

Bangladesh Quarterly

July-September 2024

A New Dawn...

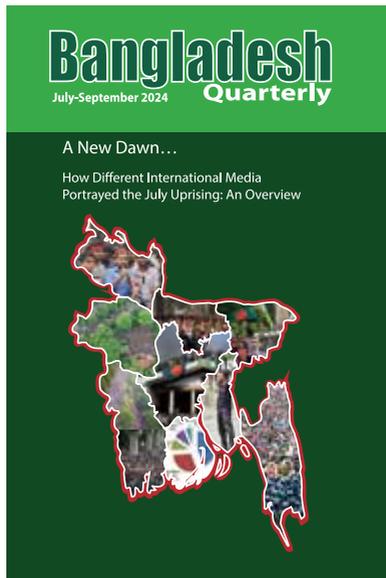
How Different International Media Portrayed the July Uprising: An Overview



Bangladesh

QUARTERLY

Vol. 45, No. 1, July-September 2024, Shrabon-Ashwin 1431



Department of Films and Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Bangladesh

Chief Editor

Abul Kalam Mohammad Shamsuddin

Senior Editor

Rifat Zafreen

Editor

Mst. Tania Akter

Sub-Editor

Hriday Kumar Barman

Md. Mazharul Hoque

Editorial Associate

Md. Mamun Hossain

Cover Design & Layout

H. K. Barman

Cover

Photo collage of Mass Upsurge 2024 in the map of Bangladesh

Published by**Department of Films and Publications**

Tathya Bhaban

112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka - 1000

Telephone : 88-02-8300697

Fax : 88-02-58310020

E-mail : bangladeshquarterly@yahoo.com

bdqtrly2@gmail.com

Website : www.dfp.gov.bd

Price : Tk. 30

Printed at

The Goodluck Printers

13 Naya Paltan, Dhaka - 1000



Editorial

Students against Discrimination hold the flagship of our nation through a surpassing movement. The movement initially started with one demand 'Reformation of Quota System in govt. jobs', which finally turns into an only demand 'End of Autocracy'- stepping down of the government. There is a Bangla song, 'maago, vabna keno, amra tomar shantipriyo shanto chele, tobu shotru ele ostro hate dhorte jani, tomar voi nei maa, amra protibad korte jani, (O Mother, why are you so worried, we are your peace loving children, but if there comes any presence of enemies, we can fight against them, you should not be afraid of mother, we know how to protest...). The movement, which began on 05 June 2024 following the students protest against the High Court verdict, was peaceful but the heavy-handed response of the then ruling party and its political force only tarnished the situations and the peaceful protest turned into a reverse agitation. This comes to an end on 05 August 2024 amid the fleeing of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the neighboring country. The movement was conducted under the umbrella of 'Students Movement against Discrimination', which had been formed spontaneously by the students and later common people and thus turned into a huge mass upsurge. These general students were brave enough to face attacks, intimidation, arrests and even death. As history always chooses the valiant, this time it also went to the valiant student force.

National dailies of Bangladesh and different International media published consecutive news, reports, features etc. regarding this Mass Upsurge of Bangladesh.

A report titled 'A New Dawn...' and article titled 'How Different International Media Portrayed the July Uprising: An Overview' has been incorporated in this issue which have focused the events that actually happened in the country, based on the national dailies and international media. Besides, this issue also compiled its other regular events.

Contents

Report

A New Dawn ...

Page - 4

Article

How Different International Media
Portrayed the July Uprising: An Overview

Page - 49

Abuzar Gifari

Regular Event

Major National Events

Page - 54



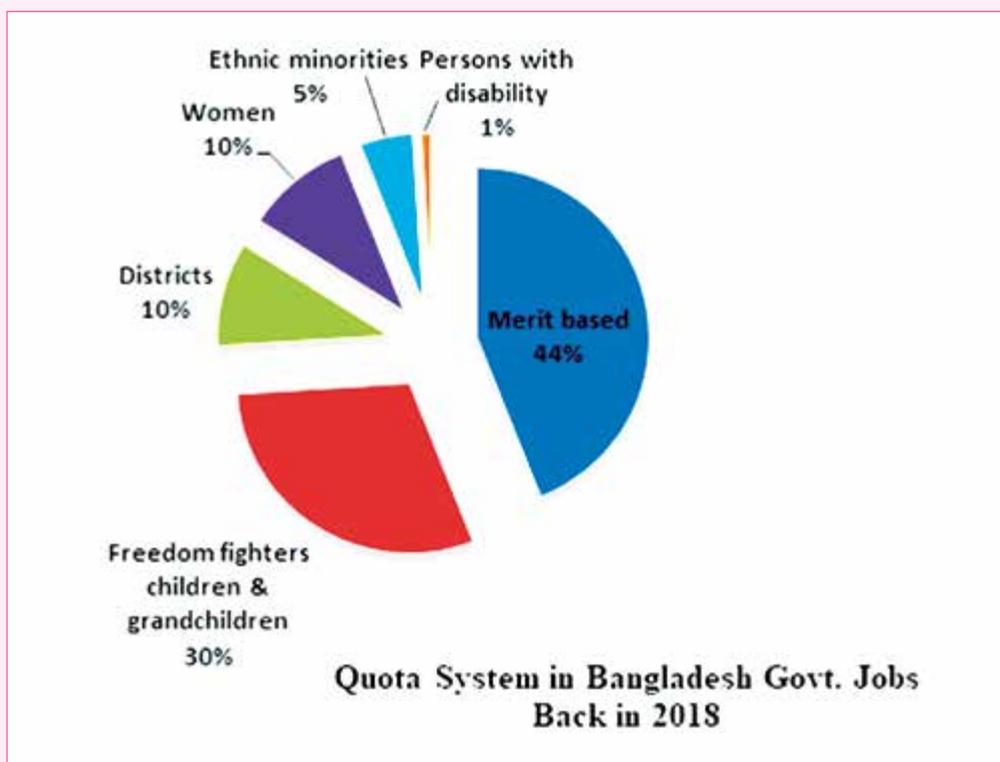
A New Dawn...



Background:

Until the abolition, about 56 per cent of government jobs were reserved for the candidates from various quotas. Of which, 30 per cent were for the freedom fighters’ children and grandchildren, 10 per cent for women, 10 per cent for the people of underdeveloped districts, 5 per cent for the members of indigenous communities and 1 per cent for physically challenged people.

The government circular issued on October 4, 2018 announced abolishing of all the 56 per cent quotas while recruiting only officers (Cadre and Non-Cadre) in the public service in the wake of street protests by the public university students and jobseekers who demanded reforms in the quota system, introduced in 1972.



June 05, 2024, a High Court Bench of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh government ordered government to reintroduce all the quotas in govt. jobs. The High Court order dissatisfied the job seekers, students and gradually the common people of the country. They started to raise voice against this unreasonable decision but the government was reluctant to find a solution. Finally, students took to street demanding quota reform. A movement thus started, from where Bangladesh reached a new conclusion. Thus began ‘A New Dawn...’

High Court Division declares Judgment to restore 30% Freedom Fighters Quota

June 05, 2024, Wednesday

The court pronounced the verdict after disposing of a writ petition, filed by one Ohidul Islam, son of a freedom fighters, and six others, challenging the legality of the government circular, issued on October 4, 2018 abolishing 30 per cent quota for the children and grandchildren of the freedom fighters in the public service.

The court ordered the government to restore 30 percent quota for the children and grandchildren for the cadre and non-cadre service in the government job. The court also asked the government to recruit cadre and non-cadre officers from the merit list if freedom fighters quota could not be fulfilled. According to the HC's verdict, only 44 per cent vacancies are to be filled up from merit list while the remaining 56 per cent are to be filled up under various quotas.

Following the High Court verdict, Dhaka University students held protests at 8:00pm on Wednesday in the campus against the reinstating of illogical quota system for the freedom fighters' children and grandchildren in the government jobs.

Court order to restore Freedom Fighters Quota sparks students protest

June 06, 2024 Thursday

Protesting the HC order regarding restoration of the quota system in the government jobs, hundreds of Dhaka University students held demonstration at 11:30am and 5:00pm on Thursday in front of the Dhaka University Library.

The students also brought out a protest procession from in front of the Central



Students against discrimination protest against the High Court order - Restoration of the quota system in the government jobs in front of the Dhaka University Library on 06 June, 2024

Public Library which marched past Rokeya Hall and ended at the foot of Raju Memorial Sculpture. The students said that reinstatement of the previous quota system in the civil service was not only illogical but also a clear discrimination to the general students.

Rejecting the HC verdict, Member Secretary of the Democratic Student Force Nahid Islam, also a DU student, said, 'If this High Court verdict remains in effect, we will have to go for a long-term movement.'

Addressing at a human chain at the foot of the Raju Memorial Sculpture, former convener of Quota Reformation Movement-2018, Hasan Al Mamun said, 'The High Court decision to reinstate the quota system in government jobs is not only illegal but also unconstitutional as the constitution clearly states that every citizens will have equal rights in the country.' 'If it is an attempt to bring back the quota system, we will again launch tougher movements in the coming days what we did in 2018,' he added.

Students of different public universities including Rajshahi University and Jahangirnagar University brought out protest procession, rallies blocking highways, and formed human chains as part of their protests. Jahangirnagar University students blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway, one of the busiest high ways protesting the High Court's directives.

The demonstrators also announced that they would continue their movement until their demand was met.

Jahangirnagar University students demand scrapping of Court directives on quota

June 07, 2024, Friday

The students of Jahangirnagar University formed a human chain protesting the



Jahangirnagar University students formed a human chain for protesting against the High Court order regarding quota system in government jobs

move to restore freedom fighters quota in government jobs. They formed human chain on the road, adjacent to Shaheed Minar, of the Dhaka University on Friday for the 2nd consecutive day.

Over a hundred students from various departments staged a human chain on the road adjacent to the university's central Shaheed Minar at about 3:00 pm on the day to press home their demand.

Speakers at the human chain criticised the verdict claiming that the quota system in civil services goes against the spirit of the War of Independence. Addressing the human chain, Mahfuz Islam Megh, a student of the environmental science department said, 'The government is trying to extend its tenure by establishing a power structure that is solely loyal to it. Providing quota facilities to a certain group of people is nothing but part of a plan.'

Citing three main principles incorporated in the Constitution namely equality, social dignity, and social justice, the court verdict went against the principles, Arif Sohel, a student of the International Relations Department said.

Later, the students warned of a tougher movement if the verdict was not scrapped.

Following the High Court verdict, students from Dhaka University and other institutions, along with frontliners and activists of the 2018 Quota Reformation Movement, staged human chains under various banners at Dhaka University and other public universities on the same day.

Students threaten nationwide movement after Appellate Division of the Supreme Court refused to stay the High Court verdict

June 09, 2024, Sunday

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin on Sunday appealed to the chamber judge to stay the HC verdict, stating students were holding movements against restoration of the quota.



Dhaka University students staged protests against the High Court order 'restoration of the 30 per cent quota for the freedom fighters' children and grandchildren in government jobs' in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the campus on 09 June, 2024

The Appellate Division's judge in chamber of the Supreme Court refused to stay the High Court verdict and sets July 4 for the hearing of the government appeal against the HC verdict.

Protests, however, sparked in Dhaka and other places hours after the announcement was made in this regard. Dhaka University students staged several protests and road blockade against the High Court order in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the campus. The rally that began at 11:00 am in front of the Central Library, parading the DU campus via Arts Faculty, Mall Chattar, VC Chattar, TSC, concluded at the Raju Memorial sculpture.

They threatened to go for a nationwide movement if the High Court order is not cancelled by June 30. During the protest, students chanted slogans like 'The essence of the constitution is equal opportunity', 'We want the quota system abolished'.

Announcing the ultimatum, Mahin Sarkar, a student of the Bengali department at DU, said that the movement would continue in every educational institution in every district and upazila of the country, if the quota system was not abolished. 'There should be no quota in Bangladesh. As a woman, I do not want any quota. We want to run our country through merit,' said Tamanna Akter, a student of the French department at the Institute of Modern Languages.

After the protest rally, a delegation of agitating students went to the Attorney General to submit a memorandum containing their demands.

Students from public Universities put up a nationwide highway blockade on the same day protesting against the High Court order on quota system in the government jobs. The agitating students said that they demanded the abolition of all discriminatory quotas except those for the ethnic people and people with disabilities. They argued abolishing quota system is the policy matter of the government, and so the High Court should not interfere with the policy decision.

Public university students held demonstrations for cancellation of HC verdict June 30, 2024, Sunday

Students of different public universities including Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University held demonstrations demanding cancellation of the High Court order for the restoration of 30 per cent quota for the freedom fighters' children and grandchildren in the government jobs.

Earlier, the protesters announced that they would launch tougher movements if their demand was not met by June 30.

Dhaka University students held a rally at Raju Memorial Sculpture on the university campus to press home their demand for cancelling freedom fighters quota. Nahid Hasan, a student of the DU's social science department and one of the organisers of the movement, said, they would hold a rally on July 1, and they have taken continuous agitation programme from July 2 to July 4 and they are planning to hold sit-ins and blockade programmes across the country during the timeframe.

Students of Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and public universities nationwide also held protest on the same day claiming their demand to be met.

Classes and exams boycotted, students hold demonstrations for cancelling HC order

July 01, 2024, Monday

Dhaka University students held a rally following a protest procession against the High Court order to reinstate illogical quota system in the government jobs. The students announced a boycott of classes and exams at all universities and colleges till July 4.

Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the movement, announced a three-day action plan. He said, a mass procession would be held at 2:30pm that day from DU Central Library and also called upon students of all universities and colleges across the country to observe the same programme same time.



Dhaka University students assembled and hold a mass procession against the illogical quota system in the government jobs

In addition, students of Jagannath University, seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University, and other colleges and Universities in Dhaka will gather in front of the Raju Memorial sculpture to stage demonstration on July 3 and 4.

Following protest at Dhaka University, students of all public universities and colleges across the country held protest against the High Court order. Students of Jahangirnagar University blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway for about half an hour and vehicular movement was halted in the country's one of the busiest highways. The protesters warned of a tougher movement from July 4 if the Appellate Division does not comply with their demand.

Students block highway as quota protests intensify

July 02, 2024, Tuesday

Students of Dhaka University brought out a procession marching Nilkhet, Science Laboratory and Elephant Road, starting from the university campus and ended at Shahbagh and blocked the Shahbagh intersection demanding cancellation of the High Court order.

