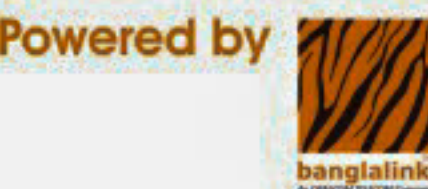


# IT & TELECOM

DHAKA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010, E-MAIL: it.telecom@thedailystar.net



CITYIT FAIR 2010

## 3G: wind in the sails

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

In 2008, we ran a story where Sirajul Islam; a sixty-year old man, who during one of his morning walks in the Gulshan area, saw an ambulance surrounded by a group of people. His curiosity took him to the spot, where he found that he could get a medical check-up at the ambulance by doctors sitting miles away.

He opted for a check-up and the officials in the ambulance took his medical history and details and sent them to a medical specialist at a distant hospital. After going through the details and seeing the patient live through video conferencing, the doctor prescribed Islam as needed.

This was the story of a pilot project, 'Alokito Bangladesh' (Enlightened Bangladesh), led by Ericsson Bangladesh Ltd. The project, which started back then on trial, used the 3G/HSPA (3rd generation/high speed packet access) technology.

This mobile broadband technology enables people to communicate with high-speed data transfers and enjoy services, like video calls, mobile TV and high-speed mobile broadband.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) gave Ericsson Bangladesh permission to deploy a demo 3G/HSPA network in Dhaka in 2008.

For the past few years, general packet radio services (GPRS) and Edge based mobile internet have revolutionised the country's internet usage. Now even in remote villages, where there is no internet connectivity but mobile networks are present, people are enjoying basic internet through

