

Purchasing 4G, 5G smartphones made easier through bKash

STAR BUSINESS DESK

bKash, the leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider in Bangladesh, has joined hands with Grameenphone and City Bank to make 4G and 5G enabled smartphones more affordable for their clients.

Under this arrangement, bKash customers can avail City Bank's collateral-free nano-loan facility under the "Pay Later" option of the bKash app when purchasing smartphones from Grameenphone Experience Centres or other smartphone partner brand sales points having bKash merchant accounts.

Under the new service, customers will get a limit of Tk 500 to Tk 30,000 loans instantly through bKash app, according to a press release.

Customers can fully repay the amount in 7 days without any interest, if not, then that Pay Later will convert into a 3-month loan with a 9 percent interest per annum. In the 6-month repayment option, a customer needs to make an upfront payment of 20 percent of the total payable amount and the remaining 80 percent will be divided into six equal monthly instalments.

Solaiman Alam, chief digital officer of Grameenphone, said they are delighted to collaborate with bKash and City Bank



to introduce the service that makes 4G and 5G smartphones more accessible for customers.

"By offering flexible and affordable financing options, we are ensuring that more people can experience the benefits of a digitally connected society," he added.

Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash, said through this partnership,

they aspire to support customers and elevate their experiences in seamless connectivity and advanced digital services through smartphones.

"bKash will continue to work with accomplished partners like Grameenphone and City Bank to introduce more innovative products that can cater to the needs of the vast

customer base," he added.

Md Arup Haider, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at City Bank, said the Pay Later service is a perfect example of innovation executed together with multiple partners in the ecosystem to add significant value to customers' lives.

"Today, the robust technology and framework built by bKash and City Bank have taken banking services like loans and savings to a larger number of customers than conventional methods," he added.

The instalments will be paid automatically on the specified date of every month. Customers will also have the option of early repayment. A one-time processing fee would be applicable in Pay Later service.

In addition, Grameenphone is offering an affordable data pack designed to cater to the evolving digital needs for its customers using smartphones.

For just Tk 199, customers can access 7GB of data, consisting of 4GB regular data and 3GB for social media usage with a validity of 30 days.

This offer will be exclusively available through the MyGP app for 6 months from the tagging date. Customers can purchase this offer as many times as they want during this period.

WB chief says global lender must change

REUTERS, Sydney

World Bank President Ajay Banga said in a speech on Tuesday after visiting 27 countries from Peru to Tuvalu that the global lender needs to work faster and simplify its processes in a world experiencing greater polarisation.

Speaking at the Lowy Institute think tank in Sydney on Tuesday, Banga said his visit on Friday to Tuvalu in the South Pacific marked the end of a journey that began just over a year ago when he started in the job and promised to listen to voices in every region where the Washington-based lender operates.

"Though aspirations of people around the world are universal, we live in a world of greater polarisation and extremes," Banga said.

The countries he visited "need more and require us to be faster, simpler, and more impact oriented", he added, after meeting Pacific Islands leaders in Fiji last week, who said small island states sometimes struggled to meet World Bank requirements.

In Fiji, Banga visited chronically understaffed health clinics facing rising rates of non-communicable disease such as diabetes, an example of the importance of the bank's new focus on job creation. The bank's new targets include bringing affordable health care to 1.5 billion people by 2030.

The World Bank saw global challenges of climate change, inequality and fragility as intertwined, he said.

Krishi Bank launches credit card

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh Krishi Bank recently launched a credit card service at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

Md Shawkat Ali Khan, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the service, the bank said in a press release. Chanu Gopal Ghosh, Khan Iqbal Hossain and Salma Banu, deputy managing directors of the bank, were present.

Besides, divisional general managers, divisional audit officers, chief regional and regional managers and regional audit officers virtually joined the programme.

All general managers of the head office and local principal offices along with deputy general managers, leaders of the Anti-discrimination Jatiotabadi Officers' Forum and Bangladesh Krishi Bank Employees Union were also present.



Md Shawkat Ali Khan, managing director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a credit card service at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BANGLADESH KRISHI BANK

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (SEP 10, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 64-Tk 80	4.35 ↑	9.09 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 52-Tk 55	2.88 ↑	9.18 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 38-Tk 45	-2.35 ↓	-12.63 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	10.26 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 148-Tk 158	2.00 ↑	-2.86 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 52-Tk 60	-2.61 ↓	28.74 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 110-Tk 120	0	35.29 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 52-Tk 55	7.00 ↑	1.90 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

Mehmood Husain new chairman of IFIC Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Mehmood Husain has been elected the chairman of IFIC Bank PLC.

The election was held at the first meeting of the reconstituted board of directors of the bank at the bank's

head office in Dhaka recently.

This was the 894th board meeting of the bank, according to a press release.

Md Ebtadul Islam, Sajjad Zohir, Kazi Md Mahboob Kashem, Md Golam Mostofa and Md Monzorul Haque, directors of the bank, were

present at the meeting.

Among others, Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of the bank, Mokammel Hoque, company secretary, M Mozibbar Rahman, head of Internal Control & Compliance, and Dilip Kumar Mandal, chief financial officer, were also present.



Md Mehmood Husain, chairman of IFIC Bank PLC, presides over the first meeting of the reconstituted board of directors of the bank at its head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

EU scores 'big win' in court Import fertilisers

FROM PAGE B4

But Apple on Tuesday said there was no "special deal".

"We always pay all the taxes we owe wherever we operate," the company said in a statement.

"The European Commission is trying to retroactively change the rules and ignore that, as required by international tax law, our income was already subject to taxes in the US," it added.

