

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2001

Anthrax: potential agent for biological warfare

Cause
Spore-forming bacteria (*Bacillus anthracis*) Most commonly occurs in animals. Can occur in humans exposed to infected animals or animal tissues.

Contamination
- Skin contact
- Inhalation
- Eating undercooked meat from infected animals

Symptoms
- Inhalation: Common cold, severe breathing problems, shock.
- Skin: itchy bump, becomes vesicle, then painless ulcer.
- Ingestion: Acute inflammation of intestinal tract, nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, abdominal pain.

Treatment
Vaccine 93% effective.
Early treatment with antibiotics helpful.

Diagnosis:
By isolating *B. anthracis* from the blood, skin lesions or respiratory secretions or by measuring antibodies in blood.

Source: CDC

Second Florida man infected with anthrax

AFP, West Palm Beach

A second Florida man has been infected with anthrax, state health officials announced yesterday, just days after a colleague at his newspaper job died from the deadly bacteria.

"The man does not have the illness but a nasal swab was done and he tested positive," said Frank Penela, a spokesman with Florida's Department of Health, said of the most recent case.

The second man, whose name was not released, has been hospitalized and was in stable condition. He was being tested to see how the bacteria had entered his system.

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease, with symptoms appearing usually within seven days of exposure. The most serious forms of the disease are cutaneous, intestinal and through inhalation—which is often fatal.

In the earlier case, Robert Stevens, an employee at the tabloid Sun newspaper, died Friday at a local hospital, apparently after inhaling anthrax spores, health authorities said.

"The bacterium was found on his keyboard," Penela said.

Penela added that the building had been closed while the 300 employees there were being tested for the disease.

Officials said victims can fall ill after exposure to naturally-occurring anthrax, but many fear that the bacteria is a potential weapon of choice for bioterrorists.

Scientists have warned that terrorists may be planning such attacks in the wake of the September 11 strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Health officials said after the initial anthrax outbreak however, that the case was isolated and not linked to any biological terrorist attack.

Blair orders British forces into action for third time

AFP, London

Britain's role in US-led strikes against Afghanistan means that for the third time in little over four years in power, Prime Minister Tony Blair has ordered British troops into conflict.

Blair did it in Operation Desert Fox in December 1998, four nights of raids alongside US forces designed to damage Iraq's capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction.

He did it again in 1999, when NATO—with Washington once again providing the bulk of the elements—launched weeks of strikes to drive Yugoslav forces out of Kosovo.

And this time, British forces joined in the first wave of attacks aimed at Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and Osama bin Laden, chief suspect for the bloody September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Each time, the reasons have been similar.

In 1998, Blair insisted there was no alternative to military action because "we have exhausted all other avenues."

In 1999, it was to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe after reports of the slaughter of ethnic Albanians in the restive Serbian province of Kosovo.

This time, it was to smoke out bin Laden as it was clear the Taliban would not give him up.

"There is no greater strength for a British Prime Minister and the British nation at a time like this to know the forces we are calling upon are amongst the best in the world."

MSF condemns confusion over humanitarian aid

AFP, Paris

The French-based aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) strongly condemned yesterday the "confusion" between the humanitarian and military operations US-led forces are conducting against Afghanistan, saying it puts at risk the future aid effort.

Sunday's airstrikes were "accompanied by what is described as a 'humanitarian' operation, designed to gain public support for the military action," the organisation said.

"This is not a humanitarian operation; it is part of a military campaign designed to gather international approval of the attacks led by the United States."

MSF, or Doctors Without Borders, said the dropping of cases of drugs and food by night—without knowing who was to collect them—was "virtually useless—and may even be dangerous."

"What sense is there in shooting with one hand and distributing medicines with the other? How will the Afghan population know in the future if an offer of humanitarian aid does not hide a military operation?" it said.

"Furthermore, the confusion between military and humanitarian operations only increases the danger for already complicated humanitarian action, limiting even further the possibilities of intervention," the organisation, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999, said.

