

**PHILIPS** Bluray Player

- Pure aluminum casing with touch-panel controls
- 7.1 Channel Audio Output with DTS Master Audio
- DVD Video up-scaling to Full HD 1080p
- High quality HDMI Cable - absolutely free

Now at BDT 35,500/-

**TRANSCOM**  
DIGITAL  
think electronic, think DIGITAL

Stocks	
DGEN	0.75% 6,622.52
CSCX	0.70% 12,674.56
IDLC Index	
IDLC 50	1.21% 6,711.57

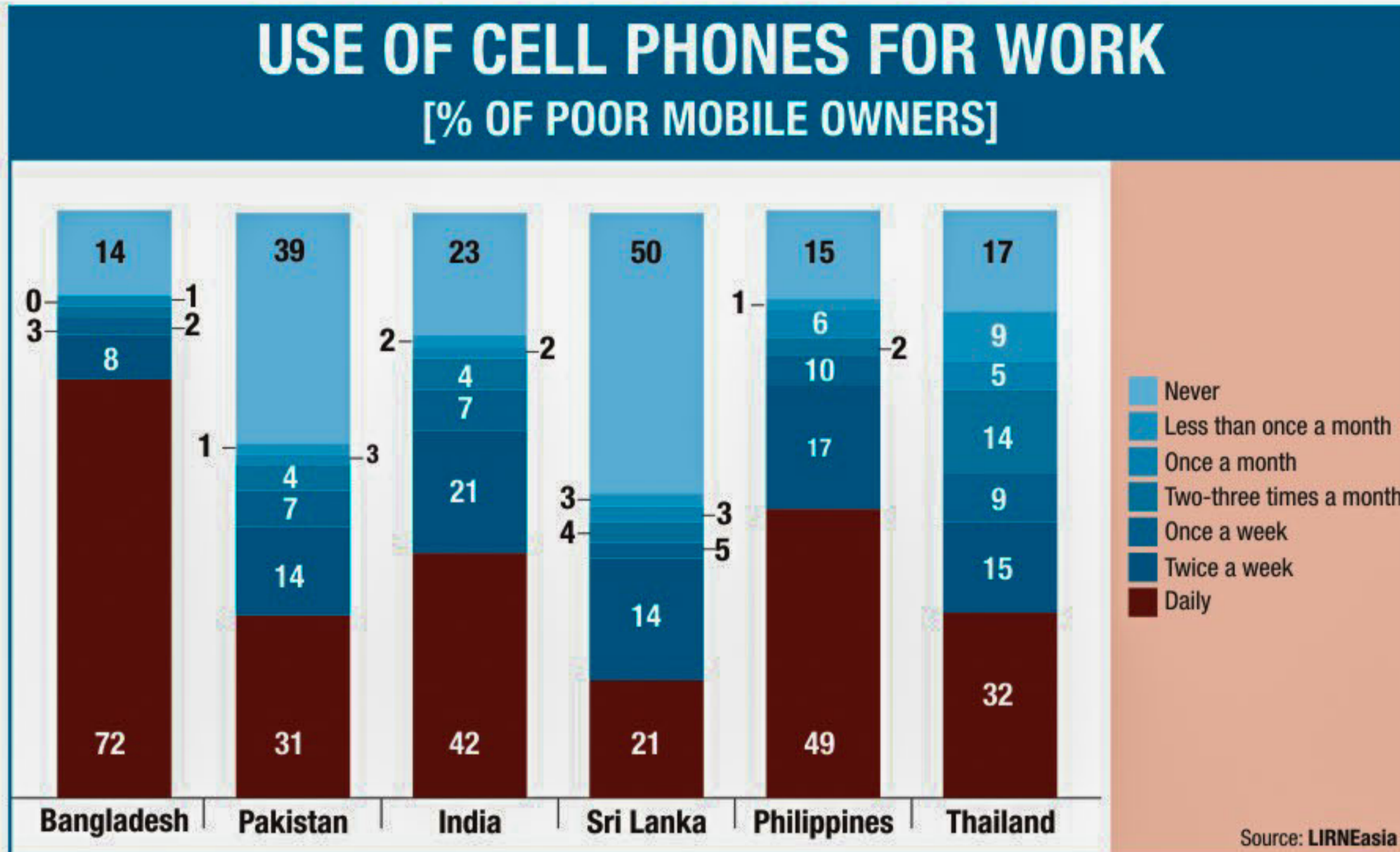
Asian Markets	
MUMBAI	0.64% 18,050.78
TOKYO	0.61% 9,196.67
SINGAPORE	0.22% 2,933.51
SHANGHAI	2.11% 2,661.71

Currencies		
	Buy Tk	Sell Tk
USD	68.77	69.77
EUR	86.50	90.58
GBP	105.74	110.10
JPY	0.79	0.85

Commodities	
Gold	\$1,222.90 (per ounce)
Oil	\$75.02 (per barrel) (Midday Trade)

