



## Alertpay plans big for Bangladesh

Company's local agent speaks to The Daily Star

IMRUL KAYES CHOWDHURY

Since its inception in Bangladesh, Alertpay is becoming popular among the freelancers and IT exporters.

Within a week of its launch, Alertpay got 21,000 new members and growing rapidly, said Jamal Shah, COO of Casada Technology, the sole agent of Alertpay in Bangladesh, in an interview with The Daily Star.

Alertpay is a Canada-based online payment gateway service provider which operates in 190 countries in 23 different currencies across the globe.

It came to Bangladesh in the last week of February.

In the interview Shah said the signup process is a bit time consuming in Bangladesh at present due to its verification process. If someone wants to sign up, he or she needs to go through verification process after providing all the necessary information such as proof of address, national ID, bank account and all he said.

Although it should take two to three days for Alertpay to complete the process, it is taking time for them to verify as their operation is new here and our national IDs and other information are mostly in Bangla, Shah said.

Casada as sole agent here has proposed Alertpay to authorise it to verify the information so that the signup process can be fast.

When asked about its operation, Shah said transaction has been made through Alertpay and its operation is going good and it will continue to do so. Because, Shah said, the vehicles IT freelancers use



**Jamal Shah**  
COO, Casada Technology

to receive payments here are either expensive or lengthy unlike Alertpay.

Alertpay offers two things that no one has offered before in Bangladesh- online transaction and cost effectiveness.

As per Bangladesh Bank's FE Circular No. 15, IT freelancers can receive up to \$ 500 per transaction. Alertpay charges only 2.50 cents (about Tk 240) for this \$500.

However, Shah said, governor of Bangladesh Bank said that this 500 dollar window will expand which means more money can come with fewer fees.

"Alertpay has come to Bangladesh since there was no such service for our IT freelancers. They are not here for business only, they want to help people", said Shah.

It took Alertpay almost one and half years to come. There were some roadblocks but with the help of Bank Asia, Alertpay overcame those.

"It is not an easy thing to adopt all the requirements of Bangladesh Bank and other local banks' policies and come here", said Shah.

He said Bank Asia understood the importance of it and assured all our support.

Bank Asia is the local partner of

Alertpay and it has no plan to partner with any other banks now.

Freelancers can get their money to any branch of any bank across the country.

For example, if someone has an HSBC account, he will get his money to that account via Bank Asia. And it will happen within that Tk 240 charge.

On the fact that one cannot send

provide secured transaction", he said.

Shah said organisations like oDesk, ifreelance.com and others should also join hands with Alertpay to make it simple for our people to get their hard-earned money.

"Majority of our IT freelancers work through such sites and to receive their income they use money brokers or other means that



money from Bangladesh through Alertpay, Shah said it is a regulation by Bangladesh Bank. Alertpay received approval to operate here based on this rule. It does not affect Alertpay's business though it's a roadblock, Shah said.

He hoped that situation will change and people will be able to send money too through Alertpay.

When asked how Alertpay profits from this, Shah said they profit by taking a very minimum conversion fee when dollar is converted to taka.

Alertpay takes full responsibility for secured transaction. "They have monitoring teams who work 24x7 to

are costly, whereas Alertpay is cheap", he said.

He also said Alertpay has plans to expand its services in every possible e-commerce field in Bangladesh gradually. They are already working on it.

Alertpay will also bring its debit card to Bangladesh. Bank Asia as a local partner is already working on it. This debit card can be used across the globe.

Shah said Alertpay is open for competition because only competition can help maintain a good service otherwise it is bound to go down.

## Apple's iPad throws off much more heat

REUTERS, San Francisco

Apple Inc's new iPad throws off a lot more heat than the previous version, lending weight to complaints on Internet forums that the hot-selling tablet computer could get uncomfortably warm after heavy use, an influential consumer watchdog found after running tests.

Consumer Reports, a widely followed group that reviews everything from electronics to cars, found that Apple's new tablet racked up temperatures of 116 degrees Fahrenheit (47 Celsius) after 45 minutes of running an intense action game, up to 13 degrees F hotter than the previous model under similar conditions.

