At least 7 killed on 2nd day of curfew

Two deaths were reported in Narayanganj and Narshingdi, doctors

Of the six people who succumbed to their injuries yesterday, three died at DMCH, said Bachchu Mia.

A doctor at Savar Enam Medical College Hospital requesting anonymity said a fish trader who was wounded during a clash in Savar on Saturday died at Savar Enam Medical College

police recovered two Besides, bodies from the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and sent those to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medial College morgue for autopsies, said Ahad Ali, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

They were injured in earlier clashes in Uttara or Gazipur and were being treated at a hospital in Uttara before being taken to NICVD, he added.

With yesterday's deaths, at least 140 lives have been lost since Tuesday, when six people were killed in violence. On Thursday, at least 29 people died in clashes between protesters and law enforcers, aided by ruling party activists. Another victim injured in Wednesday's violence also died on Thursday. On Friday, at least 66 people were killed across the country. On Saturday, at least 25 people died including four who were injured in earlier clashes.

The overall death toll and that from yesterday's violence may rise, as The Daily Star could not reach many hospitals where dozens of critically injured patients were taken for treatment. Also, many families reportedly collected the bodies of their loved-ones from the scene, and this newspaper could not contact those families. The Daily Star's count of

the victims is based solely on hospital

Yesterday's clashes broke out between law enforcers and protesters in Sign Board, Chittagong Road, Shanarpar and Dhania areas when members of police and Rab tried to clear the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

Witnesses said the law enforcers fired indiscriminately at protesters.

Clashes were also reported in the Bashundhara area of the city. Witnesses said the clashes took place in phases between police and a few hundred agitators at the Bashundhara Main gate near Pragati Sarani.

The clashes ensued after agitators threw brickbats at police, who retaliated by firing shotgun pellets and teargas

Around 8:45pm, two residents of Bashundhara's Block A told this newspaper over the phone that they were hearing gunshots. Choppers were hovering overhead, they said.

Violence in Jatrabari

Around 10:00pm, agitators in Jatrabari area, which has seen daily protests since the violence erupted on Wednesday, blocked the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway and took positions in the neighbouring areas.

As law enforcers moved to remove the road blocks in Rayerbag, Sign Board, Chittagong Road, Shanarpar and Dhania areas, the agitators pelted brick chips at the law enforcers prompting them to fire numerous tear gas shells and bullets, witnesses said.

The clash continued till the evening. Around 5:00pm members of the joint forces managed to remove the roadblocks and open the highway.

DMCH duty doctors confirmed that five bodies were brought to DMCH from

More than 70 injured people, many of them in critical condition, from those areas were also admitted to DMCH yesterday. Most of them had bullet injuries, they added.

A large number of police were guarding different parts of the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway till filing of this

Of the five victims who were brought to DMCH, three were shot at Signboard area, said Bachchu Mia quoting family members.

He said Imran, 16, a tailoring shop worker, was shot around 2:00pm. Ashraf Hossain Akash, 18, footpath vendor, and Rakib, 18, a garments worker, were shot around the same

The other two victims -- Md Amin, 16, a factory worker, and Md Jashim, 45 were shot at Boalbari intersection in the evening, he added.

Meanwhile, three Mohammad Zahid, 32, from Uttara, Toufique Ul Islam, 35, from Badda and Mohammad Shohagh, 25, from Gopibagh Railgate area - died at DMCH yesterday.

The inspector said Zahid and Shohagh were injured by bullet on June 20. Toufique, a water pump technician, was shot on June 19.

In Mirpur, a group of agitators vandalised four vehicles of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited at Mirpur-10 around 3:30pm. Around 15 people attacked the vehicles when the officials were inspecting the damages of Metro rail station at Mirpur 10.

