Lift emergency, release Hasina 231 DU teachers

demand DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 231 teachers of Dhaka University (DU) have urged the government to withdraw the state of emergency immediately to overcome the prevailing crises in the country.

In a joint statement issued on Thursday, they also called for the release of detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

"With grave concern we have been observing that there is no sign to overcome the existing crisis of the country, rather it has been getting deeper and complex day by day creating an uncertain situation. This will bring no good for ruling or non-ruling groups," the statement reads.

"In the present situation, we think there is no alternative to holding national election with spontaneous participation of people, and it is important to lift emergency to ensure a free, fair and neutral election," reads the statement.

To make the ongoing dialogue a success, it is essential to involve effective leadership in it, and so we urge the government to release Hasina, the statement added.

Signatories to the statement included Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Abdus Samad and Dr Zinat Huda.

DU summer vacation begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long summer vacation at Dhaka University (DU) begins tomorrow.

During the vacation, no classes will be held but different offices at the university will remain open like normal working days.

Classes at the university will resume on July 1, said DU public relations office.



Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya presents his letter of credence to Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican as the Bangladesh ambassador to the Holy See yesterday.

Bogra drug addicts lack access to treatment

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

At least 147 drug addicts are lying on their deathbeds in the district shop in the town. town of Bogra, says a survey report of the Programme for Eco-Social adead man. Development (PESD).

Most of the addicts are passing members that he would not last for a long time at Kanarpara, Chalopara, Badurtola and some other areas.

At least 300 heroin, phensidyl and other drug addicted persons need treatment immediately for their survival, said Mahfuz Ara to such extent that he cannot stand Miva, executive director of PESD.

Some 40 drug addicts including others. Minku, 37, can't leave their bed due to acute illness, according to the addict, said he has been selling his Sumon, 13, has deteriorated to survey report.

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his son Minku became addicted to Hospital and at Mofiz Paglar More heroin about 20 years ago during his apprenticeship in a tailoring

He has been lying on the bed like blood" he added.

their days without any treatment long due to his prolonged addic-His mother Rokeya Begum said

> Minku lost his appetite for food long ago. Shamsul Alam, 50, has deteriorated all the families of the locality.

blood to some private blood banks such extent that they need imme-

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on his feet without the help of

area in the town since long time after every 10 days. "I get Tk 100 for one bag of

Now Shamsul takes heroin with Doctor has informed his family his son Moazzem and his sister

Shahi Noor, 29, a seriously ill heroin addict of Katnarpara, moves from door to door to beg money for his treatment, but he does not get any response from the local people The condition of heroin addict as there are such addicts in almost

While conducting the survey, a worker of PESD came to know that condition of Biplob, 13, Moazzem, His son Moazzem, also a heroin 17, Saddam, 10, Ripon, 13, and Hiru Mondol of Katnarpara said located near the Mohammed Ali diate treatment to save their lives.

Asia Journalists Assoc committee BSS, Dhaka

An 11-member executive committee of Asia Journalists Association (AJA), Bangladesh chapter, was formed at a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Shafiqul Bashar Chapal (Bangla Vision) and Abdur Rahman Khan (Weekly Holiday) have been elected president and general secretary of the association. Others office-bearers are:

Azizur Rashid Babu (The Daily Star) -- vice president, Rowshan Ara Jolly (Janakantha) -- joint secretary, and Bhanu Ranjan Chakrabarty (ATN) -- treasurer.

And the members are Abu Taher (Daily Destiny), Momtaj Bilkis Banu (BSS), Maksudul Haidur Chowdhury (Radio Today), Pradip Sinha (The Independent), Mostofa Kamal (Prothom Alo) and Ataur Rahman (INB News Service).

Debapriya credentials

BSS, Vatican City

to Pope

presents

Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN Offices in Geneva Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya yesterday presented his credentials to Pope Benedict XVI as concurrent envoy to the Vatican.

The Pope welcomed the ambassador to the Vatican and wished him a successful tenure of office and inquired about the welfare of the people of Bangladesh as Debapriya conveyed him the greetings and best wishes of the government of Bangladesh and its people and also invited him to visit the country at a suitable date.

According to the practice of the Holy See, the ambassador offered the Pope a written statement saying Bangladesh is recognised for its tradition of religious freedom and communal harmony. "Bangladesh is known for its rich cultural and spiritual civilisation. It is also known for its tradition for religious tolerance.

Describing the Catholics in Bangladesh as a highly motivated and integral community, he highlighted the important role played by them in the nation's social, economic and cultural life.

The ambassador also apprised the Pope of the present state of governance in the country, explaining the ongoing initiatives to stage a participatory and credible election by the end of this year.

