Prime Bank to offer payroll banking facilities to PalmPay employees

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a payroll banking agreement with PalmPay, a global fintech company and digital banking platform, to provide comprehensive payroll banking services to its employees and partners.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of the bank, and Jun Zeng, managing director of the global fintech company, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, the fintech company's employees will enjoy payroll banking facilities, including salary accounts with competitive rates, dual-currency debit cards with fee waivers and lifestyle benefits, and consumer banking products and services on preferential terms, among others.

They will also have access to PrimePay, the bank's omnidigital platform that enables seamless and automated salary disbursement, along with convenient, round-the-clock corporate payment solutions.



Jun Zeng, managing director of PalmPay, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Modhumoti Bank provides benefits to outbound tour operators



Syed Ghulam Mohammad, president of Bangladesh Outbound Tour Operators Association, and Arab Fazlur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief business officer of Modhumoti Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka on Tuesday. PHOTO: MODHUMOTI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Modhumoti Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Outbound Tour Operators Association (BOTOA) to provide banking benefits to the association's members.

Arab Fazlur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief business officer of the bank, and Syed Ghulam Mohammad, president of BOTOA, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka on Tuesday, according to a press release. Under the MoU, Modhumoti Bank PLC will provide various banking facilities to BOTOA and its members.

In addition, Modhumoti Bank cardholders will be entitled to exclusive privileges and special benefits from BOTOA members.

Arif Hasan Khan, deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the bank; Fahmida Saeed Saki, senior executive vice-president and head of the international division; Mohammed Noor E Alam, senior vice-president and head of retail banking; and SM Ashikur Rahman, vice-president and head of cards (business), attended the programme.

Sonali Bank holds special board meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Sonali Bank PLC yesterday held a special board meeting to discuss details of the 39th inspection report dated December 31, 2024 with representatives of Bangladesh Bank, the bank's board of directors and its management.

The 927th special board meeting was held at the conference room of Sonali Bank's head office in Dhaka.

Muhammed Mahbubur Rahman, chairman (current charge) of the bank, presided over the meeting, according to a press release.

Md Shawkat Ali Khan, managing director of Sonali Bank PLC, was also present at the meeting, along with members of the board of directors, deputy managing directors, general managers and other top officials.



Muhammed Mahbubur Rahman, chairman (current charge) of Sonali Bank PLC, attends the bank's 927th special board meeting held at its head office in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: SONALI BANK

Cashless push

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Despite the growth in digital payments, cash remains a vital part of the ecosystem. In June, purchases accounted for 91.11 percent of domestic credit card transactions, while cash withdrawals made up 7.11 percent (Tk 317 crore). Fund transfers comprised the remaining 1.78 percent.

The report said many eligible consumers remain reluctant to use cards because of fear and a lack of knowledge about card-based transactions.

Bangladesh Bank began promoting card-based "plastic money" in 2012 as part of its efforts to establish a technology-driven cashless banking system.

The central bank said rising digital transactions make it essential to strengthen cybersecurity and protect customers from fraud, alongside greater consumer awareness and training.

Meanwhile, the government and Bangladesh Bank have intensified efforts to promote cashless payments. The central bank recently decided to waive merchant fees for small shopkeepers, street vendors and small businesses accepting payments through Bangla QR, while offering incentives to banks and payment service providers to boost its use. The measures will take effect on October 1.

Bangladeshis are also increasingly using cards for international transactions. In June, combined outflows through credit, debit and prepaid cards stood at Tk 1,037 crore, up from Tk 813 crore in May, while card inflows from abroad amounted to Tk 242 crore.

Industry insiders said that the expanding card usage is a positive step towards greater financial inclusion. But achieving a genuinely cashless economy will require wider digital infrastructure, particularly outside major cities, greater financial literacy, lower transaction costs, wider smartphone access and stronger consumer confidence in digital payment platforms.

VISA credit cards were the most popular choice for both domestic and international transactions. Notably, Bangladeshi nationals predominantly used their cards in the United States. Among foreign nationals, US cardholders spent the most within Bangladesh, according to the report.

Trade deals crucial

FROM PAGE B1

dynamic young workforce, and rising trade volumes, Bangladeshi businesses are exceptionally positioned to navigate this transformation, move up the global value chain, and thrive on the world stage," he said.

Aditya Gahlaut, managing director and regional head of Global Trade Solutions for Asia at HSBC, said a series of unsettling events in recent years has changed how companies view resilience.