Besides, at least two people were killed and 22 were injured yesterday in clashes between agitators and law enforcers in Narayanganj and Narsingdi. In Narayanganj, a bullet-hit youth,

who couldn't be identified, was brought

yesterday morning, said Dr Abul Basar, superintendent of the hospital. He said 11 bullet-hit people were

dead at Narayanganj 300-Bed Hospital

admitted to the hospital since morning. Besides, seven bullet-hit people, including a 16-year-old, were admitted to a private hospital in the district's Signboard area yesterday. The teen was in a critical condition, said a hospital source requesting anonymity.

Sporadic, day-long clashes were also reported form Jhalkuri to Signboard intersection areas and from Signboard to Kanchapur.

In Narsingdi, an unidentified man, aged around 18, was brought dead to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital in the afternoon, said Mahmudul Kabir Bashar, residential medical officer of the hospital.

"The man might have been hit by rubber bullets," he added.

Around 2:00pm, law enforcers clashed with a group of miscreants who tried to vandalise a local union parishad building at Meherpara area of Sadar upazila, said police.

Mizanur Rahman, director of Narsingdi 100-bed Hospital, said, "Four bullet-hit people came for treatment at our hospital around 3:30pm."

Meanwhile, a fish trader, who suffered bullet injury on Saturday evening in Savar, died at Enam Medical College Hospital.

The deceased is Nobi Noor, 45, a resident of Bonpukur area in Savar.

Meanwhile, law enforcers yesterday foiled repeated attempts by agitators to block the Dhaka-Aricha Highway at several points between Radio Colony and Genda area.

correspondents Our respective districts contributed to the

Shutdown

FROM PAGE 1

considering the present situation. Criminals are taking advantage in many ways, he told reporters. The press briefing was aired by Channel 24.

"We will announce our next programme after observing these 48 hours and during this time, we will sort out the confusion regarding the eight and nine-point demands," he said.

"We have suspended our compete shutdown programme and we want the government to also withdraw the curfew," Sarjis told The Daily Star, quoting from a statement given to reporters at the hospital.

Earlier, Hasnat Abdullah, one of the three coordinators who placed an eightpoint demand late Friday night following a meeting with three ministers, told The Daily Star, "We are viewing the verdict positively. But our demand was for a logical reform to the quota system in every grade of government jobs."

Nahid was not among the three who met the ministers and placed the eight demands.

Meanwhile, Numan Ahmed Chowdhury, assistant coordinator of the protests, told The Daily Star that they are still pressing on with their ninepoint demand.

He said they have watched the announcement made on TV but they believe the three are being influenced by the government. Nahid had been picked up and some other protest organisers are missing, he said.

Numan said an attempt is being made to foil the movement by having the statement issued under duress.

The Daily Star failed to contact other coordinators of the protest but earlier in the day 59 coordinators and assistant coordinators issued a press release sticking to their "complete shutdown" programme and their nine-point

Abdul Kader, a coordinator of the demonstrations who placed the nine point demand on Friday night, said the Supreme Court judgement was unclear and "left room for confusion".

The press release was sent via text messages from Kader's phone number.

The Daily Star spoke to two coordinators Umama Fatima, Nazmul Hasan, and assistant coordinator Abdullah Salehin Ayon. They said they endorse the text.

The press release said, "There is no specific solution [in the verdict] ... There is a scope for the government to increase the quota percentage at will in future."

The coordinators demanded a special session of the Jatiya Sangsad within a week for enacting a law in this regard.

With such a "vague verdict", the government cannot avoid the responsibility for killing students and people, read the press release.

In the release, Kader, a student of social welfare at Dhaka University, called for a nationwide gayebana namaz-ejanaza after Johr prayers today.

He said the internet service across the country has been suspended for the last two days to suppress the demonstrations and to cover up the real situation.

The nine-point demand includes an apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the deaths of students; resignation of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader from the cabinet and AL; and termination of the deputy inspectors general of police, the police commissioner and superintendents of police of the areas where students were

UN human rights chief, EU, UK voice concern

the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The government should take necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of the students participating in peaceful protests, and to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly and expression without fear of attacks against their lives and physical integrity or other forms of repression.

