Grameenphone taps bKash solution to speed up incentive payments

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Country's leading telecom operator Grameenphone (GP) Limited has signed an agreement with bKash Limited to use the mobile financial service provider's disbursement solution for making incentive payments to its nationwide field force.

Under the agreement, signed recently at GP House in Dhaka, Grameenphone will transfer incentive payments directly to the bKash accounts of field-level personnel, according to a press release.

The telecom operator said the initiative is aimed at simplifying field-level financial management while improving transparency, security and operational efficiency.

With the new arrangement, beneficiaries will receive funds instantly in their bKash accounts and will be able to use the money at their convenience. Recipients can also cash out funds through bKash's nationwide network of agent points and ATM booths.

In addition to cash withdrawals, users can access a range of services through their bKash accounts, including money transfers, mobile recharges, merchant payments, utility bill payments and other digital financial services.

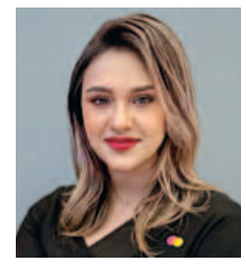
Farha Naz Zaman, chief marketing officer of Grameenphone Limited, and Ali Ahmmed, chief commercial officer of bKash Limited, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the GP House in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BKASH

Farha Naz Zaman, chief marketing officer of the telecom operator; Solaiman Alam, chief product officer; Mohammad Shareef Mahmood Khan, head of sales and distribution; and Sk Iftekhar Ahmed, head of distribution, attended the signing ceremony.

Among others, Ali Ahmmed, chief commercial officer of MFS provider; Masrur Chowdhury, head of business sales; and Shafayatul Islam Khan, executive vice-president and head of telecom payments, were also present at the event.

Zakia takes over as Mastercard country manager as Kamal retires

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Zakia Sultana

Mastercard has appointed Zakia Sultana as its country manager for Bangladesh with immediate effect.

She succeeds Syed Mohammad Kamal, who is set to retire from Mastercard later this year, according to a press release.

Zakia joined Mastercard in 2015 and has since played a key role in advancing financial inclusion initiatives and business development efforts that helped expand the company's footprint and strengthen partnerships in Bangladesh.

In her new role, she will lead Mastercard's operations and engagements in Bangladesh, focusing on expanding digital payments adoption, strengthening partnerships with customers and ecosystem stakeholders, and promoting a more inclusive and connected payments landscape.

She will report to Sandun Hapugoda, group country manager overseeing Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Zakia brings more than 26 years of experience in telecommunications, financial services and large-scale transformation programmes.

Throughout her career, she has led major business and infrastructure initiatives, including the rollout of 3G and 4G networks and the expansion of high-growth operations. She has also built and scaled platforms across multiple sectors.

She began her career at Grameenphone in project and change management before joining Airtel, where she served for a decade as head of operational excellence. She later held leadership and board-level roles at Banglalink and worked closely with leading financial institutions, including HSBC.

Tandhan Denim showcases sustainable fabric solutions at expo in Dhaka

Shakirul Khan Plabon, country head of Tandhan Denim, and Nishant Giri, vice-president of the company, pose for a group photograph at the Bangladesh Denim Expo at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: TANDHAN DENIM

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tandhan Denim, a denim fabric manufacturer based in eastern India, showcased its latest products and sustainability initiatives at the 20th edition of the Bangladesh Denim Expo held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

The company participated in the exhibition under the theme "Connected by Distance, Driven by Denim", emphasising its proximity to Bangladesh and its focus on serving the country's apparel industry.

The two-day exhibition began in the capital yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Shakirul Khan Plabon, country head of Tandhan Denim, said the company's manufacturing facility in Kolkata enables it to offer shorter lead times and dependable supply solutions to garment manufacturers and buyers in Bangladesh.

According to a press release, Tandhan Denim is the only large-scale denim mill in eastern India, with an annual production capacity of 20 million metres of denim fabric.

The company said its manufacturing facility is equipped with a zero liquid discharge (ZLD) plant capable of recycling nearly one million litres of water daily as part of its sustainability efforts.

