

Butterfly to provide Grameen pre-paid phone on credit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Butterfly Communications Ltd yesterday announced a credit scheme for purchasing pre-paid GP-GP mobile phone.

The scheme, which offers handsets and GrameenPhone connections in three installments within two months after the first installment, takes effect tomorrow for a period of three weeks.

Under the Hire Purchase Scheme, Butterfly will sell three

types of handsets, Ericsson A-3618, Ericsson T-29 and Butterfly Classic, a new one in the market.

"Initially we have a plan to sell fifty thousand handsets under this credit scheme," said Mustafizur Rahman Shazid, managing director of Butterfly Communications Ltd, at a press conference jointly organised by Butterfly and Sony Ericsson.

According to the Butterfly MD, the company has been operating its "Hire Purchase Scheme" for consumer electronics and home appli-

ances sector for the last 15 years.

Engineer Anwar Hossain, country manager of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB, was also present at the press conference held in the city.

In order to purchase a mobile phone under the scheme a customer needs to fill up a proposal form. The forms will be available in all designated Butterfly outlets at a cost of Tk 50. The customer also needs to submit two passport size photographs and bank solvency certificate

along with the proposal form.

Under the scheme, the amount of initial payment for purchasing an A-3618 handset with connection will be Tk 4,475. Within next two months the rest amount has to be paid in two installments, Tk 3,900 each time.

Engineer Anwar Hossain hoped that this campaign will expand the mobile phone market in Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, he said the company may offer similar scheme only for handsets in future.



PHOTO: STAR

Mustafizur Rahman Shazid (L), managing director of Butterfly Communications Ltd, and Engr Anwar Hossain, country manager of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB, display mobile phone sets at a press conference in the city yesterday organised to announce the launching of a credit scheme for pre-paid GP-GP mobile phone.

AKTEL's new outlet opens at Kazipara

A new outlet of AKTEL under its dealer Maple International (Ltd) was opened at Kazipara in the city yesterday, says a press release.

It's the 5th outlet of Maple International Ltd.

Yussli Yusoff, General Manager of Marketing of TM International (BD) Ltd, inaugurated the outlet as chief guest.

Shawquat Azim, managing director of Maple International Ltd, Anis Farooq, head of sales, Abul Ahsan, head of marketing, Anwar Sadat, asst manager of dealers management, Enayetul Islam, dealers management, and other member of dealers management and sales were also present on the occasion.

Through the opening of this outlet, AKTEL connection will be available to the people to a greater extent. Presently AKTEL has about 1,00,000 subscribers under its wide coverage range in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet.

To meet the people's need and easy availability, AKTEL will continue to increase its outlet in Dhaka and other districts of the country.

Businesses can get competent employees thru' job fairs

Dr Farashuddin says at East West University job fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Former central bank governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin yesterday said corporate houses can recruit

competent employees by organising job fairs.

Recruiting people through job fairs is common in developed countries, but unfortunately this is not

widely practised in Bangladesh, he said, adding that the practice facilitates a common platform for both the employers and job seekers.

Dr Farashuddin was speaking at the opening ceremony of a job fair organised by the East West University at the LGED Bhaban in the city.

Forty-one local and multinational companies and non-government organisations participated in the daylong fair.

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury attended function as chief guest and inaugurated the fair. M Monwarul Islam, vice-chancellor of East West University, also spoke on the occasion.

Speaking at the function, the commerce minister said job fair would help the private sector to get skilled people.



PHOTO: TM INT'L

Yussli Yusoff, general manager-marketing of TM International Ltd, inaugurates a new outlet of AKTEL at Kazipara in the city yesterday.

Imports on decline

UNB, Dhaka

Imports in the first nine months of the current fiscal year marked a declining trend compared to the same period last fiscal.

LCs worth US dollar 6212.66 million (Tk 35,586.13 crore) were opened by authorised dealer banks in nine months from July 2001 to March 2002.

The amount was 2.31 per cent lesser than that of the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year (2000-2001) in terms of Taka while 8.69 per cent in terms of US dollar.

The banks opened import LCs worth Tk 106.76 crore for rice, Tk 677.85 crore for wheat, Tk 227.58 crore for milk food and Tk 981.05 crore for crude and refined edible oil.

Besides, LCs worth Tk 1,524.83 crore were opened for raw cotton and synthetic fiber, Tk 942.89 crore for yarn and Tk 8,514.29 crore for textile fabrics and garment accessories.

The banks also opened LCs worth Tk 959.07 crore for fertiliser, Tk 133.82 crore for cement, Tk 2515.83 crore for capital machinery and Tk 2547.44 crore for chemical

products.

Meanwhile, the import LCs outstanding as on March 31, 2002 rose to Tk 16,815.71 crore, according to a Bangladesh Bank press release yesterday.

IBA seminar today

UNB, Dhaka

A seminar on "The Asian Development Bank and Bangladesh-Partners in Development" will be held today at 12:15pm at the Dhaka University IBA auditorium.

Professor Anwarullah Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, will inaugurate the seminar organised by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA).

Dr Omkar L Shrestha, Deputy Chief of the ADB Mission in Bangladesh will deliver the keynote speech while Dr Anwar Hossain, Director of IBA, will preside over the seminar.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Currency	Buying		
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.5500	58.5800	USD	57.4000	57.2314	57.1629
54.5940	54.6809	EUR	52.1068	51.9234	51.8468
86.1587	86.2007	GBP	83.0025	82.7360	82.6814
33.0883	33.1129	AUD	30.9949	30.9024	30.8223
0.4685	0.4686	JPY	0.4522	0.4520	0.4510
37.3465	37.3710	CHF	36.0457	35.9512	35.8657
5.9065	5.9117	SEK	5.6826	5.6650	5.6490
38.0880	38.1125	CAD	36.9042	36.8106	36.7274
7.5146	7.5159	HKD	7.3547	7.3370	7.3196
32.755	32.7768	SGD	31.8172	31.7734	31.6588
16.0710	16.0886	AED	15.4925	15.4706	15.4521
15.7369	15.7553	SAR	15.1901	15.1534	15.1352

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued on Saturday. Demand for dollar was sluggish. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 9 and 10 per cent for the day.

The international markets were closed for the weekend.

At New York closing on Friday, euro traded at 0.9195/03 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4579/85 and yen traded at 125.84/90 against US dollar.

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