

Two Rampal agitators held over 'militancy suspicion' in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two men of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front taking part in a demonstration in Bangladesh BL College, Khulna against the Rampal power plant project were detained yesterday "on suspicion of being involved in militancy".

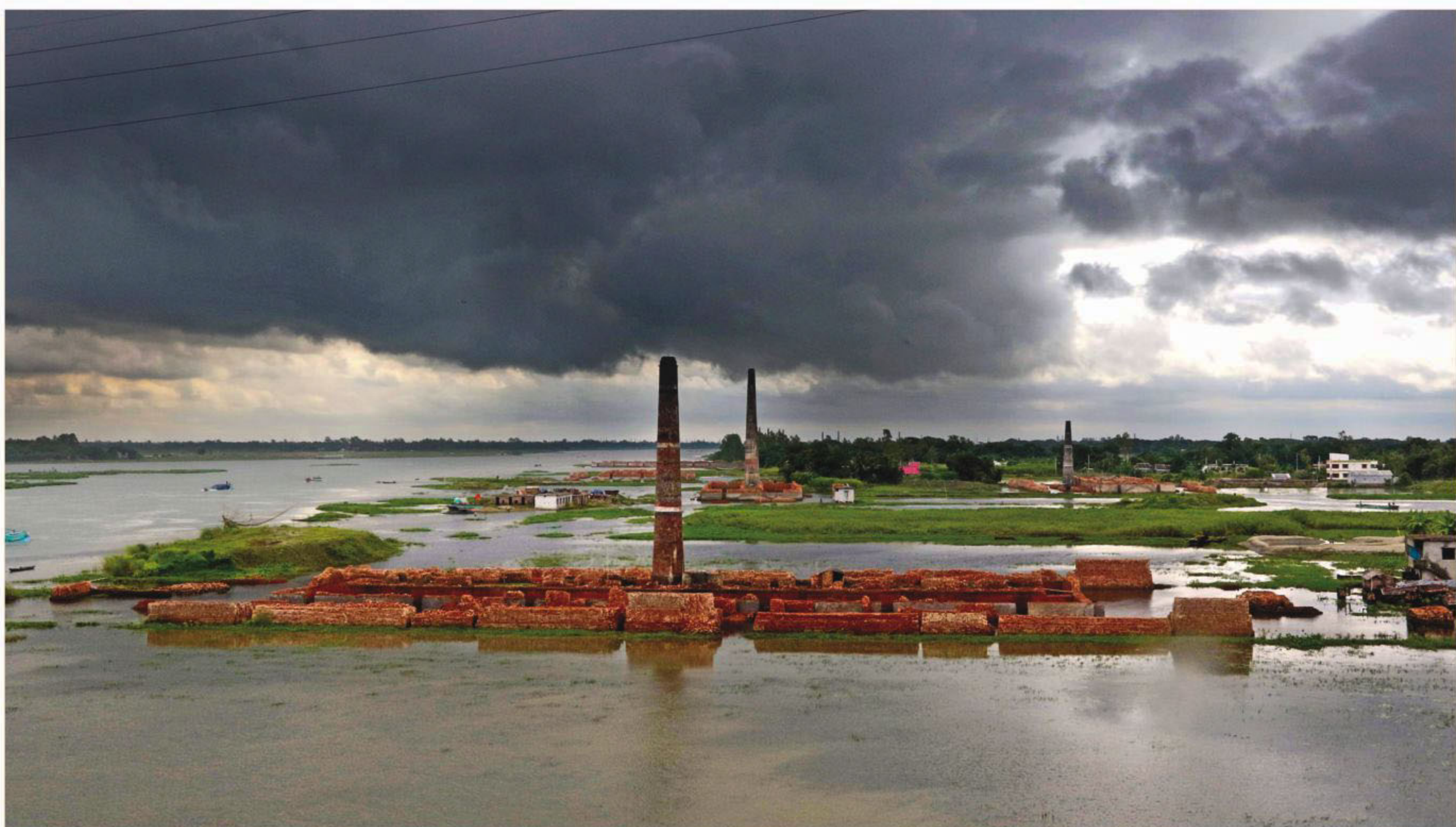
Sanjib Mondal is the student organisation's college unit president and a management student while Romio Rahman an activist.

