

GP frees up Wikipedia access on mobile internet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Grameenphone customers can now access Wikipedia, the largest free online encyclopedia, without paying mobile data charges, the mobile carrier said in a statement yesterday.

Any GP user will be able to browse zero.wikipedia.org without incurring data charges using Opera Mini browsers. Opera Mini users have the added convenience of Wikipedia on the speed dial.

The offer will be valid for three months from the launch yesterday.

GP's offer is in partnership with the Wikimedia Foundation as part of the Wikipedia Zero programme. Its objective is to reduce barriers to accessing free knowledge.

Stocks remain in gloom as political unrest lingers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks ended flat for the third day yesterday as investors remained cautious amid ongoing political instability in Bangladesh.

The presence of investors at the brokerage firms was thin because of the ongoing blockade enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance. However, many investors executed trade over phone.

The market was in a positive mood in the first 30 minutes of trade but that did not sustain.

DSEX, the benchmark general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed the day at 4,270.58 points, after falling 10.13 points or 0.23 percent.

Turnover, the most important indicator for the market, stood at Tk

594 crore, which is up 19.27 percent from the previous day.

The market ended in the negative zone, leaving investors uncertain about market direction in the future, LankaBangla Securities said in its daily market analysis.

Today's trading session was slightly volatile as investors are still anxious about the country's political outlook, the stockbroker said.

A total of 1.38 lakh trades were executed with 15.13 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.

Gainers took a marginal lead over the losers as out of 289 issues traded, 150 advanced, 118 declined and 21 remained unchanged.

All major sectors lost today -- telecoms 0.84 percent, banks 0.77 percent, power 0.59 percent and

non-bank financial institutions 0.3 percent.

Pharmaceuticals went up marginally by 0.08 percent.

Generation Next Fashion saw the highest liquidity with 73.50 lakh shares worth Tk 26.14 crore changing hands.

Deshbandhu Polymer was the day's highest gainer, posting a rise of 9.95 percent, while Islamic Insurance was the biggest loser, plunging 6.55 percent.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also ended in the red, with its selective categories index, CSCX, losing 7.74 points, to close at 8,397.29 points.

Gainers beat losers 105 to 98, with 20 issues unchanged on the port city bourse that traded 2.62 crore shares and mutual fund units at a turnover of Tk 73 crore.

GSK to stop paying doctors to make speeches

BBC NEWS

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is making major changes to its incentive schemes following a damaging corruption scandal in China.

The pharmaceuticals firm will stop paying doctors to promote its products through speaking engagements.

Members of its sales force will also no longer have individual sales targets.

Earlier this year, Chinese police said GSK had transferred 3 billion yuan (\$489m; £321m) to travel agencies and consultancies to help bribe doctors.

But the company says the latest measures are not related to that continuing investigation. Instead, it says, they are part of a wider effort to improve transparency.

Axiata Group CEO becomes GSMA deputy chair

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Jamaludin Ibrahim has recently been appointed as the deputy chairman of GSM Association (GSMA), which represents more than 800 of the world's mobile operators as well as more than 230 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem.

Ibrahim is the president and group chief executive of Axiata Group Berhad, Robi Axiata's parent company. This is the first time a Malaysian has been appointed for the post and an ASEAN country has been represented, mobile operator Robi said in a statement yesterday.

Ibrahim has been serving the board as member since 2008, and he replaces Jon Fredrik Baksaas, president and chief executive of Telenor Group, as deputy chairman.

Baksaas, who served as deputy for two years, is now the chairman of the GSMA. "I am deeply honoured to have been elected by the board. In addition, I would like to congratulate Jon Frederik on his well-deserved new post as chairman," Ibrahim said.

"I look forward to working with him and the rest of the board, especially during this very challenging and exciting time in the rapid evolution of the mobile industry as the world gets more and more connected."

Regency's "buy one get one free" buffet offer for select GP users

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The platinum plus and platinum star customers of mobile operator Grameenphone (GP) can now enjoy a free buffet with every buffet purchased at the Dhaka Regency Hotel and Resort, the hotelier said in a statement yesterday.

