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Bangladesh at a Crossroads: Protests Mount over Government Job Quotas and Leadership's Response

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Abstract:

In response to widespread unrest and protests in Bangladesh, the government has imposed a curfew and deployed military assistance alongside civilian authorities. The situation stems from demonstrations primarily led by students against perceived discriminatory practices in the quota system for government jobs, which they argue favour political allies of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The unrest intensified with law enforcement using dispersal tactics on protesters, triggering further clashes and disruptions. Communications disruptions, including mobile internet and telephone outages, complicate the verification of casualties, which stand at 67 reported fatalities. Public transportation has halted, and schools and universities are indefinitely closed. The opposition Bangladesh National Party has aligned with the protests, amplifying pressure on the government. The escalation includes notable incidents like the storming of a district jail and subsequent inmate escapes. The situation underscores deep socio-political tensions and challenges facing governance and public order in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Bangladesh protests, Quota system, Government crackdown, Student demonstrations, Civil unrest.

Introduction: The necessity of international peace cannot be overstated in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. As globalization accelerates economic integration, cultural exchange, and technological advancements, the significance of maintaining peace among nations becomes more critical than ever before.

At its core, international peace fosters stability, security, and prosperity on a global scale. Nations that are free from the spectre of conflict can allocate resources towards development, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, thereby improving the quality of life for their citizens. Conversely, regions plagued by strife experience devastating consequences, including loss of life, displacement of populations, economic downturns, and the erosion of social fabric.

One of the fundamental reasons why international peace is necessary lies in its role in preventing armed conflicts. Wars and conflicts have profound and far-reaching consequences, not just for the countries directly involved, but for the entire international community. The human toll of war is immeasurable, with casualties, injuries, and psychological trauma affecting generations. Moreover, conflicts often lead to humanitarian crises, with civilians bearing the brunt of the suffering.

Beyond the immediate human cost, armed conflicts can destabilize entire regions, exacerbating political tensions, economic instability, and social unrest. This ripple effect can spread beyond borders, creating refugee crises and straining international relations. In an interconnected world, no country is immune to the repercussions of conflict, making prevention and resolution of disputes essential to safeguarding global stability.

International peace also underpins global cooperation and diplomacy. By promoting dialogue and negotiation, peaceful resolutions can be sought for disputes ranging from territorial conflicts to trade disagreements. Multilateral institutions such as the United Nations play a crucial role in facilitating diplomacy and conflict resolution, offering platforms for dialogue and mediation that aim to prevent escalation into violence.

Moreover, international peace is essential for sustainable development and environmental conservation. Peaceful countries are more likely to invest in sustainable practices, preserve natural resources, and mitigate climate change. Cooperation on global challenges such as pandemics, terrorism, and environmental degradation requires a foundation of trust and collaboration among nations, which is nurtured through peaceful relations.

Cultural exchange and mutual understanding are also facilitated by international peace. When nations are not embroiled in conflict, there is greater opportunity for people-to-people exchanges, academic collaborations, and artistic endeavours. This exchange of ideas and perspectives enriches societies, fosters innovation, and promotes tolerance and respect for diversity.

Furthermore, international peace enhances global trade and economic prosperity. Stable political environments and secure trade routes are essential for economic growth and investment. Countries that prioritize peace benefit from increased trade opportunities, foreign investments, and technological advancements that drive economic development and job creation.

In today's interconnected world, threats to international peace can arise from various sources, including geopolitical rivalries, ethnic and religious tensions, economic disparities, and transnational crime. Addressing these challenges requires collective efforts and a commitment to upholding international laws, norms, and agreements. Effective conflict prevention strategies encompass diplomacy, mediation, peacekeeping operations, economic sanctions, and international legal frameworks.

Education and public awareness also play a crucial role in promoting a culture of peace and tolerance. By fostering understanding of global issues and emphasizing the shared humanity of all people, societies can cultivate attitudes of empathy, cooperation, and respect for human rights. Grassroots movements, civil society organizations, and educational institutions all contribute to building a world where conflicts are resolved peacefully and differences are celebrated rather than feared.