Four killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Bagerhat and Kishoreganj yesterday.

UNB from Bagerhat adds: At least three people were killed and six others injured in separate road crashes in Katchua and Fakirhat upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said Hanif Akhand, 30, and Samar Kumar Dey, 30, died on the spot while six others injured critically when a Khunal-bound bus ploughed through three roadside shops at Signboard Bazar in Katchua upazila at about

Earlier, Lima Akhter, 4, daughter of Asad Sheikh, was crushed under the wheels of a Khulnabound bus at Lakpur in Fakirhat upazila at about 5:00pm.

Our correspondent from Kishoreganj reports: A minor girl was killed in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Bhairab road at Achmita area of Kotiadi upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Akhlima, 5, daughter of Taher Uddin of Achmita village.

Police said the accident occurred when she was crossing the road a Dhaka-bound bus crushed her under its wheels.

The driver of the bus was arrested near Katchpur bridge in Narayanganj.

10 killed in 7 days

Drive against illegal arms holders being strengthened in city

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Nayeem Ahmed yesterday said they are strengthening the ongoing drive against illegal arms holders to control the law and order situation in the city as some 10 peoplewere killed in last seven days.

Ten people were killed in separate incidents since May 22 included four shot dead by gunmen, two in encounter with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), three lynched by mob and one murdered by a neighbour.

Talking to the UNB over telephone in the evening, the DMP commissioner said they began special operation from May 23 against killers, illegal arms holders, terrorists, extortionists and muggers. "This drive will be further strengthened and continue for next one

He added, we give priority to such crimes which show increasing trend in the city. Then we work for the last year about dope party and balm area the same day.

Police commissioner said they would be able to bring the city's law and order situation under control

Those gunned down last week in the city were Nazrul Islam Chowdhury Montu, a local leader of PDP of Mirpur area, Atiqur Rahman Khan, Benga Manik, 30, a listed terrorist of Nawbabpur, and motor mechanic Jamal Uddin.

In another incident on May 24, three young men identified as Russell, 28, Rafique, 32, and Liakat, 32, were beaten to death by angry mob suspecting them as pirates in Khilgaon area.

Two suspected criminals Kala Shafiq and Manik Khan were killed in separate encounters with Rab on May 26 and 29 respectively.

On May 28, muggers snatched Tk 200,000 from an inspector of special branch of police, after shooting and injuring him at Uttara in the city, while Tk 225,000 was snatched prevention of other crimes as we did from a businessman in Sadarghat



British Labour Party MP Kerry McCarthy visits an urban primary school of Brac at Korail slum in the city on Thursday.

British MPs laud Brac projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three British MPs visited several Brac projects in Gazipur and Dhaka as part of their weeklong study tour to Bangladesh to learn about efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) and poverty.

MPs Annette Brooke (Liberal Democrat-Mid Dorset and North Poole), Kerry McCarthy (Labour-Bristol East) and Marsha Singh (Labour-Bradford West) on Thursday visited a birthing hut at Korail slum in the city, which is operated by Brac's maternal, neo-

natal and child health programme. The MPs also paid a visit to a Brac school in Korail where they talked with the students and teachers, said a Brac press release.

"I was struck by the scope and extent of Brac's work and particularly enjoyed my visit to the Brac school...the children were delightful and very keen to demonstrate their English language skills! I would like to congratulate Brac and their work to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh," Kerry McCarthy said after the visit.

Earlier on Wednesday, the visiting British MPs went to a Brac village organisation in Gazipur where they observed Brac's microfinance activities, a Brac community health forum and an antenatal care clinic.

They observed various activities of Brac's TB control programme, including Directly Observed Therapy - Short Course (DOTS) for TB, a TB outreach smearing centre and TB and external quality assurance laboratories, the press release added.

"The success of the TB programme in Bangladesh is impressive and must be maintained. It is a model that could be translated and implemented effectively by other countries," Annette Brooke said after the visit.

In his reaction, Marsha Singh said, "I have been inspired by the energy, dynamism and optimism of the Bangladeshi people, including the poorest of the poor."



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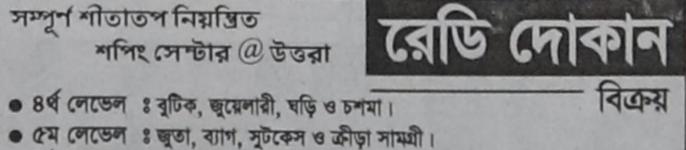
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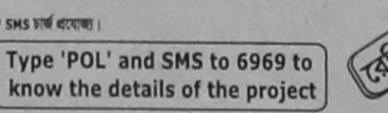
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