

3G licence for mobile operators soon



Post and Telecommunication Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju speaks at the Huawei 3G network solutions live demonstration and road-show at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The much-awaited 3G licence is likely to be awarded to the mobile phone operators some time after the launch of WiMax in between June and July, said the telecom minister yesterday.

In the meantime, Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju suggested the prospective 3G operators get ready to launch the 3G services. "The 3G licences might be issued after WiMax debuts in the market in between June and July," said the minister in a 3G live demonstration programme organised by Chinese based telecom vendor Huawei Technologies Co Ltd at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) awarded three WiMax licences last year via an open auction. Of the three, two are expected to launch WiMax services by June-July 2009.

Huawei Technologies is providing support to all the mobile operators, handling around 60 percent of all the calls of the mobile companies.

The minister said the initiative to go for high speed broadband through the 3G technology will help the government achieve its pledge to make Bangladesh digital by 2021.

Huawei gave a live demonstration from a specially built truck, which earlier travelled to many countries across the world, including India and Vietnam, to display the cutting-edge 3G technologies supplied by

DCCI talks joint ventures with Pak team

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) yesterday urged a visiting trade delegation from Pakistan to jointly set up industries in Bangladesh. DCCI President Zafar Osman said there is wide scope to deepen bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

He was speaking at a meeting with a six-member delegation from All Pakistan Bed-sheet and Upholstery Manufacturers Association at his office.

Osman stressed high quality production and diversification of goods in the export sectors.

S Muhammad Aasim, who led the Pakistani delegation, stressed use of the sea route for direct export facilities. The delegation expressed eagerness to invest in Bangladesh.

Emirates hikes free baggage allowance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates has recently announced an increase in its free baggage allowances for passengers.

The new allowances have been implemented across the airline's extensive network of over 100 destinations globally -- 30kg for economy class, 40kg for business and 50kg for first.

"This new announcement will enable Emirates passengers with the flexibility to carry more," the airline said in a recent press statement.

"Emirates has moved to these new free baggage levels to further demonstrate its commitment to put the passengers first."

"This offer will allow passengers to take more gifts and take advantage of the outstanding shopping in Dubai and across the extensive network of Emirates destinations," said Nabil Sultan, divisional senior vice president (revenue optimisation) of Emirates.

The change is effective for all tickets issued on or after May 4.

Steps taken to ensure availability of fertiliser next season: Minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has taken initiative to ensure adequate supply of fertilisers to farmers in the next cultivation season, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said yesterday.

"We are reviewing production, procurement and distribution scenario of fertilisers to ensure the supply of farm inputs next year," said the minister at the 15th annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA), the body of about 5,000 fertiliser dealers engaged in distribution of both urea and non-urea fertilisers to farmers.

The programme was organised at Officers' Club in the capital. Barua appreciated the dealers for proper distribution of fertilisers during boro season and hoped that domestic economy might not be hurt if agricultural production remains robust. "Our main target is to maintain a healthy farm output by ensuring adequate supply of inputs like fertiliser," he said.

Barua also assured fertiliser dealers and importers of resolving their problems. "We will take steps to solve your valid problems by consultation with the agriculture minister."

This assurance came after BFA Chairman Kafil Uddin urged for government support to make up for the losses the importers faced from non-urea fertilisers.

In his written statement, Kafil Uddin also said that dealers now sit on a stockpile of urea and non-urea fertilisers worth about Tk 2000 crore because of the low demand at farmers level.

The BFA chief also demanded that the government take steps to reopen the 2200 pellet urea making factories to help the small entrepreneurs, hurt by the financial losses because of suspension of raw material supply to their plants.

Beximco Pharma's new MD



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd yesterday appointed Nazmul Hassan as its managing director, according to a press release.

Prior to this new assignment, Hassan served as chief executive officer of the company. Since his joining the Beximco Pharma in 1987, he served in various capacities, including chief operating officer and director of Marketing and Commercial.

An MBA from Dhaka University, Hassan is currently the adviser to the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries.

Hassan, also a member of parliament, is the only son of President Zillur Rahman and late Ivy Rahman.

New MD for Bank Asia



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia has recently appointed Erfanuddin Ahmed as the bank's president and managing director for three years, says a press release.

Prior to this new assignment, he was the bank's acting managing director from January 7, 2009.

Ahmed, an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka, joined Bank Asia in 1999 and was promoted to deputy managing director in 2006.



Rajiv Prasad Shaha (right), managing director of Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal, and John Safapour (left), a director of Health for Humanity, a US-based charitable healthcare services organisation, pose after signing a memorandum of understanding recently. The MoU will serve as a framework for the collaboration in healthcare services in Bangladesh.

Nigerian power investment urged

UNB, Dhaka

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday invited Nigeria to invest in various fields, especially in power sector, as the apex business body presented before a delegation from the Nigerian government through the visiting delegation from Nigeria National Defense College when the team met FBCCI leaders here.

During the meeting, the trade body sought direct linkage with the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce for enhancing trade between the two countries as the bilateral trade position remained so poor.

The delegation expressed their interest in micro-credit system to adopt it in Nigeria for poverty alleviation as it became popular in Bangladesh.

The business leaders also requested Nigeria to import pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh as they believe Bangladesh produces quality medicines, which is proven on the world market.

Earlier, FBCCI First Vice-President Abul Kashem Ahmed and its directors welcomed the delegation led by Rear Admiral T J Lokoson.

The delegation expressed their interest in micro-credit system to adopt it in Nigeria for poverty alleviation as it became popular in Bangladesh.

ACI eyes bigger share in electronics market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

ACI Limited eyes 12 percent volume share in Bangladesh electronics market in next one year on the company's embark on such business with marketing of Panasonic branded audio-visual products here.

The company officials say it wants to make a strong position in the Japanese branded colour television market.

The Advanced Chemical Industries has projected to sell some 7,200 pieces of Panasonic branded colour television, LCD and plasma television sets in the first year.

"Our target is not only selling the premium products, but also regular or common items for middle income group to upper level," said a senior ACI official.

Japanese branded televisions have a 15 percent market share in the country's total television market, which is dominated by Chinese branded televisions with 60 percent market share. Korean branded televisions have 25 percent market share.

ACI Consumer Brands, a strategic business unit of ACI, has already sold four

50 inches plasma televisions, eight 42 inches plasma televisions and eight 42 inches LCD televisions.

LCD televisions that are marketed by ACI ranged between 32 inches and 42 inches and prices between Tk 85,999 and Tk 1,55,999, while plasma televisions ranged between 42 inches and 50 inches and prices between Tk 1,31,999 and Tk 2,59,999.

Prices of regular or common colour television ranged between Tk 20,499 and Tk 22,499.

"We have started the marketing and retailing of Panasonic branded audio-visual products in Bangladesh on some terms and conditions," Syed Alamgir, executive director of ACI, said.

The product profile comprises colour television, LCD and plasma, DVD home theatre, DVD player, mini hi-fi system, digital still camera and video camera.

Earlier, Panasonic products were marketed by Nicole, now defunct.

Regarding assembling plant of Panasonic in Bangladesh, he said: "There is no such discussion and arrangements with Panasonic in this respect."



AEA Muhaimen, managing director of BRAC Bank Ltd, speaks to the press while unveiling 'Joy of Banking', a campaign of the bank, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বিসয়ঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সময় বর্ধিতকরণ প্রসঙ্গে।

স্টেশার নোটিস ২য় বার. ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়.

বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড. বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা).

আইন উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ডে একজন আইন উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ সূত্রীম কোর্ট. সূত্রীম কোর্ট ভবন ঢাকা. পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি.