

Ericsson study finds 94pc own mobile handsets

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A study shows that a majority of the mobile users in Bangladesh own their own handsets, which increased because of a fall in the prices of basic handsets.

The study that was led by leading telecom equipment vendor Ericsson with the assistance of ACNielsen, a global marketing research firm, shows that 94 percent mobile users have their own handsets in Bangladesh, while 5 percent use mobile services by sharing.

More people now have an access to handsets because of a fall in prices of both brand and non-brand sets. Sets are avail-

able at as low as Tk 1,100 a piece. There is also an incidence of fake brands that are being captured by the telecom regulator.

In addition, 33 percent of the users have more than one handset. The study also showed that multiple SIM users mostly use dual SIM enabled handsets -- 81 percent mobile subscribers in Bangladesh use one SIM, 15 percent use 2 SIMs and 4 percent use 3 SIMs.

The study showed that mobile phone users are ready for third generation (3G) services.

Respondents of the survey said 71 percent calls are successful, 12 percent unsuccessful, while 17 percent are missed calls.

A total of 3,000 people in different segments were surveyed in Bangladesh, according to Ericsson.

The study was conducted on the Bangladesh telecoms consumer market for the last five years (2007 to 2011) in a bid to understand the fundamental values and attitudes to Information Communication Technology.

Vishnu Singh, regional head of ConsumerLab for Ericsson in the Southeast Asia and Oceania region, unveiled the report through a video conference held at its Dhaka office last month.

The study shows that the country's mobile communi-

cations sector has made significant progress in both the voice and data market in the last five years.

He said the same trend can be seen in India and Pakistan but the rate is the highest in Bangladesh.

He also said the people of Bangladesh are not enjoying all the benefits that connectivity can bring due to lack of access options, affordability issues, and a lack of awareness on the benefits of internet access.

The trend towards internet use for social networking in urban areas of the country is growing remarkably, keeping pace with the global trend, he said.

Almost 17 percent of the mobile phone subscribers use internet for social sites, which was less than one percent in 2007. Twelve percent use data services for e-mail, 12 percent for ringtones and 18 percent for various reasons, according to the study.

According to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, there are 3.11 crore people using internet, of which, 95 percent do it through mobile phones.

The study found that only 58 percent of urban mobile subscribers are aware of internet connectivity, while the figure is just 39 percent in rural areas.



Md Atikur Rahman, deputy managing director of Sonali Bank Ltd, attends the Western Union Asia Pacific Agent Summit 2012 held in Bali, Indonesia recently. He received the 'Fastest Expanding Network Award-2011' on behalf of the bank from Hikmet Ersek, chief executive officer of Western Union.

Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Financial Statements 1st Quarter 2012 Sadar Road, Mohakhali Dhaka - 1206

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UN - AUDITED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2012

Table with columns: Particulars, 2012 As at 31 March, 2011 As at 31 Dec. Rows include Assets, Investments, Loans and deposits, Total non-current assets, Inventories, Trade and other debtors, Advance, deposits and prepayments, Cash and cash equivalents, Total current assets, Total assets, Equity, Reserves and surplus, Total equity, Liabilities, Long term loan, Deferred liability - gratuity payable, Total non-current liabilities, Current portion of long term loan, Short term finance, Trade and other creditors, Accrued expenses, Other liabilities, Provision for taxation, Provision for royalty, Total current liabilities and provisions, Total liabilities, Total equity and liabilities.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UN - AUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

Table with columns: Particulars, Jan.-March 2012, Jan.-March 2011. Rows include Sales (net of VAT & SD), Cost of Goods Sold, Gross profit, Other income, Operating Expenses, Profit from operation, Finance expense, Finance income, Net finance expense, Profit before contribution to WPPP, Contribution to WPPP, Profit before income tax, Income tax, Net profit for the period, Other comprehensive income, Total comprehensive income / (loss), Earning per share (par value Tk. 10).

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (UN-AUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

Table with columns: Particulars, Jan.-March 2012, Jan.-March 2011. Rows include A) Cash flows from operating activities, B) Cash flows from investing activities, C) Cash flows from financing activities, Net cash flows from operating activities, Net cash flows from investing activities, Net cash flows from financing activities, Net cash inflows/(outflows) for the period, Opening cash and bank balances, Closing cash and bank balances.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (UN-AUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

Table with columns: Description, Share Capital, Capital Reserve, General Reserve, Fair value reserve, Retained Earnings, Total. Rows include Balance as at 1 January 2012, Net profit after tax for 1st quarter 2012, Other comprehensive income / (loss), Balance as at 31 March 2012, Balance as at 1 January 2011, Net profit after tax for 1st quarter 2011, Other comprehensive income / (loss), Balance as at 31 March 2011.



Kanak Kumar Purkayastha, deputy managing director of BASIC Bank Ltd, attends an anti-money laundering workshop organised by the bank at its training cell in Dhaka recently. Bangladesh Bank Joint Director Dulal Chandra Sarker, and in-charge of the training cell Ashok Bandhu Das were also present.



Mohammad Hasan, chairman of the executive committee of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, presides over a meeting of the committee at the bank's head office recently. Anwer Hossain Khan, chairman of the bank, and Md Abdur Rahman Sarker, managing director, were also present. The meeting discussed issues related to investments in different sectors.

