

Aktel phone card's validity extended to 30 days

Aktel pre-paid phone subscribers will now enjoy the validity period of Tk 300 refill cards up to 30 days instead of previous 21 days, says a press release.

TM International (Bangladesh) Limited (TMIB), the owning company of Aktel mobile phone, extended the validity period of its One Pre-paid Refill Scratch Card with effect from yesterday.

In a statement, Jose Ravee, general manager of Marketing of TMIB, said, "We are committed to providing our subscribers with the best possible mobile service and facilities. We are responding to a long-awaited expectation from our pre-paid subscribers."

Bangladesh trade fair likely in Germany

UNB, Dhaka

A single country trade fair may be held in Germany to generate interest among German businesspeople about Bangladeshi products.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said this when German Ambassador in Dhaka Dietrich Andreas called on her in Dhaka yesterday.

The prime minister said her government has given top priority to education for the development of human resources.

She also said importance has been given to rural electrification to accelerate rural development and bring changes in rural life.

The German envoy said the firm commitment of the prime minister and her government to lead the country towards development generated inspiration among foreign donors to help Bangladesh.

"It will also help strengthen

economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Germany," said Andreas.

He appreciated the government's steps to successfully tackle and overcome the recent devastating floods and the post-flood incessant rains.

In the meeting, the prime minister made a formal request for more investments in Bangladesh by German private sector.

Responding to the prime minister's request, Andreas said a German leather company in Savar is already in operation while Metro, a big department store in Germany that imports Bangladeshi products will increase its import volume from Bangladesh in the post-MFA period.

The envoy said Germany is also cooperating with Bangladesh by providing the country with expertise and technical know-how.

Kenya Airways eyes tourists from Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a bid to expand its business in Bangladesh, Kenya Airways held a product presentation in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The African airline plans to intensify its marketing efforts here in Bangladesh to woo Bangladeshi tourists, Emmanuel Chepkong, area manager for India and Sri Lanka of the airline, said at the programme.

"We have an extensive network within 22 African destinations and Bangladeshis can get a chance to explore wilderness of Africa by travelling through the Kenya Airways," he added.

Terming Kenya as the safari capital of the world, he urged local tourists to visit Kenya.

Speaking at the function, the airline's Country Sales Manager in India Seigfred Mendoza said, "Though there is no flight from Dhaka now, Bangladeshis can travel by Kenya Airways in daily flight to Nairobi from Mumbai in India".

Regarding the availability of visa, he said as a Commonwealth state Bangladesh's tourists can get the on arrival visa.

MA Muhaimin Saleh, chairman of National Travel Bureau, the general sales agent of Kenya Airways in Bangladesh, also spoke.

HSBC opens Customer Service Centre in Ctg

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd in Bangladesh opened its first-ever Customer Service Centre in Chittagong yesterday.

In the new centre, customers will get the ATM, Easy Pay, phonebanking and website services and can consult the customer service officers from 9am to 10pm seven days a week.

David JH Griffiths, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, formally inaugurated the centre.

Oil prices fall from \$50 as crude stocks swell

REUTERS, London

Oil prices dropped from record highs above \$50 a barrel on Wednesday as weekly US inventory data showed a surprise increase in crude stocks, easing fears over stretched international supplies.

New York crude futures fell 80 cents to \$49.10 a barrel following Tuesday's surge to a record \$50.47. London Brent dropped 75 cents to \$45.70 a barrel.

Prices tumbled after US government stockpile data showed US commercial crude oil inventories swelling by 3.4 million barrels last week to 272.9 million -- the first rise in nine weeks.

Analysts on average had expected a draw of 3.8 million barrels, as companies struggled to recover production on the Gulf of Mexico and the offloading of imports on the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port in the wake of Hurricane Ivan.

"That's very bearish," said Ed Silliere of Energy Merchant Corp. "The imports are higher than we anticipated."

Fears over stretched global supplies were underlined this week when rebels seeking autonomy in Nigeria said they would declare war in the oil-rich Niger delta, home to most of the country's 2.3 million barrels per day output.

Rebel leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari was in the Nigerian capital Abuja on Wednesday for talks with President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Asari told Reuters that his militia's offensive, due to be launched on Friday, would be suspended if an agreement was reached on self-determination and resource control for the vast delta region.

