

East Asia leads in using digital home products: survey

AFP, Singapore

East Asian countries lead the world in embracing digital home products, led by high-tech powerhouses Taiwan and South Korea, a US research firm said Thursday.

Taiwan scored 8.7 points out of a possible 10 when it comes to using digital living products -- home

networks, digital entertainment, consumer electronics, broadband and Internet services, Parks Associates said.

South Korea ranked second with a score of 8.4, followed by the United States at 8.1. Canada came next with an 8.0 score, according to results of the firm's 14-nation survey.

Japan placed fifth with 7.9 score followed by Australia at 7.0, Parks Associates said at a conference during CommunicAsia2006, the largest telecommunications trade fair in Asia.

European countries occupied the next six spots and India ranked last with a score of 1.3, below China's 2.9.

"Within Asia, you see a different trend from what's going on in Europe and North America," said John Barrett, director of research at Parks Associates.

"In Asia the consumers are driving the digital home deployment and not the service providers," he said.

"Asian consumers are much more open to using computers as an entertainment platform and that opens up another hub for distribution of content."

Barrett said that despite their low survey scores, both China and India are on a par with their neighbours in using digital home products.

"They ranked low largely because they are very large populous countries that have a substantial number of consumers that still lack basic communications services, Internet access and so on," Barrett said.

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Signing Ceremony
Ahmad Shafi Maqsood, executive director of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW), a non-profit organisation committed to human and community development and charitable works, and Khandakar Omar Farhan, head of Direct Sales (Business Solutions) of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently. As per the deal, GP will provide complete communication facilities under its 'Business Solutions' package for the institute. Senior officials from both the sides are also seen.



Corporate Agreement Signing Ceremony
Reaz-Bin-Mahmood, managing director of LA-BELLE Apparels Pvt Ltd, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of Corporate Sales of Banglalink, shake hands after signing a corporate agreement under the mobile phone operator's 'Professional' package. As per the deal, LA-BELLE Apparels will enjoy special tariffs and value added services from the cellphone operator. Senior officials from both the sides were also present.

Airline sector in new price-fixing probe

AFP, London

British Airways said Thursday that it is under investigation by Britain's Office of Fair Trading and the United States Department of Justice as part of a probe into the possible fixing of fuel surcharges by airlines.

Britain's Office of Fair Trading (OFT) confirmed it was investigating "alleged price coordination" related to the imposition of fuel surcharges within the airline sector and that it had visited British Airways as part of the probe.

BA said that Martin George, BA chairman and director, and Ian Burns, head of communications, have been given leaves of absence for the duration of the investigation.

Since 2004, major international carriers have levied fuel surcharges on tickets to cover the soaring cost of jet fuel -- a move opposed by leading low-cost airlines including Ryanair and easyJet.



Managing Director of Janata Bank SM Aminur Rahman (C) speaks at the 'Branch Managers Conference-2006' of Dhaka Zone-B of the bank recently. Deputy managing directors Md Mizanur Rahman and Md Nazmus Salehin and other senior officials were also present.



MA Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, gives away a Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka air ticket for a couple to Nasiruddin Mahmud who won the ticket by scratching a card he got upon purchasing a colour television from an LG-Butterfly showroom in Dhaka under the ongoing World Cup offer of LG-Butterfly. The prize was given at a function in the capital where other senior officials of the company were also present.

CURRENCY

Selling is Thursday's (June 22, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
70.1700	70.2000	USD	68.9500	68.9270	68.8811	
89.2703	89.3084	EUR	85.6290	85.6005	85.5434	
130.2355	130.2912	GBP	125.8613	125.8194	125.7355	
52.8029	52.8255	AUD	49.9888	49.9721	49.9388	
0.6143	0.6145	JPY	0.5919	0.5917	0.5913	
57.4035	57.4280	CHF	55.2086	55.1902	55.1534	
9.9148	9.9190	SEK	8.9787	8.9757	8.9697	
63.1522	63.1522	CAD	60.7435	60.7233	60.6827	
9.0577	9.0616	HKD	8.8596	8.8567	8.8508	
44.8801	44.8993	SGD	43.0131	42.9888	42.9701	
19.2648	19.2730	AED	18.6306	18.6244	18.6120	
18.8583	18.8684	SAR	18.2388	18.2327	18.2206	
12.3593	12.3646	KWD	11.1687	11.1650	11.1575	
239.3245	239.3240	DKK	236.7567	236.6802	236.5270	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Paik	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Norwegian	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.68	60.2	103.59	38.475	8.2343	0.6160	3.66

Local Interbank FX Trading Thursday, USD rose slightly against the Bangladesh taka.