BB governor leaving for Kolkata to receive Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman leaves Dhaka for Kolkata today to receive the prestigious Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque 2011, said a statement yesterday.

Atiur has been awarded the Gold Plaque by the Asiatic Society in Kolkata in recognition of his significant contribution to international co-operation towards human progress.

He will receive the award this evening at the Vidyasagar Hall of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata.

He has also received the 'Sheltech Award (2010)' and 'Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award (2012)' for his outstanding contribution to the development of the financial sector in Bangladesh.

The award was introduced in 1985. Past awardees include ex-Swedish premier Olof Palme (1985), Dr DS Kothari (1986), Nobel laureate Mother Teresa (1987), former secretary general of the United Nations Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar (1988), Dr Nelson Mandela (1989), Rev Desmond Tutu (1990), Yasser Arafat (1993), Prof Amartya Sen (1994), Aung San Suu Kyi (1995), Shri KR Narayan (1996), Dr Ali Akbar Khan (1997), Dr Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1998), Father of the Green Revolution MS Swaminathan (2002), and shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan (2003).



Yunus, Abed talk garment exports with Hillary

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"Bangladeshi products get a duty-and quota-free access to the European Union and many other developed countries. India has also provided us with the privilege for our garments products. So why not the US?" the prime minister questioned, during a meeting in Habiganj on April 30.

"The US is a big country and a big market...It is our people's demand for a duty-free access to the US," said Hasina.

The US offers the benefit to all the least developed countries except Bangladesh, she pointed out. "I

don't know why."

The Grameen Bank founder said the issue of microcredit, its future and what other countries are doing about the financial tool were also discussed at the meeting.

"She wanted to know about the condition of Grameen Bank. I have explained the issue to her," Yunus said without elaborating.

Prof Yunus also briefed Hillary on the advancements that took place among the poor women and their children in Bangladesh since her last visit to the country.

He also briefed her on the progress made by Grameen Bank and the prob-

lems the bank is facing currently.

Dr Yunus also updated Hillary on the 54 independent companies he set up, which the government plans to bring under the control of Grameen Bank.

Yunus said he mentioned the electricity crisis as a major problem for the country and they have sought support from the US in establishing a regional energy network with Nepal and Myanmar.

Bangladesh is desperately trying to meet its growing energy demand and is seeking to forge partnerships with neighbouring countries to import electricity.

Myanmar wants to share Bangladesh's submarine cable

UNB, Dhaka

The seminar was addressed, among others, by IEB President Md Nurul Huda and honorary secretary Md Abdus Sabur. Engineer Khabiruzzaman presented the keynote paper.

The minister said the existing submarine cable of Myanmar is not adequate to serve its demand. "That's why they expressed their interest to use Bangladesh's submarine cable."

He, however, did not make it clear whether Bangladesh would allow Myanmar to use it.

(IEB) at its seminar room.

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He, however, did not make it clear whether Bangladesh would allow Myanmar to use it.

The minister also said the government would launch the much-hyped 3G mobile phone in July or August, while the 4G mobile service in December.

In his presentation, Khabiruzzaman said presently 9 million people in Bangladesh are using internet services while the global users of internet are 2.5 billion.

He said 58.5 percent (86.5 million) people of the country are now using mobile phone, while its global users 5.6 billion people or 80 percent.

Govt to honour top taxpayers with privilege cards

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To give a mental boost to the taxpayers further, the authority framed a policy in 2010 to honour the highest taxpayers by giving them the tax cards with one-year tenure.

In line with the policy, taxpayers, having criminal cases under trial in court, default loans and income tax and value added tax related cases pending in court will not be eligible for the honour.

Chevron Bangladesh Block 12 Ltd, Sylhet Gas Ltd, Citibank NA, American Life Insurance Company, Trust Bank, Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, Jamuna Bank, AK Khan & Co, and Bapex Ltd have become the top taxpayers.

based businessman, Md Motazzaroul Islam, topped all in the tax payment records of the revenue board.

Others include Iqbal Haider Chowdhury, Haji Kauch Mia, MM Amjad Hossain, Md Yusuf, M Haider Hossain, Md Motahar Hossain, Salahuddin Kasem Khan, M Ziauddin Khan and Liala Hossain.

During the last several years, the tax authority has been recording increasing amount of revenue. Total revenue collection rose 27 percent to Tk 79,092 crore during the fiscal 2010-11 from Tk 62,042 crore the previous year.

During the July-March period of the current fiscal year, NBR earnings increased by 18 percent to Tk 62,737 crore from Tk 53,107 crore in the same period a year ago.

Senior StanChart official due in town

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Ananth Narayan, the regional head of global markets of Standard Chartered Bank, will arrive in Dhaka today for a three-day official visit, the bank said in a statement.

Narayan, also co-head of wholesale banking, South Asia, is expected to meet key regulators, clients, employees and other stakeholders during his visit.

His responsibility includes trading, sales and structuring across asset class like fixed income, credit, commodities and equity.



Ananth Narayan

Australia set for 'modest' budget surplus

AFP, Sydney

Australia is on track for a modest budget surplus next financial year, Treasurer Wayne Swan said Sunday ahead of this week's unveiling of his fifth budget for the mining-powered economy.

Australia, which survived the global financial crisis without dipping into recession, has previously been forecast by the government to deliver a Aus\$1.5 billion (US\$1.6 billion) surplus for the 2012/13 fiscal year