



Protest



22

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Bangladesh Tactical: Gantantra Mancha to protest outside Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka at 15:00 (local time) on February 22; avoid all rallies

Please be advised:

- The Ganatantra Mancha, a coalition of seven opposition parties, is slated to hold a protest outside the Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka at 15:00 (local time) on February 22.
- The protest is reportedly against the rising incidents of political violence across educational institutions in Bangladesh.
- On February 21, six people were reportedly injured in clashes between members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League (AL), and the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-affiliated Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Jhenaidah District's Kaliganj Upazila.
- Separately, at least 10 people were injured in clashes between supporters of AL-linked groups, including the Sramik League, Jubo League, and Swechchhasebak League, in Dhaka's Manikganj Sadar Upazila on February 21.



Assessments:

1. Considering the combined mobilization capabilities of the Ganatantra Mancha's constituent parties and, turnout at the protest is expected to reach the high dozens. Participation could be further bolstered by support from additional opposition parties. As such, security measures are liable to remain enhanced in the vicinity of the protest, given the precedent of violence at opposition-led protests. The authorities may also resort to preemptive detention of opposition leaders ahead of the demonstration, which, in turn, will elevate the potential for confrontation between the protesters and the security personnel.
2. Moreover, there also remains a risk of inter-party clashes, given instances of individuals affiliated with the Awami League (AL) government staging counter-demonstrations or attempting to block opposition-led demonstrations. Nearby vehicles may be vandalized or torched during such confrontations. Disruptions to vehicular and pedestrian traffic can be expected during the afternoon hours.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Dhaka on February 22 are advised to avoid all political rallies given the elevated risk of unrest.