

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.

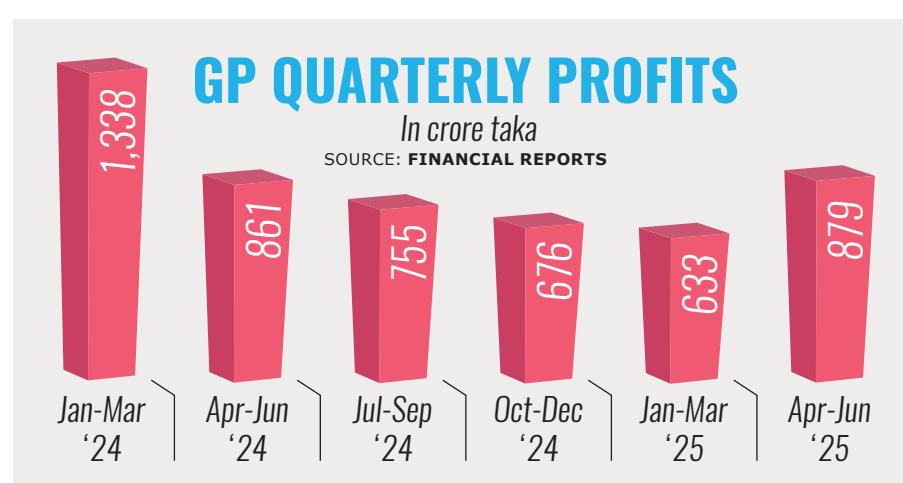
It declared a 110 percent interim cash dividend for shareholders for the April-June period.

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 tariff threatens booming synthetic shoe exports

FROM PAGE B1

"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.

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

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

"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.

"Whenever the price of a product rises in the market, they immediately start questioning why it has increased. But they fail

Form agricultural

FROM PAGE B1

to acknowledge the rising production hardships faced by farmers. That's why social awareness needs to be increased," he said.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, 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 biggest challenge in the agriculture sector right now is that farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce.

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

For instance, Faruque said in India's West Bengal, the government procures 20 percent of total rice production, while in Bangladesh it is not even 1 percent. "In such a situation, how can farmers be ensured fair prices?"

There is also a lack of coordination among the relevant ministries, and this must be addressed first, he added.

Md Abdul Muyeed, former director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said consumers often tend to have a negative attitude.

"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.

Meanwhile, Mihir Kumar Roy, former dean of the faculty of business and economics at the City University of Bangladesh, said that to solve the problem of farmers not receiving fair prices, political commitment from the government is essential. "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 under consideration, but Bangladesh needs to think about implementing such measures for perishable goods.

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

Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, said the biggest challenge in the sector is the lack of proper information and statistics.

Data manipulation has long been a problem, he said, adding that accurate statistics can 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 20-year agricultural plan," he added.

"Whenever the price of a product rises in the market, they immediately start questioning why it has increased. But they fail



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.

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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

GD-1604

সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

জরুরি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর জন্য দেশীয় মুদ্রার ছকে উত্তোলিত চিকিৎসা সামগ্রী ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিবেশী দেশের মহাপরিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যবসায়ি/প্রত্নতান্ত্রিক কার্যক্রমের নিকট হতে সীল মোহরযুক্ত খাদ্য দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

২। দরপত্রের সিলিঙ্গল ছকের ছকে উত্তোলিত তারিখ ও সময় মোতাবেক সামরিক চিকিৎসা সামগ্রী মহাপরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস থেকে নগদ মুদ্রা (অবেক্ষণযোগ্য) সম্ভব করা যাবে। প্রযোজনীয় তথ্যাবস্থার দরপত্র সীল মোহরযুক্ত খাদ্য এবং মহাপরিদপ্তরের পরিকল্পিত টেক্সেল বয়ে ৩১ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৩০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত জমা নেওয়া হবে এবং একই দিন ১৩০৫ ঘটিকা দরপত্রের উত্তোলিত খাদ্যে কেবল উত্তোলিত করা যাবে।

৩। দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত তথ্যাদি/নথিপত্র সম্মত করতে হবে:

ক্রমিক নং	ডিসপ্লেজেল	দরপত্রের বিকল্পন হইতে	দরপত্রের তারিখ পর্যন্ত	দরপত্রের তারিখ উত্তোলিত	দরপত্রের নথর
১	১৭-০৭-২০২৫	১৭-০৭-২০২৫	০৯:০০ ঘটিকা	৩১-০৭-২০২৫	০৯:০০ ঘটিকা

৪। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে আর কোন দরপত্র প্রযোগ করা হবে না।

৫। কার্যালয়ে প্রতিক্রিয়া দেওয়া আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে ২০ (বিশ) এবং বিদেশী আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে দরপত্র বাতিল করা যাবে।

৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ দেশে দরপত্রে দুর্বল প্রতিক্রিয়া দেওয়া আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্র বাতিল করা যাবে।

৭। পিএল/২০০৬ ও ২০০৮ প্রতিক্রিয়া দেওয়া আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্রের সকল শর্তব্লোগ।

৮। দরপত্রের সমষ্টি কার্য অন লাইনে দাখিল না করিলে দরপত্রটি বাতিল করা যাবে।

৯। বিকল্প অফার (Alternative Offer) প