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1–3 August 2024: Protests reignite

In early August 2024 protests reignited,1777 now calling for the resignation of Hasina and her government.1778 In response, security forces made use of extensive and lethal force.1779

On 1 August 2024, the student movement launched the protest programme 'Remembering our Heroes',1780 in memory of victims of violence during the quota reform protests.1781 According to Prothom Alo, the programme was observed in at least 16 districts and cities and involved students, teachers, and lawyers. The same source reported on the police obstructing some protests, triggering chases and counter-chases.1782 Several protesters were also arrested.1783 At Rajshahi University a shuffle broke out when teachers tried to prevent police from arresting students on campus,1784 and two journalists were reportedly assaulted1785 by the police.1786

On 2 August 2024, the student movement announced a programme of prayers, followed by mass demonstrations.1787 Protests took place in Dhaka and other parts of the country,1788 involving hundreds of thousands of protesters.1789 Two people reportedly died during clashes, including one police officer,1790 and more than 100 people were injured, according to Benar News.1791 In some places, police fired rubber bullets and teargas1792 and opened fire on protesters as violence erupted.1793 Awami League supporters attacked protesters in parallel. 1794 In Dhaka neighbourhoods, there were some protests taking place without reported clashes, including in Mirpur1795 and Shabagh – despite heavy presence of police and Awami League supporters.1796 In the Dhaka neighbourhood of Uttara, however, clashed erupted,1797 as police fired teargas and stun grenades,1798 and allegedly shot at protesters,1799 while protesters threw stones at them.1800 Awami League supporters also attacked protesters,1801 and reportedly beat women protesters with pipes and pistols.1802

Clashes also occurred outside Dhaka City,1803 including in the city of Khulna, where police fired teargas and rubber bullets,1804 which triggered clashes and chases.1805 50 persons were reportedly injured.1806 As the police failed to disperse protesters, they retreated from some situations.1807 Somoy TV reported on protesters attacking two police stations,1808 and Prothom Alo reported on four police officers being beaten 'mercilessly' after having opened fire at protesters from inside a shop at Gallamari Kitchen Market.1809 One police officer died from his injuries.1810 In the Akhalia, a neighbourhood in Sylhet City, police fired sound grenades, 1811 rubber bullets1812 and lethal metal pellets,1813 injuring at least 20 people,1814 including a journalist being hit by three bullets1815 in his chest, face and head.1816 In the city of Habiganj, Sylhet Division, protesters clashed with police and Awami League supporters. Some protesters engaged in vandalism and torched the Awami League district office, and hurled bricks at the house of a local lawmaker.1817 According to Prothom Alo, police opened fire at students

approaching them from two sides,1818 while the New Age reported on police firing rubber bullets and teargas shells.1819 In Lakshmipur, Chattogram Division, protesters clashed with Chhatra League and Jubo League activists,1820 and a man carrying firearms was seen chasing protesters.1821

On 3 August 2024, local media reported on an 'outburst of protests',1822 with blockades of various roads and intersections.1823 Violent clashes were reported in Dhaka City,1824 and in other parts of the country.1825 According to Netra News, at least two people died,1826 including one person killed during clashes in the city of Gazipur1827 and a police officer in the city of Khulna.1828 Hundreds more were injured as security forces shot at crowds.1829 In the city of Bogura, Rajshahi Division, protesters clashed with police firing teargas. Protesters retaliated by throwing bricks and other objects, followed by a chase during which police fired rubber bullets.1830 In the city of Rangpur, the police reportedly shot at protesters, killing seven and injuring 15.1831 In the city of Cumilla, Awami League supporters carried out attacks against protesters.1832 According to UN OHCHR, they were armed with firearms, machetes and iron rods and carried out attacks in 'formations of about 60 men each'. According to the same source, the police did not intervene,1833 while at least 30 people were reportedly injured,1834 some being shot by bullets.1835

Some protesters engaged in violent acts.1836 In the city of Chattogram, protesters attacked the residence of the Minister of Education,1837 and the mayor's residence, where one person was reportedly shot dead and five were injured by police fire.1838 An office of local media Ekattor TV was also attacked by a mob armed with sticks and stones,1839 and in Shahbagh, protesters reportedly hurled bottles at the police that retreated to a local police station, while the BGB took shelter inside the national museum.1840 In the cities of Sylhet and Khulna, many police officers were reportedly injured in clashes, and one officer died after being beaten by protesters in Khulna.1841 Students from Rajshahi University blocked Dhaka–Rajshahi highway, some vandalised a police box and beat up a DB officer.1842 According to Netra News, the police began retreating from the streets due to the magnitude of protests, and redeploying resources to protect police stations and key installations.1843

Hasina called upon student coordinators to negotiate and put an end to the violence,1844 but they rejected her calls.1845 Instead, they announced, in the afternoon of 3 August 2024,1846 that their only remaining demand was the government's resignation.1847 They further announced that unless the government adhered, they would initiate a 'non-cooperation movement' on the following day (4 August 2024).1848 Meanwhile, junior military officers increasingly resisted orders to shoot at protesters, and informed the army chief of their unwillingness to do so.1849

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