METROPOLITAN

Prompt action to clear off footpaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Zone-3 office of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) took prompt action to clear off footpaths from illegal occupation in Azimpur and Palashi areas following a news report on the peril of city's pedestrians yester-

The Daily Star carried the report on how the pedestrians, who constitute half of the city commuters, have been ignored by the successive governments with the DCC letting scanty passage for pedestrians under illegal occupancy.

A team of around 50 people comprising cleaners from DCC conservancy section, squad labourers from the engineering section, police personnel and zone officials launched the on the footpaths contribute eviction drive at 11:00am.

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I instantly called Lalbagh Police Station seeking police force for an eviction drive," said DCC Zone-3 Executive Officer Bimal Chandra Das.

He said scores of makeshift shops, vendors and illegal occupants were evicted from the footpaths during the drive from New Market to Guru Shahid Mazar, Palashi to Eden College, Palashi to Dhakeswari and Azimpur to Sapra Masjid

"The newspaper report was of great help to carry out the job, as none made any attempt to thwart the drive," he said, adding, "The locals too expressed their solidarity with the drive."

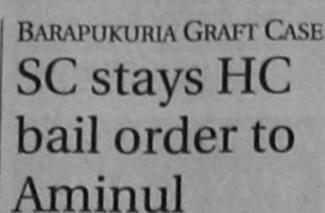
Temporary vegetables shops and other makeshift businesses significantly to congestion in the "I read the report in the surface drains resulting in morning and was so moved that waterlogging in the city, said Das. | corruption Commission.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed till October 4 a High Court (HC) order granting bail to former post and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque in Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

The SC vacation bench of Justice SK Sinha passed the order on a petition moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam against the HC order.

The court also asked the government to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition with it against the HC order by October 4, the date for reopening the court after annual vacation.

Earlier on August 26, the HC granted an interim bail for six months to the BNP leader in the case filed by Anti-

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PHOTO: STAR

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports takes out a procession in the city yesterday to protest the police action on its Wednesday's procession.

GAS BLOCK DEAL

Action on protesters unwarranted

Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry yesterday said Wednesday's police action on the activists of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports was 'unwarranted and should not have taken place.'

The parliamentary watchdog body also said state minister for home affairs himself is looking into the incident and also investigating the matter that left about 20 people injured, including Prof Anu Muhammad.

"It was unexpected, should not have happened, we have asked high officials of police department so that such incidents do not occur in future," Abdus Salam, chairman of the committee, told reporters after its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"State Minister for Home Shamsul Haq Tuku informed the meeting that he himself is looking into the matter and investigating as well," Abdus Salam, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said.

"We have discussed the issue in the meeting, the committee members opined that it was not right for police members to charge baton if anyone wants to protest against government activities," he added.

"Inspector General of Police

Prof Harun president of ISACA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Harunur Rashid of Dhaka University, who is also vice chancellor of Presidency University, was elected president of Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) Bangladesh chapter recently, says a press release.

Ali Ashfaq, AKM Nazrul Haider and Mohammad Ayaz were elected vice president, secretary and treasurer respectively.

Nur Mohammad informed the committee that baton charge against protesters was not preplanned, it occurred suddenly," Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnu, member of the committee, told The Daily Star after the briefing.

About 20 people, including Anu Muhammad, Haidar Akbar Khan Rono and Musharefa Mishu, were injured as the committee activists clashed with police at Bijoy Nagar on their way to lay siege to Petrobangla office at Karwan Bazar in the city.

Police action condemned

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday strongly protested the 'police action' on Prof Anu Muhammad and other leaders and workers of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Portinthecity.

At least 30 people, including 10 policemen, were injured as activists of the committee clashed with the police on Wednesday after the police intercepted a procession of the committee demonstrating against the government decision to lease out three offshore gas blocks to foreign companies.

In separate statements, Ain O Salish Kendra, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh, Udichi Shilpi Gosthi and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) condemned the 'police action' and demanded exemplary punishment to the policemen responsible.

Progatishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning students' bodies, brought out a protest procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the police action.

The student leaders also demanded exemplary punishment to the policemen responsible, proper treatment of the injured activists and cancellation of the decision to lease out offshore gas blocks.

Draft rules on RTI submitted to law minister

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) M Azizur Rahman yesterday submitted to Law Minister Shafique Ahmed draft rules for implementing the Right to Information Act to ensure free flow of information.

"The draft of the rules has been finalised and a copy of it was submitted to the law minister to make it a law," Aziz told reporters after a meeting with the minister at his office. He said names of 400

information officers, who will provide information to members of the public, were received by the commission.

They will be appointed after scrutiny, he added.

The CIC said they will visit different district headquarters in next 90 days to brief the district information officers on their tasks.

He said the time limit of 20 working days to provide information as envisaged in the Right to Information Act may be extended to 30 working

Prof Yunus to launch Saudi university academic year today

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus leaves the launch the first academic year of King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz University of virtue of its oil wealth. Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia.

the afternoon on the KAUST campus in Thuwal on the Red Sea coast.

King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz laid the cornerstone for the KAUST in the village of Thuwal, north of Jeddah, on the Red Sea coast in October 2007 and the university is ready as planned within two years.

The KAUST project was a monumental undertaking with a budget of approximately \$2.67 billion. The area allocated to the research centres. university is over 36 million square metres, including coralreef ecosystem that will be preserved by the university as a marine sanctuary.

immense scale of this project is the 'philosophy' on which it is established and the opportuni-

ties it will offer the world of higher education in the kingdom. KAUST aspires to 'launch' scientific research to a new and city today on an invitation to unprecedented trajectory in a country that represents the heart of the global economy by

Spread on an area of 700,000 square metres, the The event will take place in KAUST campus includes buildings for engineering and science faculty as well as for applied mathematics. It also has a library and a lecture hall for 1000 people.

The campus has King Abdullah Grand Mosque that can accommodate 1,500 worshippers and four other mosques. There are 3,500 housing units. In addition, there are four giant buildings allocated for specialist

Prof Yunus will present as the chief guest at the event marking the start of studies at the university, which will begin tomorrow with 400 students Wh'at truly marks the and 75-80 faculty members. The university will start with 10 scientific specialisation and 10 research centres.

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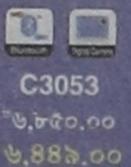


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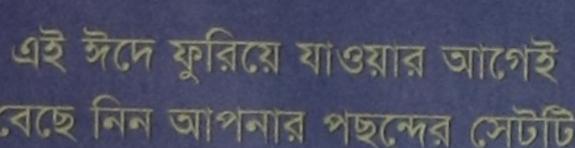


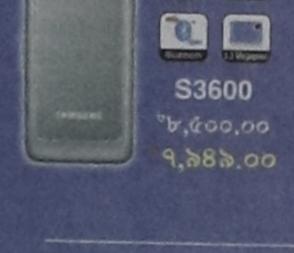






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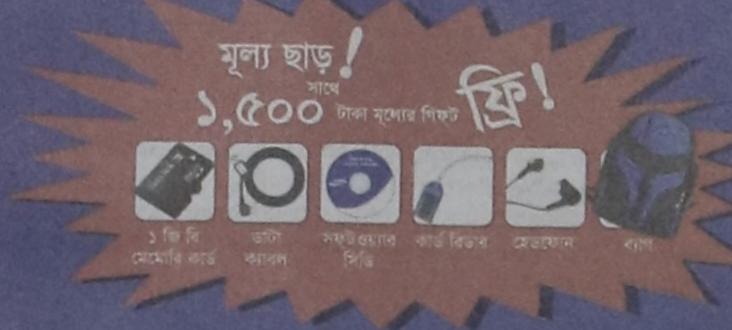
























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