Broadband internet to boost earnings: Study

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The annual earning from broadband internet penetration in Bangladesh is expected to reach Tk 128 billion by 2020 if the country ensures a rule-based policy regime, a study said yesterday.

Bangladesh's internet penetration rate may grow to 32 percent at household level and 66 percent at business level by 2020 from the existing average of four percent, according to the study conducted by Boston Consulting Group USA.

Of the expected income, 90 percent will be generated only through the internet-based business. Mobile broadband will play a crucial role in reaching internet to the mass, said the study conducted on behalf of Telenor Group, the majority shareholder in Bangladesh's mobile giant Grameenphone.

Ola Jo Tandre, director of Telenor Group (communications, corporate responsibility), showed the prospect of Bangladesh in a presentation at a seminar on 'Achieving 2021: A Digital Age for Bangladesh' organised by GSM Association at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka.

GSM (Global System of Mobile Communication) Association safeguards the interest of the mobile communications industry globally. The association unites around 800 mobile operators from 219 countries.

"Bangladesh has a bigger chance than any other countries to use its 3G (third generation) spectrum for broadband rollout," said Tom Phillips, government and regulatory affairs officer (public policy) of the association.

Citing an example, he said Bangladesh's spectrum is not massively used by armed forces like in India, which is an advantage for Bangladesh to offer affordable broadband.

"Spectrum cost should be nominal to ensure the affordability of broadband services," said Phillips.

Bangladesh's Telecom Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju said the government will not go for auction to award 3G licences like WiMax licence, which was awarded at a hefty price of Tk 215 crore.

Phillips said 1.3 billion fixed phones now cover 19.4 percent of the world's total population, while 4.3 billion mobile lines link 64 percent. GSM operators cover 80 percent of the total mobile subscribers.

A 10 percentage-point increase in internet penetration leads to 1-1.25 percent leap in GDP (gross domestic product), 3-10 percent jump in production, one percent in new business, 2 percent in FDI (foreign direct investment) and 8-9 percent increase in government revenues, the study found.

In Bangladesh, 48 percent urban people are aware of internet services, while 29 percent of the rural population have heard about the service.

"Introduction of mobile broadband will help achieve the government's target of 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021, perhaps even ahead of the time. The telecom industry in Bangladesh would be honoured to be part of making this vision a reality," said Hakan Rusch, president and country manager of Ericsson Bangladesh Ltd, in a presentation.

Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and ICT, Zia Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Oddvar Hesjedal, chief executive officer of Grameenphone, and Frode Stoldal, chief technical officer, also spoke at the event.

Bangladesh will have around 20 million internet subscribers by 2020 if proper policy support is provided, and 90 percent of the users will be added through wireless connections.

The study was part of an in-depth research into the adoption rate of internet and its impact in the emerging economies with special focus on Bangladesh, Thailand and Serbia.

Currently around five million people in Bangladesh enjoy internet services offered by both mobile and fixed internet service providers.

While talking about the possibilities of internet penetration in Bangladesh, Tandre said: "The patient-doctor ratio in Bangladesh is 4000:1, which is 1750:1 in India. So, internet can provide a perfect link between a patient in the rural area to a doctor sitting in a city hospital. In this way, we can lower the count."

"The internet can also diversify the sources of income, for example in agriculture by improving price systems and reducing the reliance on middlemen. The internet can increase considerably the prices the farmers receive for their output."

The study suggested ensuring transparency and predictability through better governance by reducing the uncertainty faced by the providers.

The government and the regulator should make sure that a high quality regulatory regime is in place.

STAR

Customs agents take to the streets in Dhaka yesterday demanding an end to the backlog of containers at Kamalapur Inland Container Depot.

Business leaders join hands to develop port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI) leaders yesterday pledged to work united to advance the port city and contribute to the country's economic development.

Addressing a press conference, they said divided leadership, in both business and politics, was the reason that held Chittagong back.

The press meet was called to announce the installation of the board of directors of the organisation that is scheduled for tomorrow.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan will be chief guest at the installation ceremony at the Tennis Complex of Chittagong Club Limited, CMCCI President Abdus Salam said.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen, State Minister for Forest and Environment Dr Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipankar Talukdar and Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury will also be present as special guests.

On formation of a separate chamber, CMCCI, that resulted in a split in the centuries-old Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), the CMCCI president said: "A metropolitan chamber was needed as chamber activities had to be extended to keep pace with increasing development and economic activities."

"Misunderstandings may exist, but those should not continue. We call to make united efforts to remove the problems faced by business communities and Chittagong," said Salam.

"We want a proper use of the nation's resources and we believe Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will not do anything against the interests of the country," said Salam, on whether they have suggestions to develop infrastructure and increase facilities that may be required to open the Chittagong Port to India or any other neighbouring country.