Using a thermal imaging camera, it ascertained that the front and rear of the tablet could run 12 to 13 degrees F hotter than the iPad 2 after running Infinity Blade II, depending on whether it was plugged in, Consumer Reports said.

The group, which can be instrumental in the success or failure of consumer products, has not reached a final decision on whether to recommend the latest model of Apple's tablet. A spokesman urged caution on the part of consumers but added the heat issue in itself did not appear serious enough to void its recommendation.

Consumer Reports plans to release a final review on the new iPad - which has sold more than 3 million units since it hit store shelves in more than 10 countries on Friday - in about five days.

"During our tests, I held the new iPad in my hands. When it was at its hottest, it felt very warm but not especially uncomfortable if held for a brief period," reviewer Donna Tapellini said in the report.

The third iteration of the iPad, which

hit markets in 2010, set a record for first-weekend sales when it launched Friday.

Hundreds of comments posted on an Apple support website, here#17879177, centered on how the new iPad -- which sports a larger battery than its predecessor to power a sharper "retina" display screen and other bells and whistles -- could get uncomfortably warm.

"My new iPad ... definitely got significantly warm, almost too warm to hold warm, when running on LTE," rawwave commented on Friday. "Not even doing a lot of downloads (just browsing Twitter) but having the LTE radio on seemed to cause it to get noticeably hot."

An Apple spokeswoman said the iPad was

"within our thermal specifications." The company's website lists the normal operating range for the new iPad as between 32 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit, or 0 to 35 degrees Celsius. It is designed to power down

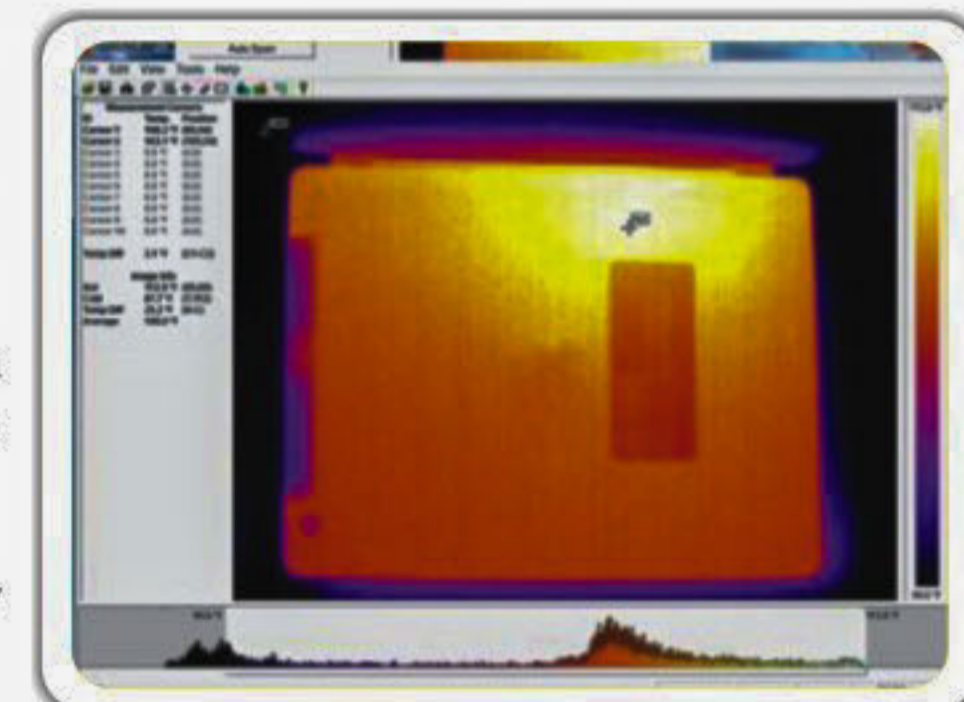


PHOTO: REUTERS

Heat coming off Apple's new iPad is seen in an image taken by a thermal camera.

should that range be breached.

The company's shares were up 0.8 percent at above \$605 in afternoon trade.

