



# At least 29 dead in daylong mayhem

11 of them students; over 3,000 hurt, many hit by shotgun pellets; protesters reject govt call for talks; violence rocks 19 districts; several establishments including BTV centre set afire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented scale of violence across the country, at least 29 people, including 11 students and a journalist, were killed and more than 3,000 wounded in fierce clashes between quota protesters and law enforcers joined in by ruling party activists yesterday.

The 11 students are from Dhaka, Chattogram, Savar, Madaripur, Narsingdi and Sylhet. Many of the victims are yet to be identified, so the number of students killed may rise.

The protests began from where it was left off on Wednesday night, and continued in Dhaka and other parts of the country throughout yesterday.

The violence saw at least two government

establishments, including state-run BTV Bhaban in the capital's Rampura, attacked and set alight.

In the afternoon, after many were already killed and injured, the government invited the protesting students to sit for talks, but the students rejected the call and vowed to continue their movement.

"No dialogue will take place over the blood of the martyrs. It is the government that has to find the solution," Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers of the movement, said in a Facebook post in the evening, just hours before the government shut down the internet.

The intensity of violence, and the death toll that climbed to 36 so far are unprecedented in any student movement in recent memory. By the afternoon, parts of Dhaka's skyline

turned black with thick smoke coming from burning buildings and cars.

Earlier on Tuesday, six people were killed in Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur. Another man who was injured in the previous day's violence died yesterday.

The death toll from yesterday's clashes may go up.

Different private hospitals, especially in Uttara where one of the fiercest clashes took place, struggled to treat the injured patients that rose by the hour.

Violence ensued when law enforcers and ruling party activists carrying firearms, rods, iron pipes, sticks and hockey sticks tried to disperse students enforcing a "complete shutdown" of transport networks, businesses and offices yesterday, demanding quota reforms.

Dhaka was cut off from the rest of the country, as rail and road communications came to a halt.

The protesters also vandalised and set fire to the disaster management office building in the capital's Mohakhali and at least three police outposts in the city.

Parts of Dhaka looked like warzones as law enforcers used shotguns, teargas shells and sound grenades against the protesters, who responded by throwing brick chunks. AL activists and police also hurled bricks at the demonstrators.

Of the dead, 23 were in Dhaka. Of them, 10 were killed in Jatrahari, Shanir Akhra and Azimpur. One of them was a journalist of Dhaka Times. Another nine in Dhaka's Uttara and nearby areas; two in Badda; one

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The country witnessed scenes of mindless bloodletting for the third day yesterday. Deadly clashes between quota protesters and law enforcers/ruling party activists took place across the capital and beyond. Violence was worst in Uttara, Dhanmondi, Rampura, Jatrahari and Mohakhali as protesters pressed on with their demonstrations for quota reforms and against the attacks on students on the previous days. Police, BGB and Rab teams were deployed in many areas, where they lobbed teargas shells and sound grenades to disperse the agitating crowds.

PHOTO: STAR

## A life we will remember



MD ABBAS

"One day, you'll leave this world behind. So live a life you will remember." — Farhan Faiyaz's Facebook profile bio.

In a chilling video footage that went viral on Facebook yesterday, a woman was seen breaking down at the sight of a body in Mohammadpur's City Hospital.

That body belongs to 17-year-old Farhan Faiyaz, a first-year HSC student at Dhaka Residential Model College (DRMC), who died during the clashes between protesters and ruling party activists in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rab vehicles leave in the face of fierce protests by students in the capital's Uttara, where clashes left at least nine people dead.

## Govt for 80pc jobs on merit

Says Quader after meeting PM; law enforcers to be firm against destructive activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During a hearing before the Supreme Court on Sunday, the government will appeal to the court to keep 80 percent government jobs based on merit and rest on different quotas.

**"No dialogue when shots are being fired."**

Protest organiser Asif Mahmud

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said this at a press conference at party president's Dhanmondi office last night after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban.

The PM directed all law enforcers to control the situation with a firm hand, he said quoting Hasina.

She also asked all AL leaders and activists, its associate bodies, and public representatives to stay on the streets to

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