

Private univ students demand justice for July-August massacre

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Students from private universities gather in front of the National Museum in Dhaka to stand in solidarity with 'March for Unity and Justice' programme, demanding justice for the massacre in the July-August mass uprising, on Friday. | Sony Ramani

Students from different private universities held a rally in Dhaka on Friday, demanding justice for the massacre in the July-August mass uprising.

The Students Movement Against Discrimination, Combined Private Universities organised the rally titled March for Unity and Justice in front of the National Museum in the capital, which was the first event held by private universities students after the uprising.

They also called for state reform, ensuring the protection of citizens' rights and providing proper treatment for the injured at the rally.

Kotha, a student of the East West University, said that while public universities initiated the movement against discrimination, it gained momentum with the participation of private university students, particularly from July 18.

Mentioning that private university students took to the streets after witnessing the killings of other students, she said, 'It feels like we are failed warriors when we still have to demand proper treatment for those injured in the mass uprising.'

Another student, Md Rabiul Sani from American International University-Bangladesh, who was shot at Ashulia in Dhaka on August 4, said that there were expectations that everyone responsible for the massacre, including the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, would be brought to justice.

'All citizens would be treated equally. The prices of daily commodities would be reduced. However, none of these issues were addressed by the interim government,' he mentioned.

The students also stressed that victims from private universities were being neglected in terms of receiving proper treatment and financial assistance, emphasising that the mass uprising took place for a beautiful and safe Bangladesh, so it should not go in vain.

Representatives of around 60 universities from Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions participated in the rally, said Monju, an organiser of the rally.

According to government data, 834 people were killed and 11,551 injured during the student-led mass uprising that began on July 1 with protests, demanding quota reform in civil service jobs and culminated in the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime on August 5, 2024.

The government is still updating the data.

Tags July-August mass uprising