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## Article For Reading: Perilous path: on Bangladesh and its interim government

After the government of Sheikh Hasina was brought down by a student-led uprising on August 5, 2024, Bangladesh's new rulers, a military-backed interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, promised a new beginning. Six months later, the country of 170 million is far from having a stable political order, let alone a new dawn. The lawlessness across the country was on full display on February 5 when a mob demolished the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President, in Dhanmondi, the trigger being reports of Ms. Hasina, who is in exile in India, planning to broadcast a speech on February 5. Protesters circulated their plan online to destroy the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Using excavators and bulldozers, they unleashed the attack on the building, in the presence of security personnel, where the father of the nation was assassinated in 1975. The residences of Ms. Hasina and other Awami League leaders were also vandalised. The interim government promised stern action, and Mr. Yunus called for calm. But three days later, a security crackdown targeted Awami League members and saw over 1,000 arrests in a single day.

The attack is not an isolated incident. Mr. Yunus and student protesters have accused Ms. Hasina of running an authoritarian regime. Mr. Yunus has also promised to build a naya Bangladesh with reformed institutions, transparency and accountability. But six months after Ms. Hasina's ouster, the interim government has made little progress in its reform agenda and has yet to announce a schedule for general elections. There have been repeated complaints about mob violence against Hindu and Christian minorities as well as Ahmadiyya Muslims and ethnic minorities of Chittagong Hill Tracts. More than 100 people have been killed since August 5, and at least 11,000 people arrested. Among those arrested are 140 journalists, who face murder charges over their reporting of the events that led to Ms. Hasina's ouster. The government has also **scrapped** more than 150 press **accreditations**, which are required for official events and briefings. The Chhatra League, the Awami League's student wing, has been banned. A Human Rights Watch report released in January, has warned that those who opposed the Awami League "are now mirroring its intolerance for criticism". The Yunus administration and the student leaders are still blaming Ms. Hasina for the lawlessness and violence. This amounts to an absolute abandonment of accountability. Bangladesh cannot progress into a better system if the violence and lawlessness continue.

As the ruler, Mr. Yunus has the primary responsibility to ensure that law and order prevails. He should also **expedite** the reform process and announce elections so that Bangladesh can have an elected, legitimate government at the earliest.

### **Summary:**

After Sheikh Hasina's government was overthrown in a student-led uprising on August 5, 2024, Bangladesh's interim military-backed government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, promised reforms and stability. However, six months later, the country remains politically unstable. On February 5, a mob demolished Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence and attacked other properties linked to the Awami League, leading to a security crackdown with over 1,000 arrests. Violence against religious and ethnic minorities has also been reported, with over 100 deaths since Hasina's ouster. Meanwhile, the government has restricted press freedoms and banned the Awami League's student wing. Critics argue that the new administration mirrors the previous regime's intolerance and lacks accountability. To restore stability, Yunus must enforce law and order, accelerate reforms, and announce elections to establish a legitimate government.



## **Vocabularies:**

### **1. Mob (Noun) (भीड़)**

**Meaning:** A large, disorderly crowd, often with violent intent.

**Synonyms:** Crowd, horde, throng.

**Antonyms:** Individual, peacekeepers, orderly group.

**Example:** A mob gathered outside the government office, demanding justice.

### **2. Demolish (Verb) (ध्वस्त करना)**

**Meaning:** To destroy or tear down completely.

**Synonyms:** Destroy, wreck, ruin.

**Antonyms:** Build, construct, restore.

**Example:** The old building was demolished to make space for a new mall.

### **3. Exile (Noun/Verb) (निर्वासन/निर्वासित करना)**

**Meaning:** The state of being forced to leave one's country; to banish someone.

**Synonyms:** Banishment, deportation, expulsion.

**Antonyms:** Return, repatriation, inclusion.

**Example:** The former leader lived in exile after being overthrown.

#### 4. Excavator (Noun) (खोदने वाली मशीन)

**Meaning:** A large machine used for digging and moving earth.

**Synonyms:** Digger, earthmover, backhoe.

**Antonyms:** None (as it is a machine).

**Example:** The workers used an excavator to clear the construction site.

#### 5. Expedite (Verb) (त्वरित करना)

**Meaning:** To speed up a process or make it happen more quickly.

**Synonyms:** Accelerate, hasten, fast-track.

**Antonyms:** Delay, hinder, slow down. **Example:** The government must expedite the relief efforts for the flood victims.

#### 6. Unleash (Verb) (उन्मुक्त करना)

**Meaning:** To release or set free something powerful or violent.

**Synonyms:** Release, let loose, trigger.

**Antonyms:** Restrain, suppress, hold back.

**Example:** The decision to increase fuel prices unleashed public anger.

## 7. Vandalised (Verb) (तोड़फोड़ करना)

**Meaning:** To deliberately destroy or damage property.

**Synonyms:** Deface, damage, ruin.

**Antonyms:** Repair, restore, maintain.

**Example:** Protesters vandalised government buildings during the riot.

## 8. Stern (Adjective) (कठोर)

**Meaning:** Serious, strict, or harsh in manner or approach.

**Synonyms:** Severe, firm, strict.

**Antonyms:** Lenient, gentle, forgiving.

**Example:** The teacher gave a stern warning to the misbehaving students.

## 9. Scrapped (Verb) (रद्द करना)

**Meaning:** To cancel, discard, or get rid of something.

**Synonyms:** Abandon, abolish, discontinue.

**Antonyms:** Implement, continue, approve.

**Example:** The company scrapped its plans to launch a new product.

## 10. Accreditation (Noun) (प्रमाणन)

**Meaning:** Official recognition or certification of authority or credibility.

**Synonyms:** Certification, endorsement, authorization.

**Antonyms:** Disapproval, rejection, invalidation.

**Example: The university received accreditation from the national education board**

## **12. Amounts (Verb) (बराबर होना)**

**Meaning: To add up to or be equivalent to something.**

**Synonyms: Total, equal, sum up to.**

**Antonyms: Differ, deviate, subtract.**

**Example: His actions amount to a clear violation of the law.**

## **Phrasal Verbs:**

### **1. Bring down (गिराना / सत्ता से हटाना)**

**Meaning: To cause the fall or defeat of a government, system, or leader.**

**Example: The student-led protests brought down Sheikh Hasina's government.**

### **2. Break out (फैलना / अचानक शुरू होना)**

**Meaning: To start suddenly (especially about conflict or violence).**

**Example: Violence broke out in Bangladesh after reports of Sheikh Hasina's speech.**



### 3. Crack down on (कड़ी कार्रवाई करना)

Meaning: To take severe measures against illegal or harmful activities.

Example: The security forces cracked down on Awami League members, arresting over 1,000 people.

### 4. Call for (मांग करना)

Meaning: To publicly demand something.

Example: Muhammad Yunus called for calm after the violent attacks.

### 5. Step up (तेजी से सुधार करना)

Meaning: To increase efforts or take action.

## Idiomatic Expressions:

### 1. New dawn (नया युग / नई शुरुआत)

Meaning: A fresh start or a hopeful beginning.

Example: The interim government promised a new dawn for Bangladesh.

### 2. On full display (साफ़ तौर पर दिखना)

Meaning: Clearly visible or evident.

Example: The lawlessness in Bangladesh was on full display during the attacks.