



made the Crown and Anchor cashless pub", Rubina Yasmin explained. "He analysed the pub's total revenue, found that only 10-13% of it was in cash, and - in October, instantly making it far less attractive to the local burglars".

In the coming days, Yasmin said shops and pubs in Bangladesh like the Crown and Anchor of UK would simply prefer not to handle cash any more as their client base is young and comfortable with technology. And bKash will lead the move thanks to QR technology and its largest subscribers and largest number of strategic partners with market operators.

bKash has made partnership with more than 50 businesses including WorldRemitt, the global leader of remittance service and Ali Pay, the global leader in e-commerce owned by Chinese company. Alibaba broke last year's 'Singles' Day record by logging USD 24.3 billion in sales by mid-day during the annual online shopping fiesta held last month.

Last year, the Alibaba Group reported USD 25.3 billion of orders as people globally are dumping cash in digital wallets. On 15 February 2018, Chinese New Year's Eve, 688 million people - roughly half of China's population - used WeChat to send and receive virtual hongbao (traditional red packets used to gift cash).

"Cash is dying and people in Europe think it should die soon", said Abul Hossain who recently settled himself in London after spending 15 years in European countries as a professional worker. "Across the Europe, people are using less cash as they understand that cash is risky and costly. So, all over the western world banks are shutting down cash machines and branches".

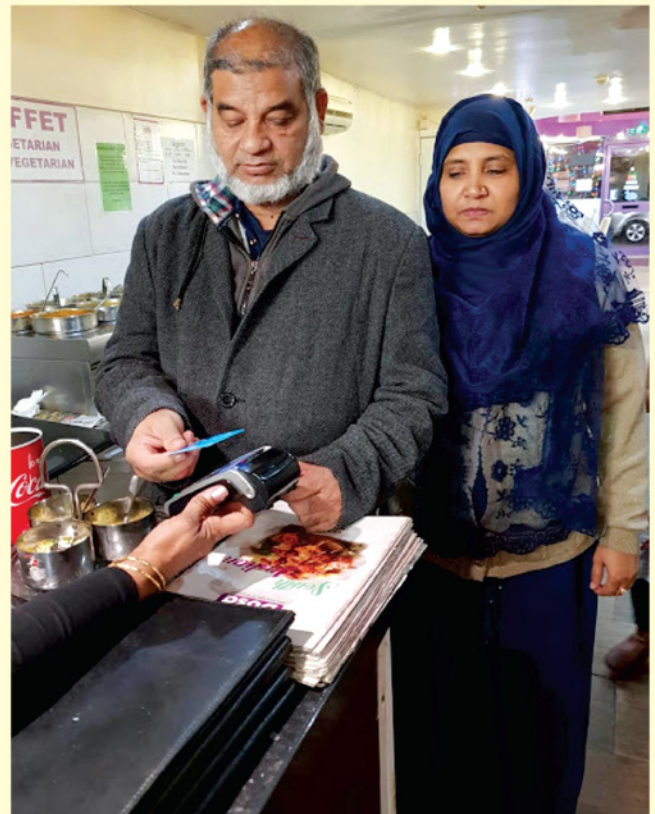
In April, Deloitte estimated that digital interactions influence 36 cents of every dollar spent in retail stores, which came out to about \$1.1 trillion; by the end of

2014, those numbers will rise to 50 cents and \$1.5 trillion.

"Ask a Swedes, when they last paid for something in cash. The probable answer is last month or week. Digital payments via card or mobile apps are so common and trusted that many Swedes no longer carry cash. They even let their children pay with cards", Abul Hossain who frequently visits Sweden said.

Sweden is now leading the journey towards being the first country to become cashless as use of cash has dropped to 1 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (compared to 10% in the Eurozone) and many shops, restaurants and other businesses simply refuse to accept cash. More than 50 per cent of the population have downloaded the instant payment app, Swish and 'to swish' has become a verb in the Swedish language.

In Asia, cash is also dying and most nations are trying to stay ahead on the road. China is leapfrogging to mobile payments, with more than two-thirds of internet users using smartphones for payments. The South Korean central bank has been promoting the concept of a cashless society and plans to no longer mint coins by 2020. The Thai government launched the National e-Payment Master Plan to promote digital payments. Indonesia is moving ahead with a different approach- a less cash



Abul Hossain & Mrs. Hossain buying goods from a shop using cards in London