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🖿 DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, BHADRA 26, 1427 BS 🔵 starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Banks beef up security to fend off hackers

SOHEL PARVEZ and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Banks have beefed up security, vigilance and monitoring to prevent hackers from stealing money after the central bank and the government alerted them about the fraudulent activities of a North Korean group.

Almost all banks have recently started keeping the service of automated teller machines (ATMs) and point of sales (POS) suspended from 12:00am to 7:00am after they were alerted that a North Korean hacker group named "Beagle Boys" is trying to steal money from banks around the world through ATM booths and fake transactions.

"We are centrally monitoring the activities of the ATMs. We have alerted our security guards manning the ATMs,' said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

Mutual Trust Bank is keeping its more than 350 ATMs shut during the eight-hour-period.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said the private commercial bank was keeping only seven ATMs - six in Dhaka and one in Chattogram - operational from mid-night to the morning out of a total of 62.

"We have beefed up both technological and physical vigilance. We have intensified monitoring.

Dhaka Bank switches off the operation of the Swift network, which facilitates transfers of funds, at night.

"We have been doing this since August 28," Huq said. Prime Bank has kept the service of its ATM booths

suspended at night since Tuesday, said Rahel Ahmed, managing director of the bank. "This is a temporary measure." Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) got the alert from the US and European computer incident response teams (CIRTs) on August 26 and it alerted Bangladesh Bank, banks and Financial Institutions Division of the finance

ministry the next morning.

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# Floods wash away Tk 900cr fish

Govt is yet to extend any support to farmers

SOHEL PARVEZ **LOSSES OF FISH** Repeated floods since the end of June have washed away Tk 510 crore **FARMERS** worth of fishes in the central, north and southern districts, according to the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

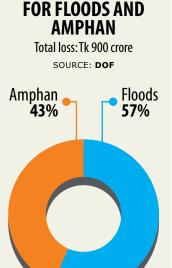
The deluge submerged nearly 100,000 ponds and fish enclosures

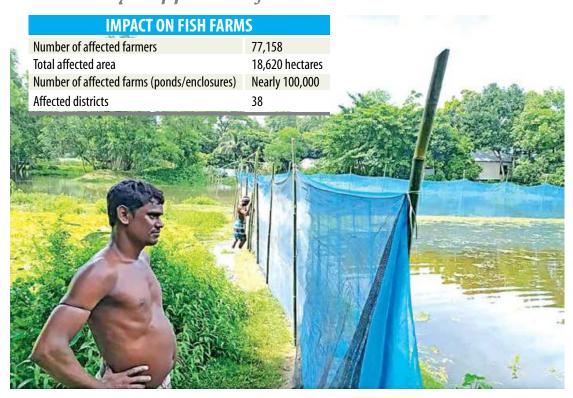
of 77,158 farmers. In terms of losses, aquaculture farmers in Dhaka were the hardest hit followed by farmers in Barishal,

Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions, according to data from the DoF. This is the second time in the year that natural disaster played havoc with the aquaculture farmers. In May, the cyclone Amphan wiped away dreams of 39,000 shrimp and fresh water farmers causing losses

of Tk 390 crore. Despite a combined loss of Tk 900 crore in 2020, the government is yet to announce any support for the affected fish producers whose endeavour has enabled Bangladesh to be one of the largest farmed fish producers in the world.

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### StanChart rolls out first blockchain remittance service

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Standard Chartered Bangladesh yesterday rolled out a blockchainpowered remittance service for Bangladeshis working in Malaysia to allow them to send money home on a real-time basis, without any hassle and at lower costs.

The bank has teamed up with Ant Group, one of the world's leading digital financial services providers based in Hangzhou, China; bKash, the top mobile financial service in Bangladesh, and Valyou, a financial technology company in Malaysia, to provide the service. The service is in the final stages of commercial testing and will be available to customers in Bangladesh and Malaysia soon, said the multinational lender in a press release.

The bank is the fund settlement bank and regulatory approvalholder for the service. Ant Group's applied blockchain technology helps streamline the remittance process, radically improving the speed of delivery and information



security and enhancing the transparency of the process.

"With our partners bKash, Valyou and Ant Group, we are delighted to be able to introduce a new-generation technological solution that will make the remittance experience simple and faster, by presenting the service available 24/7, including from the convenience of the remitters' mobile phones," said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

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### VIRTUAL



**HONOURING BUSINESS LEADERS** DURING **PANDEMIC** 

#### CALL FOR **NOMINATIONS**

THE CATEGORIES ARE:

- 1. BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2019
- 2. OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS **OF THE YEAR 2019**
- 3. ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR 2019
- 4. BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR 2019
- 5. YOUNG BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2019

The Daily Star and DHL have decided to hold their prestigious Business Award in the midst of the pandemic because we want to honour business leaders who, in spite of tremendous challenges and complying fully with health guidelines, are keeping the wheels of the economy running and thereby serving the nation and the people.

#### LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS IS OCTOBER 10, 2020.

\*ALL PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATIONS ALSO.

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