

Compustar launches iPhone 8 for Bangladesh market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Compustar Pvt Limited, the authorised distributor of iPhone in Bangladesh, yesterday launched the new iPhone 8 at a ceremony at its Gulshan office in Dhaka.

The iPhone 8, equipped with retina high definition display and A11 bionic chip, will be available for sale in stores from tomorrow, said Raquibul Kabir, chairman of Compustar, a concern of Union Group of Companies.

Pre-orders for the smartphone, which has water resistance capability, started to come up from October 27, he said. Union Group officially started selling iPhones in Bangladesh in 2014, he said.

"We imported 1,150 pieces of iPhones in 2014. Apple was not that much confident about us at that time. They thought we would not be able to increase its sales in Bangladesh."

"But our company achieved tremendous success in the next year when we sold 9,789 units of the smartphone. The figure touched 16,343 in 2016," Kabir said.

Last year's performance helped Union Group win Apple's trust, he said.

"Earlier this year, a high official of the US-based tech giant visited Bangladesh to check the prospects of the company's business here. After the visit, Apple expressed its interest to do more business with us."

According to official statistics, around 1 lakh iPhones were sold in Bangladesh last year, which is six times higher than the number of sets sold



Raquibul Kabir, chairman of Compustar Pvt Limited, the authorised distributor of iPhone in Bangladesh, and Mohammad Akber Hossain, CEO of Compustar, pose with iPhone 8 at its launch at Union Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

through the only distributor Compustar, he said.

Many of the sets sold by those other than Compustar are either fake or refurbished or have been brought into the country using illegal means, Kabir said. He also urged people to purchase the smartphone from authorised re-sellers or retailers only. The government loses a huge amount of duty because of the sales of iPhones via unauthorised sources, he said.

Original iPhones are available at Grameenphone Centre, Robi Sheba, Banglalink

Mono Brand Store, Gadget & Gear, Mobile World Store and some authorised resellers, including iCenter, Executive Machines and Computer Source. People can also buy the sets online through Pickaboo.com, he said.

Kabir said his company also has a website—www.compustarltd.com— where the customers can verify the authenticity of their iPhones. Mohammad Akber Hossain, CEO of Compustar, and Rajesh Bhimsaria, managing director, were also present.

US-Bangla adds more flights on int'l, local routes

STAR BUSINESS DESK

US-Bangla Airlines has increased the number of flights on its three international and two domestic routes, said the private airline in a statement.

The airline will operate seven flights weekly on Dhaka-Singapore route, 10 flights on Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur route and six flights on Chittagong-Kolkata route.

Currently, US-Bangla Airlines operates four flights weekly on Dhaka-Jessore route from three now and six flights on Dhaka-Rajshahi route from four now.

US-Bangla has increased the number of flights in response to stronger customer demand, according to the statement.

Boeing signs \$13.8b deal with Singapore Airlines

REUTERS, Washington

Boeing Co signed a previously announced deal with Singapore Airlines Ltd on October 23 to sell it 39 aircraft worth \$13.8 billion at list prices during a White House event with Singapore's prime minister.

The airline earlier said it would finalize the order during the visit as part of its bid to modernize its fleet over the next decade.

Airlines typically receive discounts on jet orders, and the deal is estimated to be closer to \$6.5 billion in value.

NBR seeks to freeze Premier Bank's account

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Contacted, a senior official of BB's related department said they are yet to receive any letter from LTU. "We will take steps according to the letter," he added.

The central bank official said the Premier Bank clients will not face difficulty if the account is frozen.

"Once frozen, the account of the respective bank will become inoperative and the bank will neither be able to deposit nor withdraw money through the account," he added.

Despite repeated attempts, Premier Bank Managing Director Khondker Fazle Rashid could not be reached for comments.

Listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, Premier Bank posted a 65 percent increase in profit-after-tax of Tk 158 crore for 2016, according to its annual report.

Each Premier Bank share closed yesterday at Tk 16.80, down 1.18 percent.

As of 2016, Premier Bank, which started operation in 1999, has 99 branches.

Govt to build 520 upazila bazaars at Tk 1,730cr

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The other projects approved in the meeting include the Jamalpur-Kalibari-Sarishabari road widening and strengthening project costing Tk 220 crore; infrastructure development of different areas under Chittagong City Corporation at Tk 120 crore; the first revision of the second phase of the Secondary Education Stipend of Tk 1,330 crore; and the construction of Bakerganj-Barguna 132 KV transmission line and Barguna 132/33 KV power substation with Tk 143 crore.

