



GLOBAL EYE
INTELLIGENCE

TRAPPED IN GREAT POWER POLITICS



STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OVERVIEW

Bangladesh is currently engulfed in a major political crisis, which has led to widespread civil unrest and significant disruptions both domestically and along its border with India. The situation has escalated following the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, creating a power vacuum and intensifying tensions across the country. The unrest has also had a notable impact on Bangladesh-India relations, particularly in border regions.



BORDER SECURITY AND TENSIONS

In response to the escalating violence and political instability in Bangladesh, India has increased security along the shared border. This move aims to prevent potential spillovers of unrest into Indian territory, as well as to manage the flow of refugees that might result from the turmoil in Bangladesh. The heightened security measures include enhanced border patrols, stricter checks, and temporary closures of border crossings. These actions have led to significant disruptions in cross-border trade and travel, further straining the already tense relations between the two nations.



NATIONWIDE UNREST

The unrest in Bangladesh, initially sparked by student protests against job reservation policies, has now transformed into a broader anti-government movement. The situation reached a critical point on August 5, when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following intense pressure from protesters and violent confrontations in Dhaka. The resignation was followed by the dissolution of the parliament and the formation of an interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate and founder of Grameen Bank.

According to open-source investigations and by analysing multiple reports, the overthrow of Hasina was marked by coordinated efforts among various opposition groups, including student activists and segments of the military. The footage revealed that key military units had switched allegiance, refusing to follow orders to suppress the protests. This defection was a critical factor in Hasina's decision to step down, as it signalled a loss of control over the military.

IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRADE

The political instability has severely disrupted transportation networks and trade operations across Bangladesh. The suspension of rail services, including international links with India, has significantly impacted the movement of goods. Additionally, the ongoing curfews and protests have led to widespread disruptions in road transport, particularly in and around Dhaka. The ports, especially in Chittagong, are experiencing heavy congestion, with vessel wait times reaching up to 4-5 days. Although there have been attempts to resume operations, these are progressing slowly due to security concerns and intermittent internet outages that have hampered communication and logistics.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT



The unrest has had a profound impact on the Bangladeshi economy, with businesses facing significant challenges in maintaining operations. The combination of curfews, internet outages, and labour shortages has disrupted supply chains and led to delays in the movement of goods. Despite some easing of curfews and partial restoration of internet services, the situation remains unstable, and businesses are advised to prepare for further disruptions. The uncertainty surrounding the political transition and the potential for continued violence further complicates the economic outlook.





ST. MARTIN'S ISLAND



Coordinates:

20°37'37"N 92°19'24"E

The base is located near the Bangladesh-Myanmar. USA wanted to build a base here to counter the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor as well as build a logistics hub in the Bay of Bengal.

ANALYSIS OF SHEIKH HASINA'S OVERTHROW

Analysis of open-source footage has provided crucial insights into the events leading up to Sheikh Hasina's resignation. The footage, corroborated by eyewitness accounts and social media posts, shows that the protests were not only widespread but also strategically coordinated. Key moments, such as the refusal of military units to act against protesters and the storming of government buildings, highlighted the weakening of Hasina's grip on power.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Business Continuity:** Companies operating in Bangladesh should continue to monitor the situation closely and be prepared for ongoing disruptions, particularly in logistics and communication networks. It is advisable to explore alternative supply routes and maintain flexible operations.
- **Travel Advisory:** Travelers should avoid all nonessential travel to Bangladesh due to the risk of violence and the potential for further escalation. Those already in the country should stay informed about the security situation and adhere to local curfews and restrictions.
- **Diplomatic Measures:** Governments and international organisations should engage with the interim government to support a peaceful transition and the restoration of stability in Bangladesh.

The situation in Bangladesh remains volatile, with the potential for further developments as the interim government seeks to establish control and address the power vacuum left by Sheikh Hasina's departure.



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