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At least 93 dead as violence grips the country

STAR REPORT

At least 93 people were killed and more than a thousand others injured, many with bullets, as a new wave of violence convulsed Bangladesh yesterday.

Ruling party activists and police clashed with anti-government protesters in at least 20 districts on the first day of the student-led non-cooperation movement designed to keep pressure on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down.

With yesterday's count, the total death toll in anti-government protests crossed 300 in just three weeks, making it the bloodiest period in the history of Bangladesh's civil movement.

The day began with an eerie calm, but it turned violent after supporters of the ruling Awami League descended on the streets to subdue anti-government protests.

As violence spread, an angry mob attacked a police station in the northern district of Sirajganj, beating 13 police personnel to death. Separately, at least five people died in clashes in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj, taking the total death toll to 18 in the district, the highest tally among all.

In the capital, at least 12 people were killed. Most of them were brought dead to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

With the country already on the boil, attackers torched or vandalised the homes of some ruling party lawmakers, Awami League offices, police stations, law-enforcement



A wounded protester is being carried on a rickshaw in the capital's Farmgate area. *Top right*, an alleged ruling party activist chases protesters brandishing a firearm in Enayet Bazar area of Chattogram during a clash between the protesters, and police aided by ruling party men. *Bottom right*, two bullet-hit persons lie motionless on the street in Azampur of Uttara in Dhaka.

PHOTO: REUTERS, STAR, COLLECTED

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vehicles, prison vans and hospital buses throughout the day, forcing the authorities to tighten a nationwide curfew and block 4G mobile internet to quell the violence.

Details of death and destruction kept coming from across the country until late last night. The death toll is likely to rise as many were hospitalised with grievous injuries, according to reports filed by The Daily Star's district correspondents. At least 70 establishments owned by individuals or the government were set on fire, according to fire service data.

Bangladesh announced the shutdown of public and private offices, including banks, for three days, while students scheduled a long march for today, setting themselves on a potential collision course with pro-government groups.

It all came as protesters whittled their demands down to just one: the resignation of Hasina and her cabinet members. Simultaneously, they started a non-cooperation movement, urging citizens not to pay taxes and migrant workers not to send remittances from abroad through banking channels.

The latest spell of violence was born out of job quota reform protests led by students. The protests entered a

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'ONE-POINT DEMAND' Protesters call for 'March to Dhaka' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-discrimination student movement has moved up the "March to Dhaka" programme from Tuesday to today to press for their one-point demand - the resignation of the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

They called upon the students and people from across the country to join the march towards the capital.

Earlier around 2:00pm yesterday, the March to Dhaka was announced for tomorrow. However, as incidents of violence and deaths unfolded throughout the day, the protesters decided to move it forward.

They made the fresh announcement around 5:00pm through social media, and also rejected the nationwide curfew announced from 6:00pm last evening.

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13 cops killed in attack on police station in Sirajganj

Another cop murdered in Eliotganj; 4 offices of SPs, 20 police stations attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 13 policemen, including an officer-in-charge, were beaten to death at the Enayetpur Police Station in Sirajganj yesterday.

Another policeman died following an attack on Eliotganj Highway Police Station in Cumilla.

Police headquarters in a release said officer-in-charge Abdur Razzak of Enayetpur Police Station was among those killed in the brutal attack by goons.

Mohammad Hannan Miah,

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Houses of 2 ministers, 9 MPs come under attack

AL offices, several business establishments vandalised

STAR REPORT

Residences and businesses of lawmakers and Awami League leaders, AL party offices, as well as government offices came under attack by agitators in at least 19 districts yesterday.

In Khulna, the homes of parliamentarians Sheikh Helal and Sheikh Salauddin Jewel, also family members of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, were vandalised and set on fire.

Helal is an MP from Bagerhat-2 and Jewel is an MP from Khulna-2.

The house, in the city's Sher-e-

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DISTRICT	Sirajganj	Dhaka	Lakshmipur	Feni	Narsingdi	Bogura	Magura	Rangpur	Sylhet	Kishoreganj	TOTAL 93
DEATH	18	14	8	8	6	5	4	4	4	3	
DISTRICT	Munshiganj	Pabna	Cumilla	Sherpur	Joypurhat	Bhola	Habiganj	Barishal	Cox's Bazar	Gazipur	
DEATH	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	

Clashes spill over into BSMMU

24 vehicles torched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 24 vehicles parked inside Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital's Shahbagh were set on fire and several others vandalised during chase and counter-chase between ruling party activists and protesters yesterday.

According to witnesses, the protesters gathered at Shahbagh intersection while a group of leaders and activists of the Awami League and its front bodies took position in front of Birdem Hospital.

Around 10:45am, the ruling party activists tried to chase the protesters away from the area.

When the agitators retaliated, the AL men entered the BSMMU through gate-1 for shelter.

They hurled brick chunks from inside and from the roof, and the protesters too threw brick

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Plumes of smoke billowing from the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University as unidentified youths set fire to several vehicles, inset, parked inside the compound yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Resist the saboteurs with an iron hand

PM urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to deal with saboteurs with an iron hand.

"Those who are now causing the violence are students. They are criminals," Hasina was quoted as saying by Assistant Press Secretary ABM Sarwer-E-Alam Sarker.



The government in a press release urged students and parents to return home and stay safe.

"Militant attacks are taking place in various places. Strict action will be taken against the attackers," it reads.

Besides, the ruling Awami League said the party had reached the end of its patience and would resist those engaged in terrorism and anarchy.

Briefing reporters at the AL president's Dhanmondi office, presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak urged people to resist militant groups and BNP-Jamaat.

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