Bangladesh's political leaders must work with the country's young population to find solutions to the ongoing challenges and focus on the country's growth and development, Turk said.

"Dialogue is the best and only way

The internet shutdown is also

expression, including freedom to and Development Office, also gave seek, receive and impart information particularly in the midst of a crisis.

"We urge the authorities to restore internet access without further delay," Turk added.

Also on the same day, the EU issued a statement on the ongoing violence in Bangladesh.

"The EU is deeply concerned by the violence and tragic loss of life that has occurred in the context of the protests in Bangladesh. It is vital that further violence is averted and that a peaceful resolution to the situation is found as swiftly as possible, underpinned by the rule of law and democratic freedoms." the statement

Catherine West, the British of concern as it disproportionately parliamentary under-secretary of Jaishankar himself is following the cannot reach their loved ones due

out a statement.

"The UK government is deeply concerned by the violence following protests in Bangladesh. The UK supports fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights, including the right to protest and peaceful assembly. We urge all sides to end the violence and find a peaceful way

The ongoing violence was also addressed at weekly briefing of India's

"As you are aware, there are ongoing protests in Bangladesh. We see this as an internal matter of the country," said MEA spokesman

restricts the right to freedom of state at the Foreign, Commonwealth matter closely in the context of safety to a government implemented Rushanara Ali also posted. of the Indians, he said.

"We are aware of the measures taken by the local authorities in view of the protests. Our High Commission remains in touch with local authorities for the safety of our nationals."

Indian nationals Total Bangladesh are estimated to be around 15,000, which includes 8,500 students, Jaiswal around added.

The following Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on her official X page posted on the issue, sharing the link of a Reuters post on the issue.

"Dozens of protestors have been killed by Bangladeshi authorities in recent days. My constituents

communications blackout. I call for an end to the blackout and de-escalation of violence against protestors," she posted. Ocasio-Cortez is a member of

the US House of Representatives representing a district in Queens, New York City, home to a sizeable Bangladeshi diaspora.

parliament Rupa Huq also posted on

Bangladesh demonstrating against corruption: Thirteen killed in protests over job quotas," she posted with a Reuters link titled 'Bangladesh quota protesters call for nationwide shutdown amid

The next day, Hug's fellow MP

"The Bangladesh government has imposed a curfew across the country and there has been widespread violence resulting in deaths. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office now advises against all but essential travel to the whole of Bangladesh at this time," she posted on her official X page.

She said in the post that she is in contact with the FCDO and keeping abreast of developments in the

The UK supports fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights, including the right to protest and peaceful assembly, Ali said

"Like many of my constituents, I have family and friends in Bangladesh, and I am very concerned about the situation there," she said.

Normalcy to return in a short time

heads of international aid agencies, including US Ambassador Peter Haas, Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, Canadian High Commissioner Lilly Nichols, and acting Australian high commissioner Nardia Simpson, were

The foreign ministry also screened a documentary on the violence and the destruction of public properties. Over 100 people were killed, and hundreds of others injured in the violence.

On Friday night, the government declared curfew and deployed army personnel across the country in aid to the civil administration to maintain law and order.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court annulled the judgement of the High Court and set 93 percent recruitment in public service on merit and 5 percent quota for children of freedom fighters, martyred freedom fighters, and Biranghans, 1 percent quota each for ethnic minorities, and physically

challenged and third gender. At the briefing, some diplomats condemned the violence and expressed concern over the blackout

of internet, said a diplomatic source. On Saturday, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong expressed deep

unrest and violence in Bangladesh.

"We call on all parties to cease violence and resolve differences peacefully. Australia universal human rights, including the right to freedom of assembly and peaceful protest," she said in X.

In a statement, Catherine West,

parliamentary under secretary of the state at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, said the UK government is deeply concerned by the violence following the protests in Bangladesh. "The UK supports fundamental

freedoms and respect for human rights, including the right to protest and peaceful assembly. We urge all sides to end the violence and find a peaceful way forward," she said in a statement yesterday.

