

## Protesters call for 'March to Dhaka' today

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Three coordinators of the movement – Asif Mahmud, Sarjis Alam and Abu Baker Majumder – confirmed the developments to The Daily Star.

Addressing the protesters in the capital's Shabbagh at 3:00pm, Nahid Islam, a key organiser, said the Awami League activists were deployed on the roads to drive the country into a state of civil war.

"Our objectives, goals and destination are clear. Victory alone is our goal. We are still giving time. If the government continues to resort to violence, we want to let them know that we are looking at the Gono Bhaban.

"If my brothers are shot in the chest, if any of my sisters are injured, we will not sit idle. Form up a 'Protirodh Sangram Committee' [resistance struggle committee] in every neighbourhood, village, mohalla, and alley. Form up resistance wherever [we are] attacked."

He urged students to continue

their sit-in at Shabbagh until the fall of the government.

Meanwhile, demonstrators marching with the bodies of victims were dispersed in Shabbagh last evening.

They visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 6:00pm yesterday. From there, they marched towards the Shaheed Minar with the bodies of four people killed in yesterday's violence.

After a brief protest there, they headed towards Shabbagh through Dhaka University's Teacher Student Centre.

They chanted slogans: "Amar Bhai Morlo Keno, Sheikh Hasina Jobab Chai [Why did my brother die? Sheikh Hasina I want an answer]", "Lorai, Lorai, Lorai Chai, Lorai Kore Bachte Chai [Fight, fight, fight; we want to fight; we want to fight and live]", and "Dofa Ek Dabi Ek, Sheikh Hasinar Padatayag [One point, one demand, Sheikh Hasina's resignation]".

While crossing the Shabbagh Police Station, some protesters started throwing brickbats at it.

In retaliation, police lobbed stun grenades and teargas shells, dispersing the demonstrators. Three of the bodies were left on the street.

Among the four bodies, two have been identified – Abdullah Siddique, 23, a student of Habibullah Bahar Degree College and Touhidul.

The Daily Star could not independently verify where the bodies were later taken.

Four police officials, including an assistant sub-inspector, were injured in the incident, our staff correspondent reported from the spot.

A few minutes later, police took control of Shabbagh and the DU campus.

No protesters were found in Shabbagh, and police were seen positioned at every intersection on the campus when this report was filed at 8:00pm.



People take part in a march, as Lebanon marks the fourth anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mobile internet

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minister for ICT and telecom, could not be reached for comment.

The government shut down mobile internet service on July 17 to 'control the situation and counter fake news'.

A day later, broadband internet was blocked, severely affecting public life and a wide range of economic

activities, including utility bill payment, online banking, international communications, digital commerce and clearance of goods from ports.

The government restored broadband internet on a limited scale on July 23. However, social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp and YouTube, remained

blocked.

Mobile internet was resumed on July 28, while social media restrictions were lifted on July 31.

However, mobile internet users could not access their Facebook and Messenger accounts for approximately seven hours on August 2.

## Curfew extended indefinitely

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place in different areas in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh on the first day of the non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement.

On Saturday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan relaxed the ongoing curfew, which was imposed on July 20, from 6:00am to 9:00pm.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, senior secretary at the public administration

ministry, cited public safety as the reason behind the holiday decision.

Banks and financial institutions will remain closed during the holiday period, said a top official of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Meanwhile, operations of the courts across the country, including the Supreme Court's Appellate Division and High Court Division, and their offices will remain closed until further notice.

However, one or more magistrates will work round the clock at every court under the chief judicial magistrates and the chief metropolitan magistrates for hearing and disposing of urgent cases.

Besides, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan will take necessary measures for urgent matters during the closure.

The SC administration issued three separate notifications yesterday to this effect.

## Will not allow

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restrictions and assist the police.

He added that their actions were not directed against students but against miscreants, saboteurs, arsonists, and those responsible for killing police officers.

The DMP chief said the quota protests that initially started under the banner of "Students Against Discrimination", had later been hijacked by criminals who caused unprecedented chaos across the country.

"BNP-Jamaat-Shibir has resumed vandalism and arson attacks over the last two days nationwide. In the capital, they attacked police and civilians with local weapons, crude bombs, and firearms. They even attacked BSMMU and CMM court, and vandalised police boxes and vehicles.

"At least 11 policemen, including three with bullet wounds, were injured in these attacks today [yesterday]. Their actions prove that they are not students but saboteurs

and terrorists," he said.

The DMP has shown considerable restraint since the beginning of the movement. The commissioner asserted that the aim of these miscreants was to demoralise the police. "We want to clearly state that no miscreant can stand in the capital."

Asked about people with sharp weapons and firearms seen with police in the Karwan Bazar area, the DMP chief claimed that they had not yet seen this.

## Teachers lay out 5-point outline

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environment for a democratic election is ensured in the country," he said, adding that such a shadow government can continue even in an elected democratic system.