Tandhan Denim is part of the diversified Tandhan Group, which has been operating across multiple industries for more than three decades.

Highlighting the importance of Bangladesh as a market, Nishant Giri, vice-president of Tandhan Denim, said the garments displayed at the expo reflected the versatility of the company's denim fabrics and their ability to meet a wide range of buyer requirements.

He said the company showcased eco-friendly fabric solutions designed to address evolving global demand for sustainable fashion.

Tandhan Denim said it remains focused on developing versatile and high-performance denim fabrics for international fashion brands and buyers.

Through its participation in the expo, the company sought to strengthen its engagement with Bangladesh's apparel sector and expand regional partnerships, the release added.

Saudi's new national carrier gets off ground

AFP, *Riyadh*

Saudi Arabia launched its second national carrier Riyadh Air after more than a year of delays on Wednesday, defying the economic turmoil triggered by the Middle East war and strong competition from established Gulf airlines.

A London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Riyadh Air's white and lavender livery took off at 2:30am (2330 GMT Tuesday), putting in motion a flagship project in Saudi Arabia's push to reduce its economic reliance on oil.

Riyadh Air, the country's second state-owned airline after Jeddah-based Saudia, is meant to help turn the Saudi capital into a global hub to rival Dubai, the world's busiest for international passengers.

"We want to bring glamour, we want to bring refinement, we want to bring grace back," Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas told AFP.

Sammilito Islami Bank holds meeting amid merger process

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Sammilito Islami Bank PLC held the sixth meeting of its board of directors at Social Islami Bank PLC's the head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Quazi Shairul Hassan, chairman of Sammilito Islami Bank PLC, presided over the meeting, according to a press release. Members of the bank's board of directors and a representative from the Bank Resolution Department of Bangladesh Bank attended the meeting.

The administrators of five banks currently undergoing the merger process with Sammilito Islami Bank were also present at the meeting at the invitation of the board.

PHOTO: SOCIAL ISLAMI BANK

Quazi Shairul Hassan, chairman of Sammilito Islami Bank PLC, attends the bank's 6th board of directors' meeting at Social Islami Bank PLC's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh can be world's No. 1

FROM PAGE B1

Olcina made the remarks yesterday at the inauguration of the 20th Bangladesh Denim Expo at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

Typically, Western buyers do not disclose their sourcing plan. However, Olcina lauded Bangladesh's potential. He identified three priorities that could help Bangladesh become the world's most attractive sourcing destination.

First, he said, the country needs world-class logistics infrastructure.

According to him, Bangladesh still does not have a deep-sea port, a modern airport, reliable energy supplies and faster customs clearance, all of which are critical for improving delivery performance.

He said that both exporters and importers in the garment sector continue to suffer because of weaknesses in the logistics system.

Second, the regional head of Inditex said, Bangladesh must move further into higher value-added garment products, which will require coordinated efforts from manufacturers and other industry stakeholders.

Third, Olcina said, closer collaboration is needed among the government, global brands, multilateral organisations, manufacturers, logistics providers and industry associations to drive the sector forward.

He said the global business environment is complicated, with countries continuing to deal with the fallout from Covid-19, geopolitical tensions and broader economic uncertainty. Despite these challenges, Bangladesh remains better positioned than many of its competitors.

At the event, Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said Bangladesh is now the largest exporter of denim to both the European Union and the United States, ahead of China.

"We are approaching LDC graduation. This is being discussed in every boardroom and every policy meeting in Dhaka," said Khan.

He said their position at BGMEA is clear as the preferences apparel makers currently enjoy will change after graduation.

"If we are not prepared, the industry will feel it. RMG is currently the biggest beneficiary of preferential access. In the post-LDC era, without the right trade arrangements in place, the apparel industry risks becoming the biggest loser," said the BGMEA president.

European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller said Bangladesh is entering a new phase of its economic development.

