

Star BUSINESS

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Phone and fun industries connect in Barcelona

AFP, Barcelona

The mobile phone industry buzzed with talk of the "next billion" and closer links with the entertainment business last week as more than 1,000 companies gathered here for one of the biggest telecom trade shows.

The "next billion" refers to the next billion handset sales which the giants in the sector expect to come from emerging markets such as India and China.

Closer links, or "convergence" as insiders call it, between telecom groups and entertainment companies are expected to result in more products being made available over the phone.

Supplying games, video, television, music and Internet services from eBay to MySpace are all part of a new strategy to increase revenues per user for telecom groups and provide a new outlet for the entertainment industry.

"We're ready to collaborate to transform this potential into reality," declared the chief executive of Warner Music at the 3GSM trade show, Edgar Bronfman.

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"But the problem remains the user interface and until that is simplified then consumers won't find the content."

The user interface is the system consumers use to navigate to the services they desire, which at present is often clunky and unclear.

Lane also stressed that the new services had to seem "relevant" to consumers, presenting a marketing and technological challenge.

Many now buy ringtones because of their obvious utility, but would they choose their mobile phones to watch television, play games and surf the Internet?

Despite a hailstorm of jargon and new acronyms for the latest technology, the persistent use of the expression "the next billion" stood out at this year's conference.

With mobile phone markets nearly saturated in the developed world, network operators and handset manufacturers are turning their attention to the fertile ground of emerging countries.

Making affordable phones and

targeting consumers with smaller budgets have now clearly become priorities.

"There are between 2.5 and 2.8 billion people who have a mobile phone; the next billion will come from the high-growth market," said the strategy director for Motorola, David Taylor, referring to Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The US handset manufacturer won the GSM Association award for best ultra low-cost phone at the conference with its "Motofone" model, a sub-\$30 dollar handset for the developing world.

While China was the talk of Barcelona at the 3GSM conference in 2006, India stole the show this year.

Vodafone agreed to pay 11.1 billion dollars (8.4 billion euros) for Indian operator Hutchinson Essar in the run up to the event, putting the country firmly in the limelight.

Elsewhere, there was strong representation at the giant conference centre from the pornography industry, with new companies offering products tailored for the tiny screen.



PHOTO: CONTINENTAL INS
The Annual Conference-2007 of Continental Insurance Ltd was recently held in Dhaka. Chairman of the company Md Musa Meah, Vice Chairman Mohammed Iqbal, Directors AKM Azizur Rahman, Sultan Ahmed, and Tehsin Rashid and Managing Director Md Hashmat Ali were present.



PHOTO: CBC
The annual staff conference of Commercial Bank of Ceylon (CBC) Ltd Bangladesh was held in the capital recently. Among others, CBC Managing Director A L Gooneratne and Country Manager S Ranganathan were present.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (February 18, 2007) foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

	Major currency exchange rates		Exchange rate of some currencies	
	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US Dollar	69.45	68.15		
Euro	92.89	88.02		
Pound	136.94	131.24	Indian Rupee	43.88 1.57
Australian Dollar	55.84	52.61	PAK Rupee	60.59 1.14
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.57	Lankan Rupee	108.70 0.63
Swiss Franc	56.73	54.69	Thai Bath	33.38 2.06
Swedish Kroner	9.86	9.12	Malaysian Ringgit	3.49 19.70
Canadian Dollar	60.26	58.02		
Hong Kong Dollar	8.90	8.71		
Singapore Dollar	45.86	44.30		
UAE Dirham	19.06	18.41		
Saudi Riyal	18.67	18.03		
Danish Krone	12.80	11.51	1 M	68.25 69.55
Kuwaiti Dinar	236.88	234.14	2 M	68.37 69.66
* All currencies are quoted against BDT				
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction				
	3 M		68.51	69.84
	6 M		68.70	70.43



PHOTO: GREEN DELTA INS
Managing Director of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd Nasir A Choudhury and other senior officials are seen with the participants of a training course on 'Marin Insurance' organised by the company for its employees in Dhaka recently.

STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 18/2/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	New Baroness	Gr(st. C)	Hochi	Seacom	16/2	20/2	935
J/2	Qing Jiang(liner)	Gr	Qing	Cosco	10/2	22/2	1857
J/4+3	Arella	Wheat(p)	Odessa	Pol	6/2	22/2	2617
J/6	Banga Bodor	Cont	P.Kel	Baridhi	15/2	21/2	--
J/7	Phu Yan	Cont	Ptp	Pssi	6/2	18/2	--
J/9	Kota Rakayat	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	10/2	22/2	--
J/10	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/2	20/2	303
J/11	Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	Pmt	15/2	19/2	227
J/12	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	9/2	20/2	225
J/13	Kota Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	11/2	18/2	--
CCT/1	Eagle Progress	Cont	P.Kel	Everbest	13/2	22/2	115
CCT/3+2	Rhone Borg	Cont	Ptp	Qsl	8/2	19/2	199
NCT/1	Dali	Cont	Col	Seacom	13/2	21/2	331

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Zhen Hua-12	18/2	Xing	Uniglobal	Rubber/Tyred	--
Cosmic Challenger	18/2	Yangon	Everett	--	
Fu Wen Shan	25/2	Paradip	Cosco	Gr	--
Sea Lorry	19/2	Kaoh	Rship	Scraping	--
Yordan Lutibrodska	18/2	Novo	Rainbow	Wheat	--
Sinar Merak	18/2	Pkel	Pssi	Cont	Sing
Sarin	18/2	Lumut	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Tian Ling	18/2	Sing	Mhi	Cont	Col
Yongxing	18/2	Col	Pssi	Cont	Col
Bellatrix-1d	20/2	Chnn	Oil	Gr	--
QC Wisdom	19/2	Pkl	Qsl	Cont	Sing
Asrar-a-mostafa	18/2	Okha	Cla	Gil. Ash	--
Xpress Resolve	21/2	Pkel	Seacom	Cont	Sing
Eagle Pride	21/2	—	Ct	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name	Date	Port	Master	HSD/JP-1
Banga	20/2	Kuwa	Mstpl	

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	—	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	—	Ibsa	3/1
Pacific Champion	—	—	Ibsa	R/a(9/2)
Pacific Steel	P. Equip	—	Ibsa	R/a(14/2)

Outside port limit

Name	Pro. Equip	—	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	—	Ibsa	3/1

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Name	Cont	Sing	Ap	16/2
Esham	Cont	Paser	Cel	16/2
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P.Kel	Ct	16/2
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/2
Sc Gouji	Cpo	Dumai	Snci	17/2
Banga Borti	Cont	P.Kel	Baridhi	17/2

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