"The important responsibilities that the interim government will perform after assuming office are: establishing an inquiry committee and a special tribunal with the support of the United Nations to try those responsible for the July killings and oppression of the people, withdrawing the recent false cases, and releasing all those detained in these cases," according to Prof Anu.

The proposal includes that the interim government will also hold elections to constitute a Constituent Assembly within six months of its formation. The elected Constituent Assembly will propose a democratic constitution free of autocracy, communal, anti-people, and discriminatory clauses.

Based on that constitution, the interim government will immediately organise the next general election. A declaration should be finalised based on dialogue between the students and citizens, guiding the progress of Bangladesh through a combination of diversity." The Bangladesh University Teachers' Network is ready to play any role in the formation of the proposed interim government and the list of key stakeholders and shadow government," he added.

He also said this outline is only a preliminary proposal, and they are willing to work in the future to expand it if necessary.

Earlier, Dhaka University teacher Prof Samina Lutfa delivered a welcome speech, where DU teachers Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, Prof Giyara Nasreen, Prof Moshahida Sultana Ritu, and BUET teacher Prof Abdul Hasib Chowdhury read out the written statement in the press conference.

## Take back armed forces

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associated with these untimely demises of hundreds of children, teens, and young brave souls."

He noted, "The Bangladeshi armed forces have never faced off with the masses or trained their guns at the chests of their fellow citizens."

Bangladesh's armed forces have worked tirelessly and made many sacrifices towards establishing global peace over the last three decades. "But that respect, status, and pride are being questioned today," he said.

Addressing the army, he said, "You must stand beside the people of the country ensuring full adherence to universal human rights. We cannot let our motherland be destroyed in front of our eyes."

"Our border is unprotected at the moment. BGB members have been withdrawn in significant numbers from the border belt to quell the student movement. Not surprisingly the border is now open to parties who wish to exploit the internal turmoil the country is going through."

"Time is ripe to immediately take the soldiers to barracks to prepare themselves for any eventuality as the time taken to transition from internal security mode to operational mode takes quite some time. On the same

## It's a clear violation

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centring the protests.

A large number of students and citizens were killed during the nonpolitical movement while thousands of others were injured or detained, he said, expressing deep concern over a "mass detention" campaign by the law enforcement agencies.

He also expressed solidarity with the peaceful movement of students.

However, he said, state properties

note, we also urge the government to undertake political initiatives aiming at resolving the ongoing crisis. Do not destroy the good standing of our armed forces by keeping them engaged in a disgraceful campaign," he said.

He further urged for an investigation of all the killings, injuries, shootings, attacks, vandalisms, abductions, arrests, and acts of violence that have to be carried out by the United Nations under its full authority.

Iqbal Karim, who served as the chief of army staff from 2012 to 2015, said those who are responsible for pushing the people to a state of such extreme misery will have to be brought to justice.

The briefing was attended by the former Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Nuruddin Khan, former Maj Gen M Azizur Rahman, Maj Gen Abu Kaiser Fazlul Kabir, Maj Gen Jamil D Ahsan, Bir Protik, Maj Gen Rezaqul Haider, Maj Gen Muhammad Abdul Matin, Maj Gen Mujahid Uddin, Maj Gen Abul Kalam Humayun Kabir, Maj Gen Mahbubul Alam, Maj Gen Ruhul Amin, Maj Gen ATM Shahidul Islam, Brig Gen M Sakhawat Hossain and Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan among 48 retired officers.

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## Djokovic beats Alcaraz

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Open and Wimbledon titles he has already pocketed this summer.

An emotional Djokovic celebrated by holding aloft the Serbian flag on court before clambering into the players' box to embrace his wife and children.

"We almost played three hours, the final shot was the only moment when I was sure I could win the match," said Djokovic, who had lost heavily to Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final last month.

"I put my body, my family on the line to win gold and finally I did it."

Alcaraz was distraught and wept as he attempted to conduct a TV

interview.

"Three hours, a big battle with tough moments," said the 21-year old after a final in which neither player dropped serve. "It's very painful to lose."

Djokovic carved out a break point in the second game of the opener and three more in the fourth, all saved by the Spaniard.

Then it was the Serb's turn to demonstrate his famed powers of resilience, fighting off three break points in the fifth game and another five in a marathon ninth game.

In a rollercoaster duel, Alcaraz saved a set point in the 12th game but his veteran opponent dominated

the tiebreak to claim the opener after a breathless 93 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

There was no let-up in the second set, scintillating shot-making alongside rousing defence with Alcaraz fighting off the final's 14th break point in the third game.

Again the set was decided by a tie-break and it was Djokovic with history on the line again sweeping through to take victory after two hours and 50 minutes.

Lorenzo Musetti defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime in three sets on Saturday to claim the bronze medal, giving Italy its first men's tennis medal in 100 years.

