

The Daily Star

BB suspends two for illegal trade of polymer notes

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday 'temporarily suspended' two of its staff on charge of involvement in illegal trading of new Tk 10 polymer bills at premium rates.

The two suspended BB employees are Md Humayun Kabir, officer of cash department and Sheikh Mohammad Alauddin, a caretaker of the same department, according to BB officials.

Amid widespread allegations that some BB officials are involved in illegal trading of new polymer notes, the central bank has also taken steps to find out which officials are involved in such unlawful practice, BB sources said.

According to BB officials, the security guards on Tuesday caught Humayun and Alauddin red handed while they were tak-

ing out a bag full of polymer notes after office time. Although the amount could not be confirmed, some BB officials said it could be between Tk 13,000 and Tk 15,000.

When the BB Governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin came to know of the incident he immediately asked the relevant department to take departmental action against the culprits. He also ordered a probe to find out if others are involved.

The BB officials are having hard times to deal with hundreds of people who come there everyday following the issuance of new Tk 10 polymer note on December 14.

On top of it, everyday they are receiving an increasing number of requests from high government officials including minis-

ters, bankers and journalists asking for one or two bundle of new Tk 10 polymer notes.

Although hundreds of people everyday throng the BB Motijheel office to collect the polymer note, only few of them get the bank-note.

However, from the first day of issuance the new Tk 10 polymer note is selling between Tk 15 and Tk 20 in the city. A bundle of 100 polymer note worth Tk 1000 sells at Tk 1400. However, similar bundles were available in Motijheel area at Tk 1100 each yesterday.

The introduction of the new polymer note triggered chaos and damage of windowpanes of the Bangladesh Bank's Motijheel office. Police had to intervene to disperse the agitating people who got frustrated after failing to get their hands on the hot bills.

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Scandal over Polymer notes BB suspends cash officer, caretaker

Bangladesh Bank yesterday suspended one of its officials and a caretaker over a scandal of doing business with newly introduced polymer notes of Tk 10 denomination, reports UNB.

The central bank put under suspension cash officer Humayun and caretaker Sheikh Mohammad Alauddin as a temporary measure for their involvement in helping brokers manage the new currency notes which are in great demand.

Officials nabbed the culprits with the notes amounting to around Tk 13,000 immediately after a hitching between the brokers and public in front of the bank's counter on Tuesday.

"Final punishment would be given after further investigation," said one official of the bank, which is looking for other culprits also.

Meanwhile, the bank management yesterday warned officials concerned not to distribute the currency for business purpose and asked them to make available the notes for all crazy for it.

People were seen taking the polymer notes from the counter of the bank's Motijheel office yesterday.