Other countries, including the US, UK, and Canada, also issued

statements. Hasan said the government made it clear from the outset of the protest that its own position on the reform was mostly aligned with that of the demonstrators and assured them of due actions once the Supreme Court

delivered judgement on the matter. The government made room for peaceful assembly and protests, but the anti-liberation, anti-state

concern over the escalating civil elements and religious extremists, FROM PAGE 12 including BNP-Jamaat-Shibir clique, took advantage of the situation by infiltrating the protest and turning it extremely violent and destructive, he

> enough to stop the spread of violence as the BNP-Jamaat took over the protest from the innocent students and resorted to their old tactics of killing, arson, and vandalism, he added. Hundreds of law enforcement

Unfortunately, nothing proved

agency members were injured, and some died from their indiscriminate attacks during clashes. Even journalists were not spared, he added. The pattern of the destructions

systematically targeted some important public infrastructure, Hasan said. "The government hopes that the judgement of the Appellate Division

that

will end the quota-related dispute," he He said mindful of the host country's obligations under the Vienna Convention, the government committed to ensuring safety and security of the diplomatic and

The foreign ministry yesterday arranged the issuance of curfew passes to the mission officials.

Like him, many consumers braved the scorching heat to recharge their prepaid cards vesterday.

A shopkeeper told Safina Hoque of Lalmatia that he could not recharge her prepaid card. Her home had been without power since vesterday

Desperate, Safina went to DPDC's Lalmatia office.

"I stood in line but later learned that the DPDC won't recharge my card, but will only extend the existing negative balance of my meter to Tk 1,000," she said around noon.

She said the extension of her negative balance would last her only days.

Meanwhile, people have been

running out of credit on their gas meters as well. Anik Hasan of Nakhalpara told The Daily Star that their gas meter went

out of credit on Saturday morning. "We used our neighbour's kitchen for cooking on Saturday. That night,

UK Foreign, Development and

Commonwealth Office (FCDO) has

advised British citizens residing in

Bangladesh to refrain from travelling

unless absolutely necessary, citing

the recent incidents of violence

day, we got food from a restaurant." office in Chattogram yesterday.

"We can't go on like this." Visiting the Titas Gas office at Karwan Bazar in the capital, this newspaper found the office padlocked. The people who were arriving for a top-up, were soon returning disappointed.

Al Amin, public relations officer at Titas, said the prepaid meters have facilities to provide emergency balance which should be enough for a small family to cook 10 to 15 days.

"For now, there is no other way to top-up prepaid gas meters. We're trying to find an alternative," he said. The company also asked its users to

call 16496 if they face any difficulties in getting the emergency balance. The ordeal was same for consumers using prepaid gas and electricity

meters in different parts of the

country, including Chattogram and "My home went dark on Saturday evening," said 45-year-old Kohinoor Begum at Bangladesh Power

US issues travel alert for its citizens

She managed to top-up her card

Chattogram use prepaid meters. The chief engineer of PDB in the

rushing to nearby PDB offices in

State minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid

"It is disheartening that the distributors have no other option now other than people coming to the offices for recharging prepaid meters. They have limited machines to provide the emergency support,"

he said while briefing reporters. [Nazrul Islam and Sifayet Ullah from Chattogram, Khalid Bin Nazrul from

FROM PAGE 12 Detailing the first strikes claimed

In Hodeida, three people were killed and 87 wounded, health officials said in a statement carried by Houthi media.

until a truce ends the violence in residents forced to flee their homes. more than Palestinians have been killed in the

Israeli military offensive in Gaza since

October 7. The toll incudes 64 deaths

failing to reach those in need. in Gaza sewage, the World Health

Christian WHO spokesman Lindmeier said Friday the agency believes many more diseases are spreading out of control" inside

