



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 yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: NAIMUR RAHMAN

ONE DEMAND NOW

PM, her cabinet colleagues must step down, say protesters from a mammoth rally at Central Shaheed Minar

STAR REPORT

Turning down the prime minister's call for dialogue, the organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday came up with a one-point demand – the resignation of Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet members.

They made the announcement at a rally attended by tens of thousands of people at the Central Shaheed Minar around 5:00pm.

People from all walks of life – from teachers to lawyers to rickshaw pullers – joined the rally that spilled over into surrounding areas.

“We are here with a one-point demand. We seek to ensure people's safety and justice ...,”

said Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers.

Referring to the PM's call for dialogue, he said, “We are demanding the resignation of Sheikh Hasina. Her resignation is not enough; she has to be brought to justice for all the killings and abductions. Not only Sheikh Hasina, but also the entire cabinet has to resign.”

Nahid said they want to develop a political system where autocracy would never return. He urged the people to join the “student-citizen mass uprising” and organise in every locality.

He said the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement will soon forge an alliance of citizens, student organisations, and all

professionals.

“Upon consulting all, we will unveil a future national framework. We are urging people to join the all-out non-cooperation. We will not cooperate with the government in any way,” he said.

Earlier in the morning, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the students to sit with her at the Gono Bhaban.

“The Gono Bhaban's doors are open. I want to sit with the agitating students and listen to them. I don't want any conflict,” she said at a meeting with professionals.

THE RALLY

Braving the rain, many with their family

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NONCOOPERATION Protesters roll out 15 points

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday issued a 15-point instruction for people so the non-cooperation movement it has announced is successful.

Earlier in the day, it made a single-point demand – the resignation of the prime minister and her cabinet members – at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Asif Mahmud, an organiser of the movement, later announced the instructions. They are as follows:

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2 killed as clashes erupt in several dists At least 55 people injured

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and 55 others, including students, injured in clashes involving the anti-discrimination protesters, law enforcers and ruling party activists in at least seven districts yesterday.

Police and Awami League men allegedly opened fire on the protesters in some incidents while demonstrators also vandalised government vehicles and ruling party offices.

Clashes were reported in Gazipur, Chattogram, Cumilla, Sylhet, Bogura, Jamalpur and Faridpur.

In Gazipur, a man was killed and at least nine other people were injured during a clash between police and protesters in Sreepur upazila's Mawna area.

Jahangir Alam, 45, used to make mattresses in the upazila's Channapara village.

Speaking to The Daily Star, his relative Kajal Mia said Jahangir died of bullet wounds.

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TIMELINE STUDENT PROTESTS

July 15, 2024

Chhatra League and other ruling party activists attack quota protesters at Dhaka University. They also attack wounded demonstrators inside and outside Dhaka Medical College Hospital. More than 300 injured on both sides.



July 16, 2024

At least six killed in fierce clashes between protesting students and law enforcers joined in by ruling party activists in Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur. All universities, colleges and secondary schools are shut down for indefinite period. Students take control of most of DU and RU halls and vandalise BCL leaders' rooms.

July 17, 2024

Police attack students at DU, JU and RU during “absentee funeral” for student martyrs. Students announce a nationwide “complete shutdown” for the next day. Hasina addresses the nation and announces a judicial probe into previous day's killings.

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Count of a carnage

At least 95pc of the victims were killed by gunshots, including live rounds

STAR REPORT

When Tahir Zaman Priyo, 30, was gunned down around 5:00pm on July 19 just behind Labaid Hospital in Dhaka's Dhanmondi, his friend Faria Ulfath Syed heard just a single gunshot.

Amid raging street protests and almost ceaseless firing of teargas shells and injured grenades, a panicked crowd ran into Central Road. Priyo, a journalist, and his friends, including Faria, followed, with law-enforcers closing in from front and back.

“Suddenly, I heard one single shot. First, I thought it was a sound grenade. I looked back to see Priyo on the ground. The bullet hit the back of his head,” said Faria.

There are numerous such cases.

The Daily Star has now analysed injuries of 204 victims of the violent clashes centring the quota movement and found that 195 or 95 percent were killed by bullets, including live rounds, rubber bullets and shotgun pellets. Of them, 113 were shot by live rounds that struck mostly in the head, chest, stomach and abdomen. Even a single gunshot to these vital parts of the body can kill in minutes.

As many as 26 were hit by pellets or rubber bullets. Eight families confirmed their loved ones were shot, but could not specify the bullet types. The Daily Star could not reach out to the remaining 48 families, including those of the 21 unidentified bodies. Hospital, morgue and graveyard sources confirmed that they had gunshot wounds.

At least 43 of the victims were students and 32 were children with



PHOTO: IBRAHIM KHALIL

TOTAL DEAD: 204 (AS OF AUG 1)

113 killed by live rounds

26 killed by pellets/rubber bullets

56 killed by unspecified bullets

9 died of other injuries

39 shot in head

35 shot in chest

11 in stomach

8 in abdomen

2 in neck

8 in back

9 in leg, arms, other parts



one as young as four. Unicef also said 32 children had died in the violence.

Over the last one week, The Daily Star scoured death registers at morgues, major hospitals and graveyards in Dhaka and elsewhere and reached out to different communities, and were able to collect information about 204 victims.

Of them, we collected information from families and close friends of 157 victims across the country and gathered details of the nature and extent of the injuries that killed them. Most of them said their loved ones were hit

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PHOTOS AND OTHER DETAILS OF 178 VICTIMS ON PAGE 8, 9

SNIPPETS OF DISREGARD FOR LIFE



CASE 1

Video footage captured on July 16 shows police shooting at Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed. He died soon afterwards. Standing alone and unarmed with arms outstretched, Sayed posed no threat to law enforcers when he was shot from a distance of 50-60 feet.

CASE 2

A video from Mirpur-10 on July 19 shows 31-year-old Asif Iqbal being fatally shot in the chest by police. Unarmed and alone, Asif was struck by a clear gunshot, causing a severe wound that led to his death, said his friends and family members.

CASE 3

Another incident seen by The Daily Star on July 19 near Better Life Hospital in Rampura involved a child who was shot in the head as police and BGB opened fire at protesters. He was unarmed. The child's seemingly lifeless body was carried away by bystanders as his blood strained the street.

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