Nahid Islam, a coordinator of the Students Movement against Discrimination, announced that they would take position in front of the Dhaka University Central Library at 2:30pm on the same day and urged students of all colleges and universities across the country to observe the programme same time.



Dhaka University students brought out a mass procession from the campus that ended at Shahbagh intersection after parading Nilkhet, Science Laboratory and Elephant Road, on 02 July 2024

Following this, students of Jahangirnagar University blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway demanding cancellation of the High Court order. Students of other public universities including Rajshahi University and Chattogram University also held rallies and formed human chains to press home the same demand.

The protesters warned that they would block the country's one of the busiest highways Dhaka-Aricha highway– from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on Wednesday if their demands were not met.

Students continue blocking roads, highways

July 03, 2024, Wednesday

Students of Dhaka University blocked Shahbagh intersection and chanted slogans, demanding the cancellation of the High Court order in Dhaka. Thousands of students from various universities blocked roads and highways in places across the country on Wednesday for the third consecutive day demanding the cancellation of the High Court order.

‘Neutral recruitment process in jobs is the only solution to address the growing unemployment problem in the country,’ said, Jahidul Islam, a protesting student. Imran Mia, a protester said, ‘We will announce more programmes if the verdict does not go in our favour.’

Student protests intensify as Supreme Court refused to stay the HC verdict

July 04, 2024, Thursday

Dhaka University students blocked the Shahbagh intersection for six hours causing severe traffic jam in the capital on Thursday demanding cancellation of



Students of Dhaka University gathered at the Shabagh intersction demanding Quota Reform on Thursday, July 4, 2024

the High Court order. Thousands of protesting students in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country continued their street protests by blocking the capital's Shahbagh intersection and major highways including Dhaka-Aricha, Dhaka-Chattogram, Chattogram–Khagrachari, Dhaka-Barishal and Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, demanding cancellation of the High Court order.

Dhaka University students, meanwhile, alleged that ruling Awami League-backed student organization Bangladesh Chhatra League co-ordinators and activists barred the general students at different university halls from joining the protests.

The day's protests intensified following refusal by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the morning to stay the High Court verdict that asked the government on June 5 to restore the 30 per cent quota for the children and grandchildren of the freedom fighters while recruiting cadre and non-cadre officers in the civil service.

Nahid Islam, coordinator of the Students Movement against Discrimination, announced a fresh three-day programme till Sunday including the online and in-person programme on Friday. 'We urge all students to bring out protest processions in all universities and colleges at 3:00pm across the country,' Nahid said urging all students to boycott all classes and exams on Sunday.

Anti-quota protests keep spreading

July 05, 2024, Friday

The students of different public universities continued their protests on Friday demanding cancellation of the High Court order. Dhaka University students on the

day ran online and in-person campaigns discussing the next course of action and strategies to increase student participation in the movement.

Students of Jahangirnagar University, Chattogram University and Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University blocked roads, formed human chains, held protest rallies and processions to press home the same demand.

Expressing solidarity with the movement on Friday, student representatives from various departments of Dhaka University posted status on Facebook. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Nationalist Party backed DU teachers' organisation White Panel in a statement on Friday expressed solidarity with the movement.

Quota protesters block highways, announce blockade

July 06, 2024, Saturday

Students staged demonstrations blocking Shahbagh crossing in the capital, protesting against HC verdict to reinstate 30 per cent quota for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren in the government jobs. Students from different public universities and colleges blocked major highways across the country including Dhaka-Tangail, Dhaka-Rajshahi, Dhaka-Pabna, Dhaka-Rangpur, Sylhet-Sunamganj and capital's Shahbagh intersection.

The blockade on major highways caused heavy traffic jam. Blocking the Shahbagh intersection in the capital, the protesting students announced the 'Bangla Blockade' programme on the same day in front of all educational institutions in Dhaka city and elsewhere across the country from 3:00pm.

'We will not only block the Shahbagh intersection, but also different points of the capital including Science Laboratory, Chankharpul, Nilkhet and Motijheel tomorrow (Sunday),' said Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the student movement against discrimination. Announcing Sunday's programme as 'Bangla Blockade', he said that the students outside the capital would block highways expressing solidarity with the movement.

Urging teachers and parents to join their movement, Nahid also announced that if their demand was not met, they would go for general strikes and force all offices and courts along with roads, railways and river ways to shut down.

Dhaka traffic paralysed, highways in different parts of Bangladesh blocked

July 07, 2024, Sunday

Students from different public universities and colleges blocked major highways in the country and several crossings in Dhaka on Sunday demanding the cancellation of the High Court verdict.

Students of different universities including Jahangirnagar University, Cumilla University, Barishal University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University in Dinajpur, Islamic University in Kushtia, and the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology blocked highways including Dhaka-Aricha, Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Barishal, Dinajpur-Rangpur, Kushtia-Khulna, and Sylhet-Sunamganj.



Students protest continue for reformation of quota system in government job

Students chanted slogans, recited poems, and played instruments while protesting. Nahid Islam, one of the co-ordinators of the Student Movement against Discrimination announced that they would impose blockades in more city areas on Monday if their demands are not met. He also said, if the ruling Awami League's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, tried to create obstacles for anyone to join protests, they would blockade residential halls.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina dismissed the movement calling it an 'irrational' and 'sub-judice' matter. 'I don't think, there is any rationality for what is being done today in the name of movement.'

Bangla Blockade held

July 08, 2024, Monday

Anti-quota protesters blocked the Zero Point beside the Secretariat in the capital as part of their 'Bangla Blockade'. Students from different public universities and colleges blocked rail tracks, roads, and highways in Dhaka and other places across the country demanding reform in the existing quota system for government jobs.

The protest that began on July 1 entered its eighth day with agitating students blocking Dhaka's Shahbagh crossing for more than four hours between 4:30pm and 8:40 pm. Nahid Islam, one of the co-ordinators of the Student Movement against Discrimination, announced an all-out blockade on Wednesday if their demands were not met.

Students carried national flags, banners and different placards that read 'quota or merit', 'need logical reforms of quota', and 'no place of quota discrimination in

golden Bengal’. A significant number of protesters included female students who joined the protests with placards that read ‘quota is ridiculous when women are advanced’ or ‘I am a woman, I am not afraid of anything, I will conquer the world without quota’.

Day-long blockade continue

July 09, 2024, Tuesday

Protesters blocked Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka demanding reform in the quota system. The protest continued for the ninth consecutive day by blocking highways at places in the country amid preparations for a bigger agitation programme. The protesters announced to hold a day-long ‘all-out blockade’ across the country to press home their demand. The protesting students also distributed leaflets and campaigned online in social media.



Students at Shahbagh intersection observing ‘Bangla Blockade’ for the cancellation of the High Court Order regarding quota in government jobs

Meanwhile, the Appellate Division fixed Wednesday to hear a fresh petition that sought stay of the High Court verdict. The Appellate Division chamber judge set the schedule after hearing a petition, filed by two student journalists of Dhaka University. Student Movement against Discrimination co-ordinator Nahid said, that the petitioners were not linked to their movement.

Protesters welcome complex Statusquo order on HC verdict and demand enactment of Law

July 10, 2024, Wednesday

While the students were holding the demonstrations, the Appellate Division issued statusquo order on the High Court verdict. The court asked the agitating students

to return to their classrooms and appoint lawyers to place their arguments in court. Ruling Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, meanwhile, said in a press conference that the quota issue would be resolved in court by the first week of August.

Students of different public universities and colleges held their protests for the 10th consecutive day through a day-long blockade. A group of people, identifying themselves as children of freedom fighters, also held a rally in front of the national museum, demanding a 30 per cent quota against the student's demand.

The protesters welcomed the complex temporary order of the court but said they would not leave the streets until the government assured them of fulfilling their demand. The protesters demanded the government enact a law in the parliament abolishing all quotas in the public services except for a five per cent quota for the marginalised people.

'We will continue our movement until our demand is met,' Asif Mahmud, a coordinator of the Students Movement Against Discrimination said. 'Our demand is very specific. We want specific directives from the executive department. Asif announced that students in Dhaka and other parts of the country would continue their 'Bangla Blockade' programme on Thursday.

Protesters face attacks, intimidation

July 11, 2024, Thursday

Students faced attacks and intimidation by the police and the ruling Awami League's student wing, the Bangladesh Chhatra League, in Dhaka and other parts



Anti-quota protesters confront an armoured police vehicle at Shahbagh in the capital during their 'Bangla blockade' programme on July 11, 2024

of the country. The ruling party Awami league and government warned the Quota protesters.

At least 30 protesters, including 20 at Cumilla University and 10 at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka including two journalists were injured in separate clashes. Nahid, a coordinator of student movement said that their movement would continue until the government enact a Law in the Parliament by calling an emergency session.

The Amnesty International in a statement expressed concern that at least 20 people, including Cumilla University students, were injured in police ‘crackdown’. Peaceful assemblies played a critical role in allowing verified Facebook page of people to air their grievances in the public domain, it said in a post, shared on the Amnesty International South Asia.

Students keep blocking roads, railways

July 12, 2024, Friday

Thousands of agitating students demanded for the reformation of the quota system chanted slogans demanding quota reform in government jobs at Shahbagh in Dhaka. ‘We will resist those creating obstacles and threatening students in any places in the country,’ Abu Bakar Mazumdar, a coordinator of the Students Movement Against Discrimination, said in his closing address at the blockade at Shahbagh.

Slamming the attacks on protestors in Dhaka, Chattogram and Cumilla on Thursday, he said, they would fight back obstacles. ‘We urge the government to



The government and the ruling Awami League issued a warning on July 11, 2024 for students, protesting against the quota system in public service on the streets, saying, the protestors were crossing limits by holding programmes even after the Supreme Court stayed a High Court order over the reinstatement of the privilege

keep quota at a minimum level,' Abu added. Condemning attacks Ahmed Jibon, a Dhaka College history department student, told that they were not afraid and determined to press home their demand. Students continued demonstrations for the 12th consecutive day on Friday.

Law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister Anisul Huq on Friday said that ghosts of anti-independence elements were conspiring in the name of quota reform movement. Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner also warned on the day that, if the students, doing quota reform movement, broke the law and order it would not be tolerated. Ruling Awma League general secretary Obaidul Quader in a statement, also on Friday, said, that an identified political force was trying to reap benefit by creating division between general people and students.

24 hours ultimatum given to lift case against protesters

July 13, 2024, Saturday

The protesting students for quota system reform in government jobs gave a 24-hours ultimatum for withdrawal of the police case against them and demanded actions against all allegedly involved in attacks on protesters in the capital and some other places.

The protesters announced a 'mass foot march' on Sunday towards Bangabhaban at 11:00am to hand over a memorandum to the President to press for their demands for withdrawing the case within 24 hours and reforming the quota system enacting a law in the parliament through calling an emergency session.

They also asked protesters in all educational institutions to place the same memorandum to the President through the deputy commissioners of all 64 districts



The coordinators of the movement are announcing 'mass foot march towards Bangabhaban

on Sunday, said Hasnat Abdullah, a Coordinator of the Students Movement Against Discrimination.

Earlier the police filed a case against ‘unidentified students’ of anti-quota protests on the charges of assaulting on-duty police members and vandalising their vehicles during their Thursday’s Shahbagh blockade.

Students want President to summon for Parliamentary Session

July 14, 2024, Sunday

The protesting students gave a memorandum to the President of Bangladesh with issuing a fresh 24-hour ultimatum for the government to accept their one-point demand.

Addressing a rally in front of the Gulistan Shopping Complex after submitting the memorandum to the President, Nahid said, they would wait 24 hours for the President and the government to take a visible step regarding their demand.



Police blocked the quota reform campaigners at Gulistan crossing in the capital before their representatives go to Bangabhaban to submit their charter of demands to the President

Later in the afternoon, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, a solution to this issue must come from the Court. ‘They have to accept reality. We have nothing to do,’ she said.

PM commented ‘Why is there so much anger against the liberation war and freedom fighters? Will not the grandchildren of the freedom fighters get quota? Will the grandchildren of the Razakar get it? My question is to the country people,’ she said. ‘the grandchildren of the Razakar then will get jobs, not the freedom fighters. What is the crime of freedom fighters? By risking their lives, they threw away everything and took part in the liberation war. They brought victory to this



The night-time protest came hours after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remark about the quota issue on July 14, 2024

country by fighting day and night without eating, walking on mud, facing the sun, rain, and storms. Everyone is sitting in high position because they brought victory,' she said.

Hasina, noted that the court had provided the protesters with the opportunity to present their arguments in a legal setting, but they preferred to resolve the matter through street protests. The Prime Minister also warned the protesters, any destructive activities in the name of protests would not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, the High Court published 27- page full verdict which was pronounced on June 5, 2024. The High Court also asked the government to publish a notification restoring quotas as soon as possible, preferably within three months.

350 injured as ruling party student wing BCL attacks quota protesters

July 15, 2024, Monday

Ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League hit supporters of the anti-discrimination movement. Over 350 students of Dhaka University and several other universities and colleges in the country were injured.

The protests flared on Sunday night following the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks where she blasted quota protesters for opposing quotas for descendants of the freedom fighters.

Protesters took her comments as an insult and came out of different halls of the universities with processions at midnight, and chanted slogans 'tumi ke, ami ke, Razakar, Razakar, ke boleche, ke boleche, shoirachar, shoirachar (the autocrate says you and me are against independence).



Members of Bangladesh Chhatra League attacked the quota protesters, even the females

Students turned on their cell phone flashlights and banged utensils, while sporadic incidents of BCL attacks were reported. Students demanded the withdrawal of the Prime Minister’s insulting remarks and announced to hold rallies and processions across the country in all educational institutions urging the general public to join with them demanding apology from PM for her remarks.

Six killed as clashes erupt all over the country

July 16, 2024, Tuesday

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday termed the slogan ‘Who are you? Who am I? – Razakar, Razakar’, chanted by the anti-quota protesters in the government jobs, as ‘very regrettable’ saying, they didn’t feel ashamed to call themselves Razakars. ‘They didn’t know how the Pakistani occupation forces had resorted to torture in the country.

Ruling party-backed youth opens fire on the students protesting on the Dhaka University campus. At least six people were killed and scores were injured on Tuesday as students’ protests against the quota across Bangladesh turned deadly amid attacks by police and ruling party supporters on protesters. The attacks began soon after the ruling Awami League general secretary said, the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, was ready to give a fighting reply to the quota protesters for their ‘arrogant behaviour.’