No news on British journalist in Afghanistan

AFP, London

Britain has no news of the journalist Yvonne Ridley, who was detained by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said yesterday after a night of air strikes against the regime.

He said the situation was "very, very difficult."

"Clearly we have very few links into Afghanistan," he continued. "We have been unable to confirm reports that the Taliban intended, or intend, to release her and we are obviously making every effort that we can to clarify the situation through our High Commission in Islamabad."

The Taliban had said before Sunday's strikes that it would release Ridley, who was detained late last month for entering the country illegally, to British authorities on Monday.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said earlier that he had had no news either about her fate.

"I feel terribly for the family. They've been on a kind of roller-coaster of hope and emotion," he said.



Sir Paul Nurse, left, Director General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Dr Tim Hunt, (Picture R) head of cell cycle control at the fund are photographed after learning of having won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in Nurse's laboratory in London yesterday. Sir Paul Nurse and Tim Hunt share the award with American Dr Leland H. Hartwell (Picture L) Director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle.

N Ireland govt heading toward long-threatened collapse

AFP, Belfast

Northern Ireland's power-sharing government lurched toward its long-threatened collapse yesterday as Protestant leader David Trimble said Unionist ministers were set to resign early next week.

The province's Assembly was debating a motion put forward by the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party to expel the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Fein from the Belfast administration over the IRA's refusal to disarm.

It was expected to fail, as under the complex assembly rules such a motion requires cross-community support, and Catholic members have already said they would not back the move.

Ulster Unionist leader Trimble confirmed earlier threats that if the motion failed, he would withdraw his ministers from the government.

Such a move would cause the collapse of the institutions, as the Unionists are the largest party.

"If the motion does not receive the requisite cross-community support, then I and my party colleagues will act accordingly," Trimble told the assembly.

"We will at first withdraw, and secondly the Ulster Unionist ministers will resign. This procedure will be followed with the objective of bringing about the complete and indefinite suspension of this assembly."

Sinn Fein has two ministers in the executive. The Ulster Unionists have three, the hardline Protestant Democratic Unionists two, and the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party another two.

Trimble said his ministers would not attend cabinet meetings, and at the beginning of next week he would formally announce their resignation.

In a reference to Sinn Fein, he said: "The simple fact of retaining a private army in itself indicates there is not a commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic means."

He said he believed the motion was not about IRA decommissioning. "It is about the battle for the leadership of Unionism at this difficult time for Unionism."

Blair to speak to Al-Jazeera TV station

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is to speak today to Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television station to explain the reasons for the US-led attacks against Afghanistan, his spokesman said yesterday.

The interview will be recorded at 2:00 pm (1800 BST), the spokesman said, while the station said it would be aired between 1930 and 2030 BST.

Ethiopia gets new president

AFP, Addis Ababa

Lieutenant Girma Wolde-Giorgis, 76, was elected by parliament to the titular post of president of Ethiopia yesterday, replacing Negasso Gidada.

Girma was once speaker of parliament during the reign of the late Haile Selassie, the last emperor of Ethiopia.

