



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Water being illegally sold for Tk 30 per barrel on being extracted from a deep tube well in New Market area of Chittagong city yesterday. The tail end buyers are owners of restaurants, hotels and households who pay from Tk 100 to Tk 150 for each barrel. The price increases with demand during the dry season.

### Bengal Lights launches April

A non-fiction featuring perspectives of an Aussie living in Dhaka and a Bangladeshi in Amherst CITY DESK

The Bengal Lights on Saturday launched "April" -- a non-fiction commentary on life by co-authors Andrew Eagle and Tulip Chowdhury - at a ceremony held at the capital's University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

Written as a shared diary, the book is an account of the month of April of 2015, featuring opposite perspectives of a Bangladeshi living in Massachusetts and an Australian living in Dhaka. With interactions between the two, the book "April" is less a diary and more a commentary on contemporary life and adaptation to change.

Among others, speakers included Dr AK Abdul Momen, former ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN, Dr Faheem Hasan Shahed of American International University Bangladesh and Aasha Mehreen Amin, deputy editor (editorial and op-ed) at The Daily Star.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE.

### Trace IT expert Zoha ASK urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed its deep concern over the disappearance of IT expert Tanveer Hassan Zoha, who was allegedly picked up on early Thursday.

In a statement, ASK demanded that the government and law enforcement agencies do their best to trace him. "It is the government's constitutional duty to ensure security for each citizen," the statement says.

The 32-year-old information technology expert was allegedly picked up by plainclothes men around 1:00am from Dhaka Cantonment area while he was returning to his Kalabagan house with a friend by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

Afterwards, the family went to three police stations to file a general diary but police allegedly refused to accept it.

The incident occurred a couple of days after Tanveer spoke to the media over the cyber heist of the Bangladesh Bank reserve. In media reports, he was identified as an official of the ICT division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology. The ICT division, however, in a statement, dismissed reports of his affiliation with it.

### Muggers kill bKash sales rep

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The criminals pushed Tuhin on the ground and brandished a gun at Mahub asking for the money. As Mahub denied giving it they shot him in the shoulder and fled with the money, he added. Mahub was declared dead at Kurmitola General Hospital. Mahub, of Barisal, was a resident of Madya Badda.

### Global warming, absence

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of allowing people to do business with it.

Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin and lawmakers AKM Fazlul Haque and Yasin Ali addressed the programme, chaired by Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir.

### Rampal power plant's small replica burnt at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation burnt a small replica of Rampal thermal power plant on Dhaka University campus, urging government to refrain from constructing the coal-based power plant which environmentalists warn would pose a grave risk towards the Sunderbans.

President of the platform, Saikat Mollik, urged the government to immediately put a halt to its construction. They also brought out a rally, marking the Anti-imperialism Day.

### Hyper preoccupation with economic gain taking

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Dhaka is probably going through a destruction of social fabric and memories of the past and is not fitting into its shoe, he said.

Saif Ul Haque, an architecture educator and theorist in Bangladesh, said the connection with nature and culture was being ignored in the process of an obsessed economic preoccupation centered in and around Dhaka city.

A rapid transformation is taking place in Dhaka, being solely driven by economic activities without really realising what the consequences are going to be, he said.

One problem is when one plans a city and puts everything in the same basket, in the end, the city has to be dysfunctional, said noted analyst and writer Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University.

Dhaka's problem is that it is the hub of economic and other activities. It is also the political centre of the country. Everything is around it. Even the coast

guard is headquartered in Dhaka, he said.

"If political willingness is absent you cannot design a city which will address all the needs and desires of its dwellers...My answer to this is that a city must be honest to itself," he said.

"In a city where everyone is rushing, where everyone is just fending for themselves, when your education system does not teach you to open up to the community outside, where can you sustain the values?" said Prof Manzoorul.

The city has to provide civic amenities like education, transportation and space for day dreaming and just expand because economic needs are there, he said.

With public spaces vanishing, parks, playgrounds and open spaces have to be reclaimed from illegal occupation, he added.

"I believe Dhaka has to be taken out Dhaka, distributing the facilities and eliminating distance with virtual

connectivity," he said.

Naeem Mohaiemen, a historian and filmmaker at Columbia University in the US, said real estate developers in Bangladesh were not creating anything else other than some mere dwelling places and it was an unrealistic model of development with a bubbled up market.

Citing a leading economist, he also said the development in Bangladesh is geared around mere consumption and not production, he said.

It is very important to create new significant places to live in Dhaka but that is not happening, said Alberto Kalach, principal architect of TAX Mexico City in Mexico, adding, "And it is our task as architects to create such places."

The developers should be sensitised to the fact that money is not everything at the cost of quality, he said.

Suha Ozkan, a Turkish architect, writer, and former secretary general of Aga Khan Award for Architecture, also spoke.

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