

# Old 2-taka note poses silent health threat

UNB, Dhaka

The overused and soiled two-taka notes have become a silent public health threat, as those contain huge third generation antibiotic-resistant bacteria, says a study.

According to the study, each old filthy two-taka note contains 180 to 200 crore bacteria most of which are antibiotic-resistant that might play a role in transmission of potentially harmful organisms in human body.

Dr Shahdat Hossain, associate professor of Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Jahangirnagar University, revealed the findings following a three-month laboratory research on two-taka notes.

After randomly collecting two-taka notes from rickshaw-pullers, street vendors and grocery shops in Dhaka city, Shahdat and his associates found that all the two-taka notes were contaminated with bacteria, and most importantly they failed to kill the bacteria by third generation antibiotics such as cefixime, cephalixin and cephalosporin.

Laboratory tests were carried out at the university laboratory using standard microbiologic techniques.

A more complex study involving molecular biologic methods is underway.

However, this study highlighted the possibility that money can be a vehicle for rapid spread of bacteria such as Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Enterobacter, Pseudomonas and other types that can pose serious infection risks in hospitalised or immune-compromised patients.

Two-taka notes are widely used and each is exchanged many times. Dhaka is the world's most populated city. So, here it would be barely seen that one hasn't used it, the study says.

Dr Shahdat who got gold medals from Bangladesh Academy of Science and

Third World Academy of Science said, "What should we do with the dirtiest paper currency particularly with the two-taka notes? Isn't it the time for literal money laundering? The answer is, yes."

The "overused and soiled" currency can transmit serious infections. "Although the germs on money have the potentials to contaminate people, there are no documented cases that it has," Shahdat said.

Although the clinical significance of bacterial contamination of paper currency is unknown, transmission of resistant organisms from person to person could cause a clinically significant infection, especially if an individual is

hospitalised or has a weakened immune system.

The increased prevalence of bacterial resistance to antibiotics in Bangladesh might have a relation with the spread of resistance bacteria to its population.

Setting up of currency disinfection systems to reduce cross-infection and the spread of bacteria from contact currency may thus reduce the possibility of people becoming infected by the bacteria from currency in circulation.

In Japan or Australia, money pressed in ATM is passed between rollers for one-tenth of a second at 392° F, enough to kill many bacteria. Plastic currency appears to be inhospitable to germs.

Another option is to launder money-literally, like the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, which took emergency action in an effort to stop the spread of SARS.

Money is also sterilised by being placed under ultraviolet light for an hour. Or, coin, which is very hard and dry, could be carried as it is not terribly hospitable to bacteria, and many metals have antibacterial activity.

Instead of avoiding or cleaning money, the best protection is to wash hands with soap regularly.

Experts said that the Bangladesh Bank should be prompt about replacing worn-out, filthy notes with new paper money.



Professor Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Shahriar Kabir and on his left are Justice Golam Rabbani and Barrister Tania Ameer.

# Shibir's attack is similar to BDR carnage

Says Prof Kabir Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury yesterday said the barbaric attack and killing by the Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres at Rajshahi University (RU) is similar to the carnage at BDR Headquarters in February last year.

"The nature of both the attacks is the same. The Shibir cadres dumped the body of a BCL worker into a manhole like the killers did during the BDR carnage. Shibir's brutal acts reminds us of the BDR massacre," he said at a press conference.

If the war criminals had been punished, such brutality would not have taken place, he said and urged the govern-

ment to take immediate steps to start the trial of war criminals.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury also said Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami held a meeting in Rajshahi just two days before the brutal attack by the Shibir. The attack took place after the meeting.

He also said that Jamaat uses religion only to gain their personal interests.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium to express its stance on the legal notice against Nirmul

Committee acting president Shahriar Kabir for making a documentary titled 'Portrait of Jihad'. Jamaat secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed served the legal notice.

Shahriar Kabir said he would not reply to the legal notice. "If Mojaheed wants to go to court, he can do it. I will take action accordingly," he said.

Quoting from a newspaper report, Shahriar said intelligence agencies of different countries have listed the Islami Chhatra Shibir as a terrorist organisation.

Justice Golam Rabbani and Barrister Tania Ameer were present at the press conference.

# Declare Shibir terrorist body

SCBA urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday demanded of the government to declare Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam, a terrorist organisation for their terrorist activities, including allegedly killing of a student at Rajshahi University (RU).

The SCBA leaders at a meeting also demanded immediate arrest of the criminals involved in the killing of RU student Faruk Hossain and exemplary punishment to the killers.

Termining Islami Chhatra Shibir a defeated and fanatic communal force, the body of the SC lawyers urged the people to come forward to

resist this organisation.

The SCBA adopted a resolution at the meeting strongly condemning the RU incidents and killing of a student and cutting tendons of some students.

The gruesome incidents of RU reminded the brutality of 1971 Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators the resolution said.

The meeting was held at south hall of the SCBA with its president AFM Mesbahuddin in the chair.

M Amir-Ul Islam, Mansurul Huq Chowdhury, SM Rezaul Karim, Momtajuddin Ahmed Mehedi, Azherullah Bhuiyan, Rabiul Alam Budu, Moksadul Islam and Apurba Bhattacharya spoke at the meeting.

## ADMISSION TRADE

# Dhaka College BCL committee dissolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) dissolved yesterday its Dhaka College unit for some anti-organisational activities.

