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Protests in Bangladesh leave nearly 100 dead as demonstrators push for prime minister to resign

Civil Unrest

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More than 90 people have died in anti-government protests in Bangladesh.

In short:

Student groups calling for Bangladesh's government to resign have again protested, clashing with police.

At least 95 people have died and the government has shut down internet services.

What's next?

The prime minister says the protesters are "terrorists" and the government will impose an indefinite nationwide curfew.

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The death toll from protests in Bangladesh on Sunday has risen to at least 95, as thousands called for the country's prime minister to resign.

Police fired tear gas and lobbed stun grenades to disperse tens of thousands of protesters in the capital Dhaka, while the government shut down internet and communication services, as well as schools and universities.

The government imposed an indefinite nationwide curfew on Sunday evening local time, the first time it has taken such a step during protests that began last month.

It also announced a three-day general holiday starting from Monday.

The death toll, which includes at least 14 police officers, was the highest for a single day from any protests in Bangladesh's recent history, surpassing the 67 deaths reported on July 19 when students took to the streets to demand the scrapping of quotas for government jobs.

Critics of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have accused her government

Violent Bangladesh protests leave bloody memories



Student protesters in Bangladesh want an ingrained system of nepotism for some government jobs removed and replaced with a merit-based approach but their demonstrations have led to fatal clashes with authorities — even for those only there to hand out water.

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of using excessive force to stamp out the movement, a charge she and her ministers deny.

The unrest in Bangladesh started last month, as student groups protested against quotas for government jobs.



Protesters march against Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government in Dhaka. (AP: Rajib Dhar)

At least 150 people were killed and thousands injured in July's protests, while more than 10,000 people were arrested.

The protests paused after the Supreme Court scrapped most quotas, but students returned to the streets sporadically last week, demanding justice for the families of those killed.

Now, those groups are calling for the government's resignation, blocking major highways, and urging people not to pay taxes, utility bills or to work on Sunday.

The protesters attacked Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, a major public hospital in Dhaka's Shahbagh area, torching several vehicles.



Demonstrators are demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation. (Reuters: Mohammad Ponir Hossain)

Ms Hasina described the protesters as "terrorists".

"Those who are protesting on the streets right now are not students, but terrorists who are out to destabilise the nation," she said after a national security panel meeting.

"I appeal to our countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a strong hand."

Protests have become a major challenge for Ms Hasina's government, which has ruled the country for more than 15 years.

She returned to power for a fourth consecutive term in January in an election that was boycotted by her main opponents.

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