

FLOOD IN NORTH, NORTHEAST
Many yet to get relief materials
SEE PAGE 12

The Daily Star



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32 PERISHED IN BURIGANGA

Steering to DISASTER

With a novice at the helm, launch rams another causing capsizing near Sadarghat

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, RAFIUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A novice was allegedly at the helm moving the Moyur-2 astern when the vessel slammed into a smaller launch, causing it to sink and drown at least 32 people in the Buriganga at the capital's Shyambazar yesterday.

Many others are still feared missing.

In footage possibly from a security camera Moyur-2 was seen going in reverse quite fast when it rammed into the ill-fated Morning Bird, making it sink with over 50 people onboard.

It did not take more than a few seconds.

"It was a human error and gross negligence on the part of Moyur-2," said Manjurul Kabir, chief engineer and ship surveyor at the Shipping Department.

Officials said the entire crew managed to flee the scene.

"The accident might not have happened if the master were at the helm. We learnt that the person, who was there at that time, was a novice," Kabir said.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority seized the Moyur-2.

This has been the first major accident in a river after February 2015

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A relative of a victim cries while letting others know over the phone about the death of a loved one. A launch rammed another vessel near the capital's Sadarghat terminal yesterday causing the smaller vessel to sink. Inset, rescuers put one of the deceased inside a body bag near the scene.

PHOTO: REUTERS, FIROZ AHMED

Salvage ship can't clear Postogola bridge

Rams, cracks the bridge; returns to base

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Roads and Highway Department (RHD) restricted vehicular movement on one of the four lanes of First Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in the capital's Postogola since yesterday evening as a crack developed on it after being hit by a rescue ship.

The bridge was closed to traffic from 9:00pm.

The crash took place when Prottoy, a salvage ship of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), was going towards Sadarghat launch terminal from Narayanganj to rescue the capsized launch in the Buriganga River.

The ship could not eventually cross the bridge due to river swelling and returned to Narayanganj.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BANGLADESH UPDATE	4,014 New cases in 24hrs	1,41,801 Total cases	1,783 Deaths	57,780 Recoveries	GLOBAL UPDATE	505,512 Deaths	10,302,236 Total cases
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No one will be spared

PM warns against corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's zero tolerance policy against corruption will continue and none will be spared, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said in parliament.

She said, "We pledge to establish good governance and root out corruption."

"Honourable Speaker, I want to inform this August House through you that the government will continue its drives against corruption to continue the development trend of this country and uphold our achievements."

Hasina also said that her government had taken various measures for giving treatment to Covid-19 patients.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

An alternative way to trace Covid-19

Govt to use 270 TB detection machines available at district, upazila hospitals

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has started using tuberculosis diagnosis machine -- GeneXpert -- to detect Covid-19, in a desperate attempt to ease the strain on its testing facilities with limited number of RT-PCR machines.

The testing began on June 24 at the capital's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) after international organisation Global Fund supplied 10,000 kits, said officials.

GeneXpert is a portable machine and the test is easy and less time consuming. It takes around 45 minutes to show the results, said the officials, adding that a person's saliva samples are collected with a stick and the stick is then put in the cartridge of the machine for the test.

A PCR test, considered gold standard for Covid-19, needs around four to five hours to show the results.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt Hospitals Covid testing no more free of cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set fees, Tk 200 and Tk 500, for Covid-19 testing at the public health facilities.

The decision came into force immediately, said a circular issued on Sunday by the health ministry's Health Services Division.

It said most of the people, who were not showing any symptoms, underwent the test as it was being done for free. Given the circumstances, the authorities fixed the fees to avoid unnecessary testing.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Workers protest jute mill closure

Sit-in in front of state-run mills today; hunger strike planned

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Hundreds of jute mill workers yesterday took to the streets in Dhaka, Khulna and Chattogram, protesting the government decision to shut all state-run jute mills and lay off 25,000 workers.

Labour leaders said they would stage sit-ins in front of all state-run jute mills today and give the government a 24-hour ultimatum to revoke its decision.

"If the demand is not met, the workers will go on hunger strike in front of the gates of the jute mills all over the country," Sardar Abdul Hamid, convener of Bangladesh Jute Workers Protection CBA and Non-CBA Sangram Committee, told this newspaper.