Three deaths were reported in Chattogram, two in Dhaka, and one in Rangpur during daylong violence that also left about 500 injured in different public universities and colleges.

Abu Sayed, a student of the English Department of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur was killed while protesting against quota system. He was brought dead



Left: private university students stage demonstration as part of quota reform movement at Badda, Right: ruling party-backed students attack protesting general students at Chankhar Pool in the capital on 16 July, 2024 during the countrywide protests for discrimination-free government jobs.

to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds after a clash between protesters and law enforcers. His death deeply saddened the people of Bangladesh. Students of Private universities, schools and colleges joined the public university students in the protest on the day, paralysing road and rail communications across the country.

BCL attacks on the quota protesters on the Dhaka University campus and other places left about 400 injured. Amid escalating violence, the government deployed Border Guard Bangladesh in Dhaka, Chattogram, Bogura, Rajshahi, and Rangpur to maintain law and order.

The authorities also declared high schools and colleges closed for an indefinite period. HSC and equivalent examinations of all educational boards scheduled for Thursday were also postponed.

The Cabinet Secretary filed a petition in the Appellate Division seeking permission to appeal against a High Court verdict that asked the government to maintain quotas in government jobs.

Students in Dhaka and other places across the country continued blocking roads, highways, and rail tracks to press home their demands. Addressing a rally at Shaheed Minar, Nahid Islam, one of the co-ordinators of the Students Movement Against Discrimination, demanded justice for the killings of his fellow protesters by the police, Jubo league and BCL activists. ‘The protest has flared across the country. We will continue our protest until our demand is met,’ said Nahid.



Abu Sayed, shot dead while protesting against quota, was the first martyr of this July uprising

The Government of Bangladesh expressed disappointment at the United State's 'unsubstantiated claims of two deaths on 15 July 2024' in student protests, said the spokes person Seheli Sabrin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Newspapers Editors' Council expressed its concern and condemnation over the attacks. Expressing solidarity with the ongoing quota reform movement, 114 citizens demanded exemplary punishment for the murderers of quota protesters.

20 killed in student protests

July 18, 2024, Thursday

At least 20 people were killed and hundreds injured following students' protests as police and ruling party supporters clashed with the protesters in places across the country. At least 26 people were killed in four days. The victims included an on-duty journalist and nine students while at least six of them were hit by bullets. Clashes broke out in many places, especially in the capital Dhaka as students enforced 'complete shutdown'.

Fifteen people were killed in the capital Dhaka and its surrounding areas while two people killed each in Chattogram and Narsingdi. Many areas of the capital, such



The police stand under the cover of riot cars during their clash with the students near Abul Hotel at Malibagh in Dhaka on 18 July as students wage protests against the killing of their fellows by the police and ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists

as Rampura, Badda, Uttara, Mirpur, Motijheel, Arambagh, Dhanmondi, Malibagh, Azimpur, Palashi and Jatrabari, practically turned into war zone as police fired rubber bullets, sound grenades and tear-shells indiscriminately to disperse the agitators.

The Home Ministry requested all concerned to refrain from violence. The Ministry said, Bangladesh Television Bhaban, Shetu Bhaban, Disaster Management and Rehab Bhaban, different police infrastructures and toll plaza on the Mayor Hanif Flyover were among the government installations that were vandalized by the protesters.

The government deployed 229 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh across the country. The Appellate Division set July 21 for hearing a government's recent petition that sought cancellation of the High Court's June 5 verdict on maintaining quotas in government jobs. The Cabinet Division, in a circular, said, the one-member commission of inquiry, headed by Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, would investigate the reasons behind the deaths of six people on July 16, and submit its report within 30 days.

'By resorting to violence in a peaceful movement, the government has created an unprecedented situation. It is the government's responsibility. The government did not keep the conditions for negotiations,' Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the movement, said in a Facebook post.

Military Force deployed, Curfew imposed as 67 more killed across the country July 19, 2024, Friday

The government imposed curfew across the country for an indefinite period from midnight past Friday as at least 67 people were killed on Friday taking to 112 the death toll in the past four days to protest for the reformation of the quota system. Military forces will remain deployed across the country in aid of the civil administration and the law enforcers would follow ‘shoot at sight’ during the curfew prohibiting movement.

‘We call on the people to observe the shutdown programme spontaneously,’ said Abdullah Shaleheen Ayon, one of the coordinators of the student movement. He also urged the army not to support the government and rather stand by the rights



UNHR Chief Volker Turk

of the students and citizens. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said that he was deeply concerned by this week’s violence in Bangladesh, calling the attacks on student protesters ‘shocking and unacceptable’.

Protests, violence, 24 more killed on the first day of curfew

July 20, 2024, Saturday

At least 24 more people were killed on Saturday in clashes between law enforcers and protesters in Dhaka city and elsewhere in the country taking the confirmed death toll from protests in five days to 136. Scores of people were also injured in clashes on the day.

Amid the prevailing situation, the government in an executive order announced two-day general holidays for Sunday and Monday 21st and 22nd July. Dhaka



To disperse the movement of quota reform a member of law enforcement agencies firing to the protesters in Dhaka

Metropolitan Police said, a total of 267 police members were injured in the four days between Tuesday and Friday.

Abdullah Salehin Ayon, a coordinator of the student protests added that police took away at least five of their leaders including Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the Students Movement Against Discrimination.

Supreme Court finally sets 7% quota in govt job amid protests, 13 more killed July 21, 2024, Sunday

The Appellate Division on Sunday scrapped the High Court verdict on quota in government job and ordered a 7 per cent quota including 5 per cent for the children of freedom fighters, 1 per cent for ethnic minorities, and 1 per cent for people with disabilities and third genders. The seven-member full bench, headed by the Chief Justice, also asked the Cabinet Division to issue a notification on the new quotas in the official gazette with immediate effect.

‘The government, if necessary, can cancel, amend or reform the quotas fixed by the court,’ said the court in the operative part of the verdict.

The Students’ Movement Against Discrimination, demanded to enact a law by calling a special session in national Parliament within a week, terming the day’s Supreme Court verdict ‘unclear’. They urged the people to continue the ‘Complete Shutdown’ programme and hold ‘gayebana janaza’ or funeral prayer in the absence of a body after Zuhr prayers across the country.

They also demanded an unconditional public apology from Prime Minister by taking responsibility for the murders during the movement, removal of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, suspension of police officers in areas where protesters were killed, removal of vice-chancellors and proctors of Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University and

Rajshahi University, banning Chhatra League's politics on campuses and making student councils effective, and immediate reopening of universities' campuses and dormitories.

The platform also claimed that at least three of their coordinators were disappeared. At least 13 more people were killed as protests and violence continued for the second day of the nationwide curfew on Sunday. Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of student protests was found in Purbachal area after he went missing a day earlier. He alleged that he was taken blind-folded and tortured after he was picked up by some people who identified themselves as members of detective branch of Dhaka police.

The internet connection went down since Thursday. People were unable to have smooth mobile services, online banking, digital utility payment, services of e-commerce platforms.

Diplomats Confront Bangladesh Foreign Minister over Violence, 2 more died in hospital

July 22, 2024 Monday

Diplomats in Dhaka questioned Bangladeshi authorities' deadly response to widespread student protests following a presentation by the Foreign Minister that laid blame for the recent violence at demonstrators'. Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud also did not respond to a question from a United Nations representative about the alleged use of UN-marked armoured personnel carriers and helicopters, firing and bombing was done by the law enforcers using those.

Chief of army staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman said that he thinks that situation will get normal gradually in the country within 48 hours of army deployment.



Police check the mobile phones of two youths during the curfew at Kadamtali in Dhaka on 22 July, 2024

Calling upon all to co-operate the army, he said that the country would return to normalcy soon.

At least two people died while undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital who were bullet-injured during protest on Friday and Saturday. With this, the death toll from the six-day violence rose to at least 157.

More than 800 people, most of whom are leaders and activists of opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, have been arrested in the past three days over sabotage in different areas of the capital and other districts during the students' quota reform movements.

'A total of 30 cases were filed over various charges including vandalism, arson attack and violence during the quota reform protests'. After making the arrests, they were shown arrested in these cases. 'There will be more cases and more arrests,' added the police official.

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus urged the international community to stop the deadly violence that has wracked his country since students started protesting against civil service recruitment rules. 'I urgently call on world leaders and the United Nations to do everything within their powers to end the violence against those who are exercising their rights to protest,' the 83-year-old said in a statement.

Withdraw curfew, reopen university campuses by 48 hours, say quota protesters

23 July, 2024 Tuesday

Ministry of the Public Administration issued a gazette notification on quota reform



The Students Movement Against Discrimination hold a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital on 23 July, 2024

in jobs for 9th grade to 20th grade on the day amid the countrywide student protests for quota reform.

A group of protesters of the Students Movement Against Discrimination, gave 48-hour ultimatum demanding reopening of the educational institutions. Sarjis Alam, one of the coordinators, placed four demands at the conference.

The demands are activation of internet services, withdrawal of the curfew, ensuring security for all coordinators of the student movement, and reopening of residential halls of educational institutions, withdrawing law enforcement agencies from the campus.

‘As the law enforcement agencies failed to give security to the students, we urge students, guardians, as well as all the citizens of the country to come out on the streets to give security to the students,’ coordinator Nahid said.



People, arrested in sabotage cases, peep through a prison van on the premises of the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court on 23 July, 2024

‘Our demand is reflected in the gazette, but there is a need for more talks with the government,’ Nahid said. ‘Members of the law enforcement agencies are visiting our residences and arresting people across the country in a wholesale manner and we want to resolve of this situation,’ He said. He urged the security forces for not to come in confrontation with the students again and not to fireing bullet to kill any innocent people.

Billal Hossain, father of Asif Mahmud, one of the coordinators of the student movement, claimed at the press conference that his son Asif is missing since July 18. Coordinators Hasib AL Islam, Muntahin Mahzabin Mohona, Hasnat Abdullah, and Mahin Sarker, also appeared at the press conference.

Home Ministry notified the ongoing curfew will be relaxed in Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Narsingdi districts from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Wednesday and Thursday. In Dhaka city, on Tuesday, a good number of people were seen hanging out in the roads during the curfew. After five-day shutdown of mobile

and broadband internet connections, the government on Tuesday night reopened internet connections in places but social media could not be accessed.

In a meeting, the Army Chief said, 27,000 army personnel were deployed in 57 districts including the capital city. The Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh and the Editors' Council in a joint statement on Tuesday said that journalists faced insecurity while carrying out their professional responsibility amid the ongoing confrontation.

Authorities launched a countrywide arrest drive after dozens of cases were filed on charges of acts of sabotage after violent student protests. Political leaders and activists, service holders, drivers, and even day labourers were not spared as police arrested about 2,500 people, including over a thousand in the capital Dhaka, in the past three days, officials said.

Quota protest leaders picked up from hospital

26 July, 2024, Friday

Nahid Islam, Abu Baker Mazumdar, and Asif Mahmud, three coordinators of Students Movement Against Discrimination, were allegedly picked up by members of security agencies from a hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi area. Duty doctors of the hospital said that Nahid and Asif's health conditions did not warrant their discharge.

Police took Gono Odhikar Parishad faction president Nurul Haque Nur to produce him before a metropolitan magistrate court in Dhaka after the end of his five-day remand in a case filed over vandalising and setting fire to Setu Bhaban. Law enforcement agencies have continued arrests, and night-time block raids in many areas of Dhaka and other places across the country. Police filed several hundred cases in Dhaka and in other districts, prompting the law enforcers to go on an arrest spree.

At least 5,000 people, mostly leaders and activists of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have been arrested since July 16. Many people alleged that innocent people, including physically challenged persons, were also picked up by law enforcers. Police headquarters did not share the official data on arrests in the ongoing drive that was accelerated mainly after the imposition of a curfew on July 20 for an unspecified period.

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that incidents of detention and torture were happening. 'Arrested persons are kept hidden and tortured and brought to court after three to four days or five days.' Different rights groups, civil society organisations, and political parties urged the authorities to stop the wholesale arrests that started following the students movement.

Protesters issue 24-hr ultimatum for 3-point demands

27 July, 2024, Saturday

Protesting students for quota reform in government jobs issued a 24-hour ultimatum to meet their three-point demand including enactment of a law in the parliament through forming a commission, and warned of a tougher street movement than



Students took wall writings as a medium of protest

‘complete shutdown’. Their other demands are- return of those disappeared and release of the arrested protesters with withdrawal of false cases; and removal of those, from Minister to Constable, involved in the ‘mass killings’.

‘We will carry out online and offline campaigns including wall art tomorrow [Sunday]. We will collect documents of the mass killings and arrests and intimidation and try to give them to the global communities via embassies on the day after tomorrow [Monday],’ Abdul Hannan Masud said, adding, they would go for tougher movement than the previous ‘complete shutdown’ and ‘Bangla blockade’.

140 int’l scholars call on UN rights chief for action against repression held in Bangladesh

July 28, 2024, Sunday

One hundred and forty scholars, writers and public intellectuals from across the globe in an open letter to the United Nations Human Rights High Commissioner Volker Türk have requested immediate action against continuing violence, intimidation, and repression, held in Bangladesh. The signatories include luminaries like Amitav Ghosh, renowned philosophers Étienne Balibar and Sandra Laugier, leaders in humanities and social sciences such as Didier Fassin, Diana Eck, and Ash Amin, and present and past presidents of learned societies including the American Sociological Association and British Academy.

It is also signed by scholars and those who have direct knowledge of Bangladesh such as David Ludden. The fact that the petition has drawn support from universities

around the world, speaks to the global concerns with preserving academic freedom, and democratic rights.

They said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has lost all moral and legal legitimacy in allowing these grave violations. Draconian measures like arbitrary arrests and detention without show cause notice, denial of the right to be represented by a lawyer, infliction of injuries, and torture on the arrested, call for immediate action to stop these blatant violations of human rights by the present government in Bangladesh.

