

Robi offers free talk-time, internet with Samsung smartphone

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Robi Axiata yesterday launched a special campaign with Samsung, allowing the subscribers of the mobile operator to purchase Samsung Galaxy ACE NXT mobile sets with free talk time and internet worth Tk 8,900.

The set becomes effectively free for the clients as the Samsung set has a price tag of Tk 8,900, the mobile operator said in a statement.

Anyone intending to avail the offer has to call Robi Customer Care to get registered, according to the statement.

Upon successful registration, Robi will activate the bundle offer, which is open for all existing and new subscribers, the operator said.

Enrolled subscribers will get 3,300 minutes on-net and 675 minutes off-net free talk-times spread over the first three months, it said.

Besides, users will also get 15 GB free data service for three months along with 100 percent bonus on any purchased data pack from the fourth month up to the 12th month after registration, Robi said.

"Robi always strives to introduce innovative products for its valued customers. I am sure our subscribers would find this product attractive and helpful," said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chief operating officer of Robi.

"We also strongly believe that this unique



ROBI

Supun Weerasinghe, chief executive of Robi Axiata, and Choon Soo Moon, country manager of Samsung Electronics Bangladesh, attend the launch of a special campaign for Robi users at a press meet in Dhaka yesterday. Robi users will get free talk-time and internet with every purchase of Samsung Galaxy ACE NXT handset.

product will greatly enhance our subscribers' 3.5G experience with our network."

"To cater to the youth of the country, we have especially designed this 3G enabled smartphone at the best possible price, so the youth can stay

connected with the rest of the world," Choon Soo Moon, country manager of Samsung Electronics Bangladesh, said of Galaxy ACE NXT.

Supun Weerasinghe, chief executive of Robi, was also present.

Starbucks to buy up Japan unit for \$900m

AFP, Tokyo

Starbucks is to take full ownership of its Japanese operations at a cost of more than \$900 million, a move which the company said was aimed at further tapping its second-largest market.

The Seattle-based coffee giant said it would buy the 60.5 percent stake that it does not already own as part of a two-step tender process expected to be completed by the first half of 2015.

Japan was the first overseas destination for Starbucks when it expanded from the United States in 1996.

The news, announced on Tuesday, sent shares of Starbucks Coffee Japan up 4.43 percent to 1,461 yen (\$13) on the Jasdqa start-up market Wednesday.

The Japan business, which was launched in 1996 and now has more than 1,000 locations, is a joint venture between Starbucks and Sazaby League.

Emirates SkyCargo launches temperature sensitive container

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates SkyCargo, the freight division of Emirates, has launched an internally developed and cost effective container that keeps temperature sensitive cargo cool when transported on the ground and in the air.

White Container is the latest addition to SkyCargo's cool chain portfolio and has been designed specifically as an intermediate temperature control solution which is ideal for generic healthcare products and food perishables, the airline said in a statement yesterday.

The inside of the container is coated with thermal insulators, which prevents the transfer of outside heat into the container and uses coolant trays allowing handlers to add or replenish dry ice or coolants without disturbing the packaging.

"It can be used for shipments requiring temperatures between 2°C - 8°C and 5°C - 25°C reliably," Emirates said.

The new facility has an advanced storage system and a perishable area designed to handle about 140,000 tonnes of cargo per annum, according to the statement.

One million Filipinos join booming Philippine outsourcing sector

AFP, Manila

The Philippines' booming outsourcing industry now employs a million people after growing almost tenfold in just over a decade, the industry association said Wednesday.

Widely considered as second only to India, Philippine outsourcing is expected to earn \$18 billion this year, said the IT and Business Process Association Philippines.

"We just (hit) one million. Still targeting 1.3 million in 2016," its president Jose Mari Mercado said in a statement.

He expressed confidence that the sector, which started from scratch in the early 1990s, would increase its revenues to \$25 billion by 2016.