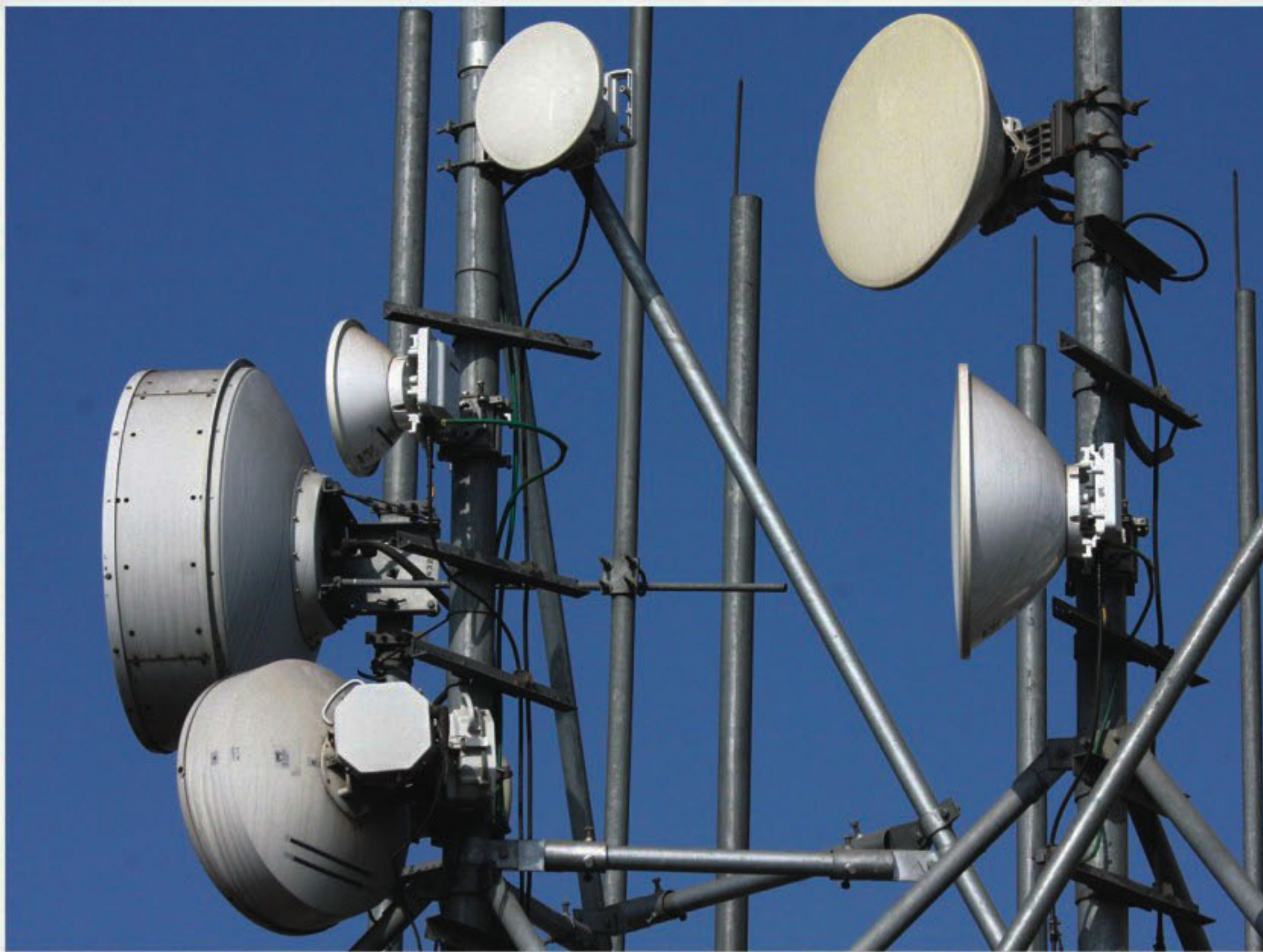


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

### Migrating to 3G networks will require infrastructure upgrade

their mobile phones.

Studies even reveal that many people in emerging markets experienced internet for the first time on their mobile phones.

At the recently held seminar by the GSM Association (GSMA) in Dhaka, the world industry body of the GSM (global system for mobile communications) technology elaborated how mobile broadband technology will enable the population of Bangladesh embrace the range of social and economic benefits associated with

increased internet penetration.

"In order to achieve this, the Bangladesh government and regulators should consider allocating 2100 MHz spectrum immediately that is required for HSPA mobile broadband deployment," said Tom Phillips, chief government and regulatory affairs officer at GSMA, in an interview on the sidelines of a seminar, 'Achieving 2021 - A Digital Age

for Bangladesh'.

He said Bangladesh currently faces a number of obstacles to widespread broadband adoption, including availability of fixed line infrastructure, which remains poor, particularly outside urban areas.

The GSMA official also stressed that with limited fixed line coverage unable to adequately serve the widely dispersed Bangladesh population, more focus must be given to releasing the urgently needed spectrum for Mobile

Broadband deployment.

At the seminar it was mentioned that mobile broadband will become the primary internet access route in Bangladesh for users in both rural and urban areas.

Phillips said the growth of mobile telephony is commendable in the country but the growth has been hindered due to high start up cost of mobile connection which is one of the highest in the world.

Currently in Bangladesh, five mobile operators -- GrameenPhone, Banglalink, AKTEL, Warid and Teletalk -- use the GSM technology and only CityCell uses the CDMAOne technology.

GSM is a cellular network, which means that mobile phones connect to its network by searching for cells in the nearest surrounding area. GSM networks operate in four different frequency ranges -- 850/900/1800/1900 MHz. Most GSM networks operate in the 900/1800 MHz bands.

The 3G/HSPA based networks, proposed to operate in 2100 MHz, could be a new ray of light for the poor of the country, which can provide access to better healthcare, enable distance learning and government initiatives, among other things.

Broadband connectivity and ICT technology are important tools for socio-economic progress in developing countries. Rural residents can also acquire employment skills through online training over the 3G/HSPA network, explore new job opportunities, receive micro-loans and other banking services, as well as call relatives and friends overseas at low rates.

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## Hot gadgets woo tech buffs at IT fair

MUSA IBRAHIM

Tech-savvy people are again upbeat as BCS Computer City at IDB Bhaban is hosting a computer fair titled CityIT Fair 2010, a 10-day computer razzmatazz.

The ninth consecutive show started yesterday with great enthusiasm among youths towards new technology. It will end on February 6.

Though it is only the showcasing of hardware, the traders hope the flagship fair will play substantial role in turning the country into Digital Bangladesh by helping people in remote areas get accessories, said trader association president Majibur Rahman Swapan.