The front's Khulna city unit president, Gour Barmon, said Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men first snatched their banner and returned with police later to take away the duo.

BCL does not have a declared unit at the college. Activists there declined to comment.

Vice Principal Prof Shikhder Moniruzzaman said it was police who brought the duo to his office with assistance of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



An inundated area at Kuchiamara, near the Dhaka-Mawa highway on the outskirts of the capital. Floodwater in the northern region is receding and keeps on coming down to inundate fresh areas in the central parts of the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Stringent security steps for Aug 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken tight security measures at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi and its adjacent areas ahead of National Mourning Day to be observed tomorrow.

The measures have been taken against the backdrop of overall security situation in recent times, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia told reporters at Russell Square yesterday.

"Though there is no specific report of threat, law enforcers will remain vigilant and take all-out security measures to avert any untoward incident...", he added.

He said they have also beefed up security at other areas including the Banani graveyard.

The commissioner said the periphery of the museum on Road 32 will be under surveillance with the deployment of a multilayered security including

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

'Hired', ruling party men advocating rampal plant

Says Prof Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some ruling party men and "hired experts" are talking in favour of the Rampal coal-powered plant as no "neutral expert" will do so for the government, said Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary, National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports, yesterday.

"It is not possible to make someone understand something if s/he is determined not to accept any logic," he said announcing a countrywide sit-in on August 20 demanding cancellation of agreements detrimental to the Sundarbans, including the Rampal one.

The demonstration in the capital's Central Shaheed Minar will be from 11:00am to 6:00pm, also calling for implementing the committee's seven-point demand for a solution to the country's power crisis.

Prof Anu was addressing a discussion the committee organised in the capital's Mukti Bhaban "to respond to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Robbers loot 350 tolas of gold from Gazipur shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified robbers looted around 350 tolas of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop, exploding 20 crude bombs and injuring four persons at Sreepur of Gazipur yesterday.

The injured are the shop owner's son Subroto Das, employee Nayan, truck driver Sagor, and his assistant Saju.

They were admitted to a local hospital.

Witnesses said a gang of eight robbers stormed into the shop around 7:00pm, snatched the ornaments at gunpoint and then fled the spot.

No IS but banned local outfits behind attacks: Home boss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Once again rulling out Islamic State's presence in Bangladesh, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said only 100 or more people under several banned militant outfits like Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh [JMB] and Ansarullah Bangla Team were conducting militant attacks in the name of Islam.

Law enforcement agencies arrested most of them, he added.

JMB, Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, Ansarullah Bangla Team and others are "modified complexions" of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, BSS reports him as saying.

Jamaat-e-Islami adherents who used to cut people's tendons are turning into militants to destabilise the country in the name of Islam, he said.

The militants wanted to hamper the country's development under the leadership of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, whom they had attempted to kill 19 times, he said.

The minister was addressing an anti-militancy rally in the Police Lines in Rangpur city. The minister also said the formation of Rangpur Metropolitan Police was underway.

Ctg PDB hit by crisis of metre-readers

Only 64 staff for 8 lakh metres; clients accuse of arbitrary billing; authorities to appoint 450 on contract

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Meter reading, bill preparing and distributing activities of power development board (PDB), Chittagong zone have long been going on with the manpower as per the setup formulated around 30 years ago.

The number of clients (meters) then was around 2 lakh, which has increased to around 8.25 lakh but the post of meter-readers did not, said the PDB officials.

Though there were 123 posts, the last appointment was held around 20 years ago, and only 64 meter-readers are employed currently, they added.

Many clients lodged complaints with PDB alleging that the meter-readers were not going to their houses and were making up "arbitrary" bills.