Ultimately, the necessity of international peace lies in its profound impact on human lives, societal progress, and global well-being. By prioritizing diplomacy, cooperation, and conflict resolution, nations can build a more secure and prosperous future for all. In a world facing complex challenges and uncertainties, the pursuit of peace remains an enduring imperative that requires commitment, perseverance, and solidarity from the international community.

Violence, in its myriad forms, has been a persistent companion of humanity throughout history, leaving an indelible mark on societies, cultures, and individuals alike. From the primal conflicts over resources and territory in ancient times to the complex geopolitical struggles and interpersonal disputes of today, violence manifests in various dimensions, each revealing insights into human nature and the dynamics of power.



Fig. 1 (Students protesting against quota system in Bangladesh)

At its core, violence encompasses a spectrum of behaviours and actions intended to cause harm, exert control, or achieve dominance over others. This spectrum ranges from physical aggression and armed conflict to psychological manipulation and systemic oppression. While physical violence often captures the most immediate attention due to its visible and visceral impact, the subtler forms of violence—such as emotional abuse, economic exploitation, and structural inequalities—can be equally devastating, albeit less conspicuous.

One of the most visible manifestations of violence is armed conflict, which has shaped the course of history and defined the fates of nations and civilizations. Wars, whether waged for ideological, economic, or territorial reasons, exact a heavy toll in terms of human lives lost, communities displaced, and infrastructure destroyed. The scars of conflict endure long after the guns fall silent, as societies grapple with trauma, reconciliation, and the daunting task of rebuilding shattered lives.

Beyond the battlefield, violence permeates the fabric of daily life in myriad ways. Domestic violence, for instance, occurs behind closed doors, where intimate partners or family members inflict physical, emotional, or sexual harm on one another. The cycle of abuse, perpetuated by complex dynamics of power and control, ensnares victims in a web of fear and dependency, often under-reported and overshadowed by societal stigma.

In urban settings, street violence erupts in the form of gang rivalries, territorial disputes, and criminal activities fuelled by poverty, inequality, and the absence of viable opportunities. Communities besieged by violence struggle with cycles of retaliation and distrust, perpetuating a vicious cycle that undermines social cohesion and exacerbates systemic injustices.

The digital age has introduced new dimensions of violence, as online platforms become battlegrounds for cyberbullying, harassment, and hate speech. The anonymity afforded by the internet emboldens perpetrators to spread vitriol and target vulnerable individuals based on their identities, beliefs, or affiliations. The psychological scars inflicted by cyber-violence can be profound, amplifying feelings of isolation and eroding trust in digital spaces meant to connect and empower.

At a systemic level, structural violence refers to the pervasive social, economic, and political inequalities that perpetuate disadvantage and marginalization among certain groups. Discriminatory policies, institutional biases, and systemic neglect conspire to deny individuals access to basic rights and opportunities, relegating them to the fringes of society. While less overt than physical violence, structural violence erodes human dignity and perpetuates cycles of poverty and despair across generations.

Moreover, violence intersects with broader issues such as human rights abuses, political repression, and ethnic conflict, underscoring the complexities of power dynamics and historical grievances. Genocides and mass atrocities represent extreme manifestations of violence, driven by ideologies of hate and the dehumanization of entire populations. The

scars of such atrocities reverberate across generations, challenging societies to confront painful histories and forge paths toward reconciliation and justice.

Despite its pervasive nature, efforts to address and mitigate violence have yielded some progress through advocacy, education, and policy interventions. Grassroots movements championing non-violent resistance, conflict resolution, and community empowerment have shown resilience in challenging entrenched systems of oppression and promoting social justice. International initiatives aimed at disarmament, peacebuilding, and humanitarian assistance strive to mitigate the impacts of armed conflict and foster conditions conducive to sustainable peace.