The business process outsourcing or BPO sector has emerged as a shining star of the Philippine economy after posting just \$1.5 billion in revenues with 103,500 employees in 2004, figures released by the industry group showed.

This has helped provide better-paying jobs to a country where 10 million people, about a tenth of the population, have travelled overseas to seek employment.

For each person hired directly by the industry, about 2.5 additional support jobs are also generated, the association said.

The Philippines has already overtaken India as the global leader in call centres and is also expanding into more sophisticated outsourced operations as Western firms farm out back office and other tasks to lower-cost areas.

Banks reschedule Tk 18,552cr under relaxed rules

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Among the state banks, Rupali rescheduled the highest amount of loans worth Tk 3,137 crore, followed by Agrani Bank's Tk 2,062 crore, according to the BB.

Of the other state and specialised banks, Sonali rescheduled loans worth Tk 756 crore, while Bangladesh Development Bank regularised Tk 305 crore, Bangladesh Krishi Bank Tk 545 crore, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Tk 253 crore and BASIC Bank Tk 59 crore.

However, banks' classified loans increased by 1.82 percentage points to 10.75 percent of their outstanding loans on June 30. On December 31, the amount of their total default loans was 8.93 percent of the outstanding loans.

The state banks' default loans were 23.23 percent on June 30, up from 19.76 percent on December 31.

The central bank had offered the relaxed rescheduling facility in the first week of December last year and banks made the best use of the scope in that month.

As a result, the classified loan situation of the banks improved much in December last year compared to September the same year.

Non-performing loans in banks fell 28.45 percent during the period last year, according to a central bank study.

Banks' provision against bad loans also came down by 21 percent during the period, while provision shortfall slid around 92 percent.

Formia demands compensation from Biman for scrapping order

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Jennifer said Formia won the contract for supplying 51,000 hajj kits at \$4.52 per unit through an international bidding.

"Biman issued the purchase order on August 25 and Formia delivered the first consignment the next day. But Biman cancelled the purchase order on August 27," she said.

Jennifer said Formia may take legal action against Biman if the carrier does not settle the matter out of court.

When contacted, Shafiqur Rahman, a director of Biman, said their inspection found a huge mismatch between the specifications and the hajj kits supplied by Formia.

"So, the management decided to cancel the purchase order," he said.



SOUTHEAST BANK

SM Mainuddin Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Southeast Bank, inaugurates a branch of the bank at Bolivadra of Gonokbari in Ashulia, Dhaka recently. Mizanur Rahman, head of Bolivadra branch, was also present.



TRUST BANK

Major General Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf, vice chairman of Trust Bank, opens the Srinagar branch of the bank in Munshiganj recently. Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director, was also present.

IMF expects 2015 growth in China to be over 7pc

REUTERS, Manila

China's economy will likely grow faster than previously thought in 2015, the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday, downplaying the risks of the cooling property market in the world's second-largest economy.

Economic growth in China will likely be "well above" 7 percent next year, Changyong Rhee, director of the Asia and Pacific department at the IMF, told a briefing in Manila.

His remarks suggested the global lender's will upgrade its growth forecast for the country due next month from the current 7.1 percent estimate it made in July.

The IMF has a 7.4 percent growth forecast for China for 2014, slightly below the government's official target of around 7.5 percent.

"We expect they have many tools to maintain the growth rate well above 7 percent next year," Rhee said.

Many economists see the rapidly slowing

property market as the biggest risk facing China's economy. Home prices, sales and new construction are all falling, and increasingly dragging on related sectors from home appliances to glass, steel and cement.

Analysts believe Beijing will roll out further stimulus measures in coming months to avert a deeper economic slowdown, including more help for would-be home buyers.

However, Rhee said the IMF does not expect China's cooling property market to become a serious problem, saying it sees "a gradual adjustment" rather than a hard landing.

"Evidence shows there will be a gradual adjustment in real estate market but we have to watch if that baseline scenario will hold," Rhee said.

A slowing Chinese economy should not be looked at as a "pure risk" as it gives other countries in Asia a better chance at competing with Beijing and attracting foreign direct investments, Rhee added.