The fair is also celebrating the 10th anniversary of the computer market with a total of 187 organisations offering special discount on the occasion.

Shoppers hover the fair from the very first day searching new laptop, desktop and notebook PCs, sound systems, digital camera, ipod, pen drive, TV card and other accessories.

Besides, the organisers arrange entertainment programmes on different topics with celebrities, raffle draw on entry tickets everyday, lifetime awards for the contribution on information and communication technology and for the development of the BCS Computer City.

Painting competition for children, gaming contest, blood donation, cultural programme, quiz contest and product launching programme were also among the programmes.

The organisers also arrange a knockout debate contest consisting of eight teams from different universities.

Besides, a grand draw will be held at the end of the fair. Winners will receive a car, a laptop and a desktop computer respectively.

The totally air-conditioned CityIT Fair area of one lakh 25 thousands square feet will come under wimax technology, said the fair sources.

Entry ticket costs Tk 10 for all except the school goes and the physically challenged persons. The fair is open from 10:00am to 7:00pm everyday.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Nokia makes navigation free on smartphones

IT.TELECOM DESK

Nokia, the leading mobile phone set manufacturer recently released a new version of Ovi Maps for its smartphones that includes high-end walk and drive navigation for free, said a press release.

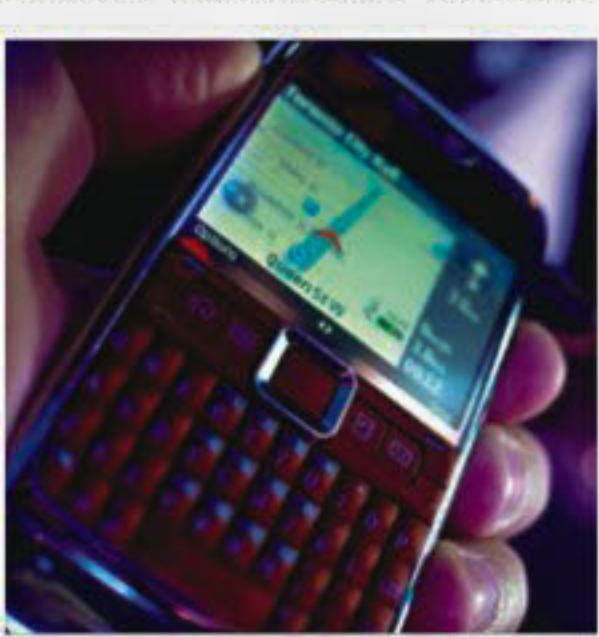
The maps are available for download at nokia.com/maps.

This move has the potential to nearly double the size of the current mobile navigation market. Ovi Maps covers more than 180 countries with car and pedestrian navigation for 74 countries in 46 languages and 6000 3D landmarks of 200 cities around the world.

"Why have multiple devices that work in only one country or region? Put it all together, make it free, make it global and you almost double the potential size of the mobile navigation market," explained Anssi Vanjoki, Executive Vice President, Nokia.

"Nokia is the only company with a mobile navigation service for both drivers and pedestrians that works across the world, he added.

Currently Ovi Maps are available for download to 10 Nokia



handsets. Maps will be ready for more Nokia smartphones in the coming weeks.

From March 2010, new Nokia GPS-enabled smartphones will include the new version of Ovi Maps, pre-loaded with local country map data, with high-end walk and drive navigation and access to Lonely Planet and Michelin travel guides at no cost.



IT.TELECOM DESK

'Cool' and 'Colourful' would be the two perfect words to describe the Corby, the latest range of mobile phones from Samsung. We have seen a smile in almost everyone's face when they first put their hands on one of the models (S3653). Why? Because of the eye catching design of the colourful Corby that marks a significant break from the way full touch phones are usually designed and the cartoon UI.

The company claims that the Corby is their first mobile handset designed to support the highly connected lifestyle of today's younger mobile users. The Samsung Corby is a full-touch handset that places users at the centre of the social media revolution with full support for a wide range of social networks.

Not just the design, Corby comes with bold color options such as Jamaican Yellow, Cupid Pink, Smart Black and Minimal White so that users can choose their favorite color.