## Journo killed

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Amran Hossain was assaulted near Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University around 11:30am.

Around 4:00pm, a group of unidentified people threw brick chunks and stones at The Daily Star Centre on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, breaking the glass doors and windowpanes on the ground floor.

The incident took place during a clash between protesters and law enforcers aided by ruling party men.

This newspaper's country desk in-charge Mahmud Hassan Shanto, was assaulted at Karwan Bazar while he was on his way to work on a motorcycle.

FM Mizanur Rahman, staff

reporter of this newspaper, was beaten up by protesters in the New Market area of Chattogram city.

In Thakurgaon, Prothom Alo correspondent Mozibur Rahman was attacked near the Judge Court.

Ekattor TV Senior Reporter Habib Rahman was assaulted in Hatiirheel, and its correspondents in Chandpur, Sylhet, and Munshiganj were also attacked.

Two reporters of The Business Standard – Jahidul Islam and Naimul Islam Miraz – were injured in an attack by what they said were AL men.

Dhaka Tribune reporter Nawaz Farhin Antara was assaulted around 11:30am.

Channel24's reporter Shamima

Sultana was attacked in Shabbagh area. Two reporters of bdnews24.com – Mahmud Hasan and Masum Billah – were also assaulted when they tried to protect Shamima.

Two journalists of Jai Jai Din – Nahid Hasan and Amirul Islam – were attacked in Zigatola area.

SomoyTV reporter Morsalin Jonaed and cameraperson Md Murad were injured in Uttara. In Manikganj, reporters of Independent TV's Manjur Rahman, ATN Bangla's Shahidul Islam, Amar News' staff correspondent Dewan Sadman were injured in clashes.

Since July 16, a total of five journalists have been killed in violence centring the quota reform movement.

## Violence rocks Dhaka

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police, ruling party men, and protesters in Shabbagh. At one point, AL men chased protesters, and both groups entered Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where they hurled brickbats at each other. Several hospital vehicles and private cars of doctors were set ablaze.

Around 2:00pm, five injured protesters received treatment at BIRDEM hospital, two of them with bullet wounds. At 4:15pm, an armored police vehicle emerged from Shabbagh Police Station but had to return inside as protesters blocked the area. Around 6:40pm, hundreds of protesters carried the four bodies of the deceased to Shabbagh intersection from Central Shaheed Minar. They later threw brickbats at Shabbagh Police Station, and policemen opened fire to retaliate and disperse the protesters.

SCIENCE LAB

At least 41 people were shot in the Science Lab area during a clash between AL men and protesters that ensued around 12:30pm and continued till 4:30pm. Of them, three were bullet-hit while the others were injured by pellets, according to sources at LabAid Hospital. Sounds of gunshots and stun grenades were reported from the scene.

Meanwhile, a showroom of the clothing brand "Yellow" in Dhanmondi was set ablaze at around 3:30pm. According to eyewitnesses, firefighters tried to reach the spot to extinguish the blaze but failed in the face of protesters. However, they later went again and were trying to douse the fire till last reported at 8:30pm.

AZAMPUR

In Azampur, AL leaders and activists gathered in Azampur area around 11:00am, and opened fire at protesters in presence of police when the students went there around 11:30am.

The two groups engaged in clashes and counter-chases till 5:30pm.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Anwarul Islam, president of Uttara Ward-1 unit of AL, was killed during the violence, said his cousin and former AL lawmaker Habib Hasan.

RAMPURA

Several thousand students of different private universities, colleges and schools blocked the road in Merul, Badda, Rampura bridge and Banasree area at around 10:15am, chanting slogans demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down, and justice for the deaths of their fellow students.

Some parents were also seen accompanying their children.

Around 3:30pm, the students left the spot and marched towards Shabbagh.

MIRPUR-10

Clashes, chases and counter-chases took place at Mirpur-10 between protesters and activists of ruling AL and its affiliates.

The AL men started gathering at Mirpur-10 crossing at 10:30am, armed with canes and firearms, and chased away protesters when they started gathering at Kazipara bus stand later.

The AL men left the scene as Army

personnel took position there with several vehicles at around 3:00pm.

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY

The Dhaka Chattogram Highway was left largely deserted as almost no vehicles carrying passengers or export-import goods used the road yesterday.

"No trucks, covered vans, or prime movers are operating on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway as the vehicle owners are afraid of violence," said Chowdhury Zafar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Covered Van-Truck-Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association.

Only one-fourth of the goods-laden vehicles dedicated to the route operated in the previous night, he added.

Around 90 percent of Bangladesh's over US \$100 billion worth international trade uses the highway as main route.

No inter-district passenger-buses operated yesterday either.

Md Abdus Sattar, general manager of Green Line Paribahan, said, "No passenger bought tickets today [yesterday], even though we were ready to run our buses."