He was elected unopposed and by acclamation after his nomination was put before parliament by Ethiopia's ruling coalition, an AFP journalist reported.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES										OCTOBER 08, 2001									
DSE					CSE					DSE					CSE				
Company	FV/ML (Tk.)	Price (Tk.)	Change (%)	Turnover (Share)	Company	FV/ML (Tk.)	Price (Tk.)	Change (%)	Turnover (Share)	Company	FV/ML (Tk.)	Price (Tk.)	Change (%)	Turnover (Share)	Company	FV/ML (Tk.)	Price (Tk.)	Change (%)	Turnover (Share)
BANK																			
AB Bank Ltd.	1005	232.25	0.54	232.00	18720	218.00	Not Traded	---	261000	21.6	12.5	---	---	---	261000	21.6	12.5	---	---
IFC Bank Ltd.	1005	377.00	-0.26	378.00	595	390.00	Not Traded	---	507099	23.3	---	---	---	---	507099	23.3	---	---	---
Islami Bank BD Ltd.	1000	2800.00	0.04	2799.00	516	2800.00	Not Traded	---	720801	35.6	25.0	---	---	---	720801	35.6	25.0	---	---
National Bank Ltd.	10020	2735.25	-0.36	2765.00	17020	2802.25	-0.27	2810.00	4860	23.06	51.30	---	---	---	23.06	51.30	---	---	---
Pabali Bank Ltd.	1005	275.75	-0.81	278.00	2315	300.00	Not Traded	---	300900	12.4	---	---	---	---	300900	12.4	---	---	---
Rapali Bank Ltd.	10010	90.00	0.00	90.00	3390	94.75	Not Traded	---	120501	24	---	---	---	---	120501	24	---	---	---
UCBL	1005	163.00	1.88	160.00	1490	164.00	Not Traded	---	150999	15.6	---	---	---	---	150999	15.6	---	---	---
Utara Bank Ltd.	1005	349.25	0.07	349.25	570	Not Listed	---	---	912000	9.0	---	---	---	---	912000	9.0	---	---	---
IDLC Ltd.	10020	500.00	-0.86	509.50	20	492.00	Not Traded	---	220501	4.7	30.0	---	---	---	220501	4.7	30.0	---	---
Eastern Bank Ltd.	10020	297.00	0.68	295.00	180	---	Not Traded	---	050801	28.6	---	---	---	---	050801	28.6	---	---	---
Utara Finance and Inv.	1005	268.50	0.99	268.25	500	242.75	Not Traded	---	290501	28.3	20.0	---	---	---	290501	28.3	20.0	---	---
Al Arifa Islami Bank	10005	392.25	-0.55	1400.00	120	1447.00	Not Traded	---	211100	18.1	12.0	---	---	---	211100	18.1	12.0	---	---
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	396.75	0.13	396.25	6750	395.00	3.98	380.00	50	070401	72.0	30.0	---	---	070401	72.0	30.0	---	---
Southeast Bank Ltd.	10050	284.50	0.35	282.50	4780	286.50	0.97	283.75	1300	080801	52.3	25.0	---	---	080801	52.3	25.0	---	---
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	10050	374.25	0.02	375.00	1600	325.00	Not Traded	---	260501	07.0	25.0	---	---	---	260501	07.0	25.0	---	---
NCC Bank Ltd.	10050	228.00	0.00	228.00	1500	229.75	-0.22	229.25	13350	280501	23.4	---	---	---	280501	23.4	---	---	---
Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd.	10050	450.00	-1.15	455.25	2400	510.00	Not Traded	---	---	14.8	---	---	---	---	---	14.8	---	---	---
INVESTMENT																			
5th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	239.00	0.00	239.00	100	196.50	Not Traded	---	027100	26.6	21.0	---	---	---	027100	26.6	21.0	---	---
1st ICB Mutual Fund	10010	175.00	0.57	174.00	100	160.00	Not Traded	---	027100	22.4	15.0	---	---	---	027100	22.4	15.0	---	---
2nd ICB Mutual Fund	10010	100.00	1.01	99.00	420	91.00	Not Traded	---	---	5.29	6.00	---	---	---	---	5.29	6.00	---	---
AIMS Fd.	12500	1.08	-4.42	1.134212500	1.11	2.63	1.147345000	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ENGINEERING																			