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Company	FV/M (Tk/No)	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance				
		Price	Change (%)	Turnover	Price	Change (%)	Turnover	Last	EPS	CDPS		
BANK												
AB Bank Ltd**	10005	345.00	-0.26	348.00	341.00	346.00	2.54	355.00	125	11/05/06	28.4	---
City Bank Ltd**	10005	491.50	13.73	569.75	---	---	---	---	---	10/07/06	5.00	---
DFC Bank Ltd**	10005	507.00	0.30	505.50	---	---	---	---	---	07/12/04	15.8	---
Janata Bank Ltd**	10001	1662.50	0.04	1614.50	1664	1662.50	0.00	1664	2030	06/09/05	366	---
National Bank Ltd**	10020	655.50	-1.24	663.75	---	---	---	---	---	09/06/06	33.7	---
Pubali Bank Ltd**	10005	560.75	-0.44	563.25	10910	561.50	-0.62	565.00	5375	30/03/06	47.7	---
United Bank Ltd**	10010	318.75	1.47	311.25	2460	319.50	1.51	317.75	3310	08/05/06	28.0	---
UPLI**	10005	1424.00	0.94	1437.50	1165	1414.00	-0.91	1427.00	---	---	---	---
Utrara Bank Ltd**	10005	1784.00	0.17	1781.00	1978	1799.00	0.17	1787.00	140	25/05/06	71.4	20.0
Ultra Finance and Inv**	10005	384.75	0.13	384.25	3700	---	---	---	---	28/03/06	144	20.0
United Bank Ltd**	10020	781.50	-1.57	794.00	700	798.00	0.00	798.00	60000	17/05/06	30.7	---
United Leasing Co. Ltd**	10020	516.50	0.44	514.25	700	---	---	---	---	20/04/06	55.1	32.0
Ultra Finance and Inv**	10005	384.75	0.13	384.25	3700	---	---	---	---	28/03/06	144	20.0
Al Arafa Islamic Bank**	10005	1996.00	1.10	2117.00	---	---	---	---	---	17/05/06	30.7	---
Prime Bank Ltd**	10005	370.75	0.66	360.00	15825	372.50	-0.79	360.00	1278	20/03/06	32.4	---
Southeast Bank Ltd**	10005	369.25	0.74	372.00	17105	369.75	-1.14	374.00	1432	15/06/06	34.4	---
Dhaka Bank Ltd**	10005	375.00	-1.19	379.50	7021	373.75	-1.64	380.00	2650	28/03/06	35.8	20.0
N C Bank Ltd**	10005	232.00	2.82	221.75	11075	235.00	-1.47	221.75	3473	30/03/06	29.3	10.0
Social Investment Bank**	10005	415.75	0.86	419.50	---	---	---	---	---	08/05/06	13.2	---
Nidha Finance Ltd**	10005	212.50	-1.28	213.25	2120	214.00	-0.90	212.00	300	21/12/05	16.4	---
Manila Trust Bank**	10005	266.25	0.28	265.50	7560	266.25	0.00	266.25	1278	20/03/06	35.3	14.0
First Lease Int'l. Ltd**	10005	343.00	0.00	343.00	570	357.00	-7.8	352.50	500	21/07/05	10.0	---
Standard Bank Ltd**	10005	211.25	0.84	209.50	10500	211.00	-1.68	208.00	9927	04/05/06	28.3	---
Bank Asia Ltd**	10005	320.50	1.02	317.25	3420	317.25	1.12	317.25	50	20/04/06	34.3	10.0
Mercantile Bank**	10005	499.50	0.20	500.25	390	500.00	---	---	---	08/05/06	28.4	27.5
Export Import Bank**	10005	379.25	1.27	374.75	19675	379.00	-0.35	383.50	9050	14/05/06	43.6	---
Prime Finance**	10005	231.00	0.46	232.25	297	230.00	0.00	230.00	50	20/05/06	28.9	---
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Islamic Finance and Inv**	10005	1485.50	0.00	1485.50	4515	1485.00	-0.34	1485.00	1100	12/04/06	18.0	---
Islamic Finance and Inv**	10005	173.75	0.43	173.00	5004	174.25	-0.49	174.75	830	18/05/06	31.0	10.0