David Ludden, professor of history, New York University, Arvind Raghunathan, professor emeritus of South Asian Studies, Columbia University, Etienne Balibar,



The Bangladeshi diaspora, spread across the globe, threw the full weight of their support behind the movement by not only expressing their solidarity on social media, but also on the streets

emeritus professor, University of Paris-Nanterre, Partha Chatterjee, professor emeritus of anthropology, Columbia University, Naomi Hossain, global research professor, Andrew Brandel, associate instructional professor, the University of Chicago, Piergiorgio Donatelli, professor and chair of philosophy, Sapienza University, Rome, Ashutosh Varshney, director, Saxena Centre for Contemporary South Asia, Faisal Devji, professor of Indian history, University of Oxford, Akeel Bilgrami, Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University, Gyan Prakash, Dayton-Stockton Professor of History, Princeton University, Iftikhar Dadi, John H Burris Professor, Cornell University, Prasenjit Duara, Oscar Tang Professor of East Asian Studies, Duke University, Shruti Kapila, Professor of



The six coordinators of the anti-discrimination students movement in custody of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch (DB)

in the presence of five other detained coordinators, Abu Baker Mazumdar, Asif Mahmud, Sarjis Alam, Hasnat Abdullah, and Nusrat Tabassum.

Kader alleged that the DB forced the coordinators into signing a scripted statement at gunpoint. Kader, in a video message issued from an undisclosed location, urged students to hold demonstrations at their nearest point across the country.

The teachers and students brought out a procession from the university's central Shaheed Minar area at about 4:00 pm on the day. They chanted slogans calling Prime Minister Hasina an 'autocrat.' Addressing the rally, protesting student Sohagi Samia said, that a government that 'ascended to power by manipulating ballots' could only engage in such 'brutal behaviour towards its citizens.'

The Student Movement against Discrimination on Monday urged students and people from all walks of life to take photos in solo or groups, covering their faces and eyes with red clothes, and share those online as the next move of the protests. Many male and female were seen joining protests in different places wearing red dresses, while some people also masked their faces and foreheads with red fabrics.

Red profile picture in social media; Protest spread to diverse community; March for Justice

July 30, 2024, Tuesday

A cross-section of people, including teachers, parents, civil society members, and cultural organisations, have joined the students in expressing solidarity with their demand to ensure justice for killings in the recent quota reform protests and end wholesale arrests. Thousands of people, which also included journalists, lawyers, politicians, student wings of political parties, and expatriate Bangladeshis, changed their profile pictures on various social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, using a red colour following a call made by protesting students.

Number of deaths increased in hospitals. The actual number of dead and injured

children is expected to increase as detailed information about many victims, including their age, profession, and the circumstances that led to their killings, is still unavailable. Family members and physicians confirmed that all 16 deaths of children were due to bullet injuries, mostly to the head. Relatives alleged that indiscriminate firing by the police and Border Guard Bangladesh resulted in the deaths of children.

Child rights activist and LEEDO executive director Farhad Hossain said, many children who stayed on the streets became victims of violence as well, but there was no count of them. He said, the government was obliged to uphold the well-being of the children as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. He urged the authorities to ensure the safety and security of all children everywhere and any time.

The programme ‘March for Justice’ held in all courts, campuses and roads across the country, demanding trial for wholesale arrests, attacks, cases, enforced disappearances, and killings of students and ordinary people through probes by the United Nations.

Abdul Hannan, a coordinator said that no government could stop movement by firing bullets on students. ‘We urge the government to accept the nine-point demand of the student community to make the country stable,’ he added. ‘The government use the state machinery in an autocratic way and applied excessive force against the unarmed protesting students to suppress the movement,’ he added.

The curfew will remain relaxed from 7:00am to 8:00pm in Dhaka city, Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Narsingdi districts from Wednesday to Saturday, Home Minister told reporters after holding a high level meeting at the secretariat.



Students march towards the Supreme Court in the capital, protesting at the jailing of thousands of students and demanding justice for victims, killed by armed groups of the government and also seeking whereabouts of the people, picked up by plainclothes men

100 injured, many held as student protests intensify

July 31, 2024, Wednesday

Students march towards the Supreme Court in the capital on Wednesday in protest of the jailing of thousands of students and demanded justice for the victims, killed by armed groups of the government. Hundreds of people, including students, journalists, and police, were injured, and many were detained by cause of the ongoing student protest.

Mass people including teachers, lawyers, and cultural activists in massive demonstrations held in major cities, including Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Barishal, and Khulna joined the protest in support of the students.

Police picked up dozens of protesters as students marched towards district and metropolitan courts as part of their 'March for Justice' program. At least 100 people were injured in clashes between police and demonstrators.

Hundreds of students demonstrated in front of the High Court in Dhaka for at least three hours as they demanded justice for killings and the release of six organizers of the quota reform platform, Student Movement against Discrimination. University teachers also joined the protests in front of the High Court.

Huge number of lawyers sat inside the Supreme Court premises in support of the protest and at one stage; they broke the blockade of police and the Border Guard



Students took graffiti as a medium of protest

Bangladesh barricades and joined the protestors in front of the High Court. Some parents also came with their children to express solidarity with the protesters.

Addressing the rally, professor Lutfur Rahman of the Statistics Department said, students are now in fear of getting arrested and can not stay at messes, homes, or relatives' houses due to block raids and interrogation on roads. 'We want justice for the killings and the end of wholesale arrests, false cases, and raids,' said the teacher.

Police detained nine protesters near the High Court area but were forced to release them as protesters blocked police vehicles for about an hour. Dhaka University public administration department lecturer Shehreen Amin Bhuiyan was among those injured during a scuffle between police and protesters. Protesters condemned the police attack on their teacher.

While talking to reporters, the student movement platform co-coordinator, Tarek Adnan, demanded the withdrawal of curfew and the reopening of all campuses. 'We demand justice for all killings and injuries. We also urge the government to ensure proper compensation for their families,' he added.

Some agitators chanted slogans against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and demanded her resignation, calling her a 'dictator'. Speaking at a human chain and protest rally, writer and thinker Salimullah Khan demanded an apology from the government and its resignation for its recent killings.

In Chattogram, police detained several students from Chattogram Court Building premises when they were protesting to press home their nine-point charter of demands on Wednesday. Hundreds of protesters gathered in front of Lal Dighi Field and marched towards the Court building at about 11:00am. Lawyers from Chattogram Court also joined the students, who continued to protest around 3:00pm.

In Sylhet, the protesters gathered in front of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in the morning in line with their pre-announced programme and started a march towards the court. Police fired tear shells and sound grenades at the protesters, who attempted to march towards the courts as part of their 'March for Justice' programme in the city.

In Khulna, at least 30 people, mostly students, were injured as a clash broke out between police and protesters in the Sadar upazila of the district on Wednesday afternoon. The clash began at 2:15pm in the city's Satrasta crossing.

In Barishal, at least 50 people, including journalists, were injured in a police attack during the general students' agitation in the city. Police detained at least 12 agitators from the area. The incident happened from 11:00am to 1:30pm in the Sadar Road and Fazlul Haque Avenue areas of the city. Among the injured, 15 were hospitalized. During the clash, at least five journalists, who went to take pictures of the incident, were injured in the police attack.

In Rajshahi, police detained at least 24 students from various areas in Rajshahi city while they were preparing for 'March for Justice' programme. The teachers' associations of Rajshahi University staged separate demonstrations on the



Demonstrators hold various banners protesting the recent police action against students following the quota reform movement in High Court area on July 31, 2024

university campus demanding justice for the killing of students during the quota reform movement.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police's detective branch chief Harun or Rashid and joint commissioner for operations Biplab Kumar Sarkar have been transferred from their respective posts. Md Ashrafuzzaman of DMP's logistics, finance and procurement was made the new DMP DB chief.

The Student Movement against Discrimination central committee announced the 'Remembering Our Heroes' programme for Thursday. Rifat Rashid, one of the co-coordinators of the platform, made the announcement through a press release on Wednesday. The programme includes a commemorative event for those, killed and injured, drawing graffiti, making festoons and digital portraits depicting the torture incidents during movement, and sharing any write-ups on victims using hashtags like #JulyMassacre and #Remembering Our Heroes on online platforms.

'Remembering Our Heroes' programme observed; Protests continued across the country

August 01, 2024, Thursday

Dhaka University teachers brought out a procession following the 'Teachers' rally against repression' demanding justice for the victims, killed in the anti-discrimination movement and demanded release of thousands of students, arrested on sabotage charge. Students and teachers of different public and private universities, along with other professionals, continued their protests.

In Rajshahi, teachers and students scuffled with law enforcers as they attempted to pick up several students from Rajshahi University campus following a

demonstration under the banner of the University Teachers' Network. The law enforcers also assaulted two journalists during the incident.

Amid obstructions from teachers and students, at one stage, the law enforcers were forced to release all the students they grabbed. Mass communication and journalism department professor Abdullah Al Mamun said, law enforcers carried out attack on their peaceful programme. 'Arresting someone on suspicion is wrong. I will say, please stop this. We will never accept that you, the police, attack our students, our teachers,' he added.

Meanwhile, teachers of different public and private universities criticised the law enforcers for preventing them from entering the Dhaka University campus for the prescheduled programme at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla, demanding an end to wholesale arrest and harassment of students, remembering and seeking justice for those, killed during the recent student movements in demand of quota systems in government jobs.

Different public and private university teachers could not join the programme as law enforcers blocked all the entry gates of the university. Criticising the government's role, Dhaka University physics department professor Kamrul Hassan said, students and teachers became victims of state repression. 'Such repression will not stop until justice is ensured for every injustice and killing,' said Kamrul.

Mentioning the government as 'the killer' of the protesters, DU law department professor Asif Nazrul said, government could not ensure justice for the killings. The professor demanded the resignation of the government saying that the government was arresting victims instead of ensuring justice for them.



A group of civil society representatives hold a protest programme in front of detective branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Minto Road on August 1, 2024 demanding the unconditional release of the students detained illegally during the anti-discrimination movement

Teachers of North South University, Eastern University, Jagannath University, and the University of Asia Pacific were among those, who raised the same demands, including the immediate release of the arrested students and people, related to the protests, the withdrawal of curfew, and the opening of all educational institutions.

Cultural activists organised a programme in front of Ananda Cinema Hall near Farmgate to declare solidarity with the students' nine-point demand in the ongoing anti-quota student movement. Cultural activist, photographer and rights activist Shahidul Alam, and filmmakers Akram Khan, Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, Nurul Alam Atique, and Ashfaq Nipun among others, joined the protests.

A group of civil society representatives on Thursday issued a 24-hour ultimatum, demanding the unconditional release of students, detained illegally during the quota reform movement, who were mostly charged with sabotage. They made this demand at a human chain programme in front of the Dhaka metropolitan police's detective branch on Minto Road in the capital.

Over 10,000 people, mostly opposition leaders, activists, and students, have been arrested as authorities launched a nationwide crackdown following violent student protests that left at least 214 people dead.

Dhaka University law professor Asif Nazrul demanded a proper investigation into the killings of hundreds of people, including children and students, and called for exemplary punishment for those responsible. 'We don't want a police force loyal to any political party. We want a Bangladesh police force that serves the people of Bangladesh,' said Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association chief executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

In Barishal, police picked up 12 students in the morning from in front of Barishal University while joining the scheduled programme 'Remembering Our Heroes' to realise their nine-point charter of demands, including an unconditional apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. However, they were released at about 4:00pm.

In Cumilla, ruling Awami League and its student wing Chhatra League leaders and activists barred Comilla University teachers from joining the human chain to protest against the killing, arrests, and harassment of students. Teachers were barricaded at various places, including Kotbari area adjacent to the university.

Jahangirnagar University teachers and students and Daffodil International University in Savar staged protest against mass killings, arrests, attacks, cases, and disappearances of quota protesters. The programme featured rally, procession, and cultural show. Students of all districts of the county also organised 'Remembering Our Heroes' programmes.

Abdul Kader, one of the coordinators of the platform, made the announcement through a press release of 'mass procession' programme after the jumma prayers across the country on Friday. The press release said, special prayers would be held at mosques, temples, and churches for the victims of the student movement for quota reform countrywide.

Protests all over

August 02, 2024, Friday

Students, parents, professionals and people from all walks of life took to the streets in different parts of the capital to join the mass procession titled ‘Droho Jatra’ called by the Students Movement against Discrimination, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital on Friday. Hundreds of thousands of people came out on the streets across the country protesting the brutal killings and repression by the government during the student movement. At least two people were killed as fresh violence erupted. Police to opened fire on the protesters in places. The overall death toll rose to 216 until August 1.

In the capital’s Uttara area, the ruling Awami League’s associate bodies also joined the attack. The clash erupted in Uttara-11 when several thousands of protesters, including students and devotees, took to the streets at around 2:00 pm after jumma prayers. Several protesters were reportedly injured in the attacks.

Chhatra Union faction president Ragib Naeem announced for a mass procession if their demands were not met. Anu Muhammad, a former professor at Jahangirnagar University, said that the primary demand of the present movement was the resignation of the Awami League government.

A group of journalists held a demonstration in the Kawran Bazar area of Dhaka, protesting the killings and attacks on the journalists. In Mirpur DOHS area, family members of retired army officers were seen bringing out a procession.

In Sylhet, at least 50 people were injured and in Habiganj, one killed during a clash between police and protesters. In Khulna, clashes between students and police were reported at Zero Point, Gallamari Mor, and the Khulna University



Students, parents, professionals and people from all walks of life joined the mass procession titled ‘Droho Jatra’ called by the Students Movement against Discrimination, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital on 2 August, 2024

area from afternoon to evening. Police fired tear gas shells, rubber bullets, and sound grenades at the students. Nine people were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital with gunshot wounds and one police constable was beaten to death during the protest.

In Chattogram, the march starting from the Andarkilla mosque towards the New Market crossing, passing through the Laldighi-Rifles Club road, and staged a demonstration there. When the procession was passing the WASA crossing, protesters vandalised a police box, witnesses said.

Mobile internet users across Bangladesh said, they could not access social media platforms.

UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia Sanjay Wijesekera said, at least 32 children were killed in Bangladesh during the quota reform protests in July with many more injured and detained. In a statement, he also urged the authorities to reopen all schools, restart learning, and let the children reunite with their friends and teachers to help children recover from the trauma and keep them safe. He mentioned that 30 million students from pre-primary to secondary levels missed school.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) condemned the violence against student protests in Bangladesh, which has led to the deaths of over 200 students, activists, and workers, with thousands more arrested.

