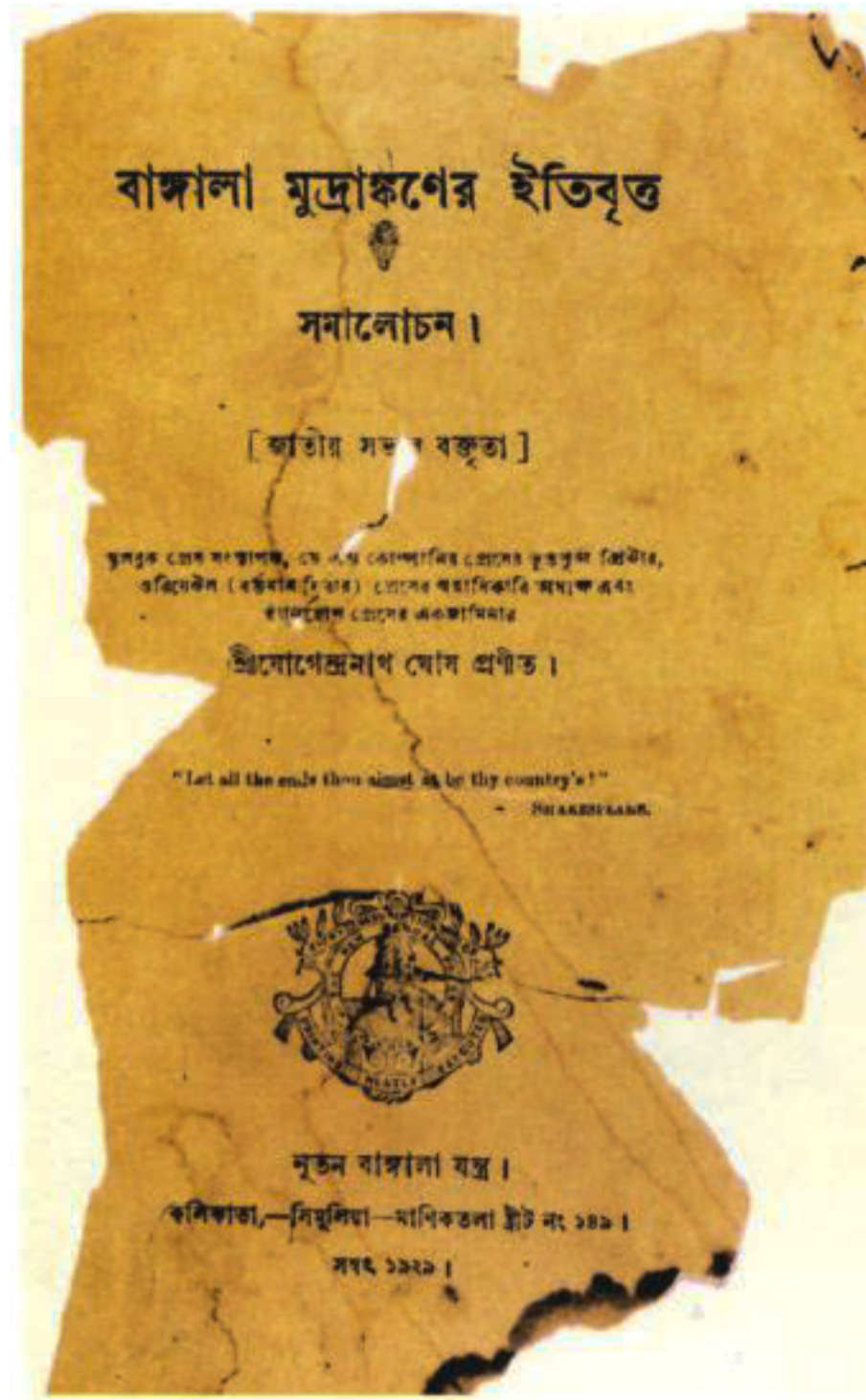


Before the advent of modernism in undivided South Asia, *puthi* was the only source of entertainment. Be it a feudal lord or a farmer, the mesmerising recitation of a sing-song *puthi* would make one cry, laugh and dream about faraway lands. The narration would have an emblematic representation of a society that would connect people with their existing traditions. In many cases the local translator or the facsimile copy would intentionally place his or her own cultural elements into the story. Even today, a *puthi* is recited or sung with the same fervour.