Anwar Hossain, head of sales and marketing at Dhaka Regency, and Aman Ashraf Faiz, deputy director of marketing of GP, signed a deal in this regard recently.

Superstores bleed over political chaos

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Around 38,000 shops, including superstores, are now operating in Dhaka.

Their combined annual turnover stands at more than Tk 1,500 crore, with the government receiving around Tk 30 crore in value added taxes, according to data from the association.

Supermarket operators urged the main political parties to reach an immediate settlement and ensure a peaceful business environment.



Officials of HSBC Bangladesh cut a ribbon to open a branch of the bank in Chhoto Bazar in Mymensingh on Sunday. The branch was officially inaugurated by Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, through a video conference.



Md Ebadul Karim presides over the 30th annual general meeting of Orion Infusion Ltd at Officers' Club in Dhaka yesterday. The company declared 12 percent dividends for fiscal 2012-2013. Directors Md Rezaul Karim, Salman Obaidul Karim, Golam Mohiuddin and Company Secretary Md Ferdous Jaman were also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Cox's Bazar South Forest Division				
Invitation for Re-Tender (2 nd time)				
1	Ministry/division		Environment and Forest.	
2	Agency		Forest Department.	
3	Procuring entity name		Divisional Forest Officer, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar.	
4	Procuring entity district		Cox's Bazar.	
5	Invitation for		Supply of Polypropylene Nursery Bag.	
6	Invitation Ref No.		14/2013-2014.	
7	Date		15/12/2013.	
KEY INFORMATION				
8	Procurement method		Open tendering method.	
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9	Budget and source of funds		Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund (BCCRF).	
10	Development partners (if applicable)		BFD & AF.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11	Project/program code (if applicable)		45-4531-5016.	
12	Project/program name (if applicable)		Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project.	
13	Tender package No.		BFD/G-34.	
14	Tender package name		Supply of Polypropylene Nursery Bag.	
15	Tender publication date		On or before 18/12/2013.	
16	Tender last selling date & time		02/01/14	During the office hours (as it is none).
17	Tender closing date and time		03/01/14	2.00pm
18	Tender opening date and time		03/01/14	3.00pm
19	Name & address of the office(s)			
		- Selling tender document (principal)		
		Divisional Forest Office, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar.		
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents				
		- Receiving tender document		
		Divisional Forest Office, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar.		
		- Opening tender document		
		Divisional Forest Office, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar.		
20	Place/date/time of			
		Pre-tender meeting (optional)		
		Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division on 31/12/13 at 4.00pm.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of tenderers		The tenderer should have a valid trade license, updated VAT & Tax certificate & bank account solvency and also have minimum five years of similar supply experience.	
22	Brief description of goods or works			
(a)	18 cmx13 cm (7"x5") size Polypropylene Nursery bag having thickness of 0.08 mm (Both flap together) with 4 holes (8 holes for the bag). Sample of Polypropylene bag: 5 (five) numbers Polypropylene bag of each category with 4 holes (8 holes for the bag), 18 cm x 13 cm size bag and 6 holes (12 holes for the bag) on 25 cmx15 cm size bag. Both type of Polypropylene bag should be printed with "Use only for seedling raising" tested certificate with samples of both type of Polypropylene bag by BCSIR or any reputed govt. institution should be submitted.			
(b)	25 cm x 15 cm (10" x 6") size Polypropylene Nursery bag having thickness of 0.12 mm (both flap together) with 4 holes (8 holes for the bag).			
23	Price of tender document (Tk)		1000/- (not refundable).	
24	Lot No.	Identification of lot in lakh (Nos)	Location under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division	Tender security amount (Tk) (refundable)
	1	18cmx13cm = 30.00 lakh 25cmx15cm = 14.64 lakh	Working site of Cox's Bazar Range Rajarjul Range Dhoapalong Range Panerchara Range Inani Range Ukhiya Range Whykheong Range Teknaf Range Shikhal Range	1,04,000/-
				Completion time in weeks/ months
				20 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
25	Name of official inviting tender		Mohammad Abdul Awal Sarker.	
26	Designation of official inviting tender		Divisional Forest Officer.	
27	Address of official inviting tender		Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar.	
28	Contact details of official inviting tender		Phone No: 0341/62095	Fax No: 0341/62095
			e-mail: dfocoxbazarsouth@gmail.com	
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			
Mohammad Abdul Awal Sarker Divisional Forest Officer Cox's Bazar South Forest Division Telephone: 0341-62095				
GD-4814				