Abdul Hannan Masud, one of the coordinators of the platform in a video message on Friday night said, we are announcing all-out non-cooperation with the government from the day after tomorrow [Sunday]. None will pay tax and go to offices. All government and private offices including the secretariat will be closed. He also said that no vehicles would be allowed to enter the Prime Minister's official residence Ganabhaban and President's official residence Bangabhaban. 'We will launch all-out non-cooperation with the government,' he said.

Protests intensify, protesters ask PM to resign.

August 03, 2024, Saturday

Protesting students in Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on Saturday announced a one-point demand- the resignation of the government, shifting from their earlier position of a nine-point charter of demands seeking justice for victims of the quota reform movement that left over 200 killed in July. Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the Student Movement against Discrimination announced the one-point demand rejecting a call for dialogue, made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier in the day.

'We are saying clearly that it is not just enough for Sheikh Hasina to resign. Justice must be ensured for corruption, killings, disappearances, and looting in the country'. Nahid further demanded that, besides the Prime Minister, all members of her Cabinet resign immediately. 'A national outline for the transfer of power will be presented soon in consultation with the representatives of citizens at all levels,' Nahid said, and also called for all-out non-cooperation to press home their demand.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan later at a press conference said that the protests were no longer limited to student protests, rather turned into a political movement. Protesters also clashed with police all over Bangladesh.

Thousands of people including students, teachers, parents, lawyers, and civil society representatives in Dhaka and other places took to the streets demanding the resignation of Sheikh Hasina for killing students and general people. Protesters almost all over the country took to the street.

In Chattogram, protesters attacked the Chashmahill residence of Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury after a procession in the city. The activists of the ruling Awami League later allegedly attacked the house of several BNP leaders, including standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury. Earlier in the day, thousands of people from all walks of life gathered at the New Market crossing and chanted slogans demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Jahangirnagar University students along with several educational institutions blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar, protesting the killing of their fellows during the movement. Students of different universities, including BRAC University, North South University, East West University, and United International University took to the streets in Rampura and Badda areas amid the heavy presence of police.

Holding a procession in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka, journalist leaders called for the government's resignation following the killing of four journalists across the country during the quota reform protests. Family members of the retired military officers also held a rally in the DOHS area in Mirpur seeking justice for the killings.



The Central Shaheed Minar and adjacent roads were full to the brim as thousands of people, including teachers, lawyers, guardians with their children, civil society members, cultural and political activists, freedom fighters and day labourers, from across the capital braved the rain and joined the anti-discrimination student movement

Indefinite curfew declared as 92 killed in clashes across Bangladesh

August 04, 2024, Sunday

At least 92 people, including 14 police members, demonstrators, and political activists, were killed in clashes across the country on the first day of the students' all-out non-cooperation programme demanding the resignation of the government. Since morning, protesters gathered at different important points in almost every district and upazila in the county as part of their pre-announced counter programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, following a meeting of the National Committee on Security Affairs at her official residence Ganabhaban, asked the Awami League and people of the country to curb anarchists with iron hands. Amid clashes and anarchies, the Home Ministry announced curfew for an indefinite period in Dhaka, all divisional cities, district towns, upazila headquarters, city corporation areas, municipalities, and industrial areas. Amid Clashes turned deadly, the government also declared a three-day public holiday across the country starting on Monday.

Users could not get access to the Meta platforms Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram, mostly on mobile phones. The State Minister for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mohammad Ali Arafat, told that social media platforms were blocked temporarily in the country. Death toll stood at 311 in the ongoing student protest that turned violent on July 15.

Many of the supporters of the ruling party were seen carrying sharp weapons, sticks, and firearms countrywide. Protesters continued demonstrations even after having curfew in Chattogram, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal, Cumilla, Lakshimpur, Munshiganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Feni, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Joypurhat, Bhola and in other districts.

In the wake of deadly clashes, students announced a March to Dhaka programme. The 'March to Dhaka' programme was originally scheduled for 6th August Tuesday, but Asif Mamhmud, a coordinator said that they had reviewed decision



Anti-discrimination protesters and ruling party supporters face off near Mirpur 10 crossing in the capital during the non-cooperation programme on August 04, 2024

in emergency situation and decided to hold the event on 5th August Monday and urged people from all walks of life to join their programme and ensure the fall of the government. 'I call upon the students and people of the whole country to leave for Dhaka tomorrow,' he said.

Earlier, Nahid Islam, another coordinator of the protests, accused the ruling Awami League of pushing the country towards a civil war in a message. 'The movement will end with victory,' he said. Nahid later, in a Facebook post, urged students, citizens, and workers to gather at Shahbagh at 2:00pm as part of their 'March to Dhaka' programme.

Sheikh Hasina falls, resigns and flees to India

August 05, 2024, Monday

Sheikh Hasina resigns and flees, ending her 15-year rule amid an unprecedented student-led mass uprising against her authoritarian regime. She leaves her official residence Ganabhaban by a military helicopter with her sister Sheikh Rehana. Ousted Bangladesh autocrat ruler Sheikh Hasina flees and reached India and got shelter there. Thousands of people storm residence the Prime Minister's Ganabhaban soon after she leaves.

Chief of Army staff Waker-Uz-Zaman invites representatives of different political parties and discusses with them regarding the formation of an interim government. 'We have a fruitful discussion and we will run the country through forming an interim government,' says Waker-Uz-Zaman, adding that they will go to President to discuss the formation of the new government issue.

Chief of Army staff assures all of arranging trials for all killings and injustices and says that he will take responsibility for saving people's lives and properties. 'Do not lose your hope. The many demands you have, we will fulfil and restore peace and discipline in the country,' he says, urging all to refrain from vandalism, killing, and clashes.

At noon, Inter-Services Public Relations announces that the Army Chief will address the nation, asking protesters to keep their patience until then. As street barriers were removed in Dhaka, thousands of protesters rushed to Shahbagh Square in anticipation of Hasnina's fall. He finally skipped the address and instead held a press conference.

Following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, who was labelled as a fascist and dictator by the protesters, hundreds of thousands of people also entered the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The mob set fire to different entities including AL offices, police stations, and media houses following Hasina's fall.

Protesters smashed the statue of Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with hammers across the country. Agitated locals set fire to the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Dhanmondi-32, which was once the residence of the country's founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, hours after Sheikh Hasina's resignation and flee.



People marching towards Gono Bhaban on 5 August 2024



People finally occupied Gono Bhaban on 5 August 2024



People finally occupied the then Prime Minister's Office on 5 August 2024



People celebrating victory at Raju Memorial Sculpture at Dhaka University Campus on 5 August 2024

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Khaleda Zia and its acting chairperson Tarique Rahman on Monday urged the people of the country to remain calm amid the ongoing situation.

Earlier, the day's morning began with curfew. From students to elderly people, children, families and workers were seen on the streets from the late morning to evening. Processions from different areas gathered in Shahbagh, Dhaka University and adjacent areas chanting slogans, singing songs, holding posters and even by saying prayers on roads. At 2:00 pm hundreds of people, mostly students, were seen crowding in the Shahbag intersection area.

Army personnel were seen in different areas in the city facilitating people to march towards different points and people were also witnessed shaking hands with the troops.

From about 3:00 pm hundreds and thousands of jubilant people, elderly ones, children, and women, and many with families, marched towards Ganabhaban and marched on the roads, including Shahbagh and Banglamotor, celebrating the start of a transition in the country's history.

Source: National Dailies of Bangladesh





How Different International Media Portrayed the July Uprising: An Overview

Abuzar Gifari

which was earlier invalidated. The movement had been peacefully running until the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the protesters as ‘Razakar’ on 14th of July 2024. The students moved on the road to protest the PM’s binary perspective i.e; Freedom fighters and Razakars . On the next day, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), along with other Awami organisation, brutally attacked on the protesting students by deadly weapons by which at least 500 students at the University of Dhaka (DU) and other universities were heavily injured. The movement took its U-turn after this day. On 16th July, six students were killed by the Awami-favoured police force. The students burst out their movement towards demanding justice for those martyrs. Thereafter, the fascist government turned off the internet facilities so that the protesters cannot communicate, spread or broadcast their agenda. On top of that, the then government with their all allies including the associated organization of Awami League conducted a crackdown by killing hundreds of protesters, innocent children, labor, rickshaw puller, etc. Having faced systemic pressure from the mass people, the then PM fled the country in fear (of which mass people termed it 36th July), on 5th of August 2024. Thereafter, the

Introduction:

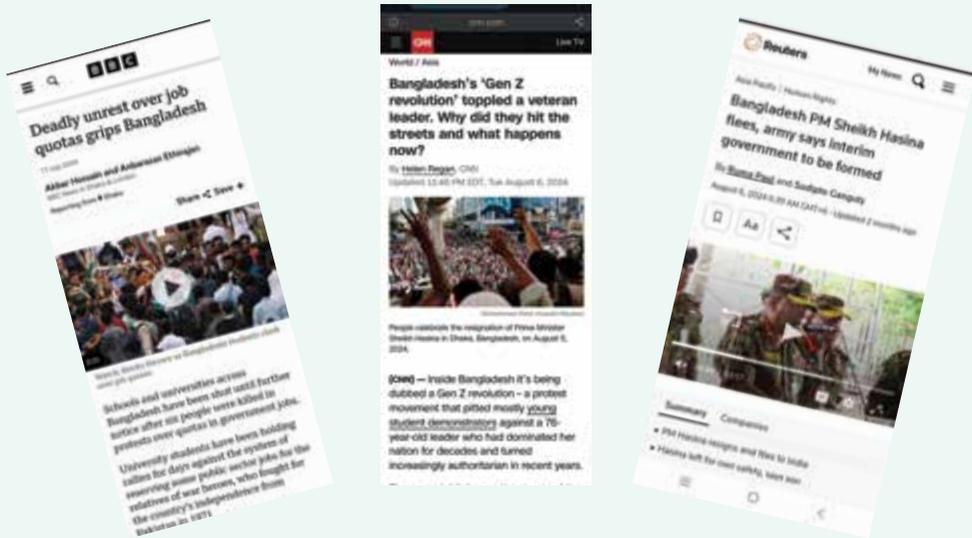
The People of Bangladesh have witnessed a historic mass uprising on 5th of August, 2024 through the escapade of the despicable dictator of Bangladesh. The uprising did not happen in consequence of the quota movement only. It was a real manifestation of the repressed rage of the people who experienced lots of hardship, torture, suppression, etc. throughout the regime of Sheikh Hasina. This time the uprising started with the quota reform movement, which aimed at removing the discriminatory quota system in public employment. The movement started on 5th of June 2024 in response to a judgment delivered by the High Court Division (HCD) reviving the discriminatory quota system,

new interim government, led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, assumed the power on 8th August 2024.

All these events were circulated by different international media. This short piece investigates the views of those media. Considering the word limit, this piece only dissects the views of some specified print media i.e; The New York Times, DW, BBC, Al Jazeera, Gulf News, Dawn, The Hindustan Times, The Hindu. For the better understanding of different perspectives, this analysis divides the views of media into three categories i.e; western media, south Asian media, and middle eastern media. The views also have been divided into two time frames i.e; pre-uprising period and post uprising period. The pre-uprising period refers to the period up to 5th August 2024.

Western and European Media:

There are some widely circulated western media that publish reports on almost all countries. Among them, The New York Times, BBC, DW, CNN, The Gurdian,



A glimpse of news, reports, features etc. in international media, published on July Uprising

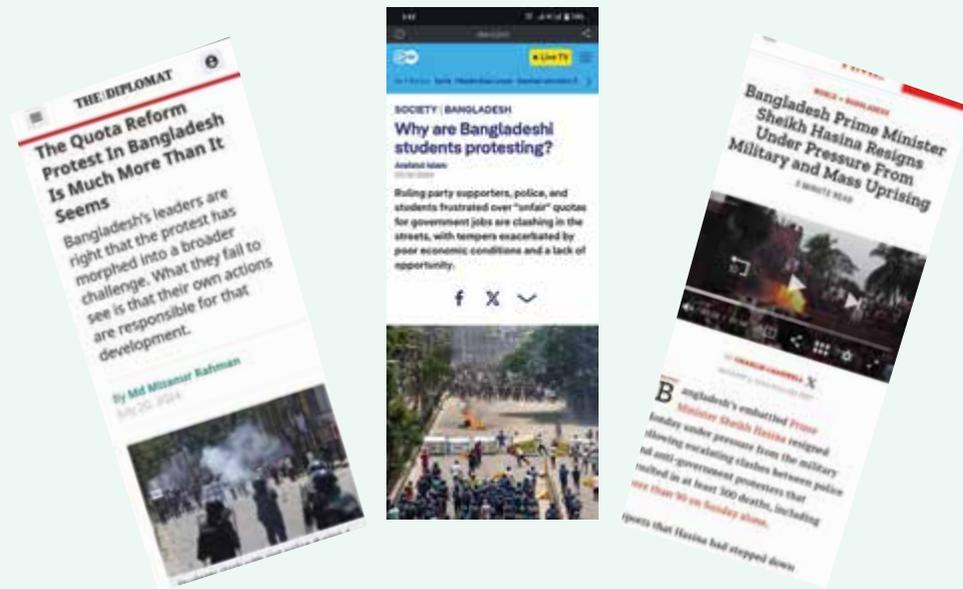
Reuters played a significant role in spreading different kinds of news on the July events. The movement grabbed the attention of most of the western international media after the BSL's attack on peaceful protesters. For instance, DW termed the protest as 'peaceful' and condemned the brutal attack, which is evident from their report of 17th July where it stated 'Hundreds of students have been injured during protest in Dhaka. Students, loyal to the government, attacked the peaceful protesters.' From this report, it can be deduced that DW portrayed the protest as peaceful and recognized the BSL as attackers. Also, another report demonstrated the whole event from a neutral point of view. They published notable consecutive

reports on this specific event till 5th of August. Almost all these reports were in favor of the protesters.

Interestingly, the New York times started their journey of publishing the July movement since 11th of July, which is earlier than what other media does. They published notable consecutive new reports and analysis in total 21 in number. They gave outstanding coverage of the event almost every day. The report titled ‘Facing Mass Protests, Bangladesh Leader Quits, Setting Up Power Struggle’ the full event up to 5th August was described. Besides, there were some reports reflecting the views or opinions of the Government. So, their role can be considered as neutral also. They also condemned the gross human rights violation by the internet shutdown and mass killing. To assess the role of BBC, an article titled ‘Free again, an uncertain Bangladesh emerges from Sheikh Hasina’s Grip’ may clarify their position. They covered the people’s new emancipation by taking some interviews with protesters and general people. They covered the story of Abu Sayeed and termed the attack of police as ‘brutality’. The report’s wording of ‘the 16th July incident quickly went viral, triggering more students to jump into the agitation (...)’ which is evidence, that infers that the video of Abu Sayeed was identified as the influencing document, which triggers more students in favor of the protests on the road. BBC used the term ‘euphoria’ to describe the happiness the people have got after fleeing Sheikh Hasina. They published numerous reports on this specific event ranging from 11th July to 5th August. In addition, BBC recorded many rare footages of the events even at the time of the internet shutdown.