A *puthi* usually comprises of chronicles of the Arab peninsula or narrations of religious elements - which did not originate from our culture. The stories reached Bengal via a traveller's journey and a trader's accounts. Tales also reached the region through wars and warfare. Because of the religious value, the stories became a part of our own.

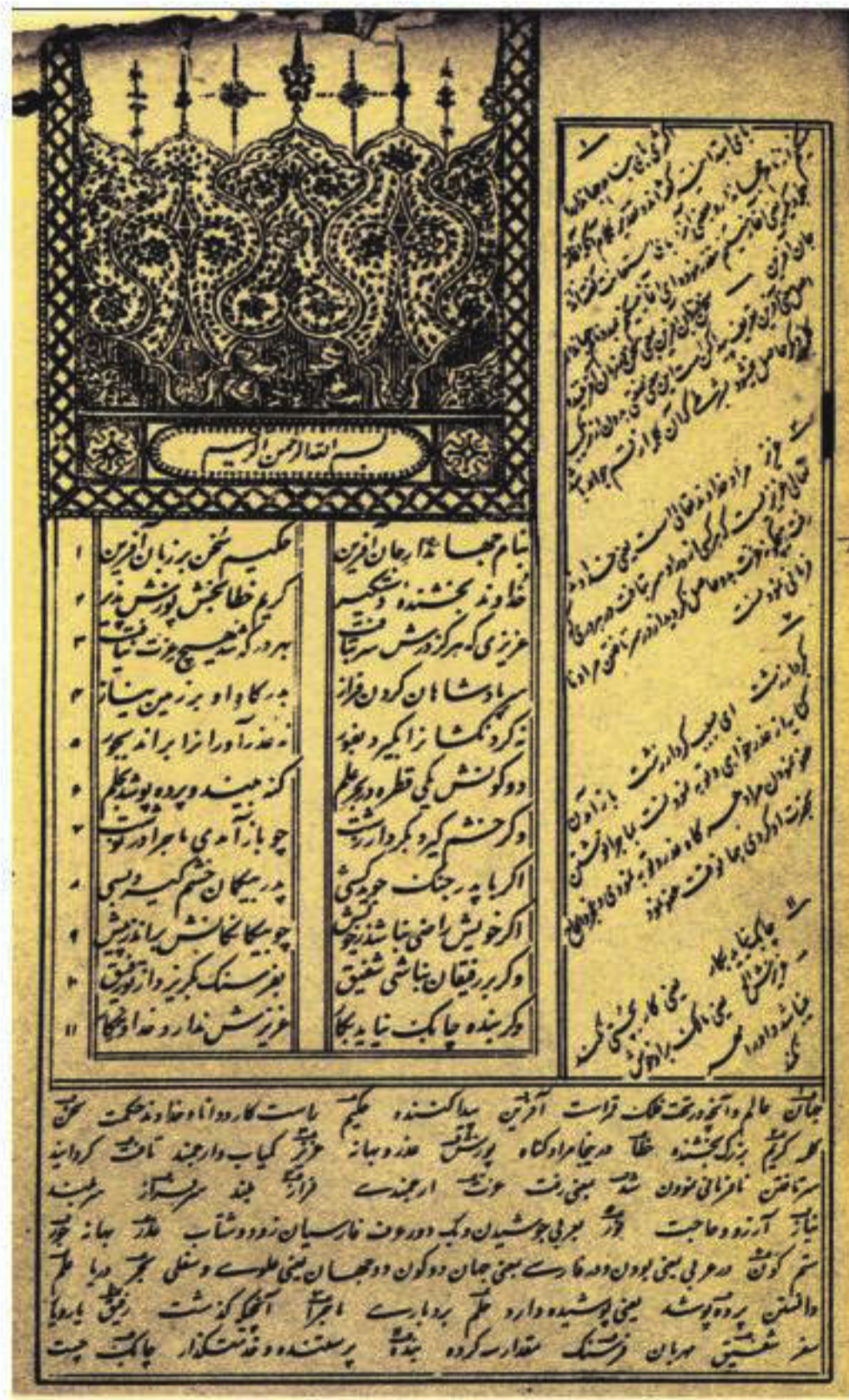
However, the emergence of the print capital in Europe in the 15th century, proliferated by a capitalist market place, has had a unique impact on the oral tradition of storytelling. The revolutionary change also hit the Indian sub-continent in the middle of the 18th century,



