

# Bangladeshi students want to return home

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The government of Bangladesh expressed deep concerns over the mob violence on the night of May 17, 2024 in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek.

'We have conveyed our concerns to Kyrgyzstan. Our students also came under attack but no one was severely injured,' foreign minister Hasan Mahmud told reporters on Sunday, reports UNB.

He said that they were closely monitoring the situation through the embassy in Uzbekistan, concurrently accredited to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The embassy is in constant communication with Bangladeshi students who are currently studying in Kyrgyzstan, as well as with Kyrgyz government officials.

There are no reports of any serious injury or casualty among Bangladeshi students so far.

The embassy has already shared an emergency contact number on its official Facebook page.

Through the embassy in Uzbekistan, the government is coordinating with the relevant authorities of Kyrgyzstan, including the ministries of foreign affairs and internal affairs, to ensure the safety and security of Bangladeshi students.

'We are closely and constantly monitoring the developments. We have asked our Ambassador stationed in Tashkent to visit Bishkek soon to inquire about the wellbeing of Bangladeshi students,' said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement.

Though the situation in the Kyrgyzstan capital is 'under control', as per the local authorities, panicked Bangladeshi students want to return home for a few weeks.

They want to attend regular classes online for the time being.

'The situation is under control. We are trying to return to Bangladesh, but we do not have a flight schedule. All Bangladeshi students are trying to return home for the time being,' Bangladeshi medical student Samia Kabir said.

She said that the university authorities told them that their classes would be conducted online.

Regarding their exams, Samia said that the university authorities would issue a notice soon.

She also said that students from other countries were also leaving Kyrgyzstan.

'Even though the situation is under control, we still don't feel safe here. It would be better if chartered flights can be arranged soon,' Samia said.

Bangladeshi students have been advised to stay indoor for the moment and get in touch with the embassy for any issue in this regard at the following 24x7 emergency number: +998930009780.

More than 650 Pakistani students were being repatriated from Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan's foreign minister said on Sunday, after clashes broke out between locals and foreigners near student accommodation in the capital Bishkek, reports AFP.

Four Pakistani students were injured overnight Friday when brawls erupted involving hundreds of students from different countries.

Students were ordered by authorities to stay indoors, students in the city told Pakistani media.

'Three special, commercial flights have been arranged,' foreign minister Ishaq Dar told a press conference in Islamabad.

'This was an attack on foreign students — not just Pakistani students. There were also Indian, Bangladeshi and Arab students,' he said.

Around 130 students arrived in Pakistan on Saturday, with 540 more due to arrive on Sunday.

Local media said more than 11,000 Pakistanis are studying across Kyrgyzstan, which is particularly popular with medical students.