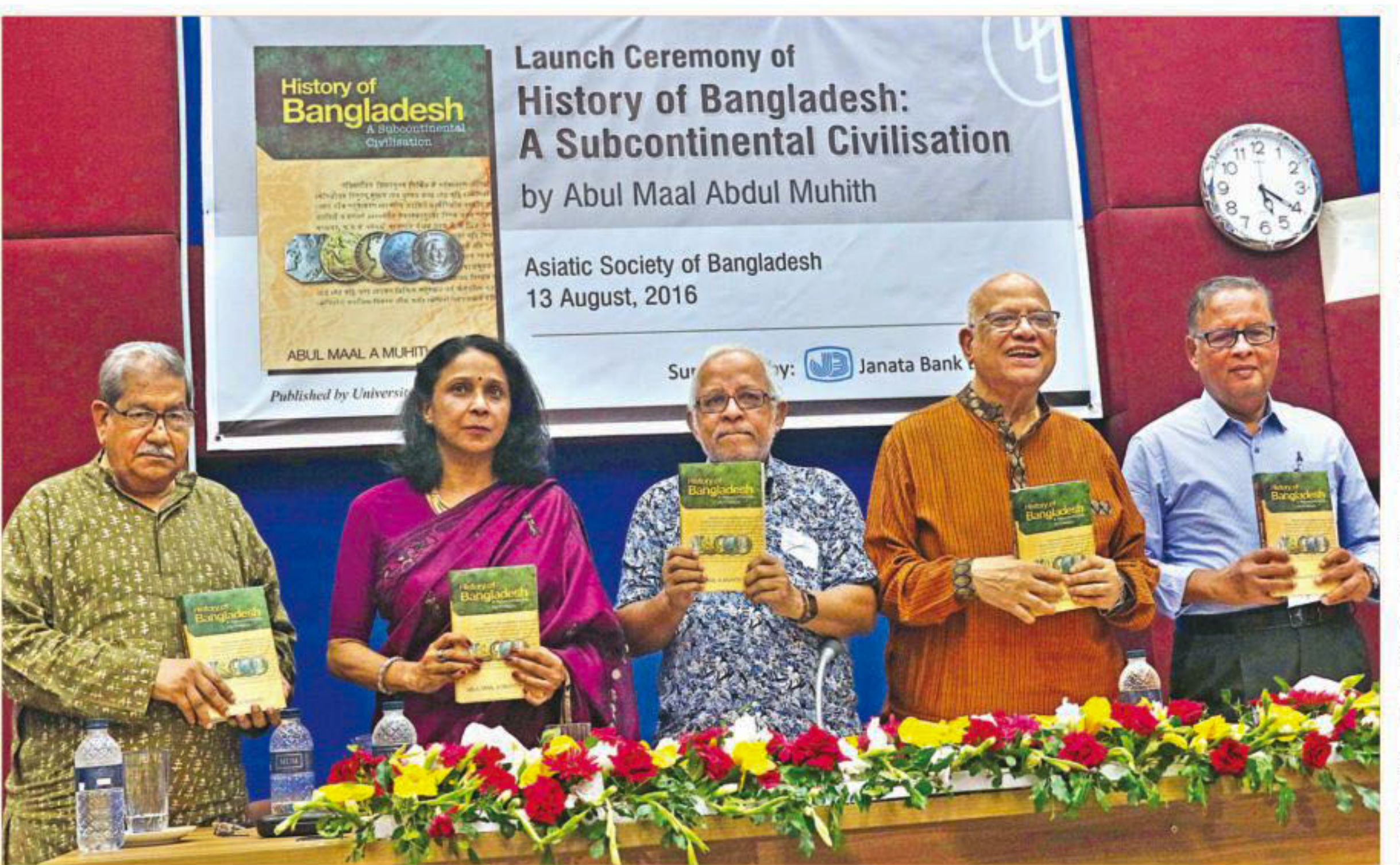
Contacted, Azharul Islam, chief engineer of PDB, south zone, said there should be one meter-reader against 1,500 clients, and based on that, they needed at least 550 meter-readers.

The PDB, Chittagong zone is going to appoint around 450 meter-readers on contract basis to make up the difference between the number of meters and its readers. The appointment process was underway and will be completed by next month, said the officials.

PDB sources said there are 21 distribution divisions under Chittagong zone and meter-readers cover Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

So a meter-reader has to check and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Guests hold copies of Finance Minister AMA Muhith's book History of Bangladesh: A Subcontinental Civilization at the capital's Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, during its launching ceremony yesterday. From left, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Prof Dr Sonia Nishat Amin, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, the minister, and Prof Dr A Momin Chowdhury.

PHOTO: STAR

Muhith's book on country's history launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new book by Finance Minister AMA Muhith has traced Bangladesh's roots long before many believed and provided dispassionate accounts of events preceding the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The book -- History of Bangladesh: A Subcontinental Civilization -- based on the country's history in five parts covering the period from pre-historic times of Indian civilisation to 1975. Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, president of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Sonia Nishat Amin and A Momin Chowdhury, former professors of history at Dhaka University, and the author launched the book at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. University Press Limited published it.