The ruling is a blow for Apple as the iPhone maker had gained the upper hand in the Ireland case in 2020, when the EU's General Court annulled the order for it to pay the taxes owed.

Following an appeal by Brussels, the legal adviser of the higher European Court of Justice in November recommended scrapping the 2020 decision, saying it was peppered with legal errors.

The top court, which could have sent the case back to the lower court, decided to rule that Apple should pay the back-taxes.

The conclusion to the case spelled relief for Brussels, which has faced difficulties defending its tax enforcement moves in recent years, with previous cases lost against Amazon and Starbucks.

Vestager admitted she was "positively surprised" by the

decision but warned "there is still an occurrence of massive profit shifting into low tax territories".

She will be replaced later this year when the new European Commission takes office, and advised her successor to "make this one of many necessary priorities".

The EU fine against Google was one of several record penalties imposed for violating EU competition rules, totalling around eight billion euros between 2017 and 2019.

"We are disappointed with the decision of the court," Google said. "We made changes back in 2017 to comply with the European Commission's decision."

Google faces yet another test next week when the top EU court will decide on the smallest of those fines, worth around 1.49 billion euros.

Legal headaches for Google are mounting across the Atlantic as well.

A trial began on Monday in the United States where the government accuses Google of dominating online advertising and stifling competition.

It comes after a US judge ruled last month that Google maintained a monopoly with its search engine.

Google's so-called ad tech -- the system that decides which online adverts people see and how much they cost -- is an area of particular concern for regulators worldwide.

FROM PAGE B4

to markets around the world, including Europe, and there is a great opportunity to export those to Egypt.

He requested the entrepreneurs of Egypt to import products or services from the information technology (IT), leather, readymade garments, ceramics and pharmaceutical sectors of Bangladesh.

Besides, Ahmed emphasised on Egypt's experience and technical support for the development of Bangladesh's river-based tourism industry.

The DCCI president opined that Bangladesh can be considered as a gateway to South and Southeast Asian countries in terms of increasing Egyptian exports.

He also requested the Egyptian entrepreneurs to come up with investments in Bangladesh's economic zones or export processing zones.

Ahmed also laid emphasis on the development of bilateral relations using trade organisations and signing memorandums of understanding.

Moreover, he suggested arranging frequent sector-specific business-to-business conferences.

Among others, Malik Talha Ismail Bari, senior vice-president of the DCCI, Md Junaed Ibna Ali, vice-president, and Soheila Mahran, deputy chief of mission of the Egyptian embassy in Dhaka, were also present.

Trust Bank holds workshop on CMSME financing in Lalmonirhat

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank Lalmonirhat branch recently organised a workshop on "CMSME Cluster Identification, Cluster Engagement and Cluster Financing" in Lalmonirhat.

Other banks of the district participated in it, while Trust Bank served as the lead bank of the programme, the bank said in a press release.

Md Ruhul Amin, executive director of the Bangladesh Bank Rangpur office, attended the programme as the chief guest.



Md Ruhul Amin, executive director of Bangladesh Bank Rangpur office, attends a workshop on "CMSME Cluster Identification, Cluster Engagement and Cluster Financing" organised by Trust Bank as lead bank in Lalmonirhat recently.

PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Feni Social Forest Division
Email: dfosfdfeni95@gmail.com
Invitation for Tender of Works
(Supplying Fish and Animal Feed)

Memo No: FSFD/OTM No. 01(GD-3) of 2024-2025 Dated: 10.09.2024

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC)		
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Divisional Forest Officer, Feni Social Forest Division, Feni		
4.	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable		
5.	Procuring Entity District	Feni		
6.	Invitation for	Supplying Fish and Animal Feed		
7.	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No: FSFD/OTM No. 01(GD-3) of 2024-2025 Dated: 10.09.2024		
Key Information				
8.	Procurement Method	NCB/ (OTM) Open Tender Method, National.		
Funding Information				
9.	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget.		
Particular Information				
10.	Tender Package Name	Supplying Fish and Animal Feed		
11.	Tender Publication Date	On or Before 13.09.2024		
12.	Tender Document Selling Office	Office of the Range Officer, Sadar Range, Feni Social Forest Division, Feni		
13.	Tender Documents Receiving Office	1. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Feni Social Forest Division, Feni 2. Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP Office), Feni District, Feni.		
14.	Last Time & Date of Selling Tender Document	Up to 4.00 PM of 29.09.2024		
15.	Last Time of Tender Receive	01.00 PM of 30.09.2024		
16.	Tender Opening Time & Date	At 3:00 PM of 30/09/2024		
17.	Pre-tender Meeting	At 11:00 AM of 25/09/2024 at the office of the undersigned.		
Information For Tenderer				
18.	Eligibility	As per Tender Data Sheet of Tender Documents		
19.	Price of the Tender Documents	Tk. 1000/ (One Thousand) only (Non - refundable)		
Schedule of Works				
	Identification of Package	Tender Security	Destinations of Supply	Completion Time
	Supplying Fish and Animal Feed	BDT. 20,000/ (Taka Twenty Thousand) only.	Kazirbag Ecopark, Feni Sadar Upazila, Feni	As instructed in the work order.
Procuring Entity Details				
21.	Name and designation of Official	Mohammed Ruhul Amin, Divisional Forest Officer, Feni Social Forest Division, Feni.		
22.	Address of the Official	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Feni Social Forest Division, Feni.		
23.	Contact details of the Official	Tel: 02334473500 & Email: dfosfdfeni95@gmail.com		
24.	Special Instructions to Tenderers	1. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.		

GD-408

10.09.2024
(Mohammed Ruhul Amin)
Divisional Forest Officer
Feni Social Forest Division