Middle Eastern Media:

Among the middle eastern media, Al Jazeera played a pivotal role in spreading out and out description of events through news, reports, video footage, podcast and other possible ways. Before this event, Al Jazeera became the talk of the town in Bangladesh for its investigative episode of ‘All the Prime Minister’s Men’. Encompassing the whole of July events, from 15th July to 5th of August, they published numerous reports, news, analysts, and some video footages on their website. Notably, their correspondents recorded many rare footages keeping their lives in danger. In analyzing the July event and Hasina’s ruling, an author commented, ‘Hasina made a critical misstep by labelling students protesting for job quota reforms as “Razakar”, thereby crossing the rubicon’. By this, he addressed Hasina as a rubicon crosser. In another report, published on 21st July, it demonstrated that the peaceful protest turned into a nationwide deadly unrest due to the government’s irresponsible role, provocative remarks, curfew, crackdown, internet blackout – to mention just a few. In addition, Al Jazeera fearlessly declared Hasina’s regime as a ‘dark era’ in the History of Bangladesh. They recognized the protest as ‘Gen Z protest’, They attempted to show the actual facts of the movement, after examining the real facts, focusing on human rights concerns and political turmoil as well. Apart from Al Jazeera, Gulf News also featured the July



International media published news , reports, features etc. from neutral aspects

uprising positively. On a unique note, the gulf news on 4th August recognized the 9-point demands including personal apology by Hasina for the protesters’ deaths; the arrest or resignation of law enforcement agents or government or university officials implicated in the crackdown; and compensation for the victims and their families. No other international media was seen publishing the 9 point demands before the fall of Hasina.

South Asian Media:

Unlike every other media in the world, Indian media played a different role to portray the July event. After investigating news, reports of some influential Indian newspaper including The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, very few reports are found encompassing the July event. So, it is deducible that Indian media tried to hide the then going unrest in Bangladesh. Regarding the Indian media’s presentation of the July uprising, a discussion was held at the Dhaka University campus, organized by July Gono Porishor. The speakers emphasized that the narrative made in Indian media was the narrative of Bangladesh Awami League. For example, both the Awami League’s explanation of the term “Razakar” and its usage in the Indian media were similar in meaning. Besides, the Indian media portrayed the student-led mass uprising in a negative light. In addition, the Indian media portrayed the fall of Hasina as ‘resignation’, not as ‘flee’, which is evident from their wording in several news while other countries’ media depicted the uprising by the flee of Hasina.

To be noted, Some Indian You Tubers, like Deshbhakt and Dhruv Rathee, created full episodes covering the July uprising, which is commendable. However, it's important to note that these You Tubers are currently living outside India, so their views do not reflect India's official stance on the portrayal of the July events.

'Dawn' featured the day of 5th August as 'Happy Independence Day' and addressed Hasina as 'so called iron lady'. They published reports on this specific event by which, it reported all mentionable situations of Bangladesh including mass killing and internet blackout.



Some international media portrayed July Uprising from different point of view

Conclusion:

After examining the views and opinion, published in different international media, this piece demonstrates that the western European and middle eastern media played their neutral role to uphold democracy and human rights and focused on the narratives, set by both sides while the Indian media only viewed the event as violent activity and made repetition of the Awami narrative to keep their alliance with Awami league. Besides, human rights concern has also played the role to grab the attention of the international media. Evidently, most of the international media started to publish their news on the July uprising from the day when BSL attacked general students both on campus and hospitals, which triggered human rights violation. In conclusion, it is expected that the media will play a neutral role by examining the real facts and without manipulating any false or misleading narratives, which provide wrong information to the international community.

The writer works at the International Institute of Law and Diplomacy (IILD) as a Research Officer

Major National Events

July-September

6 August, 2024

Dr. Yunus to head interim government

An interim government headed by Nobel laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus will be formed to govern Bangladesh and hold fair polls following the fall of Hasina regime in a student-mass uprising.

Anti-discrimination student movement coordinator Nahid Islam disclosed the development at a press conference on August 6 night after a meeting at Bangabhaban.

A 13-member team of the student movement coordinators started meeting with President Shahabuddin Ahmed at 6:00pm in presence of the chiefs of three services.

Two Dhaka University teachers - Prof. Asif Nazrul and Prof. Tanjimuddin also attended the meeting.

They handed the President a list of other members of the interim government. The list will be finalised in consultation with other political parties and stakeholders.

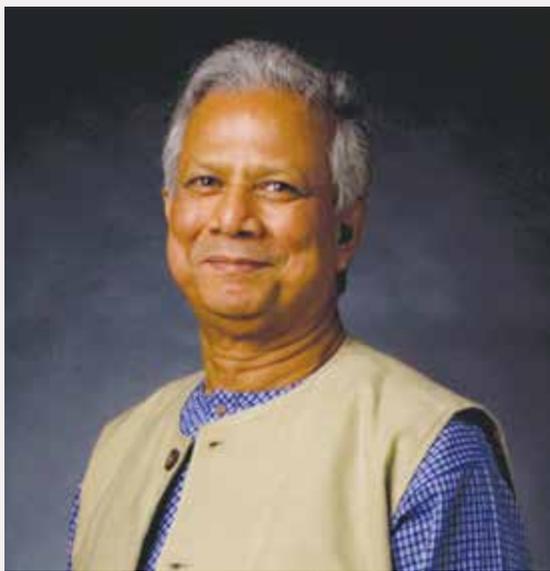
The list was prepared with representation from the civil society and students, among others, said Nahid Islam.

Coordinators of the student movement earlier sought to have Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus as the head of interim government, which was agreed unanimously by different political parties.

Talking to AFP Dr Yunus said, he was ready to head Bangladesh 'interim government'.

'I am honoured by the trust of the protesters who wish for me to lead the interim government,' he was quoted as saying in a written statement to the news agency.

'If action is needed in Bangladesh, for my country and for the courage of my people, then I will take it,' he said, also calling for 'free elections'. Source: *The Financial Express*



Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus



President Mohammed Shahabuddin administers oath to Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus as the Chief Adviser to interim government at the Bangabhaban on August 8

8 August, 2024

Yunus-led interim government sworn in

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus took the oath as the Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh along with 13 other advisers on August 8, four days after long-time ruler Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India amid a student-led mass uprising.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath ceremony at Bangabhaban in Dhaka in the presence of political leaders, journalists, and members of civil society, among others.

The other nominees for the position of adviser would take the oath later, as they were outside Dhaka, said Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain, who conducted the oath ceremony.

No authorities from the government announced the duration of the interim government formed in extraordinary circumstances following violent protests that led to the ouster of Hasina.

The 16-member advisory panel includes Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, two key organisers of the Student Movement against Discrimination, a platform of the students that led the protests in July and August.



Thirteen of the 17 Advisers to the interim government taking oath at the Durbar Hall of the Bangabhaban on August 8, 2024

The other Advisers who took oaths are former Bangladesh Bank governor Salahuddin Ahmed, Dhaka University law teacher Asif Nazrul, human rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan, former attorney general AF Hassan Ariff, former foreign secretary Md Touhid Hossain, environment lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan, non-profit Brotee chief Sharmeen Murshid, retired brigadier general M Sakhawat Hussain, former Hefazat-e-Islami leader AFM Khalid Hossain, human rights activist Farida Akhter, and one of the early associates of Yunus, Nurjahan Begum.

Cabinet secretary Mahbub Hossain said freedom fighter Faruk-E-Azam, former ambassador Supradip Chakma, and former director of the National Institute of Mental Health Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder will take oath later.

Following the oath ceremony, Chief Advisor Yunus told the media that youths can do the impossible as possible and are highly committed. *Source: The Financial Express*

9 August, 2024

Chief Adviser, advisers pay tributes to Liberation War, language martyrs

Chief Adviser of the newly-formed interim government Dr Muhammad Yunus and thirteen advisers paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on August 9.

At first, Dr Yunus placed the wreath around 10:00 am amid heavy rain and stood in solemn silence here for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs of the 1971 War of Liberation.



Chief Adviser of the newly formed interim government Dr Muhammad Yunus pays homage to the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar on August 9 morning



Chief Adviser of the newly-formed interim government, Dr Muhammad Yunus, and thirteen Advisers paid homage on August 9 to the martyrs of the Liberation War at the National Memorial in Savar

A smartly turned-out contingent, drawn from Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force presented a state salute on the occasion when bugles played the last post.

The Advisers of the newly-formed interim government, the chiefs of the three services, and high civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

Later, flanked by other Advisers, he also placed another wreath.

The Chief Adviser signed the visitors' book.

Earlier, the Chief Adviser arrived at the National Memorial by a helicopter.



Chief Adviser of the newly-formed interim government, Dr Muhammad Yunus, and thirteen Advisers paid homage on August 9 to the martyrs of the Language Movement at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser of the newly formed interim government Dr Muhammad Yunus and thirteen Advisers paid homage to the martyrs of the language movement by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

At first, Dr Yunus placed the wreath around 11:15 am amid light rain and stood in solemn silence here for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Advisers of the newly-formed interim government also paid homage to the martyrs of the language movement by placing wreaths. *Source: The Financial Express*

9 August, 2024

Interim government portfolios allocated

Portfolios of the interim government of Bangladesh were allocated on August 9 by the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, keeping his hold on 27 important Ministries and divisions for now.

The portfolios were distributed to 13 of the Advisers of the post-uprising government as three were yet to take oath.

A 17-member interim government, headed by Nobel-laureate economist Prof Yunus as Chief Adviser, was sworn in on August 8 evening, following the fall of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5 in the face of a student-mass uprising.

The distribution of charges of Ministries for the Advisers was announced in a circular issued by the cabinet division.

Prof Yunus has taken charge of 27 Ministries while Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, former Bangladesh Bank governor, gets two Ministries: the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning. Each of the 12 others takes the helm of single Ministry.

Of the two young uprising veterans inducted in the interim cabinet, Md Nahid Islam got the responsibility of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and ICT while Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiya the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Dr Yunus will look after the Cabinet Division and the Armed Forces Division,

Meanwhile, the new advisory council sat for its maiden meeting at State Guesthouse Jamuna on to chalk out way forward through the deserted arena of governance.

Source: The Financial Express

10 August, 2024

Unite and build country for equal benefits of all

Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus on August 10 made a clarion call for all to stand united and build a new Bangladesh with equitable opportunities for all sections of people.

‘This is our responsibility to build the new Bangladesh,’ he said after meeting the family members of martyred Abu Sayeed in Rangpur.

He said that all needed to come forward to build the new Bangladesh remembering the supreme sacrifice of Abu Sayeed and others in the recent protests that led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina’s government.

The martyr belongs to everyone, irrespective of their religion and background, he said.

The Chief Adviser urged all to remain vigilant so that there is no anarchy.

‘We are all children of this soil -- we all are Abu Sayeed,’ he said.

The interim government Chief said that protecting all, irrespective of their religion is the responsibility of all.

‘We have to ensure this, and take a stand like Abu Sayeed.’

The Nobel laureate requested all not to create divisions among the people of Bangladesh. “We are all Bangladeshi, we are all children of Bangladesh. *Source: The Financial Express*

13 August, 2024

All are equal before law, no chance to create division: Dr Yunus

Chief Adviser to the interim government Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus on August 13 said all are equal before law and there is no chance to create divisions.

‘Establishing people’s democratic rights and human rights is the main goal of this government,’ he said while visiting Dhakeshwari National Temple.

The Chief Adviser exchanged views with the leaders of Hindu community and went round the temple.

Later, he called upon the Hindu community to keep patience and remain united.

He said establishing justice is one of the main goals of the interim government. ‘We are going to build such a Bangladesh which would be like a family. This is the main thing. There will be no question of creating difference or division in this family. We are Bangladeshis.’



Interim government Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus exchanging views with Hindu community leaders

He assured the Hindu community that if justice is established, all will be able to avail its benefit.

‘Is there any scope to see who belongs to which religion, caste and community? ...there are same laws. Who have the ability to create division here?’ the Chief Adviser questioned.

Urging all to help the interim government, he said all Bangladeshis have the equal rights and they deserve it as per the country’s constitution.

‘You should demand it to all government...we are same people, have same rights. No difference could be created here. Help us and keep patience. Judge later whether we could have done anything for you or not,’ Dr Yunus said. *Source: The New Age*

17 August, 2024

Financial system needs redesigning to unleash entrepreneurship, creativity

Chief Adviser to the interim government Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus said on August 17 that the financial system should be designed to unleash entrepreneurship and creativity, while social business banks can be encouraged to be created for solving problems like poverty and unemployment.



Interim government Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus joins virtually from the state guest house Jamuna at the Inaugural Leaders’ Session of 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024 hosted by India on August 17

The Chief Adviser was virtually addressing the Inaugural Leaders' Session of 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024, hosted by India.

Prof Yunus said the youth and students should be placed at the heart of strategies in the Global South as they are committed to creating a new world.

“We must place the youth and students, who constitute a significant portion of the Global South’s population, at the heart of our strategies. Two thirds of our population are youth. They are the most powerful segment of the society,” he said.

He said the youth are different, they are capable and they are technologically far ahead of the previous generation. *Source: The Financial Express*

18 August, 2024

Bangladesh at ‘crossroads of a new beginning’

Fair polls after far-reaching reforms

Free, fair and participatory polls will be held on completion of the interim government’s mandate to conduct vital reforms in election commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and the media, says Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

The head of interim government of Bangladesh laid out the to-do chart while briefing foreign diplomats on August 18 on the recent student-people uprising, urging them to keep full confidence in his ruling team’s ability to steer the nation towards prosperity through far-reaching economic and other necessary reforms.

Top priority of the interim government

for now is bringing law-and-order situation under control, as normal orders took a knock during the upheavals and the past government’s last-ditch bid to quell that, he told the diplomatic corps in Dhaka.