Islamic Finance and Inv**	10005	263.75	0.38	262.75	15000	262.50	0.38	261.50	3650	---	---	---
INVESTMENT												
ICB	10005	145.00	0.00	145.00	100	150.00	Not Traded	---	---	27/10/05	43.8	12.0
6th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	185.00	0.00	185.00	110	179.25	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	15.8	17.5
7th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	185.00	0.00	185.00	110	179.25	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	15.8	17.5
8th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	185.00	0.00	185.00	110	179.25	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	15.8	17.5
AIMS Fund**	10005	0.97	-1.00	0.98	115000	0.98	0.00	0.98	47900	17/09/05	0.21	18.0
Premier Leasing**	10005	1485.50	0.00	1485.50	1350	200.00	Not Traded	---	---	10/05/06	18.1	12.0
Islamic Finance and Inv**	10005	90.25	1.69	88.75	600	93.75	-2.74	91.25	150	16/08/05	5.68	5.00
Islamic Finance and Inv**	10005	114.00	0.00	114.00	16500	116.00	1.87	113.00	3120	---	---	---
ENGINEERING												
Afrah Automobiles**	10005	270.50	0.84	268.25	2625	269.00	-1.51	265.00	10	21/12/05	28.5	20.0
Olympic Industries**	10005	107.00	0.47	106.50	472	104.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	7.34	11.0
Shahin Lamps**	10005	162.50	0.00	162.50	390	315.00	Not Traded	---	---	21/06/06	48.4	27.5
Eastern Cables Ltd**	10005	162.50	0.00	162.50	390	162.50	0.00	162.50	10	26/06/04	11.1	10.0
Singer Bangladesh**	10005	375.00	0.99	370.75	343	374.50	Not Traded	---	---	08/05/06	29.1	30.0
Shahin Lamps**	10005	162.50	0.00	162.50	390	315.00	Not Traded	---	---	21/06/06	48.4	27.5
BD Autocare Ltd**	10005	73.00	0.47	73.00	25	73.00	Not Traded	---	---	27/12/05	2.93	3.00
Quasar Dryclean Ltd**	10005	104.00	0.00	104.00	18100	104.00	0.00	104.00	500	21/12/05	0.55	10.0
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National Tubes Ltd**	10005	981.75	0.18	980.00	---	---	---	---	---	22/09/05	12.7	15.0
BD Text Aluminium Ltd**	10005	490.00	0.29	477.00	20	455.00	Not Traded	---	---	25/05/05	24.5	5.00
Apex Textile Ltd**	10005	121.00	2.10	120.00	250	120.00	Not Traded	---	---	20/03/06	14.1	10.0
Serban Power Ltd**	10005	102.50	0.24	102.50	---	---	---	---	---	08/05/06	1.47	10.0
Rampur Foundry Ltd**	10005	17.50	0.57	17.40	3000	18.10	Not Traded	---	---	14/06/06	1.89	16.0
Chittagong Vegetable**	10005	115.00	0.60	115.75	18350	114.00	-0.22	114.75	2050	---	---	---
FOOD & ALLIED												
Fahad Industries Ltd**	10005	---	---	---	---	3.10	-8.82	3.40	2500	19/11/03	11.7	10.0
Alfa Tobacco Ltd**	10005	10.00	-1.96	10.20	700	13.00	Not Traded	---	---	05/06/05	0.3	5.00
Padma Oil Co**	10005	349.25	0.21	348.50	1120	350.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/09/05	22.7	15.0
Tripti Industries Ltd**	10005	26.00	0.00	26.00	800	28.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	1.3	---
Banana**	10005	219.25	2.13	2								