**Contact Us**  
If you have views on Star Business or news about business in Bangladesh, please email us at [business@thedailystar.net](mailto:business@thedailystar.net)

## Poor, yes – but smart business talkers



**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Md Asrafal Islam, a farmer of Gohangachhi village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila, recalls life before cell phones with no fondness. He had to travel for his seeds, to the market and for meetings with local officials on policies and pesticide use. "Before using a cell phone, I had to move everywhere," he says. "It was time-consuming."  
It was also costly. But the phone reduced both travel time and costs. And, he says, he is more than happy to pay Tk200-300 each month.  
Low-income customers in Bangladesh lead the region in the mobile phone use for business, according to

a survey of more than 10,000 users in six countries by the Sri Lanka-based research company LIRNEasia.  
Poor Bangladeshis make business calls 72 percent of the time on any given day. The figure for India is just 42 percent, and for Pakistan just 31 percent. The survey data underlying the study date to late 2008, but the study results are new.  
Emerging markets contain the largest numbers of poor people but are leading global mobile growth. Widespread network coverage and healthy telco competition underlie the finding, said a senior official of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.  
"This study proves that general people use mobile phone to fuel the

economic engine of Bangladesh," said Abu Saeed Khan, the AMTOB secretary general. "Bangladesh is the only country in this group that has achieved nearly 100 percent network coverage."  
The survey was carried out by with the aid of a grant from the Canada's International Development Research Centre, the UK's Department for International Development and by Norway's Telenor Research & Development Centre Sdn Bhd.  
Bangladesh cell phone service was rolled out without government aid, noted Khan. But AMTOB members resent the government now forcing it to subsidise SIMs and, perhaps soon, to also contribute to a social fund.

## Cement makers eye 20pc growth

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**  
Cement manufacturers eye around 20 percent growth this year, riding on the rising demand from the housing sector. Even poor energy supply and infrastructure constraints such as inadequate roads and ports could not dampen the growth prospect, they said.  
"We're expecting 15-20 percent growth this year. The figure would have been bigger, if there were no energy constraints," said Mostofa Kamal, president of Bangladesh Cement Manufacturers Association.  
If the government starts constructing roads and bridges, the growth can double, he said.  
The association data shows 34 out of 54 cement factories are in operations, with a combined annual production capacity of 18.5 million tonnes.  
The 2009 cement consumption was 11 million tonnes, up from 10 million tonnes a year ago. Dhaka and Chittagong account for nearly 65 percent of the total consumption.  
Market players said they experienced slack sales in 2007-08 when an army-backed caretaker government ruled the country.

Real estate business was at the lowest ebb at that time. But the market started reversing soon after an elected government took power in January 2009.  
"Every company made good business in 2009 because of the booming construction sector. Many factories are on expansion," said Kamal, also the owner of Fresh Cement.  
Fresh Cement has recently received an export order of 18,000 tonnes to Tripura, an Indian northeast state bordering Bangladesh.  
Other market players also expect good sales this year and the next few years.  
Yusuf Abdul Noor, a manager of Eastern Cement, forecasts a consumption of over 13 million tonnes for 2010.  
Shankar Roy, general manager of Holcim Bangladesh, said cement makers logged good sales even in the rainy season, a comparatively lean period for construction works.  
Shah Cement has the highest production capacity of 2.22 million tonnes a year. The other big producers are Meghna Cement (1.44 million tonnes), Lafarge Surma (1.2 million tonnes), Akij (1.08 million tonnes) and Seven Circle (1.02 million tonnes).

**Standard Chartered**

Get **3%** Cash Back

This Ramadan, get 3% Cash Back everytime you use your Standard Chartered Credit Card for any retail purchase.

Call 8961151, 01819 399999

Conditions apply

Here for good [standardchartered.com/bd](http://standardchartered.com/bd)

## Pleasure of launching

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Principal Branch Dilkusha | Progati Sarani       |
| Panthapath Babu Bazar     | Dhorkara Bazar Pabna |
| Fulbaria                  | CDA Avenue           |
| Kushtia                   | Sonargaon            |
| Pallabi                   | Alankar Mor          |
| Banani                    | MTB Centre           |
| Agrabad                   | Narayangonj          |
| Chakoria                  | Aman Bazar           |
| Kaliganj                  | Jubilee Road         |
| Rangpur                   | Haidergonj           |
| Chandra                   | Gaffargaon           |
| Dagonbhuiyan              | Laksham              |
|                           | Rajshahi Aganagar    |
|                           | Elephant Road        |



## Branch

### MTB CENTRE CORPORATE BRANCH

MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue  
Plot 5, Block SE(D), Gulshan1, Dhaka 1212

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Phone: +880 (2) 8818453  
[www.mutualtrustbank.com](http://www.mutualtrustbank.com)



মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
**Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.**

you can bank on us