

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

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, 15 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 GSMA 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

FROM PAGE B1

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 (2nd 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.
8	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
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.

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)	100/- (not refundable).
----	-------------------------------	-------------------------

24	Lot No.	Identification of lot in lakh (Nos)	Location under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division	Tender security amount (Tk) (refundable)	Completion time in weeks/ months
1	18cmx13cm = 30.00 lakh 25cmx15cm = 14.64 lakh	Working site of Cox's Bazar Range Rajarajpur Range Dhaapalong Range Panerchara Range Inani Range Ukhya Range Whykheong Range Teknaf Range Shilkhal Range	1,04,000/-	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: dfccoxbazarouth@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 Kasem 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 of Bangladesh.

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

Gias 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, Gias 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 Jhnikuk market in Cox's Bazar.

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

Shop-owners at Birmes 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 Aangsin Rakhaine, president of the shop-owners' association of the market.

Salamat Ullah Khan