‘We’ll be close to normalcy within a short period of time, with the unwavering support of our people and patriotic armed forces.’ he added.

‘We’ll also make sincere efforts to promote national reconciliation,’ Prof Dr Yunus told the foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka. *Source: The Financial Express*



Interim Government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus addresses foreign diplomats at a meet and greet programme at a city hotel on August 18



Leaders of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICCB), led by its President Mahbubur Rahman, called on Chief Adviser of the interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office at the State Guest House Jamuna in the city on August 20

20 August, 2024

World will do more business if we get over ‘mess’: Professor Yunus

Describing the situation a ‘hard situation’, interim government Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on August 20 said, the world will do more business with Bangladesh if the country, as a nation, could collectively get over the ‘mess’.

‘We will have the world’s attention. The world will look to us for inspiration, and the world will want to do more business with us,’ he said when leaders of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICC-B), called on him at his office at the State Guest House Jamuna.

The business delegation, led by ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman greeted the Chief Adviser on his assumption of the leadership of the Interim Government, saying, the country’s businessmen fully support him in his new role.

‘It’s a very hard situation that we are in now. But it’s also the biggest opportunity that we can get. Our job is difficult, but very much doable,’ Prof Yunus said.

Professor Muhammad Yunus asked the delegation ‘to think outside the box to achieve greatness as a nation’. He said: “If we can make the young people’s dream come true, we can make the nation’s dream come true.” *Source: The Financial Express*

21 August, 2024

Japanese envoy meets Chief Adviser

Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori met the interim government Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and discussed issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was held at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on August 21. Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, Principal Coordinator for Sustainable Development



Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on August 21

Goals (SDGs) Lamiya Morshed, and Chief Adviser’s press secretary Shafiqul Alam were present among others.

Under the ‘Strategic Partnership’ enshrined between the two countries, Japan said, it will continue its support for Bangladesh’s development and prosperity standing side by side with the transition process to be led by Chief Adviser Dr Yunus. *Source: The Financial Express*

25 August, 2024

Nat’l polls after necessary reforms: Prof Yunus

Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus on August 25 said that a free, fair and participatory election would be held in Bangladesh after necessary reforms to administration, judiciary, the Election Commission, electoral system and law-order sector.

‘A free, fair and participatory election will be held after necessary reforms to administration, judiciary, the Election Commission, electoral system, law-order sector and free flow of information to give the student-people a successful culmination,’ he said while addressing the nation in the evening.

BTV, BTV World and BTV Chattogram centre broadcast his address.

Professor Yunus said that the main aim of the election was to introduce an accountable political system against corruption, looting and mass killing.

Local government institutions, he said, must be strengthened and decentralisation of power should be ensured to consolidate democracy.

Claiming that the government has taken a strong stance against corruption, the Chief Adviser said that all the advisers to the interim government would disclose their wealth statements within the quickest possible time.

He said that submitting wealth statements would be made mandatory for all government officials at phases.

To take steps against corruption at the state level, an ordinance will be proclaimed to appoint an Ombudsman in line with the Article 77 of the Constitution. *Source: The Financial Express*

26 August, 2024

Govt determined to protect citizens' rights: CA

“The interim government is determined to protect the rights of every citizen of the country”, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus said on August 26, while greeting the Hindu community in Bangladesh during Janmashtami, birth celebration of Lord Sri Krishna.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus exchanged greetings with Hindu community leaders at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on the occasion of Janmashtami on August 26

‘Bangladesh is a large family where the responsibility of the government is to protect the rights of every citizen’, the Chief Adviser told the leaders of the Hindu community.

‘There can’t be any divisions among people in our country. We are equal citizens.’

‘Our responsibility is to establish the rights of every citizen. Our job is to ensure justice for every citizen’.

Professor Yunus said, he wants to build a Bangladesh where everyone can practice their faith without any fear and where no temple needs to be guarded. *Source: The Financial Express*



(From left to right) Pakistani High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhailan, and Russian Ambassador Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytsky called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on August 26

26 August, 2024

Chief Adviser urges Russia to increase imports from BD

Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus on August 26 called upon the Russian envoy to increase imports from Bangladesh, including products other than the readymade garments, said a spokesperson of the CA Office.

‘We need to diversify our exports,’ he told Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Aleksandr Mantytsky, who called on the CA at his office at the state guest house Jamuna.

Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to Bangladesh and Pakistan’s High Commissioner also called on the CA separately on the day.

Russian Ambassador Mantytsky said, Russia was a key economic partner of Bangladesh as it exported vital foodgrains and fertiliser to the country.

The CA has also stressed widening economic and educational cooperation and people to people ties between the two nations.

Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to Bangladesh Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhailan also met the Chief Adviser at the state guest house Jamuna.

The Ambassador praised the leadership of Professor Muhammad Yunus saying, he was capable of leading the country to prosperity, informed a spokesperson of the CA office. *Source: The Financial Express*

28 August, 2024

CA seeks Malaysia’s support for ASEAN membership

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on August 28 sought Malaysia’s support for Bangladesh to become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He sought the support when Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Haznah Md. Hashim, paid a courtesy call on him at the state guest house Jamuna, according to a spokesperson of the CA.



Malaysian High Commissioner Haznah Md Hashim called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on August 28

Bangladesh can be a bridge between ASEAN and SAARC, the Chief Adviser added.

Ms. Hashim said, Kuala Lumpur is going to be the next chair of ASEAN and she would convey Professor Yunus’s message to the Malaysian authorities regarding the ASEAN membership.

She said, Malaysia would work with the Professor Yunus-led interim government. “We trust in you. We wish you all the best,” she said.

The CA said, Bangladesh has a very good relationship with Malaysia. He recalled his friendship with Malaysian leaders including Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Professor Yunus said, at least seven Malaysian universities have Yunus Centre, promote the social business ideas he champions, and his ‘three zero’ concepts.

Source: The Financial Express

2 September, 2024

Yunus calls for common platform of contributors

Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus called for a ‘combined’ effort and ‘a common platform’ of donors who gave freely in emergency response to the appeal for flood victims in Bangladesh.

The CA made the call when the US chargé d’affaires in Dhaka, Helen LaFave, paid a courtesy call on him at the state guest house Jamuna on September 2 said a spokesperson for the CA.



US Charge d' Affaires Helen LaFave called on Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on September 2

The envoy raised some concern over labour and minority issues.

In reply, Dr Yunus said every citizen in the country is ‘protected by the constitution’ and the interim government is committed to upholding human rights of all citizens.

The US diplomat said, her country would support the interim government of Bangladesh and strengthen ties with Dhaka in a range of issues.

The US government was happy to congratulate the CA and looking forward to working closely together with his government, she added.

In response, Dr Yunus thanked Washington for supporting Dhaka and also for its continued funding for more than 1.0-million Rohingya who live in camps in Cox’s Bazar. *Source: The Financial Express*



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus held a meeting with the editors of various print media outlets at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on September 3

3 September, 2024

CA for building national consensus to rebuild country

Head of interim government Prof Yunus sought cooperation from the media to foster national consensus on rebuilding Bangladesh in tune with spirit of the student-mass uprising.

‘We got an opportunity to rebuild and reform the country after the student-led revolution. Let’s explore it,’ the Chief Adviser was quoted as saying while exchanging views with the editors of top dailies in the country at the State Guest House Jamuna.

The Head of interim government also assured the editors of ensuring full freedom of the media and of repealing all the black laws enacted earlier to curb the freedom of press, said Mahfuz Anam, Editor of the Daily Star and Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to the CA, in separate press briefings. *Source: The Financial Express*

3 September, 2024

Bangladesh beat Pakistan for historic Test series win

Bangladesh completed a historic clean sweep over Pakistan with a six-wicket win in the second and final Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on September, 3.

After a remarkable turnaround in the first innings, Shakib Al Hasan hit the winning boundary 25 minutes before the tea break to bring the first series win over Pakistan in this format.

Bangladesh beat the hosts in the first Test at the same venue last month. This is the only third away series win for Bangladesh in 34 attempts and only the fourth time that they have clean swept an opposition in a multi-match (two matches or more) series.



Bangladesh completed a historic clean sweep over Pakistan with a six-wicket win in the second and final Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on September 3

The victory has also given Bangladesh a boost in the ICC World Test Championship standings, catapulting them to No 4 with a points percentage of 45.83, jumping over England.

Liton Das was named man of the match for his epic 138 runs in the first innings that rescued Bangladesh from a precarious 26-6 on the third day.

His helping hand in the record-breaking seventh wicket stand, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, was named the player of the series as he scored 155 runs and took 10 wickets.

Chasing 185 runs, openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam made a positive start on late afternoon on the fourth day, and they carried it to the beginning of the final day. They brought the first 50 runs in opening partnership for Bangladesh since December 2022.

Chief Adviser of the interim government, Professor Muhammad Yunus, called captain Shanto on the phone to congratulate him and the team after the win. He also said that the Tigers would be accorded a reception when they return home.

Source: The New Age



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus presiding over his first meeting with the government secretaries at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital on September 4

4 September, 2024

CA urges secretaries to help rebuild country

Government secretaries ought to reform their traditional mindset and work with ingenuity in running the administration, says Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus while arming a new-look bureaucracy with directions to 'rebuild' Bangladesh.

'Consultation must be held and opinions should be taken from the stakeholders, if necessary, to formulate the reform programmes,' he told the top officials in a meeting on September 4 at the Chief Adviser's Office.

He gave various directives to the secretaries during the meeting about how to go along the path shown through the July-August student-mass uprising, inspired by the theme slogan for 'rebuilding state',

The new Bangladesh that emerged through a mass uprising led by students has created a positive perception in the international community and government secretaries should utilise this to serve the optimum interest of Bangladesh, he said, according to the CA's press wing.

To create a new Bangladesh, the secretaries should think out of the box, reform their thoughts, adopt more creativity and prioritise public interest in running government administration, Yunus said. *Source: The Financial Express*

6 September, 2024

Resolve Teesta issue as per int'l norms: Prof Yunus

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus in an interview with the Press Trust of India said that he wanted India to resolve the issues pertaining to the Teesta water sharing that had been pending since Pakistan era.

In the interview given at his official residence in Dhaka, Yunus urged India to respect international norms regarding water sharing in common rivers, particularly the rights of lower riparian Bangladesh.

Yunus also called for the revival of the 'spirit of SAARC' and said that the eight-member forum could resolve many regional problems.

The PTI interview received widespread coverage.

'This is not a new issue but a very old issue,' Yunus told PTI regarding the Teesta water sharing problem.

'We have spoken on this issue on several occasions. The discussions began during the period of Pakistan's rule. While we all wanted this treaty to be finalised, even the Indian government was ready for it. However, the state government of West Bengal was not ready for it. We need to resolve it,' he said.

Yunus said that the neighbouring countries would not be benefitted by keeping the water sharing problem alive.

'By sitting over this issue (water sharing), it is not serving any purpose. If I know how much water I will get, even if I am not happy and sign it, it would be better. This issue has to be resolved,' Yunus told PTI. *Source: The New Age*

7 September, 2024

CA visits NINH

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on September 7 visited the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital (NINH) at Agargaon in the city.

He enquired about the condition of the people who are undergoing treatment at the hospital after being critically injured by security forces during the student-led revolution in July-August.

At least 11 people, including eight students from universities and colleges, have been treated at the hospital.

"He saw the condition of four students who are being treated in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital," Kazi Deen Mohammad, Director of the hospital, said.

“All four were hit by bullets in their heads. Their condition is improving,” the director said.

Badrul Alam, the Joint Director of the institute, and senior physicians of the hospital were present. *Source: The Financial Express*



8 September, 2024

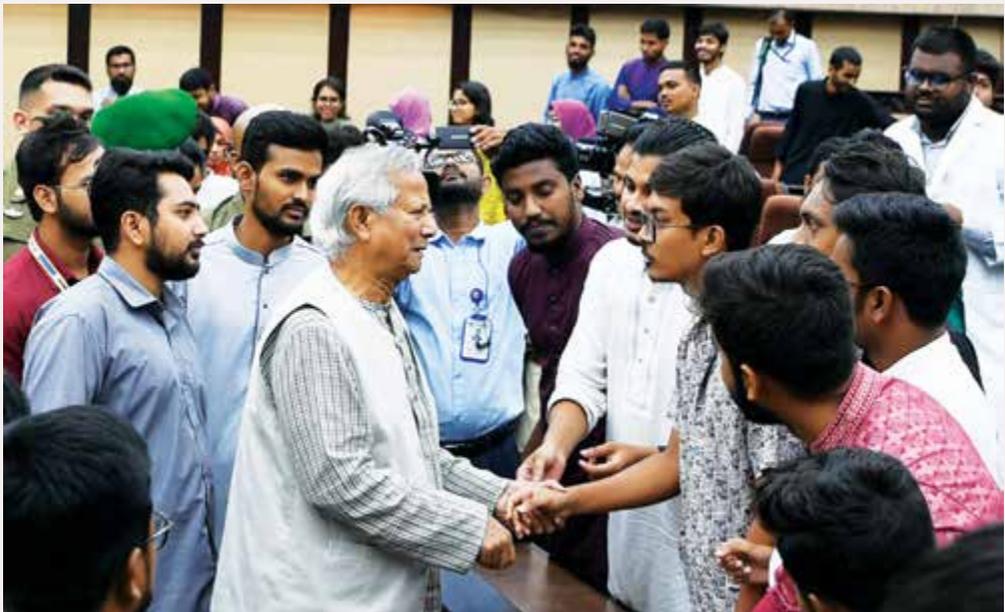
Don't stop till the job is done

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus

on September 8 urged key organisers of the student-led mass uprising to continue their efforts to make students' and the people's dream of a new Bangladesh come true.

'For the dream, they sacrificed their lives. We must make that dream a reality. We have no other way,' he said.

Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus enquiring about the condition of the people injured during the student-mass uprising while visiting them at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital at Agargaon in the city on September 7



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus talking to organisers of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital's Tejgaon on September 8

Not only are the people of the country eager to build a new nation, but Bangladeshis all over the world are also saying, that they want to be a part of realising that dream, he said at a views-exchange meeting with the students at the Chief Adviser's Office.

Yunus said, when he sees graffiti on the walls, it surprises him. 'How did the students come up with so many words? There were no poets, no writers, and no scholars behind them,' he said.

Warning the students about possible attempts to sideline them from their nation-building work, he said, 'Don't give up until the job that you have taken up is done.'