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday a truce was within reach. "I believe we're... driving toward the goal line in getting an agreement that would produce a ceasefire, get the hostages

FROM PAGE 12

ould resume. The country has been under complete internet blackout since Thursday after sources said the transfer of bandwidth was suspended to internet service providers (ISPs) and carriers were ordered

Internet unlikely

consular premises and persons.

internet services in the country as

soon as possible. However, the state minister did not mention exactly when the services

shut down mobile data service. Referring to the attacks on communication infrastructures, industry insiders, wishing anonymity, said this could disrupt at best 30 percent of the connections and that most of the internet connections could be restored immediately if the government gave the greenlight.

They added that the government

had ordered international terrestrial

cable and international internet

gateway companies to stop supplying

bandwidth to the ISPs and local carriers

to shut down mobile data service.

Referring to the ongoing nationwide curfew, it also urged UK citizens to take shelter in a safe place and follow the

advise of local authorities.

UK CITIZENS ADVISED TO

EXCERSISE CAUTION

across the country.

150 arrested

FROM PAGE 2

FROM PAGE 12 ARRESTEES DEMANDED

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP leaders Amir Khashru Mahmud, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Abdus Salam, Kazi Sayedul Alam Babul, supporter Mahamudus Salehin and Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parower on five-day remand in a case filed over vandalising a BTV building in the capital and setting it on fire, reports our court correspondent.

The FCDO statement mentioned that communications have been severely disrupted across Bangladesh due to the complete internet blackout. Railway services in the country have also been suspended until

further notice, it added. Foreign students returning home

Following the recent incidents of violence, at least 978 Indian students studying in Bangladesh have returned to their country, according to a statement by the

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Sheikh Sadi also

placed BNP leaders Nipun Roy and

Aminul Haq on three-day remand

in the same case. Police had sought

10-day remand for each of the

Ducsu VP Nurul Haq Nur on five-day

remand in another case filed with

Banani Police Station over setting fire

to Setu Bhaban in capital's Banani.

The same court placed former

Indian Ministry of External Affairs issued on Saturday.

Indian High Commission in Dhaka and other assistant high commissions in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Khulna are in regular contact with more than 4,000 students who are still in Bangladesh and are providing

them with necessary assistance. They are assisting other Indian nationals to return home as well.

"We have also helped students from Nepal and Bhutan to cross into India on request," it said.

8 trade bodies

The business and trade platforms hoped formation of a judicial investigation commission by the government and the Appellate Division's decision on the issue will lead to a logical solution to the

They expressed condolences for those families who lost their loved ones in the violence and wished prompt recovery of the injured.

Israel strikes Gaza

by Israel in Yemen, Gallant warned of further operations if the Houthis "dare to attack us" after a rebel drone strike killed one in Tel Aviv on Friday.

The trio of militant groups has vowed to keep up attacks on Israel Gaza, which lies in ruins, with most According to the Gaza health

The offensive has also unleashed hunger and health crises in Gaza, with Israel and the United Nations trading blame for vital aid supplies

After the detection of poliovirus Organization (WHO) said there were "monumental" constraints to mounting a timely response.

The Israeli prime minister is due to address US lawmakers Wednesday in Washington, where he will be under pressure to reach a ceasefire with

home, and put us on a better track to trying to build lasting peace and stability," he said.

forward," the statement read. Ministry of External Affairs on Friday.

Randhir Jaiswal. India's External Affairs Minister S day,

On July 20, British member of her official X page. "Incredibly disturbing... students

Users suffer amid internet outage

after waiting there for four hours. Around 8.5 lakh PDB users in

port city, Humayun Kabir Mazumder, said they were trying to mitigate the

sufferings by increasing manpower. In Cumilla, people were seen

different parts of the city There are around 50,000 subscribers who use prepaid meters there.

vesterday visited different electricity suppliers' offices in the capital.

we just had flattened rice. The next Development Board's (PDB's) Khulshi Cumilla also contributed to this report]