Cox's Bazar tourism goes haywire

FROM PAGE B1

"Our monthly operational cost is around Tk 10 lakh. We are running with losses now as the occupancy rate has come down to almost zero," he said. "If the situation does not improve, we will have no other option than to shut the business," he said.

Around two lakh tourists come to Cox's Bazar everyday during the month of December, but the number hardly crosses 1,000 this time, said Abul Kashem Sikdar, secretary of Cox's Bazar Hotel-Motel and Guest House Owners Association. Cox's Bazar has around 350 hotels, motels and guest houses, he said.

Not only the tourists, corporate clients are also cancelling their bookings for the month, he said.

Green Holiday Tours was preparing for several corporate conferences for 6,000 people in Cox's Bazar. "The programmes were confirmed in August and September. But those were all cancelled," said Borhan Uddin, chief executive officer of the tour operator.

"The tourism industry is teetering on the verge of disaster," said Taufiq Uddin Ahmed, president of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh.

The blockades and shutdowns have also put owners of restaurants and shops in Cox's Bazar in a tight spot.

Giash Uddin, owner of Rodela, a restaurant on Kolatoli Road, said their sales were at least Tk 1 lakh a day in December last year. On Saturday, they logged only Tk 2,200 in sales, Giash Uddin said. The picture was the same in all the restaurants and food joints in the town.

Shop-owners who took loans from banks and NGOs to run their business are the worst sufferers.

"They can't pay the instalments now. Many can't even pay the rents and utility bills," said Kashem Ali, president of a shop-owners' platform of Jhinuk market in Cox's Bazar.

"Most of the shops are counting losses," he said.

Shop-owners at Burmese market, a popular destination for tourists, said they have been going through very tough times for the last seven months.

"No tourists are coming," said Aangsinn Rakhaine, president of the shop-owners' association of the market.

Salamat Ullah Khan, president of Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the tourism industry is going through the worst times in the last forty years. Khan called upon the government to offer stimulus packages for the entrepreneurs of the sector and waive their bank interest.

Other major tourist destinations such as the Sundarbans, St Martin's Island, Sylhet, Chittagong, Rangamati and Bandarban suffer the same fate.

The travel and tourism sector raked in Tk 19,300 crore, or 2.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product, in 2012, and was forecast to improve on the figure by 7.7 percent in 2013, according to a study by World Travel and Tourism Council. In 2012, the sector also registered Tk 3,730 crore investments, which is 1.6 percent of the total investments for the year, the study said.

Australian retailers to release Bangladesh factory details

FROM PAGE B1

In October, Kmart became the first retailer to offer compensation to victims and their families when another Bangladeshi factory caught fire, killing seven people. It was revealed Kmart, Target and Woolworths used fabric from the factory.

Fairfax Media's Walkley award-winning investigation into the wildly unregulated \$20 billion garment industry in Bangladesh revealed the poor conditions for workers producing clothes for Australian brands.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED	
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)	
BTMC Bhaban (8th Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 880-2-9116382, 8124197 Fax: 880-2-9118345, E-mail: info@egcb.com.bd, Web : www.egcb.com.bd	
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (NATIONAL)	
1	Ministry/Division
2	Name of the Executing Agency
3	Procuring Entity Name
4	Expressions of Interest (EOI) for
5	EOI Ref. No.
6	Date
7	Procurement Method
8	Budget and Source of Funds
9	Development Partners
10	Project Name
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
11	Qualification and Experience of Consultants
12	Document Availability
13	EOI closing Date and Time
14	Other Details
15	The competent authority reserves the right to accept any, or reject any or all EOIs or annul the procurement process assigning reasons thereof.

Kazi Nazrul Islam
Company Secretary