Bribery comment part of academic discussion

Says Mayor Nasir; public rally hails him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin yesterday said his comments over government officials demanding bribes were part of an academic discussion.

He said he just gave his speech; he did not lodge any complaint against anyone. "Many issues come up in academic discussion," he added.

The mayor made the remarks while talking to reporters, after attending a ceremony in front of the World Trade Center in the port city.

On Wednesday, Nasir said CCC did not get an adequate annual allocation as he refused to give "five percent in commission".

The corporation got a block allocation of only Tk 80 crore, while it would have been Tk 300 to Tk 350 crore if he had paid the bribe, he added.

In addition, the mayor said, a joint secretary gave assurance of "cooperation in the works of the city corporation", but in exchange he demanded a Pajero jeep.

Following his comments, the LGRD and Cooperatives ministry asked the mayor for an explanation in seven days.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Four errant pharmacies fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court led by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) fined four pharmaceutical companies a total of Tk 18 lakh in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday, as they "did not have any chemist and pharmacist and maintain quality."

Rab Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam told The Daily Star that they found the companies having no certified chemists and manufacturing drugs without complying with rules.

J Box and Co Ltd was fined Tk 7 lakh and given 15 day's time to recruit necessary manpower.

Unique Homeo Laboratories, Life Care Pharmaceuticals and Nas Pharmaceuticals were fined Tk 3 lakh, Tk 4 lakh and 4 lakh respectively.

4-yr-old boy, Brac staff die in Tangail road crashes

Dhaka-Aricha road blocked protesting death in Manikganj road accident

CITY DESK

A four-year-old boy and a Brac employee were killed in two separate road crashes in Kalihati upazila of Tangail yesterday.

A passenger bus collided head on with a CNG-run three-wheeler in Baghutia area around 3:30pm, injuring five people of the three-wheeler including its driver, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station.

They were rushed to Tangail Medical College Hospital, where the four-year-old died. His parents, among the injured, are still being treated, he added.

In another incident, a Brac employee was killed when a speeding truck hit the motorcycle carrying her from behind in Jokarchar area around 10:30am.

The deceased is Kolpona Akter, 25, of Biljura village in Tangail Sadar upazila.

The motorcyclist Abdur Razzak, another employee of Brac, sustained minor injuries, OC Nazrul said.

Meanwhile, locals barricaded the Dhaka Aricha Highway for around 45 minutes following an accident at Mohadevpur in Manikganj yesterday, our Manikganj correspondent reports.

The accident occurred around 3:30pm when a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

বিস্তারিত জানতে:
+৮৮০ ১৮৪১৪১৮৮০০, +৮৮০ ১৭৩৬০৭২৫২
www.nationalhousingbd.com

পৃথিবীর যে প্রান্তেই থাকুন একসাথে গড়ুন বন্ধুত্বের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা

আমাদের গ্রুপ হোম লোন সার্ভিস নিয়ে এসেছে সেই সুযোগ। দেশে কিংবা দেশের বাইরে যেখানেই থাকুন এবার একখণ্ড জমির মালিক বা একসাথে একটি বাড়ি নির্মাণ করতে পারেন সহজেই। যার প্রতিটি ফ্ল্যাটেই থাকবে ঘনিষ্ঠজন, দেখা হবে, আড্ডা হবে, বন্ধুত্ব পাবে এক স্থায়ী ঠিকানা। আর এই প্রয়াসে পাশেই আছে ন্যাশনাল হাউজিং, আরেক বন্ধু হয়ে।

গ্রুপ হোম লোন

- জমি ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে জমির মূল্যের ৩০% এবং নির্মাণের ক্ষেত্রে নির্মাণব্যয়ের ৭০% পর্যন্ত ঋণ দেয়া হবে
- কোনো গ্রুপের আগে থেকেই জমি থাকলে, নির্মাণব্যয়ের ৮৫% পর্যন্ত ঋণ পেতে পারেন
- ঋণের সময়সীমা সর্বোচ্চ ২০ বছর

ন্যাশনাল হাউজিং ফাইন্যান্স
আপনার গৃহস্থান সহযোগী