# HERITAGE

## 'PUTHI' IN THE WAKE OF NATIONALIST MOVEMENT

ANANTA YUSUF



contributing a lot to the changes of the pattern of the oral information-dissemination-system.

As a result, hand-written copies of the *puthi* were replaced by the printing press. The oral tradition of the *puthi path* survived for a while but started to decay from the beginning of the 20th century. However, the national conscience that began to develop with the help of the print capital and with other modern forces, formed a drive to collect *puthis* to

define its national cultural identity.

In his life time, the iconic *puthi* collector Munshi Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad, widens his efforts to define our cultural identity as he says, "*Puthi* represents a clear picture of a nation."

**Reference:**

1. Nera Battolai Jai Kawbar by Gautam Bhadra.
2. Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Rachanabali 2.
3. Bangali Mussalmaner Mon by Ahmed Sofa.

IMAGE COURTESY: NERA BATTOLAI JAI KAWBAR

**SYLVIA PLATH**  
October 27, 1932 – February 11, 1963

**“IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE.**

**WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SKIN IN THIS LIFE.**

**I TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND LISTENED TO THE OLD BRAY OF MY HEART. I AM. I AM. I AM.**

**WHEN YOU ARE INSANE, YOU ARE BUSY BEING INSANE – ALL THE TIME.”**

**POETRY COLLECTIONS**

- The Colossus and Other Poems (1960)
- Ariel (1965)
- Three Women: A Monologue for Three Voices (1968)
- Crossing the Water (1971)
- Winter Trees (1971)
- The Collected Poems (1981)
- Selected Poems (1985)

