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A > News > World > Bangladesh

# Bangladesh PM resigns and flees after weeks of unrest, reports claim



Published on 05/08/2024 - 12:47 GMT+2 • Updated 12:59



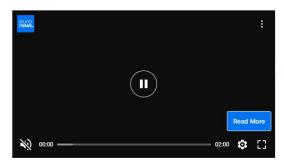
Sheikh Hasina's whereabouts are currently unknown after crowds stormed the prime ministerial palace in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned and fled the country on Monday, according to multiple outlets citing her aides.

Her resignation would end a 15-year rule in power, as thousands of protesters have stormed her official residence, defying a military curfew put in place after weeks of protests.

Social media has shown videos of the leader boarding a military helicopter and reported that the country's military chief, General Walker-uz-Zaman, has announced his intentions to seek the president's guidance on forming an interim government.

Waker-uz-Zaman has called on protesters to "stay calm" to restore peace in the country.



He has also announced his intentions for an investigation into the deadly police crackdowns on protests, which have killed over 200 demonstrators.



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Bangladesh has been rocked by largely student-led protests that started in late June over a quota system for government jobs.

Under the system, 30% of jobs were reserved for families of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence against Pakistan in 1971.

Although starting peacefully, the protests turned violent as students clashed with police and pro-government activists at Dhaka University, leading to hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries.

The country's Supreme Court cut the veteran quota to 5% in July, however outrage over deadly protests crackdowns led to the students demanding the prime minister's resignation.

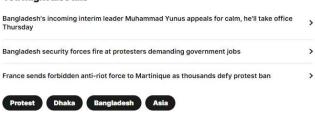
On Sunday, at least 95 were killed as protesters clashed with security officials and activists from the ruling party across the country, according to Bengali-language daily newspaper Prothom Alo.

Authorities shut off mobile internet on Sunday to quell the unrest and imposed a military curfew in the country's capital, which was defied by protesters who reportedly stormed the prime ministerial palace.

Hasina was elected for a fourth consecutive term in January and is currently Bangladesh's longest-serving leader.



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