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Bangladesh's Turning Point as Prime Minister Hasina Resigns Following Mass Protests

Turmoil in Bangladesh

On August 5, 2024, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned in response to escalating student protests over job quota reforms. The unrest, driven by economic frustrations and the reimplementing of job quotas benefiting the descendants of 1971 freedom fighters, triggered widespread turmoil. Hasina's resignation and subsequent departure to India, where she was received at Hindon Airbase, have significant global implications.

During her leadership, she played a key role in addressing security issues in India's northeastern states, notably by countering insurgent activities. Her exit necessitates careful attention to ensure that these security efforts are sustained and that regional stability is preserved, highlighting the broader global consequences of this political shift.

This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) provides a comprehensive overview of the Bangladesh political turmoil, covering articles and news from both print and electronic media.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaways
<p>India faces major foreign policy challenge with Bangladesh crisis</p> <p><i>Nikkei Asia,</i> August 07, 2024</p>	<p>Uncertainty shrouds the future of India's relationship with Bangladesh, which flourished for 15 years under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who on Monday was forced to resign and flee the country amid strong anti-government protests that have left hundreds dead and plunged the nation into political turmoil.</p>
<p>Why India needs to have a wary eye on the Bangladesh coup</p> <p><i>Live Mint</i> August 05, 2024</p>	<p>With news that an aircraft ferrying Hasina out of Bangladesh has landed in India, India will be worried that angry Bangladeshi protestors could target Indians in that country, besides the Indian High Commission and Indian consulates, for allowing the former prime minister permission to land in India.</p>
<p>Are Pakistan's ISI and China behind protests in Bangladesh to nurture anti-India terror groups?</p> <p><i>The Economic Times,</i> August 06, 2024</p>	<p>Intelligence agencies have linked Pakistan's ISI and Chinese interests to the protests that led to Sheikh Hasina's resignation in Bangladesh. The student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), played a pivotal role, with evidence of training in Afghanistan and Pakistan.</p> <p>China's Ministry of State Security has also been active in propaganda efforts. Amid the turmoil, the Students Against Discrimination movement has proposed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as head of an interim government.</p>
<p>Bangladesh crisis: How trade with India could face major disruptions</p> <p><i>India Today,</i> August 06, 2024</p>	<p>Bangladesh has been a key ally of India since Sheikh Hasina became Prime Minister in 2009. Her leadership has significantly improved trade and economic relations between the two countries.</p> <p>However, the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh raises concerns about the future of this partnership and its potential impact on India.</p>
<p>Hasina's Troubled Legacy</p> <p><i>Foreign Policy's South Asia Brief,</i> August 07, 2024</p>	<p>Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reacted as she had so many other times when faced with anti-government resistance: She vowed to use a heavy hand, undeterred by the officials who insisted it was no longer tenable for police to use force against protesters after a day in which nearly 100 people had died in civil unrest.</p>

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<p>Hasina gave a short notice about going to India</p> <p><i>The Daily Star,</i> August 07, 2024</p>	<p>Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina apparently made the decision to step down after a meeting with the leaders of the security establishment, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said yesterday. "At very short notice, she requested approval to come for the moment to India," the minister said in a suo motu statement in the Rajya Sabha on the situation in Bangladesh.</p>
<p>Interim Bangladesh government to prioritise relationship with India: Dhaka policy experts</p> <p><i>The Hindu,</i> August 07, 2024</p>	<p>The end of the Sheikh Hasina government should not be perceived as a mortal blow to India-Bangladesh relations, according to leading figures in Dhaka's policy-making circles, who argued that the interim government would place a high priority on bilateral ties as it is in the interest of various sectors in Bangladesh to maintain a good relationship with New Delhi.</p>
<p>Hasina will be back in B'desh once democracy is restored: Hasina's son</p> <p><i>Business Standard</i> August 08, 2024</p>	<p>Sheikh Hasina, who quit as prime minister and fled Bangladesh, will be back in the country as soon as democracy is restored, his son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said on Thursday and blamed Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, for fuelling the ongoing unrest in the country.</p>
<p>US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi condemns recent violence in Bangladesh</p> <p><i>The Telegraph</i> August 08, 2024</p>	<p>Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has condemned the recent violence in Bangladesh, including the brutal targeting of Hindus, saying an interim government that will be sworn in should end the unrest across the country and bring its perpetrators to justice.</p>
<p>After Hasina, Bangladesh needs a foreign policy reset</p> <p><i>Nikkei Asia,</i> August 12, 2024</p>	<p>The remarkable downfall of Bangladesh's leader Sheikh Hasina was shocking in its speed, but the prime minister's hasty escape to India as angry protesters converged on her Dhaka residence on Aug 5 was not a total surprise. The signs of deep rot have been clear for several years.</p>