"She will certainly do whatever is required."

The CMCCI leaders said they would work side by side with the government to help remove the power and gas crises.

CMCCI First Vice-President Khalilur Rahman, Directors Alihussain Akbarali, Shakhawat Hossain, Sufi Mizanur Rahman and Mahabub Chowdhury were also present.

CMCCI got approval to work as a business organisation from the commerce ministry on January 6 last year and it carried out some activities for two months before CCCI President MA Latif MP in March filed a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the legality of the organisation.

However, CMCCI was able to resume activities after eight months, when the High Court rejected the writ petition on November 24, 2009.

BANGLALINK

Ahmed Abou Doma, managing director of Banglalink, and Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd, shake hands after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. Selected Banglalink distribution outlets will be used as remittance disbursement cash points for the remittances sourced through the bank.

ব্যাংকার্স রিক্রুটমেন্ট কমিটি
প্রযত্নে ঃ হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ঃ ০৫/২০১০ তারিখ ঃ ১৯/০১/২০১০

ব্যাংকার্স রিক্রুটমেন্ট কমিটির তত্ত্বাবধানে কর্মসংস্থান ব্যাংক-এ 'অফিসার' পদে নিয়োগের জন্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি ।

উপরোক্ত পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে গত ২৩/১০/২০০৯ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের জন্য নিম্নরূপ তারিখ ও সময়সূচী নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে ঃ

লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়
০০২৫, ০০২৮, ০০৩৪, ০০৪১, ০০৪৮, ০০৬৫, ০০৯২, ০১৮০, ০২০৫, ০২৩৭, ০২৪৫, ০২৪৮, ০৩৫৮, ০৪৩০, ০৪৪৯, ০৬৩৫, ০৬৪৫, ০৬৮৫, ০৭৪০, ০৯৩৬, ০৯৮৩, ১০০৬, ১০১৪, ১০৭৮, ১১০০, ১১৩৫, ১১৬৪, ১২০৭, ১২৫২, ১২৫৩, ১২৫৫, ১৩১২, ১৩২৯, ১৩৩৮, ১৩৩৯, ১৩৫৭, ১৩৬৬, ১৩৮৫, ১৫৩৭, ১৫৮২, ১৬১৭, ১৬৩৯	০১/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
১৬৬২, ১৭৫৬, ১৮৪৯, ১৯২৩, ১৯৫৮, ১৯৮১, ২০৪১, ২০৫২, ২০৯৮, ২১০৭, ২১১৩, ২১১৮, ২১২২, ২১৪৫, ২১৬৭, ২১৭৬, ২১৮৩, ২২০৮, ২২১৯, ২২২০, ২২৪৬, ২২৬০, ২২৬৪, ২২৯৫, ২২৯৬, ২৩০৮, ২৩২২, ২৩৩০, ২৩৪২, ২৩৪৫, ২৩৪৬, ২৩৫১, ২৩৫৩, ২৩৬৬, ২৪০৮, ২৪২৩, ২৪৩৩, ২৪৩৭, ২৪৪৬, ২৪৬১, ২৪৬৪, ২৪৬৬	০২/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
২৪৭৯, ২৪৯৭, ২৬৪৯, ২৭০১, ২৭৯৫, ২৯৩৭, ৩০৯৩, ৩১৩৩, ৩১৭৪, ৩২১১, ৩২২২, ৩২২৩, ৩২৩৩, ৩২৪০, ৩২৭৯, ৩২৮৭, ৩৩১২, ৩৩১৩, ৩৩৮৪, ৩৪০৪, ৩৫৯৭, ৩৬০২, ৩৬০৩, ৩৬১২, ৩৬৩৮, ৩৬৩৯, ৩৬৬৯, ৩৬৮১, ৩৭৩৪, ৩৭৮৯, ৩৮১৯, ৩৮৪৯, ৩৮৫২, ৩৮৬৭, ৩৮৭৩, ৩৮৭৯, ৩৮৯২, ৩৯২৩, ৩৯৫১, ৩৯৬৩, ৩৯৬৪, ৩৯৮৬	০৩/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৩৯৯৭, ৪০০৯, ৪০৬৯, ৪০৮৮, ৪১০২, ৪১৪১, ৪১৬১, ৪১৬২, ৪১৭১, ৪১৭৭, ৪১৮৬, ৪১৯২, ৪১৯৬, ৪২১৩, ৪২১৫, ৪২২২, ৪২২৩, ৪২৫৮, ৪২৭২, ৪২৮১, ৪২৮৩, ৪২৮৬, ৪২৯০, ৪৩০৭, ৪৬১৩, ৪৬৫৫, ৪৬৫৮, ৪৬৬৮, ৪৬৭৭, ৪৬৯৯, ৪৭২৯, ৪৭৪৯, ৪৭৫২, ৪৭৯৬, ৪৮২৯, ৪৮৪৩, ৪৮৪৭, ৪৮৭৪, ৪৮৯৪, ৪৯০৭	০৪/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৫০০৬, ৫০১০, ৫০২২, ৫০৩২, ৫০৪১, ৫০৬৩, ৫০৭৫, ৫১২৬, ৫১২৮, ৫১৩৮, ৫১৬২, ৫১৬৯, ৫১৭৫, ৫১৮২, ৫২০৯, ৫২৩০, ৫২৪২, ৫২৫২, ৫২৬১, ৫২৬৪, ৫২৮১, ৫২৮২, ৫৩১০, ৫৩২২, ৫৩২৫, ৫৩৩৩, ৫৩৩৪, ৫৩৫৫, ৫৩৬২, ৫৩৬৭, ৫৩৭৯, ৫৩৮৩, ৫৩৮৪, ৫৩৮৭, ৫৪০০, ৫৪০৮, ৫৪২৮, ৫৪৪৩, ৫৪৪৬, ৫৪৫০, ৫৪৫৩, ৫৪৬৩	০৭/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৫৪৬৪, ৫৪৭২, ৫৪৭৮, ৫৪৮৩, ৫৪৯৭, ৫৫১০, ৫৫৪০, ৫৫৪৪, ৫৫৬৮, ৫৫৭১, ৫৫৮৬, ৫৫৯৬, ৫৬২২, ৫৬৩৪, ৫৬৫৬, ৫৬৬৯, ৫৬৭০, ৫৬৮৫, ৫৭০৭, ৫৭৫৯, ৫৭৯১, ৫৭৯৯, ৫৮০৩, ৫৮০৬, ৫৮২৪, ৫৮৩০, ৫৮৫২, ৫৮৫৪, ৫৮৭৬, ৫৮৮৯, ৫৮৯৪, ৫৯৩৭, ৫৯৪২, ৫৯৫৫, ৫৯৯২, ৬০০৮, ৬০১০, ৬০৪৮, ৬০৫৬, ৬১০০, ৬১০১, ৬১০৫	০৮/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৬১২০, ৬১২১, ৬১২৭, ৬১২৯, ৬১৩০, ৬১৪৭, ৬১৫২, ৬১৫৮, ৬১৮৫, ৬১৮৭, ৬২০১, ৬২০৫, ৬২৩৮, ৬২৬৪, ৬২৬৫, ৬২৬৮, ৬২৭৩, ৬২৭৮, ৬২৮০, ৬২৯০, ৬২৯৭, ৬২৯৯, ৬৩১৫, ৬৩২৫, ৬৩৫২, ৬৩৫৯, ৬৩৬০, ৬৩৭৩, ৬৩৭৬, ৬৩৯৫, ৬৪০৩, ৬৪০৭, ৬৪১৪, ৬৪৪৪, ৬৪৪৬, ৬৪৫৪, ৬৪৮০, ৬৪৮২, ৬৫৬৮, ৬৮৫২, ৬৮৬৯, ৬৮৮৯	০৯/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৬৯২৩, ৭২৩৬, ৭২৬৬, ৭৩৭৮, ৭৩৮২, ৭৩৮৯, ৭৩৯৮, ৭৪২৪, ৭৪৫৪, ৭৪৬০, ৭৪৭৭, ৭৪৮৪, ৭৫০৯, ৭৫৪৩, ৭৫৬৭, ৭৫৮৬, ৭৫৮৭, ৭৫৯৫, ৭৬১০, ৭৬১২, ৭৬৩০, ৭৬৩১, ৭৬৬৮, ৭৬৭৩, ৭৬৮৬, ৭৬৮৯, ৭৬৯২, ৭৬৯৫, ৭৬৯৯, ৭৭০৫, ৭৭০৯, ৭৭১২, ৭৭১৫, ৭৭১৬, ৭৭১৯, ৭৭৪০, ৭৭৪৫, ৭৭৭৩, ৭৭৭৬, ৭৭৭৭, ৭৭৭৯, ৭৭৮১	১০/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা
৭৮১৪, ৭৮২১, ৭৮২৯, ৭৮৪৯, ৭৮৭৬, ৭৮৭৯, ৭৮৯৯, ৭৯০৭, ৭৯১০, ৭৯১৮, ৭৯২৩, ৭৯৩২, ৭৯৪৪, ৭৯৬১, ৭৯৭২, ৭৯৭৫, ৭৯৭৬, ৭৯৮১, ৭৯৮৮, ৭৯৯৯, ৮০১৮, ৮০৫৪, ৮০৫৯	১১/০২/২০১০ বিকাল ৩:৩০ টা