The tenure of the committee expired over five years ago.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon told The Daily Star that the Dhaka College unit was dissolved for committing some anti-organisational activities.

The committee was formed on August 31 in 2002 for two years term with Sagor Ahmed as president and Arifuzzaman Tutul as general secretary.

Members of the Dhaka College unit of the ruling party's student wing have been allegedly involved in admission trade on the campus and have halted the admission process of first year honours examinations in the college several times this year.

**1st Time in Bangladesh**  
@  
**COX'S BAZAR SEA BEACH**



Enjoy with Your Family

- Buffet Lunch
- Dinner & lots of ...

Hurry For Booking NOW ..

**KEARI Tours & Services Ltd.**  
HOTLINES: 01817-048597  
01814-658273 01817-148335  
01817-210422 01817-210423  
01817-210424 01817-210428  
01819-379083 01817-210421  
01817-210426 01817-210427  
01817-210425 01817-145875  
E-mail: tourismkeari@yahoo.com  
Web: www.tourismkeari.com

Inviting Nominations for **DHL** The Daily Star **Bangladesh Business Awards 2009**

Nomination Deadline: February 20, 2010

**Celebrating the 10th year**  
Get the recognition of your business, nothing succeeds like success

**Rules of Eligibility**  
The awardees should be involved in private business enterprise and must be a Bangladeshi citizen or ordinarily a resident in Bangladesh. He/ she must have clean banking and tax records. There is no restriction on age or race. In case of Enterprise Award, only Bangladeshi companies will be considered with published balanced sheets. In case of financial institution Award, Bangladeshi and joint venture financial institutions, a company incorporated in Bangladesh for carrying out business activities jointly by a Bangladeshi and foreign investors will be considered. The shares of the company are to be held by Bangladeshi and foreign shareholders as per the joint agreement. The Bangladeshi investor must have invested at the start up capital of the company. Shareholding by Bangladeshi shareholder(s) as a nominee shareholder/subsidiary company will not fall under this category.

**Selection Process**  
An independent eleven-member jury panel comprising of leading intellectuals, business persons, academicians, lawyers, financial

experts and eminent personalities with high social standing, credibility and prestige including CEO's of the two sponsoring organizations shall select the winners.

**Criteria**

**Business Person of the Year**  
The nominee will be selected for his/her leadership, financial performance, personal qualities, managerial skills and contribution to Bangladesh's development in financial performance, the nominee must have made outstanding contribution to a substantial increase in the returns on shareholders' funds. In case of a private company or sole proprietorship, he/she must have contributed to an improvement in return on capital invested. Personal qualities will include integrity, entrepreneurial abilities and personal leadership. Managerial skills will depend on tenacity, innovation, determination, adaptability and depth of management.

**Outstanding Woman in Business**  
The nominee must be an entrepreneur who has proven her capability to successfully establish and run a business on her own. She must be a person of integrity, tenacity, and her success should be a source of inspiration for others. She must be an example to others that women can be successful in business against all odds that they are faced with. Focus would also be given on her dimension,

innovation, determination, adaptability and depth of management.

**Enterprise of the Year**  
Open to small and medium-sized companies, the nominee will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company either in products, services or new markets. In financial performance/productivity, the enterprise must have made outstanding growth in profit. Company management will focus on creative management style in developing harmonious relations within the organization.

**Best Financial Institution of the Year**  
Open to financial institutions-commercial Banks, insurance companies and leasing companies. The nomination will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean the success of the institution in innovation of products, services or new markets. In financial performance or productivity, the company must have an outstanding and sustainable growth in profit. The company must also have clean banking, client and tax records. In the area of management, the company must display an effective management style and have a track record of establishing and maintaining harmonious relations within the organization and set examples for the industry. The company should have made positive contribution to Bangladesh's development and

corporate social responsibility programs.

**Lifelong Achievement**  
S/he must have made a lifelong outstanding contribution over the last several decades to the entrepreneurial landscape of Bangladesh and is considered a role model in business and corporate world. S/he should have a pioneering role in the sector/s that they are involved through their tenacity and sustainability in the entrepreneurship aspect.

The business concerns that s/he leads should be of very high ethical standards, should show emulative CSR programs, prudent management practices contributing to stability of the company and exceptional contribution to the economy of Bangladesh. The business establishment s/he leads must bear the hallmarks of their own style of thinking and should be highly regarded for its financial performance, market positioning and clean records.

**The decisions of the Jury shall be final and binding and cannot be contested. Please fill the attached form and send it to:**

**BBA Secretariat c/o DHL EXPRESS**  
4-5<sup>th</sup> floor, Molly Capita Center, 76 Bir Uttam Mir Showket Road Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh  
Tel: 9895810, Fax: 8823248, e-mail: bbawards@dhl.com  
Web: www.dhl.com.bd ; www.thedailystar.net  
www.dhl.com.bd ; www.thedailystar.net

**The Nomination Goes to . . .**

**Business Person of the Year 2009**  
Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : \_\_\_\_\_

**Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2009**  
Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : \_\_\_\_\_

**Enterprise of the Year 2009**  
Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Financial Institution of the Year 2009**  
Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : \_\_\_\_\_

**Lifelong Achievement**  
Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone : \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Deadline February 20, 2010**