Yesterday morning, jute mill workers along with their family members formed human chains in Khalishpur of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Pandemic 'is not even close to being over'

WHO chief says it is speeding up

REUTERS, Geneva

The COVID-19 pandemic is not even close to being over, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a briefing yesterday.

Tedros noted that, six months after China first alerted the WHO to a novel respiratory infection, the grim milestones of 10 million confirmed infections and 500,000 deaths had been reached.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A man pulls a rickshaw van loaded with plastic containers discarded by Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Every day, many traders collect such medical waste from hospitals across the port city and sell them in the local markets, each for around Tk 50, without properly washing them. This exposes people to bio hazards. The photo was taken in Kotwali area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

RT-PCR IN BARISHAL DIVISION

One lab for 1 crore

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Barishal division's only RT-PCR lab, set up at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, is struggling to examine samples, as the demand for Covid-19 tests rises.

Inaugurated in February, the lab with no virologist has only one RT-PCR machine and 11 technologists, and is testing only about half the samples collected in the division per day.

Dr AKM Akbar Kabir, in-charge of the lab and assistant professor of SBMC's microbiology department, told this correspondent that the RT-PCR machine can test 94 samples per shift.

"Currently, we can test 234 samples per day running three shifts. So far, we tested a total of 10,500 samples," he said on Sunday.

"The number of tests is increasing daily. Our technologists are working day and night. They can't even stay in quarantine. We need more trained technologists including a virologist," said the in-charge.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

All-time high new cases reported

45 more die; total infections now 1,41,801

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials yesterday reported an all-time daily high of 4,014 coronavirus infections.

The officially recorded death toll rose to 1,783 with the 45 new ones reported yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told the daily briefing.

In the 24 hours until 2:30pm yesterday, 65 labs across the country tested 17,837 samples.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AB Bank

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Board of Directors of AB Bank Limited (ABBL) in its 691st Meeting held on **June 29, 2020 (Monday)**, through video made the following decisions:

1. Adopted Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year 2019 and holding 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank:

Board declared the following financial indicators of the Bank (ABBL) in compliance with Regulation no. 19 of Dhaka Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 2015 and Chittagong Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 2015:

Financial Highlights	AB Bank Limited (Consolidated)		AB Bank Limited (Solo)	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Taka in Crore				
Profit Before Tax & Provision	647.11	343.94	644.97	307.51
Profit After Tax (PAT)	12.33	4.32	16.77	1.83
Net Asset Value (NAV)	2,402.84	2,388.53	2,284.05	2,265.05
Amount in Taka				
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	0.16	0.06	0.22	0.02
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	37.79	(9.14)	37.86	(9.01)
Net Asset Value Per Share (NAVPS)	31.69	31.51	30.13	29.88

Board also considered and approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 and recommended as below:

A) Cash Dividend : ---

B) Stock Dividend : 5.00% (Five Percent) to all the shareholders

a) Bonus shares has been recommended to strengthen the capital base of the company to support business growth and compliance of Bangladesh Bank DOS circular no. 03 dated May 11, 2020 on Dividend Policy for Banks for the year 2019.

b) Bonus shares are declared out of accumulated profit.

c) Bonus shares are not declared from capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned to incorporation of the company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earnings become negative or debit balance.

The Board also decided to hold the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank as per below schedule:

Record Date for entitlement of Dividend : August 10, 2020 (Monday)
 Day & Date of AGM : Tuesday, September 22, 2020
 Time and Venue of AGM : To be notified later

2. Changes of Articles of Association of the Bank (Article no:121) subject to Bangladesh Bank approval and shareholders' approval in the ensuing 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) as below:

Existing Article	Proposed Amendment
The quorum for the meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five (5) Directors actually present. In case of emergency, the meeting of the Directors may be held with a quorum of three (3) Directors present. Provided, however, there shall be no quorum in any meeting unless at least one Director (other than the Managing Director) from Group-A shareholders representing the interest of the Sponsors shall be present thereat.	The quorum for the meeting of the Board of Directors shall be four (4) Directors.
	In case of emergency, the meeting of the Directors may be held with a quorum of three (3) Directors.

Dated: Dhaka, 29th June 2020

AB Bank Limited
 BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
 www.abbl.com

By Order of the Board
 Sd/-
Manzurul Ahsan, FCS
 Company Secretary