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার ইন্টারভিউ কার্ড ইতোমধ্যে প্রার্থীদের বরাবরে প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে । ইন্টারভিউ কার্ড না পেলে প্রার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব পরীক্ষার দিনে পরীক্ষার অন্ততঃ ০১(এক) ঘন্টা পূর্বে ০১(এক)কপি সত্যায়িত ছবিসহ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের প্রধান ভবনের **৬ষ্ঠ-তলাস্থ হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট এর রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং**-এ যোগাযোগ করে ডুপ্লিকেট কার্ড সংগ্রহের পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে ।

বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার মূল সনদপত্র ও প্রসংশাপত্র, মূল জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, মার্কশীট/Transcript ও আবেদনপত্রর সাথে সংযুক্ত অন্যান্য সকল সনদের মূলকপিসহ ইতঃপূর্বে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র অবশ্যই সংগে আনতে হবে । **মূল সনদপত্র এবং Transcript প্রদর্শনে ব্যর্থ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।**

বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঃ ৪৮/২০১০-১৬
তারিখ ঃ ২০/০১/২০১০.

(সুধীর চন্দ্র দাস)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, এইচআরডি
ও
সদস্য সচিব, বিআরসি

GD-356

Minister says Dhaka-NY flight resumes by March

UNB, *Dhaka*

The government hopes that operation of Dhaka-New York flight will resume by next March following addition of some leased Boeing 777 aircraft in the meantime.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader said this in parliament yesterday in reply to a supplementary question from Awami League lawmaker Manjur Quader Qureshi (Netrakna-3).

Replying to another part of the question, the minister said the government is taking steps to construct an international airport adjacent to the capital city.

"A preliminary committee formed earlier for pre-feasibility study will submit its report within this month and then the government will take next steps."

Replying to another question the minister said the process of constructing Khan Jahan Ali airport is going on as acquisition of land for this has been done.

BSS adds: Quader also said the government has taken various measurers including setting up exclusive tourist zones and appointment of tourist police to attract more tourists in the country.

"The cabinet in principle approved the draft of Bangladesh Tourism Protected Area and Special Tourist Zone Act, 2009," he said.

Through the act, a legal framework for raising a planned and coordinated tourist facilities is being prepared under public and private initiatives, he said.

"A mega plan has also been taken for the development of different tourist spots across the country including Cox's Bazar and Kuakata sea beaches to attract increased number of tourists," he added.

The government has a plan to celebrate a month in 2010 as a "Tourism Month" while "Tourism Year" would be observed in 2011 at the time of World Cup Cricket.

Janata to offer interest-free loans to poor farmers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Janata Bank as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) is going to provide interest-free loans to landless and marginal farmers.

The bank's board has initially allotted Tk 2 crore for providing loans under a project.

The programme will be formally launched tomorrow by distributing loans among the farmers affected by cyclones Sidr and Aila through the bank's Ghoraghat branch in Gouranadi upazila of Barisal district.

This is for the first time in Bangladesh that a bank is giving interest-free loans to the farmers.

Monga-hit farmers at Bhurngamari in Kurigram district will get such loans on January 26.

The bank in a statement said the project has been earmarked for freeing the landless and marginal farmers from the clutches of 'high-interest lenders'.

Managing Director of the bank SM Aminur Rahman told The Daily Star: "After completing the first phase, we will review how the loans were used and how much they (farmers) were benefited by it. Then the loan programme would be extended on the basis of the review."

Reforms in VAT law before next budget

NBR chairman says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Nasir Uddin Ahmed yesterday said the government will bring reforms in the VAT (value added tax) law before the next national budget to reduce the problems faced by business communities.

The NBR chief was addressing a workshop -- Motivating payment of VAT and use of Electronic Cash Register (ECR) at trader levels, jointly organised by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) and Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate at the CCCI conference room in the port city.

Leaders of different business bodies affiliated with the chamber participated.

They urged the NBR chairman to take initiatives to face different complexities of VAT and income tax laws.

The NBR chief said complexities in the laws and issues will be solved through discussion.

He further said NBR and finance ministry will arrange a discussion on February 11 in Dhaka to deliberate on reforms in the VAT law, with representatives from different trade bodies.

CCCI President MA Latif MP observed that without collecting required internal resources, it is difficult for a government to set up business-friendly infrastructure and ensure required services.

He also proposed the ECR be introduced among the top business people first and then small businesses.

IFIC BANK

Md Abdul Quasem, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, and Mosharraf Hossain, managing director of IFIC Bank Ltd, exchange documents after signing a refinance scheme for solar plant, biogas and effluent treatment plant, in Dhaka on Tuesday.