While a government agreement on those terms is highly improbable, the move to hold peace talks was being read in oil markets as a positive signal.

Oil companies have ignored Asari's instruction to leave the delta, but stepped up security in the vast area of mangrove swamps and creeks. So far only a small volume of oil output has been closed.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (September 29, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank:					
Sell				Buy	
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
59.8500	59.9000	USD	58.6050	58.4329	58.3629
74.5312	74.5935	EUR	71.5450	71.3348	71.2495
109.2322	109.3235	GBP	105.5300	105.2201	105.0941
43.6905	43.7270	AUD	41.3458	41.2244	41.1750
0.5462	0.5466	JPY	0.5240	0.5225	0.5218
48.0955	48.1356	CHF	46.1130	45.9775	45.9225
8.4786	8.4866	SEK	7.6680	7.6668	7.6268
47.5075	47.5472	CAD	45.6603	45.5262	45.4717
7.6813	7.6878	HKD	7.5071	7.4851	7.4761
35.4919	35.5216	SGD	34.4472	34.3460	34.3049
16.4279	16.4416	AED	15.8272	15.7807	15.7618
16.0870	16.1004	SAR	15.5040	15.4584	15.4399
10.3409	10.3495	DKK	9.3280	9.3006	9.2895
203.7100	203.8802	KWD	191.7703	191.2070	190.9781
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar					
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar
46.05	59.22	103.64	41.550	6.7690	0.7203
				Malaysian ringgit	
				3.80	

STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 29/9/2004

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/2	Ocean Pride	Sugar (P)	Sing	PSAL	11/9	29/9	984
J/3	Pagan	GI (Pulse)	Yang	Jardine	23/9	29/9	771
J/4	Naniwa	GI (S.Ash)	Pipa	Nyjk	25/9	1/10	2087
J/5	Subtermulyo-II	Tsp (Bag)	China	Pacific	18/9	6/10	1978
J/6	Asean Energy	GI (Log)	Yang	Mutual	26/9	2/10	1515
J/7	Alinda	Sugar (P)	Durb	OTL	24/9	12/10	975
J/8	Vien Dong-2	GI (PA/St)	Yinch	Prog	28/9	2/10	1464
J/9	Guo Shun	C Clink	Kaki	Move	24/9	3/10	2584
J/10	Qc Honour	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	26/9	29/9	--
J/11	Kota Tampan	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	26/9	30/9	75
J/13	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	28/9	1/10	244
CCT/1	Oel Esteem	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	28/9	1/10	271
CCT/2	Orient Enterprise	Cont	Hald	PSSL	28/9	1/10	236
CCT/3	New Blessing	Cont	P Kel	Everbest	27/9	30/9	437

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Lanka	29/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Qc Dignity	29/9	Ptp	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	29/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
Taking	30/9	Lurnut	Move	C Clink	Scjr
Banga Borak	30/9	P Kel	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
Van Xuan	30/9	Pela	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Barta	30/9	P Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Qc Star	30/9	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Me Linh	1/10	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Taramen Biti	1/10	Mong	Nishat	P/Cargo	--
Xpress Resolve	1/10	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Cey Pioneer	2/10	Qinz	Total	TSP	--
Dongtai Fortune	2/10	Sin	Nol	Cont	Sing
Rio Negro	2/10	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj	2/10	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Ocean Moray	29/9	Sing	ECSEB	W/Lrd Naptha
Al Kuwaitiah	30/9	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/IP-1
Al Sabaiyah	2/10	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD
Mado	2/10	Viza	MBL	Ammonia K/A
Lombardia	8/10	Rast	OWSL	Crude Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Revelation	Dr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	14/9
Dea Captain	--	--	IBSA	R/A (2N/9)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready				
Yaad-e-Mohammed	Sugar (P)	Bank	CLA	26/9

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by				Family, Dhaka.



PHOTO: HSBC

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Bangladesh CEO David JH Griffiths opens the bank's first Customer Service Centre in Chittagong yesterday. Mamoon M Shah, manager, Personal Financial Services, HSBC Bangladesh, and other high officials of HSBC were also present in the opening ceremony.