Political violence in Bangladesh, while not unique among developing countries, exhibits distinct characteristics when compared to its South Asian counterparts. Unlike Sri Lanka and Nepal, where violence often stems from ethnic or sectarian tensions, Bangladesh's conflicts typically arise from a highly politicized and increasingly intolerant society. While the country has not experienced the level of conflict seen in Sri Lanka or Nepal, its political landscape is marked by a growing influence of religious identity. This shift is evident in the resurgence of religious parties and the adoption of religious symbolism even by traditionally secular political entities like the Awami League:

I am deeply concerned by this week's violence in Bangladesh, resulting in reports of dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. The attacks on student protesters are particularly shocking and unacceptable. There must be impartial, prompt and exhaustive investigations into these attacks, and those responsible held to account.

I urge all sides to exercise restraint and call on the security forces to ensure that any use of force is strictly in line with the requirements of international human rights law. I am also very worried by reports about the deployment of paramilitary police units such as the Border Guard Bangladesh and the Rapid Action Battalion, which have long track records of violations.

The Government should take the necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of the students participating in peaceful protests, and to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly and expression without fear of attacks against their lives and physical integrity, or other forms of repression.

Bangladesh's political leaders must work with the country's young population to find solutions to the ongoing challenges and focus on the country's growth and development. Dialogue is the best and only way forward.

The shutting down of the Internet is also of concern as it disproportionately restricts the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information – particularly in the midst of a crisis. We urge the authorities to restore Internet access without further delay. (Türk)

Since its independence, Bangladesh has witnessed a transformation in its national identity, shifting from a predominantly Bengali secular identity to one increasingly defined by Islamic principles. This evolution has been influenced by the legitimization and popularity of Islamic ideologies, which gained ground particularly after the military regimes ended in 1991. The political strategies of major parties reflect this societal shift, with both the Awami League and the BNP aligning themselves with religious sentiments to attract a religiously inclined electorate.

Uno Guidelines On Peace And Displacement: The United Nations (UN), established in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II, has been a central pillar of global efforts to maintain international peace and security. Over the decades, the UN has developed various frameworks, resolutions, and declarations aimed at addressing conflicts, promoting peace, preventing violence, and upholding humanitarian principles. This essay explores the UN's role in these critical areas, focusing on its resolutions on peacekeeping, efforts to promote peace, strategies for preventing violence, and the importance of international humanitarian law.

UN Resolutions on Peacekeeping: One of the primary tools in the UN's arsenal for maintaining peace and security is peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping missions are deployed in conflict zones around the world with the aim of facilitating peace processes, protecting civilians, and assisting in the implementation of peace agreements. The authority for UN peacekeeping missions stems from Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows for the use of force when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Key UN resolutions have shaped the evolution and conduct of peacekeeping operations. Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, on Women, Peace, and Security, highlighted the importance of women's participation in peace processes and their protection from conflict-related sexual violence. It called for increased representation of women in peacekeeping operations and decision-making roles related to conflict resolution.

Subsequent resolutions such as 1820 (2008) reinforced the protection of women and girls in conflict situations, emphasizing the prevention of sexual violence as a tactic of war. These resolutions underscored the UN's commitment to addressing gender-based violence in conflict zones and promoting gender equality in peacebuilding efforts. Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security recognized the positive role that young people can play in conflict prevention and resolution. It called for the inclusion of youth perspectives in peacebuilding processes and highlighted the need to address the specific challenges faced by young people affected by conflict.

Efforts to Promote Peace: Beyond peacekeeping operations, the UN is actively engaged in promoting peace through diplomacy, mediation, and conflict prevention initiatives. The UN Secretary-General plays a crucial role in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts and facilitate peace negotiations between warring parties.

The UN Security Council, through its resolutions and decisions, often calls for ceasefires, arms embargoes, and sanctions aimed at de-escalating conflicts and promoting peaceful resolutions. For example, Resolution 1540 (2004) focused on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, recognizing the destabilizing impact such weapons can have on international peace and security.

The UN General Assembly also plays a significant role in promoting peace through its support for conflict prevention initiatives, peacebuilding efforts, and the development of international norms and standards aimed at preventing armed conflicts.

Strategies for Preventing Violence: Preventing violence is a key priority for the UN, which recognizes that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of conflict and violence. The UN's approach to violence prevention includes early warning systems, mediation, dialogue facilitation, and addressing socio-economic grievances that can fuel violence.