Students have awakened a wave; they have also awakened the youth of the whole world. 'The youth of other countries also say they want to learn about us because they need this in their country too,' Yunus said. *Source: The Daily Star*

11 September, 2024

Six commissions formed for rebuilding Bangladesh

Six commissions for reforms in vital state institutions and the national constitution have been formed for rebuilding Bangladesh as a people's ownership-based



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus addressing the nation from the state guest house Jamuna on September 11

equitable country, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said on September 11.

Making the announcement in his address to the nation, the Head of post-uprising government urged all to hold patience, halt various agitations and operate the closed factories for the common good.

The Chief Adviser named the names of the chiefs of the re jig commissions.

Dr Badiul Alam

Majumdar will be the head of Electoral System Reform Commission, Sarfaraz Chowdhury will head Police Administration Reform Commission, Justice Shah Abu Naeem Mominur Rahman lead Judiciary Reform Commission, TIB's Dr Iftekharuzzaman will be the head of Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, Abdul Mueed Chowdhury be the head of Public Administration Reform Commission and Dr Shahdeen Malik will head Constitution Reform Commission.

Names of other members of these panels will be decided in consultation with the heads of respective commissions, Prof Yunus said.

‘As we believe in people’s right to vote and people’s ownership, improvement in the electoral system has been given importance in our reform ideas,’ the Chief Adviser of the reformist regime said in his televised speech marking the finish of the first month of the interim government formed on August 8 following the August 5th student-mass upsurge. *Source: The Financial Express*

15 September, 2024

CA seeks US aid to revitalise economy

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has sought support from the United States for his post-uprising government in rebuilding the country through vital reforms and repatriating siphoned-off assets.

The Head of interim government sought the assistance when a high-powered US delegation met him at the state-guest house Jamuna in Dhaka, said a spokesperson for the CA, after their wide-ranging talks that lead to the signing of deals on grants and a cooperation framework.

The Nobel-laureate economist at the helms of the country described the challenges, facing the interim government on multifarious fronts and the moves being made for a remedy. He said that his administration has moved quickly to ‘reset, reform, and restart’ the economy, reform financial sectors, and fix institutions such as the judiciary and the police.

‘It is a very important time for us and a significant moment in our history,’ the Chief Adviser said, as he spoke about the student-led revolution which has ushered in a new era of hope in Bangladesh.

The US delegation, led by Brent Nieman, Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury Department, praised Professor Yunus’s leadership and said Washington, DC, would be happy to support his reform agenda.



A high-powered US delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury Department Brent Nieman, calls on Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on September 15

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh and the USA signed the 6th amendment of ‘The Development Objective Grant Agreement (DOAG)’ under which the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide USD202.25 million in grants in addition to the previous commitments.

This grant assistance will be given for three sectors: (a) Good Governance (b) Social, Human and Economic Opportunity (c) Resilience.

The signing took place during bilateral meeting between the two sides at the state guest house Jamuna.

A. K. M Shahabuddin, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Reed J. Aeschliman, Mission Director, USAID, inked the amendment document on behalf of GoB and USAID respectively after the meeting between the visiting US delegation and Bangladesh officials. *Source: The Financial Express*

17 September, 2024

July Martyrs Foundation starts journey

The July Martyrs Memorial Foundation officially started its journey on September 17 with a Tk 1.0 billion fund, received from the Chief Adviser’s Relief Fund.

Nahid Islam, a key coordinator of the July student movement and government Adviser for Information and ICT Ministries, announced it at a press briefing.

We have decided to provide financial support to the poor family members of the martyrs, he said, adding that financial support will also be provided for the treatment of the persons who were injured during the revolution.

The Foundation will also provide monthly allowance to the families of the martyrs, Nahid said.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus hands over a cheque for Tk 1.0 billion to Mir Mahbur Rahman Snigdha, General Secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation from his relief and welfare fund at the state guest house Jamuna on September 17

Responding to a question, he said that the amount of the allowance will be fixed in the meeting of the Foundation today.

He also mentioned that within a week the Foundation will hand over some amount for the affected families in different divisions.

He said, so far they have come to know, over 800 people were killed by the then government

and ruling party forces during the July revolution.

Nahid Islam also urged people from all walks of life in home and abroad to donate to the Foundation.

Responding to a question he said that if any injured person spent money on his own for his treatment, the amount will be made up.

We have asked all public and private hospitals to treat the injured persons free of cost, he mentioned.

Adviser Asif Mahmud and CA's Special Assistant Mahfuz Alam, Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdha, General Secretary of the Foundation, were also present in the briefing, moderated by Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to the CA.

Nahid said that the Foundation will also work for archiving the events of the student revolution, which toppled the 15 year long regime of the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina fled home for India on August 5 in the face of a massive mass uprising, launched by the students. *Source: The Financial Express*

24 September, 2024

Rebuilding Bangladesh, Biden extends 'full support' to Dr. Yunus

President of the United States Joe Biden extended his government's full support to the Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus and his government as they met on September 24 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus and US President Joe Biden meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 24

The Head of interim government of Bangladesh apprised the US President of how the students rose against the “tyranny” of the previous government and sacrificed their lives to create this opportunity of rebuilding Bangladesh.

As he stressed that his government must succeed in rebuilding the country and would need US cooperation, President Biden assured of his administration’s full support.

The maiden meeting between them after the August- 5th changeover in Bangladesh started at 11am New York time in the UN building.

And it happens to be the first meeting of a US President with any Head of government of Bangladesh in the last two decades. *Source : Financial Express*

24 September, 2024

Help build a new Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has sought support from the foreign friends for Bangladesh’s new journey towards a happy and prosperous future.

‘Our job is to clean it up and reform it. We need to make a good start. We need the support from all of you to make that happen,’ he said while addressing a reception on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN Headquarters on September 24 evening (New York time).

He said the interim government does not want to miss the opportunity to build a new Bangladesh.

Around 200 representatives of countries and territories attending the UNGA was at the event, hosted by Bangladesh marking the 50th anniversary of the country’s UN membership.



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus introduces Mahfuj Alam and Aysha Siddique Tithi, coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, to the audience at an event of the Clinton Global Initiative at New York’s Hilton hotel on September 24. Former US President Bill Clinton is seen applauding.

Prof Yunus and renowned photographer Shahidul Alam jointly unveiled two books that depict events of the student-led mass uprising, which led to the fall of Awami League regime after 15 years in power.

Recalling the sacrifices, made by the students and people during the uprising, Prof Yunus said, the people are united today. 'We don't want to disappoint them.'

He said, the students invited him to lead the interim government until the elections are held following reforms. 'It is a very significant year for us ...'

At an event of the Clinton Global Initiative 2024, Prof Yunus shared stage with the former US President Bill Clinton, where he introduced two young people including his special assistant Mahfuj Alam, and lauded their role during the uprising. *Source: The Daily Star*

25 September, 2024

Interim govt committed to upholding human rights, freedom of speech: CA

Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus says, the interim government is committed to upholding human rights and freedom of speech in Bangladesh.

His remarks came during a meeting with senior officials of several top human rights groups in New York on September, 25.

Justice and accountability for the atrocities during the July-August movement were discussed, as well as human rights abuses during Sheikh Hasina's 15 years in power, according to the state.

Yunus highlighted how civil liberties and human rights were denied under the Awami League's rule. He also spoke of the formation of several commissions to carry out reforms and institutional change in Bangladesh.

The Chief Advisor said, the government would uphold freedom of speech and welcome any criticism of its activities.

'This government isn't bothered by any criticism. In fact, we are inviting criticism,' he said, adding the government 'won't restrict any voices' in the country.

'Human rights officials stressed the need for more investigations into some 3,000 extrajudicial killings carried out during the dictatorship.'

'They also called for security sector reforms, repeal of the cyber security act and unfettered access to justice and ensure accountability of activities of the detention centres where the victims of the enforced disappearances were kept during Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule,' the statement said.

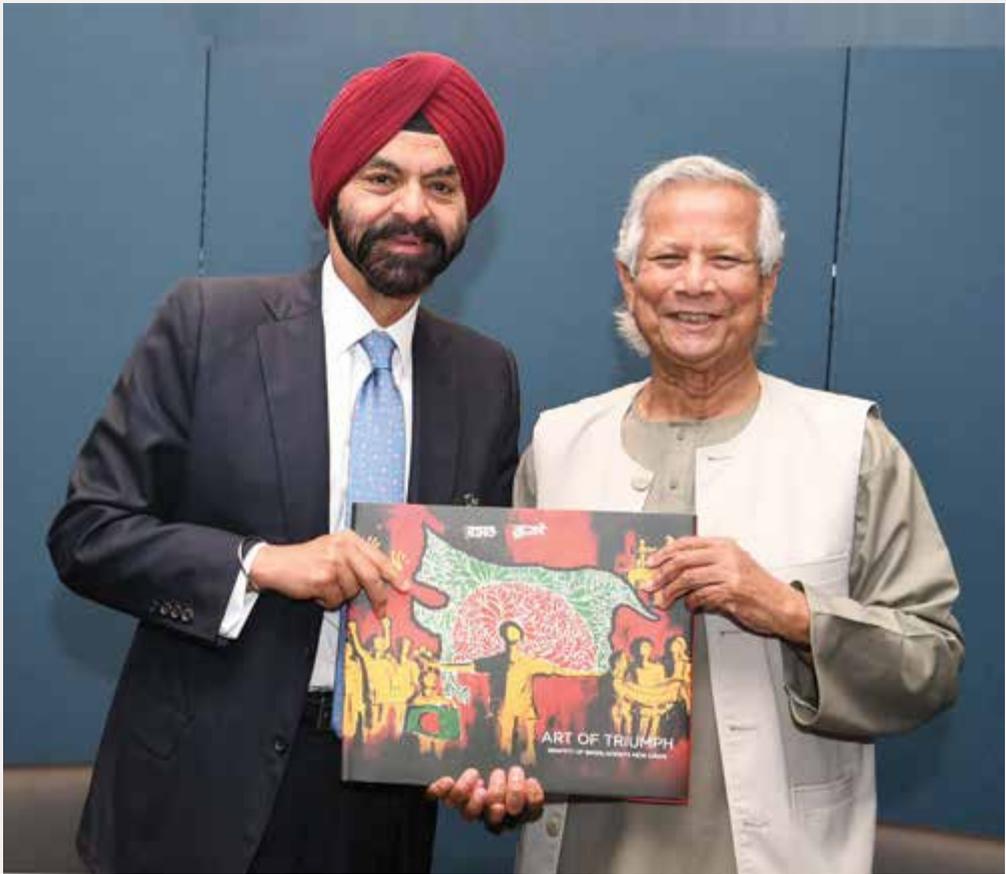
The delegation of human rights officials was led by Kerry Kennedy, President of the Robert F Kennedy Human Rights organisation. Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard also attended.

The new interim government should send 'a powerful message demonstrating that this is a new Bangladesh', Callamard said. *Source : Financial Express*

26 September, 2024

WB plans \$3.5b support for BD reform initiatives

Another dollop of US\$3.5 billion will come from the World Bank to provide fund support to Bangladesh interim government's comprehensive reform initiatives.



Chief Adviser Prof Dr Mohammad Yunus hands over an art book 'Art of Triumph' to World Bank President Ajay Banga at the UN Headquarters on September 26. The book portrays the graffiti, drawn by Bangladeshi students after the July-August revolution

President of the World Bank Ajay Banga announced the support during a meeting with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, a spokesperson for the CA said on September 26.

Banga, a long-time friend of Professor Yunus, said at least two billion dollars would be fresh lending and another 1.5 billion would be repurposed from the existing programmes.

He said, the World Bank would support reforms in digitisation, liquidity, energy and power, and transport.

During the meeting, Professor Yunus sought the World Bank support for the wide-ranging reforms the Interim Government has undertaken, following the August-5th changeover.

He asked the World Bank to be creative about its lending programme.

'It is a big opportunity to rebuild the country,' he said.

The World Bank President discussed the energy-sector cooperation in South Asia and how hydro-energy produced in Nepal and Bhutan could be shared by neighbours such as India and Bangladesh. *Source : Financial Express*

26 September, 2024

CA seeks businessmen's partnership in Bangladesh's new journey

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on September 26 said, his government was committed to improving business environment in Bangladesh through reforms, seeking businessmen's partnership in the country's new voyage.

'No country is perfect. Neither is Bangladesh. But I see an emerging Bangladesh that is committed to upholding freedom and justice. We are firm to improve our business environment through multipronged reforms that we have initiated,' he said.



The Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus speaks at the US-Bangladesh Industry Roundtable, organized by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at the Westin New York Grand Central on September 26

The Chief Adviser came up with the remarks at the US-Bangladesh Industry Roundtable, organized by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at the Westin New York Grand Central on September 26 (local time).

'We are charting reform paths to address the inherent weaknesses in revenue sector. Our reform measures are already acknowledged. Over past two days, World Bank President, USAID Administrator and indeed President Biden acknowledged these and mentioned rolling out critical financial and non-financial support,' he added.

Source : Financial Express

27 September, 2024

Yunus urges global leaders to help build new Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on September 27 urged the international community to continue and deepen engagements with Bangladesh to help meet its



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus addresses the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on September 27

people's quest for democracy, rule of law, equality and prosperity so that it could emerge as a just and inclusive democratic society.

'I call upon the international community to engage with 'new Bangladesh' anew that aims to realise freedom and democracy, beyond letters, for everyone,' he said while addressing the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York of the United States.

Delivering his speech in Bangla, the Chief Adviser of the interim government said that the country's youth and commoners together entrusted him and his council of advisers with enormous responsibilities to reconstruct a decaying state apparatus.

'As we took to the office, to our utter shock and dismay, we discovered how endemic corruption turned a 'functioning democracy' into a farce, how key institutions were ruthlessly politicised, how public coffers were reduced to rubble, how oligarchs took over business, how 'chosen few' concentrated wealth in their hands and amassed and laundered wealth out of Bangladesh.'

In all, justice, ethics and morality, almost at every level, reached a low. Under such circumstances, his government was asked to rebuild Bangladesh and give back the country to the people, while it was also asked to correct the ills of the past and build a competitive and agile economy, and a just society, Yunus said. *Source: The New Age*

Report Compilation: Mazharul Hoque, Mamun Hossain, Jewel Chandra Barman



Youth spirit always triumphs ...



Department of Films and Publications

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Bangladesh