

## GP, TeleTalk to relay early disaster message

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The users of Grameenphone (GP) and state-owned TeleTalk in Cox's Bazar and Sirajganj will receive from now on early warning mes-

sage about impending natural disasters in a bid to reduce damages to life and property.

Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) signed separate memorandum of understandings

(MoUs) with the two mobile phone operators under a pilot project for six months.

The signing ceremony was held at the conference room of the food and disaster management

ministry yesterday.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque, Secretary Mokhesur Rahman and Grameenphone CEO Oddver Hesjedal were present on the occasion.

Farhaduddin, director general of Disaster Management Bureau, Raihan Shamsi, chief corporate officer of Grameenphone, and Mojibar Rahman, managing director of TeleTalk, signed the MoUs for the pilot project. As per the agreement, the two cellphone operators will send instant messages to their users in Cox's Bazar, a cyclone-prone district, and Sirajganj, a flood-prone district, once the government learns about any impending disasters.

The messages will be sent through Cell Broadcasting System by which the messages will flash automatically on the screen of mobile phone sets, instead of going to the message boxes.

A user does not require pushing any button.

"If the pilot project is successful, it will spread all over the country," said the food and disaster management minister, terming the move a milestone in fighting disaster and mitigating the sufferings of people and damages to properties.

He said the pilot project will be extended eventually throughout the country through Comprehensive Disaster Management Programmes (CDMP).

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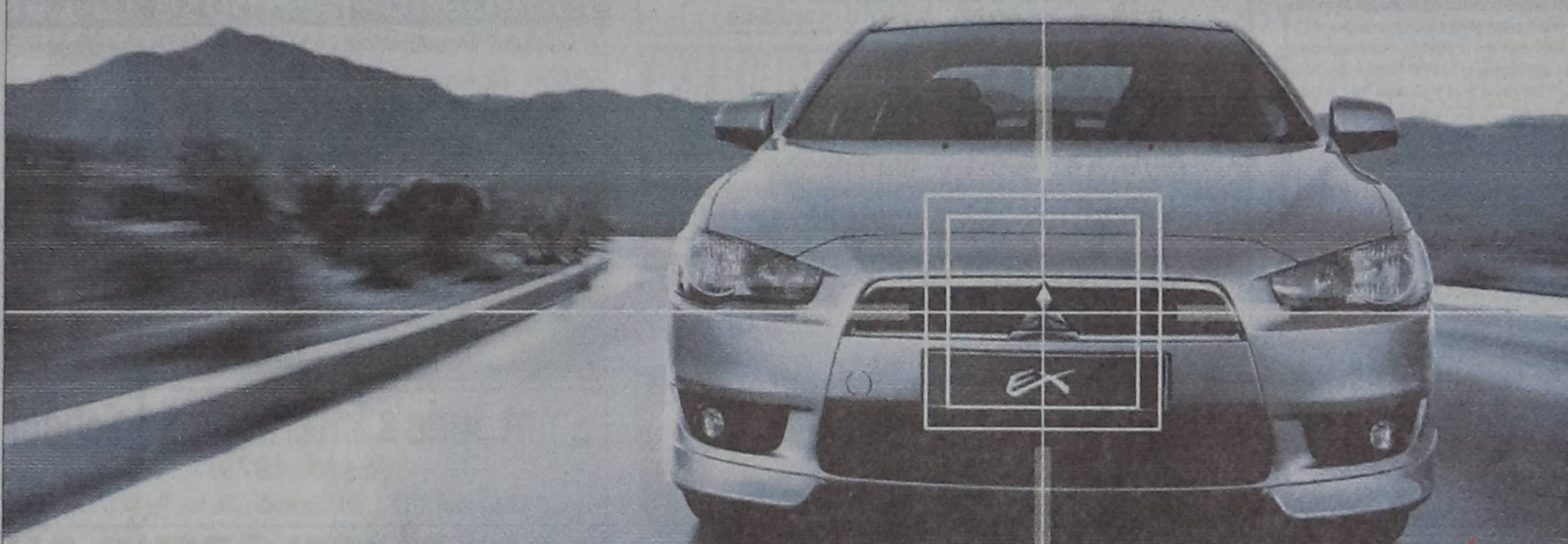
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 grameenphone