

For years they called crypto a threat.
Now they are buying it.

Visa & Mastercard just bet billions on **stablecoin** payment rails.

● Visa — USDC settlement on Solana

Dec 2025

● Mastercard — acquired BVNK for \$1.8B

Mar 2026

Two giants. Three months apart. Same destination — stablecoins as the future settlement layer of global payments.

This is not a crypto experiment. This is the future of global payment infrastructure — and it matters enormously for South Asia.

\$1.8 Billion. The Biggest Crypto Acquisition Ever.

Mastercard announced the acquisition of BVNK — stablecoin payment infrastructure — on 17 March 2026. Its largest crypto deal to date. Deal expected to close by end of 2026.



Deal value

\$1.8B (incl. \$300M contingent)



BVNK annual volume

\$30B across 130+ countries



BVNK clients

Worldpay · Deel · Flywire



Beat out

Coinbase (talks collapsed at \$2B)



MC crypto volume 2025

\$59B processed on network

Eclipses Stripe's \$1.1B Bridge deal — the largest stablecoin infrastructure acquisition in history. BVNK revenue ~\$40M — this is a strategic infrastructure bet, not an earnings play.

Mastercard bought. Visa built. Same destination.

Visa embedded stablecoins directly into its existing network — no acquisition needed.

USDC Settlement on Solana

\$3.5B annualised settlement in USDC. US issuers & acquirers now settle VisaNet obligations in stablecoin — 24/7.

130+ Stablecoin Card Programs

Active in 40+ countries. Users spend stablecoins via Visa card anywhere Visa is accepted globally.

VTAP — Visa Tokenised Asset Platform

Banks can now mint their own stablecoins. BBVA was first — launching a bank-issued stablecoin through VTAP.

Stablecoins Advisory Practice

Launched Dec 2025. Recommendation: every bank needs a stablecoin strategy now.

Total stablecoin supply: \$274B by Dec 2025 — up 50%+ in one year. 316M wallets active globally.

Not fear. Strategy.

① Stablecoins settle in seconds — not days

Card settlement takes 1–5 days. Stablecoin rails settle in seconds, 24/7, across borders. Visa and Mastercard want that speed inside their network.

② Cross-border remittance is a \$700B market

SWIFT is slow and expensive. Stablecoin rails cut cost to under 1% and settle instantly. Move first — or lose this corridor to crypto-native players.

③ Stablecoins complement — not replace — card rails

Stablecoins own the back end — settlement, liquidity. Visa/MC own the front end — brands, merchants, consumer trust. Together: unstoppable.

④ If they don't, someone else will

Stripe bought Bridge (\$1.1B). PayPal issued PYUSD. Revolut integrated stablecoins. The incumbents had to move.

Mastercard CPO: "We expect most financial institutions will in time provide digital currency services — stablecoins or tokenised deposits."

The informal USDT market just got very formal infrastructure.

Informal FX — The Biggest Driver

Bangladesh Bank restricts dollar access. Importers, students, businesses turn to USDT on Binance P2P and Telegram — a shadow FX market running 24/7 outside any regulatory oversight.

Online Gambling & Betting

Betting is banned in Bangladesh. But 1xBet, Mostbet and Megapari accept USDT — no bank trace, no local payment friction. Billions flow out annually with zero regulatory visibility.

Capital Flight & Import Payments

Businesses over-invoice imports or use USDT to move capital offshore — bypassing Bangladesh Bank's FX controls. A direct pressure on foreign reserves.

Now Visa & Mastercard Are Building the Rails

When formal, licensed stablecoin corridors arrive via BVNK and Visa networks — these outflows become easier, faster, and harder to track. Bangladesh Bank's window to build a framework is narrowing fast.

The informal market already exists at scale. Visa and Mastercard are about to give it a formal infrastructure layer. Regulate now — or lose visibility entirely.

Visa and Mastercard just told you where money is going.

Stablecoins are not crypto's fringe experiment anymore. They are the next settlement layer for the world's two largest payment networks — processing trillions of dollars a year combined.



Full South Asia policy framework:

Digital Money, Stablecoins & Monetary Sovereignty

[Link in the first comment ↓](#)

Should Bangladesh Bank fast-track a stablecoin framework now?

Drop your view ↓ — Yes / No / Too early