

GP profit rises to Tk 879cr in second quarter

The mobile operator declares 110% cash dividend

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Grameenphone, the country's largest mobile network operator, witnessed a slight 2 percent year-on-year (YoY) increase in second-quarter profit, supported by lower finance and tax expenses, even as revenue declined.

The company posted a net profit of Tk 879 crore in the quarter, up from Tk 862 crore in the same quarter last year, according to a stock exchange filing yesterday.

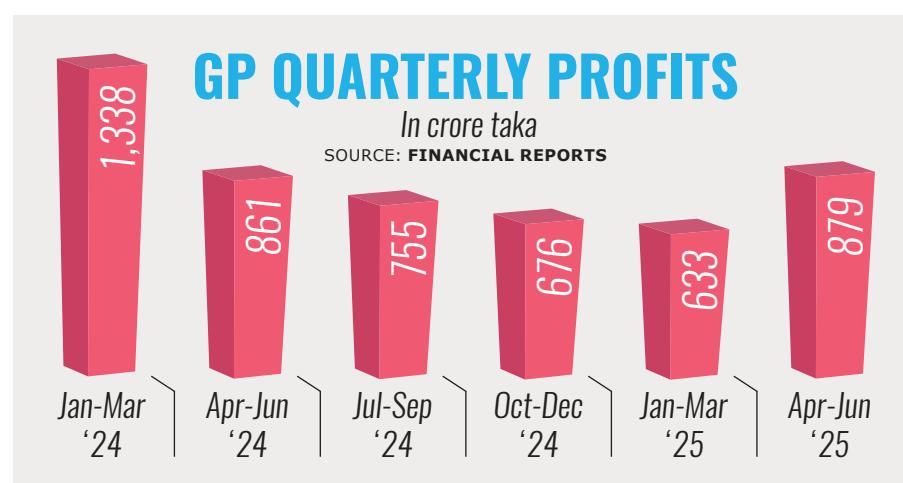
It declared a 110 percent interim cash dividend for shareholders for the April-June period.

The announced dividend payout was made from audited net profits for the first half of the year, which stood at Tk 1,513 crore, down by 31 percent year-on-year, GP said in the statement.

Its earnings per share increased to Tk 6.51, compared with Tk 6.38 a year earlier, it said in the disclosure. Its revenue, however, fell by 3 percent year-on-year to Tk 4,103 crore.

Meanwhile, the company earned Tk 157 per user, a 6.1 percent growth over the previous quarter, on average during the latest quarter.

Inflation in Bangladesh declined



to 8.48 percent last month, boosting consumer purchasing power, which was reflected in GP's blended average revenue per user growth," BRAC EPL Brokerage, one of the leading stock brokers, noted in an earnings analysis of the telecom service provider.

Year-on-year, however, the blended average still dipped 4.8 percent, which it expects to normalise in upcoming quarters.

The leading telecom service provider also regained the subscriber base it had lost following political unrest in mid-2024. As of June, the company had approximately 8.63 crore subscribers.

The growth in subscribers lifted GP's SIM market share to 46 percent. Data subscriber growth also remained resilient, rising 1.2 percent year-on-year, which translated into higher data usage, said the company.

The 10-day Eid holiday in June provided a seasonal boost to the topline, driving higher voice and data usage, it added.

Its net operating cash flow per share declined to Tk 26.94 for January-June 2025, from Tk 28.07 a year earlier. Its net asset value (NAV) per share stood at Tk 42.15 on June 30 this year, down from Tk 53.18 a year ago.

In the statement, the company attributed the decline in NAV to the payment of the final dividend for 2024, which exceeded the profits generated in the first half of 2025.

As of June 30, 2025, sponsor-directors held 90 percent of the GP shares, while institutional investors held 6.50 percent, foreign investors 0.97 percent, and the public 2.53 percent, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange data. BRAC EPL said GP has continued its strong dividend tradition in 2025, consistently distributing both interim and final cash dividends.

"Over the past five years, the company has maintained an average payout ratio of 90.5 percent, signalling a stable and shareholder-friendly policy," it also noted.

Grameenphone stocks rose 1.15 percent to Tk 300.20 yesterday at the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Islami Bank chairman resigns amid BFIU move

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud has resigned as chairman and independent director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, just days after the country's financial intelligence agency moved to look into his finances.