"The challenge now is to create decent jobs, skill the workforce, attract high-quality investments to move up value chains, help diversify the economy, ensure a clean energy transition, and prepare effectively for graduation from least developed country status," he said.

Mostafiz Uddin, founder and chief executive officer of Bangladesh Denim Expo, said more than 50 exhibitors from over 10 countries would showcase products and innovations during the two-day event.

Uddin said, "We are not just showcasing fabric; we are displaying the entire denim value chain -- from sustainable fibres to cutting-edge, eco-friendly finishes."

Bangladesh remains the largest denim exporter to the European Union, with a market share of around 33 percent, he said.

The country is also a leading supplier to the US market, where Bangladesh-made denim accounts for one in every three pairs of jeans sold through many major retail chains, he added.

With the global denim market projected to reach $105 billion by 2032, the objective is not only to participate in that growth but also to lead it through higher-value products and industry-leading sustainable practices, said Uddin.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-46.02.7500.000.07.007.25-1677 Dated: 09/06/2026.

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)
e-Tender Notice No-97/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

SI No	Tender ID No	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time of Tender Security Submission	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1288878	OTM	ISLIP/W10/LGED Improvement of Aktermiarhat Mogna Market Road Ch 4460-10190m ID:475893009 UNR Char Amanullah-Kazal Market Road Ch 0-1750m ID 894003 RHD South side of Chaiyakhali Bazar-Uttar Jahajmara Road Ch 0-3090m ID 894009 Keramotpur bazar-Maddhayo Keramotpur School-Chowrasta Bazar Connecting Road Ch 0-4120m ID:894008 Bangla bazar-Rop bazar-Karani bazar Road Ch 0-1900m ID 894100 UZR Char Hasan-Kallarhat connecting Road Ch1500-2040m ID 894131 UNR No eight Sluice gate-BorhanMarket-Hemayet bazar-Meghna Market-Char Alauddin Ferry ghat-Mostannagar-Montaz Khal Sluice-Boraitola-Companiganj Road Ch1000-4300m ID894113 Chaiyakhali bazar at Jahajmara GPS-Uttar Jahajmara NGPS Road Ch 0-1600m ID 895145 RHD Center Bazar-Bansh khali-Chomirhat connecting Road Ch745-2500m ID 475895002 Ali Ahmed Road starts from UZR(Ansermiar hat) Beri bundh up to Three number Killa Road at Ch500-1750m ID895125 Ramzan Bibi (RHW)-Alayerpur UP Via Jirtoli Bazar-Sultanpur Bazar Road Ch5850-5974m&ch7620-9150m ID0/3006 Rajgonj bazar-Alampur Road Ch00-1335m & cn1535-2098m ID 074047 Durgapur Boro Barir Sakw-Kadurpur Molia Bari to Ader Road Ch 2010-2775m ID074182 Rajgonj Muktijuda Montu Moulla Bari-Rajendrapur Al-Amin Model Academy Road Ch1785-3000m ID 074057 Fenaghata-Rajullahpur Via Miahpur Road Ch1238-2410m ID074080 Muktijuddha Abul Hashem Road to 16 no RHD Road (Kazi Abdul Hoque Road) Ch. 1100-4000m ID214039 Khabir mia Bazar Afazia Bazar vis char king UP Office Road Ch3910-4770m ID-363003 Burir Char UP Office (Sagoria Bazar-Chownuhani Bazar Road Ch4558- 5000m, ID 363005 Char Ishwer Up Office-Oskhali GCAfazia Bazar Via Bangla Bazar Road Ch 5800-7700m ID 363010 M.1 Road(St.form DC road to Old Embankment) Ch 5750-7350m ID 364027 Charlshwer Kazir Bazar to Jahajmara Katakhali Via Wapda road Ch9500-18310m ID 364081 Baskhali Sluice to Dorbesh Bazar-Champarghat-Chairmanghat Road Ch 5000-8000m, ID364122 under Subarnachar Hatiya Companigong Begumgong. Salvage Cost:25783481.00)	13-07-2026 17:00	14-07-2026 13:00	14-07-2026 14:00

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-1320