The social networking services are combined with enhanced multimedia capabilities in a compact form. The 2.8-inch QVGA screen delivers a quality experience when browsing video content online and its quad band connectiv-



ity and support for EDGE network means that Corby users can stay in touch regardless of their location.

There is a wealth of communication options available to Corby owners. Users can update current status and access friends' updates, live feeds Facebook, MySpace and Twitter through simple Pop-up SNS. The handset also supports various social networking community sites by integrating leading User Generated Content sites such as YouTube, Flickr, Picasa and Photobucket.

The Samsung Corby incorporates Samsung's new Touchwiz UI and haptic feedback system making touch screen operations simple and easy to use. The handset offers tangible feedback when you make a selection on the touch screen. The handset also supports One finger zoom and Gesture Control, Samsung's own features that are incorporated in most of company's premium full touch line-ups including Samsung

## Cool & colourful Corby

Jet. One finger zoom enables consumers to zoom in and out in one hand. Gesture Control is a feature which enables users to unlock the phone and execute the menu directly by drawing an alphabet letter on the screen.

The Corby family has different models for different users groups. The Samsung B3210 Corby TXT mobile phone is a solid bar with full QWERTY keyboard with highly focused messaging features which makes communication a pleasure for its user.

Last but not the least the Corby3G is a stylishly designed phone targeted to appeal to the trendy users. On top of its sleek form factor, the phone comes with many unique features and its designs of its kind to match the mood of the user.

## Apple unveils iPad

AP, San Francisco



Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the company's much-anticipated iPad tablet computer Wednesday, calling it a new third category of mobile device that is neither smart phone nor laptop, but something in between.

The iPad will start at \$499. Apple plans to begin selling the iPad in two months.

Jobs said the device would be useful for reading books, playing games or watching video, describing it as "so much more intimate than a laptop and so much more capable than a smart phone."

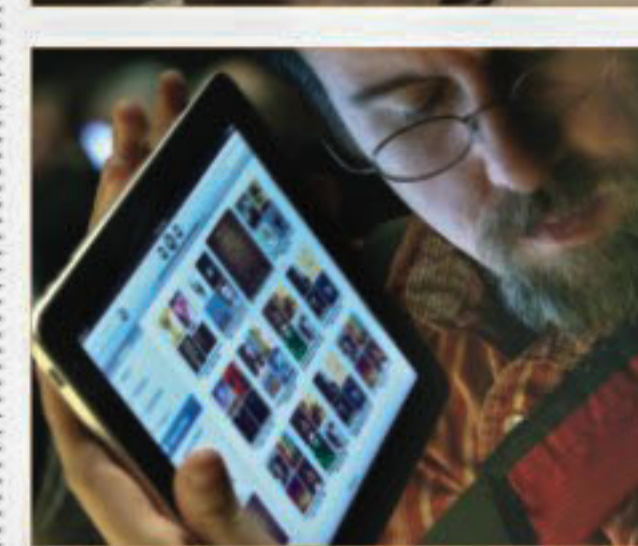
The half-inch-thick iPad is larger than the company's popular iPhone but similar in design. It weighs 1.5 pounds and has a touch screen that is 9.7 inches diagonally. It comes with 16, 32 or 64 gigabytes of flash memory storage, and has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity built in.

Jobs said the device has a battery that lasts 10 hours and can sit for a month on standby without needing a charge.

Sitting on stage in a cozy leather chair, Jobs demonstrated how the iPad is used for surfing the Web with Apple's Safari browser. The CEO typed an e-mail using an on-screen keyboard and flipped through photo albums by flicking his finger across the screen.

Unlike a laptop, the iPad has an accelerometer, so gamers can tilt the device to control what's happening on the screen. And the iPad is lighter and easier to hold for long periods of time while watching a movie or TV show.

Its large screen makes it much easier to touch type than on a smart phone, and it is extremely responsive to finger swipes and taps for easy scrolling through Facebook, photo albums and news articles.



**TECHPHOTO**

**PLAYING WITH THE IPAD**

Event guests play with the new Apple iPad during an Apple Special Event at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts January 27 in San Francisco, California.

PHOTO: AFP

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