He submitted his resignation to the governor of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday. Requesting anonymity, a senior official of the central bank and an independent director of Islami Bank confirmed the resignation.

In the handwritten letter seen by The Daily Star, Masud cited personal reasons for stepping down.

This development comes three days after the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) sought bank account details of Masud and his family members on Monday.

Since then, he has remained absent from the country's largest Shariah-based bank. He also missed a scheduled meeting of the Islami Bank Foundation Committee on Tuesday.

That same day, a BFIU team conducted a special operation, although officials have yet to disclose details.

Masud could not be reached through phone calls or text messages, despite repeated attempts yesterday.

US tariffs threaten

FROM PAGE B1

Hasnat Md Abu Obida Marshall, managing director of Maf Shoes Ltd, which supplies footwear items to brands like Kappa and H&M, said many exporters were already feeling the heat, with US orders either on hold or cancelled.

"European buyers have not objected yet, but those in the US market could suffer badly," he said.

Marshall said the new tariff imposed by the Trump administration adds to long-standing issues.

Unlike China, Bangladesh depends heavily on imported raw materials, often taxed at up to 60 percent, which raises product costs eventually.

"We import everything yet try to compete on price," said Marshall, adding that China not only has local access to raw materials but also offers 7 to 12 percent government incentives.

According to him, even an 8 percent cash incentive offered by Bangladesh fails to make a meaningful impact.

"If I pay 60 percent duty and get 8 percent incentive, there is no real benefit left," Marshall said, adding that many exporters skip

the incentive altogether due to the bureaucratic process.

He also identified low productivity as a concern, saying that despite lower wages than in Vietnam, Bangladesh still falls behind in producing value-added footwear.

The shoe-maker also said that the country's graduation from the least

The tariff uncertainty could damage Bangladesh's standing in the global footwear market without strong policy support and investment in capacity

developed country club in November next year further clouds the sector's outlook.

"If we rush into investments, we risk heavy losses and job cuts," he said.

The tariff uncertainty has already rippled into other sectors like garments, he added, and could damage Bangladesh's standing in the global footwear market without strong policy support and

investment in capacity.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of Pran-RFL Group, said the new US tariff would severely disrupt exports to the American market, especially for companies that had made targeted investments there.

He urged the government to expedite negotiations with US authorities to secure continued access and protect the export sector.

"If Bangladeshi exporters fail to remain competitive in the US market, they will have to seek alternative destinations to recover their investments and safeguard the jobs of hundreds of workers," Chowdhury said.

Hasanuzzaman, managing director and CEO of BLING Shoes Ltd, which posted 30 percent export growth last fiscal year, echoed similar concerns.

Hasanuzzaman said he supplies US buyers, including Merrell, Saucony, and Carter, and although none of his current orders have been cancelled, the future is uncertain.

"If the tariff is not reduced, exports will definitely be hampered," he said.

He gave the example of West Bengal, where the government procures 20 percent of total rice production, compared to less than 1 percent in Bangladesh. "In such a situation, how can farmers be ensured fair prices?"

Faruque also pointed to a lack of coordination between relevant ministries, which he said must be sorted out first.

Md Abdul Muyeed, former director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said

consumer attitudes often work against farmers.

"Whenever the price of a product rises in the market, they immediately start questioning why it has increased. But they fail to acknowledge the rising production hardships faced by farmers. That's why social awareness needs to be increased," he said.

Mihir Kumar Roy, former dean of business and economics at the City University of Bangladesh, called for political will to tackle the problem. "There is no other way to address this issue."

Md Mahmudur Rahman, additional secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, said India's minimum support price for 23 products is being studied, but Bangladesh should focus on such pricing for perishable items.

"The government has already started strategic planning in this regard," he said.

Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, secretary at the agriculture ministry, said the biggest challenge is the lack of accurate data.

He noted that data manipulation has long been an issue. Reliable statistics, he added, are essential for making informed decisions that benefit farmers.

"Having worked with farmers, we are committed to maintaining a farmer-friendly environment," he said. "We have identified six hotspots in the country and developed nine thematic areas for professional development. Based on this, we are formulating a 25-year agricultural plan."