"It is not just an operational ambition – it is a balance sheet decision, often requiring difficult trade-offs on capital and liquidity. Each one of these choices requires capital -- to commit, to hedge, to fund the transition, and to make the new operating model real," he said, adding that HSBC can support them all.

Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, country head of Global Trade Solutions at HSBC Bangladesh, said the bank would continue to support businesses as they adapt to the changing global trade landscape.

Govt didn't distort

FROM PAGE B1

artisans producing local products such as pottery will be provided with design, branding and marketing support to help them access global platforms such as Amazon and Alibaba. Addressing the country's financing gap, he said traditional public financing alone would not be sufficient.

"The global public finance architecture is evolving, which is why we are pursuing alternative financing. Foreign fund managers are entering the capital market, and various financial instruments, including bonds, have been introduced to help bridge the gap," he said.

He added that the government was working to increase the country's debt-to-GDP ratio to secure the funding needed for development.

Dollar ticks up on Iran tensions

REUTERS

The US dollar ticked higher on Wednesday, underpinned by renewed Gulf tensions, with markets focused on upcoming US economic data for signals on the Fed's policy trajectory.

Oil prices edged up after the United States and Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis reported separate attacks on shipping on Tuesday, with Tehran saying the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed unless Washington accepts its conditions.

Investors buy the safe-haven dollar when concerns about the economic impact of the energy shock from the Iran war intensify.

Analysts said Friday's soft US jobs data did not weigh heavily on the greenback as markets expect inflation to drive the next Federal Reserve interest rate move.

Fed Bank of Chicago President Austan Goolsbee supported this view on Tuesday by saying he was more concerned about too-high inflation than labor market weakness. Economists expect data due later in the session to show inflation picked up last month after easing in June, when oil prices fell on hopes of an Iran peace deal.

"Consensus is looking for a reasonably subdued set of numbers," Chris Turner, global head of markets at ING, said.

US delegation

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Muktadir added that the government is simplifying business processes and improving access to energy, and is introducing liberalisation in the banking sector that would give IT companies and freelancers easier access to digital payment gateways.

The two sides also discussed trade and export policy, the digital economy, e-commerce, and sectors Bangladesh should prioritise to reach a trillion-dollar economy.

MEETING WITH PM'S ADVISER

Separately, USBBC President Atul Keshap met Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir at the Prime Minister's Office, according to a statement from the foreign ministry.

Keshap said expanding private-sector cooperation between Bangladesh and the US was a priority, and expressed interest in taking bilateral business relations to a new level.

The meeting also discussed opportunities for US investment in infrastructure, energy, technology, the digital economy and healthcare.

Kabir said the government remains committed to maintaining a business- and investment-friendly environment for US investors.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products

1	**Ministry/Division**	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	**Agency**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	**Procuring Entity Name**	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	**Procuring Entity District**	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	**Invitation for**	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) during "September 1st to December 31st, 2026".
6	**Invitation Ref. No**	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0006.26
7	**Date**	13th August, 2026
KEY INFORMATION		
8	**Procurement Method**	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	**Source of Funds**	Own Fund
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	**Tender Package No.**	PG-04
11	**Tender Package Name**	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM).
12	**Tender Publication Date**	13/08/2026
13	**Tender Last Selling Date and time**	02/09/2026; 4.00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
14	**Tender Closing Date and time**	03/09/2026; 02:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
15	**Tender Opening Date and time**	03/09/2026; 02:45 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
16	**Name and Address of the Office(s)**	
17	**Selling Tender Document (Principal)**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Opening Tender Document	
18	**Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting**	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 20/08/2026; 11:00 AM (GMT+6)
19	**Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period**	The Offer must be valid till 25/10/2026.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	**Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer**	(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The Tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export/supply of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 48.00 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 1.00 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete the export/supply of at least 0.50 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US$ 500 million. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US$ 70 million. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interdictory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.
21	**Brief Description of Goods**	PG-04: The total quantity to be supplied 0.373-0.559 Million Barrels (50,000-75,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil (+/-10% for Buyer's Option).
	Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.	
22	**Tender Document Price**	Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US$ 100.00 for each package, Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".

23	Package No	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-04	PG-04	USD 0.30 Million	01st September – 31st December 2026

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
24	**Name of Official Inviting Tender**	Mohammad Zahid Hossain
25	**Designation of Official Inviting Tender**	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.
26	**Address of Official Inviting Tender**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
27	**Contact details of Official Inviting Tender**	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713-755377/+880 01829-589366 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)

GD-1958