Resolution 2171 (2014) emphasized the importance of preventing violent extremism and radicalization that can lead to terrorism. It called for comprehensive strategies that address the underlying factors driving individuals and communities towards extremism, including poverty, marginalization, and lack of socio-economic opportunities.

The UN's efforts to prevent violence also encompass initiatives to combat illicit arms trafficking, promote disarmament, and strengthen the rule of law. Resolutions such as 2220 (2015) highlighted the link between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their impact on stability and security in conflict-affected regions.

International Humanitarian Law: International humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the laws of war or the laws of armed conflict, provides legal frameworks that regulate the conduct of armed conflict and seek to minimize its impact on civilians and combatants alike. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols are the cornerstone of IHL, establishing rules for the protection of civilians, wounded and sick combatants, and prisoners of war during armed conflicts.

The UN has been instrumental in promoting adherence to IHL through advocacy, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works closely with the UN and other international organizations to ensure respect for IHL and to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by armed conflicts.

UN resolutions such as Resolution 1265 (1999) emphasized the protection of civilians in armed conflict, calling on parties to armed conflict to comply with IHL and take measures to minimize civilian casualties. Subsequent resolutions, including Resolution 1894 (2009), focused on the protection of humanitarian personnel and the facilitation of humanitarian access to populations in need.

In conclusion, the United Nations plays a pivotal role in addressing global challenges related to peace, violence prevention, and international humanitarian law. Through its

resolutions, peacekeeping operations, diplomatic efforts, and advocacy, the UN strives to promote peace, protect civilians, prevent violence, and uphold the principles of international humanitarian law.

While significant progress has been made, challenges persist, including the evolving nature of armed conflicts, the impact of climate change on peace and security, and the continued disregard for IHL by parties to armed conflicts. Moving forward, the UN must continue to adapt its strategies and approaches to effectively respond to these challenges and ensure a more peaceful and secure world for all.

By leveraging its convening power, moral authority, and commitment to multilateralism, the UN remains uniquely positioned to advance its mission of maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights, and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

Critical Discussions And Analysis: Bangladesh attained its territorial and political independence nearly four decades ago, yet progress in establishing stable democratic institutions has been uneven. Rounaq Jahan notes a troubling trend of increasing autocratic behaviour among politicians, accompanied by the politicization and loss of autonomy in key institutions such as the civil administration and judiciary. This erosion has weakened the rule of law and undermined both horizontal and vertical accountability. Consequently, Bangladesh has seen the rise of violent political entities, ideological and religious militant groups, and civil unrest. These non-state actors, believed to be supported by factions within ruling governments, challenge the state's legitimacy and stability through acts of violence. Edward Newman argues that while weak states may foster such violent actors, local support remains crucial for their emergence. In Bangladesh, political parties and their supporters are often accused of backing violent elements to intimidate opponents and consolidate power. Despite strides in development indicators like micro-credit programs, non-formal education for women, and family planning initiatives, persistent violence hampers Bangladeshis' pursuit of development in a secure environment with a responsive government.

The political landscape, dominated by the BNP and the AL alternating in power since 1991, has been marred by allegations of vote rigging and parliamentary boycotts. Both parties resort to strikes and walkouts to protest perceived injustices, leading to economic and social disruptions. This winner-takes-all mentality has replaced constructive political discourse with confrontational tactics, further polarizing the country.

With electoral stakes high, parties increasingly rely on money and muscle, with "mastaans" — armed criminals — playing a pivotal role in political campaigns and maintaining authority in constituencies. This intertwining of politics, business, criminality, and law enforcement has become ingrained in Bangladeshi society, fostering a culture where violence against minorities and political rivals is normalized as a means of settling disputes.

Student politics, traditionally a platform for activism, has been tainted by violence perpetrated by party-affiliated student wings. This politicization has disrupted academic pursuits and created an intimidating environment on university campuses. As Imtiaz Ahmed observes, the state's role cannot be overlooked in nurturing extremism and militancy, which find fertile ground in Bangladesh's contentious political climate.