Ataf Automobiles Ltd.	1005	232.50	0.00	232.50	325	220.00	Not Traded	---	141200	18.9	16.0	---	---	---	141200	18.9	16.0	---	---
Azi Paper Mills	1005	159.50	0.00	159.50	4720	158.00	Not Traded	---	310501	7.35	10.0	---	---	---	310501	7.35	10.0	---	---
Olympic Industries Ltd.	1005	139.50	0.56	139.00	8615	138.00	-4.83	145.00	150	091001	2.26	15.0	---	---	091001	2.26	15.0	---	---
Meghna Lamps Ltd.	1005	486.00	-4.82	425.50	10	Not Traded	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Eastern Cables Ltd.	1005	144.50	-0.17	144.75	3810	147.50	Not Traded	---	230601	10.7	12.0	---	---	---	230601	10.7	12.0	---	---
Singer Bangladesh Ltd.	1005	366.00	-1.05	1380.50	180	180.00	Not Traded	---	280501	72.2	80.0	---	---	---	280501	72.2	80.0	---	---
BD. Avtoracs Ltd.	1005	24.00	0.00	24.00	425	21.25	Not Traded	---	311200	37	---	---	---	---	311200	37	---	---	---
Quasem Drycells Ltd.	1005	23.10	0.43	23.00	6000	23.10	40.43	23.30	357000	141200	1.13	10.0	---	---	141200	1.13	10.0	---	---
Renwick Jewellers Ltd.	1005	18.75	-2.60	19.25	100	---	Not Traded	---	267100	24	---	---	---	---	267100	24	---	---	---
National Tubes Ltd.	10050	545.00	4.28	520.75	530	470.00	Not Traded	---	310501	35.2	35.0	---	---	---	310501	35.2	35.0	---	---
BD. The Aluminium Ltd.	10010	20.50	0.25	20.10	1270	20.00	Not Traded	---	270901	91.8	20.0	---	---	---	270901	91.8	20.0	---	---
Anchor Galvanizing Ltd.	10050	160.25	-0.93	161.75	100	175.00	Not Traded	---	080301	14.4	10.0	---	---	---	080301	14.4	10.0	---	---
Key & Que (BD) Ltd.	10050	166.25	0.76	165.00	2750	160.00	68.22	107.00	200	280900	1.61	---	---	---	280900	1.61	---	---	---
Wonder Land Toys Ltd.	10050	29.00	1.75	28.50	1150	28.00	Not Traded	---	201200	-5.9	---	---	---	---	201200	-5.9	---	---	---
Gamma Textile Ltd.	10050	24.00	0.00	24.00	25000	24.10	20.00	4500	020801	18.7	16.0	---	---	---	020801	18.7	16.0	---	---
FOOD & ALLIED																			
Alpha Tobacco Ltd.	10050	70.00	1.40	50.00	500	46.50	Not Traded	---	200301	2.82	30.0	---	---	---	200301	2.82	30.0	---	---
Apar Foods Ltd.	1005	359.25	-1.58	365.00	595	355.00	-5.33	375.00	10	091200	16.0	10.0	---	---	091200	16.0	10.0	---	---
Tropic Industries Ltd.	1005	51.00	2.51	49.75	1265	52.00	Not Traded	---	091000	-25	---	---	---	---	091000	-25	---	---	---
Bangas	1005	261.75	1.26	258.50	285	280.00	Not Traded	---	211100	12.4	15.0	---	---	---	211100	12.4	15.0	---	---
BELC Mutual Fund	10050	126.75	0.19	126.50	1250	126.25	2.98	130.00	120	201200	13.9	15.0	---	---	201200	13.9	15.0	---	---
BATCEL	1005	134.90	0.97	133.60	500	131.00	Not Traded	---	190600	5.72	40.0	---	---	---	190600	5.72	40.0	---	---
Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills	10050	5.70	-4.56	6.10	200	---	Not Traded	---	241000	-75	---	---	---	---	241000	-75	---	---	---
Tulip Dairy & Food Ltd.	10010	80.00	0.00	80.00	220	---	Not Traded	---	050300	-8.8	---	---	---	---	050300	-8.8	---	---	---
Beximco Fisheries Ltd.	10020	63.00	0.00	63.00	320	62.00	Not Traded	---	200601	3.69	50.0	---	---	---	200601	3.69	50.0	---	---
Bengal Biscuits Ltd.	10020	50.00	0.00	50.00	920	51.00	-0.49	51.25	160	270501	-7.3	---	---	---	270501	-7.3	---	---	---
Meghna Shrimp	10020	126.75	0.19	126.50	1250	126.25	2.98	130.00	120	201200	13.9	15.0	---	---	201200	13.9	15.0		