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

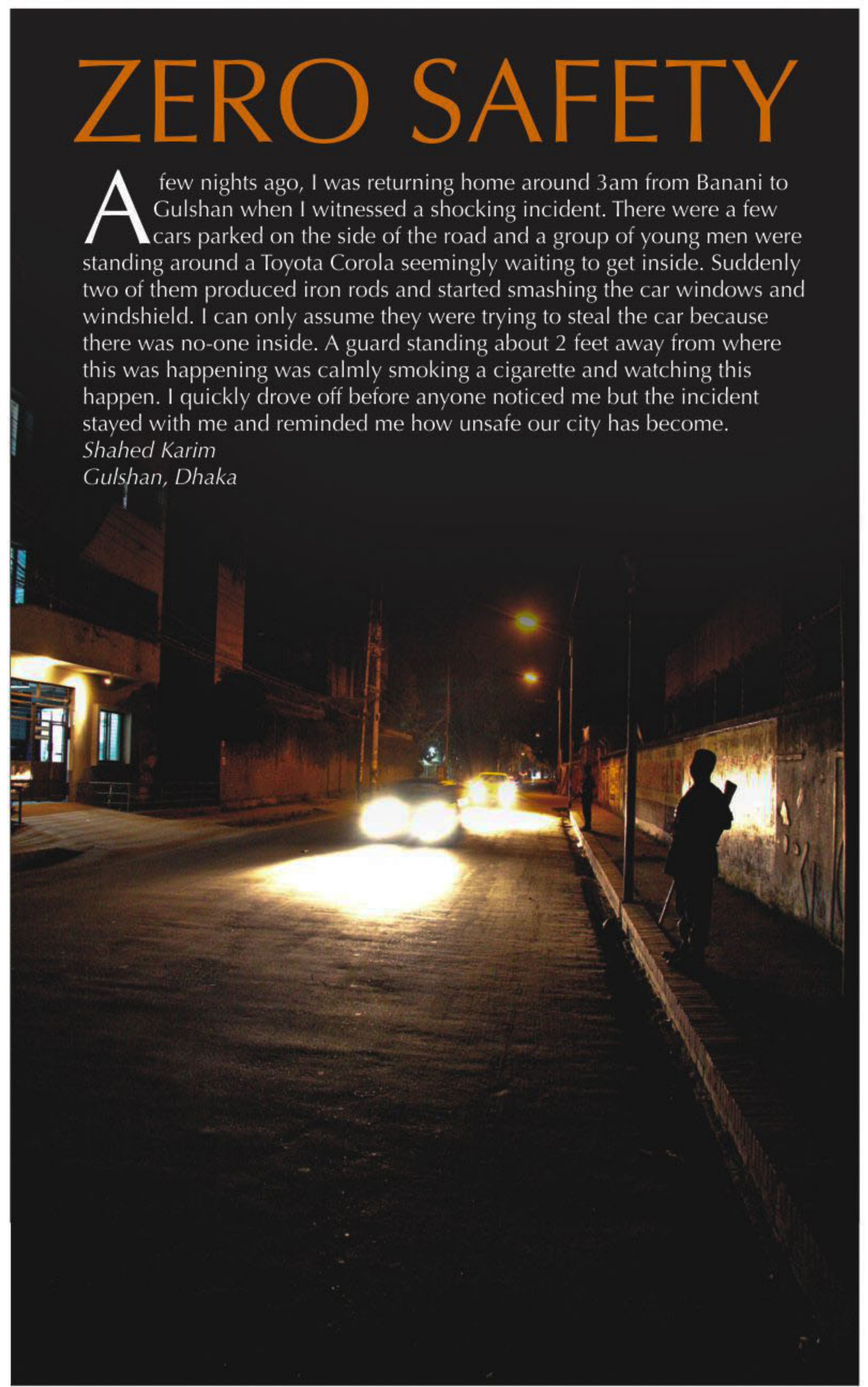


PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

## ZERO SAFETY

A few nights ago, I was returning home around 3am from Banani to Gulshan when I witnessed a shocking incident. There were a few cars parked on the side of the road and a group of young men were standing around a Toyota Corolla seemingly waiting to get inside. Suddenly two of them produced iron rods and started smashing the car windows and windshield. I can only assume they were trying to steal the car because there was no-one inside. A guard standing about 2 feet away from where this was happening was calmly smoking a cigarette and watching this happen. I quickly drove off before anyone noticed me but the incident stayed with me and reminded me how unsafe our city has become.

Shahed Karim  
Gulshan, Dhaka



PHOTO: INTERNET

HONESTY OF PURPOSE / GOOD GOVERNANCE ARE THE KEYS TO THE "SUCCESS"

MICRO CREDIT IS THE ORDER OF THE WORLD

"MICRO CREDIT" IS A WELL UNDERSTOOD "SUBJECT" BY THE "BENEFICIARIES"

**Term Deposits (MTDR)**

Profit Rate	Duration
10.00 %	03 Months
10.50 %	06 Months
11.00 %	01 Year
12.00 %	02 Years
Double	06 Years

\* Condition Apply

**The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.**  
Head Office  
19, Indira Road, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
Phone: 914-3318, 812-9438, 914-3727, Fax: +88-02-910-2124, E-mail: info@dmcbl.com

for details 01730-701608