In summary, while Bangladesh has made notable strides in various development arenas, its journey towards robust democratic consolidation is hindered by entrenched political polarization, institutional erosion, and pervasive violence.

Recent years have seen a rise in religious extremism, manifesting in incidents such as the persecution of minority groups like the Ahmadiyas and the targeting of journalists critical of religious authorities. The imposition of fatwas and the intimidation of media outlets underscore the growing influence of extremist ideologies in shaping the country's socio-political landscape.

Despite Bangladesh's historical roots in secularism, amendments to the constitution and state policies have increasingly accommodated Islamic principles, reflecting broader societal changes. This shift has not only redefined national identity but also contributed to a political environment where religious extremism and violence intersect with electoral politics and governance.

In conclusion, while Bangladesh's political violence shares commonalities with other developing nations, its unique blend of religious resurgence, electoral dynamics, and historical identity make it a distinct case within South Asia's turbulent political landscape. Moreover, violence stands as a stark reminder of humanity's capacity for both cruelty and resilience. It manifests in myriad forms—from interpersonal conflicts to global crises—each reflecting complex dynamics of power, identity, and historical legacies. Addressing violence requires not only immediate responses to mitigate harm but also sustained efforts to dismantle structural inequalities, promote empathy and understanding, and cultivate cultures of peace and respect. Ultimately, the quest for a world free from violence demands collective action, empathy, and a commitment to justice that transcends borders and ideologies.

Over 130 individuals have lost their lives amid student protests in Bangladesh over government job quotas. The turmoil was sparked by a recent decision from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, which overturned a High Court order that had ignited the crisis. The new ruling allocated 93% of government job seats based on merit, reserving just 5% for freedom fighters and their descendants, with an additional 1% each designated for indigenous tribes, differently abled individuals, and sexual minorities.

This unrest coincides with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's fourth consecutive term, following a contentious election win in January. Her administration faced challenges of high inflation and unemployment, seeking solutions from allies like India and China to boost manufacturing sector employment. However, her handling of the quota issue and

inflammatory remarks exacerbated the crisis, marking one of her most significant challenges since taking office in 1996.



Fig. 2 (*Stone pelting*)

The roots of the current quota reform movement trace back to a smaller anti-quota protest in 2018, when the High Court upheld the country's longstanding quota system dating to the 1970s. Prime Minister Hasina, emotionally tied to her father Sheikh Mujib's legacy, upheld quotas for liberation war veterans' descendants, triggering widespread student agitation. Responding to the unrest, Hasina initially abolished all quotas in the Bangladesh Civil Service through executive order, a move met with opposition from students advocating reform rather than abolition.

Over subsequent years, amidst ongoing discussions, Hasina remained firm on eliminating quotas. However, a 2024 High Court decision nullified her executive order, reinstating all quotas. The government appealed this decision to the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, seeking to reintroduce the 30% quota for freedom fighters' descendants. These legal back-and-forth intensified protests, prompting the Supreme Court to temporarily suspend the High Court's ruling pending a full hearing.

Despite Hasina's appeals for dialogue, students demanded inclusive quota reforms and criticized her labelling of anti-quota protesters as 'razakars,' or traitors who collaborated with Pakistan during the 1971 war. The ensuing crackdown by authorities further escalated tensions, prompting military intervention as violence escalated.

Since Bangladesh's independence, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's promise of justice to wartime sacrifices led to the establishment of quotas for freedom fighters and women tortured by Pakistani forces. However, critics argue that over time, these quotas expanded to include various interest groups, potentially benefiting political allies and diluting the system's original intent.

In the backdrop of these protests and legal battles, Sheikh Hasina's governance, shaped by her father's legacy, faces scrutiny and opposition accusations of using quotas to consolidate political support. The ongoing unrest underscores deep-seated divisions over the quota system's fairness and effectiveness, posing a formidable challenge to Hasina's leadership and Bangladesh's political stability.

Conclusion: The government announced the implementation of a curfew and deployment of military assistance alongside civilian authorities. Since the eruption of violence, 67 fatalities have been reported, though the precise toll is challenging to verify due to extensive disruptions in communications, including widespread outages of mobile internet and telephone services. Public transportation like buses and trains has ceased operations, and images from Dhaka depict numerous police officers in riot gear patrolling the streets. Schools and universities throughout Bangladesh have been closed indefinitely.