7pc growth possible

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Garment still accounts for 80 percent of the export basket, despite domestic optimism about the pharmaceutical sector, which makes up only 0.5 percent.

In light of this, it called for a comprehensive industrial strategy for diversification. Business environment and infrastructure must also be improved to provide impetus for other areas of manufacturing.

SCB also called for higher private

participation in infrastructure projects, as public finances are already stretched and the country is struggling to raise the tax-GDP ratio.

To encourage private participation in infrastructure projects, which remains low at 1.1 percent of GDP, the country needs to improve the transparency and timeliness of government decision-making and ensure stricter enforcement of government commitments, it said.



AFBL

Md Altaf Hossain, executive director of Akij Food and Beverage (AFBL), speaks at the launch of Mojo Uttvhot Offer" under the company's cola brand, at AFBL office in Dhaka yesterday. Nurul Haque Porosh, brand manager, was also present.



SINGER

AM Hamim Rahmatullah, managing director of Singer Bangladesh, receives the AAA rating for the company from Jamaluddin Ahmed, chairman of Emerging Credit Rating Ltd, at a programme yesterday.

একই স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখের স্থলাভিষিক্ত আদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education

No. Sec:19/1-20(Com. UK)/2008/172

Date: 02.09.2014

Sub: Commonwealth Scholarships

in the United Kingdom-2015

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for study under Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom-2014.

Categories of Scholarships

a) One year taught masters courses of equivalent degrees

b) Doctoral degrees, of up to three years duration

c) Applications are open for all subjects (must be linked to the development priorities of the country).

d) Regarding subject of study, candidates should mention broad subject, the subject on which he/she has obtained his/her first degree/terminal degree.

e) A first degree of at least upper second class honours level or a degree of second class and a relevant postgraduate degree.

f) A candidate can apply for only one of the abovementioned categories.

g) The application form is given below:

Application for Commonwealth Scholarship-2015

Name of Scholarship

Commonwealth Scholarship in the United Kingdom-2014

Category of study

Subject of study (Mention broad subject, the subject on which the candidate obtained his/her first/terminal degree)

a) Name of Candidate:

b) Father's Name:

c) Mother's Name:

d) Present Address (including telephone number & email):

e) Permanent Address (with cell no):

f) Date of birth:

g) For candidates in service – the present designation, date of joining, name of the organization and address (the applications must be submitted through proper authority).

h) Description of any other scholarship for which the candidate is selected preliminary/finally:

i) Results of all examinations:

Name of examination

Branch/subject

Session of passing

Division/CGPA

Total marks/CGPA of the exam

Obtained total marks/CGPA

Percentage

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

SSC

HSC

Bachelor (Hon's) (please mention the duration of course)

Masters

Other relevant examination

1. IELTS:

2. Description of publication in recognized journal (if any):

Name and subject of the article

Name of the journal and it's description (Local/international, place of publication etc.)

Number of words of the article

Description of degree/diploma/certificate attained on the basis of the publication

Signature of the candidate with date

7. Application should be typed in the above form. Additional papers can be attached for the description of the publications.

8. Candidates for medicine or dentistry must show the year of passing of each part of MBBS/BDS, marks obtained, total and average marks in the application form.

9. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

10. Only short listed candidates will be invited from the interview in due time.

11. Completed application form should be submitted to "The Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207" before 15 October, 2014. Name of Scholarship and category of scholarship will have to be mentioned on the envelope. Attested copies of certificates, marks sheets of examinations passed, result sheets of IELTS etc. examination if any and 1 (one) copy of passport-size attested photograph should be enclosed with the application.

12. Self addressed envelope (approximate size 9.5"x4.5") with stamps (of Tk. 5.00) should be enclosed with the application.

13. Other necessary information will be found from the website <http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply>, www.ugc.gov.bd, www.moedu.gov.bd

Abdus Sattar Mia

Assistant Secretary

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