Form agricultural

FROM PAGE B1

But from 2016 to 2023, female participation also dropped.

Nurul Alam Masud, chief executive of PRAAN, said agriculture's contribution to GDP is gradually falling, raising concerns about whether the sector is being overlooked.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, focused on climate-sensitive planning.

She said, "We must plan our agricultural production with the impacts of climate change in mind. Interventions should be tailored to the specific needs of each geographical region."

Former agriculture secretary Anwar Faruque said the most pressing challenge now is that farmers are not receiving fair prices for their crops.

"Even minimal support to farmers could have been beneficial for them," he said. "Bangladesh is failing to take even the preliminary steps needed before forming a price commission."

He gave the example of West Bengal, where the government procures 20 percent of total rice production, compared to less than 1 percent in Bangladesh. "In such a situation, how can farmers be ensured fair prices?"

Faruque also pointed to a lack of coordination between relevant ministries, which he said must be sorted out first.

Md Abdul Muyeed, former director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said



Md Azizur Rahman, general manager of the finance department at West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited, and Kimiwa Sadat, managing director (current charge) of Community Bank Bangladesh PLC, pose for photographs after signing the agreement at Khulna Club recently.

PHOTO: COMMUNITY BANK

Community Bank signs 3-year deal with West Zone Power Distribution Company

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Under the terms of the agreement, Community Bank has once again been entrusted with the responsibility of collecting both prepaid and postpaid electricity bills in the designated region for the next three years.

Md Abdul Khaleque, deputy general manager of finance at the power distribution company; Shahin Akter Pervin, superintendent engineer commercial; Ruhul Amin, executive engineer and company secretary; Mohammad Afser Hasan, manager accounts; and Md Moktar Hassain, deputy manager of finance; attended the event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer RHD
Road Division, Barishal
Tel: 02-47831254
E-mail: ebar@rhd.gov.bd

Dated: 17.07.2025

Memo No. 35.01.0651.403.07.019.25-2566

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the works mentioned in the table below:

Invitation Reference No.	01/e-GP/PMP-Roads-Major/BRD/2025-2026.
Tender ID	1132231
Name of works	Surfacing work with DBS Wearing Course, Retaining wall and slope protection at Ch-0+000 (Rahmatpur) to 7+495 (Mirgonj Ferry Ghat) Ch-20+950 (Nobaber Hut) to 24+000 (Muladi Bridge) Ch-24+572 (Kuria Bazar) to 35+830 (Hizla Busstand) of Rahmatpur-Babuganj-Muladi-Hizla Road (Z-8034) under Barishal Road Division during the year 2023-2024.
Qualification criteria	As stated in Tender Notice & Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.
Tender document price	Tk. 4,000.00 (four thousand) only.
Tender security amount	Tk. 47,50,000.00 (forty-seven lakh fifty thousand) only.
Tender document last selling	Date: 06 August 2025, Time: 17:00
Last date and time for tender security submission	Date: 07 August 2025, Time: 11:30
Tender closing date and time	Date: 07 August 2025, Time: 12:00
Tender opening date and time	Date: 07 August 2025, Time: 12:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Nazmul Islam

ID No. 602232

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Barishal

development prospects, said the bulletin.

Interest payments on treasury securities jumped by 45 percent, while payments on national savings certificates fell by 25 percent, according to finance ministry data.

Bangladesh is set to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) status in 2026. Once that happens, access to highly concessional financing is expected to diminish.

The policy statement said that without meaningful reforms in revenue collection, export diversification, and debt management, the debt burden and associated risks could increase.

During the first three quarters of FY25, the government's interest payments climbed by 10 percent year-on-year. External interest payments saw a sharper rise of 23 percent during the July-March period compared to the same period in FY24.

So, effective management of interest costs on government borrowing is not just a matter of sound financial management for Bangladesh; it is fundamental to ensuring macroeconomic stability, protecting its foreign exchange reserves, fostering sustainable economic growth, maintaining international creditworthiness, and securing its future.



সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর

প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

জরুরি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	দরপত্রের তারিখ হিসেবে	দরপত্রের তারিখ পর্যন্ত	দরপত্রের তারিখ উত্তীর্ণ করিব	দরপত্রের নম্বর

<tbl_r cells="6" ix="2" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1" usedcols