Despite these measures, protesters continue their "Complete Shutdown," blocking roads across the city in defiance. Demonstrators, primarily students, are protesting against what they perceive as discriminatory practices within the quota system, advocating for merit-based recruitment. Critics argue the current system disproportionately benefits supporters of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, who secured her fourth consecutive election victory in January.

The unrest escalated when an Islamist party-organized march was met with law enforcement dispersal tactics such as tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades. Protesters also stormed a district jail in Narsingdi, resulting in the escape of several hundred inmates onto the streets, confirmed by multiple witnesses to BBC Bangla. The opposition Bangladesh National Party has joined the protest, led by exiled acting chairman Tarique Rahman, who called for support for the protesting students via Twitter.



Fig.3 (Source: Al JAZEERA)

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, a senior leader of the Bangladesh National Party, was reportedly detained by authorities without given reasons, as confirmed by the police. Efforts to mediate through dialogue have thus far failed, with Law Minister Anisul Haque expressing government readiness to engage in discussions, though student representatives like Nahid Iqbal have declined participation citing the recent casualties caused by government actions.

In response to the violence on Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam disclosed a ban on rallies within the city to safeguard lives and property. Separate reports from the police to BBC Bangla confirmed two additional fatalities on Friday, with 100 officers injured the previous day. A government minister also noted several vehicles outside government buildings set ablaze amid the clashes, which have spread beyond Dhaka to affect 26 districts.

Following the occupation and damage of the state broadcaster BTV by protesters, the premises were vacated by Friday morning, though broadcasting had not resumed. A senior journalist informed BBC Bangla that the newsroom, studio, and canteen had sustained significant damage during the previous day's fire.

Protests in Bangladesh have erupted into deadly clashes as thousands of students rally against government job quotas, highlighting a history of turmoil in a nation forged through the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, where nearly 3 million lives were lost.

Bangladesh, with a population nearing 170 million, endured prolonged military rule following the assassination of its founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, in 1975. While democracy was gradually reinstated by 1990, the country has struggled with intermittent bouts of sectarian and political violence in recent years.

The current unrest stems from disputes over a 30% job reservation for descendants of freedom fighters, a policy initially abolished by the Sheikh Hasina government in 2018 but later reinstated and subsequently suspended by the judiciary. Despite these legal manoeuvres, students continue to protest, questioning the fairness of privileging third-generation beneficiaries and advocating for purely merit-based recruitment.

Following the Supreme Court's recent suspension of the High Court's ruling reinstating the quota, Bangladesh currently operates without any such job reservations. This judicial back-and-forth has fuelled tensions, prompting calls for governmental clarity and dialogue with protesting students to resolve misunderstandings and prevent further escalation. As the situation intensifies, observers emphasize the urgency for a compromise on the quota issue, warning that failure to find common ground could lead to further unrest that the authorities may struggle to contain.

Five fatalities and numerous injuries marred Bangladesh on Tuesday during student protests against government job quotas, sparking widespread violence across Dhaka, Chattogram, and Rangpur. Reports indicate clashes between student demonstrators, pro-government groups, and police. Among the casualties were three students, a pedestrian, and an unidentified individual, as reported by media sources quoting officials. Violence erupted at Dhaka University on Monday, injuring over 100 students, with disturbances spreading to Jahangir Nagar University and other regions the following day.



Fig. 4 (Protest by university students)

The protests were ignited by discontent over Bangladesh's quota system, which reserves a significant number of government jobs for veterans' families and other specified groups. Prime Minister Hasina defended the system, emphasizing respect for veterans who fought in the 1971 independence war. However, protesters argue the quotas are unfair and favour political allies of Hasina's Awami League. The unrest has persisted despite judicial interventions, with demonstrations calling for a merit-based job allocation system.

The turmoil underscores deep-seated grievances over governance and opportunity in Bangladesh, with students demanding reforms to ensure fair access to employment.

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