



GLOBAL EYE
INTELLIGENCE



PM HASINA RESIGNS

COUP IN BANGLADESH?

SITUATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OVERVIEW

- **Date** : 05th August 2024
- **Location**: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and other major cities in Bangladesh
- **Summary**: Bangladesh is experiencing severe unrest following a series of protests that began over changes to the civil service quota system. The situation has escalated into widespread riots, violence, and demands for regime change. The political and social instability is further complicated by internet blackouts and sporadic government responses.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Government status:** Bangladesh's army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman addressed the nation, confirming that PM Sheikh Hasina has resigned and that an interim government will run the country.
- **Protest Origins and Escalation:** The unrest initially erupted in response to the government's abolition of the civil service quota system, which students and other groups viewed as unfair and discriminatory. The protests have expanded into a broader anti-government movement, with demonstrators now demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and significant political reforms.
- **Casualties and Violence:** As of the latest reports, at least 93 people have been killed, including 14 police officers. The majority of police casualties occurred during an attack on a station in Sirajganj.
- **Violence Details:** Riots have involved violent clashes between protesters and police, attacks on police stations, and incidents of police brutality. In Khulna, police have been reported to attack students, exacerbating the situation.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Government Response:** The government has suspended internet services and social media platforms intermittently, aiming to control the flow of information and suppress coordination among protesters.
- **Protest Organization and Demands:**
 - **Student Movement:** The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement has issued a comprehensive set of demands to intensify their non-cooperation movement:
 - **Tax and Utility Payments:** Call for a nationwide halt on tax and utility bill payments.
 - **Closure of Institutions:** All government and private institutions, offices, courts, mills, and factories are to remain closed. Employees are advised to collect their salaries at the end of the month.
 - **Educational Institutions:** Schools and universities should remain closed.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Remittance and Economic Activities:** Expatriates are urged not to send remittances through banking channels. Port workers, mills, factories, and public transport workers are instructed to cease operations.
- **Banking and Police Services:** Banks will remain open only on Sundays for urgent transactions. Police are to perform only routine duties at their stations and refrain from riot control.
- **Military and Bureaucratic Functions:** Except for the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Navy, other military forces are restricted to cantonments. Bureaucrats are advised not to attend their offices.
- **Essential Services:** Essential services such as hospitals, pharmacies, emergency transport, media, and necessary shops will remain operational. Essential commodity shops will operate from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **Public Support:** The movement claims support from various sectors, including professionals and expatriates, further intensifying the civil disobedience campaign.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- **Opposition Calls:** Tariq Rahman of the BNP has called for international intervention by the US and the UK, seeking support for the rioters and pressure on the Bangladeshi government.
- **Western Media Criticism:** Western media coverage has been criticized for bias, with accusations that it overlooks the attacks on police and portrays the situation as an attempt to effect regime change.

IMPLICATIONS

- **Political Instability:** The resignation of Prime Minister Hasina and the power vacuum could lead to further instability and potential military intervention. The situation remains fluid, and the establishment of a new government or interim administration is uncertain.
- **Economic Disruption:** The protests and strikes are significantly impacting the economy, with essential services and industries disrupted. The broader economic implications include potential disruptions to trade and foreign investment.
- **Humanitarian Impact:** The ongoing violence and internet blackouts hinder humanitarian efforts and access to medical care. There is an urgent need for coordinated support to address the humanitarian crisis and ensure the safety of civilians.
- **Regional Security:** The unrest could have ripple effects on regional stability, particularly if the situation leads to a power vacuum or increased cross-border tensions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen Security Measures:** Enhance security arrangements to protect key infrastructure and ensure the safety of civilians. Coordinate with local and international agencies for effective crowd control and emergency response.
- **Facilitate Humanitarian Aid:** Establish channels for humanitarian assistance and support to address immediate needs of affected populations, including medical care and food supplies.
- **Maintain Information Flow:** Utilize alternative communication methods to monitor the situation and disseminate accurate information despite government-imposed internet restrictions.
- **Engage in Diplomatic Efforts:** Work with international partners to provide diplomatic support and address the root causes of the unrest. Facilitate dialogue between government, opposition, and civil society to seek a peaceful resolution.



**GLOBAL EYE
INTELLIGENCE**