The new iPad's battery is 70 percent bigger than the one in the previous version, said Kyle Wiens, chief executive of iFixit, a prominent Apple repair and parts supplier.

"It still has the same battery life," he said. "So it will run hotter."

The iPad 2 had a 25 watt-hour battery while the new iPad's battery has a capacity of 42.5 watt-hours, according to a tear-down analysis by iFixit.

Reviews have generally been good for a gadget that experts say falls short of being revolutionary, focusing on the iPad's ability to take advantage of faster 4G wireless technology as well as a sharper display.

## New iPhone will use bigger 4.6-inch display

REUTERS, Seoul

Apple Inc's new iPhone will have a sharper and bigger 4.6-inch "retina" display and is set to be launched around the second quarter, a South Korean media reported on Thursday.

Sales of the iPhone, first introduced in 2007 with the touch screen template now adopted by its rivals, account for around half Apple's total sales.

Apple has decided on the bigger 4.6-inch display for its next iPhone and started placing orders to its suppliers, the Maeil Business Newspaper said, quoting an unnamed industry source.

Its major display suppliers LG Display and Samsung Electronics Co declined to comment.

Samsung, which is also the biggest challenger to Apple in smartphones, uses 4.6-inch OLED display for its flagship Galaxy S II smartphone, introduced in April last year. The high-definition "retina" display--containing several times as many pixels within the same area-- is used in the latest iPad released earlier this month.

The latest iPhone 4S was introduced in October last year.



Robot Show

A child looks at a robot at the Innorobo 2012 European summit on March 14, 2012 in the east-central French city of Lyon. The event, dedicated to the service robotics industry, ran until March 16

PHOTO: AFP

## Chrome wins weekend browser battle with IE

REUTERS, Helsinki

Google Inc's Chrome web browser overtook Microsoft Corp's Internet Explorer (IE) to become market leader globally for the first time last Sunday, web analytics firm StatCounter said on Wednesday.

"While it is only one day, this is a milestone," said Aodhan Cullen, StatCounter's chief executive.

"At weekends, when people are free to choose what browser to use, many of them are selecting Chrome in preference to IE."

On March 18, Chrome was used for 32.7 percent of all browsing, while Explorer had 32.5 percent share. When people returned to their offices on Monday, the IE share rose to 35 percent and Chrome's share slipped to 30 percent.

"Whether Chrome can take the lead in the browser wars in the long term remains to be seen, however the trend towards Chrome usage at weekends is undeniable," Cullen said.

On a monthly basis, Chrome's market share has surged to 31 percent so far in March from 17 percent a year ago, while Explorer has slipped to 35 percent from 45 percent a year earlier.

## HP merges computer and printer units

AFP, San Francisco

Hewlett-Packard on Wednesday said it is combining its computer and printer units to free up more cash for innovation in the rapidly evolving technology market.

HP will combine its Imaging and Printing Group and its Personal Systems Group (PSG) into an entity headed by Tom Bradley, who has been PSG executive vice president since 2005.

HP declined to comment when asked whether the corporate reorganisation would result in a cut in its work force.

"We have no specific announcements about changes to headcount at this time," an HP spokesman told AFP.

The merging of the units comes as growth in the printer market, once a gold mine for the company, slows to a trickle and people increasingly turn to smartphones and tablets for their Internet needs.

HP last month reported lower quarterly net profit and revenue as slumping personal computer sales dragged down earn-

ings at the world's largest computer maker.

HP chief executive Meg Whitman said in an earnings conference call that the company was "taking the necessary steps to improve execution, increase effectiveness and capitalize on emerging opportunities."

Whitman last month told a gathering of entrepreneurs and executives that HP will take another shot at Apple's iPad

with the release late this year of a tablet computer geared for work instead of play.

The tablet will run on Microsoft Windows 8 software and take on iPad in the workplace, where HP will bank on its reputation and its strengths in providing gear and services to businesses, according to Whitman.

"It is not really a tablet market, it is an iPad market," Whitman said at a Wall Street Journal Viewpoints West event in Silicon Valley.

HP will release by Christmas a new tablet tailored for security, productivity and business network compatibility, said Whitman.



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