and several other rail tracks on 8 July 2024 – which disrupted train traffic for hours. On 8 July 2024, students blocked the Karwan Bazar level crossing in Dhaka City, [1312](#) the Dhaka-Rajshahi railway, [1313](#) and the Dhaka-Mymensingh railway (for the third consecutive day). [1314](#) They reportedly also blocked Sholshahar station in Chattogram. [1315](#) Consequently, rail tracks connecting Dhaka [1316](#) and Rajshahi to the rest of the country were cut off. [1317](#) Also on 10 July 2024, rail tracks were blocked across the country. [1318](#)

Hasina publicly commented on the protests for the first time on 7 July 2024. She denounced them, stating that they were no longer justified and a waste of time following the Supreme Court's verdict. [1319](#) Other senior government officials echoed this sentiment and implied that the protests were 'infiltrated' by the opposition in subsequent public statements. [1320](#)

Following two petitions, [1321](#) the Supreme Court temporarily suspended the High Court's verdict on the quota on 10 July 2024, [1322](#) for one month. [1323](#)

On 10 July 2024, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) (an elite paramilitary force that has been accused of 'serious human rights violations'[1324](#)) was deployed to contain protests, alongside the police.[1325](#) According UN OHCHR, Hasina authorised military intelligence to carry out 'secret negotiations' with the leaders of the student movement.[1326](#)

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