The Ecne approved a proposal for the Tk 585 crore "Bangladesh Regional Communication Project-1: National Single Window Implementation and Customs Modernisation

Strengthening" project to provide services related to import and export from a single window.

Once fully operational, the system will allow traders to submit all import, export and transit information required by customs and other key regulatory agencies via a single electronic gateway instead of submitting essentially the same information numerous times to different government agencies, many of which still rely heavily on paper-based processing-systems.

Of the total cost, World Bank will provide Tk 529 crore and the project will be implemented by June 2020.

According to WB documents, though significant trade liberalisation has taken place in Bangladesh since

the early 1990s, the procedures for clearance of import-export cargo at borders remain cumbersome and are saddled with numerous documentation requirements and poor levels of inter-agency collaboration.

These inhibit trade and raise transaction costs for the trading community, as the system is fraught with duplication and inefficiencies, said the global lender.

Bangladesh has committed to implementing a national single window system and the associated reform and modernisation of customs and other border management agency requirements in line with international standards and national commitments.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, hands over the "Digital Agency of the Year" award to Anis Chowdhury, managing director of WebAble Digital, at The Golden Globe Tigers 2017 at Le Méridien Dhaka.

WEBABLE



HEQEP Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
HEQEP Round 4, Window 1, CP: 6203

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1. Ministry/division	Ministry of Education.								
2. Agency & procuring entity name	Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine, Sheikh Kamal Faculty Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207.								
3. Procuring entity name	Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine.								
4. Procuring entity code	Not used.								
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka								
6. Invitation for	Tender for Goods (Single Lot).								
7. Invitation Ref No.	SBAU/HEQEP/ASVM/2017/35								
8. Date	31.10.2017								
KEY INFORMATION									
9. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).								
FUNDING INFORMATION									
10. Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government and IDA Credit).								
11. Development partners (if applicable)	International Development Association (IDA).								
PARTICULAR INFORMATION									
12. Project/programme code	9131								
13. Project/programme name	Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP).								
14. Tender package No.	G4								
15. Tender package name	Supplying of Furniture & Fixtures.								
16. Tender publication date	01/11/2017								
17. Tender last selling date	21/11/2017 during office hours.								
18. Tender closing date and time	Up to 22/11/2017 at 12.00 noon.								
19. Tender opening date and time	22/11/2017 at 12.30pm.								
20. Name and address of the office selling, receiving & opening tender document	Office of the Sub Project Manager, CP 6203, Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine, Sheikh Kamal Faculty Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.								
21. Place/time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.								
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER									
22. Eligibility of qualifications of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum 01 (one) number of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period of last 05 (five) years. The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 03 (three) numbers supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 05 (five) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum 1.6 million BDT under maximum 02 (two) or a single contracts in the last 05 (five) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is 2 million BDT. 								
23. Brief description of goods	Supplying of Furniture & Fixtures.								
24. Brief description of related services	N/A								
25. Tender document price	BDT 1,000.00 (Bangladesh Taka one thousand) only.								
26. Identification of lot	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Identification of lot</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Tender security (BDT)</th> <th>Completion time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Supplying of Furniture & Fixtures under Package No. G4</td> <td>Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine, Sheikh Kamal Faculty Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh</td> <td>BDT 60,000.00 (Bangladesh Taka sixty thousand only).</td> <td>4 (four) weeks</td> </tr> </table>	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (BDT)	Completion time	Supplying of Furniture & Fixtures under Package No. G4	Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine, Sheikh Kamal Faculty Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh	BDT 60,000.00 (Bangladesh Taka sixty thousand only).	4 (four) weeks
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PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS									
27. Name of official inviting tender	Prof. Dr. Md. Mufazzal Hossain.								
28. Designation of official inviting tender	Sub-Project Manager (SPM), HEQEP Round 4, Window 1, CP6203								
29. Address of official inviting tender	Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine, Sheikh Kamal Faculty Building (1 st Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka -1207, Bangladesh.								
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 0244814052, Fax No. 0244814003 Electronic mail: mufazzal_hossain@yahoo.com								
31. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any items or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.									

Prof. Dr. Md. Mufazzal Hossain
Sub Project Manager (SPM), CP: 6203
Faculty of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

GD-2346

Ride-hailing accelerates

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For rides on premium Uber cars, the base fare is Tk 80, the per kilometre fare Tk 22 and per minute waiting charge is Tk 3. Uber charges Tk 40 as the base fare for rides in the regular cars and Tk 18 as the per kilometre fare. The waiting charge is the same as in the premium cars.

"Dhaka is the fastest growing market for Uber," said a company spokesperson, while declining to share any numbers from the Dhaka operations.

Once Dhaka is conquered, the logical next step for companies is to expand to port city Chittagong, which is what Pathao did.

Pathao launched its popular bike-hailing service in Chittagong on a full-fledged basis on October 10. "In December we will go for another city," Elius added.

Following the footsteps of Uber and Pathao was another local company named Bahon, which entered the market in September this year with a vision to "revolutionise the commuting service in Dhaka with affordable fares", according to Sanaullah Morshed, managing director of Get Bahon Ltd.

Bahon, however, has failed to make a dent in Uber and Pathao's market share.

Meanwhile, Indian ride-hailing service Ola is also planning to extend its operations to Dhaka, different international media outlets reported. The BRTA confirmed that it had received multiple applications for permits from app-based ride-hailing companies, though it refused to say if Ola was among them.

To better regulate the emerging industry, the BRTA has drafted a ride-sharing guideline and forwarded it to the Road Transport and Highways Division.

Once the policy takes effect, the industry will become more compact, said the current players.

Weeklong tax fair begins today

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In the 2016 tax fair, the number of service recipients surged to 7.57 lakh. Some 1.94 lakh returns were filed during last year's event, surpassing the previous high of 1.61 lakh, which was registered the preceding year.

Direct or income tax, the second biggest source of revenue of the state, accounted for 35 percent of the total revenue of Tk 185,003 crore in fiscal 2016-17, according to the NBR's data.

Sony lifts earnings outlook

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's Sony Corp lifted its full-year operating income forecast on Tuesday, expecting to book its highest-ever profit due to strong sales of image sensors used in smartphones and other devices.

The electronics firm forecast profit of 630 billion yen for the year ending March, from 500 billion yen estimated three months ago. Meeting the new forecast would mean Sony exceeding its previous record of 526 billion yen set in the year ended March 1998, when strong sales of consumer electronics.

LankaBangla to raise Tk 159cr

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However, the earnings for nine months from January to September this year declined slightly to Tk 1 per share as against Tk 1.04 in the same period last year.

The bank experienced a sudden reshuffle in its management at the board meeting held on Monday after a Chittagong-based business group bought around 50 percent share of the financial institution.

The change in the management drew huge attention in the market and put negative impact on its share price as well.

Each share price of the bank lost Tk 1.70 or 5.67 percent before closing at Tk 28.30 and got the worst performing share's tag yesterday.

Daily Market:
Dhaka stocks witnessed marginal gains

yesterday because of active participation of investors.

The benchmark index—DSEX—increased 0.38 percent or 23.34 points to 6,019.59. The daily turnover also increased by 5.46 percent to Tk 537.46 crore yesterday from the previous session.

The market started the session on a positive note and continued the upward trend throughout the session, according to the daily market analysis of UCB Capital Management. Most of the heavy weight equities reported moderate gains, according to the analysis.

Among the major sectors, power posted a gain of 1.26 percent while banks shed by 0.45 percent. Banking sector led the market yesterday by contributing 25.24 percent of the day's total turnover.

Exports of non-RMG items buoyant

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Export of fruits and vegetables are bouncing back after the government last month lifted nearly a year-long self-imposed ban on export of agricultural products to the EU, said Mohammad Mansur, general secretary of the Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables & Allied Products Exporters' Association.

During the ban, exporters had shipped fruits like jackfruits and mangoes in bulk as the two items were out of the purview of the initiative.

The government had imposed the ban to avoid any major trade measures from the

EU as questions had been raised about the quality of products of some consignments.

The lifting of the ban came after the opening of a newly-constructed central packaging plant in the capital's Shyampur. "So, our export is growing again," Mansur added.

Jute and jute goods export increased 15.46 percent year-on-year to \$236.12 million.

Industry people said the demand for jute and jute goods items increased in the once war-torn Middle Eastern countries.



Tahmina Mostafa, a director of the Meghna Group of Industries, and Fahad MA Karim, CEO of K Sports, attend a deal signing ceremony on Sunday. Super Fresh Drinking Water, a brand of the group, has become the official drinking partner of Bangladesh Premier League.

MEGHNA GROUP